"I myself, and Pheu Thai, are determined to serve the nation," she said.

Yingluck said her coalition would be joined by Chart Thai Pattana, with 19 seats in preliminary results; Chart Pattana Pheu Pandin, with 7 seats; Palang Chon, 7; and Mahachon, 1.

Earlier on yesterday Abhisit Vejjajiva, the outgoing prime minister, resigned from leadership of the Democrat party, taking responsibility for his party's loss.

"As the election results came out with the party winning fewer votes and fewer seats than in the 2007 poll, and in the spirit of a good leader of an organisation, I should take responsibility," he said.

Abhisit said the Democrats will hold a general meeting within 90 days to choose a successor. Thailand has been suffer-

ing from political instability for the past several years since Thaksin, a telecoms tycoon turned prime minister, was deposed in a 2006 military coup alongside conviction for corruption. Thailand has seen 18

coups since becoming a constitutional monarchy in 1932. Sunday's elections were

held amid looming fears of a renewed turmoil, as the memory of last year's mass opposition rallies in Bangkok, the capital, which sparked a military crackdown that left at least 91 people dead. However, Gen. Prawit

Wongsuwon, the Thai defence minister, eased concern on yesterday by saying the army would accept a government led by 44-yearold Yingluck, and promising that the military would not stage a coup. "I've said this several

times," Prawit was quoted as saying by several Thai news-"We are not going to inter-

Critics of Yinigluck have voiced concerns that she might function as a power proxy for her billionaire older brother, or perhaps facilitating his return home.

Amını FROM PAGE 1

conference at his Lalbagh office in the city.

He demanded scrapping of all secular and anti-Islamic provisions from the constitution.

Amini, chairman of an Islami Oikya Jote faction, also announced a rally in Dhaka for July 14. "The country is heading towards nonstop hartal due to the government's anti-Islamic activities," he said.

Earlier on Sunday, BNI

and Jamaat-e-Islam announced a 48-hour countrywide hartal from tomorrow. Amini's IOJ is part of the BNP-led four-party alliance.

CG repeal

fair election without a caretaker government. If not, you should voice for bringing the system back," he said. Dr Kamal Hossain was

speaking at a dialogue with the EC at its secretariat in the capital as part of the EC's on going discussion with political parties. He led an eightmember delegation at the two-hour dialogue with EC that started around 3:00pm.

He also spoke for giving the EC the full authority of the country's administration during the much-talkedabout 90 days before the

election. On strengthening the commission, the principal author of the country's charter said the EC's major responsibility is to hold a free and fair election, "So, you [EC] should place recommenda-

tions to strengthen the commission.' He said impartial figures should be appointed to the commission. If the government appoints partisan peo-

ple to the EC, the country will fall into a deep crisis. He gave his nod to the introduction of electronic voting machine in the urban areas in the first phase and

tem in rural areas gradually. The EC on June 7 launched dialogues with the political parties for their opinion on some key issues like Representation of the People Order, laws on demarcation of constituencies, appointment of election commissioners

spoke for spreading the sys-

and use of electronic voting machine. Main opposition BNP and its alliance partner Jamaat-e-Islami did not join the dia-

Thai PM-elect No personal

FROM PAGE 1

a cabinet meeting on Sunday.

"The grenade attack was carried out in broad daylight. The then government [BNP-Jamaat coalition] could not arrest anyone. Rather, they staged Joj Miah drama to divert [probe into] the incident.

The then government had plotted the attack in a planned way. Now everything has become clear,' some ministers quoted Hasina, also president of the ruling Awami League, as saying.

TARIQUE PLOTTED ATTACK, ALLEGES ASHRAF

AL General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam said yesterday Tarique Rahman "plotted" the grisly grenade attack on an AL rally in the capital (in 2004).

"Tarique plotted the attack at a meeting at Hawa Bhaban [the then political office of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia] to eliminate the entire Awami League leadership including Sheikh Hasina," Ashraf said while briefing reporters at the party president's political office at Dhanmondi in the capital. He also said the main

opposition BNP has called a countrywide two-day hartal from tomorrow to protect Tarique.

This is for the first time the AL formally accused Tarique of plotting the attack.

"Trial of Tarique and the other accused (total 52) in the grenade attack cases will go on normally and court verdict will be implemented. "No power in Bangladesh

or even in the world can stop the trial. It will not be possible to foil the trial by calling hartal or giving threats," said Ashraf, also the LGRD and cooperatives minister. BNP will cancel the hartal

if it believes in the rule of law and wants trial of the accused in the grenade attack cases.

Ashraf urged journalists to come up with objective news on the cases.

BNP on Sunday called the hartal on different issues including scrapping of the caretaker government system through the 15th amendment to the constitu-

Meanwhile, State Minister for Law Md Qamrul Islam told reporters yesterday that a proper investigation has revealed the facts concerning the grenade attack. He brushed aside BNP's allegation that the government interfered in the investigation.

Dhaka, Delhi

The visit is expected to witness the signing of several memorandums of understanding on a 15-year interim arrangement for Teesta water sharing, border management, transit, cooperation in trade and railway, and projects under India's \$1 billion credit to Bangladesh.

Moreover, Indian Congress Party Chief Sonia Gandhi will come to Dhaka on a two-day visit on July 24 to attend an international conference on autism. The deal on transit will

fulfil India's long-standing demand for easier and shorter connectivity between its mainland and land-locked north-eastern states. The official announce-

ment of the Indian prime minister's visit came after Dhaka gave the signal to sign the MoUs before Singh's visit, diplomatic sources said.

"Signing of the MoUs during SM Krishna's visit means that we are reaching an understanding for final agreements to be signed during the Indian prime minister's visit," said a senior foreign ministry official, seeking anonymity.

A number of issues are taken on board and both the sides are working relentlessly to reach an understanding, said the official.

The Indian side expects that at least three MoUs on transit, Teesta water-sharing and contracts under \$1 billion credit will be signed after talks between the foreign ministers of the two countries. The projects under the line of credit are mainly related to railway infrastructure in Bangladesh.

This will be Singh's maiden bilateral visit to Bangladesh since he became prime minister -- the first time in May, 2004, and for a second term in May, 2009. It will also be the first bilateral visit to Bangladesh by an Indian prime minister in 12 years since Atal Bihari Vajpayee came to Dhaka to inaugurate the Dhaka-Kolkata bus service in 1999.

Singh, however, visited Dhaka in November, 2005 to attend the Saarc Summit, a

multilateral event.

Hasina had invited Singh to Bangladesh when she was in New Delhi in January, last year when the two countries adopted a landmark 51-point joint communiqué with major decisions on bilateral cooperation in crucial areas like water sharing of Teesta and other rivers, trade, security, transit and electricity.

Our New Delhi correspondent reports: Singh, a firm and consistent proponent of India's neighbourhood diplomacy, is likely to announce some "unilateral" trade concessions to Bangladesh during his visit to address Dhaka's persistent concerns over the yawning bilateral trade gap tilted heavily in favour of

India. Another deal is also expected to be inked during

his visit to resolve the longfestering issue of adverselyheld enclaves and border demarcation. The issues had remained unresolved since the Indira-Mujib accord of

India and Bangladesh share a 4,156km border, 6.5 kilometres of which remain un-demarcated. Border demarcation remains pending along the north-eastern Indian state of Meghalaya where a joint survey was held up following objections from locals. It is likely to be sorted out in the next two months.

Indian Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram will also visit Dhaka later this month to finalise a pact on enclaves and border demarcation. Bangladesh has 3,000 acres of land inside India and 51 enclaves adversely possessed in Indian territories. Similarly, India has around 3,500 acres of land and 111 enclaves adversely possessed inside Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, Krishna at a press conference at his South Block office, said he would meet President Zillui Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader o the Opposition Khaleda Zia.

He will also meet his counterpart Dipu Moni, and Finance Minister AMA Muhith.

The Indian minister wil visit the National Memorial at Savar. Some of Hasina's advisers are expected to meet Krishna tomorrow ahead of formal talks between the two foreign ministers.

Rice export

FROM PAGE 20

export till June 30, 2012.

"We have maintained the bar to prevent the price hike of rice in local market," said Commerce Minister Faruk

This is the first time since May 2008 that the government imposed a one-year ban on rice export, shifting away from its previous

timeframe of six months. The latest embargo on rice export comes at a time when the government expects 4.15 percent higher yield than that of the fiscal 2010-11. In the last fiscal year, around 3.46 crore tonnes of cereal including wheat, were produced thanks to bumper

boro harvest. Even after the rise in production, Bangladesh imported 11 lakh tonnes of rice and 31 lakh tonnes of wheat in the first nine months of the last fiscal year, according to food department records.

"It means the consumption of rice has increased locally," observed the commerce minister.

According to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh, prices of rice spiralled up in city markets over the last one month. Prices of coarse rice edged up 3.17 percent higher to Tk 32-33 per kilogramme. Prices of medium and fine varieties of rice also increased.

Rumana

FROM PAGE 20

her father Manzur Hossain left on a Dragonair flight around 2:00am, said Rashed Magsood, a cousin of Rumana.

Maqsood said David Maberley, an ophthalmologist of Vancouver Hospital and Health Sciences Centre, is willing to conduct a surgery in Rumana's eyes.

Rumana, also a postgraduate student of the University of British Columbia in Canada, lost her eyesight after husband Hasan Sayeed Sumon pushed his fingers into her eyes at Rumana's father's house in Dhanmondi on June 5. She was taken to India for

treatment but she returned last month as doctors there said they did not have any treatment available for her.

"According to eye specialists, the possibility of recovering Rumana's eyesight is reducing with time so we did not delay when Maberley agreed to perform surgery in her eyes," said Maqsood. Manzur Hossain in a mes-

sage to the press yesterday said the Vancouver Hospital authorities contacted them about carrying out all tests required for her eyes.

He said a few days ago the University of British Columbia asked for all her test reports and they sent those to them. The university then passed the reports to the Vancouver Hospital which is affiliated to the university, he said.

He said they are now going to Canada as the authorities of University of British Columbia requested them.

Rumana's husband Sumon is now behind bars.

AL lawmaker FROM PAGE 20

constituency in the last general election.

According to the case statement, the anti-graft watchdog issued notice upon Mannan in August 2009 asking him to submit their wealth statement.

In reply, Mannan submitted an account of his movable and immovable property worth Tk 1.82 crore in October 2009. During enquiry the ACC

found the AL lawmaker had concealed information about wealth worth Tk 49.98 lakh. The enquiry also found Mannan had amassed wealth worth Tk 1.98 lakh beyond known sources of income, says the case state-

In the other case, his wife Shahad has been charged with concealing information regarding Tk 13.62 lakh and means of earning wealth worth Tk 6.7 lakh.

The case statement also alleges that the couple amassed the ill-gotten wealth in between April 1997

and October 2009. ACC Assistant Director Mohammad Ibrahim filed both the cases with Ramna

police station. According to the ACC law, the commission would carry out a full-fledged investigation into the allegations.

Railway

FROM PAGE 1

Syed Abul Hossain told reporters after the signing of the contract.

Abu Taher, director general of Bangladesh Railway, and AK Sinha, senior vice president of Texmaco Ltd, signed the agreement at the Railway Bhaban in the capi-

Railway Division Secretary Ibadat Ali, Bridges Division Secretary Mozammel Haque Khan and Railway Adviser to the Indian High Commission Chandrima Roy were present at the signing of the deal.

"This is the first contract and the rest will be signed gradually," said the communications minister. The two countries signed

a joint communiqué in New Delhi in January last year for enhancing cooperation in many areas that include providing transit to India. India agreed to give

Bangladesh \$1 billion credit under the joint communiqué. The agreement was signed in Dhaka on August 7

Khokon, also the joint secretary general of BNP, last year with terms and said, "Tarique Rahman will conditions for the credit and go to the court only when he an outline of projects to be will be sure of getting jusimplemented with the loan. tice."

PM to receive statements

festo, placed before the nation

ahead of the last parliamen-

income of the prime minister,

members of the cabinet,

parliament members and of

their family members will be

Finance Minister Abul Maal

Abdul Muhith made his

the National Science and

Technology Policy-2011

yesterday. Prime minister's

press secretary Abul Kalam

Azad briefed reporters after

At the meeting the prime

minister asked all ministers to

explain to the public the gov-

ernment's and the ruling

party's positions regarding

the 15th amendment to the

constitution and the scrap-

ping of caretaker government

system, to counter the oppo-

sition's propaganda on the

the meeting.

PM'S DIRECTIVES

On March 16 this year, only

The cabinet also approved

made public every year."

wealth statement public.

FROM PAGE 1

files will be sent to the Anti-Corruption Commission for investigation if any anomaly is found in the statements. "And you will be dropped from the cabinet," she was quoted by a senior minister as saying.

Asked about making the

wealth statements public, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said, "We will submit our wealth statements to the prime minister, and it is her prerogative to make those Talking to The Daily Star after the meeting, Matia said

the cabinet division will issue a circular in this regard soon, and after getting the circular they will submit their wealth statements. She however, did not make it clear what will be the timeframe. The premier told the cabinet that anyone of the cabinet

may voluntarily make his or her wealth statement public through putting it on the respective ministry's website. Awami League in its mani-

according to Medium Term

Budget Framework (MTBF)

prepared by the finance

ministry and placed in the

dies in energy and power

sectors increased by about

280 percent in the revised

budget of the FY 2010-11

compared to those of previ-

the share of these two sectors

was 51 percent in the revised

budget for the last fiscal year

and 22.5 percent in 2009-10.

It is 62 percent in the current

megawatt of electricity was

purchased in the last FY from

the private rental and peak-

ing power plants at higher

prices and it will increase

Shahudul was the inspec-

tor general of police (IGP) at

the time of the August 21

carnage at an Awami League

and workers dead and 300

others, including the then

opposition leader Sheikh

Metropolitan Police commis-

sioner then and Khoda Baksh

the head of CID. Both later

Surrendering in the morn-

ing, the trio sought bail in a

case filed for the killing of 24

people. But the court rejected

Department (CID) submitted

the supplementary charge

tives in the eyes of the law.

Now, the other 15 are fugi-

Tarique, who faces

charges with plotting the

grisly attack, has been living

in London since he left the

country with his family for

medical treatment on

7, 2007 on corruption

charges during the military-

backed caretaker govern-

ment and was released on

although Tarique has been

falsely implicated in the

grenade attack cases by the

government, he will not

return to the country to take

The Daily Star his client has

no plan to appear before the

court as there is no doubt

trolled by ministers. The

government already made

the higher court partisan by

appointing party men as

judges. So, he won't get

justice," said Mahbubuddin

Khokon, the lawyer.

"Lower courts are con-

that he will not get justice.

the legal challenge.

BNP leaders said

bail on September 3, 2008.

He was arrested on March

September 11, 2008.

The Criminal Investigation

Huda was the Dhaka

The attack left 24 leaders

further in the current FY.

for a longer term.

FROM PAGE 1

rally in 2004.

Hasina, injured.

served as the IGP.

sheets on Sunday.

theirplea.

The MTBF says 1,556

In the total subsidy outlay,

The MTBF shows subsi-

FROM PAGE 20

House on June 9.

ous fiscal year.

fiscal year.

Fuel prices

But if power generation dose not increase despite the subsidy, the macroeconomic balance has to be made sustainable through price adjustment.

Salehuddin Ahmed, former governor of Bangladesh Bank, said the amount of subsidy is increasing thanks to quick rental power plants. He said alongside quick rental power plants the gov-

for establishing big power plants under public-private partnership. If the government makes price adjustment repeatedly to cut subsidy, cost of living

ernment can take initiative

rise, Salehuddin said. The government should prepare a long term energy policy to reduce uncertainty, he added.

and doing business will also

Centre for Policy Dialogue Talking to The Daily Star, (CPD) in its report, State of World Bank's senior econothe Bangladesh Economy in mist Zahid Hussain said if FY 2010-11, released last power generation increases month said the amount of and GDP growth goes up subsidy has gone up to a huge through the spending on sum and if necessary, price and tariff adjustments might subsidy, it can be continued be considered for maintain-

Tarique not returning

cases and former political

secretary to BNP chief

Khaleda, has been disap-

peared since the emergency

was imposed on January 11,

tary general of the party, fled

the country long before the

Fakhruddin Ahmed-led care-

taker government assumed

palatial house in Gulshan

with almost all his stuffs, even

utensils, on December 28,

2006, his neighbours told The

in the cases, BNP lawmaker

Kazi Shah Mofazzal Hossain

Kaikobad is currently abroad,

yesterday told The Daily Star

that Kaikobad is in Saudi

Major Gen (retd) ATM

Amin, a controversial former

official of Directorate General

of Forces Intelligence (DGFI),

has long been out of the

ter terrorism) of DGFI at the

time of the August 21 grenade

dier general. He continued at

that post in DGFI for almost

throughout the Fakhruddin

administration's rule.

Towards the end, he was

promoted to the rank of

major general and appointed

director general of

the most powerful persons

during the military-backed

caretaker rule. It was learnt

that he played a vital role in

arresting the top political

leaders during the

Fakhruddin rule and became

January 2009, the present

government sent him back to

the army from Ansar, and

later the authorities fired him

days after his dismissal, the

He left the country some

Lt Col (sacked) Saiful

from the defence force.

intelligence sources said.

After coming to office in

a controversial figure.

Bangladesh Ansar.

Amin was director (coun-

His rank was then briga-

country, added the sources.

An aide to the lawmaker

said intelligence sources.

Arabia for treatment.

Of the other new accused

He "mysteriously" left his

office on January 2007.

Daily Star.

blast.

Tarique's counsel told Amin emerged as one of

Harris, former joint secre-

Dhaka, which later sent them another accused in August 21

tary election, said, "Wealth statements and sources of

city

matters. She also directed them to tackle the prevailing political situation of the country unitedly. She directed the home ministry to take tough steps to protect the lives of the people and their properties from vandalism in the name of hartals.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraful Islam told the meeting that ministers and state ministers are also political leaders, so they should speak as politica leaders to counter the opposition's anti-government propaganda.

As his colleagues asked him why he had said that AL is not completely happy with the 15th constitutional amendment, Ashraf, also the AL general secretary, said reality has changed a lot since August 15, 1975. Though their ultimate goal was to reinstate the 1972 constitution, they could not do it due to some "realities", he said.

ing fiscal balance.

CPD Executive Director Mustafizur Rahman told The Daily Star, "We are not against subsidy but there should be a study on which sector should get how much."

The budget does not have clear breakdown of sectorwise subsidy, he added.

SUBSIDYCONFUSION

In the government budget document, there is no specific information regarding how much subsidy is being given to which sector. The Budget in Brief placed

in parliament mentions agriculture and food subsidies specifically. But no details on subsidy in other sectors were found in it. MTBF documents have

provided separate outlays of subsidy on food, agriculture, fuel, power and export and others, but not in conformity with the Budget in Brief. A finance ministry official

said in the budget document the subsidy in energy and power sector is shown under loan and advance heads allocation which is Tk 13,994 crore in the current FY.

official during the caretaker

government rule. Law

enforcement agencies found

his involvement in the bomb

attack on ruling party law-

maker Fazle Noor Taposh's

Since then, he has been on

the run. The authorities

sacked him from the army

following the attack on

Abdur Rashid have been

charge-sheeted in the August

Khan Sayeed Hassan, two

other officials accused in

August 21 cases, are still in

police as officers on special

Mahmood Khandker told

The Daily Star they would not

go for any action regarding

the two before receiving the

copies of charge sheets and

militant operatives--Mufti

Shafiqur Rahman, Mufti

Abdul Hye, Hafez Moulana

Yahiya and Babu alias Ratu

Babu--and Hanif Paribahan

owner Mohammad Hanif are

of the accused are holed up

Police officials said some

also absconding.

trying to trace them.

Newly charge-sheeted

other necessary papers.

Incumbent IGP Hassan

Obaidur Rahman and

car in 2009.

Taposh.

21 cases.

Also, Harris Chowdhury, Islam Joarder was a DGFI

insisted. urged the leaders of all political parties to shun destructive

all the disputed issues through negotiation in the greater interest of the country. The main opposition BNP and its allies including Jamaat-e-Islami called a 48 hour-long hartal for 6:00am

liament.

4 factories

Textile Mill to run the ETP effectively by July 15 and directed the three other factories to relocate within the next 30 days.

the bank of the Buriganga has no place to set up an ETP and the owners also do not have the financial ability or expertise to run them, said an official of the DoE.

Indian Prime Minister's Office. The phone call was made

"there are high expectations from the visit which she hopes would be a historic one". Singh said, "A strong and

between the two countries was in the interest of the two peoples and the people of South Asia as a whole. His forthcoming visit would provide an opportunity to give added momentum and high-level political direction to bilateral ties which have been intensifyingsteadily in recent years."

abroad. The law enforcers are Former CID official Abdur Rashid last night told The Daily Star that he has been Hasina and Singh decided

living in the country as usual. "I am not a fugitive, I appear before the court regularly in another case," he said expressing his surprise at the issuance of arrest

He, however, would not say whether he would surrender to court. Meanwhile, a police

warrant against him.

end.

official said Interpol would circulate notice across the globe to nab the fugitives if the CID properly requests its Dhaka office for help to that

Black money **FROM PAGE 20** secretly in overseas bank accounts by wealthy Indians

and corporations range from \$500 billion to \$1.4 trillion. The government insists it

is doing all it can to uncover the funds, but argues that it is hamstrung by legal restrictions and the lack of tax information exchange agreements with a number of renowned tax havens. Supreme Court Justice

Sudershan Reddy slammed the government's "lack of seriousness and effect" and highlighted what the bench called "serious lapses in the investigation". The court appointed a special committee, headed

by a former supreme court judge, to take the probe forward and ordered the government to disclose the names of those currently under investigation. Back in February, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee

said legal notices had been served on 17 people in connection with foreign bank holdings. But he added that international agreements and other legal hurdles prevented their identities from being

Opposition parties have been quick to pick up on public anger over the black money issue, accusing the government of seeking to cover up the scale of the problem.

revealed.

FROM PAGE 20 markets will shift to other

Withdraw hartal

politically stable countries. We have to avoid such programme at any cost," it The business bodies also

political activities and settle

Wednesday up to 6:00am Friday protesting the scrapping of caretaker government system with the passage of the 15th amendment bill by par-

FROM PAGE 20

The team asked Bilashi

The washing factory on

The DoE in February 2010 filed a case against the factories for environment pollution under Bangladesh **Environment Protection** Act. But their production did not stop, nor did the pollution, he added.

Also, former police and Singh sings CID officials Ruhul Amin, Munshi Atiqur Rahman and

FROM PAGE 1 statement issued by the

around 8:00pm Indian time. Hasina said "she personally and the people of Bangladesh are waiting eagerly to receive" Singh and

productive partnership

The Indian PM noted with satisfaction that there had been an increase in high-level exchanges and cited Indian Vice President Mohd Hamid Ansari's recent visit to Bangladesh, said the Indian

to instruct their respective officials to work towards making the Indian Prime Minister's visit successful and substantive. Singh underlined that "goodwill" exists among the

political parties in both countries and encouraging peopleto-people contacts was a priority in the relationship. The telephone call from

Singh comes amidst strong reaction in Bangladesh following his "off-the-record" remarks that 25 percent people of Bangladesh are anti-India.