AL, allies not filing

about participating in the next polls under the current polling date, we will follow her direction," AL Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader

told The Daily Star. However, a number of top leaders of AL and its allies, including AL Presidium Member Kazi Zafarullah told The Daily Star that there is no possibility of submitting nominations today.

"We don't have the voter list in our hands. We don't have the voter's serial numbers of either the proposer or the supporter of a candidate, so how can we fill the nomination forms by today?" asked Zafarullah.

Meanwhile, Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Executive President Col (retd) Oli Ahmed Secretary General Maj (retd) Abdul Mannan, and its Organising Secretary Mahi B Chowdhury met AL President Sheikh Hasina yester-

day and discussed seat sharing. Following the meeting, Mahi told reporters that there is no possibility of them submitting nomination

papers today.

A 14-party delegation had a meeting with the EC yesterday and asked the acting chief election commissioner (CEC) to defer the election date by 55 days after getting clearance from the Supreme

Court.
"The Election Commission can ask the chief adviser to seek time from the Supreme Court according to section 106 of the constitution. Suranjit Sengupta, who led the ninemember 14-party delegation to the EC, told newsmen following the

The delegation during the two-hour long meeting asked the acting CEC to announce a new poll schedule after correcting and updating the voter roll.

"An election without correcting

and updating the voter list following proper steps will be unconstitutional, unacceptable and undemocratic," Suranjit told the newsmen.

The grand electoral alliance candidates will not submit their nomination papers today, according to the delegation.

They told the acting CEC that they will not participate in the upcoming election if a level playing filed is not created.

"The EC did not take proper measures to update and correct the voter list," Suranjit said adding that there are 1.6 crore fake voters on the updated electoral roll. absurd to hold an election under the

circumstances," he said.
The 14-party delegation urged the EC not to appoint polling officers and presiding officers from any controversial institution.

Suranjit also said there is no provision for an acting CEC in the constitution therefore the current EC is unconstitutional.

Earlier, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said, "We along with the others in the grand alliance want to participate in the election but the environment for holding a fair election is yet to be created.

He was talking to reporters following a meeting of AL presidium members chaired by AL President Sheikh Hasina in her Sudha Sadar residence in Dhanmondi yesterday.

He also said if the caretaker government (CG) and the EC were sincere, a fair election could be held within the stipulated 90-day tenure of the CG.

The grand alliance has almost finished finalising the list of its candidates for the upcoming election, he said adding, "The remaining

very important for the nation. He also ruled out any possibility of submitting their nomination papers

today.

Jalil, who is also the 14-party coalition coordinator, said the work of correcting the voter list is still incomplete An election can never be held without a corrected voter roll, he added.

He also said, "After correcting the voter list, a fresh poll schedule must be announced Announcement of the current election schedule before publication of the voter list was illegal.

The package proposal has also not been implemented completely

The chief adviser is the root of all problems," the AL leader said reiterating his party's allegation that the president violated the constitution by assuming the post of chief adviser himself

Jalil claimed a number of polling centres have also been changed for the benefit of four-party alliance

EC retreats

FROM PAGE 1

They also blasted the EC for its failure to prepare a flawless voter list before announcing the polls sched-

will not file nomination papers tomorrow," AL Presidium Member Sheikh Fazlul Karim told journalists after the meeting with the acting CEC and other election

"We hope all political parties will participate in the election. The outcome of our meetings will be clear tomorrow," Adviser Prof M Moinuddin Khan told The Daily Star vesterdav.

Adviser Shafiqual Haque Choudhury, however, said extension of the nomination submission deadline by one or two days is not more important than the participation of all political parties in the

As part of its negotiation with the 14-party alliance, the council of advisers at a meeting earlier in the morning at Bangabhaban asked the EC secretary to rearrange the election schedule by extending the time limit for submission of nomination papers, sources said.

The EC secretary argued against rescheduling the polls timetable again, saying this would create an acute shortage of time for the EC to complete election preparation.

Returning from the Bangabhaban, the EC secretary informed the acting CEC of the advisory council's advice.

The acting CEC then convened an EC meeting where they decided not to extend the nomination submission deadline.

Sources said the meeting that continued for about two hours almost finalised its decision for extending the time limit by two days, setting the last date on December

Officials at the EC Secretariat were making preparations to publish a gazette notification rescheduling the official polls plan for the fifth time. But suddenly, the move was stopped, sources added.

EC Secretary Abdur Rashid Sarkar declined to talk to the report-

On the 14-party alliance's demands, Justice Mahfuzur Rahman said they will discuss it

Amik, the then head of Kashimpur jail, started to receive 'illegitimate' verbal orders from top prison officials and was demoted to superintendent as he was transferred to Sunamgani iail on October 9. But the High Court stayed the transfer order on October 19 and passed a

because I opposed the provision of appointment of army officers to top prisons posts and sending jail quards to different iails as 'spies' without mentioning any job description," Amik told The Daily Star, adding that the Inspector General (Prisons) himself threatened him openly at a jail conference in June.

(Prisons) Brigadier General Zakir Hasan himself recommended promotion of Amik to deputy inspector general on May 25 this year, identifying him as a competent officer. Amik's ACR (annual confidential report) since 2002 also said he was eligible for promotion, said a source.

The jail authorities moved in the home ministry for sending five of the 44 aforementioned officials along with six others, into forced retirement on grounds of 'corruption and irregularities' saying that otherwise there may be mutiny in their jails. But the plan could not be implemented as the Special Branch report proved contradictory to the allegations

Recently the authorities started lobbying with the government again for sending them to forced

the name of 'Command Fund' violating prohibition of such practice from the home ministry and the

After a writ was filed, the High Court on October 19 stayed such money collection for three months and issued a rule.

the jail authorities asked explanation from a jail superintendent basing on allegation received from an unknown sender of a letter although there are specific government instructions not to entertain any letter that does not contain specific information about the

After the jail superintendent submitted his reply, the authorities lodged a departmental case in the second week of December.

"Such misuse of power and vengeful activities did not take place when the power of lodging departmental cases rested with the ministry earlier. We fear the officials who the authorities do not like may also face similar cases soon," said a retired jail superintendent on condition of anonymity.

Some other officials who were preparing to take legal steps against the authorities' controversial steps backtracked fearing harassment after witnessing the harassment of these officials,

The IG (Prisons) yesterday said departmental proceedings are underway against seven or eight jail officials, mostly for corruption He, however, denied the allegation of lobbying with the government high-ups for taking action against

Police step up security for Sonia

REUTERS, Mumbai

Indian police have stepped up security for the head of the ruling Congréss Party, Sonia Gandhi, afte reports of threats from al-Qaeda or its affiliates, police said on Saturday. husband. Raiiv. were both assassi-

nated. Italian-born Sonia Gandhi, part of the Nehru-Gandhi political dvnastv which has ruled India for of its independence since 1947, is currently in the western financial hub of Mumbai to address a rally to boost her party's chances in

local elections next year.
"We have increased security for Sonia Gandhi keeping in view the threat," a senior Mumbai police

official said, without elaborating.
On Friday, the federal home ministry, reacting to media reports, said it carried out "periodic threat assessment for all its protectees", adding it had issued an advisory to security agencies to be vigilant and strengthen security arrangements.

Gandhi's husband Rajiv was killed by Sri Lankan Tamil Tiger rebels in 1991 while her mother-in-law ndira, was shot dead by her own Sikh bodyguards in 1984.

White panel

FROM PAGE 16

English Department from White Panel defeated Prof Sharif Ullah Bhuiyan (517 votes) of History department from Blue Panel in the president post

In the post of general secretary, Prof Anwar Hossain from Blue Panel defeated his competitor Prof Sirajul Islam securing 549 votes. Prof Sirajul Islam of White Panel got

Prof Tazmeri SA Islam (583 votes), Prof GM Chowdhury (552) and Dr Mamun Ahmed (530) from White Panel have been elected as vice-president, treasurer and joint secretary.

Of the 10 member posts, the Blue Panel bagged five posts and White Panel got four posts, while there was a tie in a post in which Prof Sadeka Halim from Blue Panel and Prof Obaidul Islam from White Panel secured equal 525 votes each. Prof Obaidul Islam and Prof Sadeka Halim hold the office of a member consecutively for six months each The elected members from the

Blue Panel are: Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique (581 votes), Prof RIM Aminur Rashid (563), Prof Dr Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman (569), Prof Dr Harun-or-Rashid (538) and Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam (561). The elected members from

White Panel are: Prof Abu Ahmed (597 votes), Prof Shahjahan Mia (528), Prof Syed Salehin Kadri (526) and Dr Sukomal Barua (532).

Prof Azizur Rahman of Physics department conducted the election held at the Teachers' Club from 10:00am to 2:00pm. A total of 1,138 votes were cast while there were

Fair election

FROM PAGE 1 He said the Grand Alliance was ready to participate in the next election. They have almost finished finalising the Grand Alliance candidates for the elections, he

"The remaining tasks would be completed in a day or two," Jalil

AL Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed said the next 24 hours were very important for the nation. He, however, ruled out any possibility of submitting their nomination papers today.

Jalil, who is also the 14-party alliance coordinator, said the work on correcting the voter list is still incomplete. An election can never be held without a corrected voter

roll, he said. He said, "After correcting the voter list, a fresh poll schedule must be announced. Declaring the election schedule before the publi-

cation of the voter list was illegal." The "package proposal" has not been implemented completely, Jalil said adding that the CG has wasted valuable time by trying to mplement it in bits, fearing the four-party's "election engineering'

plan would suffer. He alleged that the president and chief adviser to the CG, with directives from BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, is conspiring to foil the elections when the people are ready for elections.

The chief adviser is the root of all problems," the AL leader said reiterating the AL's allegation that the chief adviser has violated the constitution.

Jalil claimed a number of polling centres have been changed for the benefit of the four-party alliance candidates.

4 killed

Dhan Mia. 40. of Sreenagar upazila under Minshiganj district. Identity of the remaining two could not be

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at about 4:00pm when a Svlhet-bound truck from Dhaka with 20 labourers aboard skidded off the highway and fell into a ditch at Kuttapara, killing the four on the spot and injuring 10 others.

control over the steering as he was overtaking a bus.

Police recovered the bodies and Hospital for autopsy. The injured are undergoing treatment at the hospi

SC Bar demands

all charges against the eminent lawyers. It will also hold a meeting of the lawyers at the SCBA hall at

12:00 noon today.

The IO pressed charges against Dr Kamal Hossain, SCBA President barrister Amir-Ul Islam, SC Bar Council Vice President barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud, former SCBA secretary Enayetur Rahim, former SCBA vice president Subrata Chowdhury, barrister Tania Amir, advocates Sheikh Awsafur Rahman, Subrata Saha, Khairuzzaman Tinu. Khasruzzaman, Mamun Mahbub, Suhrawardy, and an outsider --Habibur Rahman.

Inspector Naimur Rahman of Detective Branch (DB), the IO of the case, on Friday submitted the charge sheet following a case filed by barrister Omar Sadat on December 4.

SCBA Secretary AM Amin Uddin yesterday in a statement expressed his grave concern over submitting such a false charge sheet and demanded punishment of the IO.

Demanding withdrawal of the case, he said it was filed to divert the current democratic movement of the lawvers. Sammilito Ainjibi Samannay

Parishad yesterday held a meeting at the SCBA Bhaban presided over by the organisation's joint convenor and Awami League leader advocate Sahara Khatun. The Parishad blamed the chief adviser, who is incharge of the home ministry, for bringing the false charges against the lawvers only to harass them.

Bangladesh Awami Ainjibi Parishad urged lawyers all over the country to participate in today's programme.

Sammilito Samaiik Andolon yesterday in a press release condemned the pressing of charges against the lawyers and demanded its withdrawal. President Ajay Roy and Secretary Tabarak Hossain of the organisation said in a press release, "Swift submission of the charge sheet proves how intensely the immediate past government still influences the police administra-

Barrister Omar Sadat on December 4 filed a case against around 50 to 60 lawyers, naming four, for vandalising the offices of the chief justice, the attorney general, and for disturbing court proceedings on November 30

The vandalism took place on that day after the chief justice stayed the proceedings of writ petitions challenging the legality of the president's taking over as chief adviser and his "unilateral" decisions, just minutes before a High Court bench was

supposed to issue a ruling on them.

McGrath

FROM PAGE 16

McGrath ended days of speculation about his future when he confirmed he would join Shane Warne by

But McGrath said he would continue playing one-day internationals for another four months before retiring altogether after the World Cup, to be held in the West Indies in March and April. "As of the end of the World Cup later next year I'll be finishing up all forms of cricket." McGrath told a news conference in Melbourne.

McGrath, 36, said he was bowling as well as ever and could have kept on playing but was retiring to spend more time with his family.

McGrath took eight months off this year to look after his children while his wife Jane was undergoing treatment for cancer

beginnings to become the world's most successful fast bowler, capturing 555 Test wickets in 122 matches, and 342 one-day international wickets in 230 games.

The lanky paceman tormented the world's best batsmen for over a decade with his unerring accuracy but rumours were rife that he was on

The wear and tear of bowling had started to take effect and he had struggled with niggling injuries over the past three seasons

He made a comeback in 2004 and another in September this year after taking time off to care for his wife, immediately helping Australia win the Champions Trophy for the first time, then regain the Ashes they lost to England last year.

began to intensify when Damien Martyn retired after the Adelaide Test and Warne announced he was guitting after Sydney. McGrath initially tried to dampen

the speculation by saying he was still weighing up his options before calling a news conference on Saturday to confirm the news.

Time again

reschedule the loans if the defaulters follow rules and regulations," he

Sources said if the BB and

finance ministry remain strict on

loan default issue, the political parties will take it seriously in nominating their candidates. Of the seven loan defaulters,

who got HC stay orders and intend to contest the next election, former BNP lawmaker Monzur Kader had filed three writ petitions seeking HC stay orders against the central bank and other banks concerned in 2001. The court recently rejected one writ and issued stay order in the

Monzur participated in the 2001 general election by overcoming his defaulter status through a HC stay

His business establishments Mahanagar Traders and Prominent Housing Ltd have been defaulting on Tk32 crore loan from the Sonali Bank for more than five years.

Former BNP legislators Rashiduzzaman Millat and Moinul Islam Khan also obtained stay orders from the HC recently, sources said.

Rashiduzzaman's Techno International has defaulted on Tk45 lakh loan from Pubali Bank, Moinul Islam's Islam Jute Mills Ltd has defaulted on Tk37crore loan from Sonali Bank.

Awami League leader Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury and his son Saifuzzaman Chowdhurv owe the Agrani Bank about Tk 80 crore against different ventures They also obtained HC stay orders recently to overcome their default status, sources said.

They have recently made a down payment of Tk 3 crore along with a proposal to reschedule the

Another former BNP lawmaker, Ziaur Rahman Khan, who recently joined the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), also obtained a stay order from HC. Federation of Bangladesh

Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) leader Mohammad Ali has defaulted loan from Sonali Bank and obtained HC stay order recently. Sources said he intends to participate in the next election from a Narayanganj constituency on BNP ticket. Besides, former BNP MP Shafi

Chowdhury's business establish-

ment Albert David (Bangladesh)

owes Pubali Bank Tk 5.29 crore for long. But recently he also obtained a HC stay order to overcome his defaulter status. He has been a defaulter with this bank for more than six years. During the 2001 election, he made a Tk 1 crore down payment to

reschedule the loan. After being

elected, he defaulted on the loan

with the bank again and has not contacted it as yet, bank sources

BNP chief Khaleda Zia's brother Maj (retd) Sayeed Iskandar, whose repayment against Tk 38 crore loan from Sonali Bank against Dandy Dying was marked as "irregular" in June, later paid some instalments

and regularised the loan. Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad had rescheduled his Tk 10 crore loan from the First Security Bank in November 2005. He had taken the loan in the nineties to set up a cold storage -- Padaganj Cold Storage

In October this year, Rawshan Ershad rescheduled repayment of Tk 5 crore loan from Uttara Bank. She obtained this loan during Ershad rule in connection with the

Awami League General Faizuddin Cold Storage Ltd. Sources said he made a down payment of Tk 72 lakh to resched-

Former BNP lawmaker Mosaddak Ali Falu rescheduled his Tk 20 crore loans from Oriental

A number of intending candidates from both the BNP and AL might still file writ petitions or take initiatives to reschedule their loans. But they will do so only if they get party nomination for the election. Salman F Rahman's various

ventures under the Beximco group have become defaulters with various banks. His ventures are among the top 20 defaulters with Sonali. Agrani, Janata and Rupali banks. These include Shinepukur Holdings, Beximco Engineering Ltd, Beximco Computers, Free-Press Ltd etc.

group has recently made down payments to these banks to reschedule the loans and negotiations are now underway. Salman contested the 2001

Bank sources said Beximco

likely to contest the next election. Shah Mohammad Hossain Kaekobad, former BNP legislator, has defaulted loans with three banks.

estuary REUTERS, Islamabad

disputed

Pakistan and India agreed yesterday to conduct a joint survey of a disputed estuary on their border. the latest step in a tentative peace

the Sir Creek, that flows into the Arabian sea between the Pakistani province of Sindh and the Indian state of Guiarat, came after two days of talks between military officials in the Pakistani city of Rawalpindi.

said the talks were cordial and technical details of the survey had been worked out amicably. "It was agreed to commence the

ioint survey from Jan. 15, 2007," the ministry said in a statement. The dispute over the 100-km long estuary has hampered explora-

Musharraf, who has called for compromise over the core dispute with India over the Himalayan region of Kashmir, said this month the Sir Creek dispute "can be resolved expeditiously with cour-

three wars since their independence from Britain in 1947 and nearly went to war a fourth time in 2002.

Relations have improved since they launched a peace process in early 2004. Diplomatic, sporting and transport links have been increased but the neighbours have yet to make any tangible progress on their central dispute over Kashmir.

estuary should not be difficult to agree but decades of mistrust has obstructed a settlement. The dispute has prevented the two sides agreeing on their maritime

boundary and hindered exploration

deposits. Authorities from the two countries also regularly arrest each others' fishermen in the estuary for illegal intrusion. Fishermen complain they often do not know whose waters they are in because of the

Abbas FROM PAGE 16

As the former minister blamed the press for publishing 'lies' about the incident, the journalists asked him what the 'truth' was. He then said that he is yet to know about it.

which was probably a 'misfire.' He neither heard anything about it from his brother Khokon nor did he have any chance to talk about it with Masuda, he added. Asked how the shooting took place, Abbas said he was asleep and woke up after hearing the

later I came to know it was a misfire. supported Abbas's claim that the press has been lying about the incident. They also backtracked on what they had said about the inci-

dent earlier. Earlier, Masuda's eldest brother Harunur Rashid had told some reporters that his niece (Khokon's daughter) called and informed him that Khokon had shot his wife. But yesterday in a statement they said, "We never made any such statements to the media.

They, however, remained silent when a reporter asked them if they would like to hear the recorded conversation he had with Harun

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Motijheel Police Station Ainul Hog vesterday told The Daily Star that he went to take Masuda's statement but physicians at the Apollo Hospital did not allow him to talk to the patient. "I requested them to take

the statement," he added. Meanwhile, doctors vesterday recorded Masuda's statement but

did not hand it over to police. The media manager of the hospital Giasuddin told the press that the patient's condition is better now. "She is speaking and is able to

Laden's 'close

He played a central role in organising deadly operations including suicide attacks against coalition, Nato and Afghan forces, Collins

He also orchestrated

kidnappings and other crimes

against locals using Taliban and al-Qaeda operatives, the coalition

Some 4,000 people, many of them militants but also troops and civilians, have died in Taliban-led violence this year alone, making it Afghanistan's bloodiest year since the Taliban movement was toppled

The regime was ousted following the World Trade Centre attacks for failing to hand over bin Laden to US

Pakistan, India **US** generals agree to agree to survey

Top US military commanders in Iraq have decided to recommend a "surge" of fresh American combat forces, eliminating one of the last remaining hurdles to proposals

> official, the newspaper said the approval of a troop increase plan by top Iraq commanders, including General George Casey and Lieutenant General Raymond Odierno, comes days before Bush unveils a new course for Iraq.

The recommendation by the commanders in Iraq is significant because Bush has placed prime importance on their advice, the report said.

The US command in Iraq decided to recommend an increase of troops several days ago, prior to meetings in Baghdad this week with Defence Secretary Robert Gates, according to The Times. Commanders have been

sceptical of the value of increasing troops, and the decision represents a reversal for Casey, the highest ranking officer in Iraq, the paper Casey and General John Abizaid, head of the US Central

Command who will step down in

March, have long resisted adding

more troops in Iraq, arguing that it

could delay the development of Iraqi

security forces and increase anger

at the United States in the Arab world. The Times said. The defence official said commanders have not determined the exact number of extra troops they

will request, the report said.

increase of about 20,000, about five extra combat brigades, The Times But while some officers think five extra brigades would be difficult to

muster, others believe more troops

will be required, the paper reported.

Military officers have debated an

Meanwhile, another 10 Iraqis have died in violence, including six people killed during clashes between police and militiamen loval to Shia radical leader Mogtada al-Sadr, officials said yesterday.

main weekly Muslim prayers in the mainly Shia southern city of Samawa on Friday and continued Saturday, police sources said. "Since last night, the hospital has received six dead -- five policemen and one civilian -- and 15 wounded.

including seven policeman," said Lieutenant Ahmed Hadi, in charge of security at Samawa hospital. There was no news on militia

casualties

Two policemen were killed when a mortar round crashed into the impoverished town's police headquarters on Saturday. The others died from gunshot wounds during the clashes, Hadi said. Samawa's trouble flared when

Friday's prayers, and continued to rage after police made various arrests, police said. Amid the violence, fighters from two influential clans seized an office of the Sadr movement in downtown

Samawa "to avenge the death" of

two policemen from their tribes, a

Iraqi authorities objected to the

militiamen taking weapons to

troop surge in Iraq

10 more killed in violence

AFP, Los Angeles/ Baghdad

The source said they were also hunting down fighters from the Mahdi Army, a large Shia militia loyal to Sadr, which the Pentagon has explicitly blamed for much of the sectarian violence engulfing Irag. Another four people were killed

Baguba, including two allegedly from an al-Qaeda-linked group. On Friday, several civilians were wounded, including a 10-year-old boy, in an insurgent mortar attack in Al-Boalwan, in the restive province

N Korea warns of 'tough' action

of Al-Anbar, Iraqi police Lieutenant

Colonel Salam Mohammed Abbas

North Korea warned the United States yesterday against stepping up sanctions against the regime in retaliation for the deadlock in this week's nuclear disarmament talks.

The North Korean army's chief of

staff warned of "tougher action" if

the United States intensified finan-

cial sanctions imposed last year and aimed at curbing money laundering by the reclusive regime. The six-party negotiations, which resumed Monday after a break of 13 months and Pyongyang's first ever

nuclear weapons. The talks snagged on North Korea's refusal to launch substantive discussions until the United States lifted the sanctions which have left millions of dollars of North

North Korea's state television quoted Kim Young-chun as saying.

Yonhap news agency.

of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il's inauguration as commander of the

needed to negotiate. The North scored one minor victory at the talks in Beijing, securing a promise for another round of

New York next month. The six-party talks involve the

Security Council

its sensitive nuclear fuel work. The European draft has been amended several times as Russia and China, which have close economic and energy ties with Tehran, deemed it too tough and

The changes agreed late Friday among the six major powers trying to scale down Iran's nuclear ambitions -- Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United

The Western diplomat said Russian President Vladimir Putin insisted on seeing the final text

The draft resolution calls for a

ban on trade with Iran in goods

related to its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

tions, the sponsors Wednesday watered down a proposal for a the annex.

work, the Security Council "shall adopt further appropriate measures under Article 41 of Chapter Seven" of the UN charter, a refer-

would help Tehran develop nuclear weapons. Iran savs its nuclear program is strictly peaceful and aimed at

providing electricity for a growing population. Thursday Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad vowed that nothing would stop Iran from

technology, are faced with a sea of courageous people," Ahmadinejad said in a speech.

that this is the Iranian nation; whether you adopt a resolution or

whatever hostile act, ... our people will withstand it," senior cleric Avatollah Ahmad Janati said in a Friday prayer sermon in Tehran carried live on state radio. "If they were only a little bit reasonable, they would come

forward for negotiations. This would be in their own interest. They

tasks will be completed in a day or AL Presidium Member Tofail

13 jail officers

rule on the jail authorities. "They got furious especially

Branding Amik as the 'most corrupt', the prisons authorities submitted application to the home ministry in the last week of November asking the authorities to take punitive action against him. The ministry, however, is yet to start Interestingly, Inspector General

Prisons authorities got more furious as the said officials opposed collecting money from inmates' visitors at different jails in

In the beginning of December,

allegations.

FROM PAGE 16

Survivors said the trucker lost

sent them to Brahmanbaria Sadar

ending his Test career in next month's final Ashes Test against England in Sydney.

McGrath rose from humble

the verge of quitting.

Speculation about his future

Many other defaulters including political leaders have rescheduled their loans for contesting the elec-

Ltd-- in Dinajpur.

Jatana Tower. She rescheduled the loan by making a down payment. Secretary Abdul Jalil rescheduled his Tk 5.35 crore loan from Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank back in July. Jalil took the loan against his business venture

ule the loan. Bank in July.

election on AL ticket and lost. This time he has been appointed adviser to AL chief Sheikh Hasina and is

On Thursday, Al-Arafa Bank Comilla Branch, sent his defaultrelated documents to the Election

process between the nucleararmed rivals. The agreement on the survey of

Pakistan's Ministry of Defence

tion for oil and gas and led to the detention of hundreds of fishermen from the two countries. Pakistani President Pervez

India and Pakistan have fought

Analysts say demarcation of the

in an area thought to hold oil and gas

The fighting erupted after the He claimed that he was not involved in the shooting in any way.

gunshot. "None was inside the bed room except Masuda and Khokon when I went inside." he said. "At first. I thought the shooting happened due to personal feud, but The brothers of Masuda also

take her food by herself," he said.

FROM PAGE 16

The Nato-led International Security Assistance Force has more than 30,000 troops and another 10.000 US-led coalition forces hunting for al-Qaeda and Taliban remnants throughout the country.

by US-led forces in 2001.

being considered by President George W Bush, The Los Angeles in a series of shootings and bomb-Times reported yesterday. Citing an unnamed defence

ings in the troubled cities of Baguba and Kirkuk, where such violence has soared to an all-time high in recent months, police sources said. The defence ministry announced separately that 15 suspected "terrorists" were arrested in Diyala

province, which is centred on

against the US

South Korean media said.

atom bomb test in October, broke up on Friday, with envoys failing to persuade the state to give up its

"Refusing to lift its sanctions at this week's meeting, the US insisted on our unilateral disarmament,

sanctions, we will respond to such a move with tougher actions," Kim said, according to South Korea's Kim was speaking at a conference marking the 15th anniversary

meetings on financial sanctions in

Washington sought a tougher text. Russia pressed for a one-day delay in a previously planned Friday vote on the text sanctioning Iran for pursuing uranium enrichment.

hefore Saturday's vote.

To overcome Russian objec-

that it halt sensitive nuclear fuel

Korean funds in limbo in a Macau bank.

"If the US continues to beef up its

North Korea's chief negotiator Kim Kye-Gwan blamed the failure of the talks on Washington's "hostile" policy toward Pyongyang, while chief US envoy Christopher Hill said Kim did not have the authority

two Koreas, China, Japan, Russia

and the United States.

likely to irk the Iranians while

raising questions as to why the Russians wanted to postpone the

States -- were purely cosmetic,

An annex to the draft lists persons and entities involved in proliferation-sensitive nuclear and missile programmes that will be subjected to financial restrictions.

travel ban on 12 officials directly linked to Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs and also listed in The text warns that if Tehran refuses to comply with demands

ence to non-military sanctions. Western countries want to impose sanctions on Iran over its refusal to suspend uranium enrichment activities, which they fear

pushing ahead with its nuclear programme. "The bullying powers today, in confronting Iran's peaceful nuclear

A senior cleric in Iran echoed that defiance Friday. "We should tell foreign enemies

should come and sign economic and cultural contracts with the Iranian people and the Islamic government," added Janati, head of the powerful legislative watchdog the Guardians Council

previous jail administration.