Ban Ki-moon

that the UN secretary general's visit would be in recognition of various

Describing his visit as very important and significant one, the adviser said various issues, includment, UN development projects and Bangladesh's role in UN peacekeeping, will figure prominently during official talks with the

Asked if Ban ki-moon's visit tion does prevail in the country."

"Had there been no positive environment in the country, the UN secretary general would not visit Bangladesh," Iftekhar

east Asia tour to the Philippines, India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

According to UN officials, the secretary general arrives in Bangladesh tomorrow evening on board a special UN flight from

UNDP officials in Dhaka said that Ban would be attending a state banquet to be hosted by Chief Adviser Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed on Saturday evening. He is due to meet President Prof Iajuddin Ahmed, the Chief Adviser and Foreign Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury on Sunday.

uled to meet the secretary general on Sunday when he is expected to make inquiries about the current French

tion commissioners to wait for the

political situation in the country, UN officials added.

During his visit, he is scheduled to visit a micro-financing programme of Grameen Bank in Bogra and a UN funded disaster reduction and climate adaptation programme in Sirajganj.

Ban will also meet with the United Nations country team and staff and officials of the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Dhaka.

Prior to leaving for New York, the UN secretary general will hold a press conference on Sunday eve-

The secretary general will be accompanied by his wife Madam Yoo (Ban) Soon-taek, and other senior UN officials, during his visit.

Korea, the eighth Secretary General of the United Nations, brings to his post 37 years of service both in government and on the global

Ban was his country's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade. His long tenure with the ministry included postings in New Delhi, Washington D.C. and Vienna, and responsibility for a variety of portfolios, including Foreign Policy Adviser to the President, Chief National Security Adviser to the President, Deputy Minister for Policy Planning and Director-General of American Affairs. He has long-standing ties with the UN, dating back to 1975, when he worked for the Foreign Ministry's

He and his wife, Madam Yoo (Ban) Soon-taek, whom he met in high school in 1962, have one son and two daughters. In addition to Korean, Ban speaks English and

FROM PAGE 16

the hospitals due to the prolonged,

Meanwhile, jail authorities on Wednesday seized a letter from the possession of former Barisal City Corporation (BCC) mayor Mujibur Rahman Sarwar detained in Dhaka

The letter, found on him soon after the visit of his wife, contained advise on how to 'fake' illnesses to get himselfhospitalised.

Deputy Inspector General of Prisons (DIG-Prisons) Maj Shamsul Haider Siddique told The Daily Star, "We have written separate letters to the vice chancellor of the BSMMU and the director general of the BIRDEM asking them to take immediate measures to send back those prisoners who do not need to stay at the hospitals anymore."

He said due to the over stay of VIP prisoners, other prisoners are being deprived of valuable facilities despite serious illnesses.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of 'fake' illnesses to be hospitalised."

He said the letter proves that

Jail sources said at present 21 VIPs are staying at BSMMU while two others are at the BIRDEM.

Hannan Shah

FROM PAGE 1

League and is discourteous to BNP and a few other political parties,' he said at an unscheduled press briefing at his DOHS residence in the city.

"During the 1970 election, the present chief election commissioner was the sub-divisional officer in Bagerhat where Awami League captured all seats," he said.

"It is now clear that a person like him, who favours some political parties and dislikes others, cannot hold a free, fair and neutral elec-

Asked if his demand for the CEC's resignation is also a demand of the BNP, Hannan Shah said, "As the BNP chairperson's adviser I am making this demand and this is not only the demand of BNP but also

Asked if BNP will participate in the election under the present CEC, he said time has not yet come

Replying to another question, he said there is nothing wrong in former CEC MA Aziz's seeking nomination from the BNP. "He was impartial while in service,

FROM PAGE 1

visiting

Supachai Panitchpakdi at the commerce ministry yesterday.

ing all the previous issues. We've gone through the uncertainty, but, finally, we've overcome. So, there should not be any apprehension about the election," the adviser said.

leadership to create confidence in the people so that after election the country does not face any instability. "We have created confidence in

the political leaders and their parties about the election... We have taken measures to address their concerns like ensuring security," he said. "Now they have the responsibility

to create confidence in the people and bring about a qualitative change in politics."

discussion on the economic issues of

made a lot of progress in its economic sector. But it has to diversify its export products.

Doctors however, cancelled operation on her eyes for the time FROM PAGE 1 political society," said the former

The news agency said Hasina will exchange views with expatriates on November 2.

BNP assessing

FROM PAGE 1

Rajshahi Division.

leaders of BNP have been asked to submit organisational reports to the teams outlining the weaknesses of the party committees and those of its front organisations, and also giving election is not worth considering in suggestions for strengthening those.

These teams are also collecting the names of party leaders and workers who were arrested by law enforcers or killed by political opponents since promulgation of the state of

They are also trying to assess the party strength from ward level to district level by holding meetings with district unit leaders.

Sources said party leaders in some districts including Barisal, Joypurhat and Bagura engaged in clashes even in front of the central leaders. A group of party leaders in Barisal also brought out procession against the team led by Selima

Hospitals asked

and often unnecessary, stay of VIP prisoners, jail sources said.

Central Jail.

Prisons (IG-Prisons) Brig Gen Zakir Hassan told The Daily Star, "The letter seized from the former Barisal mayor contains some tips on how to | ACC

many VIP prisoners are over staying inhospitals 'faking' illnesses.

tion," Hannan added.

the demand of people."

to say anything on this matter.

Hannan Shahadded.

No more doubts

journalists after a meeting with

Unctad Secretary General

"We've been successful in resolv-

He urged the political parties and

The Unctad secretary said he had

He observed Bangladesh has

Onus of democracy

Dhaka University vice-chancellor. Terming the 1/11 political changeover "educative" for many, Prof Emajuddin said the effect of the lessons might become visible in a few areas quite distinctly when a new elected government comes to

Blaming the caretaker governand RA Ghani heads the team for | ment for taking too much time for holding the parliamentary election, he said this government, by transgressing its area of work, seems to have posed as a kind of "philosopher king" for the society and tried to handle each and every branch of socio-political activities.

Noting that election under the state of emergency may appear as a "veritable slur" and damage national reputation, Prof. Emajuddin described a peaceful ship. It is time for India to move and credible general election and the emergency provisions as "strange bedfellows".

A credible election demands open environment, which is never generated under emergency even if a few provisions are withdrawn, he

On the "minus-two" theory, he said the government now seems convinced that the ill-conceived theory has no room in Bangladesh.

aspirations," he said.

FROM PAGE 16

lawmaker Alhaj Shah Alam and Surat Zaman, deputy secretary at the Chittagong Hill Tracts affairs ministry and former PS to exminister Khurshid Jahan Haque, directing them to submit wealth statements to the commission.

to file six cases against six people including former lawmaker Shah Shahid Sarwar.

ACC Director General (Admin) Col Hanif Iqbal yesterday told a routine press briefing that the commission made the decisions in the past three days from October

on charges of hiding Tk 1.22 crore from the commission and amassing Tk 13.84 crore beyond his known sources of income. Advocate Nadim Mostafa will be

charged with concealing Tk 2.52 crore in his wealth statement to the commission and with accumulating Tk 2.85 crore through illegal Former BRTC chairman and

Khandaker will be charged for not submitting wealth statement to the The other charge sheet will be

BNP leader advocate Taimur Alam

phensydyl businessman released. The ACC will file a case against ex-lawmaker Shah Shahid Sarwar for allegedly hiding information from the commission and amassing wealth worth about Tk 20.51

10 new HC judges

Commission members Law

Adviser AF Hassan Ariff, Appellate Division judges Justice Md Tafazzal Islam and Justice Md Joynul Abedin, High Court judge Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman, Attorney General attended the meeting.

newsmen that the commission chairman and members discussed all necessary issues about the appointment of the people eligible for the posts of HC judges. He said the Supreme Judicial

Commission's next meeting would be held on November 2 where the names of the new judges will be placed.

to place names for the post of the HCjudges at the meeting. Earlier on October 17, the com-

mission recommended four senior-most judges of the High Court division of the SC to the president for appointment as judges of the Appellate Division.

Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman, Md Abdul Quddus, Md Abdul Aziz and Bijan Kumar Das. The president will appoint two

of them as judges of the Appellate Division, as two posts at the division have been lying vacant since The HC now has 61 judges. In

2004, 19 judges had been appointed, raising the number of the HC judges to 72. But 11 of them have either retired or been promoted to the Appellate Division.

collective response," he said.

Secretary General said

Mamun

Other cases will be filed against

Prof Fazli Hasan of mathematics

department at Chittagong

University, additional chief engi-

neer of Dhaka City Corporation

Khandaker Sujat Ali, Group

Captain (retd) Abu Jafar

Chowdhury, chairman of

Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd,

Jahirul Islam, accountant at Ideal

School and College and former

chief engineer of education engi-

neering directorate SM Abdul

case against Manirul Islam, bench

assistant at Boalmari settlement

office in Faridpur, on charges of

ACC Assistant Director Nur

Another trap case was filed

Hossain Khan caught the accused

against Abdus Salam, surveyor at

assistant commissioner's (land)

office in Patuakhali, for taking Tk

Uncertainty over holding the elec-

tions on December 18," he told

journalists at his Gulshan resi-

dence after a meeting with leaders

of Sramik Karmachari Oikya

on December 18, the present politi-

He said if the election is not held

Asked whether the Supreme

Court's denial of bail yesterday to

AL President Sheikh Hasina will

create any uncertainty over her

return, Zillur said there is no uncer-

tainty about the former premier's

court decision, the AL leader said,

"The denial of bail is unfortunate

He also said Hasina will return

home any day between November

1 and 7. However, Tofail Ahmed

said Hasina will return home by

denied bail at a time when every-

body thought that she would be

Ahmed who was present at the

briefing said there is no alternative

to elections and it must be held on

December 18, there will be serious

political and economic crises in the

ment has to remove all barriers to

holding the elections on December

should hold elections asperthe old

electoral boundaries of constitu-

Hasina's bail prayer strongly, but

they did not oppose BNP

Chairperson Khaleda Zia's bail

Besides, they discussed various

aspects of bilateral relations,

including trade and technical

cooperation between the two

Canadian high commissioner said

he hoped for a free and fair election

in Bangladesh on December 18. On

Tuesday, the envoy handed over

translucent ballot boxes to CEC

tion under the state of emergency,

the Canadian envoy said, "It is your

country, your democracy and your

Asked about credibility of elec-

In reply to a question, the

Dhaka to vie

Tofail said the caretaker govern-

If needed the government

The attorney general opposed

"If the elections are not held on

able to contest the elections.

Zillur said Hasina had been

AL presidium member Tofail

and it came as a shock to us."

Expressing frustration over the

taking Tk 4,500 in bribe.

10,500 in bribe.

AL sees

Parishad (SKOP).

returning home.

November 10.

December 18.

country," he said.

encies, he said.

FROM PAGE 16

countries

Shamsul Huda.

election.

petition, Tofail added.

cal crisis will not end.

red-handed on October 29.

The ACC meantime filed a trap

Mannan.

Mamun from his Gulshan residence on March 26 last year. He was later remanded for possessing illegal firearms at his residence.

He was last placed on a five-day remand on June 6 last year in a cheating case. After completion of his fiveday remand, he was sent to jail. He had earlier been remanded for 56 days in different cases. Since his arrest in March last year,

extortion, arms and graft cases were filed against him.

In all the extortion cases, Mamun has named Tarique Rahman as his business partner. He has given confessional statements to magistrates in this regard implicating Tarique's name with different extortion charges

Selim Prodhan, chairman of Japan Bangladesh Group, filed the case with Gulshan Police Station against Mamun and his two associates on May 31 for swindling Tk 8.4 crore out of him between December 8, 2001 and December 20, 2006.

The two other accused Rajib Sira Apu -- son of former BNP lawmaker Shahjahan Siraj -- and Kawsar Zaman Bappi are on the run. CONVICTION OF THREE CASES

A special court on June 7 last year jailed Mamun, who was on the first list of 50 graft suspects published by ACC last year, for three years in connection with a case filed by ACC on April 5 for not submitting his wealth

On July 3 the same year, he was sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for possessing illegal firearms in his residence.

Mamun was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment on March 27 this year for amassing wealth worth Tk 111.1 crore illegally and concealing wealth information from the

Obama

FROM PAGE 16

"The future of our country is at stake," Cecil Johnson, 72, told AFF as he shuffled from one chair to another in a line that stretched the length of the county courthouse in Gary, Indiana.

"The last eight years have been a disaster and I think we have the right candidate that is perhaps capable of rescuing us," said Johnson, who voted for Obama. Some 16.1 million US voters

have already cast ballots ahead or

the November 4 presidential election, according to early voting figures compiled Wednesday by George Mason University. Republicans have traditionally voted early in larger numbers than Democrats. But a concerted cam-

paign to drive Democratic turnout

seems to be working, at least in

states, which have reported early voting tallies. Some 2.3 million people have voted in California, about 2.4 million in Texas and about 1.5 million

in Georgia, according to George Mason. In the critical battleground of Florida more than 2.6 million people had already voted by Wednesday, with 45 percent being Democrats and 39 percent regis-

tered Republicans, according to the study. In North Carolina, also seen as a key swing state, 1.5 million people have voted with registered Democrats outnumbering Republicans by a margin of 35

percentage points in early voting. Pricey non-tood

commodity prices globally.

BB officials however suggested that the government should strengthen its market monitoring system to reap the benefit of global price fall of commodities.

In September, inflation rate in rural areas was 10.62 percent compared to 10.51 percent in August The rate in urban areas was 9.12 percent in September against 9.11 percent in the previous month.

For food items, inflation rate was 12.13 percent in September and 12.34 percent in August in rural areas. And in urban areas, the rate was 11.93 percent in September and 12.40 percent in August.

WB okays \$130m

FROM PAGE 16

employment-guarantee scheme to help people in poor areas, and increasing the country's strategic food reserves.

The bank is also providing ongoing assistance to strengthen Bangladesh's social safety-net programme, including a new 100day employment-guarantee scheme that started on September 15 this year. Vinaya Swaroop, World Bank

economist and project task team leader, said it is critically important to help Bangladesh cope with this crisis. In the absence of concessionary financing resources, the government would need to curtail development spending or other pro-poor programs in order to sustain its increased social spend

Swaroop said this credit would help the government respond to immediate crisis-related needs while protecting other programmes to promote growth and poverty reduction. Bangladesh's progress in

strengthening its own institutional arrangements for public expenditure, financial management and procurement is reflected in its improved rating under the World Bank's Country Policy and petitioner, however argued that the Institutional Assessment (CPIA).

The credit from the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's concessionary arm, has 40 years to maturity with a 10-year grace period. It carries a service charge of 0.75 percent.

61 killed

one of the targeted markets. The blasts, including one in front of the Guwahati District Magistrate's Court, were powerful enough to reduce nearby vehicles to a heap of twisted

Deputy Inspector General of

Assam Police GP Singh said. Thirty-one people were killed in Guwahati, with 19 dead in the Assam's western district of Kokrajhar and 11 in nearby

Barpeta town, officials said. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said every effort would be made to bring the bombers to justice.

"Such barbaric acts targeting innocent men, women and children only highlight the desperation and cowardice of those responsible," Singh said.

Assam's Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the government's main spokesman, said preliminary investigations showed some of the bombs had been strapped to bicycles and packed with incendiary material to trigger fires.

"The needle of suspicion is on the Ulfa," Sarma told reporters. "Most of the bombs were planted in crowded places like markets and office complexes. So it shows that the perpetrators wanted high casualties.

The explosions in Guwahati injured more than 150 people and the city's hospitals were overwhelmed by the influx of casual-

The attacks came six weeks after the Indian capital New Delhi was hit by a series of bombs in crowded markets that left more than 20 dead. Those blasts were claimed by a group calling itself the Indian Mujahedeen.

than 10,000 people have lost their lives to insurgency in Assam, which is known for its tea, timber and oil reserves. Public support for the Ulfa has

Hajj flights including 7,474 under government management and 41,087 under private management, will go to

year, said a Biman press release yesterday. Biman will operate 42 dedicated hajj flights to carry some 29,000

Saudi Arabia to perform hajj this

pilgrims, it said. Two of the dedicated flights will be operated from Sylhet Osmani International Airport while one from Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport. The remaining flights will be operated from ZIA, the press release said, adding the flights will continue until

December 2. The post-hajj flights will start on December 11 and continue through January 12, 2009.

Road accident

hour and damaged vehicles stranded on the road. Many vehicles started to run indiscriminately creating panic in the area. Later Tejgaon police brought

the situation under their control. The police said they could not

detain the driver of the pickup van.

Pakistan FROM PAGE 16

(15 miles) from Ziarat, travelled to Quetta to draw attention to their plight. Mohammad Khair told report-

either badly damaged or destroyed. "We need tents, food and shelter," he said. "The problem is that Gogi is situated some five kilometres off

ers three people were killed and all

of the village's 35 houses were

the road. A few volunteers came and left but delivered nothing," villager Mohammad Mateen added An AFP correspondent in Wam one of the worst-hit villages, said

emergency tents had not arrived by Thursday morning, and exhausted villagers had been forced to hunker down in the ruined shells of their homes overnight. They had spent the previous day in a desperate search for loved ones

or burying the dead in mass graves

and fearing further tremors. The Pakistan Meteorological Department said it had recorded more than 250 aftershocks. More are likely to be felt into next week, but of decreasing magnitude, they

Sherry Rehman said Thursday she could not say whether the overnight cold claimed more lives but pledged that "we will not let that happen among the survivors" A full picture of the number of

Pakistan's information minister

dead could take up to two days to emerge, but the official number was 145 so far, she added. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) put the death toll at 149, with more

than 370 injured, and said about 2,000 houses had been completely destroyed. They said a total of 35,600 people were affected by the quake. Local officials said the extent of the damage was more widespread. Earlier, destitute survivors sat beside campfires or huddled together as day broke over the

tributed blankets, tents, food and vital medical help. Swift relief was hampered by damage to key roads, said Amjad Rashid, head of the Taraqi (development) Foundation, a local nongovernmental organisation.

quake zone and the military, civic

authorities and aid agencies dis-

dwindled in recent years after a series of attacks in public places that claimed heavy civilian casu-

Non-Assamese people make up nearly one-quarter of the remote state's 26 million people. The state has 800,000 people

from Bihar state, many of whom have lived in Assam for decades. In January 2007, police blamed the Ulfa for a wave of attacks in which 62 people were killed,

workers. Peace talks between the Ulfa and the government fell apart in 2006. Since then the rebels have

Violent insurgencies have wracked India's northeastern states -- known as the "seven sisters" -- for decades. More than 50,000 people have been killed in insurgency-related violence in the region since India's inde-

Toxic' milk FROM PAGE 1

The meeting was held yesterday at the Bangladesh Secretariat where representatives of the Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), IPHN, Customs and law enforcement agencies were present.

Golam Mostakim, additional try, chaired the meeting.

how and why popular registered baby formulas were found tainted with melamine in lab The government is yet to pub-

already received the test results from scientists. "It would take two to three more days to get the test results from Thailand," said a government official concerned. He

applied for registration. Even though drive against powdered milk goes on in mar-

kets across the country, the public relations office of police made no information available in this regard yesterday. Our Rajshahi correspondent

Rab sources said the drives were conducted with the help of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel, Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) per-

Market, Laxmipur, Hargram, Talaimari, Kazla and Binodpur Bazar and confiscated 10,355 packs of different brands of pow-

dered milk. The court also sealed-off two

Abbas

FROM PAGE 1

After receiving the order, the jail authorities informed Abbas, now in prisons cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medial University Hospital, about it. The home ministry issued the

detention order following a general

Superintendent of the Special Branch (SB) of police. The detention order referred to

released from jail, law and order

situation might deteriorate.

Mojahid, yesterday told newsmen that since the HC accepted his client's petition for hearing, the matter has become sub judice and his client would not have to surrender before the trial court on November 2, the date for their appearance before the trial court.

ernment not to harass or arrest Mojahid within that period. On October 7, another HC bench asked Saifur to appear

before the trial court within four

weeks. The court also directed the

government not to harass or arrest him during this period. The main accused in the case former prime minister Khaleda Zia is on bail. The Supreme Court on October 29 upheld the HC order staying proceedings against her in

the case. Four other accused--Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer and former industries minister Motiur Rahman Nizami, former health minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain. former commerce minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury and former state minister AKM Mosharraf Hossain--had filed petitions with the HC for quashing proceedings

Assistant Director Shamsul Alam filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station on February 26 this year.

situation, especially the general election on December 18.

achievements made by the couning social and economic develop-

secretary general. would lead to a positive development in domestic politics, the adviser replied, "A positive situa-

Chowdhury said. Ban is on a four-nation south

Nepal.

Two separate delegations from BNP and Awami League are sched-

EC withholds The chief adviser advised the elec-

court verdict. In reply to a question, CEC Huda told reporters that they would have to wait for the court verdict on the Ahmed at his office yesterday re-demarcation issue. He, however, afternoon to update him about the expressed hope that the court latest development regarding decision would come on Sunday. declaration of polls schedule.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice MA Matin yesterday sent the petition to the full bench of the Appellate Division for hearing on November 2. Also vesterday, the HC fixed November 2 for delivering the

judgment on the writ petitions filed

by several individuals challenging

re-demarcation of the constituen-

The EC filed a petition with the

Supreme Court (SC) to vacate the

High Court (HC) order that stayed

the commission's re-demarcation

Following the petitions, the HC on August 7 stayed for three months the EC gazette notification on finalising of the re-demarcation

The CEC told reporters that they

would get a "small" gap between

the date of schedule announce-

of constituencies.

ment and the election date. On party registration, he said the EC is working so that all eligible political parties can take part in the election. On missing the deadline

for registering parties, he said the

EC wanted to complete the process

applied for registration already got clearance, he said, adding, "Verification of applications of smaller

A total of 107 parties, including

Huda blamed a few political

parties for delaying in filing their

22 religious parties, applied for registration with the EC, manda-

prayer

legal terms.

in the case.

parties is underway."

by October 30.

applications.

Hasina's bail FROM PAGE 1 when she'll be back. She can always go to courts if any curbs are slapped on her political activities," he said.

president, said she should be allowed bail for her ill health. Attorney General Salauddin Ahmed said the court cannot consider giving her bail for political reasons mentioned in the original

During hearing, Rafique-ul-

Huq, senior counsel for the AL

prayer citing that the petitioner must be in the country to ask for Besides, it said, the line of reasoning that she should be given bail to organise her party for the

On September 29, an HC vaca-

tion bench turned down the bail

The leave-to-appeal petition against that order was filed on October 26. On June 13 last year, Noor Ali, managing director of Unique Group of Companies, filed the extortion case with Tejgaon Police Station. He accused Hasina of taking Tk 5 crore from him to win his firm a power plant deal in

On July 16 the same year, the

government brought the case

under the emergency power rules.

A magistrate's court on July 29

ordered that she be shown arrested

Ban Ki-moon of the Republic of

United Nations Division. Ban was born on 13 June 1944.

tory for contesting the upcoming poll under the new electoral law. The CEC and his two commissioners--Muhammed Sohul Hussain and M Sakhawat Hussain--met Chief Adviser Fakhruddin

announce the schedule on our previously set date since the court corparhamentary constituencies. Is well to give judgment on the redemarcation issue," Sohul Hussain told The Daily Star last night. The election commissioners

also told Fakhruddin that the EC

vacate the HC stay on re-

demarcation of constituencies.

has filed a petition with the SC to

that we will not be able to

"We informed the chief adviser

"The chief adviser listened to us and advised us to wait for the court verdict," Sohul said, expressing hope that the judgment would come in favour of the EC. Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman, Law

Adviser AF Hassan Ariff, LGRD

Adviser Anwarul Igbal and

Communications Adviser Ghulam

Quader were present at the meeting.

Hasina to meet FROM PAGE 1 for eye and ear treatment. Her next appointment with doctors will be

fixed through emails. Specialist doctors at the Johns Hopkins Hospital examined her ears and eyes and the efficacy of the medicines prescribed earlier. Hasina's hearing aid for the Major political parties that right ear was adjusted, but that for her left ear could not be put to use, according to AL leader Abdus

Sobhan Golap who, along with

Hasina's son Sajib Wazed Joy and

Canada chapter AL president

Sarwar Hossain, accompanied the AL president at the hospital. Eye specialist Dr Harry A Quigley said pressure in Hasina's eyes came down as she regularly took the prescribed medicines. Similarly, glaucoma also came

being, fearing it could damage her cornea which may lead to blind-

District level and other grassroots

emergencyin January last year.

Graft charges

The ACC has also given the nod

Shafiur Rahman will be accused

submitted against one Shahid Mia on charges of trying to give a Rab official Tk 49,400 in bribe to get a

lakh beyond his known sources of

FROM PAGE 1

Salauddin Ahmed and Supreme Court Bar Association President barrister Shafique Ahmed Barrister Shafique Ahmed told

Shafique Ahmed also said all the commission members are entitled

The HC judges are justices Shah

UN chief warns FROM PAGE 16 urgent, coherent and concerted

He also called for "institutional mechanisms that will help minimize the risk of both market and regulatory failures." There is also an urgent need to revive global trade negotiations,

"We should rededicate our-

selves to reaching an ambitious,

There was a "pressing need to

address the systemic weaknesses

at the root of the crisis," the UN

pro-poor outcome to the Doha Development Round. We need leadership from all sides, including India," he said. The Doha Round, launched in 2001 in the Qatari capital, has repeatedly missed deadlines set for its conclusion. The latest talks fell apart earlier this year due to a

deadlock between India and the

US over import tariffs and sub-

sidy levels.

Ban also called for India to help tackle global warming. "The world is watching India We all know the challenges India is facing. But confronting the shared challenge of stabilizing our climate will require give-andtake from every single country."

"We look for Indian leader-

towards a low-carbon future,

consistent with its development

decades has been the United States, accounting for more than 20 percent of the world's production of carbon dioxide emissions. But emissions have also rapidly grown in the developing world -- China is now in second

The world's biggest emitter for

among the top five emitters at six percent. Developing countries say they cannot yet make commitments to

cut their emissions because it will

Minister Manmohan Singh dur-

Ban will hold talks with Prime

hamper economic growth.

ing the two-day visit. New Delhi, which wants a seat on the Security Council, was expected to raise the issue of UN reforms, including expansion of the 15-member Council, during Ban's visit, officials said.

India says its 1.1-billion-plus

population, its status as the

world's biggest democracy, grow-

ing economy and big contribu-

tion to UN peace-keeping efforts entitles it to a permanent place at the table. Ban will leave Friday for Nepal where he will meet the Himalayan nation's newly installed Maoist-rebel-turned premier Pushpa Kamal Dahal.

On Saturday, Ban will hold

talks with leaders of Bangladesh's

interim army-backed govern-

ment. Polls to transfer power to a

civilian government after almost

two years of emergency rule are

due December 18. HC blames EC FROM PAGE 1

constituencies cannot be chal-

constitution empowers the HC to

Advocate TH Khan, counsel for a

lenged in court.

examine any EC action if deemed to have been without lawful authority. The bench completed the hearing and fixed November 2 for passplace at 16 percent and India is ingorders on the petitions.

FROM PAGE 1

"Some of the bodies were charred beyond recognition,"

mainly Hindi-speaking migrant

kept up their attacks.

pendence in 1947.

meetingsaid

secretary of the commerce minis-The meeting did not discuss

lish test results of samples they sent to labs at home and abroad. A source in the government, however, said the chairman of the In the past two decades, more BCSIR (science laboratory) has

> could not say when the results would be made public. There are 46 registered formulas available in the market now and seven other brands have

reports: A mobile court during raids in Rajshahi city yesterday fined two shops Tk 2,000 each for selling powdered milk brands_ that were not supposed to be on

ducted drives at the city's RDA Market, Shaheb Bazar, New

The same mobile court con-

sonnel and BSTI officials.

warehouses in the city.

from the home ministry in the afternoon.

diary filed by a Special a SB report that said if Abbas is

Barapukuria case FROM PAGE 16 The HC bench comprised of Justice Md Muzammel Hossain and Justice Afzal Hossain will continue hearing on the petitions on November 2. Abdur Razzaq, counsel for

Following a petition filed by Mojahid, an HC bench on October 19 ordered him to surrender within two weeks before the trial court that had earlier issued an arrest warrant against him in this case. The HC had also directed the gov-

against them. Anti-Corruption Commission

Foreign Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury said yesterday