# AL sticks to associates | Hasina's bail

says the same on having a party's scrapping one of the sub-sections foreign chapters.

of students, labourers and professionals. The AL will again formally

request the EC to further ease the registration rules so that keeping of the amendment proposals.

They said they only kept the AKM Jahangir Hossain. names of the associate organisations in the party constitution and suggested scrapping most of the sub-sections in relevant clauses so that from now these bodies can be regulated by their own charters

independently. The AL central decides the policies for its associate organisations

Commission to be more flexible on these issues in the interest of hold- Nato forces across the border in ing a free and fair election," said

"We sat today to discuss Dhanmondi.

He said they prepared the drafts in line with the working committee

The working committee meeting also decided that the associate organisations and foreign chapters must stay with the main party.

"We will submit the proposals and the working committee will

with the approval of the proposals, associated organisations would work independently with their own

"We hope the revised draft proposals will be approved by the working committee tomorrow

[today], "he said. Meeting sources said the draft committee suggested scrapping three of the four sub-sections of each clause regarding associate and

According to the AL constitution, Jubo League, Awami Swechchhashebak League, Bangladesh Chhatra League, Awami Ainjibee Parishad, Bangladesh Tanti League and Swadhinata Chikitshak Parishad are regarded as the party's

associate organisations. The AL Executive Committee Sessions Judge of Dhaka Mohammad and the departmental secretary concerned supervises and coordinates their activities. These organidraft committee suggested scrap-

ping this sub-section. Regarding "immigrant" bodies, the committee kept the sub-section that says Bangladeshi citizens living in different countries shall have the

When asked, Tofail said they could be kept functional.

the working committee for electing or selecting the five-member panel at grassroots level at each constituency and what would be the role of district, upazila, thana or union committees.

Talking to The Daily Star, committee member and AL Organising Secretary Mahmudur Rahman Manna said there could be prob-

parliamentary contenders. Tofail said one candidate would be chosen from the panel for the

December 18 polls.

The committee also suggested

regarding formulating a three-year The AL's associate bodies consist budget and preparing accounts of all income and expenditure. It endorsed that the party will within two weeks. have 33 percent positions reserved

for women in committees at all certified copy of the HC order.

weeks time to file the leave to

ber judge of the Appellate Division sent Sheikh Hasina's petition to the full bench seeking a stay on the HC order rejecting her bail prayer, and

bail in the case. He fixed October 12 for hearing of the petition by the SC bench.

An HC vacation bench rejected the bail petition filed by the former prime minister on September 29 in the Tk 5 crore extortion case filed by businessman Noor Ali.

The court ruled that the petitioner must be present in the country to seek bail. The former premier is on parole abroad for treatment at

with the SC on October 5 seeking to the CEC, seeking time extension. bail and a stay on the HC order.

The HC on the same day directed arrest her at home or abroad till October 20 in the Niko and bargemounted power plant graft cases.

Unique Group of Companies, filed the case with Gulshan Police Station on June 13, 2007 against Hasina and two of her relatives on charges of extorting Tk 5 crore for a mediation between the Power Development Board (PDB) and his firm to finalise a power plant deal

## Hossain Zillur

FROM PAGE 1 The adviser had a parley with Khaleda at her cantonment house last Friday as her party still remains situation for the election.

He described the beginning of political parties' registration as a big step toward participation in the elections, nowslated for December 18.

"Doubt and uncertainty is our alltime companion. We're gradually overcoming this. We don't want to involve ourselves in unnecessary debates," said the adviser, who works as spokesman for the government in negotiations with the political parties.

He hoped that there would be reflection of everybody's good thinking in the future and "our formal or informal contacts will be main-

## 4-party

also not be acceptable."

"We are an election-oriented party and it is beyond us to think of any alternative to elections," the

alliance would not bow to any 'undesirable' decisions taken by the

caretaker government. "If you (caretaker government) have any plans to hold a stage managed election, then give it up,

The BNP secretary general vowed to continue movements till all their demands are met and a democratic government is estab-

Jamaat-e-Islami secretary gen eral Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojahid, assistant Secretary General Muhammad Kamaruzzaman Bangladesh Jatiya Party chief Andalib Rahman Partho, Islami Oikya Jote faction secretary general Abdul Latif Nezami, among others,

SEPARATE RALLIES AT CTG Meanwhile, two factions of Chittagong city unit of BNP organised the centrally announced pro-

The convening committee of Chittagong city BNP organised its rally at Nasiman Bhaban party office in the afternoon.

Chittagong city BNP convening committee member Abdullah A Noman, also the central joint secretary general, and former minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury addressed the rally as the chief guest and the key speaker respectively with convener Syed

Wahidul Alam in the chair. Former MP Rozi Kabir, former city BNP general secretary Dostagir Chowdhury, Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal Chittagong divisional president AM Nazim Uddin, BNP leader and CUCSU VP Nazim Uddin, MA Sabur and Abu Sufian spoke at the

The other group of city BNP, considered as loyal to Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Mir Md Nasiruddin, organised their rally at Woodland Park -- a community centre opposite Sholoshahar

Shamsul Alam, vice-president of the immediate past executive committee of Chittagong city BNP, presided over this rally organised under the banner of Chittagong City BNP, thana, ward and grass-root coordination committee.

are the other members of the commit-Mid-level leaders and activists of BNP attended this rally. Chaired by Shamsul Alam, the

meeting was addressed by former joint secretaries of BNP city unit and BGMEA leader Ershad Ullah and advocate Abdus Sattar, acting general secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Dr Shahadat Hossain, former president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) city unit Najimur Rahman, BNP south district unit Vice President Najmul Islam, Jatiyatabadi Muktijoddha Dal city unit General

## BNP, Jamaat seek

the caretaker government.

them to apply by October 15.

"The law is not rational."

tion.

boundaries.

to the CEC.

Nazrul said it would be hard for

Asked about the RPO provision

About Awami League's plans to

that requires the parties to sever ties

with front or associate organisations

to get registered with the EC, he said,

continue with the associated bodies

with some changes only in wordings

in its constitution, the CEC said,

"First, let them submit their applica-

constituency re-demarcation, Huda

resolutely said the December 18 polls

would be held as per the redrawn

final countrywide voter list would be

tion led by central leader Jasim Uddin

Sarker handed over the party's letter

sion on registration," read the letter

signed by its Secretary General Ali

they hope the EC will extend the time

limit. "Otherwise it will be very diffi-

cult for Jamaat to apply on or before

October 15. We need time to bring

Sohul Hussain and Brig Gen (retd) M

Sakhawat Hossain--were present at

the meetings with the BNP and

Two election commissioners--M

necessary amendments to our con-

Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid.

stitution," he added.

Ministry, academy

submitted to him on October 14.

Replying to a query, he said the

A two-member Jamaat delega-

"We have taken a positive deci-

Talking to reporters, Jasim said

About calls for the EC to scrap the

FROM PAGE 1 separate letters to the EC. There, they said they view registration in a posi-

tive light now. The recently revised Representation of the People Order (RPO) has made registration mandatory for participation in parliamentary polls. Besides, it laid down a number of criteria for registration as apolitical party.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda said BNP and Jamaat have sought more time as they face difficulties involving the issue. "We'll consider their request and come up with a decision in time."

Until yesterday, the polls chief had been maintaining that the EC in no way would stretch the time beyond October 15.

But yesterday, he said, "Let's see what can be done." Sources in the EC hinted that the time for registration might be

stretched by four or five days. BNP and Jamaat are scheduled to sit with Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed and his colleagues tomorrow. The following day is the closing date for applications.

Against this backdrop, secretaries general of the parties sent the letters

"We have asked the commission for a seven-day extension," BNP Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan told reporters after meeting the election commissioners.

He led the BNP delegation to the EC yesterday and submitted the letter signed by Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain

FROM PAGE 16

officials of BSA.

the contractor.'

He said the revised RPO and Jamaatleaders.

On Mrach 8, 2007 even after the

suspension of the project, BSA had to

pay an additional Tk 1.22 crore to the

contractor due to pressure from a few

ministry high officials, said high

general of BSA Quamrul Hassan told

the Daily Star, "A group of ministry

officials put pressure on me to pay

1crore 22 lakh 50 thousand taka to

year filed a writ petition against the

government decision to scrap the

7, 2008 decided to come to an out of

court settlement with the contractor

on the matter, and sent a letter to BSA

asking the academy not to pursue

any legal action against the contrac-

wanted to challenge the contractor's

writ in the court, and when they

asked the ministry for a copy of the

investigation report, the latter

declined to provide that, according

director general of BSA, told the Daily

Star, "The way the joint secretary to

the ministry along with the contrac-

tor burst out in anger with the acad-

emy secretary regarding the matter,

was totally unexpected and very

unbecoming of a responsible gov

Joint Secretary to the Ministry of

Cultural Affairs M Nasiruddin Khan

however denied the allegation, but

admitted that he along with other

officials of the ministry went to BSA

and talked to the academy manage-

with us. He was present there before

ministry we went to the academy to

inquire about some other recent

irregularities. While talking, I asked

the academy secretary about the

second phase of the Training on Fine

and Performing Art project, as the

emy was not ideal for an out of court

settlement with the contractor", he

BSA authorities for not abiding by the

The joint secretary accused the

He said, "The ministry on consul-

tation with the Ministry of Law and

Justice had decided for an out of

court settlement. But we noticed that

Buy electricity

Medical and Dental Council (Sec-

ond Amendment) Ordinance 2008

by bringing few changes in the

wording of a sub-clause of a section

meeting, CA's Press Secretary Syed

Fahim Munaim said the Council of

Advisers also discussed elaborately

the draft of the National Poultry

Development Policy Guidelines

concerned to make a comprehen-

sive review of the draft policy

guidelines through discussion with

stakeholders and place it again

before the Council of Advisers'

Advisers attended the meeting at

the CA's office. Cabinet secretary,

CA's press secretary and secretar

Exploration started in well-2 in May,

2004 while exploration in well-3

started in 2005. The upper zone of

well-2 was closed in 2007 after traces

Bapex managed a workaround

and started production from the well

yesterday. Another 20 million cubic

feet of gas per day is being supplied to

of sand were found in the gas.

ies concerned were also present.

Nat'l grid

FROM PAGE 16

The meeting asked the ministry

Briefing newsmen after the

of the existing ordinance.

recent report on it sent by the acad-

"We didn't take the contractor

"Instructed by the secretary of the

ment regarding the project.

our arrival," he said.

added.

ministry decision.

Bhuiyan Shafigul Islam, current

to the BSA authorities.

ernment official."

The BSA authorities however

Meanwhile, the contractor last

The ministry at a meeting on July

The immediate past director

### cops: 20 hurt registration rules will figure prominently in tomorrow's dialogue with

UNB, Cox's Bazar

A fierce clash between police and angry mob following the death of a student in Chakoria upazila left 20 people, including two policemen, injured yesterday.

Police said the agitated people also torched four buses and damaged a number of vehicles on Cox's Bazar-Chittagong highway, disruptingtraffic for about 6 hours.

They said Giasuddin, 21, a student of Cox's Bazar Govt College, was crushed under the wheels of a bus of Shah Amin Paribahan when the helper of another bus of the same company pushed him down from the bus at Chakoria bus stand at about

Outraged by the accident, local people put barricades on the road near the bus stand, sparking off the

violence. They also set ablaze a bus of Shah Amin Paribahan and damaged some other vehicles.

Meanwhile, students of the college also barricaded the Cox's Bazar-Chittagong highway and set afire

three buses of Shah Amin Paribahan. On information, a police team, led by Additional Police Super Imam Hossain, rushed in and tried to quell the situation, but failed.

Later, police fired shots in the air triggering a chase and counter chase Five policemen, including Additional Police Super Imam Hossain and Assistant Police Super Sarwar Alam and 15 people, were injured during

The injured received treatment at the local health complex. The situation became normal

when Deputy Commissioner of the

district M Manjur Alam Bhuiyan and

the Chakoria UNO assured the angry people of taking action against those responsible for the accident.

## Govt suspends

Secretariat yesterday adding that the district civil surgeons and the directors of hospitals have already been instructed about this.

different hospitals to return their stock of the capsule to the health directorate. It also ordered identifying patients who were treated with Miltefosine and to treat them with Amphotericin B or SAG

steps after receiving report from World Health Organisation (WHO), the secretary said without elaborating how long it would take to get the report.

"We have already sent manufacturing details and samples of Miltefosine manufactured by a local pharmaceutical company to WHO for further investigation as two renowned foreign laboratories sent negative results about the quality of the Miltefosine capsules," he said

Popular Pharmaceuticals manufactured the Miltefosine capsules that have been used for treating patients of Kala-azar since May this year. Following a recent experiment, Paladin lab Inc of Canada and Slotervaart Hospital (Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology) of the Netherlands said there was no Miltefosine in the

give opinions about the reports of Paladin lab Inc and Slotervaart Hospital, the secretary said.

Since May 9 this year, at least 378 patients of Kala-azar were treated with Miltefosine. Of them seven died, said Director General of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Prof Abul Faiz adding that in 2001-02 at least 13 patients out of 133 died in

Kala-azar is a contagious disease spread by sandfly and the poor mainly suffer from the disease. The disease breaks out in 45 districts of the country and some 10,000 patients are identified and treated every year.

The experts said the total number of Kala-azar patients is 40,000. It affects patients' immune system, causes persistent fever, anaemia, liver and spleen swelling, and if left untreated, it

At yesterday's meeting, Barrister (MoU) with Nepal and India in 2005 at Rafique said he did not expect such the World Health Assembly to elimireconstitution of the HC benches by nate Kala-azar from the region by 2015

### Global financial FROM PAGE 1

crisis on local banks, but said a prolonged turmoil would adversely affect

have been estimated at \$569.28 milrecent reply to the World Bank's queries about risks to the economy in Bangladesh.

The BB told the WB that a lingering

on six points: exposure of local banks to troubled banks abroad, liquidity constraints, solvency positions and non-performing loans, potential losses of foreign operations of banks, short term capital inflows and stock market.

## Ashraful

FROM PAGE 16

Ashraful informed the envoy o Awami League's demand for with drawal of the state of emergency before the polls. He said elections would not be free and fair under

situation during the election can be maintained by enforcing the coun-

He requested the French ambassador to send election observers during the parliamentary polls However, the ambassador did not make any commitment.

Ashraful said Awami League will hold talks with the European Union in the first week of November.

The ambassador expressed strong hope that the parliamentary polls will be held in free and fair manner on scheduled date of December 18.

# Mob clash with IMF, WB meeting

exchange reserves and foreign

investment. Worse still, the banking system in poorer countries could face volatility because of links with banks in the developed world which have been pushed to the brink by the crisis destroying their capital.

"Africa does not have (the) capacity for intervention" to help its banks that the developed world does, Carew said, adding: "The ripple effect of the crisis is coming likely later this year."

IMF head Dominique Strauss-Kahn warned on Saturday that it would be a mistake to forget the "other crisis" of soaring food prices and aid cutbacks faced by developing countries.

"We are in a big crisis but don't forget the other one," Strauss-Kahn said, adding that while food costs had moderated in recent months, "this bill is still unaffordable for

poor countries." Donor country budgets were being strained as the financial crisis rips through markets and banks, slowing the economy, but Strauss-Kahn called on them not to cut back on their aid commit-

ments. Poor countries "absolutely need this money to avoid starvation.

The 185-member IMF and especially the World Bank are tasked with aiding development and their annual meetings normally devote much time to reviewing progress made and new pro-

This year, however, they have been completely overshadowed by the financial crisis, with a major summit of eurozone leaders underway in Paris to follow up a Group of Seven industrialized nations gathering in Washington

on Friday. The G7 -- the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan -- said they would use all means available to combat the crisis, having already spent hundreds of billions of dollars to support their banks and financial

For some developing countries, the difference between these sums and the money that they need is

galling Who will compensate the innocent countries who are going to ... suffer from this debacle? Kenyan Foreign Minister John

Michuki asked Saturday. A top Chinese official criticized rich nations for the problems in the global financial system and called on them to "shoulder the responsibility" of preventing more damage

being caused. "The major reserve currencyissuing countries should shoulder the responsibility for preventing further spillovers and minimizing shocks to other countries," said Yi Gang, deputy governor of the

People's Bank of China. The charity Oxfam was highly

critical of the IMF. "The IMF's only plan for the poorest countries is to offer them

### small amounts of money, loaded White House

Alabama, that killed four little girls. 'McCain said in his own statement that Lewis had launched a "character attack against Governor Sarah Palin and me that is shocking and beyond the pale."

He said Lewis' apparent reference to Wallace was "unacceptable and has no place in this campaign."

McCain called on Obama "to immediately and personally repudiate these outrageous and divisive comments.

Later, Lewis issued a second statement in an apparent attempt to defuse the row, saying he had not meant to draw a link between Wallace and McCain.

"My statement was a reminder to all Americans that toxic language can lead to destructive behaviour, I am glad that Senator McCain has taken some steps to correct divisive speech at his rallies," he said. Chants of "terrorist" and "kill him" were reportedly heard at recent McCain Republican events and some commentators blamed hard-hitting negative advertisements which claimed Obama consorted with a domestic "terrorist" --1960s radical William Ayers.

On Friday, McCain was forced to intervene twice at a town hall meeting in Minnesota after one voter described Obama as an Arab and another said he was "scared" of the Democratic nomi-

Some political commentators have questioned whether the seething resentment at Republican events could be a security threat for Obama, who was offered Secret Service protection months before is normal for presi-

dential candidates. Obama campaign spokesman Bill Burton said that the Illinois senator did not believe in the comparison between

McCain and Wallace. But he said Congressman Lewis "was right to condemn some of the hateful rhetoric that John McCain

himselfpersonallyrebuked." Palin earlier denied wrongdoing after a probe found she had abused voters' trust as Alaska governor.

The legislative investigation found Palin had violated ethics rules by letting husband Todd pressure top officials for the firing of her ex-brother-in-law, a state trooper.

#### Sedatives seized FROM PAGE 16

seized drugs at Tk 1 crore.

Officer-in-charge of Sabujbagh Police Station Abdur Rouf told The Daily Star that following a secret lead their anti-narcotics team raided a tin roofed house and seized 'Eunactin' tablets contained in 22 cartons.

Police also arrested the owner of the house, Sirajul Islam, in this connection. Sirajul told police that his nephew Mohiuddin brought the cartons to the house a week

with conditions. This will be too

little, too late," said Marita Hutjes, senior policy advisor at Oxfam International. "The IMF has agreed that rich countries must use all possible

tools to deal with the crisis but the same institution is limiting the tools available to the poorest countries by loading its lending with conditions." As for aid budgets, Hutjes said the "poorest countries need a bailout, too. The rich world can raise one trillion dollars in just a

respond to the needs of developing countries with the same level of urgency. Meanwhile, European leaders met in Paris for a summit designed to hammer out a coordinated bank rescue package before the resump-

couple of weeks; surely it can

tion of trading in panic-stricken stock markets. French President Nicolas Sarkozy, the current head of the European Union, said he hoped to persuade his counterparts "to speak with one voice" in a bid to contain the worst financial crisis

since the Great Depression. After talks with Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown--who has already part-nationalised some of his country's major banks--Sarkozy was to meet with the 14 colleagues from the singlecurrency euro bloc in the Elysee Palace.

As he greeted European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, who is also joining the talks, Sarkozy said he expected a "coordinated, ambitious" plan to contain the financial crisis to emerge from their discussions.

"We're going to receive the British prime minister to explain to him what we are going to propose to the eurogroup," Sarkozy told

"On Wednesday we're going to try to get all of Europe facing in the same coordinated and ambitious direction," he said, referring to this week's Brussels summit of all 27 European Union members.

"That's what I expect: Europe speaking with one voice," he

## EC Sakhawat

may be disrupted will be held responsible," he said indicating latest complications in the run-up to. the belated general election.

He sounded the note of warning while inaugurating a training workshop at the Election Training Institute at Agargaon. Election Commissioner M Sohul

Hussain was also present at the workshop titled 'Election Law and Rules' arranged for the assistant returning officers. Sakhawat said the EC has made political party registration manda-

tory for democratisation and transparent use of money by the political parties. "The Election Commission has

taken this measure so that honest political parties and leaders can come to power," he said. Reaffirming their stand on holding the elections within the declared time, Sakhawat said, "If the elections

situation will evolve in the country. Those will be responsible for whom the election will be disrupted." The election commissioner said the leaders of the political parties would have to play the game as the

are disrupted, nobody can tell what

ball is now in their court. The Election Commission has directed the assistant returning officers to discharge their duties neutrally during the December 18

parliamentary elections.

Sakhawat said steps would be taken following the Employment Rules if allegation of partisanship was found against anyone. Election Commissioner Sohul Hussain said the assistant returning

officers as the important officers in the field level could play an important role in presenting the nation a free, fair and acceptable election. "Nothing is more important work for the nation except for the election

#### at this moment," he observed and said the election officers associated with the elections should apply the law neutrally.

However, another source said the criminal of Moghbazar, Dhaka was arrested at a house in Kolkata Thursday.

"Indian police confirmed the arrest around 9:00pm," said the CID official seeking anonymity.

Sources said Subrata Bain had been hiding in India after the home ministry on December 27, 2001, published a list of 23 top criminals of Dhaka and declared rewards for their capture. On the list, Bain was in the

top five. including murders cases filed against

He was known as Fateh Ali in Thakurpukur of Kolkata. He has businesses in Kolkata even through his cadres regularly extorted huge amounts of money from businessmen in Bangladesh and sent the money to India through hundi, illegal

money laundering. Last year, Kolkata police arrested two other Bangladeshi top criminals--Khandaker Tanveerul Islam Joy and

Out of the 23, eight criminals--Kamal Pasha, Freedom Sohel, Khurshed Alam alias Rashu, Titon, Liakat, Arman, Moshiur Rahman Kochi and Killer Abbas--were

Criminal Alauddin was killed by a mob on October 16, 2002, before Operation Clean Heart kicked off.

Pichchi Hannan was killed in an encounterwith Rabon June 26, 2005. Haris Ahmed, Prokash, Kamrul Hasan alias Chhoto Hannan, Imam Hussain, Jabbar Munna, Manik, Mollah Masud

Tokai Sagar, Kala Jahangir, Joy, and Aga Shamim are still at large

#### levels by 2020 gradually. the names in its constitution does The other members of the draft committee were all AL Presidium not become an obstacle to getting members available--HT Imam, registered, said members of a com-AMA Muhith, Nuh-ul-Alam Lenin, mittee formed to prepare the draft Latif Siddiqui, Prof Abu Sayeed and

Missile strikes

Army spokesmen could not

Also on Sunday, government

immediately be reached for com-

official Jamil Khan said security

forces waging an offensive in the

Bajur tribal region killed at least 14

network, and the Taliban, which has

both Afghan and Pakistani compo-

Pakistan's tribal regions, where they

are said to plan attacks on US and

Under US pressure, Pakistan has

carried out military offensives

against insurgents while also trying

to woo various tribes to turn against

extremists. But the United States has

recently signalled its impatience

with Pakistani efforts by apparently

staging several cross-border

number of missile attacks believed

August. More than 100 people, most

of them alleged militants, have been

killed, according to figures provided

to The Associated Press by Pakistani

the attacks. Pakistani leaders rou-

tinely criticise the strikes as viola

tions of sovereignty, but those pro-

tests have had little tangible effect

gunships shelled militants' bunkers

overnight in the Charmang area of

Bajur. Insurgents there were fighting

a local tribal militia formed to rid the

area of militants. Two local tribesmen

Mojahid however attended a rally of

the BNP-led four-party alliance at

Engineers Institute in the city yester-

reported that the Jamaat leader went

down to the southern district on

October 10 and held meetings at

sent to the chief election commis-

sioner yesterday which asked for

extension of an October 15 deadline

relating to the registration of political

Azizul Haque issued arrest warrants

against nine of the 16 accused in the

(ACC) filed the case on February 26 this

year accusing BNP Chairperson

Khaleda Zia, 10 former BNP ministers

and five other people of causing a loss

of Tk 159 crore to the state exchequer

by awarding operations of the

Barapukuria coal mine to a Chinese

The ACC pressed charges against

Besides Mojahid, the court issued

arrest warrants against former minis-

ter barrister Aminul Haque, ex-state

minister AKM Mosharraf Hossain,

former acting secretary to the energy

and mineral resources ministry Nazrul

Islam, former Petrobangla chairman

SR Osmani, former Petrobangla direc-

tor Mainul Ahsan, former managing

director of Barapukuria Coal Mine

Company Ltd Sirajul Islam, and Hosaf

operations in the capital and in

Jamaat Secretary General Mojahid

addressed at least four meetings in

sadar, Ashasuni, Kaliganj and

Shyamnagar upazila of Satkhira on

October 10 and 11, demanding lifting

of the state of emergency for holding a

Sources said he stayed at the guest

Police conducted several failed

Our Satkhira correspondent adds:

Group chairman Moazzem Hossain.

Rajshahi district to arrest them.

fair, free and credible election.

house of Sundarbans Textile Mills

company through abuse of power.

them on October 5.

Barapukuria coal mine case.

Earlier on October 6, Metropolitan

The Anti-corruption Commission

He signed an official Jamaat letter

different places there till October 11.

Our Satkhira correspondent

also were killed, Khan said.

Mojahid

Khan told the AP that helicopter

The US rarely confirms or denies

intelligence officials.

carried out by the US since mid-

The latest strike brings to 12 the

al-Qaeda, a mainly Arab terror

more suspected militants.

FROM PAGE 16

Afghanistan.

assaults.

alliance.

dead were foreigners.

and has enormous influence on them. But if the proposals get approval at a meeting of the AL Central Working Committee today, it will have no more authority to interfere with their activities, the committee members said. "We are always ready to get nents, have established bases in registered. We will ask the Election

Totail Ahmed, head of the commit-Saturday's adjourned working committee meeting's decisions on the proposed amendments to the party constitution," Tofail told reporters at AL President Sheikh Hasina's political office in

meeting's decisions including to pick parliamentary candidates from panels elected by grassroots level committees through secret ballots.

take the final step for getting registered with the Election on the two nations' anti-terror Commission," Tofail said. Committee member and party Organising Secretary Abdul Mannan told The Daily Star that

constitutions.

"immigrant" organisations. Bangladesh Mahila Awami League, Bangladesh Krishak League, Jatiya Sramik League, Bangladesh Awami

decides the policies of these bodies sations are liable to the AL for its activities through the secretary. The

right to form party branches but it did not suggest anything on the process of forming and running the party foreign units.

discussed how foreign chapters NOMINATION PROCESS The draft committee meeting sought elaborate explanation from

lems in finalising the panel for

# Researchers to find

"The survey will look for candidates irrespective of if they are reformists or non-reformists. We need the ones who are popular among the voters and have unblemished character." Party insiders said the pollsters will draw on different sources including

be included on the list of prospective

contenders against each constituency.

party rank and file, locals and socially aware individuals for information. A senior BNP leader told The Daily Star, "It's crucially important for us to find good candidates as many of our leaders have already been convicted, accused or on the run."

formed by Chairperson Khaleda Zia have started working to draw up party strategies for the upcoming polls. Some of the sub-committees will provide legal help for the party's detained leaders, and deal with the foreign diplomats and the media.

Shafik Rehman will work as 'office

adviser to the chairperson and his

responsibilities include overseeing

research, analysis and coordination

Meanwhile, 12 sub-committees

between the teams. Khaleda Zia on Saturday said party leaders have been assigned to draw up the polls strategies. Besides, subcommittees have been formed to prepare comprehensive plans for nation-building after the election.

Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain will lead a team titled 'think-tank' that will work to set stances on different political issues. MK Anwar, Nazrul Islam Khan

Abdul Mannan and Rizvi Ahmed are the other members of Delwar's com-Justice TH Khan will lead a committee to provide legal assistance for the detained party leaders. His team will work to ensure participation of some leaders who stand accused in corrup-

tion cases. Justice Habibul Islam

Bhuiyan, Nawsad Zarnir, Mir Helal, Kaisar Kamal and Nasir Uddin Asim will help him in the job. A sub-committee led by standing committee member Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky is working on party registration with the Election Commission. Vicepresident MK Anwar, Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan and chairperson's Adviser Mushfigur Rahman

Khandaker Delwar will co-ordinate the work of the committee. It was this committee's decision following which BNP yesterday applied to the commission for extension of registration time

A former foreign secretary will lead a team to deal with the foreign diplomats. His team includes Nazrul Islam Khan, former foreign adviser Reaz Rahman, chairperson's Adviser Mushfigur Rahman and lawyer Nawsad Zamir.

by barrister Rafique-ul Huq on behalf of Sheikh Hasina, a full bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin asked them to file a regular

leave to appeal against the HC order Rafique-ul Huq had told the apex court that they could not file the regular leave to appeal against the

HC order as they had not obtained a He appealed to the court for two

Earlier on October 6, the cham-

Her counsel filed the petition

the government not to harass or Noor Ali, managing director of

back in 1997.

undecided as to whether or not to go to the polls and raised various demands for creating congenial

Referring to the February 1996 polls, Delwar said, "If we do not participate in a stage-managed election then whichever party is elected will

BNP secretary general said. He vowed that the BNP-led

Delwar said calling on the governlished in the country.

addressed the meeting.

test rally at two separate venues yesterday.

Nasiman Bhaban rally among

Railway Station in the city.

the national grid from well-3. It is believed that gas reserve in eight zones of Fenchuganj Gas Field is around 400 billion cubic feet. Tests have been completed for gas exploration in three zones. It is believed that 75 billion cubic feet of Secretary Syed Sanwar Ali. gas is reserved in the three zones.

the BSA authorities took a different stand of their own ignoring the gov ernment decision without consider ing the financial loss the government will incur due to the advance payment of about three crore taka to the contractor.

The BSA director general however told The Daily Star, "We don't want to be a part of such a controversial project. We want to stop it as we don't need any more building on the academy premises. Who will sit in the high rise? We don't have that many employees. I think the interest of invisible individuals is motivating the government in giving out the

he did send a group of officials to BSA to inquire about some unrelated irregularities.

"An army major sits in a room on the second floor of the Supreme Court building where no one is allowed to enter. This major takes care of the

FROM PAGE 1

Association (SCBA) in its South Hall. The meeting was convened in protest against Saturday's bomb blast at the residence of Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and reconstitution

SC lawyers -- Barrister Rafique-ul Hug, Barrister Shafique Ahmed and Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam. The letters addressed the senior lawyers as "national betrayers" for defending persons accused in differ-

the sender to the guard of my residence vesterday," Barrister Shafique Ahmed, also the president of SCBA, told newspersons.

"The chief justice is a very rational and prudent judge. I am sure the chief justice is not aware of this reconstitution of the High Court benches," he said. He added SCBA leaders should

benches, but with senior, experienced and competent judges for hearing writs, and criminal and civil "All judges of the High Court are not equally competent in performing all functions. Some of them can adjudicate at least 20 cases in a day while some others can adjudicate

it might have been an attempt to sabotage the December 18 parliamentarypoll Presided over by SCBA President Barrister Shafique Ahmed, the meet-

residence and demanded punishment for the perpetrators. It also urged the chief justice to

reconsider the latest reconstitution of HC benches.

contract to build a high rise violating the master plan of the academy." When the secretary to the cultural ministry was contacted by The Daily Star for comments, he admitted that

Army officer

meeting of Supreme Court Bar

Bangladesh, India and Nepal Approximately 200 million people in Bangladesh signed Memorandum of Understanding

The total direct deposits of Bangladeshi banks in banks abroad lion, Bangladesh Bank (BB) said in a

emergencyrules. He observed that the law and order

FROM PAGE 16 The government also ordered

The government will take further

An expert committee was formed to

the region are "at risk" of infection.

image and dignity of the highest Barrister Rafique also urged the chief justice to reconstitute the HC

litigants," he observed. On the blast at the judge's residence, he said there might be two reasons behind it -- to scare the judges who deal with bail matters, or

ing was addressed by former SCBA president Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam, former SCBA secretary also BNP Law Secretary Zainul Abedin, former law minister Abdul Matin Khasru, Abdul Mannan Khan, Bashir Ahmed, Azhar Ullah, Momtaz Uddin Mehdi, and

'If BSA doesn't want to advance with the project anymore we will not interfere," he added.

cause list for hearing of petitions by the chamber judge," Barrister Rafique told a meeting of SC lawyers vesterday. "Nothing can be so unfortunate other than this," he said at the urgent

of the HC benches by the chiefjustice allegedly sidelining senior judges. Meanwhile, anonymous letters were sent on Saturday to three senior

"An unknown person gave the letter bearing no name or address of

ent graft cases.

the chief justice.

judiciary

take immediate steps against the latest reconstitution to uphold the

one or two matters a day. If steps are Members of the Council of not taken to reconstitute the benches, bad days will come for the

> SCBA Secretary Nurul Islam Sujan. The meeting in its resolution condemned the blast at the judge's

Phulbaria.

According to the WHO, the disease is endemic in three countries-

crisis would weigh on exports and foreign investments. The WB sought to keep itself posted

during the meeting.

try's normal laws.

before the Eid.

#### Subrata Bain FROM PAGE 16 arrested Bain around 9:00am yester-

Police said Bain has 17 cases. him in Ramna Police Station alone.

Hares Ahmed.

Liakat was recently freed on bail and he has disappeared

among others.

### Former energy adviser Mahmudur Rahman will lead a group of former bureaucrats in drawing up electoral

strategies and a manifesto.