# Khaleda, Nizami

FROM PAGE 1

affairs adviser to former prime minister Khaleda Zia, and Giasuddin Al Mamun, friend of Tarique Rahman, in separate criminal cases.

Hearing the petitions, an HC bench comprised of Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice Md Emdadul Haque Azad issued separate rules upon the government to explain as to why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail. CASE AGAINST KHALEDA, TARIOUE

Khaleda and Tarique on August 25 filed separate petitions with the HC for bail in the case.

The HC bench issued the rule upon the government to show cause within six weeks as to why they should not be granted regular bail.

Barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon, a counsel for Tarique Rahman, yesterday told The Daily Star that the HC would hear five bail petitions filed by his client today.

ACC Deputy Assistant Director Harun-ur-Rashid filed the "Zia Orphanage Trust" fund embezzlement case against Khaleda, her son Tarique and five others on July 3 in connection with embezzling over Tk 2.10 crore by forming the fake organi-

The five other accused are former BNP lawmaker Qazi Saleemul Huq Kamal, Sayeed Ahmed, Gias Uddin Ahmed, Sharfuddin Ahmed and Mominur Rahman, son of Khaleda's sister.

#### **CASEAGAINST NIZAMI**

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, also former industries minister, obtained anticipatory bail till the trial court concerned accepts the charge sheet of the Barapukuria coalmine corruption case.

Hearing the bail petition, the HC also issued a rule upon the government to explain within two weeks as to why Nizami should not be granted regular bail in this case.

On February 26 this year, the ACC

crises overnight. Yet, a 40MW rental

power plant in Khulna has started

generating electricity. So, power

supply situation will further improve

in Khulna after commissioning of a

34.5 MW power plant in October this

implementation at a cost of Tk 628.70

crore and Tk 342.18 crore with assis-

tance from the Asian Development

Bank for supply of gas in 21 districts

of Southwestern region including

Commission has committed to

provide \$10m for implementation of

Sundarbans Environmental and

Water Treatment Plant involving Tk

5. 27 crore has been completed at

Khulna Natun Bazar shrimp process-

ing zone to keep environment there

free from pollution. The plant will go

into operation soon after having

finalised draft of National Shrimp

Policy as it is one of the main sources

government is considering to reopen

Khulna Newsprint Mills through

lease. Besides, matters relating to

payment of all dues to jute mill work-

ers are also under consideration of

the government. A textile training

institute will be set up in Khulna, the

jute mills, the CA said the govern-

ment wants the jute mills to be in

production under private manage-

ment. "Since the public-sector jute

industries incur losses, some mills in

Chittagong were leased and the same

approved some projects to resolve

Bhabadaho in Jessore.

Nazrul

colonial rule.

water-logging in Khuna city and at

construction of an airport in Khulna

as it would not be economically

among others, by LGRD Adviser

Anwarul Iqbal, Press Secretary to the

Chief Adviser Syed Fahim Munaim.

Khulna Divisional Commissioner

Md Yunus Ali and Deputy

Commissioner, Khulna, SM Feroze

of injustice and repression through

his powerful poems during the

enraged the British rulers, who

jailed him several times for stoking

also a great source of inspiration for

the freedom fighters during the

country's liberation war in 1971.

people's desire for independence.

The fearless voice of the poet

Nazrul's songs and poems were

On Bhadra 12, 1383, (August 29,

1976) the poet died at the age of 77

after prolonged sufferings. His

death anniversary is now observed

To mark the occasion, the

People from all walks of life will

Students, teachers and employ-

ees of the university will gather at

Aparajeya Bangla at 6:45am and

then visit the grave. They will later

A discussion will also be held at

pay homage to the poet at his grave

beside the Dhaka University

Dhaka University authorities have

according to the Bangla calendar.

taken an elaborate programme.

Central Mosque in the morning.

the graveyard on the occasion.

lay wreaths at his grave.

The CA ruled out any possibility of

The press briefing was attended,

The council meeting also

policy could be adopted in Khulna."

About the reopening of closed

He said the government has

He informed the press that the

electricity connection, he said.

of country's export earnings.

CA said.

The CA said work on the Waste

Livelihood security project.

He said that European

He said two projects are under

year in Bhola, he said.

JS polls schedule

filed the case against detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and 15 others, including 10 former ministers from BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, in connection with corruption in awarding Barapukuria coalmine

CASES AGAINST SQ CHOWDHURY The HC bench upon three petitions filed by Salauddin Quader Chowdhury granted six months' ad

interim bail in two extortion cases

and four months' ad interim bail in a

operation contract to a Chinese

cattlelifting case. The court also stayed for six

company.

months the proceedings of the extortion cases and stayed the proceedings of the cattle lifting case for four

His lawyer Omar Sadat told The Daily Star that Awami League activists of Rangunia in Chittagong filed the cases with Rangunia Police

Station in 2007. He said in the cattle lifting case SQ Chowdhury is accused of stealing five cows and seven goats from the plaintiff with the help of his followers

in 2001. Sadat said all the "baseless" cases were filed against SQ Chowdhury with the political intension to harass

#### **CASES AGAINST MAMUN**

The HC granted six months' ad interim bail to Giasuddin Al Mamun in two extortion cases filed with Gulshan Police Station. The court also stayed proceedings of the cases for six months.

His lawyer Fakhrul Islam said his client has obtained bail in 14 criminal cases and in each of two cases he was sentenced to 10 years' imprison-

ment. "Mamun has appealed to the HC for bail in the cases in which he was convicted by special courts. If he is granted bail in these cases, there will be no legal bar to releasing him," he

About oath taking of the newly

elected mayors of the city corpora-

tions, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal

said the elected mayors are sup-

posed to take oath after a month of

request to him to administer the oath

to the city mayors, and his response is

mayors-elect will have to submit the

affidavit of their statements of wealth

before taking oath of office.

Besides, the adviser said the

In reply to a question, Iqbal said

"The government will consider

applications for parole to take oath

Upazila elections

The EC has sent the draft upazila

election rules to the law ministry for

vetting. It will announce the election

schedules after the ministry sends

proposal for an expenditure of Tk 100

crore, which is over half the total

estimated cost for the upazila polls,

been sought for the army and the rest

for the law enforcement agencies

said EC sources, citing the draft

elections on two dates to ensure

ment of law enforcement personnel

and maintaining law and order, the

Election Commission has decided to

hold upazila polls on two different

dates," said an EC high official. "The

commission does not want to take

any risk regarding maintaining law

of about 35,640 translucent ballot

boxes will reach Chittagong Port on

ments of about 23,760 ballot boxes

are expected to reach the port on

September 17 and 24. The remaining

shipments are expected to arrive in

Chittagong by October, EC sources

four city corporations and nine

municipalities on August 4 where

AL-backed candidates earned a

Hossain, meanwhile, told reporters

yesterday that the EC would sit with

the AL in response to its request. He

refused to give any further details in

Earlier, the AL in a letter to the EC

Responding to separate writ

petitions filed by them, an HC bench

comprised of Justice Khademul

Islam Chowdhury and Justice

Mashuque Hosain Ahmed gave the

in their writ petitions that they got

bail in all the cases against them but

The detained BNP leaders stated

expressed its desire to hold talks on

different issues including political

parties' registration with the EC

and upazila elections.

FROM PAGE 16

move out of jail.

Chowdhury Anne.

Govt asked

landslide victory.

The EC earlier held elections to

Election Commissioner Sohul

The second and third consign

September 6 from Canada.

Meanwhile, the first consignment

The EC wants to hold the upazila

"Considering issues like deploy

The EC Secretariat earlier made a

Of the amount, Tk 50 crore has

back the rules, said sources.

to ensure foolproof security.

budget for the upazila polls.

foolproof security.

by the elected mayors now in jail."

the elections, reports UNB.

awaited.

requirements.

### AL talks

FROM PAGE 1 during election.

Meanwhile, key AL leaders yesterday expressed doubt about the government's intention in holding the national election by December, saying the election would not be held in five years if it is not held in December.

FROM PAGE 16

citizens."

requirement.

he said.

it for the greater interests of the

country despite sufferings of the

boss said, "There is no alternative

to it, as the government has neither

sufficient vehicles nor enough fund

to purchase more to meet the

they are reviewing the existing

requisition policy to stop harass-

ment of the vehicle owners and

misuse of the law as well as inap-

propriate usage of requisitioned

sate the owners and provide meal

allowances to the drivers and

helpers for lack of fund. We've

submitted a proposal to the gov-

ernment seeking allocation of Tk

5.25 crore annually in this regard,'

proposed policy, vehicle owners

would be provided with compen-

sation if any of their vehicles gets

damaged during the requisition

ment and other government agen-

cies manage vehicles through

requisitioning by the transport

department of the DMP, as they

Assistant Commissioner of the

Motor Transport (AC-MT)

Department Sudip Kumer

Chakraborti told The Daily Star

around 200 vehicles are requisi-

tioned by the DMP every day. The

number is often increased due to

political situations and the govern-

ment's special activities, he added.

every day over 80 buses, around 75

pickup-vans, 40 microbuses, five

requisitioned highest 825 vehicles

a day during the last days of the

their own demands through requi-

sitioned vehicles and also supply

those to the joint forces, Rapid

Action Battalion, prosecution

department, Dhaka Deputy

Commissioner's Office for con-

ducting mobile court drives, and

several other government agencies

cials often harass the vehicle own-

ers and also collect bribe from

them threatening them with requi-

that a number of government high

officials use the requisitioned

Kazol, president of Association of

Bus Companies (ABC), termed

severely being hampered due to

requisition system as at least 80

buses of the Companies always

remain requisitioned. But we never

get the compensation and the meal

always provide around 80 buses to

the DMP. The government itself

should arrange the necessary

Association general secretary

Rustum Ali said, "In the name of

requisition, the police officials

and also often collect money from

vehicle can be requisitioned for

highest seven days against every-

"They do whatever they want

Bangladesh Truck Owners

transport to its agencies."

often harass us.'

us," he alleged.

requisitioning a "corrupt" system.

vehicles for their personal use.

Besides, there are allegations

Khandaker Rafiqul Hossain

"The bus transport sector is

But insiders say the traffic offi-

for various purposes.

trucks and around 10 taxicabs.

BNP rule.

sition.

He said the DMP requisitions

He went on to say the DMP

DMP sources say they meet

have shortage of transport.

Sources say the law enforce-

He added according to the

"Earlier, we couldn't compen-

The DMP commissioner said

In reply to a question, the police

They were speaking at a discussion marking Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's 33rd death anniversary organised by pro-AL doctors' body Swadhinata Chikitshak Parishad at the Institution of Engineers Bangladesh.

Addressing the discussion, AL Presidium member Amir Hossain Amu said varying statements made by the government have aroused doubts in people's minds over holding of the parliamentary

polls. Amu demanded announcement of the national poll date by October, saying they would then have no objection to holding of upazila elections.

Presidium member Suranjit Sengupta said the people gave the government mandate to be in power until December after which the government would be "illegal, unconstitutional and undemocratic"

Syed Ashraf said, "If the parliamentary election is not held by December, it will not be held in the next five years." He said it is the duty of the AL to resist any move to delay the poll.

Ashraf said the present caretaker government is committed to people by a "social contract" to hold the national election by December.

### Landslides

FROM PAGE 16 Department and the Police depart ment.

Rain-induced mudslides claimed 11 lives on August 18 this year in the Port City and 127 earlier on June 11 last year. Over 70 others were killed in hill and landslides since 1998 including 16 in 1998, 19 in 1999, 16 in 2000 and seven in 2002.

## JCD vows

FROM PAGE 1

He said the LGRD ministry sent a the arson and their immediate summary to the chief advisor with a

They also alleged that Dhaka College students quite often go violent causing losses and other sufferings to the business commu-

nity adjacent to the campus. Jahangir's body was sent to his village home Laxmipur for burial yesterday afternoon.

After yesterday's JCD rally its central committee's Senior Vicepresident Sultan Salauddin Tuku told reporters that they will launch a countrywide movement to oust the government if Tarique is not sent abroad immediately.

"We demand that the government sends Tarique Rahman abroad within a day or two considering his serious illness," Tuku said adding that the JCD central committee will meet soon to launch a countrywide movement for ousting the government if their

demands are not met. "Despite the High Court's recommendation and repeated demands of Tarique's doctors, the government has yet to take any effective step for sending him

abroad," Tuku added. He alleged that a conspiracy is on to create a vacuum in BNP's leadership by 'killing its future leader Tarique', and that is why he is not being sent abroad.

From the rally, JCD leaders also demanded lifting of the state of emergency.

# Manju

FROM PAGE 1

of income and three years' RI for hiding information about his wealth. The jail terms will run consecutively, the court said in its judgement.

Since he is absconding, the jail sentences will come into effect the day he surrenders or is arrested. Earlier on June 10 this year, Manju was sentenced to seven

years' RI in a bribery case. On May 18, he was given a seven-year jail term in another

bribery case. And on June 26 last year, he was sentenced to five years in jail for possessing 21 bottles of alcohol at his Dhanmondi house in the capi-

Manju's wife Tasmima Hossain was also accused in the case concerning accumulation of wealth illegally for aiding and abetting him in doing this. But the High Court on June 6 this year quashed proceedings against her following a writ

petition. ACC Assistant Director Sheikh Faiyaz Alam filed the case with Dhanmondi Police Station on

October 7 last year. According to the charge sheet, Manju accumulated Tk 1.72 crore wealth and held back information about property worth Tk 2.10 crore, which were disproportionate to his

known sources of income. The ACC served a notice on him on May 29 last year asking him to submit wealth statement to it, and

they apprehend re-arrest when they They prayed for HC orders not to harassor re-arrest them after release. he did so on June 17 that year. Barrister Mahbubuddin Advocate Harunur Rashid was Khokon appeared for the petitionthe prosecution counsel in the

case.

# 300 cars requisitioned

and Tk 50 each to its driver and of the black laws and also one of the helper as meal allowance. bad jobs of the police department, But this is not in practice since the IGP said. "The police had to do independence.

> Moreover, over 500 requisitioned vehicles were burned to ashes or damaged severely on different occasions, but the owners did not get a single penny from

Earlier on February 12 in 2005, the HC stayed the DMP functioning on requisition of private cars plying in the city after a writ was filed by Kafil Uddin, a leader of Bangladesh Bus-Truck Owners Association.

But The Supreme Court (SC) on March 5, 2005, stayed the HC deci-

sion until March 31 the same year. The HC also ordered the DMP not to requisition any vehicles for six months as SC lawyer Tobarak Hossain filed another writ in August 2004 challenging the requisition laws. But the SC also stayed that HC order.

SC lawyer Tobarak Hossain said, "The case remains pending for years. But I am carrying out the procedures."

Talking to The Daily Star, AC-MT Sudip Kumer said over 15 writs were filed in different times regarding requisition.

The DMP commissioner said following the writs, the DMP formed a six-member committee to compensate the vehicle owners and allocate meal allowances.

AKM Hafiz Akhter, (DC Transport) said, "Though there were laws for providing compensation, there was no regular allocation. The government on different occasions paid some amount which was not sufficient." Asked, the DC-Transport said

"The owners often do not come to receive their compensation considering it as harassment since they have to wait for months." He said according to the new

proposal, the DMP sought Tk 4.5 crore yearly for compensation and Tk 75 lakh for the meal allowances.

According to the new proposal, a large-sized bus would get compensation of Tk 1,000, minibus Tk 700, microbus and truck Tk 600 and car and taxicab Tk 400 per day.

FROM PAGE 1

He told journalists that two political parties have registered with the ECalready.

Replying to a question, he said the upazila elections would be held on October 23 but how many upazilas the election would be held in is yet to be decided.

Earlier, CEC Huda inaugurated the debate competition. Speaking as the chief guest of the inaugural function, the CEC recalled his childhood days in the school between 1950 and 1952.

He said, "We, the generation of the independence, have failures in many areas. We could not be successful in everything. It is my desire that the present generation overcomes our failures and prospers."

The CEC thanked the school authorities for inviting him as a "To avoid harassment, we former student.

Brother Robi Purification, headmaster of the school, presided over the function where Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, executive editor of Bangla daily The Sangbad, was present as special guest. Assistant Headmaster Brother

Chandan D Gomes and Debate for Democracy Chairman Hassan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron also spoke at the function.

The debate is jointly organised According to existing laws, a by St Gregory's High School and Debate for Democracy. More than 30 schools of the city are taking part day payment of Tk 500 to its owner in the three-day competition.

# Food price hike

FROM PAGE 1

price shock is likely to have been a decline of 2 percentage points -from 40 percent in 2005 to 38 percent in 2008," Vinaya said in his presentation.

Coarse rice price in the recent past was Tk 36 a kilogram (kg), which also continues to stay as high as Tk 32 a kg now, despite no shortage in its supply, he noted.

WB Country Director Xian Zhu said the poor get most of their calories from rice, which accounts for as much as a quarter of the total household budget of an average Bangladeshi household, while a poor household spends nearly one-third.

"A 60 percent increase in the price of rice alone, as has happened in the last 12 months, erodes nearly one-fifth of the income of a poor household. Increases in prices of other key food items compounded this loss in real income of the poor," he said.

Xian Zhu said the immediate near-term priority should be to ensure food security for the poor and vulnerable, while he lauded the government's expansion of open market sales, introduction of 100-day Employment Guarantee scheme, and augmentation of public food stocks.

people are added to the popula-

tion, while the availability of culti-

"But, for a longer term," he said, "Increasing productivity is the only hikes of agricultural inputs, he said option in a country like Bangladesh efficiency in using them should be where every year over 2 million increased. "You have to see how

vable land is decreasing by one

The good news is that raising yields has a huge potential in Bangladesh, he said adding that productivity can be increased by 30 to 60 percent by using hybrid seeds, by rationalising input utilisation, and by improving other crop management practices.

Asked about WB's opinion about whether Bangladesh should opt for being self-sufficient or for being self reliant in food, Vinaya said no country can be selfsufficient in everything. "You don't produce oil. So, you

have to import it from the international market. It is an economic decision whether you can import it at a cheaper cost or you want to produce everything." He said the bank always believes

in trade. "It has been proven that free trade is beneficial to everyone. The reason behind this...we all find useful things in it. Think about RMG... you are exporting huge amounts.

Xian Zhu said, "Whether you BSF then apologised for the indisrely on your domestic food or trade, depends on cost that needs to be critically analyzed. Then the government on behalf of the people should make a decision." Asked on ways to tackle price

you can get the best yield by using

the least of fertilizer or irrigation."

lands and exchange of enclaves. Home Secretary Abdul Karim and Indian Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta will lead their

Cops asked

men) were supposed to stay within the campus. "We did not allow them to come

out of the campus for agitation. But since they did it, cases have been filed to deal with it," he said.

He said the police did not go in action thinking that it might spread the violence across the country. TARIQUE OUT OF DANGER

The BSMMU authorities yesterday said Tarique was out of danger. They said he was still under 48-

hour observation. Tarique refused to have CT scan at Dhaka Medical College Hospital

yesterday. However, jail authorities said he may have the CT scan today. "Tarique has temperature and the right side of his head has swollen" Dr Kazi Mazharul Islam Dolon, who sits on a medical board earlier

after visiting the BNP leader. "But nothing can be said for sure before 48 hours," he said.

formed for Tarique, told reporters

Deputy Inspector General (Prisons) Major Shamsul Haider Siddiqui said Tarique was doing fine. "I have talked to him. He did not complain of any problem," he said. Inspector General (Prisons)

Zakir Hassan said the prison authorities have nothing to do with Tarique as he was under the supervision of the BSMMU authorities.

"He's not in the prison cell of the hospital now. He's staying in a cabin," he said emerging from the home ministry meeting.

He said the doctors informed the home affairs adviser that Tarique was out of danger.

### Six areas

FROM PAGE 16

be affected as a result of climate change. Global warming caused by the developed countries is also going to leave an impact on the lives of thousands of people and their livelihoods.

Bangladesh is taking preparations to build capacity for climate resilient development. He also stressed the importance of adaptation planning and adequate financing for in the coming decades. The presentation also said how

the government responded to the greenhouse gas reduction through facilitating clean development mechanism (CDM) projects and opportunities for finance and investment in mitigations efforts as Twenty papers were presented

yesterday mainly on impacts of climate change on soil and water in South Asia. The session will be presented at

the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) today where the experts are scheduled to focus mainly on food security issues.

President of Iceland Olafur Rangnar Grimsson will attend the symposium on climate change at Hotel Sonargaon on Saturday.

# Police scrap

FROM PAGE 1

jobs at the PIO would be posted elsewhere.

On August 12, the DMP launched the intelligence wing to gather information in advance about the activities of different political parties and their front organisations. The PIO was set up under the DMP Rules, 2006.

Two major political parties--the Awami League (AL) and BNP--had said the PIO was set up to harass political party leaders and activists

DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed had denied the allegation saying the objective of the PIO was not to harass anyone; it was rather to collect information about any incident quickly so that the police can take preventive measures before it escalated into something bigger, which may become difficult to handle.

## Delhi

FROM PAGE 16 newspaper on Monday.

Bangladesh handed over an

updated list of 1,648 Bangladesh criminals hiding in India at the director-general level border conference between BDR and BSF held in Dhaka recently. The Indian side gave a list of 464 Indian criminals.

A BDR official said the number of Bangladeshi criminals taking shelter in India is on the rise as the Indian government is not willing to hand them over on the plea of not having an extradition treaty. According to a BDR intelligence

report, some criminal groups are operating against Bangladesh from within India. Lists of such groups and locations of their camps were given to the Indian authorities at the previous home-secretary level A broad range of issues relating

to border disputes is expected to be discussed at the upcoming meet-Cross-border terrorism, traf-

ficking of children and women, smuggling of illicit arms and drugs, water sharing and killings on the border will figure high at the talks. The issues were discussed at length at the BDR-BSF conference.

criminate killings of Bangladeshis on the border. The meeting will also pore over the implementation of the Land Boundary Agreement 1974, demarcation of 6.5 kilometres of border-

# US diplomat escapes gun attack in Pakistan

AP, Peshawar

Gunmen opened fire on the top US diplomat in northwestern Pakistan early yesterday as she left for work in her armoured vehicle, police and embassy officials said. No one was

killed in the attack. Lynne Tracy, principal officer for the consulate in the bustling city of Peshawar, was 100 yards from her house when two men with AK-47s jumped out of their dark blue Land Cruiser and sprayed her car with dozens of rounds of ammunition.

Her driver reversed the vehicle and peeled back to her home, said Arshad Khan, the local police chief and senior investigator in the case.

The brazen attack came hours after the breakup of Pakistan's ruling coalition government, a fracture that could concentrate more power into the hands of a party that says it is committed to supporting the US war on terror.

The government Monday announced a ban on the Pakistani Taliban blamed for a wave of suicide bombings in recent days and hours earlier rejected a cease-fire offer in the Bajur tribal region by the mili-

Khan said Tracy's Land Cruiser was damaged, but only slightly, thanks to its heavy armour.

Though no one was killed by the gunfire, a rickshaw driver was hurt when his three-wheeled taxi was hit by the consulate vehicle, he said. The man was hospitalised, but the extent of his injuries was not immediately

Militant activity is rampant in parts of northwest Pakistan, a rumoured hiding place of Osama bin Laden, though mainly in tribal regions where US officials say insurgents have found safe havens in which to plan attacks on American and Nato forces across the border in Afghanistan.

Peshawar, a crowded, dusty city, has not been immune, and concerns about militant activity in and around it prompted the government to stage a paramilitary offensive in neighbouring Khyber tribal region earlier thisyear

Talat Masood, a political and military analyst, said American and other diplomats seen as allies in the war on terror, could increasingly be the targets of militant attacks, especially in the next few weeks. "I think they have to be very care-

ful" he said, noting the army was intensifying its campaign in tribal regions along the Afghan border. "They should take a low profile, their movements should be restricted during this period."

Masood did not think Western allies should scale back their pres-

#### Lardari FROM PAGE 16

September 6 presidential polls, saying it had enough support to ensure his victory despite PML-N's decision to pull out of the government and field its own candidate.

PML-N leaders filed nomination papers for Saeed-uz-Zaman Siddiqui. PML-Q candidate Mushahid Hussain Sayed filed the nomination papers accompanied by his party leaders Senior PPP leaders and federal Ministers Sherry Rehman and Khurshid Shah went to the Election Commission with leaders of the Awami National Party and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, both partners in the ruling coalition, and the opposition Muttahida Qaumi Movement and filed nomination papers for Zardari with Chief Election Commissioner Qazi Muhammad Farooq.

Information Minister Sherry Rehman Sherry said the PPP has a "comfortable number of votes" to ensure Zardari's victory despite the PML-N's decision to leave the coali-

The PPP had been saddened by

the PML-N's move but it would make every effort to take along all political forces to promote the culture of reconciliation, she said.

"We believe that Zardari is the right candidate for this office because he truly represents the unity of the federation," said PPP leader and Law Minister Faroog Naek.

The presidential polls are going to be a three-way contest, with Zardari being pitted against former Supreme Court Chief Justice Saeed-uz-Zaman Siddiqui, who is being backed by the PML-N, and opposition PML-Q secretary general Mushahid Hussain Sayed.

#### Lankan battles FROM PAGE 16

Other battles in Mullaitivu and Welioya regions killed four soldiers and one rebel, the statement said. Army troops captured a part of a from the protest programme and reservoir in Welioya on Monday after a clash that killed eight rebels and two soldiers, it said.

Rebel spokesman Rasiah Ilanthirayan could not be reached for comment Monday.

Both sides routinely exaggerate enemy casualties and underreport their own. Independent verification of the fighting was not possible because most journalists are barred from the war zone in the north. Fighting has escalated in recent

weeks on the Indian Ocean island. The military claims to have captured several rebel bases and large chunks of territory, while government officials have reiterated their pledge to crush the Tamil Tiger guerrillas by the end of the year. The rebels have been fighting for

an independent state in the north and east since 1983, following decades of marginalisation of ethnic Tamils by governments dominated by the Sinhalese majority More than 70,000 people have been

ence, however, saying that would only embolden the militants and

demoralise Pakistanis. There have been a string of suicide bombings since Pervez Musharraf resigned as president

after nearly nine divisive years in power just over a week ago. The Taliban claimed to be behind a twin suicide bombing at a weapons manufacturing complex near the federal capital, Islamabad, that killed 67 people one of the largest terrorist

attacks ever in the country. There have been at least three bloody attacks since then. The Taliban spokesman could not immediately be reached to comment on

Tuesday's attack Pakistan, where anti-American sentiment runs deep, is considered a hardship posting for US diplomats, with many coming for one-year stints without family

However, while there are occasional attacks on Western targets, ones directly targeting US officials are still relatively unusual. Top diplomats in particular tend to have high security and are often restricted in what places they are allowed to visit. Along with its embassy, the US

Peshawar, the eastern city of Lahore and the southern city of Karachi. In 2006, a suicide attacker blew himself up outside the Karachi consulate, killing a US diplomat. In 2002, five people, including two Americans, were killed when a militant hurled grenades into a

Protestant church in Islamabad

has three consulates in Pakistan in

attended by members of the diplomatic community. The US Embassy provided few details about Tuesday's attack, saying only that there was a "security incident" involving three consulate employees. It would not name or describe the employees.

minimal damage to the vehicle," spokesman Lou Fintor added. "We are coordinating with Pakistani authorities in investigating the incident. Meanwhile Tuesday, in Pakistan's southwest Baluchistan province, a bomb rigged to a motorcycle parked

near the stage of a political rally in the

town of Jaaferabad wounded at least

"There were no injuries and

20 people, some critically, police official Nazir Ahmad said. The attacks come as the country's ruling coalition has crumbled. Just a week before, the two main parties united to drive Musharraf, the stalwart US ally in the war on terror, from the presidency, but their partnership collapsed Monday over disputes about his successor and how to

## Bomb attack

(DMCH)

restore judges he had ousted.

FROM PAGE 16 while three others were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital

Abdul Quader told The Daily Star that two bombs exploded when he and others were unloading goods from a truck. "I did not see who threw the bombs," he said.

Kotwali police said two hand

bombs were exploded near the

Medinova Clinic at the Roy Saheb Bazar intersection at about 8:00pm. Meanwhile, police arrested three alleged muggers on Monday night in connection with a bomb attack on policemen that injured

three cops on the Judge's Court

premises in the same area on August 21. The arrestees are Selim, 38. Baltu, 30, and Aynul alias Aminul,

Constables Monwar, Shafiqul and Akram were injured when criminals hurled a hand bomb at them on the court premises on August 21 night. Monwar was seriously wounded and was admit-

ted to DMCH. "The arrestees confessed to their involvement in the bomb attack. They also admitted to being engaged in mugging and extortion in the CMM-Judge's Court areas,"

says a police press release. "As they failed to mug because of police vigil, the muggers attacked the police," it said.

not to hold its countrywide human chain programme saying holding of such programmes "without prior permission would be a violation of the Emergency Power Rules, 2007", UNB adds. The Police Headquarters in a

Police slap ban

press statement late last night said all have been asked to stay away show respect to the laws of the

land. "Legal action would be taken against the violators," the statement said.

On Sunday, over 50 former BNP lawmakers of both "reformist" and pro-Khaleda factions met at former lawmaker Selim Reza Habib's Nam flat and discussed the human chain programme.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police had banned a march towards the Chief Adviser's Office on August 21 on the same demand.

### FROM PAGE 16

5:00am. He died instantly.

The BSF personnel took away the body and did not return it as of 5:00pm vesterday. Jahangir Alam, Commanding

officer of 35 Rifles Battalion, said they sent a letter to the BSF authorities condemning the killing and