CEC sees no crisis

Amid such a situation, the government last week appointed another election commissioner while ignoring the opposition's proposal for reforms in the EC including a demand for any appointment to the commission on the basis of a political consensus. Analysts believe that the latest appointment to the EC will only deepen the crisis.

But the CEC yesterday claimed that the appointment of the fourth election commissioner will strengthen the EC, while highlighting Mahmud Hasan Mansur's credentials as befitting for an election commissione

Many political observers and electoral experts already said it is not possible for the present EC, the abilities of which were questioned during the updating of the voter list, to hold the election in a free and fair

The CEC however claimed, "We have done our best. We are not in the dock," and questioned, "What is the controversy over preparation of the voterlist?

"There had been no litigation since 1935 regarding preparations of fresh voter lists. But this time, we had to face a court case. Why the case was filed? It is still...the basis of the case was without substance," Aziz said referring to the writ petitions filed by Awami League lawmakers challenging the preparation of the controversial fresh voter list by the EC, which was later declared illegal by the Supreme Court.

"We won the case. But the media created an impression that the Election Commission lost the case." Aziz said brushing aside the allegation of wastage of public money during the preparation of the now defunct fresh voter list.

Asked about initiation of steps to ensure participation of all political parties in the next parliamentary election, Aziz however did not clear his position.
"This is not a one way traffic. If

any party does not respond to our invitation... we will alone try to bring them to the election...they will also have to come...we don't want to exclude anybody. Everybody has an equal opportunity as we are working with a mandate given by the constitution to hold the election," Azizsaid.

Referring to last year's dialogues with political parties, the CEC said, "After joining the commission I invited all the political parties to dialogues [over the preparation of the voter list]. At that time many said we invited the parties that exist on papers only. But some of the parties that you (journalists) consider as

[reporters] are talking about them, they have no confidence on me. Most of the opposition parties rejected the invitation for dialogues with the EC last year as they had

only two or three members. If you

rejected Aziz's appointment as the About the opposition coalition's demand for his resignation and its lack of confidence on him, the CEC "In a democratic country, everybody has the right to speak about anything. But none of them

should exceed the limit of decency," When the stances of the ruling and opposition alliances on elec-

Annan

FROM PAGE 16 The United States said on Friday it was consulting European governments about possible sanctions against the Islamic Republic, but the EU has signalled it wants more dialogue and has agreed to try to clarify Iran's stance within two

European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana will meet Larijani in the week ahead to try to clear up ambiguities in Tehran's reply to the major powers' offer of broad cooperation if it stops the nuclear work.

FROM PAGE 16 decreased to 49.6 per cent in 2000

from 58.8 per cent in 1991 but the

total number of poor people

increased to 938 million from 910

is not enough while the election

manifestos failed to reflect any

specific timeframe to meet those,

said the presentation prepared by a

group that included BNP lawmaker Abu Yousuf Mohammad Khalilur

Rahman and AL legislator Faruk

Taking part in the discussion AL.

legislator Suranjit Sengupta said confrontational politics is dividing

the nation while parliament does

not hold discussions on crucial

concerning MDGs in parliament,

how can we realise these goals?" he

asked. Despite good economic growth, poverty has not decreased

distribution of resources

ignificantly because of improper

Mahmud Chowdhury said qualita-

tive foreign aid, fair trade policies

and good governance are vital for achieving the MDGs.

ent their implementation strate-

gies in their manifestos, he said,

adding that the BNP has elabo-

rately put MDGs in its manifesto.

All political parties must pres-

BNP lawmaker Amir Khasru

If we do not debate issues

national issues.

The pace of achieving the MDGs

toral reforms are contradicting, the CEC however feels the necessity of reforms in electoral laws. But he has not made up his mind yet about when he will propose the reforms to the government.

The EC's authority to cancel candidatures and to bring contempt proceedings in cases of violations of the commission's orders should be restored, Aziz said referring to the powers the EC had been once provided with before the last parliamentary election, which were later repealed in the face of opposition from major political parties

The CEC also feels the necessity of stopping the practice of pasting campaign posters, erection of decorated archways, and decorative ightings during the election cam-

"I can't tell now when I will send the proposal for reforms in electoral laws to the government," Aziz said, who had declared in May last year that he would send a proposal for electoral reforms to the govern-

On putting an end to the influence of black money in the election, the CEC said the political parties know who are the black money holders among them. "The influence of black money will stop if the political parties do not nominate olack money holders in the elec-

NEW COMMISSIONER IOINS EC

Mahmud Hasan Mansur yesterday took oath as the fourth election commissioner in a ceremony conducted by the chief justice, and sumed the office

Mansur started his tenure as an election commissioner with an unexpected show of narcissism, according to his new colleagues.

Entering his office room at about 12:00pm, the newly appointed election commissioner took out a camera from his jacket pocket and assigned an officer of the EC Secretariat to take some pictures of him, while he posed in presence of

The newly appointed election commissioner started talking to the journalists and the official started snapping away the roll of film. Brushing aside the allegation

that he was appointed on political considerations, he said no government appoints anybody to a constitutional post on political grounds. After talking to the reporters, he

went to the office of the CEC to make a courtesy call.

Hasina

Calling Energy Advisor Mahmudur Rahman "liar" for his statement that the AL had signed the deal with Asia Energy, she said it is not Awami League but BNP signed the agreement in 1994.

"The BNP always came to power by selling country's resources. I would have been the prime minister through the 2001 election if I had made the deal with Asia Energy," Hasina told her audience.

She alleged that the BNP struck all the deals with foreign companies to take kickbacks from them.

Hasina sought vote for "Boat the election symbol of AL, saying that if Awami League returned to power, it would remove corruption and terrorism and bring down the prices of necessities.

JSD President Hasanul Huq Inu alleged the BNP-Jamaat alliance wants to come to power through backdoor by eliminating the oppo-

He demanded electoral reforms to ensure a free and fair election.

Chaired by Phulbari AL President Tofazzel Hossain, the rally was also addressed, among others, by Motia Chowdhury Pankaj Bhattacharya, Nurul Islam, Abdur Rahim, Mostafizur Rahman Fizar MP, Abdul Mannan, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Iqbalur Rahman and Prof Nazma

Ban on gathering

FROM PAGE 1 on any kinds of gathering, procession, demonstration, laying siege to it, sit-ins and carrying any kind of firearms or arms such as sticks and explosive substances in the area to ensure security and protect public property," the DMP commissioner said in the press release.

The government imposed such bans on opposition's programme to lay siege to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and a sit-in programme in front of Bangladesh Secretariat this year.

enforcers and the opposition

The 14-party declared the siege of the EC Secretariat and election offices across the country on Friday in a bid to force the ruling alliance accept the opposition's electoral reforms proposal.

combine has also declared their programme to lay siege to the PMO

on Bangabandhu Avenue AREAS UNDER THE BAN

The DMP in its release said the ban would be effective around the EC Secretariat with the following city streets considered as its perimeter.

Agargaon-Rokeya Sarani intersection to Shishu Mela-Mirpur Road intersection. In the south, from Dhanmondi

Road-27-Mirpur Road intersection to Dhanmondi Government Boys High School and from the school to Indira Road via T&T field. In the east, from Indira Road

Hospital. In the west, from Shishu Mela-Mirpur Road intersection to Old Mohammadpur Police Station, and from Asad Avenue to the eastern

Bol chief

FROM PAGE 16

organised by Combined Professionals' Council (CPC) at the office of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industries vester-

petitive country in the garment sector, he said, adding, "Bangla-desh achieved 22 per cent export progress that is highest in last 11

available to households in Rajshahi by 2009, he said

that Bangladesh was controlling the economical leadership of the said, adding that now the foreign currency reserve is \$3.6 million while the GDP growth is seven per cent, industrial growth 10 per cent

Doctors Association of Bangladesh Secretary General Prof Dr AZM Zahid Hossain, Engineers Institution Vice-president Harunur Rashid, honorary Secretary Manjur Morshed, and Rajshahi BMA President Dr Wasim Hossain addressed the meeting chaired by Prof Abdus Salam, president of Rajshahi University Jatiyatabad O Islami Mulyabodhe Bishwasi Teachers' Forum.

RUET

in the vacant positions in your

too was posted at the Ruet with blessings from the ruling party for his political identity.

More than a hundred local BNP, Juba Dal and Jamaat followers accompanied by RCC ward commissioners from wards 24, 25, 27 and 28 -- Alamgir Hossain, Tariqul Islam Paltu, Azab Ali and Monwara Begum -- gathered in front of the Ruet administrative building at around 11:30am to press their demand, said the sources.

Khazder Ali, Motihar thana unit BNP organising secretary and Bakul, Boalia thana unit BNP secreagitation

coalition government's tenure, sources said.

"Such incident is not new to the university," said Golam Murtuza, public relations officer for the university. The same agitating faces under the banner of 'Local Interest Protection Committee' vandalised Ruet offices only several months back pressing for the same demand, he added.

University teachers, students and the staff met with the VC following the incident and expressed their concern over the incident. They assured him that they would resist those elements in the future.

Rejoinder, our reply

Secretary to the Hon'ble Prime Minister in writing vide the ministry's Memo No. PT/SHAKHA-6/BA-15/2006/343 dated August 24, 2006. This was done with a clear intention that the matter may be reviewed in the committee if it already had taken a decision, or to stop it from taking it if it had not been taken till then.

The purpose of writing to the Secretary, to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, who is the final authority, was obviously to the matter to the knowledge of the PM so that she could take a decision after knowing full facts of the matter. It is therefore clear that I have not only not hidden any information, but highlighted them before concerned authorities so that they can take a proper decision. Regarding installation of com-

mon platform for VoIP, my contention is that the Review Panel, CPTU, IMED, for retender was brought to the notice of the Cabinet Purchase Committee on Government procurement meeting held on August 21, 2006, on behalf of our Ministry where it was discussed elaborately, and finally the said committee took a decision on the matter. It is expected that this may be reflected in the minutes of the meeting. The subsequent recommendation of the Tender Evaluation Committee seeking administrative approval of the Ministry came to my notice on August 21, 2006, in the afternoon, i.e., after the meeting of the Cabinet Purchase Committee on Government procurement was

I informed the Secretary, Cabinet Division and the Secretary to the Hon'ble Prime Minister in writing vide this Ministry's Memo PT/SHAKHA 6/KROYPROSTAB-7/2006/342 dated August-24, 2006 with a sincere intention that the matter may be reviewed by the Cabinet Purchase Committee or by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and appropriate decision may be taken after

It is therefore crystal clear that I did not suppress any information, rather highlighted them before concerned authorities so that proper decision can be taken in this **OUR REPLY**

knowing full facts of the matter.

The former telecommunications secretary claims to have mentioned the CPTU's reservations to the purchase committee in August 21 meeting and the participating ministers had "discussed threadof both the deals. Evidently the secretary had not tabled CPTU's objections in writing prior to this meeting. Therefore, his claim of threadbare discussion by the committee is incorrect and this is what we exactly reported and he has certainly concealed the irregularities pertaining to these two deals from the ministerial body. Because being the telecommunications secretary, he is duty-bound to appraise the purchase committee before it meets and discusses any

complicated issue. The former telecommunications secretary has rather blamed the cabinet purchase committee members for taking improper decision. That's why after three days, on August 24, he officially "highlighted them before concerned authorities so that proper decision can be taken in this regard".

The former telecommunications secretary, however, has not said why he has not recalled both the purchase proposals he sent to the cabinet secretary and, therefore, the cabinet purchase committee should not have even reviewed themat the first place.

The CPTU has consecutively drawn his attention to the violation of ethical standards as stated in the Public Procurement Regulations. He has, however, paid no respect to CPTU's red flag and processed the optical fibre deal with Huawe instead.

Similarly, on July 5, 2006 vide letter no IMED/CPTU/ PPRP0202D/287, the CPTU had asked him to suspend dealing with Huawei on VoIP until the review panel decides. Subsequently, on July 24, the review panel asked the telecommunications secretary to scrap this deal with Huawei and invite fresh bids.

The former secretary has not only brushed aside these directives, but also ignored BTTB's pleading to re-tender the project. His rejoinder says nothing about the CPTU's or the review panel's directives. Rather he has cooked up a bizarre story about the BTTB's

The BTTB sent its letter to the telecommunications secretary on August 15. He, however, claims to have noticed it six days later, on August 21, after attending the cabinet purchase committee's meeting. One may wonder what kept this highly important letter into invisible mode for six days and what has made it visible again. We stand by our report.

Indefinite strike

He also assured the Sangram Parishad leaders that the airline will soon be paid the money that is owed to the government for hajj flights and carrying VIP passengers Besides, funds will be allocated for buying new aircraft.

"We asked for Tk 1200 crore and we been promised a sum. some strategic reasons we won't disclose the amount, "Helal, also a leader of Bangladesh Airline Pilots Association (BAPA), said adding that they will however be able to sustain with the money pledged.

SAIFUR-FAKHRULMEET Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said the government does not have any budgetary allocation for cash-strapped Bangladesh Biman but he may try for bank loans if the national flag carrier submits a cost-reduction programme.

"I don't have any money for Biman, But I have asked them to submit a cost-reduction programme within two to three days. I can talk to the banks whether it is possible to arrange any funds for them," he told reporters after a meeting with State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

Bangladesh Biman incurred a loss of around Tk 1,000 crore in the last fiscal year. Faced with acute financial crisis, it is now unable to pay salaries to its employees.

It has requested the finance

FROM PAGE 16 marine ecologist at the University of Adelaide. yesterday to discuss the proposal that Biman had submitted to the finance ministry earlier. sea floor. I have never heard of an unprovoked attack from a stingray."

finance minister blasted the Biman authorities for not having a costreduction strategy and contingency plans to get through the "Biman is a corporation and so

that its employees have their salaries. Now tell me how do I arrange Referring to an indefinite strike

them to go on a strike when they are not being paid the salaries. Blaming the prevailing situation

bother to take any meaningful initiative. Saifur has asked the airline authorities to devise a long-term

organisation. that the airline has plunged deeper

into financial crisis due to massive corruption of some top officials.

an honest and pure management to be installed immediately to ministry for immediate allocation strengthen Biman.

Polls to be held

advisor, but they do not accept it. They do not like to abide by the constitution, rather they are threatening to foil the election.

said they want to have their chosen election commissioners and chief advisor of caretaker government who will get them elected. Khaleda, also the chairperson

conduct the elections. Referring to Awami League's

win in the 1996 elections under the existing caretaker system, she said after assuming power, they resorted to terrorism. "If they (AL) return to power, the

back," she told the rally. Khaleda said people are united for the cause of development, production and peace, which have been ensured by the BNP-led alli-

ance government. This trend will

continue if the alliance returns to

Citing Sunday's mass procession in Dhaka, the prime minister said the people's spontaneous participation in the procession reflected the silent public support for the BNP in the elections.

ongoing trend of development and production The prime minister made a fresh pledge that if voted to power

Meanwhile, sources in the RU campus said RU authorities are now for the next term, her party would doing the paperwork to recruit 350 elevate Bangladesh to a prosperous class III and class IV employees nation. They alleged political background of the applicants is largely influenc-Chaired by Mirzapur BNP President Abul Kalam Azad, the

ing the recruitment.

Earlier, RU authorities recruited 546 class III and class IV employees violating the university rules and without publishing any newspaper advertisements. Most of these newly employed people are now reapplying in a bid to get rid of the legal hassle they have been going through.

Rafiqul Islam Sader, one of the 546 employees, said it is the university authorities' responsibility to regularise their jobs.

Foreign airlines

Iraqi soccer

AP, Baghdad

star abducted

The head of the Air Force Club, Samir Kadhim, said the player, who also was on Iraq's Olympic team,

had planned to leave for Syria in two

or three days to join a new team

athletes have frequently faced threats, kidnappings and killings.

killed and six were wounded in and around Baqouba, 35 miles north-

east of Baghdad, in shootings and

Iraq's national security adviser

announced the capture of al-Qaida in Iraq deputy Hamed Jumaa Farid al-Saeedi, also known as Abu

Humam or Abu Rana, saying the

arrest has left the terror group facing

"Our troops have dealt fatal and painful blows to this organization,"

Mouwafak al-Rubaie said Sunday.

The Iraqi Defense Ministry also announced on Monday that 15

people believed to have been

involved in insurgent activities were killed over the last 24 hours by Iraqi

who he said was arrested a few days

ago, of supervising the creation of

death squads and ordering assassi-

nations, bombings, kidnappings

and attacks on Iraqi police and army

checkpoints.

While it may be too soon to say

what the effect will be of al-Saeedi's

capture, sectarian violence and other attacks have continued after

the arrests or killing of other high

ranking figures, including ousted leader Saddam Hussein.

Sunday, following a high-level party meeting on Friday night, sources said. The party high command is also thinking of dissolving the com-

mittee of the Jessore AL, in which

case Jessore municipal chairman Quamruzzaman Chunnu will be

party had earlier expelled 18 leaders and activists of the Jessore AL.

was stabbed at Puratan Kashba in

the Jessore town on the night of August 24, His followers accused

August 26 to protest against the attack on him.

They feed on tiny animals on the

Despite their name, it is not the

Irwin was killed when a stingray

What happened to Steve Irwin

venom from the sting that is most

barb punctured his chest as he was

filming on the famed Great Barrier

is like being stabbed in the heart,

said Geoff Isbister, a clinical toxi-cologist at the Mater Hospital in

Newcastle on Australia's east coast.

and all to do with the trauma caused

One other person was known to have died in Australia from a simi-

lar injury to the chest, but most

stingray injuries resulted from

people stepping on them in shal-

low water and getting a barb in the

they're not aggressive animals so the animal must have felt threat-

ened," said Bryan Fry, director of the

Australian Venom Research Unit at

large ray with a disc size of up to 2.5

"The stingray's venom would not have been a factor. While

extremely painful, stingray venom is rarely lethal."

RU recruitment

FROM PAGE 16 Syeed Dastagir Hossain and Justice

Mamunur Rahman issued the

Earlier, a number of job seekers -

Abdus Shakur, Golam Mostafa, Motahar Hossain, Saheen Uddin and Gias Uddin -- filed a petition with the

HC alleging the university authorities

were recruiting people violating

upon the RU vice-chancellor (VC),

pro-VC, registrar, university grants

commission (UGC) chairman and

Hossain told newsmen that he

came to know about the show cause

notice but he is yet to receive a copy

When asked, RU VC Prof Altaf

The rule nisi was also issued

university rules and regulations.

'It would have to have been a

the University of Melbourne.

metres (eight feet).

notice on August 31.

education secretary

of the HC order.

"Stingrays only sting in defence;

by the barb of the stingray.

ankle, he said.

"It has little to do with the venom

Irwin killed

Kazi Nabil Ahmed of the attack.

Following the attack on Tito, the

Tito, who joined AL recently,

AL expels

made the convenor.

FROM PAGE 16

Al-Rubaie accused al-Saeedi.

a "serious leadership crisis

The violence came a day after

bomb attacks.

At least two people also were

there. Iraqi sports officials

Singapore and other destinations. As a result, it is always failing to A popular Iraqi soccer star was kidnapped a day after Iraqi officials touted the capture of al-Qaida in maintain schedule while its bad marketing strategy and poor services are driving away passengers Iraq's No. 2 leader as a move to to foreign flag carriers. reduce violence in the country. Ghanim Ghudayer, 22, consid-

Bad manpower planning has ered one of the best players in Baghdad's Air Force Club, was also affected the 5000-strong overstaffed organisation in peculiar abducted Sunday evening by unknown assailants, some who While the national flag carrier were wearing military uniforms,

has nearly 300 pilots, it relies on around 20 foreign pilots to operate its DC-10s. The routes these aircraft operate on demand a pool of 40 to 50 pilots. Though Biman has been using

DC-10s from the mid-eighties, it has very few local pilots to operate them. The management does not promote competent pilots to fill the gaps and instead hire foreign pilots to run those. Each foreign pilot for DC-10 operation charges on an average \$15,000 per month.

Some foreign pilots are also working as instructors in the domestic and semi-international F-28 flights and bag another \$5,000 a month each. Interestingly, the job of instructors can be easily done by the local F-28 pilots, who are surplus in number. But they are not interested in this job as it reduces the prospect of flying on international routes, for which they get better payment.

According to Flight Engineers and Navigators Association (FENA), a platform of Biman's technical staffs, the airlines now requires mandatory accomplishment of Thrust Reverser Safety Enhancement Modification for its DC-10 aircraft by September 30. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), USA, made this safety system mandatory for all DC-10 aircraft in operation and notified Bangladesh about it in 2003. But as Biman has gone slow on this matter with the help of Boeing, it will not be able to modify the planes within the time limit.

This will entail grounding of all DC-10s and massive disruption of Biman flights unless Bangladesh can obtain a temporary waiver from the FAA. Biman can hardly survive the chaos and financial loss that would ensue, as the FAA has confirmed that time extension request will not be entertained without a logical plan with firm

The FENA strongly advocates against leasing any more aircraft as this is wasteful. Aviation sources mentioned that DC-10s have globally become obsolete and there is no reason why Biman should stick

"But sadly, as the local agent of spares and services of DC-10s is a close relative of the prime minister, Biman is unable to dump them and switch over to modern aircraft," said an official.

Besides, political decisions overriding professional marketing plan of Biman is also forcing the airlines to incurloss.

For instance, there is no justification for Biman's using widebodied aircraft on domestic routes to Sylhet and Chittagong but it is being done only because some ministers want to show their powers in their constituencies. Widebodied aircraft are costly to operate and to make profit they must fly long distance.

Political decisions in Biman's affairs never reflected national interest. For example, in August last year, the government allowed Qatar Airways to increase its weekly flights to seven from four between Dhaka and Doha. This decision was taken ignoring Biman's report that this increased facility to Qatar Airways will devour Biman's annual potential revenue of Tk 26 crore. The then civil aviation state minister Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin spearheaded this decision. In exchange, Bangladesh got

nothing from Qatar.

HuJi link suspected

evidence collected over the period and became quite certain about these peoples' involvements," said a source.

has been involved with the probe since the blast, said, "We cannot come to a conclusion about their involvements based only on our suspicions or their primary confessions. We've to collect substantial evidence to prove it beyond doubt.

"We should also check how far their confessions and other infor-

Asked about political involvements of the four, another investigator said they have yet to start probing political affiliations of the four and other details. "They've st been remanded and we've yet to start extensive interrogation," he

night and interrogated him the same night about his link with the

Acting on his information, they later arrested Mizan from his house at Chowdhury Bazar area in

Delwar was picked up from his home village Konagram under Kulaura upazila while Nayeemur was caught from his Islamic books and CD shop at Syedpur Bazar in the early hours of yesterday.

magistrate court in Sylhet yesterday afternoon, investigation officer (IO) of the case Special Assistant Superintendent of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Munshi Atiqur Rahman sought their remand, and Magistrate Nure

Declining to say anything about the details of involvements of the four with the incident and their political affiliations prior to interrogations, the CID officer said, "We can learn about the motive behind the attack and other details after we can quiz them well." But he is hopeful that the arrests will lead to a 'good progress in the investiga-

Meanwhile, sources said two of the arrestees Mizan and Arif -studied in madrasas. A former student of a Qowmi madrasa, Mizan had been picked up once before on December 14 in connection with the August 17 countrywide bomb attack but was released a few days later after primary interrogation

Hafez Arif is general secretary of the Syedpur union unit of Islami Chhatra Jamiat, reports our Sylhet correspondent. He also studied in Syedpur Hafezia Madrasa under Jagannathpur upazila in Sunamganj, Ironically, Anwar Choudhury is also originally from Jagannathpur.

intelligence sources said. "We've primarily learnt that

After the May 21 grenade attack, law enforcers turned the spotlight of investigation on several Islamic institutions and organisations

Police collected several anti-British and anti-US posters printed by another Islamist outfit Hizbur Tahrir, which were posted around the shrine a few days before the grenade attack on the Bangladeshborn British envoy.

The investigators probed into the activities of some madrasas and Islamic organisations following" the attack, including Jameya Madania Madrasa in Sylhet town which was run by a Huli leader, Moulana Habibur Rahman, also a leader of two other Islamist organisations Khilafat Majlish and Shahaba

Police took HuJi member Shamim into custody and released

Sachetan Islami Janata last month. BRITISH ENVOY'S

the recent arrests, reports UNB. "We're pleased with the current

progress made by the Bangladeshi

their continuing effort," the Bangladesh-born British official said yesterday in a briefstatement. He continued, "In memory of those who died and the many

injured, we hope that justice will be done and trust that due process will

Rab man jailed

FROM PAGE 16 proceedings) Rules, 2005 at the Rab Headquarters after a Rab investigation found evidence of Bazlur Rashid's involvement in the hijack-

Rashid, retired army sergeant

34 lakh at Rayerbagh in Demra at about 6:00am on July 12. Bazlur was wearing a Rab jacket during

Deep-sea port

natural disaster as

it is surrounded by the The loading and unloading of

After construction, some 50

worst manifestations here.

Anti-Corruption Commission Member Prof Moniruzzaman Mia said Bangladesh made very good progress in many of the social and economic aspects of MDGs. But he regretted that corruption has the

Graft, confrontational Politicians have to take the lead in eradicating corruption. Unless corruption is rooted out and good governance established, develop-

ment in true sense is not possible,

have MDGs monitoring mecha-

Assuring that his party AL will

nism, Faruk Khan said failure to utilise allocated funds for various projects greatly retards poverty The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam said parliament, which is the nighest institution of the country has not discussed crucial national issues like poverty alleviation,

tamination, terrorism and price ike of essentials. He regretted that lawmakers are more grateful to their parties, rather than to the people who elect them. They must take pride in being people's representatives and uphold their dignity through wisdom and manners

Other speakers included AL

population growth, arsenic con-

lawmakers Dr Abdur Razzak Promod Mankin, Shahjahan Khan and Prof MS Akbar, BNP legislators Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anny and Ferdaus Akter Wahida, Jatiy Party lawmaker Golam Habib Dulal, former VC of Dhaka University AK Azad Chowdhury, DFID Head David Wood, Conveno of People's Forum on MDGs Rasheda K Chowdhury, PET Executive Director Shishir Shil and Moin Uddin Ashraf.

Renowned economist Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud moderated the dialogue.

The DMP did not impose any ban when a front organisation of AL tried to lay siège to the EC last March. The programme, however, ended after clashes between law

Meanwhile, the opposition

again on September 12. Senior leaders of the opposition alliance and leaders of the city units of the alliance will sit today in a special meeting to discuss their preparation for tomorrow's siege. The meeting is scheduled to be held at 11:00am at the AL's office

In the north, the street from

intersection to Agargaon-Rokeya Sarani intersection via Islamia Eye

end of Dhanmondi Road-27.

Due to development under the present government, Bangladesh has emerged into a globally com-

Natural gas would be made

The Unctad 2006 report that created the recent dispute proved Least Developed Countries, he

and export growth 10.5 per cent. Among others, CPC and

Showing utter disregard for the official procedures, the mob led by RCC commissioners and the BNP leaders ganged up on the VC after forcefully entering his office and charged him, "Why aren't you offering jobs to the local BNP men

They reminded the VC that he

tary, were also present during the They demanded the VC appoint their party men in grade III and IV positions on an ad hoc basis before the end of the ruling four-party

of around Tk 700 crore. Mirza Alamgir sat with Saifur

According to sources, the

financial difficulties like the current ones. its chairman and managing director have a responsibility to ensure

funds for them?" he asked reportcalled by the Biman employees, Saifur said it is quite logical for

on a state of severe mismanagement, he said, "They have long been in the crisis, yet they didn't

scheme to become a profitable The Biman employees claim

They have long been calling for

Ridiculing the opposition, she

of the ruling BNP, once again said as per constitutional provision, they will hand over power to the caretaker government which will

reign of terror will stage a come-

She urged people to vote for the BNP-led coalition to maintain the

meeting was also addressed, among others, by Jute and Textiles Minister Shajahan Siraj, Telecommunications Minister Aminul Huq, Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury and State Minister for LGRD Ziaul Huq Zia.

Earlier, the prime minister inaugurated 1000-line digital telephone exchange at Mirzapur.

A high-level investigator, who

A 6:00am to 2:00pm strike was also observed in the town on

mation are true," he added.

Rab and Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) members first caught Bipul from Shahjalal shrine area Saturday

grenade attack. Habiganj at 2:30am Sunday.

Producing the four before a

Alam Siddiquee granted it.

Bipul and Delwar admitted to their complicity in the attack,

some of the arrestees may have links with HuJi. But we'll have to examine those," said one of the

Sainik Parishad

him after interrogation three days after the attack Terming HuJi as a terrorist organisation, the government banned it on October 17 last year. But, HuJi leaders held a rally at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in Dhaka under the banner of

SATISFACTION British High Commissioner in Dhaka Anwar Choudhury yesterday expressed his satisfaction over

authority and are very grateful for

Shaheen and five others on July 14 and 15 over hijacking and looting The criminals including Bazlur posing as Rab members hijacked the van loaded with 26 airconditioners worth around Tk 39 lakh and fabrics worth around Tk

Demra police arrested Bazlur

FROM PAGE 16

goods will be possible over the years. The goods can be shifted to southwestern region of the country at a minimum cost through barges.

ships will be able to anchor at the seaport at a time, sources said.