

## NY Times endorses

**FROM PAGE 16**  
(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, honesty, leadership and strong leadership," it concluded. "Barack Obama has shown that he has all of those qualities."

## Govt yet to stop

**FROM PAGE 1**  
(BSTI) and private laboratory Plasma Plus found presence of melamine only in Yashili-1.  
It 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.

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Due to the government inaction, a few of the banned brands, especially 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, sellers said.  
Mosharrif Hossain Pintu, a retailer at Karwan Bazar, said a few traders removed those brands of 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 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 melamine 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 yesterday 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.

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 writ.  
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

government.  
Due to the government inaction, a few of the banned brands, especially 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, sellers said.  
Mosharrif Hossain Pintu, a retailer at Karwan Bazar, said a few traders removed those brands of 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 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 melamine 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 yesterday 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.

## DU deans meet

**FROM PAGE 16**  
demarc 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 co-curricular 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

marks each before graduation, and study Islamic economics instead of general economics.  
Most departments of the university have their unique prerequisites for freshmen admissions.  
For instance, students who did 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 admission to the statistics department.  
The new changes in the admission policies were also approved by the deans' committee on September 23, eight of the ten members of which happen to be of the white panel.  
Non-aligned and some blue panel teachers, and general students of the university are alleging that the white panel's 'pressure' is an attempt to create a volatile situation on the campus.  
They are blaming Jamaat's student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir for the latest campus flare up.  
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 23.  
Prof Sadrul Amin was present in the meetings of the deans' committee, and the general admission committee.  
While asked why they are now 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 graduates would be deprived of the chance to get admission to those seven departments due to the changes.  
He however said the changes were made maintaining proper procedures.  
Chairmen of five of the seven departments said they decided to introduce the new policies to maintain academic standards, and had no intention of excluding madrasa graduates.  
"Ninety five percent of the texts 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 Rukhsana Kibria, chairperson of the international relations department.  
"We took the decision unanimously in the academic committee 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 added.

marks each before graduation, and study Islamic economics instead of general economics.  
Most departments of the university have their unique prerequisites for freshmen admissions.  
For instance, students who did 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 admission to the statistics department.  
The new changes in the admission policies were also approved by the deans' committee on September 23, eight of the ten members of which happen to be of the white panel.  
Non-aligned and some blue panel teachers, and general students of the university are alleging that the white panel's 'pressure' is an attempt to create a volatile situation on the campus.  
They are blaming Jamaat's student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir for the latest campus flare up.  
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 23.  
Prof Sadrul Amin was present in the meetings of the deans' committee, and the general admission committee.  
While asked why they are now 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 graduates would be deprived of the chance to get admission to those seven departments due to the changes.  
He however said the changes were made maintaining proper procedures.  
Chairmen of five of the seven departments said they decided to introduce the new policies to maintain academic standards, and had no intention of excluding madrasa graduates.  
"Ninety five percent of the texts 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 Rukhsana Kibria, chairperson of the international relations department.  
"We took the decision unanimously in the academic committee 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 added.

marks each before graduation, and study Islamic economics instead of general economics.  
Most departments of the university have their unique prerequisites for freshmen admissions.  
For instance, students who did 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 admission to the statistics department.  
The new changes in the admission policies were also approved by the deans' committee on September 23, eight of the ten members of which happen to be of the white panel.  
Non-aligned and some blue panel teachers, and general students of the university are alleging that the white panel's 'pressure' is an attempt to create a volatile situation on the campus.  
They are blaming Jamaat's student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir for the latest campus flare up.  
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 23.  
Prof Sadrul Amin was present in the meetings of the deans' committee, and the general admission committee.  
While asked why they are now 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 graduates would be deprived of the chance to get admission to those seven departments due to the changes.  
He however said the changes were made maintaining proper procedures.  
Chairmen of five of the seven departments said they decided to introduce the new policies to maintain academic standards, and had no intention of excluding madrasa graduates.  
"Ninety five percent of the texts 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 Rukhsana Kibria, chairperson of the international relations department.  
"We took the decision unanimously in the academic committee 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 added.

marks each before graduation, and study Islamic economics instead of general economics.  
Most departments of the university have their unique prerequisites for freshmen admissions.  
For instance, students who did 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 admission to the statistics department.  
The new changes in the admission policies were also approved by the deans' committee on September 23, eight of the ten members of which happen to be of the white panel.  
Non-aligned and some blue panel teachers, and general students of the university are alleging that the white panel's 'pressure' is an attempt to create a volatile situation on the campus.  
They are blaming Jamaat's student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir for the latest campus flare up.  
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 23.  
Prof Sadrul Amin was present in the meetings of the deans' committee, and the general admission committee.  
While asked why they are now 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 graduates would be deprived of the chance to get admission to those seven departments due to the changes.  
He however said the changes were made maintaining proper procedures.  
Chairmen of five of the seven departments said they decided to introduce the new policies to maintain academic standards, and had no intention of excluding madrasa graduates.  
"Ninety five percent of the texts 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 Rukhsana Kibria, chairperson of the international relations department.  
"We took the decision unanimously in the academic committee 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 added.

marks each before graduation, and study Islamic economics instead of general economics.  
Most departments of the university have their unique prerequisites for freshmen admissions.  
For instance, students who did 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 admission to the statistics department.  
The new changes in the admission policies were also approved by the deans' committee on September 23, eight of the ten members of which happen to be of the white panel.  
Non-aligned and some blue panel teachers, and general students of the university are alleging that the white panel's 'pressure' is an attempt to create a volatile situation on the campus.  
They are blaming Jamaat's student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir for the latest campus flare up.  
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 23.  
Prof Sadrul Amin was present in the meetings of the deans' committee, and the general admission committee.  
While asked why they are now 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 graduates would be deprived of the chance to get admission to those seven departments due to the changes.  
He however said the changes were made maintaining proper procedures.  
Chairmen of five of the seven departments said they decided to introduce the new policies to maintain academic standards, and had no intention of excluding madrasa graduates.  
"Ninety five percent of the texts 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 Rukhsana Kibria, chairperson of the international relations department.  
"We took the decision unanimously in the academic committee 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 added.

marks each before graduation, and study Islamic economics instead of general economics.  
Most departments of the university have their unique prerequisites for freshmen admissions.  
For instance, students who did 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 admission to the statistics department.  
The new changes in the admission policies were also approved by the deans' committee on September 23, eight of the ten members of which happen to be of the white panel.  
Non-aligned and some blue panel teachers, and general students of the university are alleging that the white panel's 'pressure' is an attempt to create a volatile situation on the campus.  
They are blaming Jamaat's student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir for the latest campus flare up.  
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 23.  
Prof Sadrul Amin was present in the meetings of the deans' committee, and the general admission committee.  
While asked why they are now 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 graduates would be deprived of the chance to get admission to those seven departments due to the changes.  
He however said the changes were made maintaining proper procedures.  
Chairmen of five of the seven departments said they decided to introduce the new policies to maintain academic standards, and had no intention of excluding madrasa graduates.  
"Ninety five percent of the texts 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 Rukhsana Kibria, chairperson of the international relations department.  
"We took the decision unanimously in the academic committee 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 added.

marks each before graduation, and study Islamic economics instead of general economics.  
Most departments of the university have their unique prerequisites for freshmen admissions.  
For instance, students who did 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 admission to the statistics department.  
The new changes in the admission policies were also approved by the deans' committee on September 23, eight of the ten members of which happen to be of the white panel.  
Non-aligned and some blue panel teachers, and general students of the university are alleging that the white panel's 'pressure' is an attempt to create a volatile situation on the campus.  
They are blaming Jamaat's student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir for the latest campus flare up.  
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 23.  
Prof Sadrul Amin was present in the meetings of the deans' committee, and the general admission committee.  
While asked why they are now 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 graduates would be deprived of the chance to get admission to those seven departments due to the changes.  
He however said the changes were made maintaining proper procedures.  
Chairmen of five of the seven departments said they decided to introduce the new policies to maintain academic standards, and had no intention of excluding madrasa graduates.  
"Ninety five percent of the texts 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 Rukhsana Kibria, chairperson of the international relations department.  
"We took the decision unanimously in the academic committee 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 added.

## Political activities

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Member Matia Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday.  
She said AL would take necessary legal measures to have the cases against Hasina resolved to confirm her participation in the election.  
Sources said the caretaker government 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 redefining the organisation for election since her release on bail.  
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 government said they might discard the EPR clauses that prohibit political activities in the first week of 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 Ashraf 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 Khan.  
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."

## Amar Dosh

**FROM PAGE 1**  
"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 Dosh, Naya Diganta and Dinkal on October 14, 2008, on the defamatory 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 Dosh.

"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".  
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 this submission was not relevant and asked him to make legal submissions."

"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 Dosh, Naya Diganta and Dinkal on October 14, 2008, on the defamatory 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 Dosh.

## Chinese milk

**FROM PAGE 1**  
the standards agency's clearance.  
Lalmal 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 Lalmal 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 institute was not ready.

tute wanted to test COAST for melamine contamination.  
"Samples of COAST have been sent to BSTI for melamine test," he said.  
Asked if it was legal to put BSTI logo on the packet before getting the certificate, Lalmal'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 Lalmal 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 Lutfur Rahman Khan said powdered milk is only one of 151 local and foreign products that require mandatory certification by BSTI for marketing.  
"We have some set standards, and we issue certificates for marketing, 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 Azmal Hossain said a mobile court may fine a company Tk 15,000 to Tk 1 lakh and sentence responsible persons to 3 years of imprisonment, for such violations.  
BSTI also can file cases with regular courts and shut down warehouses of companies in cases of violations, he noted.  
Asked if BSTI will take any action against Lalmal Food Products Ltd for violating the rules, Azmal Hossain said, "Please bring us a packet of COAST and we shall take actions."

"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 Lalmal 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 institute was not ready.  
"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 Lalmal 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 institute was not ready.

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 Lutfur Rahman Khan said powdered milk is only one of 151 local and foreign products that require mandatory certification by BSTI for marketing.  
"We have some set standards, and we issue certificates for marketing, 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 Azmal Hossain said a mobile court may fine a company Tk 15,000 to Tk 1 lakh and sentence responsible persons to 3 years of imprisonment, for such violations.  
BSTI also can file cases with regular courts and shut down warehouses of companies in cases of violations, he noted.  
Asked if BSTI will take any action against Lalmal Food Products Ltd for violating the rules, Azmal Hossain said, "Please bring us a packet of COAST and we shall take actions."

**Japanese company**  
**FROM PAGE 16**  
"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 our contamination occurred at our production lines," he said.  
The noodles scare spread Friday as another company, Myoyo Foods Co. of Tokyo, said it found instant noodles laced with parathion, benzene and naphthalol, also used as bug repellent.  
A man "poured in hot water and noticed chemical smells," said a health official in Yosusuka, south-west of Tokyo. The man was unharmed 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 multibillion-dollar 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.

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 Lutfur Rahman Khan said powdered milk is only one of 151 local and foreign products that require mandatory certification by BSTI for marketing.  
"We have some set standards, and we issue certificates for marketing, 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 Azmal Hossain said a mobile court may fine a company Tk 15,000 to Tk 1 lakh and sentence responsible persons to 3 years of imprisonment, for such violations.  
BSTI also can file cases with regular courts and shut down warehouses of companies in cases of violations, he noted.  
Asked if BSTI will take any action against Lalmal Food Products Ltd for violating the rules, Azmal Hossain said, "Please bring us a packet of COAST and we shall take actions."

## Test against NZ

**FROM PAGE 1**  
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.

## Poor gas supply

**FROM PAGE 16**  
off-peak hours 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 Shikabaha plant on January 27 for the shortage of gas supply.  
One of the two 28MW units at the Shikabaha barge-mounted plant 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 Zone.  
PDB Distribution Zone (South) Chief Engineer Jyotish Chandra Biswas said they are now getting only 22-23 million cubic feet (mcf) gas a day from Bakhrabad Gas Systems Ltd (BGSL) for the Raozan plant. The plant requires 90mcf 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, sources said.  
Project manager Khandaker Shaiful Islam said water level of Kaptai Lake went down to 85.87MSL (mean sea level) around 8:00am on Thursday although the level was supposed to be 108MSL.  
The level was recorded at 108.81MSL on October 23 last year, while it was 100MSL last winter, sources said.

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 our contamination occurred at our production lines," he said.  
The noodles scare spread Friday as another company, Myoyo Foods Co. of Tokyo, said it found instant noodles laced with parathion, benzene and naphthalol, also used as bug repellent.  
A man "poured in hot water and noticed chemical smells," said a health official in Yosusuka, south-west of Tokyo. The man was unharmed 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 multibillion-dollar 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.

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 our contamination occurred at our production lines," he said.  
The noodles scare spread Friday as another company, Myoyo Foods Co. of Tokyo, said it found instant noodles laced with parathion, benzene and naphthalol, also used as bug repellent.  
A man "poured in hot water and noticed chemical smells," said a health official in Yosusuka, south-west of Tokyo. The man was unharmed 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 multibillion-dollar 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.

## Police foil

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Against sculptures at the Airport intersection, had scheduled an anti-sculpture 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 group.  
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 hajj camp area as there were police barricades.  
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.  
Falling 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 premises.  
Paltan police said the activists 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 reinstatement of those.  
Protesting the removal, Sratik 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 reinstatement 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 Hawladar, Mezbah Md. Ahmed and Roy Ramesh Chandra.  
Moreover, more than 100 cultural activists under the banner of Shachetan Shilpi Goshil 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 roads.  
The organisation will hold a protest rally at the Institute at 4:00pm today.

## 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 spokeswoman Dana Perino said the United States desired "markets to be well supplied."  
She added: "The high oil prices from the past year contributed to the slowdown in demand and the subsequent 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 decisions."  
In London, Prime Minister Brown's spokesman said "OPEC needs to consider the impact that the decision will have on the world economy."  
Headed it was important "that all

decisions that are taken by