Govt, AL fail

FROM PAGE 1 the Chief Adviser's Office.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed and a few advisers represented the government side.

dialogue include holding of the parliamentary election first and announcement of its date, withdrawal of all "false" and "repressive" cases against political leaders, release of detained leaders, taking effective steps to stop price spiral, trial of war criminals, withdrawal of the ban on trade union, and implementation of the Women Development Policy 1998.

Zillur Rahman asked the caretaker government to immediately withdraw all "false" cases against party chief Sheikh Hasina so that she can participate in the parlia-

mentary polls. The ultimate success of the dialogue and holding of a neutral and acceptable election are not possible without her participa-

tion," he told the dialogue. "There is no logic behind continuing the state of emergency as there is no turmoil in the country now," he said, adding that the atmosphere for the election cannot be created amid fear and panic.

He said the country is in a deep crisis now with soaring prices of essentials, economic recession, crushing poverty, dipping investment, energy crisis and lack of employment making people's life wretched.

The AL leader alleged that the government has failed to prepare the ground for holding the parliamentary election, which is their constitutional mandate, and become "more enthusiastic" about holding the local government polls.

He also alleged that the roadmap announced by the Election Commission was prepared without any discussion with the political parties. "At our meetings with the Election Commission and the government prior to the dialogue we spoke many times for holding the parliamentary polls first. The move to hold elections to the local bodies first has caused confusion among the citizens," he

Zillur urged the government to hold parliamentary polls before December.

Thanking the caretaker government for inviting them to dialogue, Ashraf said it was the AL that gave the proposal for holding a national dialogue.

"I believe that any problem can be solved through discussion. It's also possible to hold a free, fair and acceptable election through dia-

logue, the AL leader said. He said AL participated in the dialogue to facilitate handing over power to an elected government

through a credible election. "We have discussed the issue of permanent release of Hasina and other detained party leaders, including party General Secretary Abdul Jalil. We also discussed the withdrawal of false cases, including those filed during the tenure of the BNP-led coalition government," he

added. Adviser Hossain Zillur, however, said they could not make any specific statement on the matter due to legal complications.

AL demanded that its ailing and the press briefing. party leader Mohammad Nasim must be sent abroad for treatment

immediately. We also discussed other important issues including the price spiral of commodities and crises of gas, power and water," Ashraf said,

adding that they were not against elections to upazila or other local government bodies. "The timing of the polls is a

problem. But we asked the advisers

Mashhud

FROM PAGE 16

suspects on health and humanitarian grounds, the ACC chairman said the commission has no disagreement with the government in this regard if law and rules are followed.

He also said there is no reason to believe that no decision or step has been taken to make the ACC activi- matter of sugar pricing. ties questionable.

The ACC chairman said he is sure that no quarter will try to consider the ACC as opponent to the government and if this is done the greater interest will be harmed.

Responding to a query about arrests of individuals in connection with graft cases, Mashhud said the arrests are not a big deal for the fund to combat the climate change ACC. "When there'll be no emergency rule, one can't be arrested until the submission of charge

To another query, he said he believes that there would be no influence on courts if the government is changed.

Asked whether the commission will launch a major anti-corruption drive if necessary because the home adviser said there will no major anti-graft campaign, Mashhud replied, "The ACC would group.

do it with pleasure". About the recent Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) report that corruption has increased in many sectors, Mashhud said the commission does not regard the report as a criticism of the ACC. "It's rather the

reflection of practicality." He said the TIB report will be helpful in the future activities of the commission. "We want to work as per the recommendations of the report. We won't reject the report as done in the past."

to hold the parliamentary election first. We shall discuss the matter with the government in the next

phase of dialogue," he said. Terming the election atmo-Issues raised by the AL at the sphere the most important matter, he said they had told the government many times that no election can be free, fair and acceptable under the state of emergency.

"We asked them to lift the emergency before the polls. There is no instance of holding an election under the state of emergency in a democratic country," Ashraf said. AL also asked the government to

form a neutral commission to identify and try the war criminals and bar them from contesting

The AL leaders said they asked the government to withdraw its recent decision of hiking the prices of petroleum products. They also urged the government to reduce the prices of oil, power and gas.

Zillur said both the sides attended the dialogue with an open mind and the issues of holding polls and ensuring proper election atmosphere figured prominently at the dialogue.

Commenting on litting of the state of emergency completely, he said they are considering relaxation of a few more provisions of the EPR

"We have already relaxed the EPR ahead of the polls to the city corporations and municipalities, he said.

He said he asked the AL leaders to inform them about the provisions AL wants to have lifted before the polls.

"We shall be able to decide together on lifting of the state of emergency some time later," he

Zillur said the government would organise a separate dialogue with the political community on different issues including the price

"We shall let you know once we are prepared for that," he added. Both the sides rejected the

allegations of reaching an "underhand deal" ahead of the elections to the local government bodies. When asked whether AL would

participate in the polls if the state of emergency is not lifted, Ashraf said it was a "hypothetical question". Replying to a query on BNP's boycott of dialogue, Zillur said BNP is yet to inform them about its

decision. "I did not hear that they refused to attend the dialogue." The AL earlier threatened to boycott the talks if the government did not release Hasina, who was

finally freed for eight weeks on June

The AL president later directed her party leaders to take part in the formal dialogue with the govern-

The military-backed government has so far held dialogue with smaller political parties, business community and union parishad chairmen. Regional conferences

were also held in Khagrachhari and Chittagong. AL leaders Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Motia Chowdhury and Ataur Rahman

Advisers Hasan Arrif, Anwarul Igbal and Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury were present at the

Khan Kaiser attended the dialogue

Correction

FROM PAGE 16 company Intertek Testing Service (ITS) played no role in the CRF certification. It's the Bureau Veritas who is solely responsible for the misdeed. So, we take no time in seeking apology to our revered readers as well as to the ITS for the mistakes.

· Meanwhile, in a rejoinder yesterday, ITS also stated that it has no record of issuing CRFs (clean report findings) at USD 262 per tonne for those two firms during the period as covered in the news. Further, we have received no complaint and fine for any incorrect valuation from the customs on this

Saarc nations

negotiation process and media

briefing as and when required. Replying to a query at the press conference, Raja Debashish said the member states have agreed in principle to form a regional climate change

Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed said andothers. Saarc nations must press the developed world for a unilateral and unconditional commitment to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases to save the vulnerable regions of the world from the perils of climate change.

At the ministerial meet, Secretary of environment ministry AHM Rezaul Kabir presented a report on the discussions of Saarc experts'

Sri Lankan minister Patali Champika Ranawaka MP, Indian minister Namo Narain Meena, deputy minister of the Maldives Abdullahi Majeed, deputy ministers of Bhutan Dasho Nado Richhen, Afghanistan representative Abdul Karim Nawabi, Bangladesh's M Asaduzzaman and Pakistan's Jawed Ali Khan spoke at the meeting.

Theywere unanimous in identifying climate change as a serious threat to the region in the form of frequent floods, cyclones, droughts, rise in sea level, glacier melting and loss of agriculture productivity.

Biman's DC-10

FROM PAGE 1 Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) and Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd formed two separate probe committees in this

Biman sources said the 'anti-skid' system of the aircraft had not been working properly for the last few

Besides, the brake of the aircraft was not fully functional.

"Some of the pilots who operated the aircraft filed complaint with the authorities concerned in this regard," Captain Helal, president of Bangladesh Airlines Pilots Association, told The Daily Star last

Aviation experts said such incidents do not happen too often.

Imran Asif, an aviation expert told The Daily Star that such incidents might occur due to technical problems in the aircraft, wet runway or jammed wheel.

Earlier on May 4, a Biman Airbus went onto the grassland beside the tarmac at ZIA after the pilot reportedly lost control of the aircraft when it was entering the taxiway from runway. The 153 passengers and crew onboard flight BG-118, however, escaped injuries.

"After landing at ZIA at 11:15am yesterday, the pilot applied hardbrakes as the anti-skid mode was not working due to wet runway," a Biman high official told The Daily Star.

As a result of hard-brakes, heat was generated and six of the 12 wheels of the aircraft burst and were damaged completely, the official

"When the pilot realised that one side of the aircraft was leaning towards ground, he sought help from control tower, which immediately informed the engineering department and firefighters," an official told The Daily Star.

"All wheels were removed and the aircraft was taken to hanger with the help of tow trucks."

He also said besides those six wheels, four others were damaged partially. "The passengers were unhurt and there was no damage to other

parts of the aircraft," a Biman official said. "Aircraft landing and takeoff resumed as the aircraft was taken to the hanger at 1:50pm," the offi-

cial added. Biman formed a probe committee headed by its Director (customer service) M Aminul Huq, while CAAB formed a four-member committee headed by Wing Commander (flight safety) Kamrul

High officials of Biman and CAAB visited the spot.

Upazila polls

will have to start preparing for the

parliamentary election.' The number of the upazilas going to polls however has yet to be finalised. It might be between 250 and 300, depending on completion of the voter lists.

The EC will soon make a list of the upazilas that will have election in the first phase, continued the polls chief. "We shall hold the local elections as per the electoral roadmap. We are

not imposing anything. There was no controversy when we declared the roadmap. He questioned why local govern ment elections under the present

caretaker government would be illegal, if the national election is not. Huda said he toured six divisions for hearings on delimitation of the

constituencies and everywhere people spoke in favour of local government polls. Even former lawmak ers were among them.

Referring to some political parties' observation that redrawing the constituency boundaries was part of a conspiracy to hamper the national polls, he said, "We don't know what's there for conspiracy. We are not running in the elections. We are only doing the job for the betterment of

the country. Shujan President Professor Muzaffer Ahmad observed that the August 4 elections to four city corporations and nine municipalities will be a test case for the commission.

He said, "People are now more conscious and hopefully they wil elect the correct persons to represen

He added that there might be some questions over the voter list but those can be addressed gradu-

Shujan Secretary Dr Badiul Alam Majumder said measures should be taken to disseminate information about the candidates so that people can take the right decisions. Among others, former adviser to

caretaker government ASM Shahjahan, former lawmaker Nurul Islam Nahid, North South University Assistant Professor Moshiur Rahman and Prothom Alo Joint Editor Abdul Qaiyum spoke at the roundtable. Earlier, the CEC inaugurated a website (votebd.org) prepared by

Shujan on corruption of politicians, Opening the session, Chief | businessmen, government officials Public hearing

FROM PAGE 1 public hearing on July 20, the PDB would have to prove the justification and reasonableness of the proposed tariff hike. At first the bulk power tariff will be fixed and the retail tariff will be fixed later.

Berc members Khalilur Rahman, Mokhlesur Rahman Khandaker, Salahuddin Ahmed and Imdadul Haque and high officials of the BPDB and other power related organisations and representatives from consumers participated in the meeting.

During yesterday's meeting a representative of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries suggested that power tariff be hiked by 10 percent Consumers Association of Bangladesh representatives opposed the suggestion.

Those interested to participate in the public hearing on July 20 should register their names with the Berc by July 15.

CA for Saarc pressure

FROM PAGE 1 ministerial meeting on climate change at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, the head of the caretaker government said Saarc can occupy a high moral ground on this issue and put pressure on the developed countries and must remind them individually and collectively that procrastination is not an option.

The CA urged the Saarc ministerial meeting to recommend specific measures taking into account the five principles agreed upon by all

These are deeper cuts to greenhouse gas emission by developed countries with effective timeframe for the forthcoming second commitment period, provision of adequate additional resources by developed countries to tackle climate change adaptation needs in addition to regular Overseas Development Assistance arrangements, compensation for climate victims and development of insurance mechanism as a tool of risk reduction, facilitating effective access to and funding assistance for the transfer of environmentfriendly technologies to the developing countries, as well as for adaptation and mitigation and sharing the environmental burden equita-

To demonstrate the world that together they can tackle the threats of climate change through a cooperative and collaborative arrangement in South Asia and let Saarc be a model of cooperation for combating climate change," he told the

Saarc member countries appealed greenery pollution-free safe world.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Saarc Secretary General Sheel Kant Sharma and Secretary to Environment Ministry AHM Rezaul Karim also spoke at the function. Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser for Environment and Forest Ministry Raja Debashish Roy chaired the inaugural session.

Environment ministers from eight Saarc member countries --Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Maldives and Sri Lanka -- and other delegates

Advisers, special assistants to the chief adviser, environment experts, diplomats, representatives from international organisations and development partners, environment personalities, government officials and distinguished personalities were present at the function.

the CA said, "takes place at a critical juncture when we're confronted with new and undeniable scientific evidence of climate change and how it threatens our very existence. Th South Asian region is particularly vulnerable. This meeting should strive to uphold our basic right to climate-resilient development in the Saarc region.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, the CA said, Bangladesh could lose as much as one-third of its landmass due to the rise in sea level and the Maldives could disappear entirely. The floodplains of India and Pakistan could face permanent inundation,

he added. permanently displaced. These are not scientific conjectures. They're cautious predictions-- often the best case scenarios -- based on rigorous data analysis and simula-

question of 'if', rather the fear is when and how soon the climatic meltdown might hit us with full fury. 'There is, however, a silver lining in this doom and gloom. The world is increasingly united to address the challenges of global warming and climate change," he told the inaugu-

He said the adverse effects of global warming would derail all our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. "It'll unleash the tragedy in human history, far graver than the 'Black Death' or the atrocities of World War II. We cannot, and must not, sit idle and let this happen to us, Fakhruddin asserted.

Referring to Bangladesh's good performance in adaptation, he said . Jerling.

Judge Azizul Haque took it into

cognisance after the hearing and

directed the jail authorities to

produce Dulu before the court on

In his complaint, Asad men-

Dulu gave false information

Dulu surrendered before the

tioned that Dulu evaded a total of

about his real income and expendi-

ture to the income tax department,

Judge's Court on February 20 last

year, seeking safe custody after six

cases were filed against him the

patronising outlawed militant

outfit Jamaa'tul Mujahideen

Bangladesh (JMB) and other crimi-

filed the case against Salim, also the

chairman of private TV channel

Channel 1, with the Dhaka Senior

his income of Tk 375,010,937 from

Special Judge's Court for commit-

Tk 10,37,522 in income tax.

the complainant added.

same year.

nal activities.

SALIM CASE

ting the offence.

1993 to 2006.

FROM PAGE 16

FROM PAGE 16 the country is actively seeking to

transfers without any conditional-

ity, and hoped that the current

meeting would make headway in

implementing the recommenda-

tions that the Saarc leaders made at

forecasts that global warming

would result in sea-level rise, with

resultant increase in coastal flood-

ing and salinity. "In 2007, two suc-

cessive floods ravaged Bangladesh

as well as parts of India. The rise in

frequency and intensity of cyclones

are ominous testimonies of climatic

six while Raina managed three

boundaries. But with 75 needed,

beauty to bowl Dhoni with 56 still

needed for victory but Yuvraj and

Chaminda Vaas and fast rising spin-

ner Ajantha Mendis as they had

already qualified for the final, failed

to stop Indian openers Virender

Sehwag (42) and Gambhir who

smashed 71-ball 92 for the opening

cuing a drive off Kulasekera, while

Gambhir was trapped leg-before by

three half-centuries from Chamara

Kapugedera, Mahela Jayawardene

added 78 for the third wicket with

skipper Jayawardene (50) and

another 68 with Silva (50) to bolster

the Sri Lankan innings after they won

steadied the innings through their

89-ball partnership after Sri Lanka

lost opener Kumar Sangakkara

(seven) and Sanath Jayasuriya (43)

boundaries while Kapugedera hit

seven boundaries and a six during his

boundaries and a six off 56 balls

before he was run out with five overs

as he did during his 130 against

Bangladesh in the Super League

match on Saturday, driving and

his 37-ball knock before he was

caught behind off Sharma who

SRI LANKA: 308 for 8 in 50 overs

(Kapugedera 75, Jayawardene 50,

INDIA: 310 for 4 in 46.5 overs

(Gambhir 68, Dhoni 67, Raina 54,

Man-of-the-match: Mahendra

Umpires: Simon Taufel and Brian

Judge Azizul Haque recorded

the statement of the complainant

and took it into cognisance. He

directed the jail authorities to

produce Salim before the court on

passed the order as the charges

brought against Salim under the

Income Tax Ordinance 1984 were

found to be true.

In his order, the judge said he

In his complaint,

Moniruzzaman mentioned that

Salim had evaded a total of Tk

Line Association and M/s

Sundarban Air Travels, repeatedly

income tax department, the com-

On May 27, Salim was sen-

tenced to seven years' rigorous

imprisonment (RI) for extorting Tk

from the same person in 2003.

evasion and graft.

gave false information about his

Silva 50, Jayasuriya 43; Ishant 2-55)

Sehwag 42; Muralidaran 2-44)

Result: India won by six wickets.

He hit eight boundaries during

The Sri Lankan skipper hit four

Silva then took over, hitting two

Jayasuriya batted in the same vein

Kapugedera and Jayawardene

(50) and Chamara Silva (50).

the toss and decided to bat.

with the score reading 71.

78-ball knock.

cutting with power.

finished 2-55.

Singh Dhoni.

Dulu, Salim sued

Dhaka District and Sessions 93,752,737 in income tax.

He had been earlier convicted of real income and expenditure to the

NBR Assistant Tax 12 lakh from the owner of a con-

plainant said.

Toss: Sri Lanka.

BRIEFSCORES

Sehwag fell in the 12th over, mis-

Earlier Sri Lanka were lifted by

The 24-year-old Kapugedera

Sri Lanka, who rested spearhead

backs when Raina was run out.

Rohitsaw India through.

wicket.

Muralidaran

shifts in our region."

Fakhruddin said the IPCC also

the New Delhi summit last year.

establish an international adaptation centre in Dhaka to share its knowledge and the best practices and expressed the confidence that Saarc members will extend their full support to the country's endeavour in this regard. "On the adaptation front, we can do much on our own. He said adaptation is, in fact, the

codename for resilience. Many developing countries are already pursuing effective adaptation strategies to cope with climate countries of the regional forum. change. Bangladesh is one such example. "We've made a significant

progress in achieving climateresilience with various adaptation measures. Our experience could serve as a model for many others facing similar challenges." But adaptation is often a costly proposition, he said adding that the Saarc countries should speak in one voice to ensure that the developed countries commit new and additional resources to support our adaptation efforts. "We should also remain vigilant against any attempt to make adaptation support contingent upon our commitment in mitigation. The CA said the industrialised economies must provide adaptation funds and facilitate technology

Eight boys and girls on behalf of to the Saarc leaders at the inaugural session for taking steps to make

are participating in the meeting.

"This Saarc ministerial meeting,"

"Millions of our citizens could be

tions," he said. Fakhruddin said it is not the

100-day job

period--from mid-October to mid-January and from mid-March to

mid-May. People receiving benefits from other safety-net programmes like

vulnerable group feeding (VGF), vulnerable group development, gratuitous relief and test relief will not be eligible for the programme. "It will be ensured that one does

not get benefits from different sources," Mirza Azizsaid. According to the policy, the government will invite applications

from the unemployed rural poor. Upazila-level committees comprising upazila nirbahi officer (UNO), union parishad representatives and government officials will decide who will get the jobs.

"Jobs for 20 days a month will be created for each poor person, thus providing the poor with 100 days' job over five months," Food Secretary Molla Waheduzzaman told The Daily

If the government fails to ensure jobs to an applicant within 15 days of receiving application, it will pay them unemployment allowance-one third of the daily wage for the first 30 days and half of it for the remaining days, said sources.

Those who will not appear for the job they are registered for will not get the unemployment allowance.

Fourteen lakh people will be picked from the 44 districts while six lakh people will be picked from upazilas, unions or villages in the rest 20 districts, the finance adviser said.

A steering committee led by the food and disaster management secretary will monitor the programme, the allocation for which was announced in the budget for fiscal year 2008-09.

According to government sources, Tk 1,246 crore retrieved through the anti-corruption drive would be spent on the project.

Asia Cup cricket Dhoninotched five boundaries and a

WB chief FROM PAGE 16

India suffered the first of two setmean malnutrition, reduced resis-Two overs later, off-spinner tance to disease and too often Muttiah Muralidaran produced a death.

> "Record oil prices and high and rising food costs threaten a growing number of countries with rising poverty and social instability Already we have seen food riots in over 30 countries, and unrest over high fuel prices is spreading. The urban poor are especially affected by the double hit of food and fuel, he warned.

In his letter, Zoellick urged the G-8 to consider two new measures to "improve the world's ability to cope with an on-going food crisis." The first was UN assessment on

guaranteeing a portion of funding for the World Food Programme. The second was to study the merits of an internationally coordinated "virtual" humanitarian strategic reserve system for food emergencies. The international community

is facing an unprecedented test in this new era of globalisation. The question is whether we can act swiftly to help those most in need,

he said. Pay Commission

FROM PAGE 1

Asked about a date of formation of the pay commission, Mirza Azizul said, "Maybe within a month or so. I can't give a specific date."

"The government is now thinking how many members will be there in the commission and who will be there," he said, adding: "We'll have to draft the terms of

reference." Asked when the commission will submit its report, Mirza Aziz

said they were yet to decide it. The first pay commission was formed in 1972. thereafter, four other pay commissions were formed in 1976, 1984, 1989 and

MiG-29 case

FROM PAGE 16

the day before. "The case does not stand since the High Court ruling, following a writ petition, has declared valid both the agreements relating to the purchase of MiG-29 and the Bangladesh-Russia Defence Technical Co-operation," he said.

According to the HC judgment, both the agreements were made in accordance with the law, the defence counsel added. Advocate Syed Rezaur Rahman said charges cannot be framed

warplanes were purchased in the interests of the country. Advocate Sahara Khatun represented Hasina as the latter had been exempted from appearing at trial proceedings personally during

against the accused as the MiG-29

One of the accused in the case Gen (retd) Mustafizur Rahman was produced before the court yester-Salim, the proprietor of Silver

her stay overseas for treatment.

The other accused in the case are former air force chief Jamaluddin Ahmed, former defence secretary Syed Yusuf Hossain, Air Commodore (retd) Mirza Akhter Maruf, former joint secretary Mohammad Hossain Serniabat and Unique Group Managing Director Nur Ali. The now-defunct Bureau of

Commissioner Moniruzzaman struction firm in September 2006. Anti-Corruption (Bac) filed the He was also awarded another five case against Hasina and four others years' RI for extorting Tk 10 lakh with Tejgaon Police Station on December 11, 2001, accusing them The joint forces arrested Salim of causing a loss of Tk 700 crore to on March 7 last year. Nine cases the state exchequer by purchasing NBR said Salim evaded tax upon were filed against him on different eight MiG-29 jet fighters while charges including extortion, tax Hasina was the prime minister of the country.

Grassroots leaders

RAJSHAHI

FROM PAGE 1 party disciplinary actions, BNP leader and acting Mayor of KCC Moniruzzaman Moni filed his nomi-

nation paper yesterday. Among four AL leaders, who submitted nomination papers for the mayoral post, the party's central committee and Khulna City AL unit endorsed its President Talukder Abdul Khaleque for the mayoral post, reports our Khulna correspondent.

There was no of political strength like in the past. Curious people as well as party workers thronged the election commission office at Laxmipur creating a festive mood, reports our staffcorrespondent in Rajshahi.

Three AL leaders and four BNP leaders submitted nomination papers yesterday.

Workers' Party politburo member

Fazle Hossain Badsha, city AL

President Maksudul Haque Dulu and General Secretary AHM Khairuzzaman Liton submitted nomination papers on behalf of the AL-led 14-party combine. BNP leader and acting RCC Mayor Rezaunnabi Dudu, former

district BNP general secretary Enamul Haque, former lawmaker Jahan Panna and city Jubo Dal President Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul submitted their nomination papers. Meanwhile, leaders and activists of AL Rajshahi city unit yesterday

urged the party high-ups to nomi-

nate Liton as the city mayoral candi-

date, our Rajshahi University correspondent added. SYLHET The returning officer's office and its their candidates. surrounding areas at Sylhet city's Alampur received a festive look as hundreds of people gathered yester-

day, reports our staff correspondent

Detained mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran's son Arman Ahmed Shiplu along with Kamran's mother and brothers filed Kamran's nomination papers while acting Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) Mayor Azam Khan filed nomination papers for ward councillorship even though he had collected the nomination form for the mayoral post.

In Sylhet, the AL and BNP are yet to endorse their candidates.

Sources said the AL might choose either Kamran or Dewan Farid Gazi for the mayoral post but their decision depends on whether Kamran

will be able to run for office. BNP would sit soon to finalise its candidate. Sources said former district BNP president MA Haque, defeated by Kamran in the first SCC poll in 2003, may be selected again.

BARISAL Barisal City AL Convener Shawkat Hossain Hiron, BNP leaders Ahsan Habib Kamal and Ebaidul Haque Chan submitted their nomination papers for the mayoral posts yester-

Nagorik Parishad President Enayet Pir Khan submitted his nomination papers under the banner of his organisation, reports our Barisal correspondent.

BNP leader and acting Mayor Awlad Hossain Dilu also submitted nomination papers at the District Election Office. A number of leaders and workers of different political parties thronged the election office premises to extend their support for

Sources claim many ward commissioners with links to crime during the BNP-Jamaat regime submitted their nomination papers yesterday.

Khaleda, Tarique

FROM PAGE 1

to about Tk 4.45 crore at the time, was transferred from United Saudi Commercial Bank to Prime Minister's Orphanage Fund -fund that was created by then premier Khaleda shortly before the transfer of the grant as part of the embezzlement scheme. Only Khaleda administered the fund. On September 5, 1993, Khaleda,

2.33-crore cheque from the Prime Minister's Orphanage Fund to the so-called Zia Orphanage Trust on the pretext of building an orphanage in Bogra. On November 15 the same year, the cheque was deposited into Zia

Orphanage Trust account main-

tained with Sonali Bank's New

still the prime minister, issued a Tk

North Circle Branch at Gulshan in the capital. Later, Tk 4 lakh was withdrawn from the trust account and Tk 2.77 lakh of it was spent to purchase 2.79 acres of land at Gabtoli in Bogra under the name of Zia

OrphanageTrust. In the following 13 years, between 1993 and April 2006, there was no activity of the trust and the amount saved in the account of the

trust grew to Tk 3.37 crore with accrued interest. In April, June and July of 2006, Khaleda's son Tarique Rahman,

Dramatic rescue

FROM PAGE 16

"will no doubt go down in history for its audacity. US ambassador to Bogota William Brownfield told CNN that Washington had provided "technical support" to the operation but Santos

insisted it was a "one hundred per-

cent Colombian" effort. Betancourt, a candidate for the Green party, and her campaign manager Clara Rojas, were abducted by the FARC on February 23, 2002.

Rojas was released in January Speaking in French and Spanish, Betancourt thanked everyone for keeping their plight alive.

"We were able to dream. We were

heard our loved ones" on the radio, she said, according to a translation US hostages Marc Gonsalves, Thomas Howes and Keith Stansell, captured in 2003 when their plane crashed during a US defense department anti-drug mission, arrived

Thursday. The men, employees of US defense contractor Northrop Grumman, landed at a military base in San Antonio, Texas, and were taken by helicopter to a US army medical

back in the United States early

World leaders hailed the release and celebrations broke out on the streets of Colombian cities to mark the brazen jungle rescue as a bright spot for a country plagued for decades by kidnappings. Colombian President Alvaro

Uribe, who spoke with Betancourt

just after her release, praised the

"magnificent work" of the rescue team and compared the operation "to the greatest epics in the history of man. There had been mounting fears for Betancourt's health following the release of a video showing her looking thin and frail, but her husband,

Juan Carlos Lecompte, said in Bogota

he was surprised to see her looking so Betancourt's teenage son, Lorenzo Delloye, told AFP it was "an indescribable joy" to hear that his

46-year-old mother was free. US President George W. Bush congratulated Colombia, telling Uribe he was a "strong leader," while French President Nicolas Sarkozy also thanked Uribe and called on the FARC to end their "absurd" struggle.

also the chairman of the Zia Orphanage Trust, transferred Tk 3.3 crore from the trust account in

his relative Mominur Rahman with Gulshan branch of Prime Bank. By February 7, 2007, most of the Tk 3.3 crore was again distributed into new FDR accounts opened with Prime Bank's New Eskaton branch at Ramna under the names of Kazi Salimul Haque, Syed Ahmed alias

six cheques to an FDR (fixed

deposit receipt) account opened by

Sayeed Ahmed, Gias Uddin Ahmed and Sharfuddin Ahmed. Finally, on February 15, 2007, Tk 2.10 crore was embezzled by withdrawing it through pay orders from two of the FDR accounts, the casestatement said.

The ACC earlier interrogated

Khaleda, now detained in a special

jail, and her two detained sons --

Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Coco, a member of the Zia Orphanage Trust, regarding the alleged fund embezzlement. Khaleda is also accused in

Gatco, Niko and Barapukura graft

cases while Tarique is accused in 15

other cases.

Hasina

FROM PAGE 16 Rae, a top Liberal Party MP, according US-based Bangla news agencies News World and American News Agency.

She said the AL has repeatedly

been targeted as her party is always

committed to promoting democracy, protecting human rights and curbing terrorism. Hasina said Bangladesh and Canada should work together to rein in crimes, protect human rights and the environment. She sought more Canadian investment

in Bangladesh if the Liberal Party comes to power.

Terror attack

FROM PAGE 16 the Sumatran village of Sekavu when police captured a Singaporean terror suspect, Abu Hazam, who allegedly met with bin Laden on several occasions and

The reports said the man, also

known as Omar, tipped police off to

the whereabouts of two other

suspects, Abdul Rahman and an

unidentified alleged bomb-maker, who were arrested Monday. Six others were netted Wednesday and All but one of the men were flown to the capital, their faces covered by black masks as they disembarked from the police air-

Lawyers have agreed to represent the alleged militants and will be present when police begin formal questioning, according to a group of attorneys that specializes

be released.

man, Noordin Top, a Malaysian

including many Muslims, some-

Nataprawira confirmed the arrests and the recovery of explosives, but would not elaborate, saying the investigation was ongoing.

able to keep hope alive because we received training in Afghanistan, TVOne and Kompas reported.

a seventh before dawn Thursday. craft. If found guilty of violating anti-terrorism laws, they face a

in defending terror suspects. If sufficient evidence is not

fugitive who is believed to head the violent breakaway faction of Jemaah Islamiyah that is committed to al-Qaeda style attacks on Western, civilian targets. He is believed to have been behind all four major attacks in the

thing that has caused divisions in the splinter group.

maximum penalty of death.

found after seven days, they must The suspects allegedly had ties

with Southeast Asia's most wanted

predominantly Islamic nation since 2002. Together the blasts have killed more than 240 people,

Police spokesman Abubakar