Gloom again

FROM PAGE 1 The panel and the ACC had a difference of opinion over the draft enquiry report, as the ACC dropped some names, including that of excommunications minister Abul Hossain, though the WB gave sufficient evidence of corruption against him

along with others. The WB panel argued that there was no scope for excluding their names from the enquiry report.

On November 13, the WB sent the ACC a third report on corruption evidence. The report contained detailed evidence of corruption against public officials concerned as well as others.

The ACC Chairman claimed that the commission's meetings with the WB panel were not a total failure.

"We will listen to what the World Bank and its external panel say...but it is the ACC that will make decisions in line with the laws of the land," he told reporters after a second meeting with the WB panel at the ACC headquarters yesterday.

Rahman said the two sides shared their views and the ACC will try to take legal steps in a day or two.

Asked whether the WB panel will visit Bangladesh again, he said the panel will inform the ACC about it.

Apparently discontent with the ACC's argument, the panel at one stage walked out of the first meeting with ACC officials in the afternoon, saying it needed to have some internal consultations. Coming out of the meet-

ing, Ellen Goldstein, WB country director for Bangladesh, said, "We continue to have some unresolved issues...as a result we are going for some internal consultations now."

"It is possible that we will be coming back today for further discussion," she told reporters.

The WB panel then met with Finance Minister AMA Muhith at his residence at about 5:00pm. Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi and two top officials were present at the meeting.

The panel returned to the ACC headquarters without Goldstein in the evening and held talks with the ACC officials for about 20 minutes.

The panel, however, did not comment on the outcome of the second meeting.

Before leaving for the airport from the ACC, panel Chief Ocampo told reporters, "The panel appreciates the openness and frank discussions with the ACC."

ACC Commissioner Shahabuddin told The Daily Star that there were some unresolved issues about the interpretations of some laws.

A source in the ACC said the panel reiterated that the WB had sufficient evidence of corruption against Abul Hossain and others.

The ACC chairman and its commissioners on several occasions said the ACC enquiry team has found evidence of corruption conspiracy in the project.

The WB panel talked to a number of Bangladeshi lawyers for the last few days, and exchanged views on the ACC enquiry.

A high official of Asian Development Bank said they took a very positive decision about the project's financing in a meeting of the cofinanciers in Manila at the end of the last month.

The official said the project's financing will finally depend on the outcome of the ACC enquiry. The ACC launched the

enquiry in September last year after the WB raised corruption allegations in the project. The WB panel headed by

Ocampo, former chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, earlier visited Dhaka in October. The two other panel mem-

bers are Timothy Tong, former commissioner of the Independent Commission against Corruption of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and Richard Alderman, former director of Britain's Serious Fraud Office.

ACC sources said that unless the anti-graft body files a First Information Report, it cannot proceed from its enquiry to an investigation as expected by the global lender.

The WB cancelled its \$1.2 billion funding on June 29, saying it had proof of a "corruption conspiracy" involving Bangladeshi officials, executives of a Canadian firm and some individuals.

The global lender on September 21 decided to conditions.

revive the loan after the Bangladesh government agreed to the WB's terms and

Mithapukur, Rangpur.

matter with Ershad. Ershad told The Daily Star

He made the decision

Rangpur

FROM PAGE 20

As the news spread, locals locked in a clash with the youths. Chase and counter chase took place at the time, said police, adding that around 10:00pm, when the chase and counter chase was still on, locals had noticed

fire in the camp. Assistant Director of Rangpur zone fire service Nitya Gopal Das said six fire engines had doused the

Officer-in-Charge Altab Hossain of Kotwali Police Station said they had found no body in the rubble as of 2:00am, when their search

Most of the residents of the camp could not save their belongings, as they had hurriedly ran to safety, said the OC, adding that some people had sustained minor burn injuries while trying to

Azad, his men raped Muhith slates Star report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday criticised The Daily Star, saying the English daily provides "baseless information".

He said this, referring to a report published on November 11, in which he was quoted as saying "Bapex is a stupid com-The minister criticised

Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company (Bapex) while speaking at a discussion marking the first anniversary of Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) on November 10. "No representative of the

newspaper was present at the programme, but The Daily Star quoted me that called Bapex stupid,' Muhith yesterday said at an award giving function in Dhaka organised by Economic Reporters Forum. "It [the English daily] also

wrote [quoted him as saying] that Bapex is a dysfunctional company, but I did not say However, it is to be men-

tioned that The Daily Star had one reporter at that programme to cover the event. Representatives from the Financial Express and Bangle daily Prothom Alo were also there.

TAZREEN FIRE

Ershad takes responsibility of 2 children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad has taken responsibility for bringing up two children who lost both their parents to the November 24 fire at Tazreen Fashions.

Ershad yesterday went to see the two orphans, 10-yearold Seema and her five-year old brother Zakaria, a Buripara Narshinghapur in Ashulia. The siblings come from Rangpur but are now staying with their two distant uncles in Ashulia.

The former president publicly announced that he would provide the orphans with food, shelter, treatment and education "until they are independent and married

He called the second officer of Ashulia Police Station and informed him of the decision. Then he contacted Seema's maternal grandfather who lives in

The grandfather Md Shahjahan is coming to the capital today to discuss the

that he will have a house built for the children and pay their expenses while they remain in the custody of their grandparents.

following a report in this paper on Seema and Zakaria on Monday. Ershad had been deeply moved by the report.

The bodies of Seema's parents -- Shahin and Jannati are presumed to be among the 53 who were burnt out of recognition in the garmen factory fire and buried at Jurain graveyard.

stall worker Hiron over their dues there and left him critically wounded in the eve-

blaze around 12:30am.

operation ended.

douse the fire.

None has been arrested in this connection, police said.

The 14th prosecution witness in the case against expelled Jamaat-e-Islami member Azad said the incident compelled 20 Hindu families in the locality to

FROM PAGE 20

Meanwhile, a prosecution witness testified that Jamaat leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed used to hold consultation meetings with the Pakistani army at Faridpur Circuit House during the war. "Ali Ahsan Mohammad

Mojaheed, Abul Kalam Azad alias Bachchu Razakar, Kalu Bihari used to assist the Pakistani army [during the war]," said Mir Lutfar Rahman, the eighth prosecution witness in the case against Jamaat Secretary General Mojaheed.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir with members Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge M Shahinur Islam recorded their testimonies before adjourning the case proceedings until today when the 14th witness in Azad's case and Lutfar would face crossexamination.

Mojaheed was produced in the dock yesterday while the tribunal has been holding Azad's trial in absentia.

The 14th witness during the 17-minute testimony said, in the beginning of the Liberation War, he was in Faridpur town and had been training at a tailor shop.

1971, the Pakistani army killed eight priests of Prabhu Jagatbandhu Ashram (temple) on their way to the town, said the witness. He said the army set up

camps at Rajendra College, Faridpur Circuit House and stadium, and began their atrocities.

FROM PAGE 1

surveys.

only

Iftekharuzzaman.

scored 87 to rank fifth.

Afghanistan.

scoring 63.

TIB, said yesterday.

the capital yesterday.

in other countries as well.

his cohorts caught my mother, sisters-in-law and all the women of our home and forced them to stand up and sit down," said the witness.

cohorts took two of his newly married sisters-in-law into a room for half an hour, said the witness, adding that they left his home after looting all valuables. As Azad and his cohorts left, the witness and other

clothes had been stripped "As they [victims] came around after 20 minutes or so, they were saying 'we have lost our chastity, we don't want to live anymore. We have lost everything'," said

The Daily Star as per its policy is withholding the names of the rape victims and the witness.

The witness said, "Then Faridpur frequently," said we thought, none could live in a place where women's chastity couldn't be protected. Afterwards, we and around 20 Hindu families of the area left for India."

The two victims are now living in India. The witness said he knew

Azad as he was seen holding Jamaat-e-Islami meetings and processions. "I have seen him [Azad] on the day of the incident."

"In cooperation with the Pakistani army, Azad used to provide Razakar training to local youths and these

Razakars committed lootings

and rapes." Meanwhile, a female yesterday testified behind closed doors as the 13th

witness in the case. After lunch, stateappointed defence counsel Abdus Shukur Khan informed the tribunal that he could not submit any defence witness list in the case as he did not get any cooperation from Azad's family members.

Earlier, the tribunal had tuals.

sion of defence witness list.

extended time for submis-

MOJAHEED'S CASE During his 25-minute testimony, Lutfar of Faridpur

said the Pakistani army

entered the district probably on April 17 or April 18, 1971, and on that day, the army along with Al-Badr and Razakars looted their shop at Faridpur town and torched it. The 58-year-old busi-

nessman said, "Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, Abul Kalam Azad alias Bachchu Razakar, Kalu Bihari used to assist the Pakistani army." "I have seen Mojaheed

roaming in Faridpur town on a jeep." He said Azad used to train Razakars and Al-Badr men setting up training camps at Maira Patti, house of Hira

Lal Moktar, Ambika Hall and many other places. "Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed was a leader of Islami Chhatra Sangha [the then student wing of Jamaate-Islami] and he used to travel to Dhaka and

Lutfar. "He [Mojaheed] used to hold meetings with the Pakistani army at Faridpur Circuit House for consultation to determine who would be detained. Bachchu Razakar was seen with him at that time," said Lutfar adding, "Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed used to carry a sword ..."

According to the prosecution, as a leader of Islami Chhatra Sangha, Azad was a close associate of the then central Chhatra Sangha leader Mojaheed.

Lutfar said Mojaheed along with other Razakars raided the house of Munnu and detained his brother Nannu as they did not find Munnu. Nannu was later let

On June 21, the tribunal indicted former minister Mojaheed on seven charges of crimes against humanity, including murder and imprisonment of people, genocide, and hatching a conspiracy to kill intellec-

AL for 2-term

In the wake of intra-party conflicts in many areas of the country, the AL came up with the proposal to prevent dissidents from contesting the next parliamentary election as independent candidates, party insiders said. Meanwhile, a rebel candi-

date defeated the ALnominated candidate in the November 18 by-polls in Tangail-3 constituency. As per the AL proposal, a

political party will collect nomination papers from all its intending candidates in the constituencies in advance and nominate one candidate from each constituency. "Therefore, only the candi-

date nominated by the party will be able to contest the polls. But in no way, others seeking party nomination can contest the polls as independent candidates," the AL said. In its written proposal, the

AL said if party men ignore the party decision, it not only hurts party discipline but also shakes the base of democ-Asked about the justification of such a proposal, AL

General Secretary Ashraful Islam said they just placed it. "Now, the Election Commission may tally it with the provisions of the constitution and RPO, and seek opinions of other parties. Then it may make a deci-Neither Chief Election

Commissioner Kazi

Rakibuddin Ahmad nor election commissioners made any comment in response to the AL proposal.

The ruling party opposed the EC's move for redrawing the boundaries of constituencies ahead of the next parliamentary elections. It proposed that the EC hold the elections with the existing boundaries of the constituencies unchanged.

"The boundary of parliamentary constituencies was redrawn in 2008. And boundaries of 130 (out of 300) constituencies were changed at that time. Therefore, there is no need to redraw those so quickly," the AL proposal

It proposed redrawing the boundaries in 2018. "If the commission wants to redraw the boundaries of constituencies now, it will create many difficulties," AL leader Tofail Ahmed said. At the talks held at the EC

Secretariat, the AL leaders lauded the EC's activities and said their party will extend all out support to the EC for holding the next parliamentary polls in a free and fair manner. "Awami League believes a

free and fair parliamentary election will be held with the participation of all political parties. And we will extend our all out support to any of your [EC] move to ensure a free, fair and participatory election," Ashraful said at the talks.

Jamaat attacks FROM PAGE 20

front of Boyra Bazaar demanding release of the arrested Jamaat leaders including the war crimes suspects. When the procession

drew near Khulna Public

College, police intervened, said Quamruzzaman, OC of Sonadanga Model Police Station. Rakib, a police constable,

sustained injuries during the clash, the OC added. In Sylhet, at least 50 people including six policemen

and two journalists were injured in a battle between law enforcers and Jamaat-Shibir activists at Zindabazar yesterday afternoon. Police detained at least 49

clash ensued when police attempted to prevent the activists from bringing out a procession. The injured journalists --Shafique Ahmed, camera Mahmud, photojournalist of

Kotwali Police Station, were admitted to MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Daily Inquilab -- and Md

Ataur Rahman, OC of

policemen sustained injuries when Jamaat-Shibir men clashed with the law enforcers in the town yesterday. The injured -- Robi

Sadar Police Station, constables Abul Kashem and Jewel -- were admitted to a local hospital. Police detained four activists on the spot, said Sheikh

Charan Chowhan, sub-

inspector of Narayanganj

dent of police (SP) of Narayanganj. In Jessore, police dispersed a Jamaat-Shibir pro-

shots in the air. In Chittagong, police filed 13 cases against more than 400 Jamaat-Shibir men on charges of vandalism, arson

Tuesday's hartal. The cases were filed with different police stations of the district and the metropolcrew of Channel 24, Md itan area, said police

> Trial Act, 2002. detained during the hartal hours, were shown arrested

Pak army

"Accused Quader Mollah was not on the spot during the killings, I didn't see him, continued 52-year-old Altab from Alubdi village, adding that the incident took place probably on April 24, 1971.

In his 54-minute testimony, Altab said he had first heard Quader Mollah's name through newspapers during the movement for caretaker government in 1996 and had first seen him after the four-

saw the attack from Sarulia Ghat that day.

Shafiuddin Mollah and Amir Hossain Mollah, two eyewitness and sixth and ninth prosecution witnesses respectively, testified that Quader Mollah had directly taken part in the killing of around 400 Bangalees at Alubdi on April 24, 1971, with the Pakistani army.

Altab, younger brother of Shafiuddin Mollah, said Pakistani army used to keep a watch over their village in helicopters during the war, adding, as the condition deteriorated, many villagers sent their families to Savar.

paddy at Sarulia. He added one early morning he heard sounds of gunshots from Alubdi and he

Pakistani army attacked Alubdi from three sides, killed people and continued shooting until 2:00pm, said Altab, adding that as the army left Biharis looted their houses.

along with people turned eyes

towards Alubdi from Sarulia

He said he heard from media that his brother Shafiuddin Mollah and Amir Hossain Mollah of his neighbouring village had testified as prosecution witnesses.

"Amir Hossain left Bangladesh to join the Liberation War eight to ten days before the incident,' claimed Altab. He added his brother

Shafiuddin was in Alubdi the previous night of the incident and their uncle Nabiullah Mollah had sent Shafiuddin to Sarulia after an army helicopter landed on the west side of their village.

"My brother reached Sarulia at the time of Fazr prayers," he added.

April 10, 1964. "I am involved with the

politics of BNP now. Earlier I was involved with Jubo Dal," Altab added.

nal led by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir adjourned the proceeding until today when Altab is set to face further crossexamination.

Samuels

FROM PAGE 1 which 34 were needed off 36 deliveries -- drained all the excitement in a match that seemed to be going down to the wire as the Bangladesh slow bowlers put pressure on the West Indies batsmen on a pitch where the spinners got

huge turn. Samuels's fantastic hundred once again proved how the West Indies batting is dependent on its two stalwarts and it showed that the duo's failure in the first two games in Khulna was the main reason behind their heavy defeats. West Indies were also helped by the fact that their other star player, mystery spinner Sunil Narine, finally put in a domi-

nant performance to take

four wickets earlier. One might think, looking at the final scoreline, that it was an easy victory for the visitors but the truth was that the West Indies had to fight hard to keep the series alive and it was Samuels, their hero in the World Twenty20 triumph, who made it possible by playing brilliantly as he mixed aggression with calmness on a pitch where batting was not easy. He put together a 111-run second-wicket partnership with opener Kieran Powell, who scored 47, to lay the platform for victory after Gayle's early dismissal.

Mashrafe managed to cling on to a catch offered by Samuels at slip off the bowling of part-time left-arm spinner Mominul Haque when the batsman was on 96 and West Indies on 187 for five in the 42nd over. Riding on the 149-ball 126 by Samuels, who clobbered 17 boundaries and two sixes, West Indies achieved the target of 228 runs with three overs to spare. Before the

match, which was a day-night

affair, there had been much

discussion about the trouble

Things however could

have been different had

the dew might cause to the spinners, but still the Bangladesh bowlers gave the opposition batsmen enough trouble, keeping the match

alive till the 45th over. But in the end the Tigers would definitely have felt that they were a few runs short in their total to seal the series with two matches in hand. And the bowling of the West Indies slow bowlers, especially spinner Narine, and some poor shot selection dashed Bangladesh's hope of

posting a challenging target on a difficult pitch. Tamim Iqbal and young Anamul Haque gave a steady start but Narine halted the momentum and turned it in West Indies' favour by claiming two wickets, that of Tamim and Naeem Islam, in his third over. After that Bangladesh were reduced to 110 for five and many doubted whether Bangladesh would cross the 200-mark but Mahmudullah Riyad joined his captain Mushfigur Rahim to revive

the innings. But Mushfigur played a suicidal shot to mark a premature end to the 58-run sixthwicket partnership. The skipper unnecessarily played an aggressive shot at a wrong time, going for the slog-sweep against left-arm spinner Veerasammy Permaul only to top-edge it high and easy for the point fielder, his opposite number Darren Sammy.

Mushfigur made 38 runs but his deputy Mahmudullah completed his half-century and the right-hander's 70-ball 52, which featured three fours and a six, helped the home side post a decent total. Eventually the total did not

help them to fulfil their dream of winning the series early but they are still in a good position with a 2-1 lead. They may have lost the match, but the spirit shown in fighting to defend a modest score should stand them in good stead in the last two matches.

"Bachchu Razakar and leave Bangladesh in fear. Azad and four-five of his

> male persons returned and his mother and a sister-inlaw rescued his two sistersin-law from the room. They were unconscious and their

the witness.

Towards the end of April,

Fearing for his life, the witness left Faridpur town for his village home in the

district. He said on June 8, 1971, Azad along with eight-10 of his cohorts approached their home whilst firing their guns. All males of their home, including himself, hid inside a nearby jute field, said the

Corruption still remains a

big challenge, he told a press

conference, unveiling the

index at Brac Centre Inn in

The index was published

The Berlin-based global

graft-fighting body has been

publishing the index since

1995. The CPI ranks countries

by their perceived level of

corruption in public sectors,

as determined by expert

assessments and opinion

Denmark jointly scored the

highest, 90, to become the

least corrupt countries.

Somalia, North Korea and

Afghanistan jointly became

the worst countries scoring

8,

Singapore is the only Asian

Among the South Asian

country to be on the top-10

performers list. The country

countries, Bangladesh ranked

6th from the top and 2nd from

the bottom, scoring higher

than countries like

Myanmar, North Korea and

corruption and topped the list

of South Asian countries,

higher than Bangladesh.

Bangladesh's record as it has

been at the bottom for six

years in a row on the CPI.

tom for five years (2001-

2005). In the following five

years, it ranked third, sev-

This year, data of 13 inter-

national surveys by credible

institutions and opinions

from country's experts --

both resident and non-

resident, business leaders

and analysts have been used

to prepare the index.

However, not all surveys

include all countries.

Information on Bangladesh

twelfth and thirteenth.

Bhutan made a remark-

said

Finland, New Zealand and

Graft record erodes from seven surveys was collected for this year's index, which covered the period between January 2011 and

No country scored 100

while 124 out of 176 countries

scored below 50 and 67 coun-

September 2012.

tries scored less than the global average of 43, which indicates corruption remains a serious global problem, said Iftekharuzzaman. Sultana Kamal, TIB trustee board chairperson, said it was not TIB's report and TIB had no role in the preparation of the report. The report is

prepared internationally and published simultaneously across the world. However, TIB pointed out several reasons behind

Bangladesh's position this Those include nonfulfilment of electoral pledges, high-profile corruption allegations including in Padma bridge project, railway scam, stockmarket scam, Hall-Mark loan scandal, Destiny scam, wholesale withdrawal of cases on political consideration and efforts to limit Anti-Corruption

"Steps were taken to curtail able progress in curbing independence and effectiveness of the ACC as the government took an initiative to bring amendments to the India ranked 94 with a ACC act in 2010. This put a score of 36 and Pakistan psychological pressure on ranked 139, scoring 27, a point the commission," said Iftekharuzzaman. Somalia broke Although the government

Commission's independ-

Bangladesh was at the bot- cal pressure and attempt to establish administrative and political control over the commission still remain, he enth, tenth, thirteenth, added. elected lawmaker to Besides, he added, in many reserved seat for women and cases ACC's handling of some high-level graft allegation was questionable while in other cases the anti-graft body's

> not good for fighting corrupresentment among the "Corruption has become district party leaders. They later sought BNP high comthe most embarrassing thing mand's interference about it. in the country. It is holding us

back from moving forward, said Sultana Kamal. TIB, however, suggested

enacting a law to stop the

culture of boycotting parliament and making parliamentary standing committees more effective, ensuring ACC's independence and effectiveness and enforce Right to Information Act for upgrading Bangladesh's status in the CPI.

Some other suggestions

include fulfilling anti-

corruption election pledges of

the government, establishing integrity in judiciary and ensuring transparency in public procurement. M Hafizuddin Khan, a member of the TIB trustee

board, was present at the press conference.

PARTY DISCIPLINE BNP warns MP Papia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The main opposition BNP has asked its lawmaker

Syeda Asifa Ashrafi Papia not

to participate in any political

activities outside her own district, said party sources. The BNP high command also told her to obey party discipline, otherwise stern disciplinary actions would be taken against her, according to a letter to Papia signed

by the party's Joint Secretary

General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi.

The letter had been issued Sunday, said sources in the party's central office, backtracked from its position adding that earlier a showthe issue remains unsettled cause notice had been and we think the psychologiserved on her. Taking her reply into consideration, the party high command decided to just warn her. But Papia, who was

also general secretary of Chapainawabganj district unit of BNP, denied of receiving any such letter. position reflected govern-Party insiders said her ment's position, which was participation at a meeting in Natore district had created

FROM PAGE 20 against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah.

that it was harvesting season and he along with his cousin Obaidullah used to keep watch on their harvested

Nazmul Alam, superinten-

cession by charging batons and firing two rounds of

activists from the spot. The and obstructing vehicles on the city streets during

> sources. Of those, four were lodged under the Speedy Nine Jamaat-Shibir men.

In Narayanganj, three in the cases.

party alliance took power in His speech became contradictory to his earlier answer when Altab said he along with his family members left their village for Sarulia in Savar in fear of Pakistani army and

"We took shelter in our uncle's house at Sarulia village in Savar," said Altab, adding

During his crossexamination by prosecutor Mohammad Ali, Altab said according to the national identity card his date of birth is

The three-member tribu-