BNP waits on talk

Secretary General Abdul Latif Nezami of Islami Oikyo Jote, another component of BNP-led four-party alliance, said they will follow the leaders. alliance's decision, which is scheduled to meet this evening to finalise its position regarding party registra-

Meanwhile, the alliance will hold rallies across the country today in an effort to mount pressure on the government for meeting its five-

point charter of demands. Alliance sources said now the main aim of demonstrations will be to force the government to lift the state of emergency, and it will take a firm position on the issue during the

BNP and its allies took preparations to gather a huge number of people in their rallies to show off their

Delwar told the reporters that they will demonstrate today to realise their five-point demands, but there is no link between the demonstrations and the upcoming dia-

Later at a discussion meeting organised by Jatiyatabadi Krishok

Dal, the BNP secretary general said the people will not tolerate any plan to exclude BNP Chairperson Khaleda

"If there is any plan to exclude her from the election process, that should be dropped," he said adding that they want a free and fair election with participation of all political

will sit with BNP at 11:00am on Tuesday followed by his dialogue

among the chief adviser, BNP, and

BNP's dialogue preparation committee met yesterday in the office of

that they will submit a report about

discussed in Tuesday's dialogues include lifting of the emergency, deferment of the upazila polls, release of all detained political leaders, and ensuring a level playing field for all parties to participate in the election, Anwar said.

chosen by the grassroots."

allowing a logical interval."

20 injured

party combine.

The two batsmen were however too slow and soon fell well behind the run-rate as the team's fifty came in 20

Oram-inspired

as the left-hander, who also smashed

a half-century in the first game, gave

his side an impetus in the second

The mighty man however was

lucky not to return to the pavilion

when he was on 26 as Zunaed

Siddiqui and Razzak collided at cover

to spill the easy catch. The southpaw

celebrated his 'life' with a huge six

over mid-wicket with Shahadat

for the Tigers to wrap up their oppo-

nents below the 200-run margin if

they had been alert enough to appeal

for a run out against last man Jeetan

Patel as the TV reply clearly showed

that the direct throw of Mashrafe Bin

Mortaza from mid-off knocked out

the stumps before the batsman

entered into the crease. The score-

Man-of-the-match Oram also

captured two wickets including

of 40 off 86 balls, after Kyle Mills had

taken two early wickets to get his

desperately needed a positive start to

secure consecutive ODI wins against a

Test nation other than Zimbabwe but

Tamim Iqbal again failed with a sec-

Chasing 213, the home side had

board then read 176-9.

team back into the contest.

It could have even been possible

Hossain being the unlucky bowler.

The Tigers might have compensated for their start but Vettori took a spectacular one-hand catch at midoff to send Zunaed (32) back to the

dressing room to break the 53-run third-wicket stand. It was all but over for the home team when Shakib Al Hasan and Nayeem Islam were dismissed in

consecutive deliveries as Bangladesh were reduced to 86 for 5. With a target of scoring nearly seven-runs in an over Shakib swept Vettori only to reach at the safe hands of Oram at mid-wicket while Nayeem didn't get the opportunity to even get strike when he fell short of returning to the crease after his skipper wrongly called him for a run.

The remaining batsmen walked in under pressure and cracked at a time when runs were needed and only the small 27 run-a-ball cameo of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza entertained the local crowd.

Earlier, New Zealand's top order flopped once again after being put in as the local spinners did a good job after Rasel caused the initial damage.

Shakib was most economical conceding 20 runs in his ten-over spell to claim two wickets while offspinner Nayeem captured two wickets for 20 runs in 4 overs.

Knitwear said the authorities have SC reopens

that denied her bail Hasina filed the petition, as she prefers leave to appeal against the HC order in the extortion case.

Noor Ali, managing director of Station, said police resorted to Unique Group, filed the case on June 13 last year.

In the case, he accused the former prime minister and her cousin and former Awami League MP Sheikh Helal and his wife Rupa Chowdhury, now absconding, of taking Tk 5 crore in bribe for allowing his company to

setup a power plant. Meanwhile, barrister Mahbub Uddin Khokan, a counsel for BNP Chairperson and ex-prime minister Khaleda Zia, now freed on bail in all the four corruption cases against her, told the news agency that he planned to file petitions Sunday with the High Court either for quashing the Barapukuria coalmine graft case or challenging the validity of taking into cognisance of the case through accepting the charge-sheet submitted to the trial court by the Anti-

Corruption Commission (ACC). On February 26, the ACC filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station in the capital on charge of taking kickbacks amounting to about Tk 159 crore in awarding the Barapukuria coalmine deal to the highest bidder nstead of the lowest.

On October 5, the principal accused, Khaleda Zia, and 10 powerful ministers of her cabinet and five others were charge-sheeted in the Barapukuria coalmine graft

FROM PAGE 1 Washington, says there is some disappointment that the G7 plan

Meanwhile, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel said there would be no common financial rescue fund for Europe, like the US bail-out of Wall Street.

approach to the financial crisis would emerge from a Paris summit on Sunday of 15 eurozone leaders. UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown will hold talks with Sarkozy in the French capital before the

meeting Chancellor Merkel said governments must "redirect the markets so they serve the people, and not

The heads of the EU's four biggest economies - Britain, France, Germany and Italy - held a first crisis summit last week, but were split over the need for a common plan.

Analysts say another week of plunging stock markets has focused minds and the real test of this weekend's scramble by world leaders to shore up the international financial system will come once markets reopen again on Monday.

Graft trials stuck

Status of graft cases in ten special courts (Till October 6)

Special Court	Number of cases	Verdict Delivered	Cases Stayed	Cases Pending
1	23	10	13	0
2	24	14	8	2
3	32	8	22	2
4	33	23	10	0
5	31	18	12	1
6	17	10	4	3
7	33	17	4	12
8	11	1	4	6
9	25	14	6	5
10	15	7	6	2
Total	244	122	89	33

FROM PAGE 1 has only one case pending, while the special court-1 and 4 don't have any case proceedings because of HC stay. Ashraful, who played a patient knock

Though there are two cases pending with the special court-2, proceedings of one of those remained stalled as the accused, Awami League former minister Mohammad Nasim, is abroad for treatment.

Besides, three and two cases in special courts-4 and 6 respectively have been quashed by the higher

Of the quashed cases from special court-4, one was against former ward commissioner Chowdhury Alam, another against Swechhashebok League general secretary Pankaj Debnath, while the other was against former BNP lawmaker Harunur Rashid, Enayetur Rahman and Istiaque Sadek.

The cases quashed from the special court-6 were against Janakantha editor Atiqullah Khan Masud and several others.

Court officials say they have heard some of the pending cases have been stayed by the HC but cannot enlist those as stayed unless they get the official copy of the stay order.

Now it has become very hard for them to pass the office time from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Some of them chat, some read books, while some others even sleep on their

"We had to work on the weekends even in the beginning of this year. But now the pressure has been eased and we can think of going on vacation besides enjoying the holidays," says a court staff speaking anonymously.

Against this backdrop, the special courts were empowered to hear criminal cases a few months ago. But except two criminal cases -- one against former premier Sheikh Hasina involving bribery and the other regarding the country." Bashundhara group director Sabbir killing -- no criminal case was sent to these courts.

Three cases against Hasina and two cases against another former premier Khaleda Zia were sent to the special courts. But all the cases

have been stayed. The national parliament complex turned into a hotspot after the special courts began functioning in May last year. Law-enforcers used to produce high-profile graft-accused before the courts every day with relatives of the accused, lawyers and journalists thronging the court premises.

Once the busy court premises now look almost abandoned and

A number of prosecution lawyers, however, say the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will initiate its move soon to vacate the stay orders and the cases will be back on trial again.

The situation has changed so much that many of the courtrooms were found locked during a

visit to the court premises. Several makeshift tea stalls set up on the premises centring the special courts are now experiencing downfall in daily sale.

"My daily income has gone down to Tk 1,200 from over Tk 2,000," said Delwar Hossain, a shopkeeper on the court pre-

"The number of visitors has been reduced significantly and my present income ranges between Tk 700 to Tk 800 instead of earlier income of Tk 1,500 a day," said another shopkeeper who did not open his shop after Eid till

People related to the courts are now discussing possible shift of the special courts as the govern ment has already declared parliamentary elections on December

"If the election is held as per the declared date, the newly elected lawmakers will be allotted rooms at the MP Hostel. So the courts will have to be shifted either before or immediately after the election," a court staff speculates.

Politicians point FROM PAGE 16

held at China-Bangladesh Friendship Conference Centre in the capital and would be aired by BBC radio service in the evening today and by Channel i tomorrow.

"The advisers to the caretaker government had several times said the emergency will be withdrawn completely before the general elections. But now they are saying the election will be held under emergency like the polls to city corporations," Motia said

She added the election to the four city corporations was held at a controlled and limited atmosphere where all the media was alert. "This example won't be applicable to the parliamentary polls, which will be held in 300 constituencies across

"It will be impossible for the media to watch the parliament polls like the election to the local government bodies."

Hannan said fair election will not be possible under the emergency because human rights would be violated for it and in future it would be used as a tool to abuse

However, the other panel members at the Sanglap -- Jatiya Party presidium member Ziauddin Bablu and Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (Fema) President Feroze M Hasan -- expressed different

They said the parliament election should be held under the emergency so that people can cast their vote without fear.

They suggest that the caretaker government curtail some of the rules of the emergency during the election period.

Masud Hasan Khan conducted of audience was present.

the Sanglap where a large number

FROM PAGE 1 body, the RO will inquire into it, and cancel permission to it (organisation) to observe polls if the

allegation is correct. According to the new EC guidelines, an organisation willing to get registered with the EC as polls observers will have to apply giving detailed information and docu-

"In order to ensure transparthrough neutral, independent, and conscientious observation of the electoral process, the Election Commission is pleased to issue the guidelines for observers," says the preamble to the EC guidelines.

The EC has also finalised a code of conduct for election observers. In case of violation of the guidelines and code of conduct, the EC can revoke accreditation granted to

credible evidence about it. On qualification of an individual observer, the guidelines say the individual must be a citizen of Bangladesh and at least 25 years of age, and must have passed SSC or

equivalent examinations. Any individual or organisation having link with any political parties cannot get registered with the

After becoming election observer of a registered organisation, an individual will have to pledge that he will remain strictly non-partisan and impartial in all activities concerning the election process, refrain from expressing publicly any preference for or against any candidate, political party, group or association seeking public office.

Every registered organisation will have to submit observation report to the EC as soon as possible.

The EC has already prepared forms for individual observers and organisations to submit reports to it. They are supposed to report on appropriateness of polling centres, management of those, law and order in and around the centres etc.

conduct aims to avoid any controversies over election observation. In the last parliamentary election, 68 local organisations

parliamentary polls by local organisations. Different donor

agencies provide the funds. The number of observers might increase this time since the upcoming parliamentary election has already drawn unprecedented attention both at home and abroad, he added

Private sector

FROM PAGE 1

making use of almost every bale of raw jute grown in the country if all the mills were running.

But the massive Tk 5,500 crore debts owed by some big mills, frequent power cuts, rusted machinery and sloppy management gummed up the BJMC mills and many privatised in 1982-83.

The industry has still upped production in the past few years thanks to ingenuity of the private sector: 5.23 lakh tonnes in 2004-05, 5.43 lakh tonnes in 2005-06, 5.73 lakh tonnes in 2006-07 and 5.84 lakh tonnes in 2007-08. Nasim Akhter Mollah set up the

Pabna's Ishwardi, snapping up 31 looms from the dismantled Adamjee Jute Mills. "We buy raw jute when the prices are low...continue seamless production. If there are any mechanical

NN Jute Fibre and Industries Ltd in

glitches, we fix them immediately," he described his recipe for success. His mill needs around 400 tonnes of raw jute a month, producing mostly sackcloth for local and overseas markets, especially India. He said net profit is over 5 percent on a

conservative calculation. Nasim plans to diversify products and has already sought out technical know-how from the Jute Diversification Promotion Centre in

Dhaka. The government-owned jute mills incur losses mostly for corruption in raw-jute purchases and repair of machinery, he said. "The jute that we buy, let's say, at Tk 600 will be Tk 900 for the BJMC mills."

"What the government needs to do is encourage these mills and help them diversify," BJMA Secretary Abdul Barik Khan said.

2 robbers die

FROM PAGE 16 DM College at around 2:00am, the gang opened fire, prompting the law enforcers to retaliate.

Police said two gang members received bullets during the shootout while others escaped unhurt. The bullet-hit bandits were taken to Shailakupa Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared them dead, they added.

The officer-in-charge (OC) of Shailakupa Police Station said two constables -- Faruk and Saidulreceived injuries during the gunfight.

Police recovered a foreign made gun, two light guns and 19 bullets

US, India strike

FROM PAGE 16 extraordinary effort by both our governments."

The deal offers India access to US technology and cheap atomic energy in return for allowing UN inspections of some of its civilian nuclear facilities -- but not military nuclear sites.

The signing here comes after US President George W. Bush signed legislation to enact the landmark agreement on Wednesday. Rice had planned to sign the deal with Mukherjee during a visit to New Delhi on October 4 but US officials said it was delayed for "administrative" reasons.

Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh signed the deal in July 2005, touching off a difficult battle with wary lawmakers on either side and critics who warn it undermines global efforts to curb the spread of nuclear know-how. Further steps must be taken to

open up nuclear trade. Analysts say US firms cannot do business until Delhi signs a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage.

Indialast month wrote a letter o intent to sign up to the convention, which analysts says US businesses want in order to reduce their liability in the event of a catastrophe.

Rice has called the accord "a recognition of India's emergence on the global stage" while Mukherjee cited improved relations since the Cold War era, when New Delhi steered an independent course from Washington.

Rice and others had to lobby hard to win approval for the deal from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UN nuclear watchdog, and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), which controls global atomic trade.

She also pushed hard for the agreement to be approved by both Houses of Congress.

US lawmakers attached safeguards on preventing the spread of nuclear weapons technology before passing it overwhelmingly earlier this month and handing Bush a foreign policy success.

But critics say it still undermines global efforts to curb the spread of nuclear weapons, because India has refused to sign the international non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

Singh also had a rough ride over the deal at home: The main opposition Hindu nationalists and the Communists have both slammed it as curbing India's military options and bringing the country's foreign policy too much under US influ-Washington says India will be

able to satisfy its booming economy's thirst for energy while curbing its dependence on fossil fuels linked to climate change, while the United States would gain access to India's lucrative nuclear market.

N Korea off

FROM PAGE 16 North Korea has agreed to all US nuclear inspection demands, allowing the Bush administration to remove the communist country from a US terrorism blacklist, The

Associated Press has learned. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, not wanted to pre-empt Saturday's announcement of the agreement, which is aimed at salvaging a faltering nuclear disarmament accord in the short time before President Bush leaves office in

"Every element that we sought in the verification discussions is part of this package," the official said.

Removing North Korea from the blacklist was immediately criticised by conservatives. The broader accord had been threatened by North Korea's refusal to accept such nuclear inspections because Washington had refused to drop the North from the list of state sponsors of terrorism.

That designation now shared only by Cuba, Iran, Syria and Sudan carries severe penalties, but US officials said North Korea would not see any immediate benefit because it is punished penalized under other

Still, critics jumped on the move saying it rewards the North for bad behavior and sends a bad signal to other US adversaries, notably Iran. US officials stressed that the North would be placed back on the list if it fails to comply with the plan to verify it has told the truth about its nuclear activities.

The US action came as North Korea has moved to restart a disabled nuclear reactor and takes other provocative steps, including expelling UN inspectors and test-firing missiles. Those steps in recent weeks have heightened tensions in the region and place the shaky disarmament deal in peril.

It also followed days of intense internal debate in Washington and consultations with US negotiating partners China, South Korea, Russia and Japan. Tokyo had balked at the move because North Korea has not resolved issues related to its abduction of Japanese citizens.

The decision had been in the works since chief US negotiator Christopher Hill returned from a trip to North Korea late last week. On his visit, he proposed a face-saving compromise under which the North would accept the verification plan after the delisting was announced. Previously, the US had insisted that the Northagree to the deal first.

Hill, a lightning rod for conservative hawks, was not expected to attend the State Department announcement. Critics pilloried it in part because it addresses only the North's plutonium program and does not deal with its involvement in spreading nuclear weapons technology or alleged uranium enrichment

"With today's action, the adminis tration has given up a critical instru ment of leverage," said Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., the top Republican on the House Foreign

North Korea before the regime has carried out its commitments, we are encouraging this regime to continue its illicit nuclear program and violate its pledge to no longer provide nuclear assistance to extremist regimes."

message to other rogue nations, such as Iran and Syria, that we will not hold them to their commitments, even as we give in to their demands," she said.

Republican presidential candidate John McCain said he would not support the step unless it is clear North Korea will accept intrusive

"I expect the administration to I will be able to support any decision to remove North Korea from the list of state sponsors of terrorism," he said

that US allies in Asia, particularly Japan, had not been properly con-

Khaleda asks

"No one will be able to destroy the BNP or the nationalistic forces through conspiracy. The people are with us," she told Krishak Dal

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain and Krishak Dal General Secretary Shamsuzzaman Dudu, among others, were present at the meeting chaired by Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, acting president of Krishak Dal.

Earlier, Khaleda exchanged views with party leaders of various levels from across the country for about four hours. She instructed them to work in unison for the

"We are in favour of election and we want to participate in it," former BNP lawmaker Rahimuddin Bharasha quoted Khaleda as say-

Islam Khan, BNP joint secretary

and Nazrul Islam Khan held a closed door meeting with the party chief yesterday afternoon, sources Details could not be known. Others who met Khaleda on the day included former BNP lawmaker Salahuddin Quader

Chowdhury, former state minister

After the US Secret Service said

Thursday it was investigating an

alleged death threat shouted at a

focused on the country's worst eco-

nomic crisis since the Great

Depression in the 1930s, on Friday

"It's easy to rile up a crowd by stok-

McCain, however, vowed to come

ing anger and division. But that is not

what we need now in the United States,

Obama expands lead

With voters preoccupied by the faltering economy, Obama has broadened his base of support. According to the survey, he now leads McCain among men 54 percent to 40 percent and women 50 percent to 41 percent.

President George W. Bush's job approval rating dropping to just 25 percent, a record low for any modern president, the Newsweek poll showed. Meanwhile, in a long-awaited 263-

page report released by Alaska's Legislative Council, investigator Steve Branchflower said on Friday that Republican vice presidential pick Sarah Palin was guilty of violating

He said Palin had allowed her husband Todd Palin to use the Alaska

"Governor Palin knowingly permit ted a situation to continue where impermissible pressure was placed on several subordinates in order to advance a personal agenda... to get Trooper Michael Wooten fired," the reportsaid.

"She had the authority and power to require Mr Palin to cease contacting

to sack Alaska public safety commissionerWaltMonegan in July.

Monegan claimed he was fired because of his refusal to sack Wooten, who had been involved in an acrimonious divorce with Palin's younger sister in 2005.

Palin, the first woman to be selected from political obscurity in Alaska by the

Arizona senator in late August to be his running mate in the November 4 elections. A devout Christian mother-of-five

embraced McCain. experience raised doubts among observers about McCain's judgment.

As Obama, 47, took a hefty lead in

impossible to throw the bombs on to the lawn from outside the building as they would then have exploded when they hit the ground."

not clear how the bombs got in there," he said. Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader

came into the limelight after his bench granted bail to a large number of high-profile corruption detainees over a short period of time recently.

deadline then we will apply for registration within the time limit," Barrister Abdur Razzak, assistant secretary general of Jamaat, told The Daily Staryesterday.

talks.

strength and popularity.

logues with the government.

constitution to get registered with the EC. AL demanded cancellation of the provisions that empower the EC to cancel candidatures for violation of electoral laws and debar utility bill

tional release of its chief and withsteps to contain price hike of essentials, and a reasonable gap between upazila and national polls.

DRAFT COMMITTEE FORMED

At vesterday's meeting, AL formed a

committee headed by presidium

its constitution. available members of the presid-HT Imam and AMA Muhith, ul-Alam Lenin, Latif Siddiqui, Prof

Abu Sayeed and AKM Jahangir Hossain. the suggestion by the committee of HT Imam, AMA Muhith and Nuh-ul-Alam Lenin for dispensing with the overseas chapters. It also did not accept their recommenda-

associates from the party constilegality of the three-member committee recommending constitutional changes, the ALCWC decided to form the high-powered commit-

tee with Tofail at its helm.

tions and overseas chapters following instructions from Hasina, who is nowin London. Talking to The Daily Star, a working committee member said the AL president has directed them to keep

The sources added that the new committee might suggest changing the phrasing of clause 25 (1) that says AL Executive Committee shall supervise the associated organisations and

Central Executive Council shall

of the clause 63 (a) that deals with

determine their policies.

BRIEFING Speaking to journalists after the meeting, AL acting general secretary

Lankan president

FROM PAGE 16 in running gun battles in Sri Lanka's embattled north, officials said Saturday.

in Akkarayankulam and one in another part of the LTTE stronghold yesterday, the military said. Separately, troops killed seven Tiger rebels, wounding 37 others in a gun battle in Mullaittivu, while in North East Welioya region six rebels were killed and 14 others injured in

Ministry said. At least one Tiger militant was also killed Thannikuruppukulam area in the

devices after the operation. In another confrontation, as many as 14 Tiger rebels were killed and six others injured in corruption, the ACC is likely to begin Vannerikulam area in Kilinochchi yesterday, the Media Centre for officials of different ministries. In National Security (MCNS) said, the first phase, it will meet officials adding three soldiers also lost their of local government, land, health lives in the incident.

defeat. This makes Tuesday's last game in Chittagong a series-decider. Oram stood tall to rescue his side

Zia from the election and politics.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed

with Jamaat at 3:00pm.

To finalise its dialogue strategy,

MK Anwar later told journalists

secretary general.

AL's MP aspirants Syed Ashraful Islam said their party

regarding amendments to the party

defaulters from parliamentary It reiterated calls for uncondidrawal of all charges against her, lifting of the state of emergency,

member Tofail Ahmed to prepare by today draft proposals for changes in The other members are all ium, advisory council members organising secretaries Abdul Mannan and Mahmudur Rahman Manna and central leaders Nuh-

Earlier, the meeting rejected tion for dropping the names of

As Latif Siddiqui questioned the

Sources said AL took the latest stance on its associated organisa-

the provisions as they are in terms of effects, and change only the word-

chapters abroad. That line says the approve all "Immigrant Branches".

The party might also delete a line

While two LTTE cadres were shot dead in Mankulam in Kilinochchi, two others were killed

Andankulam Friday, the Defence

region yesterday, it said. Meanwhile, two soldiers were also killed during clashes in Andankulam, with the troops recovering 313 anti-personnel mines and 17 improvised explosive

The dialogues will be the first

its Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan in Dhanmondi, with Vice-chairperson MK Anwar, former lawmaker Abdul Mannan, and Office Secretary Rizvi Ahmed attending.

the outcome of the meeting to the The issues that are likely to be

> ond-ball duck while Mushfigur Rahim failed to deliver this time being bowled by Mills with the score on 18. Ashraful joined first match hero Zunaed and it was fantastic to watch the right-hander batting with responsibility for the second consec-

will continue to have associated Denying media reports that the party has almost finalised its nominations, he said, "The parliamentary board headed by Sheikh Hasina will pick a candidate from the five to be

The AL spokesman said as legal complexities surrounding the constituency re-demarcation will not go away anytime soon, the EC should cancelit. It is not rational to hold the local polls immediately after the national election, Ashraf continued. "We want the government and the Election Commission to hold the elections

at around 7:00am. They sought to resist workers of the neighbouring factories from joining work. Clashes broke out when police baton-charged the demonstrators at around 8:00am. Chase and counter-chase continued for an

The aggrieved workers of Mishu

He said they will hold talks on the

matters with components of the 14-

closed the factory without notice and paying their outstanding The authorities, however, claimed they have paid all arrears before the Eid vacation. Bhuiyan Mahbub Hasan, officer-in-charge of Fatullah Police

baton charge to disperse the marauding workers and avert damage to property. Corruption cases FROM PAGE 16

A total of 73 ACC- filed cases have been stayed by the HC. And 30 more cases are pending with different special courts. Hasan Mashhud said the drive against corruption would continue on the basis of mutual understand ing with the next elected government. And they will hold meetings

with politicians and businessmen in this regard at a convenient time. Since the anti-graft drive launched in February last year, around 34 lawmakers including leaders from both BNP and AL were convicted by special courts on graft charges. Some of those convicted

obtained bail from HC and plan to

take part in the general election

while some other convicts are

He noted that this is a legal

absconding.

matter, and the Election Commission (EC) will decide what will be the effect of conviction. The BNP ex-ministers and lawmakers includes Shahjahan Siraj, Shahjahan Omar, and Rashiduzzaman Millat, AL leaders are Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Sheikh Helal, HBM Iqbal, Haji Selim, Mustafa Rashidi Suja, and Makbul Hossain, Anwar

Hossain Manju is the only former

Replying to a question on possi-

minister from Jatiya Party.

bility of withdrawal of the cases against former prime ministers Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina he said, "The question is immaterial at this moment." On enquiry into wealth statements submitted by the two former

premiers, he said the enquiry was

delayed due to legal wrangling but it is nearing an end. Mashhud will be visiting Barisal, Madaripur, Patuakhali, Jhalakathi and Barguna from October 12 to 16 as part of the ACC's corruption prevention activities by creating public awareness about graft. He mentioned that as part of the

campaign to root out institutional

on October 19 meetings with high

and communications ministries.

The two leaders said a common

ruin them.

deployed over 2 lakh polls observ-EC Secretary Humayun Kabir recently said \$ 6 to 7 million is usually spent for observation of

Affairs Committee. "By rewarding

Even those aged over 65, a formerly solid Republican constituency, now back Obama over McCain 49 to 43 The numbers are set against

ethics rules for public officials.

governor's office and its resources to pressure officials to fire her former brother-in-law, state trooper Mike

subordinates, but she failed to act," the report added. A Republican-dominated bipartisan committee had launched the investigation following Palin's decision

McCain-Palin spokeswoman Meg Stapleton said the report showed Palin had acted "properly and lawfully" in axing Monegan, dismissing the inves tigation as politically motivated. on a Republican ticket, was plucked

who is pro-life and a committed hunter, she fired up the party's conser vative base, which had not fully But her lack of national and foreign

Palin, 44, has become McCain's chief attack dog against Obama, draw ing thousands of people to her rallies, and accusing the Chicago senator at the weekend of "palling around with terrorists."

the polls even in battleground states, McCain's campaign sought to refocus

"We are also sending a strong

inspections of its nuclear sites. explain exactly how this new verification agreement advances American interests and those of our allies before

in a statement late Friday. In addition, he expressed concern

FROM PAGE 1 "The country went close to a great disaster in the last two years and now you have to go forward with the slogan 'save the people, save the country'," the former premier said, adding that the country has to be saved from the ongoing food

leaders at the brief meeting.

coming election.

Replying to a question, Nazrul general, said agenda of the party's dialogue with the government is yet to be finalised. Meanwhile, Khandaker Delwar

Mahmudur Rahman, party leaders Selima Rahman and senior journalist Shafik Rehman.

its fight for the White House away from the economy. But a series of negatives ads casting doubt on Obama's character and his past associations whipped up anger at the Republican rallies.

Florida rally, McCain was forced to tone down the attacks. "We want to fight, and I will fight, but we will be respectful. I admire Senator Obama and his accomplishments and I will respect him," McCain, 72, tolda Minnesota rally Friday. Obama, who has kepthis campaign

> rebuked McCain for preaching a politics of "anger and division." "In the last couple of days we have seen a barrage of nasty insinuations and attacks and I am sure we will see much more over the next 25 days," he told an Ohio rally.

up from behind. "How many times, my friends, have the pundits written off the McCain campaign?" he told the cheering crowd. "We're going to fool 'em

again, myfriend!"

around 4:00pm.

the times are too serious."

Bombs left FROM PAGE 1 Daily Star, "Justice Sharif Uddin found the bombs lying on the lawn of his house as he was about to go out at

bombs against a wall and the bomb exploded," the OC added. Chakladar then informed the police, he said. A large contingent of police and members of intelligence agencies rushed to the Justice's house and recovered the other unexploded

bomb. They also searched the resi-

dence and adjacent areas but no other

suspicious items or clues were found.

"At his directive, one of his

domestic servants threw one the

Both bombs were hand made, comprising of explosive filled bottles sealed with red scotch tape. The Ramna station OC termed the incident mysterious saying, "It is

"On the other hand, the residence

is restricted to outsiders and is surrounded by security guards so it is

Local observers

ments about it, and its senior officials including president, trustees and members of management ency, credibility and impartiality of all elections held in the country

an observer organisation upon

The guidelines and code of

from the scene.