FROM PAGE 1

The sources however said the party at present does not have enough candidates for the new constituencies. Neither has it any idea about the new political map of the capital.

Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain and chairperson's Adviser Brig Gen (retd) ASM Hannan Shah might stand for

new faces might make it to the BNP ticket here.

A city unit leader said it might sound incredible, but the fact remains that BNP does not have Dhaka.

about the new constituencies. Besides, many of our leaders are in jail. These are factors that have taken us quite off-guard," he added.

decided to accept whatever decisions come from the former lawmakers.

Party insiders said Khaleda Zia might contest from Gulshan area Hannan Shah from Dhaka-6

City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, who had once sided with the pro-reform faction, might vie for Dhaka-6 or Dhaka-7 if the party

According to local leaders, now detained former lawmaker Mirza and -9 (Khilgaon and Sabujbagh).

If he is disqualified for the polls, he will be a major factor in choosing candidates for the seats. In that case, former city BNP secretary Abdus Salam and former lawmaker Shirin Sultana (Dhaka-9) will have brighter prospects for nomination.

### Khaleda-Hasina

FROM PAGE 1

Tusscher told reporters after an hour-long meeting with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her

Asked about the polls under the state of emergency, Tusscher said it is an internal affair of the country. The government and the Election Commission (EC) would decide how to create a congenial atmosphere for the election.

The envoys however stressed the importance of ensuring that all parties take part in the upcoming

better parliamentary culture and close co-operations between the political parties to strengthen democracy.

The Dutch envoy said, "We told

hands of political parties, and as is your responsibility to carry for-

ward your country." Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury,

BNP chairperson's foreign affairs adviser, said, "BNP chief told the for that to happen, the government must create a level playing field."

Khandaker Delwar Hossain and former foreign adviser Riaz Rahman were present during the meeting.

Islami Ameer Matiur Rahman Nizami and Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid, he was kept in the Champakoli cell emerged from the prison cells at with division status.

A special court Monday sent the three to jail on their surrender in the Barapukuria case.

In another development, Barisal City Corporation (BCC) Mayor Majibar Rahman Sarwar was released from Mymensingh jail

Jail sources said the mayor, who was arrested on May 29 last year in the capital's Gulshan area, was freed on bail from the High Court.

Meanwhile, former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu has been kept in an isolated cell in Dhaka jail. He was taken back from BSMMU for assault on a deputy jailer Monday.

Deputy Inspector General Siddique told The Daily Star, "His division status has been suspended for the next three months for attacking the jail official."

Former BNP ministers Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, who were released from BSMMU prison cells, were staying in the hospital for treatment.

Of the other detained ex-BNP MPs, Salauddin Ahmed wants to compete from Dhaka 4 and 5, Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu from Dhaka-7 and Mosaddek Ali Falu from Dhaka-11.

If Falu fails to qualify, Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal President Barkatullah Bulu might get the nod for Dhaka 11 (Ramna-Tejgaon).

The party will go for new faces if the other detained ex-lawmakers too are debarred from the election.

Sources said Khaleda's lawyer Nasiruddin Asim, a former leader of Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal, is trying to secure nomination for Dhaka-12 (Dhanmondi Besides, they said, a number of Hazaribagh) and former lawmaker Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmad for Dhaka-13 (Mohammadpur, Hazaribagh and part of Dhanmondi)

Ekhlas Uddin Mollah, Bazlul enough candidates to run from Basit Anzu and former lawmaker SA Khaleque's son might get nomination for three constituencies in Mirpur, Shah Ali and Pallabi areas.

> Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, his son Naushad Jamir and former energy adviser Mahmudur Rahman too are in the nomination race for the city seats.

### Tension remains

FROM PAGE 1

Locals and Myanmar citizens who came to Cox's Bazar yesterday said 10 to 12 warships moved to the river from Akiab port on Sunday night

Myanmar has mobilised troops to assist its border force Nasaka and dug buckers along the borders. It also curbed cross border movement of people and transports by creating a 'curfew-like' situation. Trade between the two countries has been stalled.

Tension between the two coun tries was created as Myanmar started oil and gas exploration last week in Bangladesh's territorial waters. Against this backdrop, Dhaka deployed naval ships in the site and sent a high-level diplomatic team to Yangon seeking to resolve the issue through negotia-

The crisis in the Bay apparently ended following withdrawal of the fossil fuel exploration rig of Korean company Daewoo on Saturday. But tension grew as Myanmar mobilised forces on the land border.

Our Correspondent in Bandarban reports: The tense situation on the border remained unchanged yesterday with Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Nasaka still on alert.

Official sources and locals said additional forces are on standby on both sides of the border.

In Naikhongchhari areas under Bandarban hill district, BDR personnel have been on round-theclock patrol under close supervision of senior officials.

Regional Commander of Bandarban area Brig Gen Mahafuzur Rahaman and Sector Commander of BDR in Chittagong Col Akhter are in the bordering

areas to monitor the situation. Meanwhile, three Myanmar citizens, arrested for intruding into Bangladesh, were sent to jail yesterday. BDR caught them from Reju border under Naikhongchhari

upazila Sunday evening. Dhaka and Yangon have so far held three rounds of talks to resolve the maritime boundary dispute one of the major political parties it and the fourth round is expected to be held in Dhaka next week, foreign ministry officials said.

## Mosharraf, Altaf

FROMPAGE 16

BSMMU prison cells at 1:25pm on High Court bail."

The Supreme Court on Monday upheld bail orders secured by the BNP leaders in Barapukuria coalmine corruption case.

BNP standing committee member Mosharraf, arrested in March by joint forces, is accused in six cases while former Air Force chief Altaf Hossain, arrested on May 28 last year, is accused in two cases.

Over 200 BNP leaders and activists including BNP Vice-president and former minister MK Anwar and former MP Monirul Huq Chowdhury received them as they Block-CofBSMMU.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court had rejected an appeal of the Anti-Corruption Commission to overturn a High Court order granting bail to the former ministers and staying the proceedings against them in the Barapukuria coalmine case.

A special court on Monday ordered BNP leader M Saifur Rahman, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami and its Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid to jail after they surrendered before the court in the same case.

Another accused in the case, former state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain was sent to jail Sunday after he surrendered before the special court.

The ACC submitted the charge sheet against 16 people, including former prime minister Khaleda Zia, on October 5 this year. The commission filed the case

on Feb 26, accusing the then government leaders of incurring loss of nearly Tk 158 crore to the state through irregularities in awarding

# president detained for graft link

Taiwan's former president Chen Shui-bian was arrested yesterday as prosecutors sought to detain him in connection with a long-running

Chen is accused of money laundering, embezzling government funds, taking bribes and forging documents, a spokesman for the investigation said.

A defiant Chen put his handcuffed hands in the air as he stepped out of the prosecutor's office and shouted "political persecution"

If the prosecutors' demand is met, Chen would become the first former Taiwanese president to be formally detained, following a graft scandal that has gripped the island

ernment

Chen was earlier Tuesday questioned by prosecutors investigating a money-laundering scandal involving both him and his wife.

Under interrogation Tuesday, Chen chose not to answer some questions, while dozens of support ers protested outside the investigators' office.

He earlier accused the Chinafriendly Kuomintang (KMT) govern ment of persecuting him under pressure from Beijing, which considers Taiwan a renegade province to be reunified with China, by force if necessary

Communist Party see me as their number one prisoner as I am the biggest stone blocking their way to reunification," pro-independence Chentoldreporters. He accused his successor,

top envoy to the island last week. had a bad time in Taiwan... so Ma Ying-jeou wants to put me in jail as a sacrifice to appease China. I am very

role," the former president said. "I will not be imprisoned in vain live Taiwan democracy. Long live

Taiwan independence," he said. The Chinese envoy's historic visit to Taipei last week was billed as bringing China and Taiwan closer economically, but was marred by huge anti-Beijing protests that lef

### scores injured. Bimstec meet

sub-regional grouping. The first summit of the grouping was held in

The CA is scheduled to have a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today, according to an official of the for-

eign ministry. He, along with other Bimstec leaders, is scheduled to call on Indian President Protibha Patil at the Rashtrapati Bhaban the same

meetings with some Bimstec leaders on the sidelines of the summit. Chowdhury and CA's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim, among others, are members of the

Bangladesh delegation led by the head of the caretaker government.

home on Friday.

# FROM PAGE 1

secretary Tasnim Alam claimed that around 100 activists were injured in police beating at the rally that was organised by Jamaat Dhaka city unit.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police for Motijheel area AKM Nahidul Islam told reporters that some unruly activists tried to occupy the road

police headquarters said lifting ban on political meeting and procession by the government was misinterpreted and the political parties were violating the EPR

unexpectedly. The release urged all to obey the law and refrain from such political programmes.

Jamaat Dhaka city unit secretary Hamidur Rahman Azad told reporters that they were holding the rally peacefully to protest the arrest of BNP and Jamaat leaders and to demand their release but police attacked them without any provocation.

Speaking at the meeting, Jamaat leaders alleged that the arrest of BNP and Jamaat leaders was a plot to keep the four-party out of the upcoming polls.

Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Mohammad Kamaruzzaman was the chief guest at the rally, which was presided over by Jamaat Dhaka city unit Ameer Rafiqul Islam Khan.

rallies demanding release of the

detained BNP and Jamaat leaders.

Polls must be held

This was Evans' first meeting with the AL chief at her Sudha Sadan home where a wide range of issues, including the upcoming parliamentary elections and how the ruling and opposition parties could contribute after the election, came up for dis-

Hasan said Hasina and Evans emphasised the need for holding the elections on December 18 with participation of all political parties.

"If a party thinks that there is a level playing field only when their victory is ensured, then the nation cannot wait for them to come around. The election must be held on the announced date for this reason, said Hasan quoting the former pre-

The caretaker government is in an agreement to hold a free, fair and credible election by December for the transition to democracy and AL wants participation of all in this regard, he said.

"Our leader has said we want to establish politics of engagement by excluding politics of confrontation and denial. It has been discussed widely how the next ruling and opposition parties can contribute to govern the country jointly," he said

During the meeting, Sheikh Hasina sought more assistance from the British government in developing Bangladesh. Briefing journalists after the hour-

long meeting, Evans said, "I had the first time privilege to call on Sheikh Hasina. We discussed a wide range of issues, including the elections.' It is very important that the elec-

tions are held on schedule, Evans

said. He hoped that the election results will be accepted by the peo-In reply to a question about the possibility of BNP's staying away from the elections, the high commissioner said BNP must make this decision. He said he hoped that there

will be widest possible participation

### Mashrate

FROM PAGE 16 Mashrafe and Rokibul Hasan.The Bangladesh vice-captain has been complaining of severe back pain from the second match where he batted with a runner.

was all set to give paceman Mahbubul Alam a debut but added Shahadat later in the evening, Nazmul Hossain will play in place of Rokibul, who had a wretched time so far.

Bangladesh team management

The Tigers are all set to play with three seam bowlers at the Buffalo Park, the smallest but perhaps the most visually pleasing ground in South Africa.

They may sacrifice one batsman to accommodate an additional pace bowler in the side as captain Mohammad Ashraful said that he felt a seamer short in the first two games where they conceded too many runs during the batsmancontrolled Powerplay.

In that case, Mahbubul, who made his Test debut in the raininterrupted match against New Zealand at Mirpur, will share the new ball with Syed Rasel.

"As a captain it would be great for me if I got three seam bowlers because I felt the absence of one seam bowler in the first two games, said Ashraful.

The captain also hoped that the fielders will get back to their best in the match. "We fielded well in the first

match but failed to carry it on the second game," added the ace bats-

# Milk test

FROM PAGE 1

Commission (BAEC) and BSTI to test those again in their laboratories for melamine contamination.

The brands are Dano, Red Cow, Diploma, Nido, Anlene, Yashili 1, Yashili 2, and Sweet Baby 2.

The HC directed the government to test all brands of powdered milk available on local market in the three designated laboratories, and to submit the test results to the court 'as soon as possible'.

It also ordered the government to publish in newspapers the results of all the tests done so far to let the public have access to those. The HC order came in response to a petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh on October 23.

Azmal said they have already collected newspaper reports on the HC order but found differences among those.

"We must comply with the court order but we must also know exactly what the order is," he said. Earlier, DU chemistry depart-

ment found melamine in all the eight brands, while BSTI and private laboratory Plasma Plus found melamine only in Yashili-1 that created confusion among the public. The government then decided to send samples of all the eight

brands to an ISO-recognised

laboratory in Bangkok, the BAEC

and Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) for tests. The BAEC found melamine in seven out of the eight brands while the Bangkok laboratory and BCSIR found melamine only in the

three Chinese brands. The HC issued the directives to the government after it submitted all these test results. It however lifted for 21 days the

ban it had earlier imposed on display and sale of five of the eight brands of powdered milk. The brands are Diploma, Red Cow, Dano, Anlene and Nido fortified instant.

# Licensed arms

FROM PAGE 1

Law enforcement agencies would be deployed according to the demand of the Election Commission (EC), Karim said.

Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad, Rab Director General Hasan Mahmud Khandker and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) commissioner were also present at

Yesterday's law-and-order meeting asked different intelli gence agencies to intensify their vigilance along the border to prevent infiltration of criminals into

(CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda will officer, home secretary, inspector of Bangladesh Rifles, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Ansar, Coastguards and National Security Intelligence and DGFI and additional inspector general of police of Special Branch (SB) are expected to attend the meeting.

# AL talks with EC

FROM PAGE 1 Election conducting committee, said they pointed out to the EC that those do not create prob-

lems in the polls process. The AL leaders again asked the EC to defer upazila election

by a 'logical' period of time. The chief election commissioner and two election commissioners were present at the talks with the five-member AL team that included Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, Abdul Mannan

Khan and Dr Dipu Moni. Clarifying the problems concerning nomination forms, Abdul Mannan Khan, who is office secretary of the party, said the forms contain a provision stating if there is any case nomination papers, case numare to be mentioned.

almost all districts after the government had made a list of godfathers and corruption suspects. "It may not be possible for a

candidate to remember details of all those cases.

state that there might be some other cases against him. "The EC however said those who will submit nomination

Meanwhile, ducting committee at the

Gulshan residence of HT Imam. The AL leaders told the delegation that withdrawal of the state of emergency and deferral of upazila polls are needed for holding a free and fair election.

FROM PAGE 1 Television operators; so the outlay should be shown as election

expenditure," he said. The CEC was speaking at the launching ceremony of 'Code of Conduct for the Mass Media in Election Coverage', held at the Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management

Commission (EC) will sit to think through the issue in a couple of weeks. The commission will also discuss it with cable television

The EC developed the code of conduct with technical support

from Unesco. "The media should not broad-

Terming the code of conduct for the mass media a gentleman's agreement, he said the EC has nothing to do beyond moral persuasion if anybody violates the

political parties get equitable access to the mass media, voters get adequate and accurate information about matters relevant to elections and the mass media provide election education to voters including those who might have traditionally been marginal ised and excluded.

coordinator of Gonoshasthaya journalism. Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) Sakhawat Hossain was

# Bush, Obama

FROM PAGE 16

Bushes, pulling up to the White House's South Portico 11 minutes early. The couples traded warm and easy greetings in the crisp autumn sunshine, with the wives exchanging pleasantries about the fall hues each wore Mrs. Bush in a brown dress and Mrs. Obama in a red one.

While Obama and Bush, in business suits, proceeded waving and smiling down the White House Colonnade for nearly two hours of private talks, Mrs. Obama and Mrs. Bush had their own agenda: talk of raising children in most unusual circumstances. Mrs. Bush conducted a tour of the living quarters of the historic mansion and made introductions to the army of residence staff who look after first fami-

Michelle Obama had toured the White House before with daughters Malia, who is 10, and Sasha, who is 7.

But the two women had never met. The 43rd president and the man who will be the 44th and first black commander in chief met alone in the Oval Office, with no handlers or staff. It was Obama's first time in the storied workspace, even though he had been to the White House previously for events.

Neither the Bushes nor the

Obamas spoke to reporters. Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs said the two men "talked extensively" about both the economic situation and foreign policy. Obama inherits from Bush an economy in deep turmoil and two wars that are far from won, among other prob-

Topics between them included the housing industry, foreclosures, the auto industry in crisis, as well as "the need to get the economy back on track," Gibbs said.

Obama's aides said the presidentelect discussed with Bush the need for urgent action to help struggling automakers. Gibbs said "it was a discussion about the broad health of the industry" that was not just limited to just any one of the nation's three largest car makers. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid asked the administration this weekend to consider expanding the \$700 billion bailout for financial firms to include car companies. At a news conference Friday, Obama said he hoped the Bush administration would "do everything it can to accelerate the retooling assistance that Congress has already enacted." The White House did not reject

such an idea. Presidential spokeswoman Dana Perino said Bush would listen to lawmakers if, when they come back for a post-election session, "they decide to try to do something more on the auto industry." She said Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson would review the rescue plan again, but also suggested the administration needs Congress help to determine which industries might qualify for help under the new

Regarding any new economic stimulus plan, the White House has repeatedly stressed that its main priority is passage of a free trade

agreement with Colombia. As for Obama's first glimpse of the Oval Office, Gibbs said, "He said it

was a very, very nice office." Perino said Bush described the meeting as "constructive, relaxed and friendly," covering problems at home and abroad, and said he personally pledged a smooth transition. Bush gave Obama a sneak peek at White House highlights, such as the Lincoln Bedroom and the president's office in the residence, after their hour-plus in the Oval Office.

Such White House meetings have a history going back decades. They are discussions that can range wherever the two men choose, whether on specific issues, how best to make decisions, the extraordinary resources that accompany any American president, the special weight of the office or even the secrets about the building that few people are privy to. It's also a chance

is by no means guaranteed. Michelle Obama checked out Georgetown Day School in the morning and then Sidwell Friends School, which Chelsea Clinton attended when her parents were in the White House, in the afternoon before join-

private school there.

went on all around the building. Bush chief of staff Josh Bolten and Obama transition manager John Podesta, himself a former White House chief of staff under President Clinton, held their own talks after standing off to the side together in the Rose Garden watching their bosses walk by. Obama's likely White House press secretary, Gibbs, got a glimpse of the West Wing digs he

probably will occupy including a fancy bank of television screens. Outside, crowds built throughout the day with people pressing their noses through the fencing around the White House complex in hopes of getting a glimpse of the first family to be. Street vendors operating nearby were already stocked with Obama-

related merchandise Obama travelled the streets of Washington and up the White House drive in a motorcade upgraded from campaign mode to full-blown presidential level. There were the two identical black, heavily armored limousines one a decoy like those Bush rides in, only without the seal or flying flags. There was also a hazardous materials truck, a communications vehicle and an ominouslooking, armed-to-the-teeth counterassault team filling the seats

befitted a White House visit than the smart casual look they had adopted for the campaign plane. Even the entourage's ever-cheerful luggage handler donned a coat and tie for the day, though he didn't come along to theWhite House. And there was one small but unmistakable sign that it will be

dent into his own house. ing for takeoff, he was heard to say into his cell phone: "I'm not going to

Washington over the next several weeks." These White House sessions are designed to put the presidency above politics, temporarily at least. This year's took place less than a week after Election Day, giving less time

to fade. But both Bush and Obama have set a tone of graciousness and cooperation that has surprised and

pleased many observers. Both aware of the political implications as well as the dire times facing the nation, Obama has shown no inclination for gloating and Bush has been notably generous in his

post-election comments. Comity aside, there are plenty of

tension points. Bush and Obama met as the main transition news of the day was the Democratic team's preparations to rescind many of the incumbent's executive orders. Podesta said Obama's aides were poring over all of them and will make such reversals

Cutter said in a statement that no decisions have yet been made on executive orders. "Before he makes any decisions on potential executive or legislative actions, he will be conferring with congressional leaders on both sides of the aisle, as well as interested groups," she said.

Said Podesta, delivering a concrete rebuke of Bush only about 24 hours before the two men sat down together: "We need to get off the course that the Bush administration

# Pak militants

Pakistani security forces traded fire with the gunmen but were forced to retreat. The militants took the trucks along with the drivers.

Mahmood blamed Pakistani

"We are using all resources to trace and recover the hijacked trucks, some of which were carrying vehicles for the allied forces in

Helicopter gunships were dis-

patched to assist in the search in the rugged region, where Pakistan's central government has little control and militants have found hideouts.

The US also has carried out missile strikes in Pakistan's north-

On Monday, Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari said he expects US President-elect Barack Obama to re-evaluate the need for such strikes, which generally target suspected al-Qaeda and Taliban hideouts on Pakistan's side of the Afghan border.

"We feel that the strikes are an intrusion on our sovereignty, which are not appreciated by the people at large, and the first aspect of this war is to win the hearts and mind of the people," Zardari said.

Zardari was headed Tuesday to

was expected to meet US officials and raise the issue of the missiles. Pakistan insists it is taking on the militants, pointing to a military offensive in the Bajur tribal region that began in August and has killed

1,500 suspected insurgents. Meanwhile, at least seven Taliban militants were killed in a firefight with Pakistani troops in a northwestern valley rocked by a violent campaign to introduce Islamic law, the army said yester-

several others were wounded, it added. The mountainous Swat valley

was until last year a popular tourist destination and featured Pakistan's only ski resort. But the region has been turned

Fazlullah, who has links to Pakistan's Taliban movement, launched a violent campaign for the introduction of Islamic Sharia law.

# Confused BNP

capital will play a key role in picking candidates for the additional seats. BNP won all eight seats in the city in 2001 election.

According to some BNP leaders,

election from Dhaka city.

"We don't even have a clear idea

Meanwhile, some leaders of Dhaka city BNP have recently met to discuss the issue. They have

while Khandaker Delwar and (Kotwali-Sutrapur) and Dhaka-17 (cantonment area)

Abbas might stand from Dhaka-8 (Motijheel and a part of Ramna)

Ambassador Britt Hagström of Sweden and Itala Occhi of Italy were present at the press briefing.

national election. They said there should be a

her [Khaleda Zia] this is a unique opportunity at a difficult time to work hand in hand towards a new future, a prosperous Bangladesh. "We also said the future is in the

ambassadors that her party is ready to participate in the election. But BNP Secretary General

Saifur FROM PAGE 16 the afternoon. Like Jamaat-e-

at around 11:30pm last night.

(Prisons) Major Shamsul Haider

the coalmine project.

# Former Taiwan

AFP, Taipei

corruption probe, officials said.

before getting into a waiting car. He was due to appear in court at 1200

for months. The former president, who retired in May after eight years in power, is under investigation for allegedly embezzling 14.8 million Taiwan dollars (480,500 US) from the gov-

"The KMT and the Chinese

Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou, of pursuing a political agenda and punishing him for violent demonstrations during a visit by Beijing's The Chinese envoy, "Chen Yunlin,

and I will continue to strive... Long

honoured and proud to play such a

Bangkok, Thailand, in 2004.

The CA is likely to have bilateral Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed

The CA is scheduled to return 30 injured

illegally and police just charged batons to disperse them. Meanwhile, a press release of

Meanwhile, our correspondents from Chittagong, Khulna, Sylhet and Pabna reported that Jamaat and Shibir activists held

About BNP's complaint against the absence of a level playing field for free and fair polls, Evans said it is a

matter of the caretaker government to discuss with all political parties. Abdur Razzak and Abul Kalam Azad were also present at the meet-

Hasina later exchanged views with a few hundred of Awami Juba leaders and categorically said that conspiracies are being hatched to foil the upcoming parliamentary elec-

No poll campaign FROM PAGE 1 activists demonstrating on the

Mosque at about 4:00pm. Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff, the director general of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner, and senior officials of law enforcement and intelligence agencies attended the meeting.

road outside Baitul Mukarram

They assessed the overall situation of the country and claimed that law and order was better in October than in the previous month. There have been violations of the emergency rules by some politi-

anymore," said the police chief, adding that the rules would be enforced strictly. He also said political parties have

cal parties, but we will not allow i

been warned for prematurely starting electoral campaigns. A press release of the police headquarters issued yesterday said, "Political parties have been violating the EPR by giving wrong expla nations of lifting of the ban on politi

It described the parties' arrange

cal meetings and rallies."

order.

election

BNP'S PROTEST

ing rallies and processions across the country as being "tantamount to violating the EPR 2007". The police headquarters requested all concerned to show respect to the laws and refrain from arranging such programmes in the

interest of maintaining law and

BNP yesterday strongly condemned

and protested imposition of the ban

on meetings and processions, saying it would further hamper the election atmosphere and create obstacles on the way to the election. While speaking with reporters in an unscheduled briefing at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office, BNP Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan said, "The government's

further restriction on holding meet-

ings and rallies would complicate

the atmosphere for free and fair

"The government initiative proves that our demand for lifting emergency is right," he said, adding that its earlier pledge to lift emergency gradually was false. Protesting the arrest of the lead

ers of the four-party alliance, he said

the government intends to prohibit

its programmes through the arrests.

Akbar Ali

FROM PAGE 16 conference after a meeting with the registrar of the joint stock companies and firms, at the Board of Investment (BoI) office. "The legitimacy of the caretaker government will come into question if the elections are not held by

December 31... it's a morally binding

date," Akbar said referring to the

interim government's past promises.

As the EC revised the polls sched-

ule amid demand from the BNP-led four-party alliance, Akbar said, "It's the duty of the caretaker government, not of the Election Commission, to talk the political parties into elections." "The commission's duty is to hold

the polls. In case the caretaker gov-

ernment creates any obstacle, the

commission may consider going to court", he said. The RRC chair said the commis sion should resign if they fail to hold the elections under any circum-Earlier, the meeting at the BoI decided that pre-auditing by the

Bangladesh Bank will not be required

for entrepreneurs to get registration.

Auditing will be done after registra-He said 40 percent of the recommendations placed by the RRC has been implemented. "Bangladesh's development partners are involved in the process. I think the pressure for implementing

our recommendations will remain

after the election no matter which

party comes to power," he said.

Manifesto

becoming uncertain.

FROM PAGE 16 but forget everything after vic-Casting his doubts over holding the election as per schedule, former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury said they are discussing election manifestos when the election is

Former Awami League law-

maker Lt Col (retd) Faruk Khan

said they are preparing their

manifesto for the last five to six

months talking with different

stakeholders. "We're preparing our manifesto targeting the year 2021 and we're focusing on democracy and ethical development," he said. Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury,

Kendra, said every political party should make it clear that they would, if elected to power, select present at the programme, prethe chiefs of the parliamentary standing committees from oppo-Meleisea.

the meeting

the country ahead of the elections. The EC will hold a meeting at the EC Secretariat today to discuss matters regarding law and order ahead of the national and upazila

Chief Election Commissioner chair the meeting. Principal staff general of police, director generals

'small technical mistakes' so

against a person submitting ber and present state of the case Mannan said many cases were filed against AL leaders in

He quoted the EC as saying it will be alright if persons submitting nomination forms mention the cases they can recall, and

forms must have to mention if they are convicted in any case, Mannan added. Commonwealth team yesterday met with the AL election con-

Candidates

(BIAM) foundation. Sources said the Election

cast election results or updates until the Election Commission officially approves or publishes them. It might otherwise create confusion among the people," said the CEC.

code. The code was prepared with view to ensuring fair and balanced coverage of electoral process in the mass media. It sees that candidates and

The code mainly focuses on fair and balanced dissemination of all information and news and unbiased representation of election campaign irrespective of political party or candidate or ideology highlighting ethics and morals of

sided over by Unesco representative to Bangladesh Malama

ing her husband back in Chicago. The Obamas' children now attend a

At the White House, while Bush and Obama talked, parallel confabs

of an open-windowed Suburban. Obama's staff, most in suits, remarked they had needed to buy "grown-up clothes" that better

Obama who will be in charge before too long: He put a hand on Bush's back as they went side-by-side inside the building from Obama's motorcade, as if he was guiding the presi-Later, as he sat on his plane wait-

than usual for raw campaign words

be spending too much time in

among the new president's first acts. Obama spokeswoman Stephanie

### to establish personal rapport between near-strangers, though that hasset."

militants Taliban movement for the attack. Afghanistan," Mahmood said.

The US has praised Pakistani efforts to crack down on the militants in its semiautonomous tribal belt, and Khyber is considered particularly important because of the supply route to landlocked Afghanistan.

Press interview that the attacks, which have surged since August, hamper the fight against the militants a campaign he said was succeeding nonetheless.

the United States for a UN conference on interfaith harmony. He

The gun fight in the Swat valley "took place after Taliban militants opened fire on troops during an ongoing army operation in Matta and Kabal districts," an army statement said. Seven militants were killed and

Zardari said in an Associated into a battleground since Maulana