# BNP-govt ties

FROM PAGE 1 by the standing committee at a controversial meeting on October 29 last year, had been invited by the commission to the dialogue on

been left out at that time.

In another development, party sources say, well-wishers of the Zia family and the BNP faithful from abroad have expressed readiness to bear the cost of overseas treatment

There have been offers of help from Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the

Tarique, also senior secretary general, might in the end opt for Germany, said a highly placed

Khaleda's younger son Arafat Rahman Koko, who was released last month on executive orders, is

Arrested in March last year, Tarique has been undergoing treatment at a prison cell of herrelease, her close aides said. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Hospital

If he is finally released and allowed to leave the country for treatment, it is quite unlikely that he will return home in the near ilv. future, a source close to the Zia family told The Daily Star last night.

continue like the way it is going on in the case of Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina.

"So far, we have got seven bail orders in hand. We hope to receive the rest by Sunday afternoon," Deputy Inspector General of Siddiqui told The Daily Star.

He added that the jail authorities will not delay Tarique's release once they receive the necessary papers.

One of the two major parties that dominate the country's political landscape, BNP has been in a shambles with most of its top leaders behind bars on graft charges.

The party boycotted the recent polls to four city corporations and nine municipalities, and has been strongly opposed to the plans for upazila polls before the national election under the state of emer-

However, it might have a drastic shift in its stance on the election and dialogue now that release of its chairperson and senior joint secretary general seems in sight.

Sources in the administration said the government led by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed is keen to ensure participation of all major political parties in the long-stalled parliamentary election planned for the third week of December.

As part of the efforts to that end, it has been trying to bridge the gap with BNP, whose participation is crucial to acceptability of the elec-

Khaleda Zia, who has been detained in a sub-jail on Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban complex since her arrest in September last year, will leave for Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah within a couple of days of in Colombo on Friday.

Before flying for the Middle Eastern country, she will stay at her cantonment residence.

"She is not going to be abroad for a long time," said a source in regular contact with the Zia fam-

The first thing she would do is bidding to unite the party factions. Expulsion orders of former secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and ex-whip Ashraf Hossain might be scrapped to help regain unity, continued the source. On return home, she will meet the rank and file in efforts to boost their morale.

The chairperson will also have to deal with Delwar issue. A good number of leaders do not want him to continue as the secretary general since they say he has failed miserably to keep the party united. She too is frustrated with his role in her absence, observed the source.

#### Home secretaries FROM PAGE 1

office, officials said.

Apart from bilateral issues, the unresolved border-related issues, including Tin Bigha corridor and demarcation of the boundary, will also be discussed.

The Indian home secretary is scheduled to meet Home Adviser MA Matin tomorrow.

Chris Patten, the former European and the last British governor of Hong Kong, told European Voice, a Brussels-based news weekly. "I unlikely, with several looking to doubt whether anything tougher than strongly worded communiques will ever be employed."

Hanging over the crisis as always are energy resources. Russia supplies the EU with about a third of its oil and about The current crisis in the two-fifths of its natural gas, and it can literally turn off the tap if it so

> pipeline beneath the Baltic Sea. The close ties have led to particularly cautious approach from Europe's most powerful

economy. ing prudently," said Wolfgang Ischinger, a former German ambassador to the US who now chairs the annual Munich security conference.

indeed some who apparently are not so clear about the fact that ... anyone who goes out through a door must know how to get back in," Ischinger said in an interview with Deutschlandradio Kultur.

#### Justice Fazlul Hug

for a unified response to Moscow's latest move comes Monday, when

sheet," he said.

Sources said an intelligence agency picked up the three on Wednesday and handed over them to the DB personnel on Thursday.

Talking to The Daily Star at DB office, Golam Ambia said, "Amalendu and I are long-time friends. I handed over the amount to Amalendu." But Amalendu disagreed with Golam saying he **Medical College** 

October 18, 2007, Justice Fazlul Hug submitted his wealth statement to the anti-graft body on November 27 last year.

DB Mohammad Masudur Rahman said the family members of justice Fazlul Huq gave the money to the arrestees in return for getting Huq acquitted of cor-

Dhanmondi Police Station, told The Daily Star at 00.45am today that a cheating case was filed against the three by Khandaker Toufiq Alam, an adviser of JSF, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) which is run by justice

In the case statement, Toufiq Sources said, the BCL activists mentioned that the Fazlul Hug's family contacted with the three as they assured the family of Huq's acquittal on corruption charges in exchange for Tk 50 lakh. Of the amount, they took Tk 24 lakh, but did nothing, Toufiq said.

### England clinch **ODI** series

AGENCIES, London

England produced another fine display under Kevin Pietersen's captaincy to beat South Africa by 126 runs in the third one-day international at The Oval and seal the one-day series on Friday.

Ian Bell (73) and Andrew Flintoff (78 not out) took England to 296-7 from 50 overs and South Africa were never up with the rate as they were bowled out for 170 with Patel taking 5-41 to cap a memorable

The result put England 3-0 up with only the matches at Lord's and Cardiffleft.

#### Consolation win for Sri Lanka

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka beat India by 112 runs in the fifth and final one-day international at the R Premadasa Stadium

India, who clinched the series 3-2, were bowled out for 103 chasing a rain-revised target of 216 off 44

BRIEFSCORES Sri Lanka 227-6 in 50 overs; India 103 in 26.3 overs

Mohammad Ashraful, Alok Kapali, Tamim Iqbal and Mehrab Hossain have shown good form but the bowling has struggled on batsmanfriendlywickets.

But according to the captain, the wicket at the TOI ground will be tough to bat on as the wicket skids a bit.

For the hosts though, it's a tricky affair as some of their biggest names have been ruled out due to injury. Ricky Ponting (wrist) and Matthew

Hayden (heel) are missing from the top order, while Brett Lee is sitting out of this series due to his personal Only Michael Hussey and Michael

Clarke remain from the side that lost to Bangladeshin 2005. Of thirteen ODIs between the two

sides, Bangladesh have one that famous game in Cardiff.

## Interim crop

FROM PAGE 16

BR-5 on 0.15 hectare of land spending only Tk 3,000 on agricultural inputs this season. "I did not spend any money for irrigation and a little amount was spent on pesticides and for weeding purposes," he

Farmer Aminul Islam of Tekur in the same upazila said he produced 520kg of Jhapri spending only Tk 2,500 on his 0.15 hectare of land this season.

Solaiman of Banshbaria in the same upazila said he produced 240kg of BR-5 spending only Tk 800. He said in the Boro season he and other local farmers had to pay at least Tk 9,000 per hectare for irrigation alone whereas no irrigation expenditure is required for the local variety.

DAE officials say that almost all the farmers in the district earned more than Tk 2.25 lakh spending Tk 25,000 per hectare. They presume farmers of the district are going to earn an additional Tk 210 crore by cultivating the interim paddy.

## Zia Hyder

FROM PAGE 16 complications.

Cancer specialist Dr Zafar Mohammad Masud told The Daily Star that Prof Hyder has been under his supervision since he was diagnosed with lymphoma. "But he is critically ill at this moment because of old age complications," he said.

"I am worried about Prof Hyder's health as the 70-year-old man is not in a condition to stand the treatment for cancer. However, we are trying to give him the best possible treatment," Dr Masud

Prof Zia Hyder has made remarkable contributions to the neo-theatre movement in Bangladesh shortly after the country's independence. He initiated the foundation of Nagorik Natyasampradaya in 1968. He was

its president until September 1982. Hyder has directed popular plays like "Elebele", which received an award for the best production from Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in 1978. He was awarded the Shaheed Munier Chowdhury Award last year for his contribution to theatre.

He has also written and translated a few plays.

It was because of Prof Hyder's hard work and determination that theatre was introduced as an academic subject at the university level in Bangladesh. Prof Hyder has also penned

several books on theatre like "Theatre-er Katha", "Stanislavskir Obhinoy Tatwa" and "Natyakalay Bibhinya Ism O Epic Theatre", many of which are used as references by the theatre departments at the country's public universities and Rabindrabharati University in West Bengal, India.

Hyder joined the Department of Fine Arts of Chittagong University as an assistant professor in 1970 when theatre was introduced there

In a press release, Zia Hyder's brother Rashid Hyder yesterday

# Flood situation

FROM PAGE 1

heavy rain yesterday. The bulletin said water levels at 61 points the FFWC monitors have marked a rise while eight points marked a fall.

The bulletin also said the overall flood situation of the country is very likely to deteriorate in the next 2-3 days. The Brahmaputra-Jamuna will continue to rise in the next 2-3 days, the bulletin added. Our correspondent in Sylhet

reports: Excessive rain during the last three days and the surge of water from upstream inundated croplands in different areas of the district and the region. Road links between parts of Moulvibazar and neighbouring

Golapganj and Beanibazar upazilas in Sylhet snapped after Roads and Highways Department suspended two ferry services on the Kushiyara Thursday evening Over 10,000 hectares of transplanted Aman and Aus paddy in

Companyganj, Golapganj, Zaintapur, Kanaighat, Gowainghat and Beanibazar upazilas have been submerged. All the rivers in the region are

now flowing above the danger level at all points, sources said. The Surma was flowing 25cm above the danger level at Sunamganj, 130cm above at Kanaighat. It was on the danger

mark at Sylhet city. The Kushiyara was flowing 57cm above the danger level at Amolshid point and 80cm above at Sheola point yesterday afternoon, official sources said.

Over 15,000 labourers went jobless in Zaintapur as stone and sand extraction is suspended Croplands of 15 villages also went under flood water.

Executive Engineer of the Water Development Board, Sylhet, Shafiqul Islam told The Daily Star yesterday that river erosion is taking a serious turn at the villages on the Kushiyara in Zakiganj and in Beanibazar upazilas.

Our Netrakona correspondent reports: The flood situation in Netrakona deteriorated further yesterday with more areas going under water.

About one lakh people in six upazilas of the district are believed to have been marooned. The affected upazilas are Kalmakanda Atpara, Madan, Mohangani Netrakona Sadar and Khaliajuri Netrakona Water Development Board (WDB) sources said.

A vast area of Barhatta upazila is likely to go under water in the next 24 hours, sources said. The Mongalashowary is flowing

125cm, the Kongsha 56cm and the Dhanu 65cm above their danger Onrush of water from upstream coupled with heavy rainfall in the last four days aggravated the situa-

tion, the sources added. Sources said Koilati union in Kalmakanda upazila, Duaz, Sukari, Sunai union in Atpara upazila and a vast area of Madan, Mohanganj and Khaliajuri upazilas have gone under

3-5 feet of flood water. They said most of the houses in the Kalmakanda upazila Sadar have

been inundated. Thousands of hectares of newly planted Aman and vegetables have been damaged.

Road communications between Netrakona and Kalmakanda upazila Sadar, Khaliajuri upazila Sadar and Madan upazila Sadar have been disrupted since yesterday.

Our Nilphamari correspondent reports: About 50 houses and 50 bighas of paddy at Bhashanirchar were swept away by floodwater yesterday. Twenty-five houses in Baishpukur char also went into the gorge of the Teesta.

Erosion also affected Jharsinheswar, Chhatunama and Bhendabari chars.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Dimla

It is easy for the present care taker government to start the trial of war criminals as it is not a political government, he added.

them in politics," he said.

upazila said dry food has been

distributed among the victims of

reports: Incessant rain disrupted

low-lying areas became inundated

of rainfall was recorded in 24 hours

light to moderate showers or thun-

derstorms accompanied by tempo-

rary gusty wind is likely to continue

at most places in Chittagong divi-

sion and neighbouring areas.

Moderately heavy to heavy rainfall is

expected at a number of places

the programme at the Shishu

criminals is necessary in order to

establish justice in the society. "The

process for the trial of war crimi-

nals began during the rule of

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman but it was stopped with

the murder of Bangabandhu. Ziaur

Rahman then released all war

criminals from jail and patronised

The war hero said the trial of war

War criminals

Our Chittagong correspondent

Many areas in the city including

Forecasting Officer at the

According to a weather forecast,

erosion at Bhashanirchar.

city life yesterday.

tomorrow.

FROM PAGE 16

Academy yesterday.

over the last few days.

ending 3:00pm yesterday.

Renowned academician Prof Anisuzzaman urged all children to join Khelaghar because "it is a wonderful world where they can be

free from all mental pressures". "The activities of Khelaghar will help children become patriots," he

Prof Panna Kaiser, chairman of the Khelaghar committee for the conference, said it is a shame for the nation that the trial of war criminals is yet to begin even after

36 years of independence. "This caretaker government must respond to the demand for the trial of war criminals as it has become a national issue," she said.

Committee Convenor Adul Matin Bhuiyan, poet Nirmalendu Goon, Prof Niranjan Adhikari and Ganatantri Party President Nurul Islam, among others, addressed the programme.

Children from across the country and Khelaghar activists performed at a cultural programme and formed a human chain demanding trial of the war crimi-

# FAO pledges

FROM PAGE 16

The adviser said they have under taken initiatives on the issues of food security while the country has already made some progress in developing saline water-resistant

FAO Country Representative Ad Spijkers was present at the meet-

### Verdict

FROM PAGE 16 anti-liberation elements.

Addressing the function, Workers Party Politburo member Fazle Hossain Badsha demanded trial of the war criminals and urged all progressive forces to forge unity against the anti-liberation forces.

NAP district unit Secretary Mustafizur Rahman Khan presided over the discussion meeting.

Prices of parija and BR-28

### Prices of several items sold for Tk 32-33 per kg.

FROM PAGE 1

onion saw a price rise of Tk 3-5 per kg in retail markets in the last four

ing at Tk 30-35 a kg yesterday as against Tk 30-33 and imported onion at Tk 23-27 per kg compared to Tk 20-24 four days ago.

Prices of onion usually go up on the eve of and during Ramadan every year due to its high demand, said onion traders at Karwan Bazar, a major kitchen market in the capital

yesterday while the price was Tk 22-30 a kg four days ago. Green chilli sold for Tk 60-70 a

kg yesterday compared to Tk 50-60 four days ago. Price of ginger rose by Tk 10 per

kg. Both local variety and imported ginger was selling for Tk 80-90 a kg yesterday, rising from Tk 70-80.

kg in the last four days, and it was selling for Tk 37-38 a kg yesterday as against Tk 33-34 four days back. In wholesale markets, its price rose by Tk 120-140 per sack (50 kg).

purchased a sack of sugar for Tk 1,730 yesterday while he had purchased it at Tk 1,590 four days ago. also saw a price rise. It was selling

gram for Tk 55-60 and bason for Tk 65-90 yesterday, showing no price Price of almost all varieties of

rice however dropped by Tk 1-2 per kg in retail markets. Coarse rice was selling for Tk 31-

last two days.

110 a litre.

Prices of non-brand edible oil dropped by Tk 4-5 per litre in the Palm oil and super palm oil were selling for Tk 86-95 a litre yesterday while soybean oil sold for Tk 108-

Traders mentioned that fall of rice and edible oil prices in the global market contributed to their price fall in local markets.

#### Save buyers FROM PAGE 16

discussed, he said.

He proposed forming of a "dispute solving committee" like the urban development committee under the Building Construction Rules, 2007 to protect the interest

of buyers or else the provision of

punishment will not protect them. Participation of representatives from the civil society, entrepreneurs, property buyers, utility service providing agencies and law experts must be ensured in the committee, he added. Different government organisa-

Kartripakkha, Dhaka Electric Supply Authority and Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority will also have to be accountable for their negligence and noncooperation. General Secretary of Institute of Planners of Bangladesh AKM Abul Kalam said the discussion on the

# shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Miscreants shot dead a tea stall owner in the city's Kafrul area yes-

Witnesses said local miscreant Rashed along with his three accomplices appeared at the tea stall of Rakib Hossen Abu, 28, at East Patenga Met Office said 149.10mm Kazipara at around 2:00pm and called him out of his shop.

They took Abu to a nearby lane, shot him in the chest and abdomen and left the scene.

Abu was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the on duty doctors declared him dead.

Locals said the killing followed an arbitration held the day before where Abu settled a dispute between a rickshaw owner and a pick-up van driver after the rickshaw was partially damaged by the pick-up van.

But the rickshaw owner was not happy with Abu's mediation as he got only Tk 300 as compensation, theyadded.

They further said Rashed, one of the killers, is a relative of the rickshaw owner and got angered at Abu's mediation.

Abu's cousin Mohammad Shohag said, "I was taking tea at the stall. Hearing gunshots, I rushed to the spot and saw Rashed firing at

## BSF kills one in Benapole

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Indian Border Security Force (BSF shot dead a Bangladeshi cattle trader on Agrabhulat border here early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Amir Mollah, 40, son of Ruhul Ali Mollah of Agrabhulat village.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources said the BSF troops of Jhaudanga camp opened fire on some cattle traders while they were retuning home with cattle from India at around 4:00am. Amir Mollah received bullets

and died instantly while others

escaped unhurt. The Indian border guards took away the body. Lieutenant Colonel Badrul Alam, BDR commanding officer, Jessore, confirmed the incident BDR sent a letter to its Indian coun-

terpart protesting the killing and demanding return of the body. A tense situation is prevailing along the border.

# Female sleuths

FROM PAGE 1 had been involved in the Brac Bank gold robbery in the capital. The women detectives first became friends with Moina, a woman

unearthed the mystery behind the killing of Nazma, a doctor's wife, in the capital by becoming friends with Nargis, the extramarital lover of the doctor, Humayun Kabir.

The SWPC chief, however, said as a newly opened branch it is suffering from various problems including insufficient logistical support and a lack of accommoda-

joint working group to consider all aspects including organisational structure, financing mechanism and staffing relating to the Birnstec secre-

Iftekhar called for demonstrating necessary flexibility and mutual accommodation so that the Birnstee Free Trade Agreement (FTA), originally scheduled to come into effect by July 2006, could be concluded

meaningful instrument in contribut ing towards increasing intra-regional trade only if we are able to remove and dismantle all tariff and non-tariff barriers.

Bangladesh, he said, would announce a date for a trade-minister level meeting once the agreement is finalised. He asked the Trade Negotiation Committee to wrap up

The meeting agreed to conclude the negotiations for the proposed FTA preferably before the New Delhi summit in November. The adviser also suggested setting

up a food bank among Bimsted

in the region. UNB adds: Bangladesh has proposed direct road links connecting itself with Myanmar and Thailand.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury made the proposal during meetings with Myanmar Foreign Minister U Nyan Win and Thai Foreign Minister Tej Bunnag in New Delhi yesterday, said a statement by the Ministry of Foreign

and said mutual cooperation could tions like Rajdhani Unnayan further be expanded across a broad front. Iftekhar and Mukherjee

expressed happiness at the upcoming maritime boundary demarcation talks between the two countries scheduled to begin in Dhaka next month after more than 20 years. The adviser expressed his deep

by floods in Bihar and underscored the need for working together to address damage resulting from natural disasters.

# Tea stall owner | AL to change stance

FROM PAGE 1

She might put pressure on the caretaker government for holding the parliamentary election by December before any other poll on her return, the sources said.

With the release of Hasina on June 11, the relationship between AL and the government had warmed up a little, and the party participated in the August 4 polls to four city corporations and nine municipalities in return, the sources added.

According to AL leaders, the party is not against Khaleda's release, but the way the government allowed BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami secretary generals Khandaker Delwar Hossain and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid to have about a 3-hour long political talk with her in jail was not at all fair.

The leaders observed that the government and BNP struck a deal for the release of Khaleda and her 'corrupt' son Tarique.

"Awami League never thought that the government would show its real face like that. We are very unhappy with the government's move of allowing Khandaker Delwar and Mojahid to have a three-hour political talk with Khaleda," AL Presidium Member Motia Chowdhury told The Daily Star last

"Certainly BNP negotiated with the government. When Sheikh Hasina is released, it becomes a deal, but when Khaleda Zia is released, it becomes a result of a democratic movement!" quipped Motia alleging the government of protecting BNP from public wrath 'incurred by their wide scale corruption and misrule' The meeting among Khaleda,

Delwar and Mojahid proved that it is not AL but BNP which struck a deal with the government, said AL Acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam. In the changing situation, AL presidium, the highest policy mak-

ing body of the party meets today in

Acting President Zillur Rahman's Gulshan residence to finalise fresh strategies. The party will also hold its central working committee (ALCWC) meeting tomorrow in party chief Sheikh Hasina's political office in

rately thrash out its possible strategies for the aftermath of Khaleda's In the ALCWC meeting the party is likely to decide on the next course of action, which might be a reversal from its earlier position on upazila

elections, with a new rigid position

for the parliamentary poll before the

In both meetings AL will elabo-

As soon as Tarique will be released, AL might take to the street demanding immediate release of its presidium members Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader, and two detained mayors ABM Mohiuddin

Chowdhury and Badar Uddin Ahmad Kamran, the sources said. "There is a possibility of Sheikh Hasina's return on September 22 or 23," said her physician Prof

Modasser Ali. He told The Daily Star that Hasina has a medical check-up scheduled for September 3 and she might want to return home after that. Earlier, she confirmed a return ticket for

September 10. Dr Modasser lambasted the caretaker government for allowing BNP and Jamaat secretary generals to have a long political talk with detained Khaleda.

His patient was not allowed to

even see her doctors, he complained asking both the government and jail authorities under which laws the BNP and Jamaat leaders were allowed to have 'a political talk inside Meanwhile, AL leaders during a discussion in the National Press Club in the capital yesterday alleged that

Commission are playing with the holding of national election, making the poll's fate uncertain. "The government and the Election Commission have been the biggest obstacles for the national election," said Ashraful Islam. He was addressing a discussion meeting marking the fourth death anniversary of Ivy Rahman who had succumbed to her injuries from the

the government and the Election

AL rally in the capital. Chaired by President of Ivy Rahman Parishad Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique the discussion was also addressed by Zillur Rahman, Motia Chowdhury and Dr Dipu Moni, among others.

Motia said the people will wait

until December to see whether the

August 21, 2004 grenade attack on an

national election is held and after that if the election is not held no body knows what will happen. "The government is just pretending to weigh Awami League and BNP on the same scale. Their anticorruption drive has failed and that's why they are being forced to release real corruptionists," Ashraf said adding that the country will have an

election is not held by December. He however also said if BNP contests in the poll, it will be good for the country.

image of a failed state if the national

# Obama vows

Dhanmondi.

upazila ones.

"It's not because John McCain doesn't care. It's because John McCain doesn't getit," Obama said. As thousands of supporters waved

whipped into a frenzy by a pageant of patriotic songs, Obama trumpeted: "I've got news for you, John McCain, we all put our country first." He furiously rebutted Republican claims ahead of the party's conven-

tion next week that he was too in experienced to be US commander-in-"Don't tell me that Democrats won't keep us safe," Obama said.

ations of Americans -- Democrats and Republicans -- have built, and we are to restore that legacy." And he toned down his trademark soaring rhetoric with detailed prescriptions of what he would do as president, in the knowledge that millions of Americans watching at

has squandered the legacy that gener-

for bad judgment, saying his White House foe would not end the "misguided" war in Iraq, and would make the United States less safe with hawkish foreign policy. At home, Obama promised to stop tax breaks for the rich, and cut taxes

He castigated Bush and McCain

campaign for the first time.

for the middle class, and said he would end America's dependence on foreign oil in 10 years, and give every child a "world class education." Evoking King's 1963 march on Washington, Obama said what "people of every creed and colour, from every walk of life" heard "is that in

"America, we cannot turn back" McCain's campaign swiftly dismissed Obama's speech as "mislead-

McCain spokesman Tucker Bounds in astatement Leaning heavily on his biography, as the mixed race son of a broken home, Obama also sought to address

"I get it, I realise that I am not the likeliest candidate for this office," he said. "I don't fit the typical pedigree, and I haven't spent my career in the halls of Washington. "But I stand before you tonight

thing is stirring. What the nay sayers don't understand is that this election has never been about me, it's been aboutvou. Meanwhile in Dayton, Republican White House hopeful John McCain on

because all across America, some-

"Governor Palin is a tough execusaid in announcing the choice.

mate, campaign officials told AFP.

Senator John McCain today announced that he has selected Alaska Governor Sarah Palin to be his running mate and to serve as his vice presi-

quit the ruling coalition. PML-N

on Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani

leader Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan called

# president," it said.

FROM PAGE 1 on the border with Afghanistan.

There has been speculation in local media this week that Zardari may quit the presidential race because of the controversy surrounding his candidacy. He acquired the notorious nick-

name "Mr 10 percent" after being accused of pocketing commission on government deals signed during his wife's two terms as prime minister. He also spent a total of 11 years in prison on corruption and other criminal charges.

But Gilani emphatically denied that Zardari would withdraw. "Any reports about Asif Zardari's

Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) following her death, saw the party win a majority of the seats in February general elections. Earlier contacts between the

Pakistan People's Party and the Pakistan Muslim League-N established at different levels on Thursday resulted in further widening of the split rather than reviving the coalition, which fell apart on Aug 25 because of differences over the reinstatement of judges and the unilateral nomination of Asif Zardari as presidential candi-

PPP co-chairman Asif Zardari and PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif talked on phone for the first time since the latter

the unlikely aspects of his audacious White House quest.

tive who has demonstrated during her time in office that she is ready to be president," the McCain campaign McCain on Friday confirmed his

dent,"his office said in a statement. "Governor Palin is a tough executive who has demonstrated during her

# Zardari's security

and a PPP delegation met the PML-N leader at the Punjab House. Sources said Zardari requested Sharif to withdraw Justice (retd) Saeeduzzaman Siddiqui from the race for the presidency and also urged him

on the judges' issue.

tary Ahsan Iqbal and Information Minister Sherry Rehman confirmed that the two leaders had talked on phone, but claimed that the issue of presidential election was not discussed. They said Sharif thanked the PPP co-chairman for tendering an apology to him in his televised address soon after the announcement that Sharif had quit the ruling coali-

implementation of pledges made by the PPP.

#### Earlier, Major (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, a pro-reform leader and acting secretary general appointed

electoral reforms.

The pro-Khaleda faction had

for Tarique.

United States and some European

nowin Bangkok for treatment.

Tarique has been granted bail in all 13 graft and extortion cases filed against him. Trial of the cases will

Prisons Major Shamsul Haider

According to some sources, it would join the dialogue and participate in both upazila and parliamentary elections following the release of Khaleda and Tarique.

Broadcasting Corp. radio. Despite the rhetoric, analysts say a return to the Cold War is another period in history as a guide the 19th century imperialism practiced by czarist Russia as it sought to counter Britain and Turkey and dominate the Black

Caucasus does not mark the return

of the Cold War, nor is it likely to

mark the start of open warfare

between Russia and the West,"

Dominique Moisi, a political ana-

lyst with the French Institute for

International Relations in Paris,

he said in an interview with British

wrote in a recent syndicated article. "It is, more simply, the return of the traditional imperialism practiced by the Russian Empire more than a Cold War or no, there is real fear particularly in Eastern Europe that

Russia's ambitions go beyond

Georgia, and that its actions

demand more than lip service.

caution.

Several Eastern European countries have joined Washington and London's call for tough action like suspending negotiations on an EU-Russia cooperation deal, blocking WTO membership and kicking Moscow out of the Group of Eight nations. But Germany, Italy and others have stressed the need for

The West's first major chance

leaders of the 27 European Union

countries gather in Brussels for a

three-hour emergency meeting.

Observers say not to expect much.

#### "Russia knows that when it comes to conducting a serious foreign and security policy, Europe is all mouth," 11 hurt as BCL, Shibir clash at Ziaur Rahman

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) left at least 11 students of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College injured last night. The ICS activists set fire to the furniture of the college hostel while

rampaged the dormitory.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Clashes between the activists of

erupted at about 10:00pm following a quarrel over the canteen that lasted for about two hours. Among the injured, Faisal, Rifat, Andri, Shubha and Labib were admitted to hospital

activists of both the organisations

College sources said the clashes

drove away the ICS activists from the hostel. A huge contingent of police forces has been deployed on the hostel premises.

Georgia snaps ties commissioner for external relations

> Russian companies, and German and Russian companies are working on a multibillion dollar gas

FROM PAGE 1 know about the deal when the family of Fazlul Hug kept demanding the money back since the ACC had already submitted the charge

took the money as a loan.

ruption charges.

Fazlul Huq and his son Raj.

chooses. Germany, one of the largest European customers for Russian gas, has close ties with

"I recommend above all react-"Among our partners, there are

Following an ACC notice dated

Additional Commissioner of Ruhul Amin, sub-inspector of

at the MA level. urged all to pray for him.

medium variety rice-- came to Tk 35-37 per kg yesterday against Tk Local variety of onion was sell-36-38 four days ago. Miniket, a fine variety rice, was selling for Tk 40-43 akg yesterday.

Aubergine, used as a popular iftar item, sold for Tk 30-40 per kg

Price of sugar rose by Tk 3-5 per

A grocer at Karwan Bazar said he Liquid milk of different brands for Tk 48-50 a litre yesterday

against Tk 45 four days back. Puffed rice sold for Tk 48-80 a kg,

provision of punishment can be held but the government should 33 a kg yesterday. Four days ago, it promulgate the ordinance.

suspect, which led to arrests of the rest of the suspects. The AC also said they also

Bimstec

He said the FTA would be a "more

their negotiations at the earliest.

countries on the model of a similar Saarc mechanism and called for a second Green Revolution to tackle rising food prices and food shortages

Affairs in Dhaka. Delhi urged

sorrow at the devastation caused

"The fact remains, Barack Obama tiny American flags after being is still not ready to be president," said

"The Bush-McCain foreign policy

Friday named conservative Alaska home may have been tuning into his Governor Sarah Palin in a surprise

choice for his vice presidential running

choice of Alaska Governor Sarah Palin as his White House running mate, his office said.

#### America, our destiny is inextricably time in office that she is ready to be linked, that together our dreams can

withdrawal from the presidential elections are untrue," Gilani said. "He is not withdrawing. Zardari, who took the leadership of

Bhutto two years ago.

#### to return to the coalition. But Sharif told Zardari "we have come too far and it would not be possible for me to back out of my party's commitment The PML-N chief also turned down Zardari's request to withdraw Siddiqui from the presidential race. Both PML-N information secre-

According to Iqbal, the PML-N chief told Zardari that his party had taken the decision after a detailed deliberation and waited long for the

Sharif, however, assured Zardari that the PML-N would adhere to the Charter of Democracy, signed by him and former prime minister Benazir