# Taliban mad over alleged US strike

## Say US officials

AP. Washington

The Taliban are unusually angry about the latest suspected U.S. missile strike in Pakistan, a sign a top militant may have died in the attack, officials and residents said Sunday amid reports the death toll rose by two to 24.

Elsewhere in Pakistan's northwest, an official said some 15,000 Afghans had left a tribal region the military is trying to wrest from insurgents, but that tens of thousands more had yet to meet a government ultimatum to get out by Sunday.

The U.S. has ramped up crossborder strikes on alleged al-Qaida and Taliban targets along Pakistan's side of the border with Afghanistan, straining the two nations' anti-terror alliance.

The U.S. says pockets of Pakistan's border region, especially in its semi-autonomous tribal areas, are bases for militants attacking American and NATO forces in Afghanistan. It has pushed nucleararmed Pakistan to eliminate the safe

The frontier region is believed to be a possible hiding place for al-Oaida leader Osama bin Laden and his deputy Ayman al-Zawahri, and several Arab militants were said to be among the dead in Friday's strike in North Waziristan tribal region.

Two Pakistani intelligence officials said that over the weekend two people wounded in the attack died at a hospital in Miran Shah, the main town in North Waziristan. The officials sought anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to media.

Based on information from informants and agents in the field, the intelligence officials said the Taliban appeared extra-perturbed over the detailed report.

government has let the AL chief to

go abroad for treatment, she

should be allowed to continue

administration must not also

restrict her movement at home or

October 20, and hearing on the

rules issued earlier by the HC in

these cases will be held on October

Hug told the newsmen that they

on the bail petitions.

be arrested.

ARGUMENTS

have accepted the court's decision

He said since the trial proceed-

ings of all cases against Hasina

have been stayed, she should not

Some lawyers concerned said

the petitioner's staying abroad on

parole was the reason why the HC

During hearing on the bail peti-

tions, Rafique-ul Huq cited the

High Court's September 16 order

granting bail to Hasina on medical

grounds in the extortion case filed

exempted her from personal

He said even the trial court has

This bench too can consider

The court said it is still not clear

whether Hasina is "under the court

or the government", and that it has

never been in "such a peculiar

At that point, Rafique-ul said

there are a number of instances of

governments in different countries

allowing parole without taking

given bail to several under-trial

orders granting bails to persons on

trial are ad interim and those can-

individuals on health grounds.

not be considered precedents.

He said the HC itself has already

In reply, the bench said the

permission from courts.

granting her bail on the same

grounds as she is still gravely ill, he

came up with this ruling.

by Azam J Chowdhury.

appearance before it.

observed.

situation".

In the circumstances, it said, the

The order will stay valid till

Petitioner's counsel Rafique-ul

treatment.

latest strike. The anger was a signal

The insurgents were moving aggressively in the area while using harsh language against locals, including calling them "saleable commodities" a reference to people serving as government spies, the

Two local residents said Taliban fighters had warned people not to discuss the strike, including with the media, or to try inspecting the rubble at the site. The residents asked not to be named for fear of Taliban retalia-

The strike in Mohammadkhel appeared to be the deadliest of 11 reported cross-border operations by U.S.-led forces since Aug. 20. The area is a stronghold of Jalaluddin

in Afghanistan, said he had "no information to give" about the reported attacks. He did not deny

Taliban spokesmen could not immediately be reached for comment Sunday. Neither could Pakistani government and military spokesmen.

that the army was still awaiting a

When the mine project was approved in the early 90's, production cost was estimated at \$35 per tonne and the annual production

Barapukuria

The authorities have not given the

permission stating that the company

should at first conclude the local

FROM PAGE 1

The original project cost was less than Tk 800 crore and it was supposed to launch operation from

Credit financial package coupled with poor project implementation doubled the project cost to Tk 1,600 crore, while the annual production target nose-dived to 800,000 tonnesa

cost almost tripled.

While the project drained out huge money from the nation, it immensely profited Hosaf group chief Moazzem Hossain, who had been the local representative of all

tarian from Feni, Moazzem is an accused in the Barapukuria case file by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Sources say prior to submission of the charge-sheet in the case, Moazzem was tipped off to leave the

## Cadbury

three to four days from that laboratory," said Dr Ashish Ratan Sen,

Following the warning message from the Health Advisor Dr AMM Shawkat Ali on Thursday for not consuming the Cadbury Chocolates for the time being, the BSTI has been collecting the samples of the choco-Refrain from harassing

Expressing concern over the General Mohammad Ali Akand melamine issue Dr Ashish Ratan Sen also said that deadly presence of melamine in food items might take a serious turn and it seemed the country would have to test melamine in other milk products like biscuits, liquid milk and ice cream, etc also.

He also said that BSTI would not be able to conduct testing of so friany items and it is high time that facilities in other laboratories of the country were developed.

Melamine was found in 11 types of chocolates of Cadbury brand in China. Even in Canada it is found in the milk products. Hongkong-based Cadbury Asia Pacific markets the

Earlier, melamine was found only in Chinese powdered milk that had four in China.

As the melamine scare spread, the government of Bangladesh started to test melamine in powdered milk. The BSTI, the department of Chemistry of Dhaka University and a private laboratory have been conducting the

The private laboratory, Plasma Plus has already found melamine in Yashili 1 milk powder, which had been marketed in the country with-Sheikh Hasina stands accused outregistration.

## AL appears

FROM PAGE 1

are Niko and barge-mounted power plant graft cases filed by the anti-graft body. Holiday

Unit and Coronary Care Units however complained about the absence of doctors.

gency treatment to some 500 to 600 Rafique-ul then said they too patients each day during the vacawanted ad interim orders in favour tion. The emergency ward sources said that a total of 550 patients received treatment from the emergency department while 189 were admitted into the hospital.

her life is not in danger and she is labour pain, sources said.

Mita, a25-year old garment He said Hasina should file the worker, was admitted to the Female petitions afresh on her return Medicine Ward with severe pain in her abdomen. However, it took over The HC told Aziz that the courts two hours for a doctor to authorised that she be provided with a pain-

"One single doctor has to work at two wards at the same time," the

The Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of DMCH saw the admission one medical officer and two nurses

The authorities of Shaheed Suhrawardi Hospital admitted that The bench said as per the law, the hospital has been running with the president can grant parole to a a reduced number of doctors convicted person for a short period because of the Eid vacation. Nondecision, but that was not the case doctors had been engaged to provide treatment to the patients

## Khaleda charged

FROM PAGE 1

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. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia had been granted bail in the case from the High Court (HC) on September 10 this year for four months while Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Shamsul Islam, and MK Anwar had been granted bail in the case from the same court till fram-

ing of charges against them. The investigation officer (IO) also requested for showing Altaf Chowdhury and Dr Mosharraf Hossain arrested in the case as they had been arrested earlier in other cases, but yet to be shown arrested in Barapukuria graft case.

On September 25, the ACC approved the charge sheet against Khaleda and the other accused in connection with illegally awarding a contract for operating Barapukuria coalmine to a Chinese

company. On the charge sheet, the IO mentioned that the accused caused a loss of almost Tk 159 crore to the public exchequer by illegally awarding the contract to China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CMC), abusing their power.

The IO also mentioned that the charges brought against the accused were primarily proven and they will be brought to trial.

ACC Assistant Director Shamsul Alam filed the case with Shahbagh police station on February 26 this

**FUGITIVES** The IO showed M Saifur, Motiur Rahman Nizami, Barister Aminul Haque, AKM Mosharraf Hossain, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid, Nazrul Islam, SR Osmani, Mainul Ahsan, Sirajul Islam, and Moazzem Hossain as fugitives in the case.

issuance of arrest warrants against them, and for orders to confiscate their properties, as they did not obtain bail from any court. THECASE

Shandong Ludi Consortium was selected as the lowest bidder among three in an international tender for employing a contractor for production, management, and maintenance of Barapukuria coalmine in Dinajpur.

bid was the highest.

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

Instead of submitting bank guarantees as per the rules, Shandong came up with conditions irrelevant to the agreement. Among other irrelevant conditions

### New office

FROM PAGE 16

Jatiya Press Club, Khaleda said she would formally resume party activities from her new office at Banani after the Eid.

Bhaban as her office before the 2001 election but later Hawa Bhaban turned into an "alternative power house" during the five-year rule of the BNP-led four-party alliance.

The controversial Hawa Bhaban has been closed since the arrest of her son Tarique Rahman on March 7 last year and also her own arrest on September 3 on corruption charges.

After her release on September 11, Khaleda selected the house of Shafik Rehman in Eskaton area for conducting regular party activities.

## French FM

FROM PAGE 16 aimed at developing nuclear weap-

unacceptable at all... Talking, talking talking, and offering dialogue, sanctions, sanctions, sanctions. Is the alternative to bomb first -- I think not."

Iran has always insisted its atomic drive is entirely peaceful. Israel is widely regarded as the only nuclear armed state in the Middle East but it has never confirmed or denied having an arsenal.

Kouchner is set to meet outgoing Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni -who is trying to form a new coalition government to succeed Olmert's administratin -- on

France currently holds the contest the parliamentary polls. rotating presidency of the European Union, which has been sponsoring Israeli-Palestinian peace talks as part of the Middle East Quartet, which also includes the United States, the United

Nations, and Russia. On Saturday Kouchner toured the West Bank town of Jenin, the focus of a months-old Palestinian security crackdown that has been praised by Israel and the United States -- and met Palestinian presi-

dent Mahmud Abbas. Kouchner hailed the peace talks, which were formally relaunched last November but said they were unlikely to meet their stated goal of a comprehensive agreement by the end of the year.

## Mirza Azam

FROM PAGE 16

violating the Emergency Power Rules (EPR), a vacation bench of the HC comprising Justice Mohammad Anwarul Haque and Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury passed the order.

Counsel for the petitioner advocate Motahar Hossain Saju yesterday told The Daily Star that there was no legal bar to the release of his client, since he secured bails in all the cases against him.

Police arrested Mirza Azam on charge of violating the EPR soon after his release from jail on bail on September 18 last in connection with a case filed by the Anticorruption Commission (ACC) accusing him of amassing illegal wealth.

The same day the Paltan thana police filed a general diary and arrested Azam from near the GPO crossing in the city when he, along with his party-men, was making an for not renewing its bid bond, but attempt to break the EPR section 16 the company was later shown as an (2), according to the prosecution.

The HC had earlier granted him bail on September 16 for three months.

On July 16 this year, Azam was first sent to jail after Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court here denied him bail on surrender.

## Mahasaptami

and supplication of the devotees through Bodhon rituals during the Mahashashthi puja.

Durga is welcomed with much fanfare amidst the beats of Dhak. Unveiling the face of the idol is the main ritual on this day. Kalaparambho, the ritual performed before the commencement of the puja preceded Bodhon, Amontron and Adhibas.

On Mahasaptami today, the devotees will recite hymns and offer flowers seeking blessings from Durga the Durgatinashini -- saviour of humankind from all evils.

According to the lunar schedule, Mahasaptami puja will start by 9:57am today.

Around 22,000 mandaps have already been set up across the country including 165 in Dhaka. Last year the number of mandaps was 20,000.

Bakshibazar, Shankharibazar, Tantibazar, Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University, Ramna Kali Mandir, Dhakeswari Mandir, Thataribazar, Ramkrishna Mission, Pranab Math, Siddeswari Kali Mandir, Dayaganj, Rayerbazar, Rajarbagh, Rishipara were a few of

puja venues to ensure security and to avoid any untoward situations during the Durga puja festivities.

The meeting weighed up the Mohanagar Puja Mandap at Dhakeswari Jatiya Mandir today, with the BNP and the other with says a press release of Mohanagar

> Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad (BPUP) Adviser Major Gen (retd) CR Dutta Beer Uttam at a press conference yesterday said the increase in number of mandaps this year indicates communal unity

DPUP leaders demanded that the government ensure equal rights of people of all faiths, giving Durga puja state status, four-day vacation on this occasion and celebrating Janmashtami of Sri

## Ex-BNP MP Hashem

FROM PAGE 16 CASEAGAINST SALAHUDDIN

ACC Deputy Director Shahfiqur Robin were not proved.

The case was filed against the three with Shyampur Police Station on June 25 last year on charge of misusing government relief mate-

### VIP protection FROM PAGE 16

vate vehicles." Sources said all the police sta-

tions and branches of the police department lack sufficient number of vehicles. Police do not conduct patrol duty on time and cannot rush to places timely due to this reason. According to sources, the DMP

stations were given one new pickup truck each. They were also given one

old pickup truck each, which were taken from other police stations." According to sources, the DMP with around 23,000 policemen has only 540 vehicles and most of them are very old. Only 45 of these vehi-

## Pak MPs on Militancy

FROM PAGE 16 in the wake of a string of attacks across the country, including a suicide bombing last month that

destroyed the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, killing 60 people. It also comes amid a spate of strikes by suspected US drones on alleged al-Qaeda and Taliban hideouts in Pakistan, which have raised tensions between Washington and Islamabad, a key ally in the US-led "war on terror".

Zardari made the decision to hold the briefing at a meeting Saturday with army chief General Ashfaq Kayani and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, the government said in a statement Sunday.

"General Kayani discussed with President Zardari the ongoing strife in tribal areas and the ways to address the issue of terrorism and extremism," the statement said.

The joint session of parliament will open on Wednesday at 5:00 pm (1100 GMT), it said.

Gilani has asked the leaders of the National Assembly and the Senate to ensure that all lawmakers attend what he called a "very important session".

Army and intelligence officials are expected to discuss military operations against al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters in Pakistan's lawless tribal areas along the border with Afghanistan.

The session is expected to be devoted to building consensus on the government's anti-terror strategy, as some right-wing religious parties oppose the military campaign and instead favour negotiations with the militants.

The United States has stepped up attacks on militants in Pakistani territory since a new civilian government came to power in Islamabad in March and the incidents have become an issue in the US presiden-

### Extortionists storm

FROM PAGE 1

The criminals shot security guard Babul at the entrance of the hotel as he tried to shut the collapsible gate hearing gunshots.

When the hotel employees screamed for help, the gunmen sprayed bullets indiscriminately leaving the three pedestrians injured.

The wounded were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Abul Hossen said before the Eid the criminals demanded money from hotel owner Alamgir Hossain who refused to meet their demand.

Police suspect that the same criminals made the attack.

## 34 killed

FROM PAGE 16

Nanayakkara said four other rebels and a soldier were killed in clashes in the Vavuniya and Welioya regions. Soldiers overran five rebel bunk-

ers in the Mullaitivu district Saturday, killing five rebels, the military said. The clashes left nine rebel bunk-

ers in government hands, it said in a statement.

Rebel officials could not be contacted for comment because most communication lines to guerrilla-dominated areas have been severed.

Most independent observers and reporters are barred from the war zone, making it difficult to verify the military's claims.

Tamil Tiger rebels have fought since 1983 to create an independent homeland for the country's ethnic minority Tamils who faced marginalisation by successive governments controlled by ethnic Sinhalese. More than 70,000 people have

been killed in the violence.

tial election.

Zardari has pledged zero tolerance against violations of Pakistan's territorial sovereignty. A suspected US missile destroyed

a house in the North Waziristan tribal region on Friday, killing 20 militants, including some foreign nationals, officials said.

At least six Taliban insurgents were killed as Pakistani troopspounded suspected militant hideouts in the troubled tribal district of

Separately local tribesmen supporting a government assault against militants in the region killed three Taliban insurgents on Saturday, they

have left Bajaur in the past three days after the local government ordered them to leave the area, officials said.

day deadline ends on Monday, they An estimated 70,000 Afghans

have been living in Bajaur since the late 1970s after fleeing the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The Pakistan army said last week

al-Qaeda's operational commander in the region, Egyptian Abu Saeed Al-Masri since early August. The military admitted that the fighting in Bajaur on the Afghan

## Traffic rules

FROM PAGE 1

He, however, said they allowed a number of buses up to Shyamoli from Gabtoli during the Eid holidays. He said other buses entered the city dodging the eyes of traffic policemen.

minibuses of different coach services to pick up passengers from various places in the city and drop them off at intercity bus terminals Sources concerned said the

large coaches were banned on city streets to reduce congestion and due to their reckless driving. Witnesses said several hundred

intercity buses plied the city streets picking up and dropping off passengers during and after the Eid holidays. They also parked indiscrimi-

Arambagh, Malibagh, Motijheel, Paltan, Dhanmondi, Kalabagan, Shyamoli and various other areas. L

Suman Mustofa, who identified himself as an official of Hanif Paribahan, told The Daily Star, "Our coaches entered the city during the Eid vacation to facilitate the passengers and avert their

He, however, admitted that indiscriminate parking on roads in front of counters violate traffic

Meanwhile, all the NMT-free roads were full of rickshaws. Rickshaw pullers drove their vehicles recklessly hindering move-

Talking to The Daily Star, several rickshaw pullers said they took advantage of traffic policemen turning a blind eye to their plying

Uddin said he already directed traffic policemen to stop movement of rickshaws on NMT-free streets.

He also said stern actions would be taken against the unauthorised buses that would enter the city and

The men were killed after they

Sakhi Dad Mujahid, was held carrying a satellite telephone containing the phone numbers of top members of the ousted fundamentalist regime including its supremo,

Afghan officials said at the time Omar under the Taliban's 1996-

The United States invaded Afghanistan in late 2001 and toppled the hardline Taliban government for harbouring al-Qaeda leaders. Despite their efforts, the most senior leaders of the Taliban and other radical groups have district. We've no idea who the

militants were killed in a series of operations by Afghan and foreign troops in Afghanistan, officials said Saturday, as a senior sports official

The body of Alikhail, the head of sports for the eastern province of Paktika who went by only one name, was found dumped by the ing two rebel commanders were side of the road Saturday, a day after he was kidnapped by Taliban rebels, a provincial official said.

official, who asked not to be identified, told AFP. The insurgents -- in government

province of Kunar, it said. killed in separate raids by Afghan intelligence agents and the Nato-

tion," the spokesman said.

The raids -- on Thursday and Friday -- on the rebels' hideouts in the province's troubled Zhari district were based on intelligence, the Afghan spy agency's chief in central province of Ghazni, US-led Kandahar, Abdul Qayoum

### 20 killed in Afghan Friday, the force said, although FROM PAGE 16 local government said six had died.

Mullah Mohammad Omar.

he had been a secretary to Mullah 2001 rule.

escaped capture. Meanwhile, up to 23 suspected

"The Taliban killed him," the

tration in their violent campaign.

In a raid against the rebels in the troops killed two militants late Katawazi, told AFP.

where the cases against the petitioner (Hasina) are pending will decide if she should be granted bail or parole.

home and cite rational grounds.

of time in line with parliament's Muslim doctors and the honorary with regard to the ALchief.

of its most dangerous foes.

U.S. involvement.

ernment and the ACC however said the parole was likely to be extended, and that is what came about later in the day. On September 29, the HC vacation bench out, Institut Sheikh Rezowan Ali and Justice Md Rais

Uddin rejected a bail petition filed

by Sheikh Hasina in the extortion

case filed by Noor Ali.

Both the counsels for the gov-

answered in the affirmative.

must be in the country to seek bail. On September 16, the HC vacation bench of Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Mamnoon Rahman granted three months' ad | product.

It said the petitioner (Hasina)

in the Azam Chowdhury extortion It also stayed the case proceedings against her till October 19. Responding to writ petitions filed on her behalf on July 7, the HC stayed for two months all proceed-

the government and the ACC to explain why the cases should not be quashed. The HC fixed October 14 for hearing the rules.

in 15 cases. She is on bail in all the 10 cases filed during the BNP-led four-party alliance rule. Of the five cases filed after the present caretaker government took over in January last year, three are extortion cases filed by businessmen Noor Ali, Azam Chowdhury and Tajul Islam Faruq and the rest

operation theatre, Intensive Care

Most of the admitted patients were women who came in with

killer injection to reduce her pain.

Aziz said it is unfortunate that to attend to them.

Director of Suhrawardi Hospital | Hasina and BNP Chairperson does not return on or before Khadiza Begum said only five out of Khaleda Zia ahead of the election, October 6, the day her parole was ten doctors have been available at | Ashraf said such a talk will not be |

tender and see if it has really failed to secure enough buyers. The BCMCL incurred a loss of Tk 128 crore since it started production two years ago due to massive project cost escalation and low coal produc-

target was set at two million tonnes of

2000. However, the Chinese Supplier's

As a result, the coal production

the Chinese companies concerned.

country.

FROM PAGE 1 "Plasma Plus started the test yesterday. We may get the result within deputy director (testing control) of the laboratory, to The Daily Star.

late since the Eid day and carrying outmarket surveillance.

sickened 53,000 children and killed

the government ahead of the poll. "We hope that the election will be held in a free and fair manner on the date announced, and no unresolved matter will have any impact on holding of it," he said while talking to reporters in AL Acting President Zillur Rahman's Gulshan residence in the capital. Ashraf

went there to meet Zillur after returning to the capital from his constituency in Kishoreganj. He also said AL central working committee is planning to meet for bringing necessary amendments to the party constitution in order to get registered with the Election Commission. "We've already finalised our election manifesto," he

said adding that they also started

selecting party candidates for the

national poll.

of the emergency for holding a credible election. Ashraf said his party will help the government so that the election cannot be foiled, since the people of every electoral constituency

have become enthusiastic about

He said the people are taking all

the national election.

He demanded total withdrawal

out preparations for the parliamentary poll. He also said they are fully prepared to contest in the poll. Saying the discussion about forming a grand electoral alliance under AL's leadership already advanced quite a bit, he added that the details of the formation will be finalised after AL President Sheikh Hasina's return home from abroad.

The AL leader warned that the

people will not accept any failure to

fruitful without a pre-set agenda.

hold the promised election on the announced date. About the much talked about proposed talk between Sheikh they proposed raising the value of

the contract. Even though legally there was no room for allowing anything beyond the signed agreement, the energy and mineral resources ministry suggested that Petrobangla examines the proposals of Shandong, which caused delays.

The government did not go for re-tendering on grounds that there was not enough time for that. Following manoeuvrings in favour of CMC, the company cut a deal with the government on June 4, 2005, 14 months after the deal

According to tender rules and Public Procurement Regulations 2003, the second lowest bidder, in this case Suju, was supposed to be awarded the job. But the deal went to CMC whose offer was over Tk 158 crore higher than Shandong's. Suju's bid had been cancelled

with Shandong.

case as she had been responsible for the ministry in question and any decision had been supposed to be taken with her full knowledge. Hosaf Group did not participate in the bidding directly, it was the local agent of both the lowest and

Khaleda Zia was accused in the

associate of CMC in the contract.

the highest bidders. In fact, the Chinese companies worked in collaboration with each other throughout the tender, and Hosaf Group Chairman Moazzem Hossain used his connections to pull off the deal, the first information report of the case read.

Hossain Zillur

we're working for positive results,"

he said on the government's

FROM PAGE 16

understanding with political parties about reforms and elections. He ruled out any scope for going back to the days preceding the political changeover on January 11 last year.

He said everyone was working

spiritedly to achieve the ultimate

goals of qualitative change in

politics, a free and fair election and

participation of all parties in it. "We've only three months left in office....we've got to make best use of it to finish all the tasks," he said. The meeting at the education ministry was the first for the gov-

ernment to formally instruct offi-

cials on their duties before and

during the elections.

cations ministry.

Communications Adviser Ghulam Quader, LGRD Adviser Anwarul Igbal, Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur discussed the latest political development.

Women and Children Affairs

Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury

later joined them at the communi-

Earlier in the day,

government's strategies for negotiguarantees and performance ation with political parties, sources "We'll brief you on this tomorrow (today)," Zillur told reporters at the education ministry.

> other parties, to reach a consensus on political reforms and election lail term

FROM PAGE 1

ECSecretariat said. Senior officials in the commission said it means that if any person steals a ballot paper out of the polling station instead of dropping it into the ballot box, they cannot exhibit it before people to question the election process. In the past, recovery of ballot

papers outside polling stations

raised questions over the conduct of

the polls concerned and keeping this

in mind, the EC drafted this proposal

10 years and also fine, sources in the

in addition to the existing provisions to avoid such incidents during or after the December 18 parliamentary polls. There are provisions in the Representation of the People Order (RPO) that impose strict restriction

on defacing or destroying any nomi-

due authority nobody can supply

The RPO provisions say without

nation paper intentionally.

ballot papers to any person, destroy, take, open or otherwise interfere with any ballot box or packets of ballot papers being used for election purpose. For violation of these provisions also, an individual might be punished with rigorous imprisonment

for a term, which may extend to 10

years and shall not be less than three

Facing time constraints, the EC sent

to the government the proposals to

years, and also with fine.

REGISTRATION OF PARTIES

ease the procedure for political parties' registration mandatory to If the revised RPO is amended according to the new proposals, political parties will not have to hold national councils to amend their constitutions to meet the registration

now can register with the EC on

six months of the first session of ninth parliament. According to the time frame, political parties willing to get registered must apply to the EC by October 15.

The EC has planned to complete the registration process in October.

the prominent mandaps that have been given a decorative look with colourful designs and lights. Meanwhile, extra law enforcers have been deployed around the

Adviser for Law and Religion AF Hassan Ariff and Manik Lal Samaddar, special assistant to the chief adviser, Home Secretary Abdul Karim, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Nayeem Ahmed, Rapid Action Battalion Director General Khandker Hasan Mahmud are scheduled to visit

Sarbojaneen Puja Committee. among people in the country.

## Krishna at state level.

Rahman Bhuiyan, also the IO of the case, submitted the final report to the Dhaka CMM Court saying the charges brought against Salahuddin, his wife Shamsunnahar and their son

DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed told The Daily Star, "As the DMP does not have sufficient number of vehicles, it has to requisition pri-

inaugurated two new police stations on September 22 and the inauguration of six more police stations is in the pipeline. The DMP Parties unable to hold councils | was given only four pickup trucks for these stations. AKM Hafiz Akhter, (DC-Transport and Estate), told The Daily Star, "The two new police

> cles are new and the new ones are generally used for protecting VIPs.

on the edges of the city.

nately on streets in Fakirapool,

rules and caused traffic jams.

the NMT-free streets. Joint Commissioner Jasim

He said, "It is very difficult to control the movement of rickshaws

# park on streets.

ians, local government spokesman Ismail Jahangir told AFP. discussing with us, conducted an

was found dead.

between 1996 and 2001 -- regularly target officials of the new adminis-

Bajaur, officials said Sunday.

Some 16,000 Afghan refugees

The exodus continues as a three-

it had killed 1,000 militants including

border was some of the heaviest since Pakistan joined the US-led "war on terror" in 2001.

According to traffic rules, all long-distant coaches shall not use the city streets. The rules direct that

hasslein getting on another bus."

ment of motorised vehicles, several city dwellers said.

on NMT-free streets."

were seen manoeuvring on the force as they searched a compound for a militant leader responsible for roadside bomb attacks, the force said in a statement. On Saturday, dozens of villagers carrying the corpses of two men marched to the governor's house, claiming the casualties were civil-

operation against Taliban in Ander casualties were. We're investigating to find out whether they were Taliban or civilians," he said. "Villagers are saying that two civilians were killed in that opera-

In a separate incident, the force

killed three militants in the eastern

"The coalition forces, without

A dozen other militants includled International Security Assistance Force in the southern province of Kandahar, an official

### of the AL president in the Niko and barge-mounted power plant cases. ACC's counsel Abdul Aziz Khan argued that the petitions seeking bail for medical reasons are not maintainable since "she is not sick,

free on parole".

It asked, "How could the gov- on-duty nurse explained, ernment take such a risk sending her abroad on parole without consulting the court and what is of 170 patients during Eid with only the status of the accused now?"

the government has sent her

abroad on parole.

It asked the state side if Hasina during this period, they said. would be treated a fugitive if she scheduled to end. Deputy Attorney the emergency unit.

# that a senior militant may have been

killed, but that has yet to be confirmed, the officials said.

Haqqani, a veteran Taliban commander regarded by the U.S. as one The U.S. rarely acknowledges such attacks, 1st Lt. Nathan Perry, a spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition

The information is nearly impossible to verify independently because of the remote, dangerous nature of the areas.

Earlier, however, Pakistan army spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas said initial reports indicated that 20 or more people were killed. He said there was "speculation" that many were foreign militants, but cautioned

interim bail to the former premier

ings of the Niko and bargemounted power plant cases. It issued separate rules asking | testing.

The DMCH had to provide emer-

coal for 30 years.

Brother of an ex-BNP parliamen-

He also appealed to the court for

Suju Coal Mining Group Consortium was the second lowest bidder while China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CMC) consortium's Following recommendations

Khaleda had selected Hawa

"Iran with an atomic bomb is

Sunday.

making provisional changes to their constitutions. But their highest policymaking bodies must pass a resolution to have the changes approved at national councils within

criteria now.

## The government is supposed to hold two rounds of dialogue, one