EC declares

FROM PAGE 1

will do everything possible so they can go to polling centres without having any fear and also can return home safely after casting their votes," the CEC said in his address

fully, he announced that members of the armed forces will be deployed along with the police, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Bangladesh Ansar, and the Village Defence Police (VDP).

hostage to terror, hooliganism, and muscle, and will arrange to hold the elections peacefully at any cost,"

The EC chief also warned of tough actions against candidates and election officials if they violate electoral rules. He urged all election officials to carry out their responsibilities with full neutrality and efficiency.

"The success of a fair election expected by all largely depends on the full neutrality and efficiency of officials and employees who will be involved at different levels of the election and will play both direct and indirect roles," he said, urging all election officials to carry out their 'sacred duties' remaining above all kinds of fear and threat.

"Disregard all unwarranted influence and unjust demands," Huda told all election officials, reminding them that all of their activities will be monitored.

"We will not hesitate to take actions against persons failing to carry out their duties neutrally," he warned.

The CEC requested prospective candidates to abide by the new electoral code of conduct, which bans pasting of coloured posters on walls, graffiti, erection of gates, and decorative illuminations for campaign purposes.

He also warned prospective candidates against pre-election massive showdowns, undue entertaining of voters, and buying of votes.

"Especially, the traditional showdowns during submission of nomination papers will not be tolerated. And if that happens, candidacy of the applicant will become uncertain.

He urged prospective contestants to maintain a peaceful atmosphere by showing respect to their opponents.

About poll results, the CEC said presiding officers will not enly write the election results numerically but will also write them in letters after taking signatures of polling agents on the result sheets.

Providing polling agents with copies of election result sheets has been made mandatory, the CEC added.

"Presiding officers will send the signed result sheets to returning officers, and will also send a copy to the Election Commission by post, Huda said adding that the post offices will remain open until the result sheets are in, no matter how

late at night it is. The new steps will make publication of the election results fully

transparent, he hoped. The CEC also announced that only candidates nominated by parties registered with the commission and independent candidates will be eligible to contest in

the elections, and they must be voters in any of the constituencies. "Loan and bill defaulters will not be able to become candidates if

they don't reschedule their dues," Huda said adding, government

Toxic milk

FROM PAGE 1

insiders without giving details. "The experts are now fighting," said a committee member when he came out of the meeting at around

8:00pm. The committee was formed on October 19 during a meeting at the commerce ministry following confusion over test results of the

powdered milk. Tests by the chemistry department of Dhaka University found

melamine in Dano, Red Cow, Nido fortified instant, Diploma, Anlene, Yashili 1, Yashili 2 and Sweet Baby 2. But tests by BSTI and private laboratory Plasma Plus found melamine only in Yashili 1 that

created confusion. The government then decided to test all the brands again at home and abroad. The October 19 meeting at the

commerce ministry decided to retest all the eight brands at the laboratories of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR)

and at a laboratory in Thailand. The results from BCSIR and BAEC were received last Thursday, but the result of a laboratory in

Bangkok came only yesterday. The members of the committee are BSTI Director General Azmal Hossain, Deputy Director Dr Ashish Ratan Sen, BAEC scientific officers Dr Didarul Alam Chowdhury and Dr SM Salehuddin, BCSIR scientific officers Matiur Rahim, Dr Nasim Sultana and Dr Umme Ara, child specialist at national nutrition Institute Dr Mukim Ali Biswas, two chemistry department teachers from Dhaka University, and Ziaul Abedin of Plasma Plus.

over the events that culminated in vesterday's announcement of the detailed poll schedules since the current EC had taken over the charge in February last year, including holding of electoral dialogues with political parties and amending the Representation of

"The amended laws and rules will help keep the elections free from the influence of black money and muscle in order to make them free and fair," the CEC hoped in his

Referring to registration of political parties, he said the registration process has been introduced and 'completed' in a short parties, rather to ensure accountability and transparency of politi-

He said the EC successfully completed redemarcation of the parliamentary constituencies after 24 years, which is a legal obligation of the commission following every

The previous EC had announced a detailed poll schedule for the ninth parliamentary election setting January 22 of last year as the polling date, but that was cancelled amid unabated political violence and controversies over holding the poll, which led the events of 1/11.

country's helm by Fakhruddin Ahmed-led caretaker government, the military backed government cancelled all proceedings regarding the earlier schedule of the ninth parliamentary election, and the EC was reconstituted on February 5 last year. Becoming the chief of the EC, Huda promised to hold a free, fair and credible election in the shortest possible time.

Hasina wishes

FROM PAGE 1

would confuse the voters, and might lead to many ballots being cancelled.

Meanwhile, AL acting president Zillur Rahman said the party will start formal electoral activities

He said its nomination forms have already gone to press. The parliamentary aspirants could begin to collect those within a

Briefing newsmen at his Gulshan residence after the CEC'S televised address, he said AL would settle on its nominations on recommendations from the grass-

confusions in the public mind over the December 18 polls would almost be over now that the schedules are published.

"We are glad the election schedule is announced," he observed.

of two major elections being held in such close proximity, the party

AL leader said the party will firm up its electoral alliance after Hasina's return home on October 10.

He demanded immediate unconditional release of Hasina so that she could take part in the polls as a free person.

upazila and national elections spaced at least a month apart. Otherwise, he said, there might be

Zillur expressed displeasure at CEC's not mentioning anything about withdrawal of the state of

emergency. He said the government's main duty now is to lift the emergency curbs to create an atmosphere

Sultana Kamal

FROM PAGE 1

Pointing out complexity in the administration, she said, "There was a clash of authority between the Anti-Corruption Commission and the National Coordination Committee on Serious Crimes and Corruption. Not only was there any

coordination among them but one obstructed the other's work." People did not see expected changes in political culture as the government's steps were not transparent and due processes were not

arresting any of the fundamentalist partner of the BNP-led alliance that committed huge corruption while in power and Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid's presence at a meeting with the chief adviser when the former was wanted in a case have aroused doubts in people's mind about whether to support the

government anymore. People do not consider the government safe anymore. People can neither trust the Awami League

nor the BNP and now even the caretaker government," she said. Demanding withdrawal of emergency, Sultana said, "If the situation in the country still calls for continuation of emergency, it is the failure of the government.

FROM PAGE 16 attended the programme as chief guest and delivered a speech before hundreds of party leaders,

Hannan flew to Matlab on a chartered helicopter for the meeting. The chopper landed on Ahmadiyya Madrasa ground. He then went to the meeting at Lodhuya High School field in a motorcade with leaders and workers of local BNP and its front organisations.

Army chief

FROM PAGE 1

peace missions in the near future. "The UN secretary general was very happy to know that Bangladesh keeps one brigade and a battalion on standby to respond to any urgent UN request for troops deployment," Gen Moeen said, adding Ban has requested Bangladesh to contribute more women troops and police to the peace missions.

Nearly 10,000 Bangladesh troops and police personnel are now engaged in UN peace operations in different parts of the world, armed

forces sources said. A good number of women troops are also working in different troubled areas to restore peace and uphold human rights there.

The UN secretary general has visited peace operations in Liberia and Sudan, two war-ravaged African countries where members of Bangladesh armed forces are working as blue helmets.

"He (Ban) is extremely happy with the standard of service from Bangladesh troops in Africa and other parts of the world," Gen Moeen said, adding that Bangladesh is going to contribute more to the UN efforts to restore world peace.

Principal Staff Officer (PSO) Lt Gen Mohammad Abdul Mubeen, Chief of General Staff Maj Gen Sina Ibne Jamali and senior UN representatives were present at the meeting.

AL, BNP differ

FROM PAGE 1

General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam told reporters after the meeting yesterday, "Of course a peaceful environment will be created through withdrawal of the state of emergency, as one adviser has already said the restrictions on fundamental rights will be withdrawn and the process will start from tomorrow."

"The environment will be created Inshallah, and we will take part in the poll. We urge all the people to take part in the election process from today," he added.

While a sceptical BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain said, "Although the government had said it had accepted six of our seven demands, it has yet to implement any of those, therefore, we think the government has not taken any positive step yet towards holding a free, fair and credible election.'

"We also told him [the UN secretary general] that we want to contest in the December 18 election, but the government has to remove all kinds of obstacles on the way to our partici-

pation," Delwar said. While Ashraf said, "We have told them [the UN] that the election must be held on the announced date since there is no alternative to it. It is their belief that the election will be held on December 18, which will be fair and

participated by all. About lifting of the emergency, Delwar said, "We have told him that a total lifting of he emergency is an imperative for holding a free, fair and credible election, and he urged us to settle the issue through discussions

with the government. While Ashraf said, "The UN has also agreed with us that the people won't have fundamental rights under the state of emergency, so that will be a problem for an acceptable poll. If any political party does not want to take part in the election with the excuse of the emergency, then the party might be able to make the election process look questionable."

Bus fare row

FROM PAGE 16

Witnesses said different bus com panies called the strike and forced others to keep their buses off the

The commuters became helpless in absence of transport and many of them in an angry move vandalised several vehicles parked on the road.

The bus communications, however, resumed with the police intervention later.

Anwar Hossain, DMP's deputy commissioner of Mirpur Zone, told The Daily Star, "The hassle between passengers and bus employees was followed by misunderstanding over bus fares."

"We asked the protesting operators not to create obstacle to other buses and also detained some of the employees who tried to resist others," he said.

The government has meanwhile reduced fares of diesel-run inter-district and long-haul vehicles by Tk 0.07 per kilometre following the reduction in diesel oil price by Tk 7 per litre.

However, fares of CNG-run buses and minibuses operating in Dhaka and Chittagong metropolises remain unchanged at Tk 1.2 and Tk 1.1 per kilometre respectively, says a PID handout. It adds fares of CNG-run buses

and minibuses running on the

roads of the districts adjacent to

Dhaka and Chittagong will also

remain unchanged.

CG assures UN chief

FROM PAGE 1

visit in the coming weeks to assess the conduct of the election and

The UN chief, who left for New York last evening ending his weeklong tour of the Philippines, India, Nepal and Bangladesh, had a very busy schedule yesterday. He visited a micro-financing programme in Bogra and a disaster preparedness programme in Sirajganj. He also met with the president, chief adviser, foreign adviser, and leaders of the BNP and Awami League.

He said the UN stands ready to help. "As a friend of Bangladesh, I have an obligation to speak frankly and I hope to lend my advice and personal assistance in any way that

For Bangladesh, he said, much depends on good governance. "Perhaps never before has it been so important for the nation's diverse people and political leaders to pull together -- to fight corruption, to uphold the rule of law, to respect institutional checks and balances and to promote democ-

"This was my message to all I met--government authorities, political parties, civil society leaders and ordinary citizens," he

Asked if the UN will set up a special tribunal to try war criminals of the 1971 Liberation War, Ban said first the Bangladesh govern ment needs to have an official position on this issue and then it must make an official request to the UN which will then go through proper procedures.

army chief, he said they discussed how to strengthen the partnership between the UN and Bangladesh, especially in peacekeeping opera-

"I expressed my desire that Bangladesh can contribute more troops to the peacekeeping mis-

Cop promotion

FROM PAGE 16 He also said, "The decision on traffic policemen recruitment was made in principle. It would be sent to the home ministry for approval.

Meanwhile, policemen seeking promotions expressed their happiness and welcomed the decisions. They said their promotions were dependent on lobbying and bribes which sometimes deprived the deserving cops.

said senior officials often treat policemen below their rank as their personal servants. Some have no other way but to obey the unethical directives since their promotions are dependant on the seniors.

Wishing not to be named an ASI, who was promoted from constable, said, "Despite my good performance, I had to bribe my seniors for my promotion.

Sources in the police headquarters said, the first promotional procedure under the new decisions already started and yesterday was the last day for candidates to apply.

Hasanul Haider, Assistant Inspector General of Police (Recruitment and Management), said, "The new decision to control the promotion procedure will prevent deprivation of qualified members."

"Earlier there were various complications in the promotional procedures as the examinations were held separately at different units, Hasanul said, adding, "Now a list would be prepared at the headquarters and the promotions would be given according to the merit list."

He said if the government agrees with the police headquarters decision, the post of traffic sergeant would be dissolved and SIs would be posted for controlling traffic.

Currently, Bangladesh Police has over 1,23,000 policemen. Of them 87,934 are constables, 5,784 Nayek, 6,587 head constables, 6,623 ASIs. 1,213 sergeants, 11,211 SIs, and 2,307 inspectors.

War criminals

FROM PAGE 16 the state, its independence and

sovereignty," the SCF said. SCF Chairman and deputy commander-in-chief of the liberation war Air Vice Marshal (retd) AK Khandaker told reporters that they have been preparing a list of war criminals, which will be published

nals, the victims and the witnesses of war crimes separately," said AK Khandaker. The SCF also submitted a memorandum to the chief adviser (CA) on Saturday demanding trial of war

containing the names of war crimi-

issue. Sector commanders Maj Gen (retd) CR Dutta and Maj Gen (retd) KM Shafiullah also spoke.

Meanwhile, Awami League (AL) called upon the UN secretary general to take initiative to try the war criminals before the national elections. "The UN is conducting trials of

war criminals in many countries. We also want UN help for trying the war criminals of 1971," AL acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam told reporters after a meeting with the UN secretary general at Sonargaon Hotel in the capital.

sions and I got very positive response from the military leadership," Ban Ki-moon said, mentioning that Bangladesh is the second largest contributor to the UN

officers serving in UN missions. He also spoke on climate change and global financial crisis.

peacekeeping operations, with

more than 9,000 troops and police

The UN secretary-general recalled his first visit to Bangladesh in 1975 as a Korean government official. He lauded the warm hospitality of the people of Bangladesh. He said he was impressed to witness the development Bangladesh achieved in the last three decades.

Political activities

FROM PAGE 1 Ariff, at the communications min

Zillur however stopped short of saying whether the emergency rules will be withdrawn.

"A successful election with participation of all political parties is an important milestone for us. We've got to reach this success-

As per Section 3 of the Emergency Power Ordinance promulgated through a gazette notification on January 25 in 2007, the government restricted processions, demonstrations, hartals and strikes across the country.

Rallies, processions and functions relating to religious, social and state affairs were however kept out of the restrictions.

The emergency rules allow the government to ban any meetings, processions, demonstrations and any news or information deemed harmful in the interest of public security and peace.

The government later relaxed the emergency power, allowing political parties to hold indoor political rallies on a small scale.

Global recession

FROM PAGE 16

Other members are the governor of Bangladesh Bank, chairman of the National Board of Revenue, chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, chief controller of insurance, vicechairman of the Export Promotion Economic Relations Division, and planning ministry.

committee would analyse the situation of export, import, terms of trade, share market and other economic issues and suggest corrective measures. He said the global economic meltdown would not affect

Bangladesh's economy immediately as the country's financial sector including the capital market was not integrated with the international market.

He however did not rule out the possibility of being affected in the

long run. The Bangladesh Bank's quarterly report released yesterday says, "Since a large part of the economic slowdown on our

The central bank advised the government to remain vigilant regarding price competitiveness and related development, which are keys to maintaining and expanding the country's export shares in the global market.

Toxic Liquor

FROM PAGE 16

Police arrested Noor Islam after

Homeo Hall. Rafiqul Islam, assistant director of the Department of Narcotics Control, told The Daily Star that they arrested Globe Laboratory owner Arifur Rahman for keeping

alcohol and sealed off the shop. Adamdighi police arrested Arifuddin, Khorshed and Dilip Chandra for possessing eight litres

ofalcohol A total of three cases have been filed in this regard.

FROM PAGE 16 Under American pressure, Pakistan has deployed security forces throughout its northwest in an attempt to tamp down growing militancy. The troops have been frequent targets of attacks by militants, who have demanded Pakistan end its alliance with the United States.

Washington is suspected of launching at least 17 missile strikes of its own in northwestern Pakistan since August, an apparent reflection of US frustration over Pakistan's efforts against militants in its territory.

continued nonetheless. In a statement Sunday, Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani condemned the suicide attack in South Waziristan, saying he "deplored the loss of innocent lives."

ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH

Saifur's son charge sheeted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against former finance minister M Saifur Rahman's younger son Shafiur Rahman Babu in a case filed for amassing wealth worth Tk 13.84 crore illegally and concealing wealth information from the commission.

ACC Assistant Director Farid Ahmed Patwary, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chies Metropolitan Magistrate Court in Dhaka, showing 39 people as prosecution witnesses. In the charge sheet, the IO men-

tioned that Shafiur had amassed wealth worth Tk 13,84,92,392 through illegal means and concealed information of wealth worth Tk 1,22,44,453 from the commis-The IO also prayed for issuance

the accused has been absconding since the case was filed. The charge sheet was submitted under sections 26(2) and 27(1) of the Anti-Corruption Commission

of arrest warrant against him and

orders to attach his properties as

Act-2004 and 15 of the Emergency Power Rules-2007. The charges brought against Shafiur were primarily proved and

he would be brought under trial

the IO said. On April 29 this year, ACC Deputy Director Sharmin Ferdousy filed the case against Shafiur with Ramna police station for amassing wealth beyond his known sources of income and concealing wealth information.

In the case statement, Babu was accused of concealing information of wealth worth about Tk 1.28 crore in his wealth statement submitted to the ACC and amassing wealth worth about Tk 13.85cr beyond his known sources of income. Shafiur is one of the 35 graft

suspects on the ACC list disclosed

his wealth statement to the commission on November 28, 2007.

Myanmar FROM PAGE 1 Bahamas, one in Belize and one in

A competent government source said the spot was "well inside" Bangladesh maritime boundary.

Foreign Secretary Md Touhid

Hossain told the press yesterday that

the dispute could be resolved through dialogue as Bangladesh has very good relations with Myanmar. Additional Foreign Secretary MAK Mahmood, who led the Bangladesh-Myanmar maritime delimitation talks in Dhaka in September, said the matter will be

raised at the upcoming talks with Myanmar on November 16 and 17. Mahmood pointed out that Bangladesh would also ask the South Korean company not to conduct the

exploration work in the disputed He added that Bangladesh would also sit with India on the maritime

boundary issue later this month. The Bay of Bengal has become very important, especially after India's discovery of 100 trillion cubic feet of gas in 2005-06 and Myanmar's discovery of seven trillion cubic feet of gas during the same time. India

also discovered oil. The Bay in Bangladesh's territory promises huge natural resources, experts say. The Daily Star reported in 2006 discovery of sedimentary rock

FROM PAGE 16 Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Mamnoon Rahman granted him three months' anticipatory bail in a

tax evasion case filed by the National Board of Revenue. The bench also stayed the case proceedings against Salauddin for three months and issued a rule upon the government asking it to explain why the proceedings against the petitioner should not

be quashed. A Dhaka court on October 26 issued an arrest warrant against Salauddin Quader in the case.

Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice Sheikh Abdul Awal granted him adinterim bail for six months in an arms case filed by the police. The HC on October 23 granted bail to Moudud Ahmed in the illegal wealth-related case and issued a rule upon the government

asking it to explain within four

weeks why Moudud should not be

granted regular bail in the case. The ACC recently filed a petition with the Supreme Court to stay the HC order.

Hearing the petition, the chamber judge yesterday passed "no order" and asked the ACC to file a regular leave to appeal with the apex court. The ACC filed the case against

his actual and illegal wealth in the

statement submitted to the com-

US electoral system

FROM PAGE 1

nearly 9,000 new registrants once again divided along racial have been flagged through the

state's "No Match, No Vote" law. In Ohio, Republicans have repeatedly gone to court to make public a list of more than 200,000 unmatched registrations, presumably so that those voters can

be challenged at the polls. According to Time, millions have been stripped from electoral roll in key states, but legitimacy of those eliminations remains unclear.

While talking to a group of foreign journalists on Wednesday, Gregory P Magarian, professor of law at Washington University in St Louis, highlighted some loopholes in the electoral process. For example, a convicted

felon can vote in Maine, but not

in Virginia. A government-issued photo ID is required to cast vote in Indiana, but not in New York. In Indiana, residents who attend state-run schools can use their IDs in many cases to cast

votes, but students attending in private schools cannot enjoy the In Pennsylvania, first-time voters can use firearm permits or utility bills to identify them-

selves, and long-time voters do not have to show anything at all. In Georgia and Florida, gun permits do not help; all voters must come up with state or federal photo IDs at polling stations.

tion in the eyes of laws. It should be addressed. But our Supreme Court has not said anything about it," Prof Magarian said. He said the electoral laws should be same for all states, not

least in the presidential and

"Of course, it is a discrimina-

other national elections. On whether there is any political significance behind such discrimination, Prof Magarian said the provision for showing photo IDs was introduced to prevent fraud in the elections. But a survey conducted by the Justice Department after 2004 election found only 26 cases of

fake voting. Regardless of the debate and fear, this election has been billed Tuesday. as historic on many grounds. But whoever is elected on November 4, he will have to begin his jour-

Experts say the country has

lines. Most blacks are supporting Barack Obama. Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin Thursday held a rally in Cap Girardeau at the Show Me Centre in Southest Missouri. A few thousand Republican supporters attended the rally. What

EARLYVOTING One of the reasons for early voting is to avoid long waits at polling booths. But complexities in the polling procedure take a voter long time to cast vote. A visit to an early-voting station on Saturday at Bettendorf Public Library in Iowa, a solid

queue of voters. After entering the polling station, one must fill up a form showing reasons for voting early.

levels.

ties, people this time are showing interest in casting votes.

Emerging from the booth, Republican supporter Jeff Dykemay however said he does not think the voting procedure is complicated. People should take time to vote, he said. "We expect 40 percent voters

auditor in Iowa, told journalists. He said the total number of voters in Iowa is 12.3 lakh. This time, he said, they expect an 80 percent turnout. He said according to the state electoral laws, one will be pun-

After casting her vote, Sujan Roggedorf, an administrative assistant, said she came to cast early vote to avoid long waits on

quality to lead America into the

not contain any photographs.

desired change. meltdown.

ney in January amid economic

FROM PAGE 16 dollars pledged to the IMF fund, noting that the Middle East and

But analysts have argued that

Gulf states will feel little impetus to

bolster the IMF fund, given its domination by the United States and the G7 industrialized nations. A senior British government source, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment, said that during talks the Saudis had been concerned about becoming a "milk

cow" to prop up "basket case" economies in other parts of the world. Kuwait's finance minister, Mostafa al-Shimali, told Al-Anbaa daily in comments published

possible returns," he said. Brown has attempted to win

amid discussions by world leaders "grasping toward new world order." "I believe that your country has a crucial role to play and your voice

After a marathon three-hour one-on-one session with Saudi Arabia's Abdullah at the Riyadh Royal Palace, Brown moved quickly on to Doha, where he is due to meet Qatari Prime Minister Hamad bin Jassim, before attending a dinner with the ruler, Emir Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, later Sunday.

meeting of G-20 nations to hammer out potential reform of the global financial system to prevent a repeat of the current crisis, scheduled for November 15 in Washington D.C., which will also be attended by King Abdullah.

Mandelson, who is traveling with Brown and a delegation of more than 20 senior British executives,

told reporters after Brown met with Abdullah. "But that is a process, not an event.

McCain.

was striking was that no blacks showed up there. Manz said it is scaring, unprecedented.

Democratic state, found a long

Then they are provided with ballot papers that contain names of contenders who are running for posts at national and local One voter is entitled to cast

over a dozen votes to elect as many officials. Regardless of the complexi-

will cast early vote this year," Wes

Rosfenbanch, Scott County

ished with \$7,500 for casting fake votes. He said the voter list do

She said she cast her vote for Barack Obama because she believes he has the leadership

Saudi help

Asia, particularly China, have significant foreign exchange reserves.

Sunday that Kuwait was prepared to listen to what Brown had to offer.

favor with Arab states by stressing they have not been represented enough on international bodies and promising them a seat at the table

must be heard," Brown told business leaders in Saudi Arabia.

Business Secretary Peter

Any funds from Gulf states are

indicated definite pledges were unlikely in the next few days. to the same page of analysis and the agreed response and Saudi Arabia's active participation in getting the world through this first financial crisis of the global age," Mandelson

While he is now attempting to

recent decision by OPEC to cut production by 1.5 billion barrels a

day to lift prices. Crude has fallen

from a high of \$147 in July to under

He repeated his calls for a "stable" crude oil price on Sunday, citing the need for "a sustainable transition to a more low carbon emissions economy for the longer-Britain has planned an oil summit in London in early December to

follow up the talks between oil producers and consumers led by Abdullah in Jeddah in July when the oil price was at a record \$147. The London gathering was initially to be held at heads of state level, but amid controversy over

whom had or had not been invited

from the oil producing states,

Downing St. said it would be held at ministerial level.

\$70 currently.

FROM PAGE 1 in Nevada, Colorado and Missouri, all states that voted for President Bush four years ago, while McCain struggled to keep Virginia from

appearance on NBC's "Saturday Night Live" where he joked about his campaign and his latest plan to win over voters. "I thought I might try a strategy called the reverse maverick. That's where I'd do whatever anybody tells me," McCain said. If that

ers to turn out on Election Day, saying the stakes could scarcely be "If you give me your vote on Tuesday, we won't just win this election together, we will change

this country and change the

Vice President Dick Cheney endorsed McCain, saying Americans "cannot afford the high tax liberalism of Barack Obama and Joe Biden.

Obama, campaigning in

Colorado, pounced on the remark,

saying McCain had earned the

the Bush administration's failed social and economic policies. "Bush and Cheney have dug a deep hole," Obama said. "Now they're trying to hand the shovel to

News national poll of likely voters showed Obama ahead, 51 to 43, with a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. McCain's campaign says its internal polling shows the gap closing.

An Associated Press-Yahoo

"The matter of supporting world markets depends on investment opportunities on offer and their oolite that promises oil and gas there.

unlikely to be pledged before a

"They are getting each other on

woo Gulf leaders to fork out money earned from soaring oil prices, Brown has drawn ire from some oil producing states for criticizing a

voting for a Democratic presidential candidate for the first time since 1964. McCain also made a quick sidetrip to New York City and an

failed, he quipped, "I'd go to the double maverick. I'd just go totally berserk and freak everybody out." Both men appealed to support-

world," Obama said in a nationwide Democratic radio address.

endorsement through supporting

officials and semi-government officials will not be eligible to con-"I want to assure the voters that we test in the polls unless three years have elapsed since their retire-

to the nation televised live. For holding the elections peace-

"We will not let the voters be the People Order (RPO). Shamsul Huda assured the people.

cal parties' activities.

today.

Both Hasina and Zillur said

will participate in both the polls.

He called for the EC to have the

which caused some negative reactions to its good initiatives.

followed, she said. She noted that incidents like not

ments or expiration of their con-

tractual appointments. CEC Shamsul Huda also went

hour and a half address.

period of time not to control the

Following assumption of the

roots level committees.

He said despite its disapproval Replying to a query, the veteran

violence centring the polls.

congenial to free electioneering.

Hannan Shah

workers, supporters and locals. report to him.

The UN secretary-general said it is in the best interest of the world and the people of Bangladesh to see the country achieve its full potential for democratic development through free and credible elections.

Turning to his talks with the

Seeking anonymity, a constable

"The SCF is preparing three lists

criminals. It also asked the CA to hold talks with the SCF leaders on the

in October last year. He submitted

Bureau, additional secretary of the a representative from the Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Department of the

The finance adviser said the

country's exports (especially RMGs) is destined for developed country markets, one danger is the potential adverse impact of global export earnings.

and Punam Homeo Hall. Papia confessed to police that she collected alcohol from Parul

In response to Mojibur Rahman Sarwar's petition, the HC bench of Suicide car bomb

Pakistan routinely protests, the Moudud with Gulshan Police missile attacks as violations of its Station on September 16 last year, sovereignty, but the strikes have alleging that the former law minister concealed information about

> Barrister Rafique-ul Hug moved for all the three petitioners.

mission.