Calls for talks with Obama, McCain

AFP, Washington

Warning "our entire economy is in danger," US President George W mick. Bush has called for unprecedented crisis talks with White House rivals John McCain and Barack Obama and congressional leaders.

Bush announced the summit in a prime-time televised speech Wednesday seeking public support for his 700-billion-dollar Wall Street rescue plan and to pile pressure on angry lawmakers who declared the shock proposal dead on arrival.

"We're in the midst of a serious financial crisis," Bush said in his 13minute speech from the White House.

"Without immediate action by Congress, America could slip into a financial panic," the vastly unpopular president said. "Ultimately, our country could experience a long and painful recession.

Six weeks before US elections and four months before he hands the battered US economy to a new steward, Bush said inaction could wipe out banks, threaten retirement nest eggs, send home values into freefall, foreclosures skyrocketing and create millions of new jobless.

"We must not let this happen," urged the president, who said a rare "spirit of cooperation" in Washington in the face of the crisis had led him to invite McCain, Obama, and top House and Senate leaders of both parties to the White

Bush had invited Obama in a personal telephone call 90 minutes before his speech, the White House said. The Democrat's chief spokesman, Bill Burton, confirmed in a statement that the Illinois senator would attend.

Obama has worked all week with top lawmakers, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, and Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke and "will continue to work in a bipartisan spirit and do whatever is necessary to come up with a final solution," said Burton.

"We will discuss the progress we have made to improve the administration's deeply flawed plan to address this unprecedented crisis," Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said in a statement.

tomorrow's meeting and future of the American people," McCain deliberations must be focused on and Obama said in an unusual joint solutions, not photo ops," Reid said, statement.

after other Democrats mocked McCain's decision to suspend his

lic is angry at Wall Street but deeply divided about a remedy, with many ready to blame Bush and his Republican party -- which itself has fissured over the plan amid fierce objections from conservatives.

over the massive government involvement in the economy, while Bush's Democratic foes have pushed for more government oversight and stronger consumer protections, and both sides have balked at the price tag.

Speaking to his angry allies, Bush explained: "I faced a choice, to step in with dramatic government action or to stand back and allow the irresponsible actions of some to undermine the financial security of all."

Addressing suspicious Democrats, he promised that the plan must ensure that reckless executives do not reap a "windfall' from taxpayer funds.

He also said he recognized the package would "present a tough vote for many members of Congress," acknowledging "it is difficult to pass a bill that commits so much of the taxpayers' hardearned money."

But lawmakers "must ensure that efforts to regulate Wall Street do

It was not clear how much impact what is arguably the president's most potent political weapons -- the ability to command national attention -- would have with just four months left in his

But public remarks from all sides suggested that Bush could count on a consensus that inaction could trigger a global financial

-- Democrats and Republicans -- in "As I have said throughout, a spirit of cooperation for the sake

been wracked by violence since

thousands of Taliban and al-Qaeda

across the country in the past year.

and displaced 260,000

# Pakistan military fires his cohorts managed to flee, he said adding that a police constable was also injured in the incident.

Pakistani state television quoted

the army as saying it was looking into the Nato allegations. The Pakistani military could not immediately be reached.

porous border are high after a series of US missile strikes on al-Qaeda-linked militants and an incursion by US soldiers into Pakistani tribal areas adjoining Afghanistan.

Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani Wednesday reiterated that his country would not tolerate

that we will not tolerate the violation of our sovereignty and territorial integrity by anyone in the name of combating terrorism," Gilani said at a dinner in Islamabad.

Pakistan's army is also investigating the crash of a suspected unmanned US spy plane 24 hours earlier near the Afghan border. Residents said it was shot down by tribesmen, but the military said it

Nato has nearly 50,000 troops working in Afghanistan to help stabilise the country and defeat an insurgency led by the Taliban, who have links with extremists in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Pakistan placed all airports on red alert Thursday after a telephone caller warned of a suicide bomb threat to Islamabad's

Passengers were briefly evacuated from the capital's Benazir Bhutto airport while security officials searched the area, but all flights were operating as normal,

they said. The security boost comes just days after a massive suicide truck bombing at the Marriott Hotel in the capital on Saturday left 60 people dead and more than 260

wounded. "We have raised the security level to red alert. It was already on high alert but after the bomb threat in Islamabad we stepped it up," senior airport security force official Mohammad Irfan told AFP.

British Airways cancelled its six weekly flights to Islamabad earlier this week, citing security reasons.

At least 16 al-Qaeda linked militants and two civilians were killed when Pakistani helicopter gunships shelled rebel hideouts in a tribal region near the Afghan border, officials said.

The casualties occurred on Thursday in the Bajaur region, where Pakistani troops launched a major offensive against Islamic militants last month, which killed some 900 people, mostly militants,

campaign over the crisis as a gim-Opinion polls show the US pub-

They have expressed dismay

not end up hampering our economy's ability to grow," he warned.

"At this point, there are real doubts about the president's ability to be seen as a trusted and credible source on the economy by the American public," a conservative Republican congressional aide told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"Now is a time to come together

"Helicopter gunships pounded positions of militants in Damadola, Shinkot areas from morning till evening Thursday, killing 16 rebels and wounding 20 Tensions across the rugged and others, most of them civilians," a

security official told AFP. Two civilians were also killed in the shelling, he said. The casualty figure could not be independently verified. Pakistan's tribal regions have

such violations of its sovereignty.

rebels sneaked into the country "I want to declare categorically after the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001. Violence linked to Pakistan's role in the "war on terror" has claimed the lives of nearly 1,300 people in suicide and bomb attacks

malfunctioned.

international airport, officials said.

Tk3.10 crore in assets. enough scrutiny of her wealth statement and did not find anything inconsistent. The ACC should

not initiate any further step regarding the matter." Khaleda submitted her wealth statement on August 6, showing properties worth Tk 3.54 crore.

ACC Deputy Director SM Sabbir Hasan submitted his enquiry report on Hasina's wealth statement a month ago while ACC Deputy Director Golam Shahriar Chowdhury submitted his report on Khaleda's wealth last year, ACC

sources said. The enquiry into Hasina's wealth started in September last year and was postponed several times by High Court stay orders following Hasina's petition that challenged the legality of the ACC notice asking her to submit wealth statement.

The ACC sent the notice to Hasina on July 17 last year through the prison authorities of the subjail on Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban complex where she had been kept.

The ACC also issued the notice to Khaleda the same day.

BDR shuts

1 lakh city dwellers each day. They worked six days in a week, he added. They have sold about 1.30 lakh tonnes of rice since the operation was launched, he said, adding that 2000 tonnes of pulses and 3500 tonnes of edible oil had been sold

at the outlets across the country. They have sold essential commodities worth about Tk 400 crore in the past one and a half year. The BDR Sector Commander,

however, urged the government to strengthen the market monitoring system to check the trend of price hike of essentials. He suggested introducing cooperative markets in upazila, zila and

farmers can sell their goods directly. "The main responsibility of the BDR is to ensure border security and we will attach priority to this effect," he said, adding, BDR feels no necessity to run the outlets as the prices of essentials have already begun to plummet in the

city (if necessary) levels where the

markets across the country. The income and expenditure from the outlets are equal as the money they had earned by selling commodities was spent on construction of the outlets and transportation, he said.

Col Mujibul said they had to run their outlets being haunted by loss and amid inadequate storage and wastage of commodities. "We have been able to create a positive impact on the market through the fair price outlets", he boasted.

He said that BDR asked the Dhaka City Corporation to take responsibility of the open markets in the city, which are also running under the project of the 'Operation Dal Bhat'.

The BDR, however, was yet to take any decision regarding the BDR shops in the city, as these shops are not running under the operation, he said.

Visiting different outlets in the capital, The Daily Star found that BDR members had already removed some portions of their outlets as a preparation to round off their outlets.

### 3 criminals

FROM PAGE 16

rounds of bullet from the scene. Our Magura correspondent adds: The police arrested Raju at his residence at Chaklapara in the town at about 3:20am.

Following his confessions police took him to a place near Char Muraridaha village to recover illegal arms. When the policemen reached

the spot, Raju's accomplices fired shots at them prompting the law enforcers to retaliate, said a police

Raju was killed in crossfire while his cohorts managed to flee, he said also injured in the incident.

Police said Raju was wanted in a number of cases.

### Jumatul Wida

FROM PAGE 16

capital. Thousands of Muslim devotees will take part in the congregation and seek blessing of Allah for peace of the departed souls of their near and dear ones and also for the peace and prosperity of the Muslim Ummah.

# ACC gears

FROM PAGE 16 The Appellate Division has stayed a few of the HC orders upon the ACC

According to the sources, at the meeting held at the conference room, ACC Commissioner Abul Hasan Manzur Mannan also solicited opinions from the lawyers about legal grounds on which the HC has granted bail to the accused and stayed the proceedings against

The lawyers also said the provisions for the time limits of submitting enquiry reports within 30 days, submitting investigation reports within 60 days and giving permission to the ACC officials to file cases are directory, not mandatory, and they would prove it before the HC

during hearing of the rulings. A counsel yesterday told The Daily Star the chief justice has recently constituted three special division benches of the HC for hearing the rules and appeals filed by the convicts in the ACC cases.

Sources say ACC, the government and individuals have filed graft cases against 1,139 people and ACC pressed charges in 188 cases in the courts. The special judge's courts set up

at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises dealing with the graft cases have convicted over 100 people with imprisonments of different terms for committing corruption. Over 30 of them have filed appeals with the HC against the

conviction orders. The appeals

will be heard at a special bench.

# Barapukuria graft case

Shandong.

**FROM PAGE 1** 

The accused former ministers of BNP are M Saifur Rahman, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, M Shamsul Islam, MK Anwar, barrister Aminul Haque, Altaf Hossain Choudhury, and AKM Mosharraf Hossain.

Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid and Motiur Rahman Nizami are the accused ex-ministers of Jamaat.

Of the former ministers, nine were members of the cabinet purchase committee.

The other five accused are former acting secretary to the energy and mineral resources ministry Nazrul Islam, former Petrobangla chairman SR Osmani, former Petrobangla director Mainul Ahsan, former managing director of Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL) Sirajul Islam and Hosaf Group Chairman Moazzem Hossain.

In the case filed with Shahbagh Police Station, the 16 were accused of causing a loss of over Tk 158.71 crore to the public exchequer by awarding the production, management and maintenance contract to Chinese company CMC abusing their power.

ACC Assistant Director Shamsul Alam filed the case.

Sources in the ACC said the high-profile politicians are charged with misappropriation government money and abusing power for personal gains.

THE CASE Shandong Ludi Consortium was adjudged the lowest bidder in the international tender floated to employ a contractor for production, management and maintenance of Barapukuria coalmine in Dinajpur.

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

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

guarantee and performance guarantee as per the rules, Shandong came up with conditions irrelevant to the deed. Among others, they proposed raising the contract value. Even though legally there was

Instead of submitting bank

no room for allowing anything beyond the deed, the energy and mineral resources ministry suggested that Petrobangla examines the proposals of Shandong, which caused delays.

The government did not go for a re-tender on grounds that there was not enough time for that.

favour of CMC, it cut a deal with the campaign Bono.

2003, the second lowest bidder, in this case Suju, was supposed to be given the job. But the deal went to CMC whose offer was over Tk 158

According to tender rules and

government on June 4, 2005, 1

months after the deal with

Public Procurement Regulations

crore higher than Shandong's. Suju's bid was cancelled for not renewing its bid bond but the company was later shown as a associate of CMC in the contract.

Khaleda Zia has been included

as the accused as she was responsible for the ministry in question and any decision was supposed to be taken with her full knowledge. Besides, the FIR says that she approved the cabinet purchase committee's proposal withou

considering the difference of over

Tk 158 crore between the highest

and lowest bidders and ignoring prospect of a re-tender. Hosaf Group did not participate in the bidding directly, they were the local agents of both the lowest and highest bidding companies. In fact, the Chinese companies worked in collaboration with each other throughout the tender and Hosaf Group Chairman Moazzen Hossain, who was their commor

### World leaders, NGOs join hands to battle global poverty

chairman, used his connections to

pull off the deal, the FIR read.

AFP, United Nations

World leaders join hands with top officials from the private sector foundations and civil society yesterday to breathe new life into the flagging battle against global poverty.

The poverty summit, held amid heightened concern about the negative impact of the global financial crisis, is hosted by UN chief Ban Ki-moon and Nicaragua's Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, the current president of the 192 member UN General Assembly.

It features a plenary session at UN headquarters along with 40 partner events around New York focusing on malaria control, education, water and sanitation for all gender equality and food security.

Among those taking part are British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, his Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, World Health Organisation head Margaret Chan, World Bank President Robert Zoellick and U2 Following manoeuvrings in singer and global anti-poverty

# New turn

Zillur said, "Our ultimate aim is to hold a meaningful election with participation of all, make qualitative changes in politics, ensure postelection stability and economic

prosperity.' "We have achieved two important goals -- announcement of the election schedules and assurance of the political parties to take part in the polls," he said, adding all uncertainty over elections has been

removed with these decisions. Regarding post-election stability, he said he was planning to hold an all-party dialogue to reach an

understanding about the matter. He said the government is also working to create a level-playing

rivals Hasina and Khaleda to sit for talks with each other to create an atmosphere of trust in the country and to help the nation out of the prevailing political crisis.

BARRISTERRAFIQUE ANDASHRAF Barrister Rafique has said he will not bog down by the comments of the AL acting general secretary about his effort regarding the dialogue.

"My proposal for a dialogue

between the two top leaders is aimed at ending political uncertainty and a change in the country's politics, not to hear any nonsense comments," Huq said while talking to The Daily Star yesterday. His reactions came after the AL leader asked the senior lawyer and the businesspersons to mind their

own business and not meddle with

politics.

"Interestingly, businessmen and a senior lawyer are showing interests to bring the two leaders to a table since we haven't yet received any formal invitation from anyone about it. So I would advise them to engage in their own business and not to interfere with politics," Ashraf

Talking to reporters after a meeting with deputy British high com missioner Duncan Norman at his Nam flats residence in the capital he said the court is not a place for political compromise. Huq termed his comments

ments from such a person are not unexpected. "I didn't talk to the man. Even I don't know him. I have talked to Hasina," he noted The eminent lawyer said there would always be some "wicked"

unexpected but said such com-

persons put in place to utter such comments. Earlier on September 9, Barrister Rafique, who defends both the former premiers in courts, suggested that they sit across the table

should hold a dialogue behind the Ashraf termed the government's opposition on a bail prayer in favour of Hasina at the High Court in an extortion case filed by businessman Noor Ali a "naked interference on

they should do ground work. They

the court" DELWAR Delwar said the government will have to make its position clear about the planned dialogue. "There is official statement in this regard. We don't know the plan and agenda of the dialogue." The BNP leader said they would

make comment in this regard after

week of October.

knowing about it. "But we are in favour of holding dialogues among political parties for the greater interests of the country." Released through an executive order on July 11, Hasina is currently Lutfar Rahman. in the US for treatment and is expected to return home in the first

On the other hand, Khaleda was released from jail on September 11 Apart from these, Hasina's following bail in all four graft cases againsther.

### Reformist Hafiz

FROM PAGE 16

the reform issues raised following her arrest on September 3 last year and about the "mastermind' behind the initiative.

Khaleda also instructed Hafiz, known as a pro-reform leader, to engage in party activities with new inspiration forgetting the wrongs of the past.

During the half-an-hour meeting Khaleda talked about the reunification process of the party and said BNP had to pay a lot and it is time the wrongs were mended.

She also instructed Hafiz to work united and make preparations for the upcoming parliamentary election. Hafiz told the party chief that

many former lawmakers known as

pro-reformist want to meet her. Khaleda responded positively saying, she would talk to them at a convenient time. Hafiz had supported the reform proposals of Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan even before Khaleda's arrest. He was made the party acting secretary general at a con-

standing committee held at former finance minister Saifur Rahman's residence on October 29, 2007. Meanwhile, BNP Joint Secretary Goyeshwar Chandra Roy yesterday said the BNP chairperson is surrounded by flatterers and she will

troversial meeting of the BNP

have to be rid of them. The BNP chief was more power ful and strong when she was behind bars and now she does not have that courage, Goyeshwar said at an Iftar party at Bhashan Bhaban at city's Naya Paltan.

### Khaleda's wealth

other benefits of her husband late

president Ziaur Rahman. The other sources of her income are house rent collected during 1982-2007 from her Gulshan residence allocated by the government, honorarium and allowances received during her three terms as the prime minister and one term as the opposition leader, and govern-

ment travel and dining allowances. The statement showed Tk 1.89 crore as her bank balance and FDR worth Tk 24.36 lakh, of which Tk 4 lakh was declared forfeited. Now the FDR balance stands at Tk 20,36,243 while the total balance with profit stands at Tk 1,65,15,105, says her statement.

properties worth Tk 12,405 while her movable properties include seven sofa sets, two sets of dining tables, 20 lamps, one coat, 10 air coolers, three carpet and two television sets. Her wealth statement also

includes a 1300cc Toyota car bought

Khaleda showed immovable

in 1995, two Toyota SUVs and one Nissan SUV bought in 1990. Khaleda's wealth statement also includes wealth accumulated by Ziaur Rahman--10 kathas of land in Savar, Tk 2,359 at the Janata Bank branch adjacent to Bangabhaban and FDR worth Tk 50,000 in her

### name at the same bank. **US** Congress

FROM PAGE 1 Most notably, first time ever, the congress urged the US president to make democratic transition in Bangladesh a "high priority of

United States foreign policy". The congress affirmed willingness of the United States to provide assistance to Bangladesh in its quest for a peaceful transition to

The resolution was moved in the influential Committee on Foreign Affairs with co-sponsorship of as many as 41 congressmen. Congressman Joseph Crowley, who is also co-chair of Congressional Bangladesh Caucus, sponsored the resolution.

The Bangladesh embassy in Washington DC worked closely with Congressman Crowley and other congressmen to get this resolution passed, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday. Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, who is presently attending

and credible elections in

#### Bangladesh on December 18, 2008. Hasina's wealth

FROM PAGE 1 leader and benefits from inherited properties.

Hasina has about Tk 2 crore in eight accounts with Sonali Bank, Rupali Bank, Pubali Bank and Agrani Bank. Her husband's Sudha Sadan residence, which is estimated at about Tk 60 lakh, in the capital's Dhanmondi was also included in her statement.

Her other assets include a jute

warehouse on a 10-katha land in

Dighulia, Khulna. The warehouse inherited from her mother has been priced at about Tk 50 lakh. The AL president also showed 10 kathas of land and a pond on a six-katha plot in Gopalganj inherited from her grandfather Sheikh

She said she shares with her sister Sheikh Rehana a few bighas of land in Gopalganj's Tungipara inherited from their father.

wealth includes two cars she received as gifts from party leaders.

# AL, BNP to carry on

FROM PAGE 16

should take part in the upcoming

parliamentary elections. Norman said this while talking to reporters after holding meetings with BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain and AL acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam at their NAM flats in the capital.

BNP and AL assured Norman of taking take part in the upcoming national elections, scheduled for December 18, if the government creates a level playing field.

AL, however, expressed its fear of militant attacks on electoral campaigns ahead of the elections. "We have information in this regard," said Ashraf claiming the British envoy also fears militant attacks in the country ahead of the elections.

Norman went to the meetings with three messages--the parties' taking part in the polls, their staying away from violence and strengthening of democratic insti-

"I came with the same three massages for BNP which I gave to Awami League," he said after the meeting with Delwar. After meeting Ashraf he said

politics of conflict cannot be good

for the development of a developing country like Bangladesh. He said Bangladesh unfortunately has a history of violence during elections. He said he thinks it should not happen this time as there is no reason for violence. The British envoy said BNP and AL have clearly committed that they do not

support violence. "I asked Awami League and BNP to participate in the December

elections because it is important to the people of Bangladesh. It will give the people of Bangladesh the opportunity to elected a government they want to take them into 2009 and forward," he said.

Briefing newsmen Delwar said he told the British envoy that a level playing field is a must for taking

part in the elections. "We told him that BNP is an election-oriented party and always takes part in elections. We also told him that we must participate in the election if the government ensures everything to hold a free and fair election and removes the remain-

ing obstacles," he said. Terming political parties' registration with the Election Commission and the Representation of the Peoples Order obstacles to taking part in the polls, the BNP leader said they are yet to make the final decision

on participating in the elections. Briefing newsmen, Syed Ashraful Islam said they want the elections be held in a peaceful

"The British envoy also fears militant attacks in the country ahead of the elections. Those who do not believe in democracy can do anything. The JMB [Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh] has not been finished yet and they still exist in different names," said Ashraf.

the security of AL chief, Ashraf demanded the government makes arrangements of special security force for Hasina. About Hasina's letter to some

Expressing deep concern over

party leaders, he said neither he nor the party office got any email or any letter from Hasina, Ashraf said.

any place of worship.

# No campaign

FROM PAGE 1

polls, no prospective candidates or anyone on their behalf can donate or promise to donate to charities or other organisations openly or secretly. None will be allowed to bring

out procession or stage showdown

during filing candidacy applica-Processions or any showdowns using buses, trucks, motorcycles, trains, water transports and other vehicles will not be permitted. Besides, none will be allowed to

bring out torch processions. The code of conduct will also ban pasting posters on vehicles and public establishments across the country, and buildings, walls, trees and electricity pillars under the city corporation and municipalities areas.

Scrawling graffiti on vehicles, buildings, walls, bridges, road dividers or any other establishments, erecting archways and gates, illuminating structures and using helicopters in election cam paigns too have been banned. Only the party chiefs will be

allowed to use choppers as means

of travelling. But they will not be

permitted to distribute leaflets, posters and drape banners from helicopters. According to the code of conduct, portraits of party chiefs and candidates, and election symbols could be printed on posters, but no

pictures of processions or programmes. It means Awami League and BNP will not be able to use portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Ziaur Rahman in

#### electoral campaigns. Melamine mix

FROM PAGE 1 of chemistry of Dhaka University

closed till November 5," Prof Tasmeri added. Chaired by BSTI Council

President Mahbub Jamil, the BSTI

yesterday held a meeting with chief

adviser's special assistant for industries at the BSTI Tejgaon office. The meeting decided to strengthen its campaign for raising awareness about the use of banned powdered milk.

"As soon as the presence of deadly melamine in imported milk is detected, we will ban them in Bangladesh," Mahbub Jamil told journalists. Panic gripped people in

Bangladesh as children in thousands fell sick in China soon after they consumed powdered milk. People got more terrified after Chinese officials said the powdered milk was exported to different countries including Bangladesh.

However, the government of Bangladesh took actions, including banning brands of Chinese milk products, and made a vigorous campaign against the consumption of Chinese powdered milk.

The code also prohibits electioneering at mosques, temples or

The EC has all along been argu-

ing that a stricter code of conduct

will help reduce election expenditures and thus encourage honest and competent candidates in national polls. UNB adds: Schedules for the upazila and parliamentary elec-

tions will be announced simulta-

neously in the first week of November. Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain announced the plans to reporters at his office yesterday.

He said the last dates for sub-

mitting nomination papers for both the elections would be the He said the commission has plans to increase the number of polling centres for the parliamentary election. "There are 35,000 polling centres now and 10 percent

of them will be increased for the

parliamentary polls." Sakhawat said the EC is considering increasing the number of polling centres as long queues of voters were found during the elections to four city corporations and nine municipalities held on August 4.

Replying to a query, he said the final voter list for all areas will reach the EC between October 12 and 16. He declined to answer whether the upcoming local polls would be

partisan.

for both the parliamentary and upazila elections would be the Sakhawat said transparent ballot boxes will be used in the parliamentary elections while nontransparent (steel) boxes during the upazila elections. "There are

He added that the voting centres

He said the EC is going to introduce postal ballots, especially for those like polling and presiding officers. "There'll be arrangements

### Indo-Pak leaders agree to start

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari agreed here Wednesday to kickstart an embattled peace dialogue between the two nucleararmed rivals, with new talks to be scheduled by year's end. The leaders agreed that their

foreign secretaries "will schedule

meetings of the fifth round of the

said after the summit on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. The composite dialogue, which has made significant progress since it was launched in 2004, has been stalled for months due to political

round was completed last October. The talks since January 2004 have added more bus and train links between the traditionally feuding neighbours, but there has been scant headway on Kashmir, the trigger for two of their three wars since 1947.

to launch trading between the divided zones of the disputed Kashmir region from October 21.

composite dialogue in the next three months," a joint statement turmoil in Pakistan. The fourth

Singh and Zardari also decided

Hasina, Khaleda over 3 lakh steel ballot boxes in the field for all the parties in the elec-(DU) and a private organisation for the interest of the country and country," he said. FROM PAGE 1 have been trying to develop the democracy. Later he showed his request the ACC to inform them The lawyers told the ACC com-Earlier, barrister Rafique, counmethod of melamine testing in interest to mediate the dialogue if missioner the HC has granted bail about the findings of its enquiry sel for both Hasina and Khaleda, powdered milk. the government wants. to the accused for temporary periinto her wealth. initiated the move to organise a The DU chemistry department, Following that, the country's ods, stayed proceedings in the He said the National Board of the 63rd session of the United meeting between the two leaders at however, said the department was apex business body Federation of Revenue has already informed him cases against them and issued the Nations General Assembly, wel for up to 3.5 lakh postal ballots at a neutral venue. Later the interim Bangladesh Chambers of yet to develop the system of melathat no inconsistency was found rules mostly on three points. comed the initiative of the US the commission." administration requested him to Commerce and Industry President mine testing. between Hasina's statement and The points are -- the ACC offi-Congress and stated that this is persuade them to sit for talks with Annisul Huq also expressed similar While talking to The Daily Star her wealth and that the board has no cials could not submit enquiry indeed a recognition of the creative the government. Prof Tasmeri SA Islam, chair of the further query regarding the matter. reports for filing cases against efforts undertaken by the democ-Rafique also talked to the two Ashraf said obviously his party department, said, "We are very The AL chief submitted her corruption-suspects within 30 racy loving people and the governformer prime ministers over telewould consider the two-leader wealth statement on September 3 close to finding out a new method days after getting charges of ment of Bangladesh to strengthen phone and both responded posidialogue only after they get an after a nearly two-month long legal and to this effect almost 75 percent democratic and accountable govenquiry, they could not submit peace talks tively to holding the talks. official invitation letter. battle with the ACC, showing about ernance, which could serve the work has already been done in the investigation reports within 60 The commerce adviser said on Expressing doubts over the interest of the common people. days after filing the cases, and ACC September 11 the government has Khaleda's counsel Ahmed Azam government initiative to bring the AFP, New York He once again expressed resolve "We will hand it over by October did not give permission to the taken steps to bring political arch two leaders to a table, he said, "If the Khan also said, "The ACC had of his government to hold free, fair officials for filing the cases. 7 or 8 as the university will remain government wants such a dialogue