No result yet

a secure atmosphere. I hope we'll be able to solve the matters through discussions."

The government began a series of talks on May 22 to bridge the gap with the political parties on political and electoral reforms, as well as for a smooth transition to democ-

It held talks with major political parties including Awami League (AL) after the release of AL chief Sheikh Hasina. But BNP and Jamaat kept off the talks until the release of their chiefs Khaleda Zia and Motiur Rahman Nizami.

national holidays.

talks, told reporters.

of the voters."

roadmap.

about voters' safety.

"They [Jamaat] brought up

On Jamaat's call for immediate

some issues they say are barriers to

their participation in polls. We've

assured them we'll resolve those

withdrawal of the state of emer-

gency, he said his government

would consider easing the emer-

gency rules to allow political activi-

ties. "We've told them how emer-

gency is necessary to ensure safety

see the issue differently if the politi-

cal parties announced publicly

the adviser said they are confident

of holding the elections as per the

ond-round dialogue with Awami

League as well to reduce differ-

ences on political and electoral

issues. The first dialogue with the

Ghulam Quader, Law Adviser AF

Hassan Ariff, Foreign Adviser

Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury and

LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal were

Saifur Rahman, RA Gani, Tanbir

Ahmed Siddiky, Khandaker

Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Shamsul

Islam, Justice TH Khan, MK Anwar,

Sarwari Rahman, Hannan Shah,

Nazrul Islam Khan, Selima

Rahman and Goyeshwar Chandra

Mohammad Mojahid and

Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, were

meeting, AL presidium member

that the amendments do not

He said the RPO states that

teachers, students and labourers

can be involved in organisational

activities independently in their

An AL delegation led by its

office secretary Advocate Abdul

the amended party constitution.

Meanwhile AL has planned a

massive reception for party chief

Sheikh Hasina on her return

Briefing newsmen after a

meeting with a delegation of the

city unit of AL, Zillur Rahman said

five to 10 lakh people would be

mobilised to accord a reception

to their party chief. He said

The party has also taken initia-

tives to reactivate the different

ward units of city AL before the

general elections. Eight presid-

ium members have been given

the responsibility to deal with

problems placed by different city

Talking to reporters after the

presidium meeting, AL acting

general secretary Syed Ashraful

Islam said, "We want a free, fair

and credible election recognised

by all, and for this the state of

holding of the national election

on December 18, he said that AL

does not have any confusion

held on the date as per the wants

the EC regarding the matter.

"But the poll must have to be

The AL spokesman said they

Later AL-s subcommittee on

Zillur's residence. The meeting

discussed how to enhance inter-

national relations ahead of the

Ahmed Chowdhury, Ziauddin

and assistant international

affairs secretary Sheikhul

Arefeen, among others, attended

Koko's parole

the parole of Koko has been

extended for another month on

health grounds after his lawyer AM

Mahbub Uddin Khokan prayed for

it on Monday. Terms and condi-

tions of the parole will remain the

months' parole on July 17 on

health grounds, is now undergo-

ing treatment at a hospital in

Koko, who was released on two

Former ambassadors Faruk

national election.

the meeting.

same.

Bangkok.

Asked if there is any doubt over

emergency must be lifted.

regarding the matter.

leaders within the next 10 days.

return by this month.

contradict with the RPO.

respective fields.

among the Jamaat delegates.

FROM PAGE 1

Mokbul Ahmed, Ali Ahsan

The BNP delegation included M

in the government team.

Communications Adviser

party too ended without result.

He, however, said they would

Commenting on upazila polls,

Zillur said they will hold a sec-

that are logical," said Zillur.

Hossain Zillur said they have agreed with the BNP on the importance of a level playing field and a neutral administration before and

Delwar said the second-round discussions might be held before October 20, the newly set closing date for registration applications.

"Let me tell you that nothing has been settled. So it's not possible to say on which issue we have made a breakthrough and on which not," said the BNP leader when asked

Queried if the upazila polls would take place five days after the

"We hope those too can be straightened out," he said, adding that the local elections help nurture democratic leadership.

About the state of emergency, the commerce adviser said there will be more discussions on the issue. "And at the end, I hope, we'll arrive at a consensus."

The BNP secretary general however could not say whether his party would participate in any election under the state of emergency. Neither could he say if BNP would recognise the caretaker government if it forms govern-

after completion of the dialogue. demands the government fulfils," said Delwar.

Zillur, meanwhile, reiterated his administration's resolve to get all parties to participate in the upcoming election.

The dialogue with Jamaat began at 3:15pm and ended at 5:15pm. The second largest component

of the BNP-led four-party alliance placed a 10-point demand. It said the government should either further amend the RPO or scrap it

Banks cautious

FROM PAGE 1

Mannan Khan and assistant "Where there is a chaos, there is office secretary BM Mozammel an opportunity," Ali Reza Iftekhar Haque is scheduled to submit the application to the EC along with

He said he sees no decline in recent export orders. "Rather more and more export orders are moving towards Bangladesh from China and Vietnam, as they have decided not to produce basic garment items," he added.

He showed up at the press briefing along with his party men following the dialogue. Four advisers, including Education and Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, were present at the time.

Zillur kept mum when reporters asked him how a wanted accused could attend such a high-profile

attending the dialogue with the government," Jamaat leader Abdur Razzak quickly chipped in.

"The High Court asked him to surrender to the trial court by Thursday after he filed a bail petition in connection with the case,"

he told reporters.

of the people," Ashraf added. that the case be scrapped. would place home their demand Earlier on October 6, Metropolitan Sessions Judge of to scrap the EC's authority to cancel candidatures in parlia-Dhaka Mohammad Azizul Haque *issued arrest warrants against nine mentary polls and if necessary

Barapukuria coal mine case. Police reported to the court Sunday that they raided Mojahid's foreign affairs held another meetresidence after getting the arrest ing with AL policymakers at warrant. The Jamaat leader how-

ever attended a rally of the BNP-led four-party alliance that very day. He also signed an official Jamaat letter sent to the chief election commissioner that day which

Mojahid went down to Satkhira

on October 10 and held meetings at different places there till October

The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case on February 26 this year accusing BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, 10 former BNP ministers and five other people on charges of causing a loss of Tk 159 crore to the state exchequer by awarding operations of the Barapukuria coal mine to a Chinese company through abuse

of power.

It wants the upazila polls to be deferred by at least a month and the parliamentary election held as tonnes a hectare, whereas the tradiper the previous boundaries of tional fine aromatic varieties' yield is The party also demanded that

the government declare November will be almost double the prices of 7 (National Revolution Day) and May 30 (the day president Ziaur the coarse varieties.

Rahman was assassinated) as farmers and agriculturists in the northern districts are now showing "We hope the government will meet our demands," Jamaat Ameer increased interest in cultivating the Motiur Rahman Nizami, who led newly developed early harvestable an 11-member delegation to the ricevarieties.

> these varieties of rice is that these can be harvested at a time when agricultural workers in many northern districts traditionally remain unemployed. The early harvest of these varieties creates employment opportunities for those farm workers, creating an opportunity to fight monga in the region," said Dr MA Mazid, chief of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute's (BRRI) regional station in Rangpur.

Mazid, also the programme coordinator of Greater Rangpur Region's BRRI Model Monga Mitigation Programme, said BRRI Dhan--33 was cultivated in 40,148 hectares of high and medium-high land in that region this season producing an average yield of 4.5 tonnes

He said farmers do not need to transplant BRRI Dhan--33 like traditional high yielding aman, they can rather sow germinated seeds in slightly irrigated fields or just sow wet seeds in dry fields, depending on the

Traditionally, seedlings are prepared for high yielding varieties, but in the case of BRRI--33, it is not required, which cut the production cost, Dr Mazid told The Daily Star.

Besides, as there are options of sowing germinated seeds in dry fields, farmers can also save money required for preparing the fields before transplanting seedlings, he noted.

The fine variety of BINA Dhan--7 developed by Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture was also cultivated in some 350 acres of land in the northern districts, while BU Dhan--1 developed by Bangabandhu Agriculture University was commer-

Department of Agriculture Extension Director General Shamsul Alam said BRRI Dhan--33 was Tofail Ahmed however claimed designed with a view to mitigating monga, and it appears to be very

effective. "We, however, are still testing the feasibility of BINA Dhan--7, BU Dhan--1 and some other varieties at cultivation level," he said adding that measures are already underway to expand cultivation of the best new varieties.

Moyeenul was earlier a member of an HC division bench which had delivered two judgements observing that the HC could not entertain bail or quashment petitions in cases filed under the Emergency Power Rules (EPR). Since Khaleda's petition was similar to those petitions, he felt embarrassed to hear it.

When the former premier's petition came up for hearing, Rafique-ul Huq said an investigation officer (IO) of the ACC had earlier submitted 'final report' to the ACC saying that the case was filed on the basis of wrong information, and

Commission Rules, 2007, do not provide for further investigation into any case, and changing an investigation officer, he argued.

The ACC did not properly follow its rules in filing this case. So, the case proceedings should be quashed, the counsel said.

directed Khaleda and other accused in this case to appear before it on October 16.

The former premier is accused in four cases -- Gatco, Niko, Barapukuria coalmine and Zia Orphanage Trust corruption cases.

cases and stayed the proceedings against her in Gatco and Niko cases. On October 12, Khaleda filed a

proceedings in Barapukuria case. The ACC on October 5 submitted charge sheet in the case. On February 26 this year, the ACC

filed the case against the former premier and 15 others, including 10 former ministers from BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, for corruption in awarding Barapukuria coalmine operation contract to a Chinese company.

Hasina's 2 writ

FROM PAGE 1

Earlier on July 7, the HC stayed for two months the proceedings of Niko and barge-mounted power plant corruption cases filed by the Anti-corruption Commission

The HC also issued separate rules asking the ACC and the government to explain why the proceedings against Hasina should not be quashed.

On an application on August 27, the HC extended for three months the stay orders and fixed October 14 for hearing of the rules.

The government filed two appeals with the SC against the HC's extension orders.

List of 8.11cr voters Top Philippine

countries," Shafiqul said after handing over some copies of the

final voter list to the CEC. "The Operation Nabojatra has been concluded through the handover of the final voter list," Shafiqul said, adding, "Besides election purpose, the database can be used for other constructive work."

Senior army officials engaged in the mammoth project that began in August last year said before preparation of electoral roll with photograph in Bangladesh, the largest electronic database of 7.3 crore voters belonged to France.

The EC took the high ambitious project of preparing the voter list with photograph and facilitating the issuance of identity cards last year with an estimated cost of Tk 447 crore.

Launched in August last year, the field-level task for voter registration was completed in June this year and the rest of the tasks including printing of the draft voter list, publication of those and printing of final electoral roll were completed on October 13.

According to the electoral roadmap announced by EC in July last year, the entire task was supposed to be completed by October.

The final voter list has already been sent to the respective areas to be used for the upcoming parliamentary and upazila polls, CEC Huda said

"We will now have to make the electoral roll more authentic and fair," he added.

The poll chief said the ninth parliamentary poll scheduled for January 22, 2007 was questioned on grounds of fairness of the voter list.

"The number of voters on the current list has decreased by around 1.5 crore compared to the previous list and calculating 2.5 percent population growth per year," he said.

On the previous list prepared in 2006 revising the earlier one, the number of voters was 9.3 crore. That list was later scrapped due to a large number of duplications and other errors, costing the exchequer Tk 60 crore for nothing.

The violent dispute that raged over the 2006 voter list was one of the main reasons for the 1/11 changeover of power and the subsequent stalling of the ninth parliamentary election. According to a report prepared

by the army, only 4,286 duplicate voters were detected in biometric matching. Of them, 2,382 registered them as voters twice or more unintentionally, while 919 registered them intentionally.

Legal actions have been taken against 563 individuals for the offence and process is underway to take actions against others.

CEC Huda said those who failed to enroll their names on the voter list will be able to register next year when EC will revise the voter list.

"Due to time constraint, it is not possible for us to register them as voters before the upcoming polls," he said.

On listing BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on the electoral roll, the CEC said the commission has already asked her to get registered on the voter list whenever she

"We can make some exceptions regarding registering names on the voter list by exercising the Election Commission's inherent power," Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain said.

But according to the revised

Polls must

Referring to the political parties, he said amending their party constitutions is not enough; the political leaders have to bring a change in their mindsets and actions too.

Expressing doubts over holding of the election, M Hafizuddin Khan -- another former adviser -- asked, "Will the political parties stick to their demands of not participating in the elections even if their chiefs are convicted through transparent

He also pointed out that the Election Commission (EC) is behaving inconsistently, as they are saying different things at different times. He added that the role of the government is also question-

Khandaker Ibrahim Khaled, chairman of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, said democracy does not mean the election alone, it is a process that needs to be nurtured. He urged the people not let any undemocratic government come

to power again. Noted researcher Golam Murshid said democracy is like a pyramid, which starts from the grassroots level upwards. But in our country democracy is like an inverted pyramid where the upper level imposes it on those below, he

Dr Abdur Razzak, agriculture affairs secretary of Awami League, said we have to return to the parliamentary system through an election immediately. Corruption will go down if the parliament and its standing committees work prop-

Dr Badiul Alam Majumder, secretary of Shujan, Jaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, chief editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), Syed Abul Maksud, writer and columnist, Inam Ahmed Chowdhury, adviser to the BNP chairperson, Sheikh Shahidul Islam, secretary general of Jatiya

Besides preparation of the voter list, 8.11 national identity

cards have also been printed. CEC Huda has thanked the members of the armed forces, officials of the civil administration and people for their assistance to

FROM PAGE 16 Police said Hashem contractor ordered his men to beat up Rafiqul as punishment for coming in con-

tact with him. Sub-Inspector Shahidul Islam of Adabor Police Station said following the instructions, three of Hashem's men punched Rafiqul indiscriminately, dumped him into

Later, locals recovered the body. Police could not arrest anyone in this connection as of filing this report at 1:00am.

and fibre are not of good quality. The country mostly grows local and tossa varieties of jute. The local variety is cultivated in the lowlands of greater Dhaka and Mymensingh regions, while different tossa variet-

northern districts. This year 51.60 lakh bales of jute were grown on 4.95 lakh hectares of land, Mainuddin Ahmed, deputy director (cash crop wing) at the DAE,

The local variety yielded eight bales and tossa varieties 11 bales a hectare. The figures for the past year were 7.85 and 10.46 bales per hect-

Ensuring quality seeds for the farmers would increase jute production, a BJRI official said, adding that the government can consider giving them seeds at subsidised prices.

tricts get poor ratings because farmers do not get enough water to rot the

The BJRI developed a jute-rotting technology requiring small amount Farmers traditionally remove

fibre after rotting the jute plants in water for two to three weeks; the BJRI technology requires them to skin the fibre first, and then keep them in waterpots.

The low-cost ribbon rating technology however has not reached the farmers, an official at the BJRI said.

"Fibre quality is very important You don't get good products without good jute," he said.

EC takes back

FROM PAGE 1

of the court, counsels concerned

that the writ petition challenging

the re-demarcation of parliamentary constituencies was pending with another HC bench. And the EC wants hearing of its petition and the writ petition by the same HC bench. Another counsel for the EC, Dr

Ali and Justice Shamim Hasnain. He said the HC bench of Justice Mahmud and Justice Quamrul has

no jurisdiction to hear the petition for vacating stay order since the other bench of the HC had already fixed a date for hearing the writ

petition. The EC's counsel also said they will submit a petition for vacating the stay order to the bench of Justice Hasmat and Justice Shamim on October 19. And hearing of both the petitions would

'The Election Commission cannot prepare voter lists on the basis of parliamentary constituencies until the petitions regarding re-demarcation of the constituencies are disposed of by the High Court," he observed.

The counsel further said they would file another petition with the HC for vacating the stay order if the writ petitioner seeks to delay disposal of the matters.

the writ petition challenging legality of the EC's gazette notification finalising fresh delimitation of the constituencies. The following day, the HC bench of Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Mashuque Hosain Ahmed stayed operation of

illegal.

the notification for three months, and directed the government and the EC to explain within two weeks why the notification should not be declared unconstitutional and

court rejects autonomy deal for Muslims

AP, Manila

The Philippine Supreme Court threw out yesterday a proposed accord to grant minority Muslims expanded autonomy after Christian protests and renewed fighting convinced the government to abandon the deal.

The court had already blocked the planned Aug. 5 signing of the agreement after Christian politicians in the main southern region of Mindanao, scene of a decades-long Muslim rebellion, claimed it violated the constitution and could lead to the partition of the Philippines.

The move angered Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas, who went on a rampage Aug. 18, shooting or hacking to death at least 37 people in several southern towns. The violence prompted President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to suspend the

A spokeswoman for the court, Gleo Guerra, said eight of the 15 justices voted Tuesday to declare the deal unconstitutional.

Government forces have launched air and ground assaults targeting three rebel commanders who allegedly led hundreds of their men in the brutal August raids.

The rebel attacks and subsequent military assaults killed nearly 100 civilians and displaced about half a million in about 10 Mindanao provinces at the height of the fighting, the government said.

The rebel group with an esti-

mated 11,000 fighters has been

battling for self-rule in the predomi-

nantly Roman Catholic nation's volatile south for decades. Christian politicians protesting the accord have warned that an enlarged Muslim homeland could

spark renewed sectarian violence.

FROM PAGE 1 Rab sources said Tushar, Mujahid and Omar were arrested near Darus Salam mosque while Yusuf was held near Khalishpur SA

Paribahan office. The elite force then took the four

to their office for quizzing. According to a press release issued by Rab-6, Tushar joined the Islamist outfit in 2003 and took training at Kodala forest in Chittagong. He was arrested in Chittagong in 2004 and went into hiding after getting bail from the

The militants told Rab during interrogation that they had a plan to snatch Mufti Abdul Hannan from custody, the release said.

WB to activate

FROM PAGE 16

countries.

Bank managing director disclosed that a special mission would be fielded within a few weeks to finalise the framework of the multidonor trust fund in association with the government and other donors and to develop a pipeline of projects for the next year.

Okonjo-Iweala congratulated the government on very efficient management of Bangladesh economy in the face of global challenges like oil and food price spikes and devastating natural disasters at

The performance of the Bangladesh economy, she said, has been better than many developing

She also appreciated the government's initiative to finalise its Climate Change Action Plan and for holding a very high level conference in London in collaboration with DFID to mobilise support for The World Bank managing director mentioned that

Bangladesh is the first country to launch such an initiative. She also inquired about the likely impact of ongoing financial market turmoil on the Bangladesh

economy The finance adviser sought World Bank support to immediately operationalise the multidonor trust fund for the country owned climate change action plan and to utilise effectively the bank's convening power to mobilise adequate foreign assistance in the

form of grant for implementation of the action plan. He also requested the bank to provide grant assistance from the climate investment funds, estab-

lished recently by the World Bank

Kiwis clinch

of the damage by equally sharing six wickets while there was a wicket each for Tim Southee and Jesse

Earlier, New Zealand opted to bat first on a deck that offered little bounce or lateral movement for the home pacers but Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Syed Rasel gave a good start by removing both Ryder and Brendon McCullum in the space of 6.1 overs. But a 125-run stand between How and Taylor

gave the Kiwis the advantage. Taylor smashed five boundaries and four sixes in his 119-ball century while How cracked ten boundaries in his essay. The bowlers kept it tight conceding only 69 in the final ten overs but the end score was a tad too much for the Tigers who had impressed all with a win in the first one-dayer in Mirpur.

Sudan to try militia leader accused of war crimes

AFP, Cairo

A Sudanese special prosecutor investigating atrocities in Darfur has decided there are grounds to try a leader of the feared Janjaweed militia, a Sudanese official said

Sudan's mission in Cairo, told AFP that state-backed Sudanese militia leader Ali Kosheib will be brought to judge, "likely in the next week."

in custody for months, and that the investigation accelerated after the justice ministry appointed a special prosecutor in August and access to witnesses became easier.

Darfur are being investigated, he how many suspects were involved.

The International Criminal Court, whose chief prosecutor is asking for a warrant for Sudanese President Omar el-Beshir, issued a warrant for Kosheib in 2007 for

Court rejects

cases filed for the August 21 gre-

nade attacks. In response to a time petition by the special public prosecutor (SPP), it adjourned hearing on charge framing in the cases till

sheeted accused. The cases were filed for the grenade blasts at an AL rally on Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21, 2004. The carnage left at least 24

people dead and scores injured. Judge Mohammad Masdar Hossain of Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 said the proceedings will continue separately as the cases were filed on different charges--murder and

setting off blasts. On September 24, Pintu's lawyers submitted a petition for defer-

ral of the proceedings. On June 11, Assistant Superintendent of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Fazlul Kabir, also investigation officer of the cases, submitted charge sheets to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka. He showed 412 people as prosecution witnesses.

Of the accused, Pintu, Mufti Hannan, his brother Mohibullah, alias Mafizur Rahman, and 11 others are now in jail. They were brought from different jails to be produced before the court yester-

Rahman have been on the run. Meanwhile, accused Jahangir ted a discharge petition. The same day Moulana Abu Sayeed, alias Dr Zafar, submitted a prayer for retraction of the confessional

UK Minister FROM PAGE 16

figures, as well as meet Bangladeshi members of the United Nations Peacekeeping forces, and participate in a roundtable discussion on

smooth, peaceful transition to an elected government in 2008 and securing lasting, sustainable democracythereafter. "The UK's interests in this country, like those of the Bangladeshi

the message said. "What's at stake the future develis too important to risk a return to politics of violence and confrontation. That's why we encourage all sides to create conditions conducive democratic process, to commit to participation in elections, and to tive institutional reforms that have taken place during the last two years. that are prepared to work with others constructively and consensually,"

the minister added in the message. Lord Malloch Brown's visit to Bangladesh is the sixth by a UK minister in the last ten months, underlin-

Britain and Bangladesh. Lord Malloch Brown was appointed as the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office's minister of state for Africa, Asia and the UN in June last year 2007. He was appointed as a 'life peer' in the House of Lords (the UK Parliament's upper cham-

ber) in July 2007.

Before the UN, Lord Brown worked at the World Bank and also served as vice-president for external affairs and vice-president for United Nations Affairs from 1996 to 1999. He has also worked in strategic communications, journalism and for the UNHCR.

crimes against humanity and war

The court said Kosheib enlisted,

armed, funded and supplied the

Janjaweed militia and "personally participated in some of the attacks against civilians." He was "perceived as the mediator between the leaders of the

Janjaweed and the government of Sudan," the ICC said. Sudanese Deputy Justice Minister Abdel Daim Zumarwi told AFP Kusheib has been detained for

months, and had tried appealing his

"He appealed, but the prosecutor said there were grounds to hold

him," he said. Critics have said the move to bring Kosheib to trial now is aimed at deflecting attention from Beshir's

BSTI still waiting

FROM PAGE 1 Different media published reports last month that formulas produced in China contained melamine that led to the death of four babies in

own potential warrant.

54,000 others with kidney stones and other illnesses. The BSTI authorities then collected 36 brands of milk powder produced or imported in 11 countries for tests. They sent those to the chemistry department of Dhaka

"In the first phase, we selected three brands of Chinese milk including Yashili 1, Yashili 2, Sweet Baby and five other brands of milk powder including Nido 45 instant milk powder, Redcow, Diploma, Dano and Anlin for testing," said Director General of BSTI Azmal Hossain, adding, "We are yet to

concerned yesterday that they would release the results soon after getting them. man of the chemistry department

receive the results."

examinations are not over. We have been doing it in different methods at our laboratory." She said they may finish their

confirmed traces of melamine in Chinese milk products. Fonterra Global Trade and Nestle Dairy products in separate statements yesterday said their

sumption.

Pakistan

Zardari's trip.

His comments come as Islamabad's alliance with Washington in the "war on terror" is falling on rocky ground partly because of Pakistan's inability to hunt down Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters based in its tribal belt.

balance to regional rival India. In an interview with his country's Geo TV on Tuesday, Masood Khan, Pakistan's ambassador in Beijing, hinted that an agreement on a civilian nuclear pact with China could be on the cards during -

cated that nuclear energy cooperation would be discussed during Zardari's visit, when he will meet President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao, but he gave no specif-"China and Pakistan share

Chinese foreign ministry

spokesman Qin Gang also indi-

energy. China is ready, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, to continue its cooperation with Pakistan," he said. Pakistan already has one Chinese-built nuclear power sta-

tion and another is under con-The Financial Times newspaper also reported Tuesday, without citing sources, that Zardari would seek a soft loan of between 500 million and 1.5 billion dollars from

Zardari inherited a country on the brink of bankruptcy and plagued by huge security problems from Islamic extremists. The global financial crisis has pushed Pakistan closer to the

financial edge, with reports --

denied by Islamabad -- that it faces bankruptcy as early as February. China has boosted its economic interests in Pakistan in recent years, funding major infrastructure, engineering and mining projects, including a deep sea port, as well as helping to build the

Bilateral trade between China and Pakistan is worth more than seven billion dollars a year and officials from both sides have said they are looking to increase that to 15 billion dollars by 2011.

They fell to 8.135 billion dollars this month from 9.129 billion in September, putting Pakistan at risk of defaulting on foreign loans.

with Xinhua that he would seek to step up co-operation with China in the fight against terrorism.

during the election.

about the outstanding issues. Zillur said the same.

national election, he said BNP has shed light on some practical problems about it.

"We will reply to the questions Let's first see which of our

trying to find business opportunities even in the chaos.

Barapukuria coal mine corruption Sheikh Hasina is expected to case on October 6.

meeting. "There is no legal bar to his

At the meeting, Mojahid strongly condemned the government for implicating him in the corruption case and demanded

of the 16 accused in the hold another round of talks with

asked for extension of an October 15 deadline relating to the registration of political parties.

The ACC pressed charges against them on October 5.

New rice

FROM PAGE 1 Mushtaq Ahmed of Hazipara in Rangpur who will harvest in a week BU Dhan--1, the new fine aromatic rice, said the yield will be around 4

only around 2.5 tonnes a hectare. He said the price of the fine variety

With multiple positive impacts,

"The most important thing for

amount of rainfall at the time.

cially cultivated on a limited scale.

Barapukuria case FROM PAGE 1

there was no offence committed. He said the ACC then assigned another IO for reinvestigating the case. But the Anti-Corruption

The trial court on October 12

The HC granted her bail in all the petition with the HC for quashing the

(ACC) against Sheikh Hasina.

Party (JP-Manju), Asif Nazrul, professor of Dhaka University, Dr Dilara Chowdhury and ASM Abdur Rob, among others, spoke at the roundtable.

erly, he said.

Representation of the People Order (RPO), Khaleda will have to get registered on the voter list before filing an application for candidacy in the upcoming parliamentary polls, if she wants to contest

The RPO has made mandatory for the parliamentary aspirants to get registered on the voter list for being qualified to contest the

According to a report prepared by the army, around 10,000 personnel from the armed forces were engaged in the countrywide voterlisting project.

complete the task.

Mere touch

a roadside ditch and left the place.

Quality seeds

them may grow taller, but their sticks

ies are grown on higher land in the

are, according to the DAE.

Agriculturists said jute grown in Jessore and in many northern dis-

would be disposed of by one bench Mahmudul Islam told the court

Shahdeen Malik, told The Daily Star that the EC had to take back its petition from the HC bench of Justice Mahmud and Justice Quamrul since the writ petition was pending with another bench comprised of Justice Mir Hasmat

start on the day.

Former BNP state minister Abdul Mannan filed on August 6

vesterday. Idris Suleiman, deputy head of court in Darfur at a date set by a

Suleiman said Kosheib has been

Thirteen cases of crimes in

said, although he declined to say

October 19. Pintu and Harkat-ul-Jihad-al Islami (HuJi) chief Mufti Abdul Hannan are among 22 charge-

Rejecting the stay petition,

told The Daily Star yesterday, "Our

Moulana Tajuddin, Pintu's brother, Liton, Anisul Mursalin, Mahibul Muttakin, Iqbal, Moulana Abu Bakar, alias Selim Howlader, Jahangir Alam Badar and Khalilur Alam's lawyers yesterday submit-

statement he made to a magistrate earlier.

human rights. In a message ahead of his visit, Lord Malloch Brown said, "At this critical point in Bangladesh's history, attention has to be on achieving a

people, depend on establishing stable and democratic Bangladesh, opment of Bangladesh and its people to holding credible elections, to engage constructively with the embrace and consolidate the posi-Strong democracies need strong institutions. They also need parties

ing the importance attached to the bilateral relationship between

During 2005 and 2006 he served first as chief of staff and then as deputy secretary general of the United Nations. Before that between 1999 and 2005 he was administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

nuclear power plants.

China and sickened more than

University as their own lab was unable to conduct tests for mela-

Prof Tazmeri SA Islam, chair-

Azmal said he told the ministry

tests in a day or two. A number of private labs had

dairy products are safe for con-

China has long been one of Pakistan's closest political and economic partners, with Beijing looking to Islamabad as a counter-

sound cooperation in nuclear

China to help Pakistan out of its

financial crisis.

Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves are widely considered to be at the root of its financial prob-

Zardari also said in his interview