Electoral reforms

election 2007'. Among them around one hundred spontaneously participated in the discussion and vowed to take the campaign to the grassroots

They observed that democracy should not be hostage to a section of wealthy people who gathered money through illegal ways. They also demanded drug free Bangladesh, ban on religion-based politics, registration of the political parties and bar on participation in the general election by bill defaulters.

The speakers also suggested reform in the education system introducing uniform primary education for all. They pointed out that many social problems could be resolved through creating awareness among the people about their rights.

The dialogue was organised by the non governmental think tank Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in cooperation with The Daily Star, the daily ProthomAlo and Channel i.

As part of the third round of such regional dialogues the event at Bir Chandra auditorium located at the heart of the town was presided over by Porf Ameer Ali Chowdhury. The next round of the dialogue will be held in Barisal next Saturday.

President of Comilla Lawyers Association Syed Abdullah Pintu and former president of Bangladesh Medical Association Dr Mosleh Uddin were special quests.

Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury and Prof Mahmuda Islam spoke for Nagorik Committee while Mahfuz Anam. editor of the Daily Star. and Abdul Qauyum, joint-editor of the daily Prothom Alo participated in the dialogue on behalf of the organisers.

Executive Director of CPD Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya conducted the lively dialogue.

Speaking as special guest advocate Syed Abdullah Pintu called upon the people to bring a social revolution for bringing transparency in the elec

toral system "Social injustice should be resisted through social movements," he observed. Opposing the idea of selling natural resources to any foreign company Pintu said, "We should not bring another East India Company in the name of investment.

"Natural gas is our resource and nobody should be allowed to exploit it depriving our people."

Prof Ameer Ali suggested inclusion of a call for courageous persons in the slogan for honest and dedicated candidates. "We need courageous

hike, release of two co-workers now

detained by police and withdrawal of

what they alleged a false case against

demands, the striking workers

launched a demonstration inside the

factory compound at about 8 in the

who locked the factory's main gate.

The management called in police,

Furious, the demonstrators came

out of the factory compound scaling

the boundary wall. They gathered on

the nearby Dhaka-Mymensingh

Highway and tried to block it leading to

a skirmishing between the workers

and police. The two sides chased and

several rubber bullets and tear gas

Mahtab, 22, Asad, 25, Abul Hossain,

23, Habibur Rahman, 26, Manjurul,

23, Maruf, 25, Razzak, 19

Nazimpuudin, 20, Suruj, 20, Amzad,

22 and Harun, 23, were injured. They

were later admitted to local hospitals

On the other side, Nayek

Bashudev and constables Harun Ur

Rashid, Raiib Kumar, Abul Hossain

and Abul Kashem were wounded as

the agitated workers pelted brickbats

on them. They were undergoing

treatment at Gazipur Sadar Hospita

garment workers at about 1pm went

on a rampage, damaging vehicles and

ransacking the factory building,

besides continuing with pelting brick-

hitting one of the workers standing

near the factory entrance. Witnesses

said police dragged away the body, put

it in a sack, and hid it in a second-floor

Iraq forms govt

critical because of Iraq's raging

insurgency and sectarian violence

and President Jalal Talabani has

said he would not support the

formation of a government without

A handful of Sunni deputies

walked out of parliament upon

hearing that permanent security

ministers would not be selected at

ment approved former deputy

parliament speaker, the Shiite

independent Hussein Shahristani.

In a surprise move, former

interior minister Bayan Jabr

Solagh, who has faced criticism

over Shiite-led militias linked to the

ministry, was given the finance

tive Shiite and the Shiite United

Iraqi Alliance (UIA) swept the

December elections, his govern-

ment contains ministers from

across the ethnic and confessional

spectrum in a bid to bring unity to

Although Maliki is a conserva-

Among other key posts, parlia-

It was when police opened fire,

bats at police, witnesses said.

warehouse of the factory.

security posts

the session.

to be oil minister.

portfolio.

the country.

With tension mounting rapidly, the

and clinics.

last night.

During the clash, police fired

Some 200 workers including

counter-chased each other for a while

As the management rejected their

some 80 others.

morning, witnesses said.

people as well as honest and dedi-

cated candidates", he said. "On the other hand, there should be some sort of measures in our electoral process so that nobody can be elected through extra-mechanisms," he

Jamilur Reza Chowdhury said policy makers are bound to understand the people's need if pressure is maintained on them by the civil society. He noted that there are many examples where the government adopted a new policy after getting pressured by the civil society.

Successive governments were forced to accept a number of recommendations prepared by a taskforce led by Prof Rehman Sobhan, he

Jamilur Reza observed that the country will face a serious environmental disaster as the rivers and water bodies are being filled up by encroachers. Although the government promulgated an act for preserving water bodies, most of the people are not abiding by the act.

Mahfuz Anam said the politicians failed to reflect the aspirations of the people. He called upon the people to speak out against misrule of governents applying their citizens' rights.

He observed that good governance will come when honest and dedicated leaders will be elected.

Participating in the discussion Prof Mahmuda Islam observed that the political parties should nominate candidates observing the aspirations of the people.

Advocate Salma Ali suggested bringing practice of democracy in the political parties. She said retired persons from government services should not be allowed to be candi-

dates in the election. Among the local civil society members who participated in the discussion were, AKM Mofizur Rahman, Shafiqul Islam Sikder, Advocate Golam Faruq, Abdullahel Baqi, Mofizudin Ahmed Advocate Afzal Khan, Liakat Ali, Zahidur Rahman Mamun, Bahaduruzzman, Dr Ali Hossain Chowdhury, Nirmal Chandra Das.

Mahbubur Rahman, Hosne Ara Mina.

Masuk Ahmed Chowdhury, Zamir

Uddin Khan, Mominul Haque, Shah

Alamgir, Jahanara Begum, Shah

Mohammad Selim, Sharmeen Kader,

At 5pm Gazipur police super Atiqu

Anumber of workers alleged police

Islam handed over the bullet-hit body

to the workers. Witnesses said a bullet

opened fire on them at about 2pm from

inside the factory without any provoca-

tion, when the situation was getting

went through his right chest.

and Zahirul Haque Dulal.

1 killed in cop firing

FROM PAGE 1

Hundreds of locals, including women and children, took to the streets and chanted slogans against the police and the killers in the morning. Later, they marched to Nawabpur Government High School of which Jisan, 11, was a class-V student, and formed a human chain there at noon.

A second post-mortem of Jisan was conducted yesterday by a three-member team led by Akhteruzzaman, head of forensic medicine department of Dhaka

The first post-mortem was carried out on Thursday at Sir

Submarine link

FROM PAGE 1

The police super said during the incident Additional Police Super M Mafizuddin and Sreepur Police Station Officer-in-Charge were present at the snot. "I don't know who ordered to open fire," he told the press. After the incident, Director

disappeared from the area locking the The workers became involved in a

dispute with the factory management on May 11, when they raised a 10point set of demands including proper salary and end to repression on them.

On that day, some knitting section workers allegedly assaulted some officials. Mohiuddin filed a case with Sreepur Police Station naming three workers as the main accused of the assault and 80 others as accom-

Later police arrested knitting operators Aminul and Muiibur

EU offers

FROM PAGE 16

discussed among the EU-3, plus China, Russia and the United States in London next Wednesday, lists 15 targeted sanctions for the UN Security Council to choose from doling them out as graduated "proportionate measures," if Iran does not comply.

The sanctions are divided into "measures targeted against Iran's nuclear and missiles programmes" and "political and economic measures" and include the arms embargo, a "visa/travel ban on selected high-ranking officials and personalities" and a "freeze of assets of individuals and organizations connected to or close to the

But the benefits include Russia enriching uranium for Iran, with Tehran as a partner "in an international fuel cycle centre in Russia, the text said.

A senior European diplomat noted that the text also "talks about security but the word 'security quarantees' does not figure." as Washington is against giving Iran assurances that it will not be

The United States, which charges that Iran is using a civilian nuclear programme to hide the development of atomic weapons, backs the text "on certain conditions," a Western diplomat said, without elaborating.

The European diplomat said Washington needs to join any future negotiations with Iran, something it now refuses to do, as this would be the only way to convince Tehran that it will get benefits.

3 robbers

FROM PAGE 1

On Saturday morning, the locals found the three bodies at Samaj Kachukhary Beel and informed the police. Chatmohar police then recovered and sent the bodies to Pabna General Hospital for an

Police and locals suspect that other members of the robber gang slaughtered Rafig and Hassan Ali and strangled Golam Hossain over sharing of the looted goods sometime during the Friday night and dumped their bodies at the water-

Chatmohar police said that the dead were accused in several cases of robbery.

Bhangura upazila AL President Md Mokbul Hossain told The Daily Star vesterday that Rafig was the president of Khan Monich union Jubo League and Hossain Ali was a ward AL president.

They will hold a rally today protesting the incident and demanding punishment of the culprits today, he

3 suspects held FROM PAGE 16

cadres of local BNP lawmaker killed heir activists.

Condemning the killings, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said the government is trying to cling to power by resorting to murder, corruption and looting. He demanded mmediate arrest and punishment of

Kajal's father Ashraful Haque Montu filed a case with Shyampur Police Station yesterday evening accusing some 7-8 unnamed peo-

Meanwhile, local AL leaders and workers staged a demonstration at Shyampur area carrying bodies of two slain workers.

They chanted slogans against

the government and blamed local BNP lawmaker Salahuddin Ahmed for the double murder.

Human chain

Medical College.

Salimullah Medical College

decided when this network will be set up or completed.

Akhtaruzzaman Manju, president of the association, said the country may be deprived of the benefits of having this cable system because till date the government h nolicy' or fixed a price for availing the bandwidth to the Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

The BTTB has not set up collocation facility in all of its exchanges. The country has not also determined any backup for the submarine cable system.

Under-age

madrasa Mohammad Zobayer told iournalists yesterday that all the students were registered as voters.

The profession of three of these voters--Mohammad Kamal, Shahadat and Siddique--was mentioned on the list as business. But Zobayer said no businessman lives there.

The officials at the district election office could not explain the reasons for such inclusions. "If any one complains. we will verify and drop the names if the allegations are correct." Dhaka District Election Officer Shamsul Alam told The Daily Star yesterday.

Meanwhile, ruling BNP activists were found correcting the draft roll at the residence of BNP leader and ward-64 Commissioner Anwar Parvez Badal. They filled up some hundreds of forms in this ward under the Lalbagh Police Station and claimed to have listed eligible voters who were not on

Besides inclusion of ghost voters, media reports have also disclosed that a good number of Indians, stranded Pakistanis and Myanmar nationals and untraceable people were included in the list.

The ruling BNP leaders rejected outright the allegation from the begin-

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said on Friday that some 400 people in Noakhali-6 constituency have been listed as voters at three different places simultaneously.

A report in The Daily Star May 12 issue, however, showed that Noakhali, which has six parliamentary constituencies, witnessed 22.89 per cent more voters than its eligible population.

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics census report, 2001, the district has 15,11,839 people eligible for being registered as voters, while the draft roll listed 19.60.746

Moudud, who came to know about the anomalies from the grassroots level BNP activists, said he himself had detected the irregularities while visiting the constituency last week.

EC unperturbed despite proofs

The sudden allegation by the law minister triggered speculations about the fate of the voter list and the credibility of the present EC. Many BNP leaders have also been surprised by the law minister's allegation against the draft voter list. The Awami League-led 14 party opposition coalition has been demanding cancellation of the list.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Communication Minister Nazmul Huda said punitive action could be taken against those who are involved with committing irregularities. "Preparation of a fair voter list is not possible through the existing system. The only way to prepare a fair voter list is by following my proposal," he claimed.

A number of ministers, ruling BNP lawmakers and leaders vesterday said the fate of the voter list have become more uncertain after the law minister's allegation. "His (law minister) allegation also apparently shows the ineptitude of the present election commission." a senior BNP leader told The Daily Star wishing anonymity.

Election experts, who have already questioned the ability of the present EC to conduct the next narliamentary election scheduled in January next, fear that it is unlikely to be possible to prepare a fair voter list ahead of the election due to time constraint. "The next election might face

former adviser to a caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan told The Daily Star. In the wake of the revelations of a huge number of anomalies in the draft electoral rolls, experts observed that a fair election is not

possible using this list being pre-

pared ignoring the January 4 High

difficulties due to a faulty voter list.'

Court directives that asked the EC to revise the existing electoral rolls. Some eminent legal experts of the country including the vicechairman of Bangladesh Bar Council and former president of Supreme Court Bar Association have already expressed to the media that they would like to see the

corruption is now an issue of

national concern, political will

should be involved to make the anti-

corruption bodies including the

newly established (ACC) effective

The government has set up the

ACC, but unfortunately it is yet to

mplement a strategy of its function-

ing of investigating and combating

will continue unabated and ulti-

mately affect all the pillars of the

national integrity system unless the

causes of corruption are addressed,

unless the society is empowered to

stand up for its rights and unless

political will is created to take unpal-

atable decisions to prevent corrup-

"Corruption is one of the greatest

challenges facing us today. Our all

efforts will go in vain if we fail to

promote good governance through

legal and administrative reforms for

better transparency and account-

ability of public administration and

Justice Mudassir went on, "We

must have political commitment at

the highest level to strengthen the

rule of law by ensuring independ-

ence of investigating and judicial

detrimental to the stability of all

democratic institutions, erodes the

rule of law, and undermines the trust

and confidence of citizens in fair-

ness and impartiality of public

He noted that corruption is highly

Justice Mudassir said corruption

and operationally independent.

corruption, he added.

chief election commissioner and two election commissioners punished for the 'crime of enlisting fake voters'.

Moreover, it was revealed in the media on Wednesday that there are allegations of having fake names and addresses on many of the 899 voter registration forms filled at ward No 41 at Agargaon in the capital.

Ignoring all allegations, the EC however is continuing to prepare the final list based on the draft list published on May 3 enlisting 9.13 crore voters. A sharp rise in the number of voters triggered enormous controversy as the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) census report, 2001 shows a maximum of 8.2 crore people as eligible to be voters.

Since the publication of the draft list, the media kept on disclosing anomalies in it.

As an appeal against the HC directives is still pending with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court the EC has yet to fix the date for publication of the final voter list. **ECKEEPS MUM**

Since the task for preparing the fresh voter list has been legally challenged and the High Court (HC) on January 4 asked the EC to revise the existing electoral rolls, the EC Secretariat mysteriously has dropped the word 'fresh' from its documents. The circulars issued by the EC Secretariat before the HC directives mentioned the nature of the task as 'preparation of fresh voter list'. But after the HC directives, the secretariat started to avoid using the word 'fresh' in its docu-

It has yet not clarified whether the published draft voter list is a part of preparing a 'fresh' voter list or it is revising the existing one.

The secretariat has not disclosed yet how many forms have been printed to prepare the voter list and has not disclosed its detail budget for the task.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz and two other election commissioners, Justice Mahfuzur Rahman and SM Zakaria, has been keeping mum since publi-

Corruption now an acceptable

The ACC chairman mentioned

the commitments of the two major

political parties-- BNP and Awami

League-- to the voters before the

election of eighth parliament. "They

told in their manifestos that if elected

they would constitute a constitu-

tional and independent anti-

corruption commission to curb

the success of anti-corruption

strategies, he said, adding that

political corruption can also be

contained by improving the quality

Political will is very essential for

corruption," Sultan recalled.

allegations

Fake voters, who have already been enlisted, are likely to remain on the final list, as there is no initiative to identify them, said EC offi-

today is the last day to file any **SCANDAL SURROUNDING**

Dhaka District Election Officer Shamsul Alam vesterday said they could not still retrieve the controversial 899 voter registration forms from the assistant registration officer (ARO) of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) ward No 41 (Agargaon) Aminul Huq Bhuiyan.

they are trying to find out whether the ARO or the enumerator is responsible for the incident. "We are examining whether enumerator Atigul Islam submitted fake documents to get appointment as an enumerator," he told The Daily Star vesterday

ward NO 41 Abdul Majid recruited AtiquI as an enumerator. But AtiquI collected information about prospective voters in the area of Aminul Haque Bhuivan. About his letter to Bhuiyan, he

said he wrote the letter asking Bhuiyan to examine whether any eligible people were left out of the list. "I asked the ARO to legalise the task," he claimed.

Since the two major political

parties -- BNP and AL-- pledged in

their election manifestos before the

last general election that they would

fight corruption, it is high time to do

that and people are waiting to see

Justice Habibur Rahman Khan.

another discussant, said only 20

percent people of Bangladesh are

enjoying privilege at the cost of 80

and we are very much worried about

it," he said. Fighting corruption

should start from top, not from

Hua Du. country director of Asian

Development Bank, said there are

growing concerns that

Bangladesh's development pros-

pects are undermined by gover-

poverty reduction in the country, she

"Corruption is now at every level

what they do.

percent people.

bottom, he added.

cation of the draft list and the EC did not initiate any step to probe the

"But in previous times, the Election Commission did not remain silent when an allegation was raised," a senior EC official told The In accordance with the schedule,

objection and claim about the draft voter list, but a very little number of complaints regarding inclusion of fake voters have been officially filed. **899 FORMS**

Shamsul however claimed that

He claimed another ARO of DCC

"The casualties are likely to be much more in case of any accident," he said, adding that many factories even do not have medical check up

an emergency lation, occupancy of open spaces at the peripheries by the hawkers, faulty

unplanned and have no fire extinauishina means.

Citing fire at Bangabazar a few years back, she said there is high possibility of fires in such places and once kindled, it can cause huge loss of ooth lives and materials.

Some shopping complexes, such as the Eastern Plaza, have some safety measures, but in many cases the collapsible gates remain locked, which is a threat for the shoppers in case of fires, she said.

office buildings said most office buildings even in the most posh areas of the city do not have enough security and safety measures. "Sena Kalyan Bhaban, for example, is rich in security equipment, but

the alternative stair went through the toilets, which is slippery and risky to run during any accident." she noted. Fven in Brac Inn Centre the main lift

Turkish road crash

agency yesterday.

The accident occurred Friday when a truck packed with illegal immigrants rammed a trailer truck from behind near a toll booth on a highway near the town of Osmanive.

The death toll rose after four illegal immigrants died from their injuries -- one on the way to hospital after the crash and three others on Saturday, Anatolia reported.

Shopping malls and the main stair are together while people do not have easy access to the

awareness of safety rules.

alternative stair and its width is also not

sufficient, she added. Almost 90

percent office buildings in the city have

been wrongly planned and lack

Nizamuddin Ahmed of the

In his closing remarks Prof Dr

land and conduct proper soil tests before planning for any construction. "Otherwise, the whole city will collapse like the Spectrum building,

Hasan Ahmed said, adding that some

buildings are already under threat. In his presentation on safety condition in garment factories of Bangladesh, Wares Ul Ambia said about 70 per cent garment factories in the country do not have adequate safety measures that is risky for the lives of the workers in case of any fire or collapse incident.

Most factories keep the exit points and collapsible gates locked during working hours, stairs and spaces between the machine rows remain congested while fire fighting equipment is not available in many buildings, noted Ambia who visited a number of garment factories in the city.

system or awareness programme for the workers on how to behave during Presenting her paper on fire hazard in shopping centres of Dhaka city. Ajmeri Nusrat Shoma said over popu-

and too many wires in the market places are high risk factors for fire and suffocation. Nusrat Shoma, who presented case studies of a few shopping complexes and market places, said many market places like Gausia are totally

Sharmin Sultana who presented her paper on safety and security in

FROM PAGE 16

officials told the Anatolia news

Architecture Department of Buet said risks in buildings are increasing dayby-day, as no punitive measures are taken against the people responsible. Once the responsible people are ounished, all will be careful and abide by rules and regulations during build-

ing construction, he said.

Architecture students Iftekhar Rahman, Azmiree Sultana, Nusrat Wahid, Falguni Mallick, Ashik R Joarder also presented their papers.

The Daily Star Managing Editor Syed Fahim Munayem said his paper would always support promotion of such programmes in creating mass awareness while roundtable can also be organised for creation of opinion on a broader scale.

Ahmadiyyas FROM PAGE 1

Khatme Nabuwat, an outfit of religious bigots, has been agitating against the Ahmadiyyas' religious practices in the country for long and demanding declaration of the community as non-Muslim. Reading out a written statement

Ahmadiyya Ameer Mohammad

Monjur Hossain demanded that the government ensure constitutional rights to the Ahmadiyya people, give them back five mosques and help them in holding Salana Jalsha in the district. 'Salana Jalsha' was scheduled to be held in the district town after 20 years but the religious bigots at a

meeting chaired by the Mufti of Brahmanbaria Yunisia Madrasa vowed to resist the festival and announced a three-day Tafsir Mahfil at the Masjid-e-Fateha, which was captured by the fundamentalists in 1987, around 60 feet from the place where the Ahmadiyyas wanted to hold their festival. Even after giving the

Ahmadiyyas permission to hold the Jalsha, the district administration imposed Section 144 apparently to avert clashes.

Due to the Section 144, Tafsir Mahfil of the religious bigots could not be held too. Huge contingents of armed

police have been deployed in the tense town. Local leaders of Workers Party of

Bangladesh, Communist Party of Bangladesh and Jubo Moitree in separate statements protested trouble-making by the religious bigots and the imposition of Section

JCD men vandalise

non-vacant posts against 53 circulated vacant posts. Sources said the authorities had advertised for three vacant posts of section officers at different offices but appointed six, while 82 people were appointed against 50 circulated posts of third

and fourth class employees. Twenty including the three section officers have been appointed from the list of JCD Islamic University unit, 10 from ICS, 10 from Jatiyatabadi group of Kushtia district Freedom Fighters' Command Council while the rest are favourites of the ruling party lawmakers of Kushtia, syndicate members and the vice-chancellor himself, said a source.

A large amount of money was also exchanged for the appointments, a source involved with appointment process said.

No university transport plied yesterday. Most of the students of the university are non-residents who go to the campus from Kushtia town by university buses. Different organisations including

forum (a forum of progressive teachers) have criticised such recruitment. Earlier 126 teachers, officials and employees of the university

Bangabandhu Parishad, Shapla

requested the vice-chancellor not to make such a large-scale recruitment while the university is having a deficient budget of about Tk 9crore. On March 27 last year, the same vice-chancellor appointed 40 teachers, officers and employees -- all

with alleged criminal records including murder cases. On several occasions, he also appointed some 35 teachers at different departments although the departments concerned did not ask

leaders and cadres of JCD and ICS

Meanwhile, two members of the university syndicate, who were present at the syndicate meeting. said the meeting unanimously approved appointment of 54 persons but they knew nothing about the additional 34 appointments

The vice-chancellor secretly did it on his own, they said.

"We approved appointment orders of total 54 persons in the syndicate meeting. But I don't know how the number rose to 88," Kushtia Government College Principal Prof Ataur Rahman, who is also a syndicate member, told The Daily Star.

Another syndicate member said he would submit a written complaint asking the vice-chancellor how the extra appointments were made and under whose authority.

The vice-chancellor could not be contacted, as he has remained absent from the campus since Thursday.

Pakistan

countries, establishing direct railway

and developing religious- and eco-If the proposal is approved, visas for a country will be given against a certain number of names recommended by the tour operator upon

communications, joint investment,

marketing and sales promotion plan.

their arrival in that country. Nilofar said. adding that this will be on reciprocal "Tourism is the fastest moving and growing industry. We need to have tourism to create job opportunities for people...to improve relation between the countries. We're already talking

adding that the issue will top the list of agenda at today's meet. On visa-free movement among the Saarc countries, Nilofar said the Saarc countries are primarily thinking about

about relaxing visa regime," she said

making the process more relaxed. She said she will also talk for journalists' visa-free travelling in the Saarc countries and raise the issues of fixing a general fee for people and reducing airfare to visit different places of the Saarc countries.

Underscoring the need for raising the number of travellers among the Saarc countries, Nilofar said, "Although there is a 5.5 per cent rise in world tourists and 4 per cent to South Asia, not even 6,000 Bangladeshis visited Pakistan in 2005." She also stressed the need for

sharing experience and expertise

among the Saarc nations to utilise the immense potential of tourism in the She said Pakistan will celebrate 2007 as the "Visit Pakistan Year" and hold exclusive programmes round the

year. The country will host an exclusive meeting of the Saarc tourism ministers on October 8.

Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan Ayaz Mohammad Khan and Press Minister Sajida Igbal Syed were present at the press briefing.

CID fails to submit charge sheet that left five people killed. The police

significant has been achieved so far

bomb and grenade attacks in Sylhet in 2004 are also lying with the CID Besides the grenade attack on place at the shrine of Hazrat

August 5 and a grenade was thrown at a car after a meeting of city Awami League on August 7

The blasts left 10 people killed and scores injured. Senior ASP of CID Munshi Atigur

"We are trying to finish the job soon." said Atigur who is serving on a two-year extension that will expire in July this year. Atiqur however could not make it clear when the charge sheet in the case will be submitted Munshi had gone on LPR (leave preparatory to retirement) in the first

week of July 2004, when he was nvestigating the January 12 bomb blast and the May 21 grenade attack. But, he was given a contractual appointment for two years

arrested at least 50 activists of Chhatra League, Shibir and common people in connection with the blast, but failed to extract any significant clue yet. The May 21 grenade blast left three people including police sub-

inspector Kamal Uddin killed and 70

others including the British high commissioner wounded. Police picked up about 30 people in this connection but found no significant information. After four months, investigators from Scotland Yard visited the shrine several times and probed the incident. This case was then transferred to CID.

withdrawn from Sylhet on charge of negligence in duty in security arrangement of the British envoy while the OC Kotwali was also withdrawn. A number of changes were made in the district police that The investigation officer along with a National Security Intelligence

The then SP was suspended and

(NSI) official went to Singapore and London to interrogate an undertreatment expatriate Shamim, a UK citizen, who was on a family trip to Bangladesh and injured in the May 21 blast. A street urchin Shahad was killed in one of the twin blasts at the gate of a city cinema on August 5. One of

the accused in the twin blast case --

Soleman, believed to be the carrier

Another grenade blast on a sports car took place on the premises of Gulshan Centre, within minutes after the departure of the city Mayor Badar Üddin Ahmed Kamran at the end of a meeting of city AL on the night of August 7. It left 30 people injured.

FBCCI

the Asia Energy's plan. The committee is vet to submit its report.

approve its development plan on the basis of the existing coal mining policy, which provides for a 6 percent royalty for the government. But the government has been saving that it might approve the Asia Energy's plan on the basis of a new

coal policy that recommends about

16 percent royalty for open-cut

The Asia Energy has been

pursuing the government to

Against such a backdrop, Asia Energy's Bangladesh project chief called on the president of the FBCCI, the country's apex chamber. Welcoming the government's

move for a new coal policy, the FBCCI chief said in the context of the changed world energy scenario, the rate of royalty in coal mining should be enhanced.

nance weaknesses. Amongst the governance constraints, pervasive corruption seriously affects economic growth and

Barrister Mainul Hosein said, "If ACC cannot function, they must admit that they cannot function.' Others who spoke included Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, trustee member of Transparency International of Bangladesh, Nancy Langston, resident legal advisor of US

Embassy in Dhaka and Khawja

Golam Murshed, editor of the

Monthly Legal Aid.

main obstacles to economic devel-

judicial system."

two years, sources said nothing

The cases regarding four other

without any substantial progress, the sources added. the British envoy, a bomb blast took Shahjalal on January 12, bombs were blasted in two cinemas on

Rahman, investigation officer of these four important cases, told The Daily Star yesterday that it would take some more time to complete

of the bombs to the other cinema, Also, the CID could not make any sustained critical injuries and is now headway in the January 12 blast

of political participation. The quality of political participation is detrimental to corruption where competition for electoral support is based neither on broad policy appeals nor on charisma, but it takes place mainly as a competition to offer short-term, highly spe-

cific inducements to localised

groups of voters and in the extreme cases, purchase of votes for money. He said, "We have seen in recent times in some advanced countries they have taken steps to curb individual rights to protect national interests. Time is running out, we

must act and act for the good of the people." Justice Md Ruhul Amin of the

Supreme Court chaired the working session of the seminar. Speaking at the seminar as a designated discussant, Justice Tafazzul Islam of the SC termed corruption and poor governance