(but) after nearly two years of a grueling and ugly campaign, Senator Barack Obama of Illinois has proved that he is the right choice to be the 44th president of the United States," it said.

The Times joins 127 other daily newspapers across the United States that have come out for Obama, against 49 newspapers supporting Republican rival John McCain, according to a tally by Editor and Publisher, a trade journal, that was updated Thursday.

"Mr Obama has met challenge after challenge, growing as a leader and putting real flesh on his early promises of hope and change, said the Times, which has not endorsed a Republican for president since the 1950s.

"He has shown a cool head and sound judgment. We believe he has the will and the ability to forge the broad political consensus that is essential to finding solutions to this nation's problems."

It lashed out at McCain for retreating "farther and farther to the fringe of American politics" with an "ugly" campaign based on

"partisan division, class warfare

and even hints of racism". "His policies and worldview are mired in the past. His choice of a running mate (Sarah Palin) so evidently unfit for the office was a final act of opportunism and bad judgment that eclipsed the accomplishments of 26 years in

Congress. On the economy, Obama has "correctly identified the abject failure of government regulation that has brought the markets to the brink of collapse," it said, adding it was right to make well-off Americans pay more taxes.

On national security, the Times said Obama would face a "learning curve" assisted by his running mate Senator Joe Biden, "who has deep foreign policy experience, but that he was "far more likely" to repair the image of the United States in the world.

"This country needs sensible leadership, compassionate leadership, honest leadership and strong leadership," it concluded. "Barack Obama has shown that he has all of those qualities."

Due to the government inaction,

a few of the banned brands, espe-

cially Diploma, Dano, Red Cow and

Nido, were found displayed at several

retail shops in city markets. Yashili-1

Yashili-2 and Sweet Baby had already

been withdrawn from the market,

retailer at Karwan Bazar, said a few

traders removed those brands of

Mosharraf Hossain Pintu, a

Govt yet to stop

(BSTI) and private laboratory Plasma Plus found presence of melamine only in Yashili-1

This prompted the government to decide for further testing of the brands at the laboratories of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation.

At a meeting on October 19, the commerce secretary said the test results would be submitted in seven working days, which ends October 28. He left it up to the people to decide whether or not to consume powdered milk of these brands during this time.

He also said the government has no responsibility if consumption of these products causes any health hazard during this time, which prompted the HRPB to file the writ petition.

Secretaries to the home, finance, commerce and health ministries, chairmen of the National Board of Revenue and BAEC, the director general of BSTI and the IGP were made respondents to the rule.

Asked why the government has not yet complied with the HC order, the industries ministry official said, "We have not yet received any copy of the High Court order. I was in the office until 6:00pm Thursday but no order came from the High Court. "Let us see if the order arrives

Sunday when the office opens. We shall act immediately after we get it," he said, requesting anonymity.

IGP Nur Mohammad also said he did not receive any copy of the HC order or any instructions from the

powdered milk on their own like him. Most retailers, however, said they did not remove the brands as they did not receive any instructions from

sellers said.

their distributors.

But they said consumers were not buying those brands. Meanwhile, New Zealand Dairy Products Bangladesh Ltd's Managing Director SA Mallick said they are very much confident that their products--Anlene, Red Cow and Dano--do not contain mela-

mine and that they would go for legal

battle regarding the issue. "We respect the High Court order and also asked our distributors to remove our brands even before the government decision. But, we are consulting our lawyers to go for legal battle because the issue concerns our image," he told The Daily Star

vesterday evening. The test results--when they arrive--would decide the next course of action, Mallick said

An official of Nestlé Bangladesh Ltd, which sells Nido, said the HC order was directed to the government rather than the companies. "Therefore, we are waiting for the government orders. We shall take decision on Sunday," he said.

marks each before graduation, and

study Islamic economics instead of

Most departments of the univer

For instance, students who did

sity have their unique prerequisites

not study Arabic at the higher

secondary or equivalent level

cannot get admission to the Arabic

department, and students who did

not study maths cannot get admis-

The new changes in the admis-

sion policies were also approved

by the deans' committee on

September 23, eight of the ten

members of which happen to be of

panel teachers, and general stu-

dents of the university are alleging

that the white panel's 'pressure' is

an attempt to create a volatile

student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir

for the latest campus flare up.

They are blaming Jamaat's

The new prerequisites for

admissions were first approved in

the academic committees of the

seven departments, then those

were endorsed by the authorities

of the admission units concerned,

then approved by the general

admission committee on

September 20, and finally by the

deans committee on September

the meetings of the deans' com-

mittee, and the general admission

demanding cancellation of the

new admission policies, Prof

Sadrul said the deans' committee

meeting was held in a hurry, and

did not notice that madrasa gradu-

ates would be deprived of the

chance to get admission to those

seven departments due to the

were made maintaining proper

departments said they decided to

introduce the new policies to

maintain academic standards, and

had no intention of excluding

studied in the department are in

English, if the new students don't

have the necessary efficiency in

English then how they will study?"

questioned Prof Ruksana Kibria,

mously in the academic commit-

tee meeting of the department,

two of our colleagues who earlier

studied in madrasa were also

present, but they did not oppose

the decision back then," she

chairperson of the international

"We took the decision unani-

"Ninety five percent of the texts

He however said the changes

Chairmen of five of the seven

Prof Sadrul Amin was present in

While asked why they are now

situation on the campus.

Non-aligned and some blue

sion to the statistics department.

general economics.

the white panel

committee.

changes.

procedures.

madrasa graduates.

relations department.

for freshmen admissions.

TITI deans meet

demic year, unless seven departments scrap their new admission policies that make it difficult for madrasa graduates to get admission to those departments.

Meanwhile, blue panel teachers, who are known as pro-Awami League (AL), at a meeting with the VC on the same day urged him not to interfere with the departments independent decision making process mandated by the Dhaka University Order 1973.

Social Science Faculty Dean Prof Harun-or-Rashid told The Daily Star that the 1973 order authorises the departments to fix their own prerequisites for admissions.

The 1973 order says, academic committees comprising all teachers of the departments will deal with -- admissions of students, syllabuses, examinations, teaching in the departments, and cocurricular activities of the students. The ongoing crisis bogged down

the university authorities after the departments of economics, English, Bangla, mass communications and journalism, international relations, women and gender studies, and linguistics had introduced new prerequisites for freshmen admissions

After the change in admission policies of the seven departments, students from different madrasas in the capital and some DU students who had graduated from madrasas, vandalised the VC's office on October 18 demanding cancellation of the new policies.

The vandals also threatened the VC with disruption of normal operations of the university if their demands are not met.

According to the new prerequisites for freshmen admissions, an admission seeker must complete English and Bangla courses of 200 marks each at the higher secondary or equivalent level to be eligible to get admission to the departments of international relations, women and gender studies, and linguistics under the social science faculty.

The department of mass communications and journalism introduced the prerequisite last year and decided to keep it this year too.

The departments of Bangla and English, for around ten years, have been requiring admission seekers to complete a course of 200 marks on the relevant subject at the higher secondary or equivalent level.

The department of economics set a new prerequisite of studying 200 marks of economics, math, or statistics. It also mentions that courses in home economics and Islamic economics are not going to be considered as equivalent.

The new changes make it difficult for madrasa graduates to get admission to the seven departments as they study English and Bangla of 100 added. Political activities

FROM PAGE 1 Member Matia Chowdhury told The Daily Staryesterday.

She said AL would take necessary legal measurers to have the cases against Hasina resolved to confirm her participation in the election. Sources said the caretaker gov-

ernment has assured the AL leaders that it would help them ensure that Hasina returns home without having to face any legal troubles and starts election activities.

Party insiders said the former prime minister might return in the first week of next month.

Speaking to reporters at his Nam flat, BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday reiterated that their party would not contest the election without participation of Khaleda, who has been busy readying the organisation for election since her release on

At the dialogue, both the parties demanded that the government lift the state of emergency before the announcement of election schedule so that some of their "key" leaders convicted by lower courts on, what they said, false charges could seek election to the ninth parliament, said meeting sources.

According to the EPR, those convicted in cases under the emergency rules shall be considered ineligible for election even if they have appeals pending with higher courts against their convictions. In response to the demand for

withdrawal of emergency, the gov ernment said they might discard the EPR clauses that prohibit political activities in the first week o November, said meeting sources. Sources close to the administration said the government wants

those convicted by lower courts to be debarred from the election. And for that, it might opt to withdraw emergency after the closing date for withdrawal of nomination papers. Meanwhile, AL acting general

secretary Syed Ashraful Islam yesterday demanded that the government lift the state of emergency before the announcement of election timetable.

He also demanded immediate withdrawal of all "false" charges against the AL president now in the US on parole for treatment. Ashraf reiterated the demands

while addressing a gathering to mourn the death of Netrakona district AL President Fazlur Rahman AL WANTS GOVT

ANNOUNCEMENT ON HASINA

Senior AL leaders yesterday demanded a specific announcement from the government whether Hasina would be allowed to participate in the December 18 election.

AL presidium member Amir Hossain Amu said, "Unconditional and permanent release of Sheikh Hasina and her participation in the polls are preconditions for a free, fair and credible election." Speaking at a discussion in the

capital, he alleged that a conspiracy is on to leave the AL president out of the election.

Organised by Borni Kalyan Samity of Tungipara in Gopalganj district, the discussion was attended among others by presidium members Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed and Suranjit Sengupta. It was followed by special prayers

for the AL chief's release. Razzak demanded that the government take measure for 'permanent release' of Hasina before

Tofail said the government's statement that Hasina can still lead the party means she could participate in the election as a free person. Suranjit observed that the Attorney General's Office can withdraw all 'false' cases against Hasina on advice from the home ministry.

her return home next month.

Japanese company

"We apologise for causing trouble to Cup Noodle lovers," Nissin president Susumu Nakagawa told reporters late Thursday.

However, he denied the possibility of contamination at the factory, saying it had never used or stored the insecticide and had seven security cameras watching manufacturing lines. "It is unthinkable that the con

tamination occurred at our production lines," he said. The noodles scare spread Friday as another company, Myojo Foods

Co. of Tokyo, said it found instant noodles laced with paradichloro benzene and naphthol, also used as bug repellent.

A man "poured in hot water and noticed chemical smells," said a health official in Yososuka, southwest of Tokyo. The man was unhurt as he did not eat the noodles.

Nissin, based in the western Japan city of Osaka, created instant ramen noodles as Japan's economy grew rapidly after World War II Aimed at busy people on the go, it has since become a multibilliondollar industry.

Japan has been on alert after a series of health scares involving food, mostly made in China.

Earlier this month one woman fell sick after eating frozen green beans imported from China, which were found to contain thousands of times the permissible level of pesticide residue.

2 criminals

FROM PAGE 16 Police took Alam to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital. Later, he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated. Momen was taken to police custody.

Alam was wanted in eight criminal cases while Momen in two cases, police said.

Amar Desh

FROM PAGE 1

Hossain Jasim, Kazi Md Shafiqur Rahman, SM Zaynul Abedin Mesbah and Md Mashiur Rahman, said, "Lawyers for The Daily Star told the court during the hearing that sources of the information that made Mahmudur Rahman aggrieved are Home Adviser Major Gen (retd) MA Matin and former law adviser Mainul Hosein. The two advisers had said at that time that 41 politicians and businessmen including Mahmudur Rahman remained absconding and the joint forces raided their The Amar Desh lawers said,

"After hearing submissions of The Daily Star lawyers, we submitted that the two advisers (incumbent and former) should be presented as witnesses in this case before this court. On the other hand, lawyers for The Daily Star told the court that cases had been filed against 39 of the 41 politicians and businessmen, many of them had been convicted, and police did not look for two including Mahmudur Rahman and no case was filed against them. We admit this". 1 They also said another lawyer

for The Daily Star had told the court, "A corruption case was filed against Mahmudur Rahman with Motijheel Police Station on September 30 last year. Even, Mahmudur Rahman was once offloaded from a flight on the eve of his going abroad. The court told this lawyer of The Daily Star that his submission was not relevant and asked him to make legal submis-

"We, the lawyers for Mahmudur Rahman, told the court that The Daily Star's lawyers had mentioned the events taking place long after the news report was published. The fact is that Mahmudur Rahman had been serving in a private organisation 10 years ago. Following an incident involving a bank loan of this organisation, a case was filed with Motijheel Police Station on September 30, 2007, which the High Court (HC) stayed and issued a rule upon the government to explain why proceedings of the case should not be quashed"

The rejoinder said the government had filed an appeal with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court (SC) against HC order. The SC rejected the government's appeal and upheld the HC order

"They said in the affidavit that the news report published in the Amar Desh, Naya Diganta and Dinkal on October 14, 2008, on the defamation case against Mahmudur Rahman was completely true. Not even part of this report was distorted. Statement of The Daily Star lawyer on the hearing of appeal for exemption from charge-framing was published unchanged in these three newspapers," it added.

"The rejoinder The Daily Star lawyer sent to these three newspapers on October 15 was not right and proper, and they denied the statement they had made in the court. So, we are requesting The Daily Star to publish our Rejoinder without any change," said the lawyers for the Amar Desh.

Chinese milk

the standards agency's clearance.

Lalmai imported 16 metric tons of powdered milk from a Chinese company, Tianjin Xinkailong International Trading Co Ltd, branded the milk COAST after packing in its factory in Comilla, and started marketing it in early September.

Although the company claims that it released only a portion of its stock to the market and stopped its distribution within a week, a 500 gram packet of COAST was collected from a shop at Mohakhali in the capital last week by the Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (CAB). Around two dozen more packets

of COAST were also seen on the shelves of the shop, CAB claimed.

The scandal of melamine tainted powdered milk broke out in China in mid-July after sixteen infants who had been fed tainted milk were diagnosed with kidney stones. The news sent panic among

parents of babies all over the world as Chinese powdered milk is used in dairy products that are marketed globally including in Bangladesh. The High Court on Thursday

ordered the government to suspend sale and display of eight brands of milk powder until they are tested for melamine contamination in an internationally recognised lab, following contradictory domestic test results.

"We started marketing the product in early September. Only 2 to 2.5 metric tons of COAST entered the market. But, as the melamine debate surfaced, we stopped its distribution," claimed Iftekhar Rashid, director of Lalmai Food Products Ltd.

"The marketing was actually on a trial basis. An application for a BSTI certificate kind of gives a green light for trial marketing," Rashid said.

But, BSTI Director General (DG) Azmal Hossain said there is nothing called 'trial marketing', and no powdered milk manufacturer or importer may market their product before getting the BSTI clearance.

Rashid told The Daily Star Thursday that BSTI had assured the company of issuing a certificate by September 1, but did not finally issue it because the standards insti

Adviser Zillur

from a number of countries, including Japan, South Korea, India, Nepal, Pakistan Singapore, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Taiwan, have signed up for the conference. The adviser said politics is a

noble profession whose fundamental task is to ensure public welfare. "The country is already on the

highway of election and it is now time for our political leaders to bring about qualitative change in politics," he said. The adviser also suggested

change of attitude in every sector of society including education, politics and public administration. "We must have a total vision and education can be the key medium for such a change," he said. BSTQM President MA Awal,

Secretary General AMM Khairul Bashar and former vice-chancellor of Buet Prof Abdul Matin Patwary also spoke at the inaugural session. Four special keynote papers on quality management in public and private sectors were presented at

the conference. Some 155 case studies and 10 technical papers covering steel, dockyard, power, textile, electronics, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, real estate, defence, education and service industry will also be presented.

tute wanted to test COAST for melamine contamination.

"Samples of COAST have been sent to BSTI for melamine test," he Asked if it was legal to put BSTI logo on the packet before getting the

certificate, Lalmai's Chief of Public Relations Arifur Rahman said, "Companies usually manufacture packets in bulk. And, as it is mandatory to print the BSTI logo, we had printed it in advance." Bangladesh Standards of

Weights and Measures Ordinance 2007 made it mandatory for companies to print the names of products' country of origin on packets, but Lalmai did not mention COAST's origin on its packet.

Asked why that happened, Arifur Rahman said, "It might have been a mistake."

CAB's Senior Programme Officer Emdad Hossain, however, said selling any product with BSTI logo on the packet, gives an impression to consumers that the product is approved by the agency.

"Therefore, such activities are surely cheating the consumers," he added.

BSTI Director Lutfar Rahman Khan said powdered milk is only one of 151 local and foreign products that require mandatory certifi cation by BSTI for marketing. "We have some set standards

ing, if the standards are confirmed through tests at BSTI," he told The Daily Star on Thursday. Asked what punitive measures the government may take for violation of BSTI rules, the agency's DG

and we issue certificates for market-

Azmal Hossain said a mobile court may fine a company Tk 15,000 to Tk 1 lakh and sen tence responsible persons to 3 years

of imprisonment, for such viola-BSTI also can file cases with

regular courts and shut down ware houses of companies in cases of violations, he noted.

Asked if BSTI will take any action against Lalmai Food Products Ltd for violating the rules, Azmal Hossain said, "Please bring us packet of COAST and we shall take actions.

Test against NZ FROM PAGE 1

there is little chance of a complete washout

The overall depressing situation, however, has held back both sides from naming their playing elevens.

The Tigers, who lost the first Test by three wickets despite dominating Shikalbaha barge-mounted plant the first three days, could be inspired by the overcast condition to bring in a third seamer into the side hoping to put on yet another spirited performance like Chittagong.

In that case, rookie paceman Mahbubul Alam Robin would win his maiden Test cap. However, if the sun shines and the

low over the Bay moves away, the wicket will probably show its true sub-continental nature, meaning the second day would be ideal for batting and it would get drier to favour the slow bowlers towards the The Black Caps, who came from

cast running commentary.

behind to win the one-day series and look to maintain their 100 percent record against Bangladesh in Tests, will miss all-rounder Jacob Oram. sources said. Oram, returning home today after failing to shake off a back injury, is

Shafiqul Islam said water level of expected to be replaced by South Kaptal Lake went down to 85.87MSL African-born 29-year old allrounder (mean sea level) around 8:00am on Grant Elliott. supposed to be at 108MSL. Bangladesh Television will telecast the match live from 9.30am while Bangladesh Betar will broad-

Police foil

FROM PAGE 1

Against sculptures at the Airport intersection, had scheduled an antisculpture rally after Juma prayers near the airport yesterday.

The roundabout at the Airport intersection had five statues of Bauls (folk singers) which were removed following protest from an Islamist

Police on Thursday asked them not to hold the demonstrations as it would be a violation of the Emergency Power Rules, 2007. Police said around 650 policemen

were deployed at the Airport intersection since yesterday morning. Over 300 policemen were also deployed outside Baitul Mukarram mosque to avert any untoward incidents as a few Islamist groups demanded construction of a Hajj Minar at the Airport intersection. Witnesses said police prevented

people from entering the hajj camp mosque for Juma prayers and only allowed hajj pilgrims. Activists of the committee could not enter the haj camp area as there were police barri-Police also prevented 300 activists

inside Babus Salam Jam-e mosque from coming out and taking part in the agitation programme. Chief of the committee Noor Hossain Nurani was seen very angry

with committee activists as they failed to hold the rally. Failing to hold the rally, leaders of the committee criticised the role of police and demanded that the government remove all sculptures set up

at road intersections in the country. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shakti and Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan tried to stage separate demonstrations in the Baitul Mukarram mosque area after

Juma prayers. Witnesses said the activists of the groups did not dare to take to the streets seeing the presence of a large number of law enforcers. They, however, chanted slogans against sculptures staying on the mosque

were asked to leave since police had imposed a ban on such programmes. Meanwhile, different organisations continued to protest removal of the Baul sculptures, and demanded reinstallation of those.

Paltan police said the activists

Protesting the removal, Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) yesterday formed a 'human chain' and held a rally in front of the Central Shaheed Minar. They also denounced the 'conspiracy' to destroy the spirit of Liberation War. Addressing the rally, SKOP leaders

demanded immediate reinstallation of the statues at the same venue, and exemplary punishment to those involved in the heinous incident. Chaired by Wazdul Islam, coordinator of SKOP, the rally was addressed by Abul Bashar, Abdul

Matin, Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar, Abdul Kader Hawlader, Mezbah Uddin Ahmed and Roy Ramesh Chandra. Moreover, more than 100 cultural activists under the banner of Shachetan Shilpi Goshti brought out

a procession protesting through songs removal of the Baul sculptures. The procession started from the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University and paraded campus

The organisation will hold a protest rally at the Institute at 4:00pm

Hannan Shah

behind it in running the country have led to the present situation although they had no lack of sincerity, he added.

On the reformist leaders of BNP, Hannan said grassroots leaders and workers of the party would decide on their fate. Asked whether the Election Commission will be able to bring qualitative changes in politics, he

said, "Political parties are being forced to accept many things now. don't think these will continue for long if democracy is restored." Responding to a question on the much-talked-about 'minus two' formula, he said it appears that

initiators of the formula have

retreated. Denying corruption allegations against BNP and Hawa Bhaban (party chief's previous office), Hannan said the party's political opponents and different agencies of the present government tried to malign BNP and Zia family.

Poor gas supply

FROM PAGE 16 off-peakhours last week.

The acute power crisis started when power generation was suspended at one of the two 420MW units of Raozan plant and one 60MW unit of Shikalbaha plant on January 27 for the shortage of gas supply. One of the two 28MW units at the

went out of order four years ago while another was forced to suspend production in January this year for gas crisis, said sources at Power Development Board (PDB) South PDB Distribution Zone (South) Chief Engineer Jyotish Chandra Biswas said they are now getting only 22-23 million cubic feet (mcft) gas a

day from Bakhrabad Gas Systems Ltd

(BGSL) for the Raozan plant. The plant

requires 90mcft gas daily to keep the two units functioning. The units operated smoothly for just one month from April as gas supply was ensured since Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd remained closed.

After water level in Kaptai Lake dropped to a record low following less rainfall, three out of five units of the Karnaphuli Hydroelectric Project at Kaptai can now operate only at night, Project Manager Khandaker

Thursday although the level was The level was recorded at 108.81MSL on October 23 last year while it was 100MSL last winter, sources said.

Oil prices tumble

FROM PAGE 16

compensate the shortfall of demand due to a global recession," said Dresdner Kleinwort analyst Peter

Fertig. OPEC said in its statement published alongside its decision to cut production that "the financial crisis is already having a noticeable impact on the world economy, dampening the demand for energy, in general, and oil in particular."

"Moreover, forecasts indicate that the fall in demand will deepen, despite the approach of winter in the northern hemisphere." However White House spokes-

woman Dana Perino said the United States desired "markets to be well supplied." from the past year contributed to the slowdown in demand and the subse-

quent downturn in the economy, and

we would ask that everyone keep that

in mind." White House spokesman Tony Fratto said in reference to OPEC's cut: "It has always been our view that the value of commodities, including oil, should be determined in open, competitive markets, and not by these kinds of anti-market production

In London, Prime Minister Brown's spokesman said "OPEC needs to consider the impact that the decision will have on the world economy." He added it was important "that all

decisions that are taken by the oil producers are designed to ensure

"scandalous." OPEC President Chakib Khelil on Friday insisted that the production

president of Iran, OPEC's second largest oil producer, called the world dragged down oil prices and caused a

nami to reach us. The oil price has She added: "The high oil prices fallen from 147 dollars a barrel to around 64 dollars. This is a huge loss" for Iran, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said in a Friday prayer sermon on state

output decision would be reviewed at its next meeting in Oran, Algeria, on

Rice, edible

Week's. Soyabean oil was selling for Tk 98 to Tk 100 and palm oil Tk

European, Asian leaders

decisions."

that those countries could draw upon to fight off currency specula-

Amid a seemingly never-ending stream of bad news about economies turmoil

international financial crisis has seriously affected international nomic growth," Wen said.

nomic meeting next month in the United States where leaders will discuss ways to end the turmoil. 15. Europe is going to present

together," Sarkozy said. "Europe would like Asia to support that effort, so that together on November 15 we can tell the whole world that the causes of this unprecedented crisis will never happen

European Union, is seeking to overhaul the Bretton Woods system that has governed international finance since the end of World War II. But the United States has been

ing the commitment to free markets, free enterprise and free trade. European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso told the Asem

but to unite.

for Sunday.

ated resentment among environdismantle the vessel.

cerned claimed of stripping 50 percent of the iron from the ship and it cannot be true since it usually takes 5-6 months to completely disassemble a ship. Bela had filed a petition with a court against the import of MT Enterprise being concerned at the ship's allegedly carrying hazardous substances. A court on September 17 issued a stay order on dismantling the ship.

dismantling the ship for three weeks. Bela filed another petition and got the court to extend the stay order till November 18. However, the ship breaker during

Gen Ibrahim

to the revised delimitation of the parliamentary constituencies).

Ibrahim said his party has

already finalised the list of candidates who will contest the December 18 polls from five constituencies in the capital. The candidates, according to

Ibrahim, are Abul Kalam Azad from Mohammadpur, Sadek Ahmed Khan from Khilgaon, Dr Iqbal Hasan Mahmud from Moghbazar and Lutfor Rahman from Shyampur and he himself from Dhaka cantonment-Kafrul.

there is long-term stability in the price of oil and transparency in pricing." Brown had angered OPEC nations

ahead of the Vienna meeting by saying that a cut in production would be

cut would not hurt the global econ-

In Tehran the influential former financial crisis a tsunami which has

OPEC, which comprises 12 member countries, added that its latest

December 17.

around the world punctuated by another horror day on Asia's stock of the day was the agreement by markets on Friday, Wen and other China, Japan, South Korea and the 10 leaders spoke ominously about the Southeast Asian nations on the Asian "The spread of the worsening

financial stability and world eco-In his opening remarks to the Asem summit, French President Nicolas Sarkozy called on Asia to support Europe at a crucial eco-

"When it comes to the Washington summit on November united front and we will submit wellconsidered proposals developed

Sarkozy, whose country currently holds the rotating presidency of the

more cautious in its approach, stressing the importance of preserv-

opening that the world had no choice

"In the globalised financial mar-

Toxic ship FROM PAGE 16 scheduled for Wednesday, later shifted to October 23 and then put off

The deferral of the hearing cre-

mentalists who termed it a result of trickery by defence lawyers to delay the hearing and pave the way to They said the ship-breaker con-

Following another petition by Bela, a court on September 29 issued another stay order on beaching and

the Eid and Puja vacations beached the ship at Sitakunda and started

dismantling it.

Dhaka-17 constituency (according

"I will contest the election from Dhaka-17 (old Dhaka-5) parliamentary seat comprising cantonment and Kafrul areas. Our party will field candidates in at least 49 constituencies in eastern and southern parts of the country," Ibrahim told The Daily

Ibrahim has already started informal campaign in Dhaka-17 constituency. For this purpose, he

held a meeting in front of Tamanna

Complex at Old Kachukhet in Dhaka

Cantonment yesterday.

huge loss of revenue. "This is the first wave of the tsu-

FROM PAGE 1

60 to Tk 80 per litre yesterday. Prices of ginger and garlic have also dropped by Tk5-10 a kg.

ket of today, we all need to be involved. Europe, Asia and the US and other financial partners need to work together to define and agree responses to the regulatory changes," he said.

The most concrete development

pool of foreign exchange reserves. Recession alarm Shares plunge more than 11 per-

cent after forecasting net profit of

150 billion yen (1.55 billion dol-

lars) for the year to March, down 59 percent on last year. South Korea's Samsung Electronics, the world's largest memory chip maker, also reported a 44 percent fall in third-quarter

Air France-KLM suffered a near

nine-percent drop in its share

net profit.

price after acknowledging fr would be "very difficult" to meet its billion-euro. (1,28-hillion-dollar) earnings target. Europe's biggest airline unveiled a plan to cut costs by up

to 1.2 billion euros (1.53 billion

The suffering extended to the

auto industry with Renault ordering

dollars) over the next five years.

almost all French plants closed for at least one week and shorter shutdowns in Turkey, Russia and Slovenia. "We are in a period when, without doubt, markets are collapsing and to avoid a brutal degradation in the company's situation, we have to

manage stocks in an extremely tight way," said a Renault spokesman.

Shahriar Kabir

from Kolkata.

from the sedition case. Shahriar Kabir was arrested at Zia International Airport under section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) on November 22, 2001 on his return

and CDs on torture on minorities in Bangladesh after the national election on October 1 of 2001 from his posses-On December 8 the same year, a sedition case was filed with Airport

Police Station against Shahriar Kabir.

Following the case, the then investi-

gation officer (IO) Munshi Atiqur

Rahman took Shahriar Kabir on

remand and tried to pressurise

Shahriar Kabir to give confessional

Police also seized some cassettes

statements, but failed. Shahriar Kabir was earlier cleared of another sedition case filed with Motifheel Police Station in November

Transport strike Of Cox's Bazar Government College, arrest of those involved in recent attack on transport workers and setting fire to a bus at Chakaria, restriction on students' boarding the buses without fare and ban on plying of micro-buses and Toyota Hiace on

these routes illegally. In the meeting, the district administration assured the transport leaders that the persons involved in launching attacks on buses at Cox's Bazar on Thursday and at Chakaria recently would be brought to book.

The authorities concerned also

assured the transport leaders of

taking steps against illegal plying of micro-buses on these routes. The meeting also decided that no student would be allowed to travel by any non-stop inter-city bus. However, it was decided that the

students would be allowed to travel

70-Km from Cox's Bazar to Chakaria

only by local buses at a reduced fare, said the sources. Each local bus will allow five students to travel up to Chakaria at fare ranging from Tk 10 to Tk 20 per head depending on the distance. The students will have to buy tickets before boarding the buses, the meet-

2 Brac officials

ing decided.

Noor-ul-Islam was kidnapped a couple of days later. He was held hostage for five months. He was released following a lengthy negotiation process.