Illegal structures

tures there was taken in Sunday's inter-ministerial meeting organised by

Officials comprising Narayanganj district administration and Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) conducted the eviction drive on Pagla canal and Shyampur canal at Žia Sarani-Shanir Ákhra in Demra yester-

"We are removing the illegal structures and cleaning the canals. The drive will continue till all illegal encroachers are evicted.

including factories, houses, and shops in the DND area of which only 495 have been demolished in different phases, BWDB sources said.

sources said

channels have been filled, flow of water is badly disrupted and even

aterlogging in the DND area.

Following rainfall in last month and

Despite pumping out water with the help of the permanent DND pump house at Shimrail in Narayanganj district and 13 more small pump machines installed at various points, a large part of the DND area is still aterlogged.

DND was once developed for an irrigation project, but 85 percent of

Our Narayanganj correspondent reports: DND Bachao Nagorik Committee and Jativa Sampad Rokkha Sammilito Andolon vesterdav laid siege on the pump house at Shimrail under Siddirganj upazila in

Thus they spoke

impressed at Sadek's feat. He called Sadek to meet him after the session. man who has contested all the parlia-

Party Vice-Chairman James Krishna Das remarked, "Sandwiched by the two major parties, the EC has invited us to help discharge its duties."

caretaker government, he suggested.

Organising Secretary Abdus Samad said a fair election cannot be held if the prime minister appoints the election commissioners Sramik Oikva Jote Chairman SM

Akram said there should be no provision for any election expenditure and no candidate should be allowed to expense even a single taka. He however did not explain the rationale of the

Nejame Islami (Rashid) suggested increasing the ceiling of the election to Tk 20 lakh.

Nejami Islami engaged in a brawl on who should take the floor, when the party was asked to speak.

The CEC noted that there are two or three splinter groups of every party, and said, "We will examine their respective strengths in parliament. But, except Jatiya Party of Anwar Hossain Moniu, none of the participants of yesterday's meeting has any

leaders at the meeting also launched a broadside at the media for dubbing

early this month, waterlogging has brought misery to a large number of people in the area.

Some 57 square kilometre area of

it has been used up by constructing houses and industries in an unplanned way. This unplanned are also responsible for the unusual waterlogging experts say.

Speakers at a rally in front of the pump house blamed government bodies concerned for their irresponsibility and failure in protecting about two million DND area dwellers from unusual waterlogging.

their organisations name-only parties.

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Awami

League Chairman Mostafa Allama.

However, an indecent word of his drew

Bangladesh Liberal Party chief Akram

Hossain criticised the media for run-

declaring, "The truth will eventually

Hossain could not confirm whether he

secretary of the party, but repeatedly

When the EC asked Akram

Echoing the Allama's view,

severe criticism from the CEC.

"Nobody should ignore us," said

Even the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) was reportedly ning so many reports against them, saving he was interested to see the was the president or the general

time in preparing a voter list. "Not only vou [the EC], the entire country will face controversy if the voter list is On the reason behind inviting them

to the dialogue, National Patriotic a fresh voter list. his turn, wondered, "Is there any need

of Khelafat Andolon, in his turn, proposed a quite revolutionary idea. A Khelafat system of government should be introduced to replace the Bangladesh Islami Front

of people would be deprived from using their franchise if the voter list is updated. "So I want a fresh voter list."

When Election Commissioner M Munsef Ali assured him that all adult In contrary, the general secretary of without preparing a fresh one.

The Republican Party chief also suggested bringing all the ministries under the EC during the general election.

Acting Chairman Saleh Mohammad Samad demanded a fresh voter list and said his party boycotted the last parliamentary election in protest against not meeting its demand for a faultless list.

Khadiza Begum, a leader of Shusil Samaj (civil society) Party, which enlisted its name just before the dialogue began yesterday morning, said nobody understands the Shusil Samaj. "I have come here propelled by a drive I feel within. I want to be a part of something huge that is going to take place," she informed the session.

AL asks PM

FROM PAGE 1 dialogue with all political parties on voter list, the meeting said it was nothing but an attempt to justify the CEC's controversial appointment.

Quoting a resolution of the meeting, Obaidul Quader, acting general secretary of the party, said The president has violated the constitution and breached his oath by granting mercy on political Law Minister Moudud Ahmed

and State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar were involved n the process, Quader said. "Awami League believes that without the prime minister's consent they could not pursue the matter." Jhintu was sentenced to death in

the case along with two other persons who were hanged. After absconding for 22 years, Jhintu surrendered to a court in January and appealed for the presidential amnesty which he got within 12 days, Quader said. The AL leader said the CEC has

initiated the dialogue with political parties only to justify his appointment as the mainstream opposition parties had rejected the appointment made by the government unilaterallv.

'Updating the voter list is a routine work of the Election Commission. which does not need suggestions of 114 political parties." The meeting held at the party's

Replying to a question, he said,

Dhanmondi office decided to stage demonstrations in Dhaka and elsewhere on July 30 in protest against the price spiral of essentials. "A famine-like situation is prevailng in the country due to scarcity of food and price hike of essential

meeting said. The meeting chaired by acting president of the party Zillur Rahman observed that the government's repeated denials of price hike of essentials are a mockery of the sufferings of commoners.

commodities," a resolution of the

Galib, 18 others FROM PAGE 16

case against 21 persons in this connection. In the charge sheet, 19 persons were exempted from the charge and two persons, namely Habibur Rahmah alias Jubayer and Raju Sarder, involved in the charge. Police in the charge sheet

exempted 19 persons including Galib and no vital objection was raised in the case, said Public Prosecutor Jahangir Alam Jinnah. Defence pleader Siraiul Islam

Babu submitted a petition for releasing the accused, including Galib, in the Takier Bazar open stage drama in Palashbari and pleaded not involved in the incident. The court fixed the next day on August 28 for charge On December 21, four bombs

were blasted at the open stage drama at Takier bazar under Plashbari Upazila, severely injuring seven persons

Earlier, on June 28, a Naogaon court exempted Galib and his associates from the charge of the Porsha BRAC office bomb blast incident. The court also granted bail in this

CEC censures

parties here do not tolerate each

other, they have no trust and confidence in others. The system of caretaker government has emerged n Bangladesh, which will not be found anywhere in the world," the CEC said at the dialogue with political parties yesterday. He said dialogue is the only way

to resolve any crisis or confronta-

Asked about non-participation of Awami League in the discussion, the CEC said, "Three major parties out of the four who have representation in parliament are joining the discussion. The dialogue will not be meaningless if Awami League does not participate.'

"I think they [Awami League] will come. They should come in the interest of democracy," he added.

Diplomacy

about the contents of their discussion. I've seen in newspapers that they are planning a seminar here."

However, he categorically said a constitutional change cannot be demanded by any diplomatic club or any country. " Bangladesh will run in accordance with its own constitution," he said, adding if any change is required that will be done by the elected representatives in parliament, reflecting the wishes of the

"We value democracy, but it must be within democratic norms," he said and suggested that the opposition's caretaker government reform proposals could effectively be discussed in parliament.

Describing foreign diplomats here as friends of Bangladesh, Morshed said if there are any diplomatic or political issues with any foreign country that can be discussed bilaterally at the foreign ministry which is the only channel for interactions.

He said the Election Commission (EC) will invite election observers during the time of elections.

Asked about a report of US President George Bush's visit to Bangladesh, the foreign minister said he was not aware of it. He also does not know about the US president's visit to India or Pakistan. About the replacement of

Bangladesh High Commissioner to London Mofazzal Karim, he said any such instruction was not issued

Bangladesh MP

involved in hate speech to enter

Britain. The House of Lords and House

of Commons are likely to take a more lenient view this time to pass a law, turned down twice previously, in November to extend the provision on inciting racial hatred to religious hatred, Lord Eric Evebury, vice chair of the UK parliamentary human rights group, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The Home Office has been drawing up a list of such hate campaigners to be banned from entering Britain and the name of at least one Bangladeshi lawmaker has been suggested by the local communities to be put on the list, government sources said.

Yesterday, Goggins said the government has been watching closely how the local communities are working out the events.

"We want to help the Muslims now and set up programmes for partnership to tackle radicalisation of Muslims. We want a better communication with the Muslims. improve their education and mosques," Goggins asserted. "The way local communities

responded to this very challenging time is praiseworthy," Goggins said. "I thank the faith leaders for their solidarity. Police have reassured the faith leaders that they will do everything to protect the communities." Asked what Britain plans with a

number of extremists living here, he

"We have reached an agreement with Jordan last week (for his deportation)." he said in an oblique reference to Omar Bakri, one of the most strident radical Muslims taking refuge in the UK. "We just can't deport anyone, we have to have country to country agreement."

He said the British government is determined to root out the radical Islamists who are involved in terror-"It will take time to have dialogue

with the Muslims and bring changes in their minds," he admitted and tried to allay any fear in the minds of the citizen by saying: "The vast majority of Muslims are peaceful. One shouldn't be afraid to see the Muslims. "Goggins also said Britain will take the issue of terrorism in the country on the international level and so the issue have been discussed with the prime minister of

The minister said Britain is not alone but 36 other countries have been facing the 'outrageous behaviour' of radical terrorists and that the backlash is not coming only on the Muslims but the Hindus and Shikhs

"Given the scale of backlash in Britain, it can be said that the vast majority of people are peaceful here," Goggins maintained. "We are logging every incident and will

Where all hell

the station opened for the first time

Monday after the July 7 blast that killed Walking down the stairs to the

platform, it looked just a little desolate, and of course scary because there seemed to be no security enhancement, no policeman in sight, no special vigil, as if nothing happened here a few weeks ago. Only the dried flowers and the faces of two a woman and a man claimed to be missing -- reminded that this in fact is the site where all hell broke loose on a fine morning.

But the look of the station and many others along the London's sub terrain will give a false impression as the heart of Europe called in a record number 3,000 gun-carrying police Monday to spread an unprecedented security blanket after the presence of a fifth bomber in the July 21 attempts was "The gunmen are there, you won't see them," said a Home Office official

yesterday. "Your every movement is being watched." The Metropolitan Police has

drafted in scores of firearms officers from forces across the UK to assist in anti-terror raids and to quard the transport network. The reinforcements are in addition to the 2,100 officers already licensed to carry sub-machine guns and pistols Police are still on a shoot-to-head instruction despite the identity mess-

akenly shot to dead by police at Despite everything, people were seen carrying rucksacks, unchecked and ignored by security men, to trains. Checking every passenger's bag is an impossible task and so people on the tube eye every fellow passenger with

up of the Brazilian boy who was mis-

The only Heckler and Kock submachinegun totting policemen with hands ready on the barrel were found in front of the Scotland Yard. Even at the Home Office entrance, there was nobody, and no check body or bag.

The only perceptible security arrangement at the tubes is the periodic announcement over loudspeak-

ers to alert people about suspicious looking packets. "If you notice any suspicious looking luggage, report it to the police," a solemn female voice repeats. The second warning is not to leave luggage for any given time, or it will be destroyed. These were not there before the attacks.

But whatever may be the outward appearance of London, the mere fact that security has been heightened has created some tension among the Labour MP Sadiq Khan said: "It is

important for us to inform the public

that the police will not be firing their

guns willy-nilly. What you don't want to do is to create a perception that the police can, on a regular basis, make terrible mistakes.' Sir Iqbal Sacranie, secretary general of the Muslim Council of Britain, said: "While we accept that the police are under tremendous pressure to apprehend the criminals who are attempting to cause carnage, it is

absolutely vital that the utmost care is

taken to ensure that innocent people

are not killed due to overzealousness.' Meantime, the Chairman of the Independent Police Complaints Commission promised yesterday that his investigation into the killing of a Brazilian boy would not make it more difficult for the police to prevent further terrorist attacks. but would seek wavs of minimizing the chances of accidental shootings by armed officers

Fruit juices FROM PAGE 1

Department of Pharmaceutical Technology at DU.

Consumption of such juices with high chemical ingredients might College MA Sayeed.

present at the event.

Bombers remain

commuters with a call written above them to inform the police if anyone has any information about them. So far, police have not got any clue as to where they are holing up, and that gives them the chill "We actually don't have any idea

where these people might be," admitted a Home Office official to The Daly Star yesterday. "Our hunt is on and we are working on a number of tips." But what has been worrying the administration is the thought that these four Muktar Said Ibrahim, 27, Yasin Hassan Omar who are the only one

named by the police are still in Britain and hiding among some communities, most likely Muslim. Despite the call by Muslim clerics to the communities to expose the bombers to the police, the response has been dismaying, as one of the Home

Office officials would put it. "It shows maybe the sentiment shown by the Muslim communities is not all that sincere," said the official There might be sympathy for the people even though they did something outrageous such as killing of the innocent.' Police now pin the hope on a plastic

container used to store the homemade bombs in last Thursday's attack on three tube trains and a bus in London. Only 100 stores in Britain sell the Indian-made container, police

Police also raided a north London flat on the ninth floor of a council tower block where Ibrahim is reported to have stayed. It emerged that a onebedroom flat was used as an assembly line to create the rucksack bombs which failed to go off last Thursday. The suspicion that the two bombers were of Somalian origin has also widened the scope of investigation beyond the Asian community, making the task of fighting Islamist extremists even more daunting.

Police yesterday made another appeal for public help to catch the fatally affect child health, said Associate Prof of Ibrahim Medical CAB Vice President Humayun Kabir Bhuyan and General Secretary Quazi Faruque were

fugitives who have simply vanished

since their abortive attempt of suicide

a The Times survey yesterday showed

74 percent of public believe that

terrorist bombings and scares are likely to be part of life in London in

future. There is support for deporting

foreign Muslims who encourage

reports said: "In Britain, the Muslim

community is different from anywhere

else in Europe, mainly South Asian

origin particularly Pakistani, Indian

and Bangladeshi. Indian and

Bangladeshi Muslims, like Turks, have

been little tempted by extremism.

However, many young British

Pakistani men, who often maintain

close contact with their parents' coun-

try, have been influenced by the rise of

In case of any deviation in this

regard, the BTRC shall take neces-

sary actions against the operators

responsible as per the Bangladesh

the telecom operators must ensure

the availability of sufficient capacity

within their networks so that there

shall be no crisis in providing neces-

sary interconnectivity upon request

from any other operators, the reso-

Chairman Omar Faruque, the

meeting was also attended by Vice

Commissioner Justice Muhammad

Abdus Salam and representatives

of all the telecom operators.

Chairman Reza E Rabbi,

Presided over by BTRC

To establish the customer rights,

Telecommunications Act 2001.

Islamic militancy in Pakistan

BTRC warns

FROM PAGE 1

lution added.

The Times in one of its inside page

attempt six days ago. Meantime, the Fake mineral fear of London becoming a regular gory theatre of bomb attacks has FROM PAGE 16 stalked the minds of the Londoners as

and other faiths."

in fines and also throw out beef on the street as the seller was not maintaining hygienic standards.

The recently formed mobile court led by ABM Abdul Fattah, conducted the drive on Hossain Oil Traders at Malibagh Bazar for selling edible oil without the label of the Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI) Hossain traders, a wholesaler, has been selling soybean oil, mustard oil and vegetable oil. But BSTI has not approved any certificate for the vege-

The court fined them Tk one lakh, which was instantly collected. "We have collected the oil sample and sent it to the BSTI. Later we will take action against the refinery com-

pany of the oil," said Fattah. Later the team raided a bottled water factory in Mohakhali and sealed off the factory. The employees of the 'Mineral Water' factory fled away

before the police nabbed them. No case was filed in this regard. The DCC team went to Baily Road and raided all the luxurious fast food shops, including Swiss

Public Analyst of the DCC, Md. Golam Sarwar, told The Daily Star that all those fast food shops are using unapproved food colour. "When we reached there, all the fast food shop owners ran away as

their kitchen is unhygienic and they use unapproved food colour," he said Another unit of the DCC yesterday raided some roadside meat shops but could not nab the owners or sellers. Later the DCC men threw away

kerosene oil on it. Another two mobile courts formed by the home ministry started working to raid unhygienic and unhealthy food item producers.

unhygienic meat on the road and put

5 Kushtia journos | Kader Siddiqui

unhealthy politics.

who have uncovered corruption and

are critical of the government: if this

was to happen it would completely

undermine the rights of a free

press," Warren said in the IFJ

implicated in extortion charges by

BNP lawmaker Shahidul Islam, after

they published a story reporting on

corruption within Shahidul's cadres

The court granted the journalists

interim hail of three months and

asked the government to show

cause why they should not be

journalists along with five others

filed a general diary against MF

Shahidul Islam and his cadres after

the journalists were threatened with

death following a report which

revealed BNP men had attacked

and injured 50 protesters at a rally

the security of journalists in order to

guarantee protection of press

freedom in the country," Warren

said, adding, "The IFJ demands that

journalists should be able to operate

in an environment free from intimi-

dation, and the courts must protect

An IFJ report Courage and

Censorship: Journalists and Press

Freedom in South Asia 2004-2005

revealed, Bangladesh to be one of

the most dangerous places for

journalists in Asia because they

were targeted for reporting on the

country's pervasive corruption

political violence and organised

journalists were killed, 320 tortured,

55 injured in assaults and 405

received death threats, the IFJ

Sacked Nepal

around 12,000 lives since 1996.

US rejects

FROM PAGE 16

by anyone," it said.

prime minister in February when King

Gyanendra seized power to combat a Maoist rebellion that has claimed

He was arrested in late April on two

corruption charges levelled by the

powerful anti-graft commission estab-

ished by Gyanendra, but cleared in

A statement from the US Embassy in

Dhaka yesterday said the com-

ments made last week in Florida by

Congressman Tom Tancredo of

Colorado, were "offensive" to the US

government and to the American

American policy. We unequivocally

reject the idea of targeting Makkah

or any other civilian or religious site

United States strives to be a bastion

of religious freedom and tolerance.

"Since our founding, we have con-

stantly struggled to make our society

World's most cherished places of

worship and pilgrimage should not

be sites of violence. "This is true of

Makkah, Jerusalem, or Rome; it is

true of Christian churches, Jewish

US government and people respect

and honour all the great religions of

the world, including Islam. "The war

on terror is about taking on those

who commit acts of violence, which

are contrary to the teaching of Islam

often said, our fight is with the terror-

ists, not with any nation or religion.

We join the people and leaders of

Bangladesh in reiterating our com-

mitment to promoting freedom and

tolerance for all people throughout

the world," said the statement.

"As the President (Bush) has

The statement reaffirmed that the

synagogues, or Muslim mosques."

as just and pluralist as possible."

The statement noted that the

"In no way do they reflect

press release said.

FROM PAGE 16

From May 2004 to May 2005, 6

this right."

"The government must ensure

On July 23, two of the bailed

the release added

allowed ordinary bail.

The journalists were falsely

"Since present activities of the Oikya Mancha are inconsistent with its previously declared programmes, we with deep anguish withdraw Krishak Sramik Janata League's support from Jatiya Oikya Mancha," he told a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club.

Labelling both the ruling BNP and opposition Awami League (AL) as "parties engaged in unhealthy politics", he said, "I joined with the Oikya Mancha as Dr Kamal Hossain tried to form a platform of healthy politics but now he has derailed from his princi-He, however, said despite with-

drawal of support from the Oikya Mancha, he did not have any disagreement with the Gono Forum led by Dr Kamal Hossain and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh led by former president Badruddoza Chowdhury. Kader Siddiqui, a former AL leader was also in disagreement with the recently announced electoral and

said his party does not agree with the reform proposals "We don't support the idea that the defence ministry will be under the

caretaker government reforms

agenda of the opposition alliance and

caretaker government instead of the president," he said, adding, "In case of taking any decision the president will consult the advisors of the caretaker government.'

Replying to a question, Siddiqui admitted that he had talks with former oresident Jativa Party Chairman HM Ershad a long time ago in a bid to form

an opposition alliance. "But, I did not agree," Siddiqui said. The AL does not pursue the ideology of Bangabandhu and Zia's ideology is completely absent in the ruling BNP. the KSJL chief said.

The present BNP led four-party alliance government, which is engaged in corruption, lost the right to rule the country long ago, a written statement read out by KSJL General Secretary Fazlur Rahman said.

"To save the country, this government needs to be ousted immediately and national unity is essential to do this," the statement added. KSJL leaders Anwar Hossain

Pahari, Nasrin Siddiqui, advocate Umme Kulsum Rekha, Kamal Uddin Ahmed and Zahurul Islam were

Most of name-only

grown eligible to be granted franchise without having to prepare a fresh one. I did not know it could be done by updating the current list," Republican Party Chairman Oliul Islam Chowdhury told the dialogue.

Despite the poor response and callous opinions expressed by the participants, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz said he was satisfied with the way the event went on. On the criticism that most of the parties invited exist only on paper, he said, "I think we did the right thing as they too have the right to express Some leaders of minor political

parties participating in the dialogue yesterday blasted the media and the mainstream opposition parties including Awami League (AL) for branding them as faceless. "Media has been ridiculing us, they are calling us parties in name only. But

the truth will come out to show what we actually are," observed Bangladesh Liberal Party Chairman Akram Hossain. "We may be minor as parties but no one should ignore us. We feel insulted

f anvone calls us faceless." said

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Awami

League Chairman Mostafa Allama. Some of the participants questioned justification of holding such important talks amid boycott by the opposition parties. "Nothing significant will come out

opposition parties, who have representation in parliament, chose not to get involved in it, "Islami Biplobi Andolon General Secretary Ziaul The first day of the dialogue was marked by a walkout and strong objection from a political party to sit

with the minor parties. In response to

the situation, the EC had to arrange a

from this dialogue as the mainstream

special session for Jatiya Party "It's simply meaningless to sit down with such nondescript parties." said a senior member of the Jatiya Party

(Manju) delegation. The number of political parties nvited was raised to 117 yesterday. With three new political parties taking part in the discussion the number of participants on the first day stood at 38.

Thirty-eight parties including AL and its left allies were invited to sit the dialogue today. But the parties have declined to join, describing the EC initiative as a mockery in the name of About the reasons for poor atten-

dance, EC secretariat officials said none of the invitations has returned to them, meaning those letters have reached the destinations they meant. Either the absentee parties have shifted their offices or they are not at all interest in the issue, they added. The CEC and the two Election

Commissioners (EC) yesterday seemed to be struggling to maintain the order during the talks as many of the participants started speaking on a diverse range of issues like reforms of caretaker government and electoral systems They had to repeatedly request the discussants not to shift the attention

clarify whether they want a fresh voter list or an updated one. Perplexed about whether to speak for a fresh roll or for revising the existing one, some of the participants said they favour both. Some appeared flipflopping, changing their stances, speaking for a fresh list one moment, opposing it the next.

from the issue of electoral roll. They

also insisted that the participants

"Just tell me your opinion, whether there is enough time to prepare a fresh roll is another thing," The CEC said, asking a National Awami Party leader

Dhaka still FROM PAGE 16

meeting in India. We understand that India and Myanmar are trying to resolve the issue bypassing Bangladesh..

coming back to Bangladesh to implement the pipeline project". Speaking at the inaugural session of a three-day conference of South Asian energy reporters that began at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel vesterday, he said Bangladesh is ready to negoti-

ate the proposal, particularly with

We will welcome any such move.

But now it appears that they are

50 Taliban FROM PAGE 16

disputed the government death toll "Four Taliban brothers were martyred and also 28 Afghan police, army and soldiers were killed or wounded in the area," he said. "The rest of the Mujahedin brothers managed to flee to the mountains.

who was voicing serious doubts about the viability of a fresh voter list due to time constraint ahead of the next general election.

CEC Aziz who conducted the

daylong dialogue staggered over four

sessions expressed his satisfaction. "I

am really happy. New ideas will come

up if we can continue the culture of dialogue," he told reporters after the Replying to a guery, he said it depends on the outcomes of tomorrow and the day after whether the

initiative will end up in a farce or not. Besides the disagreement between the EC and the political parties about the voter list, a severe discord within the EC reared its heads on the opening day of the dialogue.

The CEC in his welcome address

said the electoral laws do not neces-

sarily say that fresh voter last cannot be prepared while his two colleagues said the electoral ordinance does not provide for preparing a fresh voter list. The CEC countered that the laws are made by human beings and they

people demand so. The CEC said the EC would decide on the voter list once the dialogue is over. On AL turning down the invitation. Aziz said there are four major political parties in the country. " What can I do if one chooses not to join the

can be changed if the majority of the

discussion." he said. Replying to another question on the outcomes of the dialogue in absence of AL, the CEC asked, " How many seats do they [AL] have in

parliament?' Among the participants, 21 political parties opined in favour of a fresh electoral register while 14 said the list should be revised to save huge sums of public money. The rest three seemed too confused to furnish their

TÄLKS WITH JP After the Jatiya Party (JP) delegation led by its Secretary General Sheikh

Shahidul Islam refused to sit the dialogue in the same session with minor parties, the EC arranged a special session for the party. Shahidul Islam during the talks said they want to see many things to hap-

voter identity cards are only a few to The CEC wanted to know exactly what is their stance on the voter list while Election Commissioner Munsel Ali said that the JP leader's words

pen. A strong EC, a fresh voter list.

suggest they want a fresh voter list. After the meeting, the JP leaders said they do not want a fresh voter list. EC'S DÚEL ROLE The EC was very strict at the morning session and did not allow participants to speak on issues other than that of

the voter list. But at the afternoon session, he allowed the discussants to speak also on other issues. In the morning session, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Rab) leader Abdul Malek Ratan wanted to know whether he could speak on issues like electoral reforms. As the CEC said there is only one topic is on the agenda and that is

voter list, Ratan walked out of the talks,

saying his party is not interested to

speak only the voter list. Dollar price

both the imported and locally made products costlier.

However, Bangladesh Bank is still hopeful that the foreign exchange market will steady soon. It also argues that the dollar price hike has benefited the exporters and remitters. It has been learnt that according

to a decision of the first-ever meeting of the fiscal co-ordination committee last Sunday, where the presnently, the BB is going to take some measures to contain the hike. The BB yesterday sold three million dollars to three private banks to import food-grains.

Outlaws threaten FROM PAGE 16 by grenade attack

Abu Tayeb, also a Khulna representative of electronic media ntv received a letter Monday afternoon sent to him by post. The sender of the letter has

organisation of Islamic militants The militants of the underground outfit have threatened to kill Abu Tayeb by bomb attack as was done in the case of iournalists Manik

identified himself as Salehin of Khulna-based Jihadi Party, an

Abu Tayeb filed a general diary (GD) with Khalishpur Police Station on Monday night, seeking security of his life The Dainik Lokshamaj is owned

Saha and Humayun Kabir Balu.

by Forest and Environment Minister Tariqul Islam.

The decision to remove illegal structhe water resources ministry

Locals welcomed the initiative while authorities did not face any obstacle in eviction work.

Narayanganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Foyez Ahmed said. There are 1749 illegal structures

Besides four main drainage canals in DND area, there were also a good number of drainage channels connecting to the main canals, most of which have disappeared, BWDB As most of the canals and drainage

"However in every election my deposit money was forfeited," he said. But all was not in vain, as he hoped to eventually see his name in the Guinness Book on World Records as the candidate of the highest number of polls in the world.

mentary elections in Bangladesh. Sadek suggested taking sufficient

Zafarullah Khan, general secretary

expenditure from the present Tk 5 lakh The presence of three fractions of Muslim League and two of Nejame Islami in the same session drew much attention, as factional leaders of

representation at all in parliament. A number of the self-styled political

FROM PAGE 1 to surrender before it by July 31.

Enayetur issued a statement

Monday, saying that Moudud had

gone to Sweden and received

hospitality at the house of

Mohiuddin Jhintu, who was sen-

tenced to death in 1982 in a double

murder case, before the president granted him amnesty on January 13 this year. Moudud, accompanied by his lawyers, filed the case with the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka at 3:15pm although the CMM's execu-

tive order has made it mandatory

that a complaint must be submitted

by 10:30am.

Hearing the case, Magistrate Mizanur Rahman recorded statements of the complainant under section 200 of the Bangladesh Penal Code and passed the order. Enayetur said he will defend himself through legal battle. "The case has been filed to divert peo-

ple's attention as the presidential

amnesty to a convict of double

murder drew massive public criti-

cism," he told The Daily Star last

The parliamentary standing committee on law ministry at a meeting on Thursday blamed the ministry for not giving appropriate opinion (in the summary sent to the president for clemency) after examining all documents of the double murder case. A martial law court in 1982 sen-

for murdering businessmen Abdul Khaleq Rana and Firoz Al Mamun of Demra the same year. After evading arrest for more than two decades, Jhintu, who

tenced Jhintu to death in absentia

Speaking on the agenda, Hossain said he wants the voter list to be updated as well as prepared fresh. When the CEC asked him to clear his position, whether he wanted a fresh or an updated list, Hossain said he wants

claimed himself as the chief.

to prepare a fresh voter list at a huge cost, if the revised one can serve the Expressing his ignorance about the process of voter list updating, Republican Party Chairman Oliul Islam Chowdhury said a large number

The convenor of Forward Party, in

people will be included if the voter list is updated and there is no scope for anyone's deprivation, Chowdhury said he did not know it was possible

Bandladesh National Congress

Moudud files

claimed himself to be the founder

president of BNP's Sweden chapter

surrendered to court on January 3

this year and was granted the presi-

dential amnesty within 10 days. Talking to reporters on Sunday, Moudud said the home ministry prepared the summary of the case and sent it to the law ministry asking if the president can grant amnesty. 'We sent back the summary to

the home ministry saying that the

president has the power to do it, but

it depends on him whether he will

exercise it. We did not make any

comment for or against granting him amnesty," the minister said. Sources said the law minister met the prime minister at her office on Monday where the PM enquired what actually had happened (re-

In the defamation case, Moudud claimed that he had never met or talked with Jhintu. He termed Enayetur's statement [that Moudud received Jhintu's hospitality in Sweden] "imaginary." Moudud went to Sweden on a

state visit on April 20 and returned

five days later while Jhintu returned

to Bangladesh on January 3 and

was granted clemency 10 days

garding Jhintu's clemency).

later, the complaint said. It also said Moudud, learning about the SCBA secretary's statement sent to newspapers Monday afternoon, phoned Enayetur at 6:30pm the same day and requested him 'not to publish and circulate the false news' The statement of the accused is

ill-motivated, indecent and false and was sent to newspapers in a bid to tarnish Moudud's reputation and image, said the complaint.