## Akbar Ali asks govt

FROM PAGE 1 rules will not apply and in which situation those will, he added.

On registration of political parties, Dr Akbar Ali said, "There should be two main conditions for registration-- holding council meeting regularly in line with the parties' own constitution, and publishing annual audited accounts on funding and expenditure."

"Political parties have to get registered for the same reason as cooperative societies, NGOs, social service organisations etc have to do so. Each party is supposed to hold an annual general meeting and publish an annual balance sheet. After all, political parties are like corporate bodies and must behave like those," he said.

It will be enough if the political parties fulfil these two conditions, he

"If the parties publish their annual balance sheet, people would know about their funding, and how that money is spent. Then they (people) could find out embezzlement of fund, if any."

Relaxing other conditions, the authorities should have concentrated on these two key points, he said. "The conditions now being put for registration would be difficult to implement."

The Election Commission (EC) should be cautious while dealing with these matters, the former adviser said. "If the Election Commission is more interested in doing these, it will become involved in the process. In that case, it cannot remain a referee, it'll become a player."

On the performance of the care- ises."

taker government (CG), he said, the CG has undertaken too many reforms "though it doesn't have the capability and time needed for implementing those". The CG is 'too idealistic' despite the fact that it has a

limited time in power. He went on, "The list of unfulfilled pledges will keep on getting longer. And, by the end of the day, people will express frustration saying the government had promised so many things but has done very little."

On the proposed meeting between Khaleda and Hasina, Akbar Ali said, "If there is no prior accord, and the two leaders just meet and exchange greetings, it'll bear no result," he said. The persons who will be involved in a behind the scene negotiation will have to finalise a draft accord, he added.

The two leaders can reach a consensus on issues like holding parliamentary elections peacefully, not enforcing hartal, refraining from parliament boycott after the election, and cooperating with each other in strengthening democracy.

Stressing the need for parliamentary polls by the year-end, he said, "I hope political parties will take part in the election because it will be the best for them if there is an elected govern-

### Iceland on brink

Meanwhile, following the footsteps of the US, Britain also announced a three-part multibillion-dollar bailout for its beleaguered banks yesterday, and Spain moved to mount a separate rescue of its own banking sector.

As a part of the bailout package, Britain's eight main banks will be part-nationalised. The Federal Reserve Bank of US

reduced its key rate from 2 percent to 1.5 percent. In Europe, the Bank of England

cut its rate by half a point to 4.5 percent, while the European Central Banksliced its rate to 3.75 percent. Other central banks also taking

part in the interest rate cut include the banks of Canada, Sweden, and Switzerland.

China also cut its key interest rates vesterday for a second time in less than one month to stimulate slowing economic growth amid the global credit crisis, while Indian stocks fell to a two-year low amid fears that the credit crunch could lead to a global recession.

Sveriges Riksbank, and the Swiss National Bank also reduced their respective policy interest rates.

In the meantime, Sweden's central bank said it will loan up to five billion kronor (514 million euros or 701 million dollars) to the Swedish branch of Iceland's biggest bank Kaupthing to provide liquidity.

The central bank, Riksbank, also announced that Kaupthing Sweden was up for sale.

Russia also agreed to negotiate a four billion euro (5.4 billion dollar) emergency loan to help Iceland fight against national bankruptcy.

The world economy is entering a major downturn in the biggest financial crisis since the 1930s, said the International Monetary Fund In a hard-hitting report, IMF

warned the global economy is facing its most dangerous crisis for

Holding the upazila election five days after the parliamentary polls is a 'right decision', he said. "In this case, upazila polls can't be exploited by the elected government to strengthen its political base. This will also force the political parties to hold upazila elections, which they didn't do when in power despite their election prom-

World economic growth will slow

up modestly later in 2009, it said. At the same time the impact of surging oil and food prices had led to rates of inflation not seen for 10 years, it warned.

substantially this year, and only pick

It warned the challenge for governments will be to stabilise economies while keeping a lid on inflation.

In its latest bi-annual World Economic Outlook report, IMF said global economic growth will slow to 3.9 percent this year and then to just 3 percent in 2009 -- its lowest level since 2002.

Growth in emerging and developing countries will still be 6.9 percent this year, and 6.1 percent in 2009 -- while growth in China will still be an impressive 9.3 percent next year -- IMF forecast.

It urged global policy makers to coordinate a response to the spreading financial crisis. US President George W Bush

yesterday discussed the global economic meltdown with the leaders of Britain, France, and Italy, seeking a common strategy ahead of the scheduled meeting of the finance ministers from the Group of Seven rich democracies on Friday in Washington. (Sources: AFP, AP, The New York

Times, The Wall Street Journal, BBC

### Oil price

in the international market.

Tamim told reporters that the yesterday's meeting discussed on which grounds the government would reduce the price of oil. He added that the government would consider public interest first in case of any price cuts.

He said the government would continue its subsidy on diesel and kerosene, even after adjusting other petroleum prices in every three months.

# Emergency

The CA mentioned that some

provisions under the sate of emergency were relaxed for electioneering before the August 4 elections to four city corporations and nine municipalities. He said those local polls were

held very fairly and peacefully and nobody did make any complaint. Briefing newsmen about the

meeting, CA's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim said the CA stated that "the state of emergency would also be relaxed all over the country" during the upcoming general elections.

gency will be relaxed further through discussion with the political parties," the head of the caretaker government was quoted as telling the British parliamentarians during the meeting.

On Election Commission, the CA said the Election Commission has been reconstituted and now it is completely independent.

He said the caretaker government has also reconstituted the Anti-Corruption Commission, set up National Human Rights Commission and promulgated the Right to Information Ordinance to strengthen the foundation of democracy.

Regarding political parties' with registration of the political were also present.

parties with the Election Commission fulfilling the set

requirements. The parliamentary delegation, comprising members of British Parliamentary Select Committee on Home Affairs, has come to Bangladesh basically to see the impact of point-based new British immigration system.

The CA said his government gave special priority to rearing skilled manpower for sending abroad for overseas employment, including in the United Kingdom. In this regard, he mentioned the "If necessary, state of emer- setting up of a catering institute in Sylhet for grooming skilled manpower in this field.

The UK parliamentary delegation appreciated achievements and performance of the caretaker government under the dynamic leadership of chief adviser Fakhruddin.

On socioeconomic front, the CA said steady economic growth continued, with an over 6 percent growth maintained during the period of the present caretaker government. He also mentioned that MDGs have been achieved in

many areas. Secretary of CA's Office Kazi M Aminul Islam and CA's Press reforms, he said the process started Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim

#### Hosaf

with the contract beyond September 31 considering the "force majeure" event took place in the contract.

The notice also applies to the PDB move to encash Energy Prima's performance security deposit, imposing any liquidated damage and directing the company to furnish any additional security deposit.

A top official of the power ministry said the PDB would strongly contest Energy Prima's "unusual' legal move to get away with its failure. "They would not get away just like that ... we have already informed the court about the government position on this power project."

In its petition, Energy Prima said it signed a contract with the PDB on January 24 this year to build, own and operate the 20 MW Bogra plant within 120 days of signing the contract. The company then deposited a bank guarantee of \$ 9 lakh against the project, validity of which has recently been extended to December

But the plant could not be built till date, and the PDB served a notice for cancellation of the contract for the failure, and also a penalty of \$500 per MW per day for delay in achieving commercial operation date.

The petition then argued that the delay in shipment of power plant equipment was an event of "force majeure"

In total, the PDB slapped a fine of \$1.7 million on Energy Prima, and asked it to extend bank guarantees against its projects.

In January, the Power Cell went for a three-year rental scheme, and awarded four deals involving 170 MW to Energy Prima, a 33 MW deal to another novice consortium of Venture Energy Resources, a 40 MW deal to British company Aggreko and a 50 MW deal to US company Alstom. These companies were supposed to launch their plants within May. Inexperienced Energy Prima was

favoured because of Hosaf chief Moazzem Hossain's political connection. Brother of former BNP parliamentarian from Feni, Moazzem is an accused in Barapukuria coal mine graft case filed by the Anti- Corruption

Energy Prima launched a 50 MW plant in Kumargaon two months behind schedule on July 23. And it launched its Shajibazar 50 MW plant in phases from September 23 to 30 on test -- four months behind schedule. Its remaining two plants are also

#### Malaysian PM FROM PAGE 16

power since independence in 1957 to its worst performance in a general election last March. Initially, Abdullah refused to

resign. Later, he said he would leave in June 2010, but when that failed to placate dissidents he agreed to quit in March 2009 after the party holds elections for its office bearers.

Abdullah said he will not defend his position as UMNO president in the elections. Instead, the post will be contested by Najib, who is expected to win unopposed. The party's president automatically becomes the prime minister. Abdullah said he will hand over

the premiership after Najib formally

Until then, he said, he will pursue reforms in the judiciary, economy and administration. Abdullah is unlikely to achieve much given that his reform program has made little headway during his four years in

The global financial crisis and economic slowdown is expected to hit Malaysia's export-driven economy hard, with analysts predicting 3 percent economic growth in 2009 even as inflation reached a 27-year high this month.

Racial tensions are also running high between the majority Malays and the minority ethnic Chinese and Indians, who blame the government's pro-Malay policies for causing social fissures.

Anger against the government exploded in the general elections when opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's multiracial coalition, the People's Alliance, won an unprecedented 82 seats in the 222-member Parliament.

The March 8 election results triggered months of turmoil in the United Malays Nationa Organisation and have threatened its position as the country's dominant political force.

#### JS election

The circular issued by the EC Secretariat Tuesday directed the DCs to send final lists within three days of the announcement of polls schedule.

The district administrators have been directed to prepare the list of polling officials in proportion to the number of polling stations in their areas, and maintain strict neutrality in doing the job. They will be assisted by the

district election officers. The commission will train the recruits as it believes a free and fair conduct of election largely depends on the efficiency of polls

In the circular, it asked the DCs to write to the government, semigovernment and non-government organisations, seeking names of their staff for the panels.

"Individuals, who had worked under any prospective contestants, will not be allowed to be on the panels," the circular read. "Besides, controversial teachers or officials shall not be appointed polling personnel."

## Myanmar agrees

"We've urged the Myanmar minister

to expedite the move," Tamim said. "Bangladesh has offered Myanmar to import gas on two modes -- either through cash purchase or through setting up a ferti-

Tamim added. Under the partnership, Bangladesh will provide land and expertise while Myanmar its gas, and then both will share the output.

liser plant under a joint venture,"

But the Myanmar minister said his country has no available gas right at this moment to export to Bangladesh as it has already signed deals with China and Thailand to export its gas from the existing fields. The rate of gas export is fixed at US\$9 per unit.

The chief adviser's special assistant said the proposed tri-nation gaspipeline issue also came up for discussion. But the Myanmar side again cited

the same problem regarding the

matter -- there is no available gas for pipeline export to India through About the dispute between the two countries over exploration of offshore gas blocks, Tamim said Myanmar did not raise any objection

to Bangladesh's move for gas exploration in the country's maritime "But they said none should carry out exploration work in disputed areas before those are settled," he added saying, Bangladesh requested Myanmar to expedite the discussion

currently going on between the two

countries regarding the dispute. President Iajuddin Ahmed also expressed his keen interest in importing gas from Myanmar for fertiliser manufacturing and for reexport, as the vice-chairman of that country's ruling State Peace and Development Council, Vice-senior General Maung Aye, made a goodwill call on him in Bangabhaban earlier in the day.

During a discussion with the visiting Myanmar government leader, the president expressed his satisfaction at the existing bilateral relations between Bangladesh and President Iajuddin and General

Maung Aye assured each other of 'all out cooperation' to the mutual benefit of both countries. Briefing reporters in Bangabhaban after the meeting,

Chowdhury termed the discussion 'fruitful', and said both sides agreed that there is a tremendous scope for enhancing the volume of trade and commerce between the two coun-The president also emphasised developing education sectors of both countries through mutual cooperation. In response, Gen Maung

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed

foreign adviser added. The Myanmar vice-senior general assured that they will export 50,000 to one lakh tonnes of rice to

assured him of giving support for

enhancing the education sector, the

Bangladesh on a regular basis.

Replying to a question, Dr Iftekhar said, "The discussion on maritime boundary demarcation is going on between the countries and it has already been decided that the next technical committee meeting on maritime boundary will be held in Dhaka in November."

The possibility of setting up a mechanism comprising Bangladesh, Myanmar and UNHCR to expedite repatriation of the remaining Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, and the scheduling of the next expert level meeting on maritime boundaries were also discussed.

"We spoke of ways and means to implement the common projects that were discussed in the bilateral meeting yesterday. Building our friendship is obviously to our mutual interest," Iftekhar said after a meeting with Myanmar Foreign Minister U Nyan Win. The foreign adviser said, "We will

relations which will be to the advantage of both. Strengthening relations with all our neighbours is a pillar of our ten-point foreign policy, and links with Myanmar come within that purview." Myanmar Vice-senior General Maung Aye also paid a courtesy call

expand both political and economic

on Bangladesh Army chief General Moeen U Ahmed in the Army Headquarters yesterday. "They exchanged greetings and discussed matters of bilateral interest," said an ISPR release. General Maung Aye was apprised of different

presentation. LINKROAD

In July last year, the two governments signed a deal on construction of the

activities of the Bangladesh Army in a

According to a memorandum of understanding signed on April 4 2004, two kilometres of the transboundary road will be in Bangladesh and 23 kilometres in Myanmar. Dhaka will bear the cost estimated at Tk 141 crore.

The road will start at Gundum in Cox's Bazar and end at Bolibazar in Myanmar.

At yesterday's meeting, the Myanmarese construction minister also agreed in general terms to the idea of extending the road till China in future, according to meeting sources. Communications Adviser Ghulam Quader handed him a set

of documents regarding the link

road construction. He said Dhaka

awaits a go-ahead from the Myanmarese government to begin a survey in this regard. Officials said a contract for conducting the study and cost estimation of the project by March

2009 will be signed soon. Eight firms have submitted expressions of interest for the survey in response to the advertisement by the Roads and Highways Department.

On March 10, 2008, the Planning Commission approved Tk 4.97 crore funds for the survey.

## Fate of 'reformists

including Saifur Rahman, Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman, Sadeque Hossain Khoka, and Hafizuddin Ahmed even met Khaleda to express their 'unconditional loyalty' to her. Saifur and Lt Gen (retd)

Mahbubur Rahman also attended the meeting of the party's standing committee with the chairperson in the chair. But many 'reformist' leaders and

former lawmakers have already been harassed during visits to their areas or constituencies. Terming the situation 'unfortunate', BNP Standing Committee Member Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur

Rahman told The Daily Star on Monday that the party should take immediate strict measures against such kinds of activities. "This is harmful for the party, the chairperson herself asked all to work

for the party from their respective positions," said Mahbubur also known as a 'reformist' An anti-dissident leader however

said it is quite normal that activists will express their resentments against those who 'betrayed the party during bad times'. Supporters of 'disbanded reformists' and Khaleda loyalists clashed on

Friday in Gauranadi of Barisal leaving at least 35 people including a policeman and a journalist injured. The clash started when staunch Khaleda loyalists attacked former BNP lawmaker Jahiruddin Swapan,

Bhuiyan, was heading towards Gauranadi Press Club escorted by his

Masud Hasan Mithu Talukdar, vice-president of Gauranadi unit of Jaba Dal, youth front of the party, even filed a criminal case against Swapan and his supporters on Monday, accusing them of extortion.

In another incident, a group of anti-dissident activists attacked former lawmaker Mosharraf Hossain Mangu on Sunday in his constituency when he was exchanging Eid greetings with the people. In Moulvi Bazar a group of party

leaders declared that former BNP lawmaker MM Shaheen is not a member of BNP anymore Saifur Rahman and his followers are also facing resistance from local

rival Ilyas Ali and his followers, as Ilyas supporters are now dominating the party in Sylhet. Although Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan remains expelled from BNP,

he still holds tremendous support in his area Narsingdi, as most of the party leaders and union parishad chairmen there are still backing him. Former lawmaker Khairul Kabir Khokon, a pro-Khaleda leader,

however is trying to establish supremacy in Narsingdi through manoeuvring to keep Bhuiyan out of theparty Some leaders of Bhola BNP have

taken a strong position against Maj (retd) Hafiz, they even met the party's senior leaders recently including the secretary general, and lodged complaints against Hafiz.

# Ctg mayor freed

FROM PAGE 1

tions of heart and eyes. Mohiuddin, who was arrested on he was shifted to the intensive care

spondent adds: Mohiuddin's lawyer Hari Sadhan Dev Burman said after getting government approval Mohiuddin would fly for Bangkok for treatment. The present caretaker govern-

ment lodged five of the 22 cases against Mohiuddin, the others having been filed by the BNP-led alliance government. "The High Court and Appellate Division quashed three cases while

final reports were given in four cases as no specific allegations were found against the mayor," said Dev Mohiuddin earlier secured bail in 14 cases and the last in the Bijov TV

bonds on September 30, he said.

barrister Amir-Ul Islam, Abdul Baset Majumder, Abdul Matin Khasru and Dev Burman defended Mohiuddin while Deputy Attorney General Abu Bakar Siddique and Assistant Attorney General Mohammad Ali Akhand moved for the state. Anti-Corruption Commission

Siddique filed the Bijoy TV case with Chittagong Kotwali Police Station on May 27 last year. The charge sheet against Mohiuddin and two others was submitted on November 22 for launching the private TV channel without prior government permis-

that the accused drew Tk 1,78,02,000 in four phases from the CC funds and gobbled up Tk 1,69,67,960 in the name of the TV channel. Mohiuddin also faced allegations of not floating any tender for the new

Bijoy TV went on air on December 16, 2006. On March 08 last year, the government issued a show-cause notice on the CCC and closed down the station on March 15.

### Mojahid

FROM PAGE 1 Mojahid's petition was "dismissed

as being not pressed." Barrister Abdur Razzaq, the counsel for Mojahid, did not agree with the opinion of the counsel for the ACC and told reporters that after making a brief submission "I didn't press for it."

After hearing the petition, Justice Abedin passed an order that says "Abdur Razzaq, learned counsel, submits that he will not press for the leave petition. Accordingly, the leave petition is dismissed as being not During the hearing, Justice

Abedin advised the counsel for

Mojahid to approach the High Court or the trial court seeking redress, court sources said. They added that apprehending refusal of the chamber judge, barrister Razzaq told the court that he

would not press for bail. Barrister Razzaq moved to the court for hearing on a pending petition filed by Mojahid for leave-toappeal against June 3 bail-denial order passed by the High Court following issuance of arrest warrants by Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge M Azizul Huq on Monday against Mojahid and eight others, a day after accepting the charge-sheet

in Barapukuria coalmine case. Following the SC chamber Judge's dismissal order, upholding the High Court denial of bail to Mojahid, barrister Razzaq met the chief justice at his residence urging him to provide a HC division bench that has the criminal jurisdiction to hear a fresh bail petition filed by his Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin

contact two available HC division benches headed by Justice M Anwarul Haque and Justice AKM Fazlur Rahman. While contacted, barrister Razzao told UNB that one judge of each division bench was not available

asked the counsel for Mojahid to

until vesterday evening. "Later at night, I contacted Justice M Anwarul Haque and referred to him the advice of the chief justice But Justice Haque regretted to hear Mojahid's bail petition," said Razzaq adding that he was waiting for the "But the possibility is bleak," he

#### Bijoya Dashami

FROM PAGE 16

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday visited the puja mandap at Dhakeshwari National Temple in the city, a UNB report said. Addressing briefly a gathering of Hindu devotees on the temple pre-

mises, the CA said, "Bangladesh is a

country of harmony and amity." Chief Adviser Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed said the government is strongly committed to uphold communal harmony and wished uninterrupted happiness, peace and welfare of all citizens of the country including members of the Hindu

Chief of the Mohanagar Sarbajanin Puja Udjapan Committee Maj Gen (retd) CR Dutta also spoke

on the occasion. In the capital city, thousands of men, women and children will join the traditional immersion rally today. Processions will be brought out from the Dhakeshwari Temple at 3:00pm today and end at Waisghat in old town after parading through different city streets.

Around one hundred idols are expected to be immersed in the river Buriganga, Mahanagar Puja Udjapan Committee said. Hindus believe Dashami is the day when Goddess Durga accompa

nied by her children start for Kailash, herhusband's abode. Meanwhile, thousands gathered at the different puja mandaps across the country yesterday to celebrate the Mahanabami puja. Nabami Bhog comprising food and fruits were offered to Devi Durga, which were

later distributed among devotees.

In the city, people from all walks of

life visited different Puja mandaps in

the city, including the ones at the Dhakeshwari Temple, Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University, Ramna Kali Mandir, Siddheswari Kali Mandir, and in the temples of Tanti Bazar, Shankhari Bazar and Bangla Bazar. Leaders of BNP, Awami League, Jatiya Party, Gono Forum, LDP Bikalpa Dhara and other sociocultural organisations greeted the

also visited the Durga Puja mandaps and exchanged greetings with the Other programmes, including voluntary blood donation, and distribution of Prasad and Anjal offerings, were held at the Puja mandap premises. Makeshift fairs

community on the occasion. Many

#### First ODI

FROM PAGE 16 tourists as they have won all eleven ODIs against the Tigers. The only time Bangladesh had the upper hand was in a World Cup 2007 warm-up game where the Tigers beat a full

will take place in the same venue on October 11 while the final ODI will be held in Chittagong on October 14.

#### / engineers FROM PAGE 16

firms against the works they had

that around Tk 80 lakh was embezzled from the project cost of Tk 2 ACC has filed cases against CDA

Chief Engineer (the then superintendent engineer) Iqbal Hossain Majumder, executive engineer and project director Kazi Hasan Bin Shams, assistant engineers Nurul Amin and Mohammad Elias, deputy diploma and an invitation to the assistant engineers Sayed Golam prize ceremonies in Stockholm and Sorwar, Mohammad Jahangir Alam Oslo on Dec. 10, the anniversary of and Hamidul Haque.

prize founder Alfred Nobel's death in

# McCain, Obama

questioned Obama's ties to William Ayers, who 40 years ago was a member of the Weather Underground, a radical group that claimed responsibility for a series of bombings. Obama had a limited relationship with Ayers, who lives in the same neighbourhood and teaches at the University of Illinois at

Chicago. Democrats have criticized McCain for his role in a 1980s banking scandal. He was one of five senators who had accepted contributions from Charles Keating Jr., a real estate speculator and savings and loan owner. Keating's institution failed and cost many investors in uninsured financial products their life savings.

Neither figure came up during Tuesday's debate. Nor did either candidate call the other a liar, a familiar charge in this contentious campaign. The closest: "You know, Senator McCain, I think the Straight Talk Express lost a wheel on that one," Obama said.

McCain suggested some evasive ness on Obama's part: "Nailing down Senator Obama's various tax proposals is like nailing Jell-O to the wall. There has been five or six of them and if you wait long enough, there will probably be another one." In one pointed confrontation on foreign policy, Obama bluntly chal-

lenged McCain's steadiness. "This is a

guy who sang 'bomb, bomb, bomb

Iran,' who called for the annihilation of

North Korea that I don't think is an example of speaking softly." That came in response to McCain's accusation that Obama had threatened to invade Pakistan.

McCain said his rival "was wrong about Iraq and the surge. He was wrong about Russia when they committed aggression against Georgia. And in his short career he does not understand our national security challenges. We don't have time for on-the-job train-

Obama countered with a trace of

sarcasm that he didn't understand some things like how the United States could face the challenge it does in Afghanistan after spending years and hundreds of billions of dollars in Iraq. During a discussion of an energy bill McCain offered up a two-word

phrase that immediately got a reaction.

"You know who voted for it? You

might never know. That one," McCain said, pointing at his opponent. The debate at Belmont University was the second of three between the two rivals, and the only one to feature a format in which voters seated a few feet away posed questions to the candi-

#### Proshika chief

FROM PAGE 16 Mujibur Rahman," he said about the main objectives of the party. Talking to The Daily Star, a

senior official of Proshika said the party has no connection with the non-governmental organisation (NGO), but any individual, who might even be a Proshika employee, can join the party. About the position of Kazi Faruk in the Proshika, he said: "Dr Faruk

Proshika since it is an honorary post and no one can influence policy-making of the organisation from the post. Proshika was founded in 1996 and since then it has been working

will remain the chairman of

in several sectors. The council was addressed, among others, by Abdus Samad Pintu, Asaduzzaman Arzu, M Habibullah, Col (retd) Nurun Nabi Khan Bir Bikram, Imtiaj Mahmud

#### Nobel

and Jahanara Begum Alo.

FROM PAGE 16 That means that researchers have been able to use GFP to track nerve cell damage from Alzheimer's disease or see how insulin-producing beta-cells are created in the pancreas of a growing embryo.

researchers succeeded in tagging different nerve cells in the brain of a mouse with a kaleidoscope of colours," the citation said. Shimomura, born in 1928, works at the Marine Biological Laboratory

in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, and

"In one spectacular experiment

the Boston University Medical Chalfie, born in 1947, is a professor at Columbia University in New York, while Tsien, born in 1952, is a professor at the University of California, San Diego.

The trio will split the 10 million kronor (US\$1.4 million) award. Shimomura began his work in the mid 1950s while still in Japan. In 1962, he was able to isolate a protein from jellyfish that was slightly greenish in the sunlight. In the 1970s, he showed that the protein, GFP, contained a chemical group that

absorbed and emitted light. In 1988, Chalfie heard about the protein and decided it would be an excellent tool for mapping the roundworm, acting as a glowing green signal for various activities in the roundworm's cells. He and others were able to prove that no other proteins were needed to control the chemical production to

create the glowing green in GPF.
Tsien's work helped extend GFP's usefulness by adding more colours to the palette that glowed longer with more intensity, the academy said. By exchanging various amino

acids in different parts of GFP, he was

able to get it to absorb and emit different colours, including blue, cyan and yellow. "That is how researchers today can mark different proteins in different colours to see their interactions,"

the academy said in its citation. The winners of the Nobel Prizes in medicine and physics were presented earlier this week. The prizes for literature, peace and economics are due to be announced Thursday, Friday and Monday. The awards include the money, a

The audience was selected by Gallup, the polling organisation, and was split three ways among voters leaning toward McCain, those leaning

toward Obama and those undecided. Tom Brokaw of NBC, the moderator, screened their questions and also chose others that had been submitted

### Ex-bureaucrats

FROM PAGE 1 and co-ordinate pre-election programmes for Khaleda Zia. Besides, they will prepare a list of do's and don'ts for her.

The first floor of the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office is being fitted out for their use.

It was still not clear though if Secretary General Khandaker

BNP leaders said they do not approve of setting up office for persons not having direct links to the party. Arranging space for the secretary general, they added, should be the first priority. Before the election in 2001, the

party set up an office for its chairperson at Hawa Bhaban in the city's Banani area. Much of BNP's polls success that year was credited to the Banani office that became the alternate powerhouse during the four-party rule.

### Top 'corrupt'

commission despite overwhelming evidence of corruption against

Back in February, the National Coordination Committee (NCC) to combat corruption and serious crimes had unearthed huge corruption in government departments.

The committee found 135 staff-

ers from the state-run Titas Gas

alone who have become billionaires

through sheer sleaze. Two hundred and sixty-six people--including 229 government officials, 22 of their wives and eight low-profile businessmen--have so far applied to the commission to confess to graft.

The Tac completed hearing 126

of them who admitted to having

only about Tk 18.10 crore in illgotten wealth. About 40 of them deposited Tk 8.73 crore to the state exchequer as of yesterday. The low-tier government officials who applied to the Tac mostly come from the BTCL, roads and highways department, Titas gas,

ment, Chittagong Port Authority and Power Development Board. None from the corruptioninfested passport department, Customs, LGED, and Dhaka City Corporation came to voluntarily

Desa, BIWTA, registration depart-

Of the applicants, 83 applied through the ACC, 167 through the NCC, three through the courts while 13 applied voluntarily. The commission recently extended for the second time the

#### October 30.

disclose their corruption.

Maldives FROM PAGE 16 allegations of rigging, with the main opposition party claiming large numbers of its members had been

removed from the electoral roll.

deadline for clemency pleas by

over the Maldives from our party members that their names are not on the electoral list," said Mariya Didi, chairwoman of the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP). The MDP's founder Mohamed "Anni" Nasheed -- one of the presi-

dent's fiercest critics and a former

"I'm getting complaints from all

Amnesty International prisoner of conscience -- is seen as Gayoom's strongest rival. "We had high hopes for today," Didi said. "We hoped that once in our lifetime we could vote freely but today we are being denied our right

to vote."

members could be seen voting with no difficulties. Election commission spokesman Mohammed Ibrahim Tolal said he was unaware of any complaints. Turnout appeared to be strong in Male, with large queues outside polling stations despite heavy rain.

The elections are the first in which

Gavoom -- who has served six terms

under a one-candidate system -- has

had to face any serious competition.

There was no immediate response

from the ruling party whose senior

Gayoom has built South Asia's richest nation, per capita, thanks to dozens of resorts on white sand beaches and crystal clear waters -where hotels charge up to 15,000 dollars a night But the Maldives are suffering

from increasing drug use, worsening

crime and a chronic housing short-

age in the cramped island capital The country suffered its first terror attack a year ago, with Islamic militants blamed for bombing a park in Male and wounding a dozen

The opposition says half the top government jobs are held by Gayoom's family and Anni has branded Gayoom as a "has-been sultan". While opposition rallies have

drawn large crowds in Male, Gayoom

and his conservative Muslim plat-

form appear to be well received on

outlying atolls. Major generals

FROM PAGE 16

Ansar and VDP. He will immediately report to the home ministry to take up his new assignment as head of the auxiliary force. Maj Gen Abul Kalam has been

Maj Gen ATM Amin has been made

director general of Bangladesh

made area commander of Comilla and GOC of the 33 Infantry Division, and Maj Gen Shariful Huq director general of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies.

### who had jumped onto the 'reformist' bandwagon led by Abdul Mannan

including diabetes and complica-

March 7 last year, fell seriously ill during his detention in Bandarban Jail and was taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital from where unitat BSMMU Hospital. Our Chittagong University corre-

corruption case involving Tk 80,000

Senior Supreme Court lawyers Deputy Director Abu Md Arif

In the charge sheet, it was alleged

television station.

were also held around the city.

#### strength New Zealand side. The second match of the series

Sources said the ACC has assessed

The others accused in the cases

are contractors.

FROM PAGE 16 McCain running mate Sarah Palin has

Delwar Hossain would get any room there. Speaking anonymously, several