BNP will apply for registration with the EC within the stipulated time complying with the new electoral laws.

Four other political parties --Jativa Party (JP), National Awami Party, Forward Party and Gono Oikyo Front -- also applied for registration with the EC yester-

A total of 23 parties have so far applied for registration with the EC since August 26. The deadline for getting registered with the commission is October 20.

"We have submitted the application with all necessary papers complying with the new registration criteria laid down in the revised Representation of the People Order. We hope the Election Commission will register us with it," AL Office Secretary Abdul Mannan Khan told reporters after submitting the applica-

Mannan, along with Assistant Office Secretary BM Mozammel Haque, submitted the application with the party constitution, its draft amendments and other necessary documents to Jasmine Tuli, deputy secretary to the EC Secretariat, at around 2:30pm.

Earlier, a JP delegation led by its Secretary General ABM Ruhul Amin Howlader submitted an application to the EC with the party's provisional constitution that curtailed the power of its chairman.

MEETING OF 14-PARTY COMBINE

Gono Forum, one of the components of the 14-party combine, had not been invited to today's meeting, sources said.

"We have not been informed about the 14-party combine's meeting," Gono Forum presidium member Panka Bhattacharya told The Daily Star last night.

Ctg mayor

The CCC letter sought suggestion and instruction from the ministry about who would perform mayoral duties since Mayor Mohiuddin in an "office order" from his hospital bed at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BMSSU) in Dhaka suspended a number of official activities of the corporation.

CCC CEO Shamsuddoha said he sent the letter facing a dilemma in performing duties as both Mohiuddin and Monjur were directingthem.

"Mayor Mohiuddin started giving directives from Dhaka after being released on bail while the acting mayor has also been continuing his duty putting us in a dilemma. That is why we had no alternative but to seek the ministry's direction, Shamsuddoha said.

CCC councillors loyal to Mohiuddin condemned the government for wasting time in allowing him to go to Bangkok and see his ailing daughter.

Awami League leader and CCC Mayor Mohiuddin was arrested at his Chashma Hill home in Chittagong on March 7, 2007. He was released on bail on October 8.

He said the 11-party alliance will sit prior to the 14-party com-

bine's meeting. The meeting of 14-party alliance will be held at AL acting president Zillur Rahman's Gulshan residence in the capital

"Various issues including national election, lifting of the state of emergency, and permanent release of Sheikh Hasina will be discussed," AL presidium member Matia Chowdhury told The Daily

Jalil's bail

chargesheeted for acquiring wealth worth Tk 35.08 lakh beyond his known sources of income and concealing information about assets worth Tk 36.04 lakh.

After his release on parole for a month, Jalil flew to Singapore on March 3 and underwent treatment there. Later, his parole was extended several times.

The joint forces arrested Jalil on May 28 last year.

ACC moves

FROM PAGE 16

by the court asking the ACC and the government to explain as to why the proceedings should not be declared illegal and the cases quashed

He said after the hearing, the HC would give its final decision on whether the ACC's cases would go

Anisul said they would gradually move other pending cases before other HC benches.

He said the HC has granted bail to the accused temporarily, stayed proceedings in the cases filed against them and issued the rules mostly on three points.

The points are: the ACC officials could not submit enquiry reports for filing the cases against the corruption suspects within 30 days of getting charges of enquiry, they could not submit investigation reports within 60 days of filing of the cases, and the ACC did not give permission to the officials to file the cases.

He said they would argue before the HC that the provisions for submitting enquiry reports within 30 days, investigation reports within 60 days and giving permission to the ACC officials to file cases are guidelines and are not manda-

Sources say that after January 11, 2007, as many as 383 writs and 241 quashing petitions were filed with the HC challenging the legality of the proceedings of the ACC corruption cases and seeking cancellation of the proceedings.

They said following the filing of the petitions, the HC stayed proceedings of about 200 cases and issued rules asking the ACC and the government to explain as to why the proceedings of the cases should not be declared illegal and the

The Appellate Division has stayed a few of the HC orders upon appeals filed by the ACC.

conference at Dhaka Reporters

"We should develop high

yielding varieties suited to our land

and climate and cut production

cost... This will ultimately decrease

food prices," said Directorate of

Agriculture Extension Director

developed flash flood tolerant

salinity tolerant and early

harvestable rice varieties which will

surely have positive impact on food

cyclone Sidr and floods last year,

farmers in Bangladesh achieved

tremendous success in boro pro-

duction. Besides, many other initia-

tives to boost the country's agricul-

ture sector are encouraging," said

FAO's Bangladesh Representative

Food Day, 2008, is "World Food

Security: The Challenges of Climate

two-day agriculture fair a

Bangladesh-China Friendship

Conference Centre, rallies, cultural

shows and seminars will be held to

not sure about the affect of mela-

mine on kidneys when consumed.

Further research is needed in this

deposited in the kidneys and hin-

ders its functions. This could lead

to inflation of the kidneys and

result in permanent damage.

Melamine, when consumed, is

Melamine also causes stones in

"Melamine is a highly toxic

and milk product should not be

allowed," he said adding that the

government should go for thor-

ough and reliable tests of all the

milk and milk products available in

the public without considering the

issue of the manufacturing and

packaging companies who sell

the commerce ministry should go

for stricter control over the origin of

the food materials coming into the

country.

Prof Farouque further said that

He also said that the results of

observe the day in Bangladesh.

Melamine

regard.

Change and Bio Energy'

Officials said the theme of World

Various programmes including a

AD Spikers at the press conference.

"After serious crop damage by

He said scientists have already

General Shamsul Alam.

security of the country.

Food Day.

Foods to remain

impact of higher food prices last Unity vesterday on the eve of World

The report released on August 28 says that rising food prices and general inflation has made more than half the country's 145 million people "food insecure" and nearly one-third "severely food insecure"

The wholesale and retail prices of coarse rice have increased by 78 and 82 percent between June, 2006, and

The GHI, marked by the welt hunger hilfe, International Food Policy Research Institute and Concern Worldwide, says that grain prices remained stable in the world till 2006 when it started skyrocket-

Between 1974 and 2005, the real food prices declined by about 75 percent but afterwards the foodprice index rose by nine percent in 2006, 23 percent in 2007 and more than 50 percent between May, 2007, and May, 2008, it noted.

India was ranked 66th with a score of 23.7 (up from 32.5 in 1990), Pakistan 61st with 21.7 (up from 29.3 of 1990), Nepal 57th with 20.6, Sri Lanka and Myanmar 39th with scores of 15. The report says that poverty is highest in Africa.

"We do not think the high prices of food will come down soon," said Anwar Faruque, joint secretary of agriculture ministry during a press

Two judge's posts at the Appellate Division have been lying vacant since July 2 and no new judge has been appointed to the HC in the last four years.

Sources said at least seven HC kidney, Prof ABM Farouque of the Division judges are due to retire next department of Pharmacy and year while five Appellate Division Clinical Pharmacology at DU said. judges will retire by 2010. The chief justice is due to retire next year. compound, its presence in milk

vacancies for two judges at present. The HC, on the other hand, now has 61 judges. In 2004, 19 judges had been appointed to the HC but 11 of them have since either retired or been promoted to the Appellate the country.

Division. Among the Appellate Division judges, Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin will retire on December 23, 2009, Justice Md Joynul Abedin on January 1, 2010, Justice Md Tafazzal Islam on February 8, 2010, Justice Md Abdul Matin on February 26, 2010 and Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim is due to retire on September 30, 2010.

obvious."

clarify the relationship between non-promulgation of the proposed police ordinance and result of the case investigations.

Besides, the notice mentioned that the criminal cases are investigated under the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), 1898. The relation between the criminal case investigations and the Police Act-1861 is very little, it added.

Asked, the IGP said he would reply within a week, though the notice did not mention any specific

Contacted, Home Secretary Abdul Karim admitted the issuance of the notice and said, "I cannot say anything without going through the

The notice also attached one of the comments "The Police Ordinance is not being reformed as it might affect the interest of someone" published in daily newspapers on September 23.

He termed the police "a weak force" which has been failing to run strong investigations into cases

"To have a police department on its own, let's have the ordinance passed. But it is not being done", he made the observation in reply to journalists' questions while coming out of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) headquarters after meeting its Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury.

To strengthen the force, a draft ordinance was prepared which has not been approved yet, he said. "I have been vocal for about two years to get the ordinance passed, but it's not being passed since it might

ministry and opinions were taken from cross-section of people, the draft has yet to be passed.

Hasina

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, a petition was filed yesterday on behalf of Hasina with the HC for time extension of the HC orders that had directed the government not to harass or arrest her at home or abroad till October 20 in the same cases.

Shafique Ahmed yesterday told newsmen that hearing of the prayer might be held on Thursday (today). On October 5 a HC bench, upon

two bail petitions filed by Hasina, these cases.

Hasina, also former prime minister, is now overseas for treatment. She was released on June 11 on an executive order.

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 (ACC) against Hasina.

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.

appeals with the SC against the HC's extension orders. On October 14, an HC bench comprising Justice Sheikh Rezowan Ali and Justice Md Rais Uddin deferred the hearing of the rules till October 19, since the appeals were pending with the SC.

"We are compelled to enrol some students who fail to make it to the merit list in admission tests following pressure from the VNSC board of directors, government high-ups and politicians," Rokeya Aktar Begum, acting principal of the VNSC, told reporters.

Irregularities at the educational institution can be checked if the government formulates a policy in this regard, said Rokeya.

Expressing satisfaction over the verdict of the Vigarunnisa University Foundation graft case she said, "We are very happy with the verdict as the truth has triumphed," she said, adding that they hope to get back the embezzled

On April 10, 2004, the then acting principal of the VNSC Royena Hossain filed a case with the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court accusing former Awami League lawmaker and ex-chairman of Viqarunnisa University Foundation HBM Iqbal and seven former members of the VNSC board of directors of transferring Tk 8.09 crore and properties illegally to the

Foundation fund from the VNSC. The court on Tuesday ordered them to pay the money by October these tests should be revealed to 31.

> The other accused are representative of Vigarunnisa University Foundation Abdus Sattar, former principal of the VNSC Hamida Ali, Humayun Kabir Khan, AKM Firoz, engineer Motiar Rahman, Rakibul Hossain Rumi and engineer Prasanta Kumar Biswas.

All parties to take

NEWS

FROM PAGE 1 state of emergency, economy, global financial crisis and food

stock came up for discussion. Briefing newsmen after the meeting, CA's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim said the CA apprised the British minister of the recently held free, fair and peaceful elections to four city corporations and nine municipalities amid relaxed provisions of the state of emergency.

"If necessary, whatever has to be done for further relaxing the state of emergency will be done discussing with the political parties for holding the coming parliament election fairly," he told the British minister.

The head of the caretaker government said his government's main objective is to hold a free, fair and credible election. Food security and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are also on the priority list of the government, he added. About impact of the global

the CA said it won't have any major impact on the business sector here. The British minister appreciated the caretaker government's remarkable achievements and performance under the leadership of Fakhruddin, particularly

financial crisis on Bangladesh,

in a short time. On food security, the CA

institutional reforms and com-

pletion of voter list with photo-

graphs of over 80 million people

apprised the minister of two back-to back floods and a powerful cyclone last year, which caused massive damage to food crops. The government has tried its best to overcome the situation,

he said. He said the government focused on increased food production and extended support and supplied agri-inputs to the farmers from its limited resources. And the farmers, by dint of their hard labour, produced bumper food crops, including rice, potatoes and

The CA said the government has enough food in stock.

Referring to government's various programmes for foodsafety net, the CA said about 15 million people, both in rural and urban areas, were given income and food supports through a number of measures like introducing 100-day programme for employment in the national budget for rural people during lean period and operation of Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice in urban areas.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, British High Commissioner in Dhaka Stephen Nicholas Evans, Head of DFID Bangladesh Chris Austin, Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Shafiuddin Ahmed, Secretary of CA's Office Kazi M Aminul Islam and CA's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim were present.

Barapukuria case

bench comprising Justice Syed AB Mahmudul Huq and Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury felt embarrassed to entertain the same petition and referred the matter to Chief Justice (CJ) MM Ruhul Amin for a decision.

The Chief Justice yesterday sent the petition to the HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice Farid Ahmed for hearing. Former three ministersMK

Anwar, M Shamsul Islam and

Motiur Rahman Nizami, also accused in the same case, will appear before the court today, Sanaullah added. But another accused Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will not appear before the court due to his illness, said his lawyer Golam Mostafa

Khan. Former finance minister M Saifur Rahman is now on a fourweek High Court (HC) bail. On October 12, Metropolitan Sessions Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque asked Khaleda and 15 others

to appear before the court today. The court also issued arrest warrants against Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojaheed and seven

They are former minister barris-

ter 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 director Mainul Ahsan, former managing director of Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd Sirajul Islam, and Hosaf Group chairman Moazzem Hossain.

Meantime, the court on October 12 directed the authorities concerned to publish an advertisement in two national Bangla dailies asking Mojaheed and seven others to appear before it by today.

Two other former detained ministersDr Khondaker Mosharrat Hossain and Altaf Hossain Chowdhuryare also accused in the The Anti-Corruption

Commission (ACC) pressed charges against Khaleda and 15 others on October 5. 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 company through abuse of power.

17 govt high-ups

Though most of the officials heard so far are from Titas Gas, Tac did not issue any notice on Titas high-ups. Sources say the low-tire Titas officials have given information of corruption by their top bosses, but Tac remained silent about that.

Mentioning editorials of some newspapers on issuing notices on government officials, Justice Habibur explained the commission made the move in accordance with section 28 (6) of Voluntary Disclosure of Information Ordinance, 2008 that empowers the commission with summoning people having connection with voluntary disclosures.

The Tac boss said they would try to know whether the summoned government officials are willing to make voluntary disclosures. Otherwise, the matter will be directed to other places like the metropolitan magistrate's court, he added.

"We don't want to cause panic by issuing notices. We served the notices when information extracted from low-tier government employees indicated their involvement in syndicated corruption," said Tac member Maj Gen (retd) Manzur Rashid Chowdhury.

"An educated or wise or conscious government official cannot be involved in corruption recurrently. They must have some psychological problems or are forced into corruption due to social contexts or entrapped in a corrupt system," said Tac member and former comptroller and auditor general Asif Ali.

He also explained that they are trying to understand the circumstances under which corruption takes place, as low-tire government officials confessed that almost everyone from the lowest to the highest post had a share of the illgotten money.

The low-tier government officials who applied to Tac are mostly from BTCL, Roads and Highways Department, BRTA, Titas, Desa, BIWTA, registration department, Chittagong Port Authority and Power Development Board. As many as 313 people includ-

ing 253 government officials, 27 of

their wives and 24 low-profile

businessmen have so far applied to

the commission for voluntary disclosures. of them who admitted to having illgotten wealth worth only about Tk Delwar asserted.

Of the total amount, Tk 10.17 frozen bank accounts of the graft-

Of the applicants, 126 applied through ACC, 167 through NCC, three through the courts and 17 voluntarily.

No registration

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday talked with her advisers and party leaders as a part of the preparation for the second round of talks with the caretaker government.

General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan and Rizvi Ahmed, among others, met party chairperson at her Gulshan office. Journalist Shafik Rehman also me her to discuss the election related

"We will take decisions about taking part in the election once we get the government's stance on our demands," BNP secretary general also told reporters a day after the dialogue between the government and the BNP.

preparation committee had already commenced its tasks regarding the next round of talks with the government that had earlier ended inconclusively with both sides agreeing to meet again to resolve differences on various issues. October 20 is the last date for all

The former minister said they contest the next parliamentary would contest the polls under the

one month after the national polls, she stressed. Matia pledged that if voted to power, they would continue the current anti-corruption drive and make the parliament effective.

Mojahid

FROM PAGE 1

Meantime, eminent citizens and lawyers yesterday sharply reacted to Mojahid's presence at his party's dialogue with the government Tuesday even when police reported to the trial court that he is a fugitive.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said the rule of law was violated allowing Mojahid into "Law should be equal to all; it

violates the rule of law when a wanted accused sits with government advisers instead of being arrested," he told reporters after attending a seminar in the city.

"The government will have to account for if he roams free in line with the administration's consent," On whether the government was

softening its position for the sake of success of its negotiations with political parties and the upcoming election, he said, "This flexibility cannot be evaluated from one or two instances; we've got to wait for the final results." Supreme Court Bar Association

President barrister Shafique Ahmed said allowing Mojahid into the meeting was an act of 'harbouring a criminal' On the Jamaat platitude that

Mojahid's joining the talks was OK as he had already applied for bail, he said, "Appealing for bail does not mean getting bail."

Top bureaucrats

FROM PAGE 1 education trips to attend seminars and workshops.

Secretaries and acting secretaries could send their proposals for consideration only if the sponsor organisations offer them travel in business class, not in economy class. For this, they would however need prior nomination by the government.

No direct invitation or invitation by name will be considered said the letter, issued by the director general of the CA's Office.

The letter asked for strict compliance with the criteria contained in it.

Morshed Khan

FROM PAGE 1 The remaining 20 percent is held by Far East Telecom Ltd registered in

Hong Kong.

Morshed sold the 45 percent stake to Singtel for \$118 million in June 2005.

Convictions A special court on August 21 sentenced Faisal Morshed Khan to 10 years' imprisonment for amassing wealth illegally and concealing information in his wealth state-

ment submitted to the ACC. The court ordered confiscation of Faisal's ill-gotten wealth worth Tk 1.66 crore.

The court also fined him Tk 10 lakh, in default of which he will have to serve jail term for one more Earlier on April 13, another special court gave Faisal seven

years in jail for aiding and abetting

Shahjahan Chowdhury, a former

Jamaat lawmaker, in committing crimes and amassing wealth ille Meanwhile, on August 4 Morshed Khan was sentenced to 13 years' rigorous imprisonment on charges of amassing wealth illegally and concealing information

in his wealth statement to the ACC.

Both the father and son are on the

Faisal, managing director of Pacific Motors and chairman of AB Bank Ltd, was also sentenced to eight years' rigorous imprisonment for acquiring wealth beyond his known sources of income and two years' imprisonment for hid-

ing information about his wealth. Since Faisal is absconding, the sentences will come into effect the

day he surrenders or is arrested. The ACC had filed corruption cases against Morshed Khan and his son Faisal Morshed Khan on charges of building up huge wealth through illegal means and concealing information on their assets worth Tk 91.34 lakh in statements

to the watchdog. Matia Chy

FROM PAGE 1 not be acceptable to the people.

Matia, who was agriculture minister during AL rule from 1996 to 2001, said they want to take part in the election in an environment free from fear, apprehension and criminal activities. "But, (state of) emergency must go fully to ensure such an environment."

The AL leader said her party is prepared to take part in the December polls, and would call its grassroots level leaders to Dhaka soon to collect names of parliamentary election contenders. They would not give any nomination in violation of electoral laws, or nominate those convicted by lower courts.

banner of a grand alliance to be formed with secular democratic forces after AL chief Sheikh Hasina returns home this month. The elections to upazila parishads should be held at least

report on wholesale inflation --

Defamation case

FROM PAGE 1

the facts.

The three reports quoted the lawyers as saying that both the advisers at the time told The Daily Star that 41 politicians and businessmen including Mahmudur Rahman remained absconding and the joint forces raided their

The rejoinder said the defence lawyers did not say such things to the court, adding that Amar Desh, Dinkal and Nayadiganta distorted charges.

Disputing the authenticity of the claims, the rejoinder said, "Ashraf-ul-Alam told the court that cases were filed against 39 people out of the 41 mentioned in The

Mahmudur Rahman was filed with Motijheel Police Station on September 30, 2007. The Daily Star lawyer (Ashraf-ul-Alam) also mentioned in the court that Mahmudur

The rejoinder asked the three report itself contain any such

McCain faces

FROM PAGE 16 talked tough heading into the last presidential debate before the

The Daily Star published the

said report headlined "Forces

search for 41 political bigwigs: will

disclose their names, ask them to

told the court that information for

the report was collected from

different government sources and

that the two advisers at the time

only told the English daily that law

enforcers were hunting for sus-

statement to the court blaming the

two advisers nor did The Daily Star

They said they did not give any

pected corrupts.

The rejoinder said the lawyers

surrender" on February 7, 2007.

ised supporters in Virginia he would "whip" his Democratic opponent's "you know what' during the evening debate starting at 0100 GMT at Hofstra University on Long Island. Addressing a rally in

rival's "eloquent" advocacy of lower taxes for the middle class was belied by his record of voting for higher taxes. opposite of what he has done his entire career. Perhaps never before

ple been asked to risk so much

Pennsylvania, McCain said his

based on so little," he said. On arriving in New York late Tuesday, McCain dined with

latest version of his plan to end the financial tumult, the Arizona senator vowed to bring up Obama's links to 1960s radical turned Chicago education professor

his terrorist wife," McCain, 72, told KMOX radio in Saint Louis, Missouri. "What I care about and what the

But as millions of voters fret about possibly losing their jobs and health care, the perils of a negative strategy from McCain are clear as Obama, 47, builds up a commandinglead in several polls.

A New York Times-CBS News

poll late Tuesday had Obama ahead

of McCain by the huge margin of 14 points, 53 to 39 percent, compared to a lead of just three points before last week's second presidential At that debate, McCain jabbed his finger and spat out "that one" instead of naming Obama. But the

after his assured performance in the first debate in late September. CBS said 21 percent of respon-

dents now had a less favorable view

Governor Sarah Palin as running Palin, in an interview with conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh, said her role was to point out differences between McCain and Obama.

related character attacks on

Obama and his choice of Alaska

"I've got nothing to lose in this, and I think America has everything to gain by understanding the differences, the contrasts here between Obama and McCain, so, you know, I'm going out there and I'm just

a simple talker," she said. Nearly seven in 10 cited the economy as their top concern in a survey by the Los Angeles Times and Bloomberg that showed Obama was ahead by nine points, 50 to 41 percent.

"Senator Obama is going to use

simply speaking -- so be it that I'm

the debate to discuss his plan for the economy. That's what he's been doing for weeks," Obama spokeswoman Jen Psaki said. "And while McCain has promised to bring up Bill Ayers to distract voters, every minute that he spends continuing to ignore the economy

and the middle class is a minute wasted," she said This is John McCain's last chance to turn this race around andsomehow convince the American people that his erratic response to this economic crisis doesn't dis-

qualify him from being president." Ayers and his wife Bernadine Dohrn were part of a group of anti-Vietnam War militants called the Weather Underground that bombed government buildings in

McCain says the professor was

instrumental to Obama's political rise from the mid-1990s, a claim dismissed by the Democrat's camp as wildly exaggerated. It says the pair were only loosely connected in Chicago charitable work. Quinnipiac University polls Tuesday suggested the Illinois

senator has broken through the 50-

the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Minnesota and Wisconsin. "Those margins may be insurmountable, barring a reversal that has never been seen before in the modern era," said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac

showing a 0.4 percent drop in overall

prices and a 0.4 percent rise in core

inflation excluding food and energy --

should not be cause for concern and

that the Fed will likely be forced to cut

interest rates further from the current

funds target rate by 25 basis points on

unveiled plans to inject billions of

dollars into banks to ease a global

credit crisis. Nine large banks

including Citigroup, JPMorgan

Chase and Goldman Sachs agreed to

"We still see the Fed cutting the fed

On Tuesday, US authorities

base level of 1.5 percent.

October 29," he said.

market expectations.

that US retail sales slumped 1.2 percent in September, the sharpest drop since August 2005 and weaker than

High Frequency Economics, said the report was even more grim because it covered a period before the worst of

Ian Shepherdson, economist at

A major factor was weak auto sales, which plunged 8.4 percent year-over-year and 3.75 percent in

September, the Commerce Department report showed. "People have dropped shopping. This happened even before the total meltdown in the stock markets. What is ominous is that the declines in spending were broad-based," said

Advisors. "This is a very weak quarter and certainly one headed for negative

Brusca at FAO Economics. Meanwhile the New York Fed's Empire state index of factory activity in the northeastern region slid to minus 24.6, its weakest reading ever.

nous sign for overall economic output and a sharp drop in gross domesticproduct (GDP). "We now estimate that consumer spending fell at an annualized rate of around 3.25 percent in the third quarter although at this point we

"As global growth slows and firms third quarter levels."

The Amar Desh, Nayadiganta and Dinkal reports quoted defence lawyer Ashraf-ul-Alam as saying, "Police did not search for two people mentioned in the report including Mahmudur Rahman and we admit that no cases were filed against them."

The reports said he made the statement after petitioning to the court to acquit the accused on the

Daily Star report and that many of

them were convicted." "A corruption case against Rahman was offloaded from a plane while going abroad," it said.

newspapers to publish the rejoinder verbatim.

of McCain in light of his Ayers-

November 4 vote.

At the weekend, McCain prom-

"What he promises today is the in history have the American peo-

Republican fundraisers at a 1,000 dollar per person event and told supporters he had seen "all this enthusiasm" on the campaign trail. On Tuesday, McCain issued the

William Avers. "It's not that I give a damn about some old washed-up terrorist and

American people care about is whether he (Obama) is being truthful with the American people.'

Democrat kept his cool, and snap

percent threshold in four of the most important battleground states: Colorado, Michigan, polls gave him a second victory

University Polling Institute.

US recession fears

the financial market turmoil "There can be no doubt now that the economy is in recession," he said. "It will be there a while."

But even excluding autos, retail sales were down a hefty 0.6 percent in

Joel Naroff at Naroff Economic (economic) growth," said Robert

John Ryding at RDQ Economics said the latest reports show recessionary levels for both the consumer and manufacturing activity, an omi-

estimate that real GDP fell by only around 0.5 percent, "he said.

rein in inventories, we expect a much weaker fourth quarter and look for a 2.5 percent drop in real GDP from Ryding and other said Wednesday

give the government equity stakes in exchange for new capital, officials said on announcing the first program of its kind since the Great Depression. The announcement provided a brief thaw in credit markets

although it remained unclear how

quickly it would jump-start inter-

bank lending needed to fund corpo-

Sara Kline at Economy.com said

rate activity that fuels the economy.

there have been only modest declines in Libor -- the interbank lending rates seen as crucial in the credit crisis. "Liborrates edged lower for the third

consecutive day -- the longest streak in

almost two months," she said. "Although the direction was favorable, the magnitude of the drop was small. Market sentiment has eased following the coordinated central bank action this week, but tensions among financial institutions remain heightened.'

Sculptures

FROM PAGE 1 hours for removal of the sculptures. Witnesses said around 2,000

people gathered in the area when the task of removing the sculptures began at about 11:00am. The OC quoting the committee

leaders said they do not want any sculptures in the airport area where the hajj camp is located.

Move to fill

backlog of cases and establish justice in the country," he said.

The Appellate Division also has

so right now and will never be. It's

The notice also asked him to

including those for corruption.

affect someone's interest somewhere." The police department is being run according to the police laws of 1861. The caretaker government initiated a reformation project and formulated draft "police ordinance" by reforming the laws. Though the draft has been submitted to the

Hasina's counsel barrister

directed the government not to harass or arrest the AL president in

The HC also issued separate rules asking the ACC and the

The government then filed two

Recover Tk 8cr

money soon.

crore was deposited to the state exchequer as of yesterday, while the rest could not be deposited as ACC or NBR is still to release the

accused.

Party leaders said Secretary

issues, sources said. Party insiders said the party

He also said that the dialogue

elections slated for December 18. The BNP wants to hold a second round of dialogue soon with the government to settle all the disputed issues including lifting of the state of emergency and constituency re-demarcation before the

The Tac completed hearing 150 the dialogue ends with the government by October 20," Khandaker

leaders are now working to finalize the party strategies on different issues for the talks with the govern-

political parties to submit their application for the registration, which is mandatory for them to

upcoming polls. "We'll go for the registration after