

## DCs told

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will work as returning officers during the election, to present a credible election to the people.

He directed the DCs to sincerely scrutinise nomination papers of prospective candidates in accordance with the new electoral law that bars loan and bill defaulters from contesting in polls.

He alerted them saying, "This time around the process of scrutinising nomination papers is very important due to the new electoral law."

Huda suggested the DCs to collect information about loan defaulters from district bank managers as the Bangladesh Bank already asked the district banks to prepare lists of loan defaulters who are also prospective candidates.

The EC earlier sent to the central bank a list of the winners and their nearest contenders in the last three parliamentary polls, asking the bank to mark who among them are loan defaulters, as many of them are expected to apply for candidacy in the upcoming parliamentary poll too.

"You collect the list from the bank managers concerned," the CEC told the DCs.

The banks are currently preparing the list of loan defaulters across the country.

Huda said the commission will also send to the DCs lists of persons convicted under the emergency powers rules (EPR), so they can disqualify the convicted from contesting in the election.

He said all information about electoral candidates will be disseminated among voters, so they may choose honest and competent ones as their representatives.

"We want to see the candidates as role models. So it's necessary to inform voters everything about the

## 15 hurt

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Since the illegal structures were not removed by the stipulated time, the municipality officials launched a drive in the morning to demolish the illegal structures.

At one stage, land grabbers led by Mokhtar Hagi, Akhtar and Sohail attacked the municipality officials leaving 15 people including photojournalist of Daily Inquilab Habibur Rahman Shyamol injured.

They also damaged six municipality vehicles.

On information, Municipality Mayor Dr Selina Hayat Ivy along with policemen rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. The illegal structures were demolished with the help of police.

Selina said although they had asked the shop owners several times to remove the illegal structures, they paid no heed to it.

She said she would file a case against the people involved in the attack.

## Govt role

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students could not have dared to violate the state of emergency. Also, extremists like Nurani and Amini could not have made statements branding sculptures as idols. They even dared to threaten to put Shikha Chirantan (flame eternal) out."

"Unless the government resists these forces, it would be thought that the present government is indeed patronising religion-based politics and fanaticism," he added.

Prominent economist Professor Abul Barakat asked, "How can Jamaat-e-Islami leaders make such statements if they are not certain about their situation and destination?"

He said that their annual profit Jamaat-e-Islami makes from businesses like real estate, diagnostic centres, school and colleges and media nowadays stands at over Tk 1700 crore.

With this money, they maintain activists all across the country Prof Barakat said. He added that at present, there are 16 secretaries from Jamaat-e-Islami in the administration while eight deans of Dhaka University are from the same political party.

Kamal Lohani, a journalist and acting president of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee (Forum for secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971), said,

"What message do we get when an absconding leader sits in talk with the chief adviser in a highly secured place, and the police say they can't find him?" said

"Over the last two weeks such type of incidents have continued to take place," Muntassir Mamun said.

Prof Anwar Hossain, general secretary of Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) said, "If we do not participate in the upcoming election united in a movement against these fanatics then there would be no positive outcome from the poll. If we participate in the poll to just reach a consensus with the men in power, then it wouldn't bring us any good results."

"This may be our last chance against these forces," he said.

Adviser of the organisation Justice Golam Rabbani presided over the meeting while eminent actress Shomi Kaiser, and dean of fine arts institute of Dhaka University Rafiqun Nabi also spoke on the occasion.

candidates," he told the DCs, adding that posters containing information about candidates will be up in the constituencies.

Election commissioners M Sohul Hussain and Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakawat Hussain, and EC Secretary M Humayun Kabir were also present at the workshop attended by 32 deputy commissioners.

Terming the DC offices as the gateway to the parliament, Sohul said those who will go to the parliament must go through the DCs.

"You should pay special attention to implementing the new electoral law to qualify and disqualify candidates," he said.

Sakawat told the DCs, "You may have affiliations with political parties, but while discharging your duties as returning officers you must deal with the electoral process neutrally."

He reminded the DCs that there is no authority other than the EC which can advise them on electoral matters.

The CEC also talked about political parties' usual culture of not accepting poll results that shows their defeats. "We must change our culture of blame games," he said.

## Many malpractices

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of the impediments, Huda said the commission has been earnestly seeking to plug the holes to the extent possible to build confidence of the contesting parties in the electoral process.

He said the EC would strictly observe the Representation of People Order (RPO) provision which requires that vote-counting be done at each polling centre in the presence of polling agents of all candidates and polls observers.

Canadian High Commissioner to Dhaka Robert McDougall handed over the boxes to the CEC.

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Bangladesh Renata Dessallien hoped that a free, fair and credible election would be held in Bangladesh with the participation of all political parties.

Election commissioners Brig Gen (ret'd) M Shakhawat Hossain and Sohul Hussain, Awami League acting president Zillur Rahman, its acting general secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam, Bikalpa Dhara President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Liberal Democratic Party President Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed and Transparency International Bangladesh Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, among others, were present at the ceremony.

No representatives from the BNP, Jamaat and Jatia Party however were seen at the function.

## CG lenient

**FROM PAGE 1**  
and 14-party alliance leaders and activists in Paltan area of the capital and elsewhere in the country on October 28 in 2006 by BNP-Jamaat coalition cadres.

Downtown Dhaka virtually turned into a battlefield on that day with thousands of AL workers clashing with Jamaat supporters in Paltan area for seven hours, and with police in Bangabandhu Avenue and Golapshah Mazar area that left at least four killed.

Suranjit Sengupta, another AL presidium member, alleged that charge sheets in the cases filed for the killings have not been completed due to reluctance of the present government and its home adviser. The adviser favours a particular party, he said without naming it.

Others who addressed the rally included AL acting President Zillur Rahman, presidium members Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdur Razzak and Matia Chowdhury, Joint Secretary Abdul Mannan and Jubo League General Secretary Mirza Azam. It was held at Jubo League central office.

The AL leaders reiterated their demands for withdrawal of the state of emergency, unconditional release of party President Sheikh Hasina and deferral of upazila election.

Tofail said a conspiracy is on to foil the next election. He hoped that the issue of demarcation of parliamentary constituencies would be settled before the announcement of election schedule.

Zillur Rahman demanded that the government allow AL leaders detained in jails to participate in the parliamentary elections.

"Many of our leaders and workers are in jails on detention although government finds no charges against them. So, they should be allowed to take part in the election," he said.

Jamaat-Shibir spent crores of taka to prove their innocence in the October 28 killings but failed, he added, demanding trial of the killers.

The AL leaders said if their party under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina comes to power through the next election, it would bring the killers to book.

## Constituency

**FROM PAGE 16**  
the constitution and the relevant laws.

He made the arguments during the hearing of the writ petitions regarding the EC's re-demarcation of parliamentary constituencies before the HC bench of justices Mir Hasmat Ali and Shamim Hasnain.

The HC bench adjourned the hearing until today.

Advocate TH Khan, counsel for a writ petitioner Abdul Mannan, told the court that the EC has violated the rules of the constitution and laws by finalising the voter list before delimitation of the parliamentary constituencies.

He said the gazette notification issued by the EC on November 16, 2006, on the earlier delimitation of the constituencies is still valid since the EC had postponed the parliamentary elections scheduled for January 22, 2007, for which the notification was issued.

He said the postponed election is going to be held on December 18 and the EC should consider the earlier gazette notification on the delimitation.

TH Khan also said the next general election will not be hampered if the EC announces the election schedule considering the gazette notification issued by the EC on November 16, 2006.

Barnister Abdur Razzak, counsel for another writ petitioner, started submission before the HC bench yesterday.

Earlier on August 7, the HC had stayed the gazette notifications for three months following the writ petitions and issued a rule on the government and the EC to show cause in two weeks as to why the July 10 gazette should not be declared unconstitutional and illegal.

The HC began final hearings on the writ petitions from October 22.

## 4-party asks govt

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Khandaker Delwar Hossain told the meeting over mobile phone.

Delwar could not attend the meeting due to illness.

Welcoming Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman's comment that there is no legal bar for BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina to contesting the election, Delwar said, "We want the actions of the government to be as good as its words."

"We'll boycott the polls if the government tries to hold any arranged or staged election," he added.

"The meeting demanded tracking down the people responsible for violence in Dhaka on October 28, 2006."

Other leaders of the alliance also addressed the meeting.

## Menon

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lacking" in running the administration.

During this government's tenure 40 lakh people have become unemployed and homeless while another 14 lakh gone below the poverty line because of price hike of essentials, he said.

Menon demanded that the upazila elections be held at least one month after the parliamentary polls because voters would be confused if both the elections are held simultaneously.

## EC accepts

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Documents as well as proofs and then decide the fate of Jamaat," an EC official told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said EC cannot consider a party for registration without hearing if there are objections.

"A file regarding the matter is now on the table of Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda," he added.

Different organisations and individuals, who demand prosecution of Liberation War criminals, on Monday raised formal objections to Jamaat's possible registration as a parliamentary political party.

The objections came after EC published a public notice on Sunday inviting objections to Jamaat's possible registration accompanied with supporting documents.

War Crimes Facts Finding Committee (WCFFC), Sector Commanders Forum, Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, Sammito Sangskritik Jote and Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote are the organisations raising objections.

Forty-six professionals in a joint statement also raised a number of complaints against Jamaat and urged EC not to register the party.

The objectors say Jamaat is still "an illegal and unconstitutional party," which was involved in human rights violations including genocide during the Liberation War and has yet to confess to its crimes.

They say the party has taken a new name and has accepted the constitution of Bangladesh by changing a few words, but not a single member of Jamaat has yet expressed formal loyalty to the constitution.

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

## 8 'toxic' milk brands

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The HC ruling came in response to a petition filed by the Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh after the chemistry department of Dhaka University found toxic melamine in these brands.

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) and private laboratory Plasma Plus found melamine only in Yashili 1 which caused confusion.

The government then decided on October 19 to re-test the brands at the laboratories of Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and at a laboratory in Bangkok through the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation.

A mobile court yesterday fined five department stores in Mohakhali, Gulshan and Banani areas of the capital Tk 90,000 for selling and displaying the banned brands. It also seized the products, says a press release of Rab-1.

A special team consisting of Magistrate AHM Anwar Pasha, officials of BSTI and members of Rab-1 conducted the drive from 11:00am to 2:00pm.

Abir General Store, Shuvo General Store and Tangle General Store at DCC Market in Gulshan were fined Tk 35,000, Tk 10,000 and Tk 16,000, while Rainbow Store at Banani kitchen market and NB General Store at Mohakhali DCC Market were fined Tk 7,000 and Tk 22,000.

The Detective Branch and police seized 552 packets powdered milk of the banned brands at Mirpur, 200 packets at Gulshan and 150 packets at Motijheel.

A correspondent from Chapainawabganj reported that a mobile court led by Magistrate Nasiruddin yesterday raided stores in five upazilas and fined them Tk 1.41 lakh for selling banned powdered milk. They also burnt 171 tins and packets of these brands.

Our correspondent in Khulna reports: Police during a drive on Monday seized 1,275 grams of Dano, 2,000 grams of Nido and 800 grams of Diplomastores in the city.

Meanwhile, shopkeepers at Karwan Bazar said they were in a real trouble removing the eight brands of powdered milk from their shops as asked by the police.

"Keeping these milk brands is like keeping bombs. But the problem is we do not have adequate place to hide those. We do not want to be fined for something we are not responsible for. The distributors are also not taking back the products," said a retailer.

Belal Hossain, a distributor of New Zealand Dairy Products Bangladesh, said retailers now have Tk 20 lakh worth powdered milk of their marketed brands. The company on October 23 ordered distributors to stop sales and display of the brands and they conveyed the instructions to the retailers, he added.

Asked if it was right to seize the banned powdered milk brands from the stores, BSTI DG Azmal Hossain said, "The HC gave directives for stopping sales and display of those of essentials, he said.

## 5 cops asked

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Station Mahbub Khan, sub-inspectors Jasim Uddin and Faisal Zaman and driver to the deputy inspector general (DIG) of Special Branch Havildar Abdul Khaleq.

During judicial inquiry, a metropolitan magistrate recorded statements from 23 witnesses including Asif and found the involvement of the accused in the incident.

The magistrate then sent the matter to the CMM for steps against the accused.

Range Officer AFM Sahab Uddin Ahmed filed the case against the accused with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka, on October 8 of 2006.

In his complaint, Sahab Uddin mentioned that Zumman Ali, one of the security guards of National Shooting Federation, asked DIG Dr Sadiqur Rahman's driver to park his four-wheel-drive vehicle elsewhere while the driver was trying to park it in front of the complex on October 2, 2006.

The driver, Havildar Abdul Khaleq locked into an argument with the guard and a scuffle broke out between them at around 12:15pm.

Other guards and employees of the complex came out to the help of the guard while the DIG's driver asked patrol police in the area for help.

A police patrol team led by Sub-Inspector Jashim rushed to the spot with North Zone Deputy Commissioner of Police Obaidur Rahman Khan, Assistant Commissioner Zannatul Hasan and OC of Gulshan Police Station Mahbub Khan.

Allegedly, on orders of the DC and the OC, the policemen entered the complex and beat up started beating up everyone they found inside the complex.

At least 25 shooters were seriously injured in the incident.

## Adviser Zillur

**FROM PAGE 16**  
said they are working to hold a summit in the last week of November or early December to formulate education policies.

"We hope academicians, government officials concerned and experts will participate in the event and contribute to drawing up short-term, middle-term and long-term policies."

brands and we are acting accordingly."

He noted that only products that did not comply with the court order were seized.

Asked if the seized products would be returned to the stores in case the tests find no melamine in any brand, Azmal said, "We would act as per instructions of the court."

Asked why Chapainawabganj administration burnt milk powder, he said they must have interpreted the court order differently. "If we are informed that products have been burnt, we will ask them not to do so," he said.

## CONTEMPT OF COURT PETITION

The HC yesterday adjourned the hearing on a contempt of court petition, filed against the home, health and commerce secretaries and inspector general of police (IGP), until Thursday.

The petition was filed against them on charge of not complying with the HC order directing them to ban display and sale of melamine contaminated milk.

The HC bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Md Abdul Hye adjourned the hearing until Thursday as the deputy attorney general (DAG) Md Mozammel Haque yesterday informed the court that the government has already taken steps in this regard.

The petitioner's counsel Advocate Manzil Murshid told the newsmen that the HC adjourned the hearing for two days to examine the government's steps to ban display and sale of eight commercial brands of powdered milk contaminated with melamine and the HC bench would hear the petition again on Thursday.

Earlier, during the hearing Manzil Murshid told the court that the government authorities did not take any effective measures to ban the display and sale of the milk brands immediately after the HC order.

On October 23 upon a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by eight lawyers of the Supreme Court, the HC ordered the government to stop the sale and display of the milk brands till receipt of new test reports from abroad.

The brands in question are Diploma, Red Cow, Dano Full Cream, Yashili-1, Yashili-2, Sweet Baby-2, Nido Fortified Instant and Anlene.

The petitioners' counsel Advocate Manzil Murshid on October 27 filed a contempt of court petition with the HC against Home Secretary Md Abdul Karim, Health Secretary AMM Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, Commerce Secretary Feroz Ahmed and IGP Nur Mohammad on charge of not complying with the HC order.

## Nuke power

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Ministry of Science behind the scene to take up an initiative to install a nuclear power plant in Bangladesh," said Dr Tamim.

He however said an immediate solution to power crisis is crucial now. Besides the long-term plan for nuclear power, he emphasised coal import and energy price adjustment with the global market price.

"We need to find out a way of power generation for the next five years first," he said.

After independence, the government had taken an initiative to set up a nuclear power plant in Rup Pur in Pabna and even acquired land. But the move did not come into light.

The present caretaker government has revived the project and planned to establish a 1,000MW nuclear plant.

BAEC Chairman Dr Shafiqul Islam Bhuiyan said, "We are getting ready to set up a nuclear power plant in Bangladesh."

He said Bangladesh has already signed required deals with international organisations to set up the plant.

"We can overcome our political crisis. But if we fail to meet our electricity demand, it would be difficult to avoid an economic crisis," said Annisul Huq, president of FBCCI.

Currently, the government and private sector generate 3,800MW electricity against the daily demand of about 5,000MW.

## Shahid Nagar

**FROM PAGE 16**  
find rickshaws or other vehicles.

Jamila, a class nine student of Labagh Girls High School, too complained about having to walk through water too stinky for one to leave nose open.

Munshi Mohammad Abul Hashem, executive engineer of zone-3 of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), said of the roads in Shahid Nagar, No.1, 2, 3, 7, 8 and 10 are most vulnerable to flooding.

"We have already submitted to the Nagar Bhaban (DCC headquarters) a proposal for a Tk 53.26 lakh project to repair the drains and roads. It will take two more months to complete the formalities including tender and start the work," he said.

As there is no central water outlet in the area, Water Development Board has to pump out water after rain each time. But it cannot be a permanent solution to waterlogging, he continued. "WASA should immediately set up a sewerage system to put an end to the sufferings."

## Mufti Hannan

**FROM PAGE 16**  
September 4, 2003. The police are yet to find any trace of Azizur.

In the forwarding report, CID Inspector Mohamamd Shahjahan, the investigation officer (IO) of the case, said he received information from various sources including the victim's wife and reports published in newspapers that indicate Hannan's involvement in Azizur's abduction.

The Huji chief needs to be remanded to find out vital information about the abduction and Azizur's whereabouts, the IO added. Hannan prayed for cancelling the remand prayer saying he had been implicated in the case for harassment.

After Azizur was abducted, his wife Farhana Reza Jui filed a case against five people without mentioning Hannan's name.

The first IO CID Inspector Mohammad Wares submitted a final report (FRT) on May 12 last year saying that the charges brought against the five were not proved.

Later, Jui submitted a no confidence petition against the final report on September 30 last year. The court rejected the petition as it was filed after the acceptance of the final report.

The Prothom Alo published a report on May 13 this year giving details about Azizur's abduction. Following the report, Jui submitted a petition to the home ministry on May 18 for reviving the case.

The home ministry accepted the petition and ordered the CID to reinvestigate the case.

Hannan, an accused in a number of cases, was earlier placed on remand for over 160 days for interrogation.

## Brac officials

**FROM PAGE 16**  
all possible efforts for their rescue brings the worrying mother little solace.

"It is already a week, and they can say nothing where the abductors have kept my son, whether they gave him any food or not," the mother lamented. She requested the media to write more vigorously so that Brac and both Bangladesh and Afghan governments take steps for her son's rescue.

Akhter's wife Shamsunnahar, who talked yesterday over phone with Aminul Alam, Brac executive director for overseas programmes, said he told her that they were trying their best.

"Saying that they are not getting any information, he asked me to pray to Allah," she added.

Shahnaz Akhter Chhobi, wife of other abduction victim Shahjahan, also called Aminul for updates to no avail.

The two families tried to contact other Brac officials in Afghanistan over the past few days in vain.

Four gunmen abducted Shahjahan and Akhter, Brac area managers posted in Ghazni, when they went to visit Mo Mobarrah branch office in Ghazni, southwest of Afghan capital Kabul.

Talking to The Daily Star, Aminul Alam said two Brac officials from the headquarters may fly for Afghanistan today or tomorrow to supervise the rescue attempts.

Despite repeated attempts over phone in the last two days, Brac's Afghanistan Country Programme Coordinator Fazul Hoque and other officials could not be contacted.

## 2 SC lawyers

**FROM PAGE 1**  
state minister AKM Mosharraf Hossain for quashing the proceedings of the case.

They said at no point in time the HC bench had refused to hear the petitions for quashing the proceedings of the case. In fact, the court merely said that it would look into the matter and pass necessary orders in due course, the statement said.

"We would further like to make it clear that at no stage did we tell the press--both electronic and print--that the Hon'ble court has refused to hear the matter," the statement said.

"The Iraqi government rejects the US helicopter strike on Syrian territory, considering that Iraq's constitution does not allow its land to be a base for launching attacks on neighbouring countries," Iraqi government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said in a statement.

"We call upon American forces not to repeat such activities and Baghdad has launched an investigation into the strike."

On Monday Dabbagh said the raid targeted a border area used by insurgents to launch attacks against Iraq, and on Tuesday he urged Syria to prevent groups from using its territory "for training and sending terrorists for attacks on Iraq and its people."

Iraq's parliament said in a statement it has asked the cabinet to "keep it and the Syrian brothers informed about the investigation launched by the government into the raid. It regrets that the operation took place at a time when relations between Iraq and its neighbouring countries are progressing."

NBR sources, however, said the deadline has been extended for the second time following poor response from individual taxpayers.

There are around 20 lakh tax identification number (TIN) holders across the country. Of them, only two lakh TIN holders have submitted their returns worth Tk 500 crore as of October 28.

## US poll race

**FROM PAGE 16**  
fighting a rearguard action in North Carolina and Obama on the attack in Virginia.

Despite holding a robust poll lead nationally and in battleground states, Obama, 47, warned against complacency as he prepared to air a costly 30-minute "infomercial" on major US networks Wednesday evening.

"Don't believe for a second this election is over," the Illinois senator said Monday in Pittsburgh, whose withered steelworks are symptomatic of Pennsylvania's industrial plight.

"And Pittsburgh, that's why we cannot afford to slow down, or sit