Govt keenly fights

bring the two leaders to a dialogue. Additional Attorney General (AAG) Mansur Habib, who represented the government in the HC, told newsmen that he opposed Hasina's bail prayer at the instructions of the "authorities concerned".

Talking to journalists, barrister Rafigue said Hasina--now abroad on parole for treatment--should come back home as a free person having secured bail in all cases she is standing trial.

In a situation where Khaleda got released on bail and Hasina is on parole, no dialogue can be held between them, he said

"Now Sheikh Hasina can say-and she has every right to say it-that she will not have any meeting with Khaleda Zia. I will not have anything to do if Sheikh Hasina said she would not sit in any meeting with Khaleda Zia without getting released on bail," said barrister Rafique.

Based on an apparent understanding with the government earlier this month, Khaleda got bail in four cases and the government attorneys did not oppose filing of the bail petitions in favour of Khaleda at that time.

Earlier on September 23, a vacation bench of the HC sent back two bail petitions filed on behalf of Hasina in the Niko and bargemounted power plant corruption cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission since the HC bench did not have the jurisdiction to hear the petitions.

Following submissions from both sides, an HC vacation bench comprised of Justice Sheikh Rezowan Ali and Justice Md Rais Uddin fixed September 29 for passing order on Hasina's bail petition in the Tk 5 crore extortion case filed by Noor Ali.

The HC bench also asked the AAG to submit within this period a Supreme Court order that granted bail to Khaleda's son Tarique Rahman on health grounds for considering Hasina's bail petition on similar grounds.

AAG Mansur opposed the bail prayer, saying Hasina, who is now on parole, sought bail for taking part in the next general elections.

"Sheikh Hasina has been travelling to different European countries and even recently attended a marriage ceremony in the Netherlands. She was released on parole on health grounds on the basis of a medical report prepared in June this year. The medical reports of her recent health condition needed to be scrutinised for considering her bail prayers," he said.

The AL chief's lawyers said they would submit the petitions to another HC bench on September 29 for hearing.

Rafique-ul-Huq said both he and the government had been trying to seat the two leaders together, but now the government's policy about Hasina's release seemed unclear to

"I am confused if the attorney general's office is complying with the instructions of the law ministry and if it has any communication with the ministry. How will the meeting between Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina be held if Hasina does not get released on bail?" he

He, however, expressed hope

between the two former premiers.

Earlier yesterday, he prayed to the HC to grant Hasina bail on health grounds saying both the Appellate and HC divisions had granted bail to several accused including Tarique Rahman, Sigma Huda, Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir in similar cases.

Replying to a question, AAG Mansur told reporters that he had not opposed Hasina's bail petition in the Tk 3 crore extortion case filed by Azam J Chowdhury since his client, the government, did not supply him with sufficient materials for contesting the prayer.

Noor Ali, managing director of Unique Group of Companies, filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station on June 13 last year, accusing Hasina and her two relatives of extorting Tk 5 crore for mediating between the Power Development Board and his firm for a power plant deal back in

The government on July 16 last year brought the case under the Emergency Power Rules (EPR) and a magistrate's court ordered on July 29 that Hasina be shown arrested in the case.

ACC sits

(BD) Ltd, and forwarded the matter

to ACC for further action. She alleged ACC did not make any probe into the matter for mysterious reasons except changing the enquiry officer three times.

Ok-Kyung Oh, who claims to have been removed from the post of managing director of the same company illegally in 2004, alleges that ACC Commissioner Abul Hasan Manzur Mannan is holding back the file regarding filing of the

"If an ACC commissioner is holding back a file like this, then who's going to fight against corruption?" Ok-Kyung Oh asks.

"If ACC cannot file this case even after having such documents, the commission cannot file any case regarding corruption," she adds.

Contacted, Mannan told The Daily Star, "The allegation is not true. May be she has misunderstood me. She might have said that Customs Bond Commissionerate did not scrutinise her allegations

On delay in ACC action regarding the matter, he said, "The officer entrusted with enquiry earlier collected all the information but did not take those into cognisance, especially those technically important for this case."

"I don't know why the officer did that," he said, adding, "As we have understood all aspects of the matter by now, it would be disposed of

Mentioning the recent taskforce report regarding the matter, Ok-Kyung Oh told journalists \$7.5 million amounts to Tk 52.35 crore was laundered from 2000 till 2007 through over invoice.

She also complains that two former committees formed by the Bangladesh Bank and Customs Bond Commissionerate could not conduct impartial investigation and were influenced by former communications minister Nazmul Huda and his wife Sigma Huda during tenure of the four-party alliance

about holding of the meeting government.

Bail to over

FROM PAGE 1 Describing the extension of bail and stay orders as routine work, the petitioners' lawyers said it was

nothing unusual. "Earlier, the High Court had granted ad interim or anticipatory bail to the petitioners and stayed the proceedings of some of the cases," barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon, standing up for four petitioners including Tarique Rahman,

The court also issued rules on the government to explain why those case proceedings should not be quashed and why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail, he explained.

"The rules are still pending with the High Court. In the circumstances, the High Court extended the bail and stay orders," he said.

He said Tarique Rahman filed two petitions for extension of bail and stay orders in two extortion Moudud Ahmed and Tarigul Islam filed two similar petitions

while Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu filed three for extending the tenure of earlier HC orders, he said. The lawyers said all the cases were filed after the caretaker gov

ernment took over on January 11

Half of advance

last year.

passengers during the Eid. They would allow the same number of standing passengers to travel by train if necessary, he added.

Sources said till yesterday afternoon a total of 6,847 advance tickets were sold for September 25 while 7,435 for September 26, 5,436 for September 27 and 6,670 for September 28.

Besides, 9,529 advance tickets for September 29, 10,405 for September 30 and 1,025 for October 01 had been sold.

BR sources said most tickets were sold at Kamalapur Railway Station. Around 500 tickets were sold at Cantonment and Airport stations and 1,000 at Joydevpur station

A total of 34 trains will leave for various destinations from Kamalapur, Cantonment and Joydevpur stations. Of those, 17 intercity trains and 12 mail trains will be operated from Kamalapur station and five others from Cantonment station.

Although fixed dates for selling advance tickets had ended, train ticket seekers seemed to be happy as they did not have to struggle for tickets. Only a few people were seen

queuing up in front of ticket counters at Kamalapur station vester-The situation at city bus termi-

nals was also similar. No rush of homebound people was seen at Gabtoli, Mohakhali or Sayedabad bus terminals

Sources, however, said most advance tickets for luxurious buses on long routes are sold out. But there was no crisis of tickets of other buses on both long and short routes.

Bus owners and operators said the rush for tickets would start two or three days before the Eid day.

Although there was no rush of homebound people, the drivers of taxicabs and CNG-run three wheelers have been charging extra fares from passengers ahead of the

BNP unfazed

FROM PAGE 1

Asked whether the four-party alliance would be expanded further to counter the grand alliance's latest move, he said, "We'll expand the alliance, if need be." The Iftar party was organised by

the Mohammadpur unit BNP and attended by standing committee members Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky and Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmad, Vice-president MK Anwar, Office Secretary Rizvy Ahmed, among others.

Pointing at MK Anwar's Tuesday's comment on getting registered with the Election Commission, Delwar said everyone in the party should not talk (on party decisions)

"It's the party secretary general who will convey party's position on different matters; besides, there is the party chairperson to that end,' Delwar added. Asked whether BNP would get

registered with EC under the new electoral laws, he said they (fourparty alliance) will take the decision after discussing it in the party forum and with other components of the alliance.

Ahead of the stalled ninth parliamentary election scheduled for January 22 last year, the AL-led 14party formed a grand alliance bringing in Jatiya Party (Ershad), LDP and BDB.

But the grand alliance became ineffective with the declaration of the state of emergency on January 11 last year.

Emerging from a meeting with Khaleda Zia on September 18 at Shafik Rehman's Eskaton resi-

FROM PAGE 1 Petrobangla proposed increasing gas prices for commercial users by 26.08 percent, meaning that perunit (1,000 cubic feet or 1 mcf) price of gas will go up to Tk 291.59

Jalal Ahmed said in the proposal supply to international oil companies is about Tk 2,000 crore.

the merit of the government move.

During his expression of opinions as an independent expertise at the hearing, Prof Nurul Islam of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) strongly supported the proposed hike.

"There is no way but to increase gas prices for minimising the losses of Petrobangla," he said.

He hinted at the lack of transparency in gas distribution by some companies to make a windfall profit. "I firmly believe that smooth supply of gas can be ensured by increasing the price of this natural resource," he said.

representatives of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, CAB, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation said the prices of foodstuffs would go up again in local markets as the prices of agri-inputs would also go up following the gas price hike. "As a result, the country's food

security will be at a crossroads. So, the price hike should be at a ratio-

state-owned Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) also said a fresh price hike of gas would seriously hamper power develop-

ted to the BERC on June 23, Petrobangla suggested a variable

3 injured

were critical. BCMCL official said all necessary actions have been taken for their treatment.

1104 around 11:45pm Tuesday and at the same time a number of Bangladeshi and Chinese workers were repairing an electric wire on the wall of Phase-1104. Suddenly the wire caught fire and burnt the BCMCL officials told The Daily

Star that a few thousand metres of major one.

Sources said the authorities are likely to start the fire investigation today as Bangladeshi and Chinese workforces in the mine are blaming each other for the incident.

price hike for its different catego ries of consumers, the average hike

Petrobangla suggested raising the price to Tk 600 for domestic consumers from the existing Tk 400 for a double-burner oven and Tk 550 for a single-burner oven against the present rate of Tk 350 The rise in this case is 50 percent.

Domestic consumers using meters will have to pay Tk 208 instead of Tk 130 with an increase of 26.81 percent. For industrial consumers, the

proposed per-unit price of gas is Tk 182.25, a 23.03 percent raise over the present rate of Tk 148.13. The same rate will apply to tea-estates. For captive power plants, the

proposed rate is Tk 182.25 per unit, a 72.60 percent increase from the presentTk 105.59. Petrobangla proposed Tk 93.73

per unit for the PDB, independent

power producers, and small power plants instead of Tk 73.91, raising the gas price by 26.81 percent. For fertiliser industries, Tk 93.73 has been proposed with an

increase of 47.81 percent from the present Tk 63.41 per unit gas. Concluding the hearing, the BERC will announce its final decision by October 30 through an

official order to Petrobangla. BERC Chairman Ghulam Rahman said the BERC would keep records of all pre- and post-hearing public opinions until October 6 and that public opinions would be received during this stipulated

Iransparent **FROM PAGE 1**

fray in a new context, reached the Inland Container Depot (ICD) at

Kamalapur in the capital yesterday. These imports are going to be used--for the first time in Bangladesh--for polling in the parliamentary elections scheduled for December 18, closely followed by upazila polls on December 24

EC Joint Secretary Md Rafiqul Islam and Deputy Election Commissioner for Dhaka Division Biswas Lutfar Rahman received the consignment on behalf of the commission in the morning. And, in no time, the EC officials began sending 17,000 boxes to the election offices. EC sources said these transpar-

ent ballot boxes are being brought from abroad by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), financed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), under a recipe meant for the country's democratic development.

The UN agency was also involved in the preparation of the new digitised photo voter list under a reform scheme undertaken following the past crisis over the issues of general election that was eventually cancelled in January last year. Rafigul Islam said the remaining

ballot boxes will arrive by October Election Commissioner Brig Gen

(retd) M Sakhwat Hossain yesterday told reporters that one trainer from Canada would conduct a training programme for one hour with 30 people to teach them how to use the transparent ballot boxes.

Split in BNP

FROM PAGE 1

demanded by the new electoral law enacted by the military backed caretaker government and prepared by the Election Commission (EC).

Many leaders want to adopt the reforms 'to ensure qualitative change in politics' while some under the influence of Delwar have taken a strategy of opposing anything that comes from the government or the

According to the 'reformist' leaders, followers of Delwar want to get their demand met for either holding the December 18 parliamentary poll under the old law or for suspending the new provisions until the election is over, by keeping the government and the EC under pressure. The party chairperson however already said BNP will participate in the election and in dialogues with the government, and she did not say anything about the new electoral law.

Talking to The Daily Star, some senior leaders and former lawmak ers of the party expressed annoyance over forcing party Vice-president MK Anwar on Tuesday to recant his statement that BNP will be registered with the EC and participate in the election accepting the new electoral

He made the statement after meeting the EC with a party delegation, just to recant it a few hours later. Just after Anwar's original statement Delwar claimed what he had told reporters had been his personal

opinion, and soon Anwar recanted

his earlier statement. Party sources said Anwar's announcement rubbed Delwar the wrong way because BNP-led fourparty alliance had decided earlier that its leaders would meet soon to take a decision regarding the matter.

"The delegation led by Anwar was sent only to hear the Election Commission's views on the proposals for amending the new electoral law we had given to the commission during our earlier talk," said a central leader of the party who is also a proponent of Delwar's strategy.

chairperson. strategy of opposing the moves of the EC and the government will ulti-

public any party decision.

mately bring positive results for the "The people oppose the govern-

Nobel Peace Prize could go to Chinese dissident

AFP, Oslo

The Nobel Peace Prize could go to a Chinese dissident this year as a way of keeping human rights pressure on Beijing as it basks in the glow of a successful Olympics, an expert said yesterday.

"The prize this year will finally go to a Chinese dissident and I believe that the most likely is Hu Jia, perhaps together with his wife," said Stein Toennesson, director of the International Peace Research Institute in Oslo.

"He has become the most wellknown Chinese dissident." Hu is an ardent campaigner for

civil rights, environmental protection and AIDS advocacy in China. He was arrested last year and sentenced to three-and-a-half years

in jail for subversion. A total of 197 people and organisations are up for the Nobel Peace Prize, which will be awarded on

October 10. The list is kept a tightly guarded secret. The Nobel committee now had a better opportunity to award the prize to a Chinese dissident,

Toennesson told reporters. He said that "after the successful Olympics, (China) should be mature and in a position where it might encounter such a prize with out really getting angry or breaking off relations with Norway."

Chinese and international human rights activists say this summer's Olympics in Beijing did not bring hoped for changes with China's human rights record.

"During the Games, we saw that there was quite a lot of repression this very immature kind of handling of human rights and of democracy trying to censor journalists," said Janne Haaland Matlary, professor of international politics at the University of Oslo.

"Obviously this is a golden opportunity to underline that this is notacceptable."

In the past, Geir Lundestad, the influential secretary of the fivemember Norwegian Nobel commit tee has said that "sooner or later the Chinese question must be tackled.

Ctg cop held

money to two police sources Zahid

Zahid was later arrested but Javed went into hiding. ASI Rahman and Zahid were

sent to prison in the afternoon. Police said Rahman along with the two sources went to the residence of Saiful Islam, a business man of Najumiarhat in Hatazari Tuesday night. They threatened to

Under pressure Saiful paid the

Hathazari Police Station.

cial said no policy or important decisions are taken in their absence.

Fakhruddin, who is in charge of the establishment and information York City.

He also heads the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat and the Cabinet Division.

He ended a five-day official visit to China on Friday and left the country the following day on a 10day tour hours after announcing dates for the parliamentary and

upazila polls. He is expected to return home on September 30.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, who also

Adviser Rasheda K Choudhury, and mass education, women and children affairs and the cultural affairs, has been abroad since September 17.

sonal visit on September 17 and was supposed to join the CA-led delegation at the annual UNGA session. Officials at the primary and mass education ministry said she is unlikely to come back before Eid-ul-Fitr.

flew over to the United States on September 17 to attend an international seminar on education. He is expected to return home on September 30. Finance and Planning Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam went to Saudi

September 29, said an official release.

Communications Adviser but later changed it to today.

AL's poll allies meet more against the principles of 14-party

coalition.

JP (Manju) Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam said they will always be with pro-liberation war

Workers Party President Rashed

Khan Menon said they want unity among secular democratic forces. Earlier at a media conference in his party office, he said they will not form

any electoral alliance if fundamental-

ist, communal or autocratic forces including Ershad's JP are included. He also said the mega alliance is still a mere idea. He however added that

theywill talk to AL about the matter. JP leaders Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud and Ziuddin Ahmed Bablu LDP leader Prof Jahanara Begum, BDB leaders Maj (retd) MA Mannan and Mahi B Chowdhury, Gono Forum leader Pankaj Bhattacharya, IOJ Chairman Misbaur Rahman, IFB Chairman Syed Bahadur Shah, National Awami Party leader MA Gani,

and Communist Kendra leader Asit

Baran Roy also attended the iftar

among other grand alliance leaders.

Cut in land

FROM PAGE 16 committee on "Modernised Land Management and Registration". formed on February 12 and headed by former adviser to the caretaker government Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury, submitted its recommendations to the RRC meeting yesterday.

recommendations with some additional suggestions. Now the recommendations will be placed before the cabinet committee following the approval of the Chief Adviser's Office.

As the present tax rate is high and it promotes corruption, the RRC mem-LDP leader Sheikh Razzak Ali also a bers suggested that the taskforce to former speaker of the parliament said revise and reduce the land registration tariffs. The taskforce recommended they joined the iftar as they still belong digitisation of the country's entire Senior AL leaders led by Presidium land records and turning district

> The five-member taskforce said a commission should be formed comprising government and nongovernment experts to spearhead modernisation of records and land

served Tarique Rahman fried fish

with her own hands when he came

to her home to invite her to his

involved in politics for power.

"When I assumed power in 1996, I

urged BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia

to work together. Had she [Khaleda]

responded to that call, we could

have had an episode where the

concerned about the life and prop-

erty of the people of Pakistan," he

army, another AFP report said seven

Pakistani soldiers and 25 Taliban

fierce clashes in a Pakistani tribal

district, where the Pakistani military

The fighting erupted in the Bajaur

"There was a fierce clash between

The air strikes happened in the

"At least 13 people were killed in

Khazana and Takhata towns where

the militants had underground

tunnels," a local security official said

resumed yesterday in two other

towns in Bajaur, killing another seven

Pakistani Taliban militants, mean-

Local officials said attacks

on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, quoting Pakistani

The AL chief said she did not get

wedding.

FROM PAGE 1 about a meeting between Khaleda Zia and me, I think my stance in this regard should be revealed to the

political leader however said JP is no

another iftar with AL leaders in his

Kuliarchar of Kishoreganj.

war, democratic and secular.

want to firmly say that I have no objection to any dialogue held in the greater interest of the country. I am ready to sit with anyone anywhere. But a dialogue without a specific issue or objective has the potential to create fresh problems or crises in the country," sources said quoting

Only a few senior AL leaders knew about the email. Surprisingly, a number of senior AL leaders including Presidium member Amir Hossain Amu termed the letter a

A senior AL Presidium member, having close ties to the party chief,

Sengupta confirmed reporters about the email and said the AL chief does not think that bringing the two leaders to a single table would be easy. Hasina said she does not want to

leads people. She neither wants to

dialogue has been proposed so that the blame for one's [Khaleda's] failures could be equally shared by two leaders. The dialogue may attempt to weigh a successful, competent and pro-people government with a dishonest, corrupt and incompetent one [BNP-Jamaat alliance government] on the same

scale," she said. She said she believes that a cordial relationship could be achieved if Khaleda retreats from the path of mistakes and ousts from her party the people who were involved in killing AL men.

ing power in 2001, tortured and repressed hundreds of AL leaders. She claimed BNP men killed many including Shah AMS Kibria and Ahsanullah Master. She blamed BNP for the August 21, 2004 grenade attack on an AL rally on Bangabandhu Avenue, which was also an attempt on her life.

proposal for the dialogue that there is something that can be solved through talks between the two leaders, but I could not find any such thing," she said.

and stagnation in foreign investment are the main problems of the country and the government would have to act accordingly to solve the crises. She said a free, fair and credi-

But the RRC differed from the view put forward by the taskforce about forming a commission. It suggested that a committee be formed comprised of government, nongovernment and representatives from business communities in digitisation of land records and registration sys-

About her personal relationship with the Zia family, she said she

"Under the circumstances, I

country is run based on consensus between the ruling and opposition Pak cabinet FROM PAGE 16 "did not have any ground to stand

"The law of the jungle cannot be allowed to persist as we are deeply

read the email to The Daily Star. AL Presidium member Suranjit

> launched a major operation last month that has left 800 people dead and 300,000 civilians displaced. security forces and miscreants in Bajaur in which 25 miscreants were killed and seven soldiers embraced martyrdom," chief military spokesman Major General Athar Abbas told

A senior military official said separately: "Both sides exchanged heavy rocket and mortar fire. "Close air support was also called in to attack militant positions." Earlier, Pakistani warplanes pounded a militant tunnel network

Hasina claimed that BNP, assum-

"If BNP does not rectify itself, I will have to exchange courtesy at the dialogue with those who killed Kibria, Ahsanullah Master and Ivy Rahman and tried to kill me," the AL president said expressing doubt about how cordial the dialogue would be.

She said high price of essentials

while, publicly executed three tribesmen accused of a series of murders in a troubled tribal area near the Afghan border, officials said. A masked man blindfolded the tribesmen, all brothers, and tied their hands behind their backs before shooting them with a rifle yesterday

morning in Wana, the main town in

Around 50 local tribesmen watched the executions in the main Wana bazaar, a local administration official said He said that Taliban arrested the

three men a few days ago after they killed five people in Wana. "They were tried by Taliban and found guilty of committing the murders," headded.

South Waziristan.

Gen Moeen mark the 59th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China at

the Chinese Embassy in Baridhara

including the Awami League (AL),

Leaders of major political parties

yesterday evening

BNP, Jatiya Party (JP) and Jamaat-e-Islami also attended the Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Zheng Qingdian hosted the reception where Agriculture Adviser CS Karim represented Bangladesh government. Both Zheng and Karim

In reply to a question, the Army

chief again said it took him 18

addressed the gathering briefly.

months to convince people that the army had no role in or ambition about taking over power. "I have no desire to be the president or join politics," he said. He said the chief adviser is the head of the government and all should follow his decision. "Let all of

is held as per the announcement," Asked about doubts over holding of the election in time, he said, "Let us not think negative...Be positive. We all should come out from the negative mentality and think posi-

After the reception the Army chief

held an exclusive meeting with the

Chinese ambassador for some time

us work together so that the election

but details of the meeting could not be known. AL leaders Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta and Syed Ashraful Islam, BNP leaders Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman and Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed, JP Chairman HM Ershad, acting Jamaat Secretary General Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu, Communist Party of Bangladesh President Manzurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, among other political leaders, were present at the func-

Chiefs of the three forces also attended the function. Former diplomat Faruk Sobhan,

senior journalists ABM Musa, Reazuddin Ahmed and Shawkat Mahmud, and barrister Fazle Noor Taposh, among others, also joined

Officials from almost all diplo-

matic missions in Dhaka, including

the US, European Union, Australia, Canada, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, were also present Govt high officials

the reception.

FROM PAGE 16

corruption charges. The commission was convinced that they don't posses any ill-gotten wealth and is likely to give clemency report to the disclosure from today. The Tac has so far heard 103 graft-accused, who confessed to having Tk 16.44 crore only. As many as 252 graft-accused including 218

government officials and eight businessmen have so far applied for disclosure. Habibur Rahman said the Titas Gas graft-accused were sent to the commission only with an affidavit they gave before NCC, probably being self-intimidated, regarding ill-gotten wealth and NCC did not have enough time to make field-

level visit about the matter. "Where have the top officials of Titas Gas gone? Is there no corruptionist above the rank of meter reader there? We didn't even get a graft-accused having illgotten wealth worth Tk 1 crore from Titas Gas," he said.

He also expressed his surprise as

none from Dhaka City

Corporation, LGED, health and

education sectors, forest and reve-

nue departments applied to the

commission, and a very few from

BTCL and Rajuk applied. Regarding a comment of former adviser Akbar Ali Khan, Habibur Rahman said, "Tac and ACC are not judicial."

Gas price hike

being 65 percent.

from the existing Tk 233.12. Earlier, Petrobangla Chairman that his organisation's cumulative deficit on account of undercut gas

"If we do not raise gas prices, Petrobangla will have to go bankrupt soon, which will ultimately make it unable to go for further exploration," he had said to justify

Opposing the hike proposal

nal level," the representative of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) said at the hearing. He expressed concern that stagflation and increase of urban poverty would stem from hiked gas The representative from the

Earlier, in its proposal submit-

Miners were mining in Phase-

electric cables are down there and the short-circuit incident was a

announcement as Anwar's personal But another senior leader said, "There is no alternative to taking part in the election, and the party's posi-

tion on the matter should be clear

cut," adding that the secretary gen-

eral's 'attitude' is creating confusion

among the rank and file.

He also said the party opposed all reform proposals during the dialogue with the EC which created a bad impression of the party in the minds of the people, because the public wants to see changes in the body politic and the electoral culture. Some other party insiders said the secretary general's 'over depend-

ence' on alliance partner Jamaat-e-Islami for finalising any decision, already gave rise to a lot of questions among the rank and file. A former lawmaker said a very few leaders like Hannan Shah and Ghoyeswer Roy were vocal after the imposition of state of emergency, but even they are now being sidelined because of their criticisms against

the secretary general's recent activi-

discuss everything with Jamaat

"The secretary general likes to

leaders instead of discussing those in party forums," he said adding, before discussing anything with alliance partners the secretary general should discuss those with his party colleagues first. On the other hand, followers of Delwar think all leaders should avoid

making public statements about

party policies since only the secre-

tary general is empowered to make

Delwar himself yesterday told

reporters that 'everyone should not make public statements about everything', only the secretary general should disclose party decisions, and if necessary there is also the Delwar's followers also believe his

and Jayed or teoms of ill animay print

arrest him on charges of involve

ment in hundi trade. police officer Tk 2.80 lakh. Later, Saiful filed a case with

6 advisers FROM PAGE 1 rumour.

ministries, is attending the 63rd session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New

heads the crucial expatriates welfare and overseas employment ministry, is accompanying the chief adviser. holding three ministries: primary

She left the country on a per-Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman

Arabia on Sunday. During his visit he will meet Islamic Development Bank President Dr Ahmed Mohammed Ali in Jeddah and discuss matters of mutual interest. He is scheduled to fly back on

FROM PAGE 1 leaders sat together was at a grand rally

in Paltan Maidan, a day before the state of emergency was promulgated in the "We have gathered together in a bid to start fighting unitedly against the evil forces that destroyed the country during their five-year in the government," said Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman

HM Ershad yesterday, alluding to the immediate past four-party alliance "We are still in the grand alliance and it will be expanded. The grand alliance will win the next election. Victory is a must for humane forces," said Bikalpadhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza

Chowdhury during an iftar organised by AL in the capital. Workers Party and Gono Forum however expressed their opposition to forming any coalition with JP (Ershad)

also with Islamist parties. Talking to reporters AL Acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam said 14-party is their core coalition and they will take a decision regarding revival of the grand alliance after consulting their 14-party partners following return of their President Sheikh

calling its president an autocrat, and

Hasina from abroad. He also said the grand alliance is likely to be expanded if revived. Leaders of the components of AL-

led 14-party coalition, of JP (Ershad)

BDB, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)

to the grand alliance.

JP (Manju), Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ), and Islamic Front Bangladesh (IFB) The RRC meeting approved the attended the iftar in a community Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Salma Islam, Jaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, and Igbal Sobhan Chowdhury also attended the iftar among other civil society members.

administration offices into monitor-Member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury ing bodies from its present role of and Acting General Secretary Syed service provider to ensure transpar-Ashraful Islam welcomed the grand ency and reduce corruption. alliance leaders. But AL Acting President Zillur Rahman was not present, as according to his party colleagues, he had to attend

electoral constituency Bhairabregistration system. Sajeda said their party will move forward with all who are pro-liberation Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haque Inu said everything must be done to keep BNP-Jamaat-led forces out of power. The left

Hasina to sit

people.

her as saying in the email. AL, however, did not make public the email received a few days ago.

militants were killed yesterday in region bordering Afghanistan be involved in a process that mis-

be in a dialogue which is not meant for the country's welfare. "My apprehension is that the

> in a tribal region bordering Afghanistan, killing 20 Taliban insurgents, local security officials said. troubled district of Bajaur, where a major army operation launched in August has killed more than 800 people -- most of them militants -and displaced 300,000 civilians. repeated raids overnight in Rashakai,

"It has been indicated in the

country as soon as possible.

ble election is necessary in the Ghulam Quader, also in charge of He said Anwar should not have dence, Salauddin Quader parallel organisations. One is made the announcement without the public works and housing Chowdhury told reporters efforts complementary to another as one It would not be right to shift the consulting the party secretary genment's moves, so his strategy is proministry, left Dhaka on September has the ability to inquire and invesare on to expand the alliance. blame on two leaders or two parties, eral because he was not authorised to people, which will be helpful for us in tigate, while the other is quasi-15 for a seminar in Geneva. He was "Our party leaders discussed she said, adding, "The disorder make any announcement, and that the coming election," a leader close scheduled to come back Monday, the issue today," he said. created by the Anti-Corruption was why Delwar termed the to Delwarsaid. Commission has to be considered."