Bernd Posselt, Eija-Riitta Korhola, Johan Van Hecke, Mariela Baeva and Marios Matsakis, Roberto Musacchio, Jean Lambert and Jan Masiel, representing different groups in the parliament, according to a message received in Dhaka yester-

The resolution calls on the European Commission and the Council to play a more "pro-active role and to impress on the Bangladesh government the need for a speedy and complete withdrawal of the state of emergency, and of all regulations adopted within its con-

It called for holding free and fair elections in accordance with international standards, with the participation of all parties. It also urged the EU election observation mission to resume its activities as soon as this is feasible and advisable.

The resolution called on EU member-states missions and the commission delegation in Bangladesh to monitor carefully the human rights and political situation in Bangladesh.

It welcomed the release of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina on humanitarian grounds.

The parliamentarians urged the government to make sure that members of Bangladesh's ethnic and religious minorities be in a position to freely cast their votes. It expressed concern about "press censorship" and calls for freedom of the press in

the pre-electoral period. The resolution urged the government to ensure that its new Anti-Terrorism Ordinance responds to internationally recognised legal standards on combating terrorism as recommended by the UN special rapporteur on counterterrorism and human rights.

It also called on the government to abolish the death-penalty law and

immediately put an end to what they called recent wave of "mass arbitrary arrests" and the "harassment" of political opponents or journalists

under the state of emergency. The EU Parliament members are deeply concerned by reports on torture by the authorities and urged the government to ensure the basic rights for a due process for all detainees and guarantee those charged to a

The resolution urged the authorities that the thousands detained to be either charged on the basis of credible evidence or be released.

It congratulated the caretaker government on its making progress in preparing for parliamentary elections and on making essential progress with the reform of the electoral process and the drawing up of an accurate electoral register by the authorities.

The resolution called on the Bangladesh government to provide maximum scope for a large-scale mobilisation of all sectors of society, environmental and other nongovernmental organisations, journalists and scientists, in order to prepare the country for the upcoming climate change-induced disas-

They consider the emergency rule as an "alarming obstacle" on the way to achieving this goal.

The EU Parliament members believe that the G8 Summit has an enormous responsibility to avert further acceleration of the climate change and catastrophes that threaten the lives of millions in Bangladesh and elsewhere by adopting effective and far-reaching measures to curb CO2 emissions."

The EU Parliament resolution instructed its president to forward this resolution to Council, the Commission, the Saarc memberstates and the Bangladeshi govern-

# CA calls for austerity

promotion of renewable energy technologies in Bangladesh.

Some 50 percent of peak-hour load shedding can be managed by using compact fluorescent lamp (CFL). A CFL consumes one fifth of the electricity of an incandescent bulb, the function was told.

As much as 720 megawatts of power can be immediately saved through conserving electricity.

To encourage the nation in practising austerity in the use of electricity, the CA mentioned that he has started using less electricity in his office.

The CA said he has also asked all concerned in his office to raise thermostat to 24 degree Celsius in air-conditioner to save electricity. Though some of his colleagues have complained of feeling hot for raising temperature in air-conditioner, he

remained persistent. The CA informed the function that he has directed the cabinet secretary to convert incandescent bulb (IB) into energy-efficient and energy-saving compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) in all

government offices. of power and energy would not

hamper comfort or efficiency. "Let us resolve we will conserve energy --- and we can do," he said in

hiscall

Prof Ijaz Hossain of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) presented the keynote paper on "Enhancing Energy Security". He said country's energy security is greatly threatened due to rising oil prices, depleting natural reserves and widespread inefficiencies.

German Ambassador in Bangladesh Frank Meyke, UNDP Resident Representative Renata Lok Dessallien and the chairman of Bangladesh Heritage Foundation also spoke at the function.

Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser for Power and Energy Ministry Prof M Tamim chaired the inaugural session. Advisers, special assistants to the chief adviser, energy experts, diplomats and distinguished personalities were

The CA pointed out that promotion of energy conservation and renewable energy technologies has become a global trend in recent years due to phenomenal rises in price of petroleum products, growing awareness about the impact of global warming and climate change and fast depletion of natural resources across the world.

Bangladesh can't be exception to this global trend, he said.

Fakhruddin said energy conservation is considered as the fifth fuel: Complement to coal, natural gas, hydropower and nuclear energy. It reduces investment needs in new exploration and generation and thereby saves valuable resources. It also scales down environmental pollution.

"We can increase conservation of energy through standardisation of our equipment and appliances and promotion of energy-efficient technologies.

As Bangladesh has been blessed with adequate sunlight throughout the year, the government has undertaken several programmes for offgrid electrification through solar-He told the function that less use home system, the CA said about one of the innovations in hand.

He informed that over 250,000 solar-home systems have so far been installed in remote rural areas, and the government is providing grants, soft loans and technical assistance for the promotion of solar-home system besides reducing import duty from 5 percent to 3

A 250-kilowatt rice-husk-based power plant has been set up in Gazipur, he said, adding that the country has potential for about 300 megawatts of electricity from rice-

He also informed that a total of 60,000 domestic biogas plants would be installed under a programme, which would reduce the use of firewood and cow dung for cooking purpose and help

increase fertility of the soil. The CA later opened the exhibition styled "Let there be light" under Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Programmes on

### the hotel premises. Losing Turag

working inside the fenced up 'prop-

Three months ago, this correspondent had seen another signboard of 'Partex CNG' adjacent to Zahan Group's 'property', but this time around the signboard of Partex CNG was not there. Now Zahan

Group is developing both plots. Just after Zahan Group's 'property' another signboard reads 'Uttara University'. Next to the 'property' of Uttara University, another large section of the river is currently being

The local people said the owner of

Tasin CNG Station bought that piece of land to set up a CNG filling station

The carnival of encroachment left the Turag River in such a bad condition just next to the 'Bishaw Ijtema' field that an engine boat can barely

pass through the section. Experts said the Turag plays a very important role for Dhaka city's flood safety, as flood water flows south into the Bay of Bengal through this river from the adjacent districts situated at the upper northern side of the city. It is also the only river in the northern part of the city. If the river loses its width and depth the city will surely be vulnerable to massive flooding.

Executive Engineer of Division 2 of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) Md Masud Ahmed said although it seems that the structures were constructed on lands that had been developed by filling up the river, actually those are private lands. Owners of different CNG filling

stations and other establishments in the area had applied for permission to construct approach roads to their 'properties' through BWDB lands adjacent to the flood protection

embankment there, he said. "We gave permissions to a few owners to construct the approach roads about four years ago, and many are still being processed as per the rules of the government," he

added. An official of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) however said 150 feet of land from the edge of a river is its foreshore which is under the jurisdiction of BIWTA, and to construct anything on that section of land, one must take

permission from BIWTA "We did not give permission for any structure on the foreshore of the River Turag at those points," he

asserted. In 2005, the government finished the first phase of the Circular Water Way project spending Tk 36 crore, so city residents may use the waterway to commute between the northern and southern parts of the city. BIWTA built some jetties and dredged the river so water transports

may move easily. Now, BIWTA is going to implement the second phase of the Circular Water Way project in the Baluriver area.

But while the government agency is keen to build jetties on the riverbanks under the project, it has no activity for stopping the onslaught of encroachment upon the river.

#### Court to decide

Bhaban complex set the date after completion of charge-framing

The same court deferred the hearing of a petition of Awami League leader Mohammad Nasim seeking exemption from court appearances in person in connec tion with a corruption case to July

Pressing for framing charges against the accused in the bribery case, the Anti-Corruption Commission's prosecutor Syed Shamim Ahsan Habib said they were involved in giving and taking bribe in order to ensure that Shafiat Sobhan Sanvir, son of the Bashundhara Group chairman, did

not face murder charges. He said Babar took Tk 21 crore in bribe in return for the cover-up and gave Tarique Tk 1 crore of it, adding that charges should be framed against the accused as allegations against them were specific.

The defence, however, maintained that the case was politically motivated and that Tarique was not

involved in the alleged crime. They said Tarique's name was not even included in the first information report (FIR) and that only one witness out of 28 mentioned his name in connection with the crime.

On completion of the arguments, the judge set July 14 for judgment on whether to frame charges against the accused

Tarique was spared from appear ing at court hearings in person on health grounds on July 6. Babar and Abu Sufian, director of East West Property Development Ltd, a Bashundhara concern, were produced before the court. Other accused--Bashundhara

Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam, his two sons Shafiat Sobhan Sanvir and Sadaat Sobhan, Abu Sufian, and Tarique's personal secretary Mia Nur Uddin Apu--are in hiding.

On October 4 last year, the Anti-Corruption Commission's Deputy Assistant Director Abul Kashem filed the case with Ramna Police Station, accusing six persons including Babar.

The names of Tarique and former BNP lawmaker Qazi Saleemul Huq Kamal were included in the charge sheet after investigations found their involvement in the

crime. NASIM'S EXEMPTION PETITION The court deferred the hearing after Nasim's counsels pressed for time saying they did not yet get medical reports and other relevant documents to make out the case for the exemption of the former home minister from court hearings in

Nasim was sued on charges of financial anomalies in setting up 3,00,000 digital telephone lines during the Awami League govern-

#### US warns Iran

FROM PAGE 16 bases in the Gulf, and eight other

more medium range missiles. The move caused major concern in Western governments which fear Iran's nuclear drive is aimed at making atomic weapons, a charge that Tehran vehemently denies.

#### Ex-MP Lobi

FROM PAGE 16

Police of Botiaghata thana in Khulna filed a case on July 1, 2007 against Lobi on charge of misappropriating tins allocated for distribu tion as relief items.

Later, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) took up the

Lobi recently filed a petition with the HC to quash the case proceedings. Hearing of the petition was held vesterday.

Advocate Nazmul Huda appeared for the petitioner.

### Ex-AL lawmaker

FROM PAGE 16

was given 10 years for accumulating illegal wealth and one year for concealment of wealth. The sentences, effective from the date of his arrest or surrender, will run concurrently, the judge said.

The court ordered the authorities concerned to confiscate the former MP's ill-gotten wealth.

#### Gen Moeen

FROM PAGE 16

Relief Fund after Sidr and the money is being distributed among the cyclone victims.

Under the Ashar Alo Dairy Farm and Biogas Energy Project, milk, biogas and energy will be produced by using cows. Each of 150 families under the self-help scheme can saveTk25 everyday.

Around 13.5 cubic feet of biogas and 3-KV power will be produced under the project. Each memberfamily will be supplied an energy bulb to light their homes in the backwoods.

Grameen Shakti is providing biogas technology for the project and 20 local and foreign cows will be used to run the project. The total cost of the project is Tk 10 lakh.

Bagerhat Deputy Commissioner Shahidul Islam, Jessore Cantonment GOC Maj Gen Rafiqul Islam, 88 Brigade Commander Brig Gen Ehteshamul Haque, Bagerhat Army Camp Commander Lt Col Shahinul Haque, Khulna Rab-6 Commander Mestaul Haque and Bagerhat Police Superintendent AKM Shahidur Rahman, among others,

were present on the occasion. The army chief later handed over deed of the project to Nahar Begum and Gobinda Lal, two of the cooperators under the project.

### Final list of JS seats

FROM PAGE 1

The EC has redrawn the boundaries of the seats in line with the criteria set out in the delimitation ordinance. Besides making sure the administrative units remain intact, it considered density of population and administrative convenience in the demarcation.

Sources in the EC Secretariat say of the 133 seats, 90 witnessed some changes in boundaries as proposed in the April 29 draft list. In their case, EC has either added or taken away new areas between neighbouring seats to satisfy people's expectations by maintaining balance in their sizes in terms of electorate.

Another 10 seats witnessed changes in serial number of their areas that consisted the constituencies, the officials add. After 24 long years, EC delimited

the boundaries of constituencies on a large scale, ignoring objections of the major political parties. The last time EC carried out a

major demarcation was in 1984. In 1995, it brought some minor changes in the electoral boundaries. Due to the long gap, dispropor-

tion grew in the sizes of constituencies population-wise. According to the voter list prepared in 2001, 17 constituencies had voters below two lakh each, six had

voters over six lakh each, seven each had between five and six lakh, while the number of voters in 19 constituencies ranged between four to five The rest of the constituencies

however were medium-sized in terms of voters. Intriguingly, the ceiling on election expenditure for all constituen-

cies was same, regardless of the number of voters. But after the fresh demarcation, there is no major inconsistency between constituencies, and it will

be easy for EC to fix the ceiling of expenditure on the basis of voters' number. In line with EC's decision, each of the three hill districts Khagrachhari, Bandarban and

Rangamati -- was allocated one seat irrespective of their population. Relatively small district Meherpur got two seats though it does not qualify for those.

INCREASE-DECREASE The number of seats in Dhaka division has risen by only four to 94 from 90 as four of its districts -- Faridpur, Kishoreganj, Manikganj and Munshiganj -- each lost a constituency. Besides, a constituency lying between Mymensingh and Netrakona was deleted from the parliamentary map.

Apart from Dhaka, Netrakona and Gazipur districts have also got extra seat, each now having five instead of four.

Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions -- all have seen a decrease in the number of constituencies. In Chittagong division, each of Chandpur and Comilla has lost a seat, while Chittagong has gained one, raising the number of its seats

In Barisal division, Barguna lost a seat, while a constituency between

Barisal and Pirojpur was deleted. In Khulna division, only Satkhira lost a seat. The number of parliamentary slots in Sylhet (19 seats) and Rajshahi divisions (72 seats) remain unchanged. Sirajganj under Rajshahi division lost a seat to Rajshahi City Corporation area. CHANGED BOUNDARIES

Constituencies with changed boundaries compared to the previous list are Kurigram-2, 3, Bogra-1, 4, 5, 6, 7, Rajshahi-2, 3, Sirajganj-1, 2, 5, 6, 7, Jessore-3, 4, 5, 6, Khulna-1, 2, 3, 6, Satkhira-3, 5, Barguna-1, 2, 3 Patuakhali-1, 2, Barisal-2, 3, 4, Barisal with Pirojpur, Pirojpur-1, 2, 3, Tangail-5, 6, Jamalpur-2, 3, 4, 5 Mymensingh-1, 2, 3, 4, Mymensingh with Netrakona, Netrakona-1, Kishoreganj-1, 2, 3 Manikganj-1, 2, 3, 4, Munshiganj-1 2, 3, 4, Dhaka-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 11, 12, 13, Gazipur-1, 2, 3, 4 Narsingdi-1, 2, 3, 5, Narayanganj-2, 3, 4, 5, Faridpur-2, 3, 4, 5, Shariatpur-2,

#### 3, Sunamganj-4, 5, Sylhet-1, 2, 3, Moulvibazar-1, 2, 4, Habiganj-1, 4

Feni-2, 3, Noakhali-1, 2, 3 Laxmipur-2, 3, and Chittagong-2, 6,

31 rebels

7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14.

In one particularly deadly fight in Vavuniya, troops captured a rebe bunker and killed eight guerrilla fighters after nine hours of clashes, the military said in a statement.

Brahmanbaria-1, 2, 3, 5, 6, Comilla-

1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 11, Chandpur-1, 2, 3, 4, 6,

Others battles and ambushes along the civil war's front lines in the north killed 23 Tamil Tiger fighters and three soldiers, the military said.

Rebel spokesman Rasiah Ilanthirayan could not be reached for comment. Each side commonly exaggerates its enemy's casualties while underreporting their own.

It is not possible to get independent accounts of the clashes because journalists are barred from the war zone. The rebels have been fighting since 1983 to create an independent state for ethnic minority Tamils, who have been marginalised by successive governments controlled by ethnic Sinhalese. More than 70,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

Meanwhile, another soldier was killed Wednesday near the eastern town of Trincomalee from injuries sustained in a wild elephant attack, the military said.

#### Shujan discussion

FROM PAGE 16

about the candidates, he said. Asked whether he supports the upazila elections within the tenure of the present caretaker government, Muzaffer said there should not be any objection against it because the political governments in the past broke their promises and did not hold the upazila elec-

tions for their own interests. Asked if the ongoing dialogue between the government and political parties is successful, he said, "For better results, the dialogues should've been held among

the political parties." Shujan Secretary Dr Badiul Alam Majumder said the posting of the candidates' information on the EC website, as suggested by the EC, would not ensure all the voters' access to the candidates' information in time. "The purpose of the court order of providing candidates' information to people will

thereby fail," he observed. Asked for his comments about the political parties' apprehension that the local government elections will be "stage-managed", he said such elections would neither be

acceptable nor possible. Supreme Court advocate Dr Shahdeen Malik said due to lack of adequate publicity, not too many people are aware of the eligibility criteria for running in the polls and the media can play a crucial role by making the people aware of the

criteria for candidacy. As per the rules, business own ers doing business with the government cannot take part in national elections due to conflict of inter-

ests, he noted. Brotee Chief Executive Officer Sharmin Murshid and Shujan Chittagong District President Professor Sekandar Khan also spoke at the meeting.

### Oil prices

This had no impact on the retail market as soya bean oil was selling between Tk 120 and Tk 124 and palm oil was selling between Tk 105 andTk110.

## Pond digging leads

FROM PAGE 16 kg, is an artefact of 10th century made during the Chandra dynasty's rule of Samatat Kingdom, now the greater Comilla

Renowned archaeologist AKM Zakaria went to the spot to look at the artefact just after it was discovered on June 14. He said, "It is a unique piece of art made with superior quality black stone. could be made of high-quality Basalt. It is one of the finest and one of the largest artefacts discovered

in the country." "The decoration of the artefact follows the school of art developed during the Pala dynasty. However, I suspect it was made during the rule of Kalyan Chandra, of the Chandra dynasty, who ruled the ancient Samatat region during the 10th century," he added.

Zakaria said, "The halo of the statute confirms that it was made before 11th century. However, the excess use of decorations indicates that it was not made before 10th century. Other features of the statute follow the 10th century trends." On why the artefact was found five metres under the ground,

Zakaria said it was a practice of the ancient Hindu community to bury the image of a deity, when a part of it was distorted. Of the four hands, two hands and the nose of the Vishnu statute are broken.

Bhuiyan of Jahangirnagar University to do a comparative study on the archaeological value

Despite locals' demand of keeping the statue at the National Museum in Dhaka, the artefact was taken to the Mainamati Museum, Comilla Sunday for preservation as per the decision of the Department of Archaeology under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

The editor of Smatat Barta said, "When Brahmanbaria police asked a local court to give directions on where to keep the artefact, the additional chief judicial magistrate of Brahmanbaria on June 15 asked the National Museum at Shahbagh, Dhaka to preserve it. However, the Department Archaeology took the artefact from Brahmanbaria Police Station's custody and placed it in Mainamati Museum.

"This is a violation of court order. Moreover, the unique artefact deserves to be preserved at the National Museum," he added. Director of the Department of

Archaeology Shafiqul Alam said "As per Antiquities Act, 1964 [amended, 1976], it is the responsibility of the department to main tain, conserve and repair protected sites and monuments all over the country. "The recently discovered Lord

Vishnu's statute should be preserved at Mainamati Museum at Chairman of ASB Prof Sirajul Comilla along with the other Islam said, "The artefact deserves artefacts of the region. Moreover, at special treatment which is why we present the National Museum does have offered a fellowship to archae- not have the space to preserve ologist Mokammel Hossain morestatues," headded.

### Best Air flight

FROM PAGE 16 Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), told The Daily Star.

However, Best Air authorities told The Daily Star that the aircraft was forced to return to ZIA due to bad weather, not because of a technical fault.

"Due to bad weather over Chittagong, the aircraft was forced to return to ZIA," Farhad Hossain, director (marketing and sales) of Best Air, told The Daily Star last night, adding, "The sky was cloudy and there were lightning."

"The Bangkok-bound flight left ZIA again around 1:30pm, taking all its passengers and landed safely at its destination," he said.

"We took all precautionary measures while the aircraft was at the airport," said Naim, adding, "Our team will investigate to find out what actually happened."

Best Air started its journey as a freighter airline in 2000, obtaining an air operator certificate from the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, its website read.

#### Licences

FROM PAGE 1

13,986 licensed ones as per decision of the Food-grains Collection and Monitoring Committees of different districts.

The licences of 1,513 rice mills were cancelled in Rajshahi division alone, while 268 in Dhaka, 160 in Khulna, 17 in Chittagong, 10 in Sylhet and one was cancelled in Barisal Division.

The licences of the 1,969 mills were cancelled for violating the Rice Mills Operation Ordinance 1943, it said.

#### Sajeda Chy

wife, son and daughter own movable and immovable properties worth about Tk 1.95 crore and he concealed information of wealth worth Tk 76.45 lakh in the wealth

Mofidul, however, said Jahangir's and his wife's income tax files say that they own wealth worth Tk 54.15 lakh which means they have wealth worth Tk1.41 crore beyond their known sources of income.

Both the cases were filed with Ramna Police Station yesterday afternoon under sections 26(2) and 27(1) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004 and section 15 of the Emergency Power Rules,

### Khaleda

statement.

FROM PAGE 1 Agro Trade (Pvt) Co Ltd (Gatco) the contract for container management at inland container depots in Dhaka and Chittagong causing a loss of over Tk 1,000 crore to the state exchequer.

Later, the case was brought under the Emergency Power Rules. The case is pending with the special judge's court-3 at Jatiya

Sangsad Bhaban complex. Earlier, Khaleda filed a petition with the Supreme Court on July 6 for staying the hearing on charge framing in the case.

### High food prices

FROM PAGE 16 "Prices of essentials are not at tolerable level. You know it and I also admit it," Shawkat said adding that the people in low-income bracket are suffering due to the price spiral of

He, however, claimed that people are not returning home without rice from the market despite its high

prices.

When asked about government steps to control the price spiral of essentials, he said too much intervention on the market might have an adverse impact. He said they are monitoring the

market closely and the food ministry

has taken up various programmes

apart from the VGF, VGD, Test Relief and Food for Works to ensure people's access to food. Prices of food items depends on the international market and also food-exporting countries, Shawkat said adding that the private sector which is the major supplier of food items to the local market is having a hard time due to price spiral of essen-

The country now has a food reserve of 9.23 lakh tonnes, about 4.99 lakh tonnes more than the corresponding month last year, he Terming population growth a

major problem, the adviser talked

about various government measures

tials on the international market.

to bring down the fertility rate to 2.2 per cent from the existing 2.7. "If we can maintain this target, the country's population will reach 17.20 crore in 2020 and 21 crore in 2060," he said, adding that the use of contraceptives in the country is declining while adoption of permanent birth-

control measures is on the rise.

making people aware of family planning will be geared up in Chittagong, Sylhet and Barisal divisions where the use of contraceptives is less than other divisions. Besides, fresh awareness

programme will be launched for

couples aged between 20 and 25.

The adviser said activities for

He said if population growth cannot be controlled it will be difficult to alleviate poverty and ensure fundamental rights of people. Health and Family Welfare Secretary AKM Zafrullah, Additional Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, Director General (Health) M Abul Faiz and

Director General (Family Planning)

Kamrunnesa Khanom, among

others, were present.

### 2 graft cases

orders remain upheld," Hasina's counsel-barrister Shafique Ahmed

told reporters. "We are happy with the apex court order," he said adding that the SC order was a step for establishing rule

oflaw, justice and democracy. Meanwhile, Attorney General (AG) barrister Fida M Kamal said that the government would file regular appeals with the SC against the HC orders as soon as possible, as per the

apex court order. ACC's counsel advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that following the SC order, the HC orders staying the proceedings of the cases remain valid till filing of regular

Earlier yesterday during the hearing, Fida M Kamal told the court that the HC bench, which earlier passed orders staying the proceedings against Sheikh Hasina and issuing of rules, has no jurisdiction to hear the quashment petitions and to pass orders in the petitions. "Since the HC bench has called

the records of the cases, the trial courts are not able to resume the trial proceedings," he said praying for staying of the HC orders and directing both parties of the cases to dispose of the HC rules within a time

The Attorney General also said that time is being lost in the proceedings of the trials following the HC

Hasina's principal counsel, barrister Rafique-ul Huq, told the court that these appeals against the HC orders are politically motivated

"If the government files appeals against all the interim orders of the HC, then there is no need of the high court. Why does the government have so much interest to file such appeals? Also as per the rules of the ACC act, the officials concerned with dealing the cases have to take approval from the ACC at every stage of the cases. But in these cases, the ACC did not give its sanctions as per those rules," he said.

investigation officers did not submit investigation reports of the cases within the stipulated 60 days of filing of the cases, according to the concerned law and thus the cases had become invalid. He argued that during the hearing of the cases at the HC bench, coun-

sels for both sides of the case had

agreed that the hearing of the

quashment petitions filed by Hasina

would be held in the bench of Justice

Khademul Islam Chowdhury and

Barrister Huq also said that the

Justice Mashuque Hosain Ahmed. "The HC bench also agreed to hear the matter. So the Attorney General's argument that this bench

has no jurisdiction to hear the petitions is not valid, "he said.

The apex court announced its order after hearing all arguments. Earlier, the HC bench on July 7 stayed for two months all proceedings of the Niko and barge-mounted power plant cases against Awarni League President Sheikh Hasina, following the two petitions filed by

quashed. The government on July 8 filed

The Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice MA Matin referred the matter to the full bench of the apex court for the hearing

#### EC to seek action

FROM PAGE 1

They are OMS dealers Farida Yasmin, Merajuddin and Nasiruddin, and loan defaulters Siddiqur Rahman and Shamsunnahar.

The EC meeting found that the RO declared valid was unacceptable. said the commission secretariat

would send a letter to the establish-

ment ministry early next week asking

to determine whether

Akhtaruzzaman cleared the applications on ill motives and take disciplinary action accordingly. The establishment ministry is the controlling authorities of district and

"We'll ask his (controlling) authoragainst him," Sakhawat said.

divisional officials.

According to electoral laws, the service of an official goes to the EC after given election duty. The commission can then ask the controlling authorities to take departmental actions against them if they fail to perform electoral duties properly.

### 14-party picks

FROM PAGE 1 AL had been in a dilemma over 14party nomination for the post of RCC. mayor. Finally, on instructions from its President Sheikh Hasina, it decided

to nod approval for Badsha.

coalition candidate also in the last RCC polls. He lost the close-run race after polling around 76,000 votes. Party insiders said Hasina, who is now in London, had talked to the AL senior leaders over phone and asked them to pick Badsha instead of party leader AHM Khairuzzaman Liton

ing behind him. Lately, the political parties have been quite busy nominating their candidates for the forthcoming polls. Legal experts however observe that parties cannot chose candidates

According to the electoral code of

in an election that is non-partisan.

who has the entire Rajshahi AL rally-

partisan and the contestants are not allowed to use their political affiliations, party names and portraits of leaders during electioneering. DISPUTESTILL PERSISTS Even though the 14-party combine has chosen their candidates for may-

corporations in the form of multiple candidates from the alliance. Apart from Kamran, four mayoral candidates from AL are still officially in the race in Sylhet as AL leaders Dewan Farid Gazi and Iftekhar Hossain Shamim withdrew their candidacy on Wednesday and

Haque Chowdhury Bir Protik and Babrul Hossain Babul are expected to withdraw today. However, city AL Secretary Misbah Uddin Siraj and Sylhet District AL Vice-president Abduj Jahir

Out of the four AL leaders, Inamul

Tuesday.

Chowdhury Sufian are yet to decide on withdrawing. In Khulna, AL leader Enayet Ali told The Daily Star last night that he is determined to run for the post of Khulna City Corporation mayor under the banner of Nagorik Forum. Apart from 14-party-chosen Talukder Abdul Khaleque, Enayet is the only mayoral candidate from the alliance

In Rajshahi, AL rank and file closed the city AL office immediately after hearing the news that Badsha received the 14-party endorsement. City AL President Masudul Haque Dulu and General Secretary AHM

Khairuzzaman Liton, mayoral candi-

officially still in the race.

dates of RCC, have vowed to contest in the election. Liton, an ALCWC member, told The Daily Star that he would be in the race under the banner of Nagorik Committee as it has nominated him. Dulu told The Daily Star that since

In Barisal, apart from 14-party chosen Shawkat Hossain Hiron there are three mayoral candidates from the alliance officially still in the race. AL leader Alamgir Khan Alo said he

would withdraw his candidacy as a

the election is non-partisan he would

run as an independent candidate.

show of respect to the party decision. AL leader and mayoral candidate Rejaul Haque Harun said he has not decided about withdrawing his candidacy while AL leader Mahmudul Haque Khan Mamun said he would run for mayor if the people of his locality wanted him to.

14-PARTYMEETING The meeting of the 14-party combine finalised the nominations for the four city corporation elections and elabo-

Hasina for quashing the cases filed by

The court also issued separate rules asking the government and the ACC to explain within four weeks why the cases should not be

two separate petitions (provisional leave to appeals) with the SC to vacate the HC orders that stayed the proceedings of the cases against Hasina.

had been right to reject their applications. Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain said the way the applications were Officials present at the meeting

ities to initiate departmental action "We'll not tolerate any negligence on the part of any officials engaged in election duties," he said.

rately discussed the latest political

situation of the country.

upazila polls before national elections. He demanded holding of the parliamentary polls as soon as possi-He also demanded immediate withdrawal of the state of emergency,

activities and trial of war criminals. Demanding immediate withdrawal of the emergency, he said the situation in Bangladesh does not require the state of emergency. Criticising the finance adviser's remarks on price hike of essentials,

Zillur said people of an independent

permanent release of Sheikh Hasina,

measures to control price hike of

country cannot go hungry and the government should take immediate measurers to curb the price hike of essentials. Senior coalition leaders including Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Rashed Khan Menon, Motia Chowdhury, Nurul

Water, transit FROM PAGE 1 Bangladesh to allow transit. "You

India's transit access through

Bangladesh has been a sensitive

issue in Bangladesh and India has

been demanding the facility for long

can't set any timeline for this.'

for a more economically viable one of the primary concerns. "There are elements in both the

countries who have caused certain

security breaches and there have

been bomb blasts," he said adding,

"Connectivity [was] found between organisations here and there. So, we will be seeking greater cooperation on security issues so that both the countries can fight the menace of terrorism together." Asked whether he has raised the issue of repatriating Anu Chetia to

been there. But there are more names what we have given to Bangladesh government and expect

"The name you mentioned has

people back from Bangladesh."

commissioner. "Pending issues like sharing of water and fixing river borders will be raised at the talks which will initiate talks over the important issue of maritime demarcation," he said adding that the issue of cooperation in bilateral security would also be

While putting the emphasis on resolving the issues, the Indian envoy said, "We will also focus on bus and train services as to how to improve the services and increase

Briefing newsmen after the meet-, ing, Zillur said they would protest strongly if the government holds The Workers Party leader was the

essentials, resumption of trade union

conduct, the local polls are non-Islam, Bimal Biswas, Dilip Barua, Mainuddin Khan Badal, Shirin

#### ors in the four city corporation elec-Akhtar, Abdus Samad were present at tions, disputes remain in all the city the meeting among others.

not set any specific timeframe for

access to its seven northeastern states, also known as the Seven Pinak said India and Bangladesh have some pending issues, but cooperation in bilateral security is

the Bangladesh foreign adviser, Pinak said, "We repatriated some Bangladeshi wanted people hiding in Kolkata. We also need to get some

that Bangladesh will catch them and hand them over to us," he added. In response to the same question, Iftekhar told The Daily Star that he had no discussion over the Chetia issue with the Indian high

discussed at the talks.