

432 eminent citizens for  
Suu Kyi's freedom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four hundred and thirty two eminent citizens of the country including leaders of political parties and socio-cultural, professional, and rights organisations, civil society leaders and editors of national dailies and weeklies yesterday demanded an end to the incarceration of Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of Myanmar's democratic struggle.

The call came through a signature campaign on the occasion of the 61st birth anniversary today of Suu Kyi, who has been kept under house arrest by a military junta in Myanmar for over a decade.

South Asian People's Union Against Fundamentalism and  
SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## Govt aims to execute militants before tenure's end

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Banking on people's expectation of punishment to the militants, the government aims to carry out the execution of top militant leaders before its tenure ends by quickly disposing the cases filed against them in order to achieve political gain.

The government has said it will try to execute the verdict as early as possible "to root out the militants from the land". Many think executing the verdict before the end of the

tenure will "brighten" the image of the alliance government and may have a positive impact on the next parliamentary election.

"It will be a very effective weapon for the ruling four-party alliance during its election campaign," said a ruling party policymaker, noting that the coalition's campaign will bank on its successful fight against the militants.

Besides, execution of the verdicts before handing over power will also enable the government to

counter the local and foreign criticisms that some ruling leaders directly patronised and had links with the militants, he said.

If the death reference bench maintains the serial, the hearing of the Jhalakathi judges killing case is not likely to be held before 2009 as preparation of paper-book and hearing of death reference of different cases of 2003 are going on at present.

Over 500 cases are now awaiting paper-book preparation and death

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## 2,000 AL men get 6-month ad interim bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted a six-month ad interim anticipatory bail to over 2,000 leaders and activists of Awami League (AL) and its front organisations who were implicated in different cases during the 14-party opposition combine's Dhaka siege programme on June 11 and hartal on June 13-14.

Counsel including Barrister Amir-Ul-Islam, Advocate Abdul Basit Majumder and Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud moved the bail petition.

The annex building of the High Court where the bail hearing took place became jam-packed as the accused, implicated in different cases filed with Paltan, Ramna,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PHOTO: AFP  
Brazil forward Adriano (R) celebrates his strike as Australia defender Scott Chipperfield sits dejected during their World Cup Group F clash at Munich's Allianz Arena yesterday.

## Cops club agitating workers at DEPZ

100 injured, scores of vehicles damaged

JU CORRESPONDENT

More than 100 people were injured as police charged truncheons and lobbed teargas shells on workers' demonstrations at Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) yesterday.

The workers of A-one (BD) Ltd, which was closed following the workers' unrest as it was severely damaged, became violent around 8:30am after seeing the indefinite closure notice at the main gate of the factory. They had gone to the factory yesterday to know when their demands would be met and

The three factories were closed  
SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## BB still undecided on Oriental's takeover details

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

High officials of the Bangladesh Bank (BB) could not come to a decision regarding how to bail Oriental Bank out of the crisis it is in, despite holding several rounds of meetings yesterday.

While the BB decided in principle to take over the control of the bank, it is still undecided about which section of the Bank Company Act will apply to get the job done and about who to appoint as the bank's administrator. Sources said a decision might be taken today or tomorrow.

The central bank is still in a dilemma on whether to choose a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## Only 6,353 to revise voter list of 7.74cr

### UNDP proposes appointment of international consultant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) assigned only 6353 officers at the field level to accomplish the mammoth task of revising the existing voter list, and the commission will hold a meeting today with the cabinet division, and the ministries of establishment and information, seeking assistance from them.

Enumerators and supervisors numbering 2, 72, 406, who had worked for the preparation of the

fresh voter list since January, will not be involved with the task of revising the existing voter list as the EC decided not to go from door to door to get the job done.

A circular issued by the EC Secretariat on June 14 directed field level registration officers and assistant registration officers to start revising the existing voter list, sources said.

These officers were appointed in October last year for preparing

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

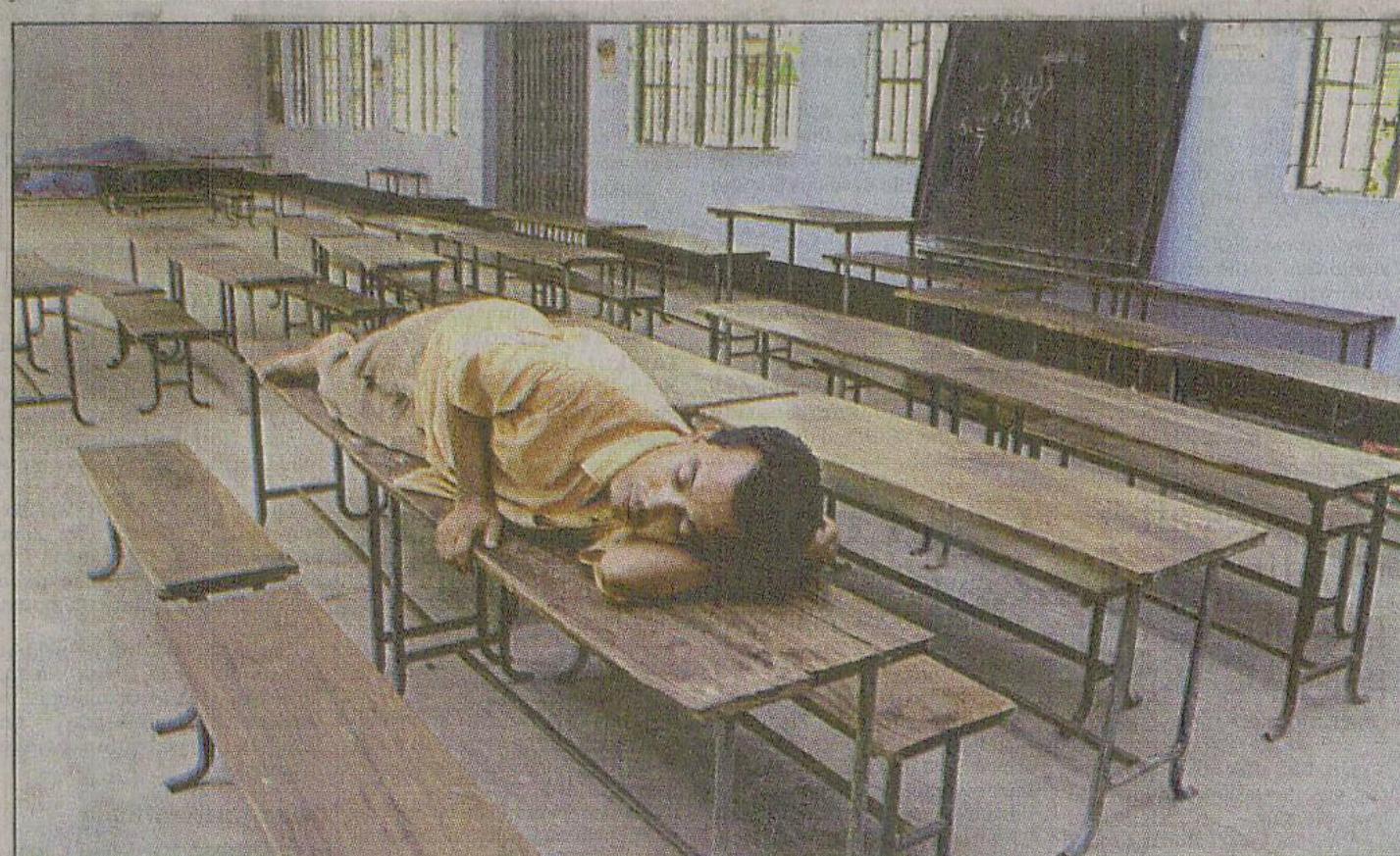


PHOTO: STAR

A peon of Suritola Government Model Primary School takes a siesta in the classroom as primary school teachers' strike goes on for the second day.

## Primary school teachers continue hunger strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of community primary schools wearing shrouds continued their fast-into-death strike in the capital yesterday keeping their educational institutions across the country under lock and key in support of their demand for nationalisation of jobs.

Two factions of Bangladesh Community Primary Teacher Association started hunger strike in separate places to force the government to realise their five-point demand.

BNP-backed teachers' association have been observing hunger strike at Muktangan from Saturday while Awami League-backed teachers' association started their strike at the Central Shaheed Minar from yesterday.

Both the factions submitted memorandums to the prime minister separately and brought out processions yesterday.

They also vowed to continue

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Costly deal to buy Navy patrol boats

SHARIER KHAN

Amid allegations of bid manipulation, Bangladesh Navy is purchasing six high-speed patrol boats for Tk 14.5 crore although it procured the same for only Tk 9 crore last year, competent sources said.

Each of the boats should measure 12 metres in length, have air-conditioned cabins and be equipped with light machine gun (LMG) posts, global positioning system, radar and other sophisticated equipment to help the navy conduct anti-smuggling operations in the deep sea.

Sources said the boats designed by Valiant company of Portugal are yet to be manufactured. But they do not meet the navy's length requirement and also do not show any LMG post.

The comptroller general of audit objected to this procurement last week, asking the Directorate General Defence Purchase (DGDP) why the navy should purchase the six boats at Tk 14.5 crore when it had purchased the same for Tk 9 crore last year.

The DGDP finance department has asked the naval authorities to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

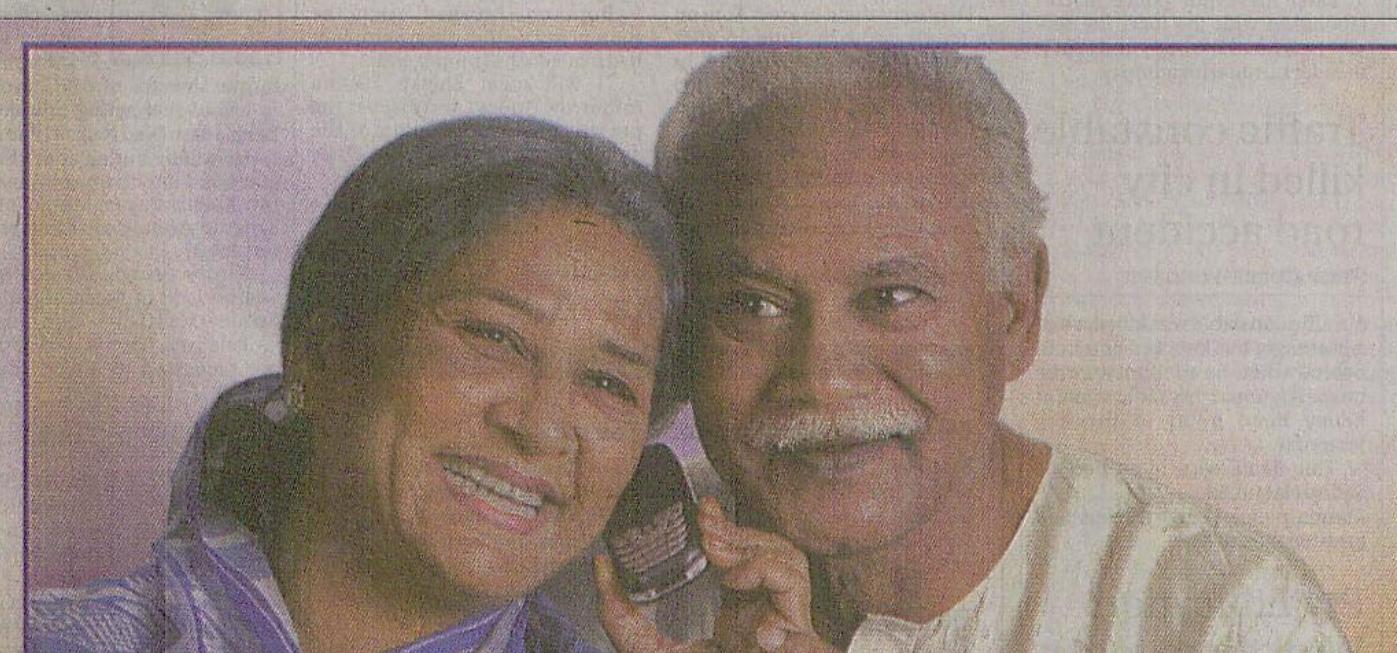
## 14-party plans tougher agitation

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The 14-party opposition combine is planning more vigorous movements in addition to besieging Election Commission (EC) Secretariat tomorrow to compel the alliance government to remove the CEC and two "politically appointed" election commissioners.

The Awami League (AL)-led opposition combine leaders said as no accurate voter list is possible under the existing chief election commissioner (CEC), they have taken the issue in the hub of the ongoing movements.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



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