## SC stays order

requires that only an advocate on record moves files for hearing in court, unless a lawyer is instructed

"We were surprised by the order, as we were not present in court," said Tanjib, one of the lawyers who moved for the writ petition against the construction.

A High Court bench on June 21 declared illegal the underconstruction residences in the Jatiya Sangsad complex and asked the government to take steps to announce the parliament building as part of national heritage.

Justices Mohammad Iman Ali and Shamim Hasnine in their order described the construction as an "arrogant attitude of this govern-

The High Court order came after the Institute of Architects Bangladesh and Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, an organisation of environment activists, filed a writ petition against the tampering.

Earlier, the government made three attempts to get a stay order on the High Court order, which proved unsuccessful.

Yesterday, Additional Attorney General Fida M Kamal moved for the government and obtained the stay order without any opposition, although petitioners have filed a caveat, an official request to a court not to proceed with a case without notice to the person making the

Lawyers for the petitioners said yesterday's stay order was issued although the government only appealed for a date for leave petition hearing. The government obtained the stay order in an effort that the senior experts said might have misled the Appellate Division.

The construction that began in an open space on the western side of the Sangsad Bhaban on October 25, 2002 also breached the National Building Code and ignored Rajuk's official order and protest of architects and environmentalists.

The Sangsad Bhaban, a marble stone and concrete structure, is an architectural masterpiece admired around the world and the construction of the new residences there was carried out without permission from Rajuk, the regulatory authority, required under the Building Construction Act, 1952.

The High Court also said the construction was carried out in a place earmarked in the original plan of Louis Kahn as an open space and such construction is against public

In May 2003, the High Court stayed the construction, but a day before the vacation on August 27, 2003 the Appellate Division stayed the HC order. Equipped with the Appellate Division's stay order, the government resumed construction and completed the buildings.

## Candlelight vigil

parties and socio-cultural organisations took part in the protest rally. They urged all to unite against the religious radicals, who, they said, are responsible for the August 21 blasts that killed 19 people and injured more than 200.

The speakers observed all the attacks so far were aimed solely at the progressive forces of the country. Not a single leader or worker from the ruling BNP or Jamaat had died in those bomb or grenade attacks.

Abdul Jalil, the general secretary

of AL, said people of the country have risen up against the current fourparty alliance government.

If any party or individual betrays the popular uprising, the people

the demand for ouster of the government remains the same.

of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, said some newspapers were trying to mislead the people about the unity of the progressive and secular forces. He refuted the suggestion that there exists rift within the parties over the issue of anti-

the Workers Party of Bangladesh, said people, who died in the deadly grenade attacks, have virtually united the progressive forces against the religious fanatics.

#### Neela's condition PM adamant

FROM PAGE 12

bleeding from the injuries has exposed her tissues to further dam-

"I'm in urgent need of advanced medical care and I'm afraid any sort of delay could lead to a permanent loss of sensation," Neela told The Daily Star yesterday.

Sources said the AL President Sheikh Hasina has directed her officials to list the remainder of the injured AL leaders and workers for considering sending them abroad for better treatment.

'I want to join the rallies again and be active as I once used to be. I hope there's treatment available for such wounds," Neela added.

Meanwhile, six AL leaders, under treatment at Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital for injuries received in the grenade blasts, continued to improve but most of them may have to live with some of the shrappel for the rest of their

lives, doctors said. "We're unable to remove the splinters that are struck deep. But despite remaining deep inside, those pieces of metal won't cause serious problems as they are sterilised in intense heat produced during the explosion," said one surgeon at the hospital.

The AL leaders admitted to the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital included Aany, Noor Alam Khan, Shadhin Loskar, Raidul Alam, Md Aulad Hossain and Md Ataullah.

would not forgive them, Jalil warned. He said though all the parties would fight from their own positions,

Monjurul Ahsan Khan, president

government campaign. Rashed Khan Menon, president of

delegation of the Council for National Agenda (CNA) led by its Chairman Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf met her at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Other members of the delegation are Prof M Moniruzzaman Mia, Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, former secretary Shah Abdul Hannan, eminent journalist Sadek Khan, economist Dr Mahbubullah, Vice-chancellor of the National University Prof Aftab Ahmed, and poet Esharof Hossain.

The prime minister sought coop eration of all in maintaining the forward march of the country without obstructing the function of various institutions.

#### Move to accommodate FROM PAGE 1

residences were made ready and they would start accommodating the speakers in the JS compound

Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas said it was the responsibility of the Parliament Secretariat to oversee final touches to the official residences of the speakers

"It is possible that when the houses were built, they (Parliament Secretariat) also ordered to make furniture for the houses," he said adding that he was not aware of any directive to complete furbishing the residences immediately.

### They won't return

require several surgeries and deteriorate the patients' condition," he

Shamim Hossain, 22, a private firm worker, was passing through Bangabandhu Avenue when the grenades exploded and took a cascade of splinters in his thighs. He moved to the capital from

Rajshahi recently and supports a five-member family back home.

The hospital authorities have so far paid my medical bills and I don't know what will happen when I leave the hospital," a helpless Shamim said, but there was nobody to share his grief.

The condition of Selim Chowdhury, 40, is the worst among 11 people being treated for injuries in three wards of the DMCH.

A hail of grenade splinters have mutilated the intestine of Selim who also took over 200 splinters in the lower part of his body including both legs and pelvis.

Disconsolate with grief, his sister Farzana says: "It has been more than a week since the attack, but there is no sign of improvement in his condition."

"After suffering injuries I rushed to the DMCH alone, but failed to find a place amid a large number of patients. Then I went home at Khilkhet by taxi."

"After making a round of five hospitals, my family finally admit-ted me here 12 hours after the bloodbath," said Selim, a political activist. Doctors have advised him to fly to a foreign hospital for better treatment, a suggestion he cannot afford. "I surely know that the government will not send me to a foreign hospital. As I'm not a leader, the party will also not care for me," he

Photojournalist M A Shishir from his emergency unit bed at BSMMUH said he partially lost his eyesight suffering two splinter injuries to his left eye. Grenade splinters were also lodged in other parts of his body.

Mahbuba Parveen, who took more than 500 splinters, was transferred to Bangladesh Medical College from the BSMMUH on Sunday after her condition deterio-

"The shrapnel lodged in my body causing me terrible pain," said

Mahbuba, mother of two children. Doctors said Mahbuba needs better treatment in a foreign hospital as she received more than 500

splinters below the waist, including

"We are looking forward to the Awami League for its assistance," said schoolteacher M A Masud, her

husband. Doctors said they did not carry

out any surgery as both of her legs and pelvis were badly damaged. Mohila Awami League activist Rowshan Ara, 50, took 70 splinters in her hands, legs and back in the rally

"I was three feet away from Ivy Apa and lost sense after the blasts. Doctors have said they won't take the splinters out," she said with tears

#### 'Bhaban' grafts not overlooked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fransparency\_International Bangladesh (TIB) Board of Trustees Treasurer Prof Muzaffer Ahmed yesterday said the corruption committed by different 'Bhabans' fell under the related sectors and the miscellaneous' head.

He was replying to a query of a reporter on involvement in corruption of different alternative powerhouses of political parties known as Bhabans' that generally influence key political and administrative

"Definitely, we took it into consideration and their corruption were shown in the related sectors and under miscellaneous head," Prof Ahmed said without elaborating.

#### Iwin bus

FROM PAGE 1 immediately clear if that number included the bombers.

"We have to fight this terror," Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told reporters at the parliament in Jerusalem. "This is the policy of the government and this is my policy. The fight against terror will continue with full strength."

The blasts came just hours after Sharon presented to his Likud party the most detailed timetable yet for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and warned party rebels the plan "will be implemented, period."

Hamas, which has carried out dozens of suicide bombings over the past four years of fighting, claimed responsibility for the attack in a leaflet passed out in Hebron, the closest West Bank city to Beersheba.

In the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein el-Hilweh in southern Lebanon, gunmen fired shots into the air to celebrate the attacks, a Palestinian official said.

Palestinian militants haven't carried out a major attack inside Israel since March 14, when 11 people were killed in the port of Ashdod. Afterward, Israel assassinated Yassin, the Hamas spiritual leader in the Gaza, and then Rantisi.

Israel has said the lull was due to its success in fighting militants, not a lack of effort by the armed groups Israel has arrested or killed dozens of militants in recent months. Israel also says its contentious West Bank barrier has prevented numerous attacks. The barrier, about onequarter complete, has not reached the area near Hebron. 2 BAID FUNCTION

#### Sramik Dal

Karmachari Samonnoy Committee (SSKSC) and ravaged union office and the portraits of DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and Prime Minister

Chief Health Officer Colonel Azizul Haqwas outside office then.

merging five registered organisations including three trade unions and two workers associations of DCC.

Member Secretary of the Samonnoy Committee S M Mosharaf Hossain Milon alleged the activists of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Karmachari Union (JSKU), another faction of JSD, are responsible for the attack.

President of JSKU M Zahangir Alam denied the allegation.

Admitting the incident, Secretary of DCC M Alamgir Hossain told reporters he has informed the mayor of the matter and action will be taken against the persons involved.

Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka was not at the office to comment on this incident.

Besides, Mosharaf said some activists loyal to his opponent Zahangir attacked his home on Monday morning and chopped one of his supporters, Jalal, who is now in critical condition in Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The conflict between the two factions erupted as activists of Zahangir Alam attacked a procession of the Samonnoy Committee in Motijheel and injured at least seven on the way to join the ruling BNP's protestrally in Muktangon on Sunday.

The Samonnoy Committee leaders have filed a case with Motijheel Police Station in this regard.

#### Alliance leaders

FROM PAGE 12

that her husband was killed in police

All shops and bazars at Sher-e-Bangla road, Nirala residential area and Gallamari in the city remained closed from dawn to 4:30pm yesterday in the wake of Litu's death.

Three platoons of police in riot gear were deployed at west Bania Khamar and Nirala till his burial.

Litu's wife, their son Ashikuzzaman Pritom, his uncle Vice-chairman of Jatiya Party (Ershad) Abul Hossain, father-inlaw Dr Abdul Jabbar and younger brother Moniruzzaman Elu have demanded investigation into what they said was his custodial death.

## Nine-day opposition

General Secretary Abdul Jalil told a

press conference yesterday evening at the party's Dhanmondi office, adding

sh programmes will come after

eptember 9. The AL and its front organisations

will form human shields across the

country tomorrow, while the Mahila

Awami League will say special prayers at the party's headquarters on Bangabandhu Avenue on September 3.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) on Monday declared

realise its six-point demand. Processions will be held in every dis-

trict with a centrepiece demonstration in Dhaka on September 4, a country-

wide tour from September 10-15, demonstrations in district and upazila

headquarters from September 20-25

and rallies in the capital and districts on

Awami League's proposal with party chairman HM Ershad and a decision

will be taken soon," said Jatiya Party presidium member GM Quader after

an hourlong meeting with Hasina at the latter's Sudha Sadan. He described

the meeting as a courtesy call to express

sympathyfortheleader.

"The country is heading towards autocracy and I feel the government should step down immediately,"

Quader, also younger brother of

Ershad, told reporters after the meet-

Hossain Manju met the leader of the

opposition at her residence yesterday

evening and discussed the latest political development.

Jatiya Party (Manju) Chief Anwai

Our leaders are discussing the

ptember 29.

JP FACTIONS MEET HASINA

series of agitation programmes to

CPBPROGRAMMES

FROM PAGE 1 including rallies, mourning processions, human shields and rallies, would graduate into a tougher movement.

The parties at separate press briefngs announced different rallies in Dhaka on September 29 and a joint public rally in Chittagong on

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina will address the September 29 AL rally at Paltan Maidan, set to be her first public meeting after she survived an assassination attempt on August 21 on Bangabandhu Avenue where grenade attacks killed at least 19 people.

Parties in the 11-party alliance, except for the WP, did not declare the simultaneous programmes yesterday as discord surfaced in the unity of the left alliance over the declaration of onepoint oust government movement with the main opposition.

Talking to The Daily Star, 11-party alliance co-ordinator Abdus Samad

said the grouping's adjourned meeting is likely to be held on September 4 to iron out the political situation and 'discord'. He hoped all differences would be resolved and a united movement against the government and fundamentalist forces would be strengthened.

Leaders of Jatiya Party (Ershad), the second largest opposition party, dis-cussed AL's appeal to join hands with the oust-government movement.

In line with fresh agitation, Awami Mahila League and other women's organisations bring out a procession from the Central Shaheed Minar this afternoon after a rally there.

"We are announcing demonstrations until September 9 as part of the oust-government movement," AL.

the bomb attacks. He sought coopera-

tion from all quarters including the

main opposition AL in carrying out a

of the prime minister's move to meet

the leader of the opposition. He said

the government sincerely wants to

hold a constructive dialogue with the

AL to contain the violent crimes and

reach a consensus on other issues of

declined to make any comment to the

Choudhury yesterday meanwhile called on Information Minister M

Shamsul Islam and discussed issues in

which the August 21 grenade blasts

featured prominently. The minister

briefed the high commissioner on the

government steps taken after the

UNREALISTIC, IMPOSSIBLE Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan

yesterday said a probe under the

United Nations (UN) and

Commonwealth is unrealistic and

impossible since they do not have

Asked if a joint probe by the US, Britain, India, Pakistan, and Australia

is on the cards after their offers to help

in the investigation, Morshed said,

The US ambassador however

British High Commissioner Anwar

Mannan apprised the ambassador

proper investigation.

India offers probe but an Interpol investigation covers probe assistance from 181 of its memperstates."

> "At this stage we do not want oilateral assistance, if we did we would have asked for it by now," he said when asked about Indian External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh's offer to assist Dhaka in the probe. 'INDIASTANDS READY'

Singh in a letter dated August 27 to Morshed said the Indian government stands ready to assist' the Bangladesh government in ensuring enquiry into anythat may be required." He expressed profound shock on

behalf of Indian government and

people and condemned the grenade attack on AL rally Singh offered to work together with Dhaka to eliminate the scourge of terrorism. The Indian foreign minister also expressed his hope that the Bangladesh government would bring the perpetrators to justice and avoid

urrence of such attacks. EX-FOREIGNSECYSMEET Seven former foreign secretaries met again at the state guesthouse Padma vesterday following a meeting with the orime minister on Saturday to discuss Bangladesh's international image and how to best tackle foreign relations in the aftermath of the August 21 gre-"They are only a couple of countries, nade attacks.

# The SSKSC was formed last month erging five registered organisations BNP denies AL JS

their own probe bodies.

But, the AL in its letter demanding the 10 chairs to Hossain claimed in the Seventh IS it did offer proportionate number of JS committee chairs to the BNP, which it did not

Chief Whip Hossain however termed the AL's claim misleading

Bitterly criticising the ruling alliance for refusing the AL demand, Shahid told The Daily Star yesterday, 'On the one hand, its response to our demand comes after about two years and, on the other hand, its attitude shows it isn't sincere at all to making parliament truly func-

He said the AL would reply the treasury bench chief whip's letter after the AL Parliamentary Party examines and discusses it in its

The AL on July 12 last, over two and a half years into the JS's five-

vear term, submitted a list of its lawmakers for incorporating them into the 45 parliamentary standing committees. But the AL MPs were not absorbed into the committees in the last JS session. In the forwarding letter of the list,

Shahid reiterated the AL's demand

for at least 10 chairs of the JS committees. The AL list came almost a year after formation of the vital committees during last year budget In his August-15 letter, Hossain also said all the JS committees were

formed keeping the proportionate slots for the AL vacant, adding the lawmakers duly nominated by the AL would be included in the com-

But, the opposition chief whip pointed out that his party had already submitted its nomination through the July-12 list.

# Lawyers boycott

were political grounds.

The meeting decided that any member, including the attorney general, would be expelled from the Bar in failure to comply with the boycott decision.

Rokan claimed the boycott for an indefinite period was successful on the first day yesterday as most mem-bers qualified to appear in the chief justice's court had abide by the deci-About the criticism against him, the SCBA president said the boycott

decision had been taken at the general committee on the grenade incident, meeting. "It was not intended to the meeting termed it an attempt to divide the organisation. We will take utmost care to maintain our unity". Meanwhile, Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Parishad yesterday strongly

ing the action an infringement on functioning of the judges and violation of fundamental rights of justice The parishad, known as platform of lawyers of the ruling alliance, at a meeting viewed that the SCBA was

protested the boycott decision, term-

being used as a political platform. The speakers, also members of the SCBA, asked its leadership not to abuse the association as an instrument of a particular political quarter to implement the narrow political objective. Keep the Bar above party politics, they said. The meeting in a resolution con-

platform of a particular political party. We will resist them."

demned the boycott decision and termed it unwarranted.

Rejecting the boycott decision, the meeting decided to attend the court of the chief justice. It further decided to resist those trying to obstruct functioning of the court of the chief justice.

The meeting condemned the August 21 grenade attack on Awami League rally that left 19 people dead and more than 200 injured. It hailed the government measures to find out the culprits involved in the heinous Referring to the lawyers' inquiry

confuse the people in the name of investigation. Presided over by Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan MP, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Khandker Mahbubuddin Ahmed MP, Barrister Abdur Razzak, Mahbubur

Rahman MP and Joynal Abedin. Ziaur Rahman said actions that impeded smooth functioning of the judiciary would be resisted at any cost. Khandker Mahbub said, "We will not allow anyone to use the SCBA as a

Barristter Razzak said the SCBA constitution does not provide rule for taking such action that deprived litigants of justice and impede functioning of the court.

#### Abductors kill

FROM PAGE 12 College, from Madhabpur village at

around 7:00pm.

The body was sent to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy. Three unidentified youths called out Talash, son of Afsar Uddin Pramanik, primary education officer

of Bheramara upazila, at home at about 11:45pm and he never returned. A unanimous caller later demanded Tk 4 lakh for his release. As his family failed to pay the money, the abductors slaughtered him, they

Abductors freed fertiliser trader Jahurul Islam of Harinarayanpur Bazarin exchange of Tk 1 lakh, sources

A gang picked up the trader on August 21 when he was returning home from Mahishdanga Bazar of Jhenidah at about 8:00pm and demanded Tk 5 lakh ransom, they

#### All flaws worth

audit systems of different public sector organisations to ease the CAG staff's work on small transactions.

He however said the performance of internal audit systems of 70 per cent public enterprises is very poor, creating a scope for massive corruption by their officials.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman on Monday and Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday criticised the CAG's office for preparing reports on 'trivial issues'. Speaking at the closing ceremony

of the two-day regional auditors general conference on 'Harmonising institutional efforts for promoting accountability in the public sector' the law minister echoed the finance minister's remarks at its inaugural Moudud said, "CAG's office conducts audits on very insignificant

issues, which also makes the reports difficult and at once time-consuming to read." It should make reports on major financial transactions only, which will make the reports reader-The conference was attended by

30 delegates including a number of auditors general from the Saarc and other countries of the region. The CAG's office in association with the World Bank and Canadian

International Development

Agency (Cida) organised the confer-

Presiding dverabusiness session on the 'Role of parliamentary financial committees in promoting accountability,' Harun-Al-Rashid, chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (Pac), the only constitutional parliamentary body responsible for auditing public sector expenditure, observed that the Pac reports should be discussed in parliament to ensure accountability of the govern-

Shahad Chowdhury, director general of Works Audit Directorate, who made a presentation at the business session, said the Pac of last two parliaments submitted only nine audit reports but none of these reports were discussed in parlia-

#### 12 Nepalese

The 12 were last shown in a videotape on Saturday reading a statement saying they had been misled into working in Iraq by "American

Nepal's ambassadors to Pakistan, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, speaking to media in the kingdom, had expressed hope in recent days that the hostages would be freed after the kingdom stressed it was not part of the US-led coalition in Iraq.

Nepal declined US requests to contribute troops, saying its army was busy fighting a bloody Maoist insurgency.

Earlier Islamic militants holding two French journalists captive gave Paris another 24 hours to scrap a controversial ban on Islamic headscarves as their hostages warned time was running out to save their

### Low response

FROM PAGE 1 representative Jorgen Lissner. He described the present situation in flood-affected areas as a "quiet disaster" and worried donors no longer saw the need for aid because the dramatic television images had stopped.
"The post-flood situation is

extremely dangerous for the very poor because they have no income, no shelter, no assets and are vulnerable to disease," Lissner said. About 69 million dollars has been received and some rehabilitation programmes have started, including food assistance and water and

sanitation assistance, since the UN's August 12 appeal to help victims facing shortages of food and other essentials. But Lissner said donors' focus had shifted amid the Darfur crisis in Sudan and Bangladesh's changing political situation after the August

21 blast targetting the main opposi-

tion leader. He said a United Nations meeting in Geneva on Tuesday would review the status of the appeal for aid. The floods affected 33 million people at their height and left thousands stranded for weeks.

# Interpol explosive

FROM PAGE 12 dispatched from its headquarters said they will provide analytical, forensic and other services in the ongoing investigation to help Bangladesh police authorities identify and apprehend those responsible for killing 19 people and wounding some 200 others in the

grisly attack. A source said a CID team yesterday interviewed AL lawmaker Kazi Zafarullah and recorded his statement about what he saw during the carnage. The source could not however say where the AL legislator was interviewed.

The senior AL leader told The Daily Star on Monday that two youths launched the grenade attacks on the AL rally by throwing at least two grenades from the pavement between Ramna Bhaban and City Bhaban. He also claimed to have seen a tall, dark-complexioned youth throwing something at the truck from the footpath between Ramna Bhaban and City Bhaban. **JUDICIAL BODY SPEAKS TO** HASINA

The one-member Judicial Inquiry

Commission yesterday sought an appointment with Leader of the Opposition and AL President Sheikh Hasina to speak to her about the attack.

A commission source said Justice Md Joynul Abedin spoke to Hasina by telephone for the appointment, which is yet to be

The AL sources said he may inspect the bulletproof sports utility vehicle of Hasina, which was riddled with bullets and grenade shrapnel while carrying her

The commission visited Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University yesterday evening and recorded statements of some of the carnage victims. Besides, the commission listed names of two witnesses to the

bomb blasts till 2:00pm. The commission will make the list for two more days and ask those on the list to come up with information at its office at 2/A, Circuit House Road, Kakrail for

# Tk 225cr lost to graft

Muzaffer Ahmed presented the report, with TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman present, among others, at a news conference at the Jatiya Press Club and answered media queries.

The report based on a database developed by monitoring 17 national and six regional dailies of July to December last year said, of the Tk 225-crore loss, 47 percent was government money, 41.9 percent of private sector, 2.8 percent of non-government organisations and 3.6 percent of donor

The highest amount, or 32.8 percent, of financial corruption was detected in the communications sector, the second highest or 18.8 percent in food sector and the third highest, 16.3 percent, in direct and indirect taxes. In terms of number of corruption incidents, police topped the

list accounting for 15.18 percent,

followed by local government

sector with 12 percent, education

sector with 10.4 percent and health and family planning sector with 10.1 percent on a ventalesy Substantial corruption was also found in finance, home affairs (excluding police), and energy and

"The prevalence of financial corruption in private services sector and political parties were also significant," the report said. The masses are the worst victims of corruption, bearing 42.3 percent brunt of it, as a section of

mineral resources sector.

directly extract money from them. The government is the second most affected by corruption, the report said, adding the government was the primary victim of one-third of the monitored incidents. Students and businessmen also feature prominently among

corrupt officials and employees

the primary victims. Among the secondary victims of corruption are general citizens, the government, farmers and

Of the total 1,394 persons the study found to be involved in corruption, 67.1 percent are officers and employees of government and different autonomous bodies, 25.2 percent belong to NGOs and 7.7 percent are elected people's representatives.

Actions were taken against only

dents. The actions include informing the authorities concerned about 9.3 percent of the incidents, lodging lawsuits against 7.7 percent and investigating 4.4 percent. Among the cities, the capital was found as the most corruption-

prone, with Ramna coming up at

31.4 percent of the reported inci-

the top once again among the metropolitan areas with a total of 58 corruption incidents. Among the districts, Dhaka topped the list with 17.4 percent corruption cases, followed by Chittagong with 8.8 percent. The least number of corruption incidents were reported in Nawabganj

and Shariyatpur districts. The TIB study found male officials to be generally much more corrupt than the females. About 50 percent men were found involved in corruption, while women accounted for 2.6 percent. The gender of the remaining 47.4 percent corrupt officials could not

Among the ranks, high officials were found to be more corrupt, with 21.6 percent incidents, than their subordinates' accounting for 15.4 percent. Clerks were involved in 6.8 percent grafts. According to the study, govern-

ment officials and employees tend to serve personal interests by misusing and abusing their authority, which accounted for 38.2 percent grafts reported in the 23 newspapers. Bribery, embezzlement, extortion and cheating are some dominant modes of their On an average, the newspapers published 174.3 incidents of cor-

ruption a month. The TIB study

team cross-checked 15 percent of

the newspaper reports, in which

about 78.5 percent reporters were

able to produce documents in support of their reports, while 5.3 percent could not produce any. On validity of reported corruption cases, 49.4 percent officials admitted them right away, while 22.6 said the reports were mostly correct, about 3.3 percent said some facts were correct, while 22.4

percent claimed them to be

untrue, and the rest 2.3 percent

monsoon system.
"Modelling has shown that if air
pollution and land use change, this

could alter the albedo, the reflec-

tivity, of the land," he told BBC News

FROM PAGE 12 Mamata Bala Nath, 25, her mother

Bakul Bala Nath, 50, and sister Kali

in-law dead. As his wife and sister-

in-law tried to save their mother,

they also met the same fate. The

and brought them to the city for

hails from Bagerhat, came to

Police later recovered the bodies

Local people said Sujan, who

killer fled the spot immediately.

Sujan first chopped his mother-

Husband kills

Bala Nath, 18.

declined to comment.

# Earth warned on 'tipping

important as the programme to prevent collisions with asteroids. Professor Schellnhuber is research director of the UK's Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. He was speaking at the EuroScience Forum in Stockholm,

at a briefing by the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme entitled Beyond Global Warming: Where On Earth Are We Going? Professor Schellnhuber said 12 "hotspots" had been identified so far, areas which acted like massive

regulators of the Earth's environment. If these critical regions were subjected to stress, they could trigger large-scale, rapid changes across the entire planet. But not enough was known about them to be able to predict when the limits of tolerance

were reached. "We have so far completely underestimated the importance of these locations," he said.

What we do know is that going beyond critical thresholds in these regions could have dramatic consequences for humans and other life forms."

One example of a hotspot was the North Atlantic current, the ocean circulation pattern responsible for bringing warmer air to northern Europe, the collapse of which could lead to a very large regional climate Others were the West Antarctic

ice sheet, the Sahara desert, and the forests of the Amazon basin. Yet another hotspot, Professor Schellnhuber said, was the Asian

Chittagong about seven years ago and got a job at a salt factory at Kalurghat in the city's Chandgaon thana. He married Mamata in 1997 and started living at his mother-inlaw's house at Hasnapara. Later, he quit his job and forced his motherin-law to give him money to start a shop in the locality. But trouble started when

another wife -- Zhunu Das, 24 -- in Raozan upazila, whom he married in 1996 and also has a son from her. Sujan also has a son from his second marriage and was allegedly

Mamata and other members of the

family came to know that Sujan has

trying to develop extra-marital relations with his sister-in-law Kali