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Hasina returns home today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina returns home today after receiving treatment abroad while on parole.

Although the former premier has five cases pending against her in courts, she has obtained bail in all the cases.

AL has taken up massive programmes to accord her a grand reception from Zia International Airport (ZIA) to her Sudha Sadan residence in Dhanmondi.

The former prime minister is scheduled to arrive at ZIA at 8.15am by an Emirates Airlines flight.

"We are mobilising tens of thousands of people from the airport to Sudha Sadan to bestow our heartiest welcome to party chief Sheikh Hasina tomorrow. We have already directed our party workers in this regard," AL president member Abdur Razzak told The Daily Star last night.

He said after returning home, Sheikh Hasina will lead AL to the election and take part in the poll as a "free person".

Hasina's counsel Barrister Fazle Noor Taposh said, "Since she has been granted bail in all cases she

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

US goes for change, Obama

AP, AFP, Washington

His name etched in history as America's first black president, Barack Obama turned from the jubilation of victory to the sober challenge of leading a nation worried about economic crisis, two unfinished wars and global uncertainty.

"The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep," Obama cautioned.

More news and views on page 6, 7, 10, 11

Young and charismatic but with little experience on the national level, Obama smashed through racial barriers and easily defeated Republican John McCain to become the first African-American destined to sit in the Oval Office, America's 44th president. He was the first Democrat to receive more than 50 percent of the popular vote since Jimmy Carter in 1976.

"It's been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

US POLLS

President

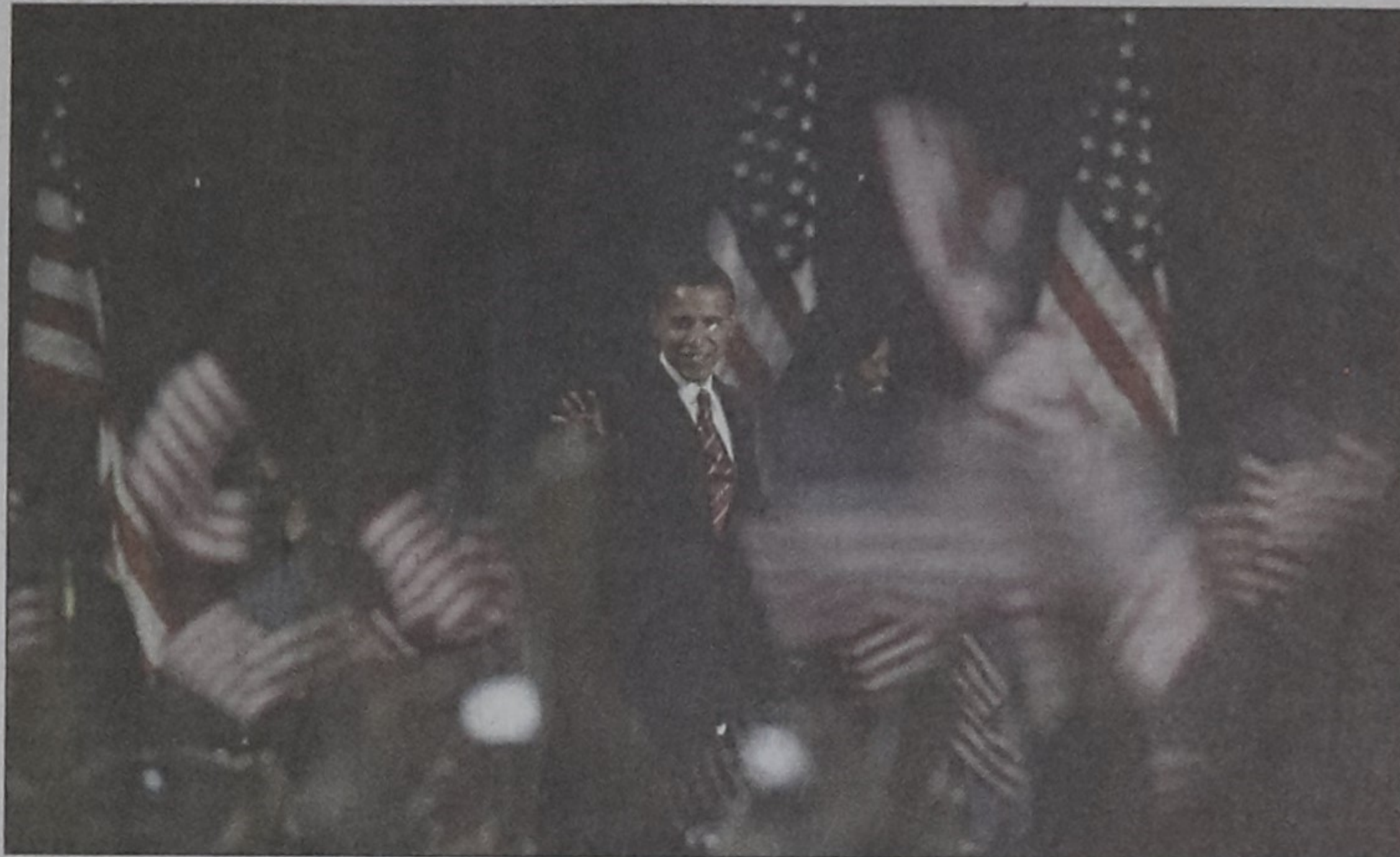
OBAMA	270 to Win	MCCAIN
63,423,384	Votes	56,079,500

Senate

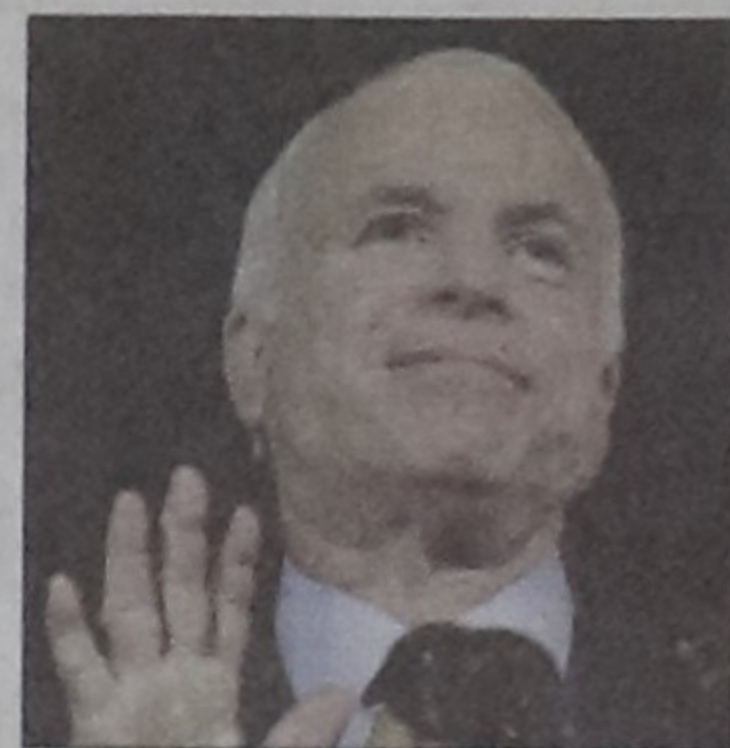
DEM	56	REP	41
+5 seats	Gain/Loss	-5 seats	

House

DEM	254	REP	174
+19 seats	Gain/Loss	-19 seats	



A victorious Barack Obama waves at supporters after making history by being elected the first non-white president of the United States.



McCain vows to help Obama

AP, Phoenix

With a gracious nod to Barack Obama, John McCain acknowledged defeat and urged his supporters to move beyond partisan differences to put country first an echo of his campaign theme.

"I wish godspeed to the man

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Bangladesh leaders hail Obama

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday congratulated Barack Obama, president-elect of the United States of America.

"In a message, the president said: 'I would like to convey to you my warmest felicitations on your election as the president of the United

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

America crosses 'colour line'

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, Washington

Even during the darkest hours of his presidential campaign, Barack Obama held on to his improbable, unshakable conviction that America was ready to step across the color line.

On Tuesday, America leaped. Millions of voters - white and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Dream of US generations personified

AFP, Chicago

Barack Obama wrote a new chapter into US history Tuesday becoming the first African-American elected president, capping a stunning rise, which in just four years propelled him into the Oval Office.

Invested early on with the mantle of late icons, civil rights leader

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Fund raising thru' Net held the key

BBC ONLINE, Washington

Two years ago, Barack Obama was barely a blip on America's political radar.

But, with a brilliant, disciplined campaign, a vast amount of money and a favourable political climate, the junior senator from Illinois has risen to the most powerful job in

the world.

His campaign will be a template for those seeking to replace him.

It was, even Republican strategists admit, a technically perfect ground campaign.

The money was key, Obama realised during the primary contest that he had developed an

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Graft took worst turn during 4-party rule

Says Tac chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Habibur Rahman Khan, chairman of Truth and Accountability Commission (Tac), yesterday said corruption has been deeply rooted in the society over the years with its worst phase occurring during the tenure of BNP-Jamaat-led four-party rule.

Referring to confessions by government officials, he said it appears that civil servants are involved in corruption more than any other professionals in the society.

Meanwhile, Tac's five-month tenure might be extended by a couple of weeks, if need be, to complete its task as 48 more cases are being sent to it from the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Justice Habibur, however, said they would try to complete their task within the stipulated time.

"We've realised how corruption has planted its root over the years since independence. And we have learned it was the worst during the tenure of the last alliance government," he said at a regular press briefing.

He said on completion of their job they would submit a report to the government identifying facts and factors of corruption in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

4-party demands fresh JS poll schedule

Asks govt to fulfil its 7-point demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led four-party alliance has demanded declaration of fresh schedule for the ninth parliamentary election and implementation of its seven-point demand including complete withdrawal of the state of emergency.

Heads of the component parties of the alliance decided at a meeting last night to wait until a specific time for implementation of their demands. They will decide the next course of action if the government fails to meet those.

Although the meeting was held to decide on participating in the December 18 parliamentary polls, the alliance leaders could not reach a consensus on the issue.

Top leaders of the BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP), Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ-Amini) and Khelafat Majlis attended the meeting held at BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office and chaired by the BNP chief.

"The poll schedule the Election Commission announced on November 2 rather hurriedly is not favourable for us to participate in the election and it indicates the commission's negative role," BNP Secretary General Khandaker

Delwar Hossain told reporters after the meeting.

"The schedule is also not conducive to holding a free, fair and credible election," he added.

"We will wait for a certain period and will fix our next course of action if the government fails to meet our demands," he said.

Delwar, however, would not specify the date.

Asked if the four-party alliance will participate in the election in case the schedule is not changed, Delwar said, "We have made it very clear: Let them [the Election Commission] judge whether it is possible or not to take part in the election within this short time."

The three-hour-long meeting asked the government to create congenial atmosphere for the election fulfilling the alliance's demands.

Meeting sources confirmed that at the meeting Jamaat, the key ally of BNP in the alliance, placed the decision taken in principle by its highest policymaking body Majlis-e-Shura to take part in the election.

The IOJ-Amini also placed its decision in favour of participating in the election while the BJP opposed it.

Khaleda also told the alliance leaders that the atmosphere prevailing in the country is not congenial to going for election, meeting sources told The Daily Star last night.

She said the government is yet to meet any of their seven-point demand which, she thinks, is necessary for ensuring a free and fair election participated by all.

Jamaat suggested not giving any announcement of boycotting the election.

At the end of the meeting Khaleda asked her alliance colleagues to get prepared for the election.

At the briefing, Delwar alleged that the Election Commission declared the polls schedule without meeting the demands of the alliance and ensuring a level-playing ground.

"We are very much interested to participate in the election but that election has to be free, fair and credible," he said.

Delwar also alleged that the caretaker government wants to form a "rubber stamp" parliament and a "puppet" government to serve the purpose of a certain quarter. "But we cannot let it happen," he added.

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'Unacceptable' elections to compound crisis Warns Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing apprehension over the 'process' of restoring democracy, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night said another 'unacceptable' national election might worsen the present crises in the country.

"I appeal to all concerned to shun the path of holding such a poll," she said.

Before entering the 4-party meeting at her Gulshan office, Khaleda asked for an impromptu meeting with on-duty journalists, explaining, "I want to address the nation through you."

The country could overcome

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Hasina cleared of Noor Ali's extortion case

Police tell trial court of 'factual errors'; her bail petition earlier turned down by HC, SC

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday cleared former premier also Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina of a Tk 5 crore bribery charge in a case filed by a businessman, Noor Ali, in June last year.

Following filing of the final report by police, a Dhaka court also yesterday cleared Hasina, her cousin Sheikh Helal and his wife Rupa Chowdhury of the charges.

The Supreme Court (SC) and High Court (HC) had earlier rejected Hasina's bail petition in the case.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Lutfor Rahman Khan of Tejgaon police station, who was also the investigation officer (IO), yesterday submitted the final report to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court (CMM) of Dhaka.

In the report, the IO mentioned that the final report cleared Hasina and the two others, as the case had 'factual errors'.

A metropolitan magistrate scrutinised the final report and accepted it following a written application submitted by the prosecution, sources said.

When The Daily Star tried to contact Noor Ali repeatedly to get

his reaction, one of his staff said he and his wife left for Canada on Saturday night.

THE CASE

On June 13 last year, Noor Ali, managing director of Unique Group of Companies, filed the case accusing Hasina and her two relatives of extorting Tk 5 crore from him in exchange for mediating a power plant deal in 1997 between the Power Development Board (PDB) and his firm.

In his complaint, Noor Ali alleged that he also had to give two flats to Rupa Chowdhury, wife of Hasina's cousin Sheikh Helal, after Helal had threatened to interrupt the work of Noor's firm if he did not pay the bribe.

Noor said he handed over Tk 3.2 crore in 12 cheques to Hasina at Ganabhaban between June 8, 1997 and May 20, 1999 while the remaining Tk 1.8 crore was channelled through Helal at different times.

In his statement, Noor said after he gave the Tk 5 crore to the accused, they mediated the power plant deal between PDB and his firm with the board issuing an offer letter to his firm in May 1999 for installing the 110MW barge-mounted power plant at Haripur.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Gen Moeen surprised at his reported sculpture role

UNB, Dhaka

Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed became surprised to see some newspaper reports and watch TV talk shows indicating his involvement in the recent demolition and removal of baul sculptures from the intersection of Zia International Airport.

"A section of newspapers in their news items and talk shows of some television channels mentioned that the army chief had consent or direct support in removal of baul sculptures from the intersection of Zia International Airport. This information is not true," said an ISPR release yesterday.

During that time, the chief of army staff was abroad on official visit. "On returning home, he became surprised to see the news item and watch talk shows involving him in the incident of removal of baul sculptures," the press release said.

"He was not informed about the process of setting up or removal of baul sculptures at all, and he had no role about it," the release added.

It also noted that setting up or removal of baul sculptures is totally a matter of government or the airport authorities. "It is not a matter of Bangladesh Army,"

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিনিয়োগ বোর্ডে নিবন্ধিত দেশী ও বিদেশী সকল শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের বর্তমান অবস্থা জানাসহ প্রয়োজনীয় সহায়তা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে বিশ্ব ব্যাংকের সহায়তায় একটি জরিপ কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার কাজ হাতে নেওয়া হয়েছে।

আপনার শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানের সুষ্ঠুভাবে পরিচালনা এবং বিনিয়োগ বোর্ডের সকল ধরনের সুযোগ-সুবিধা প্রাপ্তি নিশ্চিত করার জন্য আপনার প্রতিষ্ঠান সর্বোচ্চ তথ্যাদি নির্ধারিত প্রশ্নমালায় মাধ্যমে সংগ্রহের উদ্দেশ্যে অতি শ্রুতি মতে পর্যায়ে জরিপ শুরু হবে।

যে সকল শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠান বিনিয়োগ বোর্ড কর্তৃক নিবন্ধিত, তাদেরকে জরিপের আওতায় অন্তর্ভুক্ত করার লক্ষ্যে প্রাথমিকভাবে নিম্নলিখিত তথ্যাদি জরিপের কাজে নিয়োগপ্রাপ্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) (ঠিকানা : বাড়ি নং-৬, রোড নং-২৩/সি, গুলশান-১, ঢাকা-১২১২, ফোন : ৮৮১৭৬৪৮-৫২, ফ্যাক্স : ৮৮৫৫৯৩৫, ই-মেইল : cegis@cegisbd.com)-এর নিকট আগামী ১৩ নভেম্বর, ২০০৮ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে প্রেরণের জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ জানানো হচ্ছে।

(ক)	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	:
(খ)	বিনিয়োগ বোর্ড কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নিবন্ধন নং	:
(গ)	অফিস ঠিকানা	:
(ঘ)	টেলিফোন নং	:
(ঙ)	ফ্যাক্স নং	:
(চ)	ই-মেইল	:

আরু রেজা খান
সদস্য (নির্বাহী পরিষদ)
বিনিয়োগ বোর্ড

Myanmar suspends exploration in Bay

SHARIER KHAN

Myanmar ships yesterday suspended oil and gas exploration activities inside Bangladesh maritime territory awaiting the outcome of a dialogue between Dhaka's special envoy and the Yangon authorities.

Bangladesh Navy has strengthened its position around the three Myanmar warships and four exploration vessels in the Bay- 55 km southwest at 227 degrees from St Martin's Island.

"The Navy has mobilised six ships, including a frigate and two missile launchers, at the spot. It is getting ready to face any situation using whatever resources in its possession," said a defence source.

"Navy officers and staffs have been put on high alert. They are virtually spending sleepless night."

He also said frigate Khaled Bin Walid (previously Bangabandhu) yesterday returned from a one-month stay in Kuwait coast and has been kept standby. Another frigate - Osman -- is also being prepared for operation.

Meanwhile, in a move to resolve the crisis diplomatically, Bangladesh sent a high level delegation headed by Foreign Secretary Mohammad Touhid Hossain to Yangon early yesterday to lodge protest with the Myanmar top authorities. The three-member team will also ask for suspension of exploration activities till the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Maksons Spinning Mills Limited

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PROFOUND GRATITUDE

We are pleased to announce that against our IPO of Tk. 8.00 (Eight) Crores, we got applications of Tk. 216.11 Crores and more than 27 times higher. We express our gratitude to the investors for their great confidence on Maksons Spinning Mills Limited.

Meanwhile, we express our gratitude to SEC, DSE, CSE, RJSC, ICB, CDBL, Issue Managers, Underwriters and Bankers to the Issue for their great co-operation & support to us.

Dhaka
November 6, 2008

By order of the Board
Sd/-
(Mohammad Ali Khokon)
Managing Director