The HC had earlier stayed proceedings of Gatco and Niko graft cases in which Khaleda is an accused. And Zia Orphanage Trust graft case against her is now under investiga-

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

The chief justice on Wednesday Justice Dastagir and Justice Farid

Following the hearing, Khaleda's counsel barrister Rafique-ul Hug told newsmen that

There was no corruption in this contract, and the case was filed on the basis of misinformation and

with malafide intention. Advocate MA Aziz Khan, who could not appear before the court argued for the ACC, told newsmen

During the hearing, Rafique-ul Huq told the HC that the ACC filed this case on February 26, submitted to court 'final report' on the case on June 1 and pressed charges in court on October 5.

He said the ACC did not explain the delay in submitting the charge sheet but ACC rules 2007 provides And in case of any delay, the ACC

Rafique said an investigation officer (IO) of the ACC had earlier submitted 'final report' to the ACC saying the case was filed on the basis of wrong information, and there was no offence committed.

He said the ACC then assigned another IO for reinvestigating the case. But the ACC rules do not provide for further investigation

The ACC is comprised of three commissioners, and according to the rules, sanctions for filing cases and submitting charge sheets must be approved by the entire commission instead of individual commissioners, the counsel argued.

So, filing of the case and submitting the charge sheet against his client were illegal as those were not sanctioned by the entire commis-

assigned officials in filing this case

and submitting charge sheets. The court told him that as per the ACC rules, the commission had to give sanctions to its officials at all stages of proceedings of cases but it

did not do that in this case. The ACC counsel argued that there was no necessity of the ACC

sanctions again and again for proceedings of cases. The HC bench asked him

whether he was teaching them

The counsel then said the ACC rules regarding sanctions should be changed.

LOWER COURT PROCEEDINGS Court in this case vesterday.

She was earlier produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on September 3 last year after her arrest in Gatco graft case.

Yesterday, proceedings of all the courts including District and Sessions Judge's Court and Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court were suspended for over three hours because of the huge rush of people at the courts centring Khaleda's appearance. A severe traffic jam was created in the

punishment of those who took the court areas. initiative to erect the sculptures in The former premier along with front of ZIA. her lawyers including Khandaker Delwar Hossain, also BNP task of erecting the sculptures Secretary General, appeared before began about three and a half the court at noon as hearing of the months back.

case was scheduled for yesterday. She was given a chair in the courtroom during the hearing that continued for over an hour. The supposed to sign an agreement with United Commercial Bank Ltd

courtroom was jam packed with lawyers and BNP leaders. Khaleda's lawyers Joynul

Abedin, Sanaullah Miah and Masud Ahmed Talukder submitted two petitions -- one for continuing

HC extends order

FROM PAGE 16 proceedings against Hasina should not be quashed.

commitment to protecting Bengali culture, upholding non-communal spirit and democratic values. President Rashed Khan Menon and its General Secretary Birnal Biswas in

On October 5, a vacation bench Mohammad Anwarul Haque and Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury directed the government not to harass or arrest Hasina at home or abroad until October 20

in the two cases. Barrister Shafique Ahmed, counsel for Sheikh Hasina, recently submit separate prayers on behalf of his client to the High Court for

vers said Khaleda had earlier

obtained a four-month HC bail on

August 28. As the Metropolitan

Sessions Judge's Court had earlier

asked her and other accused s to

appear before it yesterday, she

appealed to the HC for quashing

the case. So, they prayed to the

metropolitan court for staying the

proceedings of the case until hear-

ing of the quashment petition

former ministers MK Anwar and M

Shamsul Islam. and Jamaat Ameer

and former minister Motiur

Rahman Nizami, now on HC bail,

appeared before the metropolitan

Nizami's lawyers submitted a

Another accused in the case,

petition for continuing the HC bail

former BNP secretary general and

minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan

due to illness. Former finance min-

ister M Saifur Rahman, one of the

accused, did not appear in the court

Two detained former ministers

Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary

and Altaf Hossain Choudhury-

also accused in the case, were

General Ali Ahsan Mohammad

Mojahid, and seven other accused

who are absconding, did not com-

ply with the court order to appear

The Anti-Corruption

Commission (ACC) pressed

charges against Khaleda and 15

other accused in this case on

February 26 this year accusing

them of causing a loss of Tk 159

crore to the state exchequer by

awarding a contract for operating

Barapukuria coal mine to a

Chinese company through abuse

deployed on the court premises to

avoid any untoward incident

were seen standing on both sides of

the road from Gulistan to the court

while Khaleda was on her way to

Committee that forced the authori-

ties concerned to remove the

sculptures said the government

has to begin the task of erecting a

hajj minar by October 23 in place of

the sculptures removed on

of Khatme Nabuwat Andolon, at a

press conference at a city restau-

rant said if the government fails to

meet their demands they would

hold a grand rally at the north gate

Department (RHD) and Civil

Aviation Authority of Bangladesh

(CAAB) were forced to remove the

five sculptures in the face of pro-

tests of the Murti Protirodh

a hajj minar at that place and its

design must be finalised upon our

country will bring out processions

from mosques today demanding

consent," said Mufti Nur Hossain.

"We will not accept anything but

He said all khatibs across the

Sculptor Mrinal Haque said the

Almost 50 percent work of the

A CAAB official said they

Ain O Salish Kendra in a state-

removed the five sculptures of

bauls holding ektara on instruc-

ment expressed concern over the

removal of the sculptures and said

such incidents raise questions

about the present government's

Workers Party of Bangladesh

They said the present caretaker

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi

government has compromised with

the fundamentalists on various

issues but the people will thwart all

Gosthi, Charan Sangskritik Kendra,

Jaybangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote

and Bangladesh Students' Union

also condemned the incident.

attacks on the Bengali culture.

a joint statement also condemned

the removal of the sculptures.

tions of the ministry concerned.

project had been finished at a cost

of Tk 50 lakh, said Mrinal, who was

on Wednesday for getting funds.

Committee on Wednesday.

The Roads and Highways

of the hajj camp on October 24.

Removal

Wednesday.

Additional police forces were

The ACC filed the case on

produced before the court.

since he is on a four-week HC bail.

Two other BNP leaders and

ends, lawyers said.

court yesterday.

on its expiry.

before it.

October 5.

detectors.

Moreover, they had earlier

complied with the court order.

Nazrul Islam Khan, also the leader of a team, yesterday exchanged views with the presidents and secretaries of district committees and front organisations of seven districts -- Mymensingh North and South, Kishoreganj, Netrakona, Tangail, Jamalpur and Sherpur. Discussions were held separately

The task is expected to be com-

six teams.

"There are legal complexities in recovering the laundered assets or money as the process involves two countries and international laws. And there is a question of collecting evidence to prove how the money was laundered," said ACC Director General (Admin) Col Hanif Iqbal during a regular press briefing at the commis-

He also mentioned that the process also requires having a deal between the countries involved in money laundering

"But the ACC have already looked into the wealth statement submitted by Morshed Khan and his son and found that they concealed information about the money," he said, adding that the ACC is looking for the way to

through the Interpol's Dhaka office, have informed the government of the matter and wanted to know whether Bangladesh wants

Lawyers and all others were given permission to enter the court premises after checking with metal Hundreds of activists and supporters of BNP and Jamaat thronged the court premises. wealth illegally and concealing Carrying party flags and banners, they chanted slogans for withdrawal of the case against Khaleda. the ACC. Party supporters and activists

crore and hiding information of wealth worth Tk 1.50 crore.

M Morshed Khan was jailed for amassing wealth worth Tk 1.70 crore illegally and concealing information of wealth worth Tk

They also demanded removal of Mahbub Jamil, special assistant to (BNP chief's previous political the chief adviser, for taking initiaoffice), he said any allegation must tive to erect the sculptures. be supported by Committee Chairman Mufti Nur Hossain Nurani, also the chairman

it cannot be accepted. scope for improvement. One can place proposals for this at party

council but until it (council) makes any change, all provisions of the existing constitution will remain in Replying to a question, he said his party has already started preparations to take part in the coming

cating situation. Awami League (AL) wants to see a national election without BNP's municipalities. "They [AL] want to form a government through

win if the BNP-led four-party combine takes part in it." There is a plan to keep BNP away from the polls process, he said. "BNP is an election-oriented

Tanbir said a level playing field for all political parties and an environment free from all fears are the main requirements for holding a transparent and credible election, but that cannot be ensured

The caretaker government's stance on emergency shows its lack of confidence in the people as

Earlier, the government had said the state of emergency would continue until the election to

It is the responsibility of the government and Election Commission to withdraw (state of) emergency and make necessary amendments to the revised Representation of the People Order (RPO) if they really want hold a meaningful election, the BNP leader observed.

Big powers

FROM PAGE 16

financial architecture" to revamp the Bretton Woods accords after World

need for more regulation and oversight and a new role for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to avert future crises. As chair of the European Union,

Americans are ready to sign on," said

Christian de Boissieu, an economist and adviser to the French govern-Sarkozy insists Bush's successor must be involved, handing Barack

November 4 vote. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has backed Sarkozy's call for a meeting of leaders of the Group of Eight industrialised powers with emerging powers China, Brazil and

That summit would lay the groundwork for a meeting under the auspices of the 184-member IMF to launch what has been called Bretton Woods II, according to a French proposal.

sovereign funds.

Instead, it gave typescript state-

ments containing information on

its bank accounts and balances,

submit proper bank statements.

The committee will ask AL to

On the other hand, JP's provi

sional constitution has no provi-

sion to empower its grassroots to

pick prospective candidates in

board's complete authority to

finalise candidates for general

election remains, members of the

The RPO says a party constitu-

tion must stipulate that parliamen-

tary contenders will have to be

chosen from panels selected by

also passes over the registration

criterion for having a provision to

ensure 33 percent positions

reserved for women in committees

would be efforts to that end.

The JP charter simply says there

Meanwhile, the EC at a meeting

yesterday discussed the overall

As of yesterday, 29 parties

applied for registration. The num-

Nizami's lawyer

lawyer sought cancellation of the

However, lawyer Joynul Abedin,

Nizami appeared before the

Lawyers including Abdur

Razzak submitted a petition saying

that their client Nizami had

obtained bail from the High Court

(HC) on August 26 which was valid

until the court accepted the charge

Mohammad Azizul Haque

accepted the charge sheet of the

case on October 6 and fixed

October 12 for the next hearing of

the case. The court did not cancel

their client's bail. So, they prayed

for upholding the HC bail for four

Kajol submitted another petition

seeking cancellation of Nizami's

bail. He told the court that Nizami

had obtained the HC bail till accep-

tance of the charge sheet. The ACC

submitted the charge sheet against

Nizami and 15 others including

former premier Khaleda Zia. As the

court accepted it, Nizami's HC bail

is cancelled. Kajol appealed to the

court to cancel the bail and send

At this point Moshiul Alam

ACC lawyer Kajol protested and

objected and said if Nizami does

not get bail many lawyers would

sought protection from the court.

He said the court is a place where

everybody gets justice. But it was a

matter of regret that a lawyer made

threats in such a manner in a court-

Kajol told reporters that he

Following the hue and cry, the

would inform the ACC chairman

not be able to go home.

Nizami to jail.

room, he said.

about the threat.

ACC lawyer Mosharraf Hossain

more weeks from yesterday.

They argued that Sessions Judge

who also appeared for Nizami,

made apology to the court in this

bail of the Jamaat leader.

court around 10:50am.

sheet of the case.

progress in its registration drive.

The JP provisional constitution

scrutiny committee said.

party grassroots.

at all levels by 2020.

It means the JP parliamentary

FROM PAGE 16

panels.

said the EC sources.

Pitfalls abound, however, in trying to deepen the regulation of investment banking, and analysts warn many of the sophisticated products introduced over the past decades were developed one step

ahead of regulators. "I am not sure that we need more regulation but better regulation if we want to avoid a new wave of financial innovations that would only compound the problem," said De Boissieu.

France and Germany want to put

the squeeze on tax havens and there

are calls to establish minimum reserve ratios for banks, clamping down on executive pay packages and improving overall transparency. Leading French economist Jean-Herve Lorenzi said the Bretton Woods II agenda should be extended

to include oil prices and food production, components that can't be overlooked in the inter-connected world economy. "This is the only way. We are headed for a worldwide crisis and if we don't tackle all of the issues, we are going to run into major difficul-

ties," said Lorenzi. "Governments are

facing a worldwide recession, they

have no choice.' The Bretton Woods agreements laid out the framework for stability in the world financial system as leading powers began rebuilding their economies after World War II.

Based on the creation of the IMF as lender of last resort for countries with balance of payments crises and the introduction of a fixed exchange rate system around a dollar-gold standard, it was drafted in the light of lessons of how the stock market crash of 1929 fed the Great Depression of the 1930s.

President Zillur Rahman's Gulshan home. Key leaders of the combine attended the meeting.

alliance member, had no representatives there. This is the first time AL kept Gono Forum out of a 14 AL's reservations.

ahead of the elections but the issue for discussion.

Condemning the government for holding a dialogue with Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General arrest him.

and democratic political party Tofail Ahmed, AL Presidium member in charge of coordinating the party concerned.

barrier to holding a free, fair and credible polls.

He said the government must hold the elections on December 18 as people have doubts about timely elections.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Da party, also spoke to the press.

Earlier, an AL delegation met British Minister for Asia, Africa and United Nations Lord Mark Malloch Brown at the British High Commission. AL Presidium member Abdur Razzak led the delega-

Banani home, AL Presidium mem ber Matia Chowdhury said the delegation discussed with the minister whether the new elected government would face any economic crisis.

Toxic milk

confusion over different results received from three labs on the presence of melamine in powdered milk available in the market.

The department of chemistry of Dhaka University found traces of melamine in eight popular brands of milk powder. Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) said that the BSTI and Plasma Plus lab found the toxic melamine only in one brand of

"We did not talk to the depart ment of chemistry of Dhaka University about the testing procedures or the reagents used. Since there is confusion, we would request the government to send the samples abroad for further

He said the government might

Chemistry department sources however, said they are confident about their report as they took time and tested the samples several times

The additional secretary also said the inter-agency taskforce urged all authorities concerned yesterday to do their jobs with utmost seriousness and in case of any problem they should immedi matter.

"Even if they have recommenthe activities should go on in a coordinated way.

Meanwhile, parents who feed powdered milk to their children are panicked and quite helpless.

scandal broke out nearly a month ago, people are still in the dark as to which brands they should trust.

neys, hinders their functioning and gradually damages them. Recently four babies died in China after having formulas tainted with melamine and more than 54,000 children there became sick.

Obama seen victor

FROM PAGE 16

Keeping his composure, Obama in turn accused McCain of trying to distract voters on a day that New York's Dow Jones share index posted its second-biggest points fall ever on mounting fears of a crippling US recession.

McCain, 72, said he did not care about "an old washed-up terrorist" like Ayers, once a bomb-throwing militant in the Weather Underground group who is now a Chicago professor of education.

"But as Senator (Hillary) Clinton said in her debates with you, we need to know the full extent of the relationship with you," he said, glaring at Obama seated on the other side of a narrow table at New York's Hofstra University. McCain also assailed the liberal

group ACORN, which is accused in several states of adding fraudulent names to pro-Obama voter registration lists, and chided Obama for persistently linking him to President George W. Bush. "Senator Obama, I am not

President Bush. If you wanted to run against President Bush, you should have run four years ago," McCain said, proclaiming his record of bucking the Republican line in contrast to Obama's inexperience.

Obama, 47, accused McCain of wildly distorting the truth over both Ayers and ACORN, and said voters were turned off by the "100 percent negative" tone taken by the Republican's campaign at a time of rampant economic anxiety.

Obama said he could be forgiven for mistaking McCain's policies for Bush's "because on the core economic issues that matter to the American people... you have been a vigorous supporter of President Bush."

"I don't mind being attacked for the next three weeks," the Illinois senator added during one of several spirited clashes in the 90-minute debate, which also encompassed abortion, energy, health care and education.

"What the American people can't afford, though, is four more years of failed economic policies and what they deserve over the next four weeks is that we talk about what is most pressing to them, the economic

Both men appealed to "Joe the Plumber," or Toledo, Ohio resident Joe Wurzelbacher, who found instant fame when he bumped into Obama on Sunday during a round of doorto-door canvassing and expressed concern that Obama's tax plan would hit him hard.

"Joe wants to buy the business that he's been in for all these years," McCain said. "Worked 10, 12 hours a day. And he wanted to buy the business, but he looked at your tax plan and he saw that he was going to pay much higher taxes."

Obama hit back with his version

"What I essentially said to him was, five years ago, when you were in the position to buy your business, you needed a tax cut then.

"And what I want to do is to make sure that the plumber, the nurse, the firefighter, the teacher, the young

Counsel remains

FROM PAGE 16

order from the High Court on the proceedings of Barapukuria coal mine corruption case against Khaleda.

He said Hasina never ruled out sitting down with Khaleda, noting that individuals who opposed such a meeting between the two former premiers failed to meet the Awami League president in London.

"We will see what happens after her (Hasina) return," he said.

SJC chooses

FROM PAGE 16

Aziz and Justice Bijan Kumar Das. The president will appoint two of them as judges of the Appellate Division, as two posts at this division have been lying vacant since

The commission took the decision of recommending the judges for appointment to the apex court at its first meeting after formation.

Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin, chairman of the Supreme Judicial Commission, chaired the meeting at his office in the Supreme Court building yesterday afternoon. Commission members Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff, Appellate Division judges Justice Md Tafazzal Islam and Justice Md Joynul Abedin, High Court judges Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Md Abdul Quddus, and Supreme Court Bar Association President barrister Shafique Ahmed attended the meeting.

Meeting sources said the commission also determined some principles for appointing judges in the High Court division.

The lawyers will have to have experience of practising at the Supreme Court for at least 18 years and be at least 50 years of age for being a candidate for the High Court judge.

In the meeting, the law adviser was given the charge to prepare a draft of the principles. He has been asked to place the draft before the commission at its next meeting on October 30.

The HC now has 61 judges. In 2004, 19 judges had been appointed, raising the number of the HC judges to 72. But 11 of them have either retired or been promoted to the Appellate Division.

entrepreneur who doesn't yet have money, I want to give them a tax

McCain adviser Steve Schmidt, the architect of the Republican's gettough strategy, insisted the Arizona

senator had triumphed in the final "Senator McCain did a very efficient job and won the debate on the economy tonight. It's clear to anyone who watched tonight that Senator

a depression," he told reporters. But the post-debate TV polls told a different story. In CNN's poll, 58 percent of respondents said Obama won the debate compared to 31 for McCain, with 70 percent saying Obama was more likeable. A CBS poll scored the debate 53-22 percent for the Democrat." (McCain) looked frankly desperate, he looked angry,

CNN-Time polls showed Obama up five points among registered voters in Colorado, by eight in Florida, by three in Missouri and by 10 in Virginia -- which has not voted for a Democratic presidential hopeful since 1964.

BD-NZ first Test

The Tigers think-tank has picked seven specialised batsmen in the eleven with Nayeem Islam going to make his debut apart from Rajin Saleh and Mehrab Hossain's comeback to the Test side after more than a

the Sri Lanka tour last year but have since found themselves left out of playing elevens on several occasions. Mehrab will feature in his second Test but a cloud of uncertainty hangs

over the 21-year-old after poor outings in Australia last month. Rajin, however, has a first-class

With Mehrab and Nayeem providing back-up to lead spinners Abdur Razzak and Shakib Al Hasan, Bangladesh will look to take advantage of a progressively slow and low wicket at the port city venue.

debut for the visitors, who have named opener Aaron Redmond and seamer Iain O'Brien in their lineup. Both teams believe that the hot

and sultry conditions will play a role, with the toss gaining more importance for an early advantage. The wicket is expected to be in

third day. Bangladesh have played six Tests against the Black caps so far and lost

all with five matches ending in innings defeats.

Nothing on record

FROM PAGE 1 received lists of individuals "ineligible" as contenders for the upcoming national election.

The ladies, who ruled the country alternately since restoration of democracy in 1990, have yet to respond, they added. Talking to The Daily Star yester-

day, Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid said, "Anyone can give lists. But political parties will always be the ones to decide on nominations."

Ziauddin Bablu said, "We didn't Speaking anonymously, a former BNP lawmaker told The Daily Khaleda Zia had received two lists.

the other of those who can be in According to sources, officials had held several meetings with top AL and BNP leaders in jail and

outside after their release. The AL president has agreed in principle with the authorities not to nominate persons lacking integrity. As of now, the BNP chairperson

has yet to say anything. Both the leaders, however, have strong reservations about some leaders whose names are on the

firmed the authenticity of the information, it could not be verified by the government side.

None of the leaders or government officials concerned agreed to comment on record.

The list thing cropped up also at the talks between the government and BNP at the Chief Adviser's Office Tuesday, said meeting

BNP would not consider the persons convicted or accused of seriupcoming polls.

before the administration meets their demands. Asked about the list issue, BNP

Joint Secretary General Selima Rahman, who was at the talks, told The Daily Star yesterday that nothing of that sort was discussed.

BNP moves

senior party leaders will visit different districts and submit reports to party Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain. He will sum up those for the party

BNP standing committee member Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky, RA Gani, MK Anwar, Selima Rahman, Abdul Mannan, Sarwari Rahman will lead the other

HK bank deposit

sion's headquarters.

and the process is very long.

to confiscate the money. Morshed Khan and his son Faisal Morshed Khan are on the run. They were sentenced to 13 and 10 years' rigorous imprisonment on charges of amassing

Faisal Morshed Khan, managing director of Pacific Motors and chairman of AB Bank Ltd, was sentenced to imprisonment for amassing wealth worth Tk 1.66

91.34 lakh.

Hawa Bhaban

proofs and documents, otherwise About bringing changes in BNP party constitution, he said there is

walkover in the election as they know their grand alliance will not

party, it will not accept any stagemanaged election.'

under the state of emergency.

ensure security of the voters.

He also said the special judge would fix the next date for hearing and he would give decision on the petitions submitted yesterday.

Brown and Sarkozy speak of the

Sarkozy will meet US President George W. Bush at his Camp David retreat on Saturday to discuss the idea, hoping the building blocks can belaid at a summit in coming weeks. "The crisis is so grave that the

Obama or John McCain an immediate and enormous challenge after the

India, possibly as early as next month in New York.

"We need to get everyone around the table. The response thus far just does not go far enough," said De

A strong advocate of state-driven economics, France is drawing up an ambitious list of issues to be addressed, covering banking, hedge funds, credit rating agencies and

> Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda asked the committee to carefully examine the docu ments submitted as registration requirements, meeting sources

At the meeting, Chief Election

tee will work to resolve inconsistency, if any, in the party constitutions or any other documents. "If it fails, it will leave the mat ters for the commission to settle, Election Commissioner

Jamaat-e-Islami to apply for registration, he said the commission hopes both the parties will in the end apply. The closing date for registration

applications now is October 20 after the EC recently extended the time limit by five days.

UK minister FROM PAGE 16 because the only effective way to

right to want to address this issue as the graft convicts might find their way into the election if the emergency were lifted. The former UN deputy secretary-general hoped that the politi

cal parties will show responsibility

towards election procedures and

bring a democratic, political government back in Bangladesh. "As a friend of Bangladesh, we are very keen to see that happen on December 18," he told the reporters at the residence of the British

the right conditions for a successful and credible election, Brown said, "It's important that the political parties have the time and the freedom to campaign effectively ahead of the elections.

intimidation or manipulation. On his meetings with Awam League and BNP leaders, he said they are anxious to contest the elections on December 18 but are troubled by the emergency rule.

On the acceptability of the

election if the BNP keeps from

participating, Brown said, "It

would be real disappointment for

all people who hope for a stable

The British minister said Chief

bility of the political parties to step

on the UK's relations with

Bangladesh if the elections were

not held and the present govern-

ment stayed on, he said he hopes

that the government will hold the

On what impact it would have

up," he added.

election by the end of the year for a democratic transition.

Dec 18 polls FROM PAGE 1

However, Gono Forum, an party meeting by not inviting the Dr Kamal Hossain-led party due to

decided to strengthen activities of the combine ahead of the national elections. The meeting also decided to form an alliance with all "secular and democratic forces" of forming a grand alliance with Jatiya Party (JP) did not come up

Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid as he is a "fugitive", the 14-party leaders asked the government to Asked whether JP is a secular

activities of the combine, asked journalists to get the answer from Briefing newsmen after the three-hour meeting, Tofail said the 14-party combine thinks that the

Briefing newsmen at Tofail'

FROM PAGE 1

milk, Yashili 1.

testing," Director General of BST. Azmal Hossain told The Daily Star concurrently go for further testing, coordinating the scientists of BSTI Dhaka University and Plasma Plus lab. Bangladesh Council o Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), the country's premier laboratory for testing chemicals has no reagents for testing the

presence of melamine and that is why the samples could not be sent there, he added.

is a possibility of sending the sam ples abroad for further testing.

ately inform the committee of the dations in this regard, including amendments to existing laws, they are requested to place it before the committee," he said adding that

Even though the melamine

break now."

Obama wants to spend our way into frankly he did not look presidential,"

Democratic Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm said. A New York Times-CBS News poll late Tuesday had Obama ahead nationally by the huge margin of 14

points, 53 to 39 percent.

FROM PAGE 16

Rajin and Mehrab both played in

century to back his confidence coming into the match.

Jesse Ryder will also make his Test

favour of the batsmen but the spinners are expected to come into the equation once the match enters the

Contacted, most JP leaders declined to talk about the issue. Party's Presidium Member receive any list."

contention for candidacy."

The government said it hopes

would not talk about the matter

Barapukuria case

her HC bail on its expiry and the other for staying the proceedings of the case. Moving the petitions, the law-

tion. Earlier on Tuesday, another HC

sent the petition to the HC bench of for hearing.

she or any other member of her family did not take any benefit from Barapukuria coal mine contract, nor did they give any benefit from the contract to anybody.

that he did not get any instructions from the ACC as to whether they would file any appeal with the Supreme Court against the HC stay ARGUMENTS

that charge sheet has to be submitted within 30 days of filing a case. has to explain it.

into any case, and changing an IO.

Advocate MA Aziz Khan opposed the quashment petition, saying the ACC properly followed rules in giving sanctions to its

Khaleda appeared before the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's

On August 27, the HC also extended the stay orders until October 14 and fixed the same day for hearing of the rules. of the HC comprising Justice

extending its orders.

FROM PAGE 16 BNP Joint Secretary General

at the BNP central office. After receiving the reports,

chairperson.

pleted within this month.

recover the laundered money. The Hong Kong police,

information of the assets in their wealth statement submitted to

parliamentary polls since there is no alternative to election to save the people from the existing 'suffo-The BNP leader alleged that participation as in the recent elections to city corporations and

well as political parties, he added.

judge ordered transfer of the case to the Special Judge Court-2 for its quick disposal.

EC to ask AL ber of forms collected stood at 180 said the EC Secretariat sources.

> According to the decisions taken at the meeting, the commit-

Muhammed Sohul Hussain told reporters at his office. Queried about the apparent reluctance of BNP and its ally

The time extension came in response to the demands of BNI and Jamaat.

fight corruption everywhere in the world is full respect for the rule of He said the government was

high commissioner. Stressing the need for creating

He highlighted the importance of public safety along the way saying people must be able to exercise their voting rights without

democracy in Bangladesh" and hoped that both the major parties will go to the polls. of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed is very keen to see the election take place on December 18. "The caretaker government has done its part and it is the responsi-

British High Commissioner in Dhaka Stephen Evans was present at the press conference.

Chaired by Zillur, the meeting

state of emergency is the main

President Hasanul Haque Inu, National Awami Party General Secretary Enamul Haque and Gono Azadi League President Abdus Samad, coordinator of 11-

of his chat with Joe.

before submitting it to the BSTL When asked about the confusion, Additional Secretary to the ministry of commerce Golam Mostakim said the standards and testing methodology might be different at the laboratories which gave different results. He said there

Melamine deposits in the kid-

Star Wednesday that he heard "One is of corrupt leaders not to be considered for nomination, and

"lists", added the sources. Though party sources con-

ous corruption for its ticket in the The BNP leaders said they