# Lanka army chief vows to crush Tigers

## 42 rebels killed in new clashes

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's army chief has renewed a vow, to defeat Tamil rebels, but refused to set a deadline for ending the decades-old conflict, saying the separatists remain a potent force, a report said yesterday.

At least 42 Tamil Tiger rebels and four soldiers were killed in fresh fighting across Sri Lanka's troubled north at the weekend, the defence ministry said Sunday.

Army general Sarath Fonseka said in an interview with the Lakbima weekly Sinhalese newspaper that a military campaign to capture the rebel-held Wanni region in the north begun in March last year was proceeding according to plan.

He however refused to give a timeframe for defeating the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who have fought since 1972 to establish an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the Sinhalese-majority island.

"They are an organised force with a lot of experience. They have thousands of fighters. I don't conduct the war looking at deadlines and timeframes," Fonseka said in the interview published Sunday.

"Can a war that has been going on for more than 25 years be completed by March? But, what I say is -- give us a chance."

At the beginning of the year, in an interview with the state-run Sunday Observer, Fonseka said the LTTE had 3,000 fighters and pledged that the military could defeat them by mid-2008.

But in the interview published Sunday, he increased his estimate of rebel strength to 5,000 combatants, citing new intelligence

On the ground, the military on capital in the north. Sunday defused a powerful bomb found by an off-duty sailor in a crowded area of the north-central town of Anuradhapura, officials

Security forces defused two more roadside bombs further north in neighbouring Vavuniya district, military officials said.

The military has accused the Tigers of committing a string of bomb attacks against civilians since an escalation in fighting on the ground following the government's formal withdrawal last month from a tattered truce signed in 2002.

The defence ministry said at least 42 rebels and four soldiers were killed in fierce fighting in northern Sri Lanka on Saturday.

In the heaviest fighting in Vavuniya district, at least 15 rebels and three troops were killed, the ministry said in a statement. Twenty-seven other rebels and one soldier were killed in separate

In separate clashes across the region, 27 more rebels and one soldier were killed, the statement

The ministry put the number of rebels killed since the start of the year at 1,088. A total of 48 soldiers were killed during the same period,

The number of casualties reported by both the government and the Tigers cannot be independently verified as journalists and human rights workers are not allowed to enter the battle zone.

Fonseka said the military had killed 5,000 Tiger rebels last year, without mentioning the total losses for security forces.

However, he said 4,000 government soldiers had been wounded in the last two years, with half of them choosing to return to the battlefield.

Fonseka, who was severely injured by a Tamil rebel suicide bomber in April 2006, told the weekly that security forces were advancing on the rebel-held town of Kilinochchi, the Tigers' political

"This time when we take Kilinochchi, we will not leave it after a while. But we must realise that the offensive is going to take time," he said.

The government has repeatedly said it is confident of a military victory in the conflict, which has claimed tens of thousands of lives.

## Shibir, BCL men

FROM PAGE 1

Early in the morning yesterday, around 400 workers of BCL gathered in front of Latif Hostel. They brought out procession on the campus, vandalised vehicles plying the Tongi Diversion Road. They also blockaded the road in front of the institute for over half an hour.

Brandishing knives, machetes, and hockey sticks, Shibir and BCL men chased and counter-chased each other for hours. In presence of law enforcers, they beat up their rivals and damaged their rooms.

Of the injured, 30 are Shibir activists while 10 BCL. Six of those wounded were undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The melee caused panic among the general students who locked themselves in the rooms.

Shibir men had to be taken out of the campus under police escort as the Chhatra League workers were waiting outside.

Shamsul Alam, principal of the institute, said, "The hostels except the one for female students have been vacated, but the institute will remain open and classes, examinations and official activities will continue."

Talking to The Daily Star, he said, "The hostels would be sealed off till things return to normal."

He advised students to stay at relatives' houses during the period. As of 8:00pm, no case was filed and none was arrested in this connection, said officials at Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Station.

CLASH AT JAGANNATH UNIVERSITY Students at the university in Old

Dhaka yesterday clashed with police during demonstrations for the campus to be rid of outsiders. Sources said the fighting that

left at least three including a photojournalist injured broke out at around at 11:30am when police resisted those protesting the nonstudents occupying the dormito-

During the hour-long clash, protesters threw projectiles at the law enforcers who resorted to baton-charge.

## Electoral reform

FROM PAGE 1

a couple of days to complete the first round of electoral reform talks, Sohul said.

The HC tomorrow resumes hearing on a writ petition filed by the pro-Khaleda faction of BNP on November 18, 2007 that stayed the effectiveness of the EC's invitation letter to M Saifur Rahman-led faction of the party to the dialogue scheduled for November 22, 2007.

As a result, the EC could not hold the talks with BNP in over two months.

The EC began electoral reform talks with political parties on September 12, 2007 and completed first round of talks, excepting BNP due to the disputes between the two factions of the party.

According to the EC announced electoral roadmap in July 2007, the electoral reform talks with the political parties were supposed to be completed between September and November of last year.

parties a day to complete the talks

within a few days," Election

Commissioner Sohul said adding

that the EC decided to sit with the

parties separately as there are

differences in opinion among the

At the meeting yesterday, the

EC also discussed a draft ordi-

nance to impose ban on scrawl-

ing graffiti and writings on walls

of houses and establishments in

Zafarullah, Koko

the urban areas.

was admitted to a hospital yesterday During the first round of talks, the EC disclosed its plan to sit due to ailments, while talking to with the parties for a second time reporters after the meeting. to get the parties' final opinions "How can we unite with someone on the proposals for electoral reforms. Once the proposals are finalised, the EC will send those to the government to make those

The EC wants to complete the second round of talks within this month since the government will be held if Delwar does not withwould begin its dialogue with draw his condition. "It will be tough political parties after the EC to unite the party if he [Delwar] does not change his policy," said a seemwraps up the talks. "We may sit with two or three ingly annoyed Saifur.

parties.

Earlier at a news briefing in According to sources, in his reply Saifur's house, the faction's Acting Secretary General Maj (retd) Hafiz Tanveer Ahmed Siddique said the

> a sub-jail on the national parliament building premises and later told reporters that the former prime minister had called upon all party members and sympathisers to

Referring to the message Hafiz Uddin Ahmed said, "We responded to her call and we also support it but remarks made by Delwar disappointed us."

About the October 29 meeting, Hafiz said nobody got any post in that meeting so it should not be made controversial.

duty as the acting chairperson by default as he is the most senior leader after Khaleda Zia, I was appointed only on a temporary basis to avoid any controversy," he said adding that their faction wants to see a united party run by an elected committee.

Hafiz also said unity must be unconditional as the party chairperson herself sent directions to reunite

He however hoped that their faction will be recognised as the mainstream BNP by the court also, just like it had been by the Election Commission.

## BB pins economic

GDP growth rate in the range of 6.0 percent to 6.2 percent for the fiscal. Earlier, in the beginning of the fiscal, the BB had estimated a GDP growth of 7.0 percent for the FY08.

assuming that the political situation is turning to a positive trend," Mujeri told reporters.

of the economy, which somewhat slowed down in the previous quarters primarily due to slow growth in agriculture and manufacturing sectors, showed a recovering trend amidst an upward pace in service sector activities.

is also dependent on measures by the government to address the

It will be important for the government to continue its efforts in ensuring timely supply of adequate fertiliser, quality seeds and other agricultural inputs, and provide agricultural credit and marketing support, he said quoting

try and service sectors would depend on sustaining conducive business and investment environments," he said.

Available data in the second quarter of FY08 shows that disbursement of agricultural and industrial credit, import of industrial raw materials and intermediate goods, index of manufacturing production, rate of cargo handling at Chittagong and inflow of workers' remittance indicate that the real economy has regained its normal growth performance and is moving toward its trend level.

the coming months.

report says the gap between urban and rural inflation rates widened in the second quarter of the fiscal in respect of food and non-food

The report says the prevailing difference in inflation rates between rural and urban areas points to the need for increasing current inflationary pressure. As per the BB report, the provi-

overall fiscal deficit during the plant built on the mine site.

second quarter of FY08 stood at 2.1 percent of GDP as opposed to 1.0 percent in the corresponding

quarter of FY07. The overall domestic financing during this period was Tk 112.1 billion against Tk 46.9 billion in the

second quarter of FY07. "The increasing bank financing to meet the budget deficit is a concern for its bad impact on overall economy," the report said.

### Barapukuria FROM PAGE 16

including pay raise if the mine produces more than 75,000 tonnes a month, have been on indefinite strike since February 5. The miners have been trying to realise their demand since October last year.

However, their 250 Chinese colleagues belonging to the CMC are at work producing 1,500 to 2,000 tonnes a day. This rate of production is half of what the mine has been producing in recent days. BCMCL officials led by

Managing Director MA Aziz Khan held a meeting at the BCMCL conference room with 17 leaders of the agitating miners Saturday night to resolve the issue. Their fourhour-long meeting that ended at 1:45am yesterday failed to produce any solution, sources said.

The miners demand Tk 320 a day for the underground workers and Tk 230 for the surface workers. Currently, the BCMCL is paying Tk 168 to underground miners while it is paying Tk 124 to surface workers, according to sources. They also demand their eight-hour shifts are made six-hour shifts.

Md Rabiul Islam, convener of Barapukuria Coalmine Workers Union, alleged that they have been trying to realise their demands since October but the authorities did not pay heed to it.

The coalmine started its coal production from a new phase Phase-1103, from January 14 and broke its previous daily records of coal production several times. It was producing 3,000 to 4,000 tonnes a day.

Since BCMCL started mining from the new phase, it was being able to produce high volume of coal because of better working environment, good coal seam and better equipment condition. In 20 days since January 14, it

produced 60,000 tonnes of coal The CMC set a goal to produce 80,000 tonnes of coal in February but the target cannot be achieved it the workers continued their strike. Meanwhile, the BCMCL stock-

piled at least 70,000 tonnes of coal sional figures indicate that the at its yard for Barapukuria power

## Huda, Sigma

FROM PAGE 1 from him for the use of the weekly Khaborer Antorale in February

They threatened Siraj with different ultimatums during February 23-28, 2003, and intimidated him into providing a car, the complainant alleged. Sigma Huda is the publisher of Khaborer Antorale.

GM Siraj, an elected lawmaker from Bogra, bought a private car worth Tk 3.95 lakh from Uttara Motors Ltd and handed it over to the couple on February 27, 2003. After a long investigation into

the case, Dhanmondi police pressed charges against Nazmul Huda and Sigma Huda on November 23 last year.

Huda, accused in a dozen other criminal cases, has already been convicted for seven years in jail in a case for bribery. His wife Sigma has been convicted for three years in jail in the same case.

Sigma is also accused in three other extortion cases.

## SC re-fixes

FROM PAGE 1

Barrister Rafique objected to the proposal, saying the government petition was not filed as per the rules.

At that point, the court asked for upholding the dignity of the SC as well as other courts. "The Supreme Court is an institu-

tion, it is expected that everyone will uphold the dignity of this institution," the court observed before adjourning the hearing and re-fixing it for tomorrow. Meanwhile, as the HC scrapped

the case, hearing on its trial won't take place tomorrow as fixed by Judge Azizul Huq of the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Dhaka specially set up at the national parliament complex.

her no confidence to the trial court, raising questions over the court's neutrality. She also submitted a time petition saying that she would like to move to the HC to transfer the trial

On the same day the trial court adjourned hearing of the case until

Hasina's another counsel Barrister Shafique Ahmed yesterday told the press they did not file a petition as the HC has already quashed the case.

proceedings of the case. So the case doesn't exist and it's not necessary to file petition for transferring it to another court," said Barrister The HC verdict came following

Hasina's writ filed on July 29 last year. The HC bench of Justice Nayeem and Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury had issued a rule on the government, asking it to reply why its approval for bringing the case under EPR should not be declared illegal.

The HC division bench of Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Shahidul Islam declared the verdict. A couple of hours into the verdict the government filed a petition seeking a stay

## 4 robbers

FROM PAGE 16

following his elopement with the

altercation on Saturday at around 10:30pm; at one stage Rowshan beat up and hacked his son-in-law, killing him on the spot.

teachers transferred in exchange of "We're taking some time to

collect information about the irregularities. Besides, there are Mashhud said the commission

identify the persons involved in corruption, he added. A total of 1,247 members of YES, a platform of youths initiated by

tion, joined the convention. The ACC chairman urged the youths to be vocal against corrup-

Prof Zafar Iqbal said the new generation can make the dream of

Sultana Kamal, former adviser to the caretaker government, said it is time to fight corruption and injustice. She called upon the youths to defeat the corrupt peo-

Iftekharuzzaman delivered the welcome speech.

### Free man in Jail FROM PAGE 16

he would be released from jail

## AL starts talks

Briefing the reporters after the meeting, Tofail demanded that the government immediately sit with the political parties for holding polls at an early date and putting an end to the prevailing political, social and economical crises in the

The dialogue must have to be unconditional, he said adding that they would not attach any condition prior to it and neither should the government.

"The dialogue should be held with an open mind where every crisis prevailing in the country at present can be discussed," Tofail

AL President Sheikh Hasina and General Secretary Abdul Jalil and price hike of essentials among other

issues at the dialogue, he said. The AL leader also hoped that the Election Commission would sit with the political parties for a

tion and for this, they should finish preparing voter list with identity cards and holding dialogue with

## BDR, BSF

FROM PAGE 1 gunshots.

However, no one was injured during the shootout.

BDR has protested the incident voked firing.

Meanwhile, BSF has reinforced border while a tense situation is prevailing in the frontier villages.

Dal tomorrow, Tofail said adding that they would also sit with Communist Party of Bangladesh for a common position towards the

Briefing the reporters, Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon observed that it is the constitutional obligation of the care-

and credible election. For this, they should immediately hold the dialogue so that the democratic system in the country can return immediately, Menon said adding that the government must start the dialogue soon and finish it within a short time.

taker government to hold a free, fair

## Rice

FROM PAGE 1

court," Nirmal Shikari, an Indian rice exporter, said after several meetings with the Indian customs ended without any result.

On Thursday, 4,800 tonnes of rice were imported through the Benapole port while a process of unloading those was on yesterday. A total of 1.23 lakh tonnes of rice

was imported through the port during January 1-February 7. On October 15 last year, India

imposed a restriction on exporting rice under \$425 per tonne. Later on December 31, it banned exporting rice to Bangladesh under \$505 atonne and imposed a levy on the Indian rice millowners on January 10. Importers expressed worry that

the suspension of rice import would result in further price hike in local markets. The food adviser, however, told

the prices of essentials. The government gave orders for importing another 2.10 lakh tonnes of rice through alternative ways to help make the market stable while

## Obama sweeps hurricane-battered New Orleans

Clinton won the white vote overwhelmingly.

In all, the Democrats scrapped for 161 delegates in the night's

In incomplete allocations, Obama won 72, Clinton 40. In overall totals in The Associated Press count, Hillary Clinton had 1,095 delegates to 1,070 for Obama, counting so-

called superdelegates. They are party leaders not chosen at primaries or caucuses, free to change their minds. A total of 2,025 delegates is required to win the nomination at the national convention

in Denver. McCain flunked his first ballot tests since becoming the Republican nominee-in-waiting. He lost Kansas caucuses to Mike Huckabee, gaining less than 24 percent of the vote. Huckabee, the former Arkansas governor, got nearly 60 percent of the vote a few hours after saying, "I majored in itself. miracles, and I still believe in them." He won all 36 delegates at

Louisiana primary, but fell short of 50 percent, the threshold necessary to pocket the 20 delegates that were available. Instead, they will be awarded at a state convention next

weekend McCain won the third Republican race of the night, Washington's caucuses. None of the state's delegates will be awarded until next week.

For all his brave talk, Huckabee was hopelessly behind in the delegate race. McCain had 719, compared with 234 for Huckabee and 14 for Paul. It takes 1,191 to win the nomination at the national convention.

The Democrats' race was as close as the Republicans' was not, a contest between Obama, hoping to become the first black president, and Hillary Clinton, campaigning to become the first female commander in chief.

The two rivals contest primaries and the District of Columbia, all states where Obama and his cam-

paign are hopeful of winning. Preliminary results of a survey of voters leaving their polling places in Louisiana showed that nearly half of those casting ballots were black. As a group, African-Americans have overwhelmingly favoured Obama in earlier primaries, helping him to wins in several

Southern states. Obama was gaining about 80 percent of the black votes statewide, while Hillary Clinton was winning 70 percent support among whites, the exit poll showed.

One in seven Democratic voters and about one in 10 Republicans said Hurricane Katrina had caused their families severe hardship from which they have not recovered. There was another indication of the impact the storm had on the state. Early results suggested that northern Louisiana accounted for a larger share of the electorate than in the past, presumably the result of the decline in population in the

McCain cleared his path to the

conservatives, at the same time party leaders quickly closed ranks behindhim. His Kansas defeat aside, McCain also suffered a symbolic defeat when Romney edged him out in a

Political Action Conference meeting across town from the White

between Clinton and Obama. The Feb. 5 Super Tuesday primaries and caucuses in 22 states, which once looked likely to effec-

duced a near-equal delegate split. That left Obama and Clinton facing the likelihood of a grind-itout competition lasting into spring if not to the summer convention

Committee has vowed not to seat any delegates chosen at either of Maine, with 24 delegates, holds

Columbia and voting by Americans overseas are next, on Tuesday, with 175 combined. Then follows a brief intermis-

tion nights, some crowded, some The date of March 4 looms large,

370 delegates in primaries in Ohio, Texas, Rhode Island and Vermont.

primary one week later, with a relatively small 33 delegates at Puerto Rico anchors the

delegates chosen in caucuses on June 7 If Super Tuesday failed to settle

on Tuesday in Maryland, Virginia the campaign, it produced a remarkable surge in fundraising.

had raised more than \$7 million on

primary history.

Obama has been airing commercials for more than a week in television markets serving every state that has a contest though Feb

Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International for The Associated Press and the television networks.

adviser Devasish Roy visited the pest-hit areas in Hupbang of Barkal upazila and assured people of assistance through test relief and food-for-work programmes.

taken, locals alleged. Rats in large numbers have invaded fields of turmeric, ginger and other jhum crops in Hubbang,

Majhirpara, Thalchhara, Bhudorijipara, Kukichhara, Jarolchhari, Ranalpara and Kusumchhari in Barkal upazila, Noapara in Longudu upazila, Ruilui, Konglak, Oldlankar in Baghaichhari upazila, Rayingkhiyang Borthalipara in Bilaichhari upazila, and Dumdumiya in Jurachhari upazila

of Rangamati. Vast paddy fields came under such attack a couple of months ago. Porandhan Chakma of Hubbang village said he went to market to buy rice but had to return home empty-handed as there was no rice in the market. "My family has been passing days almost halffed, sometimes eating jungle pota-

toes, sometimes even starving," he Purnendu Chakma and Shimul Chakma of Thalchhar said they have been living on jungle potatoes for the last few months, but those have also become rare now. They said they used to collect bamboo to earn livelihood, but this year bam-

boos have also withered because of flowering and fruition. Usually, bamboos come into blossom every 50 years following which they wither quickly. Karbari Shantibikash Chakma

union said, "I sowed five tins [50kg]

of paddy this year. I anticipated a good harvest, but the harvest was so small it only lasted for half a month. Buddhamoni Chakma of Kukichhara of Barkal urged the government to arrange interestfree bank loans for them to overcome the current crisis. "We went to the Krishi Bank at Barkal upazila

vide loan," they said. A field worker of the bank said they have limited budgets for different sectors but the demand is very high. He, however, said they will provide loans when budgets will be available.

Halamba, said they can survive

about six-seven months with the

sadar but the officials said they do

not have adequate money to pro-

were destroyed by rats this year," he Barrister Shafique Ahmed said. The headman said they met the Noapatang Union Parishad.

army brigade commander at the district headquarters for financial assistance but he said they do not have enough fund.

ing that the Indian government is "Nobody is paying any heed to Meanwhile, Rangamati Hill District Council has distributed Tk 6 lakh from the CHT affairs minis-

The council has also made a proposal to the CHT affairs ministry for a three-year horticulture development programme for providing assistance to the indige-

nous people of the rats-hit areas. "We will start the work when the project is approved," said Arunendu Tripura, PRO of the council. Rangamati Deputy

the affected areas.'

They said each family recently Kripa Kumar Chakma and got Tk 1,000 only from the CHT affairs ministry through the Bandarban Hill District Council. The CHT affairs ministry has already allocated Tk 5 lakh while

> Money was distributed in Ruma on January 14 and in Roangchhari on January 31. Meanwhile, about 150 families in the areas including Paoapara, Monirampara, Zotiyapara and

> > legal assistance. Allya yesterday.

On February 5, Hasina expressed

"The High Court has quashed the

latter's daughter five years ago. The two men locked in a bitter

FROM PAGE 16 used his influence for getting

> issues which need to be addressed before the drive begins," he said. will soon sit with the honest officials in the education sector to

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) to fight corrup-

wiping out corruption from the country come true.

TIB Executive Director Dr

Ali Hussain Allya, 62, of Chunarughat in Habiganj has been languishing in jail for 15 years without any conviction in a murder case while his 10 co-accused have been freed on bail. He was 47 years old when he was arrested in August 5, 1992 but failed to obtain bail as he is poor and could not afford

FROM PAGE 1

country.

They will talk about the release of

second time. "The caretaker government's main task at present will be to hand over power to an elected government through a free and fair elec-

the political parties," Tofail said. The AL presidium member said the government will have to take quick steps as time has been run-

> reporters that the government is monitoring the market to control

> > the process of procuring 5 lakh tonnes of rice from India on government level is underway, Shawkat said.

party nomination earlier in the week with a string of Super Tuesday victories that drove Romney from the race. He spent the rest of the week trying to reassure sceptical\_

straw poll at the Conservative

The day's contests opened a new phase in the Democratic race

With the night's events, 29 of the 50 states have selected delegates. Two more . Michigan and Huckabee also won the Florida held renegade primaries and the Democratic National

> caucuses on Sunday. Maryland, Virginia and the District of

> sion, followed by a string of elec-

Democratic calendar, with 55

line in the two days that followed. Hillary Clinton disclosed she had loaned her campaign \$5 million late last month in an attempt to counter her rival's Super Tuesday television advertising. She raised more than \$6 million in the two days after the busiest night in

The television ad wars continued unabated

Hillary Clinton began airing ads midweek in Washington state, Maine and Nebraska, and added

# BNP unification they are serving a certain quarter," Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, acting office

should cancel the 'illegitimate decisions taken in the illegitimate October meeting'. Referring to the controversial October 29 meeting, Delwar, who had been appointed secretary general of the party by now detained Chairperson Khaleda Zia, told reporters on Friday that Saifur-led faction must cancel 'the decisions of

the illegitimate meeting' if they want

standing committee members, who

do not have any clear allegiance to

any of the factions, replied to a notice

issued by a court regarding the fac-

In another development, four

secretary of pro-Khaleda faction told

The Daily Star commenting on their

rivals' yesterday's decision adding, if

pro-Saifur faction wants to do any-

thing good for the party then they

tional feud in BNP, saying that the October 29 meeting was not a standing committee meeting as only the party chairperson is empowered to call such of meeting. According to Delwar's lawyer, the court had sent notices to standing committee members following a writ petition filed by Khandaker Delwar

Hossain challenging an Election

Commission decision to invite pro-

BNP to an electoral dialogue with it.

Saifur faction as the representative of

to the court notice, Chowdhury

disputed meeting was not of the

standing committee, rather it was a

gathering of party colleagues for having tea together, 'which was propagated as a standing committee meeting by a third party working behind the scene'. When asked about the affidavits of the four standing committee members yesterday, Maj (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed of pro-Saifur faction said he did not believe that the four of his party colleagues could have said anything like that. "They all are

that might make the party a laughing stock." Pro-Saifur leaders expressed their resentments at Delwar's remarks on the unification process, alleging that he is now the only obstacle remaining in the way of uniting the party.

About 45 pro-Saifur leaders

including at least 35 former lawmak-

ers attended the two-hour meeting

yesterday in Saifur Rahman's house

senior leaders of the party, so I

believe they wouldn't do anything

with him in the chair. Meeting sources said leaders of the faction discussed party unification and proposed that key leaders of the faction do not push for unity any more if Delwar does not recant his 'objectionable remarks' about pro-Saifur faction as well as the condition he had slapped on the unification process.

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, MA Hakim, ZA Khan, Mofazzal Karim, Rejaul Karim, Shamsul Alam Pramanik, Shahiduzzaman Beltu, Ataur Rahman Angur, Nurul Huda, Nasirul Haque Sabu, Delwar Hossain Dulu, SA Sultan Titu, and Mojahar

Hossain attended the meeting

members -- Dr RA Gani, Tanvir

Ahmed Siddiqui, M Shamsul Islam,

The four standing committee

among others.

and Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmad -- who had submitted their replies to the court notice and who had also attended the October 29 meeting, were however not present in yesterday's meeting. "We want unity but Delwar is totally against it," said Saifur, who

who does not comply with the chairperson's directions," he said adding, Delwar's demand for scrapping the decisions of the October 29 meeting will not be honoured. Replying to a question he said no discussion between the two factions

Uddin Ahmed, told reporters, "The meeting welcomed the message from the party chairperson regarding unity, which she had sent through Khaleda's lawyer Mahbub Uddin Khokon on February 1 had mether in

"Saifur Rahman is performing his

Most of the political parties at the first round of talks had urged the EC not to register any antiliberation forces, including Jamaat, as political party and bar war criminals from contesting

> FROM PAGE 1 Barrister Rafique-ul Huq appeared for Koko. Meantime, passing the stay order following a writ petition, the division bench of Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Shahidul Islam issued a ruling upon the ACC to explain why its notice asking Zafrullah to submit his statement of wealth

"should not be declared illegal"

says the court order.

appeared for Zafrullah.

"The ruling is made returnable

in six weeks and the stay will con-

tinue until the rule is disposed of,"

dog issued the notice on Zafrullah.

On Jan 28, the anti-graft watch-

FROM PAGE 1

"We have estimated the GDP

He said the growth momentum

Mujeri said the growth outlook emerging constrains.

from the quarterly report. "Similarly, the growth of indus-

The report also says encouraging adequate credit flows to all productive sectors would be crucial for realising the expected increase in economic activities in On inflation, the quarterly

domestic production, especially the production of food and other essential items, as the most effective measure to combating the

CHT people facing

But no steps have so far been providing food. our misery," he said.

Devasish Roy will do something for these people as he himself visited

harvest in the rat-invasion and that with the remaining rice they may

survive only three months.

among the 766 affected families.

jhum paddy. "All my jhum fields families in the area have left their homes," said Sambhu Kumar Tanchangya, chairman of

Zophui Thang Tripura, headman of Shiandai mouja, said in the wake of the food crisis many families of the village and the neighbourhood have left for India hear-

try allocation -- Tk 4 lakh in Baghaichhari and Tk 2 lakh in Bilaichhari.

Commissioner Md Nurul Amin said, "We have no specific programme for the people in the rats-infested areas, but I hope our Special Assistant to chief adviser

He said the VGF, VGD and OMS programmes are going on in the district. BANDABRBAN Cha Swe Marma of Nachalongpara in Roangchhari upazila, Kew Ching Aong of Daluchhari, U Kew Nue and Hiru Moni Tripura of of Shuknochhari of Baroharina Antahapara under the same upazila said they lost most of their

> Bandarban Hill District Council allocated Tk 3 lakh for distribution

> > "Since there was no help, most

Kristapara are still out of the DAE list of affected families and have Lal Bug Pankhua, headman of not received any government support yet.

The Daily Star ran a story on

ning fast. The AL will sit with Samyabadi

and asked BSF to stop such unproits strength at all camps along the

FROM PAGE 16 Carolina, Obama, a black man, rode a wave of African-American support to victory in Louisiana.

tively settle the race, instead pro-

Mississippi is alone in holding a

Obama's aides announced he

Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia on Friday. The exit poll was conducted by

# Maj (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed.