# Did CEC need to say

should have left it to a PSC spokesperson or better still its chairman to give such a detailed explanation) he gave a long narration of how the recruitment took place, when it was advertised, how many applied, how many passed, etc. and concluded that appointments were made on the basis of merit. (How is he so sure? Haven't political bias interfered with PSC selections in the past? Why

certify actions of the PSC?). The CEC really stuns us all when he says, "Political loyalty is not our main concern." He adds that everyone is entitled to his or her political belief, as they are entitled to cast their votes. He further states that if one is meritorious one should get a job. It is immaterial whether one was a JCD leader or not. One's past is not important and what counts is if one isworking well or not.

does the CEC take upon himself to

Taking the comment as a whole we are compelled to think whether the CEC is at all aware of what holding an election really means. We are forced to wonder whether he realises that election is fundamentally a political process. It is as much based on facts as it is based on people's perception. Just as 'a Justice' has not only to be fair but also "has to be seen to be fair" so also an election has not only to be free and fair but also perceived to be free and fair. People must be able to believe that the election results have truly reflected their wishes and desires. For that 'public faith' to come about the credibility of the EC has to be beyond question, above every hint of suspicion.

The CEC in his comments used words like "political ideology", "political loyalty", "political belief" and "the right to vote" as if there are no differences between them. He appears to have equated them with a citizen's right to vote. Is it his view that there is no difference between being an activist of a political party and the fact that one votes in an election once in every five years? Can "political loyalty" and deciding to vote for a particular candidate in an election be considered the same? Doesn't the CEC know that voting rights may be exercised purely on the basis of attractiveness of a candidate and not for his political affiliation. May we humbly point out that a citizen's right to vote is fundamentally different from "political loyalty", which the CEC said is not a matter of concern for him. It very much should be.

According to our reports, and no one has contradicted them yet, of the 150 UEO's recently appointed 80 are JCD leaders of Dhaka University and the rest are from Rajshahi, Chittagong, and Jahangirnagar universities, and Agriculture University in Mymensingh, Islamic University in Khulna and other different colleges. Doesn't the Chief Election Commissioner have any curiosity as to where his staffs are coming from? Hasn't it struck him as odd as to how such a concentration of meritorious students has suddenly taken place in the JCD whose proficiency is well known in most fields other than in academic matters. Doesn't the CEC know that most meritorious students do not belong to political parties? Yet he thinks nothing of going out of his way to certify a process of recruitment that he neither conducted nor had any sayin.

Elections in Bangladesh have always been a contentious process. The contention surrounding it has gotten worse every time we held one. Such is the depth of mutual suspicion among our major political parties that every action of one is looked upon with suspicion by the other. Though it is a declaration of "No trust" on our political parties, yet we have found it necessary to amend our constitution and put into place, being the only place in

### IMF assures

FROM PAGE 1 and the unprecedented rise in petro-leum prices Bangladesh has main-tained macro-economic stability and has kept fiscal deficit at around 4

Bangladesh hopes to achieve a growth rate of over 5.5 percent, the minister said adding that export and

remittance growths have also been robust.

The IMF managing director praised the overall macro-economic performance of the government despite unfavorable external situation. He appreciated Bangladesh's export performance particularly in textile and apparel sector despite MFA

phaseout. Saifur said Bangladesh is in track in respect to the PRGF programme with IMR He thanked the managing director for release of PRGF tranche recently. He said the current pressure on the external position is rendered

mostly by the exogenous sources.

He urged the IMF to consider some financing facility for low-income countries to meet the external shock due to the unprecedented rise in oil prices. Rato agreed with the minister but he felt that the government should adjust its petroleum prices respond-

ing to market prices. Rato observed that the central bank's tightening of the monetary policy has been appropriate. He encouraged the government to strengthen tax collection drive and simplify tax system. He also appreci-

ated the origoing banking reforms by thegovernment He assured that IMF's programme review and release of the next PRGF tranche will be in time and IMF will

continue its support to Bangladesh.

the world, a unique system of nonparty caretaker government for three months to conduct our national elections.

Given the atmosphere of such intense suspicion the Election Commission needs to be particularly careful of two fundamental things: a) How it conducts itself (including what the CEC says); b) What type of people it gets as its staff. Here the CEC has a tremendous role, both legal and moral. We understand that he had no say in what the PSC did interms of selecting the UEOs: But he needn't have gone out of his way to certify the veracity of the process. And most importantly, we think, he could have taken a far stronger moral position in upholding and ensuring the neutrality of the EC staff. Instead, he seemed to be in a great hurry to brush aside serious questions being raised by those who know the process and the media about the

recruitment of the UEOs. We conclude with a few questions for our CEC. It is credible that those who have been activists of a political party till yesterday, and those who have immensely benefited from that association including perhaps getting the job at hand would suddenly turn into a saint and allow a free and fair election to be held? Will they permit it when a free and fair election may (but not necessarily) mean that the very party they have served all these years may actually lose that election, when they can help it? Will they permit it when losing that election may mean that they will lose the very jobs that they got during their own party's tenure? We hope the CEC will seriously think of the issues we raise. There is much at stake and he has such a pivotal role

### Military launches

FROM PAGE 1 committee in this connection, the well-placed official said, "There is no need to form a committee as there are many intelligence wings in all the three forces. There is also the DGFI at the top. The intelligence has automatically started the inquiry."

Harun was arrested on the basis of information given by JMB cadre Obaidullah Suman, who was arrested in Kishoreganj on September 14. Suman also named one Mohiuddin, a former honorary captain of the army, claiming that both Harun and Mohiuddin trained the JMB bomb squad.

Both Harun and Suman, now on police remand, are being interrogated at the Joint Interrogation Cell (IIC) in Dhaka.

The ex-defence officials are no longer concerns of the defence forces. But Harun's confessions lead also to serving personnel. This demands we investigate Harun's files in the army, which we will do if we find it necessary," the official

### Ice cream

FROM PAGE 20 Rokan Ud Doulah fined factory owner Humayun Kabir Tk 30,000 under the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) act.

Humayun Kabir, however, thanked the mobile court for carrying out the drive, saying it will help owners like him to be more careful about maintaining food standard in

The court also seized the chemicals and flavours and emptied a drum of ice cream into the drain.

The same court later raided the Baitul Mukarram jewellery market and fined as many as ten jewellery shops for using faulty scales as well as for following banned measurement

The court fined three jewellery shops Tk 10,000 each for using faulty scales and seven others Tk 3,000 each for following banned 'bhori' measurement system instead of metric system. The court also seized all faulty scales.

The ten jewellery shops that were fined by the court are Rupsagar Jewellers, Sharmin Jewellers, Bulbul Jewellers, Ananda Jewellers, Urmi lewellers, Chandni Jewellers, Momota Jewellers, Apan Jewellers, Grameen Jewellers and Sinthia

The court yesterday realised a total of Tk 81,000 in fines from the ice creamfactory and jewellery shops.

Another mobile court of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) raided different sweetmeat shops, restaurants and confectioneries in Mirpur and fined them Tk 55,000 for keeping the environment unhygienic and using many materials without

"We found the factory of the Banoful Sweetmeats unhygienic and they were using raw materials like dalda and ghee without any label,' said Md Golam Sarwar, the public analyst of the DCC.

Three other mobile courts raided different restaurants and fast food shops in Gulshan, Motijheel and Dhanmondi, filed 14 cases and fined Tk 1,28,000 for not serving safe and healthyfood.

Our Rajshahi University Correspondent reports: A mobile court in separate raids in the city esterday realised Tk 41,500 in fines from business organisations and shops for adulterating foodstuff and deceiving people in weight.

The court led by Metropolitan Magistrate Jobeda Khatun raided Shaheb bazar, RDA market, New Market and Upashahar areas of the city and realised the fine.

MOMIN MURDER

### Family seek safety fearing further attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An arrestee in the Mirpur Commerce College student Kamrul Islam Momin murder case yesterday disclosed before a magistrate's court the identity of the man who orchestrated the

Hasibul Haque Johnny, 22, however, told the court he does not know who hired Shah Alam for the murder.

Meantime, Kamrul's family demanded immediate arrest of the closed officer-in-charge (OC) Rafiqul Islam of Motijheel Police Station and sought security fearing further attack on them.

Johnny, whom Rapid Action Battalion. (Rab) arrested on Wednesday with ammunition in Ibrahimpur, made his confession before Magistrate Nani Gopal Biswas.

He said Shah Alam, a cadre of slain Panu, designed the killing and engaged five men for the operation. The four others are Jewel, Tarek, Thotkata Babu and an unidentified man.

Alamwas furious with the family as they had held Panu and turned him in to the Rab, said court sources quoting Johnny, Panuwas killed in 'crossfire'.

Johnny said Alam ordered the four to kill any son of Abdur Razzak at a meeting in Mirpur on September 12. They took position near Razzak's North Ibrahimpur house and Tarek and Jewel shot his son Kamrul when

The court placed him on a two-day remand in another case filed under the Explosive Substances Act Razzak at a press conference at his

house said the killers are threatening to kill his other sons, He termed the OC the mastermind in the killing and ongoing threats.

Metropolitan Police commissioner

13 Bangladeshi

wherethemenwerepickedup. He said Indian fishermen had

found the 13 men floating on slabs of

wood from their broken boat a few

at Dhamara port in Orissa state and

were awaiting verification of their nationality before being sent home,

home department to inform the

federal government and the Bangladesh High Commission," Jena

Dhamara port is nearly 200km

north of Bhubaneshwar, the capital of

Bangladesh was trying to confirm reports that 16 fisherman had been

killed and hundreds more were miss-

ing after heavy rain and wind-

whipped seas pummeled the coun-

Wednesday that 200 fishing boats with 3,000 fisherman aboard were

missing. But on Thursday, Golam

Mostafa Chowdhury, President of

the Barguna Fishing Boat Owners Association, told reporters that

about 60 boats with more than 500

He said about 40 fishermen who

The figures could not be confirmed

were pushed into Indian waters by

the storm returned on Wednesday.

FROM PAGE 20 Police and ambulances rushed to

the site and carried the injured to

hospital. The blasts broke windows

of several shops and the smoke

injured when two bombs exploded

in the town of Kalat in the restive

southwestern province of

Sadeq while he was working in the cropland near the border in the

BDR immediately condemned the killing and asked its Indian counterpart to return the body

FROM PAGE 1 date for the JMC meeting to approve

its plan to drill the seven wells. These

are an exploratory and a development

well in the unexplored Chhatak east

area, three development wells in

Chhatak west and two development

The blown-out Tengratila gas field

The IVA dictates that Niko cannot

do any activity in the Chhatak east

since it has drilled two firm wells and

one optional well in the Chhatak west

and brought into production 50

million cubic feet per day (mmcfd)

in Chhatak west through the repeated blowoutsin the Tengratila field.

wells in the Feni gas field in violation of

its IVA. The IVA demands that Niko will

conduct a "work-over" in the aban-

doned well of the Feni gas field to

Niko is supposed to observe the gas field's performance for a year and

then plan to drill new development

But the Canadian company did not follow this process at all. It drilled two

wells violating the JVA and from

October last year started supplying 40

mmcfd gas to Petrobangla without

beging as production there.

having any contract.

But Niko failed to drill a single well

Niko also proposed for drilling two

The BSF later took away the body.

morning. Sadeq died instantly.

Bapex rejects

Separately, two people were

blackened nearby hoardings.

Baluchistan, police said.

BSF kills 1

through a flag meeting.

wells in Feni gas field area.

is located in Chhatak west area.

FROM PAGE 20

by government officials or police.

Blasts kill 6

fishermen still remained missing.

ATN Bangla TV reported

try's 700-km coast.

The rescued fishermen were now

"We have already asked the state

hours after they had capsized.

against the OC before the killing.

The family filed three general diaries with Kafrul Police Station and lodged complaints with the home ministry, Rab and Dhaka

# Political double standards

Muslims are by and large a pious and peace-loving community, which is spread all over the world, they observed.

Participants from home and abroad also termed Bangladesh a moderate Muslim nation and lauded its people's peaceful coexistence, communal harmony and religious tolerance.

The vast majority Muslims in Bangladesh do not make distinction among different races, castes and communities and are maintaining good relationship with them for

Noted nuclear scientist, Islamic thinker and VC of Southeast University Prof M Shamsher Ali presented the keynote styled "Islam, Religion of Peace, Progress and Harmony; and the Image of Bangladesh as a Moderate Muslim Nation".

Justice Dr Javid Iqbal, former chief justice of Pakistan and son of great Islamic philosopher and poet Allama Igbal, MA Cader of Sri Lanka, Prof Dr Jamil Osman and Dr Haslina of Malaysia, Dr Soherin Saleheen of Indonesia and Hashim Kamaruddin of Singapore addressed the inaugural session presided over by CNRS Chairman Dr Mahbubullah, CNRS Secretary General Irtiza Nasim Ali delivered the welcome speech.

About 300 religious and spiritual leaders representing madrasas and Islamic institutes of Bangladesh are taking part in the three-day meet that aims to remove the wholesale blame of terrorism on Islam and the Muslims.

Justice Rahman in his speech said a Muslim, who professes Islam as a religion in its pristine glory, cannot harbour any sort of extrem-

"Time is ripe to undertake the scientific study and scholarly

60.4 overs. Earlier, Bangladesh were

asked to follow-on when they were

bundled out for 191 in the first innings

There was no respite for the visitors

after Chaminda Vaas, the ace left-arm

seamer who has had a poor series,

removed overnight pair Mohammad

Ashraful and nightwatchman

Ashraful, who added five runs to

Shahdat Hossain in successive overs.

his overnight 21, had to play at a

superb outswinger and Thilan

Samaraweera snapped a superb low

outswingers, misleading the tailender

to lift the bat to a delivery that held line

the pick of the attack with 3-16 while

left-arm spinner Rangana Herath,

who ended the Bangladesh innings by

removing Syed Rasel, finished with 3-

Herath was hit for successive

they have gathered some important

information regarding the August 17 countrywide serial blast and the

banned Islamist outfit JMB from

Nurul Islam, an ehsar (district unit

admitted that he was one of the

organisers of training for around 150

JMB militants at Shakhipur in

There are nothing more to glean from Masud as he is merely a field

level operative, the investigator said

seeking anonymity. "We now need

to quiz Nurul intensively," he said. Meanwhile, Nurul Islam, Abdur

Rahman Masud and others arrested

in Kaliakair in Gazipur on Tuesday

were placed on an eight-day remand

police produced them before the

court of Chief Metropolitan

Magistrate, Dhaka with prayers for

Our Rajshahi correspondent reports:

Police in Chapainawabganj found a

military book bearing the name of its

owner, one Kawsar Hossain Mondol,

The Detective Branch (DB) of

each by a Dhaka court yesterday.

Nurul Islam of Barua in Tangail

chief) of JMB.

JMB recruited

Sri Lanka's leading paceman was

afterpitching on the off-stump.

Vaas then set Shahadat with a few

catchatsecondslip

in reply to the hosts' 457-9 declared.

research to focus Islam as a religion, which believes in collective decision, give and take, tolerance, human dignity, neighbourliness, standard of equity and social concern, love for all, and universal brotherhood."

He said no country can claim the absence of some degree of terrorism. People deprived of the basic needs and distracted from the teachings of religion may become intolerant and dogmatic. They tend to find relief in religious extremism to satisfy their lusts and aspirations, he observed.

He urged Islamic scholars and leaders of Muslim majority countries to contain the growth of potential extremism through disseminating the real teachings of Islam.

Presenting the keynote, Dr Shamsher Ali said in all respect Bangladesh can be very rightly pride of being a model of communal peace and harmony. "No matter how turbulent the

world becomes, we have to remain calm and peaceful, and even in the worst possible disaster, we have to remember our humanity and forget everything else," he said. The non-communal character of

the government and people of Bangladesh is very much reflected in the education sector, civil services and employment in different NGOs, he said.

"Islam and communal feeling cannot stand together. A Muslim is communal but the entire planet population is his community." he observed.

Dr Javid Iqbal said anyone who patronises terrorism is actually doing a mischief. Islam never recognises terrorism because its main message is peace, discipline, harmony, tolerance, among other things, he added.

boundaries by Aftab Ahmed (25) but

had his revenge in the next ball when he had the last specialist batsman

caught by Samaraweera at slip for his

to spend more than an hour on crease

in each innings scoring 26 and 18

respectively, was dismissed for the

second time by Muttiah Muralitharan

who took his tally to highest 14 wickets

hundred that anchored the home side after a shaky start of 4-48 carried him

the man-of-the-match award, his

Tillakaratne Dilshan was adjudged

fellow centurion in this Test

man-of-the-series for two significant

knocks of 86 in the first Test and 168 in

five Tests against Sri Lanka, will fly

home on September 26. Except a win

and a draw against Zimbabwe at

home, they have suffered nine innings

The book containing lessons on

field crafts training is available only to the Bangladesh Armed Forces,

Police are investigating if Kawsar is

Our Magura correspondent writes, two suspected JMB cadres Tasikul Islam Rinku and Belal Hossain,

arrested in Jhenidah on August 19,

were sent to the IIC in Dhaka yesterday

to a magistrate confessing to his involvement in the August 17 bomb

Rinku has already given statement

He, however, denied his involve-

ment with JMB and claimed himself

an activist of "Allahr Dal" (God's

party). He also named Matin Mehedi,

son of Enamul Huq of Gaibandha

sources said.

**IHENIDAH** 

a defense personnel.

forinterrogation.

blasts in Ihenidah.

town, as their leader.

policesaid.

losses in their last 11 Test appearances.

Bangladesh, who have now lost all

Although Samaraweera's patient

Khaled Mashud, the only batsman

Referring to the struggles for

freedom in different countries including Palestine, Bosnia and Chechnya, he urged all to make a clear distinction between 'terror-

42/19 44

ism' and 'struggle for freedom'. Speaking at the working session later, former chief election commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdur Rauf said Islam is the most progressive concept in the world. It is the treasure of peace and doctrine of disciplines, while the Holy Qur'an is the treasury of total knowledge.

He however admitted the Muslims have been thrown into confusion and have made their own entity miserable, as they are far behind the knowledge-based power.

"Islam does not conquer through the words or sword...it conquers the world and mind of people through love. Islam's message of peace, harmony, tolerance, brotherhood and love attracted people in the past and will continue to conquer."

He bitterly criticised the Bush administration and said the US government is committing the biggest terrorism in Iraq against women, children and unarmed

"As a Bangladeshi I can travel across the world with courage, but can an American move so freely? Even an American can't claim himself outside his country as American with courage because of terrorism. Justice Rauf observed.

He shot down the madrasa and general education systems saying these types of education have failed to make people realise why Allah has sent mankind in the world.

He stressed the need for bringing amendment to the UN Charter and said the UN should define terrorism and struggle for independence.

The three-day seminar is divided into five technical sessions where the participants will discuss the keynote paper.

#### Lankans complete lop terror FROM PAGE 20

Court, Dhaka handed down the sentence at 4:15pm yesterday, around four hours later than the scheduled time.

Police produced Arman before the court in the afternoon bringing him from Kashempur Jail in Gazipur Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Arman at his Dhanmondi residence on June 2004 with three firearms and 146 bullets.

The judge declared the verdict at a packed courtroom where Arman's father SM Ainul Haque was present. Arman burst into tears hearing the verdict while Ainul termed the verdict a political harassment and told reporters that he would appeal

to the higher court. Assistant Public Prosecutor Shahidul Islam Sardar moved for the government while Advocate Mahbub Ahmed counselled the defence. The prosecution and the defence had completed their arguments earlier and the court recorded statements of 16 prosecution wit-nesses including statement of the complainant, Sub-inspector (SI) Abdur Rouf of Rab-4.

Arman had been on remand for 31 days. The first 10 days for an arms case and the remaining 21 days for three murder cases filed with Motijheel, Khilgaon and Mirpur Police Stations.

## 15 more down

FROM PAGE 1 were released yesterday, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) sources said. The sources also claimed that the

DCC authorities have stepped up mosquito control activities, as people from more areas of the city, including Dhanmondi, Azimpur, Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Tejgaon, Moghbazar, Shantinagar, Shahjahanpur, Khilgaon, Mugda and Sabujbagh, are falling victim to the virus.

Moreover, the DCC is collecting the addresses of the newly infected patients and conducting special spraying and fogging activities in around 1,000 yards of those patients' houses to kill larvae and adult mosqui-

The DCC officials also suggested that the people should keep the flow-erpots, unused cans and containers, ncluding those of freeze and refrigerators, clean and empty, so that clean water, the breeding ground of Aedes, cannot remain stagnant for a long time. In this way people can protect themselves from the danger of the deadly disease, they added.

the health directorate, 404 dengue patients have been admitted to the nospitals since June this year and 351 were released so far.

#### JS body FROM PAGE 1

expressed its displeasure as violation of labour law in many factories

including cancellation of licence,

against the factories that will fail to improve the situation. It also asked the authorities

inspection drive to improve the existing situation in garment factories and give a boost to RMG export by ensuring international quality. It asked all concerned to take

effective steps to reduce child labour.

Mongu, the meeting was attended, among others, by committee members State Minister for Labour and Employment Aman Ullah Aman, Shajahan Khan, Mufti Mohammad Wakkas, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, and Newaz Mahmud

Senior officials concerned and BGMFA representatives were also

# Blair's blind support

FROM PAGE 20 activists worried the party could become more right-wing, saying he would not turn the Liberal

Democratinto "yet another conservative party in British politics" The speech saw the Liberal Democrat leader harden his rhetoric

on Iraq as he derided Blair's attempts to "move on" from debate on the Iraq

He said: "You cannot move on, when the prime minister remains in

denial. You can't move on when people are dying every day. And you cannot move on when our British troops are

still in the firing line. "After this week's events in Basra we cannot sustain the myth that Iraqis see coalition troops as liberators. What they see is an occupation.

The prime minister's pride should not get in the way of finding a solution for the people of Iraq. "His blind support for George Bush

is continuing to cost lives - Iraqi citi-zens and coalition soldiers. "It's time he laid out before

Parliament a proper, structured exit strategy for the phased withdrawal of British forces from Iraq."

Kennedy said British troops had "served with distinction, courage and great skill" but made a personal

appeal to Blair to bring them home.

"Please listen, as you didn't before, to millions of people in our country, who are asking louder and louder as

every day goes by - 'when can our Rab to get

FROM PAGE 20 meeting with Rab officials at the ministry, which also decided to speed up Rab drives for safe and secure observance of Ramadan and Durga Puja. State Minister for Home Affairs

Lutfozzaman Babar directed the Rab to intensify patrol and surveillance activities across the country.

The Rab has so far nabbed 5,876 people, including listed criminals, and seized 1,213 firearms, the meet-

And he said George Bush and Blair's "so-called war on terror has been so badly implemented that it has actually boosted the terror threat not

diminished it" A late addition to Kennedy's highly personal speech saw him defend his

adership He spoke of his own liberal values and his party's position as the "clear alternative to a discredited Labour

government". Others may have become so full of themselves that they also think they are full of better ideas about the lead-

But based on experience that direction will, for me, remain the definition of good, genuine, mature political leadership.

Turning to the government's proposed anti-terror laws, he accused Blair of playing politics with the leaders of the opposition parties by appearing to include them in discussions, then attempting to "spin" the

The government has now revealed its proposals and the Liberal Democrat would not accept what was on offer, he said.

### 4 killed

FROM PAGE 20

stration in protest against what they said regular accident on the road due to reckless driving. Police brought the situation under control after an hour.

Police recovered the body of Abul Kashem, 47, driver of one of the buses. He hailed from Nabinagar in Comilla district.

Three people died soon after admission to Gazipur Sadar Hospital. Two of them were identified as Abdul Jalil, 35, of Saudpara, Sunamganj, and Kashem, 40, of village Biroi of Gafargaon, Mymensingh. Identity of the other could not be known.

Of the injured, 15 were admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital and the remaining 35 to Gazipur Sadar Hospital.

# Small power plant

ystem eliminates bidding system and thereby does not guarantee quality or

The forms were to be submitted to the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (Berc) by October 20 with the aim to award small power plant licences to the parties

The 23, the list of which is unofficial, include young policymakers of the alternative powerhouse, a power-ful political official of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), a full minis-

terandahostofparliament di apa These people are already scouling the market to find real power plant developers to whom they can "sell the

Other interested ruling party people, however, got angry over the list. Asource said, "They view this as an insult. Those who got the deal are clearly put on the list of the top favourites of the ruling party and those who have been left out view this as their

The feud put heavy pressure on the PMO, resulting in halting the process, the source added.

PDB on Wednesday issued a letter addressing the power ministry, saying the EoI form needs some amendments. The power ministry decided to

haltityesterday.

The PDB said the amended Eol would demand the Engineering Procurement Construction contractors letter assuring the commercial operation date. The parties also must provide bank guarantee for the project cost. The plants will be given marks on the basis of their efficiency and other

"But these are all just an excuse," quips a source. "The government is not concerned about the future power supply, but it is viewing the scheme as a mechanism to raise election funds.

"Ultimately the country will pay the price of such a scheme. The small power plants will sell the PDB or Reb per unit power at Tk 2.2, while the Meghnaghat plant sells the same at less than Tk 1.7.

### CEC rules

FROM PAGE 1 How can I investigate this when no allegations came up while police verifications were on?" he asked. The CEC said the allegation will

not leave an impact on forming the newvoterlist. The new voter list will not be created immediately due to a lack of funds," he said. "We will be able to complete the list before the next

election if we start the process in next two months." Several national dailies published a few days ago that at least 150 activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal

(JCD), student wing of ruling BNP, and relatives of BNP lawmakers were appointed UEOs.

## BPC to stop

FROM PAGE 1 bills amounting to around Tk 500 crore by September 15, which has already been expired. But the two state-owned organi-

sations are at loggerheads over the Biman said the amount as claimed by BPC is not based on facts and the arrears will not exceed

Tk250 crore. The BPC chairman in the letter also advised Biman to procure jet fuel at its own arrangement after the time frame

BPC also issued a similar letter in the middle of last year that prompted the authorities to hold an inter-ministerial meeting on June 7, 2004 chaired by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman.

As per decision of the meeting, Biman had been buying jet fuel from BPC in cash in addition to paying TK 5 crore towards the arrears in each month.

### getting a bite of a small power project and then got assured of such deals are now looking for real power developers

as they do not have the minimum knowledge in this regard.
"They thought it will be easy to get buyers. But there is a lack of interest there. The plant equipment suppliers are asking for high price. They will need engineers to understand what they want to look has been been they want to look has been they want to be a look has been they want to look has

them," said the source.
"Then the small plants demand. investment ranging between Tk 150 crore to Tk 300 crore. This investment will be blocked for at least 18 months

to set up the plant. "But still, those who did not get the

deal want a piece of the cake."

The country is currently experiencing an official load shedding of around 300 MW to 500 MW a day, while unofficially the figure soars between 1,000 MW and 1,500 MW, as the government failed to add power plants in pace with the demand growth.

### BB asks

institutions. The central bank also sent pictures of the three militants along with the letters.

In the letter, the three wanted militants were identified as Moulana Obaidur Rahman Ibne Abdullah, son of late Moulana Abdullah Ibne Faisal of Jamalpur, Moulana Abdur Rahman Ibne Abdullah alias Shaikh Abdur Rahman, and Siddiqul Islam Pramanik alias Bangla Bhai, son of Nazir Hossain alias Master Shamsher Ali of Gabtoli upazila in Bogra. The letter also mentioned Azizul Islam, Omor Ali and Litu as

other three aliases of Bangla Bhai. The BB sought information on the opening dates, transactions and current deposits of these accounts. Earlier on September 11, the

government announced reward for information leading to the arrest of Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai, accusing them of August 17 serial bomb blasts across the country. The BB move to collect information regarding the bank accounts of

the three militants came after a government advice, which many considered to be a delayed action. According to BB sources, they were aware of some of the bank accounts of the three militants but could not take any steps as there was

no instruction from the government. Earlier, on request of the BB on September 1, some commercial banks sent account details of arrested Moulana Farid Uddin Masud, which are yet to be compiled

#### into a report. EU backs down

FROM PAGE 20 demand in the interest of getting a unanimous resolution approved by the IAEA board, which meets this

Iran's official IRNA news agency confirmed the diplomats' statements, citing Germany's ambassador to the IAFA, Herbert Honsowitz, as saying "The EU has withdrawn its request to send Iran's case to the Security

Western countries suspect Tehran is developing atomic weapons under cover of a civilian nuclear energy programme. Iran insists its program is peaceful and intended to meet its energyrequirements. The main point of the new draft,

diplomats said, was for the IAEA board to pass a resolution this week declaring Iranin "non-compliance" with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), but not explicitly calling for a SecurityCouncil report.
Technically, the IAEA board is

required to report NPT non-compliance to the Security Council, but ÉU diplomats said it was possible to delay this indefinitely.

#### at the time of arresting JMB leader town on October 20, 2003. They were Mohabbat Ali at Gomostapur. laterreleased on bail. Saarc energy ministers

10-day remand.

RAISHAHI

Saarc Energy Ring, Saarc energy experts will sit for a two-day meeting on Sept 29-30 to decide the agenda of the ministerial

meeting in Islamabad. Official sources said projects concerning cooperation in energy trade, independent power producers, efficiency standards, fuel efficiency for road transport, CNG, rural electrification, micro-hydro electric and wind energy plants will be discussed in the

The Saarc Energy Centre, which is now under consideration, will act as a catalyst for economic growth and development in the region. It will concentrate on the sharing of information, technological expertise and

Sources said all member countries would benefit from Nepal's efforts at fuel conservation, like battery powered rickshaws and solar water heaters as well as Bangladesh's promotion of rural cooperatives for electricity generation and distribution. Saarc is seeking the cooperation of

the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) to learn from their experience and cooperate with them in various energy projects, sources The Daily Times of Pakistan quoting an official said energy experts of all

appoint consultants for developing plans to establish grid stations connecting the member states. Nepal and Bhutan generate 40,000 megawatts of hydroelectricity which can be exported to other Saarc countries through common grid stations. India is currently benefiting from

the hydroelectricity generated by Nepal and Bhutan under a bilateral

agreement and wants to maintain this

Saarc states submitted proposals to

finalise the terms of reference to

An official said Saarc would form an electric power regulatory body to

13th Saare Summit in Dhaka.

deal with the energy trade in the Meanwhile, Pakistan will also host a meeting of Saarc finance ministers in October in Islamabad ahead of the

The other arrestee Belal, who also claimed himself an activist of Allahr Dal, admitted to police to having carried out bomb blast on August 17,

Twenty activists of Allahr Dal, including Mehedi and 14 others were According to the control room of arrested in Arabpur area in Jhenidah

was found during inspection. The meeting suggested actions,

concerned to continue the ongoing

Chaired by Mosharraf Hossain

Khaiyam.

present