Janakantha accuses

country often carry. Besides, international donor agencies like the World Bank also publish such reports, the release said

"The report did not mention any names but cited instances of transfer for money at different tiers of the police department

"Instead of following the norms of contradicting press reports, the home ministry wrote the daily a letter on the day the report was published and claimed that it attempted to break discipline and cause resentments in the police department and demoralise the members of the police," said the press release.

The report also attempted to tarnish the image of the government

and damage public confidence in it." The ministry asked the daily to send it all data in the next two days for "public interests", which the Janakantha termed as unprece-

As the July 10 deadline expired, the home ministry issued another letter asking for the data by July 14.

"The Janakantha authorities could have ignored the ministry's illegitimate demand, but it replied to the letter on July 13 stating that such reports are published to help the authorities to take necessary actions. The authorities concerned should investigate the allegation," the release said and assured all cooperations for the proposed investi-

But the daily regretted that instead

of following the norms the home ministry issued a third another letter on July 21. It referred to another report of the daily about 36 freedom fighter policemen losing job and asked the paper to submit data about

both reports by July 27. The July 21 letter alleged that the two reports aimed at destabilising the disciplined forces of the government and warned the daily of bringing charges against it under articles 131 and 132 of the Bangladesh Penal Code, which are called for to bring treason charges.

"The latest letter also warned of legal action against the newspaper unless it submits the data the ministry had asked for." said the press

Referring to reports carried by different dailies about alleged corruption by the police, it said: "Singling out the Janakantha and accusing it of instigating revolt clearly proves that a certain quarter in the government is out to gag one of the most popular newspapers in the country."

Refuting categorically the government allegation, the daily said it had carried reports on corrupt practices by various government bodies during the rule of past Awami League, too.

The daily said it is ready to publish any rejoinder the home ministry may send if an investigation finds that the report was not based on facts.

Hamid's JS membership

From Page 12 Sultana, after hearing the writ petition filed by advocate Fazlur Rahman as petitioner, yesterday decided to pronounce the judgement on July 24.

Fazlur Rahman filed the writ petition challenging the validity of parliament membership of the deputy leader of the opposition, also the former speaker, on the ground that he did not take oath as MP in accordance with the provision of the Constitution.

Senior lawyer Khan Saifur Rahman, appearing for the petitioner, argued during the hearing that the present deputy leader of the opposition in parliament ceased his membership of parliament by not taking oath as per article 148 of the

Constitution. "Advocate Abdul Hamid is illegally holding the post of MP as he has not taken oath from the speaker of the parliament within 90 days from the date of its first sitting as provided in article 148 of the Constitution," Khan Saifur submit-

Barrister Amirul Islam and Shafiq Ahmed with advocate Ozayer Faruk, president of the Supreme Court Bar, appeared for the respondent to the writ petition.

The defence counsel submitted to the court that article 5(3) of the parliamentary rules empowers a sitting speaker to take oath himself fore administering oath to othe MPs of the present parliament.

"As such, advocate Hamid having taken oath earlier as per provision of the parliamentary rules. is not required to take oath again and therefore he is the valid Member of Parliament," said the counsel.

Khan Saifur Rahman, chasing the point of argument, submitted that the rules of procedure of the parliament "cannot overrule the provision of the Constitution which is the supreme law of the land".

I wo killed

FROM PAGE 12

Upazila in Kishoreganj. Jahangir Hossain, 18, son of Bancher Ali Mollah of Noalbari village under Mirpur upazila in Kushtia, was run over by a speeding truck at Kawran Bazar at about

12:30pm Police sent the body to the DMCH morque for autopsy.

Two separate cases were regis tered with Badda and Tejgaon police stations in connection with the

As such, the Awami League lawmaker, advocate Hamid, should be deemed to have lost his member-

pleaded. This court had issued the rule upon advocate Abdul Hamid and others last February asking them to show cause as to why his parliament seat should not be declared to have been "deemed vacated" for not taking oath in accordance with provision of the Constitution.

Six shooter recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

morning recovered a six-shooter five cartridges and a blood-stained dagger from an abandoned house confessional statement of a man arrested in connection with the murder of BNP leader Abdur Rashid

way to Bagerhat town.

Housewife

FROM PAGE 12 poured kerosene on his wife. Nasrin Sultana Nasima, 18, and set her on fire, following an argument on Sunday night.

8:00am vesterday. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Sources added that Tajul was

alleged that her husband premeditated the killing.

In another incident, Kamrun Nahar Nipa, 27, was stabbed to death by her husband, Kamrunzzaman Faruq, at their

Farug stabbed Nipa in the throat following an altercation at 10:30pm, Sunday night. Nipa died on the spot.

went immediately and arrested the alleged killer-husband.

Separate cases were filed with

politics has been banned on BUET campus to get back its lost glory. The academic council of BUET unanimously decided on this issue, he

sports, social entertainment and welfare related activities in absence of the EUCSU and different hall associations, the VC said the university would form various coordination committees comprising talented students to look after those affairs.

academic council, he said.

He said classes would resume on August 3 and residential halls would be made open for students on August 1.

Muggers

Sagar Ahmed, production manager of the factory, however escaped unhurt. Badda police picked him up from the DMCH for

Police found three spent cartridges inside the taxicab.

Rahman was unmarried and lived with his uncle at Badda. He hailed from Binodpur village under the Palang thana in Shariyatpur district.

Dhanmondi on Thursday and took away Tk 3 lakh.

Arshad was on his way to the New Market from the Standard Chartered Bank at Dhanmondi.

On February 4 this year, a gang of miscreants also shot dead Shamsul Islam, sales manager of Smart Technology Limited, in

Trisha's death

FROM PAGE 12 Jatiya Party, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Gono Forum expressed their support to

a press statement published in a local daily termed the hartal call 'illogical', saying it is not necessary as the district administration and police have taken 'prompt action' after the incident.

nor Abu Bakar Si Prashad. GNC Convenor Aminul Islam Golap presided.

action programmes for noncompliance.

Police have arrested the accused -- Mehedi Hasan Modern, Md. Shahin and Ariful Islam Asa.

worker Afsar a Jativa Party worker Jovnal and Bipul have also been arrested under Section 54 of CrPC

intimated the government of the Meanwhile, the autopsy report agitation programme planned by the submitted to police confirmed that CBA and the dock workers from May Trisha drowned. 29 morning. Sheikh Nasir Ahmed of the local He requested the ministry to take necessary steps so that the port

unit of Ain O Shalish Kendra (human rights and legal aid centre) met the victim's family and assured them of legal assistance if needed.

imposed on the business in the current fiscal and declaration of a tax holiday on the business for the next five years, and restriction on unlimited imports of pay channels

of a national policy for cable business and a 'Satellite Channel Censor Board' and reduction of the license fee of Bangladesh Television (BTV) fixed for the cable operators. At present, the government has fixed Tk 25, 000 as license renewal fee for the cable operators.

They also demanded a change in the monopolistic attitude towards the cable operators by the country's two distributors -- Translink International and Nationwide Communication Limited.

According to the meeting sources, the minister promised to consider the operators' demand for withdrawal of the supplementary tax imposed on the cable business. He also assured to make an effort for concrete solution to other demands of the operators.

Meanwhile, the government has formulated a draft policy styled, Cable Television Networks (Regulation and Management) 2002, to regulate the country's cable business. The draft is likely to be finalised soon after discussion with the authorities concerned.

Code of conduct FROM PAGE 12 More rain, more flood

Rangpur zone has experienced heavy rains. Internal rainfall aided by the onrush of floodwaters from unstream caused a sharp increase in water levels of all major rivers.

To add to miseries, erosions by the Teesta River in Rangpur, Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat and by the Brahmaputra, the Dharia and the Ghaghot in Gaibandha and Kurigram have so far devoured many homesteads and seedbeds and rendered thousands of families homeless. At least 50,000 families in the zone were margoned following floods and erosion, an official estimation claimed.

Our Netrokona Correspondent reported that the district's flood situation further deteriorated. Waters from hills in neighbouring India and heavy rainfall during the last 24 hours caused the fresh flood. The water levels of four major rivers Sumeshwary, Kangsha, Mogra and Donu have registered a sharp rise. The rivers were overflowing in many places it its banks.

Seven unions in Durgapur, four in Kalmakanda and two bordering upazilas of the district have been sub-merged. Road communication between Netrokona-Dugapur and

cal committee would consult

experts and prepare a new list,

which would exclude controversial

books unnecessary for language

learning. But the technical commit-

tee did not take any decision in this

Secondary Education Directorate

recently floated the tender for sup-

ply of laboratory equipment, office

equipment and training materials

under three separate packages

estimated at Tk nine crore. Under it.

six language laboratories would be

set up to teach English and Arabic

languages for pre and post interme-

diate students and service holders

of 458 books in English and Arabic,

mostly unfamiliar and unnecessary

for language learning, ignoring

authentic and familiar books,

before preparing and finalising the

for the greater interest of the nation,"

said State Minister for Labour and

It is the government's responsi-

bility to ensure smooth functioning

of the seaport to boost trade and

had crippled the economy and held

the whole nation hostage." the state

minister observed and added that

the government wanted to clear all

taken after detailed inter-ministerial

discussion on a request from the

CPA chairman, Golam Rabbani

halted because of agitation

programmes including work stop-

page, strike and hartal called by 22

CBA, non-CBA and so-called dock

workers organisations in the port,"

he wrote to the shipping ministry on

tial as power, gas and other utility

The shipping ministry forwarded

Officials of the EC said the local

authorities must have known during

the guite a long period for election

campaign whether there was any

plot to foil the polls. Although news-

papers had predicted violence on

the polling day, the authorities

concerned did not raise the issue at

the EC's pre-election law and order

services of the government.

"Activities of the CPA are often

The sources said the action was

the bottlenecks.

earlier this year.

'Non-functioning of the port has

other economic activities, he said.

Employment Lutfur Rahman Khan.

No experts were consulted

The package three sought a total

to prepare them for jobs abroad.

The total cost of the project was

The Secondary and Higher

regard at its latest meeting.

involving Tk six crore.

experts alleged.

According to our Sirajganj correspondent, torrential rainfall with heavy currents of the mighty river Jamuna washed away 120 metres groyen at Zia groyen under Sadar

Some 130 millimetres of rainfall was recorded in the last 24 hours till 4:00pm yesterday. Pabna correspondent adds: The

been submerged again due to rising waters in the Padma and the Jamuna over the last 72 hours. Officials said the water level at Siranganj was flowing over 48

low-lying villages of Pabna have

centimetre higher than the danger mark due to a rise in the water level in the Jamuna by 23 centimetres. Water at the Hardinge Bridge point was recorded just under the danger mark following the 27cm rise of water in the Padma. Intermittent rainfall has created

water-logging in the lowlands of the district over the last 48 hours. Our Khagrachhari

Correspondent reported that normal life of the hilly people was seriously disrupted in the district due to heavy rains and water logging. The lowlying areas have been inundated.

Language lab book deal

to certain firms', sources said.

list of books. It was based on 'certain

suppliers' suggestions' and the

motive behind was to 'award the job

had procured those books for vari-

ous other organisations obviously

for their own gains. They became

active again to include those books

in the list for the language laboratory

project with similar motive, the

books, two types of encyclopaedia -

Encyclopaeredia and a 13-volume

Students Discovery Encyclopaedia-

60 sets each. This meant there

would be 10 sets of each for a lan-

guage laboratory which would teach

50 students in two shifts a day. The

most funny thing in the tender was

not possible for book suppliers to

drop quotation for the bid," a leading

could not participate in the tender

bid due to lack of time. The authori-

Strike banned at Ctg port

'Without having the details, it is

Many genuine book suppliers

incomplete details of the books.

supplier said.

The tender sought, among other

a 22-volume World Book

sources pointed out.

In the past, a group of officials

Road communication with the Chittagong, Feni and Rangamati remained suspended for landslide caused by an onrush of torrential

Officials recorded 287mm rainfall over the last 24 hours till 2:00pm

Khaleda greets Kalam

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday felicitated President-elect of India AP.I Abdul Kalam on his election to the highest office of his coun-

Conveying her warmest greetings to Kalam in a message, Khaleda Zia said the government of Bangladesh was happy to see a person of his stature as president of

The Bangladesh prime minister expressed the hope that the bonds of friendship existing between the two countries will further expand under the guidance of President

ties had allowed only three days to

submit the bids for the three sepa-

rate packages. Only a few suppliers

Surprisingly, most of the bidders,

whose quotation value was Tk 15

crore to Tk 18 crore, did not deposit

2.50 per cent earnest money as

required according to the tender

specification. Most of them depos-

ited Tk eight lakh as earnest money.

Another foul aspect of the bids

was that five bidders gave pay

orders issued by the Mercantile

Bank with continued serial num-

bers. This clearly indicated that it

was a bid dropped by one party in

concerned to review the tender

procedure for the sake of transpar-

A senior teacher of English

department at Dhaka University

suggested that the tender commit-

tee should include some experts

of awarding them golden hand-

He alleged the previous govern-

ment had appointed 2,200 workers

at the end of its tenure, when there

should have been retrenchment.

No programme

Talking to The Daily Star, several

ministers, preferring to remain

unnamed, admitted that a decision

was made that the day would not be

observed at the state level and the

government had also introduced

March 17 as a public holiday to mark

the birth anniversary of Sheikh

Subsequently, it cancelled the

shake. Akbar said.

FROM PAGE 1

Muiib.

hefore a fresh tender is floated

ency and accountability.

A number of genuine suppliers of

were able to drop bids.

different names.

BNP to recast

purge the party of opportunists, the

sources said. The leaders suggest that Tarique Rahman, BNP joint secretarygeneral (1), look into organisational atters

Tarique, the prime minister's eldest son, who has already proved his capability to run the party in different times, especially in the last general election, is working on organising the party and its front organisations.

He is gathering information about city, district, municipal and thana committees as well as the expired and inactive committees in the 75 organisational districts.

The preliminary reports dispatched to the Hawa Bhaban say most district and grassroots-level committees have long remained

In consultation with the BNP secretary-general and other policymakers. Tarique has decided to appoint new persons to the lead-

Some front organisations that will undergo changes are the Jubo Dal the Krishak Dal the Matshvaiibi Dal, the Mohila Dal, the Sramik Dal and the Ulema Dal.

CCC mayor gets bail

BSS, Dhaka

The High Court Division granted anticipatory bail to Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury for four months in four graft cases.

A division bench comprising Justice S K Sinha and Justice Mohammad Nazrul Islam Chowdhury passed the order upon petitions moved before the court. The Bureau of Anti-corruption

filed four graft cases against Mohiuddin Chowdhury on July 9, 2002 with the Kotwali Police Station of Chittagong. Mohiuddin Chowdhury surren-

dered before the High Court Bench today and prayed for anticipatory books had urged the authorities bail. Dr. Kamal Hossain along with

advocates Zahurul Islam and Ramzan Sikder appeared before the court on behalf of Mohiuddin Chowdhury while Deputy Attorney General Sheikh Abdul Awal stood

BNP activists

FROM PAGE 12

including a nephew of the local BNP MP, intimidated voters into staying off the election centres on the voting day (Saturday).

Of the ten chairman candidates Muktadir Mowla Selim, Mosharraf Hossain Liton and Shakhawat Hossain Farhad and of the 78 commissioner candidates. Mainuddin Mission. Abu Yousuf Khokon and Altaf Hossair conference.

Also present were Vice-President of the north district unit of the Awami League Advocate Anwarul Kabir, General Secretary MA Salam, Organising Secretary Gias Uddin and Sandwip BCL leader Rajibul Ahsan Sumon.

Threatened with death, more than 1,500 leaders and activists of the main opposition party and its wings had to leave Sandwip Upazila, they alleged.

The candidates demanded fresh election to the municipality in a peaceful atmosphere.

The Sandwip Pourashava election has whipped up widespread criticism among the electorate.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong Md. Abdus Salam, Superintendent of Police Matiur Rahman, Deputy Flection Commissioner Md. Siraiul Islam, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Sandwip Biswanath Banik and other officials involved in the election process yesterday left Chittagong for Dhaka to attend today's meeting called by the Election Commission.

before the BNP celebrates its found-

ing anniversary on September 1. Moreover, the vacant posts on the BNP central committee will be filled by competent people soon, the

sources said. The insiders said the BNP is likely to hold its national council early next year after new committees in all thanas, districts and cities are formed.

The BNP's last council was held in 1993 and all changes took place on the instruction of the party chairperson in line with the provision of the party constitution.

Cricketers

FROM PAGE 1

Enamul also dismissed Javasuriva but not before the explosive left hander blitzed 145 off 164 balls. He set the field afire with six sixes and 13 savage hits across the rone

Although the bowlers were hattered as the day wore on, however, debutant Talha Jubair offered an inspiring morning by snapping up two quick wickets.

The 19-year-old sent opener Marvan Atapattu back in the first over of the day and removed dangerous Mahela Jayawardene for a duck.

"You see. I just got one month with the team before coming here. I am yet to get a right combination and my mission is to make Bangladesh a good team before I leave," said Bangladesh coach Mohsin Kamal after the day's play.

On the other hand, captain

Khaled Mashud claimed that his team improved a lot despite Sri Lankan run feast. "What we need is to play more positively in the second innings as they did last September against the

a chance to avoid an innings defeat," said Mashud. Bangladesh have so far lost seven matches by innings in their

same opponent. If we can bat the

whole day tomorrow, I think we have

eleven Tests so far. (Scorecard and other stories

AL won't

FROM PAGE 1 its next session. The constitution requires that the election be held

within 90 days since resignation of the previous president. Azad, standing in for Sheikh Hasina now on a visit to the United Kingdom and the United States. said the acting Speaker did not

had submitted for discussion in the just proroqued budget session. One of the major issues that his party wanted talk about was the unceremonious exit of AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury on June 21

entertain any of the notices his party

under "BNP pressure", he said. The Chair's repeated refusal to ow some Al Jawmakers to spea in the House led to another walkout The main opposition, which staved away until the Sangsad was proroqued on July 15, is yet to decide whether it would go back to parlia-

ment or not. While there is an indication that the fourth session of the current parliament may be summoned earlier than usual, the AL's return to

the House remains uncertain. Meanwhile, its stance has been hardened following rejection of a bail petition by its Shariatour lawmaker Shawqat Ali and his subsequent arrest Hasina is expected to return

home on August 10. Badruddoza Chowdhury was elected president unopposed on November 12 after independent candidate Barrister Rowsan Ali had withdrawn his candidature at the last

moment Since his resignation on June 21, Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar has stood in as the acting president.

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is yet to decide on its presidential candidate

Saifur sees evil axis

branches, Janata two, Agrani one, Rupali one and Krishi two.

They could not close down 12

branches because of 'protest' by

local people. Sonali and Janata have five such branches each, Agrani two and Rupali one. Agrani Bank could not close down nine branches because of interfer-

and deputy ministers. The NCBs officials cited, among other things, political interference from ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers is responsible for the stalled branch shedding process.

However, the finance minister

vesterday told the bankers to ignore

any political pressure to make the

ence by ministers, state ministers

plan a success for the sake of a healthy banking sector, according to meeting sources "I am asking you not to entertain any such request or pressure. Go ahead with the plan. If there is any such pressure you report to me straight," Saifur reportedly told the

He was also surprised to know that as soon as the closure plan was rolled out, 37 of the NCB branches

bankers.

turned profitable overnight Sonali Bank, six of Janata, 10 of

Bank. this was a case of 'creative auditing'.

these branches during the lossmaking years Governor Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed last week asked the banks concerned to appoint audit firms to check on the branch records. He also asked the

It is now doubted that many of the branches actually disbursed loans and adjusted defaulted amounts against the new disbursement.

by June this year.

These include 20 branches of

The bankers also question the 'miraculous' recovery and doubt that In case the recovery was genuine.

it again demonstrated huge thefts in

Meantime, Bangladesh Bank

Janata has 254 such loss-making branches and 29 of them were supposed to be shut down by June. Agrani has 42 such branches of which 31 were to be closed down by

Professor Nooruddin said student

Asked who would be running the

Professor Nooruddin said the question of teachers' politics at BUET never arises as chancellor of BUET directly appoints the vice chancellor. The associate professors and other senior teachers get routine appointments to the posts of syndicate members, dean and

FROM PAGE 1

He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at about 12:45pm. Later, he succumbed to his injuries while being operated upon at about 3:30am.

interrogation.

Earlier, muggers stabbed to death the cashier of a clearing and forwarding firm, Ali Arshad, at

the hartal call. But a faction of the ruling BNP in

The protest rally was addressed by, among others, GNC Secretary Forhad Abdullah Harun, Joint Eleven Party district coordinator Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul, Gono Forum president Moinul Islam Raza, CPB secretary Mihir Ghosh, Krishak League president Nirba Nindu Bharman and Babu Ganesh

The speakers demanded speedy trial of the case after proper investigation and threatened of tough

Modern's relatives Ashraf, a BNP

services could be declared essen-

FROM PAGE 1

alerted the commission about possible obstruction in the election. That is why the commission has called the officials concerned to explain it, he said.

The CPA chairman had also reduced to three. He claimed there was no resentment among workers in the port because an agreement on salary

He also said that the number of dockyards would be reduced to

EC kept in dark office how such a unique situation arose. They include the deputy commissioner of Chittagong, the additional deputy commissioner

> some others. Some of them might face disciplinary action, one source Meanwhile, the EC has also sought reports in this regard from non-government election observer

(general), the superintendent of

police, the returning officer and

Many of the election officials believe that the local authorities were aware of preparations by certain guarter to create a situation so that voters do not turn up at the polling stations.

Referring to the background of

Sandwip municipality election, one

official said the situation was very today' meeting. complicated since the municipality came into being on February 28 Saturday, Upazila Nirbahi Officer 1999. The same year, the EC announced the election schedule, (UNO) of Sandwip Biswanath Banik, fixing October 28 as the polling day. who was the returning officer, faxed Following a court order for suspension of the election for eight

remained the same till April this year. On April 11, the Local Government Division in a letter to the EC requested it to hold election

week, the EC on October 27 sus-

pended polling. And the situation

in Sandwip municipality along with 14 other municipalities since the

holding election in Sandwip. On May 4, it was informed that there was no such complexity. On June 12, the EC fixed July 20

women's reserve seats. final decision would come from

After the voting hours on

a message to the EC that only two ballots were cast. But both were

King of kitchen business but I'd always been inter-

lished by former British Airways hostess Pat Kerr and a school-cumflood shelter in Svlhet region. Some 10 more school-cum-flood

constructed using this fund, he Tommy Miah said Buckingham Palace officials were surprised when Queen Elizabeth responded positively to such a tiny curry cookerv book. "I was overwhelmed when the Queen agreed to write the

shelters across Bangladesh will be

foreword," Tommy recalled The queen is patron of both the Cancer Research Campaign and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, he said. He said many celebrities of

media and political arena in the UK, Furope and North America, who love South Asian food, frequently visits the original Raj Hotel in 6 West Coates, Edinburgh. Tommy Miah said celebrities who love Bangladeshi food includes Tom Sir Richard Branson, Jones,

Victoria Wood and the Prime

Minister's wife. Cherie Blair. Cherie

Blair loves Kutchhi Bhindi, a vege-

tarian sweet and sour curry made with okra, Tommy says. Pointing to his little formal education Tommy said I had no capital or family connections in the catering ested in food and I often made curries at home. I started at the bottom by washing dishes and cleaning up in a local restaurant. eventually I could manage to open Miah's Indian Takeaway in Sparkbrook in Birmingham. The first restaurant I opened was

eat whenever he appeared in Edinburgh. Tommy Miah quoting joint director general of Cancer Research UK, Gordon McVie said no one claims that curry will cure cancer, though there is growing evidence that eating Bangladeshi or South Asian food can in many cases help avert

the onset of this dreaded disease.

in the city centre, Tommy said add-

ing Cliff Richard was a regular visitor

in the early 80s. He would drop in to

McVie observed that diet is certainly linked to cancers of the bowel, breast and prostate. He said it seems that a lot of common things such as fruit and vegetables are made up of protective substances. which stop the body from being Curries and the special mix of

spices and herbs in Bangladeshi food fall into the preventative category of foods, he added

the police stations concerned.

According to the banks, they could not implement the closure for 33 branches because of cases against Agrani and one of Bangladesh Krishi the move. Sonali Bank has 27 such

> banks to send teams from headquarters to verify the claims.

According to the banks. Sonali has 210 branches bleeding continuously for the last five years of which 55 were supposed to be closed down

ship of parliament "for violating the provision of the Constitution", he

Morrelganj thana police on Sunday Chandarkhola area following

The six-shooter was used for killing the BNP leader on the morning of June 24 while he was on his

Nasima was immediately rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where she succumbed to her burn injuries at

also injured in the fire as he tried to douse it. He too was admitted to the DMCH under police guard. Rafigul Islam, father of Nasima,

Nikunia residence.

Neighbours called the police who

Cable TV

None of the 26,753 voters of the by the distributors. offshore island municipality exer-They also demanded formulation cised their franchise on the polling day, re-fixed by the EC 38 days ago, as the ruling party's musclemen allegedly threatened them to stay off polling centres.

review meeting on July 11. Asked about the Sandwip municipality election, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Syed, apparently hesitant to reply, said it was too early to comment. "Whoever had obstructed the election process will be taken to task," he

The officials have to explain at today's meeting at the commission

He replied in the negative when

asked whether the authorities had

his request to the labour and 3,000 from more than 6,000 at employment ministry since it present. involved thousands of workers and As many workers have become employees. old, the government is also thinking

vetting from the law ministry. The officials at the labour minis try yesterday told The Daily Star that the CPA services have been declared essential for the first time in the country.

"During the period, nobody

would be able to call any sort of

The ministry eventually issued

the notification following necessary

agitation programme including strike, hartal or work stoppage at the port," said Labour Secretary Helal Uddin Khan. The step was necessary for smooth loading and unloading of

According to sources, there are

22,000 workers and employees in

goods at the seaport, he added.

the CPA and most are members of 22 CBA and non-CBA organisa-The shipping minister, however, told the daily Star that the number of the CBA at the port would be

hike was signed recently between the government and the dock work-

cabinet meeting on December 12 last year cancelled both public holidays on March 17 and August 15.

court order was no more in force. The EC then asked the local authorities to report to it whether there was any legal complexities in

sioner candidates including five for The CEC considers Saturday's polls a strav but unfortunate happening and told newsmen that election must take place there. A

as the voting day with 10 chairman

candidates and 44 ward commis-

found invalid. The UNO also reported that there was no law and order problem during the voting hours - 8:00 am to

national flag will not fly at half-mast. The AL government after coming to office on June 23, 1996 declared August 15 as the National Mourning Day and a public holiday. The AL

official programmes and public holiday on the occasion of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day on November 7. However, after coming to office on October 10, 2001, the BNP at a