EC now decides

producing required documents.

People applying to be registered as voters will have to submit receipts of municipal tax payments or house rent receipts or receipts of payments to village guards, and affidavits of age or attested copies of SSC certificates with their applications on prescribed forms.

No one will get the prescribed Form No 2 for getting his or her name enlisted on the voter list unless he or she submits the required documents with the application, the election officials said adding that the strict provision may discourage people from getting enlisted.

The month long task scheduled to start on July Iwill be conducted from the offices of the ROs and AROs at district and upazila headquarters, and at the wards of union parishads (UPs), municipalities, and city corporations --- the grassroots level unit of the local government.

But election officials at district levels feared that the whole process might turn out to be a futile exercise because the EC's latest decision still does not meet the demand of both the ruling alliance and the opposition coalition for going from door to door to revise the voter list.

"Already local opposition lead-ers told us that they will create obstacles to our job if we don't go from door to door to revise the voter list," a district election officer told The Daily Star yesterday.

Officials at the EC Secretariat said a new circular will be issued soon specifying tasks of the ROs and AROs in line with the EC's new decision.

The officials however said the EC may initiate some more new steps for revision of the voter list considering the outcome of the

Sangsad adopts

FROM PAGE 16 nation lost a prominent leader that can never be replaced.

Terming his long-time colleague as a good orator in the political arena, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said, "He believed in cooperation, not conflict, and ventured to face any crisis.'

Akbar Hossain was a progressive, tolerant, non-communal man and a He prayed for the salvation of

the departed soul. "His [Akbar] criticism and attack was always humorous and hilarious. Everybody of us should take lesson from him," Deputy Leader of the Opposition Adbul Hamid said, adding, "He never criffcised the political opponent with a vindictive attitude.

Thirty-five lawmakers, includ-ing Moudud Ahmed, MK Anwar, Shahjahan Siraj, Hafizuddin Ahmad, Matiur Rahman Nizami, Mohammad Nasim, Abdus Shaheed, Mahbubur Rahman, Farooq Khan, ASHK Sadeq, Ruhul Quddus Talukdar, Rezaul Karim, Sayeed Eskandor, Golam Habib Dulal and Mujibur Rahman Fakir took part in the discussion on the

The lawmakers stood silent for a inute to pay respect for Akbar

Following the condolence motion, the JS session was adjourned until 10:30 today.

month long task. ECRETREATS

The EC started retreating from its hardline just two days into its June 12 decision of not going from door to door and its decision to use information collected during the controversial attempt to prepare a fresh voter list in the process of revising the existing list. The attempt to prepare a fresh voter list was declared illegal by the Supreme Court.

Facing severe criticism form legal and election experts, the EC on June 14 cancelled the decision of using the information collected during the preparation of the controversial fresh voter list.

Along with legal and election experts, ruling BNP, main opposition Awami League and all other political parties are demanding that the EC revises the voter list by going from door to door. They also equested the EC to reconsider its June 12 decision.

But, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz disregarded the demand and kept on saying that the verdict of the Supreme Court did not specifically made door to door visits mandatory.

Election experts and some EC Secretariat officials however are now predicting that the EC finally may decide to go from door to door to revise the voter list as many eligible people are still likely to remain out of the list even after the latest decision due to the EC's persistent intransigence to follow the traditional procedure.

Akbar laid

were placed on the coffin on behalf of different organisations.

Earlier, two namaj-e-janazas of the minister were held in the capital. The first janaza was held in front of the BNP central office at Naya Paltan at about

11:15am. Leaders and workers of the ruling party and its front organisations attended the janaza.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and other frontline leaders placed wreaths on the coffin of the late leader.

The second janaza was held at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad at noon. Acting President Jamiruddin Sircar, Acting Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui, cabinet members, MPs, diplomats, civilsociety members and government officials attended the janaza.

The acting president and the acting speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad placed wreaths on the coffin of the

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan on behalf of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Deputy Opposition Leader Abdul Hamid on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina placed wreaths on the

Wreaths were also placed on behalf of the ministries of Liberation War Affairs, Shipping, and Foreign Affairs.

was awarded Bir Protik for his valiant role in the country's Liberation War, died of cardiac arrest on Sunday night.

'Spies' posted in jails

process to root out corruption which has earned a bad reputation for the whole department. I need my own reporting system to get the job

Terming the specially assigned ail guards as 'security teams', he said, "I've received permission from the ministry for this.

According to the jail code, jail guards are to take orders from their superior officials in jails. But an order issued on May 10 said the Prisons Directorate will directly control the activities of the 'security teams'. The prisons where they are transferred are responsible for providing them with lodging, food

Thirty nine such spy guards were transferred to 13 jails across the country. According to the IG of prisons, such 'security-teams' will be appointed to all 66 jails gradually and the process will be completed within the year.

After selecting the spy jail guards, the Prisons Directorate gave them special training for about three months before sending them to different jails.

They have been trained to report on activities that may lead to security breaches in the prisons, and on corruption," said the IG Prisons.

Additional Inspector General (Prisons) Col Sirajul Islam trans-ferred three jail guards of Shariatpur, Kashimpur and Gazipur jails to Chittagong Central Jail while as many from Dhaka Central Jail (DCJ), Madaripur and Netrakona jails were Central Jail. were transferred to Comilla

Three jail guards of Gopalganj and Mymensingh jails were trans-ferred to Rajshahi Central Jail, three others from Kishoreganj, Munsiganj and Gazipur jails were transferred to Rangpur Central Jail, and three jail guards of Madaripur, Narsingdi and DCJ were transferred to Jessore Central Jail while three others of

FROM PAGE 1 resume his office on advice of the

doctors who are expected to review his health condition early next

"Since the president is comply-ing with the doctors' advice, he is

gradually improving and we hope

ie will be able to resume office on

advice of the doctors as well as his willingness," said Chowdhury,

the use of the president's office by Acting President Jamiruddin Sircar,

Chowdhury said the Bangabhaban

has two separate blocsone is presi-

dent's residence and another is

president's office works profession and the president is staying in

his designated residence while

Speaker Sircar, who is acting as presi-dent as per Article 54 of the constitu-

Chowdhury said there is no ambi

guity or confusion about the pre-

scribed standard of the president as

In reply to a question, he said

the president's responsibility is not

only to sign files but also to attend

the credential and farewell cere-monies of the heads of foreign

diplomatic missions. Moreover,

there are some national

the president.

programmes meant exclusively for

advised him not to do any work for

two months since his operation in Singapore. One month has already

passed and he will have to be in full

FROM PAGE 16 roadblock six kilometres (four miles)

east of Miranshah, the main town in

seven soldiers who were guarding the checkpost and injuring five other soldiers," one official told AFP. "The

bomber's body was also blown to

washing outside a mosque adjoining the checkpoint where they had come to offer prayers, another official said. Military helicopters airlifted them to hospital

All roads in the area were closed offafter the attack.

The bombing came hours after Pakistani authorities cautiously

welcomed a one-month truce offered by pro-Taliban militants in the trou-bled area bordering Afghanistan. The ceasefire announced late on

Sunday was supposed to allow the meeting of a council of tribal elders,

known as a jirga, at which they will negotiate between the insurgents,

local people and the army to stop the bloodshed.

The offer is "conditional, if the security forces attack us then we

reserve the right to defend ourselves," Abdullah Farhad, a purported spokesman for the militants said in telephone calls to local newspaper

The rebels also gave a string of

demands, including replacing army troops with tribal police; keeping soldiers in their barracks for the period of the ceasefire; and the release of all tribesmen detained in

"We welcome the announcement of a unilateral ceasefire," said a

spokesman for Ali Jan Orakzai, gover

nor of North West Frontier Province

where the near-lawless region is ruled

earlier Monday.
On June 2 four Pakistani soldiers
were killed and eight wounded in a
suicide car-bombing in North

The ceasefire is holding," he said

Key US ally Pakistan has deployed

some 80,000 troops to hunt down Taliban and Al-Qaeda fighters who sneaked into the tribal belt after the

all of the Taliban regime in

agencies that make up the tribal zone. The militants lost some 200 men

when the region was rocked by major

clashes in March, just after US President George W. Bush visited

North Waziristan is one of seven

Afghanistan in late 2001.

military operations.

The injured soldiers had been

"As it did the car blew up, killing

rest for the remaining period.

Seven killed

Chowdhury said doctors have

tion, is using president's office.

in Article 54 and Article 152 (1).

Asked about the confusion over

press secretary to the president.

Reports

Gopalganj, Manikganj and Rajbari jails were sent to Barisal Central Jail.

Deputy Inspector General (Prisons) Maj Shamsul Haider Siddiquy ordered the transfer of 21 guards of different jails of Dhaka division. Twelve of them were transferred to DCJ, two each to Mymensingh and Faridpur jails and one each to Kashimpur 1 and 2, Tangail, Gazipur

and Narayanganjjails.

Aggrieved general guards in Narsingdi Jail recently assaulted a spy jail guard. One spy posted at Chittagong Central Jail stopped ration distribution in Cox's Bazar Jail using his 'special authority' on June 1 and kept the distribution suspended for a couple of days, creating strong resentment among

Talking about the incident, the IGPrisons said, "My jail guard found that about 400 sacks of pulse, and 300 sacks of rice and sugar went missing, so he stopped the distribu-

Resentment resulting from the directorate's move is growing fast among jail officials and other jail guards as the specially assigned spy jail guards have been allegedly defying senior officials' orders and misbehaving with them.

The spy jail guards who have the educational qualification of class eight now orders around their superior officials, an aggrieved jail superintendentsaid.

"Although the jail authorities usually decide the post and the duration of duty of the jail guards, these guards make their own duty details saying they only report to the Prisons Directorate," an aggrieved jailer told The Daily Star. Such a dual administrative arrangement will result in a disaster in the direc-

VERSION OF THE PRISON BOSS The Prison Directorate's move does not clash in anyway with the jail code, IG Prisons Brigadier General Zakir Hossain said. Although the specially assigned jail guards are obliged to report to the Prisons Directorate, he said, they also have to report to the local jail authorities.

When he was asked why he needs spy guards when members of the intelligence agencies are already engaged in monitoring the security system in jails, he said they do not

report to him. He admitted that there might be incidents of defying orders of the jail officials "since there are many irreg-ularities and corruption in the jails" When I contact, all the officials say everything is going alright in their jails but the situation indicates something different. So, I need my own reporting system there."

Saying that corruption was acute in Barisal, Kushtia, Rajshahi, Tangail, Chittagong, and Cox's Bazar jails, he added that situations in those jails have been improving since posting of the spy jail guards

Japan

FROM PAGE 16 attaining Millennium Development Goals.

The procurement of equipment and service under the projects is generally untied. The loan will be extended through Japan Bank for

extended through Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). Of the total loan assistance, Tk 717.8 crore will be provided for Karnaphuli Water Supply Project, Tk 272.6 crore for Grid Substations and Associated Transmission Lines Development Project and Tk 472.1 crore for Telecommunications Network Development Project.

Last year, Japan provided Bangladesh with loan assistance amounting to Tk 676 core for the Eastern Bangladesh Rura Infrastructure Development Project with an interest rate of 0.9% and a repayment period of 30 years, including a grace period of 10 years.

Klinsmann not after US job

AFP, Berlin

Germany manager Juergen Klinsmann has laughed off suggestions that he would be tempted to become coach of the United States team so he could be close to his California-based family. "The USA link is speculation

which doesn't interest me. I have my own job here," said Klinsmann.

Klinsmann was promoting his sports marketing firm in the United States before taking charge of Germany in August 2004. He caused controversy by jetting

back and forth to California to see his family rather than relocating to Germany on a permanent basis. Klinsmann is yet to pen a new

deal as Germany coach saying his future hinges on the World Cup. For the United States, ranked

fifth in the FIFA world rankings, it has been a miserable finals as they crashed out without winning a

Switzerland

breaking the deadlock in the firsthalf but saw their efforts come off the bar leaving the match delicately poised at 0-0 at half-time.

Ukraine were having very little of the ball in the first period but they showed they could be dangerous in the 21st minute as Maksym Kalynychenko swung in a freekick from the left and Shevchenko stooped low to get his head to the ball and saw it bounce down and against the bar with Swiss 'keeper Pascal Zuberbuhler beaten.

However, the Swiss went desperately close themselves a few minutes later as Frei's superb freekick rattled the Ukrainian bar but though the ball fell to Patrick Muller a few metres out he skied his effort wide of the goal.

The Ukrainians started the second-half brightly with Andrei Voronin going close with a header which flashed past Zuberbuhler's

However there was little of note for at least the next 20 minutes until Shevchenko brought the ball down with his arm admittedly but the referee missed it - and turned Ludovic Magnin inside out before lashing a divine shot just wide of

The Ukrainians were seemingly more capable of raising themselves fram, the mugid play and Andriy Gusin saw his 70th minute headel from a corner scrape the far post with Zuberbuhler completely lost. Extra-time required everybody

having a large dose of caffeine to keep themselves awake with the most notable thing being the bizarre substitution with just five minutes remaining to penalties of Frei by Mario Lustrinelli.

Frei left the pitch shaking his head, but the spectators were doing the same thing but only in wonderment that these sides are reputedly two of the best 16 sides in the world. The penalties proved cata-

strophic as while Shevchenko saw his saved by Zuberbuhler - who was to exit the tournament not having conceded a goal in open play - the next three Swiss players all missed theirs to allow Gusiev his deserved moment of glory.

Bigots not seen

FROM PAGE 16 the zealots have vowed to make their Zia International Airport siege on Thursday a success.

"Thursday's programme would be a tough one," Nabuwat chief Noor Hossain Nurani told The Daily Star yesterday, who is now undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Uttara. He also added that they would be prepared for battle with the police to force the government meet their three-point demand.

These include passage of a law in the current parliament session declaring Hazrat Mohammad (pbuh) as the last prophet of Islam, to form a 'Khatme Nabuwat Foundation' and to handover an Ahmadiyya mosque to the 'Muslims' at Satkhira after making proper

police officials and bureaucrats, Nurani said adding that it is time for them to make continuous attacks on the Qadiyanis (Ahmadiyyas) to make the government fulfil their demands.

withdraw the Thursday's siege programme, if prime minister takes eps to implement their demands.
"Besides, the travel agencies also

them as well as to the labourers going abroad," Nurani said. Although his hospitalisation has literally crippled the activities of the

movement, Nurani claimed to have had meetings with the other bodies of Khatme Nabuwat to declare fresh He also hinted at shifting the siege

their main target.
The law enforcers on Friday foiled

the zealots' attempt to attack the Ahmadiyya mosque at Ashkona in Uttara and to hang a signboard on the mosque, which read 'a place of worship for the non-Muslim.

The police also dispersed the

bigots through baton-charge, when they tried to offer their prayers on Airport Road, leaving some 20

Shazneen case

FROM PAGE 16 23, 1998 that they would talk with their parents next day to punish Hasan for his lewd behaviour with

Shazneen on April 1. But, that next day never came in her life as accused Hasan with the help of other accused killed Shazneen on that very day, he said before the High Court (HC) Death Reference Bench.

The hearing on the trial court's verdict against the six accused was held at the bench of Justices Ali Asgar Khan and Emdadul Haque. Senior lawyer Mujibur Rahman

also explained different legal aspects on behalf of the state.

The DAG said he, as a state lawyer, is carrying out the duty of ensuring justice to Shazneen's family members. Her family members are waiting for justice, he

He said allegations against the accused have been proved through the statements of prosecution witnesses and through all the information presented before the court. He appealed to the court for upholding the death sentences against the accused given by the

The DAG said Shazneen used to react at sight of Hasan ever since he made advances. The traumatised girl struggled to control her anger when she saw Hasan five hours before death.

He urged the court to uphold the trial court verdict based on the statement detailing agonised days of Shazneen. He said the court could accept Shazneen's statement under section 32 (1) of the Evidence Act. The Supreme Court of Bangladesh has also given opinion on accepting such statements, he added. He said accused Shahid surren-

dered to the police in Chittagong on April 27, 1998 and he was brought to Shazneen's residence on the same day where he narrated how Shazneen was killed. His statement was spontaneous at the crime scene. He also said the confessional

statement of Shahid made before the magistrate also supports the

statement he had made at the

crime scene. Besides, there are similarities in the crime scene statement of Shahid with the confessional statement of accused Minu.

Quoting higher court's refer ences, the DAG said the court could accept new information extracted from statement made outside the court by the accused. In this case the statement Shahid made at the residence of Shazneen was unknown to all and it was completely new information for the

He said the confessional statements of the accused and statements of the prosecution witnesses proved that according to Hasan's plan the other accused killed hazneen after raping her. Senior lawyer Mujibur Rahman

in his argument presented different legal aspects regarding the accused persons' involvement in the killing with reference to other High Court verdicts. He said allegations against the

accused have been proved beyond doubt and urged the court to uphold the trial court's verdict against the accused. Assistant Attorney General

Zinat Akhter Nazli Begum and advocates Nazmul Haq represented the state during the argu ment. Advocates Anisul Haq and Mosharraf Hossain Kajol moved for the defence. Shazneen Tasnim Rahman

youngest daughter of a leading businessman Latifur Rahman, also a student of Scholastica, was raped and killed at her Gulshan residence on April 23, 1998. The Second Special Tribunal for

Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka on September 2003 convicted six accused and ordered to hang them until death. The convicts are Hasan, domes

tic help Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, his assistant Badal, carenter Shaniram Mandal and ousemaids Esterna Khatun Minu

Graft thrives

policy reform among the people, and making the state machinery effective for elimination of corrup-

The views were expressed at a seminar titled 'Role of Citizens in Addressing Corruption in Bangladesh: Creating Demand', part of a series of seminars on good governance held at a hotel in the capital organised by the Embassy of the United States of America in association with the American Chamber of Commerce in

In his keynote paper Iftekhar Zaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), said politics in the country has become a profitable business, it has become syn-onymous with investment and abuse of power with impunity. Political leadership in its redefined form also damages public institu-tions by promoting partisan interests undermining the rule of law, he

Habitual disregard for commitment, negligence in duty, mistrust, hatred for each other, and intolerance have ultimately resulted in erosion of moral values in the society, he added.

Corruption leads to policies and decisions based on private inter-ests, it breeds and increases poverty and injustice, undermines democracy and governance, and encourages secretiveness in decision making, Iftekhar said. The social menace of corruption dis-torts the market and stifles economic growth as well, he noted.

Under these circumstances fighting corruption is highly challenging because of its links with the powers that be, Zaman said, adding that the fight needs a comprehensive strategy, the elements of which are political will, a strengthened sense of national unity, and the citizens' awareness and demands.

The government has to take the lead to make the state machinery effective while participations in motivational activities by public officials, public representatives, and other stakeholders especially the youths are crucial, he said.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office Dr Kamal Uddin Siddqui stressed the importance of pro-active role of the civil society and private sector, and the importance of properly functioning state machinery in combating corruption.

There has to be a coalition of the civil society, NGOs and the private sector whose first responsibility will be to do some self-criticism before criticising others. "Only then they can carry out powerful campaigns.

Some areas should be identified first to eliminate corruption, Kamal Uddin Siddiqui said, adding that other areas should be covered gradually.

He mentioned peaceful processions, long marches, and proactive advocacy as parts of the

campaign against corruption. Professor M Moniruzzaman Miah, member of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), emphasised the need for egovernance in public offices and proper functioning of the parlia-

ment to ensure transparency and

accountability. "If the parliament worked prop-erly, corruption would go down," he said, adding that creating awareness among the people about their rights and making their voices heard through the mass media are also crucial in establish-

ing a corruption-free country. Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Mir Nasir

Hossain pointed out that an unholy alliance between the politicians and bureaucrats is a major source of corruption, while impunity for the responsible encourages them in corruption.

Laws are there, but not the rule of law. Nobody is punished for injustice," he said, adding that independence of ACC and funcbe ensured for accountability.
ADCOMM Chairman also its

Managing Director Geeteara Safiya Choudhury highlighted the role of citizens in the light against corrup-tion saying that they must be informed of the negative impact of corruption.

institution for ensuring accountability, is ineffective due to contin uous boycotts by successive opposition parties.

the lower judiciary being under the executive branch cannot exert checks and balances, Mahfuz Anam, who moderated the panel discussion, told the seminar. Criticising the executive branch for its inactivity, he said there were

punished.
"This is how a sense of impunity

talks about elimination of corrup-tion and says what others should do. "But we do not take the responsibility on ourselves. Can we say that we all regularly pay taxes?" he

questioned. He called upon all to come for-ward and take the advantage of the free media in bringing out corrup-tion cases and punish the people engaged in corruption to establish a just and poverty-free society.

FROM PAGE 16 be introduced, Zakaria said, add-

ing, "There should be some effective measures for implementation remain merely on paper.

provisions of nominating candidates for the parliamentary elec-

ceiling for election expenditure for parliament member candidate is Tk 5 lakh, many spent several times the amount and some even exceeded Tk two or three crore in the previous election campaigns, Reporters Forum for Election

and Democracy, and the International Republican Institute jointly organised the workshop titled "Election reporting" at the conference room of Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Lt Col (retd) Akbar Hossain, who A munajat was offered seeking eternal peace of the departed soul.

FROM PAGE 16 FY07 while the earning of the out-going year is Tk 311.78 crore against the target of Tk 432 crore. The budgetary allocation for roads, drains, traffic infrastructure development and maintenance

has been raised to Tk 184 crore

from Tk 131.50 crore in FY06. The DCC also increased allocations for constructing public toi-lets, development of graveyards and crematoriums, increasing citizens' recreational facilities, development of parks and children's parks, and purchase of bulldozers, garbage dumping

trucks/ computers, air-conditioners and furniture. Mosquito control activities got an allocation of Tk 15 crore while

cleaning and waste management Tk6 crore, the mayor said. The city corporation targets Tk 230 crore earning from holding, conservancy and lighting taxes in the coming fiscal year against the outgoing year's earning of Tk 140 crore. The existing 12 percent rate

of holding tax remains unchanged. Besides, Tk 61 crore will come from market toll and rent including the rent in Nagar Bhaban's commercial set-ups, Tk 32 crore from trade licence fees, Tk 8.5 crore from cattle markets and Tk 45 crore from

road digging fees.

The DCC has drastically decreased the revenue target in advertisement sectors, from Tk 12 crore in FY06 to Tk 6 crore for the

The mayor said DCC expects to receive a fund of Tk 100 crore from the government as block allocation, Tk 150 crore as the special allocation and Tk 773.99 crore under different foreign-aided Last year the DCC received only

and 25 crore as the special grants from the government. It received only Tk 247.77 crore funds for foreign-aided projects against the expectation of Tk 550.22 crore. When asked the mayor could not explain how he would implement his ambitious budget if the DCC did not get enough fund from

the government as well as the foreign assistance. "I expect I will

Tk 51 crore as the block allocation

High revenue target get the fund," the mayor replied. On the public suffering due to road-digging, the mayor said a lack of coordination among the utility

service providers is responsible for The mayor said DCC should be brought under the Prime Minister's Office to accelerate the pace of development work in the

Asked about corruption of DCC

officials, the mayor said, "In Bangladesh corruption is every-where. We all have to work together

30 hurt

FROM PAGE 16 left at least 30 injured. Workers beat up some officials of the factory and vandalised a

vehicle belonging to Lenny Fashion Ltd at the news of their coworkers' injuries. The police set up barricades at several points on the road stretching from Baipail to Bolibhodro, which caused heavy traffic conges-tion on Dhaka-Baipail-Chandra

highway from 8:30am to 9:30am. protesters left the scene after BEPZA Chairman Ashraf Abdullah Yusuf and general manager of DEPZAZM Azizur Rahman assured them of taking immediate

measures to improve the situation. Earlier, on Sunday, the YG was closed sine die after the workers refrained from work and demon-strated as they failed to convince factory authorities to resume operations of one of YG's units, Savar Sportswear Ltd (SSL), as

promised YG was shut down before on June 13 in the wake of workers' agitation. It was supposed to resume operations in phases by June 24 staring from June 17. On June 17, the authorities informed the workers that SSL would resume operation on June 24.

Meanwhile, two other factories. A-One (BD) Ltd and Softex Ltd, also remained closed till yesterday. Several thousand workers of these factories are going through hard-ship without income as their job status has become uncertain due to the recent unrest in the sector.

Top general, 3 others

Eelam (LTTE), who have long used suicide bombers both in battle and assassinations, denied they were responsible for Monday's blast.

An April attack by a female sui-

cide bomber on army headquarters

in Colombo wounded the army's commander and prompted government bombing raids on the rebels These killings are further examples of the LTTE's concerted efforts to derail the peace process through acts of terror, and its total disregard for the international community's repeated calls on it to cease all vio-

lence, and acts of terrorism." President Mahinda Rajapakse said in a statement. By mid-afternoon, there was no report of new military action against the Tigers. There have been no air strikes on the rebels since earlier in the month and the Tigers have warned of military retaliation if they

"This is sheer terrorism. I think the Tigers have lost the plot," said Palitha Kohona, head of the government peace secretariat. "They don't seem to realise that terrorism is not an acceptable way to achieve political ends."

Kulatunga's car was left lying perpendicular across the narrow street, burnt-out and still smouldering. A Reuters witness saw the severed head of the suspected suicide bomber lying in the gutter around 50 metres down the street.

Nine people were wounded in

"The LTTE has no involvement in

the attack in the town of Panipitiya,

about 6 miles from a big army base.

"We think it might be an inside job. There's competition between the top commanders. Paramilitaries might also be responsible. Few analysts believe their repeated denials for recent attacks. The military said it was in little

rebels' peace secretariat, told Reuters

doubt, and that no-one else could be behind it. Rebel political wing leader SP Thamilselvan told Reuters this month that the LTTE would use all strategies -- including suicide bombers -- if war resumed in earnest.

"I guess they are trying to put ressure on the government by bringing the war to Colombo," said Jehan Perera, director of think-tank the National Peace Council. The Colombo stock market initially fell on news of the attack, but later recovered.

The island's peace process remains seriously stalled, Monday's attack came just days after Rajapakse tried and failed through informal channels to start direct talks with the LTTE in a bid to halt escalating violence. The Tigers turned him

saying he was simply trying to side-

line mediator Norway, which brokered the original truce. With the government sharply opposed to the Tigers' demands for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east, many diplomats believe the rebels want to return to a conflict in which some 65,000 people have already been

the attack," S. Puleedevan, head of the

FROM PAGE 16

Haque started hunger strike at Muktangon. No vehicles moved in the street from zero point to Paltan intersection yesterday as over 2,000 govern-

Muktangon.

Government Primary Teachers Association led by Abdul Awal Talukdar has also continued hunger strike until death for three days demanding the same.

Harris Chowdhury as of 10:20pm Front: Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Front, a platform of 11 AL-backed organisations of the teachers and employees of non-government schools and colleges, led by Prof Kazi Faruque Ahmed, announced a series of agitation programmes to force the government to meet their

ment salary, medical allowance and house rent from the government are the main points of their demand. Their programme includes a protest rally at the City's Muktangon on June 30, protest rallies at upazila levels on July 1 protest rallies at district levels, indefinite strike at the education institutes from July 18, grand sit-in programme on July 27 in the capi-

and employees of non-government schools and colleges will go on indefinite strike at the educational institutions from July 8 demanding Ebtedayee Madrasa: Under the banner of Bangladesh Swatantra teachers yesterday started their

Muktangon demanding their

incorporation into the national pay

another platform of eight AL-

backed organisations of teachers

Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Jote: Teachers of Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Jote, a platform of BNP-backed teachers and employees associations of nongovernment high schools, colleges and madrasas, yesterday took classes wearing black badges in schools and colleges demanding nationalisation of their job. Bangladesh Karigari College

in parliament. Expressing concern over the present situation of the education sector, 110 college principals yesterday urged the government to take effective measures for the elimination of wage discrimination among the teachers.

Shikkhak Samity: Bangladesh

Technical college teachers vester-

day held a rally at Muktangon

demanding 10 per cent increase of

salary before passing of the budget

general secretary of the associa-BNP-backed Bangladesh

Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya eight-point demand. Ten per cent increase of govern-

Pry education

Along with the indefinite strike at the government primary schools since June 17, Awami League (AL) backed Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association led by Prof Abul Kalam Azad and Kazi Fazlul

holding a meeting with Prime

Minister's Political Secretary

ment teachers gathered at "Our five member representatives discussed with Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury on Sunday evening but he did not give us any assurance," said Kazi Fazlul Haque,

Meanwhile, representatives of government primary teachers were

Jatiya Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Parishad: Jatiya Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Parishad,

10 per cent salary increase. Ebtedayee Madrasa (nongovernment primary madrasa) hunger strike until death at

investigation.
"We showed enough patience respecting the laws of the country but the government did not pay any heed to us except arranging a few meetings with some low-ranking

He, however, said that they migh requested me not to enforce any strike at ZIA for it will cause losses to

programme from the airport to the Naddapara Ahmadiyya mosque,

"Corruption.
"Corruption cripples our society-- this message should reach the common people. Giving them courage to be vocal against corrupt people is also crucial," she said.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said the parliament, which is the prime

The executive branch, a power-ful component of the state which deals with financial decisions and allocates resources, also does not have checks and balances, he said. Only the higher judiciary occa-

hundreds of reports on corruption in the media, but not many of those cases were investigated and the persons responsible were not

has been encouraged regarding corruption in the society," he noted, adding that it is the government's responsibility to bring the culprits to book and to punish them.

On the other hand, everybody

Provision

of the provisions so that it does not Zakaria, who had worked for long in different posts of the Election Commission Secretariat, also described the related legal

Whereas the highest approved