FROM PAGE 16 from the shipping ministry and Department of Environment

Contacted, the owner of Kabir Mosharaf Ashraf had Steel however said they will import

the ship in January next.

"The government has permitted another company to scrap a blacklist. Greenpeace listed toxic ship. So, the law should not be different in our case, "he said.

In August, the shipping ministry allowed a shipyard-- Madina Enterprise -- to scrap an oil tanker it imported, MT Enterprise, blacklisted by Greenpeace for containing hazardous substances. Violating a court order, the owner importers will start bringing in of that ship started dismantling it even without taking clearance from can break one such vessel. the DoE.

Lawyers Association (BELA) last not get any such court order.

But later, he appealed to the Supreme Court, and it vacated the stay order. So, the owner did not have any bar to scrapping the ship.

The owner of Madina Enterprise and MT Enterprise and others concerned alleged that a section of importers and government offi-

cials pushed the matter into legal tangles for their gains.

try's Chief Chemist Dr Md cancelled the NOC (No 08070384, the ship's being on the Greenpeace

Sources said 'huge underhand deals' are involved in toxic ship scrapping business.

Dismantling of toxic ships poses serious threats to the fragile coastal marine ecology. No other country but Bangladesh allows this on its

And they are worried that more hazardous ships once they

Meanwhile, the Basel Bangladesh Environmental Convention subjects all import of ships containing hazardous submonth filed a writ petition with the stances and destined for recycling its original ideology." High Court against scrapping of or disposal to have a prior notificastay order on scrapping the toxic hazardous substances onboard the ship. Despite this, the owner ship including PCBs, asbestos,

> Until 1970s, a significant num ber of aging ships ready for retirement was processed in Europe and the US, according to the International Labour Organisation's Workers Safety in Ship-Breaking Industries, published in 2001.

frankly I am worried that if the election is postponed, when will it be held?" Moriarty told newsmen when asked for his comments on deferring the polls.

held soon and people understand that it is going to be held, he said, adding that he is looking forward to an election held on December 18.

Moriarty said he wanted to know from the AL chief about her party's election preparation. He said Hasina told him that the AL is prepared and looking forward to taking part in the December 18

As Hasina congratulated the polls. American people on the historic polls. Moriarty said he hopes the same will happen to Bangladesh.

Talking to the media, Syed all political parties to take part in the next polls as scheduled instead Bangladesh," he told journalists. of blaming or conspiring against each other. The AL wants the election to be peaceful and free of all

victory or defeat... Let's build enhance social harmony. harmony among us," he said,

election acceptable to all.

because it is important for the people, for politics and politicians," Ashraful said, observing that it is the political parties that suffered the most after the January 11, 2007 changeover.

election will be held on December 18 and all the political parties will take part. There should be no doubt

corruption from Bangladesh, prosperous and happy

the spiralling prices of essentials sorts of criminal activities, he under control and within the reach "Let's participate and accept employment opportunities and

AL leaders Hasan Mahmud, adding that the national polls Dipu Moni, Tanjim Ahmed, Sohel scheduled for December 18 must Taj, Major Gen (retd) Tarique Azad were present during the

be held and there is no alternative Ahmed Siddique and Abul Kalam

September 3, 2007, implicated in several graft cases, and was released on bail on September 11

highway including at Jatrabari and Padua Bazar had to struggle

panied Khaleda.

banners, festoon and placards supporters of the BNP chief tailed her from Dhaka to Chittagong blaring horns while hundreds others lined both sides of the

Traffic on some local roads connected to the highway clogged when the motorcade

accorded to the BNP chairperson at the port city by thousands of rural areas, party leaders, activists and sup-

porters. Laldighi Maidan for the anticipated appearance of Khaleda Zia in the rally, broke out into a thunderous applause, singing and among the supporters of BNP and chanting slogans when their its chief made one feel as if they and sunglasses got on the stage

Interestingly, shipping minisissued on August 13), on grounds of

land, environmentalists say.

MT Enterprise. The court issued a tion with a full inventory of all started dismantling it saying he did heavy metals, residual fuels and so

### Talks with Hasina

"That is for the people to decide but "We want a free and fair election It is important that the polls are

He said, "We believe that the

Asked about BNP's demand for deferring the election, the AL leader said they make demands for the sake of making demands but AL believes BNP is preparing for the polls and will participate in the

"We told James F Moriarty that we are committed to uprooting establishing the rule of law and Ashraful Islam said AL calls upon good governance. We want to see a

Hasina during the meeting said if voted to power, AL would bring of the common people, create fresh

## BNP steals the show

FROM PAGE 1

welcomers.

Additional law enforces deployed at some points of the muters however knew no bound to control the crowd desperately as traffic jams clogged all city trying to have a glimpse of one of arteries including the at the two most prominent political Anderkilla, KC Dey Road, Jail leaders of the country. Road, Boxir Hat, Terry Bazar, Dhaka City Mayor Sadeque Court Building, Kotwali

Hossain Khoka, ASM Hannan Shah, Selima Rahman, Goyeshwar Chandra Roy and other senior BNP leaders accom-

seeking nominations for the December 18 parliamentary election joined the motorcade

Donning colourful headbands and holding equally colourful Maidan in their thousands to

Grassroots level leaders, activists and supporters of BNP poured into the main venue with A grand reception was processions from every nook and cranny of the city, and from the

trucks, human haulers, and Anisul Haque, neurology depart-A sea of people, gathered on minivans carrying banners, ment chairman, Prof AKM Anwar festoons, and placards while | Ullah of neurology department, Dr beating on drums non-stop.

The outburst of emotion leader in her usual outfit of a sari had been holding their breath for such a day since the events of

#### Polls rules

FROM PAGE 1

cantonment executive officers (CEO) of Dhaka and Chittagong took part in the workshop.

Kabir said all matters relating to the upcoming parliamentary and upazila elections were discussed at the workshop.

About the loan and bill defaulters, the EC secretary said they will be eligible to contest the election only if they (defaulters) have the clearance showing payment of loans and bills for the last three months from the date of filing nomination papers.

#### Badruddoza

FROM PAGE 1 generation has been quite inade-

Negating any possibility of an

alliance between BDB and BNP, he said. "BNP has been derailed from

Talking about bringing changes to the nation's political culture, he said any qualitative change will remain a far cry as long as politicians do not learn to hate corruption and terrorism, and start embracing politics of responsibil-

Badruddoza, the country's 15th president, spoke in favour of increasing the power of the presi-

"For that, I suggested establishing a separate secretariat for the president, which will be free of the prime minister's interference."

### No decision yet

FROM PAGE 1

demand for immediate cessation of its oil and gas exploration off the western Rakhine coast. Terming the demand "unlawful" and "wrongful," Myanmar government stated that the operations would continue.

Foreign Secretary Touhid Hossain reiterated that the area falls in Bangladesh's territory and expressed hope that those working at the site will leave. "We have received indications to this effect, he added.

On Thursday, Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury said Daewoo initiated the process of dismantling the installation in the disputed waters of the Bay of Bengal and that the foreign minis try received a letter from Daewoo in this regard, ou mensan house

The Myanmarese ships started the exploration activities on Saturday ignoring Bangladesh Navy's warnings that they were intruding into Bangladesh waters The area is well within Bangladesh's maritime territory and marked as deep-sea blocks 8-

Dhaka officially lodged a protest with the Myanmar ambassador or Sunday, Myanmar protested back to the Bangladeshi ambassador to that country the same day.

Besides requesting South Korean government to ask Daewoo to stop its activities, Dhaka also requested Myanmar's closest ally China to ask Myanmar to quit Bangladesh waters until the maritime boundary is demarcated as per UN guidelines.

In 2005, Myanmar awarded rights of exploration in the area to Daewoo, which conducted the initial feasibility studies in 2007 Bangladesh's protest came after Daewoo began formal exploration in the area in September.

#### BJSA deadline

FROM PAGE 1

They appreciated the government's decision to withdraw administration-cadre officials Hedayetullah Al Mamun and Humayun Kabir from the posts of additional secretary and joint secretary of the law ministry.

They called for appointing officials from the judiciary to the two senior posts.

Dhaka District Judge AKM Ishtiaq Husain chaired the meeting. Judicial officials from different districts attended the meeting.

#### 2 of 11 doctors

FROM PAGE 1

November 6 asked the 11 doctors, including Prof Alauddin and Prof Gopal, and BSMMU Registrar in the office of its registrar on November 9 in connection with the skewed medical document.

Prof Gopal told The Daily Star that he had never been on any medical board formed for Falu and had nothing to do with any recommendation for him. It was not possible to contact

The other doctors who were asked to report to the SC registrar are Prof Serajuddin Ahammed, chairman of orthopaedic surgery department, Prof AKM Fazlul Haque, chairman of colorectal They came on charter buses, | surgery department, Prof AKM ABM Abdullah, associate professor of medicine, Dr M Idris Ali, associate professor of spinal surgery, Dr Md Jonayed Shafiq, associate professor of anaesthesia, and Dr Chowdhury Meshkat Ahmed, associate professor of cardiology.

### Iran leader offers Obama landmark congratulations

AP, Tehran

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Thursday congratulated Barack Obama on his election win the first time an Iranian leader has offered such wishes to a US president-elect since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

An analyst said Ahmadinejad's message was a gesture from the hard-line president that he is open to some sort of reconciliation with the US

Obama has said he is willing to hold direct diplomacy with Iranian leaders as a way to break the impasse between the two countries or give the US more credibility to press for tougher sanctions if talks fail. His policy marks a departure from the Bush administration, which has refused high-level engagements with Iran.

Ahmadinejad congratulated the Democrat on "attracting the majority of voters in the election," according to excerpts carried by the official IRNA news

The Iranian leader also said he hopes Obama will "use the opportunity to serve the (American) people and leave a good name for history" during his term in office. Iran and US have no formal

and the hostage drama when militant Iranian students held 52 Americans captive 444 days.

diplomatic relations since 1979

remain tense, with Washington accusing Iran of trying to develop nuclear weapons and of providing support for Shia militants who are killing US soldiers in Iraq charges Iran denies.

In Jerusalem, Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, a contender for prime minister in her country's elections, warned against any dialogue with Iran a first sign of Israeli disagreement with the incoming US administration.

### 3 of a family killed in road accident

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Three members of a family were killed and ten others injured when a bus hit the pedestrians at Navaran on the Jessore-Benapole highway yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Javed Ali, 60, his wife Rahela Khatun, 52 and grandson Rahul, 5, of east Burujbagan village under Navaran upazila.

Javed and Rahela died on the spot while Rahul on way to hospital. The injured are undergoing treatment at different hospitals and clinic.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at noon as the driver of the Benapole-bound bus from Jessore lost his control over

### Certificate trade

against those colleges. For this purpose, a committee comprising top officials of the education min-

found that the rooms were dark and dusty and most of the pieces of furniture were broken.

It could be easily realised that most of the rooms were not used for long and the colleges were unfit to offer BEd degree. A committee led by Education

colleges in four groups examining the education quality in BEd and MEd courses.

The categories are red, grey, yellow and green. Red indicates the worst situation, grey represents poor condition, yellow medium quality and green refers to well performing TT colleges.

Seven colleges have been marked red, 33 grey, another 33 yellow, while only five private and 14 public colleges earned green. The committee recommended

that the National University cancel the red-marked institutions --College of Education in Jhalakathi, Patuakhali Teachers Training College, Dakkhinbanga Teachers Training College in Patuakhali, Dakkhinbanga Teachers Training College in Moukaran in Patuakhali, College of Education in Barisal, Pirojpur Teachers Training College and College of Education in Comilla.

Sources in the education ministry say six private universities also provide BEd degree and their quality is tremendously low. The universities are Eastern University, Shanta Mariam University, Asian

#### Allow convicts

FROM PAGE 1

It also demeaned that the fresh local body poll schedule be announced after the nation election. Ashraf observed that both the national and local body elections could be foiled if the two polls are held in a close time gap.

November 13. The ALCWC meeting also

demanded the Election Commission to give copy voter list with photograph to the polling

committee dissolved between January 11 and the day of resumption of indoor politics would be treated as illegal and the committee would function legally, the meeting decided.

Shop owner Solaiman told police that Ershad had been working in the shop for the last four

University.

The education ministry issued

an order in September 2007 stating that outer campuses of the private universities cannot offer BEd degree, but none is paying any "The trainees of the government TT colleges need to write and submit 28 assignments during

the assignments from nearest government TT colleges and give those to their trainees, who just copy and submit those to their authorities," a teacher of Dhaka Government TT College said. National University affiliates private TT colleges, most of which continue offering BEd course in

chancellor of NU Prof Aftab Ahmed, sources say. M Mozammel Haq, president of Private TT Colleges Teachers Association, denied the allegations and said selling certificates in these

institutions is not true. "The government should not create discriminations between the public and private TT colleges. The government teachers receive modern training regularly and even go abroad. But we don't get such opportunities. We request the government to provide special training for us to improve our

#### Janata Dal MPs quit Lok Sabha over MNS issue

PTI, New Delhi

Five Janata Dal (U) Lok Sabha members from Bihar put in their papers yesterday to protest against violence inflicted on north Indians in Maharashtra.

Singh Lallan, Kailash Baitha and Meena Singh. Earlier on Thursday, JD(U) parliamentary party leader Prabhunath Singh declared that the party MPs would give their

The MPs are Prabhunath Singh,

George Fernandes, Rajiv Ranjan

Somnath Chatterjee on Friday. But, with Somnath Chatterjee admitted to hospital with a chest ailment, the resignations were submitted to the LS secretary general.

resignations to Lok Sabha speaker

Announcing the decision Prabhunath Singh said that there was no option left before his party but asking its LS members to resign as the Maharashtra government was "patronising" those involved in such attacks and the central government was "silent" on the "The decision was taken as no

Police suspect involvement of Manmohan Singh a few days back," Singh said. The decision to quit came after RJD claimed on Tuesday that around 75 percent of the party's MPs and MLAs had sent their resignations to party chief Lalu Prasad

action was taken against the cul-

prits even after an all-party delega-

S Africa

FROM PAGE 16 Kallis went for a big slog-sweep against Nayeem Islam only to be left shaking his head in dismay after Tamim dived backwards to pluck the ball out of thin air.

In front of a cheering crowd the South Africans lost wickets in regular interval after a huge messup saw Hashim Amla falling victim of run out to put end the impressive 56-run opening partnership.

Amla made 35 off 34 balls that contained six sweetly-timed boundaries.

Left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan gave another quick breakthrough when Justin Ontong went for the big haul over long-off but to no benefit rather hitting it straight down the throat of Abdur Razzak Ontong scored 27. Bangladesh took control after

the dismissal of Kallis as the scoreboard was reading on 165-4 after de Villiers, who looked to ease the pressure by hitting big, holed out on the deep mid-wicket fence when Imrul Kayes took a good low catch off Nayeem Islam. The innings of Villiars, who added 35, could have been finished early if wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim hadn't dropped him off Syed Rasel when he was on seven.

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza then removed dangerman Mark Boucher through another excellent catch by Naeem Islam after Boucher flicked the ball away only to find mid-wicket for eight.

South Africa however blasted off towards the end by scoring 89 runs in the last ten overs thanks to Louw's 7-ball 23 that saw three huge sixes and a boundary while captain Johan Botha smashed a 17ball 23 with the help of five bound-

Nayeem Islam captured three wickets for 60 runs in his share of ten overs while Shakib took two for 48 runs.

#### BNP undecided

FROM PAGE 1

Jote (Aminee) are pressing the party hard for a decision in favour of polls participation, some of its [BNP] top leaders appear hellbent on boycotting the election.

They say the party must not

join the parliamentary race if its

detained and convicted leaders are not allowed to contest. Addressing a public gathering in Chittagong yesterday, Khaleda alleged the government has failed

however did not drop any hints about their next course of action. On condition of anonymity, a former BNP lawmaker yesterday told The Daily Star, "It would not be wise to boycott the election as people want to get out of the current situation through a free

The former prime minister

#### AL nomination

FROM PAGE 1 Meanwhile, nomination seekers of AL bought around 2500 nomination forms at Tk 7500 each until

Senior AL leaders, including AL

presidium member Amir Hossain

Amu, Abdur Razzak and Matia Chowdhury bought nomination forms yesterday. Amir Hossain Amu bought two forms against Jhalakathi-1 and Jhalakathi-2 constituencies, while Abdur Razzak bought two forms

against Shariatpur-1 and Shariatpur-3 constituencies. Matia Chowdhury bought form for Sherpur-2 constituency, while AL advisory council member HT Imam bought nomination form for

Sirajganj-4 constituency. AL sold around 300 forms to leaders of Dhaka Division, 60 forms to leaders of Chittagong Division, 45 forms to leaders of Khulna Division, 70 forms to leaders of Rajshahi Division, 40 forms to leaders of Barisal Division and 12

#### forms to leaders of Sylhet Division. BNP observes

FROM PAGE 16

placed a wreath at the grave of the late president and founder of

In the afternoon, she

addressed a rally in Chittagong to

mark the day. Leaders and activists of the BNP and its front organisations visited the grave of Zia and offered prayers and placed wreaths.

The BNP front organisations and affiliated socio-cultural bodies organised discussions, seminars, milad mahfil, Qurankhwani, video shows and cultural functions on the occa-On November 28 last year, the

present caretaker government

scrapped November 7 as a public

holiday. It had been a public holiday since 1976 until the Awami League government cancelled it in 1996. After coming to power in 2001, the BNP-led four-party alliance government tion of Bihar MPs met PM re-instated the day's previous status. The JSD organised a discussion at the Taher Auditorium in

the capital. The 1975 Ghatak

Dalal Nirmul Committee held a

rally at Bangabandhu Avenue

yesterday to observe the day as

"civil-military upsurge day"

### US missile strike

FROM PAGE 16 in to the foreign ministry to hear the dissatisfaction of Pakistani officials.

Pakistan's national security adviser also reportedly made a personal protest to White House officials in Washington after a strike in September that claimed the lives of civilians.

Official sources, however, admit privately that successful US strikes benefit Pakistan's military efforts to eliminate foreign militants on its

Last weekend, two separate strikes in the North Waziristan and South Waziristan areas killed at least 32 mainly al-Qaeda operatives, according to Pakistani security sources.

One just outside the North Waziristan town of Mir Ali killed an Egyptian al-Qaeda operative, Abu Jihad Al-Misri, described by the United States as the terror network's propaganda chief. Pakistan is waiting to see how

US president-elect Barack Obama will tackle militancy in Pakistan and Afghanistan once he takes office in January. The Democratic senator from

Illinois has said he favours continuing the strikes and increasing the number of US troops to crush an insurgency by Taliban and other militants in Afghanistan.

Pakistan rejects accusations

that it is not doing enough to tackle

the extremist threat within its own borders. Last month the military said that some 1,500 rebels and 73 soldiers had died since an operation began in August against militants in the semi-autonomous Bajaur region of northwest

Pakistan bordering Afghanistan. In fresh attacks at least 16 militants were killed Friday as Pakistani forces bombarded several sus pected Taliban hideouts in a restive

#### Saifur

FROM PAGE 16 constituency," the former minister

said replying to a query. When asked about the party's internal feuds in Sylhet and elsewhere, he said necessary steps have already been taken to end intra-party squabbling.

field new candidates in about 60 constituencies as many former BNP lawmakers had been jailed. The former finance minister left Sylhet for the capital in the eve-

He said his party might have to

Saifur has long been in dispute with Sylhet district BNP convener and former lawmaker M Ilyas Ali.

Edible oil

Bazar, Shyambazar and Jatrabari--

but prices of those vegetables are

still quite high. Bean, a popular vegetable of winter-season, was selling at Tk 35 to Tk 50 in different city markets yesterday whereas potato of the current season at Tk 60. Cabbage and cauliflower were sold at Tk 15

northwest tribal region known as a safe haven for militants, officials

Jets pounded the towns of Damadola, Sewai and Sipra in Bajaur district where Pakistani forces have clashed with Taliban and Al-Qaeda-linked militants for the past three months, local administration official Jamil Khan told AFP.

"Details of the casualties are coming in, "he said.

Another security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said 16 Taliban militants were killed. The toll may rise as the jets repeatedly bombed the suspected bases, headded.

At least 14 people were killed in Pakistani air strikes in Bajaur on Thursday and 15 extremists died in similar raids on Wednesday, according to local officials.

Security officials said the bombing campaign has been stepped up as land forces were planning a ground offensive in these towns where militants are said to have underground bunkers.

A suicide bomber blew himself

up at a meeting of governmentbacked tribal elders on Thursday, killing 22 and injuring dozens Pakistan's tribal belt became a safe haven for hundreds of extremists who fled Afghanistan after the

have since set up training camps. al-Qaeda number two Ayman al-Zawahiri escaped a CIA Predator raid in Damadola in January 2004, Pakistani officials have said.

Egyptian-born Zawahiri, who

US-led toppling of the hardline

Taliban regime in late 2001 and

has a 25-million-dollar US bounty on his head, is said to have secretly visited the area in the past, according to Pakistani security officials. 35 hurt as two

gunfight

groups lock in

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar At least 35 people were injured yesterday in a gunfight between

two groups of criminals at

Adharghona village in Cox's Bazar.

30 to 40 followers of local criminal Abdul Karim attacked the house of Abu Taher, a follower of local criminal Ramzan, at Adharghona village of Maheshkhali at 6:00am over

Police and witnesses said about

They beat up the residents and looted valuables. On information, Ramzan's

followers rushed to the scene and

establishing control in the area.

swooped on Karim's men triggering a two-hour-long gunfight. Later, the criminals left the spot sensing the presence of police. Of the injured, Mohammad Ridwan and Abu Zafar were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital while Sona Mia, Saiful

Ahmed were admitted to the Cox's Bazar and Dula Hazara hospitals. Additional policemen were deployed in the area to ward off any

untoward incident.

Islam, Abul Kasem and Khalil

## Obama, world leaders

to 30 per piece.

FROM PAGE 16 10-minute telephone conversation with Japanese Prime Minister Taro

Aso also raised Afghanistan, climate change and North Korea, the Japanese foreign ministry said. Mexican President Felipe Calderon and the US presidentelect discussed immigration and drug smuggling on the restive

southern border, the Mexican

Aso, their spokesmen said.

foreign ministry. Most of the world leaders will attend the emergency summit on the economic crisis in Washington on November 15, but Obama has not yet announced whether he will take a role in the event.

Even some of the US's tradi-

tional arch foes have welcomed

Obama's election such as Iranian

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who issued a message of congratulation on Thursday. Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, branded a dictator by Bush after staging a one-man election in June, also extended an olive branch to Obama Friday by saying he "cherish(ed) the hope of he looked forward to meeting working with your administra-

Obama was to convene his paigntrail. economic advisers on Friday before his first press conference (at 1930 GMT) since his triumph in Tuesday's election against challenges we face as a nation," he Republican John McCain.

Several names mentioned as potential Treasury overseers to command a 700-billion-dollar bank bailout were to attend the meeting, including former treasury secretary Larry Summers, ex-Federal Reserve chief Paul Volcker and Laura Tyson, chairwoman of the National Economic Council under President Bill Clinton. Ahead of a White House meeting

with Bush on Monday, Obama appointed Illinois congressman Rahm Emanuel as his chief of staff. the first senior official to join the next administration. Clinton's White House credited

Democratic partisan who has the nickname of "Rahmbo." The appointment stirred the first post-election attacks from the

demoralised Republican Party.

Democratic takeover of the House

bare-knuckle operative and a fierce

He has a reputation for being a

"This is an ironic choice for a

president-elect who has promised

to change Washington, make poli-

of Representatives in 2006.

tics more civil, and govern from the centre," said John Boehner, the Republican minority leader in the Bush said he had directed "unprecedented" cooperation between the White House and

Obama before the Democrat is

inaugurated on January 20, in the

first presidential handover since

the September 11 attacks of 2001.

"In the coming weeks, we will ask administration officials to brief the Obama team on ongoing policy issues ranging from the financial markets to the war in Iraq," Bush said at the White House. Obama said in a statement that

almost hourly basis on the cam-'I thank him for reaching out in the spirit of bipartisanship that will be required to meet the many

Aside from the listing US econ-

Bush, whom he lambasted on an

omy, one of Obama's most urgent priorities will be to wind down Bush's war in Iraq and redirect the military focus to hunting down al-Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan. The president-elect, who has spent the past two days catching up

with his young family and thanking

his campaign staff in Chicago, is already receiving classified CIA intelligence as he prepares to take Obama received his first

national security briefing from Emanuel, 48, is a veteran of Mike McConnell, director of national intelligence, at the FBI with masterminding the building in Chicago Thursday.

#### He also said the state of emer- meeting that took place between gency must be lifted to make the 4:30pm and 5:10pm.

seen struggling to manage the The massive gathering of all over Chittagong Division. people on the road to Chittagong was a part of the party's strategy to exhibit its popularity and glazing the image of its chief, who had been arrested by the military backed caretaker government on

Some other party leaders with their supporters at different junctions.

highway at different points. reached the areas.

around 4:00pm.

Flanked by her senior party colleagues, Khaleda waved to the

crowd who gathered there from

around the rally venue came to a

stand still, as the ralliers spilled

over on to the streets from the

Traffic in the entire area

vast field. Several groups of honking motorcyclists had been disrupting traffic on the city streets since morning as it turned into a city of processions and slogans. On the occasion of the BNP chief's arrival in Chittagong yesterday, the sufferings of com-

Intersection, New Market Patharghata, Momin Road, Loyal Road and Sirajuddowla Road. On Fridays, Chittagong i usually very quiet as most of its residents are usually busy attend-

ing family events on the weekly

But yesterday, the scenario was very different, as along with | Muhammad Abdul Gafur to appear party supporters people from all walks of life thronged Laldighi witness the first major political showdown ahead of the parliamentary election by one of the two major political parties after a break of almost two years since the declaration of the state of emergency in January last year.

Prof Alauddin. He is now abroad.

FROM PAGE 16 storeroom on Thursday night and was found dead in the morning.

## Current US-Iranian relations thesteering.

istry will be formed very soon," said the adviser. It is widely alleged that most of the time the private TT colleges remain closed. During a visit to a large number of such institutions in and around the capital, it was

Joint Secretary Shafiullah investigated the activities of TT colleges from May 2006 to March 2007 and found a lot of irregularities. The committee has categorised the

The last date for submission of nomination forms for both polls is

The dismissal of any party unit

Extortionist

the other employee in the killing, as he remained missing since mornand the rest would follow suit.

#### University, World University Northern University and Uttara

their training, whereas the private to create a level playing field. TT colleges don't maintain any such criteria. Their teachers collect

and fair election." spite of their failure to meet the requirements. Most of the poor performing colleges got permission during tenure of former vice-

# quality," he said.