## BNP rights RPO wrongs

FROM PAGE 1 the detailed poll schedule.

The officials said there are about 60 applications missing basic information about the parties, or required documents like constitutions and receipts of office rent payments, or they are not accompanied with pay orders for the registration fee, and those applications should be rejected outright.

Verifying the information the applicants provide is a time consumingwork, they added.

There are also some applicant parties who are only regional or based on religions. They will not get registration as they do not meet the basic requirements demanded by the amended Representative of the People Order (RPO), said the officials.

Bangladesh Shonkhalaghu Gonotantri Party, Quran O Sunnah Bastabayan Party, Islamic Front Bangladesh, and Bangladesh Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Christian Democratic Party, and Parbatya iat. Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity are some of the applicants that will not be considered for registration.

"These parties will not be given the chance to argue their cases," said an EC official involved in scrutinising the applications, adding, "If they fail to meet the basic requirements like providing the constitutions or having required number of offices across the country, their applications will be

Getting registered with the EC has been made mandatory by the commission for political parties seeking to contest in the December 18 parliamentary election.

The EC has so far decided to register 13 parties, giving the first registration certificate to Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

The other parties that will get certificates soon are Awami League (AL), the Workers Party of Bangladesh, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Sammyabadi Dal, Jatiya Party (Ershad), Jatiya Party (Monju), Bikalpadhara Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu), National Awami Party (NAP), Gonotantri Party, Krishak Sramik Janata League (KSJL), and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami.

The EC decided to register Gonotantri Party yesterday while decisions about BNP, Islami Okiya Jote (IOJ), and JSD (Rab) are in the pipe line, the commission sources

The technical evaluation com-

## Toxic ship

MT Enterprise at their yard in the coastal upazila of Sitakunda. The ship is blacklisted by Greenpeace for containing hazardous substances. On October 17. Bela filed the writ

petition accusing the importer of the ship for contempt of court. According to sources, MT

Enterprise, an oil tanker which was earlier named as Ocean Enterprise, Atlantia, Taiko, was tainted with asbestos and heavy toxic metals like lead, mercury, cadmium, copperand zinc. Madina Enterprise started the

process of bringing the ship to Bangladesh for scrapping in mid-July. The move raised concerns among environmentalists and others.

They later informed the ministry concerned about the ship and its possiblethreats to the coastal marine ecology.

However, Madina Enterprise managed to get the no objection certificate (NOC) from the shipping ministry and brought the toxic ship at the outer anchorage of Chittagong Portearly September.

Sources said the ministry later cancelled the NOC after environmentalists raised their voice against the

mittee of the EC yesterday scrutinised some 15 to 20 applications. "More or less, these parties met the requirements, but we need to verify the information they provided," a senor EC official told The

Daily Star. He said the commission over the last few days sent letters through fax and mail to its district and upazila offices to check whether the applicants have offices in 10 districts and in 50 upazilas.

KHALEDAVOTER Election Commissioner M Sohul

Hossain yesterday said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia may become avoter any time.

"If she wants, she can be a voter any time any day," he told reporters after meeting a delegation of USAID, European Commission (EC), Asia Foundation, International Republican Institute (IRI), and National Democratic Institute (NDI) officials in the commission secretar-

The meeting, also attended by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda and Commissioner M Skhawat Hossain, decided to facilitate expediting the issuance of visas for foreign poll observers.

"We will talk to foreign and home ministries so that issuance of the visas is expedited," Sohul added.

Replying to a question, Sohul said chiefs of BNP and AL -- Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina -- will have no problem contesting in the election they are not convicted by any court.

"We've told earlier that nobody will face problems, unless the person is convicted by a court," he said.

Asked whether the announcement of the detailed election schedule might be deferred due to the court hearing on the constituency redemarcation issue, Sakhawat Hossain said the EChas been observing the court proceedings, and expects the case to be resolved soon.

"Let's wait till November 2, and then it can be said whether the announcement of the schedule will be deferred or not."

### Madrasa students

faculties of arts and social science and the chairmen of the seven departments have been asked to reply to the ruling within a week.

As per the new admission rules, an admission seeker must study English and Bangla courses of 200 marks each in Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) or equivalent examinations to be eligible for admission to the departments of English, Bengali, Mass Communication and Journalism, International Relations, Women and Gender Studies and Linguistics.

The economics department also introduced a condition that only the students who studied economics, not Health Economics or Islamic Economics in HSC and equivalent exams will be eligible for admission to the department.

Madrasa students study English and Bangla of 100 marks each and Islamic Economics.

The petitioners' counsel, Barrister Abdur Razzak told the court that the Dhaka University Ordinance 1973 does not contain any provision that admission seekers must study Bangla and English courses of 200 mark each.

He said the DU admission notice published on September 23, also did not mention any such condition.

Razzak also said the heads of the university's seven departments imposed the new admission conditions without approval of the university syndicate.

The writ petitioners sought a court order staying the university's admission process.

## Bibiyana power

matter at this point. The IFC comparison of power tariffs of rental power projects, some of which operate on costly petroleum oil, versus a large conventional gas based power project also lacks level playing field.

The IFC also did not obtain the actual price data of the small power projects before advocating for Powertek's reduced price, the source noted.

The power secretary on several occasions said the easily installable rental power projects would be costlier than conventional large

power projects. The Bibiyana tender initially attracted pre-qualification bids from AES, Chevron, Powertek, Kepco, Summit and Malaysian YTI. late last year. Summit was conditionally selected at first but then in January it was arbitrarily disqualified; YTL was also disqualified. Previously qualified for the Sirajganj 450MW power project, Summit repeatedly requested the Power Cell to reconsider but it was ignored.

## 4-party

Over 600 leaders and workers of the four parties gathered in and outside the auditorium.

"Don't try to foil the ninth parliamentary election. The result won't be good," the BNP secretary general cautioned the government.

"We are always an electionoriented party and so are our allies. We want to participate in the election, but the caretaker government will have to work according to the agreements we reached at the last round of talks."

He however did not elaborate on the agreements.

Delwar said their coalition will continue to hold protest rallies until the government pledges there would be no obstacles to the BNP chief's participation in the polls.

Mojahid said there is no legal bar to Khaleda's competing in the polls. But the way the government is citing legal complexities over the matterreeks of conspiracy.

He said he is afraid plots are on to have Khaleda and Hasina convicted through mock trials and leave them out of the election.

Mojahid said those who want an election minus Khaleda Zia are in fact out to turn the country into a failed state.

## JP distributing

FROM PAGE 16 of nomination forms.

Ershad took nomination forms for Dhaka-17, Rangpur-3 and Habiganj-3 while his wife Rowshan Ershad for Mymensingh-4 and Gaibandha-5 constituencies. JP secretary general Ruhul Amin Hawlader also took two forms. All JP leaders who are interested

to contest the upcoming parliamentary election have been asked to collect nomination forms by October 30 and submit their forms by October 31. The intending candidates for all

constituencies of the country can collect nomination forms from Maj (retd) Mohammad Khaled Akber, treasurer of the party, from its Banani office.

The fee for each nomination form has been fixed at Tk 5,000 Sixty forms were sold on the opening day.

### EPR convict

parliamentary elections if his or her appeal against the conviction remains pending with the appellate court.

The petition also said the Rule 11(5) goes against Article 66 of the Constitution determining the qualifications and disqualifications of the people for contesting polls.

The lawyer said as per Article 66 of the Constitution, a person would be disqualified for parliamentary elections if he or she is convicted for a criminal offence involving moral turpitude or sentenced to imprison ment for a term of not less than two years unless a period of five years elapses since his release.

A special court set up on Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises sentenced Nazmul Huda to 12 years' imprisonment on April 3 this year on charges of concealing wealth information in his statement submitted to the Anticorruption Commission (ACC) and amassingwealth illegally.

On August 27 last year, Huda was awarded seven years' rigorous imprisonment in a bribery case filed by the ACC while his wife Sigma Huda was sentenced to three years' simple imprisonment for abetting her hus-

ACC sources said at least 60 politicians, who were earlier expected to contest the parliamentary elections have been convicted in cases filed underthe EPR.

## Fuel prices

FROM PAGE 1 For subsidising diesel and kerosene Dr Tamim said Tk 1,400 crore has been spent so far for subsidising fuel

in the first quarter of this fiscal year. On transport fares, Tamim said Bangladesh Road and Transport Authority (BRTA) has already met the bus owners' association and the new bus fares will be announced today or tomorrow.

The present government has so far adjusted petroleum prices three times. Since independence fuel prices have been adjusted 30 times cut four times and upped 26 times.

In 1986, petrol price was reduced to Tk 12.14 from Tk 14.67, and diesel and kerosene to Tk 6.71 from Tk 7.22. The price of petrol was reduced drastically to Tk 7.51 from Tk 12.88 in

1990. The price was readjusted to Tk 14 the same year. In 1992, price of petrol was again reduced to Tk 13.7. Later in 1994, diesel and kerosene prices were reduced to Tk 12.7 from Tk 13.7.

# Toxic milk powder

Health Ministry Additional

Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, BST1

Director General Azmal Hossain,

health directorate's Director

General Prof Dr MA Fayez also were

decided to not take up a legal battle

tion. Our lawyers have advised us

to wait for the test results from

Bangkok," SA Mallick, managing

director of New Zealand Dairy

The company markets Anlene,

Mallick also said that they have

products and directed the retailers

to remove the banned products

while other cases are under trial.

Deputy Inspector General of

Prisons (DIG-Prisons) Maj

Shamsul Haider Siddique last night

confirmed that they received the

(IG-Prisons) Brig Gen Zakir Hassan

told The Daily Star that they

received the letter from the home

hospital until the doctors release

When asked, the IG-Prisons

ministry at about 8:00pm.

Inspector General of Prisons

Products Bangladesh Ltd, said.

Red Cow and Diploma.

from shelves.

FROM PAGE 1

detention order.

regarding the ban.

The affected companies have

"We have discussed the situa-

are expected to arrive in three to four days, an official handout said yesterday.

ministries of home, commerce, health and inspector general of police (IGP).

wide media publicity of the High Court ban, the government has not taken any effective steps to comply with the order. The notice further said that a charge of contempt of court would be filed against the respondents if they fail to take steps to comply with the court order immediately.

response to a petition filed by HRPB after toxic melamine was found to be present in eight commercial powdered milk brands --Nido fortified instant, Red Cow, Yashili 1, Yashili 2, Sweet Baby, Diploma, Anlene and Dano.

The government has, meanwhile, decided to conduct tests to check for the presence of melamine in food products other than

concerned, including BSTI, will take necessary measures in this

children up to six months of age.

Mahbub Jamil, special assistant to the adviser for industries, Health Secretary AMM Nasiruddin, Home Secretary Abdul Karim, Industries Secretary Sheikh Enayet Ullah,

## Barapukuria

FROM PAGE 1

The HC bench comprised of Justice Syed AB Mahmudul Huq and Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury sent the five petitions to Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin for a decision in this regard.

petitioners' counsels, placed a petition before the HC bench yesterday for hearing, the bench felt embarrassed. Razzak told the court that there were five similar petitions pending with the court. The court felt embarrassed to hear all five petitions. The Anti-corruption

Commission (ACC) had filed the in awarding a Chinese company the coalmine job.

petition filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to quash proceedings against her in the same case.

bench of the Supreme Court for hearing tomorrow. The HC order stayed the pro-

ceedings against her for three months and issued a rule upon the government and the ACC to explain as to why the proceedings should not be quashed.

process of giving nomination.

central parliamentary board would finalise the nomination, meeting sources said.

Ashraf said nomination aspirants will have to buy nomination form at Tk 5,000 from the central committee and submit it to the grassroots level committee.

party tickets to competent candidates. "The Awami League wants to select candidates based on onemember-one-vote theory like US presidential candidate nomination process," he added.

observed that there is no bar in accordance with the existing laws to Sheikh Hasina's participation in the

"She'll return to Bangladesh in the first week of next month and under her leadership Awami League will take part in the election. There is no confusion about it," it observed. Ashraf said, "The government

has no jurisdiction to decide who will able to be candidate or not." The meeting reiterated its demand that the EC should hold the

upazila election after a reasonable time gap. the national and upazila elections

courts," he said. Asked whether the election schedule might be deferred due to the court hearing on the delimitation issues, Election Commissioner their constituency, the AL leader Sakhawat Hossain said the EC has said. He asked EC to resolve the been observing the court proceedcomplexities centring redemarcation of the electoral conings, expecting the resolution of stituencies before November 2. the cases soon.

any court.

"Let's wait until November 2 and it can then be said whether the schedule will be deferred or not," he said in reply to a question.

## SQ Chy

FROM PAGE 16 recorded the statement of the complainant, took it into cognisance, and issued an arrest warrant against the accused. The court also fixed October 29 for next hearing of the case.

The judge said he passed the order as the charges brought against Salauddin under the Income Tax Ordinance 1984 were found to be true. In his complaint, Mamun mentioned that Salauddin has evaded paying tax on a total of income Tk 3.08 crore over the mentioned years.

Salauddin repeatedly gave false information to the income tax department about his real income and expenditure, the complainant already stopped distribution of the stated.

On February 4 last year, the joint forces arrested Salauddin on charges of anti-state activities, sabotage, corruption and endangering public safety.

Later, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed a case against him on June 13 last year on charge of concealing information about wealth worth over Tk 1.17 crore in his wealth statement submitted to the commission on February 25.

After an investigation, the ACC pressed charges against Salauddin on October 1 last year for committing the offences. The trial of the case began at a Special Judge Court set up on the Sangsad Bhaban premises.

Salauddin was also charged in extortion cases filed against him in his locality. He was released on bail by the High Court in all cases including the graft and extortion cases against him.

## Delimitation

FROM PAGE 16

challenging the gazette notification on the delimitation could not continue.

Advocate ABM Nurul Islam, a senior lawyer of the SC who filed one of the writ petitions, told the HC bench that the EC's gazette notification on delimitation was not issued under Article 124 of the Constitution.

He also said this gazette notification was not consistent with the Election Commission's rules and

Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia counsel for Abdul Mannan who filed the other writ petition, yestergazette notification on the delimitation of the parliamentary constitponed election of January 22, 2007.

He said the EC should consider the earlier gazette notification on the delimitation.

Rafiqul Islam Mia also said there were three caretaker governments in the country in the past, but they did not interfere in the delimitation

made by Attorney General Salauddin Ahmed before this court on October 23 saying that the attorney general could not make any submission to the court

The HC began the hearings on

### Commonwealth FROM PAGE 16 elections to be held on December

18 for restoring representative governance in the country as well as progress in reforming the demo-

the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute on 'The Commonwealth current priorities, future direc-

departure press conference at Sonargaon Hotel Monday evening.

## Khaleda, Hasina

After second round of talks with the BNP and AL on Thursday, commerce adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman told reporters they have decided to provide highest security for the two top leaders.

dence at zero hour on October 27, 2006, while immediate past premier Khaleda's special security remained as usual. In a letter to Hasina on October

26 that year, a director of the Prime Minister's Office said SSF will ensure her security on expiry of the tenure of parliament as per the Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) 281/2002

diate past prime minister and the leader of the opposition will enjoy equal security facilities soon after dissolution of parliament. But SSF personnel were with

by that time.

# Opinion poll tilted

shared Republican philosophy he had frequently gone against the party on issues like Iraq, spending and climate change.

When shown a clip from a 2005 interview where he stated he had "agreed with (Bush") far more than I've disagreed", McCain replied: "I know how it is on this show, and you show various segments and comments that we make thousands of and I understand that, but the fact is I am not George Bush.

"Do we share a common philosophy of the Republican Party? Of course, but I've stood up against my party and I've got the scars to prove it. I could go down a list of issues with you,

OBAMA PROMISES ROSY DAYS, MCCAIN DISPUTES HIS ABILITY Buoyed by a huge fund-raising advantage and a steady lead in national polls, Democrat Barack Obama began his closing arguments for the presidency with an optimistic message that his economic policies would bring better days for hard-pressed middleclass Americans.

Republican John McCain sought to raise doubts about his rival's tax policies and readiness to be commander in chief as he fought desperately to stem losses in traditionally Republicanleaning states on the next-to-last weekend of the testy presidential

Both campaigns focussed on western states on Saturday. Once reliable Republican territory, much of the West has seen its politics and demographics shift over the last decade as the Hispanic population, which tends to favour Democrats, has grown. Three states considered still in play to varying degrees ---Nevada, Colorado and New Mexico --- could be vital if the electoral

math gets tight. But time is running out for McCain who acknowledges that he is trailing in the polls and needs to mountacomeback.

A Newsweek poll of registered voters showed Obama with 53 per cent to McCain's 40 per cent. The poll found Obama leading in every age group and among men as well as women, and even holding a slim 46-to-44 per cent edge among working-class whites. The telephone poll, conducted

from Oct 22-23 with a margin of error of 3.6 percentage points, also found that 62 per cent of those surveyed had a favourable view of Obama. Obama resumed his campaign in Nevada on Saturday with rallies in Reno and Las Vegas before holding one at night in Albuquerque,

New Mexico, and plans to head to

Colorado on Sunday. The

Democrat put aside political events on Thursday night and Friday to spend time with his grandmother in Hawaii, whom he described as gravely ill. Obama's emphasis is on getting supporters to vote early --- locking in votes that might not materialise

because of bad weather on election McCain, after his three stops in Colorado on Friday pushed hard in New Mexico on Saturday. He held rallies in Albuquerque and in

if people get busy or stay home

The Republican candidate heads to Iowa on Sunday, looking to make up for some lost ground in a Midwestern state his campaign aides argue is closer than the public polling shows. His running mate, Alaska Gov Sarah Palin, was in Iowa on Saturday.

The Democratic vice presidential candidate Joe Biden was campaigning on Saturday in Virginia, where polls show Obama leading in a state last won by a Democratic presidential candidate in 1964.

Obama, a senator from Illinois, unveiled a two-minute TV ad that asks, "Will our country be better off four years from now?" "At this defining moment in our

history, the question is not, 'Are you better off than you were four years ago?'" Obama says in the ad. "We all know the answer to that." Without mentioning McCain, the ad promotes Obama's eco-

partisanship" and "divisiveness." The length of the ad, which will start airing in key states on Sunday, highlights Obama's fundraising

used his weekly radio address on

The Republican National Committee, meanwhile, released a TV ad questioning whether Obama has the experience to be president.

### FROM PAGE 1 Bagerhat, Khulna and Satkhira might

Cyclone Reshmi developed from

west Bay over the last three days. elsewhere for the second consecutive day yesterday.

School- and office-goers suffered

a lot as road conditions were awful

due to rain. Vehicles were hard to find. CNG-run three-wheelers and rickshaws charged almost double their normal fares. Many had to wait for hours by the roadside and at bus stop during the

usual to reach destination. The day labourers were forced to stay indoors, and could not go for work for two days in a row.

entweather. Mongla port officials said loading and offloading of cargoes were suspended throughout the day.

The warning for the fishing boats and trawlers to keep close to the coast and negotiate the sea cautiously remained in force as the Bay continued to be blustery.

ashore while the rest were due to reach by the evening, according tothe Cox's Bazar Boat Owners' Association. UNB reports: Three ships berthed at the Mongla port as the sea remained rough. Besides, hundreds

Sundarbans took shelter near the seedlings of winter vegetables in the

region would be badly damaged. He was citing agriculture officials. More than 40 thousand people in over 20 chars in Barguna district were

Abdul Barek Molla, union Patuakhali district, said around 80 percent of the levees built to prevent saline water have been breached severely due to downpours.

## 11 killed in Pakistan

FROM PAGE 16

The clashes in Bajaur region came Major General Tariq Khan, head

of the paramilitary Frontier Corps

force, told reporters in Khar on

Saturday that security forces backed

by helicopter gunships had driven insurgents out of Loisam, a strategic town in Bajaur, which is at a cross-

US officials have praised the twomonth offensive in Bajur, a tribally governed region considered a possible hiding place for Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda No 2 Ayman al-Zawahri.

offensive after officials declared it a "mega-sanctuary" for Taliban and al-Qaeda militants who had set up a virtual mini-state and were funnelling fighters over the mountainous border into Afghanistan.

On Saturday, the military escorted reporters to Loi Sam, a strategic town captured earlier in the week from militants.

Afghan border and several neighbouring areas of Pakistan. Military commanders say its fall will severely disrupt militant operations. The operation has caused severe

impoverished region. Almost 200,000 people have fled the fighting, many to rough camps in Pakistan Afghanistan. and Afghanistan. Loi Sam and villages along the

die untended in the fields.

tants and 73 troops had died so far in the fighting. Officials say the victims will be compensated. Pakistan's government has pledged to flood the border regions with development aid in an attempt

to dry up support for militant groups.

It has also offered to negotiate with

army said Saturday that 95 noncom-

batants as well as some 1,500 mili-

groups who lay down their arms, seeking to turn a tide of rising violence that has contributed to Pakistan's looming economic prob-Pakistan is in talks with the International Monetary Fund and other lenders about help to ward off a balance of payments crisis and

prevent it from defaulting on its foreign debts. Meanwhile, gunmen shot dead the brother of Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud in a northwestern

town on Sunday, police said. Yahya bin Haroon was abducted by armed men from his home town Pakistan's army launched the in Bannu district early this morning and his bullet ridden body was later found dumped in a roadside drain, senor police officer Mohammad

Alam Shinwari told AFP. He received five bullets to his head and back, the officer said. Police later identified the slain man as the brother of Mehsud, who

Pakistan (TTP), Shinwari said.

leads the country's umbrella Taliban

organisation, Tehreek-e-Taliban

The reason for the murder was not immediately clear, he said. Residents said Yahya, 35, was not involved in Taliban activities and people opposed to Mehsud may be involved in the killing of his brother.

> Police said his body was handed over to his family members for burial in South Waziristan area bordering Mehsud was accused by the previous government and by the US

Central Intelligence Agency of masterminding the slaying of former premier Benazir Bhutto in December 2007. Mehsud has denied

# Govt seeks

FROM PAGE 1 to visit Moi Mobarrak branch office of Brac in Ghazni city, southwest of Afghan capital Kabul. Akhter and Shahjahan's panicstricken families met the NGO's

Executive Director for Overseas

Programmes Aminul Alam at his

Talking to Akhter's wife

Shamsunnahar and younger brother

office yesterday.

Ashraf Ali Palash and Shahjahan's son Sharif, the executive director assured them of all possible efforts to rescue the two. Akhter's wife Shamsunnahar said the Brac officials believe that the

abductors are not members of Taliban. "Please write for us so that the governments of Bangladesh and Afghanistan move to rescue him [Akhter]. How would we survive

without him?" she told The Daily Sharif told The Daily Star after the meeting, "He [Aminul] told us that my father and Akhter are probably kept somewhere in Ghazni." The identity of the group of

abductors and the reasons behind the kidnapping could not be known as none claimed responsibility and the Afghan authorities could make any headway in their investigation. When Brac Country Programme Coordinator Fazlul Hoque met Afghan Interior Minister Hanif Atmar Saturday evening to discuss the

necessary actions to rescue the two Brac officials. The Afghan minister requested Afghan security and intelligence there. authorities to look into the matter, said a Brac press release.

matter, the latter assured him of all

Aminul Alam and Director of Public Affairs and Communications African countries.

M Anwarul Haq had a meeting yesterday with Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Chowdhury and Afghan Ambassador to Dhaka Ahmad Karim Nawabi where they requested all possible cooperation in rescuing the

kidnapped Brac staffers. The adviser assured them of all cooperation by his ministry. He also handed a letter for Afghan

Foreign Minister Rangin Dadfar

Spanta to the Afghanistan ambassa-

Brac official Noor through our four-

"A few months ago, we rescued

dor in the meeting.

pronged approach... We hope we will be able to rescue them (Akhter and Shahjahan too," the adviser told newsmen. Brac official Noorul Islam was kidnapped September last year in

Afghanistan. A few days before his abduction, another Brac official was shot dead in that country. The Afghan ambassador said the Afghan authorities will make all

possible efforts to rescue them.

Asked whether the abduction stirred the decision to withdraw all Bangladeshi Brac officials from Afghanistan, Aminul Alam replied in the negative. "We do not want to keep our staffs posted in a foreign country for over 10 years. So, we have started with-

drawing our 392 staff one and a half

years ago and it will be complete in

five years," he told The Daily Star,

adding that the time is required to

build the capacity of Brac's Afghan "Brac's activities would continue

The NGO has about 4,000 staff, including 160 Bangladeshis, in Afghanistan. It is also working in five

FROM PAGE 1 to FAO in Bangkok for investigation

In another development, the , present at the meeting. Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) counsel Manzil Murshid yesterday sent a legal notice to the secretaries of the

The notice said that despite the

The HC issued the order in

The government departments

The ministry meeting has also decided to strengthen campaigns in the country for breastfeeding

> Jail sources said the detention order against Babar was issued by a deputy secretary of the home ministry. The detention order used

As Abdur Razzak, one of the

case in connection with corruption The same HC bench on October 14 felt embarrassed to entertain a

Meanwhile, Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice MA Matin referred an appeal filed by the ACC against an HC order, which stayed proceedings against Khaleda Zia in the case, to the full

AL okays FROM PAGE 1 Ashraf said ALCWC will finally

define which unit would be treated as grassroots and what would be the If there are more than five candidates in each constituency, open votes will be held to elect five and AL

He added they would give nomination based on the recommendations from the grassroots to give

The meeting chaired by Zillur

ministries to take steps so that the foreign observers do not face any hassle in getting visa for monitoring the election. Replying to a question, Sohul said the two leaders, Khaleda Zia

will have to face problems unless "If held within a week gap, both anybody is convicted by the could be foiled," he said, urging the government and EC to be "logical" Even 58 days within the election, neither candidates nor voters know

He said if the court gives judgement in favour of the redemarcation, they would welcome

said, "Due to sickness, Babar will stay at the prisons cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU)

three cases filed with Ramna police and a general diary filed with Gulshan police as references. Police sources said the GD (no-2377) filed on Saturday night with Gulshan police mentioned that as Babar is a godfather of terrorists and a smuggler, he should be kept

inside jail otherwise criminal

Rafique-ul Huq

which is now the office of the chie

all the steps of this government are

bad. We must give the government

credit for the good work it has

done," said Rafique-ul Huq, coun-

sel for both Awami League chief

Sheikh Hasina and BNP chief

He, however, criticised the

government for formulating "so

many" ordinances and termed it a

"government of ordinances"

saying it has issued at least 91

He also criticised the govern

ment as a "government of destruc-

tion", saying, "This government

has damaged almost all business

houses by throwing their entrepre-

neurs in jails...It demolished

houses, roads and establish-

About holding of the December

18 parliamentary election under

the state of emergency, barrister

required to protect voters. It is

later realise it. "The government is

now trying to make a 'plus-two'

Foreign observers

ATM Shamsul Huda, two election

commissioners, M Sohul Hussain

and Brig Gen (Retd) M Sakhawat

Hossain, were present at the meet-

After the meeting Election

Commissioner M Sohul Hussain

told reporters that the foreign

organisations apprised the

Commission of problems in visa

letters to both foreign and home

and Sheikh Hasina, would not face

problems in contesting the elec-

tion if they are not convicted by

"We've told earlier that nobody

Talking on the "minus-two

rather used to scare them."

plan," he quipped.

table.

"It will be wrong if it is said that

adviser.

Khaleda Zia.

ordinances.

ments.'

activities might be increased.

According to jail sources, Babar has been staying at the prison cell of BSMMU hospital for 16 out of almost 17 months of his detention, should be cancelled. which is the longest stay of any high-profile corruption suspects at the prison cell during the last two

> day told the court that the EC had postponed the parliamentary elections scheduled to be held on January 22, 2007, but had not cancelled or declared illegal the uencies completed for the post-

of parliamentary constituencies. He opposed the submissions

beyond the law. the writ petitions on October 22.

Rafique said, "Emergency is not cratic institutions. formula, he said this was a wrong He will also deliver a lecture a idea and the government could

### Barrister Rafique expressed his Sharma will hold a preoptimism about bringing the AL and BNP chiefs to the discussion

FROM PAGE 1 treatment in the US.

The caretaker government or February 22 last year withdrew SSF deployed for them. As the eighth parliament was He said EC would soon send | dissolved, SSF personnel were deployed around Hasina's resi-

The SRO provides that the imme-

drawn only three hours into deployment at Sudha Sadan, residence of the AL chief, as the care taker government did not take oath

nomic policies while saying that Obama will work to end "mindless

superiority. McCain, a senator from Arizona, Saturday to attack Obama on taxes.

Cyclone Reshmi

a well-marked depression on the west-central and adjoining north-Meanwhile, ceaseless gales and rains crippled life in the capital and

rush hours. For those who managed to get one it took way longer than

Inland water transport service remained suspended for the inclem-

Of 5,000 trawlers of Cox's Bazar, around 4,000 have already come

of fishermen from Dublar Char, Kachikhali and other places in the Our Barisal correspondent adds: If rain continues for a few more days,

marooned due to flooding caused by the rains in the last two days. parishad chairman of Lata Chapli in

Mesilla.

the Taliban leave the valley. a day after the military announced it had recaptured an al-Qaeda and Taliban stronghold in the area after two months of fighting which left 1,500 rebels and 73 soldiers dead.

roads of extremist supply routes. Islamabad has previously hailed its operation in Bajaur as proof that it is responding to US and Afghan demands to take action against extremists in Pakistan's seven semiautonomous tribal areas.

The town sits on the intersection of roads linking Bajur with the

hardship for residents in the already road from the main town of Khar

Later on October 30 morning SSF and President's Guard Regiment took charge of Sudha Sadan's security.

have been devastated by fighting and army shelling. Crops have been left to Despite the civilian exodus, the anyinvolvement.