The Baily Star

NEWS

I TTE

Muttur

FROM PAGE 1

yesterday.

incident.

governmentside

the meeting.

comments last night.

north-central province) on the 15th of

June 2006 is ruled as a gross violation

of the ceasefire agreement by the

occurred amid heavy fighting between

government forces and the LTTE in

the northeastern coastal town of

Meanwhile, no official of the Asia

The negotiation meeting between

Energy could be contacted for

the government and the demonstra-

tors protesting Asia Energy's opera-

tion at Phulbari coalmine site began

at the office of Parbatipur upazila

nirbahi officer (UNO) at 7:15pm

include banning coal mining in

Phulbari, withdrawal of Asia Energy

from the coalmine site, stoppage of

the open-pit method for extracting

coal, compensation to the families of

victims of August 26 BDR firing and

medical expenses for the injured

withdrawal of all cases filed against

the protesters, and punishment to

those responsible for Saturday's

Mizanur Rahman Minu, Deputy

Minister for Food and Disaster

Management Asadul Habib Dulu,

Deputy Commissioner of Dinaipur

Tahsinur Rahman, Police

Superintendent Delwar Hossain Miah

UNOs of Phulbari and Parbatipur, and

Dinajpur district BNP president and

secretary attended the meeting on the

tee team was led by Dinajpur unit

convenor of the committee Syed

Mosaddek Hossain, its Phulbari unit

leaders and some locals. National

committee member secretary Anu

Muhammad, leader Zunaid Saki and

Workers Party of Bangladesh leader

Haider Akbar Khan Rono later joined

ing the meeting at the Dinajpur Circuit

House but the demonstrators

refused the proposal saving the

meeting should be held in one of the

four upazilas--Phulbari, Birampur,

Nawabganj and Parbatipur--where

held on Tuesday but with no result.

Earlier, another meeting was also

A medic in the city's Yarmuk hospi

tal confirmed receiving seven bodies.

including one of a first lieutenant in the

Iraqi army and a senior female official

in the justice ministry, after shootings in

hood secured by US forces,

Ameririyah, three textile workers were

shot dead by gunmen near their

In another Baghdad neighbour-

the coalmine site is situated.

The government asked for hold-

The 40-member national commit-

Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor

The national committee demands

Govt agrees

government announcement.

The killings of the aid workers

Sporadic clashes

FROM PAGE 1

obstructed the car and began throwing brickbats at it. Windshields, windows, and sideview mirrors of the car were damaged, sources said adding that Barrister Nazmul Huda was in the car during the attack but not harmed.

The opposition coalition enforced the 6:00am to 6:00pm countrywide hartal to protest the killings of seven people by law enforcers at Phulbari in Dinaipur on August 26. The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas and Port Resources also called for a halfday hartal yesterday to protest the killings.

At least twelve persons, including five journalists, were injured during a clash between police and picketers in front of Metro Shopping Mall near Russel Square in Dhanmondi. Police picked up three persons including Hafiz and Sumon, employees of Onnvo Mela and Agora, from the spot.

The clash erupted at about 10:30am as police obstructed an Awami League procession led by Mohammad Nasim in front of the shopping mall prompting the picketers to throw brickbats at the law enforcers. Earlier, a Jubo Mohila League procession also came under police baton charge in front of Prince Plaza near Road No 27 of Dhanmondi. Police beat up the picketers indis-

criminately. During the clash The Daily Star Photojournalist Amran Hossain, BTV Videographer Shah Noor Alam, ATN Videographer Mahmud, Channel S Videographer Akash and Staff Reporter Mithun, and opposition leaders MA Sattar Bhuiyan, Abul Bashar and Sabina Islam Tuhin were injured.

An AL parliamentary party procession led by Chief Whip Abdus Shahid, and a Jubo League procession joined a rally at Russel Square while the clash at Road No 27 was on.

Addressing the rally, Nasim accused the government of the killings in Phulbari. He also said without implementation of the opposition proposed electoral reforms, they will not allow any caretaker government to takeover state power. Nasim threatened to enforce an indefinite hartal to compel the government to accept the reform proposals.

AL leaders Rahmat Ullah, Subed Ali Bhuiyan and Kazi Mostak Elen brought out a procession at Mohakhali. But police obstructed the procession and charged batons to disperse it at about 8:30am. Police also charged batons on another procession on a lane near Titumir College.

The opposition activists in retaliation threw brickbats at police. At least 10 persons including four policemen were injured. Police later chased the picketers away. The opposition activists damaged at least 10 to 12 motor vehicles during the clash. The picketers also damaged about 12 vehicles on Airport Road in the morning.

Later, AL Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed, Mainuddin Khan Badal, Syed Zafar Sazzad, Rahmat Ali, among others, held a road side rally on Mohakhali-Gulshan road.

Dhaka City AL General Secretary Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya brought out a procession from Noor Hossain Square at about 7:00am but

Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin brought out a procession in the city's Lalbag area but police chased and

dispersed it. About 20 other opposition activists were injured during sporadic clashes between picketers and police at Jurain rail crossing, Jatrabari, Uttara, Nababpur and in other parts of the capital when the opposition coalition brought out separate processions

supporting the hartal. Police picked up around 10 opposition activists from these areas during the hartal. The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas and Port Resources brought

at about 6:00am to come under a police baton charge that left several protesters injured.

filed against them. In a statement. Hasina said police

iniured. Saying that the people have

COUNTRYWIDE HARTAL opposition coalition staged demonstrations on the city thoroughfare

The 14-party coalition organised a rally

Mohiuddin Chowdhury in the chair. The Chittagong unit of National

Momen in the chair.

Paralysed FROM PAGE 1

Phulbari and adjacent upazilas remained completely isolated from the country yesterday as protesters put fresh roadblocks and disrupted rail communications

People from all walks of life participated in yesterday's hartal and expressed solidarity with the ongoing movement of the locals of Phulbari. They vowed not to return home until the London-based

employee of a local restaurant.

FROM PAGE 1 in the present situation

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said, The government won't do anything in that area (Phulbari) against the interests of the locals. Two govern-

scene and the problems would be

out a procession at Paltan intersection

Leader of the Opposition also AL President Sheikh Hasina demanded immediate release of the opposition eaders and activists arrested during the hartal hours yesterday. She also demanded scrapping of 'false' cases

arrested around 100 opposition activists and charged batons indiscriminately leaving another 300

rejected the BNP-Jamaamt-led alliance government for its wide-scale corruption, misrule and torture, the AL president thanked the people for aking vesterday's hartal 'a success'. Ruling BNP cadres attacked a prohartal procession at Nawdapara in Rajshahi town leaving two opposition activists injured, reports our staff correspondent from Rajshahi. The

supporting the hartal. The dawn to dusk hartal of the opposition coalition passed peacefully in the port city of Chittagong yesterday, reports our correspondent from there.

in Darul Fazal Market area around 11:00am with City AL President ABM

Committee to Protect Oil, Gas and Port Resources also brought out a procession and held a rally on Dost Building premises with Poet Abul

company leaves the land. Mohammad Mukul, an

said he had only a cup of tea and some puffed rice yesterday. have been starving with my fourmember family due to the strike," he said, adding, "I have all my supports for the strike but I also Six to die have to live and survive. Zahirul Islam, a beetle leaf shop-owner in Railgate area, said FROM PAGE 16 The mother of the victim, Shamsun he used to earn around Tk 2.000 a Nahar, filed a murder case the same day but could not earn more than day with the Kotwali Police Station Tk 50 in the last four days as he accusing ten people. opens his shop only for about an Police issued charge sheet against hour. "I have to support a family of the accused on May 31, 2005. five with the earning from the SPP Majibur Rahman Nantu business." he said. represented the prosecution while Asked if he still supports the movement, he said, "If Asia Advocate Enayet Pir Khan represented the accused Energy is allowed to start activities here, we will have nothing to live Launching for. We can starve a few more days for the long-term benefit." FROM PAGE 1 Masum, owner of a tyre repair Hassan told the news agency. Meanwhile, Gono Forum President Dr Kamal had a luncheon shop, said he also has been facing problems supporting his eightmember family as he could not earn meeting with top leaders of the 11at all in the last four days. He said he party alliance at his residence ate nothing in 36 hours while his where he discussed about the familv members are almost starving. proposed front. Meanwhile, virtually no law and Dr Kamal assured the 11-party order was observed in Phulbari. leaders that the new front "will not Sources said many agitators and make any contradiction" with the

ment representatives are at the

resolved through discussions." Talking to the press at his Secretariat office, he said Asia Energy Corporation has already left Phulbari and the government will stay in touch with them in the future. But no decision will be taken without taking opinions of the local people, he added.

Terming Phulbari killings regrettable, Bhuiyan said politicisation of the incident is even more regretta-

Accusing the 14-party alliance of using the incident for political gains, he said "The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas and Port Resources called a half-day hartal but the opposition extended it to a daylong one. It proves who are

using it for political gains." Earlier on Tuesday, energy ministry adviser Mahmudur Rahman said the government did

not take any decision to wind up Asia Energy's operation He said the energy ministry has requested the home ministry to ensure top security to Asia Energy office and its staff at Phulbari Mahmudur has advised the com-

pany officials to talk to the local people to resolve the problem. "It is now clear that some political parties are involved in the violence

at Phulbari," he said. On Tuesday, Mahmudur cancelled a meeting with Asia Energy officials.

As the government so far did not hold a single meeting with the aggrieved local people, a meeting with Asia Energy might worsen the situation. So, the meeting was cancelled, sources said.

Confusion over FROM PAGE 1

minister said blaming the recent 'irresponsible statement' by opposition leader and AL chief Sheikh Hasina, where she 'instructed her party activists to retaliate against the police atrocities on them during hartals.

"Did she realise then that such a statement can result in such a dangerous incident?" Babar said. adding that legal action would be taken against those responsible for the 'killing.'

After the minister left the hospi-FROM PAGE 1 tal, doctors officially declared Narayan dead.

Talking to reporters later, Momenuzzaman said that Narayan had been suffering from heart problems and the injury, which he earlier termed as "nothing serious," triggered the cardiac arrest.

Saying that Narayan died of heart attack, Al. General Secretary who is now the judge of the Chittagong Abdul Jalil, meantime, demanded to form a neutral medical board to investigate the death.

Gruelling hartal duty All vital samples

FROMPAGE 1 added to quite a few such cases in

the last couple of years. ABM Sultan Ahmed, former officerin-charge (OC) of Kotwali Police Station, died of heart attack on February 3 last year while performing hartal duty at Patuatuli in the capital.

Former OC of Motijheel Police Station Mohiuddin Ahmed died of cardiac arrest on May 18, 2004 while another policeman met similar death at Mirpur the same year.

Made fragile due to work under inhuman condition, police personnel sometimes fail to cope with the minimum hassle.

On duty policemen do not even get the minimum facilities and time for defecation or urination. Often they are provided with mouldy foods during dutv.

As it takes a long time to serve the foods from man to man in police vans, the food often gets rotten, said a policeman.

Those who are on VIP duties are

Non-govt pry

FROM PAGE 16

sit-in on September 17 if the government does not meet our only demand by September 15." said Mohammad Shamsul Alam, president of the association while addressing a press conference at its Topkhana Road office.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, in 2001, pledged to fulfil our demand of job nationalisation if BNP-led fourparty alliance formed the government, he added.

"Almost five years of the ruling alliance government has already gone by, but it has failed to make any decision on the matter as of now," he alleged.

He urged the government to implement its promise of nationalising the non-government primary teachers' jobs before the alliance government's tenure is over

The association's Secretary General Mrigenda Mohan Saha Senior Vice President Shahidul Islam Khan. Vice President Swapan Kumar Roy, Organising Secretary Saiful Islam, Office Secretary MA Mannan, Acting Publication Secretary Anwar Hossain Afrad and Member AFM Mahbubur Rahman were present at the conference among others.

guards under the Forest constable, who has to perform duty at Department. A meeting with Finance and the Mohammadpur residence of a Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman judge "At around 12 midnight, we were in the chair took the decision to ordered to get ready for Dhaka in half remove pay anomalies faced by the officials and employees of the an hour. Reaching the capital in the

8,000 govt

and forest rangers and forest

aovernment bodies. The decision

will, however, require the prime

minister's approval to become

It will be materialised by the next

month, Saifur Rahman told reporters

after the meeting held at the Cabinet

question of possible reaction in the

public mind about increasing the

salary scales of district election

officers only a few months before

the national election, the officials

said officers of six other government

agencies are getting the similar

remove the salary anomalies

between the technical and non-

technical officers of Rural Electrifi-

cation Board, Power Development

Board, Dhaka Electric Supply

Authority, Bangladesh Telephone

and Telegraph Board and Bangla-

musical instruments at stores

around the Science Laboratory

area, but cannot cope with the

increasing demands and losing out

with the musical instrument manufac-

turing and the family can hardly afford

the daily essentials and components

needed for the trade with this income.

manufactures include Tabla (a pair of

small drums played with the hands),

Dhol (a barrel-shaped double-ended

drum). Khol, Mridangam, Bango,

Animal hide (usually of goat or

Cowhide now costs Tk 2000 while

ties are going beyond the reach of

profession alive at any cost. I hope

someone of us will continue this

profession." said Kalipada sitting

inside his shabby teen-roof shop at

store displaying every kind of musical

instrument for music lovers, but my

financial limitation did not let the dream

Although a considerable number of

families used to live by this occupation

of making musical instruments once.

Kalipada is the lone survivor in and

around Dhamrai. The other families

adopted the profession of shoe repair-

this profession, I will continue by

myself as along as I live," said a defiant

"If no one comes forward to save

come true," lamented Kalipada.

"I had a dream of setting up a nice

Dhamrai.

ing long ago.

Kalipada

"We must keep our ancestors"

small business owners like Kalipada.

The musical instruments Kalipada

Only a son helps him irregularly

to his competitors nowadays.

desh Water Development Board.

Devoted

FROM PAGE 16

The meeting also decided to

As the finance minister raised the

Division conference room.

facilities of salary increase

FROM PAGE 16

effective.

morning we could just wash our face and have breakfast before starting the duty," a police constable from the reserve force in Bogra told The Daily Star during a hartal on April 19. This is not a life. I may have to stay

the worst sufferers, said a police

in Dhaka for a long time, but I could not provide any money or buy essentials for my family in Bogra as I had to come in a short notice," said a visibly exhausted policeman whom this correspondent recently met in Old Dhaka,

He had to stay in the city for five days with around 30 other colleagues from Bogra as the opposition called another hartal four days later. Many policemen had to lie in turns

in Rajarbagh Police Lines barrack as there were not sufficient seats, several policemen said, adding that many others had to stay in the Rajarbagh Police Lines School, suspending classes for the students.

Meanwhile, four low ranking policemen committed suicide during the last six months. Frustration resulting from heavy

duty and poor salary has led to their suicide, said several policemen.

Indian minister

FROM PAGE 16 Tinbigha Corridor under Patoram upazila in Lalmonirhat, official sources said.

Rangpur Sector Commander of BDR Col Lutfur Rahman received the Indian minister on his arrival at the corridor at 10:30am Inspector General of BSF, North Bengal Frontier, deputy inspector

Kango and Aktara. general of BSF, Jalpaiguri Sector, and senior BSF officials accompacow), Neem wood are the main comnied the minister. ponents of most of Kalipada's prod-Later, the Indian minister

attended a tea party hosted by BDR and exchanged views with the goat hide is Tk 500 apiece. Ever senior BDR and BSF officials. increasing prises of these commodi-

He asked the BDR and BSF officials to raise the enclave and outstanding border issues in the upcoming border conference to be held in Kolkata in the third week of September.

IO plays down court

and submitted the charge sheet. reference case on Tuesday said the The media had earlier reported that IO accused Shah Alam Babu in the the IO had accused Shah Alam Babu charge sheet despite the absence of in place of Sundar Babu in the murder minimum evidence and witnesses against him in the investigation. The

Liaqat's wife Rokeya Begum had also testified that Shah Alam Babu was not the accused Sundar Babu.

But Rezaul told The Daily Star last night, "The incident took place seven years ago. The plaintiff may have had some kind of understanding with the accused during these seven years."

He said he will talk to the higher Defending himself Rezaul, now authority of the police after receiving Time for voter officer-in-charge of Hazaribagh Police the copy of the HC judgment and the against the verdict Our staff correspondent in Chittagong reports: Judge Shamsul Alam came to his office at the Chittagong Court Building as usually vesterday but refrained from attending the court. He also refused to make any comment on the HC verdict. Earlier, Shamsul Alam Khan was posted to Bagerhat as district and sessions judge on June 10. He joined the Chittagong Woman and Child Repression Control Tribunal-2 on Sunday.

Lanka troops killed

FROM PAGE 16 deemed to be responsible for the

incident," Henricsson said. The locally employed workers of

Action Against Hunger were shot in the head "execution-style" according to witnesses who saw their bodies several days after the killing in Sri Lanka's northeastern town of Muttur where troops and Tigers were battling at the time. Samaraweera, accompanying

President Mahinda Rajapakse who arrived here Tuesday for talks with Premier Tony Blair, said the SLMM made its conclusions before the police probe and forensic examinations had been concluded. "I am not calling him (Henricsson) a

liar but I am calling it a very, very irre-sponsible statement," he told the BBC.

truce monitors, Samaraweera said: "Just because the singer is bad it does

not necessarily mean the song is bad.'

Monitoring Mission has a very impor-

tant role to play in Sri Lanka especially

at a time when the LTTE (Liberation

Tigers of Tamil Eelam) has escalated

play a more independent and non-

negotiator Anton Balasingham is

resident in London, are yet to com-

their findings partly on interviews and

confidential discussions with sources,

tradictory and the security forces of Sri

Lanka are widely and consistently deemed to be responsible for the

new phase in the three-decade ethnic

conflict that has left a February 2002

since December when fighting in the

north and northeast between the

military and rebels who are fighting for

a separate homeland for the Tamil

minority began escalating. In Wednesday's findings, the

monitors blamed the Liberation Tigers

of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for a bomb

attack against a packed bus in June

that killed at least 64 passengers and

motive, capability and capacity to carry out the attack, the LTTE must bear the

responsibility for the killing of civilians,'

civilian bus in Kebitigollewa (in the

Karbala and Najaf, a police officer

doctors had received 12 bodies and

treated 38 people wounded in the

Ibrahim Shaker also confirmed the

bombing but not the casualty toll. An

AFP correspondent said at least 1,000

candidates had been waiting to sign

Another candidate, Amer Habib,

been searched before coming to this

place. They should also not be allowed

to stand outside the camp as it makes

"We asked for that but no one

Iragi security forces are a regular

insurgency and sectarian violence that

Baghdad's Dura district, which has

been chosen by US and Iraqi forces for

special protection, also saw blood-

shed, and violence there will be seen

as a setback for Prime Minister Nuri al-

has ravaged the country.

police officer said.

Maliki's peace plan.

them easy prey for terrorists.

neard us," he said.

the forces.

A medic at Hilla's city hospital said

Iraqi defence ministry spokesman

the LTTE's claims of innocence.

the SLMM said in a statement.

The SLMM said it could not accept

...being the only element with the

"Consequently, the attack on the

partisan role," the minister said.

ment on the SLMM statement.

incident," the statement said.

they said in a statement.

ceasefire in tatters.

nearly 100 others.

FROM PAGE 16

said.

attack.

up at the cen

"This is the time when they should

The Tiger rebels, whose chief

The independent monitors based

The views have not proved con-

The killings came amid a bloody

Some 1,500 people have died

its levels of violence.

Asked if Colombo had faith in the

"We believe that the Sri Lanka

police obstructed it before it could get on Bangabandhu Avenue. Later they held a rally in front of Muktijoddha

A Jubo League procession led by its Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanak and General Secretary Mirza Azam also joined the rally there. AL leaders Obaidul Quader, Asaduzzaman Noor, Habibur Rahman Siraj, Nanak, Azam, Dipu Moni and Omar Faruk Chowdhury spoke at the rally.

AL leader Kamal Ahmed Majumder brought out a procession at Mirpur-10 intersection while Ilias Hossain Mollah and Kamal Master brought out a procession at Pallabi. Police charged batons on both the processions prompting the opposition activist to pelt them with brickbats. At least 12 persons were injured while police picked up at least six.

BNP mulls

FROM PAGE 1

standing committee member Oli Ahmad again said people should unite against those who are corrupt. haughty and plunderers to save the nation.

Oli also criticised the party chief and prime minister's speech at the executive body meeting, in which she said, "You are a hero when you are in BNP".

Reacting to her speech, Oli said, "I am a hero of the Liberation War ... a freedom fighter ... I will continue my struggle against terrorism and corruption"

Sources said a group of senior and mid-level BNP leaders were trying to resolve the matter and took initiative for talks between party chief Khaleda Zia and Oli. That is why the BNP standing committee did not take any decision against him at its August 22 meeting.

Mannan Bhuivan told reporters on the day that it could not be confirmed what he (Oli) said. But on Tuesday, Oli defended what he had said through the media earlier

Over the last two years, Oli criticised the government and strongly protested corruption and terrorism, saying some ministers, lawmakers and powerful party men were involved in these

Oli, who was very close to late president Ziaur Rahman, contested the last general election from Chittgong-14 against Jamaat leader Shahjahan Chowdhury, violating the party decision and got defeated. Khaleda did not take it easily and formed the cabinet excluding Oli, who was a minister in the previous BNP government.

locals have been felling roadside trees for roadblocks during the strike at davtime and selling those at night. A mob severely beat up one Mohammad Milón yesterday morning as he was setting up

oadblocks on the Dinajpur-Phulbari Highway. Miscreants are also taking the chance of the strike as the police and local administration have no control in the town. There were also reports of looting in the

remote areas of the upazila. Officer-in-Charge of Phulbari Police Station Fazlul Haq admitted the incidents, saying, "We are

Bangla Bhai

The arrestee, Abdul Khalek, 28, is JMJB Baghmara second-incommand Abdus Sattar's brother. Sattar has already been arrested on

July 26. Undercover police arrested Khalek from his house at Biprokaya village of Jhikra union in Baghmara.

"Khalek was involved in several killings by JMJB at Baghmara, Atrai and Raninagar upazilas", sources said.

After Sattar's arrest, Khalek took over the lead and was regrouping bigots of the Islamist militant outfit JMJB under the banner of 'Al Mujahid' in and around Baghmara and West Shimla areas, added the

December 28 in 2004

Awami League-led 14-party alliance Gonotantri Party President Nurul Isalam said they discussed matters relating to the current antigovernment agitation and opposition's electoral reform proposals.

tahshildar--revenue collector--of a

Bengal Nawab in the 18th century.

Unfortunately, the construction was

edifice's entrance is enriched with

intricate terracotta panels depicting,

apart from a profuse number of floral

scrolls, scenes from the Hindu mythol-

ogy on the spandrels (triangular space

between two adjacent arches) of three

The mandapa (porch) of the temple

measures more than 182 square feet

renovate the temple as soon as possi-

ble to retain its original shape.

Archaeology Department officials.

arched openings.

The façade of the eye-catching

abandoned before completion.

300-yr old FROM PAGE 1 According to archaeological documents, the Jor-Bangla Temple was built by Braja Mohon Krori, a

not interfering to avoid further clash with the agitators.

FROM PAGE 16

and the sanctuary at the rear more than 150 square feet.

It is the only extant example of the twin-hut architecture in North Bengal, an official of the Archaeology

Department said. Two ornate, dwarf pillars separate the three ornamented arched

entrances while the entire façade is framed within a rectangular panel with curved tops. Abdul Khaleque, regional director of the Archaeology Department, said

sources. The police said Khalek, currently under interrogation, was involved in the robbery of three motorcycles, two computers and Tk 5 lakh in cash from Jatragachhi Grameen Bank on

'I identified Shah Alam Babu as Sundar Babu correctly and he is responsible for the murder.

court directed the government and

police authorities to take stern action

The HC also ordered to strip judicial

power of Judge Shamsul Alam Khan

Woman and Child Repression Control

against the IO.

Tribunal-2.

"I did not do anything wrong in the investigation. The person the court awarded death sentence as the main accused of Liagat murder is Sundar Babu.

Station told The Daily Stary

Rezaul, however, denied to make any direct comment on the HC verdict that found him guilty.

Gazi Liagat Hossain, a leader of transport workers, was shot dead at his house at Sutrapur on March 14, 1998. Rezaul investigated the case

Islamic parties

FROM PAGE 1

Some Islamic parties and organisations however did not believe in elections under the existing constitution and laws. Some of these organisations have been identified as militant outfits of which the government has already banned four that made moves to establish 'the rule of Islam' through militant activi-

Ahead of the next parliamentary election scheduled for January 2007, the two major Islamic political parties, Jamaat and IOJ, which do not believe in having women leaders and have been blasting the idea of women leadership for a long time, still remain in the four-party ruling alliance led by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Although. Jamaat is strongly opposing BNP's move to bring HM Ershad into the ruling alliance by labelling him as corrupt, many political analysts believe that Jamaat will not leave the alliance for the sake of its own existence

IOJ however did not make any objection to BNP's move to bring Ershad-led Jatiya Party into the alliance.

STRENGTHS OF **ISLAMIC PARTIES**

Seventeen Islamic political parties contested separately in 1991 parliamentary election and bagged 14.87 percent of total votes cast at the polls but the number declined by about 10 percent in the parliamentary election held on June 12, 1996.

Through unofficial understandings with BNP in some constituencies, Jamaat-e-Islami won 18 seats and bagged 41,36,661 or 12.13 percent of total votes in 1991. But in the government has taken initiatives to 1996 it won only three seats and bagged 36, 53,013 or 8.61 percent of total votes, as BNP did not support Jamaat that time.

The renovation can turn the temple Deposits for candidacy of 225 out into an important heritage site, said of 300 Jamaat-e-Islami candidates

were forfeited in June 1996 election

as they failed to obtain even one eighth of total votes cast in respecive constituencies. Islami Oikya Jote however won

one seat in each of the two elections, but the percentage of votes it received was reduced from .79 percent in 1991 to .33 percent in June 1996, and 163 out of its 166 candidates lost their deposits in

The rest of the Islamic parties together failed to bag even one percent of the total number of votes cast in 1996.

463 candidates of all the Islamic political parties together bagged 50,72,963 votes. The turnout of voters in that election was 55.45 percent. In June 1996 election 800 candidates of 18 Islamic parties together bagged 43.86.716 votes or 9.80 percent of total votes. Deposits of most of the Islamic candidates were forfeited after the polls. The total turnout of voters was 74.96 percent.

The two major Islamic political parties. Jamaat and IOJ. however recovered from their debacles in the polls somewhat by joining the BNPled alliance in the last election, which helped them in winning some seats in the parliament, but they could not increase the number of votes they received.

With support from BNP. Jamaate-Islami won 17 seats and bagged 4.28 percent of total votes cast contesting in 31 constituencies while IOJ won two seats and bagged .68 percent of total votes contesting for seven seats in the last parliamentary

election But the candidates nominated by nine other Islamic political parties failed to win any seat in the last election. The total number of votes received by them was not even one percent of total votes cast.

The FC also urged people to examine the updated electoral roll and lodge objections if they find any inconsistency, but it did not decide sions and the place is not well proon taking any step to probe into the allegations of unusual rise in the tected. number of voters with under-age said: "The volunteers should have

people registering names. The EC officials, however, said the district election officers will look into the matter if necessary.

Some field level election officials in the capital said they feared that some genuine voters' names might be deleted from the existing list due to the hurried move for completing the task of compiling the information collected in applications

The updated voter list is yet to be kept open for public inspection at local election offices and city corporation ward offices in most of the areas in the capital.

The field level task for updating the existing voter roll by visiting door to door began on July 21 and ended on August 20, with many eligible voters remaining out of the list. By this time, a total of 1.63 crore people have applied for inclusion of their names while 23.74 lakh people applied for deletion of names from the list.

The EC has not taken any measures to check the authenticity of the applications received by the fieldlevel EC staffs while visiting door to

Loan default

FROM PAGE 16 will be decreased by next December.

Of the total amount of Tk 1,41,437 crore in outstanding loans in the banking system, the amount of classified loans was Tk 23.465 crore or 16.59 per cent on June 30, 2006. compared to 13.55 per cent or Tk 17,509 crore on December 31 last year, sources said.

Classified loans of nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) amounted to Tk 15.226 crore or 31.38 per cent of their outstanding loans in June '06, which was Tk 10,024 crore or 21.35 per cent in December 2005.

Defaulted loans of Private Commercial Banks (PCBs) amounted to Tk 4.285 crore or 5.08 per cent of their outstanding loans in June '06, which was Tk 3,543 crore or 5.62 per cent in December '05.

Classified loans of Development Financial Institutions (DFIs) amounted to Tk 3.889 crore or 32.70 per cent of their outstanding loans in June '06, which was Tk 3,836 crore or 34.87 per cent six months ago.

Default loans of FCB's came down to Tk 63 crore or .67 per cent of their outstanding loans in June this year which was at Tk 104 crore or 1.26 per cent in December last year.

Haider Kadhim, 25, a would-be soldier from Hilla said: "We were of Baghdad, one person was killed as volunteers seeking jobs in the army expecting such a terror act against us. clashed with the police. The city has got used to such explo-

Series of bombings

Dura.

factory.

Hundreds of young men who had gathered at the governorate building seeking jobs turned hostile and clashed with the police, a local medic

The angry mob pelted stones at the building and burnt tyres when clashes broke out between them and the police. One volunteer was killed and another 10 wounded, including three policemen, he said.

target of insurgents who bomb army Elsewhere in Iraq at least three and police recruitment centres to stop people were killed, while police recovyoung men trying to escape Iraq's ered six bodies of men shot to death, of massive unemployment from joining which five had washed up on the banks of the Tigris in the town of The bombing will also be seen as Suwaira, south of Baghdad, police yet another blow to plans by the US-led coalition to build Iraqi security said.

They had been blindfolded and forces capable of taking on the raging shot in the head in the trademark style of the capital's sectarian death squads.

The Baghdad security clampdown was further defied on Wednesday as The latest attacks come at a time insurgents carried out two more when Iraq's hard-pressed government bombings -- a roadside booby trap and forces are battling to rein in a surge in a car bomb -- which killed another bloodshed, which in the past four days three people and wounded 14 in the has already left more than 150 dead. central Karrada neighbourhood, a

Irad's latest bout of bloodshed which erupted as Maliki held peace talks with tribal leaders on Saturday -has also killed 14 US soldiers, most of whom were involved in a large-scale security sweep in and around Baghdad.

Israel rejects UN call

FROM PAGE 16 made little progress in his discussions with Israeli leaders, he did not take questions from journalists after meeting Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and neither was forthcoming about their hour-long talks.

Annan restricted himself to saving he hoped resolution 1701 could be the basis for a durable peace. Aides said he would travel to Syria and Iran, Hizbollah's backers. later this week. On a visit to southern Lebanon on

Tuesday, Annan said "serious irritants" to the truce were also the fate of abducted Israeli soldiers and that of Lebanese prisoners held in Israel. US civil rights leader Jesse

Jackson, on a visit to the region to try to mediate a prisoner exchange, told Israeli Army Radio he had been informed by a Hizbollah leader that the two soldiers seized by the guerrilla group were alive.

He said that during a visit to Damascus on Monday, "a Hamas leader told me ... that the Israeli soldier captured by Hamas is alive" Palestinian militants abducted Corporal Gilad Shalit in a cross-border raid from Gaza in June

Italy's first contingent of 800 troops out of an eventual 3,000 pledged, set sail on Tuesday on what Rome said would be a "long and risky" mission. The aircraft carrier Garibaldi and four other naval ships were due to reach Lebanon by Friday.

France promised to send a 900strong battalion before the middle of September, with a second battalion to follow. About two dozen Spanish troops began a reconnaissance mission to Beirut on Wednesday ahead of a larger deployment. The United Nations hopes to

create a buffer zone in south Lebanon free of Israeli or Hizbollah forces and policed by the expanded UN force alongside some 15,000 Lebanese troops.

It is hoping Muslim nations will send troops to balance the 7,000 or so pledged by European countries. The Turkish government has agreed in principle to a deployment but needs a parliamentary approval, with a meeting set for September 5.

The war killed nearly 1,200 people in Lebanon, mainly civilians, and 157 Israelis, mostly soldiers

In 1991 parliamentary election.