EC's directive

Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain however rejected the AL delegation's arguments and said the

If central leaders of political parties campaign for local government poll candidates, that will destroy the non-partisan character of the polls and such activities will

The EC also told the AL delegation that it stands by the restrictions imposed on political leaders 'according to the laws' for ensuring holding of the polls in a non-partisan man-

According to the new electoral rules and the code of conduct for electioneering, polls to city corporations and municipalities are nonpartisan. Use of candidates' political affiliations in campaigns will constitute a criminal offence punishable by imprisonment and fine, and even

Electoral experts said political parties' ongoing activities centring the upcoming local government polls are in violation of the electoral rules and the code of conduct for

As central and local level leaders observers to monitor the upcoming of political parties had started campaigning for candidates in August 4 city corporation polls, the EC on July 20 issued a circular barring political party leaders from campaigning for

local government candidates. The circular said central and local level leaders of some political parties had violated the electoral code of conduct by campaigning for local government election candidates, and it directed the returning officers (RO) to take actions against such violations.

Two senior leaders of AL were already barred from campaigning for their party nominees in Sylhet and Barisal city corporations, sources in the EC Secretariat said.

Against such a backdrop, AL which formally nominated candidates for offices in the four city corporations ignoring the electoral code of conduct, yesterday sent its legal team to the EC to let the commission know that it does not intend to abide by the restrictions imposed on political leaders in the upcoming local government polls. Asked about the EC's July 20

circular, Suranjit Sengupta said it was issued 'without any lawful authority'. "We asked the commission to show the laws that allow it to impose

such restrictions. But the commission could not show any specific provision," he claimed.

will refrain from campaigning for candidates in the August 4 local government polls, Suranjit said there is no question of abiding by the restrictions issued unlawfully "Will you follow any illegal order?" Suranjit asked The Daily Star correspondent.

But, EC sources said the CEC and another election commissioner rejected the AL delegation's arguments and said the electoral rules clearly state that local government polls are absolutely non-partisan. Those will lose the non-partisan

the meeting, Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain said the commission requested the AL leaders to refrain from campaigning for candidates in the local government

"If a central leader of a political party campaigns for a local government election candidate, the candidate will automatically be publicised as a partisan candidate. It will destroy polls," Sohul said.

candidate in the local government polls only if the leader refrains from using his political identity and if the person is registered as a voter in that

A person may campaign for his or her local representatives," he added. Sohul said for example Abul Mal Abdul Muhith, a member of AL's advisory council, is campaigning for a candidate in the Sylhet city corporation polls.

"We did not bar him from campaigning since he is a voter of that city corporation," Sohul added.

The unscheduled meeting between the EC and the AL delegation took place after a leader of the party in the morning communicated

Saudi envoy

to our workers, and they are being treated properly," Delwar said.

About Khaleda's possible visit to Saudi Arabia after her release, the BNP secretary general said, "I don't know anything about it, it's up to

"She had visited Saudi Arabia regarding the allegation brought during her premiership and there against me," said Associate Prof was a good relation with the country during the rule of Ziaur Rahman. Saudi Arabia will wel-

come her if she wishes to visit terday afternoon banned procesthere," he said. The BNP leader however said he The confinement has led to law and

was not clear if Khaleda would take any such decision after her release. On a recent comment by Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman that the government was discussing with the BNP about Khaleda's release and dialogue,

about it," he said. BNP leaders RA Gani, Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui, Sarwari Rahman, Selima Rahman, Nazrul Islam Khan and Rizvi Ahmed were present during the meeting with the Saudi ambas-

Senior officials in the EC

announced the nominees publicly.

The EC did not take any action

against political parties, although

they had been blatantly electioneer-

ing for the upcoming local govern-

Instead it maintained that it was

overlooking the matter in efforts to

At the meeting with the EC, the AL

delegation also questioned the

commission's move of allowing a

large number of observers to moni-

tor the August 4 polls. The EC is allow-

ing over 5,500 local and international

will create obstacles to holding the

polls in a free and fair manner.

Besides, many of the local observers

might even have political affilia-

The EC however assured the Al

delegation that the names of local

observers will be disclosed at local

levels allowing the candidates to

an observer turns out to be genuine,

the disputed person will be taken of

the list of observers," Sohul assured.

AL POLL CAMPAIGNERS TO FOUR

Four AL campaign teams will go to

the four cities where city corporation

polls will be held on August 4, to

campaign for 14-party nominees

and to observe the polls. Sources said

AL Presidium Member Amir Hossain

Amu will lead a team that will go to

Barisal, Abdur Razzak will lead a

team in Khulna, Tofail Ahmed will

lead a team in Rajshahi, and Suranjii

Sengupata will lead one in Sylhet. AI

organising secretaries responsible

for overseeing divisional organisa-

tional activities and several other

central leaders who are from the

regions will also be included in

and five hours. He said authorities

imposed a curfew on the entire valley

welseparately unilitants burned

down a girls' school in Swat and blew

up a hostel in Pakistan's only ski

resort in the nearby town of Malam

Jabba, which had been damaged in

an attack last month, local officials

militants abducted 30 police and

increased hostile activities of the

miscreants, security forces have

been ordered to take appropriate

measures to counter their actions

paramilitary soldiers in Swat.

effectively."

The fighting also came a day after

The army said that "in view of the

Five Pakistani

respective teams.

"until further orders."

"If any candidate's objection to

check the authenticity of those.

"The huge number of observers

AL OPPOSSES LARGE NUMBER

create an 'electoral mood'

OF POLL OBSERVERS

tions, "Suranjitsaid.

CITIES

expressed the party's desire to meet down. the poll chief. The CEC gave the party Matin said it was not wrong for an appointment for a meeting a 2:30pm, without having any knowledge of the agenda, the sources said.

Secretariat said in 2004 the erstwhile EC formally requested political tion that the anti-corruption drive parties not to campaign for local government poll candidates. tion has stopped? It's still on. But this time around, the current EC did not make any such move although following the announce-

and her son Tarique Rahman, he ment of the August 4 local governsaid, "I do not know about it." ment election schedule on June 20, AL-led 14-party coalition nominated partisan mayoral candidates and

7-yr-old killed

their lost football around 3:00pm. The girl's mother Jayeda Begum, a construction worker, told The Daily Star that before going to work she saw her daughter playing

"In the afternoon, our manager asked me to go home because my daughter was seriously ill," she

On her way home Jayeda saw a crowd surrounding something just 50 yards ahead of her house. "When I moved through the crowd I found my lovely child lying on the road," Jayeda said bursting into

Dulu's elder sister Reshma Akter, who works as a domestic help, told The Daily Star that like any other day Dulu went out of the house for playing. "When I called her she said she was coming shortly but did not return," Reshma said.

Finding no trace of her sister as of 12:00noon on Tuesday, Reshma went to her work. "While returning home I heard the news," she said.

Her husband lives in Faridpur. Jayeda filed a murder case with Cantonment Police Station yesterday. None was arrested as of filing this report at 8:00pm yesterday.

FROM PAGE 16

Rahul, they added.

Though there is no official word on postponement of the visit, it is understood that it has been done largely to accommodate time for Rahul's possible interaction with some senior leaders and officials of Bangladesh government misna

tomorrow, some of the top leaders and senior officials of Bangladesh would have been away in Colombo for the 15th Saarc summit, which ends on August 3.

The young legislator seeks to have first-hand knowledge of rural development models followed by Brac and Grameen Bank.

The Nehru-Gandhi family has

FROM PAGE 16 Amethi.

to coordinate various issues in the

Start Safta talks

He said the Standing Committee agreed to sign Saarc Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters providing for cooperation among the member states in dealing with criminals who sneak from one member state into another.

The Standing Committee recommended entry of Afghanistan into Safta as an LDC.

Touhid said the Standing Committee recommended provid ing Saarc observer status to Australia and Myanmar. Presently, China, Japan, South Korea, Iran Mauritius, the United States and the European Union enjoy the observer status.

The Standing Committee also recommended the draft declaration of the 15th Saarc summit as Colombo Declaration to be announced on the concluding day of the summit on August 3.

These recommendations will be discussed and finalised by the Saarc Council of Ministers comprising foreign ministers who will meet today and tomorrow.

JU heats up

"The syndicate sat on implementation of policies against sexual harassment. I do not know anything more about the incident and trial procedures have begun against me. I have replied to the queries of the investigation committee, sent my representative to it and I also gave written statement

Ahmed Sunny. Meanwhile, a notification issued by the acting registrar yessions and meetings on the campus.

order slide, it reads. The notification says law enforcement agencies can take action if anyone is found ignoring the ban.

The campus burst into protests after four female students of drama and dramatics department brought allegations of sexual "I am the secretary general of harassment against Chair Prof

In an unusual move, the authorities formed separate probe bodies like a 'fact-finding committee' and 'stronger fact-finding committee.'

In the wake of further agitation the authorities were forced to form a high-powered probe-body headed by the VC. The committee is | bar in granting bail to Nasim on investigating the allegations how.

Home adviser

FROM PAGE 1 said but added that release on bail does not mean that case proceedings against the accused would die

the government to arrest politicians and businessmen for alleged corruption as the administration acted according to the law. He brushed aside the sugges-

has stopped. "Who said the opera-On the development of releasing BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia

detected the body while looking for

in front of their house.

Jayeda Begum said she lost three of her four children in the last 11 years. Her son Abul Bashar drowned in a pond 11 years ago at the age of five and her younger son Shukkur died of pneumonia two years ago at the age of one and a half months, she said.

Rahul Gandhi

scion of Nehru-Gandhi family and son of Congress President Sonia Gandhi described his visit to Bangladesh as a 'private' one. It will however be a 'learning' trip for

Had Rahul gone to Dhaka

been involved in various micro credit projects in Amethi and Rae Bareli, parliamentary constituencies of Rahul and his mother Sonia respectively. His sister Priyanka Gandhi too has been promoting women's self-help groups in

Zilla Parishad

FROM PAGE 1

enacted the Local Government Commission Ordinance and the commission will be formed soon so that the process of strengthening local government continues in future.

The commission will give suggestions to local government institutions on how they can operate effectively and strongly under a central government.

Education and Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman conducted the dialogue.

Over a thousand people including academics, freedom fighters, businessmen, farmers, journalists, NGO workers, local government representatives and aborigines from 16 districts of Rajshahi division joined the dialogue.

Nasım

The court also fixed August 5 for

further hearing on the bail petition. On October 8, 2007, the Special Judge's Court-1 sentenced Mohammad Nasim to 13 years' imprisonment in a graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) for illegally acquiring wealth and concealing information of it.

The joint forces arrested Nasim at midnight on February 4, 2007. ACC Deputy Director Akhter Hossain filed a case against the former home minister and his wife with Dhanmondi Police Station on March 21, 2007 for amassing illegal wealth worth Tk 1.26 crore.

Nasim has been undergoing treatment at LabAid Specialised Hospital in the city after he suffered brain haemorrhage.

Nasim filed an appeal with the HC in May this year against his conviction handed down by the special judge's court in the graft case. He filed the bail petition on July 28. Appearing for Nasim, Barrister M Amir-ul Islam and Advocate M

Enayetur Rahim argued before the

court that as per a recent Appellate

Division judgement, the High Court can grant bail to the accused in the cases under Emergency Power Rules (EPR) if the accused is seriously ill. They said the High Court has no health grounds.

Bhuiyan freed

FROM PAGE 1

Mohammad Nasim, Mirza Abbas, Tariqul Islam, Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Sheikh Fazlul

Bhuiyan came out of jail at about 5:35pm yesterday after the High Court on Monday granted him two months' ad-interim bail in the Gatco scam case.

workers, supporters and relatives received him outside the central jail on Nazimuddin Road in the city's Chankharpul area.

Later, talking to reporters at his residence, Bhuiyan said on party unity that there is no alternative to being united. "I always spoke for unity in the past and am still speaking for it. The party will have to be tion," he said.

release all VIP prisoners, saying they would not go into hiding after being released. He will place a floral wreath at

the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman, the founder of the BNP, Special Judge's Court sent Bhuiyan

court on May 18. Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami and BNP leader

on High Court bail. Mannan Bhuiyan emerged as one of the top leaders of the reformist faction of the BNP following the declaration of the state of

emergency on January 11, 2007. Later, he announced proposals to bring changes in the party constitution to make the party demo-

Khaleda expelled Bhuiyan from the party just before her arrest on September 2 last year and appointed Khandaker Delwar Hossain as the party secretary

Bhuiyan, however, refused to accept the decision of his expulsion

UK minister

FROM PAGE 16

She will meet senior government community during her stay.

jects on women's empowerment and access to education, said a British High Commission press "People-to-people links

embodied by nearly half a million British Bangladeshis are at the heart of our countries' relationship," said Blears in a statement. "Rightly, there is no contradiction in being both British and of

citing the involvement of British-Bangladeshis in government, politics, business, law and education in Britain. Blears said all political stakeholders must work together for a smooth transfer of power to an

democracy has to be the ultimate goal for Bangladesh. "The UK's interest in Bangladesh, and those of the Bangladeshi people, depend on establishing a stable and demo-

cratic Bangladesh," she said "What's at stake the future development of Bangladesh and its people is too important to risk a return to the politics of violence and confrontation," Blears

and tried to organise the faction to implement the reforms in the

party. The party standing committee at a controversial meeting held at Saifur Rahman's Gulshan house reinstated Bhuiyan as its member and appointed Saifur the acting chairperson and Maj (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed the acting

secretary general of the party. The pro-Khaleda faction refused the meeting decision.

However, Bhuiyan's initiatives failed when Saifur himself declared his leadership ineffective before leaving the country for Singapore and blamed party leaders "with background in left politics", hinting at Mannan Bhuiyan, for splitting the party.

Before leaving his house for surrendering to the court, Mannan Bhuiyan, a veteran freedom fighter, trashed his new political mission and urged BNP leaders, workers and supporters to be united under the leadership of Khaleda Zia.

Truth Commission

commission would start functioning

Meantime, the government has set up its office over three houses-Totinee, Tonmoy and Uttarayan-

and appointed necessary staff. There might be six subcommissions to cover the entire country and reduce workload on the commission.

According to the ordinance, the commission will exist for only five months, but the proceedings initiated during its term will continue

until disposal of the cases. The military-backed caretaker administration, which launched a massive crackdown on graft suspects after taking over in January last year, aims to curb corruption and ease backlog of graft cases through quick adjudication.

More than 200 suspects, mostly political bigwigs from Awami League (AL) and BNP, have been detained in

the drives. Persons willing to voluntarily disclose their ill-gotten assets will be exempted from prosecution and imprisonment, subject to surrender of the property or equivalent amount of money to the state exchequer.

As per the ordinance, one must

apply to the commission for mercy in a prescribed form, giving details of his/her moveable and immovable property and other relevant informa tion. Those already charged with corruption or convicted however will not be able to reap the benefits. his Gulshan office with 130,000 The commission will have the authority to summon any persons

believed or found to be involved in

corruption on the basis of such

disclosures. It will also have the authority to confiscate their ill-The commission will not generally sentence anyone after disclosure of his/her corruption to any prison term. But violation of the commission's directives will constitute an

Persons disclosing their graft will be debarred from national or local elections and disqualified for public office or executive positions in any collective bargaining agencies,

institutions for five years. The ordinance provides for giving information about others involved in corruption, and the commission can launch an investigation on the basis of the information.

Bangladeshi workers

FROM PAGE 1

on the basis of his experience. He said, "In some cases it was found that some workers were withdrawn from job without any reason or prior notice. They are kept idle for several months without salary and food. Workers who speak out their grievances are invariably victimised."

He said instances are there that the supervisors, foremen and managers abuse and beat up them with hands and if the matter is reported to the Arab bosses, they even kick them. Vocal workers are victimised and deported with false cases, he noted.

The former embassy official said, "If some of the workers make complaints to the Social Affairs Department of Kuwait, it takes several months to reach a solution. By this time the workers are sacked or their residency permits are cancelled. Eventually, the poor workers fall in more trouble and are forced to return home without a solution."

These statements are fully reflected in the recent incidents where thousands of Bangladeshi workers protested against low salaries and other abuse and the Kuwaiti government has started deporting many of them on charges of instigating demonstra-The demonstrators who were nate that many workers are forced

employed by cleaning companies to sign job contracts that are differand assigned under government ent from those signed before their projects said they were promised of arrival. KD 50 but were paid only KD 18 a

due to illness, said a demonstrating worker, reported Arab Times recently.

He alleged the company compels them to buy plane tickets from a certain travel agency, which charges exorbitant fares. "The company also does not allow us to take sick leave. How can we work under such an environment?" the aggrieved worker asked.

told The Daily Star many workers couldn't go on leave over the last eight to 10 years as the company didn't allow them. Even if a worker is granted leave for returning home, the company charges him KD 30 as security money for getting the passport

large. Judge Rabiul Hassan of Barisal Asked if the workers have job contracts, he said, "I asked the workers to show us the job conpresent in the dock. tracts they had signed. But they didn't do so."

He however said it is unfortu-Station filed the case on August 17, 2005 after consecutive bomb explosions in front of the Barisal Central

and order, the government yesterday notified that carrying any licensed

weapons in the four city corporations and the nine municipalities will be banned from August 2 midnight through August 5. Any violations of the government

order will be subject to legal actions under the Arms Act 1878, the home ministry notification warned. The ban, however, will not apply

to law-enforcement-agency members and security personnel at government and semi-government offices, institutions and installations. "Operation is on to recover illegal firearms," Home Secretary Abdul

Karim yesterday told reporters after a

meeting on election-time security, chaired by Home Adviser MA Matin at the home ministry yesterday afternoon. The ministry has also slapped a ban on motorcycles, three-wheelers, microbuses, pick-ups and any other mechanised vehicles in the election areas from August 3 midnight to

the ban. The home secretary said operations to round up possible trouble-

"We've already given instructions on how many law enforcers would be deployed at each polling station," the home adviser told reporters at the

He could not confirm whether mobile-phone communication would be off on the polling day in the

"Let's see what happens later," he Our Khulna correspondent

vulnerable centre on the polling day. KMP sources said 195 out of the 239 centres in the city's 31 wards have been identified as vulnerable

Amin Huda

and 96 centres as most vulnerable.

FROM PAGE 16

medical grounds. He also said the government would file appeals with the Supreme Court against the HC orders as soon as possible.

Petitioner's counsel advocate Anisul Huq told the court that Amin Huda is seriously ill and he should be granted bail for treatment abroad. Rab arrested Amin Huda from

Yaba tablets on October 25, 2007. The law enforcers also held Huda's close aide Ahsanul Haque Hasan, 34. Rab seized over 5,000 ice pills, a drug similar to Yaba, ice pill preparing chemicals, foreign liquor, phensidyle, over Tk 46 lakh

and currencies of six countries. Illegal voice over internet protocol (VoIP) equipment worth over Tk 5 crore was also seized from his Manticor Technology Ltd office. Rab said Huda had long been running illegal businesses using the

Police filed two cases with Gulshan Police Station the same

DAG Zahir said the HC earlier had granted bail to Amin Huda on another ground in the cases. Later, the Supreme Court had stayed the HC bail orders, he added.

Nanak FROM PAGE 16 ACC Deputy Assistant Director Abul Kashem, investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan

Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, show-

The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrant against Nanak, and order to attach his properties as he has been absconding since filing of

In the charge sheet, the IO said the charges brought against Nanak were primarily proved and he should be brought under trial. On March 25 this year, the ACC

filed the case with Ramna Police According to the case statement, Nanak had submitted statement about wealth worth Tk 76 lakh. But the ACC found that he had illegally amassed wealth worth Th 18,27,109 and concealed informa-

tion about wealth Tk 12,02,109. 7 JMB men

FROM PAGE 16 release them unless there are sepa-

The convicts are Abu Yusuf Majumdar, Abdus Sobhan, M Giasuddin, M Sarwar Hossian, Abdur Rahim, Zahid Babu, and Ziaur Rahman Zia. Of them, Sarwar,

Rahim, Babu and Zia are still at

rate cases pending against them.

Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal handed down the verdict while 10 out of 14 accused in the case were Sub Inspector Mosharraf Hossain of Barisal Kotwali Police

On December 25 the same year, Sub Inspector Shshir Kumar Pal of Detective Branch submitted charge sheet accusing 14 individuals.

Three-tier security CNG conversion

the sources added.

ments on the cause of the fire.

originated in the engine of the bus.

When asked what the explosives

department was doing to curb illegal

CNG conversions, Engineer AHM

inspector of the department, said

yesterday, "So far [since February this

unauthorised workshops that were

conversion centres and motor work-

ensure that the closed down busi-

nesses would not resume their illegal

activities in future, he said after

shutting down an illegal workshop

substandard cylinders."

shops is still on."

FROM PAGE 16 use local cylinders made by welding metal pipes or cylinders meant for other gases such as oxygen.

Although some of the workshops use authorised parts, they lack the expertise to install the CNG conversion system ensuring all the safety features intact, leading to accidents,

They all insisted that the fire was of the RPGCL.

Amid a growing concern about hazardous CNG-converted vehicles version workshops after proper running in the city, especially after Tuesday's fire incident on a bus at "The cylinders that exploded in Farmgate, The Daily Star contacted the country so far were all substanthe explosives department and the dard and none of the standard cylin-RPGCL authorities for their comders exploded till date," claimed Shafiul Azam, a director (operation)

Nurruzzaman, assistant explosives authorised conversion centres are not installing substandard cylinyear) we shut down at least 20 ders," he explained. engaged in installing substandard

cylinders. We also seized about 30 No one was arrested or no case vehicles across the country stands at was filed in this connection, he said nearly 1.5 lakh while 6 lakh vehicles adding, "Our drive against illegal run on petrol or diesel. Over 1 lakh of the CNG vehicles are registered in

provide any figure of unauthorised CNG conversion centres in the with the help of police, they "request country.

Khaleda denied bail

FROM PAGE 1

Magistrate Golam Rabbani, and argued on the issue. But the court rejected the petition.

The court however allowed the lawyers -- Masud Ahmed Talukder and Sanaullah Miah -- to meet Khaleda at the sub-jail on the Sangsad Bhaban premises for discussion on the case.

Khaleda, her son Tarique Rahman and five others on July 3 on charges of embezzling over Tk 2.10 crore by forming a fake organisation named Zia Orphanage Trust. The five other accused are former

Harunur Rashid filed the case against

Ahmed, Sharfuddin Ahmed, and Mominur Rahman, son of Khaleda's

CASEAGAINSTPINTU against it, reports our staff corre-

Upon a petition filed by Pintu, the HC on July 16 granted him adinterim bail for one month in the case for illegally amassing wealth. The HC stayed proceedings in the case for one month and also issued a

On June 13 last year, ACC Assistant Director Nurul Alam filed the case with Hazaribagh Police Station against Pintu and his wife Nasima Akhter for concealing wealth worth over Tk 21.88 crore in their wealth statements submitted to the

granted bail to former assistant secretary RAM Obaidul Muktadir Chowdhury in a criminal case filed bytheACC

the proceedings of the cases against them and issued separate rules upon the government to explain why they

the lease agreement. Officer-in-charge of Shyampur Police Station Alamgir Hossain, who visited the bridge around 7:00pm yesterday, asked the toll collectors not to collect toll from

autorickshaw drivers stopped in Earlier on Monday, the Roads and Highways Department Sub-Divisional Engineer KM Noor-e-Alam filed a general diary with

illegally collecting tolls from CNG-The lessee Alim Miah and Sons had been charging each autorickshaw Tk 10 per trip with-

Shyampur police seeking legal

actions against the leaseholder for

over Tk 1 lakh a day. Obaidul Quader

FROM PAGE 16

Court-7, set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises, from Bangbandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical College on an ambulance in connection with a bribery case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

hauled up onto the dock due to his illness. "They can hand me down any jail term they want; but why are they forcing an ailing person like

"We want an agreement in black and white to protect our rights," said another worker Yasin. The workers said their demands

Bangladesh Embassy did not play an active role in protecting their rights. "We have sought our embassy's help many times. But they have never

Meanwhile, Jaitya Shramik Federation Bangladesh yesterday condemned the arrests and police action on Bangladeshi workers in Kuwait.

against ILO convention and also clear violation of human rights," it

with 'the staff of CEC's office and Shamsul Huda and Election

restrictions were imposed legally.

definitely violate the code of conduct for electioneering, meeting sources elaborated the EC's position.

cancellation of candidacy.

Asked whether AL central leaders

character if central leaders of political parties campaign for the candi-Contacted by The Daily Star after

the non-partisan character of the He said the commission told the AL delegation that a central leader of a political party may campaign for a

Delwar said he wanted to know about the Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia. "He (the envoy) has told me Saudi Arabia is always sympathetic

Delwar said he had no idea with whom the discussion was on. the party and the chairperson is in Sunny. jail, but I don't know anything

Karim Selim.

A huge number of party leaders,

united to win the upcoming elec-He also asked the government to implement the jail reforms and

The Metropolitan Senior to jail after he surrendered to the

MK Anwar, two other accused in the case, had already been set free

cratic but Khaleda Zia did not endorse him.

officials and members of civil society and British-Bangladesh The British minister will also visit a number of UK-funded pro-

Bangladeshi origin," she said,

elected government by the end of this year because "sustainable

offence punishable with imprisonment for a maximum period of five associations or banks or financial

ing 16 people as prosecution witforced to work 16 hours a day without overtime payment, while managers of a company beat up some workers for no reasons and deduct KD 5 per day if they fail to turn up

Quoting the workers, Shahriar Kader Siddiky, labour counsellor of Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait,

deposited with it. But they never get back the money when they join work again, Siddiky said quoting the workers.

"Unscrupulous recruiting agencies and middlemen have a Besides, some of them are even role in it," he observed.

6:00am of August 5, in order to ensure

security. Inter-district highways, however, have been excluded from

makers are also on. On steps to keep cadres of extremist outfits from creating any trouble, Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad said law enforcers are watching out for their activities.

shipping ministry earlier in the day.

reports that the Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) will deploy 14 policemen and 16 Ansar members at each

BNP lawmaker Qazi Saleemul Huq Kamal, Sayeed Ahmed, Gias Uddin

spondent

Following an ACC application, Chamber Judge of the SC Appellate Division Justice MA Matin yesterday stayed the HC bail order and asked the ACC to file a regular appeal

rule upon the government and ACC to explain within four weeks why the proceedings should not be quashed.

ACC earlier. HASHEM Besides granting bail to Hashem in a case filed by the government, the HC

Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice Md Emdadul Haque Azad also stayed

An HC bench comprising Justice

Toll collection FROM PAGE 16 from CNG-run autorickshaws by Alim Miah and Sons in violation of

autorickshaw drivers, said a driver. Alamgir told The Daily Star that collection of tolls from the evening.

run autorickshaws. out any money receipt, collecting

He was taken to the courtroom on a wheelchair but could be

me to the court?" he asked. He said with a sad note that his party leaders do not enquire about his health anymore. Judge M Sirajul Islam fixed

August 4 for next hearing.

police" to ensure that the businesses

do not start illegal activities again. He could not however explain how the department would effectively deter the crime of illegal CNG conversion without arresting anyone or filing any case. Nevertheless, he

insisted on mass awareness to curb the illegal conversion work. RPGCL is the government organ responsible for licensing CNG con-

any unauthorised workshop is installing CNG cylinders. Also, it is their duty to make sure the

responsible for monitoring whether

"The explosives department is

Currently, the country has 192 authorised CNG conversion centres and over 200 CNG filling stations. The number of CNG-driven

Dhaka, according to BRTA and Asked how the department would RPGCL sources. The authorities of Department of Explosives or the RPGCL could not

should not be granted regular bail in

a case filed with Tejgaon Shilpanchal Police Station on July 17 on charge of illegally occupying land. He said Hashem is facing 10 criminal cases and he has so far got ACC Deputy Assistant Director bail in nine cases.

Barrister Ahsanul Karim, a lawyer

On November 4 last year, ACC

Assistant Director Nasiruddin

Ahmed filed a case against Muktadir

and his wife Prof Fahima Khatun

with Gulshan police for accumulat-

ing Tk 1.16 crore illegally and con-

of Hashem, yesterday told The Daily

Star that Hashem was granted bail in

cealing Tk 25 lakh in their wealth statements submitted to the ACC. Muktadir recently filed a petition with the HC for bail in this case.

Justice Naimuddin

High Court judge and member of

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Law Commission, died at the Square Hospital at Panthapath at He was admitted to the hospital on June 25. His first namaz-e-janaza will be held on the Kalabagan Staff Quarters Mosque premises at

11:00am. He will be buried at the

Banani graveyard after the second

janaza on the Supreme Court

Justice Naimuddin is survived by his wife, a daughter and a son. Kuwait deports

cancel its agreement with the com-

panies concerned if they don't pay

the workers minimum monthly

The deported workers were flown to Dhaka from Kuwait by flights of Kuwait Airlines, Qatar Airways and Emirates Airlines, sources said. Meanwhile, an immigration police said Saudi Arabia also

deported around 100 workers yester-

day. But the reasons for deportation

International Airport, the deported

Upon their arrival at the Zia

could not be known.

ters to disperse them.

passing their days in fear.

Times reported yesterday.

wage of Kuwaiti Dinar (KD) 40.

workers said their employers had been exploiting them in various ways for long in the Gulf state. Although they informed the Bangladesh Embassy in Kuwait about it, no step had been taken. Anwar Hossain of Chittagong, who lived in Kuwait for 12 years, said Kuwaiti police and army on Monday

swooped on the workers who had

been staging demonstration since

Thursday and lobbed teargas canis-

"At one stage, they attacked us at

the camps and beat us up. They took us to the airport and have us boarded on a Dhaka-bound flight," he said, adding that many others have been put in jail for deportation. Another worker Akram said

Bangladeshi workers in Kuwait are

workers have been kept. But they are

"I cannot say where the arrested

likely to be deported," he said. Meanwhile, the workers who are still on strike in Ileeb Al-Shuyoukh said they would call off the strike only after their demands are met, Kuwait

include minimum monthly wage of KD 50, free residence permit and health insurance, and providing a free air ticket on completion of twoyear contracts and improvement of their living conditions. They also alleged that the

bothered to listen to our appeals," they said.

"Such actions by Kuwait are