Hospital of graft

example of how the top brass including the VC can spoil such a service-oriented institution through corruption and irregularities with blessings from partisan influential professionals.

"We've investigated financial corruption of only Tk 20 crore to Tk 25 crore. More irregularities and graft were found during investigations. We only incorporated those that matched with the terms of reference of our work," said an investigator of the probe committees formed by the university and

The purchase process embezappointments and promotion of day. unqualified teachers and doctors has caused a long-term loss as eligible and qualified officials were deprived. It would definitely reduce the standard of higher studies if we cannot take action against those involved in the process and fail to bring in correction," said Prof Nazrul Islam, who was chairman of the probe com-

mittee formed by the university. Investigations revealed stunning information about different types of graft in BSMMU including bribery involving even the VC.

think of such an act being carried out by a person like the VC with the help of other teachers, doctors and officials who were supposed to uphold the institution's dignity.

Besides getting personal benefits through corruption, Hadi also carried out irregularities to get his two sons established at the university through appointment and promotion.

"It's beyond imagination how persons of such stature were involved in graft in sheer violation of rules, regulations and purchase process," said a professor of the university who was involved in the investigation conducted by the

university The investigators have so far unearthed evidence of graft involving over Tk 22 crore purchase and maintenance, about half of which was estimated as loss

of the university Besides BSMMU-formed probe committee, the government is also conducting simultaneous investigations by the army-led task force and the Anti-Corruption Commission.

However, though several committees were formed both by the university and the government in phases no action could be taken in

this regard. Sources say some of the university-formed committees include persons who were partners in corruption during the tenure of Hadi. They are not willing to look into the issues and are trying to convince the government investigators that no graft had actually taken place, the sources add.

Even the investigation committees formed by Hadi could not make any headway as it was politically biased and targeted to take a hand on the opposition rather than combating graft, the sources

CORRUPTION IN APPOINTMENT

The probe committee led by Prof Nazrul found that 15 professors, 14 associate professors and 10 assistant professors were appointed or promoted violating three conditions required for appointment and promotion.

The probes also revealed that about 400 medical officers and 11 non-medical officers were appointed violating the rules and regulations.

The investigations also found that Mohammad Abul Kashem, a ward boy of dental department and CBA president, had his share in the illegal appointments of medical and non-medical officers.

The probe report categorically says all the documents and pieces of evidence regarding involvement of Kashem in appointment graft should be handed over to

Candidates should qualify in three categories for being entitled to appointment or promotion. The categories are educational

qualification, experience and publications.

Speaking anonymously, a toplevel administrative official told The Daily Star, "Although the candidates didn't qualify in the categories they were appointed considering special qualifications. Candidates lacking in qualifications for becoming an assistant professor were made professor in

EXAMPLES OF CORRUPTION Most of the purchase was made through quotation and without floating any tender except for a couple of cases though any purchase involving money more than Tk 2 lakh should be given through

tion was published in one news- committee. paper only though it was supposed to be published in more

than one newspaper. There were instances that no technical evaluation was carried out on receipt of the quotation. The purchase was made violating all rules, regulations, and provisions. Besides, the matter of purchase was not informed to the

central purchase committee. Investigators say there is a gulf of difference between the prices of the heart-lung machines bought by BSMMU and other medical institutions at the same time. Other medical institutions bought the machine from same supplier and at a much lower price, they

add. Injection Ceftriaxon (Inj. Trizon) used to be purchased from EDCL, but BSMMU began purchasing it through quotation in violation of purchase rules from 2002-03 fiscal year. Former VC Hadi in each case mentioned on the documents that "work orders be granted" causing

aloss of Tk 31.3 lakh.

The Echo-Cardiogram Machine worth Tk 83.55 lakh purchased for the cardiology department and cardiac surgery was bought without any requirement and specification from the department. The machine was purchased in accordance with the specification of the supplier. No technical evaluation committee was formed.

Six ventilators were purchased for the aneastheology department causing a loss of Tk 75 lakh. The VC on May 19, 2004 decided to purchase the machines worth Tk 1.2 crore through spot quotation by zled public money. But graft in forming a committee the same

"Purchase of the ventilators was so necessary that those remained abandoned and unused for three years," an investigator said ironi-

The investigators found that purchase of telephone sets caused a loss of Tk 10.42 lakh.

The primary expenditure for ICU renovation was approved at Tk 12.9 lakh. Excess work was carried out at verbal order of the authorities and later another Tk 12.5 lakh was approved for the purpose. An additional expenditure of Tk 3.44 lakh was shown in the bill. Due to the verbal order about Tk 15 lakh was spent in addition to the approved amount.

The second Cathlab (a machine to conduct Angiogram) was purchased at Tk 7.52 crore and the VC granted the amount though he had the authority to grant maximum Tk 50 lakh.

The authorities reduced the warranty period to three years from seven years as suggested by the Technical Evaluation Committee, causing a loss of Tk 4.20 crore in purchasing and

reducing the warranty period. The Lithotripsy Machine for Urology was purchased at a higher rate of about Tk 5 crore without considering the loss. The lowest bidder proposed Tk 3.2 crore. But at the same time the same supplier sold the machine of same specification at a price, which was Tk 1 crore less than BSMMU's.

About Tk 4.35 crore was spent in purchasing 12 types of operation theatre items through a frail purchase process. The items include scissors, ICU bed, blood gas, invasive monitor, and ICU

ventilators Paediatics Department Chairman Prof MA Mannan, who was pro-VC at that time, however, told The Daily Star, "I don't know whether any corruption had taken place or not, but there might have been some procedural irregulari-

BRIBERY The government investigators say they have traced incidents of money transaction as bribe by the VC and some other BSMMU administrative officials in purchasing equipment in at least six cases and one renovation case. In some cases investigators have got witnesses to bribery incidents.

The sources categorically mention that there is an allegation of bribery in purchasing Lithotripsy and second Cathlab machines against Hadi and Deputy Registrar Dr Kazi

The purchase was made through Tk 85 lakh bribe transaction and the VC took the major portion of the money, they say. The investigators say the date the supplier withdrew the money and the VC and the deputy registrar depositing it in their accounts are

BSMMU Deputy Registrar Kazi Ebadullah told The Daily Star, "I don't know anything about the VC taking bribe. And the allegations brought against me are false, baseless, and fabricated. There is conspiracy behind this. I have been carrying out my service honestly for 14 years and there is no question of taking bribe."

As I possess no power to have anything done, there is no point in giving me bribe. Executive power lies with the VC and the registrar, he added.

"I think many things were not done legally and in accordance with the rules regarding purchase, appointment and promotion,"

Kazi Ebadullah admitted. There are also allegations against some members of the purchase committee, some administrative officers and doctors who became beneficiaries out of the matters.

"In matters of purchase the main responsibility lies upon the VC, pro-VC (finance), and the treasurer. The central purchase committee in fact doesn't have any responsibility other than being used as post office. They only forward the proposal of technical committee to the VC," said Prof Mannan, former head of In some cases tender notifica- the 27-member central purchase

The committee can only add or decrease the numbers of equipment to a certain level. But the central purchase committee has no jurisdiction to deny the proposal made by the technical com-

mittee," he added. Apart from these, some officials realised about Tk 1 crore in the name of renovating BSMMU on the occasion of a supposed 'visit' by the Saudi health minister during the alliance government rule. In reality, existence of the renovation work was not traced anywhere at that time and the Saudi

minister never showed up. "We didn't mention anything about bribery incident in our report as we didn't have any eye-Earlier, medicine named witnesses. But we knew that there was bribery in the process of purchasing," said an investigator of the university-formed probe

body asking not to be named. The investigators also say the matter of partisan political influence behind appointments could not be clarified due to lack of clear

evidence. There has been a nexus maintained between Hadi and some others influential persons in and out of the university including AZM Zahid Hossain and Khaleda Zia's assignment officer Dr Firoz Mahmud Igbal.

Hadi, Zahid and Firoz were leaders of BNP-backed Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) and manipulated their power in health sector.

There are scores of allegations of corruption, irregularities and misuse of power against Zahid and Firoz. Interestingly, Zahid also won first prize in a lottery through corruption.

Both Zahid and Firoz, who have been absconding, were sentenced to 13 and 10 years imprisonment respectively for amassing wealth beyond known sources of income and concealing information from

Delwar

through a rigged election," he said during a discussion organised by the BNP-led four-party alliance at the Diploma Engineers' Institute

auditorium in the city. Delwar said the election must be held under Representation of People's Order, 1972 (RPO) and it would not be acceptable if any changes are brought to the RPO.

"You [the government] have no jurisdiction to formulate any law related to the election. The election should be held under the laws made by the parliament," he said, adding that only an elected parliament can formulate laws.

Expressing worries over Tarique Rahman's health, he said Tarique may be paralysed or even die if the authorities do not send him abroad now for treatment.

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid said the EC has already become controversial due to different activities including violating the constitution and its involvement in BNP's division.

BNP Vice-president MK Anwar said to enable the country recover from the ongoing crises, there is no alternative to releasing Khaleda Zia.

Bangladesh Jatiya Party Chairman Andaleeve Rahman Partho alleged that the Awami League is helping the government destroy democracy as well as the four-party alliance.

Meanwhile, 133 former lawmakers of BNP in a statement demanded withdrawal of all cases filed against former lawmaker Nazimuddin Alam and his unconditional release. Nazimuddin is also the research and information secretary of the party's central executive committee.

The statement had the names of Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmad, MK Anwar, Sarwari Rahman, Selima Rahman, Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumee, Abdul Moyeen Khan, Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan, Mohammad Shahjahan, Shirin Sultana and Rehana Akhter Ranu

statements of the witnesses after ACC Deputy Assistant Director Harunur Rashid, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, brought them to the court for giving their statements

But details of their statements however, could not be known imme

diately. According to the case filed by ACC Deputy Assistant Director Harunur Rashid, former prime minister Khaleda Zia and other accused embezzled over Tk 2.10 crore, estab lishing an organisation that only exists on papers.

The five other accused are former BNP lawmaker Qazi Saleemul Huq Kamal, Sayeed, Ahmed, Gias Uddin Ahmed, Sharfuddin Ahmed and Mominur Rahman, son of Khaleda, 's

On Friday last, accused Sharfuddin Ahmed was produced before the Chief

Metropolitan Magistrate's Court that senthim to jail. Earlier, The ACC had interrogated Khaleda and Tarique at the jail gate

Iftekhar

about the case.

FROM PAGE 16 preparing its position on each of

these matters, he said Iftekhar said he will sign the South Asian Development Fund at the summit, which he said would be an "important instrument bringing visible, tangible and concrete benefits to the people of the member

states" He also said the programming committee meetings, which finished yesterday, have also chalked out details of a regional counter-terror pact that has been in the works since

"Our delegation which is already there has also informed me that we may be in the final stages of negotiating a convention on the Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters, Iftekhar said.

The foreign adviser, attending his second summit as adviser, also welcomed the decision to base the headquarters of the South Asian Regional Standards Organisation (SARSO) in Dhaka. He said Saarc should also work to

replicate the success of regional groupings in Southeast Asia and Europe to embrace the "dawning of the new Asian era" "We will make best efforts to

render the organisation into people's Saarc, he said. Earlier yesterday, Iftekhar sent a congratulatory letter to the newly appointed Thai Foreign Minister Taj

Bunnag. He also received Singapore High Commissioner Verghese Mathews. Mathews said Singapore investors are keen on improving the \$1 billion investment in Bangladesh.

Tk 186 crore

FROM PAGE 1 The cases will be filed under sections 409, 109, and 34 of penal code and 5 (2) of the corruption prevention act

The communications ministry had moved to find out if there were any financial irregularities after toll collection from the bridge and highway rose significantly with the caretaker government taking over early lastyear.

TONGI-ASHULIA Sixteen RHD staff including three superintendent engineers and seven deputy department engineers are likely to be charged in the case to be filed for graft in toll collection on

Tongi-Ashulia road. A deputy assistant engineer, four ward supervisors and an office assistant might also be named accused. A six-member committee formed

by the communications ministry to investigate the allegations found that Tk 12.52 crore of toll money was embezzled in each of the years 2005 The ministry enquiry also yielded

that during the same period Tk 3.43 lakh was embezzled a day while Tk 1.02 crore a month.

The RHD began charging tolls for the Tongi-Ashulia highway in May 2005. Before that, the work would be leased out to private firms.

The amount of tolls collected rose by more than double last year while the number of vehicles using the highway in 2005 and 2006 was only 19.12% and 11.50% less than that in

The tolls realised in 2005 and 2006 totalled Tk 3.98 crore and Tk 5.56 crore against standard estimates of Tk9.23 crore and Tk 13.84 crore. The ACC probe found that Tk 4.24

crore and Tk 7.32 crore were embezzled in those years, sources said. After the military-backed interim administration took office the rate of toll collection shot up to Tk 4.93 lakh from Tk 1.49 lakh a day.

MEGHNAAND MEGHNA-GOMATI Twenty-one people including one from Bromas Joint Venture, the private firm overseeing the computerised toll collection for the bridge, are likely to be charged in the case to be filed for causing a loss of Tk

174.35 crore to the government. A former superintendent engineer, an incumbent superintendent engineer, three deputy divisional engineers, nine deputy assistant engineers and six work supervisors (toll collectors) might also be accused by the anti-graft body.

The investigation revealed that the RHD staff in question, mostly posted at the toll plaza since 2002, used fake money receipts or no receipt in realising the money they pocketed. They also did not register the actual number of vehicles that crossed the bridge.

According to the ACC probe, Tk 20.87 crore, Tk 43.29 crore, Tk 42.03 crore, Tk 37.68 crore and Tk 28.10 crore were embezzled at the plaza in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Sources said the number of vehicles using the bridge in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 was 35.66%, 30.04%, 25.37%, 19.12% and 11.50% less than that in 2007

2 robbers

FROM PAGE 16

Sub-inspector Afzal Hossain, constables Md Shamim and Md Sahadat Hossain were also injured in the shootout. They are receiving treatment at a local hospital.

Police also recovered two revolvers, a gun and nine rounds of bullet from the scene.

The two were accused in several criminal cases on different charges including murder and looting,

police said. (vommunications ministry) juris-The bodies were sent to Barisal diction. The cabinet purchase Sher-e-Bangla Medical College committee is the only authority to Hospital (SBMCH) morgue for make the final decision," he said.

autopsy. Two separates cases were filed with Banaripara Police Station.

EC for adequate

FROM PAGE 16 magistrates will help security personnel maintain law and order on polling day. Each mobile court will have jurisdiction over two or three wards of a city corporation or municipality. The four city corporations and nine municipalities have a total of 199

The mobile court ordinance however says it is the responsibility of law enforcement agencies to assist the executive magis-

trates in discharging their duties. According to the EC letter, upon directives from the establishment ministry, divisional commissioners and district magistrates of the electoral areas concerned will ensure deployment of magistrates.

Copies of the letter were also sent to the secretaries of home and law ministries, inspector general of police, chief metropolitan magistrates of four city corporations and divisional commissioners concerned.

PUNISHABLE OFFENCES

Electoral offences to be tried by mobile courts include canvassing for votes on polling day, seeking vote from any voter, persuading a voter not to cast vote in the election or for a particular candidate, disturbing or annoying a voter, interfering with discharge of duties by polling officials, persistently shouting in such a manner that is audible within polling stations and using loudspeakers or amplifying sounds audible within polling stations.

Electoral rules also impose restrictions on convening, attending or persuading people to join public meetings within August 13.

electoral areas during a period of 48 hours ending at midnight following conclusion of polls:

An individual might be sentenced to imprisonment for different terms along with fine for

violation of the rules. SC upholds

and independence of the judi-

Advocate Tajul Islam, a writ petitioner, yesterday told The Daily Star that since the chamber judge of the Appellate Division did not pass any stay order on the HC verdict, the judgment declaring the contempt of court ordi nance 2008 would remain in

7 JMB men

FROM PAGE 16 Bhai--were dropped as they were

hanged earlier. The JMB militants had exploded bombs on the premises of the judge's court, DC office, and at New Market, new bus terminal and Nouhata simultaneously at about 11:05am on August 17, 2005.

Sub Inspector Moklesur Rahman of Sadar Police Station filed a case on the same day.

After investigating the case, DB police submitted a charge sheet with the court accusing the seven militants on November 17, 2005.

After further investigation, DB officer Mohammad Mortaza submitted a charge sheet with the same court against the seven militants on April 9, 2007.

Salman, Sohel

FROM PAGE 1 directors Iqbal Ahmed and MA Qashem.

Of the accused, Salman F Rahman is now in jail custody while the other five have been absconding since the case was

warrants against the absconding accused and the order to attach their properties. He also prayed for dropping charges against former managing director of IFIC Bank Ataul Haque

The IO prayed for issuing arrest

as the allegations brought against him were not proved. ACC Assistant Director Muhammad Mahbubul Alam filed the case against them with Motijheel Police Station on September 5 last year on charges of withdrawing over Tk 158.67 crore from IFIC Bank in the name of Beximco Group through deception

and forgery. The complainant said the court also issued arrest warrants accused took out a loan of over Tk 158.67 crore submitting seven wills of 130.42 acres of land of Beximco Properties Development Management and showing false wills of Beximco Holdings as equitable mortgage. The accused also showed 112 fake organisations' accounts while taking the loan.

The top brass of Beximco Group department, the complainant and the ex-IFIC officials were

The court fixed next hearing on

involved with the procedure to release the credit violating banking rules and misusing power.

CASE AGAINST SALAHUDDIN **FAMILY** NBR Deputy Tax Commissioner Shaon Chowdhury filed the case with the Dhaka Senior Special Judge's Court against the former lawmaker and his family members

The accused include Salahuddin's wife Shamsunnahar Begum, sons Imran Ahmed, Tanvir Ahmed and Shahriar Ahmed and daughter Farhana. NBR said Salahuddin, also the

for committing the offence.

director of ITM Enterprise (Pvt) Ltd, and his family members evaded Tk 24,104,343 in income tax from 1995 to 2005. Judge Azizul Haque took the charges into cognisance after the hearing and directed the jail authorities to produce Salahuddin

before the court on July 31. The

Rawshan Ershad in her speech against his wife, sons and daughter. In his order, the judge said the urged the JP leaders and workers to strengthen the party at grasscharges brought against the accused were primarily proved and roots level. they should be brought under trial.

Party leaders ABM Ruhul Amin The former lawmaker and his Howlader, Karimuddin Bharasha, family members gave false infor-Brig Gen (retd) Kazi Mahmud mation about their real income and Hasan, Abu Hossain Babla, expenditure to the income tax Saidur Rahman, Fakir Ashraf and Anwara Begum addressed the conference.

Twin blasts kill 17

FROM PAGE 16

Child labour

Star correspondent Mahtabi

Zaman carried out a report head-

lined "Jamdani industry thrives

on child labour" in the July 28

the ordeals of the children work-

that the government team did not

find any arrangement of treat-

ment, education and entertain-

ment for the child workers in the

young ages and are put to work in

exchange for very low wages or

The team comprising of a

deputy secretary of labour and

employment ministry and other

officials concerned visited differ-

ent Jamdani production villages

extraordinary and beyond its

jurisdiction, the purchase commit-

tee members expressed serious

resentment, sources close to the

Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam, who

presided over the Purchase

Committee meeting, told news-

men that the committee asked the

IMED of the planning ministry to

make a comprehensive investiga-

tion as to why and under what basis

the communications ministry

"This is absolutely beyond their

Adopting other decisions the

committee approved a proposal of

the industries ministry to import

10,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid

for a DAP fertiliser factory of the

proposal of the National Board of

Revenue to procure and install a

scanner machine at the Chittagong

port. The scanner machine will

costTk 43.40 crore.

The committee also approved a

cancelled the tender.

BCIC.

Explaining the matter, Finance

committee told the news agency.

in Rupganj upazila.

FROM PAGE 16

Dhaka-Ctg

Children are employed at very

The government handout said

ing in the Jamdani industry.

FROM PAGE 16

pallis

regard.

neighbourhood on Istanbul's European side, officials said. A small bomb went off around

issue of the newspaper depicting 10:00 p.m. (1900 GMT) Sunday, creating the initial panic. A second, more powerful explosion followed about 10 minutes later, some 50 metres (yards) away, as passers-by and residents milled

around the site of the first explo-The second bomb claimed all the lives, including that of a 12year-old girl hit in the heart by a piece of shrapnel as she stood on her fourth-storey balcony, Anatolia

mere food. Also there are no fixed news agency reported. working hours for them, it said, There were scenes of panic with people covered in blood fleeing the adding that the ministry will soon area littered with debris and shattake necessary steps in this tered glass.

"People gathered after the first blast. There was a real crowd. Five to 10 minutes later there was another one, much stronger than the first," resident Alaattin

Hatayoglu told Anatolia. "The building I was in was shaking. People were wounded in a 40metre radius," he said.

Asked whether the PKK was responsible, Governor Guler said, "a link is seen with the separatist organisation" and police are work-

ing on it, Anatolia reported. But a senior Kurdish militant

denied any PKK involvement. "The Kurdish liberation movement is not involved in this attack, Zubeyir Aydar told the pro-PKK Firat news agency.

He said the attack was the work of "sinister forces" timed to coincide with the AKP trial and the pending case against the shadowy "Ergenekon" nationalist group alleged to have organised attacks and plotted assassinations to create chaos and prompt a military coup against Erdogan's government.

The Turkish army has stepped up operations against the PKK, striking the rebels both inside Turkey and in neighbouring northern Iraq, where they take refuge.

Turkish jets bombed PKK camps in the Qandil mountains in northern Iraq, a major rebel stronghold, on Sunday morning.

January 3 with Kotwali Police

Station, Jessore, against Raju on

charges of amassing wealth

through illegal means and conceal-

A special court yesterday rejected

the bail petition of Mollah Abul

Kalam Azad, president of Water

Development Board collective

bargaining agent (CBA), and sent

Kohinur Begum surrendered to the

Special Court-8 in a corruption

case filed by the Anti-Corruption

bail petitions to the court. Judge

Abu Hanif rejected Mollah Azad's

bail petition and sent him to jail.

The judge, however, granted the

February 6 with Motifheel Police

Station against them on charges of

accumulating wealth illegally and

concealing information about it.

Grand alliance

uncertainty, instability, discord and

movements by holding upazila

parishad polls ahead of national

process of holding parliamentary

polls without further delay, and said

no other elections before that would

discussion marking 7th founding

anniversary of Bangabandhu Textile

Engineers Association at the

Diploma Engineers Institute in the

for lifting the state of emergency

They reiterated the party demand

Zillur Rahman was the chief guest

at the function addressed by senior

AL leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur

Razzak and Tofail Ahmed, among

others. Association president Safigur

The AL leaders made the call at a

be acceptable to the people.

before parliamentary polls.

Rahman was in the chair.

They also called for starting the

The ACC filed the case on

bail petition of Kohimur Begum.

Later, their counsels submitted

Mollah Azad and his wife

ing information of his wealth.

CBA LEADER SENT TO JAIL

him to jail

Commission (ACC).

Ex-AL MP

FROM PAGE 16 Court-2 on the Jatiya Sangsad

Bhaban premises to stand trial in Priority gas the case filed by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). FROM PAGE 16 Judge Amar Kumar Roy rejected Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur the bail petition and sent the ex-Rahman who chaired the meeting MP to jail told journalists following the meet-

Raju's counsel filed a petition ing, "These are preliminary recomseeking proper treatment of his mendations that would be finalclient. The judge granted the petiised in another meeting in Dhaka" tion and directed the jail authorities to take necessary steps in this The final recommendations would be placed before the chief regard. The ACC filed the case on adviser and the cabinet for

approval at a meeting scheduled for August 13 in Chittagong. The recommendations would be implemented soon after they are

approved, Zillur added. Dr M Tarnim, special assistant to the CA on power, energy and mineral resources divisions, Brig Gen (retd) MA Malek, special assistant to the CA on social welfare, post and telecommunications ministries, Jalal Ahmed, chairman of Petrobangla, Manjur Alam, acting mayor of Chittagong City Corporation and Shah Muhammad Akhteruddin, chairman of Chittagong Development Authority attended the meeting

others among Petrobangla Chairman Jalal Ahmed said gas supply would increase in Chittagong by December this year as two wells at Bakhrabad Gas Fields are expected

to start production by that time. Dr M Tamim in his speech said measures would be taken to provide adequate gas connections to industrial units in Chittagong before September this year and restore normalcy in gas supply by

March next year. MA Malek suggested tax exemption for import and manufacturing of solar panels and energy saving bulbs to reduce the pressure on electricity.

Six killed

FROM PAGE 16

centre.

FROM PAGE 1 Sayzuddin. They were admitted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital (FMCH) and Bhanga Health

Complex. People not so seriously injured took first aid from hospitals and

The bodies were sent to Faridpur Medical College morgue for autopsies. Drivers of the vehicles managed

Zillur said the country is passing through a crucial time, and urged all to escape arrest. democratic forces to work together to restore democracy. IP to contest He pledged that the Textile

a full-fledged university if AL is voted the country into eight provinces to power in the coming polls. for decentralisation of power. He Amu suggested holding upazila said no government can sustain and parliamentary elections on the

Engineering College would be made

concentrating all powers at the Razzak welcomed the High Court verdict declaring illegal the cancellation of national mourning day and public holiday on August 15 by the BNP-Jamaat coalition government. He demanded that the judgment be implemented by observing the

same day.

coming mourning day at state level. Tofail urged party workers to remain united on the party stand that there could be no upazila election before parliamentary polls, and no election under the state of emergency or without Sheikh Hasina.

Erdogan, who cancelled a weekly cabinet meeting and headed to

Istanbul, pledged that the perpetra-

tors would be caught and punished.

Schoolboys

Nabinagar-Kaliakoir road creating traffic jam in the area for over two

They also damaged six buses during the blockade. The agitating students

demanded installation of an overbridge and a speed breaker in front of the school. They withdrew the barricade at about 11:00am following intervention of the Principal Lt Colonel

Anwar Hossain, law enforcers and army personnel. Police said none was arrested. No class was held at BKSP Public School and College yesterday following the incident. The authorities decided to keep the institute

Khaleda's nephew

closed today for repairing the

Roads and Highways (R&H)

damaged furniture.

Department Abdul Azim Joarder and his wife Selina Joarder asking them to submit their wealth statements to the commission. Meanwhile, the ACC approved filing of three cases against four people including BNP leader Shish

Muhammad, chairman of Tanod

municipality, Rajshahi, in connection with amassing wealth illegally and embezzling money. The ACC also decided to submit the final report in a case filed against former BNP minister Tariqul Islam, in connection with misappropriating government

tion could not prove Tariqul's guilt. Tuhin will be charged with concealing information about his wealth worth Tk 1.43 crore in his wealth statement submitted to the commission and amassing wealth worth Tk 2.08 crore beyond his known sources of income.

relief materials, as the investiga-

Shahadab Akbar will be charged with concealing information about wealth worth Tk 96.84 lakh from the commission and amassing wealth worth Tk 1.25 crore illegally. Seven people including former

manger of Islami Bank Bangladesh

Ltd Abdus Sabur Khan will be charged with embezzling Tk 65.20 The ACC also Okayed the submission of a charge sheet against Upazila Education Officer Nuruzzaman of Fatikchhari in a

case in connection with taking Tk 8,000 bribe.

The ACC has prepared two cases to be filed against Shish Mohammad in connection with amassing wealth worth Tk 89.90 lakh illegally and embezzling around Tk 5 lakh by leasing out a haat (weekly mar-

ket) in his area. The ACC will also file a case against former assistant director (finance) of Bangladesh Television (BTV) Chowdhury Abul Kalam Azad and two others in connection with embezzling the state's Tk 1.46

Women suicide

people were expected.

ity of attacks targeting pilgrims during this year's festival. "We ask people to help in all ways with our security forces," Atta said, adding that up to one million

Checks have been particularly

stringent amid what appears to be

information regarding the possibil-

growing trend of using women in insurgent bombings, which have claimed hundreds of lives across the volatile country. The attack in Kirkuk targeted a

crowd of people who were protest-

ing a controversial provincial

election law, police said. The suicide bomber detonated his explosives amid the crowd, causing a stampede, which prompted guards to open fire, officials said. "The victims were people who

ran away after the explosion and the other guards in many political parties they opened fire in air," said Najat Hassam, a senior member of the Kurdistan Democratic Party

"More people then responded to the gunfire with more shooting. The result of all this was 22 people killed and 120 injured." Kirkuk is often the scene of

violence was sparked by protests over the controversial legislation for planned provincial elections. The draft is currently being reviewed by the Iraqi parliament

but many Kurdish and Shia minis-

ters are opposed to the bill.

communal tensions among Kurds,

Arabs and Turkmens, and the latest

Kurds in particular are worried that the law will fail to address issues relating to how the provincial council of Kirkuk should be constituted. The question is important to

them because it could affect own-

ership of the northern province's oil resources, claimed by both Arabs and Kurds. Another three men and a

woman were killed in a roadside bombing near Baquba, north of Baghdad, police said.