World wants

justice so that the crimes are not repeated.

Terrorism is never defeated; needs continued efforts to combat terrors and religious extremists, the diplomats told the media, after an extensive briefing by Morshed at the state guesthouse Padma about the progress in "war on terror" in Bangladesh following the captures of the JMB linchpins. They said the "war" is not yet over.

They also urged the government to make further efforts to arrive at a compromise with the opposition to institutionalise the country's democ-

State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar was present at the briefing of the heads of foreign missions and international organisations in Dhaka, while Italian d'Affaires Judith Chammas, UK High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury and Indian High Commissioner Veena

law enforcers had arrested JMJB chief and JMB second-in-command Siddigul Islam alias Bangla Bhai four days into the capture of his Shaekh, JMB supremo Abdur Rahman, ending a long manhunt since the August 17 countrywide terror strike last year.

Emerging from the nearly two-hour lunch briefing, Chammas said, "I think it's a significant achievement... We'll be watching along with all of Bangladesh and international comto justice.'

strong commitment to fighting terrorism by capturing the top JMB kingpins.

"It's also important to see that the investigation is carried out to completion-no matter where it's and sparing no one--and justice be done," she told the press in reply to a question.

"If requested, I'm sure we'll be able to provide assistance." the US envoy

resolving the remaining terror attacks on May 21 and August 21 in 2004 and other incidents "with equal vigour so we can get some conclusion.

Choudhury, who was a victim, and probably target, of the May 21, 2004 grenade attack in Sylhet, said, "It's also important to remember that terrorism is never defeated in one single stroke. adding he hoped that the current campaign will continue heart and soul so that people feel safe.

"It's important that investigation is carried out in a transparent way so that people are able to see openly the process of justice and human rights

"We want to see a sustained results." Choudhury said, adding, "It's an excellent day for countering terrorism in Bangladesh" but also reminding

that the "war is not over". Japanese Ambassador Horiquch said the foreign minister assured them that the trials will be held in a transparent manner and the perpetrators put to

steps being taken by the government, said Veena Sikri, adding terrorism and religious extremism is a common

problem and "all of us have to be together in overcoming this". MORSHED KHAN'S

Bangla Bhai should leave no doubt in anyone's mind that extremism and hatred have no connection to Islam and no place in Bangladesh. "The government has fulfilled its

pledges to the people to combat terrorism in Bangladesh by putting the JMB and its supporters on the run and bringing the leaders to the book," he

totally routed.

Turning to the August-17 nearsimultaneous bomb blasts across the country by the outlawed JMB, he said the operation was meticulously planned and the intention was to create a countrywide panic, terror and

instability to dislodge a democratically elected government. But, he said, the perpetrators of terror have failed miserable in whatever they had hoped to achieve as they underestimated the commitmen

behind the government to bring the criminals to book and to destroy their terror network.

The extremists again made the mistake of undermining the will of the government and that of the people as they resorted to a tactics unprecedented in our society-suicide bombing. Judges and magistrates, police and innocent people were targeted. he mentioned.

The foreign minister said the government marshalled all available resources and went after the extremists. Based on sound intelligence and coordination among the law enforcement agencies with all-out support

from the people, he said, the leaders of the JMB were caught one by one. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is very firm in eliminating all sorts of terrorism and extremism in the country and described the August 17 serial blasts

as an attack on democracy.

Morshed also came down heavily on the opposition. It is unfortunate that their dissent beyond the frontiers and join the vested interests abroad by participating in conferences and seminars that sought to tarnish the moderate image of Bangladesh by naming the government communal

he said. He alleged, "They [opposition] have rallied with anti-Bangladesh elements abroad to project the present-day Bangladesh as a failed state, with the government projected as an active supporter of harassment and persecution of the people of other igions and everything bad.

and an abettor of religious extremism,

In an oblique réference to Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, he "Sensationalism is always sought after by the media and I therefore would not blame them, particularly the western ones, for publishing sensational news, if a responsible leader or personality of our country holding an official position were to tell

DIPLOMATS ON GOVT -OPPOSITION ISSUE

Bangladesh's development partners urged the government to make "further effort to make a compromise" with the opposition by resolving the pre-election political tangles for further consolidation of the democracy.

"The foreign minister explained the relations with opposition parties. So. I requested the government to make further efforts to make a compromise with the opposition party so that democracy can be further developed. Ambassador Horiguchi, who spoke on behalf of the diplomats, told the media.

On this, Morshed explained, the diplomats expressed their happiness over the developments in the justended parliament session where the prime minister proposed a bipartisan committee to resolve the pre-election He said the prime minister perhaps

from the ruling alliance on the committee, adding it can start functioning as soon as the opposition nominates its representatives However, in his briefing to the

has already finalised the members

envoys, Morshed said, "The coming elections will have to take place as per provisions of the constitution. To reject it will be a violation of the constitution.' In his written statement, he said, "Some of our friends seem to have

been influenced by some apprehensions raised by the opposition that the government has taken certain actions that undermine the autonomy of the Election Commission, pre-empts the neutrality of the Chief Adviser of Caretaker Government, tampering the electoral rolls by leaving out the minority population and so on.

He dismissed these allegations as totally baseless and unfounded, and told the diplomats that the present government cannot hope to return to power by resorting to fraudulent

"The formula--if I win the elections are free and if I lose the elections are rigged--cannot be an acceptable option. One has to have faith in the stem as it came about through an act of parliament," he added.

Morshed said the government is not intimidated by threats of boycotting the polls unless the reform proposals proposed by the opposition were accepted in entirety. "This is not a proposal but an ultimatum that smacks of arrogance of the minority in parlia-

"An elected government cannot be blackmailed into accepting the unreasonable and the impossible." he said. However, he said the government

is prepared to sit and discuss with the opposition parties to find some common ground for bettering the existing

WHAT BABAR SAID

At the briefing, State Minister Lutfozzaman Babar said anti-terror operation has not ended with the captures of Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai. "We're on our job...We never considered it over. It's a continuous process and we'll continue with it,' he told reporters after the briefing.

Bahar assured the diplomats that the government would go into the root terrorism and crush the entire network. "We want to get all of it," he was quoted by the British high commissioner as saying.

The state minister said the militants would be tried under the existing laws and the offenders will be given the highest punishment as per the nature of their offences.

Some 229 cases in connection with the August 17 bomb blasts have been filed, he informed. Of them, 52 were against Abdur Rahman, 48 against Bangla Bhai and 28 against Ataur Rahman Sunny.

So far, 642 militants have been arrested and some 22 awarded death penalty by speedy tribunals, he told

factory have been on the run since the incident. Ageneral diary (GD No. 372) was filed with Joydevpur Police Station in this connection.

allegations against the owners of the sweater factory for the tragic accident. The injured workers alleged that the officials rang the emergency siren without any confirmation of fire. Moreover the factory officials informed the police late. hey added.

The factory Production Manager Jillur Rahman said the bodies were handed over to the relatives of the deceased after autopsies.

supply. To meet this emergency mission, the BPC requested the

KPC and the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) several times to supply 2004 to January 2005. diesel but they regretted. This compelled the BPC to float a spot tender last month, in which

Mesfield turned out to be the lowest bidder. The BPC at a board meeting on February 15 approved Mesfield's offer and sent it to the cabinet purchase committee for approval at its March 2 meeting. But due to personal reasons, the BPC chairman was on leave and the

energy adviser was abroad when the cabinet committee met. This provided the scope for another BPC high official to withdraw the proposal and go for purchasing low quality diesel from the KPC.

BPC to import

In a letter to the energy secretary on February 28, the BPC high official said the diesel inventory situation has improved and the Mesfield deal may now remain suspended.

Sources pointed out that the ourchase from the KPC will not require the cabinet committee's approval as this is a state-to-state deal. Besides, the purchase from Mesfield would have violated a provision of the Public Procurement Regulation (PPR) that discourages spot tender that involves asking for

Since the BNP-led four-party alliance came to power, the government opted for unsolicited state-tostate purchase of oil, instead of buying it through open international tender. This has stopped deals with leading oil companies of the world.

"It is not clear if the present mechanism ensures cost effective and environment friendly procurement. But certain officials are strangely comfortable with unsolicited oil purchase on rigid terms, noted a BPC source.

PM to attend

FROM PAGE 16

Soemadi DM Brotodiningrat, special envoy of Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, handed over an invitation letter of the president to her vesterday.

Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia,

Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey are members of the D8 group, aims at expanding trade among the member countries. In his letter, the Indonesian

president personally requested the Bangladesh prime minister to attend the upcoming summit.

The prime minister thanked the special envoy and received the invitation letter, saying that she would attend the summit.

She requested the special envoy to convey her greetings to the Indonesian president and invited him to visit Bangladesh.

Increased bilateral trade, import of Bangladeshi products in a bigger way, deepening the existing relations between the two Asian countries and the joint commission meeting that will be held soon to various areas also came up for discussion at the meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Indonesian Ambassador in Dhaka Warmas Hasan Saputra was

Bangla Bhai

that SI Humayun Kabir of Bagerhat Detective Branch (DB), also the investigation officer (IO) of the robbery case, helped the militant leader get released by submitting a weak charge sheet.

Bangla Bhai visited Khulna several times in disguise last year along with Abdur Rahman to meet JMB cadres and monitor the militant rainings held in different mosques.

In September, 2005 JMB Khulna district Amir Masud bin Ishaque was arrested by Khulna DB police. In his confessional statement to Metropolitan Magistrate Shafina Begum, he admitted the involvement of Bangla Bhai and Abdur Rahman in organising training of JMB cadres on how to make bombs

and grenades and use AK-47 rifles. These trainings were mostly held during midnight at Ahle Hadith mosques at Daulatour in Khulna city and at Icegati village in Rupsha upazila of Khulna district.

3 killed

The management staffs of the

BDNEWS adds: There are

The 22 injured admitted to differ-

ent hospitals are: Neela, 23, Khairul, 25, Mariam, 22, Bedena, 18, Shipra, 22, Nazma, 22, Razia. 18, Rawshan Ara, 20, Rawshan, 22, Nazma, 18, Aleya, 19, Runa, 16, Shefali, 19, Rozina, 20, Imran, 22, Badsha, 28, Billal, 25, Fazlu, 23, Bulbul, 20, Habib, 20, Mofazzal, 22, and Ripon,

Dr Kamal asks govt Kibria killing

of an independent national inquiry commission comprising three retired chief justices and experts for a neutral investigation on militancy

country.
"Unless the prime minister takes edly confirmed by Abdur Rahman, national security will continue to be in grave danger," he said. Kamal said the government who

blamed the media for creating mmediately seek apology.

allegations against the media are baseless. The continued retention of those ministers in the government would mean the prime minister and the government condone their role

KTS fire victims FROM PAGE 1

Marzina Akter, 18, died at the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at about 12:00pm yesterday.

She was sent to the DMCH earlier for better treatment along with five other critically injured. They are -- Noor Jahan, Abdus Salam, Farzana, Sima Barua and Lovely.

Among the 49 KTS fire victims admitted to the CMCH, six succumbed to their injuries so far. They are Moni. Mohammad Hannan. Monir, Kamrun Nahar, Nasima Akter and Jhumki.

undergoing treatment at the CMCH. Fifty-four people died and hundreds were injured on the night of February 23 in the devastating fire at KTS garment factory of Kalurghat

BSCIC Industrial Area in Chittagong

Babar

"I will monitor the drive against those violating the laws and if necessary I will amend the Fire Service Act," Babar He was speaking at the inaugural

ceremony of Fire Service and Civil Defence Week-2006 at Mirpur training complex vesterday. He said there have been casualties in fire incidents as many factories lack

the necessary firefighting equipment and are violating the code of conduct. According to the fire department, there were 7,135 fire incidents across the country last year. These incidents

estimated loss of Tk 273 crore. Admitting the lack of modern emergency equipment, the state minister said the home ministry would formulate a proposal within a month to buy modern equipment for fighting fires and facilitating salvage operations in emergency situations like

building collapse incidents. He said the proposal would be sent

stations rose to 170.

122 more fire stations is underway while Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecnec) recently approved 78 more fire stations. The number of fire stations across the country will stand at 370 after implementation of the projects.

Babar said the government increased the salary of warehouse inspectors, station officers and foremen. It is now considering providing 40 percent risk allowance to the operational staffs, he added.

Nizami

FROM PAGE 1 coverage even in the inner pages despite being in politics for last 40-45

"If the terrorists are given with banner headlines then hundreds of Bangla Bhais would be created, Nizami recalled his earlier comments.

The Jamaat ameer's statement in the wake of Bangla Bhai's capture contrasts sharply with the one on July 22, 2004, where he said, "Bangla Bhai was created by some newspapers." Accusing newspapers of having

links with Bangla Bhai, he had also said: "If they [newspapers] don't have any relations with him [Bangla Bhai] then how come they publish exclusive interviews with him." "Police have nothing to do when

there is no existence of so-called Bangla Bhai. Whom should they arrest?" said Nizami on June 22 the same year while speaking at the Jativa Sangsad Bhaban with reporters from different national dailies.

(AL) know it well that if the alliance exists it won't be possible for them to win the next election. Talking to the ATN yesterday, he reiterated his resolve to establish Islamic laws in the country. He noted, "Jamaat has no ideologies of its own, rather it follows to the letter the Quranic dictates that came from Allah through

criticism that the recent arrests of the militant kingpins were timed to coincide with the US President Bush's subcontinent visit, he referred to a book (having references to militancy) that he claimed the then Awami League government had handed to visiting ex-US president Bill Clinton.

After hearing both sides for an hour, a four-member Appellate Division bench headed by Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain ordered the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Sylhet, to submit records of the murder case

The court adjourned the hearing for a week by extending the stay on operation of the HC verdict until the next hearing on March 14.
Within three hours of charge

framing by the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Sylhet, against the 10 accused of Kibria killing, the Supreme Court on February 7 stayed for three weeks the proceedings of the case following a eave to appeal filed by Advocate Abdul Majid Khan, complainant of the

On November 21 last year, the High Court discharged a writ petition that sought further investigation into the murder of Awami League leader and former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria with observations that it has 'no iurisdiction' to order further inquiry into the case pending with the trial court.

a grenade attack at Boiddyer Bazar in

Within two months of the incident Senior ASP of the CID Munshi Atiqur Rahman submitted the charge sheet to the court against 10 suspects. The complainant, Abdul Majid Khan, disapproved of it claiming that the charge sheet was submitted without in-depth inquiry, leaving out the masterminds and sources of the grenade.

Dr Kamal Hossain and Advocate Mahbubey Alam appeared for the while Additional Attorney General Abdur Rezzaque Khan stood

Independence Day

FROM PAGE 16 and artists to perform on truck-tops

during the parade. With miniature replicas in hands representatives from all the 37 ministries met at the home ministry on Tuesday with the state minister for home affairs in the chair. Each ministry was asked to bear the expenses for the parade from their own funds, all combined which would be over TK 2 crore, home

After the parade is over, the decorated trucks would be moving from area to area throughout the city on March 26 Independence Day Official sources said several departments in the meeting expressed their inability to meet the expenses due to fund constraints but when the top bosses asked them to contact the Prime Minister's Office, they

Officials at different departments aimed at a campaign for the up coming general election at the expense of public funds.

Women's Day

FROM PAGE 16

enjoying more economic freedom. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan

As many as 48 women's organisations under the banner of 'International Women's Day Obser-vation Committee' will hold rallies, form human chains and bring out proces-

Besides, Bangladesh United Nations Association, Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights, Bangladesh Sromojibi Nari, Mohila Gono Forum, Women Watch Bangladesh, Karmojibi Nari, Biplobi Nari Songhoti, Gonotantrik Mohila Samiti and many other social, political and cultural organisations will also arrange different programmes including seminar, procession, rally and debate to mark the day.

Take part in polls

(people) can understand easily how deep their relationships are," she

kingpins Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai, the prime minister said, "Many developed countries could not do what we have done. We never compromise with terrorism.' Khaleda said Islam is a religion of

peace and there is no room for terrorism in it. "The bombers are

power without participating in the

Militancy

FROM PAGE 1

"The godfathers of the militants hiding in the alliance government should be brought to book before trial of the militants for the sake of a fair "Otherwise, the ongoing drive

against militancy will be a futile exercise," the Bar leader told journalists.

government, ahead of the next general elections, wants to gain political benefit out of it, criticising the opposition political parties for noncooperation with the government's anti-militancy drive, he alleged.

Among others, SCBA Secretary

Investigators wait

Bangla Bhai's arrest, the JMB chief told the law enforcers that an Islamic revolution in Bangladesh is certain even though he and Bangla Bhai were arrested.

Sources said Bangla Bhai used to frequent Muktagachha over the last one year, training his men at different mosques and sugarcane fields in the area. Locals were not allowed to come near the place of training, a local said.

Bangla Bhai also had a training camp at Ghoradhap in Jamalpur, 5km off Muktagachha

Locals of Muktagachha said they thought Bangla Bhai was a peer (a religious leader) busy working on Hadith.

Law enforcers, meantime, said the youth who fled during Muktagachha operation used to provide Bangla Bhai with food. BANGLABHAI'S HEALTH

Sources in the BDR hospital said Bangla Bhai is now taking food and talking although in a very low voice. "But his condition is stable and danger free," a source said. Doctors expected him to regain full consciousness by Tuesday night.

Bangla Bhai was kept in cabin No. of the intensive care unit after doctors on Monday conducted several operations on his body for burn and splinter injuries in the face, hands and other parts. CASES & INVESTIGATION

Rab-9 Sub-Inspector Nurul Islam vesterday field three separate cases

with Muktagachha Police Station, with Bangla Bhai and Masud as the main accused, for recovery of firearms, explosives and attacking on law enforcers. Bangla Bhai's wife Fahima

Khatun, Chan Mia--owner of the hideout, and his father Newaz Ali were the other accused. Fahima and Newaz were produced before a first class magistrate's court in Mymensingh yester-

First class Magistrate Atikur Rahman sent Fahima on a 10-day remand and Newaz on a five-day remand. After the court order, the Rab last night brought them to the capital for

day afternoon with remand petition.

nterrogation. Meantime, a team of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) visited the burnt hideout of Bangla Bhai yesterday noon. They seized bullets and pieces of iron used in fishing nets from the place.

MYESTERY ABOUT

BANGLA BHAI'S STAY Masud said as Chan Mia went to his father-in-law's house at Bhaluk Chapor due to his wife's illness, Masud had to look after Bangla Bhai until they were arrested on Monday

treatment at the post-operative ward of Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital (MMCH). and has had close contact with him since then

He said he was sleeping when the comb exploded inside the house 'Bangla Bhai may have blasted it," he

Islami function more than a year ago

Investigators, however, said Masud's injury suggests that he himself blasted it.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reports: Locals said Bangla Bhai used to visit Chan Mia's house in Rampur village of Muktagachha upazila, over 30km off the district town, for about a year. He had been

days or more. Neighbours said they often saw the "bearded man" with other people sitting in front of a small mosque adjacent to the house, often riding horses in the adjoining field.

staying in the house for a couple of

During last Ramadan, Chan Mia introduced Bangla Bhai as a "hujur" religious teacher, and said he would teach children Arabic. Chan, however, did not introduce

Masud, who also had been staying with him for over a year. "No one dared to enquire about his identity, Unknown guests would frequently

visit Chan's house, said another local

Many locals claimed that they

often saw Bangla Bhai at a tea stall at Battala Bazar, even once last week, but could not identify him then. SYLHET DEVELOPMENT Bangla Bhai's close aide and JMB Ehsar Amanullah Rimon, who was arrested in Mendiganj in Sylhet on

Sunday night and tipped Rab men

about Bangla Bhai's hideout in

Mymensingh, was placed on a five-

day remand yesterday, reports our

Sylhet correspondent. Amanullah admitted to law enforcers that Bangla Bhai introduced him to JMB activist Abdul Aziz alias Hanif, who was arrested along with JMB chief Abdur Rahman last Thursday in Sylhet.

activist staying in Srirampur arranged lodging for Amanullah at the house of businessman Abdul Haque Kinu Miah in Srirampur. Detectives yesterday arrested Abul Kalam, brother-in-law of former

Jamaat-e-Islami ameer of Habigani

Joidullah Faisal, another JMB

district Saidur Rahman, at his Malnichhera Tea Estate residence in Saidur was learnt to have provided the JMB with funds for a long time. Four bank cheques were recovered from East Shaplabagh house in Sylhet where JMB chief Abdur Rahman, Hridov and their

family members were arrested on

Thursday Sylhet police on Monday also icked up mason Abdul Haque, who nelped JMB activist Hridoy Chwdhury alias Moizul in renting the

State system

As the government kept refusing to take any heed of threats exposed, JMB and JMJB staged nearsimultaneous blasts across the country on August 17 last year, relaying the message that they would continue attacking the key pillars of the state system to bring about a society based

on Shariah laws. "If the government does not establish the Islamic laws in the country even after this third warning and if it arrests any Muslim for seeking Allah's laws or resorts to repression on Alem-Ulema, the JMB would go on the offensive," the August 17 leaflet read.

Much before the countrywide olasts, Bangla Bhai in an interview with The Daily Star in May 2004 said: "We don't believe in the present political trends. We want to build a society based on the Islamic model laid out in Holy Quran-Hadith. Asked to clarify his model, he said,

"Just wait and see. Abdur Rahman claimed during the interview that his organisation is against the use of force. Neither does it want to assume power [as a political party] through elections. "If the people of Bangladesh give us the responsibility of running the nation, we will accept

Force Intelligence (TFI) after his arrest Thursday, Rahman said he had training in bomb-making and firearms while fighting against the former Soviet Union forces in Afghanistan. But in the May 2004 interview, he

During interrogation by the Task

said he only visited Afghanistan. "We don't have any direct links with the Taliban either. The Taliban wanted to establish the ideals of Allah. And they did their part with courage," he

Asked if the JMJB idealises the Taliban, he said: "Our model includes

many leaders and scholars of Islam.

But we will take as much (ideology) from the Taliban as we need. The interview revealed their suspicious character as they tried to hide information about their organisation

and activities. Bangla Bhai gave conflicting information about himself to different people. In April 2004, he introduced nimself as 'Azizur Rahman' to journalists. Later it was said his real name is Omar Ali Litu. When the correspondent of The Daily Star asked him his

Islami Čhhatra Shibir as a college student. "When I finished my study in 1995. I quit Shibir because Jamaat accepted female leadership although it said it considered female leadership a sacrilege.' They said their organisation is headquartered in Dhaka but declined to give the address. "We don't want to

name, he said: "I am Siddigul Islam."

Bangla Bhai said he had joined

disclose where our head office is. When the time comes, we will inform you," Bangla Bhai said. The leaders, who declined to name other top leaders and to give their

On why JMJB kept its activities under wraps, Shaekh said: "We don't want to declare our presence now. We don't want to take police help in the

Rajshahi they said they were working their militant wings there.

Although about their activities in

brother Ataur Rahman Sunny were arrested at Khetlal in Joypurhat in August 2003. To reach their goal, JMJB with

them a month. The first tier of the outfit has activists called "Fhsar" who are recruited on a full-time basis and act on directives from higher echelons, the amir said. The second tier, "Gayeri Ehsar", has over one lakh part-time activists. The third tier involves those who

indirectly cooperate with JMJB.

establish Islamic Hukumat (Islamic order), but the government arrested their workers instead. However, JMB did not resort to any retaliation, the leaflet said. system a creation of "kafer" (infidels) producing two groups, the govern-

right to enforce hartals and blockades to assume power, causing damage to public interest, the leaflet claimed. In an appeal to bureaucrats and judges, JMB called for stopping administrative and judicial activities under what they called evil laws of democracy, the constitution and the government that did not establish

racy is the main weapon to establish evil forces in the world. This evil order allows arrests of Mujahideens who are on Allah's path."

members of the armed forces, including the army, BDR, police and Rab, to protect the laws of Allah instead of "evil laws" now prevailing in the country under the present constitution. " Don't abide by evil laws, obey the laws of

FROM PAGE 1

The country's leading jurist said the independent national commission could be headed by several former chief justices who can be nominated through consultations between the government and the

opposition parties. 'The commission should include recognised and independent experts who could evaluate all the evidence collected over the last 24 months. The commission should also seek assistance of the United Nations within the existing framework of international cooperation to combat terrorism provided by the Security Council Resolution 1373 and related resolutions," he added.

Gonoforum presidium member

Commander (rtd) Abdur Rouf read

the written statement on behalf of

Kamal at the press conference

Gonoforum and Jatiya Oikya

Mancha leaders Advocate Zahiru Huq, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik Pankaj Bhattacharya, Ajoy Roy Mustafa Mohsin Montu and Advocate Sheikh Akhterul Islam were also present. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) in a press briefing yesterday demanded immediate arrest of the "godfathe

ministers" who have links with

militant kingpins Abdur Rahman and

Siddigul Islam alias Bangla Bhai.

Resume supply FROM PAGE 1 terms of JVA (joint venture agree-

When the government was showing such a strong stance against the Canadian company. Niko has been allowed to start exploration at Tengratila field, twice hit by blowouts,

Energy experts and the industry insiders found the government role as a good example of paradox and said with approving Niko's plan to start gas exploration at Tegratila, the govern-

would not be allowed to carry out any more exploration work until the compensation was realised from the company. The government claimed compensation for burning out of 8.0 billion

Mahmudur Rahman said he found nothing wrong with it. "The country needs huge gas at the moment. That's why Niko's plan has been approved," he told reporters.

He claimed that Niko has already

accepted the compensation-claim.

"But they have sought some clarifications...We'll give it soon," he added. Meanwhile, Niko and Bapex officials sat at a meeting of the Joint Management Committee (JMC) at

The meeting was in progress till the filing of this report as of 7:20pm.

No respite

FROM PAGE 1

in the country, now that our cables are burnt we're facing additional trouble in providing power to the city people.' He, however, claimed that against 80 MW demand for power in Ulan's command area, Desa is maintaining a supply of 50 MW

through alternate lines from Ulan via

Kakrail. "We're feeding Dhanmondi

and adjoining neighbourhoods by supplying power through 33kv Kakrail and Kallyanpur lines.' Earlier, at the daybreak on Monday, many parts of the capital went powerless due to the burning out of the Ulan-Dhanmondi underground grid shutting down power

also contributing to the water dearth in various city neighbourhoods, as Dhaka Wasa (Water and Sewerage Authority) is being unable to lift electricity for drawing water for supply to the capital's households. The power and water supply nightmares are haunting business-

men, office-goers, students and

housewives alike but the thousands

of examinees, who are to appear in

tomorrow's SSC examinations, the

biggest public exam in the country,

are the worst victims finding it

The SCBA president said the

within a week.

Kibria and four others were killed in

Habiganj on January 27 last year.

ministry sources said.

went mum. said the move was a 'tactic clearly

in a message said empowerment of women and their participation in all spheres of society and decisionmaking process as well as access to

sketched out elaborate progra-mmes to observe the day.

sions in the city to mark the day.

Mentioning the arrest of JMB

against Islam, the country and its people," she told the meeting. She said the opposition gave ultimatum time and again to topple a government that came to power with two-thirds majority. "Now they have no issue in hand. They want to go to

handling of the matter." he said.

addresses, identified themselves with different names and designations to

With two fingers missing on the left hand and the right hand badly thrashed, Masud is now undergoing

During interrogation at the MMCH, Masud said he became acquainted with Chan Mia at an

beginning. We want to establish the rights of the repressed people."

to rout out the outlaws for the sake of the people, they were in fact spreading Although they were using the JMJB banner in Rajshahi, the same gang of militants introduced it as JMB when 18 of their activists including Shaekh's

three tiers of workers trained about 10.000 full-time activists across the country and spends up to Tk 7 lakh on

JMB called the present democratic ment and the opposition, dividing the nation thereby. And this system gives

The August 17 leaflet said JMB had

urged the government twice earlier to

Islamic rule. " Make your life worthy by gaining Allah's blessings by extending your all-out cooperation in establishing Islamic laws." "Because, democracy is the product of evil power," it said. "Democ-

The leaflet also carried a call for all

Ambassador Pietro Ballero and Japanese Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi spoke on behalf of the assembled diplomats. US Charge

Sikri were also present. The briefing came a day after the

munity as the perpetrators are brought She said the government of Bangladesh has demonstrated its

said when asked about any US assistance in the investigation into militancy. She also mentioned that the US has already an ongoing assistance programme in Bangladesh in counter-Anwar Choudhury called for

Responding to a question, he said,

justice to ensure that such crimes do

BRIEFING Briefing the diplomats, Morshed Khan said the arrests of Abdur Rahman and

Morshed said the actions against the terrorists have not ended here adding there will be no letup until the last terrorist is held and their network is

of the people of Bangladesh to uphold the values of human rights, democracy and tolerance and their total abhorrence to terror. Instead of creating panic or fear, the actions of the terrorists and extremists resulted in a wave of anger across the country, Morshed observed. He said the people rallied

some of their leaders chose to take

Iran, appearing to reject a Russian proposal to resolve the dispute over Iran's nuclear programme by allowing Tehran to do small-scale nuclear "You can't have the regime

UN watchdog

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pursuing enrichment on any scale, because pursuing enrichment on any scale allows them to master the technology, complete the fuel cycle and then that technology can easily be applied to a clandestine programme for making nuclear weapons," State Department spokesman Tom Casey said.

his men killed 16 people and dis-abled hundred others during April He demanded immediate formation

and all militant bomb attacks in the action against the ministers and orders the immediate investigation into the charges which are report-

factitious characters like Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai should "It has been proved that the

deterioration of her condition hospital sources said. Another victim of the fire incident.

At present, 19 KTS workers are

left 54 people dead and caused an

to the planning commission for Babar said 36 new fire stations became operational since 2001 and with these the total number of fire He also said construction work of

On March 13, 2005, he said: "They (AL) want to split the four-party alliance through peddling propaganda on the existence of so called militancy. They

the prophet." In response to the opposition's

leaving the compensation issue Sources said the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on Monday approved a plan of Niko allowing the company to

start exploration at the Tengratila gas

ment has finally backed out from its earlier stance for realising compensation from the Canadian operator. Earlier, Madmudur Rahman had repeatedly told reporters that Niko

About approval of the Niko's plan,

cubic feet (bcf) of natural gas from the

Tengratila field and harming the

environment by the two blowouts last

6:00pm yesterday to discuss gas exploration at the Tengratila field and resumption of production at Feni gas

poor supply quota of power because of low-level of electricity generation

"So long we've been suffering from

supply to Dhanmondi, Karwanbazar and Ramna sub-stations. The worsening power situation is underground water for piped supply. Wasa is operating over 250 dieselrun generators as alternative to

unbearable to complete last moment preparations. Desa control room sources told The Daily Star yesterday that against a conservative demand estimation of 1500 MW power in Dhaka, it got only 1100 MW yesterday, down by 150 MW from Monday's 1250 MW. They said, Desa got lesser supply as the country's total generation was hardly

3100 MW yesterday against a

nationwide demand for 4,000 MW.

power are the fundamentals for achieving equality, development and Different organisations have

saying that it's a 'drama'. So you

M Enayetur Rahim was present at the press briefing.