investigation is going on against him since last year, ACC has not filed any case against him yet.

Kamrul could not be reached last Meanwhile, eight more government servicemen including employees from Desa, Titas Gas and Sylhet City Corporation have disclosed before Tac of having ill-

Despite repeated attempts,

gotten wealth worth Tk 45 lakh only. Besides, an ACC investigation reveals employees of Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL), former Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB), misappropriated over Tk 45 crore only in maintenance and preservation of its offices in Chittagong between 2000-2001

and 2007-2008. The anti-graft watchdog yesterday also approved submission of two proposed charge sheets against five people including former LGRD state minister Ziaul Huq Zia on different charges. The ACC also approved filing of three separate cases against three people including former BNP lawmaker AKM Fazlul Haq Milon.

With yesterday's hearing, Tac heard 89 graft-accused and ordered them to return about Tk 16.12 crore to the state.

Of the 89, nearly half were from Titas Gas, one of the most corrupt state-owned companies according to NCC investigation, who disclosed before Tac of having about Tk 40 lakh only **BTCL GRAFT**

The ACC taskforce, while probing corruption at BTTB in its Chittagong offices as part of a drive against institutional corruption, found that BTTB staffs ranging from the post divisional engineer to lineman misappropriated the money in connivance with each other.

The investigators also found BTTB staffs shared the money drawn in advance for schedule maintenance and preservation by assistant engineers, illegally among themselves by a means invented by themselves at a fixed rate.

The ACC investigation also found information that several BTCL officers and employees of Chittagong offices have amassed huge wealth beyond their known

sources of income. Of the total money misappropriated, Tk 3.3 crore was shown as additional expenditure for maintenance and preservation, while Tk 41.9 crore through schedule work of maintenance and preservation.

The investigation found that though expenditure in schedule work of maintenance and preservation, work like maintenance and preservation of exchange, switch room and rectifier room, was shown about Tk 5.99 crore, the actual

amount spent was Tk 17.96 crore. Investigations reveal 25 percent to 40 percent of the drawn amount was spent on maintenance and entertainment purposes of the offices of the divisional engineers and top-level officers, while 10-15 percent was taken by the assistant engineers, who drew the money.

Besides, concerned deputy assistant engineers, TCT's, TCM's wireman and linemen were each given Tk 4,000, Tk 1,600, Tk 1,400, Tk 1,300 and Tk 1,200 per month.

Moreover, the investigations find out that only 20 percent to 35 percent of the budgeted money was spent in maintenance and preservation, while the rest was

Zardari to meet

A Pakistani team will visit Delhi

shortly to take up Kashmir-related matters, including cross-Line of Control trade, and Islamabad believes the long-standing Sir Creek boundary dispute and the military stand-off on the Siachen glacier could be resolved by the two countries, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said.

"I do not think that the peace process has come to a halt because our team is visiting Delhi shortly to discuss Kashmir-related issues, particularly cross-LoC trade...We are also keen to send a delegation from our side of Kashmir to Srinagar to discuss with business circles there the tradable items," he told reporters in Islamabad.

"That I would not call a stalling of the (peace) process," said Qureshi. who will be part of the Pakistani delegation that Zardari will lead to the UN General Assembly.

divisional engineers.

Though entrance is restricted to the internal department in BTCL and labourers are not deployed to carry our work in the department, the BTCL staffs showed deployment of thousands of labourers in this regard and drew crores of taka, the investigation reveals.

Thousands of labourers were also showed deployed in work under external department, establishing telephone connection and cable renovation by digging roads when in reality labourers were not deployed, the investigation adds.

The investigation also reveals BTCL did not use its in-store cables and jointer in doing the job of maintenance and preservation.

The investigation says though the budget for maintenance and preservation of Chittagong offices between 2000-2001 and 2007-2008 was Tk 100.92 crore, the expenditure during the period was Tk 104.15 crore

Another ACC investigation on July 21 revealed employees of BTCI Dhaka office misappropriated over Tk 45 crore in three sectors involving transportation between 2000-2001 and 2007-2008.

CHARGE SHEET AND CASES Ziaul Huq Zia and three others including former UNO of Ramgan in Laxmipur will be accused of misappropriation of 320 tonnes of government rice worth Tk 50.29 lakh in the proposed charge sheet.

The other charge sheet will be submitted against Comilla municipality chairman Monirul Haque

Milon will be accused in the case for concealing information about wealth worth about Tk 2.48 lakh and amassing wealth worth about Tk 86.15 lakh beyond known sources of income.

The other two cases will be filed against former lawmaker Abul Khair Bhuiyan and former lawmaker Redwan Ahmed's son Sultan Moeen Ahmed.

The ACC also approved issuing of notices against Abul Khair Bhuiyan's wife Rowshan Ara Begum and Afroza Jesmin, wife of Monirul Haque Saku, asking them to submit wealth statement to the commission.

CA returns

FROM PAGE 16 support came from the Chinese side in the fields of trade, investment, agriculture, infrastructure and other areas for further enhancing the existing friendly relations between the two countries.

Three accords were signed between Bangladesh and China capping the official talks.

The CA also met with Chinese President Hu Jintao and Vice-President Xi Jinping.

A Dragon Air flight carrying the CA and his entourage from Beijing via Hong Kong landed at Zia International Airport around 12:30am.

14 editors ask

FROM PAGE 16

editors said Atiqullah Khan is suffering from neurological problems, heart disease, intestinal disorder, Kidney trouble and eye problems. He is now under treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

They also said the Janakantha is now facing serious editorial problems and financial crisis as its editor has been detained for a long time. Such crisis in a newspaper like the Janakantha is not expected, they observed.

This crisis cannot not be resolved unless Atigullah Khan is released, they noted.

The editors also said his release will not hamper court proceedings in the cases against him.

Signatories to the statement include Editor of The Prothom Alo Matiur Rahman, Bangladesh Observer Editor Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, New Age Editor Nurul Kabir, Ittefaq Editor Rahat Khan, The Independent Editor Mahbubul Alam, Amar Desh acting Editor Ataus Samad, Janakatha Advisory Editor Toab khan, News Today Editor Reaz Uddin Ahmed, Economic Times Editor Shawkat Mahmud, Manab Zamin Joint Editor Sazzad Kadir, Samakal Managing Editor Abu Saeed Khan, Jugantor Deputy Editor Saiful Alam and Bhorer Kagaj Editor Shyamal Dutta.

AL, BNP out to grab

 already expressed their willingness to join the coalition. "We will welcome to the alliance any party that supports our programme."

Following a meeting with Khaleda at the residence of senior journalist Shafik Rehman, BNP leader Shah Moazzam Hossain said, "We urged her to expand the alliance bringing like-minded

parties to a common platform." The BNP chairperson yesterday asked grassroots level leaders of the party to work unitedly to win the parliamentary election. Former lawmakers and grassroots leaders from Chittagong, Noakhali and Laxmipur met her at Shafik Rehman's residence.

The four-party combine won a landslide victory in the parliamentary polls in 2001.

liamentary election, which was scheduled for January 22 last year, the AL-led 14-party formed grand tion, the BNP-led alliance obtained alliance bringing in Jatiya Party (Ershad), LDP and BDB.

ineffective with the declaration of Jatiya Party secured 7.25 percent the state of emergency on January with 14 seats.

11 last year, suspending the sched-

uled parliamentary polls. Senior leaders of the AL and Jatiya Party are now working to revive the grand electoral alliance. On return of AL chief Sheikh Hasina from abroad, the move will get momentum, insiders of the parties said.

"We are working on details for reviving the grand alliance. It would be finalised when Sheikh Hasina returns home," acting Chairman of Jatiya Party Anisul Islam Mahmud said last night.

Asked about the move on Tuesday, AL acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam said one or two political parties have contacted the AL president.

"Leaders of some other parties have been in close contact with AL Ahead of the stalled ninth par- presidium members, and he himself has talked to a few," Ashraf said. In the last parliamentary elec-

47.05 percent of the total votes cast. The AL alone obtained 40.13 But the grand alliance became percent of the votes with 62 seats.

the Islamist group called upon Muslims asking them to "take oath for establishing the rule of Khilafat by dethroning the present ruler in this holy month of Ramadan" to unite Muslims and revive their lost glory. It criticises sending of forces in

United Nations Peace Keeping missions for protecting "enemies" instead of "turning them the flag bearers of Islam".

"Our rulers have discarded the Quran and the Sunnah...They have handed us over to enemies. So, we should take oath to overthrow the present ruler this Ramadan and we have to replace them with Khilafat rule," says the leaflet distributed by

Of the arrestees, four are teachers including the outfit's Coordinator Dr Syed Golam Mowla, who is a teacher of management at Dhaka University (DU) and a resident of Dhanmondi. while others are students of different universities and colleges.

The arrest sparked tension in the city forcing the authorities to beef up

The police produced the Hizb ut-Tahrir men before the court of Metropolitan Judicial Magistrate BM Tariqul Kabir under section 54, accusing them of engaging in a conspiracy to topple the government. The court sent the arrestees to jail in the afternoon.

Of the other arrestees, Hizb ut-Tahrir senior member Ahmed Jamal is a teacher of electrical engineering at South East University, Mamun Ansari is a teacher of computer engineering at Darul Ihsan University, and Moniruzzaman Masud is a teacher of mathematics at Lake Head Grammar School.

Others are Rajshahi Islami Bank Medical College students Omar Faruk, 32, of Ghorapakhia, Chapainawabganj and Mozammel Haque Belal of Jhautala, Brahmanbaria, Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) students Akhter Hossain, 23, of Fatikchhari, Chittagong and Zahidul Islam, 21, of Kishoreganj Dhaka Bangla College student Masud Kawsar, 26, of Baburhat, Chandpur, and East West Medical College student Saddam Hossain, 23, of College Para, Brahmanbaria.

They were arrested just before holding a scheduled press conference at the press club around 12:30pm. The police also seized from their possession a lot of leaflets, booklets and posters containing provocative statements against the

Ramzan Ali, officer-in-charge of Boalia Police Station, said, "The arrestees were provoking unrest among people in the name of religion...Their activities also violate the state of emergency."

Meanwhile, leaders of Raishahi

Hizb ut-Tahrir

days before the attack on the then UK High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury on May 21, 2004.

This made the investigators suspect that the shrine attack was carried out by Hizb ut-Tahrir. Since then, the outfit has been alleged to have militant links at home and abroad, said a law enforcement official who was involved in the

Rajshahi police yesterday rounded up some of their leaders and activists as they were preparing to hold a press conference in the divisional city.

According to information from different websites, Hizb ut-Tahrir (the Party of Liberation) is banned in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt.

It is also banned in Pakistan, Tunisia, Libya, Turkey, and in the former Soviet states in Central Asia.

EC invites BNP

Humayun Kabir said at a press

briefing yesterday. Taking into consideration the views of BNP and its allies on some crucial issues including the holding of upazila elections, the EC will announce specific dates for polls to parliament, upazila and Dhaka

City Corporation on Monday. This is the first time BNP is going to hold talks on electoral issues with the EC after the reconstitution of the commission led by ATM Shamsul Huda.

Earlier the EC held talks with the pro-reform factions of BNP, draw ing widespread criticism.

The BNP secretary general earlier said they would ask the EC not to hold any election before the national polls hinting that preparation of the electoral roll and the Representation of the People Order (RPO) will also be discussed during the dialogue.

The EC secretary yesterday said the commission is thinking about including those in the voter list who failed to get registered due to unavoidable reasons.

Replying to a query, Humayun Kabir said the first consignment of ballot boxes has already reached the country and now awaits customs clearance.

Commenting on the registration of political parties, the EC secretary said October 15 is the deadline for submitting application to get registered with the commission. Ruling out any possibility of

extending the deadline, he said, "It

will be difficult to extend the dead-

delay the election," he added.

line beyond October 15 as it may

bureau chief Sardar Abdur Rahman, and daily Naya Diganta correspondent Sardar Anisur Rahman told reporters that the press conference was postponed as the Hizb ut-Tahrir

permission from the police. However, the Islamist group was finally given a schedule for the press conference at 1:30pm without the permission from the RMP.

leaders failed to show them any

Members of different law enforcement and intelligence agencies and journalists started gathering in front of the press club from 11:00am and the police arrested Hizb ut-Tahrir activists Zahidul Islam and Mozammel Haque around 12:30pm when they were entering the press club with a banner.

Upon their information, the police waited at the scene and arrested the Islamist group's coordinator along with others when they arrived at the place at 1:15pm in a microbus. Later, the police took them to Boalia Police Station.

Senior officials of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and RMP and members of intelligence agencies interrogated the Hizb ut-Tahrir men for hours before sending them to the court. Police released microbus driver Jahangir. From police custody Golam

Mowla claimed to reporters that Hizb ut-Tahrir is not linked with militancy and that they organised the press conference to clear their position following a campaign linking them with militancy. "We want to establish Islamic rule

through a truly democratic way and abiding by the law of the land," Mowla said. Asked about their call for

dethroning the government, he said, "Speaking against any ruler or their system of ruling is a democratic right of every citizen. The Islamist group's senior mem ber Ahmed Jamal Iqbal told reporters that they have convinced the government about their having no connec-

tion with militancy. He said the government even allowed them in writing to hold a discussion at the Engineers' Institute of Dhaka this "I do not understand why we are allowed in Dhaka and arrested in

Rajshahi," Jamal said. HIZB UT-TAHRIRAND ITS BANGLADESH CHIEF

prayers and issuing rules against

the government and the anti-graft

added, will not give up. It will con-

court have slowed down our drive

against corruption," he said, adding

that the court decisions have also

held back investigation in the graft

are responsible for the current state,

he replied, "I don't think so. There are

however some loopholes in the

said the responsibility of the NCC is

to assist the Anti-Corruption

Commission (ACC) to ensure proper

probe into corruption. "We have

bail and 88 cases stayed between July

He said 158 people were granted

Since then, over a dozen people

Matin said at present trials of 228

He said 512 cases have been filed

The drive against corruption has

"We hoped to see the maximum

The government to be elected

cases against 108 people are under-

since they took over on January 11

last year. Of those, 152 have been

seen 78 people arrested and 222

number of graft cases resolved before

December. But now it seems we'll not

should carry through the efforts, he

observed, adding that the job would

reported quoting Chinese officials

that Bangladesh, Burundi, Gabon,

Myanmar and Yemen have

imported milk powder produced

by Chinese companies whose

products were found to have been

6,200 children fell sick, over 1,300

of them were hospitalised, in China

in recent weeks after drinking milk

formula tainted with melamine,

brand milk powder in Narayanganj

market two weeks back," Fatema

Parveen, director of the Institute of

Public Health and Nutrition

the brand's distributor to withdraw

the product from market as it was

She said the court then ordered

The brand has not yet got mar-

Authorities said they are keep-

ing a close eye on whether there are

any other unregistered Chinese

brands on the market, adding that

they will again sift through the

registered ones to guard against

"A mobile court found Yashili

Three babies died and at least

contaminated.

said the reports.

(IPHN), yesterday said.

not tested and registered.

keting clearance, she added.

listed as graft suspects, he added.

be able to make it," he said.

tried and 97 people convicted.

performed our duties."

14 and September 8.

have been let out on bail.

Replying to a query, the adviser

Asked if flawed framing of charges

tinue its purge on corruptionists.

The government however, he

"Rulings of the honourable higher

Intelligence agencies have been

Bails slow down

country for several years as it is widely believed to be the political ideologue of all terrorist groups in the

In a report in 2005, the intelligence agencies expressed fear that the group may turn into an extremist organisation any time and suggested closely monitoring its activi-

Islami thinker Tokiuddin Al Nakhani formed Hizb ut-Tahrir in 1953 in Jerusalem, five years after Israel captured Palestine. Golam Mowla, a lecturer of

management at DU, went to London in 1993 to do his PhD and was introduced to Nasimul Gani and Kawsar Shahnewaz, who were holding an open discussion on Hizb ut-Tahrir at Regent Park.

After returning to Bangladesh in 2000, Nasimul and Shahnewaz set up an office at a coaching centre at Dhanmondi-6/A for the organisation's Bangladesh chapter and launched the group's activities under Golam Mowla's leadership.

The organisation has no committee or constitution. With Golam Mowla working as its coordinator, Mohiuddin Ahmad, senior lecturer of DU IBA department, Sheikh Towfiq of DU public administration department, Kazi Morshedul Haque, Dr Nasimul Gani and Kawsar Shahnewaz are working with the organisation.

Hizb ut-Tahrir preaches a utopian ideology of establishing an Islamic Caliphate across the globe.

Terming Muslim majority countries, including Bangladesh, "Daarul-Kuffar" (land of the infidels) because they follow non-Islamic laws and practices, it wants to turn them into "Daar-ul-Islam" first and then take on the Muslim minority countries which according to them are "Daar-ul-Harb" (land of war).

Hizb ut-Tahrir men allegedly have misinterpreted the Quran and are being financed mostly by Middle Eastern countries.

Although banned in the western and most Muslim majority countries, Hizb ut-Tahrir has been freely operating in Bangladesh for the past few years. On its website it promotes racism and anti-Semitic hatred, calls suicide bombers martyrs and urges Muslims to kill

be quite challenging though.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia,

her son Tarique Rahman, BNP lead

ers Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MK

Anwar, Shamsul Islam and

Salauddin Quader Chowdhury,

Awami League (AL) General

Secretary Abdul Jalil and Jamaat-e-

Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami

are among those freed on bail.

In a significant development, the

Release of many more is in the offing

HC Wednesday stayed corruption

conviction of seven people including

three former state ministers. This

was the first stay on verdicts in the

the convictions of state ministers

Iqbal Hassan Mahmood Tuku, Mir

Mohammad Nasiruddin and Aman

Ullah Aman, BNP leader Syeda

Ashrafi Papiya, former BNP minister

Mirza Abbas's wife Afroza Abbas

Nasir's son Mir Helaluddin, and

They were convicted and sen

About the fate of the cases, Matin.

tenced to varying prison terms in

cases filed by the government and

said the bails and stay orders do not

necessarily mean an end to the trial

process. "I hope the process will

proceedings of the MiG-29 scam

case filed against AL president

Sheikh Hasina during the four-

take steps to challenge the higher

court rulings with regard to the

Media reports quoted China's

director of quarantine and inspec-

tion that China's largest milk pro-

ducer Mengniu Dairy Group

announced the recall of three

batches of formula made in

January after tests showed they

melamine can lead to kidney

stones, urinary tract ulcers, and eye

Chinese territory Hong Kong, have

since been recalling Chinese dairy

ing pressure from trading partners

to improve product quality follow-

ing a series of scares ranging from

Similar calls were made by some

politicians in the United States.

Health experts say ingesting

Different countries, including

China has come under increas-

were melamine-contaminated.

and skin irritation.

toothpaste.

of substandard goods.

The HC yesterday stayed the

The NCC chief said they will

Orion Group Chairman Obaidul

The HC put off for three months

cases filed after 1/11.

Karim.

the ACC.

continue.

graft cases.

Toxic milk powder

7 US troops

FROM PAGE 16

British military spokesman Major Paul Smyth said a British quick reaction force was despatched from Basra and a British road convoy in the vicinity was diverted to the scene of the crash.

He said both British and US personnel were at the scene.

The US military said the incident was under investigation. "However enemy activity is not suspected," it added.

"It is a tough day for the coalition and we are deeply saddened by the loss of our soldiers," said Colonel Bill Buckner, a spokesman for the US military. The crash was the worst since

August 2007 when a US Blackhawk transport chopper crashed in northern Iraq, killing 14 US military personnel. Two American soldiers were

wounded when their helicopter crashed south of the Iraqi capital Baghdad in June this year. The worst single US chopper

crash was on November 15, 2003,

when two Blackhawks collided near the main northern city of Mosul, killing 17 soldiers. In January and February last year there was a spate of crashes, including some shot down by an

insurgent cell, which deployed

anti-aircraft crews north of Baghdad. US forces have since hunted down those gunners. The latest US deaths bring to 4,168 the number of US soldiers killed in Iraq since the 2003 invasion,

according to an AFP count based on independent website icasualties.org. The military's losses have been declining in the past few months on the back of an overall fall in

violence across the country. The latest deaths bring to 17 the number of US service members killed in Iraq so far this month, compared to 66 slain in September 2007. In August, 23 soldiers were

Judicial probe

reported killed in the country.

FROM PAGE 16 board of directors on charges of negligence of providing proper treatment to Manna.

In the case, the complainant mentioned that Manna went to the hospital with chest pain at 4:15am on February 17 and died at 2:00pm. He alleged that Manna was in the hospital without treatment for over five hours.

Policy summit

FROM PAGE 11 and atmamulach achmine

to lift the emergency immediately. AL Presidium member Tofail Ahmed, however, termed the idea of policy summit impractical. The government should not do any more experiments as the national election is scheduled for December, he said.

An elected government should decide how the country would be run after the election, Tofail told The Daily Star.

Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman Wednesday said the government would organise a policy summit in November with the country's top political leaders on three key issuesinvestment growth, administrative reforms and education.

Terming the government decision impractical, leaders of other parties said the only job of the caretaker government at present is to hold the national election. An elected government should decide on the

summit issue, they said. MK Anwar, BNP vice-president told The Daily Star last night that the government should not go for any further "adventures".

"It is the elected party or the alliance who will determine how the countrywillrun," Anwar said, adding that every party has their own policies on how they will run the country once they assume power.

JP acting Chairman Anisul Islam Mahmud said, "Of course there could be a discussion among political parties but there is no environment to hold such summit ahead of the parliamentary polls."

"The parliament should decide on the matter in parliament through discussions, not the caretaker government," he told The Daily Star. Workers Party President Rashed

Khan Menon said the caretaker government is not supposed to organise this kind of summit. "Every day they are talking about new ideas and plans which are

beyond their jurisdiction and the policy summit is their latest idea," he Talking to The Daily Star CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan termed the government's plan a new

conspiracy to stay in power for lon-

JP (Manju) Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam in a statement termed the government plan irrational and asked the government to concentrate on holding a free, fair and credible national election.

Jamaat Senior Assistant Secretary General Muhamma Qamaruzzaman said, "The caretaker government is not in a position to carry the load of organising this kind of summit. Even the agenda of the policy summit is not clear."

He, however, said they are not against the holding of this kind of summit. Meanwhile, AL acting President

drug-tainted seafood to dangerous toys to poisonous cough syrup to Zillur Rahman welcomed the initiatives of barrister Rafique-ul-Hug. Last year the European Union who defended former premiers threatened to ban imports from Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia in China if the country did not act court, to persuade the two leaders to more aggressively against makers sit together.

The final decision on the matter would be made after Hasina's return from the US, he said.

FROM PAGE 16 Publisher Hasmot Ali and the correspondent concerned to immediately withdraw the report published on September 3, beg unconditional public apology and publish the full rejoinder sent to them ear-

> "In default, we have instructions to institute appropriate legal proceedings against you for defamation, in which event you will be liable for the costs and consequences thereof," the notice said.

The same demands were made in the first legal notice served on the three on September 7.

The second notice was served on September 17 on behalf of Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman, The Daily Star Editor-Publisher Mahfuz Anam and Transcom Group Chairman and Managing Director Latifur Rahman.

In the notice, jurist Dr Kamal

Hossain said, "Following the legal notice sent on behalf of our clients on September 7, to which you are yet to reply, we have been instructed by our clients to write you that you have published an editor's note on September 12, 2008, which makes reference to our legal notice and states that you have published a large part of our rejoinder, especially those that relate to your story, it was not the intention of Amar Desh to defame or harm anybody, your intention was to point out another example of trying to depict Bangladesh as an outpost of ULFA, since you have come to know that Matiur Rahman, Mahfuz Anam and Latifur Rahman have seriously reacted to your report, you are expressing your sincerest regret, and since you have been served with a legal notice, you would reply through your legal counsel to that

legal notice." In the editor's note, the Amar Desh editor, publisher and the correspondent stated that a formal reply to the legal notice would be sent through their lawyer, he said. "Till September 17, neither our clients nor we have received any reply," he added.

"We would like to point out that what you have published on September 12, 2008, does not meet the demands set out in our notice, calling for withdrawing in full the published report by your correspondent and extending unconditional apology to our clients for

83 killed

for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in the island's north and east since 1972. Earlier international aid workers

on Wednesday evacuated Sri

Lanka's north, where government

forces are pursuing a major offensive against Tamil Tiger rebels, officials said. The pull-out, demanded by the island's authorities for security reasons, prompted fears for the fate

of tens of thousands of Tamil civilians displaced by the military onslaught The Sri Lankan government said its soldiers were just over five kilometres (three miles) from

the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) "The fighting just kept getting worse," United Nations spokesman Gordon Weiss told AFP. "We pulled out all of our 35 staff and most of our

Kilinochchi, the political capital of

Registration

equipment."

FROM PAGE 16 The four political parties, who submitted their applications to the commission for registration, are Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Sammyabadi Dal, Freedom Party and Jatiya Party (JP).

The political parties who collected the registration forms are mostly small in size while the major political parties like Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Bangladesh Awami League (AL) and Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh are yet to collect the registration

The prominent among the registration seekers are Liberal Democratic Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, Gano Forum, Jatiya Party, Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP), Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh, Bangladesher Workers' Party and Bangladesh

Comilla Medical

National Awami Party.

FROM PAGE 16

chamber.

The clash ensured at around 11:00am when the CMC students, agitating against reopening of Medical Assistant Training School on the campus, chased the school's microbus driver, also a local. Hearing the news, locals rushed

students, leading to a clash between the two sides. Campus sources said at least 10 CMC students were injured during the clash. On information, police went the campus, dispersed the clashing

to the campus and swooped on the

groups and brought the situation under control. Earlier, the agitating CMC students locked the office of Medical Assistant Training School and forced its newly appointed princi-

They also damaged the computers and a microbus of the school. The college authorities formed a three-member committee to probe the incident.

Amar Desh served having published the said false,

highly defamatory and scurrilous report by your correspondent," the notice said. "We point out that in the editor's

note you have not extended an unconditional apology for publishing the said false and defamatory report but expressed regret for hurting 'the feelings of our clients'. Personal feelings of our clients are not the issue. The issue is of demanding the reputation and public standing of our clients which have not been addressed in the said editor's note." The jurist said, "Your claim in the

editor's note that your only intention behind publishing the report was to present another example of attempts of depicting Bangladesh as an ULFA outpost, is belied by the reply your correspondent gave while publishing our reply. In that reply further issues, not contained in the original report, were added making clear your intention to defame our clients." Dr Kamal Hossain said his clients

are unable to accept the editor's note. He reiterated his clients' demands for immediate compliance with the demands for withdrawal of the full report and seeking unconditional apology from his clients for publishing such a false, defamatory and scurrilous report.

Israeli PM

FROM PAGE 16

The 50-year-old foreign minister narrowly won a leadership vote to replace scandal-plagued Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who is standing down to battle a number of corruption allegations.

Livni secured 43.1 percent of the vote against her main rival Transport Minister and former army chief Shaul Mofaz's 42 percent, winning by just 431 votes, the central electoral commission said. "I will start tomorrow to meet

representatives of the other parties

in the Knesset to a form a new

coalition as quickly as possible in

the face of the serious threats," the former Mossad spy said after her victory was confirmed. Livni, who has been leading USbacked peace negotiations with the Palestinians, will have 42 days to form a government if she hopes to prevent an election that polls say

would bring the right-wing Likud

party to power. "I will do my utmost not to disappoint you. I want to do what's best for the country," she said.

India faces

Singh's government has been strongly criticised in the wake of serial bomb blasts this year in the cities of Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Bangalore and New Delhi, which

have claimed more than 100 lives. After the latest bombings killed 22 in the Indian capital on Saturday, the media accused the government of incompetence and of lacking a coherent counterterrorist strategy.

were "vast gaps in intelligence" that needed to be overcome, Singh rejected charges that his administration's policies had made the country more vulnerable to attack. "There is no question of government being soft on terrorism," he

While acknowledging there

India's main opposition, the Hindu nationalist Bharativa Janata Party, has taken the Congress-led government to task over its decision in 2004 to repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act ushered in by the previous BJP-run

Congress had argued that the

legislation was misused to settle

political scores and harass Muslims

-- a point reaffirmed Thursday by Information and Broadcasting Minister Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi when he ruled out bringing the act

"No, No, No. It is draconian,"

Dasmuni told reporters. Singh, however, acknowledged that the security forces might need stronger legal tools in conducting

counter-terror operations. Mohammadpur

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administration.

went bad within a very short time. The people of the area have been suffering since then as the authorities concerned did not take any step to repair the road, he said.

floated a tender to repair the Banshbari Road two months ago and received four offers but all the offers were disqualified by the tender evaluation committee of the

DCC Executive Engineer of

Zone-6 Arifur Rahman said they

Process for re-tender is going on following suggestion of the committee, he said. He said they would repair a

number of roads under

Mohammadpur Police Station soon. He said the repairs would be done under "Clean Air Sustainable Environment Project", financed by the World Bank. They have also taken initiatives to repair the roads that would not

be repaired under this project. "Initially we will repair 10 roads and a tender has already been floated in this regard," he said.

pal Dr Shahiduddin out of his "We have also submitted a proposal to Nagar Bhaban to repair more roads and after getting the approval, we will float tenders for

them and the work will be done gradually," he said.

Tac gets a politician Tahrir leaders held City Press Club including its alerting the government about the shared among the deputy assistant Quoting the Quran in its leaflets, President and Dainik Sangram presence of Hizb ut-Tahrir in the engineers, assistant engineers and him in November last year. Though