Gilani files appeal in contempt case

SC to hear appeal today

AGENCIES, Islamabad

FROM PAGE 1

expectations and accom-

plish many Herculean tasks

for the sake of a continua-

tion of electoral reforms

initiated and carried out

successfully by his predeces-

His journey may be tortu-

ous, particularly from a

political perspective. All

prevailing signals in the

political landscape suggest

his leadership may face

strong criticism and opposi-

tion from the BNP-led politi-

cal parties. The BNP did not

take time to reject outright

the appointment of the new

CEC and four election com-

missioners. The party's

acting Secretary General

Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir

yesterday announced that

the BNP would not contest

the next parliamentary polls

under the newly formed EC.

Some senior BNP leaders

have been questioning the

legality of the search com-

mittee formed by the presi-

dent to recommend names

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sor over the last five years.

Pakistani Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani has filed an appeal against appearing before the Supreme Court (SC) in a contempt hearing for failing to reopen corruption cases against the president, his lawyer said yesterday, Reuters reported.

The SC would hear the intracourt appeal requesting it to

suspend its decision of framing contempt charges against prime minister today, DawnNews reported.

The SC last week ordered Gilani to appear before it on February 13 to be charged with contempt of court in a case that has raised political tension.

"I've filed the appeal," Gilani's lawyer, Aitzaz Ahsan, told reporters.

Gilani first appeared before the Supreme Court on January 19 to explain why he should not be charged with contempt for

Uphill task ahead

to him for appointment as

CEC and election commis-

sioners. And they have also

been saying that they will

not accept the formation of

the new EC before a resolu-

tion of the caretaker govern-

ment issue. It was thus a

given that the main opposi-

tion would reject the

appointment of the new

CEC and other election

cal perspective, Rakibuddin

is not as lucky as his prede-

cessor. No major political

parties opposed Huda's

appointment as CEC by the

Fakhruddin Ahmed-led

emergency regime. In fact,

politics was banned during

Huda's appointment.

When the ban on indoor

politics was lifted on a lim-

ited scale at the end of 2007,

the political parties cooper-

ated with the EC in the task

of bringing about electoral

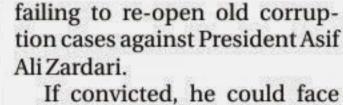
reforms and doing other

preparatory work for the

holding of the stalled ninth

Therefore, from a politi-

commissioners.



jail and the loss of office.

The legal tussle stems from thousands of old corruption cases thrown out in 2007 by a controversial amnesty law.

The government maintains

Zardari, co-chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, which leads the coalition government, enjoys immunity as the head of state.

Zardari's government is the longestrunning civilian administration in Pakistan's coup-marred history. But it has become deeply unpopular, criticised as corrupt and incompetent.

Political instability and brinkmanship has consumed the nuclear-armed country in recent years, preventing it from addressing crushing poverty and other economic ills, or containing a rampaging insurgency.

parliamentary polls.

Moreover, the caretaker

government backed by the

army extended all-out sup-

port to the EC led by Huda to

accomplish his mission.

Huda thus had almost a

smooth political landscape

to carry out some gigantic

tasks, including preparation

of a voter list with photo-

graphs and introduction of

political parties' registration

with the EC through sweep-

ing electoral reforms. And

the electoral reforms

brought about at the time

also gave birth to a new

electioneering culture in the

will of course work in a dif-

ferent political atmosphere.

political landscape is so

bitterly divided that good

work on the part of the new

EC may not get appreciated

by the opposition while the

ruling party may extend its

In the past, political par-

blind support to the EC.

Rakibuddin and his team

Although democratic, the

country.

Nato, Afghan, Pak officials to hold talks

REUTERS, Islamabad

City

Nato, Afghan and Pakistani military officials will hold talks on improving border security and coordination yesterday, in a possible sign that tension is easing following a cross-border Nato air attack in November that infuriated Pakistan.

Pakistan's military said the director-general of military operations, Major-General Ishfaq Nadeem Ahmed, would represent the country in the talks at a coordination centre at the border.

Pakistan closed Nato supply routes to Afghanistan after the air attack, which killed 24 Pakistani soldiers and plunged relations between Pakistan and the United States to their lowest point in years.

Islamabad expects to reopen the supply routes, but will impose tariffs, a senior Pakistani security official told Reuters on January 19.

ties' opposition had forced

Abu Hena to resign as CEC

although under his leader-

ship the EC successfully held

the June 12, 1996 parliamen-

tary polls following the con-

stitutional introduction of

the caretaker government

system. Before Hena was

appointed, his predecessor

Justice Sadek was mired in

deep controversy over his

role in the February 15, 1996

farcical parliamentary polls.

although he had been

appointed by the then AL-

led government in 2000,

faced the ire of the AL after

its debacle in the 2001 par-

liamentary polls. Syed's

successor, Justice MA Aziz,

appointed as CEC by the

Another CEC, MA Syed,

INDIAN STATE POLLS

Uttar Pradesh begins key vote

BBC ONLINE

Voting is under way in crucial assembly elections in India's most populous state of Uttar Pradesh.

Nearly 126 million voters are eligible to cast ballots in 403 seats, in a seven-phase election that ends on March 3. Counting will be on March 6.

Uttar Pradesh is ruled by Chief Minister Mayawati, a lowcaste Dalit icon who is battling another strong regional force, the Samajwadi Party.

But the poll is also a major test for the beleaguered ruling Congress party.

If it were a separate country, Uttar Pradesh would be the fifth largest in the world by population, with more than 200 million people.

Over 17 million voters are eligible to vote in 55 seats where polling was being held yesterday.

By 13:00 local time [07:30 GMT] yesterday, polling overall was put at 28.35%.

Polling booths opened at 07:00 but officials said turnout was fairly low in the initial hours because of heavy rain in

many parts. In Basni constituency, in Siddharth Nagar district, not a single vote was cast in the first two hours of polling due to downpours, the Press Trust of India reported.

Polling generally concludes at 17:00, but the Election Commission has said that all those who reach the polling station by then will be allowed to vote, no matter how long it takes.

BPL T20

FROM PAGE 1

After it begins at 6:30pm, a segment on Mother Language Day will follow performances by Indian and local silver screen stars. Bipasha Basu, Malaika Arora Khan, Rituparna Sengupta from India while Shamim Ara Nipa, Shibli Mohammad, Shakib Khan and Apu Bishwas from Bangladesh will perform while singers Shaan, Bappi Lahiri also confirmed their participation along with Ayub Bacchu, Kumar Biswajit, Mila and popular band Miles.

The competition proper has a mix of local and foreign

boost to the earnings of the local players. The minimum salary for a Grade C cricketer is Tk 17 lakh (\$20,000), considerably more than what they earn in a year. Apart from the money earned by the players and the cricket board, there are factors that could have a long-lasting impact on the country's cricket.

names and will be a major

There is genuine fear that the attitude of the players could shift to the shorter format rather than the hard yards of the longer version.

The next three weeks, nonetheless, promises to be eventful both on and off the field.

All issues to be settled

representative in the joint survey commission on the dam," Hasina said while replying to lawmakers' queries.

Blasting at her political rivals, she said that they never had courage to raise voice against India to protect the country's interests as they had always come to power illegally. "They [BNP-Jamaat-led

government] used to flatter India while in power but speak ill of India while in opposition," Hasina said, criticising the BNP-Jamaat's "double standard of politics".

She said her previous government had signed a treaty with India to share the water of Ganges, and the present government will solve the Teesta water sharing and Tipaimukh Dam issues with India.

On maritime boundary issue, the premier said "ITLOS is expected to give its final judgment in the next month on the dispute concerning delimitation of

maritime boundary between Bangladesh and Myanmar in the Bay."

"We are likely to get an area in the Bay which will be larger than the total areas of our country," the premier said amid clapping of her deputies.

The premier in a scripted answer informed the House that Bangladesh has also submitted necessary documents to the Memorial tribunal of the UN over fixing the country's maritime boundary with India.

"The process is likely to be resolved by 2014," she hoped.

Replying to another query, Hasina said her government was carrying forward a mega plan to develop a "planned, coordinated and modern multi-modal communication system" for greater Dhaka linking the adjacent districts.

She also reiterated her government's plan to develop the state-owned railway as a reliable, safe and environment-friendly transport.

Caught at last

FROM PAGE 20

A team of detective branch (DB) police led by Mostafizar Rahman, officer-in-charge of the DB in Rangpur, arrested him from Rangpur Judge Court premises yesterday.

Police said Rahman, a former union parishad chairman of Goyabari in Nilphamari district, was arrested when he came to surrender to the court at around 1:30pm.

Now an assistant tax commissioner, Rahman on November 30, 2004 was sentenced to three years' imprisonment and fined Tk 6,35,000 and in default six more months in jail for misappropriating 115 tonnes wheat in 1989.

He was then chairman of a river re-excavation and fish farming project under the Work programme.

Abdus Shobhan, an officer of the now-defunct Anti-Corruption Bureau, filed the case with Dimla Police Station in Nilphamari on

October 18, 1993.

A special judge court in Rangpur on October 17 last year issued an arrest warrant against Rahman as he had been absconding since the day the verdict was

announced. On January 23 this year, one Abdur Rouf, identifying himself as the former Goyabari chairman, appeared before the court and appealed for an interim bail. The court rejected the appeal and sent him to

Rangpur Central jail. The DB police enquired the matter and found that Rouf was reportedly engaged to submit to the

court for Tk 50,000. DB's Mostafizar said a

case was lodged against Rahman for cheating as he engaged Rouf to undergo government's Food For punishment in his behalf.

Earlier on 2003, Rahman joined the income tax department in Sylhet by showing a false certificate of being an employee of the Mujibnagar Government.

Lot of hurdles ahead **FROM PAGE 20** Dhaka Mass Transport Company is to be formed to

completion.

year in the Gazipur section with a target of completing it within the present government's tenure and projected completion of the Sadarghat section by the end of 2014.

Technical experts during a presentation of a prefeasibility report on Gazipur section last July said the implementation of the project would be extremely difficult due to short-sighted urbanisation and lack of coordinated linkages among the proposed flyovers, overpasses, elevated expressways and metro rail.

SM Saleh Uddin, additional executive director of Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB), however, said project progress was ahead of schedule.

The project is aimed at establishing a disciplined, time-bound and safe bus service to ease public sufferings caused by chaos, poor service and hazards in the conventional transport system.

While a detailed design of the Gazipur section could take several more months, the feasibility of the other section is going on under a project called Clean Air and Sustainable Environment.

be built under the Roads and Highways Department while overpasses and flyovers will be constructed under the Bridges Division or Local Government Division. The cabinet last month approved the formation of a special project organisation (SPO) to carry out the implementation of BRT at the Gazipur-airport section under the Roads and Highways Department.

section has been estimated at \$240 million, of which the ADB is expected to provide

operate the BRT system after

The cost of the Gazipur

\$145 million. Feasibility studies and preliminary design for the Sadarghat section are expected in May, said Anisur Rahman, project director of the section. He added that the final design would take a

year more and project completion was not possible before 2015. He said a process was on to get a \$200 million loan from the World Bank to implement the Sadarghat

section.

The route of this section passes through Mohakhali, Tejgaon, Moghbazar and Kakrail, Abdul Ghani Road, Golap Shah Mazar, North South Road. The other part goes through Rajarbagh, DIT Extension Road, Bangabhaban, Kaptanbazar, Baldha Garden to Babubazar.

At present, roughly 6,000 buses of different kinds ply the streets of Dhaka, said Prof Md Shamsul Hoque, adding that articulated (popularly The Gazipur section will known as bendy buses) rapid buses of the BRT system would carry 20,000 passengers per hour in one direction and bring the number of buses down to one-third.

According to Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, a noted civil engineer and transport expert, a speedy commuter train service on the existing Joydevpur-Narayanganj rail line will be a better option at a lot less investment and trouble.

INVITATION FOR BIDS Crude Degummed Soybean Oil

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Crude Degummed Soybean Oil shall be pure and produced from fair average quality crude soybean oil from which the major portion of the gums naturally present removed by hydration and mechanical or physical separation.

Analytical Requirements:

ITEM	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM
Unsaponifiable Matter	1.5 %	
Free Fatty Acids, as Oleic	0.75%	
Moisture and Volatile Matter and Insoluble Impurities	0.30%	
Flash Point		250 degrees Fahrenheit
Phosphorous		0.02%

All interested parties should submit their bids in US Dollars (\$) on February20, 2011 17:00 hours BST. Sales based on Incoterms CFR Free out discharge into BIDDER provided shore tanks, tank railcars or trucks at one or two safe berths ChittagongBangladesh from any U.S. Port determined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Actual shipment schedule(s) will be based on USDA procurement and delivery schedules. Expected shipment period from US port is early May 2012. The load and delivery dates are neither promised nor guaranteed by the SELLER.

Please submit your final bid along with your complete contact details by email to Land O' Lakes Inc. Commodity and Monetization Manager Matthew Smith; bids.Bangladesh@idd.landolakes.com in English. All bids should be valid for 15 days and with the words "Bangladesh2012CDSO Tender" in the subject line. The Winner is chosen based on offer price, ability to meet payment terms and past performance.

The highest BIDDER will have to provide a 10% prepayment upon signing of sales agreement and an irrevocable sight letter of credit issued by a bank of SELLER's choice for the remaining 90% amount by4 days after contract signing at U.S port. Minimum bid size is 2,520 metric tons.

Interested parties should clarify submission procedure and any other question from monetization manager mentioned above at e-mail: bids.Bangladesh@idd.landolakes.com

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Ultra 2	300 Kbps	৮০০	১.৫ GB	∘ GB
Ultra 3	512 Kbps	,7200	۵.¢ GB	ર GB
Ultra 7	300 Kbps	009	ьоо МВ	3.¢ GB

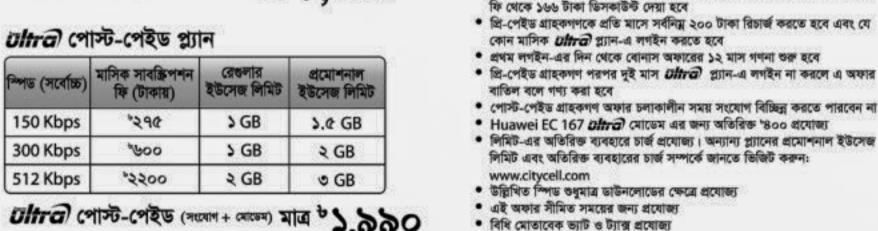
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150 Kbps	*২৭৫	3 GB	۵.e GB
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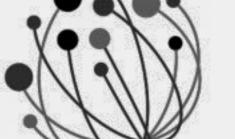
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The SELLER reserves the right to reject any or all the bids and issue a fresh invitation for bids. JWT Mindset.0102.2012

BNP-led government in 2005, was caught in political controversy as his appointment had not been accepted by then AL-led opposition parties. And finally, the EC under his leadership turned controversy over its whimsical and farcical activities.

People lost their confidence in the EC. And it was immediate past CEC Huda who led the EC into bringing back people who had confidence in it.

Rakibuddin and the other election commissioners will be sworn in soon and join their offices. The 10th parliamentary polls will be held under the newly formed EC at the beginning of 2014. Before that it will face an acid test in conducting polls to a bifurcated Dhaka City Corporation any time before next May. Although nonpartisan in nature, the DCC polls will convey some signals whether the BNP will change its current stance by asking its leaders to join the polls under the new EC.

In brief, it can be said that in the wake of the prevailing political situation, the fate of the newly formed EC and ongoing electoral reforms looks to be the similar.