# Medical wastes

Dr Nasima Akter, research fellow and coordinator of Brac's environmental research unit also the author of several study reports on hospital wastes in Dhaka, said infectious wastes from hospitals represent a small amount of the total medical waste, but it can be highly hazardous to human health if not properly disposed of.

She said the wastes could carry bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungus and improper handling of these waste can expose people to various diseases including Tetanus. gangrene, hepatitis, HIV, tuberculosis and many other deadly diseases. There has never been any study in the country to determine the extent of human and environmental damage done due to improper disposal of medical wastes.

At Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Hospital, janitors were seen dumping wastes along the narrow alleys behind the hospital and small children were picking up a few of the recyclable items.

DCC sources said heads of several departments of the BSMMU expressed their deep concern over the disposal of hospital wastes and asked the DCC to help them.

"But when we asked them to send us an official letter they went silent," said a DCC source.

The same thing happened in most of the large hospitals in Dhaka, including Infectious Diseases Hospital, Orthopaedic Hospital [Pangu Hospital], Shishu Hospital and Suhrawardy Hospital and Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital.

According to the ministry of health and family welfare sources, in the 860 registered hospitals, over 200 tons of medical wastes are produced every day out of which only 500 kilograms are 'safely' disposed of. The rest is dumped 'anywhere' convenient or gathered by street urchins and recycled, according to an investigation.

Out of the 200 tons, over 50 tons of the wastes are classified as highly hazardous and infectious.

Moreover, hundreds of unregistered medical centres in the city produce unspecified amount of medical wastes every day, which end up in the open bins or rivers, according to various sources involved in healthcare.

Only meagre initiative to properly manage the wastes in Dhaka comes from an NGO called Prism Bangladesh. It collects and treats roughly 500 kilograms of hospital wastes every day from 66 hospitals. clinics and diagnostic centres in Dhanmondi alone.

Prism's Executive Director Anisur Rahman told The Daily Star it took Prism three years to do the groundwork with the funding from Canadian International Development Agency (Cida). It trained over 1.000 hospital personnel. At present Japanese Embassy in Dhaka is helping Prism expand its services.

number of clinics and hospitals in Dhanmondi area service for free for six months just to convince them about the importance of managing hospital wastes," Anisur said.

Currently, equipped with a single covered van. Prism covers 66 hospitals in Dhanmondi and its Project Coordinator Tarit Kanti Biswas said convincing more hospitals to opt for their services is becoming a daunting task.

"I can mention names of famous hospitals in Dhanmondi who are refusing to pay a monthly fee of Tk 800 to get their wastes collected and treated by us six days a week," said Biswas, who also oversees the project's waste treatment plant in Mutwail constructed over an area of one acre, donated by the DCC.

"All our 66 members do not have to worry any more about dumping human limbs and other wastes in the DCC bins in this residentia area," Biswas said.

Dr AKM Saidur Rahman, medical officer and coordinator, medical waste management, hospital and clinic of the directorate of health said the government has a Tk 9 crore programme until 2010 to introduce hospital waste management in the state-owned hospitals. He said Chittagong and Sylhet medical college hospital staffs have already been trained and recently staffs of Suhrawardy Hospital in Dhaka underwent an orientation course on waste management. Other experts however disagree

with the idea that only training hospital staffs would solve the problem related to waste management. They believe many other stakeholders should be involved. Dr Qamar Munir, deputy director

and programme manager of institution and policy support unit of the environment and forest ministry said staffs of at least two separate ministries should be trained to manage medical wastes. He said they had drafted a new hospital waste management law six months ago and submitted it to the ministry, which is now awaiting parliamentary

"But under the existing municipal laws there are provisions of penalising hospital authorities for failing to manage dangerous wastes," said Munir. Recently, a mobile court of the DCC fined a hospital for not having needle cutter and safety at the x-ray facilities recommended by the Municipal Act, he added. Munir however mentioned that in

the curriculum of medical colleges and universities of the country there is a subject called laboratory safety but there is no mention of hospital waste management.

"We are trying to introduce hospital waste management into the curriculum of the medical faculties in the country," he said.

Generation Policy of Bangladesh in

Power Cell, the power ministry had

the law ministry make a legal inter-

pretation of the private power policy

favouring CMG. Instead of giving a

legal opinion, the law ministry passed

the buck on to the power ministry

saying that it is up to the power minis-

try to take an administrative decision

apparently a joint-venture between

an Irish company called Cadogan

**Engineering and Manning Industries** 

from Texas, US. Cadogan

Consultants Ltd was formed by a

management buy-out of Rendel

Palmer & Tritton (Scotland) Ltd in

1997. Manning Industries is a com-

pany based in Texas mainly involved

On April 25, 2005, the parliamen-

tary standing committee on energy

and power ministry had asked the

ministry to cancel the opaque pro-

cess with the CMG as it was hurting

the image of the government, and

alternative centre of power, the

House body at its next meeting

served the government with a legal

notice demanding cancellation of the

process of awarding any contract

based on the unsolicited proposal of

CMG. The notice said the private

power policy clearly states that

bidders pre-qualification shall be

made public through advertisements

in the national and international press

making it evidently clear that the

policy gives no scope for unsolicited

open tender, by now we would have

had genuine contractors working on

this power plant. Bangladesh built

anyone," commented one source.

"If the government had floated an

withdrew its stand on this matter.

But under pressure from the

In May this year, a rights group

in retrofitting used equipment.

float an international tender.

Cadogan-Manning Group is

Soon after the changes at the

every way.

# Purchase body

tariff of 2.78 cents (calculated at \$1 for Tk 59) per kilowatt hour. This price, it says, is one cent lower than in the AES Meghnaghat-1 project contract that was signed in 1998. Sources said, the CMG power tariff does not include the price of gas to be consumed by the plant for power generation. The Meghnaghat-1 power tariff included gas price.

It adds that instead of a 450 MW plant, CMG will build a 500 MW plant and thus play a bigger role in meeting the country's power demand.

One of the most relaxed and latest criteria for qualifying to bid for a 450 MW power project in Bangladesh is that the bidder must have built at least two 300 MW power plants. But CMG has nothing to match this criterion.

"The justifications given by the power ministry to show that the unsolicited deal did not violate any rule are false. CMG has not even unconditionally submitted three million dollars as proposal security yet it is getting strong recommendations from the ministry," one source

noted. "The present government last year awarded contract for building the Meghnaghat-2 plant to loca Orion and UAE-based Belhasa, But these incompetent parties failed to ensure project finance even after one year though Belhasa has more money than CMG. In case of CMG,

the situation will be even worse," the source said. Pushed by some young leaders at the 'alternative centre of power' of the government, CMG has been pushing this shady deal from August 11, 2004 The alliance government has so far miserably failed to strike any major power deal because of dominance of vested interest lobby in the decision-

making process, and it also did not try to float an open tender for this project. As the CMG deal violates rules, the Power Cell, which is the project's implementing authority, had been trying to address legal, financial and policy issues. But these exercises angered the 'alternative centre of power'. Under pressure from the

Prime Minister's Office, the Power Cell's director general and member (technical) were removed from their In 2004, the Power Cell said that the CMG proposal was not following any process and it lacked a plan. In

addition, its unsolicited proposa violates the Private Power Rape of 5yr-old Momena have been passing deplorable life in his absence, Mora said.

In her judgment, Judge Nurunnahar said the police investigation into the Tania rape case had a number of flaws. The IO, Assistant Superintendent of Police of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Muiibur Rahman did not try to unearth the clues of the case, the judge said. adding that he also did not try to find out the real rapist of the victim.

The judge also said if the IO investigated the matter properly, the real culprit would have surfaced and vital clues would have come out and it would have been possible to punish the person responsible.

Moreover, the prosecution failed to identify the place of occurrence (PO) by the prosecution witnesses. A number of the witnesses said the victim was raped inside the police control room while others said in the

The complainant of the case, the then general secretary of Dhaka Bar Association advocate Abdullah Mahmud Hassan filed the case saying police of the control room raped Tania. But sources said he later omitted policemen from the charge following pressure from the police department. In addition, the victim failed to

dentify the rapist. She identified Mora after his arrest and she gave a judicial statement to magistrate during the investigation, the judge added.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 20 prosecution witnesses

Special Public Prosecutor Shakhawat Ullah Khan Anu expressed his dissatisfaction over the verdict while the defence lawyer MA Kamrul Hassan Khan Aslam seemed to be very happy with the outcome.

## I housands join

took the marchers about four hours to walk 14 kilometres between Abdullahpur and Mohakhali-Gulshan crossroads.

Opposition workers waving banners and festoons began to gather in their hundreds at Abdullahpur from 3:30pm.

A number of senior opposition leaders including Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Abdul Jalil, Suraniit Sengupta, Motia Chowdhury, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Hague Inu, Bimal Biswas, and Dilip Barua addressed a rally preceding the They reiterated that they will not

allow any election before electoral reforms are carried out. The opposition leaders alleged that

the BNP-Jamaat government has long been plotting to rig the next election. They demanded immediate resignation of the chief election commissioner (CEC) and two other "politically appointed" commissioners and reconstitution of the commission.

A brief rally followed the march participated among others by Razzak Suraniit Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya and other senior Speaking at the Mohakhali rally,

the 14-party opposition line-up accused the government of using the law enforcers to hinder the march.

police. members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), paramilitary BDR and different intelligence agencies were deployed along the march route.

At least 2,000 police and intelligence men walked beside the marchers all along the 14-km stretch. Members of Rab stood guard on

different high-rise buildings while a Rab helicopter hovered above, closely observing the march. Sources said around 10,000 law

enforcers were deployed to maintain law and order yesterday. As the Airport Road and adjacent

lanes and by-lanes were off limits to traffic, many of the homebound people including students, officials, and garments workers from city's different areas had to walk home. A huge number of people lined the

street to watch the march while opposition workers gathered at three points -Banani, Kuril and Staff Road -- to welcome the marchers.

The opposition combine will organse road marches from union parishad to upazila tomorrow, from upazila to district headquarters on July 28, from Nayabazar [2nd Buriganga Bridge] to Muktangan in the capital on July 29, and finally from Amin Bazar to Russell Square in Dhanmondi on July 30.

MASSARREST The police have rounded up more than 5,000 opposition activists in the capital and in other places of the country ahead of the opposition programme.

The 14-party opposition combine has termed the arrests 'a BNP-Jamaat attempt to foil the road march'. The police have denied the allegation of mass arrest' and said they were part of 'routine police activities'.

### leachers declare

FROM PAGE 1 On July 17, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia called Minister for Education Osman Farruk, State Minister for Education Ehsanul Haque Milon, Education Secretary Momtazul Islam and Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury to office and asked them to end the teachers strike through dialogue with them.

Later, Deputy Minister for Information Abdus Salam Pintu was given the task of arranging the dia-

Education ministry sources said a dialogue is still uncertain as Finance Minister Saifur Rahman is now abroad on an official visit and Harris

# Illegal VoIP business

crore in 2003-04 and Tk 1,544 crore in 2002-03 and Tk 1.583 crore in 2001-02 financial years.

Internet telephony or Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), which is now widely used in the country, drains out nearly Tk 100 crore of the BTTB's business a month. The number of illegal VoIP operations across the country has reached several thousand, according to market operators.

Nearly six million Bangladeshis living abroad call to their near and dear ones and each of them talks for 25 minutes on average a month. accounting for 150 million minutes of incoming calls into Bangladesh Another 15-20 million minutes of business calls are also received as incoming calls every month, the board officials said.

Currently, the state-run telecom operator, sole provider of incoming and outgoing overseas traffic, receives calls of around 60 million minutes a month. The volume will continue to dip further as nearly twothirds of the calls are handled by the illegal operators, they noted. "Our earnings from overseas

calls saw a drastic fall due to aggressive illegal Internet telephony business. Now overseas calls make up only 30 percent of its income," said an official. The majority of its revenues from overseas calls come from the Middle Eastern countries while that for calls from other parts of the world is little. An intense competition in call

termination has also forced BTTB to

main foreign operators. It also introduced a tariff of Tk 7.5 a minute for overseas calls to 10 countries on December 30, 2003.

Besides, it expanded the economy service to another 15 countries from April 1, 2006 to check the income downslide

The board, however, has been able to keep its earnings at a reasonable level as the number of subscribers has doubled in five vears. It earned over Tk 1.305 crore in fiscal 2000-01 with only 5.5 lakh clients, the number of which has now exceeded one million mark.

According to a report of international telecom research organisation Telegeography, Bangladesh was the third fastest growing destination for international VoIP traffic in 2004. The country marked a growth of 97 percent. Brazil and Nigeria led the world in growth with 112 percent and 103 percent and VoIP traffic grew by 35 percent globally in 2004.

The government first decided to legalise VoIP in June 2002. However, the decision okaved on November 10, 2003 by a cabinet meeting with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the chair, has yet to be implemented.

The BTTB will start issuing licence for VoIP only after setting up a common platform in four regions of the country. To be set up in Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet and Bogra, the platform will channelise the Internet

# Tokyo to double credit

investors prefer India and Vietnam because of their stable political

"Bangladesh could also attract overseas investment by improving governance and ensuring stability in

Japan is the fourth-largest foreign investor in Bangladesh, according to official figures. Prior to the media briefing, Morshed Khan and Taro Aso had a

tete-a-tete ahead of joining the two sides' delegations at the official talks that covered the entire range of bilateral, regional, Middle East and the Korean Peninsula issues. Describing the talks as fruitful, Morshed Khan said they discussed

financing the proposed \$ 1.5 billion Padma multipurpose bridge, deep seat port in Chittagong, other modes of communications including subway and monorail, and also power sector. Asked about Japanese assis-

tance for these projects, Taro Aso said Japan would consider assistance for the Padma bridge through a financial framework comprising the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank on completion of positive surveys on the project. On the deep seaport for which a

Japanese private company recently ment for feasibility study, he said the deep seaport is important for increasing the country's economic activities but "we will consider it after receiving specific proposal" from Bangladesh on the project.

The Japanese foreign minister said construction of subways in Bangladesh might be difficult because of water level beneath the surface. "Best will be construction of monorail and development of railway in Bangladesh."

Turning to regional and international issues, Taro Aso lauded

Bangladesh's role in granting Japan observer status in Saarc. "We are happy because we got the status under the Saarc chairmanship of Bangladesh." He also welcomed Bangladesh as a new member of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

Replying to a question on Tokyo's position on Israeli incursion on Lebanon, Taro Aso said the Middle East issue is a very complex one that involves Palestine. Israel. Hezbollah, Syria, Iraq and Iran. "It is not a simple issue, and Japan has not yet formulated any specific policy on that." On the Korean Peninsula issue

he said the Bangladesh foreign minister strongly supported UN Security Council resolution on North

In this context, Morshed Khan said Bangladesh wants a meaningful dialogue on the Korean Peninsula under the UN process to find a quick solution. The Japanese foreign minister

said he also discussed the issue of

UN reform, and Morshed Khan reiterated Bangladesh's support for Japan's membership of UN Security Morshed mentioned that Japan is one of the largest development partners of Bangladesh and has

long been contributing significantly to economic and infrastructure development. Referring to over 6 percent current growth in Bangladesh, he said, "Japan has great contribution to this growth. Japan is a great friend of Bangladesh and always

stood by it at the time of distress." Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin, Communications Secretary Shafigul Islam and other high officials from both the countries were present.

# Padma Bridge

and said progress and social change of Bangladesh has been possible due to steadfast coopera-

tion of friendly countries like Japan. Responding to the prime minister, the Japanese foreign minister suggested keeping provision for monorail alongside underground train system in the planned subway in the capital city.

"Our experts will meet, sit and discuss the matter," Taro was quoted as saying to Khaleda about their help in building the underground communications system.

About Padma Bridge, he noted that feasibility study had already been started and the next phase of action would continue Taro said Japan's overseas

development assistance (ODA) to Bangladesh has doubled this time and interest rate on the overseas development assistance (ODA) would be reduced to 0.01 percent. The PM thanked Japan for the

soft lending to Bangladesh. Setting up a deep-sea port in the Bay was also discussed at the meetina. Taro Aso agreed on the necessity

of deep-sea port in Bangladesh to further accelerate economic development, trade and commerce. He pointed out that Singapore is

doing big business with its deep-sea port. "Hong Kong's deep-sea port is big and reliable, so China also is The prime minister also sought

the outcome of the official talks led

by them, saying that the talks were "productive, useful and meaning

Taro appreciated Bangladesh's success in a number of sectors including education, particularly primary and girl's education, health, reduction in child and maternal mortality, safe drinking water, sanitation, attaining UN MDGs and

poverty reduction. He also praised massive development in rural areas, including infrastructure development and improvement of women's fate through micro-credit operations.

### 250 Bangladeshis FROM PAGE 1

the source said

The IOM authorities requested the stranded Bangladeshis in Lebanon to report through hot line number 0096170972520 if they wish to return home

The IOM sources said many trained Indian Muslims to bomb train Bangladeshis who wish to evacuate from Lebanon are unable to do so since they do not know where or how to contact IOM Around 10,000 Bangladeshis are

now living in Lebanon and most of them do not have any valid travel desist from a "blame game" without documents, said the sources. any evidence. Around 1500 evacuees including citizens of Bangladesh, the

wake of war-like situation in that

### **Parliamentary** team from **Turkey arrives** in Dhaka

**UNB**, Dhaka

A seven-member parliamentary delegation of Turkey, led by Turkish Grand National Assembly Deputy Speaker Ismail Alptekin, arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a five-day official visit to Bangladesh.

Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui, whips Fazlul Huq, Syed Shahidul Haq Jamal and Parliament

Secretary ATM Ataur Rahman received the delegation at the Zia International Airport. The delegation includes Turkish Grand National Assembly members

Harun Tufekei. Semesttin Murat.

Faruk Ambarcioglu and Yilmaz Kava. During their visit, the delegation members are scheduled to meet President laiuddin Aamed. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, Foreign Minister

## Dengue patients

M Morshed Khan and State Minister

for Liberation War Affairs Rezaul

The country experiences dengue outbreaks every year between May and August, as aedes, a tropical and subtropical mosquito that transmits dengue, breeds during the rains.

### Saarc ministers FROM PAGE 16

the tariff down to 30 per cent. Nath

said mentioning that India and Pakistan are to bring down tariffs from 20 to 0-5 per cent in five years and Colombo has to do this in six Saying that the TLP was not

applicable to items kept in the sensitive list by each member states, he said India has kept two sensitive lists, one for Pakistan and Sri Lanka with 865 items and another for other member states with 744 items As per the information from the

Saarc Secretariat, Sri Lanka has not been able to implement the TLP on the agreed date as its parliament is yet to pass the revenue protection order, he added. Nath said the customs notifica-

tions issued by Bangladesh,

Bhutan, the Maldives and Nepal is yet to be received from the Saarc Secretariat. Asked if Indian exports had reduced in the last few years, Nath said in terms of volume. Indian exports continued to flourish since

the country has a very large turn-

He said member-states, including Bangladesh, have been maintaining that India had a huge trade balance in its favour.

"No agreement can be one-sided and it must benefit both sides. We are carefully studying trade issues keeping in mind the fact that this should benefit all," Nath said adding the Safta accord had come into existence only 24 days back and one has to wait and see how it progressed.

To another question if India was putting additional focus on trade with Saarc countries and those from Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) following the impasse in World Trade Organisation (WTO) talks, he said New Delhi was having free trade agreements with Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Thailand among others and was concentrating on 200 bilateral and regional trade accords.

## Mumbai blasts

FROM PAGE 16 India shares a 1,750-km open border with Nepal and a 4,000-km frontier with Bangladesh. While about half the Bangladesh border is fenced, there are no barriers along the Nepal frontier.

"The border with Nepal and Bangladesh is emerging prominently in our investigation as the terror route," said KP Raghuvanshi, the chief of the Anti-Terrorist Squad investigating the blasts in India's financial capital.

"Militants are using the twin borders to send their cadres to Pakistan and this is a big threat to India's security," he said Indian investigators suspect

Pakistan-based Islamist militant

group Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Pakistani military spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence to be behind the attacks. They say the two outfits were suspected to have armed and

carriages and railway platforms in the crowded city. Pakistan has denied any connection with the bombings and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said New Delhi should

area," said an official source. Indian border guards said they had increased patrolling along the

## Hezbollah HQ

and democracy in the region," Rice said with Olmert. "The people of this region, Israelis, Lebanese, and the Palestinians have lived too long in fear, and in terror, and in violence."

"It is time for a new Middle East. It is time to say to those who do not want a new Middle East that we will prevail."

Amid mounting international concern at civilian casualties, Rice met Lebanese leaders in bomb-battered Beirut on Monday. She unveiled truce proposals there

similar to Israel's demand for

Hezbollah to pull back from the border

to allow an international force to deploy, Lebanese politicians said. The Israeli army -- which is encountering fierce resistance in its war on Hezbollah despite its clear military superiority -- said it had taken control of

Bint Jbeil, but there was no independent confirmation. "There is now intensive fighting on the ground on the outskirts of both Bint Jbeil and (the nearby village of) Yaroun," said Milos Strugar, spokes-

Force in Lebanon (Unifil). Afamily of seven, including at least two children, was killed when an Israeli missile slammed into their home in southern Lebanon early Tuesday.

man for the United Nations Interim

police said. The deaths pushed the toll in Lebanon since the start of Israel's offensive against Hezbolah two weeks ago to 381 killed, according to a compiled count of reports from medics. police and Hezbollah.

Almost all of them, 334 people, were civilians.

The continuing Israeli air strikes in Lebanon came during a mission to the region by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

According to security forces, 27 Lebanese soldiers and police have been killed since Israeli attacks began July 12. About 800 civilians and 81 soldiers and police have been wounded. Hezbollah said that it has lost 19 of

its fighters, plus one from the allied

pitched battles with Shia militiamen

Two soldiers had been killed in

Fourteen other soldiers were

Amal militia.

now in its 14th day.

near Bint Jbeil on Monday as Israeli forces moved deeper into Lebanon in an increasingly deadly conflict that is

wounded, six reportedly hit by friendly An estimated 800,000 civilians have been displaced by the conflict,

structure have been destroyed by

Israeli warplanes and artillery, includ-

ing most main roads and bridges,

which UN agencies and European countries are calling a "catastrophe". owner for tolls, they usually go for the manager." stated the investigation Much of Lebanon's civilian infra-

> Habibur also had shares in two other residential hotels in Bangabazar

enumerators should go from door to

door and collect information about

prospective voters using only one type

of form. The supervisors will then

after completing the task," the secretary told reporters yesterday at his However, many election officials said prospective voters have always

ment receipts in the past, even while

for including their names in the voter list were provided with receipts against their applications. The procedure for updating the voter list sitting at the election offices also maintained a register of the

According to the Manual for Voter Registration and Preparation of a

which is going to be added to the city, as soon as the embankment is in place

petrol stations, grain silos, water pumping stations, and communica-

Beirut itself was spared Monday as Rice made an unannounced visit to speak with Lebanese leaders, and that relative calm in the capital continued Tuesday as she pursued her mission

"Beit Jbeil is in our hands," General Alon Friedman, one of Israel's top commanders for its northern region.

told Israeli army radio. Strugar could not confirm however if Israeli troops were inside the town. which lies just a few kilometres (miles) from the border and is close to Marun

al-Ras, a strategic hilltop village seized

labibur Rahman

three-day remand for interrogation after the incident. The arrestees denied their involve-

divided into two groups -- one headed by Jakir and the other by Habibur. These two groups had intense grudge against each other, stated the hotel

between the two groups grew stronger after Jakir was arrested for Phensidyle oossession around two vears back.

share," Jakir claimed to police while in remand Police believe that to avenge his

# Voters not sure

provide the applicants with acknowl-

submitting applications," he added. "How can one claim that he filled in the application form without any

Haque said. supervisors are not working for updating the voter list.

been provided with the acknowledge-

updating the voter list. 'The procedures are similar for preparing the voter list afresh and revise it," a senior official at the EC Secretariat told The Daily Star. "But we are following a procedure applicable

names of the applicants and provided

But the assistant officials who are now distributing and collecting forms for inclusion and deletion of names are not maintaining any such record.

Voter List published by the EC, the

### Revised feasibility FROM PAGE 16

"Until todav we have not received the DAP from Rajuk, they only offered us a general map of the

Technology (Buet) said unless the government moves in immediately to demarcate the canals and flood retention ponds, the entire eastern fringe of the city is set to be 'an environmental nightmare' as soon as the embankment-cum-bypass is

## Hotelier murder

FROM PAGE 16

by the army on Saturday.

Armed assailants gunned down Habibur Rahman, 48, one of the 12 shareholders of Hotel Bright House at the hotel reception at Hatirpool on July

The arrested managers, owners and staff of the hotel were placed on a

tolls for a couple of months prior to the However, police suspect Jakir Hussain, one of the shareholders of the hotel, might be actively involved in

the murder since he had disputes with

Police sources said hostility

Jakir accused Habibur and his group to be behind the arrest. "Habibur had 12.5 per cent share in

arrest, Jakir framed a member of

Jakir might have employed hired guns to carry out the murder, suspect "Extortionists would not kill the

people are asking for the receipts after

Secretary to the EC Secretariat Abdur Rashid Sarkar said the procedure for updating the voter list does not have the scope to give the applicants any acknowledgement receipts as

for a small-scale task," he added. The official said those who came to

the offices of ARO from July 11 to apply

them with the serial number of their

tions and television towers.

ment and claimed that unknown extortionists might be behind the murder, as they had been demanding

Habibur on various occasions. The hotel management had been

the hotel and he deliberately planned to have me arrested to acquire my

Habibur group with illegal weapons possession and had him arrested.

officer(IO).

and New Market area.

edgment receipts," Assistant Registration Officer (ARO) Iftekhar Ahmed, also teacher of Dr Muhammad Shahidullah High School in Mirpur, told reporters yesterday. "But

document?" assistant official Fazlul

"People can check if their names are on the voter list when we display it

planned urbanisation in the area

Experts at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and

examine the information collected by the enumerators and provide the applicants with acknowledgement receints. The AROs are also supposed. to examine at least a random ten per cent of the collected information. Then a draft voter list will be published for people's inspection, inviting

be published after that. Legal and election experts said the EC should follow the same procedure for updating the existing voter list. FLOATING PEOPLE Meanwhile, several lakh floating

neonle will not be able to register their

names in the voter list as the election

claims and objections. The updating

authorities will then settle the claims

and objections. The final voter list will

officials will not visit them. "It is very difficult to list the floating people as voters since they do not have any permanent address," the

### secretary to the EC Secretariat said. He, however, said the slum dwellers will be registered as voters.

Tarique-Aso FROM PAGE 16 ministry, are still in the dark about the agenda of the meeting.

"He is known to me and we have

just exchanged our views, nothing

else." a smiling Tarique told the report-

Later, at a press conference, Press Secretary to the Japanese minister Yoshinori Katori told the reporters that Tarique stayed in Japan before and they know each other" They discussed issues on the

upcoming election of the Liberal

Democratic Party of Japan to be held

September this year, added the

ers after the meeting.

oress secretary. "It would be more beneficial to the country if our finance, communication or power minister could meet the Japanese minister and convince him to assist us on several high priority projects like Padma multipurpose bridge, the power sector infrastructure, Chittagong deep-sea port, the subway and mono rail," a foreign ministry official told The Daily Star requesting anonymity.

"Generally, senior leaders of a major political party or a team of party representatives led by the party's secretary general get to meet a visiting minister or an important state guest, said the official. "But the meeting between Tarique and Taro Aso was not like that, definitely it has some other significance," he added. Besides scheduled official talks with his counterpart, the president, the

opposition, Tarique Rahman is the only BNP leader who met the visiting Japanese minister

Philippines, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia and large private power projects without doing good business," he said. Bangladesh frontier. Chowdhury could not give time for it. Ghana have registered with IOM to any re-tender or any allegation of "We are using thermal imagers in The strikers alleged that despite be evacuated from Lebanon. corruption during the previous the prime minister's instruction, none Japan's cooperation in ICT sector. the night and also stepping up work A total of 19 countries requested Awami League government's of the four high-ups have made any Foreign Minister M Morshed to complete erecting fences in view IOM for assistance in evacuating tenure. So, no excuse against open contact with them as yet. Only Pintu Khan and his Japanese counterpart of the blasts," AK Mitra, directortheir citizens from Lebanon in the contacted them over phone on tender should be acceptable to briefly apprised the prime minister of general of the force, said from New