Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The election-time government to be formed with elected representatives under the current constitutional provision will not make any policy decisions, said Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday.

He was talking to journalists after attending the National Conference 2013 of Bangladesh Shanti Parishad (Peace Council) as the chief guest at the National Museum in the Capital.

said that the nullified caretaker government,

which will last until June 2016.

and Rural Development

(LGRD) and Cooperatives

ministry has prepared a

draft outlining the forma-

tion of the specialised bank,

whose shareholders will all

be members of the project

and the government. The

draft will soon be submitted

"It will be a social and

specialised bank only for

members of the 'one house,

one farm' project," said Project

Director Prosanta Kumar Roy

yesterday at a workshop organ-

ised by the ministry at CIRDAP

auditorium in the capital to

The members of the

project have now Tk 1,332

crore in savings and the

money is now being trans-

acted from the project's

DC-10s, almost grounded,

which saved Biman around

90 tonnes of fuel every day,

New agreement with a

communications company,

better revenue flow espe-

cially from cargo, a new

revenue integrity system,

cost saving by reducing

passengers on waiting list,

and better measurement of

flight loads also helped

About the Hajj flight

preparations, Steele said the

national carrier was fully

prepared to carry this year's

hajj pilgrims to Saudi Arabia

and to fly them back after

Biman cut its losses.

the holy ritual.

Biman sources said.

Biman's remarkable

discuss the draft.

accounts, he said.

FROM PAGE 1

to the cabinet for approval.

The Local Government

which was formed with unelected people to assist the Election Commission to conduct the general election, was against the basic structure of the constitution.

In response to another query, he brushed aside any possibility of amending the constitution again ahead of the general election. "The opposition must

understand that Election Commission is a constitutional body. They have been working to conduct a free, fair and credible election and the functions of a polls-time govern-The law minister also ment were to help the Election Commission to this regard," he added.

separate savings accounts

and they will do money

transactions through the

bank, said Roy, who is also

joint secretary of the LGRD

would not provide any credit

facility to the account holders.

"It will offer savings and other

deposit services, in addition to

The bank's board of

directors will be formed

with representations from

among the project members

and the government as well,

but only the shareholders

will be entitled to enjoy

corporate benefits such as

will also be available to

increase the confidence of the

under-privileged people of

the project, Prosanta Roy said.

As many as 10 lakh fami-

This year, 88,911 people

from Bangladesh will perform

hajj. Biman will carry 44,500

on a leased Boeing 747, and

Saudi Arabian Airlines

Steele said, "The hajj

seats are currently on sale

and we will have hajj flights

fully through e-ticketing for

supposed to fly at 2:30pm

from next month Biman

would significantly improve

its in-flight services by intro-

ducing its in-flight magazine

Bihanga, new duty free prod-

The first hajj flight is

The Biman MD also said

two Boeing 777-300ERs.

will ferry the rest.

the first time."

on September 7.

Online banking facilities

remittance services."

profit or dividend.

But, he said, the bank

and cooperatives ministry.

When asked about it, he said he had no knowledge as to whether any discussion regarding an interim government would take place in the upcoming parliamentary session.

Asked when the parliamentary election will be held, the law minister said that it was up to the policymakers to announce that.

To another question Shafique replied that only the situation would tell whether or not the existing parliament would be dissolved if the election is to be held within 90 days after the incumbent government's five year tenure.

New bank on cards After the bank is set up, lies are under the project phase the following month, the members will have now, and by the end of the second phase, it will cover

25 lakh families, he said.

The main objectives of the project include making every house of a village a centre of income generation through maximum utilisation of natural and human resources, encouraging micro savings by underprivileged people and providing credit with soft service charges, the joint secretary said.

Jahangir Kabir Nanok, state minister for the LGRD and cooperatives ministry; MA Kader Sarkar, secretary of the rural development

and cooperatives division; Mihir Kanti Majumdar, a former secretary, and Badiul Alam Majumder, secretary of Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik, also spoke at the programme.

ucts, improved entertainment, catering, overnight kits for business class and new children's activity packs.

Steele said after Biman's

3rd and 4th new Boeing A container ship in the Suez 777-300ERs join the fleet in Canal was the target of a failed February and March next "terrorist" attack yesterday year, they would be used to aimed at disrupting traffic inaugurate flights to New through the key waterway, York, and destinations in the head of the Suez Canal Authority said. Referring to the airlines'

Admiral Mohab Mamish confirmed that "a terrorist" had launched the attack against a Panamanian-flagged ship, adding in a statement that "the attempt failed completely and there was no damage to the ship or the containers it carried".

Mandela out

FROM PAGE 1 said a statement from the presidency. It is said his condition

"remains critical and is at times unstable." An ambulance with police escort was seen arriv-

ing at his suburban home, north of Johannesburg, shortly after 0900 GMT. Officials said Mandela

will receive the same intensive care from his Johannesburg home. "If there are health conditions that warrant another admission to hospital in future, this will be done," the presidency said.

His release came after the presidency on Saturday denied reports that Mandela had been discharged from hospital.

Since his admission, South Africans have been united in prayer for a speedy recovery of the country's first back president. Global leaders and local

politicians have also been sending him messages of support during his lengthy treatement at a private hospital in the capital Pretoria. Mandela has faced sev-

eral health scares in recent years and his lung problems date back to his 27 years in apartheid jail. His latest hospitalisation

has been his longest since he walked free from jail in 1990 and went on to become the country's first leader to be elected in allrace elections.

Speculation has arisen often as few details have been released about his condition, which has been largely described as "critical but stable" and updates on his health have been infrequent.

In June, the revered leader was said to be on life support but has recently been reported to be breathing on his own.

Mandela retired from public life in 2004, and has spent his time between his rural home in the Eastern Cape region and Johannesburg.

Failed 'terrorist' attack on Suez Canal ship

AFP, Cairo

China probes top regulator in anti-graft push

REUTERS, Beijing

China is investigating the head of its state assets regulator, a former top energy executive, for "serious disci-

pline violations", the government said yesterday in what appears to be a deepening crackdown on corruption and push for reform.

5 charge sheets

FROM PAGE 16 superintendent of police in Cox's Bazar.

Last week, police said they had finalised the charge sheets of seven of the 19 cases against 364 people for looting, arson and vandalism in Ramu and Ukhia upazilas.

Azad said police had finalised the charge sheets after an 11-month probe and an extensive scrutiny. Islamist fanatics ran-

sacked, looted and burnt 12 Buddhist temples in Ramu on September 29 night last year. They also looted 50 dwellings and torched 15 houses in Buddhist villages in the area.

The zealots set fire to five Buddhist temples and ransacked two Hindu temples in Ukhia the next day. They

also attacked a Buddhist village in Teknaf and ransacked 11 houses there the same day. Police later filed 13 cases

in connection with the incidents of violence while the victims lodged six more cases with four police stations.

accused and 14,807 shown as suspects in the 19 cases.

Prime Minister Sheikh

FROM PAGE 16

unwanted foreigners in the

amnesty programme in 2011 but did not turn up for further processing, including legalisation and voluntary deportation, the report added. Meanwhile, nearly 2.7 lakh irregular Bangladeshi

Malaysia under the amnesty programme. There are around five lakh Bangladeshi workers in that country. Contacted over the phone, Bangladesh High

are still irregular. Many of them failed to get their status regularised

In a statement on August

not be launched. targeting the violators o

legal status. The authorities had legalisation.

"Tenaganita received hundreds of reports that these government-approved outsourcing companies had created their own 'shell companies' and placed work permits under these companies without providing the workers with actual employ-

A total of 375 people were

Police have so far arrested 187 accused and 339 suspects in the cases. Of the arrestees, 23 have already confessed to a court their involvement in the incidents.

Hasina will visit Ramu and Ukhia tomorrow to inaugurate the reconstructed Buddhist temples there.

37 Bangladeshis among the crackdown," he added.

country. It would continue till the end of this year. The drive targets those who got registered under an

workers got registered for legalising their status in

Commissioner to Malaysia AKM Atiqur Rahman said around 30,000 Bangladeshis

for being cheated by their agents, he mentioned.

"Those who got registered during the amnesty period will be able to get regularised even now amid 29, Malaysian human rights body Tenaganita demanded

that the crackdown should

Tenaganita Executive Director Irene Fernandez said the Malaysian authorities are deploying a lot of personnel migrants' rights, while doing virtually nothing to address the issues that lead a migrant

to become undocumented or

prevent him from gaining

granted permission to 277 outsourcing companies to carry out the core functions of registration and

ment," Fernandez said.

Mueen, Ashraf

FROM PAGE 16 on the night of March 25, they tried to resist for a few days.

Anisuzzaman said he had left the campus on April 1 and taken shelter at different places in Chittagong. He had reached Agartala in Indian on April 25 and later gone to Kolkata with his family on May 15, he went on saying.

In Kolkata he had concentrated to from Bangladesh Shikkhak Samiti with the teachers from embattled Bangladesh and become its general secretary, he said. Later, he had become a member of the Planning Commission of the

first government, he added. "Afterindependence, I learned about the intellectuals' killings from newspaper reports on December 17 when I was still in Kolkata," said Anisuzzaman, adding that he along with his family had returned to Bangladesh on January 8,

Thenext day he had visited the residences of martyr Prof Munier Chowdhury and martyr Prof Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury whowere his teachers.

"Syeda Manowara Chowdhury, wife of Prof Mofazzal Haider Chowdhury, told me: 'your students have taken away your teacher'," said the witness. Anisuzzaman said Prof Lutful

Haider Chowdhury, younger brother of Prof Mofazzal, had told him that some youth, whose faces were covered in handkerchiefs, took away his brother form his house on December 14, 1971. At one stage of the abduction,

one of the youths' face was unveiled and Prof Mofazzal said 'Mueen Uddin, you!' The youth replied, "Yes, don't be panicked, you will go with me," Anisuzzaman quoted Lutful as saying. "This Mueen Uddin was Chowdhury Mueen Uddin, who

was a student of Bangla at Dhaka University and a staff reporter of Daily Purbadesh, Anisuzzaman said, adding, "He was acquainted to me when I was a teacher of Bangla at Dhaka University in 1969." Mofazzal had never

returned and his body was not found, he added. "He [Mofazzal] was taken and

tortured at Physical Training College [in city's Mohammadpur and I have read and watched one Delowar Hossain's interview regarding his [Mofazzal] detention and

torture," said Anisuzzaman. Delowar was the lone survi-

vor who was tortured at the training college and witnessed brutal torture of the detained intellectuals there, he further On August 13, Iftekhar Haider

Chowdhury, nephew of Mofazzal, testified that Mueen along with other Al-Badr men had abducted his uncle, who had identified him [Mueen] as his student. Daily Purbadesh, Dainik

Bangla, Daily Ittefaq and other newspapers published several reports with Mueen's photos in 1972. The reports said Mueen was the operation-in-charge of Al-Badr and was directly involved in the abduction and killings of Mofazzal and many other intellectuals, Anisuzzaman said.

The witness also said he had learned from newspapers that Ashrafuzzaman, chief executor of Al-Badr, was also involved in the intellectuals' killings.

He added the newspapers published a report headlined "Dairy of a tyrant", which was based on a diary recovered from Ashraf's house. The diary had the names of the intellectuals, including Mofazzal, who were abducted and killed in December, said the witness. "On behalf of the civil society,

we demanded arrest and trial of the people who had killed the intellectuals and still we are demanding the same," he As per the plan hatched in August 1971, Al-Badr in

December killed university teachers, journalists, physicians, lawyers and other professionals who had supported independence, said Anisuzzaman. He added he had seen Mueen one day in August 1979 at India Office Library in London where

the latter reluctantly offered him 'salam' and left the place hurriedly. The library register confirmed Mueen's identity, he said. After his testimony, tribunalappointed defence counsels Abdus Shukur Khan and Salma Hai Tuny completed

his cross-examination and claimed their clients were not involved in these killings. The two-member tribunal of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman

Miah and Justice Md Shahinur Islam adjourned the proceedinguntil today.

David Frost no more UZ chairman killed

FROM PAGE 16

interviews with Nixon saw him press the former president on the Watergate scandal.

The encounter was turned into a play entitled "Frost/Nixon", which was adapted into a 2008 film, with Michael Sheen playing Frost and Frank Langella as Nixon. It was nominated for five Oscars.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said: "My heart goes out to David Frost's family. He could be -and certainly was with me -both a friend and a fearsome interviewer."

Frost was knighted in 1993, becoming Sir David. The broadcaster wrote 17

books, produced several films and started two British television networks, London Weekend Television and TV-am. In 1983, he married Lady

Carina Fitzalan-Howard, second daughter of the Duke of Norfolk -- the premier duke in the English nobility, who has a role in organising state occasions. They had three sons. BANGLADESH SHOCKED

President Abdul Hamid and

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in separate messages, expressed their deep condolences at the death of Sir David Frost vesterday. President Hamid recalled Frost's invaluable contribu-

tion to Bangladesh's

Liberation War in 1971. He prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed his deep sympathies to the bereaved family members of the late broadcaster.

Sheikh Hasina, in her message, said Frost had earned fame for his interviews with heads of state and government around the world, including the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"Frost made a huge impact on television and politics," she said, adding that he [Frost] had also interviewed her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy and nephew Redwan Mujib Siddique Bobby.

The prime minister prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed her sympathies to the bereaved family of Sir David Frost, reports BSS.

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the situation under control.

The upazila administration then imposed Section 144 to avoid any untoward incident, said Abdul Haque, officer-in-charge of

Dhubaura Police Station.

Again at around 5:00pm, supporters of Mridha and Azizul Haque, carrying lethal weapons, flocked to Kolsindur road in Panchanandapur, defying the ban on a gathering of more than four people. When they came face to face, they were locked into a clash, leaving 10 people injured, witnesses said. Of the injured, seven

were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital where Mridha succumbed to his injuries around 7:30pm, police and hospital sources said.

Mymensingh Superintendent of Police Moinul Haque confirmed the incident.

Section 144 would be in force until further notification, the OC said, adding that additional police personnel had been deployed in the area.

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percent in July.

percent, he added.

improved punctuality,

Steele said in June Biman's

on time departure was 61.5

percent and it was 67.4

last year was less than 35

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