

## Voter listing

FROM PAGE 1  
be prepared without visiting door to door," Moudud told reporters at his office.

"It is not right to expect that people will visit the district and upazila election offices themselves to register their names in the voter list," he said.

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

Echoing the view, AL lawmaker Sheikh Fazul 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 the court's verdict in this regard."

Accusing the CEC of preparing a fake voter list ignoring the High Court judgment, Selim, also AL 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 government reconstitute the EC by removing the CEC and two election commissioners.

"Aziz is now committing a public 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 in 1996," Selim said.

The main opposition AL has been agitating in the streets demanding resignation of the CEC. Golam Habib Dulal of Jatya Party, the second largest opposition in parliament, also demanded the same last week and asked the EC to prepare the voter list by visiting door to door. He also questioned the credibility of the present EC in conducting the next parliamentary elections.

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 outrightly 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 eligible 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 verdict.

Despite the spate of criticism,

## 16 RMG labour bodies

FROM PAGE 20  
declared a weeklong agitation programme and threatened to call for strikes if their demands were not met.

The MoU was signed in presence of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) Acting President Mohammad Ali. The signing ceremony at the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) office was addressed by BGMEA Vice-president Abdus Salam Mursheedy, Vice-president Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury, and Director of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) MA Basit.

The MoU was signed in the light of tripartite agreement between the government, owners' and Sramic Karmachari Oikky Parishad (Skop). The new MoU was signed with the workers organisations which are directly related to the garment industry, according to sources.

Addressing the ceremony, speakers termed the MoU historic and hoped the sensitive export-earning sector would not face any further violence or agitations. They committed to work united to save the sector from ruin.

The recent violence in the garment sector pushed the country at least three years back from its earlier position, Mohammad Ali said adding that the buyers would 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 Mursheedy second vice-president of BGMEA. He said the BGMEA formed eight separate teams to implement the MoU.

"The very foundation of the garment industry has been shaken following the recent volatile situation and we all have to work hard 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 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 into the recent violence in the sector.

Four directors of the BGMEA

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 holders (67 per cent). Its total number of examinees was 405.

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 Board.

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 Milon accompanied by the chairmen of the nine education boards announced the results at a press conference at the education ministry auditorium.

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

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 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 socio-political scenario in Bangladesh and government initiatives in combating militancy and terrorism.

CSIS Director of South Asia Programme Teresita Schaffer moderated the session.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Shamsheer M Chowdhury, Joint Secretary Akhtar Ahmed and other senior officials of the home ministry and Bangladesh Embassy were present at the meeting and the discussion session.

The situation further worsens, as the authorities do not appoint sufficient number of teachers on leave vacancy and many teachers do not resume their academic 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 sources said.

Recently the DU syndicate formed a committee to look into the matter of on-leave teachers. The committee reported that among the 276 on-leave teachers,

Some 276 teachers of the university 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 students while some teachers frequently miss regular classes, class tests and other curriculum, said Prof Mohammad Haider Ali, chairman of computer science department.

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.

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## Extortionists shoot one dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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## 400 DU teachers

FROM PAGE 20  
around 16 teachers are on unauthorised leave and recommended 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 the departments smoothly.

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 recruiting 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, Prof Yusuf Haider said.

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## Shazneen case

FROM PAGE 20  
party thrown by Latifur Rahman in honour of his friends, which tempted him to commit the crime," Deputy Attorney General (DAG) ABM Walur 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 crime.

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 Sunday.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, youngest daughter of leading 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 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," Walur said in his argument.

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 Shanir Mandal and housemaids Estema Khatun Mim and Farvin.

Manmohan, Hasina FROM PAGE 1  
that India should not be made an 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 minister 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, Sabar added.

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

At the meeting, Singh was assisted by his National Security Adviser MK Narayan and Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran while Hasina was accompanied by Sabar, Abdul 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 Moinuddin Chishti.

Sabar 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.

Pass rates FROM PAGE 1  
The Secondary School Certificate (SSC), SSC (Vocational) and Dakhil results were published yesterday. The percentage of passed SSC (Vocational) students was 61.37 this year.

A total of 1,61,999 students 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 examinations in 2002 when only 330 examinees secured GPA five.

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 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 recovering 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 -- obtained GPA-5 in the SSC examinations.

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

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 subjects.

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## Brazil bid Japan WC

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

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.

Over seven minutes he took a neat pass from Ronaldo 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 defenders before letting fly, the enthusiasm 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.