## Rajshahi cops seek

"But the sedition case will not be strong enough as we did not find any firm evidence against them," said

their anti-state activities only through a diary and a few notes that carry restricted training lessons on arms,

"Actually we had no right to arrest if there was no such diary with them. Discussing religion inside a house is virtually no offence. And gathering people from around the country just helps us doubt them." said the senior

The sedition case will finally keep the militants behind bars for a time and in course of time they will be released on easier punishment, said

sources. The JIC, however, also asked local police to continue investigation

But local police have no time to arrest with 10 others on July 19. deal with such cases as they remain busy with other daily incidents, said several police officials.

militants after a seven day quizzing in remand, terming them to be men of militant linchpin and Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh chief Galib. The JIC commented in forwarding

that the militants did not belong to Bangla Bhai's Jagrata Muslim Janata

in the case for murdering Yasin Ali of

kidnapped Yasin and beat him to

death, hanging him upside down

from a tree in front of Kodapara

name, submitting a charge sheet for

covering Jhargram, Jhikra, Bihanali,

Kulimari, Modakhali and Kaliganj of Bagmara under Bangla Bhai's

adrassha on June 29, 2004.

Bangla Bhai's men allegedly

Police later withdrew Enamul's

He used to lead a JMJB unit

He along with Biplob and Golam

Enamul, one of the arrestees, was

Mustafa organised the training at one

found with JMJB leaders during their

anti-outlaw operations, they said.

ozammeľs house.

Shahiduzzaman till his

Kunapara Maria in Bagmara.

They also said that they could not gather any more important informathey are complex. tion, but the militants should be charged with sedition for bearing exclusive combat training lessons.

They suggested two of the arrestees -- Enamul and Golam Mustafa -- should be put into deten-Enamul was the principal accused

have already brought down the number of stages in export-import. In response to the claim, he said he has proposed finding out ways to minimise the hassle exporters and

After the meeting, Mian said one must admit the existence of corruption, and the way it is spreading must be contained for greater

officials were reluctant to admit corruption within in the NBR organs, but some of the NBR officials said that computerisation can reduce the corruption in some cases. Khairuzzaman told the press that

larities in the organisation. He said it is not possible to get rid of the trend of irregularities overnight. But discussion about devising

## Enayetur granted ates in Sweden led by Jhintu

Moudud receiving reception from Jhintu in Sweden.

A High Court division bench granted Rahim the bail moved by Barrister M Amir-UI Islam and issued a rule upon the government to explain why regular bail should not be granted to him. The bail will continue till disposal of the rule.

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud, were present for the petitioner.

general meeting protested and condemned the law minister for filing the "unjust and false case" and decided to fight legal battle for its The law minister has filed the case

pressure on the lawyers' movement,

Monday accusing Moudud of orchestrating clemency to Jhintu, who had awarded death penalty in absentia by a martial law court in 1982 in a double murder case.

Rahim alleged that the law minis ter visited Sweden and took Jhintu's hospitality there a few days before Jhintu, claimed to be the founder president of the Sweden chapter of BNP, returned to Bangladesh on January 3.

committee on law, justice and parliamentary affairs at a meeting last Thursday blamed the law ministry for not giving appropriate opinion in the summary prepared for Jhintu's clemency after examining all documents of the double murder case.

The law minister told reporters that the home ministry prepared the summary without mentioning the fact

statement alleging Moudud's involvement in the process of clemency Moudud said he went to Sweden on April 20 and returned to Bangladesh on April 25, much before Jhintu's return to the country.

disclosed some pictures yesterday that depict the Bangladeshi expatriexchanging complements with the law minister

The lawyers yesterday also distributed copies of Probashir Kantho, a Bangla monthly published from Sweden that carried out a news item on the reception accorded to Barrister Moudud and his wife Hasna J Moudud.

The monthly also mentioned about a meeting organised at a Swedish restaurant named Payel. Jhintu presided over the meeting and expressed, in his welcome speech his pleasure to meet Moudud after a

MOUDUD'S VERSION

Talking to reporters after release of the pictures yesterday, Barrister Moudud denied that he knew Jhintu.

I went to Sweden four months after he [Jhintu] was granted mercy. did not know him earlier and don't know even now," he said.

"It is not clear when the pictures were taken. When I went to Sweden the expatriates accorded me a reception. I didn't know all present there and I didn't know Jhintu," he said. **PROTEST** 

Pro-opposition lawyers under the banner of Sammilita Ainiibi Samannay Parishad (SASP) yesterday castigated Moudud for filing the defamation case against Enayetur

The SASP staged a human chain and held a meeting on the SCBA premises protesting the presidential amnesty to Ihintu and the case filed by the law minister against Advocate

The SASP leaders demanded withdrawal of the defamation case against Enayetur Rahim. They also demanded immediate

resignation of Barrister Moudud for his failure in discharging duties to execute the capital punishment of Jhintu, a convict of a double murder

Presided over by Barrister M Amir-UI Islam, the meeting was addressed, among others, by SCBA President Mahbubey Alam, former SCBA president Advocate Abdul Baset Maiumder Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru, Advocate Subrata Chowdhury, Advocate Bashir Ahmed, Advocate Nurul Islam Sujan and Advocate Abdul Mannan.

The Bela also challenged the

authenticity of a Raiuk approval letter

Metro Makers had appended in its

Scrutinising the original files, the HC

bench yesterday held that the letter

was of course not a genuine one. So

the court cancelled the rule issued

earlier that so long had prevented the

Rajuk from stopping earth filling in

cases against the owner of the

ABM Abdul Fattah raided the factory

of Premium Sweet to find them

mixing unapproved food colour and

hygienic but they use unsafe chemi-

cal," said the magistrate, who fined

of Modhubon Sweetmeat and fined

it Tk 20,000 for using unsafe chemi-

cal and keeping unhygienic environ-

two restaurants and fined them Tk

18,000 for not ensuring hygiene of

dent adds: A mobile court yesterday

fined nine Chinese restaurants for

unhygienic environment and using

unsafe chemicals in Jamal Khan

Corporation Magistrate Md Shafiqur

Rahman fined seven restaurants Tk

64,800 for supplying unsafe food.

The court led by Chittagong City

It also fined two other restaurants

their products and items.

and Chawk Bazar in the city.

It visited a sweetmeat shop and

Our Chittagong staff correspon-

The court also raided the factory

perfume with their products.

Another court led by Magistrate

'The factory environment is

Five Muslim

the project area.

FROM PAGE 16

Muslim Sweetmeat.

the owner Tk 20.000.

petition and said it was forged

# Modhumoti Model

interest litigation filed by Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, Town Improvement Act and Raiuk rules

Besides disposing of the Bela litigation, the court yesterday dismissed an earlier petition of Metro Makers against the Rajuk for preventing it from carrying on earth filling and land development work.

The judges also declared a Rajuk there.

As the full judgement was quite long, the court only read out the operative part of it, touching upon five major issues.

To begin with, the bench rejected the argument of Metro Makers' lawvers that the Bela has no standing, or legal right, to file the case.

master plan prepared thereunder and the Environment Conservation Act. As the Metro Makers did not Rajuk, the project is unauthorised, illegal, without lawful authority and against public interest, the court pronounced.

On the PIL filed by the Bela, an HC bench comprising Justice Md Abdul Wahab Miah and Justice Zinat Ara on August 15, 2004 issued a 6-month injunction against Metro Makers to refrain from earth filling or any other

ncluding advertisement to sell its On a petition by Metro Makers

appealing against the ruling.

NBR agrees

FROM PAGE 16 NBR and ACC to find out the number of tables a file has to go through and slash the number. It also proposed examining the laws governng income tax, VAT and customs with an aim to simply them where

NBR Chairman in principle agreed to the ACC proposals. He said that six NBR officials have already been to ACC and the commission can take their help in carryng out the programme.

Mian told reporters after the meeting that NBR has claimed to importers still have to face.

Citing example of Singapore

where papers relating to unloading of a ship are processed in just 20 minutes, he urged the NBR to think of speeding up the procedure.

nterest of the nation.

Meeting sources said NBR

have explained to the ACC about the functions of NBR and also discussed about the scope of irregu-

a joint strategy to combat corruption

## Tuesday Group

conference room jointly organised by two poll observer groups--Brotee and

Beemsterboer said the foreign minister as well as the government is well aware about the foreign envoys' move to hold an international conference on free and fair elections. "We have already met the government, the opposition, Election Commission and NGOs and offered our wish to help the electoral system of Bangladesh to make it more credible and fair," he said.

After the seminar, the Dutch ambassador confirmed that they are going to arrange an international conference in Dhaka likely in November or December. "Preparation of the conference is going on with the supervision of the Canadian High Commissioner." he told The Daily Star On the purpose of the conference, he said, "We will review situation in

Bangladesh and discuss international elections principles and standards.' On Tuesday, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan lashed out at the reported move by the Tuesday Group to hold an election seminar in Dhaka and categorically said the constitution

of Bangladesh cannot be changed following demand of any other country "Foreign diplomats cannot bargain with a government like trade unions. Diplomacy is not a CBA job. No diplomatic norms allow a country to change the constitution of another country," he

old reporters. In that press briefing, Morshed also said. "I don't know about the Tuesday Group and its terms of reference, and don't know about the contents of their discussion. I've seen in newspapers that they are planning a seminar here.'

However, it was learnt from reliable source that in December 2004 the foreign ministry was first officially hout the in the first week of March this year, one of the envoys associated with the conference met the foreign minister and Law Minister Moudud Ahmed a few days later and informed both about the conference. The matter was also discussed with Foreign Secretary Hemavetuddin

The Tuesday Group's move

The Tuesday Group comprising Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States as well as the European Commission ambassador and the United Nations resident co-ordinator is going to organise the high level election conference in Dhaka likely in November or December.

The initiative has been taken with a view to facilitating a free and fair outcome at the next parliamentary elections in Bangladesh. The confer ence is expected to include more than 400 guests, both domestic and international, representing parliament, government, political party, civil society, business community and the

The conference, primarily technical in nature, will deal with the issues that include development of a reliable and transparent voters' list, listing and standards of conducts for election candidates, and management of polling centres.

Recently, a similar conference on holding fair election, monitoring and role of the election commission was held in Islamabad, Pakistan. The European Commission, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and delegates from Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh attended the conference sponsored by the British High Commission.

## British cops

FROM PAGE 1

arrested during a search of a home in England's second largest city of Birmingham at 4:30 a.m. The man was shot with a stun gun during the search and police said they uncovered a package that was being examined by explosives experts. Three other men were arrested

shortly afterward at another home in the city, about 120 miles northwest of London Meanwhile, a group of 40 Afghans

nave been deported on a flight organised jointly by the French and British authorities, the interior ministry in Paris said yesterday.

The flight took off from Charles de

Gaulle airport outside Paris on Tuesday evening carrying 25 Afghans detained in France and 15 in

The two countries announced recently that they would collaborate in returning failed asylum-seekers to their countries of origin.

## Attacks change face

FROM PAGE 1 finding fewer and fewer customers by the day - well to be exact by the night. That used to be a good time to ferry Londoners visiting Brick Lane to taste its unique characteristics of fun and intellectuality. But now many avoid those nightly sorties. In Salam's language, Brick Lane turns into a 'completely dead' place at

"The English and the Europeans, many of them young artists and would-be intellectuals, would hang around the restaurants at night and they would need cabs to go back home," said Salam. "Now they have almost disappeared. My drivers don't get calls to drop them." Shane has a different version of

the events that followed 7/7. The English people want to take a ride in my cab because they think it

is safer," he said. "I give them a reliable face. But Salam seems to have lost that reliable face to many and wants to wait for a few weeks before taking a final decision about his business.

"Things are turning out difficult by the day." says Koves Chowdhury his driver. "I get more calls during the day from my customers. But that has not increased my business because I get delayed on the road because of the traffic jam caused by frequent road blocks put up by the police." And for cabbies like Salam who do not ply on metres but on a rate fixed by the public carriage office, there is no waiting charge for traffic jams.

Koyes still hoped for the night commuters, but that is also not materialising. Like Salam and Koyes, 15 other

taxi companies owned by Bangladeshis in Tower Hamlet and around 1.000 cabbies are facing the same hazy future. One of them closed the shop a week ago.

Not only the lack of passengers, but the Bangladeshi cabbies also face a host of embarrassing questions from the English commuters. They will obviously first ask them if they are Pakis as the Pakistanis are often referred to here. And getting a negative reply, they will want to know if they are Muslims and then the discussion will dangerously veer to the London attacks.

"Although I don't like to discuss all this I still have to respond to such queries," says Koyes. "Because keeping silent is even more danger-

Madhu, another Bangladeshi cabby working for Hoxton Car at Hoxton Square of North London, says he faces even more trouble from the police at night. He thinks his escorting a beard and fair complexion might make the cops curi-

ous.
"Last Wednesday, police stopped me at London Bridge at night and asked what I am doing there," he said. "They knew I am a taxi driver and still they did it.'

Madhu too wants to sell off his car if business does not pick up soon. Because though business remains dull, he will still have to pay the usual fees and taxes pounds a year in road tax, 80 pounds a week in insurance, 80 pounds a week to the cab company, 100 pounds a year to the public carriage office and 300 pounds a

## Future of a fresh

FROM PAGE 1
Asked, Justice Abdur Rouf, who served as CEC during 1990-95, said they made the voter list in 1995 in accordance with law. Talking to The Daily Star, he said the ordinance clearly says that a fresh list must be prepared before any election.

The EC Secretariat was ready a few months ago to start work on a fresh voter list. But the immediate past CEC MA Syed did not take a final decision about it and preferred to wait for takeover by his successor MAAziz.

But Aziz, who is a judge of the Appellate Division, pointed out the legal matter and said there is no provision for preparing a fresh voter list in the 1982 ordinance that sugaests revision of the existing one. Aziz said this on July 20 after an EC meeting that took the decision to

arrange dialogues with political parties on voter list. After the meeting, the CEC and two election commissioners examined the ordinance and expressed similar views. "The laws will have to be amended to prepare a fresh voter list. We will ask the government to amend the law if majority of the

the CEC said on Tuesday at a dialogue with the political parties. But at the same dialogue the CEC referred to section 19 of the Electoral Rolls Rules, 1982 and said there is no legal bar to preparing a voter list afresh. The comment contradicts his own and his two colleagues' views that the ordinance should be amended for making a

political parties wants a fresh list.'

Amid such a discord, the EC sit in dialogues with the political parties to seek their opinion on the issue, though it has turned into a farce amid boycott of most of the political parties including the main opposi-

On preparation of voter list, the Electoral Rolls Ordinance, 1982 says: for the purpose of elections to different elective bodies, there shall be prepared electoral rolls for each electoral area or constituency, as the case may be, upon registration of

Senior officials of the EC Secretariat said the EC decisions to prepare the last four voter lists were made on the basis of this provision. Four out of the five CECs served

during 1982-2000 were justices but no question had been raised against the decision of preparing fresh lists. "It is the constitutional duty of the election commission to prepare

voter list for elections," a senior EC

official said on condition of anonym Officials said there is a provision in the ordinance for updating the voter list but it is not mandatory. "It depends on the EC's directives, said an official.

The provision says: the electoral

roll shall, unless otherwise directed

by the commission for reasons to be recorded in writing, be revised in the prescribed matter by reference to the qualifying date before each election to (an elected body). WAITING FOR DECISION The EC Secretariat is still waiting for a decision whether a fresh voter list

will be revised. The secretariat has, however, prepared a budget of over Tk 200 crore for a fresh list. It is a huge task. So we to start it long ago," a senior EC Secretariat official told The Daily

will be prepared or the existing one

Star on condition of anonymity. He said it will need at least six months to prepare a voter list for the next parliamentary election, which is slated for early 2007.

# B Chy, Kamal unveil

commissioners under one chief election commissioner (CEC), which they considered necessary, although the constitution does not specify the number of commissioners, and for enhancing the performance of the EC under huge workload.

They suggested appointing impartial and competent persons as the CEC and the commissioners for the tenure between two caretaker governments after a discussion with the political parties and alliances.

The reform proposal said the EC will have full financial and administrative freedom from the control of the executive. Budgets for the commission should be approved according to its requisition and the commission should be able to spend independently.

The EC should have complete independence to appoint and terminate its human resources.

The proposal said the new voter list should have to be completed three months before the election. Photographs attached to voter list, thumb impressions and passports should be considered as proof of identity of the voters. The voter identity card and casting of vote through electronic voting machine should be ensured in the future.

It proposed to raise the existing election cost limit in the light of

The leaders said the mobile phone network should not be switched off during the election for the sake of countering vote rigging, preventing violence and to facilitate the members of the media and law enforcement agencies.

The reform proposals also include increasing parliament seats to 400 from the existing 300 and electing those 100 candidates through indirect election, conducting direct elections to women seats and making compulsory for each party to nominate 20 percent women candidates. To make the post of the speaker

more non-partisan, the parties proposed that the speaker will have to resign from his party after being elected to the post. He will be considered elected unopposed if he wants to take part in the next national elections and then he will

parliament. On the eligibility of Justice KM Hassan as the next head of caretaker government, Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury said he had involve-

be considered a neutral member of

ment with a political party. On the resignation of Kader Siddiqui, president of Krishak Sramik Janata League, from the Jatiya Oikya Mancha, Dr Kamal Hossain said, "In democracy everybody has the right to join in and quit Our Mancha is open for all.'

He appreciated the gesture of Kader Siddiqui that he made no complaint against the Mancha after

Firoze M Hassan, acting general secretary of Bikalpadhara, presented the written statement at the press conference. Oikya Mancha leader and Gono Forum General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Member Secretary Commander (retd) Abdur Rauf were present among others.

## Sajna's rejoinder

'Needless to mention, the solid reputation and goodwill of Sajna built over more than a decade has been severely tarnished by such erroneous reporting by such established newspapers. This will definitely have a severe and detrimental impact on our future business. Sajna would request the respected media to rectify such erroneous reporting," said Saina. Sajna also welcomed an impartial

investigation by the news media and publish its results. In this process, it said. Saina would welcome any customer, specialist or interested party to visit its kitchen. "In fact, in the past, Sajna offered this privilege to visit its kitchen to distinguished customers from both home and abroad, embassies and firms."

### Bravery

FROM PAGE 16
Sayadabad Bus Terminal, kidnapped Rajib from just outside their house at WASA colony in Demra Tuesday evening. Rajib's father Abdur Rashid, who lives by washing buses at the terminal, alleged Palash's motive was to punish him for refusing to pay up Tk 4,000 in tolls four months ago.

Rajib, now under treatment at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), said Palash approached him when he was playing with some other boys near their house at around 6:30pm. Palash took the boy out of the sight of his friends, pointed a knife at

As Palash also gagged him with a handkerchief, he fainted. "When I regained my sense, found myself lying on the sand," Rajib went with the dreadful tale, "Soon he sat on my chest and

him and asked him to put off his

shirt, with which he blindfolded him.

started cutting my throat. "I tried to fight, but failed. Nobody responded to my cries. I thought he will kill me and instantly I decided to pretend to be a corpse." he told the press in a weak voice lying on a

Next morning, a rickshaw-puller passing by the place saw the boy trying desperately to get out of the sand and informed police. Police sent him to Mitford

Hospital, from where doctors shifted him to the DMCH. A DMCH doctor said there are numerous four-inch by half-inch

cuts in Rajib's throat. He said the knife used probably was blunt. Rajib's father filed an attempt to murder case against Palash with

### 2 Myanmar

Keranigani Police Station.

FROM PAGE 16 through the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, said locals.

BDR recovered the M-16 rifle and its 26 bullets, a G-3 rifle (usually used by Nato soldiers) and 25 bullets, a mobile phone set and documents of the guerilla organisation.

been living in Bangladesh territory since the 1980s and operating their activities from the country. A total of 51 foreign nationals alone were arrested from the

Bangladesh-Myanmar border areas

But it is not only foreigners who

Different guerilla groups have

use the area as a safe haven. BDR raided the same spot on July 16 and recovered five AK-47 rifles and 1,600 bullets from a Bangladeshi national Alone this year, 220 sophisticated arms, 40 anti-personal mines, four

rocket launchers, a huge quantity of

explosives, and more than 10,000

rounds of ammunition were seized from the region. Describing limitations to cover the 288-kilometre border areas with only five border-observation-posts (BOP), the BDR authorities asked the government to extend the number of BOPs in the region. The regional commander of BDR. the deputy commissioner of the district and the sector commander (Chittagong) inspected the area in a

## Banks to fix

FROM PAGE 1

iournalists that a special mechanism will be adopted so that taka cannot depreciate further. But he did not disclose the mechanism. However sources said the ABB will

fix certain rates of dollar exchange collectively "Treasury managers of all banks will sit together today or tomorrow and fix the buying and selling rates of dollar," managing director of a private bank said.

also discussed the problem of some banks who are unable to pay against letters of credit (LC) because of dollar It decided that the banks who have enough dollars will sell the greenback

Yesterday's meeting of the ABB

to the banks facing dollar crisis so that the image of banks with countries abroad does not suffer. In the case of opening new LCs, the banks will first examine their dollar reserve and inform the central bank about it to ensure smooth monitoring

## Tripartite

FROM PAGE 16 the smooth growth of the primary textile industries," BTMA Chairman MAAwal told The Daily Star yesterday He said fabrics worth around \$1.5 billion has illegally entered the country in the last nine months, while annua local consumption of fabrics is worth around \$3 billion.

the ministry. We hope it'll help mitigate the dissension among the trade "System loss is there, more or less in every sector across the world. If any

said. "We'll join the tripartite meeting at

BGMEA President Annisul Huq

one is found guilty of wrong doings, he should be punished," Hug added. "We want to work together to face the challenges of open competition in the globalised market." BKMEA

Trade experts said, if the volatile

President Fazlul Haque said.

situation caused by the wrangling among the BGMEA, BTMA and BKMEA continues, it will hit the potential of the country's garment industry real hard At a press conference on July 16, MA Awal alleged the trend of smuggling through the porous border import on fake declaration and under

invoicing has posed a serious threat to

seven-day ultimatum, saying they

would go for legal action unless the

the local textile industry Both the BMGEA and BKMEA whose members import fabrics as raw material, sharply reacted to the allega-On July 20, the BGMEA gave a

BTMA makes an unconditional apology for its comments. Following the BGMEA move, BKMEA leaders on July 21 also came down heavily on the BTMA for the

## Study shows voter

FROM PAGE 1 politicians, economists, diplomats, foreign envoys and development activists.

Professor Wahiuddin Mahmud also a noted economist, said, "There's no point in engaging over 100 political parties to decide whether to go for a fresh voter roll or revise the existing one. It rather should be a matter of ways to correct the voter list. And it all rests with the Election Commission to rectify the roll." he said.

Prof Mahmud referring to a Brotee study that says up to 65 percent of the existing electoral roll is flawed, said, "The voting is meaningless if this is the situation. M Hafizuddin Khan, adviser to the

2001 caretaker government, said the CEC for nothing has involved the political parties in discussion on the voter list. He suggested the EC should update the voter list every year as part of its constitutional responsibilities.

The former adviser said, "We should focus on ways to strengthen the Election Commission as it is the constitutional body to conduct elec-

Describing the RPO (Representation of the People Order) as one of the finest laws, he said, "Unfortunately, in our country the election commission has never discharged its duties properly. It never made sincere efforts to execute the RPO to ensure free and fair polls.'

He also criticised long delay in

Lack of trust among the political

resolving the electoral disputes.

Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid said The caretaker government system will be irrelevant if we can have a powerful Election Commission."

parties has contributed to developing the system of caretaker government, he added. Adviser to the ruling BNP MM Rezaul Karim also stressed the importance of a strong EC in holding elections in a free and fair manner. He said. "The Flection Commission.

budget on its own."
"All major political parties should sit down to discuss ways to make elections credible," said Karim, the ambassador-designate to Egypt.

Kees Beemsterboer, the Dutch

has to be reformed. It must have the

authority to recruit staff and prepare

ambassador to Bangladesh, referring to a recent comment by Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, said foreign envoys have no intention to interfere in internal affairs here. "We all are working to help Bangladesh make its electoral process more credible." he said. Opposition Awami League leader AMA Muhith in his speech ques-

favours introducing electronic voting and Voters' Identity Cards to check false votina. Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam said goals of elections have changed over the years. Now the aspirant lawmakers

want to make profit, not serve the

tioned competence of some of the

former finance minister said he

election observation groups.

people The cost of losing elections has also risen drastically. Now to lose an election may mean losing personal liberty and wealth. It may also mean being subjected to political repression by the new ruling parties, he The Daily Star editor made a

and said that all returning officers should belong to EC's own cadre, not the deputy comr sioners as it Dr Atiur Rahman called on the poll observers to start working immediately under a long-term project for

strong recommendation for an independent secretariat for the EC

the next general election to be held in AL lawmaker Asaduzzman Noor said honest people should come out to contest the elections to 'kick the black money holders and criminals

"Political parties have a great role

to play in this regard by nominating honest people for the elections," he Dr Badiul Alam Majumder echoed the opposition lawmaker's view and said even the most neutral caretaker government and the strongest EC will not suffice to hold elections freely and fairly if the political parties do not

practise fair politics. Sharmeen Murshid, chief executive of Brotee, and Muhammed Abdul

### India landslides

FROM PAGE 16 the streets with waist-high water.

1910.

out of the race'.

The deaths occurred in the eastern suburban areas of Andheri and in northern Navi Mumbai suburb, the official said. "These accidents were due to

dilapidated walls or ceilings in old

buildings and huts built along hill

slopes," he said. The city's weather bureau said that Mumbai received 944.2 millimeters (37.1 inches) of rainfall in a 24hour period, the most rainfall ever in a single day in Indian history and beating the previous record from July

city was suspended for a second day as the weather bureau forecast further heavy rains though the downpours had stopped across most parts of the city by Wednesday afternoon. Other areas in Maharashtra were also lashed by the rains that triggered

landslides and flash floods in remote

villages and left more than 65 dead

with another 100 trapped, said the

Road and air traffic to and from the

official, who declined to be named. reading from an official communique Most of the deaths occurred in Raighad district, about 170km south of Mumbai, where miserable conditions made rescue difficult and left

many villages stranded.

flooded areas.

"Police rescue teams have still to reach affected villages as they're inaccessible due to the heavy floods, said senior inspector Sunil Dareghan. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

spoke to Maharashtra Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh and pledged federal government help to recover from the deluge as navy patrol boats

tabled two separate reports on pourashava and parliamentary bylections held in 2004.

### India discloses

FROM PAGE 1

to the people of bordering areas. He was speaking in Lok Sabha intervening in a discussion on an adjournment motion moved by Leader of the Opposition LK Advan on illegal migration from

Patil said fencing the long and orous border with Bangladesh will be complete by next year and the government is in the process of setting up floating border outposts in

riverine areas. India is also considering a proposal of having a battalion of Border Security Force (BSF) from the existing 70km radius to 30km to

enhance border vigil, he said. He accused the opposition of unnecessarily seeking to create a fear psychosis on the issue of illega migration from Bangladesh". He also warned adopting "divisive tendencies" on the issue in the name of religion or language cannot help the country be united.

The tendency to use this issue as a vote bank politics is harmful, Patil

## High-profile

FROM PAGE 1

group, the government and the rea The High Court rarely sees so many elite lawyers involved in a single case, with two former attorneys general (AGs), the sitting AG, two former law ministers and many a senior bar

Some of them with well-known political affiliation with the country's two major rival parties rubbed thei shoulders in moving for one side or the Former AGs Mahmudul Islam and

AF Hassan Ariff moved the petition on

behalf of Bangladesh Environment

Lawyers Association (Bela), with

assistance from Bela Director S

leader moving against each other.

Rizwana Hasan, Igbal Kabir and Tanjib-ul Alam from Dr Kama Hossain's chamber. AG AJ Mohammad Ali and DAG Adilur Rahman Shubhro represented the government, while Sigma Huda moved on behalf of Rajdhani Unnayar

Kartripakkha (Rajuk). Former law ministers Justice TH Khan and Abdul Matin Khasru Bangladesh Bar Council Vice Chairman Rokanuddin Mahmud Supreme Court Bar Association President Mahbubey Alam, Hag. Azmamul Hossain and Barriste Tania Amir from Barrister Amir-Ul Islam's law firm represented Metro Makers and the plot buyers (added

MODHUMOŤI ADS NOT **ENTERTAINED** 

As The Daily Star carried reports on the anti-people and anti-environment nature of the model town project, it decided not to accept the developer's advertisements until a final settlemen

While Metro Makers has been flooding the print and electronic media outlets for the last several months with advertisements worth millions of taka The Daily Star remained uncompromising about its stance on ethical

Major parties

neeting's agenda

FROM PAGE 1 ended amid mismanagement and chaos. Most of the participants expressed their ignorance about the preparation of the voter list and the

"I did not know the agenda of the

dialogue. It will be comfortable for me

to speak if you kindly provide me with a copy of the agenda," Senior Vice President of Zaker Party, Munshi Abdul Latif, told the dialogue pointing at the Chief Election Commissione (CEC). Liberal Party leader Mustafizur

Rahman suggested holding dialogue on caretaker government reform. 'We are interested to participate in discussion on the issue. I hope the Election Commission will invite us. The EC had invited a total of 113

them participated in the last two days.

The CEC after meeting the JP leaders during yesterday's dialogue explained the objective of such dialogue. "This initiative will keep the window open. Dialogue is a must," he

political parties and alliances, 49 of

The CEC, however, declined to talk to journalists at the end of the second day's dialogue. On the first day, he had expressed satisfaction over the meeting. Awami League, 11-Party Alliance Jatiya Samajtantrik Dál (JSD) Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh and

nvited to yesterday's dialogue but they boycotted it. Leaders of a few parties including Hindu League, Khelafat Majlish and National Front arrived at the EC to participate in the dialogue without nvitation. They said they did not

receive the EC's invitation letters.

Krishak Sramik Janata League were

The three-day dialogue will conclude today. Ruling BNP, Jamaate-Islami, Islami Oikva Jote and Bangladesh Jatiya Party are scheduled to take part in today's dialogue in two separate sessions MISMANAGEMENT AND CHAOS Jatiya Party leaders who earlier refused to sit with the small parties

they were not informed of the fresh schedule. The JP leaders waited there for over an hour and then met the EC. The CEC regretted the inconvenience caused to the JP leaders

were to sit with the EC in a separate

session at 11:30am. But the JF

leaders arrived at EC at 10:00am as

when party Presidium Member Kazi Zafar Ahmed complained of the mismanagement. The JP leaders said they want the voter list to be revised. Earlier, the CEC declared twice

the end of the morning session, but two or three parties were still waiting for giving their opinions. They started

### were used to rescue people in deeply shouting to draw the EC officials'

against the militants," said a police official expecting the order in few

another investigator. He explained that police judged

ammunitions and detonators'

investigator.

of the arrested militants.

The JIC on Monday sent back the

released a set of pictures showing

More than 100 lawyers, including Earlier, the SCBA in an urgent

against the SCBA secretary to create said the meeting resolution. Rahim had issued a statement on

Jhintu was granted the presidential clemency 10 days later. The parliamentary standing

that another accused in the case had already been hanged. He also claimed that his ministry did not make any comment in favour or against After the SCBA secretary issued a

MOUDUD WITH JHINTU A group of Supreme Court lawyers

Environmental Lawyers' Association (Bela) in August 2004. The Bela challenged the legality of the project, as it was filling up the Aminbazar subflood-flow zone, violating the

approvál letter submitted by Metro zone and warned Metro Makers not

TŘÍAL TRACK

Tafazzul Islam issued a stay order in favour of the Bela on October 3, 2004, on regular appeal the division referred the matter to the HC for nearing on merit.

dakers false. They directed the Raiuk to protect the sub-flood-flow to carry out any further earth filling

The court categorically said the project was in violation of the Town Improvement Act and the Dhaka City obtain any permission from the

A number of eminent lawvers including some former attorneys general moved on behalf of the

the HC vacated the stay order on September 1, 2004, with the Bela

project implementation activities

Tk 56.000 for their failure to show documents of BSTI approval, prices Although a vacation bench of the and manufacturing date.