the parties that it will make a recom-

rated in its electoral reform proposal a provision for disqualifying any convicted war criminal from

Dal (Inu), the EC made a new promise for making another recommendisqualifying anti-liberation organitary elections, considering a majority of participating parties' demand for it.

labelling it as an anti-liberation force.

In the written statement submitted to the EC, it said, "The Election questionable if it takes any step or make any recommendation giving credence to their motivated demands."

Jamaat's delegation led by its Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid also said in the EC's pattern of inviting parties to the talks it is evident that it has a bias against Islamic political parties while favouring some parties which are anti-religion.

The Jamaat secretary general, who on October 25 said his party did not work against the liberation war in 1971, and claimed that there is no war criminal in the country, however declined to comment yesterday on an EC proposal for barring convicted war

Emerging from the talk, Mojahid left the EC Secretariat premises hurriedly avoiding questions from jour-

EC'S REPLIES

In response to Jamaat's angry accusations, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda categorically rebutted the allegations explaining EC's positions on the

About making recommendations to the government, Huda said the EC has never stepped beyond its jurisdiction. "I beg to differ with you. It is well within our jurisdiction to make recommendations to the government on issues related to ensuring free, fair and credible elections," the Indian EC's similar practices.

prime minister of that country including recommendations for amending the constitution and regarding the cabinet.

Since the beginning of the second round of talks on Sunday, the CEC has been saying that the EC will make recommendations to the government regarding Article 70 of the constitution, trials of war criminals, increasing the number of parliamentary seats, and about introducing a bicameral parliament.

In response to Jamaat's allegation that the EC did not invite many Islamic parties despite their representation in previous parliaments, the CEC said the commission

relaxed the criteria for invitation for

"It is not at all correct that we did not invite Islamic political parties," the CEC said.

As the Jamaat secretary general claimed that Khelafat Majlish could have been invited since, according to him, the party had representatives in a past parliament, the CEC said the commission deliberated on the issue after receiving a letter from Khelafat expressing its desire to join the talks.

"But the party neither had any representation in any parliament nor did it obtain even two percent of votes in any election since 1973,"

leader's demand for inviting Muslim League (Jamir), Election Commissioner Sakhawat said they could not even locate the whereabouts of the party despite sincere since the matter is sub-judice.

Echoing Sakhawat the CEC said officials of the EC Secretariat could not even find any official address of the party. Party leaders, who had communicated with the EC, also had why the commission did not invite not left any address with it.

"Perhaps, some people are hesitant to give out their addresses," the CEC quipped again.

Responding to Jamaat's accusation that the EC invited all factions of some parties while neglecting many Islamic parties with factions, Huda said all invited factions of parties had representations in past parliaments.

"We thought about inviting the factions of some Islamic political parties, but we could not do so since they did not have any representation in any parliament," Huda retorted.

Jamaat leaders also blasted the EC for incorporating in its electoral reform proposals a provision for disqualifying any political party from getting registered with it as a parliamentary party if there is discrimination within the party based on religion, race, caste, sex, or language.

Joining the first round of electoral reform talks on October 25 of last year, Jamaat suggested the EC to omit the word 'religion' from the proposed provision, but the commission did not keep the request in its revised proposal.

"You have put the word religion in the proposal. It's an ultra violation of the constitution," Jamaat leader Barrister Abdur Razzak charged the ECyesterday.

"Some political parties, who do not represent the people and are against religion, supplied the language for the proposal," Razzak claimed alluding to some left leaning

Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain replied the EC did noting more than incorporating a provision from the consti-

tution itself. About discrimination on grounds of religion, etc, Article 28 (1) of the constitution says the state shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, orplace of birth.

Election Commissioner Sakhawat told Jamaat leader Razzak, "More or less you are accusing the EC, which is not right. What are you afraid of?"

Razzak said the question of registering Islamic political parties had never been raised before. "Then why

The Jamaat leaders however said if the word 'religion' exists in the provision in question in the proposal, somebody might interpret it in future as -- political parties based on religion are not allowed to be registered with the EC as parliamentary

Jamaat leader Razzak said the EC could have invited both factions of BNP to the talks.

In a quick retort to his comment, the CEC said, "You are making dangerous remarks! Who am I to recognise factions in a party when both sides are claiming that the party has not been divided?"

In reply to a Jamaat leader's query In response to another Jamaat on why the EC invited Saifur-led faction of BNP and not the faction led by BNP chairperson nominated secretary general, the CEC said he would rather not comment on it

> "We examined BNP's constitution and our findings are not going to be very pleasant for the party leadership. We will disclose our findings later in a news conference to tell all the BNP chairperson nominated secretary general to the talks," Huda

Jamaat asked the EC to announce a specific date for the ninth parliamentary election, and not to hold polls to any local government before holding the national election. It also demanded lifting of restrictions on indoor politics at district and upazila

Earlier in the day, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu) and National Awami Party raised the demands for barring anti-liberation political parties from contesting in polls, and not to register Jamaat as a parliamen tary party.

So far, nine political parties joined the second round of electoral reform talks, and Jamaat is the only party among those to denounce the EC.

About the doubts in public mind over holding the parliamentary poll according to the electoral roadmap, the CEC told the parties that the EC decided not to respond to questions regarding the matter in the future. "We have spoken a lot about it. Those who like to revel in doubts, let them do so. We have no doubt in our minds about holding the polls according to the roadmap," the CEC asserted.

Babar blames

League rally in 2004, Babar sponta-

neously told the interrogators that he

did not concoct the Joj Mian story.

Barapukuria coal mine

NEWS

(FIR), he also brought allegations of misappropriation of government money, cheating for concealing identity by Moazzem Hossain and

Of the other two cases against the BNP chief detained since September 3, one was filed for graft regarding gas exploration job by Niko and the other for violating tender conditions in appointing Gatco, an indenting house, for container handling in Dhaka inland container depot and Chittagong portyard.

Shandong Ludi Consortium was adjudged the lowest bidder in the international tender floated to employ a contractor for production, management and maintenance of

A seven-member committee headed by Prof Anwarul Azim, a teacher of Buet and president of Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh, was the evaluation authority.

tium the highest.

the government committee on purchase and approval of the prime minister, a deed for the work worth Tk 335.08 crore was signed between the Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd and Shandong Ludi Consortium on April 24, 2004.

guarantee and performance guarantee as per the rules, Shandong came up with conditions irrelevant to the deed. Among others, they proposed raising the contract value. Though legally there was no room for allowing anything beyond

Petrobangla examine the proposals from Shandong, leading to delay. The government did not go for a

Following manoeuvrings in favour of CMC, it cut a deal with the Chinese company on June 4, 2005, 14 months into the deal with

According to tender rules and Public Procurement Regulations 2003, the second lowest bidder, in that case Suju, was supposed to be given the job. But the deal went to

million tonnes. And the cost of coal

production per tonne was esti-

mated at \$35 but now it is around

\$90. Plus, the project is more than

All this happened to ensure

"business" for certain individuals.

From last year, the government

however is trying to revamp the

mine project with help from the

While this sketchily made deal

imposed a huge financial burden on

the government, the authorities

could never ensure proper monitor-

ing of the project implementation

as Hosaf group -- a close ally of the

two BNP governments-- acted as

representative of the project's

Chinese developer CMEC and also

one of the accused in the Anti-

Corruption Commission (ACC) case

-- Hosaf also represented the devel-

oper of over-priced 250 megawatt

malfunctioning coal-fired power

Interestingly, Hosaf also repre-

sented in one way or another all the

three Chinese companies that

participated in the 2003 tender for

production, management and

Owned by Moazzem Hossain --

of British consultant IMCL.

eight years behind schedule.

Chinese government.

FROM PAGE 1

CMC whose offer was over Tk 158 crore higher than Shandong's.

Forum now being held in Jeddah Though Suju's bid was cancelled and plans to introduce Grameen for not renewing its bid bond, the Bank's signature microcredit company was later shown as an concept in the country, urged the associate of CMC in the contract. Bangladeshi expatriates to abide by

FROM PAGE 1

Saudi rules and regulations.

for the kingdom.

proud.

countryman.

them as saying.

in the kingdom.

ties and Saudi Arabia has been a great

said, noting that Bangladesh is a

source of hard-working manpower

in the kingdom and his great

speeches at Jeddah International

Conference and Exhibition Centre

received a big round of applause,

making Bangladeshi expatriates

Mian, Muhammad Munir and

Jashimuddin said they were over-

whelmed by the greatness of their

Arab News yesterday quoted one of

The three men said Dr Yunus'

presence in Saudi Arabia comes at

the most critical time in the lives of

the 17 lakh Bangladeshi expatriates

appearing in the local press about

our iqamas (work permits) not being

renewed and about recruitment of

Bangladeshis being stopped and of

our compatriots being in the news

running a campaign against us.

Professor Yunus' presence here will

go a long way in improving the image

of Bangladeshis in Saudi Arabia. All

the top Saudi business leaders are

here and after listening to Professor

Yunus they will definitely have a soft

corner for all of us. When they think

of Bangladeshis, the Saudis will now

ence of Dr Yunus was enough. "We

don't know what he spoke about,'

said one of them. "We don't know

English. We only saw the entire hall

clapping intermittently and we saw

that everybody stood at the end for

quite a long time. Did you see any-

body doing that when other speakers

The Jamaat, however, vehemently

opposed introduction of clear

ballot boxes in the polls and said

that it preferred the use of tradi-

participated in the electoral reform

talks had demanded using trans-

parent ballot boxes, the EC is con-

As most of the political parties

When the CEC asked Jamaat

Mohammad Mojahid why his party

is opposing it, the Jamaat leader

replied that purchasing of trans-

parent ballot boxes would require a

country, we should not depend on

foreign countries for transparent

Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) M

Sakhawat Hussain informed the

Jamaat leaders that the EC is trying

to collect the ballot boxes free of

He admitted that there are some

instances where construction work

stopped after the contractors were

"After the back to back flooding,

arrested during the anti

brick kilns, which generally start

production by November, could

not do so before the last week of

December last year," he said giving

has submitted three new proposals

involving Tk 530 crore to the

Planning Commission on road

repair and building sheds for farm-

ers in local markets. "After studying

the feasibility that we can complete

the projects within this fiscal year

we've submitted these proposals

and are waiting for Ecnec's deci-

Meanwhile, the LGRD ministry

At this point, Election

ballot boxes," Mojahid argued.

"Besides, being an independent

tional boxes made of steel.

sidering the matter actively.

huge amount of money.

added.

FROM PAGE 16

corruption drive.

another reason.

ended their speeches?"

EC starts

For the three workmen, the pres-

definitely think of Professor Yunus.

"There are websites that are

for all the wrong reasons," he said.

"There are all these reports

Maintenance workers Mukhles

Meanwhile, Dr Yunus' presence

Khaleda Zia has been included as the accused as she was responsible for the ministry in question and any decision was supposed to be taken with her full knowledge. Besides, the FIR says, she

approved the cabinet purchase committee's proposal without considering the difference of over Tk 158 crore between the highest and lowest bidders and ignoring prospect of retender.

Hosaf Group did not participate in the bidding directly, they were the local agents of both the lowest and highest bidding companies. In fact, the Chinese companies worked in collaboration with each other throughout the tender and Hosaf group Chairman Moazzem Hossain who was their common chairman used his connections to pull off the deal, the FIR read. REACTIONS

Terming the case false and motivated, Pro-Khaleda BNP faction vesterday demanded immediate release of the former premier and withdrawal of all cases against her.

Talking to The Daily Star, party's acting office secretary Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said, "The case has been filed only to lengthen our chairperson's

stay in jail. Contacted, MK Anwar and Shamsul Islam, who are among the accused, declined to make any

comment "I don't know anything about it, Shamsul Islam said. Maj (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed,

acting secretary general of pro-Saifur faction, described the latest graft case against Khaleda and the former ministers as 'regrettable'. He said he hopes they will get justice.

Meanwhile, Jamaat-e-Islami said the case against its Amir Motiur Rahman Nizami and Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mojahid is moti

A party press release signed by Tasnee Alam said the case against the 11 top political leaders would disrupt the electoral process and get in the way of restoration of democ-

The press release was issued after a central working committee meeting with Nizami in the chair.

Gen Moeen meets Yunus

visiting the Gulf country as a FROM PAGE 1 speaker at Ninth Jeddah Economic

Minister Manmohan Singh, Defence Minister AK Antony and National Security Adviser M K Narayanan.

Moeen left Delhi yesterday morning to visit the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun in "Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh Uttaranchal Pradesh after 'fruitful' have strong economic and cultural discussions with India's top politifriend of us in all circumstances," he cal and military leaders.

From Dehra Dun, Moeen is scheduled to visit the Taj Mahal in Agra, the Ajmer Sharif shrine and then the coastal state of Goa. He would then visit Kolkata on January

In Kolkata Moeen is scheduled to visit the Eastern Command of the Indian Army and hold a meeting with Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya and discussions on starting India-Bangladesh train service. He has also expressed his desire to visit the Shantiniketan.

"Look, how all the Saudi men and A top official of the Indian forwomen were clapping and listening eign ministry said bilateral talks to him with rapt attention. He is a between the Bangladesh Army great man. We are seeing him for the chief and top Indian political and first time in flesh and blood," daily military leaders would build up the momentum for better relations between the two countries.

"We attach a lot of importance to Gen Moeen's visit, which would shape bilateral ties during the coming days," he told The Daily

Gen Moeen, who is on a six-day visit to the neighbouring country,

said on Monday that he expects the Dhaka-Kolkata train service to start in next two-three months. Moeen also met India's Minister of State for Commerce Jairam

Ramesh on Monday and discussed various possibilities to further improve trade and commerce between India and Bangladesh. He was informed that the final notification on the duty-free export of 8 million pieces of readymade

garments from Bangladesh would be issued soon. Gen Moeen and Gen Kapoor held extensive discussions on the possible ways for further promoting cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries in areas including training, sharing of experience in disaster management, advanced information sharing on floods and tsunami and

Peacekeeping Operations. Gen Moeen also held discus-

participation of troops of the two

countries in the United Nations

sions with the Indian Minister of State for Defence MM Pallam Raju where ideas regarding training of armed forces personnel at each other's training institutions, capacity building in the area of specialised treatment at medical institutions, sharing of experience on disaster management and greater interaction on matters relating to participation of the troops of the two countries in UN Peacekeeping Operations came up.

Gen Moeen's visit is the first by any Bangladesh Army chief. The Indian Army chief visited Bangladesh in 2001.

Moeen is being accompanied by his wife and General Officer Commanding (GOC) of 66 Infantry Division Major General Syed Fatemi Ahmed Rumi and Director (Training) of Army Headquarters Brigadier General Md Anisuzzaman Bhuiyan.

THE HINDU REPORT

The decision to honour the martyred Indian Army soldiers is expected to contribute even more to the desire between both sides to rid of acrimony in their bilateral relationship, The Hindu said.

The series of high-level meetings chalked out for Moeen indicates that New Delhi is willing to do business with whoever is in power in Dhaka, The Hindu said.

India is keen to improve ties with Bangladesh to an extent that it gets transit rights for its goods to the northeast and the Chittagong Port as well as a commitment on transit of gas from Myanmar and, possibly, the northeastern states.

For the immediate future, it favours a commitment from the Bangladesh Army chief to clamp down on anti-India militants perceived to be camping on the Bangladeshi territory.

The need to reduce tensions on the Indo-Bangla border will figure in the discussions as will illegal immigration.

In return, India would be willing to operationalise Pranab Mukherjee's promise made last November to make a one-time exception and export five lakh tonnes of rice to Bangladesh

Union Ministers in New Delhi also spoke of the possibility of reducing Bangladesh's adverse balance of trade with India by encouraging Indian investment.

Bazlur Rahman

Dhaka Club around 10.55pm, and the doctors declared him dead at 11:40pm. He was 67. Secretary General Ali Ahsan

minister and Awami League presidium member Matia Chowdhury. Bazlur started his career as a

Dr Rezaul Karim, associate professor of cardiology department of the hospital, said, "We tried our best for about an hour to save his life. The attack was his second." Businessman Bakhtiar Alam,

who was with Bazlur when he collapsed at the club, told The Daily Star, "We were sitting next to each other when he started having a seizure and fell on my lap. We took him to the hospital as fast as we Bazlur was known as a progres-

sive, secular, and a free thinking journalist. For his journalistic excellence he was awarded Freedom Fighter Journalists' Award, and Mymensingh Press Club Award. He was a member of the boards of directors of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha, and Bangladesh Press Council. He was also the acting president of

the party's central leader and former Islami Chhatra Sangha president Sardar Abdul Salam, activist Khawza Ashim (dead), Akhter 'Gunda' Newaz and Doma. The last three are non-Bangalis who later fled to Pakistan.

Metropolitan Magistrate

Mohammad Emran Hossain Chowdhury later recorded the complainant's statement and directed the officer-in-charge (OC) of Pallabi Police Station to register the murder case as a first information report

capital's Mirpur area on April 24 and December 18 in 1971, adding that the victims included 21 of his relatives, one colleague, 43 Mirpur residents and 280 others who hailed from

different areas of the country. The plaintiff said 60-70 other unidentified non-Bangalis also took part in the bloodbath.

National Press Club. He was well known as an organiser of children. for being one of the founders of Khelaghar, a children's organisa-

Bazlur's wake will be held at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital today between 2:00pm and 4:00pm. Before that his body will be taken to his Maghbazar residence at 11:00am, from where the body will be taken to the Sangbad office at Purana Paltan at 12:00pm. After which his body will be transported to the National Press Club prior to the wake at the Shaheed Minar.

Local govt

FROM PAGE 16

elections to 102 municipalities where polls will be due by June. He however said the government

has not 'imposed' any date for holding the elections. "It is the Election Commission which is mandated to decideit." Stressing the importance of

strengthening the local government

bodies both financially and organisationally, he said the draft of a law proposing formation of a local government commission to ensure independent functioning of these bodies has been finalised. The government wants to form

the commission before formulation of the three sets of laws on local government bodies 'since there are innumerable references to the commission in the proposed laws", he

The draft laws will be placed before an inter-ministerial committee soon before sending those to the cabinet for approval.

"Once the commission is formed and the local government bodies can work independently, influence of the ministry on them would reduce to a

great extent," he said. The commission will comprise a chairman and two members.

A five-member search committee, proposed to be headed by the CEC, will recommend three persons for the post of chairman of the commission, and the president will pick

"We've proposed the criteria that persons having experience of working for local government system can be on the commission," said the adviser.

Rice import

centre at Foundation of Integrated Development Alliance, an NGO, in Bandarban today.

centres in Barguna, Bogra, Chittagong, Dhaka, Gazipur, Rangamati and Bandarban. The high commission's First

Secretary Amir Shawkat was present at the view exchange meet.

Rights bodies decry

Commission is weak in the beginning?" she said.

Reading out a statement ASK official Sayeed Ahmad said according to the ordinance, the Human Rights Commission will be formed with one chairman and two members, who will be appointed by the president after a six-member selection committee recommends two

names against each post. The selection committee will include a judge from the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, cabinet secretary, attorney general, comptroller and auditor general Public Service Commission chairman and the law secretary.

Dominance of executive in the

selection committee is clear. The rule

of completion of the quorum with

four members strengthens its domi-

nance. The representation of the parliament is also absent here," Sayeed Ahmad said. Representation of the underprivileged in the selection committee has also been denied in the ordinance, he said adding that appointment of any

public servant under deputation is also not a good thing. If the rule remains that quorum will be complete with the chairman and a member, it is apprehended that power will be centralised with the chairman. The number of com-

mission members should be at least five including one woman, he said. The commission ordinance says a human rights commission fund will be created and the government and the local authorities will provide funds annually. The meaning of "local authorities" is not clear,

The most important instrument for making the Human Rights Commission accountable is its annual report, which has to be published and made public. "It, however, appears that the ordinance prefers not to make its reports public. The Human Rights Commission Ordinance defines human rights as

the basic rights described in the

constitution and in various interna-

tional conventions ratified by

Bangladesh and recognised by the

Sayeed Ahmad noted.

activist said adding that this does not go with the international obligations

mission would investigate, he said, We think allegations of state or government organisations' negligence in resisting human rights violations should also come under purview of the commission investi-

international human rights laws. "We think the commission should

national human rights laws," Sayeed Ahmad said. under trial in the court will not come under the purview of the Human Rights Commission. "We think this will make the area of the commission

he said. organisation to the court. "We propose the commission be given pow-

code," he said. Across the globe, the human rights commissions' one important task is to monitor the overall human rights situation and make its concerns and recommendations public, but the ordinance has not men-

the NGOs, Saveed added.

This means the fundamentals of the constitution-economic, social and cultural rights--are excluded in the ordinance," the human rights

of amending the state laws to uphold human rights. Mentioning the types of human rights violation allegations the com-

As a function of the commission, the ordinance says, it will make necessary recommendations to the appropriate authorities for uniformity of the proposed laws with the

check whether the existing and proposed laws go in line with inter-The ordinance said the cases

very narrow and make it ineffective," In other countries, human rights commissions act as a supplementary ers included in the civil procedure

tioned any such points, he noted. It is important that the Human Rights Commission works in coordination with the NGOs and the civil society but the matter of concern is that the Human Rights Commission Ordinances, 2007 says the commission will coordinate the activities of the question is being raised now?" he FROM PAGE 1

abusing power for personal gains.

CASESTATEMENT Barapukuria coal mine in Dinajpur.

Of the three bidders, Suju Coal Mining Group Consortium was the second lowest bidder while China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CMC) consor-

Following recommendation of Instead of submitting bank

the deed, the energy and mineral resources ministry suggested that

retender on grounds that there was not enough time for that.

A mine of corruption cials to tamper with economic basis of the mine to show it as a profitable

project The then energy minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain worked specially hard for this pro ject while Hosaf mediated negotiation on the flawed Supplier's Credit from China.

Sources say a senior BNP policymaker was bribed Tk 30 crore in the early nineties for the deal. The mine project was supposed

2004, the CMEC could not do so. As the original contract did not ensure transfer of the mine's Chinese technology to Bangladesh, the government had to assign a Chinese company to run it. Once again, Hosaf played a role in the tender in 2003. In 2004, the cabinet purchase committee awarded this contract to Shandong Ludi Consortium of China as the lowest bidder. Represented by Hosaf Shandong later asked for cost escalation, and the government then gave the project to CMEC -- the third

lowest bidder -- by skipping the The Ecnec approved depth of 1,100 feet. This happened because of design flaws, according

US advises Sharif

not become part of the federal Cabinet as we do not want to take oath under the administration of President (Pervez) Musharraf."

Frontier House. It was part of a series of meetings between Western envoys and leaders of parties that are set to form the new

emerged the largest group in the polls. their views and we respect their choices," Patterson said. "We are ready to work with whatever coalition

is formed. It is up to those elected to form a government." Patterson reiterated US President George Bush's commitment to democracy in Pakistan. She informed Sharif about the "US's shared interests with Pakistan" and continuing economic assistance and military

Western envoys have stepped up contacts with leaders of the PPP and PML-N to ensure a smooth transition of power after the opposition parties swept the polls and to shore up the position of President Pervez Musharraf, whose supporters were

routed in the elections. Sharif told reporters that Pakistan attaches "great importance to its relations with the US." The PML-N

condemned "all kinds of terrorist activities but was of the view that negotiations provided a means to address the causes of terrorism and find a solution instead of relying on force alone," he said. He said if Pakistan could hold talks with India to resolve long-standing

Sharif said the PML-N "gives full respect to the mandate for the PPP to the victory of his party in the February form government in the centre." The PPP would also support the PML-N to form government in Punjab province, he added. Earlier, Sharif also met the British and French envoys and exchanged

views about the formation of a new

disputes, there was no reason not to

engage in a dialogue with those

involved in terrorist activities.

the new government and the prospects of alliances between different political parties. Senior PML-N leader Chaudhry Nisar Ali accompanied Sharif for the meeting. Later, Sharif visited the French embassy and held talks with

described the meeting as informal. Sharif and Pakistan People's Party co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari said they would form governments at the centre and in the country's four provinces. They also vowed to strengthen democracy and to work for the reinstatement of judges who were sacked by President Pervez Musharraf during

sion," Anwarul Iqbal said. Under one project, some rundown roads in each upazila will be repaired fully, 'not partially', he The ministry will build special

sheds for farmers at the existing

markets in each of the 4,498 union

parishads (UPs) under another

project involving Tk 20 crore. Taka

the ambassador. PML-N sources 10 lakh will be spent for building sheds in each market. "Separate enclosures for women farmers will be there at the markets so that they can sell their agricultural products at just price in an atmosphere free from extortion," Iqbal said.

> crore is on repair of local roads with soil, employing women workers. The main objective of this project is creating jobs for women, he said. Wage has been proposed to be raised to Tk 90 from Tk 54.

The third project involving Tk 5

FROM PAGE 1 arrest while having dinner at

Bazlur is the husband of former

reporter with the Sangbad in 1961. He also had a brief stint with the daily Ittefaq. Born on August 3, 1941 in

Baneshwardi village under Nokla of Sherpur, he was actively involved in politics of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, and National Awami Party (Mozaffar) at a point of his life.

"Transparent ballot boxes will be used in the next parliamentary election if we can collect those on time. If not, traditional ballot boxes of steel would be used," Sakhawat LGRD ministry

Court asks

FROM PAGE 16

On January 24, Mohammad Amir Hossain Mollah, a wounded freedom fighter and resident of Duaripara in the capital's Pallabi neighbourhood, filed the case with Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka for the felonies.

The complainant stated that the accused killed the people in the

FROM PAGE 16 The envoy will open a computer

He said Pakistan government has already funded 14 computer

Jamaat fires broadside wanted to accommodate as many parties as possible and they also second round of talks told some of

mendation to the government for trying the war criminals. Earlier, the commission incorpo-

contesting in any election. Yesterday morning at a bilateral dialogue with Jatiya Samajtantrik dation to the government regarding sations from contesting in parliamen-

Launching a broadside against the EC during the bilateral talk between the commission and Jamaat in the afternoon, the latter also termed as 'disgusting' the demand of the participating parties for not to register Jamaat as a parliamentary party

It also claimed that the accusations against it are completely imaginary.

criminals from contesting in polls.

CEC replied with examples from the He said the CEC of India made 58 recommendations to the current

The Joj Mian story was cooked up on the instructions of former CID officials Ruhul Amin and Munshi

Atiqur Rahman, the source quoted When the CID members told Babar that they were interrogating him for the Sabbir murder case, not the August 21 grenade attack case Babar said that they should hear him out as the CID is also investigating

the August 21 grenade attack case.

In an attempt to evade responsi-

bility, Babar claimed that Harkatul

Jihad Al Islami leader Mufti Abdul

Hannan was arrested at his directive

and he also ordered to arrest

Moulana Tajuddin, but Tajuddin could not be arrested as his brother. former deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu, senthim abroad. Babar was arrested on May 28 last year and has already been sentenced to 17 years imprisonment in an arms case. He was admitted to the

BSMMU on December 29 with maintenance of Barapukuria coal various ailments including asthma. mine, in which the ACC detected corruption. 7th Wage Board The seeds of corruption in this project was sown in the nineties. The Daily Star investigation into FROM PAGE 16 how the project was devised found

recommendations to the government within two months, said an official announcement. The members of the board are Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman, Jugantor Editor Golam Sarwar, Independent Editor and Publisher Mahbubul Alam, BSS Managing Director and Chief Editor Jaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, Sangbadik-Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad co-convenor Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, its mem-

ber-secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi,

and members Abul Hashem and Khairul Islam. Deputy secretary (Law and Order) of the Ministry of Information Khurshid Alam was made secretary of the board. As per its terms of reference, the newly constituted wage board will review the Sixth Wage Board Award for announcement of the seventh wage board award in consultation with all parties concerned, aiming to remove anomalies in salaries and allowances of the journalists, employees and

The board will make recommen-

dations after discussion with all

concerned for taking measures

against those newspapers that will

not implement the government-

relating to salaries, allowances and

other benefits for the journalists,

employees and press workers on

December 6, 2007. But the journal-

ists, employees and press workers

rejected the award.

press workers.

announced wage board award. The board will also recommend whether those newspapers that will not implement the wage board award would get zero tariff facility in newsprint import and other facilities, including advertisement. Earlier, the government had approved the final recommendations of the Sixth Wage Board Award

"We wish to continue working together, advancing our common agenda of improving the lives of the Pakistani people through development assistance and continuing our joint efforts to improve Pakistan's ability to enhance its own security,"

to be completed before 2000 but till

Barapukuria project proposal in March 1992 with the target of completing it on July 31, 2001 at a cost of Tk 887 crore. But the project was suspended when sub-soil waters started gushing in at a rate of 700 cubic metre from April 5, 1998 at

that policymakers had asked offito official sources.

Sharif briefed Patterson about his party's agenda, including the restoration of the pre-emergency status of the judiciary, supremacy of parliament and strengthening of democracy, during the meeting at the

Patterson congratulated Sharif on 18 general election. The PML-N is set to form a coalition government with the Pakistan People's Party, which "Through the electoral process, the Pakistani people have expressed

cooperation.

government. British High Commissioner Robert Brinkley met Sharif and discussed the formation of

last year's Emergency rule. Shortly after the PPP emerged the largest party in Monday's general

election, Zardari went to the US

embassy to meet Ambassador Anne

Patterson for talks on the emerging

political scenario.