G20 targets

FROM PAGE 16 The G20 nations, which include the major industrialised powers as well as emerging giants Brazil, China, India and Russia, have been locked in debate about what caused the crisis, let alone how to escape from it.

While Bush wants a limited tinkering with global financial rules, and no new trade barriers, Sarkozy has declared that "laissez-faire capitalism is over" as banks crippled by toxic mortgage assets are forced to turn to government aid.

The deputy chairman of India's Planning Commission, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, had said late Friday he was "reasonably hopeful" that the leaders would endorse a "coordinated signal for a fiscal stimulus."

But the final communiqué stopped short of that, even as the global economic climate worsened as the leaders convened.

Friday brought news that the 15 eurozone nations were now gripped by recession after two quarters of economic contraction, and US retail sales tumbled a record 2.8 percent in October as worried consumers hunkered down.

The International Monetary Fund and the Financial Stability Forum said Friday they would coop erate to provide an "early-warning system" in an effort to prevent new financial crises.

In the Democratic Party's weekly radio address, Obama said the US economy was already in "recession" and welcomed Bush's convening the summit "because our global economic crisis requires a coordinated global response.

"And yet, as we act in concert with other nations, we must also act immediately here at home to address America's own economic crisis," he said, calling for new stimulus spending following a package adopted by

ABSENT OBAMA STILL A PRESENCE IN THE CAPITAL

President-elect Barack Obama is an invisible force as foreign leaders and Congress convene separately in Washington, the economy at centre stage, reports AP.

One sentiment runs below the crosscurrents as a summit of world leaders wrestles with a global crisis this weekend and Congress in the week ahead struggles with rising unemployment and an ailing auto industry: What would Obamado?

Obama is staying away, ensconced in Chicago, unwilling to make any public show of political influence before he is sworn in to office Jan. 20. Indeed, his break with Congress will be complete on Sunday when he officially resigns his Illinois Senate seat.

Obama is being especially cautious about the economic summit, letting President George W. Bush represent the nation. But in the Democratic radio address Saturday, Obama subtly made the point that the summit was only a beginning. "I'm glad President Bush has initiated this process because our global economic crisis requires a coordinated global response," he said.

Obama was more direct with Congress. He urged lawmakers to "pass at least a down-payment on a rescue plan that will create jobs, relieve the squeeze on families, and help get the economy growing

"If Congress does not pass an immediate plan that gives the economy the boost it needs, I will make it my first order of business as president," Obama said.

No major economic breakthroughs are expected and, for Obama, the challenges he faces upon becoming president might seem a bit clearer after the foreign leaders and Congress packup and go home.

"You can imagine the difficulty from the perspective of the participants," said David Lewis, an expert on the presidency at Vanderbilt University. "You don't want to put a lot of effort into doing something when you know that the arrival of a next administration might undo all the work you have done or might undercut an administration that you want to see what they have to offer."

While Obama has laid out an agenda for tackling the economic gloom, the question facing Congress and the international community is whether his prescriptions will be

enough. Obama has proposed a \$175 billion economic recovery plan that includes tax cuts, help for states and spending on public works nationwide. But already, economists, labour leaders and some members of Congress are tossing around figures of \$300 billion or more. Obama aides

are signalling flexibility. ASSAULT OF TRADERS

Strike paralyses business at city's Moulavibazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of wholesalers took to the streets shutting down their businesses yesterday to protest assaults on seven businessmen, at Moulavibazar in the city's old

quarter. The seven came under attacks at Masullah Ghat in Keraniganj Thursday as they went there to take payment of Tk 2.5 crore that 13 Moulavibazar businessmen had loaned to a local businessman two

vears back. Thousands of traders from adjoining districts returned without business because of the strikes. The wholesalers said they hit the streets as police did not arrest till Friday any of the five men they

say were behind the attacks. They brought out processions and held a rally in front of the Moulavibazar Traders Association

office. Keraniganj police however said they arrested three people in con-

nection with the assaults.

"That was proposed in mid-October," a senior Obama adviser said of the president-elect's plan. "We'll look at it in mid-January and see where the economy is." The adviser spoke on the condition of

authorized to discuss internal policy thinking publicly. Congressional leaders are making it clear that any massive recovery plan will have to wait until next year Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid in letter to Republican leader Mitch McConnell on Friday, indicated the Senate's work this coming week will be limited to proposals to increase unemployment benefits and to the more complicated task of rescuing Detroit's automakers with a \$25

anonymity because he was not

billion emergency loan. On the global front, Obama has acknowledged the need for a coordinated international response to the crisis. But some foreign allies have their own detailed plans. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, for instance, has made a case for beefed up role for the International Monetary Fund and has called for global regulators to be watchdogs over the world's largest financial institutions.

AL nominations

in a dither about candidates in the

The last date for filing nominations with the Election Commission is November 20.

Moreover, disputes among local leaders in more than 50 constituencies

made the process longer. "We'll try our best to wrap up the nomination process by tomorrow (today)," one parliamentary-board membertoldTheDailyStarlastnight.

The board will sit today in the evening to finalise nominations after holding a meeting with their 14-party alliance partners in the morning. The fates of pro-reformist AL lead-

ersstill hangin the balance. Though recommended by grassroots leaders, the party's organising secretaries Mahmudur Rahman Manna and Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed and central leader Pro-Abu Sayeed have not yet been included onthe ALticket.

Another parliamentary board member however said every important leader will get nominations in the

Party insiders said the 14-party combine will take in a few more parties including the Jatiya Party and the Liberal Democratic Party, in their fold to forge a grand alliance in case the BNP agrees to go to the polls.

They however said the Jatiya Party and the Liberal Democratic Party would contest the polls separately should the BNP shy away from the elections, and memberadon war, znoitosle

4-party rejects

about an hour and a half with a brief recess. After briefing reporters the four-party leaders resumed their meeting.

The four-party alliance leaders talked about not contesting the December 18 elections with their seven-point demand unfulfilled, meeting sources told The Daily Star.

"We think the elections will be a stage-managed election and we cannot participate in this, Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) Chairman Andaleev Rahman Partho told The Daily Star after the meeting.

"It does not make any sense," said a source quoting Khaleda Zia as saying in the four-party meeting about Zillur's statement.

"She, however, directed alliance leaders to prepare for the elections,' said another source who attended the meeting.

"We want complete withdrawal of the emergency without any delay but the government is not acting accordingly to our demands," Delwar said at the briefing.

"It is totally unacceptable. He [Hossain Zillur] had talked about meeting our demands earlier but as of now they (the government) have not fulfilled any of our demands," Delwar said.

The BNP secretary general said they would have announced right then their decision to participate in the polls if the government fulfilled their seven-point demand.

Earlier, at a hurriedly called press briefing at the Chief Adviser's Office, Hossain Zillur read out a statement saying the government is considering further relaxation of the Emergency Power Rules, 2007 after finalisation of the candidates' nomi-

"If the environment for election emerges, a total withdrawal of the emergency rules is also being considered," the statement said.

"All components of the four-party alliance are keen on contesting the elections but the elections have to be free and fair," Delwar said.

"Many of our prospective candidates are still behind bars. We demand that the government allow people who have been convicted by the special courts to contest the election," Delwarsaid.

Necessary changes were not brought to the RPO... cases against our leaders were not withdrawn, which are our demands," he said.

"The provision of announcing poll results by presiding officers have been withdrawn which we think is aimed at manipulating the election | court has settled it. results," he claimed. MATIA-REACTION

Awami League (AL) presidium member Matia Chowdhury yesterday declined to comment on the govern ment statement, saying the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) would take a decision in

ALCWC at its latest meeting took a resolution demanding complete withdrawal of the state of emergency before the national election.

The meeting also demanded holding of the election on December 18 as scheduled and deferral of upazila election by a 'logical' period

Ex-MP Rafiqul Anwar freed on HC bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Convicted former Awami League (AL) lawmaker Rafiqul Anwar was released here on bail in an arms case vesterday.

Chittagong Jail sources said he was freed from a cabin of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) at about 1:00pm on receipt of the High Court bail order.

Senior Superintendent of Chittagong Jail Md Ataur Rahman said Rafiqul was shifted to the hospital from the jail 15 days ago as he was suffering from severe chest pain and other diseases, including diabetes. Earlier, the High Court granted six

months' interim bail to Rafiqul, a former lawmaker from Fatikchhari constituency, in the arms case filed with Gulshan Police Station in Dhaka on April 28, 2007. A Metropolitan Special Tribunal

in Dhaka sentenced Rafigul to 10 years' imprisonment in the case on November 11 last year.

He also got bails in four other cases in Chittagong, jail sources said.

Interpol

FROM PAGE 16 criminal charge

Fugitive other Bangladeshi wanted criminals include Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbor Sobhan's son Safiat Sobhan Sanvir, detained former BNP deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu's brother Maolana Tajuddin of Tangail, top terror Subrata Bain of Moghbazar, who was recently arrested by Indian police, his accomplice Shahidul Islam of Munshiganj, top terrors Prokash Biswas of Mirpur, Jahangir Ferdouse alias Kala Jahangir of Bogra, his associate Robin, top terror Mollah Masud of Jhalakati, his associate Shameem Ahmed, gold smuggler and top terror Amin Rasul Sagar of Chittagong, top terror Haris Ahmed of Mohammadpur, listed terror Shahadat of Mirpur, top terror Omar Faruque Kochi ot Mirpur, listed criminal Mokbul Hossain, top terror Zeesun, listed terrors Golam Rasul Sikder, Toffazzal Hossain Sikder, Shahar Ali, Feroz Ali, Towfiq Alam, Abdul Khaleq, Hashem, Kamrul Hasan, Abdul Gani, Shilendra Nath, Manotosh Bashak, Shamim Kabir, Mintu Salauddin, Selim Miah, Chan Miah, AHM Biplab, Swapan Malakar, Tushar Mahmud, Nasiruddin Khan Zafar Ahmed, Abdul Zabbar, Rafiqul Islamm, Ataur Rahman Nurul Amin, Abdul Alim Aminur Rahman, Habibur Rahman, Motiur Rahman, Zahid Rahman, Nasiruddin Ratan, Proshanta Sarder, Golam Sarwar, Mahrab Uddin, Harun Sheikh and Kutub Uddin Hazari.

Mayors

FROM PAGE 1

The provisions in their case are quite clear. According to the Local Government (Upazila Parishad) Ordinance 2008, a person shall be disqualified for election to upazila parishad if he holds office in a local government organisation or parliament.

The EC officials say the incumbents can be candidates in the upazila polls if they step down as mayor or chairman before filing nominations.

50 vehicles

FROM PAGE 16

place between them and the police. The incident caused tailbacks on the highway and streets nearby. Rapid Action Battalion personnel and police brought the traffic situation under control around

Locals said the students went on a rampage around 3:00pm yesterday after holding a meeting on campus to protest the death of an A-level student in Dhanmondi on Thursday.

Emergency

FROM PAGE 1

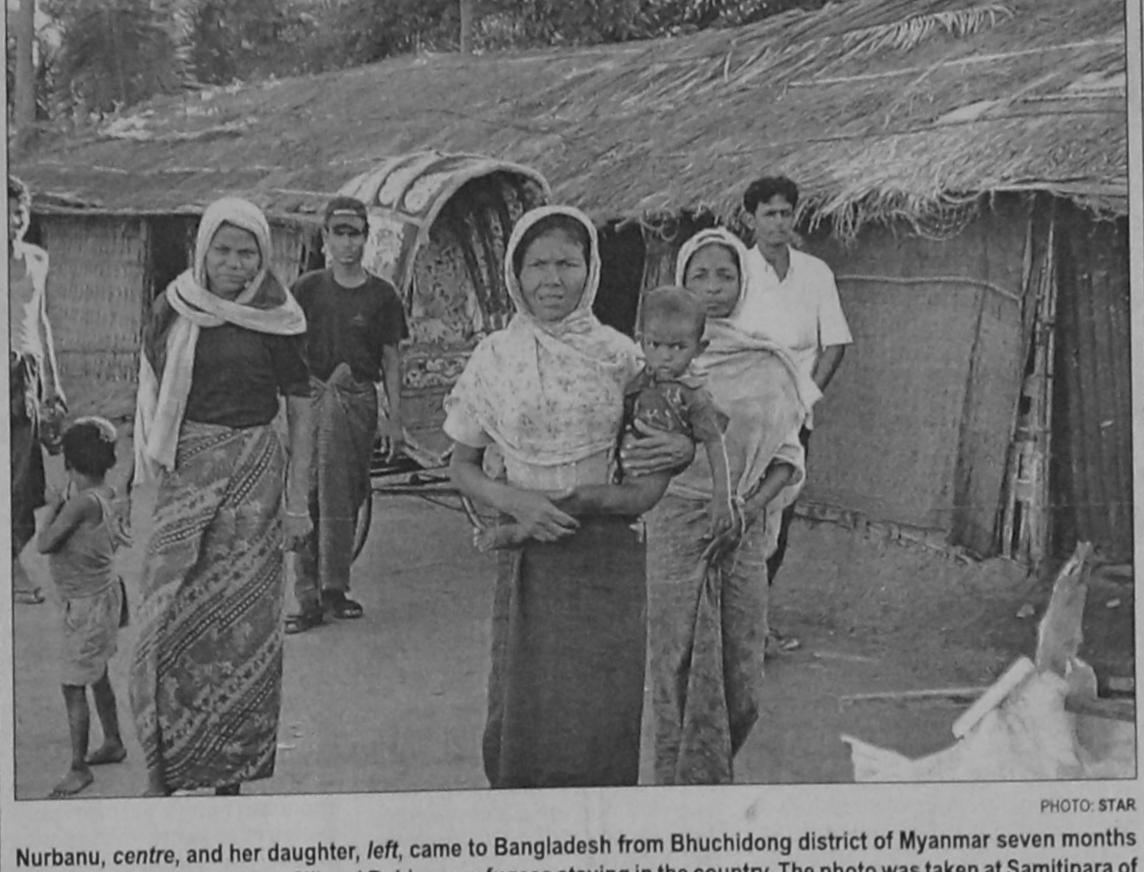
To ensure level playing field for all parties, the government has widely changed field level administration at the request of the EC in August 2008. "The government is determined to strongly control any bid to bias the election process." The government would take prompt action, if anyone raises specific complaint on this issue at the EC.

Zillur pointed out that although the upazila elections were supposed to be held in October, it was shifted to December 28--10 days after the parliamentary elections in view of strong demand from the parties. "The upazila elections would be an important progress in the area to exercise political leadership," he said.

On delimitation of parliamentary constituencies, he said the matter is now irrelevant as the

A number of amendments were brought to the Representation of People Order (RPO) that include making bank-loan and utility-bill defaulters issue more realistic. The provision of accepting verbal complaints for settlement on election day has been cancelled and the EC's authority to resolve Contacted, she noted that the | disputes is controlled by a specific

He said the nation has reached mittee and following a single test the final stage of attaining election transition and achieving qualitative changes in politics. There had Emdad Hossain said, "We should been lots of doubts before reaching not destroy the reputation of our this point but the government was determined to hold the December samples abroad for tests." 18 election, Zillur added.



ago increasing the number of illegal Rohingya refugees staying in the country. The photo was taken at Samitipara of Cox's Bazar.

Rohingyas still flock

they do not have an exact number of Rohingyas living outside the official refugee camps in small communities scattered through the region.

"We don't deal with them," he told The Daily Star, when asked about unregistered Rohingyas.

Local residents said Rohingyas come mainly through the Teknaf A journalist from Teknaf said if a person is willing to spend Tk 100,

he or she will be able to cross the

Bangladesh-Myanmar border. The rate is fixed, he added. "If anybody wants to cross the border, he or she on an average has to pay 50 taka to BDR, 40 taka to police and 10 taka to local goons,

Once in Bangladesh territory, freshly migrated Rohingyas generally go to their relatives or compatriots for shelter.

said the journalist requesting

In 'Pradhaner Dali 50 Colony', a community of unregistered Rohingyas in Pradhaner Dali slum where 50 Rohingya families live, all came from Bhuchidong district of Myanmar.

FROM PAGE 1

culture'.

the experience.

did," he said.

follow suit.

will be resolved.'

FROM PAGE 16

repacked locally."

doubt, he added.

methods," he said.

"The Rohingyas living outside

1/11 and its aftermath 'surely

brought some changes among

politicians and in the political

consequences of misdeeds. They

will think twice before getting

hoped, although many arrested

in the caretaker governments'

anti-corruption drive could not

be tried yet and are being

released instead, they will none-

theless retain some lessons from

people are aware of what they

started choosing its electoral

candidates with inputs from its

grassroots level units, he said

hoping that other parties will also

"If the process is followed,

Zafar is vehemently opposed

He also believes many prob-

lems will be solved if the Election

Test all brands

"I do not know how the BSTI col-

lected samples for earlier

tests...You have to mix milk of at

least 10 batches collected from

various parts of the country. Then

you would get an average result,"

said the DU teacher, preferring

anonymity. "If you test milk of only

one batch, the result may not rep-

resent all batches [of the brand]

because powdered milk is

Representatives from busi-

nesses and the three laboratories

and government officials should be

involved in the sample collection

process so that no one has any

Star that previously scientists were

not free to share information on

their test methods. "Scientists of

the three institutions should now

come to an agreement on test

tion for forming an experts com-

method, Consumers Association of

Bangladesh Programme Officer

institutions by frequently sending

Endorsing the recommenda-

A chemist of BSTI told The Daily

many of our political problems

to allowing businessmen, former

bureaucrats, and ex-army offi-

cers to contest in elections.

One of the big parties has

"They should know, we the

The science fiction writer

involved in any irregularity."

"People will now think of the

Prof Zafar Iqbal

the official refugee camps create more problems than those who live in the camps," said Md Abdur Shukur, a resident of Cox's Bazar. "It is really a burning issue for

the residents of this region," he In 2005 the government took an initiative to find out the actual number of Rohingyas living out-

side the camps. A source in the district administration office said, with the help of local administrations they found around 98,000 Rohingyas living

outside the camps. But other sources including the RRRC office said, the real number of unregistered Rohingyas is no less than 3 lakh, around 2 lakh of whom are living in Cox's Bazar.

For the 23 lakh original residents of Cox's Bazar, two lakh Rohingya guests who are showing no sign of leaving, are fast becoming 'unwanted'

Talking to local politicians, RRRC officials, journalists, lawyers, businessmen and also working class people, The Daily Star came to understand thut Robingyas amount for around 10 to 12 percent of the current Cox's Bazar popula-

powerful and effective.

bazars are some of the big mis-

He however thanked the gov-

ernment for putting in correct

information about the history of

the country's liberation war in

Dr Zafar Iqbal said he is yet to

understand the role of the current

caretaker government, 'which

sometimes acts like fundamen-

talists'. "Many of its activities

Students ransack

chairman's room for one hour.

Some of the angry students

On information, RU assistant

ransacked the windowpanes of

the room and damaged its office

proctor Ariful Islam along with

police rushed in and tried to

bring the situation under control.

proctor and the police officials.

calmed down when the chair-

man and teachers of the depart-

ment assured them of placing

their demand before RU Vice-

chancellor Prof Mamnunul

to go on a hunger strike if their

demand is not met immediately.

ment's chairman Dr Shahidur

Rahman said they instantly met

the RU Vice-chancellor and

informed the matter and added

that a committee was also

formed to look into the student's

the Arts Faculty get fewer oppor-

tunities in the job market com-

pared to the students of the

Earlier, the students boy-

Social Science Faculty.

They said the students under

But the students threatened

When contacted, depart-

But the students assaulted the

The students later were

furniture during the unrest.

really worry me," he said.

takes the government made."

reasons.

tion sector.

the universities.

FROM PAGE 16

Keramat soon.

demand.

demand.

preparations too late.

Most of them work on fishing trawlers and in wholesale fish markets, while some others also work as rickshaw pullers, plumbers, masons and as day labourers. Earlier, people of North Bengal

used to migrate to Cox's Bazar in search of work in the fishing sector lately the Rohingyas have replaced "They are much cheaper, so

everybody wants to employ them, said a local businessman. But they also have a tradition of working as foot soldiers of Islamist

politicians during elections. Islamist parties and politicians pay the hapless rootless immigrant Rohingyas, who are overwhelm ingly Muslims, to join Islamist

"The Rohingyas get support from Islamist politicians as they are considered a vote bank by those politicians," said a left leaning political leader of Cox's Bazar. Besides, many Rohingya immi-

election rallies and processions.

grants get involved in petty crimes, sources in Cox's bazaar police station said.

Right now there are around 3,000 inmates in Cox's Bazar jail, 600 of whom are Rohingyas including seven women.

NDI team

FROM PAGE 16

member, will stay here until | Khan presided over the rally. Ruhin November 19, said a press release.

Commission (EC) is made more The other members of the team are Saumura Tioulong, member of He said the present caretaker the national assembly of government assumed office with Cambodia, Peter Manikas, senior immense public support but it associate and regional director for failed to retain that for many NDI's Asia programmes, and Jacqueline Corcoran, "Failure to curb the price hike NDI/Bangladesh senior resident of rice, arresting university teachers, and demolishing slums and

director. They will be assisted by Dileepan Siva, NDI Washington DC programme manager, and Najia Hashemee, NDI/ Bangladesh senior programme manager.

textbooks, but lamented that it The delegation is likely to meet the representatives of the caredid nothing more in the educataker government and the He criticised the government Election Commission, leaders of for not removing 'politically political parties, representatives appointed vice-chancellors' from of domestic monitoring groups and other civic organisations, He also criticised the governjournalists and members of the ment for starting the election

diplomatic community. The purpose of its assessment of the pre-election atmosphere is to demonstrate the interest and support of the international community for a peaceful and democratic election process in Bangladesh, and to provide an impartial report on the environment surrounding the upcoming elections and the state of electoral preparations.

NDI is an independent nongovernmental organisation that has conducted more than 1000 pre-election, election day and post-election monitoring around the world.

Iraq car bomb

"An Antonov-12 cargo plane belonging to British Gulf International Company crashed near Fallujah to the west of Baghdad on November 13," the foreign ministry said in a state-"Six crew members and a pas-

senger were killed, including three Russian nationals. A Belarussian, two Ukrainians and one Indian were also among the crew members killed," it added. British Gulf International is

based in the United Arab Emirates.

On Thursday, a US army spokesman said the cargo plane was chartered by Fedex and belonged to a German company. The plane was flying to Baghdad from an airport in the former rebel strong hold province of Al-Anbar, he said.

The US army spokesman sugcotted their scheduled classes gested the crash was due to techniand examinations to realise the cal reasons.

Buet student

FROM PAGE 16

injured are still admitted to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and seven of them are in a critical condition.

When Faysal was brought to the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of DMCH the doctors said his condition was critical. He was moved to City Hospital in Lalmatia since the burn unit had no intensive care facilities. "Sister, you can write whatever

you like but please do not mention anything about my physical condition. My father is quite upset hearing the news of my accident. If he comes to know about my condition, he will not be able to handle it," Faysal requested this correspondent a week ago.

With his body wrapped in bandages and a distorted face, the young man was shedding tears worrying that he would not be able to sit for his final exams scheduled for November 24.

Kader died yesterday afternoon at the burn unit of DMCH.

"What type of country is this where innocent people have to pay in such a way," said frustrated Shamantalal Sen, project director of Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of DMCH.

Assistant Registrar of the unit Kishore Kumar Das told The Daily Star, "Seven out of the eight acidburnt patients are in a critical condition." "It is very bizarre nobody and

no organisations are talking about this issue. Nobody is questioning who were carrying the drums of acid so callously... where was it going? We do not know what investigation the police have done," he said.

If unregulated, this kind of

CPB launches FROM PAGE 16

moving freely in the country taking opportunity of their "understanding" with fundamentalists and failure of the previous governments, the CPB leaders said.

"These forces now dare to carry out simultaneous bomb attacks in 63 districts, declare openly to establish Taliban rule denying the Liberation War, damage Baul sculptures and Liberation War memorials, threaten to put out the Shikha Anirban and even assault freedom fighters," they said in a press release. The CPB stressed on the need

for reinstatement of the constitution of 1972 with its four fundamental statutes to resist these forces and bring the country back to the spirit of the Liberation War. CPB President Manzurul Ahsan

Chandan, Ahsan Habib Lavlu also

spoke at the event.

incident could happen again and again, he said adding that two months ago a similar accident on the same highway injured two truckers.

Talking to The Daily Star additional district magistrate of Comilla said the probe team formed to investigate the accident submitted its report on November 13. "It was discovered that the

truck was carrying the chemical improperly. Acid should be transported in such a way that even if the vehicle turns turtle the containers would remain intact," said the magistrate.

He also said the report recommended widening the highway, making highway police more active and including the acid issue in the case filed in this connection.

Moudud, Huda

FROM PAGE 1 from the central jail.

Sources said Moudud and Huda, however, admitted that former BNP minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain "suddenly came to meet them upon his release recently and that they did not invite him.

In their replies, they regretted the incident and sought acquittal of the allegations.

Talking to The Daily Star, Inspector General of Prisons (IG-Prisons) Brig Gen Zakir Hassan said, "We issued the show-cause notices on them on the basis of our intelligence reports and we have documents that they violated the jail code repeatedly. "We had allowed them to walk

on the corridor in front of their cabins considering that they were our ministers and lawmakers. But now we are not allowing this," he Zakir alleged that the VIP prisoners could violate jail codes because of the BSMMU authori-

ties. A few high officials of BSMMU had unethically supported their overstay and that the hospital superintendent even misbehaved with Jail Superintendent Towhidul Islam on one occasion. Towhid said when he went to the room of BSMMU Hospital Superintendent Brig Gen (retd) Mohammad Zahirul Islam to talk

do not need to stay at the hospital, Zahirul misbehaved with him and rudely asked him to leave the room. BSMMU Vice-Chancellor Prof Nazrul Islam admitted the incident. He said, "We would take steps so that prisoners cannot meet party men and hold such meetings

about the release of prisoners who

anymore. Earlier on Thursday and Friday, jail authorities suspended 28 jail guards posted at the BSMMU prison cells for negligence of duty Hossain Prince, Sajjad Zahir and issued show-cause notices on them.

Maritime talks

FROM PAGE 1 Mahmud who will lead the

Bangladesh team. He also said the equaldistance method is applicable for two countries facing each other. But it is not applicable for adjoining countries like Bangladesh and

Bangladesh claims its maritime boundary at 92 degrees 17 minutes 30 seconds East longitude as per the Territorial and Maritime Zones Act 1974. Bangladesh Navy warned the Myanmarese warships and exploration rig earlier this month when they crossed the line.

"That is our maritime boundary and will remain so until something new comes up," said a member of Bangladesh delega-An 11-member expert team

Minister Maung Myinter from Myanmar arrived in the capital vesterday. The technical committee-level talks between the two countries on maritime boundary, which remained stalled for 22 years,

began on March 30 this year in

led by Myanmar Deputy Foreign

Later, Bangladesh technical committee went to Yangon in September for holding second round talks. This is the third time the technical committees of the two countries will sit today for talks at the conference hall of the foreign ministry.

The maritime boundary between Bangladesh and its two neighbouring nations India and Myanmar is yet to be demarcated resulting in disputes between the three countries over oil and gas exploration in the Bay of Bengal. However, none of the three

countries has approached the United Nations to settle the issue. the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS),

Under the UN Convention on Bangladesh has to file its claim Cyclonic storm

FROM PAGE 16 further notice.

> Meanwhile, our correspondent from Cox's Bazar reported that around 2,500 fishing trawlers were still inside the Bay with at least 42,000 fishermen. Around 3,000 trawlers returned to the coast.

Sabbir Ahmed, a fisherman who came back to the shore, told The Daily Star that the fishermen were still catching hilsa around 100 to 200 kms off the coast and they need at least 10 hours to back.

within July 27, 2011 while India and Myanmar have to finish the maritime demarcation with Bangladesh soon as they need to file their claims with the UN within June 29 and May 21, 2009

respectively.

Bangladesh and Myanmar follow a curve, which implies overlapping of territory. As per international practices, in such a case, the neighbours should inform each other and reach a mutual understanding before conducting exploration in such grey areas. On the contrary, the

The coasts of India,

Myanmarese ships started oil and gas exploration in Bangladesh territory marked as deep-sea blocks 8-13 early this month ignoring Bangladesh Navy warnings. Tension between the two

neighbouring nations eased after Myanmar withdrew its warships and exploration rig from the area.

Gas supply

FROM PAGE 16 Highways department to construct a flyover.

Work on repairing the pipe began at around 9:00am and continued as of filling this report at around 8:00pm. City dwellers faced untold

sufferings due to non-availability Ali Ashraf from Agrabad residential area said there was no gas supply in the area since morning and people could not cook their

food. Khaleda-Hasina

banning of hartal will be of no use if

the elections are not held, he said. He said the government and political parties should instead come clean about their positions on the elections. Major political parties have to join hands with the government to ensure a credible election, through

their participation in the polls, said the former caretaker government adviser. On whether to defer the elections, he said the matter depends on the understanding among the

political parties, besides the role of the government. He warned that political parties will have to resolve the crisis cen-

tring the election in the future if they do not thrash it out now.