Ronaldo in record book Opposition

15 goals to take him past West German legend Gerd Muller's previous top haul of 14 goals to take the Brazilians into the quarterfinals.

Inter Milan striker Adriano, who was booked early for a dive, added one in first-half stoppage time and midfielder Ze Roberto added another in the 84th minute of the second-round match as Brazil advanced to face either Spain or France on Saturday at

Ronaldo, criticised for a lethargic start to the tournament and for apparent weight problems, made it three goals in his last two games after latching onto a brilliant pass from Kaka that left him free to win a one-on-one with Ghana goaleeper Richard Kingson.

'The record had stood for seven World Cups so I am naturally very pleased to beat it," smiled the 29-year-old Real

"I want more and more and

Ghana, reduced to ten men in ie last ten minutes after Gyan Asamoah was sent-off, were

undone by his opener and never recovered as Africa's last representative slid out.

'It's tough to play against such teams as Ghana -- we really had to sweat for it. We made a big effort -every Brazilian player gave his all.

We will have to do the same in the next game," warned Ronaldo after making it three goals at this World Cup to add to eight in 2002 -- including a brace in the final -and four on the way to the 1998 final loss to France.

'I'll now just have to keep on scoring to fire us to another title," smiled Ronaldo. I'm out to show what I can still do and I'm sure there's going to be a big party in Brazil for our supporters." WORLD CUP

TOPSCORERS Ronaldo (Brazil, 15) Gerd Muller (West Germany, 14) Just Fontaine (France, 13) Pele (Brazil, 12) Jurgen Klinsmann (Germany, 11) Sandor Kocsis (Hungary, 11) Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina, 10) Teofilo Cubillas (Peru, 10) Grzegorz Lato (Poland, 10) Gary Lineker (England, 10)

Helmut Rahn (West Germany, 10)

'Shapla') at the airport and driven

without the President's protocol to

Head of the State continues to be

President. He is carrying on a job

Speaker, needs to be given to him,

then do so by all means. But why

questions assume a larger than life

significance because the all-

important national election is

only six/seven months away and

the caretaker government is just

about four months away. In both

these situations, the President

does have crucial roles to play. So,

is the alliance government plan-

ning to use the powers of the

President during the election to

influence it, and so they need a

moment to change the President,

it is now. For in no way will the PM

be able to convince the people

that it was not done with the elec-

tion in mind. Let this be most

clearly stated that if Khaleda Zia's

government pressurises the

President to relinquish his office,

then the opposition's claim that

the BNP alliance government has embarked on an elaborate plan to

manipulate the upcoming elec-

tion through a partisan President

will acquire widespread credibil-

ity. This will greatly deepen our

should we allow our present politi-

cal crisis to deepen further. Still

possibilities exist to come to some

sort of an agreed course of action.

With the CEC and his two commis-

sioners gone and an acceptable

voter list made, for both of which

the government side now appears

willing, we can still find some

common grounds to hold the

elections in a manner acceptable

to both sides. But if a partisan person replaces the President, the

situation is likely to become irrec-

oncilable, and drag the Presidency

with it. A leader with any love for

the nation would spare us this

turmoil. Hence we reiterate our

They were elected at the 445th

meeting of the board of directors of

four new directors following the

resignation of four directors of the

released on the DSE website, the

newly co-opted directors are

Mohammad Mosaddek Ali,

Shahidul Haque, Enayetur Rahman and Masud Reza Bhuiyan.

bank earlier accepted resignation

of Manzurul Islam, also chairman,

Saiful Islam, Abul Matin Khan, AR

were also inducted in the board

following their purchase of a signif-

icant chunk of the bank's share,

They were Jubok Housing and Real

Estate Development Ltd Chairman

Hossain Al Masum, Jubok Ceramic

Industries Ltd Director Sabih Ul

Alam and Lutfar Rahman.

On May 8, three other directors

The board of directors of the

Earlier, the IFIC Bank appointed

According to a news bulletin

the bank held in Dhaka yesterday.

Mosaddek

FROM PAGE 16

Under no circumstances

already deep political crisis.

If ever there was a wrong

party man on the job?

These are obviously decisions

the protocol of the President?

Prof Iajuddin may be sick but he

PM, please

to change her mind, and to his whom everybody can go in the hour of need. If the President is dragged into partisan politics, then surprise and the nation's, Prof Iajuddin was denied the President's standard (special flag) the possibility of the President as a or the symbol (national flower possible 'reconciliator' in situations of severe political crisis would be lost. That is why the nation the hospital and, to Bangabhaban a heaved a sigh of relief when few days later. In a most unprece-Badruddozza Chowdhury, BNP's dented, inexplicable and undignifounding secretary general, was replaced as the President by a softfied manner, that has been termed by many experts as seriously spoken, mild-mannered university undermining the President's conprofessor. Though the circumstitutional status, the protocol of stances of the former's removal were unfortunate and controvergiven to the acting President. sial, Khaleda Zia's choice of Prof lajuddin was appreciated all is still the President mandated to around. Similarly, the nation also appreciated Sheikh Hasina's enjoy the status of his office. The acting President is NOT the choice of Justice Shahabuddin as the President. Unfortunately for a while. If any additional protothough, she later criticised him col, over and above that of the severely, yet she received and continues to receive the highest praise for having the sagacity to make a President who stood tall above all the rest in being the symmade on political considerations bol of the State. Khaleda Zia may and have very little to do with the President's health. So naturally recall that when she refused to hold any talks with the government of Sheikh Hasina, she was always questions arise as to what those political considerations are. The willing to talk to the President. That

Hasina made a President who was acceptable to all It is quite hard to believe how the present government is playing games with the President and his office. To start with, why should there be so many unanswered questions about him. These questions related to his health and his protocol. We really don't know how sick he is. We have been told that he s had a normal operation and that he was recovering as every patient in his condition does. We know from Bangabhaban sources that he is now walking for half and hour every day. All signs are there that he, like every patient of bypass

was only possible because Shiekh

If that be the case then why is he in such seclusion? Why is he being prevented from seeing his near relatives and friends? In our culture it is the proximity of near and dear ones that a sick person looks forward to for comfort and emotional and psychological support. Why can't the nation see him on TV and in the print media, as is done in every open and democratic society, just so that people feel reassured that their President is well?

The more he is being kept in isolation the more the suspicion is rising as to whether or not the government is using his illness to ease him out of the Presidency.

The other set of questions deals with the virtual withdrawal of his protocol and symbols of his office. As we have reported the original decision, with the Prime Minister's consent of course, was that on his return, right from the airport, the President will re-assume his constitutional post (not necessarily start attending office) and the acting President will resume his job as the Speaker. According to this plan, Sircar would go to the airport in the President's car with all the paraphernalia of Head of the State but return in the vehicle designated for the Speaker.

However the PM was persuaded

Anwar

FROM PAGE 16

to get the shipping ministry's charge in addition to his current portfolio.

Meanwhile, the sources said, a minister without portfolio is lobbying with the government high-ups for getting the charge. But his chance of getting the shipping ministry portfolio is almost zero as he has already handled two minis-

A senior minister from Chittagong region, who is also a joint secretary general of ruling BNP, can also take up the job in addition to his current portfolio,

the sources indicated. The shipping ministry officials said they have been told that the government would take the decision in this regard very soon.

FROM PAGE 1

sit across the table to resolve all disputes.

President of Bangladesh is one person and he is Professor Dr Iajuddin Ahmed. Nobody else," Law Minister Moudud said brushing aside the arguments by opposition politicians and legal experts over the existence of two presidents in the country.

He said the main opposition party is out to undermine the status of the state's highest office by creating confusion among people about it.

Jamiruddin Sircar, now performing as acting president as per the constitution will be back to his position of parliament Speaker when lajuddin resumes his office, Moudud said.

The law minister was also critical of Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina's recent visit to India and said, "There are reports that her visit was made keeping in view the next election...people of Bangladesh believe that you [Hasina] have special relations with India."

He however urged the politi-cians of both sides to keep eminent political figures like Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Ziaur Rahman, Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina beyond any debate.

Referring to the Supreme Court verdict on voter list, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda said the court has failed to deliver right directions. The court has no jurisdiction to direct the Election Commission on how the commission will run its activities," he said adding that the court can only point out any unlawful act of the commission.

Huda said the opposition Awami League has targeted the EC and the president also to create an "unnecessary issue" of politics with an ill motive. "Either they want to foil the next election or take power through a 1996 style election," he alleged.

In the morning session, AI lawmaker Abdur Razzak raised questions about the controversy about the president and feared if there was a plot to revive the presidential system of govern-

It is story of widespread corruption, militancy, price hike of essentials, politicisation of the administration and the judiciary in the four-and-a-half-year of Nizami-Khaleda rule," he said.

In the afternoon session, ndustries Minister and Jamaat chief Motiur Rahman Nizami said the opposition is trying to make controversy over the post of the president and the EC.

About 14-party alliance's refusal to sit with the government keeping Jamaat men across the table, Nizami said it is nothing but an excuse to avoid discus-

"They [AL] had been in movement with us in the past," Nizami said. "The Awami League sought the Jamaat support in 1991 to refused."

AL lawmaker Mohammad Nasim said question of changing the president has been raised as the BNP removed the president in the same way in the past.

"Badruddoza Chowdhury was removed as he seemed not loyal to BNP," Nasim said adding that the ruling coalition is looking for a 'loyal' person as president targeting the next election.

But Health Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain also ruled out such controversy and said Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar has been performing as acting president and he will return to his post when lajuddin takes charge after recovering

from illness. AHSK Sadeq, Dr Amanullah and Asaduzzaman Noor of Awami League, State Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Deputy Minister Ruhul Quddus Talukdar Dulu, Joynal Abedin Faruk. Sarwari Begum, Joynul Abedin and Salahduddin Ahmed of BNP, Maulana Abdus Sobhan of Jamaat, Jatiya Party member Shah Solaiman Alam and independent lawmaker MM Shaheen took part in the discussion.

appeal to the Prime Minister not Sugar, pulse to destroy our highest constitu-

FROM PAGE 1 and pulse to Bangladesh.

After the meeting, the minister, however, told journalists that the Indian decision would not cast any negative impact on the kitchen markets in Bangladesh.

Criticising the Indian decision, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said there is nothing new in it. They (India) had taken such unfriendly decisions in the past and would take in the future too," he said, adding, "But we'll have to take decisions to protect our interests.

Sources in the commerce ministry said reluctance among importers to participate in biding due to the provision of depositing high earnest money has forced the government to reduce the margin.

Ipdia is the second and third player in terms of exporting sugar and pulse to Bangladesh. Bangladesh in the first nine months of the current fiscal imported 53,436 metric tons of sugar and 29,218 metric ton of pulse from India.

Teachers end strike | 3 hurtin bomb

teachers, representatives form human rights bodies and professional bodies gathered at the Central Shaheed Minar in the morning to convince them and refrain them from going ahead with self-immolation programme.

"We postponed our immolation and hunger strike following requests from people who care but we will not entertain such requests if the government does not meet our demands by July 31," said Habibul Ahsan Bablu, president of the Bangladesh Community rimary Teachers' Association.

Hafizur Rahman, secretary general of the association, said they postponed their programme of fast-unto-death until July 31 and asked the government to meet their demands by that deadline. They threatened to announce tougher programmes from August if their demands were not met.

The opposition leaders gave the fasting teachers orange juice around 12:10pm.

Leaders of political parties, nongovernment organisations (NGO) and professional bodies told the teachers that they would not benefit by sacrificing their lives.

The leaders advised and requested them to realise their demands through movement.

Among the 14-party alliance leaders AL Presidium members Amir Hossain Amu and Tofail Ahmed, AL Education Affairs Secretary Nurul Islam Nahid, and AL leaders Obaidul Kader, Bahauddin Nasim and Abdul Matin Khasru, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Huq Inu were present.

Besides, Supreme Court Bar Association President Amirul Islam, Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) former president AAMS Arefin Siddique, Duta General Secretary Akhteruzzaman, Dhaka University former vice-chancellor AK Azad Chowdhury, Harun-ur-Rashid and Jatiya Shikkhak Karmachari Front Chiefconvenor Kazi Faruque were also

GOVERNMENT PRIMARY

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION Teachers of government primary school who were on hunger strike until death at Muktangon and at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital since Saturday withdrew their hunger strike late Monday night as the government gave assurance of meeting their demands by July 31. Teachers of the both groups also left the Muktangon and Shaheed Minar around 1:30am yesterday following assurance given by Harris Chowdhury, political secretary to the prime minister.

We decided to withdraw our agitation programmes, strike at the schools and hunger strike until death, for one month," said Abul Kalam Azad, president of the AL- backed Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association.

'Harris Chowdhury asked for one months time to meet our demands in the negotiations between the representatives of the government and the teachers. Abdul Awal, president of the BNP backed Bangladesh Government Primary Teachers' Association

The pro-AL teachers association threatened the government to meet their demands within July 31 or else they would go for indefinite strike from August 1. At this, the association leaders

went to Muktangon where they made the announcement of the withdrawal of agitation programmes and resumption of classes from today.

The pro-BNP teachers' association did not enforce strike at the schools but they did observe hunger strike until death at Central Shaheed Minar since last Saturday.

Meanwhile, non-government ebtedayee madrasa teachers under the banner of Bangladesh Swatantra Ebtedayee Madrasa also continued their hunger strike until death at Muktangon yesterday for the second consecutive day demanding their incorporation into the national pay scale.

Shazneen case

FROM PAGE 1

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 all six of the accused and sentenced them to death by hanging.

The convicted are Syed Sajjad Mainuddin Hasan, his assistant Badal, the victim's domestic help Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, carpenter Shaniram Mandal, and housemaids Estema Khatun Minu and Parvin.

Asked about the injury marks on Shazneen's body, Deputy Attorney General ABM Waliur Rahman Khan vesterday told the bench that it had been mentioned in the inquest and post mortem reports. "An analysis of the nature of injuries proves that Shazneen was attacked with knives and chisels," he said.

But Khondoker Mahbub d for defendant Hasan, said, "The accused were not involved in the crime. We want

Anisul Haq, counsel for defendants Minu and Parvin, said in his argument that he had not found any single statement of witness in this case on which the court can rely. Besides, circumstantial evidences also failed to prove the allegations, he added.

Focus back

FROM PAGE 16

Prof Yunus was targeted as he was an 'atheist' and a 'patron' of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Marxists-Leninist), he said adding that the murder was planned at their Baliapukur den, some 20 days before the incident.

A day before the murder, IMB leader Mahbub showed him the 63year-old teacher.

On the morning of December 24, 2004, Tarik's group was waiting inside RU campus where Yunus used to go for morning walk. They attacked Yunus when he came out of the mosque.

"Ibrahim first hit Yunus from the back and Jayed stabbed him thrice. Then we reached the scene and ensured his death by strangling him together," a source quoted

He also named Abul Kashem Tufan, Abdul Matin, Mahbub alias Shahidullah of Naogaon, Jayed alias Jahid and Ibrahim of Bagmara in Rajshahi, Fazle Rabbi alias Sanaullah of Gaibandha and Abbas of Chapainawabganj to be in the killingsquad.

Among them Tufan and Matin are now in custody, while Ibrahim was lynched along with his two accomplices by villagers at Bagmara on January 22, 2005.

The rest are absconding and the investigating authorities are not yet sure of their identities.

CEC hits the roof

with us as we demanded his resignation," Mannan told reporters after submitting the letters to the Election Commission (EC) members.

"We clearly told them that the Election Commission has lost people's confidence by initiating controversial steps again for preparing the voter list. But the CEC argued that he is doing everything 'as per the laws', Mannan said.

"The only way to resolve the crisis the CEC and the two commissioners have pushed the country to is their immediate resignation," Mannan added.

The letter submitted to the CEC said he has failed to gain people's trust since taking office. In the wake of the prevailing situation, people think the Election Commission has turned into a subservient organisation of the government and it is not possible for it to hold an election acceptable to all," it said.

The letter of the three political parties suggested that the CEC resign immediately as his "stubbornness" regarding the preparation of the voter list has pushed the country to a crisis.

The letters to election commissioners Mahfuzur and Zakaria

described their appointment as "very mysterious". The letter accused them of assisting the CEC in his "controversial and conspiratorial" activities and suggested them to resign imme-

On receiving the letters, the CEC said, "We will not go beyond the laws and the verdict of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on voter list. The laws do not allow visiting door to door for the voter listing job," Mannan quoted Aziz as saying.

The two election commissioners also tried to convince the political leaders about their steps for preparing the voter list, he told reporters. Meanwhile, a visiting United

pate in the election.

Nations (UN) mission met with the CEC yesterday and discussed holding the next parliamentary elections. The officials of the UN politi-

cal affairs division told reporters that they stressed the need for Rab said Mohon was shot durpreparing a voter list acceptable to all political parties and people. They also suggested the EC to

ensure a level playing field for the University police stations, Mohon political parties that will particiwas an accused in nine cases including four for murder.

attackonAL leader's car

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A bomb attack on prominent Awami League leader Sheikh Akram Hossain's private car left three people severely injured on Monday at Shiromoni under Khan Jahan Ali police station in Khulna city.

The injured are the AL leader's elder brother Abul Hossain, cousin Golam Kibria and driver of the car Alamgir.

According to eyewitnesses, four unidentified youths hurled four bombs one after another at the car at around 9:00pm which damaged the vehicle badly.

Police on suspicion arrested Azharul Islam Sujon, 24 from Shiromoni. Detective Branch of police is interrogating the arrestee. Sujon is also an accused in a case filed last month under Explosive

Substances Act with Morrelganj police station in Bagerhat. Sheikh Akram Hossain who oined Awami League in April this ear said that his life is absolutely nsecure. He survived two bomb

attacks early this year prior to the current one Meanwhile, PBCP Janojuddho faction telephoned several local newspapers Monday midnight and claimed responsibility for the

Saifur

FROM PAGE 16

The total amount of present loar default was about Tk 20,717 crore till the end of March this year while the figure was Tk 24,106 crore when the present government took office, Saifur said.

The government has taken various steps to realise the default

In reply to another question, the minister informed the House that a total of Tk 29,388 crore of revenue has been realised till May during the current fiscal year against the target of Tk 34,456 crore.

Saifur also mentioned that per capita income during the current fiscal is \$482 while it was \$343 in the fiscal 1995-96.

Paban

Moreover, Paban's close accomplice Zahirul Islam Robin conorganised carjacking ring. A Detective Branch (DB) team

captured Paban on Bailey Road with a stolen Toyota Premio on

Three criminals in Motifheel hijacked the vehicle at gunpoint on October 13 last year DB produced Paban before the

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court on June 8. The court then ordered to send him to jail rejecting the bail prayer.

The same court placed Robin on a four-day remand against the prayer of a 10-day one.

Court rejects

FROM PAGE 16

also rejected the petition for further investigation filed by Bulu's Earlier on June 16, Sub-

Inspector of Gulshan Police Station Shariful Islam submitted an investigation report on the issue saving that the charges brought against Mirza Abbas and the channel's MD Kazi Mohammad Shahidullah were not proved. Bulu filed the case against

Abbas and Shahidullah for threatening him with death for not handing over his share of the TV channel. But he was arrested on May 31 following two cases filed by his divorced wife Hosne Ara Naznin and Abdus Salam Majumdar with Gulshan Police Station. Later, Bulu was freed from jail on bail in all the cases on June 17.

3 killed

FROM PAGE 16 men along with Sohel went to Sonakhali to recover hidden firearms at about 3:30am yesterday.

Sensing the presence of the Rab men, Sohel's accomplices opened fire on the law enforcers, prompting them to return fire.

Rab sources said Sohel was caught in the "crossfire" as he tried to flee and died on the spot. Police said Sohel was wanted in

13 cases including two for murder. Our Kushtia correspondent reported that BPC leader Mohsir Ali alias Mohon was killed during a 'shootout" between his cohorts and Rab men at Shantidanga village under Kushtia Sadar upazila. Rab-6 of Chuadanga arrested

Mohon at his house at Halpara

Monday evening and handed him

to Rab, Kushtia, for quizzing. Following his confessional statement, the members of the elite force started for Halpara village to seize hidden firearms and arrest Mohon's cohorts, taking him with them.

When they reached Shantidanga area at 4:30am yesterday, the BCP men fired on the law enforcers, prompting them to

ing the gunfight and died instantly They retrieved a gun and five bullets from the scene. According to Sadar and Islamic

PM not trusting

takeover the presidency within 15 days after the 15-day bed rest of incumbent President Dr Iajuddin

She has already finalised all conspiracies to takeover the presidency," Hasina said adding that the people of the country should not olerate the PM's attempt to ecome the president and should foil her 'ill motive' through movements on the streets.

Strongly criticising the presence of 'two presidents' in an independent country, Hasina said the opposition will forge a united movement with tens of thousands of people from across the country if the prime minister takes over the residency.

Criticising Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar for using the president's car and monogram even after President Iajuddin Ahmed's return to the country, Hasina said a speaker can never use the president's monogram or the car.

The AL chief said Sircar's dream of becoming the president will not be fulfilled as the prime minister herself wants the post and she does not trust anyone else in that post because she wants to rig the upcoming parliamentary election.

Urging the people to be aware of their rights, Hasina asked them to prepare for the 'last battle' against

BNP lawmaker sues Jugantor editor, publisher for defamation

COURT CORRESPONDENT

the editor of Dainik Jugantor, its publisher, news editor and another reporter to appear before the court following a defamation case filed by the ruling BNP lawmaker Abdul Mannan.

After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Syed Mohammad Mujibul Haq recorded statement of the complainant, took the complaint into cognisance and issued the summons. The defendants in the case are

Editor Golam Sarwar, Publisher Salma Islam, News editor Ahmed Faruq Hassan and a local reporter of Nawabgani Zahirul Islam. In his complaint, Mannan said the daily ran a news item titled "Two

groups' counter programme, lawmaker Mannan is involved with heroin smuggling and he is persona non-grata in Nawabganj" on May 31. In the report, the daily said the faction of Nawabganj BNP backing local lawmaker Abdul Mannan and the faction backing the central Jubo Dal leader Khodaker Abu Ashfaq stood face-to-face centring the

death anniversary of Ziaur Rahman' The leaders of Ashfaq group declared the local MP Abdul Mannan persona non-grata in the event. In the news, leaders of Ashfaq group alleged the lawmaker of being corrupt and said the legislator created anarchy in the locality and he was also involved with different criminal activities including smug-

Foods Ltd. The paper said Abdul Mannan's MM Enterprise is involved

with smuggling heroin to the United

Kingdom, the complainant added. The complainant said the news published in the daily was false and it was intended to undermine him politically. Moreover, he owns no business institution called 'MM Enterprise" and the publisher Salma Islam published the news to defame him as her husband Nurul Islam Babul is trying to be a candidate of his constituency in the upcoming gen-eral elections, Mannan added.

alliancegovernment.

The former prime minister strongly criticised the alliance government for its 'torture, repres-sion and filing of false cases against

opposition activists'. She asked the victims to prepare a list including photographs and addresses of the torturers including ruling party activist and police men. If anyone manages to get away torturing others, there is no alternative but to take revenge, Hasina said adding that her party will enact a law to put the repressors on trial if it is voted to

Senior AL leaders including Syeda Zohara Tajuddin, Zillui Rahman, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Obaidul Quader, Shamsul Huda Harun, Habibur Rahman Milon, AK Azad Chowdhury, Yeafes Osman, Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Mukul Bose and Aktheruzzaman also spoke among

France

FROM PAGE 1 shot into an empty goal.

The 23-year-old, who has made a rapid rise through the Gallic ranks, celebrated his first goal for his country on his seventh appearance with a flying leap into les Bleus' substitutes

The Spaniards went into the break aggrieved at not being awarded a second late penalty when Fernando Torres hit the deck after a

challenge from Willy Sagnol. Early in the second half Casillas punched wide a high kick from Florent

Malouda as France pressed hard.
Spain coach Luis Aragones then
hauled off two of his strikers, skipper Raul and Villa, with Liverpool's uis Garcia and Joaquin entering the fray in an attempt to open the door leading to the Brazilians in Frankfurt on Saturday.

Aragones tinkered with his midfield with less than 20 minutes to go, replacing his Champions League winner Xavi with Marcos Senna and shortly after Domenech made his first change, Sidney Govou coming in for Malouda. With extra time looming tension was evident and Spain's Carles Puyol

picked up a yellow card for a foul on Thierry Henry, though, replays showed that there had been no contact but the Arsenal striker's theatrical collapse fooled the referee. Zidane fired the resultant freekick high into the box with Vieira leaping over the Spanish defence to head low towards Casillas but

panish defender Sergi Ramos aftempt to deflect it only helped to turn it away from Casillas and into the right hand corner of the goal.

Zidane then picked up his third
yellow card of the competition and romptly celebrated by adding France's third, receiving a perfect pass from Sylvain Wiltord, eluding

ayol's desperate challenge and otting it past Casillas. Their date with Brazil is a repeat of the 1998 World Cup final which France won't need reminding they

SPAIN: Iker Casillas; Sergio Ramos, Francesc Fabregas, Xabi Alonso, Xavi (Marcos Senna 72); Raul (Luis Garcia 54); Fernando Torres, David Villa (Joaquin 54). Yellow card: Puyol (82) FRANCE: Fabien Barthez; Willy

Sagnol, Lilian Thuram, William Gallas, Eric Abidal; Patrick Vieira, Claude Makelele; Franck Ribery, Zinedine Zidane, Florent Malouda (Sidney Govou 75); Thierry Henry (Sulvain Wiltord 88)

(Sylvain Wiltord 88). Yellow card: Vieira (68), Ribery (87), Zidane (90+1) Referee: R Rosetti (Italy)

Attendance: 43,000

Graft rarely

absent from the parliament session despite being in the country?" TIB Trustee Board Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmed told reporters after the press conference at

the Jativa Press Club. Placing a set of suggestions to resolve the quorum crisis and make the committee system functional, the report said it is possible to increase the effectiveness of the Jatiya Sangsad to remove the existing problems through political good will.

"We have got only the shell of parliamentary democracy which came after a long military regime," Prof Muzaffer said, adding that the TIB will publish a detailed report about the performance of the current parliament after the ongoing budget session.

Referring to the fact that lawmakers often make indecent remarks in the House, Prof Ahmed said, "I hope the lawmakers will learn from the reaction of

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman and Research Director SI Laskar were present at the press conference.

COMMITTEE SYSTEM According to the Rules of

Procedures of parliament, a committee is supposed to hold at least one meeting every month, meaning all committees should have had at least 12 meetings each last year.

"Of the committees, only three neld one to three meetings last year while 10 committees held four to six meetings, 14 held seven to nine, and the rest 10 held 10 or more meetings," the survey

The Public Accounts Committee discussed 149 audit objections involving Tk 13,154 crore, but realised only Tk 12.1 The TIB report suggested

formation of parliamentary

standing committees in the very

first session of each new parlia-

ment and appointing 50 per cent chairmen from the opposition. QUORUM CRISIS The parliament faced the worst quorum crisis for an hour and 11 minutes on February 17 last year while the House was forced to

adjourn for minutes due to insuf-

ficient quorum on February 10, The report said the Awami League lawmakers attended on only one of 62 working days in five sessions last year. The prime minister was not present on 50 per cent days of her weekly question-answer sessions, the TIB

It urged the leader of the House as well as opposition members to attend sessions regularly. The report also suggested appointment of the deputy leader of the House immediately.

Hamas-Fatah

report found.

held by Israel. However, the deal was over

shadowed by a crisis over the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier and opposition to the deal voiced by Islamic Jihad, a small militant group that has carried out numerous attacks against Israel.

FROM PAGE 16 y senior Palestinian prisoners