Voter listing

be prepared without visiting door to door," Moudud told reporters at

'It is not right to expect that people will visit the district and upazila election offices themselves to register their names in the voter

"I am requesting the chief election commissioner through you to reconsider the election commission's decision," he told the report-

Echoing the view, AL lawmaker Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim said in parliament yesterday, "All of us have now reached a consensus on the preparation of the voter list by visiting door to door, but the chief election commissioner keeps on saying that there is no direction in

Accusing the CEC of preparing a fake voter list ignoring the High Court judgment, Selim, also AL

government reconstitute the EC by removing the CEC and two election

lic nuisance in the name of the EC's independence and he must be removed just as former chief election commissioner AKM Sadeque who conducted the controversial February 15 election was removed

Golam Habib Dulal of Jatiya Party, the second largest opposition in parliament, also demanded the same last week and asked the

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said on Wednesday it is not possible to prepare a fair voter list without visiting door to door. He requested the EC to reconsider its decision, but the CEC outright rejected the request.

Bhuiyan said the BNP will request the EC to reconsider its decision on voter listing.

The field level election officials feared that a huge number of eligi-ble voters will remain out of the list while many fake voters and dead persons will be on the existing voter list if it is updated without visiting door to door.

Legal experts and former election commissioners have also described the EC decision as illegal and a violation of the court's ver-

Despite the spate of criticism,

however, the EC Secretariat continues the preparatory work for beginning the month-long task of revising the existing voter list from July 1.

Sources said the EC Secretariat has completed printing different forms and will start sending those to the election offices from June 25.

59pc pass

FROM PAGE 1 Comilla Zila School is fifth in the list with 271 GPA 5 holders (67 per cent). Its total number of

Monipur High School in Mirpur came up with 254 GPA 5s (42 per cent) out of 611 examinees.

Dr Khastagir Government Girls High School secured seventh place by getting 240 top GPA scorers (63 per cent). They had a total of 379 examinees.

Rajuk Uttara Model High School is in the eighth place with 239 GPA 5 scorers (87 per cent). They sent 275 students for the examination.

The ninth position is taken by Dhaka Residential Model High School. This year their total examinees were 311 of which 190 secured GPA 5s (61 per cent).

Nawab Faizunnesa Government Girls High School is in the tenth place. This year they received 162 GPA 5s (64 per cent) out of 252 examinees.

No examinees from 217 of 24,972 institutions across the country could pass.

The SSC exams are held simultaneously under seven secondary and higher secondary education boards -- Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Comilla, Jessore, Barisal and Sylhet. The Dakhil examinations are held under Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board and the SSC (Vocational) exams under Technical Education

A total of 7,84,815 examinees sat for this year's SSC examinations--2,23,511 under the Dhaka board, 2,15,727 under Rajshahi board, 90,448 under Comilla board, 1,06,732 under Jessore board, 60,974 under Chittagong board, 56,339 under Barisal board, and 31,084 under Sylhet board.

The Chittagong Education Board achieved the highest pass percentage of 63.87, followed by Comilla with 63.45, Dhaka 61.35, Rajshahi 60.71, Barisal 59.30, Sylhet 56.52 and Jessore 48.10 per cent.

Education Minister Osman Farruk and State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque filon accompanied by the chair men of the nine education boards announced the results at a press conference at the education minis-

try auditorium. Earlier, they handed the result sheets to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office. The PM reportedly expressed her deep satisfaction

and one from BKMEA signed the agreement on behalf of the owners.

On the other hand, president or

general secretary of each 16 gar-ment workers' organisations signed the MoU on behalf of their

workers.
BUTENIS PRAISES BEPZA STEPS

US Ambassador to Bangladesh

Patricia Butenis yesterday expressed

satisfaction over the Bepza steps to

tackle the recent labour unrest in

Dhaka Export Processing Zone

She also appreciated Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) for its analysis of the problem and under-

taking measures to bring back

investors' confidence as well as

addressing the concerns of the

sures when she met Bepza Executive Chairman Brig Gen Ashraf Abdullah Yussuf at his office

here. The Bepza executive chairman

apprised the US envoy of the steps

Brig Ashraf also apprised Butenis of the production-friendly environ-

ment in the EPZs having easily trainable skilled and unskilled

workforces. She was briefed on the

activities of Workers Representation

Welfare Committee, which is

responsible for solving problems of

ers and owners of the factories have agreed to comply with the Bepza rules on workers' welfare to main-

tain peaceful working atmosphere in the DEPZ.

submit the memo but police blocked the procession at Shahbagh

intersection. A team of representa-tives then went to the PM's office

National Museum, leaders of the parishad demanded immediate

return of two acres and 22 decimals

of land belonging to the temple that

had been occupied by a vested quarter patronised by the present

Gen (retd) C R Dutta (Bir Uttam), president C R Sarker, general secre-

tary Biresh Chandra Saha, vice

Chief advisor to the parishad Maj

Earlier, at a rally in front of the

resume production soon.

and submitted the memo.

PM urged

FROM PAGE 20

He expected that the closed

Brig Ashraf said both the work-

the workers.

taken to calm down the unrest.

Butenis appreciated the mea-

(DEPZ), reports UNB.

with the results.

Extortionists shoot one dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extortionists last night shot dead the cashier of a bakery and looted cash at Dania in the capital. The dead is Azizul Hakim, 30, cashier of Prime Bakery.

Three extortionists stormed the bakery and two of them pointed guns at Aziz's head at around 8:15pm.

A witness said the two shot Aziz from point blank range and snatched the cash box before leaving the shop.

Another employee of the bakery Shah Alam said a local goon named Roujan demanded Tk 5 lakh toll from his employer Salauddin Tapan several days back.

He and the locals suspect last night's incident could be linked with the demand for toll.

FBI director

FROM PAGE 20

relationship to a newer height, said the release. Muller offered to extend further assistance for capacity building.

Babar delivered a speech styled

"Bangladesh: Fighting terrorism and defending democracy" at a discussion session at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), focusing on the latest sociopolitical scenario in Bangladesh and government initiatives in combating militancy and terror-

ism.
CSIS Director of South Asia
Programme Teresita Schaffer
moderated the session.
Bangladesh Ambassador to the

USA Shamsher M Chowdhury, Joint Secretary Akhtar Ahmed and other senior officials of the home ministry and Bangladesh Embassy were present at the meeting and

Iwo brothers

FROM PAGE 20

power connection problems at around 1:00am during the soccer match between Argentina and Netherlands and Bakar got in contact with live electric wires as he tried to fix the electrical prob-

Sattar, finding his brother in danger, got himself electrocuted while trying to pull his brother to

The locals rushed them to the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared them dead at around 2:20am

Meanwhile, Noor Uddin, 30, a sanitary mason at an underthe old Dhaka, got electrocuted at

Kewell takes

Australia's Brett Emerton, who now will miss Australia's second round match with Italy on Monday.

Kewell saved the Australians from elimination after a horrendous blunder by goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac had gifted the Croatians their second goal 13 minutes after halftime.

Kalac, one of six Australian players with Croatian background, had an eventful match picking the ball out of his own net after just two minutes off a free kick and then fumbling Niko Kovac's volley to allow the ball to go over the line.

Kalac was a surprise selection by coach Guus Hiddink ahead of regular keeper Mark Schwarzer, who had kept goal in the other two group games against Japan and Brazil.

The Australians went into the final group match two points ahead of Croatia and only needed a draw to reach the last sixteen.

Australia, galvanised by the coaching of Dutchman Hiddink, showed incredible tenacity to fight back from being behind twice in the match before 56,000 fans. The Aussies recovered from the

shock of a second minute goal off a Darijo Srna free-kick to take the game to the 1998 semi-finalists in a dramatic opening half. Mark Viduka chopped down Niko Kovac just outside the area

and Srna beat Kalac with a swinging free kick to his right. It was Croatia's first goal of the tournament and gave them a huge

lift so early in the match they had to But the Australians recovered their poise and controlled the

game for most of the opening half down factories in the DEPZ would having several scoring chances before Craig Moore levelled in the 38th minute. Referee Poll gave a penalty when Stjepan Tomas handled the ball in A procession of the parishad marched toward the PM's office to

the area under Tim Cahill's challenge and Moore left goalkeeper Stipe Pletikosa stranded to equa-The Socceroos thought they

should have had a seventh-minute penalty when Australian-raised defender Josip Simunic appeared to foul Viduka but the Australian skipper's pleas for a spot-kick were ignored by Poll.

Cahill had a header saved by Pletikosa on the half-hour and a minute later the goalkeeper had to dive to divert a rasping Harry Kewell left-foot volley away for a corner

Poll gave Croatia six yellow cards and Australia two, both by

400 DU teachers

FROM PAGE 20 cooperation with the syndicate, the deans committee and other con-cerned bodies of the university have failed to take any effective action to stem the growing outside activities of the teachers.

Since 1985, the DU authorities took initiatives at least fifteen times to regulate private consultancies and curb off-campus activities of teachers, but all the attempts failed, sources said.

DU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Yusuf Haider said he does not know whether any teacher is involved in off-campus activities without taking permission of the university. He, however, admitted that there is no authority to look after

the matter. If any allegation is received against anyone in this regard, actions will be taken against him or

Some 276 teachers of the uni-versity are on various leaves and some of the departments, including computer science, statistics, Institute of Statistical Research and Training and Institute of Health Economics, are finding difficulty maintaining their academic activities as nearly half of their teachers

are on leave for years.

The absence of the teachers adds to the sufferings of the stu-dents while some teachers frequently miss regular classes, class tests and other curriculum, said Prof Mohammad Haider Ali, chairman of computer science depart-

At least 16 teachers of the department of computer science are on leave now, while 14 teachers at statistics department, 11 (of 24) at the Institute of Statistical Research and Training and six (of 12) teachers at Institute of Health

Economics are on leave.

Besides, eight teachers (out of 39) at economics, three teachers (out of eight) at Development Studies, three (out of nine) at Women's Studies, 13 teachers (out of 46) at physics, eight teachers (out of 25) at microbiology, 12 teachers at finance, and six teachers at pharmacy department are on leave.

The situation further worsens,

leave vacancy and many teachers activities after the end of their leave period. The process of warning them to return or termination of their job is very lengthy, DU administration

as the authorities do not appoint

sufficient number of teachers on

Recently the DU syndicate formed a committee to look into the matter of on-leave teachers.

Top Petrobangla

The committee reported that among the 276 on-leave teachers,

FROM PAGE 20

posts are vacant. Even though Petrobangla still has a number of competent senior officials, the coalition government politicised and divided different public entities refrained from regular promotions and postings. It has been filling up vital positions based on lobbying and potential candidates' political affiliation,

sources said. The position of the director finance became vacant earlier this month with the expiry of the contract with Kazi Nurul Huda. The government earlier took an initiato renew the contrac Huda who had already enjoyed an extension of his 2004's one-year

The director posts of operations and mining have been vacant for a year and director planning for the last five months. The director Production Sharing Contract (PSC) s due to retire later this month.

Two weeks ago, under pressure from a number of officials of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the establishment ministry partially okayed promotion of three Petrobangla officials leaving two seniors behind. However, due to a note of dissent by a member of the Superior Selection Board (SSB), the process has slowed down. These officials are being promoted to the position of directors.

Shazneen case

around 16 teachers are on

unauthorised leave and recom-mended issuing letters asking them to get back to the university.

Young teachers' going abroad for gaining the latest knowledge is

very much reasonable, former DU Teachers Association president Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said,

adding that the authorities should

appoint sufficient number of teachers on leave vacancy to run

But due to the 'complicated and lengthy' process of teachers' recruitment at the DU, it is not possible to appoint a teacher soon

after a teacher goes on leave.
As per the DU rules, advertising in newspaper is needed for recruit-

ing teachers and the recruitment

process takes about four to six months while Bangladesh

University of Engineering and

Technology can recruit dozens of teachers within weeks through

walk-in interviews, sources said. Authorities must take initiatives

if any department or institute

needs to appoint teachers on leave vacancy, ProfYusuf Haider said.

Besides, wreaths will be placed at the portrait of Bangabandhu at

Bangabandhu Bhaban and fateha

will be offered at the mazar of

life and works of Bangabandhu and a cultural function will be held at Diplomat Engineers' Institution at

India, in a message said the BNP-Jamaat alliance is determined to

annial alliance is determined to annihilate AL and push the nation back to the pre-independence era. "Killing, repression and torture on Awami League leaders and work-

ers are now everyday affairs," she said, adding that this repressive

regime made an attempt on her life through bloody grenade attacks on her rally on August 21, 2004.

FROM PAGE 20 A Detective Branch (DB) official in

the guise of a buyer went to the Pallabi house of Shahidul at around

8:00pm and started bargaining over the price of the heroin with Shahidul,

and wanted to have a look at the

drug," said Assistant Commissioner of DB Abdul Kuddus Khan who led the operation. "When they brought

the heroin to me, we arrested them."

Detectives said Nurul Islam his friend Shahidul appointed Selim Mia to sell the heroin. Selim was supposed

Detectives suspect that the arrestees are members of an organ-

ised gang and have been carrying out

the illegal trade for quite a long time

However, the arrestees told the

detectives that this was their first

venture to earn money through

The DB police produced the three

arrestees before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka yesterday with a petition for five

(SSC), SSC (Vocational) and Dakhil

results were published yesterday.

The percentage of passed SSC (Vocational) students was 61.37

appeared for the exams under Bangladesh Madrasa Education

Board among whom 1,22,808 students passed and out of them 6086 students secured the highest

grade point average (GPA).
Under the Technical Education
Board 48,309 students appeared
for the exams and 29,646 students

achieved the certificate. Only 20 students scored the highest GPA.

The letter-grading system was introduced in the SSC-level public

A total of 1,61,999 students

days' remand for each.

Pass rates

We settled the price at Tk 60 lakh

Ex-official

Nurul Islam and Selim Mia.

togetTk1lakhfromtheprofit.

On June 27, a discussion on the

AL chief Sheikh Hasina, now in

Bangabandhu at Tungipara.

AL's founding

party thrown by Latifur Rahman in honour of his friends, which tempted him to commit the crime," Deputy Attorney General (DAG) ABM Waliur Rahman argued before the High Court (HC) Death Reference Bench.

The DAG also said the evidences, witness accounts and the circumstances undoubtedly proved in the trial court that accused Hasan committed the

Yesterday's hearing on the trial court's order at the HC Death Reference Bench comprising Justice Ali Asgar Khan and Justice Emdadul Haque will continue on Shazneen Tasnim Rahman,

businessman Latifur Rahman and a class IX student of Scholastica, was raped and killed at her Gulshan residence on April 23, 1998. Latifur Rahman filed a case with

youngest daughter of leading

the Gulshan Police Station the same night and the police filed another case during investigation under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act. The prosecution said none but

the accused and Shazneen were on the ground floor on the night the crime took place. "There was no scope for criminals from outside to enter the house to commit the crime as the house had only one entrance," Waliur said in his argu-Hasan had already known since

March that the party would take place on April 23, and that is why he had chosen the night as the family members and all household servants would be busy upstairs attending the guests, the DAG said. The activities that took place

before and after the crime also support the plan Hasan plotted, he pointed out.

According to the inquest and autopsy reports, Shazneen bore around 25-30 bruises on her body as she tried her best to survive. The injuries prove that the crime was not committed by a single person, but a group took part in it, the prosecution said. The whole plot was executed in two hours, a fact that also proves

that it was quite a planned one, the DAG argued, citing examples and references of other HC verdicts in the country and in India. The Second Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children

Repression, Dhaka on September

2. 2003 convicted six accused and ordered to hang them until death. The convicts are Hasan, domestic help Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, his assistant Badal, carpenter Shaniram Mandal and housemaids Estema Khatun Minu

Manmohan, Hasina

FROM PAGE 1 that India should not be made an

and Parvin.

issue in the general elections in Bangladesh and Dhaka should conduct its ties with New Delhi based on its own national interests." He said the Indian prime minis-ter and Hasina emphasised the

importance of regional connectivity in view of the growing role of regional economic groupings. There is an element of trust in AL on these issues, Saber added.

India has been pressing for multi-modal transport link with Bangladesh and transit to promote greater bilateral trade ties and easier access to its northeastern states.

At the meeting, Singh was assisted by his National Security Adviser MK Narayanan and Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran while Hasina was accompanied by Saber, Abul Hossain and Kazi Zafarullah. Earlier in the day, Hasina, who arrived in the Indian capital

Wednesday on a five-day visit, flew to Ajmer and offered prayers at the shrine of Khwaja Moinuddhin

Saber said she prayed for strengthening the relations between India and Bangladesh. "Every time I come here at the shrine, I get mental peace," Hasina said about her visit to Ajmer. Hasina would meet Congress

chief Sonia Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition and BJP leader LK Advani and Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee before going to Kolkata to receive the Mother Teresa Lifetime Achievement Award.

Israeli PM

Israel, however, that the airstrikes would continue. The increasing number of errors were largely due to more militant activity in densely populated areas, he said.

"We have to make a great effort to try everything possible to avoid hitting civilians," he told Israel's Army Radio.

without launching a broad and very significant (ground) operation." Olmert and Abbas had breakfast with Jordan's King Abdullah II in the ancient Jordanian town of Petra -- the first meeting between top Israeli and Palestinian leaders

embraced and kissed each other on the cheek. Asked about his handshake with Olmert, Abbas said, "It was very warm, very warm."

"We decided we will meet in a

matter of a few weeks," said

for our forthcoming meeting as of next week.

Brazil bid Japan WC

FROM PAGE 1
"We played a lot better in the sec-ond half as the Japanese held back and maybe showed too much respect," added the three-time

With Brazilian legend Zico in their coaching hotseat the Japanese, needing a win to have any hope of reaching the last 16, refused to buckle under the early

pressure from the men in yellow. Ronaldo, criticised for sluggish showings in the narrow wins over Croatia and Australia, almost broke his tournament duck twice in the opening 20 minutes as he finally began to look like the man whose eight goals, including two in the final, won Brazil the title four years ago in Japan.

On seven minutes he took a neat pass from Ronaldinho and fired in a snapshot which Japanese keeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi blocked with both hands. Kawaguchi then did even better

to get a hand to a low drive as Ronaldo motored past two defend ers before letting fly, the enthusi-asm which had been singularly lacking in the previous matches now coursing through the Real Madrid striker's veins once more. Japan had to thank Kawaguchi

for another brilliant stop as he tipped over a fierce effort by Juninho after 23 minutes.

But then came a majestic finish

ADB nod

FROM PAGE 20 say that the bidder would be dis-qualified if it 'forgets' to quote price of parts by a sum more than 15 per cent of the original quotation.

The EGCB is also seeking the ADB's permission to allow it to ask Harbin to complete the Siddhirganj project without any additional costs for the spares, which it 'forgot' to quote.

Harbin had earlier won bids for the Tongi 80MW plant, the Chandpur 150MW plant and the Fenchuganj 90MW plant using similar tactics. It has completed the Tongi plant, but it failed to perform and it is now asking the govern-ment to give additional funds for the spares which it always forgets to quote, sources said. The Tongi plant tripped more than 75 times within one year of its operation.

There are allegations of corrup tion and irregularities against each of the tender awarding process involving Harbin. The Harbin's local agent had previously admit-ted to The Daily Star that it had bribed a wide range of officials and influential policymakers to get the

The ADB late last year lodged a complaint with the Chinese government regarding the corruption

of Harbin.

The Harbin, in line with its previous bidding techniques, came up with a so-called low price offer of \$90 million, while Bhel's offer was \$110 million. However after three months of scrutter after three months of scrutiny, Kema found out that Harbin's actual offer was \$114 million and Bhel's was

from Tamada as Japan chased after a repeat of their "miracle," 1-0 win over Brazil in the first round of the

996 Atlanta Olympics.
Tamada lashed home leftfooted past stunned keeper Dida after Brazilian-born Alex flipped a monchalant through ball to him as the holders conceded their first

oal in the group action. The watching Pele slumped in a seat in the stands as Zico leapt off the bench, his hands aloft, as his decision to drop blunt forwards Naohiro Takahara and Atsushi Yanagisawa for Tamada and newcomer Seiichiro Maki and bring in Juniichi Inamoto for midfielder Takashi Fukunishi seemed set to

With six points in the bag Brazil, bidding for a sixth title, had felt able to ring the changes, classy Lyon midfielder Juninho starting out as ch Carlos Alberto Parreira d yellow-carded captain Cafu nd Emerson as well as defender

berto Carlos and striker Adriano. Iwo beneficiaries were Ronaldo ubmates Robinho and Cicinho, ho both fired over before Tamada

gave Brazil work to do. But Ronaldo nodded in after Cicinho headed on a Ronaldinho cross as referee Eric Poulat pre-pared to put his whistle to his mouth.

Juninho's blockbuster and then a crisp left-footer from Gilberto on the hour allowed Parreira to send on Ricardinho and Ze Roberto for Ronaldinho and Kaka in the closing stages with the match having slipped beyond their rivals and Ronaldo then claimed his second. TEAMS

JAPAN: Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi; Akira Kaji, Keisuke Tsuboi, Yuji Nakazawa, Alessandro Santos; itsuo Ogasawara (Koji Nakata 6), Hidetoshi Nakata (captain), unichi Inamoto, Shunsuke akamura; Seiichiro Maki Naohiro Takahara 61), Masashi guro 66), Keiji Tamada. low card: Akira Kaji (40).

RAZIL: Dida (Rogerio Ceni 82); cinho, Lucio, Juan, Gilberto; ilberto Silva, Juninho; Kaka (Ze oberto 71), Ronaldinho Ricardinho71); Robinho, Ronaldo. Yellow card: Gilberto (44). Referee: Eric Poulat (France)

Lankan president

FROM PAGE 20 and playing a leading role in fostering greater regional cooperation through Saarc.

Officials said Khaleda and viahinda would discuss a wide nge of bilateral issues during the fficial talks. The two sides will also discuss Saarc issues and international issues of common concern. The Sri Lankan president will also pay a courtesy call on the Bangladeshpresident.

Foreign ministry sources said tails on the programmes of the Lankan president are being talked out. Meanwhile, the ministry held several rounds of inter-ministerial meetings to ensure security, accommodation and other aspects of the tour.

house on May 31 after his wife Hosne Ara Naznin and Abdus

Salam Majumdar filed two sepa-

ulshan Police Station.

Ahmadiyya

ite cases against him with

He filed a criminal case against

He field a criminal case against flousing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas and Managing Director of the private satellite TV shannel Boishakhi Kazi Mohammad Shahidullah the

revious day, accusing them of treatening him with death unless

handed over his share of the TV

Another case filed

In his complaint, Noor Hossain mentioned that he and his wife Ayesha Begum had entered into a ntract with Bulu for sale of the 13.33 acres of land at Bhaluka in Mymensingh district at Tk5 crore Accordingly they had executed

two agreements -- an unregistered one on March 18 and the other one a Bainapatra on April 6 this year duly registered at the Sub-Registrar Office of Bhaluka. After that, Bulu issued four cheques totalling Tk 5 crore on different dates payable at the Southeast Bank, Principal Branch of Dhaka, Hossain said.

When he went to the bank on April 30 to cash a cheque of Tk 3.5 crore given by Bulu, it was dishonoured, the complainant said. Later, he served legal notice

upon Bulu on May 13 through his lawyer Shah Mohammad Ahsanur Rahman asking him to pay the money within 30 days from the receipt of the notice.

Bulu received the notice but he did not make any move to pay the money. Rather, he threatened Noor Hossain and his wife with death over cellphone on several dates, the complainant added.

Pryschools

tion president met Harris at the PMO but Harris did not give any assurance about their demands.

were held during the four-party alliance government's tenure but the government did not take any effective measures to meet our demands," he said.

He also said teachers vowed to continue the strike until the fivepoint demand is met.

Along with the non-government primary school teachers, the teachers of government primary schools will also start hunger strike until death at the Central Shaheed Minar from tomorrow. Under the banner of

Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association, they started the strike from last Saturday demanding elimination of wage discrimina-

Secretary AK Fazlul Haq told The Daily Star that 96 per cent schools remained closed despite government officials' attempt to reopen the schools.

FROM PAGE 20 The bigots renewed attacks on the members of the Ahmadiyya sect in November 2003 and are continuing hate campaign across the country demanding passage of a law in

parliament to brand the Ahmadiyyas as non-Muslim. The agitators oppose the Ahmadiyyas' belief that Imam Mahdi, a saviour of the Muslim according to Islamic literature, has already been born and passed away.

Led by their leader Noor Hossain Nurani, Khatme Nabuwat activists yesterday brought out a procession in Ashkona and Dakkhinkhan in Uttara to drum up support and mobilise their men who have gathed there from across the country. "We'll make our programme a

success at any cost. One lakh of our men will be there tomorrow to force the government meet our demand in the ongoing parliament session,' Nurani told The Daily Starlast night. He vowed to hold the

programme at any cost. But Commissioner of Dhaka

Metropolitan Police SM Mizanur Rahman said they have taken adequate measures to stop the bigots from launching any attack on the Ahmadiyyas, their mosque or property. "We've taken adequate security steps to check any kind of destruc-

tive activities," he told The Daily On the bigots' vow to observe their programme at any cost, he "No chance. We'll not let them

Asian People's Union Against Fundamentalism and Communalism, Ain O Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Bangladesh Coalition for Child Rights, Bangladesh Development Partnership, Nari O Manobadhikar Foundation, Nari Pokkho and Durbar Network will gather near the Ahmadiyya mosque

examinations in 2002 when only 330 examinees secured GPA five. Iajuddin advised

four weeks since the surgery when he returns to Bangabhaban tomorrow. So as per the doctors' advice, he will have to take rest for another four weeks," Prof Malik, also a former adviser to the caretaker government, said.

About the president's present nealth condition, he said the president is better now and recovering gradually. "The president can now walk and move. The 75-year-old president was

lown to Singapore on May 24 for treatment of his cardiac complications a day after he was admitted to Dhaka CMH following chest pain. Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar has been the acting president of the country since then.

President Iajuddin came back

on Tuesday and was admitted to

Dhaka CMH again under supervision of the medical board formed earlier to look after him. A handout issued from Bangabhaban on Wednesday said the president would be discharged from the hospital tomorrow.

Since the president fell ill, speculations and controversies have been mounting whether the government is paving the way to force the president to step down. The speculations gained further momentum when President ajuddin was admitted to the CMH again after returning from Talking to The Daily Star yester-

day on condition of anonymity, a senior physician of the seven member medical board said they hope the president will be able to carry out his duties after taking the advised rest. "It depends on the government's political decision now whether President Iajuddin Ahmed will continue or not," he said. Law, Justice and Parliamentary

ing from his illness.

GPA-5 FROM PAGE 1

public examinations. This year, 24,384 examinees

8,348 of Dhaka Board, 6,571 of Rajshahi, 2,013 of Jessore, 3,725 of Chittagong, 385 of Sylhet, 721 of Barisal and 2,621 of Comilla Board nations.

Students with 80 marks in each subject only could secure GPA-5 earlier and no marks from the

elective subjects were carried over to the aggregate. But the new system introduced in 2004 allows marks above 40 in the elective subjects to be added to the aggregate and equally divided for the 10

Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed and Parliamentary Affairs Adviser to the prime minister Salauddin Quader Chowdhury on Wednesday in parliament said the president will resume his office after recover-

- obtained GPA-5 in the SSC exami-Besides, 6,086 Dakhil examinees and 20 SSC (vocational) scored GPA-5 this year.

FROM PAGE 20 Israeli air force commander, said in

"We have to fight terrorism and we are doing it," he said, adding that the airstrikes were "the most accurate and the best possible option

in a year. After the informal gettogether, they pledged to meet again within weeks. The two leaders shook hands,

Abbas told reporters earlier: "There is an intention to prepare

Olmert has pledged to meet Abbas to explore a possible resump-tion of peacemaking, which has stalled, but has set no date.

FROM PAGE 20 Star he and the pro-BNP associa-

"We think it is a set-up as such meetings with several ministers

The Association General

He also said they will start the historical hunger strike at the

Central Shaheed Minar from 2:00pm on June 24 with 10 teachers from each school.

near the Ahmadiyya area." Meantime, Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, South

to resist the bigots.

list," he said.

the court's verdict in this regard."

presidium member, said, "The chief election commissioner is engaged in a conspiracy to foil the election on time in connivance with a vested quarter." He also demanded that the

'Aziz is now committing a pub-

in 1996," Selim said. The main opposition AL has been agitating in the streets demanding resignation of the CEC.

mentary elections.

declared a weeklong agitation

Chowdhury, and Director of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) MABaset. The MoU was singed in the light of tripartite agreement between the

Addressing the ceremony, speakers termed the MoU historic and hoped the sensitive exportearning sector would not face any further violence or agitations. They committed to work united to save the sector from ruination. The recent violence in the garment sector pushed the country at

try, according to sources.

not order in the future if the damages are not repaired. This is a historic agreement and we all have to try to turn it into reality," said Abdus Salam Murshedy second vce-president of BGMEA. He said the BGMEA formed eight separate teams to

for bringing normalcy back in the sector," he added. The sixteen-point MoU committed not to fire any workers involved with workers' agitation, giving identity cards and appointment letters to all workers, not to create any restriction in forming trade unions or any bargaining agents under existing labour laws and the implementation of minimum wages after the declaration by a

president Swapan Kumar Saha and into the recent violence in the Prof Dr Nim Chandra Bhowmik were present among others at the Four directors of the BGMEA

EC to prepare the voter list by visiting door to door. He also questioned the credibility of the present EC in conducting the next parlia-

16 RMG labour bodies

programme and threatened to call for strikes if their demands were The MoU was signed in presence of Fedatration of Bangladesh Chembers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Acting President Mohammad Ali. The signing cere-mony at the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) office was addressed by BGMEA Vice-president Abdus Salam Murshedy, Vice-president Shahadat Hossain

government, owners' and Sramic Karmachari Oikkay Parishad (Skop). The new MoU was signed with the workers organisations which are directly related to the garment indus-

least three years back from its earlier position, Mohammad Ali said adding that the buyers would

implement the MoU. "The very foundation of the garment industry has been shaken ollowing the recent volatile situation and we all have to work hard

government formed wage board It also said the workers would get one weekly holiday and female workers would get maternity leave with full salary. The MoU demanded a judicial investigation