# NEWS

5

twin, Mark, is Discovery's pilot, said of

Griffin's decision. "He made the deci-

sion and I think it's the right decision to

was part of last year's crew that made

the first return to flight since Columbia

disintegrated in 2003, said he was

"If we're down to worrying about

Nasa engineers redesigned the

external fuel tank after the Columbia

accident, and again after a piece of

oam insulation came off the tank

during Robinson's mission last year. In

the most recent change, more than 35

pounds of foam have been removed in

what Nasa describes as the biggest

aerodynamic change ever made to the

shuttle's launch system. Nasa tried

other design changes to the ice-frost

ramps, such as removing foam, but

they didn't hold up well in wind tunnel

tion broke off Discovery's external fuel

tank two minutes after liftoff last year

missed hitting the shuttle. Nasa

responded by grounding shuttle flights

Discovery's seven-member crew

Astronauts Piers Sellers and Mike

ossum will make two spacewalks

will test shuttle inspection and repair

for almost a year.

The 1-pound slab of foam insula-

Astronaut Stephen Robinson, who

proceed with the launch.

bigger things to worry about."

### Voter list updating

#### FROM PAGE 1 ward commissioner's office [ward No

33] in Motijheel area. People who went to Assistant Registration Officer's (ARO) office to collect voters' forms lost their enthusiasm when they learned that a raft of documents is required to be registered as a voter.

"I don't feel like being listed as a voter after submitting so many weird documents," Nazrul Islam, maintenance technician of SQ Garments. told The Daily Star at ARO office at Sheorapara in Mirpur. When Nazrul came to the office to

collect the forms required to include his name in the voter roll vesterday. ARC Tofazzel Hossain asked him to submi a number of documents like receipt of municipal tax or house rent or payment to local guards, and an affidavit of proof of age or an attested copy of SSC certificate along with the application form. Some district election officers said

they could not begin the work at the Union Parishad level for inadequate preparation. Besides, many AROs who are government officials did not work yesterday, as they preferred to enjoy the weekend. "Í waited whole day at my office but

none came to collect the forms. Four other election officers informed me that no one came to them as well," a district election officer told The Daily Star yesterday. Another officer said, "A Thana

election officer in my district told me that two or three people came to his office to enquire about the method. But they did not collect any form '

In Khulna City Corporation, only one person came to pick up the designated forms although 35 offices of ward commissioners remained open for distributing those, our correspondent from Khulna quoted the district election officer as saying. So far, 23 people collected forms to

have their names on the voter list at Panchlaish and Doublemooring while many offices of the ward commissioners in Chittagong City Corporation were not supplied with the forms till vesterday, our correspondent reports. In the capital, 90 officials at 90

wards of the city corporation have been engaged to assist the AROs assigned to distribute the forms sources at the EC Secretariat said. The acting secretary of the EC

Secretariat along with the Secretariat officials was waiting since yesterday morning for people to collect the forms but to little avail. While visiting severa offices of the ward commissioners, this correspondent found almost all of them empty Although it was a weekly holiday, a

very few people turned up to the offices of the ward commissioners and AROs in the capital to collect forms yesterday. None was reported to have applied for amendment, correction and deletion of names from the existing voter list.

Former election commissioner M Munsef Ali said people would not be interested in getting listed as voters because the EC has taken a wrong approach to updating the roll. "They [people] are simply not accustomed to the new system," he told The Daily Star

Shajahan Chowdhury, assistant headmaster of Mirpur Shaheed Smriti High School and ARO, told The Daily Star, "The procedure is complicated compared with the previous ones. I will be very difficult for people to submit all the required documents."

ARO Tofazzel Hossain, who has experience in voter listing, said the

Lankan navy FROM PAGE 16 navy spokesman said. people took the forms, but none came

"We first made some warning to collect forms for deleting name of shots, but the boat continued and v fake voters from the list then we fired and the boat caught Talking to the reporters, ARO MA fire and sank." Commander D.K.P. Mannan, a teacher of Mirpur Bangla Dassanayake said. High School, said he went to the office

in the region

he vessels

man

Colombo.

rebel group.

minority Tamils.

FROM PAGE 16

Israel.

March.

Fatah movement.

told AFP.

Gaza border.

Abdelaziz Rantiss

SC bar

AM Amin Uddin.

FROM PAGE 1

vessels were damaged.

It was not immediately known of the ward [No 5] commissioner to how many people were on the boat, distribute the voters' forms, but found or if there were any rebel casualties. Mirpur Thana Election Officer "Our men had to fire because the

No non-navy boats are allowed

main point of entry for supplies to an

estimated 40,000 troops stationed

A pro-rebel Web site, TamilNet,

called the incident a "sea fight," and

reported that two boats were seen

burning, although it did not identify

Dassanayake said no navy

On Saturday, the army killed a

suspected Tamil guerrilla as he tried

to attack a checkpoint with a hand

grenade in northern Mannar district,

135 miles north of the capital

Colombo, said Brig. Prasad

Samarasinghe, an army spokes-

he told The Associated Press.

The army suffered no casualties,

Separately, suspected Tamil

Tigers using small arms and mortars

attacked an army road clearing

patrol in Muttur, a small town in

eastern Sri Lanka, Samarasinghe

tars," he said, adding that no sol-

diers were wounded in the clash

near the port city of Trincomalee,

about 135 miles northeast of

comment on Saturdav's attacks.

Palestinian PM's

ers as well as humanitarian cases.

claimed responsibility for the sol-

dier's abduction, sparking the worst

Israeli-Palestinian crisis since the

Hamas government took office in

Israel this week arrested scores

will happen to our brother Haniya or

any other Palestinian official." he

tary operation against the Gaza

Strip in retaliation for the June 25

abduction of the soldier during a

Palestinian attack on the Israel-

Since the start of the Palestinian

uprising in September 2000, Israel

has assassinated several top

Hamas leaders, including spiritual

leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and

Gaza's former political chief

create division among the lawyers.

Reaffirming the lawyers' long-

standing struggle for establishing

democracy, the rule of law, inde-

pendence of the judiciary, proper

implementation of the Supreme

Court directives on separation of the

judiciary and upholding the image of

the apex court, the meeting noted

that the case was filed to impede the

remain alert about the "conspiracy"

The meeting urged people to

Senior Bar member Yousut

Hossain Humayun presided over

ongoing lawyers' movement.

of the alliance government.

were present at the meeting.

before it kicked off.

Israel has launched a vast mili-

"We also retaliated using mor-

Jasimuddin who was present at the boat was advancing toward office of the commissioner of ward No. Kankesanturai harbour.' 14 told The Daily Star that they have launched a campaign urging those n the waters because it is desigwho are not registered as voters yet to nated a "high security zone," collect the forms. Dassanavake said. The harbour is a

Abdul Quader, commissioner of ward No 14, blasted the EC for adopting 'such a lengthy and strict proce re' for updating the existing voter list. "Now even if they (EC staff) visit door to door, they won't get such a whole lot of documents. And the initiative is bound to fall flat." he told reporters at his office.

the office closed.

"I own a building where many people live. And I never give them any receipt for their house rent. Then how will they submit such documents," he estioned. Mahfuzur Rahman, a garment

worker, collected forms from the office of Abdul Quader, but declined to submit the forms with so many documents. "It's not possible for me to collect the documents," he told report-

#### DOCUMENTS AND AN EXCEPTION

As per the EC's decision, an eligible person, whose name is not on the existing voter list, will have to apply in form-7 with a raft of documents. He will be provided with form-2 for inclusion of his name in the voter list said.

only if the RO and ARO are satisfied h the application The form-7 calls for the intending

voter to submit a receipt of municipal tax or house rent or payment to local quards to prove his locality, and an affidavit of proof of age or an attested copy of the SSC certificate with the application.

Referring to the form-7, many ROs and AROs yesterday said they would not receive any application without supporting documents with the form escribed.

"As I have to follow the procedure. will not receive any form unless anyone submits the required documents with the form." said ARO Tofazze Hossain, also the headmaster of Haji Asraf High School at Sheorapara in

Acting secretary to the EC Secretariat Mohammad Zakoria, however, yesterday allowed an ARO to receive applications without the required documents.

"Every one in this area is known to me. So, they don't need to submit any documents," ARO Sahidur Rahman, also assistant headmaster of Motijheel Colony Government High School, told The Daily Star yesterday. Sahidur Rahman received an application form for inclusion of name in the existing voter list without any required documents.

Zakoria, who was present at the office of the commissioner of ward No 33 of Dhaka City Corporation to supervise the task, supported the ARO

Hamas members including An ARO can receive the applicaministers and lawmakers and tion form for inclusion of names in the threatened to take further action if voter list if he thinks the applicant is 19-year-old corporal Gilad Shalit

### CEC, 2 commissioners

#### FROM PAGE 1

month-long revision process that the Election Commission (EC) started vesterday is inconsistent with both the laws and the Appellate Division's judgment. The EC's present way of revising the existing voter list prepared in 2000 will not yield a fair voter roll, they said.

The past EC decisions and personal behaviour of its commissioners only created new controversies deepening the doubts. Thus, the commission appears to have lost the trust and confidence of a large portion of the population, they said.

The speakers also emphasised separation of the EC Secretariat from the Prime Minister's Office, state funding for election, introduction of voter ID card, transparent ballot box and electronic voting system to ensure free and fair elections.

"The CEC is a constitutional post and his neutrality should be beyond doubt, but his actions have proved just the opposite," eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain told the roundtable on complications over voter list and the role of those concerned.

The daily Prothom Alo, Shushashoner Janney Nagarik (Shujan) and The Daily Star jointly organised the roundtable at the latter's conference room in the city.

Kamal Hossain, also president of Gono Forum, observed that the country is now facing a serious challenge in preparing a reliable electoral roll that has become a stumbling block for holding parliamentary elections on time.

He said the stalemate was created when CEC MAAziz unilaterally appointed enumerators on political considerations. "His actions show that the youth wing of the BNP has been entrusted to do the job of the enumerators," he said.

The rebels did not immediately The EC appears to be incapable of carrying out its constitutional More than 700 people have been mandate of holding free, fair and killed in violence since April, despite timely elections, he said, adding, a 2002 cease-fire agreement "We should send an appeal urging between the government and the the CEC to resign from his post to be replaced by an honest and neutral The Tigers have been fighting person to restore public trust and since 1983 to carve out a separate confidence in the commission." homeland for Sri Lanka's 3.2 million

Prof Muzaffer Ahmed, Justice Naeem Uddin Ahmed, former advisers to caretaker government ASM Shahjahan and M Hafizuddin Khan, veteran journalist and columnist ABM Musa, columnist Syed It said freed prisoners would have to Abul Maksud, Muhammad Jahangir include all Palestinian faction leadof Centre for Development Communication, Zafarullah The crisis has piled more pres-Chowdhury of Gono Swasthya sure on the Hamas Islamist government, already straining under a US-Kendra, Advocate Sultana Kamal of led aid embargo to get it to renounce Ain O Salish Kendra, Munira Khan violence and drop its vow to destroy of Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (Fema), Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka The armed wing of Hamas was University, former law minister one of the three militant groups that

Abdul Matin Khasru, Shujan Secretary Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar, among others, spoke at the roundtable.

Presenting the keynote paper, Dr Badiul Alam said the revision of the existing voter list as contemplated by the EC would keep many eligible voters out and include many fictitious ones, making the revised electoral roll utterly unreliable.

Although the EC decisions are convenient and will serve it well, it will not serve the cause of preparing a dependable electoral roll, he said adding that the decision is impractical because it is not conducive to preparing a reliable electoral roll.

By EC's own account, 1.75 crore voters have increased between 2000 and 2006 while the 2000 electoral roll contained 65 lakh fake voters. So, it will be impossible to make these huge corrections to make the electoral roll reasonably reliable with only 6,400 functionaries within one month, Badiul Alam observed.

"It is also not reasonable to expect that the vast number of illiterate voters will travel miles to go to local election offices to include their names, request corrections or lodge objections." he said, adding that this sort of updating may create unprecedented opportunities for including fake voters in the supplementary roll.

He said one can also challenge the validity of the continuation of the registration and assistant registration officers appointed during the preparation of the fresh electoral roll r the new task

Moderating the roundtable, Prof Muzaffer Ahmed demanded that the fresh voter list the EC had prepared ignoring the HC order be made public so that the pattern of the list could be identified. "It can also be identified if there

are fake voter lists," he said, adding that people have the right to know the list even though it will not be used for election purpose.

He proposed preparing a voter list under General Information System (GIS) on the basis of the number of voters in every constituency. The trouble people are facing for the voter list today will not exist any more once one such voter list is

Stressing the need for creating awareness about election, he said as much as the people know their rights so will they try to realise those. Justice Naeem Uddin said the procedure the EC is maintaining for

preparing the voter roll is illegal. The complex, he added.

make the draft voter roll public.

### Non-govt school

FROM PAGE 16 meeting their demands.

They will seek opinion from the legislators regarding their demands within seven days from July 7-10,

Columnist Syed Abul Maksud said upazila parishad (UP) chairmen and members in villages have lost interest in the voter list and do not actually know how the task of its

preparation is being done. Imams have been entrusted with the work ignoring the representatives of the local government, he said, adding that the UP chairmen and members should be assigned for the iob.

He said there is still enough time and so, a resolution of the civil society should be made and sent to the prime minister, main opposition parties and the CEC for a solution to the voter list controversy.

Muhammad Jahangir suggested publication of a well-written state ment represented by the largest possible number of civil society members and professionals in newspapers to create pressure on the CEC and the two election commissioners for resignation.

Zafrullah Chowdhury said all candidates of the parliamentary elections should submit accounts of their assets. Public awareness should also be created so that people get more interested in including their names in the voter list, he added

Referring to the recent speech of the PM, ABM Musa said the PM did not mention anything about the CEC in her speech. "It proves the source of the strength of the CEC." Musa said, adding that CEC Aziz will not resign despite opposition movements and demands from the civil society members

"This is a political issue and should be solved politically," he commented.

Former law minister Abdul Matin Khasru said non-compliance of the HC orders and spending a huge amount of public money for no use constitute criminal misconduct for which the CEC should resign.

The Awami League leader said his party would not take part in the next general elections if the CEC and election commissioners do not resign or are not removed.

Editors of the daily Prothom Alo and The Daily Star Matiur Rahman and Mahfuz Anam welcomed the guests and also spoke on the occasion.

#### RMG workers FROM PAGE 16 The workers alleged they wanted to

meet the owner to discuss their Secretary Prof Asadul Huq, and demands but the owner refused to Bangladesh Technical College Teachers Association President SMA meet them. Jalil were present at the conference.

Following local Ward

## Nasa space shuttle set to launch today

AP, Cape Canaveral

For the first time in almost a year. Nasa was set to launch a space shuttle today on a mission that will test whether the space agency has reduced the risks of flying in the 25vear-old vehicles.

Discovery was set to blast off from encouraged that the biggest technical Kennedy Space Centre at 3:49 pm debate was focused on the ice-frost EDT, only the second shuttle launch ramps. since the Columbia disaster in 2003. Vice President Dick Cheney was something like an ice-frost ramp, we among the dignitaries expected to must be doing a lot of things right," attend. Robinson said. "There are much

Storm clouds expected in the afternoon remained the chief obstacle to launch, although the forecast improved Saturday from a 40 percent to a 60 percent chance that the weather would be good enough for a launch.

A last-minute technical problem popped up Saturday morning, with the failure of a heater used to keep propellant from freezing in a firing thruster. The thruster isn't used during launch, but it can control the shuttle's position in space and during a rendezvous with the international space station.

"It's not a show-stopper, in terms of rendezvous," said Nasa spokesman Kyle Herring. "You can manage it."

The countdown proceeded as and, unlike in the case of Columbia normal, and Nasa was unsure what effect it would have on the launch. Space agency managers have said they want all four thrusters working properly

Fueling, completed under three techniques, bring supplies and equiphours, showed that four new fuel tank ment to the international space station sensors worked properly. The four and deliver the European Space sensors designed to prevent the main Agency's Thomas Reiter for a sixengines from running too long or not month stay aboard the orbiting outlong enough during the climb to space had been replaced after one of them gave an electrical reading that was

flying off the fuel tank might harm the

Brvan O'Connor, the space

agency's chief safety officer, and chief

engineer Christopher Scolese recom-

mended at a flight readiness review

meeting two weeks ago that the

shuttle not fly until further design

changes are made to 34 areas on the

fuel tank known as ice-frost ramps.

These wedge-shaped brackets run up

and down the tank holding in place

pressurization lines. Foam insulation

is used to prevent ice from building up

on the tank when it is filled with

supercold fuel. Small pieces of foam

have snapped off during previous

senior officials feel free to discuss and

debate openly complex, difficult and

subtle technical topics that affect the

flight." Griffin said Saturday. "No

matter what decision I made, I would

"We now have a NASA in which

space shuttle.

launches.

slightly off. The swap-out pushed back and possibly a third, which would add a Discovery's launch in May. day to what is planned to be a 12-day The launch Saturday will test Nasa mission. The crew also includes Administrator Michael Griffin's decicommander Steve Lindsey and sion to go ahead with the mission mission specialists Lisa Nowak and despite the concerns of two top Stephanie Wilson. agency managers who fear foam

10-man England FROM PAGE 1

holding anchorman Costinha, who were both sent off against the Dutch. Their places are taken by Tiago and Petit.

Gary Neville and Frank Lampard took their places in England's side after recovering from injury with coach Sven Goran Eriksson sticking to a 4-5-1 formation with Rooney on his own up front.

Owen Hargreaves was preferred to Michael Carrick as the holding midfielder

The match, being played under a closed roof at the AufSchalke Arena on another hot day, has been billed as a showdown between Eriksson and opposite number Luiz Felipe Scolari.

Scolari has twice shattered English hopes in major tournaments, masterminding quarterfinal wins in the 2002 World Cup with Brazil and Euro 2004 with Portugal. At stake is a semifinal match against Brazil or France. In the stadium. England fans were again out in force, outnumbering the Portuguese. Thirteen England fans were detained after scuffles in this industrial city on Friday but the atmosphere in the arena was calm

prepared, he added.

commission has made the simple issue of preparing a voter roll very

He also demanded that the EC

new system is a bit difficult. He said two genuine, the acting secretary said

### Black money white

FROM PAGE 1 on June 30, stands at Tk 4,603 crore.

This is a record for the country where opportunities for whitening black money has been given time to time since 1976. The past opportunities saw whitening of a total of Tk 3,920 crore of black money

According to NBR sources, the board received Tk 345 crore in taxes from the black money holders during the fiscal 2005-06.

The NBR said the largest of the black money owners, who are smugglers, crime syndicate bosses, bribe takers, etc however did not avail the opportunity.

'Those who whitened their money are mainly businessmen and professionals, who had evaded paying taxes in the past," said a high official of the NBR.

The NBR also secured a record amount of income tax collection in the fiscal that ended on June 30.

"Income tax collection grew by 28 percent and the NBR collected a total of Tk 7,140 crore, exceeding the target of Tk 6,960 crore," said the official. In 2004-05 fiscal, the NBR collected Tk 5,577 crore in taxes.

"It shows that the measures taken by the NBR against tax evasion are work ing. People are now paying more attention to paying taxes," he added.

According to NBR data, 7,254 persons whitened Tk 4,603 crore of black money during the recently closed fiscal. Among them, 5,151 are from Dhaka and 1,516 are from Chittagong.

"Most of those who whitened their money are basically previous tax evaders. They are mainly businessmen, industrialists and professionals. The professionals include doctors engineers, lawyers, chartered accountants and others. Besides there are defence officials and bureaucrats," said the NBR official

"Most of the directors of private TV channels also availed the opportunity. A newspaper owner who is also a businessman legalised his money in three instalments." he added

Banking sources said they suspect that many of these people do not actually have the amount of black money they paid taxes for.

'Many of them took this opportunity to legalise future black money - because they know from this fiscal year on they will not be able to just pay 7.5 percent tax and legalise their black money," said a managing director of a private bank

NBR officials said with the end of this episode of whitening black money, they will ask the black money owners

for details about where they have kept their whitened money.

"We will see if they keep this money in the banks or in any other form. This will prevent whitening of future black money," said a top NBR official.

The NBR however has not yet compiled details about the amount of black money that was indirectly whitened through purchases of cars. lands and apartments. The opportunity to whiten black money through purchases of apartments, cars and lands will continue in the current fiscal with a higher tax rate.

According to an estimate by economist Abul Barakat, the economy of Bangladesh every year generates some Tk 70.000 crore of black money while Tk 175,000 crore of black money circulates in the country every year POLICY AND WHITENED

AMOUNT Only a few black money holders took the opportunity provided by the martial law government in 1976 for whitening their money, and Tk 70 crore was whitened that year.

During 1987-88, the government unconditionally offered the opportunity with 20 percent income tax, and collected Tk 40 crore in taxes against Tk 200 crore of black money whitened. In 1988-90, the government

retained the provision with 20 percent tax but said if newly whitened money was invested in industries within two years the tax rate would be 10 percent.

The new policy resulted in whitening of Tk 250 crore of black money, nerating Tk 35 crore in taxes in 1988-89. The next year Tk 400 crore was whitened and Tk 40 crore was collected in taxes.

In 2000-01, the erstwhile Awami League government reintroduced the provision after more than a decade's gap. It unconditionally offered the facing the contempt charge, which money whitening scheme in is likely come up for hearing today exchange of 10 percent tax. The before a High Court division bench, provision generated Tk 100 crore in taxes against whitening of Tk 1,000

crore The BNP government in 2002-03 introduced a system under which black money owners could whiten their money without paying tax if they invested the money in production or service sector or spent it for purchase of shares. In the next three years, Tk 2,000 crore was whitened

was not released. make correspondence with the teach-'We view the threats against Haniya as serious," said

ers' organisations of other countries and bring the matter of 'repression' on teachers to the notice of International Mohammed Dahlan, the Gaza Labour Organisation and Unesco from strongman of Abbas's mainstream July9to15. "We hope that nothing serious

Their programmes include demonstration in upazila and district headquarters on July 12, laying siege to the offices of upazila nirbahi officers and deputy commissioners on July 18 and 20, one-hour sit-in at district towns on July 24 and holding a 'national rally' in Dhaka between July 27 to 30.

Degree of agitation on the streets will cross all the previous records if the aovernment does not meet our demands before July 8, Kazi Faruk Ahmed said.

Among others, Bangladesh Teachers Association President Muhammad Azizul Islam, General

#### Football fans FROM PAGE 16 Outraged by power outage, the

soccer fans in Chandina upazila ransacked the Palli Bidyut Samity office the same night.

Police rushed to spot and In a resolution, the meeting strongly brought the situation under control. condemned the filing of the con-According to our Siraigani corretempt of court case against 11 spondent, about 200 soccer fans attacked the Palli Bidyut Samity lawyers including SCBA Secretary office at Ullapara on Friday night as they could not watch the first It said the alliance government is World Cup Football guarterfinal hatching conspiracy to make the between Germany and Argentina highest judiciary controversial and due to power failure.

The mob hurled brickbats at the office and damaged some important files. papers and furniture. Some 12 people, including two Palli Bidvut officials, were injured during the attack.

Police rushed to the spot and dispersed the agitating people. They also arrested two people

named Nazimuddin and Ariful Islama of village Persontola for their alleged involvement in the attack.

### Khairuzzaman

FROM PAGE 1

The Comptroller and Auditor The petition for drawing con-General's (CAG) office in Kakrail tempt proceedings against the may be selected as the ombudsman lawvers for "violating court orders" office, but it has not yet been finalwas filed on Thursday by a lawyer ised

who had secured the ban on the It is presumed that the govern-June 11 Dhaka siege programme ment would appoint a secretary enforced by the Awami Leagueled from either planning, commerce or 14-party opposition combine, hours energy division to the post of the NBR chairman.

And manisation of no government teachers and staff under the banner of Shikkhak-Karmachar Oikya Jote led by Selim Bhuiyan who announced indefinite strike from July 6 to realise their ten-point demand observed one-hour work abstention vesterday

Prof M Shariful Islam-led Shikkhak-Karmachari Oikya Jote, another time organisation of non-government teachers and staff, yesterday decided to observe two-hour work abstention on July 8 and indefinite strike from July 9 to press home their demand for providing 100 per cent salary and other allowances from the government



Secretary Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar said the website will be an important tool for the voters in the wake of the voter list controversy, to check if their names are there or not so that they can contact the election officials i

there is any error. "The candidates can also check the names and number of the voters from their respective constituencies," he noted.

Following the Supreme Court's judgment, the voter roll for the next general elections will be formulated on the basis of existing voter list.

Jail guards FROM PAGE 16

picked him up at Nazimuddin Road around 10:30pm on Friday night. The guards took him inside the jail and tortured him until 3:00am yesterday.

Hundreds of people thronged the power distribution centre adjacent to Dhaka Central Jail and vandalised the office, as football lovers failed to watch about 10 minutes of the match between Argentina and Germany on Friday night due to power cuts.

The mob beat up jail guards as they went there to bring the situation under control. Jail sources said as the jail guards tried to stop the mob from vandalising jail vehicles the agitated crowd attacked the guards aving 15 guards injured.

A jail official said, "We arranged a meeting with the police. locals and the local ward commissioner where we gave assurance of making a proper investigation into the incident." An investigation committee is to be formed today, a jail source added.

Commissioner Abdul Qader's assurance of arranging a meeting with the owners within a month, they withdrew their movement on May 27. Most of the workers stopped working on June 28 and 29 as the owner did not have the meeting with them in the stipulated one-month

Yesterday at around 8:00am. they found a notice on the factory gate stating the expulsion of 28 workers for their involvement with the workers' movement and suspension of production for 15 days.

The workers brought out a procession and went to the local commissioner's home. As the commissioner was not at house, they took to the streets in front of their factory blocking traffic movement. Police later detoured vehicles from Mirpur-10 and Agargaon intersection to avoid gridlocks.

Addressing a rally on the Rokeya Sarani, leaders of the garment workers vowed not to withdraw the blockade until the factory owner met them. However, after talking to the factory owner Golam Faruq over cellphone, the workers withdrew their blockade. A large number of police and Rab personnel were sent there to prevent any untoward incidents

Workers of the factory suspect a few corrupt high officials of the factory embezzle the workers money and benefits keeping the owner in the dark.

#### Abdur Rahman FROM PAGE 1

the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Mizanur Rahman at 3:30pm

In the forwarding report, Hassan said the JMB men were directly involved in the August 17 bomb blasts and the information they gave during the remand period are being verified. So, they need to be kept in jail custody until the investigation completes, the IO added.

When the magistrate asked the two whether they would want to appoint any lawyers or submit any bail petition as the IO did not pray for remand. Rahman and Bangla Bhai told the court they would not submit any bail petition to the 'worldly court'. The magistrate ordered them to be sent to Dhaka Central Jail.

have been disappointing somebody O'Connor and Scolese agreed with Griffin's rationale that the risk was only to the shuttle and not the crew since the astronauts could take refuge in the international space station until a rescue vehicle is sent up, so they didn't appeal Griffin's decision.

"First of all, it's not a democracy. We don't take a vote. We don't need 100 percent of the people to say it's OK," astronaut Scott Kelly, whose identical

Car bombing

FROM PAGE 16 patrolling of the neighbourhood in the face of the continued ability of the fledgling security forces to prevent such deadly attacks.

"The Iraqi forces are not doing their job properly ... they are not checking cars that are entering the area. If this is the case, we will take troops the security of the area into our own hands." a Shia militiaman who gave

his name only as Fuad told AFP. In a separate roadside bombing in southeast Baghdad, another three people were killed, officials said. Four bodies were also found around the city.

Taiseer Naieh Awad al-Mashhadani, an MP for the National Concord Front, the largest Sunni Arab bloc in the Iragi parliament, was seized in north Baghdad as she returned to the capital from the restive province of Diyala to the northeast, political and security sources said.

Her abduction came after the Shia prime minister launched a national reconciliation plan aimed at wooing members of the disenchanted former elite away from the protracted insurgency and back into the political process.

The violence was a reminder of the precarious security situation in the capital despite a massive security clampdown that has seen tens of thousands of US and government troops patrolling the streets for the past few weeks.

Government figures for June recorded at least 1,009 Iraqi dead in insurgent attacks, only slightly down on the 1,055 killed around Irag in May

The premier's plan includes proposals for an amnesty for at least some suspected rebels in a bid to stem the insurgency and mounting

sectarian violence, and Maliki was due to begin a Gulf tour in oil-rich Saudi Arabia later Saturday to seek regional support for the proposals.

The US military was meanwhile facing fresh allegations of serious abuses against Iraqi civilians by its

US officials announced Friday that investigators were probing allegations that at least two US soldiers raped an Iraqi woman and then murdered her and three family members

The criminal investigation was ordered by Major General James Thurman, a senior commander in Iraq, after two other soldiers said they had heard about -- but not witnessed -- the alleged killing in March in the Mahmudivah area. south of Baghdad, an officer said in Washington.

"Allegations known so far are that two soldiers allegedly raped an Iragi woman and then allegedly one of the soldiers may have killed four Iraqi civilians located within that residence -- the woman, two other adults and a child," the official said. The soldiers belonged to the same 1st Battalion of the 502nd Infantry Regiment as Kristian Menchaca and Thomas Tucker, whose "severely traumatized" bodies were found on June 19 in the same res-

tive region south of the capital.

The US military has come under the spotlight over a spate of abuse allegations since the 2003 invasion, most notoriously the mistreatment of detainees at Abu Ghraib, which prompted a string of convictions.

the meeting. Most of the lawyers status and privileges equal to that of a High Court judge and will also have his own office.