Mohammadpur finding such encroachment in every case. The value of the encroached land was estimated at Tk 2.5 crore.

The taskforce officials also said 71 people were recruited to NHA without following any government rules and regulations, most of

any job nor did they get their money back, who are now visiting the taskforce office hoping to get their money back.

The sources told reporters in the task force office at NHA yesterday that they prepared a list of 150 corrupt officials and employees, whose ranks range from former chairmen to class VI employees. The sources also said 100 of the corruptionists were identified as roadmap. most wanted.

A task force official seeking anonymity said the value of NHA officials' and employees' illegally accumulated wealth is no less than

The official hinted that the taskforce might ask the corrupt officials and employees of the housing authority to surrender to the government their illegally amassed wealth and properties, just like the corrupt officials and employees of Titas Gas Limited had done.

unearthed a large syndicate of corrupt officials and employees at NHA who the taskforce is planning to arrest.

NHA often leases out govern-

ment land to people for many different purposes in exchange for

set rates of lease payment. Although according to official documents the corrupt officials supposedly leased out many such plots for Tk 15,000 to Tk 20,000 each, they had actually taken about Tk 2.5 lakh for each plots from the lessees.

#### German envoy

FROM PAGE 16

country since the independence, Germany wants to see a democratic society that upholds human rights, freedom of the press and most importantly, the

emergency is carefully calibrated to make progress on the election

he pointed out, "Bangladesh's army is internationally recognised for professionalism. We are confident that they understand the value of democracy. Bangladesh army is a democratic force and I am confident that the armed forces know their proper

ation First Secretary Hans Hinrich Schnelle at the discussion said since independence of Bangladesh till date, Germany has provided Euro 2.3 billion bilateral financial support. All supports since 1976 had been grants. Germany has also provided another Euro 2 billion support through multilateral

Germany is assisting Bangladesh in the health and power and energy sectors and governance issues.

# Hurriedly done probe

He said, "We submitted the report to the principal who took it to the director general of the Department of Education."

He also said the committee made five recommendations in the report including suspension of all political activities and ousting of outsiders from the campus.

Prof Shamsul Alam, principal of the institute, said they have not made any decision regarding letting students in at the dormitories. The principal blamed both the student organisations.

He told The Daily Star that he filed a general diary (GD) in connection with the violence.

Islami Chhatra Shibir activists Jamaat-e-Islami background, sources said.

any comments regarding the alleged patronisation of Shibir by

whether teachers were involved in the incident and whether they patronised a certain student

ers, with Jamaat-e-Islami back-

department, who is also a city committee leader of Jamaat, and another teacher of neighbouring Glass and Ceramics Institute, a rokan of Jamaat, had been patron ising Shibir activities.

Sources also say the Shibir activists had been using the mosques of the institute for their political purposes. But the authorities could not stop such activities due to the teachers' involvement.

and Shibir activists filed cases against each other with Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Station in connection with the violence.

to investigate the matter and find out whether the teachers have patronised any student organisa-

#### Hasina falls

FROM PAGE 1 her medical check-up, Inspector General (IG-Prisons) Brig Gen Zakir Hassan told The Daily Star that Hasina fell ill as a result of high blood pressure, adding that it

became normal later. Hearing the news, a number of party workers, leaders, relatives and doctors rushed to the jail gate to enquire about Hasina's health.

Talking to The Daily Star, AL central forest and environment affairs secretary Dr Hasan Mahmud, who was present at the jail gate, said they are seriously concerned about the condition of AL chief.

He alleged that although the personal physicians of Hasina suggested necessary steps for her better treatment to the jail authorities, they did not pay any heed. The government would have to shoulder responsibility if Hasina's health deteriorates further, he added.

IG Zakir said the jail authorities called the Head of Medicine Department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital Dr Abul Kashem and the Head of Cardiology Department Dr Lutfur Rahman and eye specialist Prof Salauddin for Hasina's check-up, but she refused to receive treatment under them.

Consequently, the authorities called up Hasina's personal physicians Prof Abdullah and Prof Modasser Ali of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

Dr Ahsan Habib of jail hospital accompanied them. After check-up, the doctors found Hasina's blood pressure was high which caused her severe headache. Dr Abdullah prescribed her some medi-

Modasser told the jail authorities that he would sit with doctors Prof Pran Gopal Datta, Prof Shaila Khatun and Dr Abdullah to review Hasina's condition and decide about her

treatment

Earlier, these four physicians had appealed to Chief Adviser Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed to send the for mer prime minister to the USA for better treatment. Talking to The Daily Star, IG Zakir

expressed surprise over Dr Modasser's bringing an ambulance there, as he said there was no need of Asked whether Hasina needs to be

sent overseas or any other hospital in the country, he said the doctors made no such suggestions. DIG Prisons Major Shamsul

Haider Siddiqui told The Daily Star that doctors would be present around the clock for Hasina's treatment. He said they did not get any rec-

Govt to import

Indian traders in the last three days,

which have caused a crisis in our

market," said another rice trader at

the Babubazar wholesale market of

Rangpur reports: A huge number of

trucks loaded with rice have been

stranded at Changrabandha port

and its adjoining areas in India since

February 8 as the Indian government

Pabna, told The Daily Star that on an

average 20,000 tonnes of rice is

reports: The Indian rice exporters

reacted sharply over the government

decision and is thinking about sitting

with the authorities concerned to

Amit Dhar, a rice exporter to

Bangladesh, yesterday told The Daily

Star that they have some informal

talks with the Indian government on

crisis within a short time," he added.

"We are expecting to resolve the

Bangladesh authorities held a

series of meetings with its Indian

imported from India per day.

find a solution to the problem.

Rabiul Islam, a rice importer from

Our Benapole correspondent

put a ban on export.

FROM PAGE 1

ommendations from the personal physicians of Hasina yesterday. "If we get recommendations, we take measures accordingly," he added.

# 3 Ctg cops held

FROM PAGE 1 of Tk 1 lakh and give Tk 75,000 more and 24 tolas of gold ornaments he had borrowed from one of his

relatives. The cops said they would return the gold ornaments when Faruq pays them the rest of the money. The two constables made nego-

tiations with Faruq while the AC was waiting at the drawing room from 2:00am to 5:00am.

After receiving instructions from the cops over telephone, Faruq went to GEC intersection with the rest of the money to get back the gold ornaments at about

But, nobody turned up there to receive the money. Later, he informed the high-ups of CMP about the incident.

CMP Commissioner M Akbar Ali held a meeting with high police officials at DC (north) Office at Chawk Bazar at 11:00pm on Sunday. After interrogating all the offi-

cials separately, the CMP Commissioner identified the accused AC and the two consta-AC Mofazzal admitted to com-

mitting the crime after Faruq Chowdhury and his family members identified him and the two constables.

Following their confessional statement, police recovered Tk lakh from AC Mofazzal and Tk 75,000 and 24 tolas of gold ornaments from the constables.

The three accused were arrested immediately and suspended following the directives of the CMP commissioner on Sunday night.

"When we heard that three policemen in uniform committed the robbery, we didn't waste any time to take action and identified them. They were immediately arrested and suspended," CMP Commissioner Akbar Ali told the journalists at his office yesterday. Faruq Chowdhury filed a case

with Kotoali Police Station. Police produced the three before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Kazi Abdul Hasib Md Sayeed and prayed for their five-

day remand. However, the court

granted their two-day remand. Sources said Mofazzal, son of Azizur Rahman of Purba ment.

#### Mozampur village in Kushtia, joined the police as a BCS cadre on

July 02 in 2005. He was given the charge of assistant commissioner of CMP

Panchlaish zone after the then AC, Mizanur Rahman went abroad on a UN mission a few months back.

#### Abducted Brac

FROM PAGE 16 morning after the ransom of Tk 2 lakh was paid. He was released in the forests of Kutuchhari union

under sadar upazila of the district. Md Ashraf Ali, regional manager of Brac, Rangamati, said that he learned of the abduction three days after the incident. He said that Hemonta's family took initiatives to secure his release.

### ACC to probe

FROM PAGE 1

held by this year-end. Asked about the human rights condition in Bangladesh, he said, "Under the state of emergency there are some normal democratic rights you do not have. But what's really important is that the period [of the state of emergency] is as short as necessary and you get full democratic rights."

Referring to the situation before January last year, Møller said, "You had to have this caretaker government."

About detention of corruption suspects, he said if need be, an individual could be detained, but in that case, he/she must be produced before a judge soon.

He said the present commission is conducting the anti-graft drive at a pace faster than that a couple of years back. Reconstitution of the ACC and Election Commission, and move to establish a human rights commission are great steps before election, he added.

Peder Larsen, Lykketolt, Henrik Otbo, and Erik Houmand were among the delegates. ACC Director General (Admin) Col Hanif Iqbal was present during the briefing at the ACC headquarters.

Meanwhile, the ACC yesterday decided to issue a notice to former deputy secretary Abdul Matin, asking him to submit wealth state-

## Barring war criminals

**FROM PAGE 1** 

an EC source said referring to the commission's latest plan for electoral laws.

But the EC is still searching for ways to deal with another very popular demand for disqualifying Our correspondent from anti-liberation forces from getting next week, the sources said.

ties, saying any party with any war criminal in any of its posts will be disqualified from being registered with the commission, hinted an EC

in the first round of the talks between September and November of last year, strongly demanded that war criminals be barred from contesting in the polls

Except the issues of eligibility of war criminals and anti-liberation forces to contest in polls, there is no major difference between the electoral reform proposals of the EC and the political parties, said officials of the EC Secretariat, who have been working to compile the proposals of the political parties on reforms.

The EC yesterday started Meanwhile, \$388 will be spent for reviewing the proposals of the parties and forming its positions on them. The commission passed a hectic day yesterday meeting twice in the morning and in the after-

> "We will have to take a decision considering the opinions of the majority of parties on the issues, before finalising the electoral reform proposals," an EC source

> According to the electoral roadmap announced by the EC on July 15 of last year and the proposed law for parliamentarian parties' registration, political parties intending to contest in parliamentary polls must get registered with the commission within June meeting some criteria for it.

> ten in 1972, imposed a ban on forming political parties based on religion, revoked political rights of war criminals disqualifying them from contesting in polls and from even being registered as voters. Trials of war criminals were also on in special tribunals.

regime change, the erstwhile military ruler Ziaur Rahman stopped the trials of war criminals and amended the constitution restoring war criminals' political rights.

The demands for trials of war criminals and for barring them from contesting in polls got momentum again since the current military backed non-party caretaker government assumed state power. With the EC planning to open

reform talks with political parties, senior leaders of the parties are saying they will strongly argue for barring war criminals from the polls and they believe that the EC will not be able to ignore the opinions of the majority. Contacted by The Daily Star

yesterday Awami League (AL) Presidium Member Suranjit Sengupta said his party's central working committee will meet to discuss a possible agenda for the electoral talks with the EC after getting a formal invitation from the commission.

"In fact there is no development in the direction of barring war criminals from polls and in the direction of disqualifying antiliberation forces from getting registered as parliamentarian parties. We will certainly raise the issues at the talks," said the leader of AL which has been demanding for a long time revocation of war criminals' political rights.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday Jatiya Party Acting Chairman Anisul Islam Mahmud said, "We will reiterate our demands for barring war criminals from polls and for disqualifying antiliberation forces from getting registered as parliamentarian

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon said they already urged the EC categorically to include provisions in the proposed electoral law barring war criminals from contesting in polls and disqualifying anti-liberation forces from getting registered with the commission.

"We will insist the Election on the issues," Menon said.

Jatiya Party, Workers Party, the Communist Party of Bangladesh, Liberal Democratic Party, Krishak Sramik Janata League, both facering the matter positively.

### Titas officials

FROM PAGE 1

including several engineers, managers, general managers, and deputy general managers had served at the head office for over three years.

Some of them admitted to their involvement in corruption and refunded their illegally earned wealth.

General Manager (Admin) Khalekuzzaman Faruki, also one of the transferred officials, issued the transfer order.

When contacted, Faruki said he was one of the three signatories to the transfer order but he declined to comment further on the matter. Col ATM Hasan Ahmed, chief of

the taskforce designated to investigate corruption in Titas Gas, said, "We have recommended transfer of those officials who were involved in corruption and illegal activities." Taskforce members were inves-

tigating corruption charges brought against Titas Gas officials. They interrogated 450 Titas Gas

officials, 124 of whom admitted to their involvement in corruption and refunded their illegally amassed properties.

Besides, the taskforce sent a list of 49 Titas staff to the Anticorruption Commission (ACC) for filing of cases against them.

### Jamuna bridge

FROM PAGE 16 Engineering and Construction

that built the bridge in 1997. "We are currently discussing

legal measures with the law ministry," the secretary said.

"But we are not going to stop at taking legal measures, we are also going to initiate repairing the cracks," he said, explaining that the government is not taking any risks about the fault-lines.

"We will soon initiate the work order for the repairs because we cannot overlook the problem any longer," Mahbubur said.

#### India declares

FROM PAGE 16 Himachal Pradesh and Chenab in

Jammu and Kashmir. Most of the projects chosen for implementation have international

ramifications. Of the 14 projects, the ones to be implemented on international rivers in north east India include Noa-Dehang in Arunachal Pradesh, the Kulsi dam on the Siang in Assasm and the upper Sijang on the Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh.

Soz termed the cabinet decision as 'landmark development'. The projects were recommended

by a group of ministers headed by Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar. Ninety per cent of the funding for the projects would come from the federal government while the rest would be provided by the govern-

ments of the states concerned, Soz

#### added. EU prioritises

FROM PAGE 1 a member of the European Parliament (MEP) who led a 10member MEP climate-change team to Bangladesh last week.

She said Bangladesh must also play a role by ensuring their development process is environmentally sustainable, according to a European Parliament press release.

Reflecting on the team's visit to Sirajganj where they reviewed climate change adaptation projects, Cizelj said, "It is clear that Bangladesh needs urgent action first of all to adapt to the effects of unavoidable climate change."

"We have also heard, in this vein, strong calls for financial assistance, technological cooperation and technology transfer, Cizelj added.

Recently, donors proposed a \$4 billion programme for climate change adaptation and protection for the southern coast against rise in sea-levels and more frequent natural disasters, such as floods and cyclones.

The EU has been at the forefront of negotiations to enforce legally binding targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

At the Bali Climate Change conference last December, Europe proposed that major global emitters, including emerging markets such as China and India, commit to binding targets of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 15-30 percent within 2020 and 60-80 percent by 2050.

#### Hasina Case

FROM PAGE 1

29 last year. The HC had issued a rule on the government following the writ, asking it to explain why its approval of bringing the case under

Meanwhile, the hearing on another much-talked-about HC rule concerning the Election Commission's (EC) letter inviting major (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, acting secretary general of a faction of BNP, to represent the party at the dialogue with it over electoral reforms, is also scheduled to be

EPR should not be declared illegal.

held today in the HC. The rule was issued on November 18 last year on the EC, the acting secretary general and six members of BNP standing committee, and the chief adviser of the caretaker government, asking them to reply within three weeks why the EC letter should not be declared illegal.

The HC had also stayed opera-

## Obama overtakes

FROM PAGE 1 46-year-old Illinois senator still faces

"The Clintons are far better known and have a political machine that's been honed over two decades," Plouffe said in a statement

"But the more voters get to know Obama and his message of change, the more they support him, which bodes well for the upcoming prima-

Obama is tipped to win on Tuesday in Virginia, Maryland and Washington DC, dubbed the Potomac Primary for the river which snakes through all three.

may expect better support on the March 4 vote in the delegate-rich states of Texas and Ohio. Wisconsin, which votes on February 19 also has a lot of delegates.

The campaign shuffle was another sign of vulnerability in the Hillary Clinton camp, after she was

If elected on November 4, Hillary Clinton, 60, would be the first woman in the Oval Office, while Obama, 46, would be the first black

Potomac River neighbours.

country.

Usually of little consequence in

past primaries, the three Tuesday votes have become key pieces on the

electoral chessboard since the deadlocked Super Tuesday contests on February 5. Virginia is the biggest prize on

Tuesday with 83 delegates, while Maryland has 70. The US capital, a separate federal district, offers 15. Among rival Republicans, putative nominee John McCain has yet to convince the party's core conserva-

tives, as highlighted when he lost on

Saturday in the states of Kansas and Louisiana to Mike Huckabee. Even though he is the most likely party nominee after main rival Mitt Romney quit the race last week, Baptist minister Huckabee has vowed to fight on despite having little chance of overcoming McCain's

huge delegate lead. "The fact they're blowing against me hardly motivates me to quit," he told reporters in Washington. "It motivates me to play harder.

Analysts say Huckabee's refusal to pull out of the race could deepen party divisions between conservatives and Republicans ready to back

McCain. A Vietnam war hero, McCain, 71, has some 724 delegates to 234 for Huckabee. A total of 1,191 are needed for the Republican party nomina-

President George W Bush, who defeated McCain for the nomination in 2000, told Fox news on Sunday that he would help his one-time rival if he

secures the nomination. But he added, "I think that if John's the nominee, he has got some convincing to do to convince people that he is a solid conservative."

FROM PAGE 16

north of Baghdad, against a checkpoint manned jointly by Iraqi police and members of an awakening group. Iraqi police said a suicide truck

bomber targeted a checkpoint manned by US-allied fighters and Iraqi police at the entrance of a bridge in the district of Yathrib on the outskirts of Balad. Security forces opened fire on the driver, but he managed to detonate his payload, devastating a nearby car market and other stores.

Police in the joint coordination centre of the surrounding Salahuddin province and hospital officials said 34 people were killed and 37 others were wounded. Capt. Kadim Hamid said many residents in the predominantly Sunni area had removed victims directly from the site because they feared going to the hospital in Balad's mostly Shia centre. The US military put the casualty

toll at 23 killed, 25 wounded and said a car bomb exploded near an Iraqi checkpoint in a market in Balad, but it did not confirm it was a suicide attack. US and Iraqi forces had secured the area and the wounded had been evacuated to hospitals, according to a state-It was one of the worst bomb-

ings this year amid a recent lull in violence and underscored US warnings that al-Qaeda in Iraq remains a serious threat despite military offensives that have severely curtailed its operations. The explosion came hours after

suspected al-Qaeda-linked insurgents stormed two villages near the Syrian border but were repelled by US-allied fighters and Iraqi security forces in clashes that left at least 22 people dead. Sheik Fawaz al-Jarba, the head

of the Mosul anti-al-Qaeda group,

and other officials said the 22 killed included 10 militants and six members of the so-called awakening group in the area, as well as four women and two children. The US military in northern Iraq confirmed an attack on compound housing its Sunni allies against al-

allied fighters were killed, five wounded and 10 insurgents were killed. Insurgents also attacked a group of civilians elsewhere in the northern Ninevah province on Sunday, killing two men and one child and wounding two other men, two women and two infants,

Qaeda in Iraq near Sinjar, about 60

miles west of Mosul, saying five US-

according to the military. Iraqi police also said four civilians were killed Sunday when a tanker truck laden with explosives blew up near an Iraqi army check point on Mosul's southern outskirts.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has promised a "decisive battle" against the terror network in Mosul but given no start date. The US military has warned it will not be a swift strike, but rather a grinding campaign that will require more firepower.An al-Qaeda front group for northern Iraq warned last week in an Internet statement that it was launching its own campaign in Mosul and surrounding areas.

In all, 70 people were reported killed or found dead by police on Sunday, one of the highest nationwide death tolls in recent months. That figure included three policemen who perished in a suicide car bombing at a checkpoint in the Anbar city of Fallujah and 10 bulletriddled bodies showing signs of torture.

Rear Adm. Gregory Smith, a US military spokesman, said the documents released Sunday offered proof that al-Qaeda in Iraq had been severely disrupted by the so-

called awakening movement and changing US tactics, but he stressed the terror network was by

the Sunni movement that began in Anbar province was spreading to Baghdad and surrounding areas. One was a 39-page memo written by a mid- to high-level al-Qaeda official with knowledge of the group's operations in Iraq's

group leader north of Baghdad. posed to terrorists from the people

of Iraq." He said the documents are believed to be authentic because they contain details that only al-Qaeda in Iraq leaders could know about battlefield movements and tactics. The US military gave reporters partially redacted copies of the full diary but only four pages of the Anbar document, citing security reasons. Both were pro-

In the Anbar document, the weariness among Sunni citizens of militants' presence and the US-led crackdowns against them. He also expresses frustration with foreign fighters too eager to participate in

"The Islamic State of Iraq is faced with an extraordinary crisis, especially in al-Anbar," the author wrote, referring to an umbrella

Oaeda Smith also quoted the document as lamenting the loss of "cities and afterward, villages," adding "we find ourselves in a wasteland desert.

distinctive dialects. The military said the memo was

believed to have been written last summer and was intended for the author's superiors. The diary, seized by US troops south of Balad, was written in autumn 2007 by Abu Tariq, who refers to himself as sector leader for al-Qaeda in Iraq. Tariq wrote that

switched sides to fight alongside the Americans, Smith said. The Sunni tribes' alliance with US forces is credited with helping reduce violence across the country, along with an influx of some 30,000 American troops. A security crackdown that began in Baghdad and surrounding areas a year ago also

Baghdad and the capital of Ninevah province, is believed to be the last major urban stronghold for al-Qaeda in Iraq. "The diary shows that al-Qaeda regards these volunteer citizen

groups as a grave threat, and that terrorists are targeting them," Smith said.

countrywide.

# Even 2yr olds

FROM PAGE 1 plots in Lalmatia Housing Estate in

whom had to pay Tk 4 lakh to Tk 5 lakh to a former minister and some others of the immediate past elected government for the jobs. The sources said many people who bribed the corrupt NHA officials to get jobs, neither actually got

several hundred crores of taka.

were able to gain a strong position at Dhaka Polytechnic Institute with the cooperation of teachers having

The principal declined to make teachers with Jamaat background. Probe committee chief Prof Bhuiyan said, "As we did not get enough time, we are not sure

organisation."

Chhatra League leader Iqbal Hossain filed a case against 15

Shibir activist Shahriar filed a case against Chhatra League activists Mahbub Alam, Rafiqul Islam, Masudur Rahman, Iqbal, Zakir, Babu and Russel in connection with the violence at the institute.

Sources said a number of teach-

FROM PAGE 1 the resolution. The HC had issued rule on the acting secretary general and six standing committee members following a writ petition filed by party chief Khaleda Zia-appointed Secretary General Khandaker Delwar, challenging the Election Commission invitation to Saifur-

party at electoral reforms dialogue The HC hearing on the rule is scheduled for today. In their replies submitted to the HC separately, the four standing

committee members said the

October 29 meeting was not a

meeting of the committee since

only the party chairperson is

led BNP faction to represent the

empowered to call such meeting. Referring to the BNP constitution, they also termed the appointment of Hafiz as acting secretary general 'illegal', their counsels said. Meanwhile, some BNP leaders are still hopeful of unity in the party though pro-Saifur faction has

decided not to pursue unification

unless pro-Khaleda faction with-

draws the conditions it slapped on

Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, pro-Khaleda joint secretary general of BNP, told reporters yesterday that unity in the party is only a matter of time as the chairperson asked for it. He hoped that top leaders of the party would come forward to forge unity. But Delwar said on Saturday

that Saifur-led faction must cancel 'the decisions of the illegitimate

BNP standing body

drawhis condition.

meeting' if they want unity. Saifur Rahman however said on Sunday they will not cancel the decisions of October meeting and will not pursue the unification process if Delwar does not with-

of the party, yesterday told newsmen that four standing committee members had already said the October 29 meeting was not a standing committee meeting. So, the question of cancelling its decisions does not arise at all. He however added that as a

senior leader of the party, Saifur

Pro-Khaleda leader Nazrul

Islam Khan, joint secretary general

## Rahman can take initiative for its

Acid throwing FROM PAGE 1 they were asleep in their house

Sunday night.

perpetrators.

body including face, hand, and chest, police said. Local people rushed to the spot after they screamed for help. But the miscreants managed to escape.

injuries to different parts of the

They received serious burn

her nine-month-old daughter Tania was stated to be critical. A case was filed with Kaliganj Police Station against Razzak and his cohorts who went into hiding soon after the incident.

Officer-in-charge of Kaliganj

Police Station Farid Uddin Ahmed

said they are trying to arrest the

The condition of Taslima and

human rights situation,' Ambassador Meyke pointed out. One of the major development and leading trade partners of Bangladesh that stood by the

security of lives. He believes that the state of

Regarding the role of the army,

Head of development cooper-

ground, including a teacher of civil

Bangladesh Chhatra League

Shibir activists, including Shahriar, Rahim, Masuk, Yiahia, Pradeep, Zakir, Razu, Rubel and Arif.

Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers Association President Mohd Shamsur Rahman told The Daily Star, "I urge the government

> counterpart to fix prices of rice, which the Indian government had pledged to export to Bangladesh after the cyclone Sidr. The West Bengal Essential Commodities Supplies Cooperative

rice to the Bangladesh government under the state-to-state deal. Cost for importing per tonne of rice through seaports will be \$414 while through river ways, it will be \$400. A total of 2.5 lakh tonnes of rice will be imported -- 1.25 lakh tonnes

each through the seaports and the

imported by road at the cost of \$394

importing per tonne of rice through

India today, Directorate of Food

would sign a contract with the

Same quantity of rice will also be

riverways.

pertonne.

Limited (WBECSCL) will supply the

railways for the rest 1.25 lakh tonnes. The purchase committee is likely to approve the deal to import rice from India at the cost of Tk 1,396 crore today. After the purchase committee approves the deal to import rice from

WBECSCL, food ministry sources Director General of Directorate of Food Molla Waheeduzzman will sign the contract, who is in Kolkata at present leading a delegation of the directorate.

The government will procure

25,000 tonnes of rice from a local

importer at the cost of \$402 per tonne

and another 42,000 tonnes from 13 importers at the cost of \$420-\$430 pertonne. Meanwhile, government stock of rice is being used up fast in recent

Yesterday's total stock of rice was

3.96 lakh tonnes, which was over 4

lakh tonnes in last week, government

sources said.

registered with the commission as parliamentarian parties, as the demand is most likely to be raised again by political parties during the second round of talks set to begin The EC however might insert a condition in the proposed rules for registering parliamentarian par-

Senior leaders of political parties, who are likely to represent their parties at the talks, yesterday said they will undoubtedly reiterate the demands and will insist on knowing the EC's position on the As many as 14 out of the 16 political parties, that participated

and anti-liberation forces like Jamaat be disqualified from getting registered as parliamentary par-

Soon after the country's independence, the constitution, writBut after the August 15, 1975

the second round of electoral

Commission to clarify its position Apart from AL, both factions of

tions of Jatiya Samjtantrik Dal, Ganotantrik Party, National Awami Party and three other parties asked the EC to bar war criminals from contesting in polls and to disqualify Jamaat and other anti-liberation forces from getting registered as parliamentarian parties. Following the raising of the issues by dialoguing parties, those became widely popular bringing tremendous pressure on the EC for considtion of the EC letter.

# an uphill battle.

released late Sunday.

Polls have shown Hillary Clinton

earlier forced to draw five million dollars from her own pocket to shore up her campaign.

**US** president Both candidates were out campaigning Sunday in Virginia, and its

"I have the ability to bring people together," Obama told a roaring crowd at a school gym in Alexandria, Virginia, an affluent suburb of Washington. "If you will vote for me on Tuesday ... we will transform this

64 killed in Iraq

no means defeated. The military said the two documents were discovered last year by American troops in November as

western Anbar province; the other a 16-page diary written by another The documents tell "narrow but compelling stories of the challenges al-Qaeda in Iraq is facing," Smith told reporters in Baghdad. "This does not signal the end of al-Qaeda in Iraq, but it is a contemporary account of the challenges

vided in the original Arabic and an English translation. author acknowledges a growing

suicide missions rather than continuing to fight. group of insurgents led by al-

It said US-led forces had learned from their mistakes and improved security had made it harder to transport weapons and suicide belts and forced foreign fighters to go underground because of their

he was once in charge of 600 fighters, but only 20 were left "after the tribes changed course" a reference to how many Sunni tribesmen have

has driven the militants north. Mosul, 225 miles northwest of

In recent months, attacks on the Sunni volunteers have spiked while overall violence has steadily declined, he noted, adding that at least 77,500 volunteers have partnered with US and Iraqi troops

#### Transmission and Distribution The taskforce sources said a class IV employee of NHA has a sixstorey building in Mirpur and a luxury automobile worth about Tk 50 lakh. The sources also said they