event of a grand electoral alliance with Jatiya Party (JP) and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Bose, organising secretaries Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Akhtaruzzaman, Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed and Abdur Rahman. Health and Population Affairs Secretary Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Youth and Sports Secretary Dewan Shafiul Arefin Tutul, and central committee members Prof Abu Sayeed and AKM Jahangir Hossain are among the high-profile nomination seekers who did not yet get the nod from the

AL will sit today with its partners in the 14-party combine and allies in

Components of the 14-party are scheduled to meet at 10:30am. Meetings with JP and LDP were not

LDP Secretary General Jahanara Begum and JP Presidium Member Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu told The Daily Star that they will meet sometime today to discuss the overall situation including seat sharing for

AL vesterday met its 14-party partners except Gono Forum to discuss national and upazila polls, the state of emergency, and the economic situation including price hike of essentials.

Asked if Gono Forum had left the coalition, AL Spokesman Syed Ashraful Islam said his party does not have anything against Gono Forum

From yesterday's meeting, 14party put out a call to the caretaker government not to defer the parliamentary election even by a day, and urged all political parties to contest the much-awaited polls.

"The election must be held on December 18. The people are eagerly waiting to elect their representatives," Ashraful told reporters after

Saying the country has been experiencing manifold crises, the AL leader said only an elected government can bring relief to the people.

MILK RETEST

Petitions filed for stay on HC orders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

samples of eight brands of powwithin 21 days.

The petitions, filed by advocate Mahmudul Islam for Nido and barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud for Red Cow, were brought before the court of Appellate Division Chamber Judge MA Matin, who sent the matters to the full bench of the Division for hearing today.

Following a petition of the Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, the HC on November 10 ordered the health ministry to send samples of the eight brands to the chemistry department of Dhaka University, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, and Bangladesh Standards and Testing

government to publish in newspaso far by these designated laboratories in order to inform people.

It also lifted its 21-day ban on sale and display of five of the eight popular brands--Dano, Red Cow, Diploma, Nido and Anlene, and ordered to continue the ban on Chinese brands Yashili 1, Yashili 2, and Sweet Baby 2.

The HC earlier directed the government to collect samples and test all brands of powdered milk available in the market in the three laboratories and submit the test reports to the court soon.

FROM PAGE 16

Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA), Bangladesh Chapter organised the discussion.

The speakers at the discussion made an urge to intensify media coverage on climate change in the commonwealth countries.

journalists to the issue is needed as the devastating impact of climate change will be on all aspects of human life across the globe," said

Raja Debashish. He hoped that the country's next elected government will play a vital

role in combating climate change. Environmentalist Dr Atiq sign of a nation changed, black high appeal with the SC against the HC Rahman, the winner of the school student Barbara Tyler of order. Champions of Earth Award 2008, said, "The impacts of climate change can be felt here now."

He said icebergs in the Arctic are discussion about Obarna's victory. melting under the impact of global warming resulting in a rise in sea

About 17 percent lands in Daily Star, "A BSF member in unihe said, adding that about 20 to 30

can cause a shortage of freshwater, frequent floods, tropical cyclones and a significant change in the ecosystem and biodiversity of the coun-

CJA Global President Hassan Shahriar, Chairman of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) Kazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed, eminent journalists Farid Ahmed and Jaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, among others,

Held in AL President Sheikh Hasina's political office in Dhanmondi with her in the chair, the meeting demanded that the military backed caretaker government lifts the state of emergency ahead of the national election, and announces a new schedule for upazila polls after

the parliamentary election. The meeting also put out a call to the people to be united in favour of having the parliamentary poll on its scheduled date of December 18.

Earlier, Swiss Ambassador Dora Rapold met Sheikh Hasina in the latter's Sudha Sadan residence, and discussed bilateral matters and the upcoming election.

ERSHAD EYES 60 SEATS JP Chairman HM Ershad yesterday said his party expects more than 60 seats from the 14-party alliance.

Talking to reporters after a meeting with British High Commissioner Stephen Evans at his Baridhara residence, he said they will sit with AL today to finalise seat sharing of the grand alliance for the polls.

Replying to a query, the JP chairman said it is good if BNP takes part in the polls. However, the election must be held on December 18 even if BNP opts to boycot it.

He said in the event of BNP boycotting the election, Jatiya Party would contest from all 300 seats.

Stephen Evans said international community hopes that all political parties including BNP would participate in the polls.

"We want to see elections go ahead and elections to be free and fair with full participation (of the political parties) for producing an outcome which is acceptable to this country," he said replying to a query.

OBAMA ELECTION

Race crimes go up in US

AP, Washington

Cross burnings. Schoolchildren chanting "Assassinate Obama." Black figures hung from nooses. Racial epithets scrawled on homes and cars.

Incidents around the country referring to President-elect Barack Obama are dampening the postelection glow of racial progress and harmony, highlighting the stubborn racism that remains in

America. From California to Maine, police have documented a range of alleged crimes, from vandalism and vague threats to at least one physical attack. Insults and taunts have been delivered by adults, college students and second-graders.

There have been "hundreds" of incidents since the election, many more than usual, said Mark Potok, director of the Intelligence Project at the Southern Poverty Law Centre, which monitors hate crimes.

One was in Snellville, Georgia, where Denene Millner said a boy on the school bus told her 9-year-old daughter the day after the election: "I hope Obama gets assassinated." That night, someone trashed her sister-in-law's front lawn, mangled the Obama lawn signs, and left two pizza boxes filled with human feces outside the front door, Millner said.

She described her emotions as a combination of anger and fear.

"I can't say that every white person in Snellville is evil and anti-Obama and willing to desecrate my property because one or two idiots did it," said Millner, who is black. "But it definitely makes you look a little different at the people who you live with, and makes you wonder what they're capable of and what

they're really thinking." Potok, who is white, said he believes there is "a large subset of white people in this country who feel that they are losing everything they know, that the country their forefathers built has somehow been stolen

from them. Grant Griffin, a 46-year-old white Georgia native, expressed similar sentiments: "I believe our nation is ruined and has been for several decades and the election of Obama is merely the culmination of the

"If you had real change it would involve all the members of (Obama's) church being deported, he said.

Change in whatever form does not come easy, and a black president is "the most profound change in the field of race this country has experienced since the Civil War," said William Ferris, senior associate director of the Centre for the Study of the American South at the University of North Carolina. "It's shaking the foundations on which the country has existed for centuries."

"Someone once said racism is like cancer," Ferris said. "It's never totally wipedout, it's in remission.

If so, America's remission lasted until the morning of Nov. 5.

Marietta, Georgia, said she heard hateful Obama comments from white students, and that teachers cut off

Three Bangladeshis

attacked the house of Shahidul nately killing Majeda, her son

"Shahidul received two bullets during the attack," the OC said. At one stage, the villagers caught the BSF member and beat him up.

Quoting the villagers, the OC said the BSF member was drunk. On information, BDR members rushed to the scene and took the BSF member into their custody.

for graft UNB, Dhaka The Anti-Corruption Commission

yesterday filed a case against former BNP Minister Tariqul Islam, sitting Planning Division Secretary Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury and former chief conservator of forests Anwarul Islam for causing huge loss to the government. A first information report (FIR)

was lodged with Shahbagh police station accusing the three of causing the loss through irregularities in selling timber collected from the government's reserve forests.

Tariqul, a former forests and environment minister, Zafar, former secretary of forest and environment ministry, and Anwarul Islam were accused of causing a loss of Tk 3.21 crore to the national exchequer and abusing power.

ACC Assistant Director SM Shahidur Rahman filed the case.

Koko's parole extended by 2 months

UNB, Dhaka

The government has extended the parole of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's younger son Arafat Rahman Koko, who is undergoing treatment abroad, by two more months until January 16, 2009.

A home ministry order yesterday said Koko's parole had been extended after his lawyer AM Mahbub Uddin Khokan prayed for it on Monday. Terms and conditions of the parole will remain the same.

Detained in the Dhaka Central Jail and then at the Prison Cell of BSMMU Hospital since his arrest on September 3, 2007, Koko is now undergoing treatment in a Bangkok Hospital.

He was originally given two months' parole from July 17, 2008.

Shafique Ahmed

FROM PAGE 1 The senior lawyer of the Appellate Division said the 1/11 changeover must bring some changes in the attitudes of the politicians.

"A jolt like that of 1/11 was necessary and I believe politicians will now do politics for the welfare and betterment of the people and for governing the country properly, not for making their own fortune,' he said.

Shafique praised the caretaker government's anti-corruption drive but said it has been done hastily which has weakened trials

of a few corruption cases. He urged political parties to forget all their differences and participate in the upcoming polls to restore democracy. They should also accept the election results, he

Tac set free

FROM PAGE 1

Chairman not attending office. Other officials passed their day by receiving phone calls from journalists and graft-accused, who mainly enquired if the commission was functioning.

As office activities remained suspended yesterday, the last date for submitting applications seeking clemency, the Tac boss said they would extend the deadline till November 19.

Earlier on October 29, Tac extended the same deadline for 15 days for the third time.

The commission today announces a fresh date for holding hearing on the appeals, which were supposed to be heard yesterday.

Mentioning article 112 of the Constitution, the commission chief said, "Tac is not parallel to the court. It's helpful to the courts. Helpful in the sense that it lessens

burden of other courts." Referring to article 35 (4) of the Constitution he added, "We're not compelling anybody to confess to their ill-gotten wealth; rather the graft-accused are coming voluntarily. And we're not punishing anybody either, the graft-accused are being relieved instead."

SCPROCEEDINGS The government yesterday filed a petition with the chamber judge's court of the SC seeking a stay on the HC order.

The court also asked the govern-The day after the vote hailed as a | ment to file a regular leave to

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice MA Matin passed the order upon holding hearing on a stay petition filed by the govern-

Attorney General Salauddin Ahmed told newspersons following the chamber judge's order there is no legal bar to resuming functions of Tac. "After the High Court declared

illegal the Truth and Accountability Commission Ordinance 2008, J advised the commission to stop their functions unless the Supreme Court stays the High Court order. Since the High Court judgement has been stayed, the commission can now resume its functions," he

He added a regular leave to appeal would be lodged with the Sources said tension ran high in SC after his office receives the certified copy of the HC judgment.

Disputed waters

FROM PAGE 16 ration for hydrocarbon in the

contested area. MAK Mahmood, additional foreign secretary, who leads the Bangladesh side, made the open-

delimitation is attained between the two states on the basis of equity

"Their delegation is maintain-

ing what they said in 1974 which is

meeting sources.

Myanmar's Deputy Foreign Minister Maug Moyint is leading an 11 member expert team at the twokind. The first-round talks were

The maritime issues between the countries have remained unre-

Lately, tension flared up when the Myanmar government engaged South Korean Daewoo International Corp in drilling for hydrocarbon reserves in the disputed territory.

Bangladesh territory marked as deep sea blocks 8-13 early this month ignoring warnings from the Bangladesh navy who soon moved to regain control over the area.

Huge explosive

FROM PAGE 1

Saidur Rahman took over as the new chief of JMB after JMB chief Abdur Rahman, second-man Siddiqul Islam alias Bangla Bhai and four other top JMB leaders were executed.

son charged Bangladesh is yet to settle the maritime boundaries with India

Under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), it must file its claim within July 27, 2011, while India and Myanmar will have to finish the maritime demarcation with Bangladesh within June 29 and May 21, 2009.

Harassed

FROM PAGE 16

Jamshed responsible for the death of her daughter and demanded their punishment.

Kashiani Police Station Officerin-Charge Md Mezbah Uddin Khan said Lima alias Chan Banu's uncle Habibur Sheikh yesterday filed a case against four persons including Mehedi and that police have completed the primary investigation and are now trying to arrest the accused. Chan Banu's uncle Nurul Islam

Nahar and Hosne Ara Begum said Mehedi, her classmate at Rajpat Multipurpose High School, had proposed the girl several times but she did not respond to it. Mehedi and his accomplices had

Sheikh and neighbours Kamrun

day dialogue that is fourth of its since been harassing the girl whose father Sheikh Nazrul Islam works in Kuwait. On November 10, when Chan

Banu was returning home from school after filing SSC examinations form the youths teased her. The matter was taken for arbitra-

tion at the house of the Salbatpara village headman on November 11 where Mithun and his accomplices attacked those who came from Chan Banu's village. The matter turned into a conflict between the two villages and both groups made a show of arms.

On information police came and brought the situation under control. The matter was finally settled at

the house of Union Parishad Chairman Delwar Hossain on November 12. But then Mehedi, Mithun and

others started slandering Chan Banu, which the girl could not bear anymore and committed suicide. Mithun, Kayes, Sohel and his

uncle Jahangir claimed that Chan Banu had an affair with Mehedi.

AL, BNP want

FROM PAGE 1 Earlier, the EC had primarily selected 138 organisations and asked the political parties to register formal objections, if any, by

November 16. The opposition from AL and

BNP came on the last day. After submitting the letter to EC Secretary Humayun Kabir, an AL delegation team disclosed names of the 20 organisations they do not want as election observers.

However, BNP that has yet to announce if it would participate in the polls did not divulge the names. AL raised objection also to a foreign observer body--Bangkok-

based Asian Network for Free Elections Foundations. EC Secretariat officials said the commission will soon hold hearings to decide on the observers in

question. In response to widespread allegations of biased election observation, the EC this time has laid down new guidelines for domestic observers. To monitor the parliamentary polls, an organisation must be accredited by the

commission. The observers that AL disapproves of include Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC), Democracywatch, Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (Fema), Khan Foundation, Jagarani Chakra, Light House, Noakhali Rural Development Society

Commission, Association of Muslim Welfare of Bangladesh, National Youth Forum of Bangladesh, Hilful Fujul Samajik Sangstha, Jugayan Samajik Unnayan Sangstha, Unit of Social Advancement, BRAVE, COAST

should not be allowed to observe the upcoming general election, AL

BNP Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan met the commission secretary in the afternoon.

Afterwards, he told journalists that his party has strong reservations about four organisations. He however declined to mention any

So far 32 organisations have been registered as political parties, while applications of 10 remain under consideration, said NI Khan, chief of the EC's technical committee to scrutinise the applications for

Talking to reporters yesterday,

Asked about the allegation of shortage of CDs containing voter rolls in many areas, Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul (NRDS), Shariatpur Development Hussain said they have sent the

Rohingya repatriation

positively as human rights situation is not good across the border. Now 23,695 Rohingyas reside at

two camps in Kutupalong in Ukhiya and Nayapara under Teknaf. Their number is increasing every year due to their high birth rate, the sources say. In 2004 the number of Rohingyas at the refugee camps were 19,841 in 2,976 families. Only 92

As many as 9,616 refugees in 1,255 families are waiting for repatriation and had once been cleared by the Myanmar government. But diplomatic tangles reportedly stall the process.

Many of them have allegedly secured Bangladeshi citizenship as they managed to enrol themselves on the voter list.

"It's easier for them as both local the official adds. people and Rohingyas talk almost camp, it was seen that each family of the same dialect and have similar complexion, said a local journalist, up to ten members was living miserwho is working on Rohingyas for over ably in a single 70-80 square-foot room made of polythene sheets and

Rohingyas are a Muslim ethnic bambooonmudfloor.

Myanmar army's "Operation Nagamin Sit Sin Yay" [Dragon King].

After an executive order of the government, about 2.5 lakh Rohingyas were registered from November 1991 to June 1992 and about 2.37 lakh refugees were repatriated till May 2005.

social crimes, though they are not allowed to leave camps without permission. Speaking anonymously, an RRRC official says the Rohingyas are much interested to stay in Bangladesh as UNHCR sent some of them to

Rohingyas to Canada. So the rest are much interested to stay here as they might have chances to fly abroad," During a recent visit to a refugee

with money laundering COURT CORRESPONDENT The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges

against Proshika chief Kazi Faruque Ahmed and his son Kazi Rubayat Ahmed, chief executive officer of Computer Systems Trust

of Proshika, in a Tk 1.03-crore

money laundering case. ACC Assistant Director Jahangir Alamgir, the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka showing 23 people as prose-

cution witnesses. Jahangir said the two accused misappropriated Tk 1,03,67,624 from Computer Systems Trust.

The IO, however, appealed to the court to discharge Motiur Rahman -- a member of the trust -from the case as accusations brought against him could not be proved.

On June 22 this year, ACC Deputy Director Syed Iqbal Hossain filed the case against Faruque, Rubayat and Motiur with Pallabi Police Station in the city in connection with taking the money in cash and bank cheques between March 23, 2007 and December 28 last year.

Earlier, the High Court, granting anticipatory bail to Faruque and his son, directed law enforcement agencies not to arrest or harass them in this connection for six months from September 14.

Saifur, Nizami

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, Jamaat Secretary General Mojahid said the party as well as the alliance will decide on contesting the national elections

slated for December 18. He demanded withdrawal of the state of emergency and also deferment of upazila elections.

The three politicians, accused in Barapukuria coalmine graft case filed by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), surrendered before a special court on November 10 seeking bail. The court sent them to jail rejecting

their bail prayers. The commission filed the case against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and 15 others including 10 former ministers from BNP and Jamaat on February 26 this year on charges of causing a loss of Tk 159 crore to the state exchequer by awarding a contract for Barapukuria coalmine operation to a Chinese company through

abuse of power. Other accused include former BNP ministers Abdul Mannan Bhuivan, Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, M Shamsul Islam, MK Anwar, Aminul Haque, Altaf Hossain Choudhury and AKM Mosharraf Hossain, former acting secretary to energy and mineral resources Nazrul Islam, former Petrobangla chairman SR Osmani, its former Petrobangla director Mainul Ahsan, former managing director of Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd (BCMCL) Sirajul Islam and Hosaf Group Chairman

Moazzem Hossain. Acid-burnt

FROM PAGE 16

Highway in Comilla on November

His whole body was burnt by the corrosive chemical. His face, eyes and head were burnt and doctors on the first day of his admission

said he may not survive. His passing away puts the death toll of the accident to 15 with 17 others injured. His mother Shirin Akhter, 25, and father Ashraf Ali, 30, are also suffering from burn inju-

Ashraf is in grave condition and Shirin is in a critical condition, doctors said. They are at the burn unit along with five other critically

injured in the accident. The parents have not been told that their dear child is no more. "Will you just keep on writing?

Won't you do anything to help us?

How can we manage the expensive

treatment for the three of us?" said the poor mother talking to The Daily Star. Relatives of the three have appealed for financial assistance to be deposited in Ahnaf's grandfa-

have to suffer in such a way? How would these poor people bear the expensive treatment cost," questioned Shamantalal Sen, project director of the burn unit.

grounds. possible help from the social welfare department of the hospital. attorney generals Delwar Hossain and Syeda Afsar Jahan, Supreme The patients stressed the need Court lawyers Abdul Hakim and for stern actions of the authorities Borhan Uddin, Rangpur District concerned so that no one dares to handle corrosive chemicals caland Sessions Judge Abdus Samad

lously. They said the government

should pay for their treatment

costs. They said there should be

transportation.

stronger vigilance on acid and its

India and seen as a miniruled the state for decades, in referendum on the Congress favour of a coalition of the party ahead of general elections Congress party, which governs at the national level, and the regional Peoples Democratic

due by May 2009.

Electioneering for the first phase has been going on in Hindu-dominated Jammu in the south and the Buddhist-majority Ladakh region but there has been little poll activity in the valley where three areas vote Monday.

We'll ensure fair polls," says

Kashmir police chief Kuldeep

six state polls now underway in

The vote is part of a round of

BNP may buy

Following the alliance meeting, BNP leader RA Ghani told The Daily Star that if the election is held on December 18, they will not be able to contest in it, but he did not make it clear whether he was

Some other BNP leaders however said the four-party alliance has almost finalised its decision for boycotting the election if it is held on December 18, but it nonetheless has its nomination seekers ready across the country for contesting in the election 'if the situa-

Member Saifur Rahman told reporters yesterday after his release from detention.

According to the sources, BNP leadership already gave a proposal to the authorities for deferring the election by two or three months,

submitted by November 20, if they are to contest in the election on December 18.

"We're ready to participate in the election, but the people will not accept any rigged election," Jamaat Secretary General Ali released from detention.

The alliance insiders said-Jamaat and IOJ are mounting pressure on BNP for contesting in the December 18 poll, but a group of BNP leaders are trying to persuade Khaleda Zia into boycotting it, while Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP), another component of the alliance, is also unwilling to participate in the poll until the alliance's seven demands are met by

the government.

after the meeting.

WB aid

FROM PAGE 16

Asked about the World Bank's plan about enhanced assistance programme to Bangladesh, he said: 'It's not immediately clear when and World Bank President Robert B

in next three years in view of the He said government resorted to global economic crisis. Replying to a question, Dr Aziz said the government is working on the project portfolios at a pace so

> transition. In the external front, the uncertainty would depend on how the global recession prolongs and affects the World Bank's IDA (International Development Association). "There is no visible impact of the recession on

The finance adviser said the country is expected to get highest ever IDA commitment of \$1.34 ment cannot shorten or change the billion during the current fiscal year. Of this, commitments for \$800

the IDA so far," he said.

January-June period. Aziz said the World Bank team gave an indication that there is a possibility to increase funding for the Padma Bridge by \$300 million in the second phase of construction.

They are also interested in funding the Eastern Bypass project and holding discussions in this regard with the Ministry of Communications, he said.

smooth political transition. Asked what would be the economic consequences if election is not held on December 18, he said: "The future will tell us."

Now the number of High Court "The economy will continue to instability." said the adviser.

Some AL leaders

however would be changed in the

Joint General Secretary Mukul

parliamentary board. the proposed grand alliance to finalise seat sharing

fixed as of filing this report at 8:00pm vesterday.

the upcoming election.

except one of its leaders.

the meeting.

Two petitions were filed yesterday with the Supreme Court to stay the High Court (HC) order that directed the government to retest dered milk and submit the results

Institution for further testing. The court also ordered the pers the results of all the tests done

Govt to provide the help of World Bank.

"We feel that more attention of

Bangladesh might get submerged if form intruded into Bangladesh the sea level rises by only one metre, territory at about 10:00pm and lakh people will be displaced if it Islam. He started firing indiscrimi-The speakers said climate change Mamun and their neighbour Mostafa on the spot."

the area after the incident.

Tariqul sued

and Myanmar.

ing remarks at the talks. He said, "We would like to clarify that our maritime zone as declared in 1974 along the 092 degree 17 minute 30 second line is the line we are bound to follow until a final

principle." Approached by this correspondent during the tea breaks, none of Myanmarese delegation agreed to

not at all acceptable to us," said a member of Bangladesh side. Dhaka categorically stated that until an agreement is reached, Yangon should restrict its survey and exploratory activities to the East of 180 degree line, said the

held on March 30 this year.

solved for 22 years.

The Myanmarese ships entered

Trust, Development Organisation for the Poor, and Nari Udyog Kendra. In the letter, AL alleged that the organisations are biased towards BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, and so

PARTY REGISTRATION

registration. Khan said the commission would not take any more application

Society, Srijani Bangladesh, CDs to all district election offices Bangladesh Manabadhikar and anyone can buy those.

FROM PAGE 16

refugees were sent back in 2005.

Allegations are rife many refugees who were repatriated over the years came back crossing the border and are now living with the local community as unregistered Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar, Bandarban and Chittagong.

sources said.

before the December 18 polls.

minority who live in the northern state of Arakan near the Myanmar Bangladesh border. In 1978, 1.67 lakh Rohingya refugees crossed Bangladesh border following the

Local people from Teknaf and Cox's Bazar say Rohingyas indulge in theft, robbery and different other

Western countries. "So far they have sent 78

ther Abdur Rashid's Agrani Bank Dhaka Air Force Base branch savings account No 131437. "Why these innocent people body for recruitment of the judges on that day and conveyed his He assured the parents of all

Proshika chief, Kashmir votes FROM PAGE 16 government to run the state,"

traditionally viewed a good turn-

significant impact in urban areas

impact will be less," said Tahir

"India will definitely sell a

The seven-stage polls to the

87-member assembly are slated.

to wind up December 24 when

Srinagar votes. The staggered

voting allows authorities in the

heavily militarised state to shift

security forces around in a bid to

ensure there is no violence during

Security forces say they are

taking no chances, despite the

rebels' pledges of non-violence in

the state where many favour

independence from mainly

Hindu, officially secular India or

a merger with predominantly

CA's meeting

On November 2, the commission

announced detailed schedules for

the stalled ninth parliamentary

returning officers (RO) and 538

assistant returning officers (ARO)

for parliamentary polls and 64 ROs

and 481 AROs for conducting

tricts and two divisional commis-

sioners were made ROs on deputa-

tion for the polls while additional

deputy commissioners will work as

Judges of both the divisions of the

However, the Supreme Court

Bar Association (SCBA) refrained

from giving its traditional recep-

tion to the newly appointed judges

on the grounds that there has been

allegation of misconduct against

A news item published in a daily

newspaper yesterday said Rangpur

District and Sessions Judge Abdus

Samad, who has been appointed as

an additional HC judge, had earlier

been suspended for misconduct in

1984 when he was a munsif in

Shafique Ahmed and Secretary

advocate Nurul Islam Sujan met

the chief justice at his office in the

morning and requested him not to

he is constitutionally bound to

administer oath to Samad since

the president has appointed him

as an HC judge, said barrister

Shafique while talking to The

deception in appointing the HC

judges as it changed the order of

names arranged in terms of

seniority by the Supreme Judicial

Court have said three of the new

High Court judges had earlier

worked at the law chamber of

present Law Adviser AF Hassan

Ariff. So, there was partiality in

appointing them," barrister

Commission Ordinance 2008 must

be amended so that the govern-

order of names on the list before

Commission recommended 14

names for seven posts of the High

Court judges to the president.

With the permission of the chief

adviser, the law ministry short-

ened the list. It kept only seven

names breaking the order and the

Iajuddin Ahmed appointed seven

new additional judges to the HC

division for two years for the first

time as per the recommendation

of the Supreme Judicial

Commission, a newly constituted

Kamal-Ul Alam, one of the

seven judges, met the chief justice

inability to take oath on health

and Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions

Judge M Azizul Haque.

The other judges are deputy

On November 12, President

president later approved the list.

"The Supreme Judicial

sending it to the president.

He said the Supreme Judicial

"The lawyers of the Supreme

The chief justice told them that

administer oath to Samad.

SCBA President barrister

Sixty-four DCs of as many dis-

The EC then appointed 66

and third upazila polls.

elections to 481 upazilas.

ROs in the upazila polls.

FROM PAGE 1

one of the judges.

Meherpur.

Daily Star.

Commission.

Shafique said.

he said.

of higher court.

6 HC judges

apex court were present.

"We're ready for the elections.

good turnout as its victory in

Kashmir. A lower turnout would

be a major victory for the separat-

bullet over the ballot.'

weekly, Chattan, or Rock.

ists," he said.

the polling.

Muslim Pakistan.

FROM PAGE 1

says Omar Abdullah, head of the pro-India National Conference. Voters turfed out the National Conference in 2002 after it had

Party (PDP). "It's not going to be a cakewalk this time. First we'll have to convince people to vote and than motivate them to vote in our

favour," says another pro-India leader Mehbooba Mufti of the India regards staging polls in Kashmir as enhancing the legitimacy of its rule in its only Muslim-majority state and has

Khuda.

out as signalling a victory of "the "The boycott call will have a talking about the alliance or BNP. of the valley but in rural areas the Mohiudin, a Kashmir analyst and editor of the influential Urdu

> tion changes'. "The election can't be held on December 18...it's impossible," BNP Standing Committee

Tanbir Siddiky, another member of the BNP standing committee, said the newly elected government will be able to function only for a month at best if the poll is held without his party's participa-

but such a long deferment seems very unlikely. Although leaders of BNP's allies Jamat-e-Islami and Islami Okyo Jote (IOJ) said they will refrain from participating in the December 18 poll, if finally the alliance decides to boycott it, they however already collected nomination forms, which must be

Ahsan Muhammad Mojahid told reporters yesterday after being

appreciated the country's economic performance as well as its efforts in reducing poverty over the last 10-15 years. "The country achieved a quite remarkable degree of economic consistency in spite of political differences," Roome told reporters

where Bangladesh needs support." Zoellick recently announced that the Bretton Woods institution would significantly enhance their programme in developing countries

these could be submitted to the World Bank before the political

million have already been finalised while \$150 million would be finalised by December and the rest during the

About uncertainty over the holding of general election, the Finance

Adviser said he was still hopeful of a

He, however, said political instability is one side of the economic development while law and order situation is other side. If the law and order situation remains normal, the private sector would continue with their momentum, while exports, agriculture production and inflow of remittance would remain unaffected.

judges stands at 67, said sources at grow unless the law and order situathe Supreme Court Registrar tion deteriorates due to political