society and will also travel outside

Dhaka, he said and added that it

will be tasked with assessing

whether a full EU Election Observation Mission in Bangladesh is "advisable and

On return to Brussels, the EU

mission will report to EC External Relations Commissioner Ferrero

Waldner, who will make a final

decision on dispatching the full

cheon meeting with senior Awami League (AL) leaders on last Friday

at the residence of the Italian

ambassador, the EC ambassador

said it was arranged following a request by AL leadership to listen to

their views on various election

to sit with other political parties, including the ruling BNP if it wants.

Asked if such meetings and expressing concerns about the

election matters are tantamount to

interference," the EC ambassador

disagreed outright saying, "We are all inter-linked through our trade,

development and opinions in a

globalised world. If anything hap-

pens in Dhaka, it has repercussions in London, Paris, Berlin and

Brussels. We express our concern as friendly neighbours, not inter-

planning to send election observ-ers on the invitation of the prime minister, the foreign minister and

Frowein expressed his hope that all political parties will partici-

pate in the upcoming elections and

resolve their disputes through discourse inside or outside parlia-

First Counsellor of EC delega-tion Françoise Collet and First Secretary (political, economic and

Criminal killed

FROM PAGE 16
Rab sources said Khoka received bullets during the shootout and died instantly, while his cohorts

A pipe gun, one revolver and two bullets were recovered from

Law needed

FROM PAGE 16 syndicates" determine the prices and they looted Tk 2,86,110 crore

from the people in the last four and

the amount was calculated from

essentials to fund a "contractor-

friendly and voter-friendly budget"

Replying to a question, he said

managed to flee.

the chief election commissioner.

He mentioned that the EU is

Frowein said they are also ready

When asked about the lun-

Government primary school teachers get less in salary than an upper divisional clerk or even a chauffeur of a government officer while the education sector always gets the highest allocation in the national budget.

"A peon with an education up to class eight starts his job with Tk 2400, an upper divisional clerk with Tk 2800 and a chauffeur with Tk 2850 while we start our job with only Tk 2600," AK Fazlul Huq, general secre-tary of the Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association told The Daily Star adding that the teachers will not tolerate such an insult anymore.

"The salary is so low that it's simply impossible to bear the family expenses. It becomes very embarrassing when people ask how much I get for the job," Masudur Rahman, a teacher of Jessore Baliranga Model School, told this correspondent trying to narrate the distressing situation heis in.

Like Masudur Rahman, thousands of government primary teachers gathered at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital on June 15 where they decided to go on an indefinite strike till their demands including elimination of wage discrimination

The teachers alleged that five wage commissions were formed for reforming the salary scale of government officers in the last 32 years while no commission has yet been formed for reforming the salary scale of government primary school

Despite having the same ranking and academic qualifications, the salary of a government primary teacher is eight grades lower than an agriculture officer's salary. A government primary teachers salary is also four grades lower than a compositor's salary, five grades lower than a stenographer's salary and three grades lower than a chauffeur's

"Teachers of secondary schools are also getting much higher salaries although we have the same ranking and academic qualifications," said Prof Abul Kamal Azad, president of Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association.

He said, "A government high school teacher gets Tk 5,100 per month while a government primary school teacher receives Tk 2,600 only.

A government primary school headmaster gets only Tk 2850 per month while a government high school headmaster receives Tk 9000, he pointed out.

"We have been agitating for 32 years for an end to the salary discrimination and we had no option but to enforce the strike as the government did not take any measure to end the discrimination," said Harun-ur-Rashid, treasurer of the association.

The teachers on strike said they also observed a half-day strike on June 5 and a day long strike on June 10, submitted a memorandum to the prime minister on February 26 and observed token hunger strikes at union and thana levels on March 18 to press home their demands.

In the new proposed national budget for the financial year 2006-07 Tk 11093 crore has been allocated for education and technology, which is 20 percent higher than the allocation made in the revised budget for FY

Out of that allocation, Tk 4721 crore is supposed to be spent for primary and mass-education devel-

sequences of incidents have corre-

spondence with the witnesses'

accounts, which make their state-

ments made before the trial court

valid and there is no other way but

Chairman of Transcom Group

to believe on what they had stated.

Latifur Rahman filed a case with

Gulshan Police Station on that

night, while the police during their

investigation filed another case

under the Women and Children

alias Shahid, a domestic help, Syed

Saijad Mainuddin Hasan alias

Azad, the contractor, Badal, the

contractor's assistant, Shaniram

Mandal, a carpenter, and house-

maids Estema Khatun Minu and

Prevention of Women and Children

Repression, Dhaka on September

2, 2003 ordered the convicts to be

trial court order at the HC Death

Reference Bench, comprising

Justice Ali Asgar Khan and Justice

also said the defence lawyers

through their long cross-

examination have made the state-

brought allegations clearer. The

plot began after Hasan tried to

violate the 15-year-old at her bath-

was not met, he planned to take

revenge by killing her and the

bruises on her body are the marks

He said the criminal mentality

of the six accused and their plan for

murder becomes clear when their

behaviour and activities, before the

went to Sylhet with her sisters

indecent behaviour. The family

members went out of Dhaka and

After April 1, 1998, Shazneen

rape and killing, are scrutinised.

of his vengeance," Waliur said.

"As his [Hasan's] evil intention

room on April 1, 1998.

The deputy attorney general

Emdadul Haque, continues today.

The appeal hearing against the

hanged until their death.

The Second Special Tribunal for

The convicts are Shahidul Islam

Repression Prevention Act.

Parveen.

opment. According to a recommendation of the Directorate of Primary Education, if the government would spendTk40 crore more in addition to what it already spends for government primary teachers' salaries, trained teachers could start with a minimum salary of Tk 3100 while an untrained teacher could start with a minimum of Tk 2850. But the teach-

mendation is below its expectations. Renowned academician Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury said the salary of government primary school teachers should be raised in the interest of ensuring quality educa-tion. "It won't be possible to involve skilled people in primary education unless the salaries are increased. How can we expect quality education when these teachers are paid the lowest and that too is irregular," he

ers' association feels that the recom-

Ukraine

FROM PAGE 1 by Spain offering plenty of width to generate a series of crosses which troubled a nervous Saudi defence.

The Saudis showed promise going forward in patches, but created little by the way of clear-cut

Victory puts Ukraine level on three points with Spain, at least temporarily, who were to play Tunisia later on Monday. Tunisia and Saudi Arabia both have one point after an opening 2-2 draw. Determined to recover their

self-respect after being outclassed by Spain, the Ukrainians played with energy and patience on a

slipperypitch. They had already gone close when centre-back Rusol burst on to a Kalinichenko corner to give them their first goal in a World Cup finals after just four minutes, knee-

ing home from close range. Saudi keeper Mabrouk Zaid fell victim to the pitch in the 36th minute, slipping as he tried to block a dipping long-range drive from Rebrov which made it 2-0.

Shevchenko added the third within a minute of the restart heading home another well-hit Kalinichenko centre to mark a return to form after a month olighted by injury.
Linking well with Andriy

Voronin up front, the new Chelsea signing could also have scored when his header was cleared off the ine by Ahmed Dokhi in the 13th minute before Rebrov blazed the rebound over the bar from six

SAUDI ARABIA: Mabrouk Zaid -Ahmed Dokhi (Abdulaziz Khathran 55), Redha Tukar, Hamad Al Montashari, Hussein Sulimani (cap) -- Omac Al Ghamdi, Khaled Aziz, Saud Khariri -- Mohammed Noor (Sami Al Jaber 77), Mohammed Ameen (Malek Mouath 55) -- Yaser Al Qahtani Yellow card: Ahmed Dokhi (41), Omar Al Ghamdi (57), Saud Khariri

Coach: Marcos Paqueta UKRAINE: Oleksandr Shovkovskyi Vycheslav Sviderskyy, Andriy

Rusol, Andriy Nesmachnyi Anatolii Tymoschuk, Óleg Shelayev, Oleg Gusiev, Sergei Rebrov (Ruslan Rotan 71), Maksym Kalynychenko -- Andriy Shevchenko (cap) (Artem vskyi 86), Andriy Voronin (Andriy Gusin 79) Yellow card: Andriy Nesmachnyi 22), Maksym Kalynychenko (77), Vycheslav Sviderskyy (89)

accused, the prosecution added.

Hasan did not include the ser-

vants who had been working at the

house for a long time in his plot. He

used the relatively newly

appointed servants. Among the

his own employees, Waliur

Rahman explained. "He [Hasan]

hired Minu a month and a half

before the murder and Parveen a

week before the killing, taking

advantage of his employer Latifur

had been working there for around

a year and a half, in his side by

alluring him with money and took

preparation to kill her in absence of

Shazneen's two sisters in their

He also brought Shahid, who

Rahman's absence.

atifur Rahman.

ccused, Badal and Shaniram were

Coach: Oleg Blokhin

Referee: G. Poll (ENG)

Shazneen case

Purchase body okays 20MW barge-mounted plant at Sylhet

power plant in private sector.

Summit Group, a local business house, will set up the 20MW plant at Kumargaon in Sylhet on rental basis. The government will purchase electricity from the project for 15

Chaired by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, the meeting sent back another proposal for construc-tion of two 14-storied buildings of Bangladesh police for mending the

designs.
With the 20MW Kumargaon project, the purchase committee has so far approved four barge-mounted

approved three plants to be installed under private sector on rental basis in the wake of countrywide nagging power crisis.

These are 20MW plant in Bogra, 80MW plant in Shahjibazar and 50MW plantin Fenchuganj.

IS body

"The comptroller general of audit objected to the procurement of six boats at Tk 14.5 crore as the navy had purchased the same at Tk 9 crore last year," he said.

for the purchase of the boats and the DGDP selected six among them. The DGDP then forwarded its selection to the naval headquarters, which then sent it to the Chittagong Flotilla Commanding Comban.

Comban, which will use the boats, shortlisted three companies, and forwarded it to the DGDP for the final selection. Last month, a high-powered technical committee of Bangladesh Navy finalised the proposal of Labanu, which lacked technical capacity.

The parliamentary body also

cautious in procuring training Referring to a training aircraft accident at Jessore, the committee

training aircraft. The air force chief submitted a

not sure about the actual reason.

Paban

produced him before the court after his arrest with a stolen car. A Detective Branch team cap

stolen Toyota Premio on June 7. hijacked the vehicle at gunpoint on

ciate Zahirul Islam Robin confessed to a magistrate that he and Paban were involved in an organ-

prayer of a 10-day one.

FROM PAGE 1

facilities.

statement said Shazneen used to The three other factories closed get angry whenever she saw Hasan after April 1, 1998. "She [Shazneen] even reacted when she met Hasan five hours before the murder took place," the prosecution said. Her sister, holding her hands, tried to console her by saying, "Don't yell now. We will arrange

punishment for Hasan by informand Softex Ltd. ing our parents tomorrow," the prosecution quoting Shazneen's sister said. The irony is, the Waliur said, the sisters did not even know that Hasan would implement his plot to avoid punishment. The prosecution also upheld the accounts of Sufia, a domestic help

of the eldest daughter of Latifur saying she gave the most important statement. Minu and Parveen earlier

informed Sufia that a murder would take place on that night. When Sufia asked the two whether police would arrest them, Minu and Parveen answered, "Police would capture the males for the rape. Why would police arrest us?" Waliur quoted Sufia's statement.

Sufia did not disclose the matter where she told them about Hasan's to anyone fearing Hasan would take revenge on her too. She told police about her knowledge before Hasan at that time made the plot to the murder took place after Hasan kill her with the help of other and Badal was captured.

The Cabinet Committee on Public Purchase at a meeting yesterday approved another barge-mounted

years at a rate of Tk 2.79 per kilowatt-

Earlier, the committee had

FROM PAGE 1

Meeting sources said the Navy chief denied the allegation of corruption in the purchase and told the meeting that the boats being bought this time are better in quality and capacity than the ones bought last year. Due to this, the cost is more this time, he

Sources said 13 companies participated in the tender floated

A committee of the Flotilla

asked the air force to be more

chairman told the reporters that since an accident involves the loss of life, the authorities need to be more careful about purchasing

the difference between the prices report on the accident saying that that should have been on the basis of demand and supply, and the market prices. He considered food maybe a bird chanced into the engine or maybe due to human and food related items.

Dr Atiur Rahman said money is error the accident occurred. He. however, added that they are still being accumulated by vested quarters through raising prices of

FROM PAGE 16

tured Paban on Bailey Road with a Three criminals in Motifheel

October 13 last year. DB produced Paban before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court on June 8. The court then

ordered to send him to jail rejecting bail prayer. Meanwhile, Paban's close asso-

ised carjacking ring. The same court placed Robin on a four-day remand against the

DEPZ factory

Azizur Rahman held a discussion meeting with the workers but failed to reach any consensus. On June 13, the factory was closed in the wake of workers' demonstration demanding wages at the current exchange rate of US dollar, removal of a number of allegedly corrupt factory officials and other

sine die on Saturday remained closed yesterday as factory authorities considered the situation in the DEPZ not suitable for reopening their plants. The three factories are A-One (BD) Ltd, garment section of Goldtex Ltd

Law enforcers prevented the workers of the three closed factories from entering the DEPZ in the morning as they turned up to know when their plant would reopen. Law enforcers by loudspeakers told the workers that their factories are still closed and urged them to go home.

The High-Tech section of Youngone Group resumed operation yesterday while the other two units of the group remained closed. Police at midnight on Sunday

arrested Zahidul Islam, vicepresident Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, Dhaka district, for allegedly provoking workers in the DEPZ on Sunday that led to clashes between workers and law enforcers. Police placed him before a

Dhaka court requesting a sevenday remand to interrogate him. The court however placed him on a five-day remand.

EU stresses flawless | Spain ride FROM PAGE 1

press) Charles Whiteley were presentatthe briefing. CONCERN OVER

FROM PAGE 1 stocktaking of pre-poll issues. During its 10-day stay, the mission would study voter registra-**GARMENT UNREST** tion, delimitation of constituen-Ambassador Frowein called for resolving the problems that caused cies and functioning of electoral complaint mechanism among recent unrest in Bangladesh's other things.

The team will also meet with garment industry through consultation among government, workers, trade unions and international Election Commission, govern-ment, civil service officials and civil buyers to ensure the industry's

sustainable future. "We have followed the recent events closely, as the export of garments to the EU is critical in our relations with Bangladesh," he

The EC ambassador said international buyers are concerned about the social compliance issue, which must be met by Bangladesh. consumers do not buy Bangladeshi garments on grounds that the poor workers are not well treated, it can have a big effect on the Bangladeshi garment indus-try," he added.

We are helping out in the field (inclusion of workers' rights in proposals under European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights) and will sustain this support in the future," Frowein

The EU countries are the major destinations of Bangladesh's apparels, as 61 per cent of the exports go to the EU market. Apparel products are the country's main export earners, contributing around 76 per cent of the total export income worth \$8.2 billion MEETING WITH KM HASAN DEFERRED

European Commission head of delegation Ambassador Stefan Frowein was yesterday scheduled to meet former chief Justice KM Hasan, the constitutionally anointed chief of the next caretaker government, but the meeting was deferred, reports UNB. 'He (ambassador) has

changed his schedule...It will be a courtesy call," an EU official telephoned UNB last night. The official however did not explain why the Ambassador had to change the schedule or when he would meet the former chief

Security guards FROM PAGE 16

security guard of nearby Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company (Kafco)

According to sources and witnesses, a large number of locals reportedly led by the sacked secu-rity guards of KEPZ attacked the on-duty ansar members and the security guards at KEPZ around 4:00am yesterday.

The three ansar men and the

KEPZ security guard was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) while the Kafco security guard was treated at the hospital inside the Kafco Complex. The attackers also allegedly threatened the KEPZ authorities of

dire consequence if they continued to recruit security personnel from any security firms ignoring the people of the locality who had allen victim to land acquisition for KEPZ site. Sources said the KEPZ authori-

ties removed almost all its 300 security guards made up of land acquisition victims which created resentment among the locals.

Cops ready to foil

for fiscal 2006-07

FROM PAGE 1 roads to keep the demonstrators off the EC Secretariat premises. "We have instructions from the

high command to resist opposition activists if they try to march towards the Election Commission," another senior police official told The Daily Star. The city may witness a violent

clash today centring the siege of the EC as the top opposition leaders have already warned the law enforcers of violent clashes if they try to foil the programme. In a bid to foil the siege of EC, the

law enforcers have already arrested hundreds of opposition activists in the last few days, senior leaders of the opposition line-up alleged at a meeting yesterday.

The meeting chaired by AL presidium Member Amir Hossain Amu vowed to resist any election under CEC MA Aziz and the two election commissioners, Mahfuzur Rahman and SM Zakaria . It also said proper revision of the voter list is not possible under their watch. 'We will announce a series of

tougher programmes to intensify the movement for electoral reforms and resignation of the CEC and the two election commissioners if the government tries to obstruct or foil the siege programme," Amu told The Daily

The meeting held at AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil's NAM flat demanded that the government appoints persons acceptable to all parties as the CEC and election commissioners, after discussions with the main opposition. The meeting also demanded resignation of Acting Secretary to the EC Mohammad Zakoria. The opposition camp will also

put up barricades on highways and railway tracks, and obstruct river communication on July 2 from 9:00am to 3:00pm to press home its demand for electoral reforms, the meeting announced. The opposition coalition took all-out preparations for today's programme. Leaders of the coali-

tion have been working to mobilise a large number of people from different parts of the capital. Components of 14-party in the last few days held a series of meetings preparatory to today's siege.
The city AL held an extended meeting at the party's central office. The meeting directed thana and ward level unit leaders to bring hundreds of people to make the siege a complete success. senior leaders of the opposition

coalition Abdur Razzak, Rashed Khan Menon, Obaidul Quader, Hasanul Haque Inu and Dilip Barua will lead a procession on Mirpur road, Motia Chowdhury, Kamal Ahmed Majumder and Sharif Nurul Ambia will lead another procession in Agargoan area while Tofail Ahmed, Kazl Zafarullah and Bimal Biswas will be at Mohakhali before leading a march towards the EC Secretariat

AL men ransack FROM PAGE 16

Bangabandhu Avenue, Mohakhali, Pallabi, Dhanmondi and old part of In Pintu's constituency

Lalbagh, the protestors around 9:15pm burned four motorbikes, two trucks and a lorry. BNP activists later brought out eparate processions and chased

the protestors. Chases and counter

chases between AL and BNP activists continued for half an hour. According to witnesses, the AL protestors also vandalised two buses at Bangabandhu Avenue around 8:00pm. As protestors prought out a procession, police chased and dispersed an AL procession at Mirpur section-11 around

8:30pm. The protestors also set ablaze a minibus at Mohakhali in

Talks start FROM PAGE 16

the capital around 11:15pm.

May after Gyanendra was forced to reinstate parliament and was stripped of most of his powers, including control of the army. "Once an interim constitution is

approved, the constitution of 1990 will be annulled. The formation of an interim government will take place only after the drafting of an interim constitution," Aryal said. Rebel leader Prachanda, who made his first public appearance in

a decade on Friday in an unprece-

dented meeting with Nepal's prime

minister, had returned to the coun-

tryside to take the proposed peace

deal to his men, a spokesman said.

looked as though they might keep Spain at bay as their defence deflected wave afterwave of attacks in the second half. But Spain skipper Raul and fellow substitute Cesc Fabregas turned the

course of the match. Raul pounced on the rebound after Fabregas's low shot from the edge of the area was parried by keeper Ali Bomunijel to level the scores 19 minutes from time.

Five minutes later Fabregas fed a great through ball to the feet of Fernando orres who rounded Boumnijel and steered the ball into the empty net. Torres then grabbed his second goal from the penalty spot, and became top scorer at the tournament with three

goals, when he fired home in the first minute of stoppage time.

The striker, who had himself been fouled in the area by substitute Alaeddine

Yahia, almost got a hat-trick late on but his drive was brilliantly save by Boumnijel.

Spain had been quick off the mark, with striker David Villa going close after five minutes when he fired a rasping chesistate has identified. shot into the side netting.
But Mnari stunned them with his

early goal and although Spain enjoyed more of the possession they were unable to unlock the Timisian defence in the first half. Casillas had to react sharply to stop Jaziri sneaking in for a second while defender Hatem Trabelsi proved to be a

real handful with his rampaging runs down the right flank. Trabelsi and the towering Radhi Jaidi did a great job of shackling Spain's attack, but they were thankful to left back Anis Ayari for clearing a Xabi Alonso header off the line on the stroke of halftime.

TRAMS
SPAIN: Iker Casillas (capt) - Sergio
Ramos, Pablo, Carles Puyol, Mariano
Pernia - Marcos Senna (Francesc
Fabregas 46), Xabi Alonso, Xavi - Luis
Garcia (Raul 46) - Fernando Torres, DavidVilla (Joaquin 56) Yellow card: Carles Puyol (30)

Coach: Luis Aragones TUNISIA: Ali Boumnijel - Hatem Trabelsi, Radhi Jaidi, Karim Haggui, Anis Ayari (Alaeddine Yahia 57) - Jawhar Mnari, Riadh Bouazizi (capt) (Kaies Ghodhbane 57), Hamed Namouchi Adel Chedli (Haikel Guemamdia 80), Medhi Nafti - Ziad Jaziri

Yellow card: Anis Ayari (32), Hatem Trabelsi (40), Radhi Jaidi (70), Haikel Guemamdia (80), Ziad Jaziri (85) lawhar Mnari (90+4) Coach: Roger Lemerre

Referee: C. Simon (BRA) Attendance: 52.000 Tall order

FROM PAGE 1 campaign scheduled to begin on July 1. Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz said at the meeting the EC will take steps regarding amendment, correction and inclu-

dance with the SC verdict and direc-Talking to reporters on the EC Secretariat premises, Cabinet Secretary ASM Abdul Halim said the meeting discussed required assistance for the EC in carrying out its

sion of names in the voter list while

retaining the existing one in accor-

Meeting sources said the EC decided to print 20 lakh leaflets and make short films and different programmes to be broadcast, urging people to enrol their names as voters.

Why siege

Justice Mamnoon Rahman also issued a rule on the government to explain within three weeks why they should not be directed to take necessary steps in accordance with law to protect the fundamental rights of the petitioner. Respondents of the government

are home secretary, inspector general of police (IGP), director general (DG) of Rab and commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

Earlier on June 10, following an application filed by Gazi Rabiul Islam, Justice Syed Md Dastagir Husain, judge of a special bench of the High Court (HC), imposed a ban on 14-party opposition combine's Dhaka siege programmeonJune11. The court had also directed the

other five respondents of the govern-

ment to ensure peaceful atmosphere

inthecountryon)une11. When the petition had came up for hearing on June 15, the division bench comprising Justice Syed M Dastagir Husain and Justice Mamnoon Rahman told the petitioner's counsel that the petition has become infructuous since

the cause of action is over. Petitioner's counsel Abu Bakar Siddique submitted that although the action is over, the Awami League-led 14 party opposition alliance has already announced fresh programmes, including siege of the Election Commission (EC) and rail-roadwaterway blockade, on June 20 and July 2 to press home their demands for reform of the caretaker government and resignation of the CEC along with histwo colleagues.

When the court asked for submission of a supplementary affidavit due to the changed situation, the counsel soughttimeforit. Granting the time, the court then set yesterday for hearing of the writ. Advocate Gazi Rabiul Islam yesterday

filed a supplementary petition along with the earlier one. Advocate Abu Bakkar Siddique moved for the petitioner, while Assistant Attorney General ASM Kabir Khan moved for the state.

BSF kills 1

FROM PAGE 16 cropland near pillar no-41/9 at about 10.30 pm, killing him on the They said the BSF men entered the Bangladesh territory and took away Sadequl's body,

BDR lodged a strong protest with its Indian counterpart and demanded return of the body. UNB adds: BDR and BSF again traded gunfire on Kironganj border

in Shibganj upazila on Sunday

However, no casualty was reported. The BSF men fired two bullets at 10:30pm, forcing the BDR to retaliate with several shots.

Pintu's remarks

FROM PAGE 1 have been expunged."

The acting speaker replied that he already said this way but Moudud said, "You did not, you said you would examine the pro-

After Maghrib break, the acting speaker gave floor to Jatiya Party lawmaker Hafizuddin Ahmed to discuss the proposed budget amid a chaotic situation. "You first calm down the situation, then I will speak," Hafiz said, declining to

participate in the discussion.

Taking the floor, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid said it is not possible for a gentle man's son to speak this way. "You (chair) encouraged Pintu by allowing him more time. For this, you should regret," he added.

Later, Bhuiyan said the chair should ensure that none makes indecent remarks against others. At this point, the chair wanted to

know from the opposition deputy leader which words of Pintu would have to be expunged as those angered both the sides in the Pintu, taking part in discussion on the proposed budget for next fiscal year, spent most of the 20 minutes he was allotted to use

criticism of the press and hardly spoke on the budget. Amid loud protest by the AL legislators, the BNP lawmaker continued to spit venom on the

invective at Hasina. He was first

given 12 minutes to discuss the

budget and then another eight minutes. He began his speech with

opposition leader. The acting speaker tried to pacify the agitated opposition lawmakers, saying he would examine the statement (of Pintu) and

that if there are unparliamentary

words, those would be expunged.
"I will have to examine the proceedings to expunge words of

diately," he said. Earlier on June 12, BNP law-maker Mashiur Rahman's comment on Hasina in the House trig-

protest against the 'controversial' activities of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and two other 'controversial' election commissioners in the Election Commission (EC).

Taking the floor on a point of order, Al legislator Mohammad Nasim urged the government to force the CEC and other election commissioners to resign for the sake of free and fair general elec-

"Taka sixty-four crore has been wasted due to the unilateral decision of CEC MA Aziz in the name of fresh voter list preparation," Nasim

other election commissioners can resolve the ongoing crisis.
"We staged a five-minute walk-

Later, BNP legislator Fazlur Rahman Patal, Moshiur Rahman and Moazzem Hossain Alal criticised the main opposition for 'creating anarchy in the country'.

BB dissolves Oriental

the decision to remove the MD and dissolved the board. Sections 46 and 47 of the act allow the central bank to put both the decisions into effect simultaneously, if it deems that the time given to the offenders to reply may prove harmful for the deposi-Murshid Kuli Khan, who was

appointed as Oriental Bank's new dministrator, will perform the roles of the chairman, director and the MD simultaneously. It was however not mentioned how long Khan will be in charge, but the law permits him to stay at the helm for a maximum of Murshid Kuli Khan, armed with

the show cause notice and the appointment letter that gave him the new assignment, went to Oriental's head office late afternoon vesterday Asaduzzaman Khan, another executive director of BB, accompanied Murshid Kuli Khan. After handing over the show cause notice to Koyes Sami, the ousted MD of Oriental, Murshid Kuli Khan formally took over the bank's responsibility.

Although Sami was kicked out of

his position, he welcomed the central bank's steps for what he termed as the interest of the depositors and the banking industry. Sami talked to reporters following the formal hand over of the bank's administration. Before taking the decision the BB governor along with two deputy

governors Nazrul Huda and Mohammad A (Rumi) Ali had a meeting with the finance minister at his planning ministry office After being apprised of Oriental's situation the finance minister said the central bank has the authority to take whatever decision it deems fit

and asked them to carry out their decisions in the interest of the bankingsector. Although various steps were taken by the central bank against non-performing banks like liquidations or mergers, Bangladesh never witnessed such a drastic action

against any bank since the 1980's,

when private banks were allowed to

Earlier, the BB appointed one of its officials as the administrator of United Commercial Bank. It also appointed a former banker as the administrator of another problem bank. However, the contexts were different in those cases, where troubles ensued following internal feuds

among board members. In the case of Oriental Bank, it is almost bankrupt, which triggered the BB to take full control of the bank. While the BB was considering a number of options, it finally opted to takeover the bank's responsibility. Earlier, some of the non-banking financial institutions became almost bankrupt due to mismanagement, but never a scheduled bank came on the brink of bankruptcy before.

Door-to-door FROM PAGE 1 those who have been criticising the

EC's decision. "Those who demand that the voter list should be prepared visiting door to door are saying it without reading or understanding the

electoral laws and rules," Aziz said. Referring to the preparation of the fresh voter list since January which has been declared illegal by the Supreme Court, the CEC said the officials went house to house once before and they will not visit again this time.

Aziz earlier held a meeting with senior officials of the cabinet divi-sion, ministries of establishment and information and urged them to direct their officials involved with the voter-listing job to discharge their duties properly. In the morning, two members of Political Affairs Division of the

Secretariat.

United Nations met with the CEC. The visiting delegation discussed the preparation of the voter list, ensuing parliamentary election and election observation, said a press release issued by the EC

any member. I can't do this imme-

gered noisy protest from the AL

ALWALKOUT

The main opposition legislators staged a brief walkout for five minutes which they claimed was to

Referring to a recent statement made by the Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, he said resignation of the CEC and the two

out protesting against the controversial activities of the EC," he added.

Oriental Bank got approval in 1987 and from the very beginning it fell into trouble due to its owners insider lending, corruption and mismanagement. In 1994 the BB

enlisted seven banks as problematic

ones, Oriental was included among

them. Six of them already came out of the status of problem banks, but Oriental continued as the only problem bank and its condition was deterioratingdaybyday. In December 2001 Oriental's accumulated loss stood at Tk 86.34 crore which climbed up to Tk 450 crore in March 2006. By the end of

March 2006 the bank's overall capital deficit stood at Tk877 crore.

Only four out of 30 private commercial banks have provisional shortfall. Three of them have a provi-sional shortfall below Tk 60 crore, while Oriental's shortfall stood at Tk 322 crore in March 06. The bank incurred a loss of Tk 12 crore in the last few months as it failed to maintain statutory liquidity

ratio (SLR) and paid high interest in

call money market. Besides its deposit growth has also been declining. During the last calendar year its deposit growth dropped by 3 percent compared to the previous year.

The central bank brought the issue of Oriental's bad situation to the government's notice on several occasions, but political considerations always refrained the govern-

ment from giving the BB the signal

for taking actions against the prob-**PROFWAHIDUDDIN** MAHMUD'S COMMENTS

Commenting on the BB's move, Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud told The Daily Star last night, "Bank mergers and takeovers are not very rare even in developed countries, although we have few such instances in Bangladesh." Such an action became almost inevitable and it was only a matter of

time that the Bangladesh Bankhad to

act, he said, adding, "The way the

majority share of the bank repeatedly

changed hands was enough to

arouse suspicions about wrongdo ing, which should be subject of thorough investigation."
He also said, "However, the banking business in Bangladesh is attractive enough for potential local and foreign investors to be interested in a takeover of the bank through re capitalisation. In that case, it should be possible to restructure the bank on a commercial footing so as to

safeguard the interest of the deposi-Interim management of the bank has to be efficient and tactful in invoking confidence among the bank's clients, he added.

Nasreen Huq

case filed alleging her murder.

victim's family graveyard in Bahadurpur of Gazipur district in presence of the IO and a Gazipur magistrate at around 11:30am. A three-member team headed by Prof Faruq Ahmed of Dhaka Medical

The body was exhumed from the

conducted the autopsy at the DMC morgue in the afternoon. As the body had decomposed, it was difficult to perform the autopsy, morgue sources said. Samples have been kept for the viscera test later,

College Pathology Department

same graveyard in the evening.
"We believe Nasreen's death is a pre-planned murder and that's why we gave permission to exhume her body for conducting a postmortem," said Shireen Huq, sister of Nasreen.

She also expressed the family's

The body was buried again in the

suspicion that a fundamentalist group is actively involved with her Nasreen, hit by her own car at the car park of her Dhanmondi house on

April 24, succumbed to her injuries the same day at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH).