# NEWS

# **Opposition parties**

Leaders from both the ruling and opposition parties, however, agreed on the call for resignation of the chief election commissioner (CEC) and other commissioners to clear the way for a credible election.

Criticising the civil society's initiative. Saifur Rahman said,"They (Nagorik Committee) have no work. they deliver speeches for free and hold meetings in the air conditioned rooms.

Speaking with the reporters, he termed the committee a 'selfappointed body'

KM Obaidur Rahman said they also want honest and qualified people as candidates in the upcoming elec tion. "If the honest and competent persons get involved in politics and join a party then they could be nominated for the election," he told The Daily Star.

Referring to the finance and law ministers' speeches on CEC, he said. "I don't know why he (CEC) is carrying on. He should make an immediate exi when both the ruling and opposition parties have already voiced disapproval of his continuing.

Presidium Member of Awami League (AL) Tofail Ahmed said they have been calling for electoral reforms since last year to ensure a free and fair election. "We want politics to be free of corruption and black money," he told The Daily Star. He said the demand for resignation

of the CEC and two commissioners has become a popular demand and they should quit immediately. "By placing the recommendations

them not to confirm appointment of

lawyers would meet again on

Saturday to plan launching a fresh

movement on the issue involving other

sections of people like civil society

judges including Faizee triggered

resentment among lawyers and they

described this as the worst example of

staged demonstrations on the SC

premises that included boycott of the

newly appointed judges' benches. The

SCBA also demonstrated at Faizee's

court and on the entryway of the chief

government lawyers took a stand

against the SCBA movement. On May

23 last year, the HC issued a rule

banning agitation on the premises of

had sent a letter to the president on

May last year urging him to resolve the

wrote to the law ministry to take neces-

sarv steps but the ministry is vet to do

After a month, the president's office

boycott of the courts.

controversy.

This led to a crisis when pro-

iustice demanding Faizee's removal.

politicisation of the judiciary.

Appointment of the 19 additional

Under the SCBA platform, lawyers

Seeking anonymity, he said the

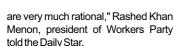
FROM PAGE 1

many of them.

members.

the citizens' committee has proved to the people that our reform proposals

SC Bar mulls



Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said finally, the intellectuals have voiced their opinions favouring electoral reforms. "I think the recommendations are necessary but not vet sufficient." he told The Daily

"The committee should have asked for keeping the war criminals and religious fanatics out of politics."

he added Jatiya Party (JP-Manju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Maniu said the people should resist the corrupt persons in the next election. "We do need reforms. But things cannot be changed over-

night." he said, urging the CEC and two commissioners to stand down for the sake of an acceptable election. The Nagorik Committee recom-

mendations relate to electoral and political reforms, resignation of the CEC and two other commissioners. empowerment of the EC to cancel candidature of a candidate at any stage of the election, preparation of a computerised database of voters, publication of constituency-wise voter list, registration of political parties,

oath as judge. Although Chittagond

University issued a provisional LLB

certificate to him, its syndicate later

decided against issuing the original

certificate because of flaws in his

marks-sheet. The decision is still valid

to be 1965 when he applied for

legal practice, the SCBA pointed out.

Enayetur Rahim observed that the

Faizee's year of birth as in his SSC

execution of loan-default laws strictly for the candidates and disposing of the electoral disputes within 180 days of an election.

the letter maintains.



Corporation (AEC) is now preparing a 30-year open pit coal mining plan for Phulbari Project that would require relocating around 4,70,000 people including 50,000 indigenous people from about 100 surrounding villages and parts of Phulbari town.

However, AEC sources claimed hat the project would relocate only 40,000 people including 2,000 ndigenous people from four affected upazilas under Dinajpur.

AFC requires 5,900 hectares of and for its proposed open pit mining, which most Bangladeshi energy experts consider socially and environmentally hazardous

According to AEC sources, Phulbari reservoir has an estimated 572 million tons of high quality coal -enough to generate 8,000 megawatts of power for 30 years.

Phulbari Protection Committee has been campaigning against the open-pit mining project in Phulbari for over one and a half years.

## WB to provide FROM PAGE 16

Development Association (IDA) credits. The plant will be state-of-the-art

with two 150MW simple-cycle and gas turbines. Bangladesh suffers from an

acute short supply of power at peak hours. To improve the situation, an estimated investment, both public and private, of Tk 700 billion or roughly \$10 billion per year, will be needed over the next 10 years.

A recent World Bank Mission concluded discussion with the government on the SPPP components that include environmental and social impact assessments of the project.

The power plant will be owned by 21. recruitment of over one lakh assistant officials will have to be the BPDB-owned Electricity Generating Company of completed by July 20. Bangladesh (EGCB), a new corporatised entity, set up for the pur-Secretariat yesterday claimed pose of owning and operating new that the field level officials are not and existing power stations. facing any difficulty in recruiting the assistant officers for the task.

EGCB will also own another certificate is 1963 but he mentioned it 240MW plant to be built at Siddhirganj under a parallel Asian Bangladesh Bar Council certificate for Development Bank project. The project also includes gas and power transmission components.

The power transmission line will be owned and operated by the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB). The SPPP will be run by an Operations & Maintenance (O&M) contractor hired from the international market for six years

The O&M contractor will help strengthen EGCB institutionally over the period in addition to the core O&M responsibilities. In the past, the World Bank

supported private generation capacity through the partial risk guarantee provided as part of the financing of the Haripur power project, now owned and operated by Globeleg

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a private sector arm of the World Bank Group, is discussing with the government to serve as transaction advisor for a new private power project in

# Voter list updating

DHAKA

complexity.

formed ten coordination commit-

tees headed by zonal executive

officers of the DCC to avoid any

"The capital is a very con-

nigration is very high. We might

face some problems in updating

the voter list here," the EC secre-

Chief Election Commissioner

(CEC) MA Aziz will hold a meeting

zonal officers today at his office.

FROM PAGE 1

registration officers (ARO), 83 district and over 500 upazila election officers for miscellaneous purposes.

Another significant amount of money was spent for printing forms of voters' registration and deletion of names distributed since July 1

"The allocated money has gested area where the rate of already been spent for the task since July 1 and new allocation is needed to begin the task for updating the voter list by visiting tary said. door to door after July 20," a district election officer appointed as registration officer told The with the DCC chief executives and Daily Star on condition of anonymity

distributed from the commis-

sioner's office of ward-14 under

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC),

but only 80 forms were submitted

Similarly, 200 forms were

distributed in ward-2 at Pallabi but

only four were submitted, while

400 forms were distributed in

ward-3 of which 15 were submit-

Many feared that since the

Meanwhile, before the 21-day

The secretary of the EC

"I have inquired about the

situation of at least 20 districts,

but no one informed me of any

difficulty regarding the recruit-

ment," Abdur Rashid told report-

ers yesterday. "I hope the recruit-

ment will be completed in time and

the task for updating the voter list

door-to-door visit begins on July

election officials will now visit door

to door for updating the voter list.

rest of the forms will go wasted.

in the last 18 days.

ted.

The EC secretary said the The expenditure since July 1, meeting will find out the possible however, will exceed the allocadifficulties and initiatives will be tion if the remuneration of the taken to resolve those difficulties. AROs working for the last 18 days Officials at the EC Secretariat, is calculated

however, said the same problems The amount spent for voters' might also arise in most metropoliforms has also been wasted as tan cities, Narayanganj and Savar. those forms were never returned. A total of 1,400 forms for inclu-

sion and deletion of names were Profit repatriation

FROM PAGE 1 Renowned economist and executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya deducts from this trend that the country must try to increase overall FDI inflow, especially in the manufacturing sector to offset any negative impact on the balance of payment.

"Higher investment in the manufacturing sector will also increase employment opportunities," he added

"So far, Bangladesh could not facilitate investment in the manufacturing sector as fast and smoothly as it did in the service sector,' Debapriya said. Some major investments in the manufacturing sector recently faced stagnation due to government indecision but the authorities were prompt as regards service sector like telecom, he

added. Bangladesh Bank should strengthen its monitoring to see i the outflow of money is genuine.

Research Director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Zaid Bakht however does not discourage investment in the service sector. "It has a linkage effect on the econ-

omy," he said. "But the government should take measures to slash the profit outflow. For instance, it could make it mandatory for the investors to float shares in the stock markets."

Bakht went on, "Besides, the government should now scrutinise the new FDI proposals more intensely and encourage those which are most needed for the development of the country.



Commissioner of Police K.P.

## Jagannath FROM PAGE 16

Shibir cadres clashed with BCL. SPECIAL FOCUS ON JCD and a number of left-leaning students' organisations on the Considering possible difficulties campus Monday. Fifteen more were in the capital in getting the task injured in another clash on Sunday. done, the EC Secretariat has

The main opposition Awami League (AL) backed students' organisation BCL's Jagannath University unit, Dhaka City South BCL and Bangladesh Chhatra Union brought out processions outside the campus chanting anti-ICS slogans

BCL central committee also organised an anti-ICS demonstration on Dhaka University campus vesterday morning.

Sub-inspector Aslam of Kotwali Police Station filed a case in connection with the Monday's clash.

Shibir leader Mohibullah filed have to activate massive ground another case with the same police forces into Lebanon but if we have to station against 12 BCL leaders and do this, we will. We are not ruling it activists of Jagannath University out," Moshe Kaplinsky, Israel's unit. The BCL leaders are Zahid deputy army chief, told Israel Radio. Sohag, Imon, Arif, Rony, Saikat, Jewel, Jahir, Musa, Sumon, within a few weeks, adding that Faruque and Shamim. Israel needed more time to com-

The university authorities in an urgent meeting on Monday decided to suspend classes until July 20. Sources in the administration said it might not be possible to reopen the university on the schedule date.

The seven-member probe committee on the Monday's incident, headed by the Registrar Abu Hossain Siddigui, was asked to submit its report within 10 days.

"The committee has started its believed the army's attacks on Lebanon were justified. work today [yesterday]," said Vicechancellor Prof Sirajul Islam Khan. Lebanon -- some by road to Syria,

He said, "We have called for a teachers' meeting tomorrow to assess the situation and to decide when to reopen the campus." He however said he was hopeful that they would be able to reopen the university on Saturday.

### Oil tanker FROM PAGE 16

formed with teachers of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) is likely to submit its report today. The members of the BUET expert committee visited the ship, committee sources said.

The investigation committees formed by the ministry and the BSC expressed almost similar views regarding the causes behind the fire. The committee observed violation of international regulations and handling of equipment by unskilled operators were to blame for the accident.

n a military offensive in the Gaza They suspect while cleaning the Strip after Palestinian militants ship's tanks, sparks from the electric captured another soldier on June blower might have caused the fire 25 and explosion which killed three people on board. for an immediate ceasefire, but

The BSC probe committee has world powers said any solution to already submitted its report. The the crisis must include the release of three-member committee headed the two soldiers. Israel also wants by General Manger [workshop] Hezbollah to disarm in line with Saidullah found gross irregularities in recruiting people by a section of resolutions. BSC officials.

Israel refuses fragile to pressure Hezbollah to

Israeli jails

soldiers, according to medics and vield to such demands. police, while more than 480 people The Shia Muslim guerrilla group have been wounded. wants to swap the two soldiers with Israeli aircraft also struck Beirut's Lebanese and Arab prisoners in

southern suburbs and an army position overlooking the capital as well as two other Lebanese towns. After battering the country from

"At this stage we do not think we

He said the offensive would end

"The fighting in Lebanon will end

within a few weeks. We will not take

A poll in the mass circulation

Yedioth Ahronoth daily showed a

vast majority of Israelis supported

the offensive in Lebanon and many

believed the Hezbollah leader

It showed 86 percent of Israelis

Thousands of foreigners fled

safer areas to escape the violence.

Hezbollah, the guerrilla group,

which is backed by Syria and Iran

and is part of Lebanon's govern-

ment, seized two Israeli soldiers and

killed eight in a cross-border raid on

mostly civilians and inflicted the

heaviest destruction in Lebanon for

two decades, with attacks targeting

ports, roads, bridges, factories and

Hezbollah responded by attack-

ng a naval vessel off Beirut and

firing hundreds of rockets at north-

ern Israel, killing 24 people, 12 of

The Jewish state is also engaged

Lebanon has repeatedly called

a wave. The sea is coming, the sea

floor and soon the waves came in

and crashed into the first floor We

were there for about five minutes.

and we went up to the rooftop by

and 431 people injured across six

districts along Central and West

Java provinces, the social affairs

Most deaths were in

Pangandaran in West Java's Ciamis

Rustam Pakava, told AFP.

Sweden's foreign ministry said one

of its nationals had died. Some 150

were still missing while 52,700 had

been displaced by the surges of

water, the head of the ministry's

crisis centre, Rustam Pakaya, told

Most deaths were in the resort

Agus Sutrisno, head of disaster

relief in Ciamis, said more than

1,500 workers were combing

coastal areas for survivors and

people buried under the debris. We

lack heavy equipment such as

A 26-year-old Frenchwoman

previously thought dead was found

alive, the French ambassador said

in Jakarta, while Sweden's foreign

ministry said one of its nationals had

Hamed Abukhamiss, a 40-year-

old Saudi Arabian covered in

scratches and cuts, told AFP that he

had brought the bodies of his wife

and son to a hospital morgue him-

miracle," he told AFP, his voice

guivering as he choked back tears.

"I don't know how I'm alive -- it's a

The whereabouts of two

backhoes and electric chainsaws,

"We suspect there are still many

area of Pangandaran in West Java's

Ciamis district, about 270km south-

east of Jakarta. he said.

At least 343 people were killed

"We quickly ran to the second

is coming!" Martin recalled.

breaking through the ceiling."

miles) southeast of Jakarta.

The Israeli retaliation has killed

northern Israel on July 12.

petrol stations.

them civilians.

FROM PAGE 1

ministry said.

AFP.

bodies.

he said.

died in the disaster.

plete "very clear goals."

months," Kaplinsky said.

should be assassinated.

FROM PAGE 16

border

would pursue its offensive until the the air. Israel's army refused to rule two soldiers were returned and the out a massive ground invasion of Lebanese army controlled all of south Lebanon only six years after it south Lebanon ended its occupation of the area. The Lebanese army has largely

An Israeli government source said Israel may step up attacks in stayed out of the fighting, but its coming days, mindful its chief ally, positions have been repeatedly the United States, might not resist attacked by Israeli warplanes, indefinitely international pressure undermining Israel's call for it to help for a ceasefire. Washington has push back Hezbollah from the backed Israel's right to self-defence.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud

Olmert said on Monday his country

A UN team sent to Lebanon to seek a solution to the fighting said it had made a promising start but that more diplomacy was needed before there could be any optimism.

A Hezbollah spokesman told Reuters the group had "not received any suggestions for a ceasefire." British Prime Minister Tony Blair

and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged the UN Security Council to deploy a security force in Lebanon but the United States frowned on the idea.

French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin, speaking in Beirut after talks with the Lebanese government, called for an immediate truce on humanitarian grounds.

Balls of fire and clouds of smoke billowed from a Lebanese army position east of Beirut after repeated sraeli air strikes in the early hours of Tuesday and several soldiers were wounded, a security source said.

others seeking places on US and Loud explosions caused by raids European ships after Beirut's interon Beirut's southern suburbs were national airport was closed by Israeli also heard across the capital. fire. About 100,000 Lebanese have Previous strikes on the area had also fled their homes and moved to already demolished Hezbollah's headquarters. The fighting was triggered when

Hezbollah fired dozens of rockets at the Israeli city of Haifa on Monday and medics said a threestorey building collapsed, wounding two people. Israel closed Haifa's port

Another wave of rockets struck deep inside Israel, including the town of Afula 50km south of the border. One rocket landed next to a hospital in Safed, wounding six people.

## Buriganga

FROM PAGE 1 said. About the task force meeting, the minister said he would fix up a date for the meeting after consultation with the ministry officials.

With shortage of manpower the corporation could do little to prevent people from dumping rubbish into the river. DCC's Chief Conservancy Officer Commander Sohel Faruqui said, adding that at short distances along the river, DCC has placed rubbish containers where the local people are supposed to dispose of rubbish

He said dumping rubbish into the United Nations Security Council Buriganga is meant for grabbing the The Beirut government river in which a vested interest quarter is involved

FROM PAGE 1

The state minister further said the government is planning to buy power from private power generators at a easonable price.

between production and demand," he said

law ministry disregarded the presidency by ignoring its directive. "The law ministry did not take any step despite the president's directive only to protect party interest," he said.

## State minister

FROM PAGE 16 reduce power cuts in the country. He hoped the country would come out from existing power crisis in the next ten years. "We will also be able to give power to all the houses in the

the SC or any other courts as well as country by that time," he added. Amidst rising controversy about LLB certificate and age of Faizee, the then SCBA Secretary Enayetur Rahim

"Within a very short time we will be able to add around 400megawatts (MW) of power to the national grid which would help in reducing the gap

Bangladesh. 19 injured um for Energy Reporters

FROM PAGE 16 Kalaroa upazila in the afternoon. Immediately after the incident, BDR personnel have been put on

by visiting door to door will begin on July 21," he added. BSF kills 1

alert along the 138-km border of the

district. When contacted, Lt Col

Asadur Rahman Khan, command-

ing officer (CO) of 41 Rifles

Battalion, confirmed the incident.

Asked about the matter, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday declined to make any comment.

SCBA Secretary M Aminuddin yesterday said many of the Bar members have demanded legal steps to force the law ministry to implement the president's directive. "So, we are considering taking up the matter with the court."

Sources said the executive committee of the SCBA is scheduled to meet tomorrow and it will also discuss legal steps about Faizee controversy.

The SCBA in its letter to the president said Faizee did not have the original LLB certificate when he took

and two restaurants in the area

Violence between majority Shias

and Sunnis, dominant under

Saddam Hussein but now the

backbone of an insurgency against

the US-sponsored political process

has pushed Iraq to the brink of civil

rally behind his reconciliation plan

leaders have warned that mass

attacks against their community by

suspected Sunni insurgents meant

their calls for restraint and to avoid

bomber blasted two coach-loads of

cials say are intent on sparking a

British troops in the centre of Basra

civil war between Shias and Sunnis.

Earlier this month, a suicide car

retaliation were being ignored.

and wounding 40.

among the citizens.

rity source told AFP.

as the last hope to avert all-out war.

Maliki, a Shia, has urged Iraqis to

But Shia religious and political

FROM PAGE 16

Car bomb in Iraq

#### Executive Director Mahmud Hafiz also spoke on the occasion. The Secretary of Power Division ANH Akhter Hossain, Power Development Board (PDB) Chairman ANM Rizwan Ahmed. Managing Director of Rural Electrification Board (REB) Towhidul Islam were also present at the discus-

sion Talukder claimed the power cuts in the country have reduced significantly since he assumed the office of the ministry in May this year.

He blamed the previous policies and implementation processes of the government for frequent power cuts and disturbances in power plants.

city in the early hours of Tuesday in

which five people were killed and 15

wounded," the source said.

## Chairman Mollah Amjad Hossain and

FROM PAGE 1 Khulna-Jessore highway creating panic among the general students and pedestrians. Locals said nonstudent Shibir activists exploded two bombs as they went on a rampage in the four dormitories. There were also reports of looting by the Shibir cadres at the dormitories.

> Communication on Khulna-Jessore highway was disrupted for an hour as Shibir activists set up barricades at different points on the highway.

On-duty police outside the campus remained inactive as Shibir cadres closed all the gates of the campus, locals said. A Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) high official said his men were also attacked with brickbats during the clash.

Leaders of ICS, denying all allegations against them, blamed BCL and Chhatra Union activists for resorting to violence.

British military spokesman Major A restaurant owner outside the Charlie Burbridge confirmed the campus said he saw Mian Mujahidul clashes but had no details of casual-Islam, younger brother of Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Mian Golam He said "the troops came under Parwar, leading the non-student Shibir cadres on the campus.

FROM PAGE 1

smugaling.

mand.

tiles.

Investigators trace

smuggling 154kg heroin to the UK,

also said his vegetable export

business could not compete with the

BD Foods that used to sell vegeta-

bles at a lower price since its vege-

tables were only a cover for heroin

BD Foods top boss Badruddoza

was arrested on May 14 after two of

his accomplices--Nazmul Haider

Rahman Nayan, a cargo handler--

22.5kg heroin to the UK at his com-

A five-member team comprising

representatives of the Criminal

Investigation Department, Rapid

coordinating the investigations.

fire from members of a leading terrorist group during an operation conducted in Basra". "It was a deliberate operation

designed to find weapons cache and was conducted by a battalion from the 20th Armoured Brigade from Basra," said the spokesman, whose contingent in southern Iraq numbers some 8.000 troops. Burbridge said when the troops

Iranian pilgrims in Kufa, killing 10 went to the site where the weapons were believed to be stocked, "they Gatherings of labourers in came under considerable fire which crowded markets have become a was countered by the troops" favourite target of Sunni al-Qaeda The soldiers not suffer any insurgents, who Iragi and US offi-

casualties. "The operation was successful

President Jalal Talabani, an as we found two tonnes of ammuniethnic Kurd, called on clerics from tion, rocket-propelled-grenades, both Sunni and Shia Muslim sects to grenades and mortar rounds up to condemn violence, which he said 120 millimetres and huge amount of aimed to destabilize the country and explosives used in making impro-"to create a climate of mistrust vised-explosive-devices," he added. In Basra, at least five Iraqis were

A British soldier was killed killed and 15 wounded in clashes Sunday in a raid near Basra, while with British troops yesterday in the another was wounded. The troops southern Iraqi city of Basra, a secuhad raided a tribal area near Basra "Heavy clashes broke out to detain terrorist suspects. between a group of armed men and

Two suspects were detained in that raid

/lumbai is located.

While police are still trying to determine who carried out the wellcoordinated attack, an outfit calling itself Lashkar-e-Qahhar said in an e-mail to a local television station that 16 people took part in the bomb-

> ings in Mumbai - also known as Mumbai - and that one was killed. But "all the remaining 15 ... are totally safe, and celebrating the success of this mission and also preparing for the next mission," said the e-mail, written in poorly punctuated, often ungrammatical English

"We also request all the Muslim brothers and sisters of India to (not) go near the main historical, governmental and the monumental places of India (especially in Delhi and Mumbai) in future," the e-mail said. "Otherwise, they get hurt too."

Indian police said they were investigating the veracity of the email, provided to The Associated Press by Aaj Tak television.

In the e-mail, Lashkar-e-Qahhar said it would soon address doubts about its earlier claim of responsibility by providing audio and video proof.

The group had first said it was behind the Mumbai bombings in an e-mail to Aaj Tak on Saturday.

"We are surprised, why some media groups and peoples are disclaiming our responsibility?" the e-mail said

"Therefore it has become necessary for Lashkar-e-Qahhar to prove our claim," it said. "Very soon, we will send you an audio/video tape regarding Mumbai blasts."

Lashkar-e-Qahhar, or the Army of Terror, was unknown until it claimed responsibility for the March 7 bombings in the Hindu holy city of Varanasi that killed at least 20 people

Buyiyan Bulbul, a former BD Foods Investigators believe the group official, and his cohort Mokhlesur may be a front for Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, an Islamic militant group confessed to having smuggled based in Pakistan that has long fought Indian rule in Kashmir, a predominantly Muslim Himalayan region

The e-mail was signed by a man calling himself Abu Mahaz, who Action Battalion, Special Branch of identified himself as Lashkar's police, Bangladesh Bank and the spokesman and the head of its Department of Narcotics Control is . 'media group."

Investigators were also hunting The UK customs in May 2005 for leads on the other side of India, in accused five Bangladeshi business the northeastern state of Tripura, firms, including BD Foods Ltd, of where they questioned two preachsmuggling heroin in the guise of ers from a legal Muslim organization food, toiletries, cosmetics and floor called Tablig-e-Jamaat over the train blasts, said Joint

Raghuvanshi, who is leading the investigation into the attacks. He spoke from Mumbai.

The preachers have spent the past three weeks in Tripura, delivering sermons in remote villages along India's porous border with Bangladesh, Authorities fear

Muslim militants might be smuggling weapons and munitions into India.

Also Tuesday, India's President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam traveled to Mumbai to pay respects to those killed in the train blasts

Kalam laid a floral wreath at one blast site. the Mahim train station, and observed a moment of silence at 6:24 p.m. (1254 GMT), the time the first blast rocked the commercial and entertainment

capital of India exactly a week

Air, train and bus services and private cars also came to a halt in Mumbai.

On Monday, authorities announced that the powerful military explosive RDX, often used by Islamic militants in the Himalayan territory of Kashmir, especially the group Lashkar e-Tayyaba, was

Muslim-majority Kashmir is divided between nuclear-armed neighbors India and Pakistan but claimed in entirety by both, and lies at the heart of their rivalry.

fighting since 1989 to end largely Hindu India's rule over two-thirds of Kashmir. The insurgency has claimed about 65,000 lives.

Pakistan of materially aiding the rebels. Pakistan says it only offers

Pakistan-based Muslim militant

India's suspicions of a Pakistan link have prompted New Delhi to slow a two-year peace process with Islamabad, which denies involvement in the blasts

The committee found the BSC officials tampered the certificate of nautical cadet Mehdi Hasan who died in the accident. He had no tanker endorse certificate, which is necessary for working on an oil tanker, the report said.

Besides, there was another minor accident at the ship around 12 hours before the huge accident. The BSC authorities ignored the minor accident, the probe committee found, according to sources.

The experts observed the repairing of the ship would be cost effective only if it is done in the country. Otherwise, if the ship is repaired abroad it might not be so cost effective, the source pointed out.

The BSC had only two oil tankers, Banglar Shourabh and Banglar Joyti, in its 13-ship fleet. The Banglar Shourabh was used for lightering purposes like carrying oil from mother vessels anchored at deep sea.

#### Development rice FROM PAGE 16

projects at Charnatabari and Rahihabil, sources said.

The TNO of Dahnut said the local administration will file at least three cases to recover 140 metric ton rice.

Meanwhile, 100 metric ton rice was misappropriated from different development projects in Kahaloo upazila. A local administration official said almost all the projects in Kahaloo were allegedly left incom-

Some ward commissioners of Kahaloo municipality alleged at a press conference on 15 July that 70 metric ton rice was withdrawn against two fake development projects for work on the Kahaloo municipality office premises.

Rashida Akter Babli, wife of a local BNP leader and ward commissioner, withdrew 25 metric ton rice against a drain-repairing project on the premises of the municipality office

Local BNP leader Abdul Mannan allegedly withdrew 45 metric ton rice against an earth-filling project on the municipality premises but sources said the municipality authorities had earlier completed a similar project at a cost of Tk 6.32.000

Faridur Rahman Farid, chairman of Kahaloo municipality, however, dined the allegations.

## Tsunami survivors

Swedish children reported missing was happening. He came back remained unknown. screaming, 'There is a wave, there is

Tsunami alerts were issued for parts of Indonesia and Australia but they did not reach the victims as no

early warning system was in place. "Our system is not yet working properly. We are still developing a communication system especially for the regions." Fauzi, an official working on the early warning project from the meteorology agency in Jakarta, told AFP.

A 24-vear-old surfer Budi said he was offshore at Batu Keras beach. 30 kilometres west of Pangandaran, when the quake struck.

district, about 270 kilometres (170 "I couldn't feel anything and then about five minutes after the water Among the dead were a subsided, the waves came," he told Japanese and a Belgian, the head of the health ministry's crisis center.

> Budi said he thought the ocean drawing back may have been a sign of the waves about to lash the coast. but many people began rushing out towards the withdrawing waters to look at fish flapping -- an eerie reminder of the way many lives were claimed in December 2004.

An Australian teacher said the only warning he and his wife had at Pangandaran was an enormous roar.

"We heard this roar like a waterfall, a huge waterfall, coming closer and closer, and it was very, very windy," said Wayne Proctor, 46. "We ran out into the street and we could see water all over the street."

Proctor said he was lucky they were around a kilometre back from the beach at the time. "Had we been inside the hotel, I'm sure we would have been dead."

At Pangandaran, a sleepv vacation spot boasting one of Java's finest beaches that lures both domestic and foreign tourists, residents were slowly returning to inspect damaged homes.

The beach and nearby streets were strewn with chunks of concrete, wooden planks that were once food stalls and tiles ripped from hotel roofs, while boats were marooned on shore.

used in the train attacks. plete. Several rebel groups have been

India accuses Muslim-majority

them moral and diplomatic support. While no one has been arrested over the carefully coordinated Mumbai train blasts, investigators suspect Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, a

group blamed for a number of bombings in India in recent years. Lashkar is known for using the explosive RDX.