Jamaat's registration Govt trying

FROM PAGE 1

They also complained that the very important public notice was published only in two newspapers allowing only 48 hours for filing objections. The notice had been issued on October 23, but was published on October 26.

WCFFC's formal objection is strongly worded, which the committee convener, Dr MA Hasan, submitted to the commission in the afternoon. He also handed over a copy to Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda.

It said Jamaat has been in politics 'illegally and unconstitutionally for a long period as a branch of a foreign party'.

It claimed that the committee had earlier twice lodged complaints against the party on 14 counts with the EC.

"A number of major leaders of Jamaat were involved in war crimes and genocide during the liberation war as they were loyal to Pakistan," Dr Hasan told reporters after a meeting with the CEC.

But they did not confess to their crimes and did not surrender to the Bangladesh government."

He said the party has taken a new name and has accepted the constitution of Bangladesh by changing a few words, but also pointed out that not a single member of Jamaat has yet expressed formal loyalty to the country's constitution.

Dr Hasan said, "They [Jamaat leaders) don't admit that they committed crimes by opposing the liberation war, and don't apologise forthat."

He said many including al-Badr chief Motiur Rahman Nizami are still among the top leadership of the party.

He alleged that the party established a huge set up in the country with foreign funds in an attempt to influence elections.

Jamaat could not be registered with the EC under the circumstances, he noted.

Dr Hasan also said his organisation prepared a list of about 1,500 war criminals. "We will submit the names of Jamaat leaders and workers to the EC along with evidence," he told reporters.

He also said his organisation is considering legal actions against war criminals.

WCFFC members are sched-

facts and specific proofs on

Thursday. Sector Commanders Forum said Jamaat is trying to deceive the people by changing its name to

Jamaat changed its constitution in the face of pressure, but it still has a gulf of difference with the spirit of the country's constitution, the forum said in a statement.

It said, "Jamaat opposed our liberation war in collaboration with the Pakistani occupation forces. Leaders and workers of this party were directly involved in rapes, genocide, and plunder in the name of religion. So, we think the party cannot get registration

Signed by the chief convener of the forum, Lt Gen M Harun-or-Rashid (retd), the statement urged the EC to publicise Jamaat's amended constitution, and to invite opinions from a cross-

Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul

"The notice was published in a allowed for submissions of objections," it said in a written complaint to the EC, urging the comfiling objections by seven days.

In a joint statement, Supreme Court Bar Association President Shafiq Ahmed, Justice AFM Mesbahuddin, President of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad Ayesha Khanom, Executive Director of Nari Progoti Sangha Rokeya Kabir, journalist Harun Habib and Mozammel Babu, President of Bangladesh Football Federation Kazi Salauddin, and Barrister Tania Amir also strongly objected to Jamaat's possible

"Over the past 37 years, the party has been spreading venom against the liberation war and the freedom fighters. Recently, they also made derogatory remarks about the historic war," the statement said.

It also said Jamaat changed its constitution only to get registered with the EC. "Changes in its constitution will not change its funda-

Cyclone Reshmi dies

FROM PAGE 1

death by a tree knocked down by the storm.

Shahabuddin, alias Mona, 40, in Faridganj upazila, and an unidentified 12-year-old boy in Hajiganj upazila of Chandpur district too were killed when trees fell on them.

Sharonkhola of Bagerhat, Patharghata of Barguna and Mathbaria of Pirojpur suffered the first blow of the tropical storm, reports our Barisal correspondent.

Heavy rains accompanied by winds blowing at 60-84 km per hour whipped Barguna, tery weather, our Chittagong Patuakhali, Barisal, Bhola, correspondent adds. Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Bagerhat, Khulna and Satkhira districts in

During the time, eight fishermen went missing as their boats overturned in the Meghna and its tributaries.

the morning hours.

Barisal Divisional The Daily Star after the meeting. Commissioner Mesbah-Ul-Alam said around 30% of the Aman crop in the areas worst-hit by the cyclonic storm was destroyed. A part of the city protection embankment was severely damaged.

In Chandpur, almost half of the 630 hectares of vegetables, and 100 thatched houses were ravaged.

adds: At least 11 fishermen, nine from Kalapara and the rest from Galachipa, went missing during the storm that damaged over 5,000 houses, 50 fish enclosures and 7,500 acres of Aman in the district.

Our Khulna correspondent reports: At least 19 trawlers and a boat capsized in Shibsha river near Dakope upazila.

Over 200 houses were flattened and 300 shrimp enclosures ments washed away in Koira upazila. Over 50 livestock died in

Morrelganj upazila. Cyclone shelters in filed in this regard. Sharonkhola and Morrelganj

upazilas of Bagerhat district were crammed full of people.

Some 15 fishing trawlers capsized in the Bay near Dublarchar, Katka, Meher Alir Char and Narkelbaria, leaving 50 fishermen missing.

The storm however could do little damage to the Sundarbans. Casualties too were few as people had been moved to safety beforehand.

Our Manikganj correspondent reports: Ferry services on Paturia-Daulatdia-Kazirhat route remained suspended for about eight hours till 11:00am yesterday for inclement weather. As a result, Padma.

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami.

with the EC."

section of citizens.

Committee also expressed its astonishment at not finding the public notice about Jamaat in well circulated newspapers and on front ranking electronic media.

little circulated daily of a certain quarter, and only 48 hours were mission to extend the deadline for

registration.

uled to meet the CEC again with mental spirit," the statement read.

Paturia and Daulatdia.

Our Munshiganj correspondent adds: Mawa-Kawrakandi ferry service was suspended for 11 hours till 11:00am yesterday, leading to long queues of vehicles on both sides of the Padma. Our Madaripur correspondent reported that over 300 thatched protect human rights. houses and crops on a great

Sharma said it is equally impor swathe of land were levelled by the Around 100 tourists including two foreignersone Indian and one Spaniardwere marooned in the Saint Martin's Island due to blus-

The secretary general welcomed the decision to create an Independent Human Rights Commission and said as soon as the human rights commissioners will be appointed, Commonwealth will share its experience with them.

Government Commission.

The panel held a three-hourlong meeting last night at the teachers' lounge of Kala Bhaban

(arts faculty building) with Prof Harun in the chair. Prof Harun said the teachers in the meeting said influencing or

pressuring the departments to withdraw the prerequisites would Our Patuakhali correspondent be a violation of the university The teachers at the meeting condemned the pro-BNP-Jamaat

Admission rules

unacceptable and would be

resisted," said its convener Prof.

Harun-or-Rashid while talking to

FROM PAGE 16

white-panel teachers for retreating democratic' and 'anti-human' from their earlier stance on the ones, he added. issue and moving for the cancellation of the prerequisites. They expressed deep concern over the politicisation of the issue by the white-panel teachers ignoring academic necessities of the depart

The blue-panel teachers want the issue to be resolved by a court as a writ petition has already been

The teachers also demanded removal of white-panel convener Prof Sadrul Amin from the probe committee formed by the DU syndicate to identify people involved in the ransacking of Vicechancellor's Office on October 18. They accused Sadrul of taking sides with the vandals and "threatening"

admission process. The blue-panel teachers demanded immediate arrest and trial of people involved in vandalising the VC's office.

the vice-chancellor (VC) to stay

away from the university freshmen

The teachers at the meeting said the seven departments concerned imposed the prerequisites for thousands of passengers remained freshmen admission to maintain stranded on either side of the their academic standards. They said the departments have no Hundreds of buses and trucks intention to keep madrasas stuwere stuck in tailbacks for hours at dents out of the departments.

presidium member Abdur Razzak told reporters yesterday that the government will be held responsible if the national election -- holding of which is the caretaker government's constitutional duty -- is hampered due to holding of upazila election at the same time.

Referring to the government's rigid position on holding upazila poll on the scheduled date, Razzak questioned the government's interest in wanting to do so.

During the latest round of talks with the government on October 23, the AL placed a nine-point demand including withdrawal of the state of emergency and deferment of upazila elections. NDI discussion

Meanwhile, US-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) held a round table discussion with leaders of Awami League (AL) and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) at a city hotel yesterday on the subject of making the parliament effective.

The discussants recommended that the speaker should leave his party position and act neutrally and also that boycott of the parliament by political parties should be

They also recommended that the deputy speaker of the House be elected or nominated from the opposition party, and that 40 to 50 percent of the total time of the parliament sessions be given to the opposition parties to take the floor.

AL presidium members Tofail Ahmed and Suranjit Sengupta, acting general secretary Syed Ashraful Islam, AL leaders Col Faruq Khan, Dr Abdur Razzak, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Mahamudur Rahman Manna and Abdul Mannan took part in the discussion.

LDP presidium members Redwan Ahmed and Syed Didar Bakht also participated in the dis-

Emergency

FROM PAGE 1 going to announce the electoral laws in early November.

In reply to a question, Sharma said, "Our role is to assist the intent of the government to have a transparent election."

Asked if the Commonwealth would take any actions as taken against Pakistan or Zimbabwe if elections are not held in Bangladesh, Sharma said any such action is taken by the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group after scrutiny of the situation.

Welcoming the election roadmap, Sharma said, "The stage is set for the people of Bangladesh to decide once again who should govern them. This is a sacred trust that each voter must discharge."

He noted that the features of genuine democracy are about the institutions and processes of good governance: An independent election commission, a representative and effective parliament, an independent judiciary, an efficient executive and impartial national body to

tant to develop culture of democracy together with values of tolerance and respect for the opinions of others, transparency, integrity and account-

He also praised the Right to Information Act and Local

Hasanul Haq Inu

FROM PAGE 1 after obtaining bail in cases filed

against them.

He alleged that the present government has a 'secret agenda' and the state of emergency might be used in implementing the agenda. This government's stance on

continuing the Emergency Power Rules has given rise to 'doubts', Inu said without explaining. Emergency rules are 'anti-

On the issue of HM Ershad-led Jatiya Party's involvement with the Awami League-led 14-party coali tion that includes JSD, Inu said they will consider an electoral grand alliance with Ershad's party in the greater interest of democracy and

In reply to a question, the JSD chief said they are yet to discuss seat-sharing.

Terming 1/11 (proclamation of state of emergency) a 'great lesson' for all, he said it proved that even the most powerful persons like president, prime minister or general have go to jail if they break the law.

The anti-corruption drive by the present government deviated from its main objectives and that is why it started to fail, he said:

Inu however lauded some initiatives of this government, especially reconstituting the Election Commission, Public Service Commission and Anti-Corruption Commission, and separation of the judiciary. But he regretted that administra-

tive reforms and reforms in police and other security forces have made little headway. These are very important for the next election, he He suggested that the caretaker

government implement reforms in | have started testing food items at police force ahead of the poll.

Recession worries

FROM PAGE 16 British economy was on the brink

of recession after negative growth in the third quarter. In morning deals, London's

FTSE 100 index of top shares plunged 5.62 percent but later pared losses to 1.83 percent. Paris shares were down 3.79 percent in mid-afternoon trade

while the DAX in Frankfurt shed 2.23 percent after steeper falls in earlier trading. German business confidence dropped to its lowest point for more than five years in October, a key survey showed, as the economy

reeled from the international

financial crisis.

The monthly business climate index calculated by Munich-based economic research institute Ifo fell to 90.2 points in October from 92.9 points in September for its fifth straight drop and its lowest level since May 2003, when it reached 89.6 points.

"Germany is heading for a serious recession," warned Bank of America senior economist Holger Schmiedling in response to the Ifo

"With business confidence declining at a record pace, the economy looks set to shrink others to follow.

Suspected US

in both Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The militias, known as Lashkars,

have been compared to the so-

called awakening councils that

have helped US forces turn the

are patriots, have broken with

them (the militants), and Lashkars

are fighting against those involved

in terrorism," Pakistani Prime

Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said

the ramshackle militias can face

down heavily armed insurgents

who have seized swaths of

Pakistan's border belt, forged ties

with al-Qaeda, and targeted pro-

government elders with suicide

they are arming the militias, though

observers suspect that they at least

border region have escalated

sharply amid complaints from

American commanders that

Pakistani forces are not putting

enough pressure on militant

patrol the frontier region are

believed to have carried out at least

15 strikes since August. The United

States rarely confirms or denies

speaking on condition of anonym-

ity because they are not authorised

to speak to media on the record,

said the targeted house in Mandata

Raghzai village belonged to a lieu-

tenant of local Taliban chief Maulvi

Re-demarcation

without following the guidelines of

He will make further submis-

Earlier on Sunday, EC's counsel

advocate Mahmudul Islam told the

court that the commission put out

the gazette as per Article 124 of the

He said as per Article 125 of the

constitution, EC's action taken

under Article 124 cannot be chal-

lenged in court, so the writ peti-

tions challenging the said gazette

stayed the gazette notifications for

three months following the writ

petitions and issued a rule on the

government and the EC to show

causes in two weeks as to why the July

10 gazette should not be declared

the writ petitions from October 22.

Regulatory body

The government will also take

measures to stop advertisements

that seek to entice consumers by

falsehoods and embellished

accounts. The information minis-

this regard.

Administration.

try has already been contacted in

suggested setting up an agency

modelled on the US Food and Drug

would be merged with the new

regulator, he said, "We have to work

fact that it is difficult for

Bangladesh Standards and Testing

Institution (BSTI) to ensure food

safety, as it has to deal with a lot of

BSTI has little capacity in terms of

manpower and logistics to handle

first-batch products, a separate

agency is needed to monitor food

so many food and non-food items.

Experts at a recent seminar said

Besides, since it tests only the

The health adviser said the

BSTI and customs officials too

government is already working to

see if imports get adulterated

during their packing locally.

non-food products as well.

safety continuously.

the port entries.

Asked if the drug administration

The decision came in light of the

Shawkat said many experts have

The HC began final hearings on

unconstitutional and illegal.

Earlier on August 7, the HC had

notification cannot continue.

sions before the court today.

Two intelligence officials,

US military and CIA drones that

strongholds on their territory.

involvement.

FROM PAGE 16

constitution.

the constitution.

Officials have denied reports

Missile strikes into Pakistan's

bombings and kidnappings.

receive government funding.

However, there are doubts that

"Our tribal brothers, those who

tables against al-Qaeda in Iraq.

FROM PAGE 16

296 local NGOs

noticeably in late 2008 and earl

The Group of Seven nations

comprising Britain, Canada,

France, Germany, Italy, Japan and

the United States -- sought to calm

nerves by affirming their "shared

interest in a strong and stable

concern about "excessive volatil-

ity" in the yen, which Friday soared

to a 13-year high against the dollar

as worried investors fled to the

relative safety of the Japanese

Aso announced fresh measures to

support the ailing stock market,

including a bigger government

fund to pump capital into banks if

turmoil came as the International

Monetary Fund moved to bail out

Ukraine and Hungary which have

Markets expect fresh steps by

global authorities this week to try

to stabilise shaky markets, with the

US Federal Reserve widely antici-

pated to cut interest rates on

Wednesday, leading the way for

The renewed stock market

needed.

suffered badly.

Japanese Prime Minister Taro

At the same time, they voiced

international financial system."

FROM PAGE 16 widespread controversies and

allegations. "That's not going to be repeated this time around," said an EC offi-

The new requirements demand that an observer must be of at least 25 years of age and must at least have a secondary school certificate. The poll monitoring registra-

tion will be awarded for a year. An organisation will be able to file an appeal if its application is rejected by the EC, but the appeal must be filed within three days of the rejection.

The EC will then have a hearing

of the appeal and will give a final verdict within a week, the new guidelines say. Already there are allegations

against some of the NGOs that applied for monitoring the elections.

Awami League during its talks with the EC brought allegations against Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (Fema), Democracy Watch, Khan Foundation, and Odhikar -- urging the commission not to consider their applications.

Stay orders

Commission (ACC) had filed both the cases.

On October 16, the HC extended till October 28 the stay orders on Hasina's cases and directed the government not to harass or arrest her within that period. On October 5, a vacation bench

of the HC comprised of Justice

Mohammad Anwarul Haque and

Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury directed the government not to harass or arrest Hasina at home or abroad until October 20 in the two cases. Shafique yesterday told The

Daily Star that a regular appeal was filed on behalf of Hasina with the Supreme Court on October 26 against the HC order rejecting her bail petition in the extortion case

lodged by businessman Noor Ali. The hearing of this petition will be held this week, he said.

Aug 21 case

discharge petitions the same day. But Pintu's lawyers submitted petition seeking adjournment of the charge hearing.

During yesterday's hearing, Pintu's lawyers told the court that their client was implicated in the case on the basis of confessional statements given by Hannan. In the confessional statement, Hannan had told the magistrate

that there was a meeting at Pintu's

Dhanmondi government quarters

residence before the grenade attack. Pintu's lawyers argued that there was no legal basis of Hannan's confession and their client should be discharged from

The court then asked the prosecution lawyers to explain on what legal basis charges would be framed against Pintu and others. The prosecution lawyers gave a short explanation on the issue but the court set a new date for an elaborate explanation on the issue.

The case was filed for a grenade attack on an AL rally on Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21, 2004, which left 24 people dead and 200 others injured. Of the accused, Pintu, Mufti

Hannan, his brother Mohibullah

alias Mafizur Rahman, and 11

others are now in jail. They were produced in the court yesterday. Pintu's brother Maulana Tajuddin, Liton, Anisul Mursalin, Mahibul Muttakin, Iqbal, Maulana Abu Bakar alias Selim Howlader, Jahangir Alam Badar and Khalilur Rahman have been on the

On June 11 this year, Assistan Superintendent of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Fazlul Kabir, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted charge sheets to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, showing 412 people as prosecution witnesses.

run since the indictment.

Mong Raja

FROM PAGE 16

Lusai, Lt Col Samad Chowdhury on behalf of the Bangladesh Armed Forces and CHT Chief Coordinator of UNDP Robert Stalman also set off firecrackers.

Superintendent of Police Mohammad Quaiumuzzaman Khan, Deputy Commissioner AKM Khairul Alam, Khagrachhari Municipality Mayor Joynal Abedin, and Bangladesh Marma Sanghati Oikya Parishad President Kongchari Master, among others, were pres-

Paihala Prue Chowdhury was killed on October 22 in a road accident at Patachhara near Ramgarh in Khagrachhari. All educational institutions in

Khagrachhari remained closed yesterday to show respect to the deceased king. Crown Prince Saching Prue

Chowdhury delivered a speech prior to the cremation. "The Raja had always worked for the welfare of the people and was concerned about their socio-

economic development," he said adding that his father had repeatedly requested the government and various non-government organisations to take up development projects in the hill tracts. Paihala Prue Chowdhury, who

was the 7th Mong king, is survived by his wife, a son and two daughters.

After the death of the then Mong king and his uncle Neuprue Sain Chowdhury in 1984, the government recognised Paihala Prue as Neuprue's nominee, local sources

Paihala was working as the district information officer at that time. He became the Mong Circle Chief, locally known as Mong Raja, in 1991. The government recognised him as the Mong Raja after he won a legal battle with Unika Devi, the stepdaughter of Neuprue Sain, in 1998.

Trust Bank

FROM PAGE 1 this connection.

However, The Daily Star investigation found that inter-bank foreign exchange trading caused losses to at least eight banks around six years ago. The issue has suddenly been twisted and wrongly labelled as "money laundering" even though Bangladesh Bank had resolved them as transactional losses. TRUST BANK COMPLAINT SENT TO ACC

Amar Desh Publications Ltd Chairman Mahmudur Rahman vesterday sent a complaint to the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) accusing its Chairman Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury of laundering Tk 22.41 crore from Trust Bank Ltd, and requested an investigation. Mahmudur Rahman, who is also

a former Board of Investment executive chairman, in a news release vesterday said he sent to the ACC the money laundering complaint along with all 'necessary papers and evidence' for investigation. He mentioned that he also sent

copies of the complaint to the ACC chairman and ACC Director General (Admin) Col Hanif Igbal. Hanif Iqbal however said he did not receive any such complaint

yesterday. The complaint was sent to the ACC after its chairman on Sunday said if the allegation of money laundering against him was brought before the commission, it would look into the matter.

In a letter attached with the complaint, Mahmudur Rahman said according to the annual audit report prepared by Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co, the auditor of the bank, former chairman of Trust Bank Ltd, Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury, 'misappropriated Tk 22.41 crore through money laundering'

On Saturday, Mahmudur Rahman attempted to file a case against the ACC chief in connection

with the allegation. Ramna police refused to record the case, saying they are not the appropriate police station for filing the case with, while Motijheel police also refused to record the case saying recording of any money laundering case requires approval from the Bangladesh Bank.

In the complaint Mahmudur was trying to file with the police, he said as Trust Bank is owned by the Army Welfare Trust, Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury was its chairman while he was the army chief, and he caused a loss of Tk 20.29 crore to the bank by 'misappropriating the amount for personal benefit through money laundering in collusion with some bank officials, but 'showed it as a loss incurred in the foreign currency exchange sector'.

Mahmudur also mentioned that the Army Welfare Trust own: 3,49,992 of the bank's total 3,50,000 shares.

Barapukuria case

They said the bench may pass an order in this regard today. Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin

the petitions.

assigned the bench to hear the petitions after another HC bench on October 26 felt embarrassed to hear five of the quashment applications, they said. The Anti-corruption

Commission filed the case for alleged corruption in awarding a Chinese company the operations of the coal mine.

US forces launch

FROM PAGE 16 sundown and fired on workers

inside, the statement said. The government said civilians were among the dead, including four children.

A resident of the nearby village of Hwijeh said some of the helicopters landed and troops exited the aircraft and fired on a building. He said the aircraft flew along the Euphrates River into the area of farms and several brick factories. The witness spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the information. Another witness said four heli-

copters were used in the attack.

Since the invasion of Iraq in 2003, there have been some instances in which American troops crossed areas of the 370mile Syria-Iraq border in pursuit of militants, or warplanes violated Syria's airspace. But Sunday's raid was the first conducted by aircraft and on such a large scale. In May 2005, Syria said American fire killed a border guard.

Syria's Foreign Ministry said it summoned the US and Iraqi charges d'affaires to protest against the strike.

Syria condemns this aggression and holds the American forces responsible for this aggression and all its repercussions. Syria also calls on the Iraqi government to shoul-

der its responsibilities and launch and immediate investigation into this serious violation and prevent the use of Iraqi territory for aggression against Syria," the government statement said.

Syria protested vehemently on Monday over what it said was a US attack on a border village, with the official press branding it a "war

"The American forces from Iraq committed cold-blooded murder,' the government newspaper Tishrin wrote. "They committed a war crime in killing eight Syrian civilians in a quiet village."

Sunday aired footage that showed blood stains on the floor of a site under construction, with wooden beams used to mould concrete strewn on the ground. Akram Hameed, one of the injured, told the television he was fishing in the Euphrates and saw four helicopters coming from the border area under a heavy blanket of fire.

"One of the helicopters landed in an agricultural area and eight members disembarked," the man in his 40s said. "The firing lasted about 15 minutes and when I tried to leave the area on my motorcycle, I was hit by a bullet in the right arm about 20 meters (yards) away," he

Obama moves

FROM PAGE 16

rallies in Colorado, Obama was to give a "closing argument speech" in Canton, Ohio that would urge voters to choose "hope over fear, unity over division," aides said.

will tell voters that after 21 months paign statement said.

ing prowess at fundraising, was to follow up his Ohio speech with a 30-minute advertisement airing on national networks at huge expense on Wednesday evening.

amounted to an appeal for voters to hand Washington over to one-party rule as the Democrats prepare to

of the same empty rhetoric repack

BNP ready FROM PAGE 1 Earlier, her aides requested journalists not to ask her any questions,

saying it is just a courtesy meeting Asked about her enrolment as a voter, the BNP chief said, " Of course I will be listed as voter since

I am a citizen of the country".

While in jail, she had refused to be enrolled as a voter despite repeated efforts by the Election Commission. "Let us see," was her reply to a

query on the number of constitu-

encies she would contest from in the coming election. On seat-sharing among components of the BNP-led four-party alliance, Khaleda said they are yet to decide on the matter but work is

going on. She reiterated the four-party stance on parliamentary election under the state of emergency, saying the alliance decision is in place. Meanwhile, the alliance leaders had earlier demanded lifting the state of emergency, and repeatedly

said they would not take part in election unless it is done. "We will decide on launching election campaign in consultation with leaders of our party and the alliance following announcement of election schedule, " she told a

questioner. On the election manifesto of BNP, she said it is being prepared but it will take more time due to the changed situation. The party seeks to address different issues including terrorism and corruption, she

A cheerful Khaleda exchanged greetings with journalists and enquired about the situation in the media. She also thanked them for their role when she was behind bars.

Adviser Ittekhar

Iftekhar, one of the five-member government panel, which negotiated with the parties, said the emergency rules will be relaxed in phases and a situation created so the emergency does not cause any impediment to free, fair and credible election. Explaining, he said the first step of

relaxation will allow parties to hold meetings and assembly for election campaign. "We'll remove any obstacles felt by the political parties," he said, adding that the relaxation process will start immediately after schedule on November 2.

stable democracy in Bangladesh. The adviser said Bangladesh and Commonwealth countries

assured all cooperation.

have deep relations. The secretary

crime."

Syrian state television late

aged with the urgency of tightening

"In his speech, Senator Obama

and three debates, Senator McCain still has not been able to tell the American people a single major thing he'd do differently from (President) George (W.) Bush when it comes to the economy," a cam-Obama, fired up by an astonish-

Republican National Committee spokesman Alex Conant said Obama's "closing argument"

socialist who is secretly planning to tighten their grip on Congress. raise taxes to pay for increased "Obama's latest speech is more spending.

> embroiled in Iraq and Afghanistan. Responding to Obama runningmate Joe Biden's remarks last week about the likelihood of a new presi-

"I've been tested," he told rallies at the weekend.

But the Democrat is also pursuing a multi-pronged strategy to keep McCain on the ropes in Republican

and North Carolina. The strategy appears to be bearing fruit. A new Washington Post survey out Monday showed the Illinois senator now leads his Arizona counterpart in Virginia by

The court told him that the petition involved constitutional points and disposal.

bench as it had already been over-

burdened with other cases.

Barrister Razzak then took back

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

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 imprisonment for a term of not less

filed by the ACC.

he said, attacking the senator as "untested and inexperienced." McCain's electoral map is shrinking as he battles to hold on to states won by Bush in 2004 such as Iowa, where Sunday he shrugged off national and pivotal state polls

that suggest Obama will triumph

on November 4

polls and still-undecided voters,'

An ABC News-Washington Post national poll gave Obama a 52-45 percent lead over McCain among likely voters, down from his 54-43 percent margin last week. McCain will kick off the final full

week of his campaign with an

economic round table in Cleveland

before holding rallies later Monday in Ohio and Pennsylvania, key states where the Republicans believe they can win. McCain is expected to use the run-in to ram home his attempts to portray Obama as a left-wing closet

The former Navy pilot will also return to his theme of painting Obama as lacking the experience to be an effective commander-inchief when American troops are

dent facing an international test in office, McCain has repeatedly reminded voters of his war-hero

The White House contenders flew east after sparring in the western states of Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada, which could seal victory for Obama if he can win all the states that Democrat John Kerry

bastions out east including Virginia

captured against Bush in 2004.

52 percent to 44 percent. Huda's petition

FROM PAGE 1

it would take a long time for its The HC bench advised him to move the petition to another HC

the petition for moving it before another HC bench. It was mentioned in the petition that as per Rule 11(5) of the EPR, 2007, the people convicted by courts in the cases under the EPR will not be eligible for contesting the parliamentary elections if his or her appeal

of the people for contesting polls.

five years elapses since his release. information in his statement submitted to the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) and amassing

wealth illegally. He was also awarded seven years' rigorous imprisonment on August 27 last year in a bribery case

than two years unless a period of the announcement of the election Nazmul Huda was sentenced to Iftekhar hoped the December 12 years' imprisonment on April 3 18 parliamentary elections will this year for concealing wealth help ensure a very sustainable and

general praised institutional reforms and establishment of human rights commission and