Regional dialogue in Ctg told | Teachers strike

were responsible for inviting unde-

sired 'advocacy' and 'interventions' of

foreign diplomats and donor agen-

said they hardly ever implement the

speech observed that the holding of

free and fair elections by the current

EC was impossible. Suggesting

reforms in the EC, he said it would be

very tough for the next caretaker

government to tackle the situation

which may develop if reforms in the

are now dominant in the elections.

Unless the political parties are made

accountable, there would be no real

public representation in the gover-

Chittagong University Alamgir Md

Siraiuddin said in the absence of

democracy practice neither political

organisation nor leadership could

He said the political parties are being turned into family organisa-

tions. It is encouraging autocracy and

Bangladesh are now turning into

family assets, due to this we often

see an autocratic rule running a

government where a single person

used to decide everything within the

miserably to follow the basic ideolo-

gies of democracy honestly and they

also lack transparency and demo-

cratic practice in recruiting new

society is also divided and their

movement is aristocrat-based. He

urged the leaders of civil society to go

to the villages and make rural people

Chowdhury of Bangladesh Medical

Association (BMA) Chittagong unit in

his speech observed that the ruling

party would be compelled to practice

democracy within itself if all other

parties practice the democracy

papers for exploiting its rights in the

name of press freedom and alleged

that a few newspapers run target-

the press to get rid of unjust reports,"

Rab and urged the civil society to

said the political parties remain busy

mostly in pleasing the party high-ups.

The public leaders loose their voices

and freedom once they are sent to

speak in favour of his party decision

even though he might disagree with

ing an atmosphere suitable for all the

legislators to express his own

thoughts and beliefs in improving the

political parties, he said if we could

attain this, dictatorship inside the

Shafi said, "We must establish gen-

der equality and regain secularism to

Chamber of Commerce and Industry

SM Nurul Hoque asked for a policy to

bar a candidate from contesting

parliamentary elections more than

have credible general elections.

Women rights activist Mustari

Acting President of Chittagong

parties would be removed.

The legislators are compelled to

He underlined the need for creat-

Talking about accountability in

he suggested

appreciate it.

the parliament.

"Certain policies are needed for

The BMA leader lauded the role of

Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed

Jamil criticised some of the news-

General Secretary Khurshid Jamil

become aware of their voting right.

Sirajuddin further alleged the civil

"Both the major parties failed

The politics and political parties in

politicisation of the government.

rish in the country.

party, Sirajuddin added.

members," he alleged.

Former vice-chancellor of

He said the black money holders

EC were not implemented.

electoral commitments

Criticising the political parties he

Pankaj Bhattacharya in his

criticised it for killing people without trial and giving the opportunity of self-

defence.

The dialogue was the seventh in a series of discussions styled "National Election 2007: Civil Society Initiative for Accountable Development".

CPD Executive Director Debapriya Bhattacharya moderated the dialogue held at Hotel Peninsula in the Port City while eminent educationist Prof Sikander Khan presided it over. Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al Noman and former minister MA Mannan addressed the dialogue as special guests.

The speakers at the dialogue demanded an end to torture on the minority community before and after election, immediate resignation of the chief election commissioner (CEC), massive reform and strengthening of the EC, reforms in the political system registration of political parties, ban on candidature for more than twice, and provision of casting no-confidence

They also demanded publication of the political parties' annual audit reports for transparency.

Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed and Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam spoke on behalf of the Nagorik Committee formed for preparing a vision paper for Bangladesh in 2021.

The debate on the Rab started when Alamgir Mohammad Sirajuddin, former vice chancellor of Chittagong University, urged the civil society members to raise voice against its activities for "killing people in the name

Khurshid Jamil Chowdhury, general secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Chittagong, strongly opposed him, saying, "The civil society should appreciate the role of Rab because it has brought back peace in the country."

SM Nurul Haque, acting president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Emdadul Haque Chowdhury, leader of Peshajibi Songram Parishad of Chittagong, supported the view.

Civil society member Mujibur Rahman said, "We are living in peace because of Rab but we should think whether the peace should come through Rab or a democratic process.

Ward Commissioner Rehana Kabir Ranu said there should not be two laws in one country: "On one hand, you are speaking for rule of law, and on the other, you are allowing extrajudicial killings.

Former minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury observed that there is no need of Rab if the country is ruled peacefully. "But the Rab played a positive role in the perspective of the existing law and order in

the country," he said. Cashing in on common people's belief and support, major political parties are often seen nominating candidates of their choice whereas another candidate who is uncompromising about honesty and people's right often fails to earn party nomina-

tion, the dialogue observed The speakers said both the ruling and opposition parties of the country have now appeared to agree in principle regarding reforms in the EC making some changes in its members, particularly replacing the "con-

They underscored the need for developing the culture of practising democracy inside all political parties.

Minister Abdullah Al Noman called for strengthening the civil societies to voice against all the odds and help the political parties become transparent and accountable.

He urged the civil society members to strongly put forward the opinions and demands of the people to help the country's politics get rid of the black money holders and criminalisation.

AL leader and former minister MA

Mannan said in many cases there

were misgivings between the political

parties and leaders. He invited

constructive criticism to bring back

Chowdhury MP in his speech

observed that no changes could

come from the inside of a party and

called for developing critical masses

to help the political parties in this

committees should be made stronger

and more functional. The meeting of

the parliamentary standing commit-

tee should be telecasted live to make

people become aware of whatever is

participation of different civil society

bodies and groups in the process of

the standing committee's making

speech emphasised on introducing a

fifteen-year plan for targeting devel-

opment until 2021 when the country

would be celebrating its 50 years of

many fields in the last fifteen years

after the restoration of democracy

But, the benefit of the development

could not be distributed equally and

the people of the remote areas were

commitment of political parties to

bring transparency and accountabil-

people to make writ petitions against

any political party if it lacked transpar-

ency, he observed.
There were laws to hold loan and

Debapriya underlined the need for

A scope should be created for the

deprived of the benefits.

He said the country developed in

Debapriya Bhattacharya in his

He also emphasised on the

The parliamentary standing

Amir Khosru Mahmud

the same time.

the faith in each other.

going on there.

independence.

ity in them.

decisions.

"We want to see honest and He observed that a cross-section competent persons in parliament of people should be invited to discuss who would speak in favour of econand participate in the process of policymaking.

omy, society and people," he said. As long as people are hungry, the He said corruption and corrupt message of such dialogue to be persons in different institutions 'good' and 'honest' would come to no should be identified and checked at use, Chittagong District Bar Association President advocate

Khairul Islam said. A sound economy is badly needed to have a sound democracy,

Dr Imran Hossain, professor of history at CU, said, "Many of our representatives in parliament have little or no knowledge about law,

society, state machinery, local government and other aspects." Urging the CPD to come up with a 'project for honest voters and candidates', Prof Zia Haider of CU Fine Arts Department said, "We will be able to get a fair and credible election

if we can have honest voters and candidates. Senior lawyer and leader of Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad Rana Das Gupta said ill treatment to the minority community is the main cause of

the Hindu minority's leaving the

country. "Now the percentage of religious minority in the country is only 10.7, whereas it was 20.6 in 1971. This shows that our claim to have achieved a democracy is not at all true and none of us ever investigated the reason why the minority people

left their own country in such a large number." he said. Emphasising the need for registration and annual audit of political parties and introduction of voter ID cards for free, fair and credible elecchapter engineer Ali Ashraf said,

tions. President of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, Chittagong "Mysteriously the two major parties are not sincere about the voter ID

He suggested live telecast of parliament proceedings and urged all to launch a hatred-campaign against the politicians who are engaged in

bill defaulters and black money mischief in the name of politics. holders back from contesting parlia-"The martial law governments mentary elections. But, the EC has have weakened the politics and failed in implementing the rules. politicians of Bangladesh," commo-Editor of Dainik Prothom Alo dore (rtd) AZ Nizam said, adding that Matiur Rahman in his speech

referred to the present state of democracy and development of the the armed forces should be kept out of politics. country and said the political parties Criticising the extra-judicial kill-

ings by Rab, Ward Commissioner Rehana Kabir Ranu Said. "When we talk about the rule of law, we can't accept such killings.

Architect Zarina Hossain said all the development initiatives should involve the larger section of the society

'State mafia' in collaboration with 'street mafia' is now running the country, Chittagong district General Secretary of CPB Shah Alam said, adding, "Hartal and people's agitation must prevail as long as autocratic governments exist in the name of

Jatiya Party (Ershad) leader Mozharul Hague Shah Chowdhury said the politicians of the country are now held hostages in the hands of

"How can we find democratic practice when there is no democracy in the political parties including that of questioned Swapan Sen, Chittagong city vice-president of Gonotantri Party.

Among the other participants were Delwar Majumder, Nurul Alam Masud, Abdul Awal, Sanjib Barua, Dr AQM Sirajul Islam, Sonjoy Acharya, Montosh Barua, Sultan Mahmud, MA Latif Brigid Diaz Kofil Uddin Jahangir Alam, advocate Emdadul Islam, Nurul Islam, Prof Mohammad Sirajul Haque, Monwara Begum Moni, Sumima Yasmin Sumi, Mahbub Ali, Joinul Abedin, Shamsul Alam Tagore, Nurul Alam Manik, Shamsul Hossain, Durjoy Dey, Akinchon Barua, Dr Gazi Saleh Uddin, Nazimul Haque, Shahriar Hasan, Shahnewaz, Zobaer Shikder, advocate Abu Hanif, Hannana Begum, M Salehuddin, Abul Kalam Azad, MA Naser, Rezaul Karim, Nurun Nahar Begum, Sadia Musa, advocate Ratan Kumar Roy, SM Jamal Uddin, Rashedul Amin, Omar Kaiser, Akhter Kabir Chowdhury, Noman Faruqi, Nazmul Huda, Sheikh Iftekhar Shahed Anam. Golam Haider Mintoo, Saimul, Shahidul Alam, Adnan Mannan,

Israeli leader

Gaza. Israel has largely held the Hamas political chief, Syrian-based Khaled Mashaal, responsible for the soldier's

kidnapping. Israel has said it would not engage in direct negotiations with the Islamic militant group, but Israeli officials said they were open to an Egyptian compromise proposal that would free Shalit without conditions and have Israel free some Palestinian prisoners later as a goodwill

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regev said Hamas must release he soldier and halt rocket attacks on aelas a first step

"Anyone who ignores these two fundamental issues cannot hope to solve

his crisis," he said. Cabinet minister Ofir Pines-Paz said Israel hopes to go beyond those two immediate objectives and eventually

negotiate a comprehensive truce. We have a great interest in changing the rules of the game," Pines-Paz, a member of the moderate Labor Party and of Israel's Security Cabinet, told Israel

"If we reach a situation in which there are no kidnappings, no rockets, no tunnels, no raids into our territory, certainly Israel will have to reciprocate.

The latest round of fighting, which claimed the lives of 35 Palestinians and an Israeli soldier over the past three days. began two weeks ago with a crossborder raid in which Hamas-allied militants seized the Israeli soldier and killed two of his comrades after sneaking through a tunnel.

Troops initially entered southern Gaza where Shalit is being held. Hamas said Friday he is being treated well, and a senior Israeli defense official, Amos Gilad. said Saturday that Israel also believes the soldier is alive.

On Saturday morning, dozens of tanks drove toward Gaza City, taking up positions about 500 yards from the outlying neighborhoods of Shajaiyeh and Zeitun. The army said forces were sent to the area to search for tunnels being dug by militants for possible attacks on

The air force fired missiles at militants gathered at the outskirts of Shaiaiveh. Two Hamas gunmen were killed in the area, hospital officials said. Also, a Palestinian died of wounds sustained in earlierfighting.

The majority of the Palestinians killed since Thursday were gunmen, but one of the civilians killed was an 11-year-old boy. Also, 65 US citizens, many of Palestinian origin, left Gaza in a convoy escorted by US consular officials. The visitors had asked to leave Gaza because of the fighting.

In northern Gaza, troops pulled back from Beit Lahiya on Saturday. Tanks driving through narrow streets had shorn off outer walls of buildings, torn down electricity polls, carved up asphalt. Facades of buildings were marked by bulletholes.

Bulldozers had torn up fields near homes, knocking down trees and greenhouses. As Palestinians picked through the wreckage Saturday, removing a dead goat from one heavily damaged dwelling, a UN truck arrived with drinking water.

Palestinian farmer Aref Sultan, 45 used the brief lull to move his wife and seven children, ages 2-16, to a relative's home further away from the fighting. Sultan said he and his family had been pinned down in their Beit Lahiya home during the past day. "We went through 24 hours of terror," he said as the family oaded food and clothing into a pickup truck. "Shots were coming from all directions ... and the tanks were approaching our house. The children. and especially my 2-year-old son Samir,

were screaming all the time." Israeli military commentators have said it would be difficult for Israel to extract the soldier in a military operation. However, Israel also does not want to be seen as cutting a deal with Hamas.

indefinite strike on last Thursday.

sations of non-government teachers and employees under the platform of Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Jote led by Prof Shariful Islam will also go for indefinite strike from today.

employees decided to keep the HSC practical examinations out of the

allowance and implementation of various Unesco and ILO recommen-

07 was passed without allocating fund for meeting their demands, they decided to go for stern action

All the non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas of 26 districts were kept under lock and key while most of the educational institutes in other districts remained closed on the first day of their indefinite strike yesterday, Kazi Faruque, chief coordinator and convenor of the Front said at a press conference.

Oikya Parishad Convenor Prof MA Awal Siddique said they had already formed upazila and district committees that will hold rallies and bring out processions on two days in every week to press home their 17-point demand

The district and upazila committees will also arrange views exchange meetings with guardians, journalists members of managing committees of the educational institutions and all other professionals to draw support from them, he said.

Oikya Jote President Prof M Shariful Islam urged all teachers and employees of non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas to observe indefinite strike at the educa-

Selim Bhuiyan, chief co-ordinator of another faction of Oikya Jote, demanded resignation of the finance

About five lakh teachers and employees of over 30,000 nongovernment schools, colleges and madrasas earlier observed different programmes including demonstrations, rallies, work abstention and hunger strike from June 9 to press home their demands

Rejoinder, our reply

authority in Bangladesh," it said, adding, "The Chairman visited Abu **OUR REPLY**

The Daily Star sent the report twice for BTRC chairman's comment. He

In the rejoinder, the BTRC has completely failed to respond to the points raised in our report. We said nothing in our report about the bidding process of issuing the sixth mobile licence to Warid. Therefore, the BTRC claim of being "very open and transparent" is irrelevant.

The BTRC has not answered why it issued the mobile phone operating licence to the Abu Dhabibased Warid Telecom International LLC in the first place. It has created the only-of-its-kind multifarious telecoms regulatory crisis in Bangladesh as the regulator has granted a unique immunity to

No aggrieved subscriber can lodge any complaint with the BTRC against the Abu Dhabi-based Warid Telecom International LLC as the operator is located beyond the territory of Bangladesh. Similarly, neither the BTRC nor the Bangladesh government can legally touch this UAE company in the event of any possible non-

Since the mobile phone operating licence has been issued to Warid Telecom International LLC of Abu Dhabi, the BTRC is bound to issue the frequency only to the licence holder But it has issued the frequencies to "Warid Telecom International, Apartment No. 4/A, 12 Park Road, Baridhara, Dhaka" This entity neither has the said licence nor did it even exist at that time.

telecoms law, the SMC is merely a recommending body that functions as per BTRC directives.

Another question is why should the BTRC chairman visit Abu Dhabi at the invitation of the higher education and scientific research minister of that country. The answer is, according to the Warid Telecom's website, www.waridtel.com, its Chairman Sheikh Nahavan Mabarak Al Nahayan is also the

Cricket WC 2011

Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Mav won beating a joint bid from Australia and executive board made it official in

years in an effort to make the open-

Abbas Zaidi, releasing details of the mega event, said, "Pakistan and Sri Lanka will stage the semifinals." India will host 22 matches with

Pakistan staging 16, Sri Lanka nine "It was a unanimous decision

a rotational basis "said 7aidi

hosted the event in 1992 before it returned to the sub-continent with ia and Sri Lanka stag ing the 1996 event.

in the West Indies.

UAE education minister. We stand by our report

FROM PAGE 1 the rights to hold the World Cup, New Zealand. However, the ICC

AFP adds from Karachi, Pakistan Cricket Board director

and Bangladesh six, he said.

initiated in 1975 with England hosting the first event. England also played host in 1979 and 1983 before Pakistan and India jointly staged the event in 1987

this week's meeting. "This is a big responsibility for us now to upgrade the accommodation

and other facilities in the next four ing ceremony a memorable one, Asghar said.

and since Pakistan hosted the 1996 World Cup final it was India's turn on

The quadrennial World Cup was

Australia and New Zealand cosponsible for weapons smuggling,

The 2007 World Cup will be held ciliation plan announced by premier

Hasına

start attending office from Sunday (today), a limited number of visitors will be allowed to meet him as per doctor's advice.

make arrangement on priority basis for the opposition leader's meeting with the president," he said.

FROM PAGE 16 Nazrul Islam of Habiganj and Imran

Mosque near Jhalakathi District Jail, said that the arrestees, who were wearing similar dresses, came to the town Friday morning and took shelter

at the mosque. Their movements being suspicious, the mosque authority informed Jhalakathi Public Prosecutor Advocate Haider Hossain, who later talked to them. As they failed to give

satisfactory information about their identities and activities, he contacted the police who arrested them at about 8:00pm. Some Islamic religious books

Police arrested Kazi Nazrul Islam

of Barisal yesterday morning, when he came to meet them. Showing them arrested under

section 54 of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), police sent them to Jhalakathi Sadar Upazila magistrate court yesterday with a seven-day remand prayer for further interrogation. But the hearing could not be held, as the first class magistrate empowered to hear remand was on leave.

arrestees claimed that they are followers of 'Kaderia Tarika' and their 'Pir"(religious master) is Yusuf Aktari of Puniab. Golam Sabbir said that he had

visited Bangladesh twice earlier and came from Pakistan with a valid passport and visa adding that he had been working with the Tablia and Dawat in Dhaka, Chittagong, Syedpur and Rangamati for the last two and a half months.

He, however, failed to show the Star Likhon had been trying to original passport, claiming that it has

Belal Afsar said that he came to been staying here since then.

Draft voter list

3 US soldiers

of 10 women and children and an elderly man in a wheelchair, "senior

officers failed to follow up on inaccura-

cies and inconsistencies in the initial

reporting of the incident that should

senior staff of the Second Marine

Division commanded at the time by

Major General Richard Huck and the

Second Regimental Combat Team

headed by Colonel Stephen Davis and

"recommended unspecified disciplin-

they would be among the most senior

American military personnel punished

since the Iraq war began in March

had "completed his review of the

investigation conducted by Major

General Eldon Bargewell into report-

it related to circumstances surround-

ing the deaths of 24 Iragis in Haditha

Bargewell was asked to determine

how the Haditha killings were reported

up the chain of command and to see if

there had been a cover-up.

The report said Chiarelli has rec-

ommended that all US forces in Iraq

must receive more counterinsurgency

training, first in the United States

before deploying and again in Iraq.
The US Marine Corps initially

reported that 15 civilians and a marine

were killed by a roadside explosion in

But the military opened an investi-

gation after Time magazine reported in

March that witnesses, backed by a

videotape of the scene, said the

marines went on a rampage after a

roadside explosion killed one of their

to house deliberately killing men,

women and children. Five unarmed

men in a taxi near the site of the bomb-

ing also were killed, according to

On Saturday the US military said

accounts leaked to the press.

The marines allegedly went house

comrades.

ng, training and command climate as

On Friday the military said Chiarelli

If the officers were to be disciplined

ary action for some officers.'

2003, the report added.

on November 19, 2005'

The report said Chiarelli faulted

FROM PAGE 16

have raised questions."

list to allow the people to make sure their names were correctly registered and no fake names were included," he told The

Former election commissioner Justice Naimuddin Ahmed yesterday told reporters, "Provisions in the Electoral Rolls Ordinance 1982 and Electoral Rolls Rules 1982 clearly state that a draft list must be

voter list will become illegal unless a draft roll is published,"he added.

Rejecting the EC's daim regarding the amendment, he said provisions in the existing laws already provide for revising the voter list by visiting door to door.

stir over the voter listing by amending a provision that is not even applicable at this stage," he added, referring to the EC's controversial move to prepare a fresh voter list ignoring the opinion of the two election commissioners and the High Court's Anotherformer election commissioner.

AK Mohammad Ali, echoed Naimuddin's views and said the EC is obliged to comply with the existing laws.

"But in the name of preparing the voter. list, it's only violating the electoral laws and

Supreme Court's verdict "he observed Regarding the amendment, Justice Rouf said, "It's nothing major or serious.

The main objective, which is to enrol as

many people as possible, remains the The EC Secretariat in a press release on Friday evening announced that the

Commission has decided to go house to houseforrevising the existing voter list. The EC will, however, continue the method that requires people to be at the

offices of the EC officials to apply for being

on the list or deleting names of fake voters. It has also decided to loosen the requirements where the applicants had to submit a raft of documents along with the application forms, read the circular.

The amendment says "notwithstanding anything contained in these Rules for the inclusion of name in an electoral roll for an electoral area prepared under the Ordinance, the Commission may, if it deems necessary, relax any requirements undersub-rule (1) of rule 20."

Those who will still be left out of the list during the revision task will have to turn up at the offices of the EC officials and apply with a set of required documents.

Instead of a draft list based on the updates, the EC will rather publish a supplementary voter list containing the new names. Besides, under the current procedure, no fresh list will be made after deletion, correction and inclusion of

Experts believe it will make the existing voter list look 'disgusting' with names of fake voters and the people who have died

Justice Naimuddin suggested that the EC follow the correct procedure to save the nation from a possible crisis ahead of the

next parliamentary election About the procedure in progress, the

former election commissioner said it should come after the revision job. "It seems the Election Commission has put he cart before the horse, "he added.

Mohammad Ali said a flawless voter list cannot be prepared without publishing a draft voter list in accordance with the laws.

The electoral laws clearly say that a draft voter list shall be published, inviting claims and objections." he said adding that the revising authorities are supposed to dispose of the complaints.

The officials at the EC Secretariat however said there is no scope to publish a draft voter list following the rule 20 of the Electoral Rolls Rules, 1982. "We will publish a supplementary voter

list containing the new names. And to include the new names, we will stay alert so that no fake name is included," a senior EC official said.

soon issue a circular relaxing the requirements regarding application for being on hevoterlist.

Currently, applicants have to submit a including theirnames in the voterlist.

tion officers to recruit assistant officials for door-to-door visits. They however could notsayhowmanyofficials will be recruited. The field level election officials said the

task for updating the voter list is more complicated than preparing a fresh one. "So, a huge number of manpower will be needed for the task," a district election officertoldThe DailyStar.

Supreme Court. The EC Secretariat officials said they will soon assess the number of assistant officials needed and directed the field level

registration officers to appoint them in a The EC Secretariat however has yet to

orepare the budget for the updating task.

various problems they used to face in discharging their duties. The IGP assured them of solving the probems in phases

wards of the police in foreign countries feel proud to be children, wives or husbands of police personnel.

"We must overcome the image crisis and regain the image of the police," the IGP was quoted as lling the meeting.

He asked the police officials to ensure accountability and transparency in discharging their duties.

coal resources in the northern region The government also aims at pushing

Of these reserves, only Asia Energy is set to tap the full potential of Phulbari mine having 572 million tonnes of coal equivalent to 13 tcf gas.

Sources said the new policy being framed through rigorous revisions and discussions among experts will allow open-pit or underground coal mining in the country based on geological condition at the mine site, and the mine's economic, environmental and social impacts.

It proposes a variable royalty rate of 16 percent on coal exported at \$50 per tonne, the current average international price. All present coal deals give Bangladesh a meagre 6 percent royalty irrespective of coal price in global market. This rate was fixed decades ago when coal and other energy prices were very low.

The government is likely to apply this policy to the existing mining projects as much as possible. And this night make Asia Energy feel 'uncomfortable' sources mentioned. The company is all set to develop

Phulbari coal mine and is now awaiting government approval of its scheme. It bought the relevant coal deal from international coal giant BHP, with whom the government had struck an unsolicited deal and has already nvested over \$20 million. Local experts have been hammerng on increasing the royalty arguing

that in the past, coal was very cheap its price being less than \$25 per tonne- while the price has now gone up to \$50 per tonne with a continued upward trend The country has one underground coal mine in operation in Barapukuria recoverable reserve 390 million

tonnes) at present, developed by a

consortium of Chinese companies at a staggering cost of Tk 1,600 crore, now owned by the government. Production capacity of this mine has halved due to incompetence of the developer. But the mine's development cost doubled due to corruption and kickbacks shared by a ruling party lawmaker in the early nineties, the local agent of the Chinese companies-Hosaf group-- and the developers

The previous BNP government had also awarded Khalaspir coal mine area to Hosaf group --owned by the brother of a BNP lawmaker--on the basis of an unsolicited negotiation.

concerned, sources allege.

Moreover, with over 1,000 million connes of reserve in place, the country's biggest coal zone is located in Jamalpur. There are four other untapped mining zones in Barapukuria and several more in the northern region of the country. The new policy demands that future awarding of contracts for any of these coal blocks will be given in a transparent way through competitive bids. In addition, the policy ambitiously

targets achieving 10 to 15 million tonnes of coal production annually by

2016 and 30 million tonnes by 2026.

tion by 2015. developers sell one third of the coal

"The proposed quotas, which would limit the quantity of coal export initially to two tonnes for every one tonne sold domestically and progressively to one tonne for every tonne sold locally, could create a potentially serious burden on the financing of coal mining," said an expert requesting anonymity. "Such a restriction could render a mine sub-economic, especially as the policy proposes that coal for local use be sold in taka while the

enormous capital cost of mining is mostly in foreign currency." On the issue of royalty, the foreign expert argues that 6 percent royalty is common around the world. A higher royalty will be viewed as 'extremely

unattractive'. "The draft coal policy proposes mandatory power stations at mine sites which is potentially another serious disincentive. It obviously makes sense for Bangladesh to start burning its coal to generate electricity but mining companies are not usually the best operators of power plants and they might be reluctant to make the additional commitment," said the

lenge of mining coal in Bangladesh, the coal mine developed by Rio Tinto and BP Coal (British Petroleum) in Indonesia at a total cost of \$525 million (1991 rate) had to remove only 3.00.000 cubic metres of overburden to produce first coal, whereas the mine that UK-based Asia Energy is developing at Phulbari will have to remove 160,000,000 cubic metres of overburden (over 500 times as much) before any coal can be mined," he added. "Asia Energy is in fact the only

foreign, privately financed company

All roads lead to Berlin

FROM PAGE 1

who retires after the match with his reputation as one of the game's greats long-assured but who craves the ultimate leaving gift. Italy go into the game under the

cloud of the domestic match-fixing

scandal which might yet see half the

squad playing second division football next month but which has also helped mould them into a formidably spirited unit. They are also seeking revenge for the agony of the 2000 European Championship when the title seemed theirs before France

snatched an injury-time equaliser then won it with David Trezeguet's golden goal. While Zidane's departure seems to demand victory, Italy can point to a similarly neat and equally deserved last page scenario that would see their superb captain Fabio Cannavaro lifting the trophy

on the occasion of his 100th interna tional appearance. However, all the historical twists will be forgotten today when the destination of the trophy will be decided not according to some grand design but more likely by a moment of inspiration or a fatal loss

of concentration.

It seems certain that the match will be in keeping with the rest of the tournament as a cagey affair with little likelihood of a feast of goals. That was certainly the case in their last World Cup meeting in the 1998 quarterfinals when France

advanced on penalties after a

goalless draw. Five of the side who played in that game and went on to win the trophy and then beat the Italians again in the Euro 2000 final are in the squad -- Fabien Barthez, Lilian Thuram, Trezeguet, Henry and Zidane -- but only Cannavaro and Alessandro Del Piero survive for

was one of the reasons so few people gave them a chance in this competition but they have countered the critics with performances of increasing confidence as they dispatched Spain, Brazil and

The grey edge to the French side

Italy too have every reason to

back themselves. Their superb defence, fighting spirit and a coolness in front of goal that has produced 10 different scorers of 11 goals, took them deservedly past Australia, Ukraine and Germany.

Both sides are littered with

have experienced players highly qualified in the art of stopping such nerformers. Can Zidane possibly match his two-goal heroics of the 1998 final, can Henry deliver one of his special moments or can new boy Franck

Ribery complete a dream tournament by scoring in the final? Conversely can Luca Toni follow in the footsteps of 1982 hero Paolo Rossi, will Andrea Pirlo net one his sumptuous freekicks or could the rampaging Gianluca Zambrotta charge his way into the history

books?

If not, there is always penalties. Woman killed FROM PAGE 16

autopsy Rina's mother Rehana Begum filed a murder case with Uttara Police Station yesterday accusing

five including Likhon and Azizur

tant in the pathology section of the

Police arrested Azizur, an assis-

hand, said morgue sources after the

hospital. Aziz saw Likhon locking the Ultra-sonogram room on Friday around 3:00pm and left the hospital handing over the keys at the hospital reception, the investigation officer (IO) Sub-Inspector Abdul Bari told The Daily Star quoting Aziz.

earlier but claimed he did not know if Rina was there when Likhon left. The hospital authorities later opened the door and found Rina lying on the floor. Meanwhile, Rina's uncle

Mobarak Hossain told The Daily

He had seen Rina in the room

persuade Rina to marry him for a while to which Rina and her family objected. "He then used to irritate her in different ways," he added.

Chiarelli's review report was being studied by General George Casey, the chief of the US-led coalition forces in The US military is battling a series

of other abuse allegations in the last few months - the most recent being the alleged rape and murder of an Iragi woman in March. The military meanwhile announced the capture of two men it said were leaders of the Iraqi insur-

gency but did not identify them. One was captured Friday in Baghdad's Shiite stronghold of Sadr City after a running gunbattle with militias loval to firebrand Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr and the other was nabbed south of Baghdad on

Residents of Sadr City and several

Internet bulletin board suggested that the man captured in Sadr City may have been a shadowy and brutal militiaman called Abu Deraa, who is accused of kidnapping and killing Sunnis in the ongoing sectarian bloodshed ravaging the country.

movement, said Friday that US forces had also detained Adnan al-Oneibi, a Shiite imam from Mahawil, south of Baghdad. The military only said it had captured an insurgent leader in Babil province on Thursday believed "re-

including surface-to-air anti-aircraft missiles (and) espionage activities for On Saturday Iraq freed at least 368 detainees as part of a national recon-

FROM PAGE 1 He said although the president will

"In the circumstances, we will potential match-winners and both

Pakistanis held

Akhtar of Noakhali Lal Mia. Khadem of the Gorosthan

stickers and household utensils were seized from them.

During primary interrogation, the

Bangladesh 18 years ago and had

DailyStarlastnight.

oublished before a final list." "The entire procedure for revising the

"The Commission has again caused a

NEXTSTEPOFEC Officials at the EC Secretariat said they will

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 for

Besides, the EC will direct the registra-

About 3 lakh manpower had been recruited to prepare the controversial fresh voter list at a cost of Tk 43 crore. The list eventually was declared illegal by the

New IGP warns FROM PAGE 1 police officials apprised the IGP of

Referring to image crisis of the police, the IGP said members of a police family feel embarrassed in ntroducing themselves because of this problem while spouses and

Export to yield

up coal- fired power from zero now to 20 percent of the total power genera-The policy makes it mandatory that

production in home market and export the rest in the initial period and half afterwards. A foreign coal expert criticised the policy saying that it will not attract foreign and private investment in coal

"To illustrate the scale of the chal-

that has so far gone all the way to getting ready to mine coal under the existing legislation in the relatively testing environment in Bangladesh. Why assume, therefore, that other mining companies will come to Bangladesh if the terms and conditions are made more onerous and less attractive?" he questioned.

Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Jote, a platform of seven BNP-backed organi-

Seven ruling BNP-backed organi-

However, the teachers and

scope of their strike. The main demand of the four platforms of non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas is providing 100 per cent of their basic salary from the government coffers while their other demands include increase of house rent and medical

As the budget for fiscal year 2006programme like indefinite strike.