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**MILK TEST**  
Govt to seek instructions from SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will seek instructions from the Supreme Court (SC) to be sure if the apex court directed the health ministry to test all the powdered milk brands or only the eight brands in question in a European country.

"We shall seek instructions from the SC in a day or two on its order as it did not mention the number of samples," health ministry Additional

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

**AKM Mosharraf, ANH Akhter freed on bail**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP state minister for energy and mineral resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain and former power secretary ANH Akhter Hossain were released on bail yesterday from jail.

Mosharraf was released from Dhaka Central Jail at about 5:00pm while Akhter from the prison cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

**Prayer Timing**

November 24

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-05	5-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-21	5-24
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

**Most of the poor stay out of safety net**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of the poor remain out of the purview of the government's safety net benefits, most of which go to the less poverty-hit areas, says a World Bank report.

The report titled "Poverty Assessment for Bangladesh: Creating Opportunities and Bridging the East-West Divide" released yesterday says the public resources allocation under the safety net programme is not consistent with poverty incidence.

In Sylhet Division 22 percent households are safety net beneficiaries, while the national average is 13 percent, it adds.

Coverage of safety net programmes also varies significantly by regions and does not correlate well with division-level poverty rates, the report clarifies.

It cites the example of Rajshahi Division, which has the highest poverty rate of 51.2 percent but has got only 12.1 percent of safety nets coverage. Khulna Division has the second highest poverty rate of 45.7 percent but has the lowest 9.6

percent coverage of safety nets.

In Dhaka the poverty rate is 32 percent and the division got 14.3 percent of safety net benefits, the report adds.

It says less than one-fourth of the bottom 10 percent of the poor receive the government's safety net benefits.

At a press briefing at the World Bank Dhaka office on the occasion of launching of the report, WB Country Director Xian Zhu said: "It's essential that Bangladesh makes the existing safety net system more

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

**EU seeks lifting of emergency**

UNB, Dhaka

The European Union said yesterday it is not happy with holding parliamentary election under the state of emergency.

"It is not easy to accept the emergency. Although we are sending election observation mission following relaxation of emergency, it does not mean we are happy. We still keep saying that it should go ideally," EC Head of the Delegation Ambassador

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

**3-tier security mulled for polls**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Troops and other law enforcement agencies will be deployed to build up a three-tier security system during the parliamentary and upazila elections, now slated for December 29 and January 22.

The caretaker government also hopes that the country's law and order will not deteriorate even if the state of emergency is lifted.

"We hope that the situation will stay normal after lifting of the emergency," Home Adviser MA Matin told reporters after a meeting on law and order at the Secretariat yesterday.

He, however, said the government would decide when to lift the emergency. He did not also say whether the emergency would be lifted totally or partially.

Matin said the army, navy, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and other

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

**Zardari for no first strike against India**

*Suggests a regional pact on nuke use*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari said he is willing to work for no-first use of nuclear weapons against neighbour India and suggested a South Asian pact to prevent use of atomic weapons.

Asked if Pakistan would adopt the policy of no-first use of nuclear weapons, he said "Most definitely yes. We hope we will never get into that position. I am for a South Asian Non-Nuclear Treaty. I am glad I can say with full confidence that I can get my parliament to agree to it right away. Can you get your parliament agree to it?"

Zardari was speaking to Indian politicians and businessmen via video-conferencing at a "Leadership Summit" organised by a leading Indian newspaper at a five-star hotel in New Delhi Saturday.

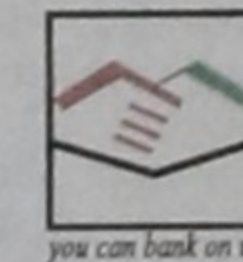
India announced a no-first use policy soon after it conducted a nuclear test in May, 1998 but Pakistan, which too had tested in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



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Further tests will be carried out as per the Order of the Supreme Court.

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Nestlé Bangladesh is here for the long term

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The consumer is at the heart of all we do and that is why the safety of our consumers is of utmost importance to us. Millions of consumers across the globe have put their trust in Nestlé products, bite after bite, sip after sip, day after day for Nestlé's reputation over many years of consistent quality and safety. Once again, Nestlé would like to reassure the consumers that Nestlé **NIDO FORTIFIED** and all our products in Bangladesh are safe for consumption.

For more information contact:  
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\*As confirmed by 7 laboratories at home and abroad