Tangail-3

FROM PAGE 20 race, according to the polls schedule.

This will be the second election under the current EC formed in February this

The seat fell vacant after ruling Awami League lawmaker Matiur Rahman died on September 14.

The first polls to the Gazipur-4 constituency witnessed a boycott by BNPled opposition parties.

On whether the EC would take any step to ensure BNP's participation in the upcoming by-polls, the CEC said "We have are communicating with BNP and they are cooperating with us to redraw the boundaries of the parliamentary constituen-

Flanked by four other elections commissioners, Rakibuddin said the Gazipur by-polls were fair and voters did not face any obstacle in casting their

The EC appointed friends had visited Khurshid Anwar as the | Harunjahat and Uttar returning officer and Alimuzzaman as the assistant returning officer.

Opposition blamed FROM PAGE 1 because there is no basis [of

these comments]. I think the prime minister does not know the facts, or she is not telling the truth despite knowing everything." "She should admit the

acute failure of the government and the administration, and then impartially find out the perpetrators who instigated the incidents and really unleashed the havoc," said the BNP standing committee member. Moudud also refuted the

prime minister's allegation that offenders started setting fire to houses after a local BNP MP went to the spot and told them something provocative. "No, it's a total lie. We asked many people there and everybody told us the opposite." "Our lawmaker tried to

resist people. After some time, the incident went beyond control and there were no members of the law enforcing agencies on the spot," BBC quoted him as saying. Asked about BNP's probe

on the incidents, Moudud said, "We will sit with the committee members. We have already prepared draft report which will be made public within two or three days."

Meanwhile, Lutfor Rahman Kajol, the BNP lawmaker from Cox's Bazar-3 constituency, denied the allegation the premier made against him.

He told The Daily Star that due to this allegation, the minority people would not get justice. The MP said the prime

minister had damaged the actual flow of investigation through such comment. He also feared that the general people would not show any interest to stop violence "if any such incident like Ramu happens in future".

Resign again FROM PAGE 1

Anti-Corruption Commission to ensure Azam's security in order to expose the railwaygate scandal and try the offenders.

Appearing on TV for the first time since the April 9 scandal, whistle-blower Azam Khan has said the Tk 74 lakh stashed in his car was being taken to the then railways minister Suranjit Sengupta's

Around 11:30pm on April 9, Azam drove Faruq's microbus into the Pilkhana headquarters of Bangladesh Border Guard and hollered that there was illegal money in the vehicle.

gate the scam, TIB Executive

Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman

"It is unfortunate," he

added, "that the ACC made

derogatory remarks about

Azam without considering

what he said in the interview.

It is expected that the ACC will

be respectful to all citizens in

He said the ACC should

change its position regarding

Azam. "Otherwise, people's

line with the constitution."

will dwindle."

said in a statement.

During his one and a half hours testimony, Abdur Razzaque Khan, one of the two IOs, told about when and It is unacceptable that the where he had recorded state-ACC, following the TV interments of witnesses in the case. view, said it will not reinvesti-

Abdul Quader Mollah.

On Sunday, other IO Monowara Begum gave her testimony.

Razzaque said in April 1971, Pakistani army with 100 to 150 men under the leadership of Quader Mollah had launched an attacked on Alubdi village in Pallabi of Dhaka from all around and killed around 350 people.

"On August 16, 2010, I recorded statements of people who know about the inciconfidence in the ACC dent after investigation and interrogating them," said regarding trials of criminals through fair investigations Razzaque.

He said he had visited

FROM PAGE 20 Bhawal Khan Bari and the witness, adding, "Abdul Ghatarchar of Keraniganj on Alim also formed Razakar January 15, 2011 where Bahini [Force] and set up Quader Mollah along with the Razakar camp in Joypurhat then Pakistani occupation

In his deposition, former

speech on March 7, 1971.

Joypurhat, Akkelpur,

Panchbibi and Khetlal from

Hatsahar almost at the end of

May 1971 to see the condition

of the Hindu people there.

They saw Pakistani army and

members of Razakar and

Peace Committee entering

know that Pakistani army and

their collaborators Razakars

and Peace Committee mem-

bers had established a reign of

terror in Uttar Hatsahar

through looting and arson,"

army and their collaborators

had gone to Harunjahat vil-

lage and picked up Badal and

Sachin, who were known to

the witness, and taken them

to Uttar Hatsahar, said Nurul,

adding, "After knowing the

matter, we came to Pakuria

village to see the situation in

seen that the Pakistan army,

Razakars and Peace

Committee members picked

up Pravash Chandra Sheel,

Manibhusan alias

Fanibhushan Chakrabarti,

Kartik Burman, Nimai

Chandra, Priyonath Burman

and three others of Uttar

Hatsahar and headed towards

Khetlal. Badal and Sachin had

saw that they [detainees] were

taken to the Peace Committee

office set up at Khetlal

Charitable Dispensary," said

the witness, adding that they

could hear torture screams

taken to the Peace Committee

office set up at Shownlal

Bajla's house, said the wit-

Pakistani army personnel.

They [the detainees] were

taken to Khanjanpur

Kuthibari and shot dead there

upon instructions from Abdul

Alim and the Pakistani army

nal comprised of its chairman

Justice ATM Fazle Kabir, and

members Justice Obaidul

Hassan and Judge M Shahinur

Islam recorded Nurul's 50-

minute testimony and

adjourned the case proceed-

ing until today, when the

witness will face cross-

framed 17 specific charges of

war crimes against Alim. The

charges include genocide,

killing of Bangalee civilians

and burying people alive

during the Liberation War.

QUADER MOLLAH'S CASE

The tribunal yesterday com-

pleted recording the testi-

mony of another investiga-

tion officer (IO) of war crimes

case against Jamaat leader

The tribunal on June 11

examination.

The three-member tribu-

personnel," said Nurul.

"Abdul Alim was there with

The detainees were later

from a nearby place.

"We followed them and

also been taken with them.

Nurul said there they had

Uttar Hatsahar."

A part of the occupation

"From there, we came to

Nurul said he and his two

these camps.

Harunjahat.

he said.

[during the war]."

Alim ordered

ted genocide on November Chhatra Union leader Nurul 25, 1971. Islam said he had actively Razzaque said he had worked for the liberation and recorded statements of witsupplied freedom fighters nesses and made a draft map information on antiof the area. liberation forces being inspired by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's

The IO said he had also investigated and recorded statements of witnesses on August 30, 2011 in connection "The Pakistani army in with the killing of procooperation with Abdul Alim liberation poet Meherunnesa set up offices of Peace and three of her family mem-Committee and Pakistan bers on March 27, 1971 and of army, and camp of Razakar Mirpur Bangla College stu-Bahini in Joypurhat occupydent Pallab on April 5, 1971 by ing the house of Shownlal Quader Mollah and his asso-Bajla [during the war]," said ciates. the witness, adding that Razzaque, the 12th and last crimes against humanity had been committed in

army and Razakars commit-

prosecution witness, is set to face cross-examination on October 15.

The tribunal on May 28 indicted Jamaat assistant secretary general Abdul Quader Mollah on six charges of crimes against humanity, including murder and mass killing. So far 10 prosecutor witnesses have testified in the

MOJAHEED'S AND KAMARUZZAMAN'S CASES

The tribunal yesterday also recorded the crossexamination of Mahbub Kamal, the third prosecution witness in the war crimes case against Jamaat leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed.

Defence counsel Syed Mizanur Rahman crossexamined the witness. The cross-examination will resume tomorrow. Mahbub testified in the case on October 3. Meanwhile, the prosecu-

tion yesterday submitted a petition seeking the tribunal's permission for tendering eight additional witnesses in the war crimes case against Jamaat leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman.

The tribunal fixed today for hearing the petition.

The tribunal also fixed today to hear another prosecution petition seeking permission to record the testimony of these eight witnesses behind closed doors.

Opposition men

FROM PAGE 20 Of the 23 injured activists, three are -- Anisuzzaman Khan Babu, BNP district president, Gausul Azam Dollar, secretary, and Abdur Rahim Sarler, Jamaat district

The three injured police personnel are Gopal Chandra Chakkravarti, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, Moshiur Rahman, officer-in-charge (Investigation), and Abdul Aziz, assistant sub-

inspector. The clash between the activists and police started when police tried to stop their procession near the municipality. The agitated activists attacked police

with brickbats and sticks. Police charged baton and fired one tear gas shell as well as 19 rubber bullets to dis-

perse them. Chased by the police, the activists took shelter at BNF

district office. Police arrested 16 activists, including Mosharraf Hossin Babu, joint secretary of district Jubo Dal, and Faizal Kabir Rana, district Shibir president, from the office around 4:00pm.

Additional police force has been deployed to avert any further incident.

DCC polls

FROM PAGE 20

Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar passed the order after hear ing a petition to extend its previous stay order.

The fresh extension will be effective from October 23, as the previous extension order remains in force until that day, the petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star.

The court on April 16 directed that the EC must update the city corporations' voter lists and determine the number of wards and councillors with assistance of government authorities three months before the polls, said Manzill.

He added that the authorities have not implemented the HC directives.

UN biodiversity meeting begins in India

AFP, Hyderabad

A major UN meeting designed to safeguard the world's natural resources began yesterday with appeals to ensure that biodiversity does not become a victim of the global financial crisis.

More than 170 countries are meeting in the Indian city of Hyderabad over the next 12 days under the United Nations' Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), an offshoot of the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. UN environmental

experts have warned that the world has as little as a decade to fend off a species extinction that also poses a threat to humanity.

And more than two decades after the Rio summit, the CBD's executive secretary Braulio Ferreira De Souza Dias said that it was still a struggle to persuade governments to put biodiversity at the centre of development agendas.

"Biodiversity should not be perceived only as a problem, but rather, for what it really is: a crucial asset which underpins sustainable development and is closely linked to many social and economic issues," he told delegates.

S Korea, Japan leaders swap diplomatic advice

AFP, Seoul

South Korea's president and Japan's premier exchanged advice yesterday on remaining "mature" and "coolheaded" but offered no concessions over a bitter territorial row that has soured relations.

In messages read out at an annual bilateral "friendship" meeting in Seoul, neither President Lee Myung-bak nor Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda directly addressed the dispute over an isolated island chain by name.

But the issue was clearly referenced in language couched in diplomatic nice-

"From a broad perspective and based on the idea of taking a cool-headed approach, Japan and Korea must make efforts to build a stable relationship," Noda said in his written remarks.

Japan was infuriated by Lee's visit in August to the island chain, known as the Dokdo islands in Korean and the Takeshima islands in Japanese.

Tokyo said the visit -- the first ever by a South Korean president -- was deliberately provocative and Noda, at the time, labelled it "extremely deplorable."

The islands, which lie between the two countries, are occupied by South Korea but claimed by both.

In his remarks, Lee stressed the need to build "a mature partnership ... with the courage and wisdom to look squarely at history and sincere action backing it

Seoul insists Tokyo's claim to the islands is erroneously founded in Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule over South Korea.

BSF kills

FROM PAGE 1

under Haripur union of Poba upazila.

BSF members shot Sujon in the head, killing him on the spot, while he was accompanying several cattle traders to Bangladesh around 12:30am, said Zillur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Rajpara Police Station quoting Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) officials.

The victim's relatives had buried the body soon after his death to avoid legal hassles but BGB members dug it out around noon, Maj Hannan, general staff officer of Rajshahi sector BGB told The Daily Star. "The body is on its way to

Rajshahi Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy," he said.

The incident has been reported to the ministries of home and foreign affairs, BGB officials said.

নিয়, প্ৰিন্ত দেশ দিলু স্থান বৈদ্ধ বিহাৰ বৌদ্ধবসতিতে অগ্নিস্থযোগ

Students from the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies of Dhaka University form a human chain at the base of Aparajeya Bangla on the campus yesterday protesting the attack on Buddhist communities in Cox' Bazar and Chittagong on September 29.

Tanvir on 29-day remand FROM PAGE 1 seven officials of the controobstructing the law enforcers

The Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka passed the orders upon petitions by the Anti-Corruption Commission and Pallabi police.

Tanvir and Tushar, a brother-in-law of Tanvir, face 11 cases filed by the ACC in connection with swindling Tk 1,568 crore out of state-owned Sonali Bank using fake documents and in violation of banking rules.

Of the sum, Tk 219.07 crore was taken in favour of Anwara Spinning Mills, Tk 219.60 crore in favour of Hall-Mark Fashion and Tk 45.48 crore in favour of Hall-Mark Group although none of these companies exist in reality, said the remand petitions in the three cases. The ACC investigators in

their petitions argued that the duo needed to be remanded for interrogation to know the whereabouts of the embezzled money and also the names of the other people involved in the scam.

The petitioners sought to take Tanvir and Tushar on 110 days' remand in the 11 cases.

But the court could hear the remand petitions in three cases, court sources said, adding that hearing on the rest of the cases will be held on a later date.

The ACC on October 4 sued

"All the six borrowers were

quarters on October 1. We've

asked them to sign stamps

admitting the liabilities," he

signatures has arisen now, the

Sonali MD said, "We need

documents to prove that they

[borrowers] have taken the

loans, so that we can go for

legal action if they fail to

Pradip made the com-

ments to this correspondent

after a meeting with a parlia-

mentary probe committee on

the Hall-Mark scam last week.

body said it would be very

difficult for the bank to

the rules and maintain docu-

ments in giving the [Tk 3,600]

crore] loans," said the law-

recover the money.

A member of the probe

"The bank did not follow

Asked why the question of

officials of Sonali Bank over the fraud. According to an audit

versial Hall-Mark and 20

report, the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch of Sonali Bank had disbursed Tk 3,606 crore in loan to Hall-Mark and five other companies defying banking rules. The Bangladesh Bank also

revealed massive irregularities in sanctioning and disbursing of loans, especially to the little-known Hall-Mark. During Sunday night's

arrest from a house in the capital's Mirpur, Rapid Action Battalion recovered a foreign pistol, four bullets and a magazine from Tanvir's possession, Rab's media and legal wing Director Captain M Sohail told The Daily Star. The elite force filed an arms

case against Tanvir on the same night, said Abdul Latif, officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station. Pallabi police yesterday

filed a petition to take Tanvir on a 10-day remand in the arms case but the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court granted five days' remand.

Meanwhile, Subedar Mizanur Rahman of Rab-4 filed another case with Savar police against Tanvir, Tushar and 500 to 600 unknown people on charges of

borrowing only Tk 50,000.

Bank officials told The

Daily Star vesterday that none

including the Hall-Mark,

managing director of which

Sonali Bank mulls

and attacking them. Rab personnel came under

attacks by several hundred guards of the company when the elite force went to arrest Tanvir at Hall-Mark factories in Savar early on Sunday, Savar police said.

TANVIR'S ARREST HAILED Leading business associations yesterday hailed the arrest of Tanvir and Tushar. "We applaud the govern

ment for arresting Tanvin Mahmud," the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries said in a statement yesterday. In the statement, nine

chambers and associations urged the government to punish those who are involved in the scam directly and indirectly. FBCCI, Metropolitan

enjoys the privileges of being Chamber of Commerce and the citizen of another coun-Industry, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Chittagong Metropolitan Chamber of changes, noting that "parlia-Commerce and Industry and Bangladesh Chamber of Industries signed the state-

Suu Kyi **FROM PAGE 20**

"I'm a leader of a political party. As a political party leader, I also have to have the courage to be president. If that is what the people want, I will do so," Suu Kyi told a news conference.

Responding to a question, she said a clause in the constitution that effectively bars her from the job is one of several her party wants to change.

Suu Kyi returned last week from a 17-day trip in the United States, where she was feted as a hero of democracy.

Myanmar's reformist President Thein Sein also visited the US last month. Thein Sein, a former general, has launched a series of political reforms since taking office last year after almost five decades of repressive military rule. In an interview with the

BBC during his trip, he said he could accept the idea of Suu Kyi taking his job. "Whether she will

become a leader of the nation depends on the will of the people. If the people accept her, then I will have to accept her," Thein Sein said. Suu Kyi's party boycotted

the last election in 2010, saving several aspects of the election law were unfair and undemocratic. It agreed to run in by-elections earlier this year after Thein Sein's party had the laws amended. However, Suu Kyi's party

still wants to change several clauses in the constitution. Some give the military

enough unelected seats in parliament to effectively bar constitutional change. Another bars anyone from the presidency whose parent, spouse or child

try. Suu Kyi's late husband was British and the couple had two sons, who live outside of Myanmar. Even though Suu Kyi's party holds only a small number of seats in parliament, she said she believes that other lawmakers may also be agreeable to the

ment has more democracy than I expected." "To amend the constitution has been one of our policies since we ran in the by-elections. We will keep trying to amend it not only for me to be president, we will also amend other

things," she said.

FROM PAGE 1

Addressing a protest rally in front of BNP central office at Nayapaltan in the capital, party's senior leader Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said, "It was not ACC's duty to give clean chits to corrupt people like

Suranjit and Abul Hossain." The rally was organised protesting the arrest of Juba Dal president Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal and police action at the BNP central office last week. City BNP convener Sadeque Hossain Khoka presided

over the rally. The gathering, however, severely disrupted vehicular movement in the area, as it

was arranged on the street. On Ramu violence, Mosharraf, BNP standing

committee member and former minister, said the attack had been going on for nine hours and within 200 yards of the police station, but the government did not take any action against the attackers. This proved that the government was involved in the heinous incident, he alleged.

Another senior leader of the party Moudud Ahmed termed the Ramu incident a disgrace to the country. "We have investigated the incident and tried to find out the truth. Our report will soon be disclosed," he added.

Referring to the Sonali

Bank scam, the BNP leaders said the arrest of the Hall-Mark managing director was not enough. "The men in the government who were involved in the scam must be brought under trial," they

sions.

BNP leaders Rafiqul Islam Mia, Mirza Abbas, Aman Ullah Aman, Zainul Abdin Farroque, among others, also addressed the gathering. Several thousand leaders, workers and supporters joined the rally in proces-

No trace

repay."

three reports on Destiny Group and its 34 entities, but the ministry sent those back on the grounds of gross incompleteness. According to a probe body

report. Neither the commerce ministry nor the commerce secretary could be contacted

member, this was the final

for comments last night. The ministry formed the probe body on February 13 to examine whether the company and its subsidiaries

function as per the memoran-

during the registration.

financial transactions of

dum of articles. from people. The RJSCF was appointed tion found that the company to conduct the probe since it gave registration to Destiny 2000, an MLM wing and the very first concern of Destiny Group, in 2000. Its responsibility was to see whether a

anything against the memorandum of articles submitted Destiny. Also, the committee was meant to unearth the irregularities, including illegal

Destiny-2000 and its sister concerns. Yesterday's report came six

months after a Bangladesh Bank report that detected transfer of huge public funds into the personal accounts of Destiny directors and its management committee members. In March, the central bank

report found that Destiny Multipurpose Cooperative Society, a sister concern of Destiny Group, as of December 31, 2012 had collected nearly Tk 2,000 crore in deposits and share capital The central bank investiga-

Bank, the Anti-Corruption registered company did

Commission has already submitted its report on The Destiny Group has around 70 lakh members and

was involved in banking activities -- from deposit collection to lending -- ille-Apart from the Bangladesh

it set a target to take the number to one crore by this year.

maker wishing not to be Tk 146.21 crore, Nakshi Knit named. But common people Tk 66.62 crore, DN Sports Tk Tk5.17 crore. There were also not ade-

quate mortgages against

decimal land. After the scam

was detected, it mortgaged

of the borrowers put their these loans -- particularly those given to Hall-Mark and signatures yet. According to bankers, a T and Brothers -- during the bank has to follow certain disbursement of the amount. procedures before giving a The Hall-Mark mortgaged

loan to businesses or individ-24.81 acre land while taking the loans between 2010 and But no system was folthis year and another 21.77 acre after the scam was lowed and no documentation was maintained by the Sonali detected in May. Bank's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel Similarly, T and Brothers branch while giving the took nearly Tk 673 crore by money to these parties, mortgaging only 192.40

was arrested Sunday night. another 502.88 decimal. As of August 30, the six The loans granted to the businesses owe Sonali Bank two companies are estimated Tk 3,595.61 crore. Net liabiliat 93 percent of the total liabilties of Hall-Mark stand at Tk 2,668.38 crore, T and Brothers Tk 672.99 crore, Paragon Knit

High Court

FROM PAGE 1 specify what sort of documents could be used as an alternative to NID for purchasing Subscriber Identity Module or Removable User

Identity Module cards. The HC also issued a rule upon the government to explain in four weeks why its April 12 order making NID mandatory to buy RUIM/SIM cards should not be declared illegal.

On hearing a writ petition filed by Muminul Islam Chowdhury from Dhanmondi, the HC bench of Justice M Moazzam Husain and Justice Md Habibul Gani came up with the directive and the rule. The petitioners had challenged the legality of the government order. Petitioner's counsel Aneek

R Haque and Assistant Attorney General Samarendra Nath told The Daily Star that the photocopies of passports or other relevant documents could be made an option for selling SIM and RUIM cards to subscribers who did not have NID cards.

Aneek said the HC might mention what it meant by alternative identification documents in its written order to be released later on.