New Saudi labour law makes life easier for expats

PTI, Dubai

Saudi Arabia has brought in a new labour law with a host of mandatory obligations for employers, including signing a written contract, a move widely hailed by expatriate workers as towards ending their exploitation.

The new law, which came into effect on Sunday, replaces a 37year-old legislation. It, however, does not contain any provision to prevent abuse of housemaids. The law obliges the employer to

bear all expenses from the time of recruitment through the worker's tenure for payment of residence and work permit fees and their renewal. In case of death of an employee, the employer is also liable to pay for repatriation of the body, Saudi Labour Minister Gazi Al Gosaibi said in a press statement in Dubai.

He said more categories of

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match it.

flowers.

workers, would be covered unde the new law, which regulates the relationship between the employer

and employee in a transparent manner Under the new legislation it is mandatory for an employer to sign a written contract with a foreign worker with period of the contract mentioned. The employees are

with full pay, followed by 60 days of leave with three-quarter pay.

The retirement age is 60 for men both parties agreed, he said.

employees, including domestic

The opposition also announced

plans to declare a government

ceasefire against the Maoists,

who were loose allies of the oppo-

sition in the pro-democracy cam-

paign, and called on the rebels to

slowly returning to normal life with

shops opening, mobile telephone

networks restored and no curfew

was imposed for the first time in

nearly a week. Dozens of political

serious responsibility," Sunil

Kumar Bhandari, a political activ-

ist who spent three weeks in

detention, said as he was

released Tuesday garlanded in

tens of thousands according to

AFP estimates, flooded on to the

city's ring-road, the edge of a

curfew zone that was the scene of

some of the heaviest battles

between police and protesters

since April 6 in which at least 14

and punish anyone responsible

for human rights abuses once the

interim government is up and

headed to the centre of the city to

areas ruled off-limits after the

king's power grab 14 months ago.

But the excited crowds also

Feelings continued to run high

running, a senior politician said.

The opposition will investigate

people died across the country.

The crowds, numbering in their

"I'm so happy but I feel a very

detainees were also released.

The capital appeared to be

Nepal opposition



countries use this kind of choppers. After the government had approved the purchase in fiscal year 2004-05, the director general of defence purchase (DGDP) invited

2 choppers

of the coalition government.

Crossfire

firearms when accomplices of

Toakkel opened fire on them leading

to a gunfight between the two sides.

ated which led to a firefight. Toakkel

tried to escape during the encounter

The police claimed they retali-

FROM PAGE 1

the scene.

spondent reports.

FROM PAGE 1

sent to the airforce headquarters on January 8, 2005. airforce headquarters had examined the offers and awarded the entitled to sick leave upto 30 days

The new law also raises the annual leave from 15 to 21 days, which could be increased up to 30 days for those who have remained with the same employer for five years.

and 55 for women workers and those above this age can continue service if

struggling for supplies and a

The parliament was dissolved

build-up of rubbish on roadsides.

in May 2002 as it looked set to

refuse the extension of a six-

month state of emergency, which

gave the king sweeping powers to

this speech one week ago, but it's

a good sign," said Kamal Chhetri,

accepted the people's power."

32, a hotel worker. "The king has

US officials reacted warily

Monday to the pledge by Nepal's

king to restore parliament, saying

Washington was looking for more

bours. China and India. both

expressed satisfaction at the

Transport strike

barricades at Katakhali and Srichat

points on the Bagerhat-Khulna

They brought out processions

Addressing the rallies, the trans-

port leaders urged the authorities

concerned to meet their demand by

May 3. Otherwise, they threatened

to go for an indefinite strike on 50

highway in the morning and dam-

and held rallies in Khulna and

Bagerhat to press home their

But Nepal's two giant neigh-

concessions from Gyanendra.

king's retreat.

FROM PAGE 16

aged the buses.

demand.

Mav 4.

"The king should have made

ackle the Maoist insurgency.

like purchasing fighter planes, and lower taxes on fuel items to mitigate FROM PAGE 1

Fuel prices may soar further in the the sufferings of vulnerable groups international market, so the national bearing the brunt of hike in oil prices. Before purchasing the VIP economy should be made capable choppers, the airforce headquarters of sustaining that pressure. The has enquired through Bangladesh public too will have to bear with the foreign missions whether heads of situation, the renowned economist state and government in different said

At the same time, the government will have to find out how the impact of increased oil prices can be kept tolerable for people of lower income. It should consider if it can tender for the work. Four bids were provide subsidy on diesel prices in a way so that the poor gets its benefit, he suggested. A committee formed by the

Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya told the press that if work to the lowest bidder. Finally, an the government increases fuel agreement to purchase the helicopprices in line with the BPC proposal, ters was signed on June 25, 2005. it may earn an additional Tk 2,300 Defence experts said for the first crore a year. Sixty percent of this time the BAF has procured two VIP earning will come from diesel as its choppers. But they will hardly be of consumption is the highest. This benefit to the force as the VIPs, means in the remaining two months particularly the prime minister, will of the current fiscal year, the governuse them. The president can also fly ment may at best earn some Tk 400 in the choppers when the head of crore, he said the government is not using them.

If prices are increased, farmers Many say Prime Minister and people of lower income group Khaleda Zia has already begun will have to bear the burnt. The touring different districts with an eye option seems to be raising diesel to campaigning for the next general prices by the smallest possible elections. The newly purchased margin, while prices of octane and choppers will only facilitate her petrol can be raised by a big margin. hectic tour schedules in the last year Since it is usually the well off people

Pre-budget dialogue

NEWS

who use petrol and octane, they are better equipped to bear with the

increased prices, Bhattacharya noted. Besides, the government can also lower taxes on oil to bring down the BPC's losses, he thought.

Sources said some economists were against the idea of increase in fuel prices. Prof Rehman Sobhan opposed raising prices, suggesting that the BPC's losses should be covered through budgetary alloca-

Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, president of Bangladesh Economic Association, also opposed raising fuel prices. If the government has to go for any increase, it can only raise octane price, he said.

Mentioning that this is the first vear under the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), the economists suggested that the budget should be prepared in line with the PRSP. The next fiscal year will see three

governments, so the budget should not be an ambitious one, they observed. Others who spoke included M

Saiduzzaman, former finance minister, Dr Mirza Azizul Islam chairman of Sonai Bank, Prof Abu Ahmed and Mashiur Rahman, former secretary.

Jabbarer Boli Khela

FROM PAGE 16

conducted by M A Malek and shirt, one cap and an umbrella to the Jawharlal Hazari, Marma or Didar amateur American wrestler. failed to beat the opponent.

Marma Sing, a sub inspector of Motilheel Police Station in the capital, clinched the championship's title for the third consecutive time since his first appearance in the competition in 2004.

and was bullet hit, police said. He Didar, a trader from Omkhali died on the spot. Police later recovunder Ramu upazila in Cox's Bazar ered two pistols and 12 bullets from district, also became champion in the competition for the third time. He won the championship title (jointly with the then defending champion Siddique of Ukhiya) in 2003.

He lost the title to Marma Sing in 2004 before regaining it for the next two years, albeit jointly, in 2005 and during a gunfight between a law 2006.

As American citizen Dan Herrlin expressed his desire to take part in the traditional wrestling, the organisers allowed him to meet Alam boli in a friendly fight.

Boli Khela, a three-day 'Baishakhi

vendors from different parts of the

Dhaka, Paris agree

FROM PAGE 1

Morshed apprised his French counter-Morshed sought cooperation of the part of the 'successful handling' of the French government in capacity buildbanned terrorist group (JMB), who had ing of the private sector of Bangladesh

CEC vents venom Bangla Bhai's wife FROM PAGE 16 Nongar Bhaban in Akua Haji Bari of

FROM PAGE 1 election: Role of the Election Commission in conducting a free and fair election.

names for the sake of the investiga-"Some interested quarter and the media as whole have raised a The aim of the blast that took simulated storm in a tea cup as if place before the Netrakona Udichi heaven will fall if the voter list is office was to kill people and damage prepared. The reason I believe is Fahima also confessed that the not far to seek. The voter list preletter of JMB, which was found at the pared in 2000 was flawed," claimed Aziz.

In support of this claim, he cited a report of Wahington-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) and another of US Department of State, and a letter of the European Union (EU), which he said pointed out a good number of ghost voters on the existing voter roll

Noor Islam occupied the land and built the club over night after failing He quoted the reports and the etter in defence of his unilateral A local seeking anonymity said move for preparing a fresh voter roll the BNP cadres use the club as a ignoring the persistent opposition of his colleagues. He said, "To check On contact, the schoolteacher the epidemic of false and fake said he has informed the Deputy voters, we have resorted meticu-Commissioner (DC) about this and lously to follow the directions of Form No. 2 as provided under the On contact, Officer-in-charge Electoral Rolls Rules, 1982." (OC) Arzu Mia of Kalaroa Police

"This Form No. 2 [used for listing fresh voters] has created all the uproar and concern of the vested quarters fanned up and fuelled by the media to undermine democration practice and to destroy the true reflection of the aspirations of the people to be fulfilled," alleged the CEC.

not due to encroachments. he The unilateral move of Aziz has been mired in controversy since the "But I can assure you of all coopvery beginning. There were a numeration in saving the river. I own ber of media reports on various about 1.75 acres of land by the river, irregularities in the process and and if it comes to giving up the land procedure of the ongoing fresh voter for the sake of the country, I shall listing. At one point, the main oppohappily do it," the legislator told the sition Awami League challenged the move's legality in a writ petition to BIWTA Secretary Syed Monwar the High Court, and the court on Hussain said the Port Act, 1905, January 4 asked the EC to revise clearly defines the 'sub-soil between the existing electoral roll, instead of the high water mark and the low preparing a fresh one. water mark' of the river. The high

Patricia A Butenis underscored the The EC however did not follow need for holding the next parliamenthe court directives and completed tary elections in a free and fair the field-level tasks of preparing the new voter list. Instead, it filed an manner and for ensuring a levelappeal against the High Court playing field for the opposition. directives with the Appellate Deputy Chief of US Dhaka Division of the Supreme Court.

Mission Judith A Chammas and After the speech, in response to AmCham Executive Director A a question why he blames the Gafur and Vice President Syed media, Aziz said he took the media in confidence at the beginning. "But what I said to them was distorted.

Ershad Ahmed were present among others. Iran's oil warning

FROM PAGE 16

throw a cloak of secrecy over its already recovered by the authorinuclear programme if it was The law ministry representative attacked militarily.

"In case of military action against suggested that to save all the rivers Iran, Iran cannot be expected to act in the country, the DCs of all districts transparently," he told a conference on nuclear issues in Tehran. Minister for Public Works and

He was speaking before the International Atomic Energy Agency reports to the UN Security Council on Friday on whether Iran has complied with their demands that Tehran halt uranium enrichment and answer IAEA queries on its nuclear

The United States accuses Iran of seeking to build nuclear bombs and has been seeking support for UN sanctions if Tehran does not halt enrichment. Russia and China oppose such measures.

enriched uranium to the level used

in nuclear power stations and would

"How are you going to prevent our activities by imposing sanctions? If you impose sanctions, Iran will suspend its relations with the agency (IAEA)," Larijani said. "Suspension means we will acceler-

routes of the southern region from informed about hidden firearms at Kathalbaria. As police along with Zel Hag went there to recover the arms

Kathalbaria on Sunday night when

he was about to collect the Tk 10

lakh ransom after kidnapping a

businessman's family members

contacted Zel Haq and arrested him

as he came to collect the money. His

accomplices managed to escape as

During interrogation Zel Hag

police rescued the businessman.

The DB team in disquise of the

businessman on Saturday.

Toakkel was accused in 18 robbery cases filed with Khoksa and Kumarkhali Police Stations. Meanwhile police said Zel Haq died on the spot around 3:45am when he was hit by five bullets

enforcement agency and his accomplices, our Sirajganj corre-A Detective Branch of Police (DB) team arrested Zel Haq at

Dan, a mathematics teacher of city's English medium school William Carey Academy, seemed ecstatic as he managed to overcome the challenge from the local

known merchant of the port city's Anderkilla area, introduced the ageold competition in 1909 (Bangla year 1316) with a view to organising water mark is the foreshore of the the local youths to fight against then river. British imperial rule. the foreshore into the land should

guy. The organisers awarded a T-

Abdul Jobbar Sawdagar, a well-

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman was the chief guest at yesterday's competition while Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Syed Wahidul Alam MP and Chittagong Metropolitan Police Commissioner M Mazedul Hogue

were present as special quests. On the occasion of the Jobbarer Mela' also started on Monday where

country joined with a wide variety of handicrafts including household essentials and showpiece items.

Mymensingh town on the night of

December 6 in presence of Bangla

Bhai and three other JMB Shura

members. Police did not reveal their

the office completely, she added.

spot of the blast, was written by her.

the suicide bomber who blasted the

bomb, but the IO of the case refused

Satkhira BNP men

safe house where they take drugs.

Station said he heard about the

incident but there was no case filed

are dying due to natural causes, and

According to law, 50 yards from

remain free of encroachments. A

joint survey, conducted in 1960 by

the BIWTA and Dhaka district

administration, demarcated the

foreshore in the area and handed it

over to the BIWTA for safeguarding

Akbar Hossain said if necessary,

the government would initiate

moves to acquire land along the

of Narayanganj said steps must be

taken to plant trees on the lands

should be made accountable.

The deputy commissioner (DC)

Kanchpur point

sought his intervention.

She also mentioned the name of

tion

to disclose it.

FROM PAGE 16

to get the toll.

in this regard.

FROM PAGE 16

claimed

meeting.

rivers

ties.

he said.

DHAKA WEDNESDAY APRIL 26, 2006

They painted a black picture.

the list.

out the fake voters.

Journalists abroad don't paint such

negative pictures of their own coun-

try. But, I am sorry to say, journalists

here always print all the bad news

2005 reported that the voter list of

2000 contained 6.4 million ghost

voters. Since then, he reckoned.

another .97 million voters have died.

addressed to the previous CEC, MA

Syed, to have pointing out the

existence of as many as 13 million

ghost voters, while the US State

Department report this year men-

tioned of 8 per cent fake voters on

the EC has no mechanism to find

CEC Aziz however admitted that

He said under the ongoing voter

enumeration the EC has already

made a draft voter list, which will be

published inviting claims and objec-

tions within 15 days time and allot-

ting adequate time to resolve them.

Thereafter the final list will be

printed, "and this process may take

be left out of the new list, announc-

ing. "Anyone can register his or her

name on the voter list even one day

ing publication of the poll results, the

CEC said the returning officers after

consolidation of the results send a

copy to the EC, which then pub-

lishes the results. "The Election

Commission acts just like a post

At the meeting, US Ambassador

About the task of the EC regard-

before the polls start."

hox "

He also assured that no one will

about three months," he claimed.

He quoted the FU letter

The CEC said an NDI survey in

under red banner headlines."

against the king with a heavy security presence around the royal palace. Protesters defaced the king's name on hoardings before pulling them down within a few hundred metres of the pinkhued palace

"This feels great," said Bedram Kandel, 26, as he joined thousands in Kathmandu on a road banned from use by protesters.

"I want parliament to be established and for there to be a peaceful monarchy," he said. "But we don't want King Gyanendra -- he's corrupt."

The king made his second televised statement in four days to try to quell the protests and halt a general strike that left the capital

district routes yesterday.

2 more TV channels

FROM PAGE 1 jointly launching SNTV.

Major (Retd) Sayeed Eskandar, BNP lawmaker from Feni-1 constituency who is also younger brother of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. has been learnt to be launching the other channel. ITV.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Salahuddin Ahmed said SNTV will be a joint venture of him and Nasiruddin Pintu.

He said they have already received permission from the government. "We're currently busy buying our equipment and it will take at least three months for it."

Asked about the possible date for launching their TV channel, he said: "We hope to launch by August this year; we'll complete our preparation by that time.

Sources said Salahuddin Ahmed initiated the process of launching the satellite TV channel after his failed attempt to run a vernacular daily 'Desh Janata'

Meanwhile, it could not be learnt whether Sayeed Eskandar is going to launch his satellite TV channel merely to broadcast Islamic ideology or for business purposes.

Former Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif earlier had initiated a process to launch a satellite TV channel for broadcasting Islamic ideology.

Programmers of Islamic functions who were involved with that process will be in key roles in Sayeed Eskandar's channel, according to sources.

When this correspondent and RTV.

Nihar Ranjan Majumdar, caretaker of Khulna depot of BRTC buses, alleged that the unruly transport workers roughed up passengers of the BRTC buses at different points on the Khulna-Bagerhat route, as they were not provided with security by local

administration Our Barisal correspondent reported that transport strike was partially observed on different inter-

The transport workers damaged a BRTC bus plying Barisal-Jhalakati route at Kalijira point of the districts in the morning. At least eight BRTC bus passengers were injured during the attack.

Our Patuakhali correspondent said a partial transport strike was observed in the district.

phoned Eskandar last night for his

comments, he declined to make any

comment over the phone. He.

however, did not deny the authentic-

Media experts believe permis-

sion for SNTV and I TV have been

granted to get political benefit during

the next general election, putting

close associates are involved

behind previously permitted

Channel 1, Banglavision, Baishakhi

and business partner of the PM's

son and BNP's senior joint secretary

general Taregue Rahman, owns

Channel 1. Some ministers and

AHM Selim MP are also involved

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor

Sadek Hossain Khoka, State

Minister for Expatriate Welfare

Major (Retd) Kamrul Islam, and

State Minister for Home Affairs

Lutfozzaman Babar are key men of

the channel Banglavision while

LGRD Minister and BNP's

Secretary General Abdul Mannan

Bhuiyan have been learnt to be

Housing and Public Works

Minister Mirza Abbas and some of

his business partners own

Baishakhi channel while Mosaddek

Ali MP owns two TV channels, NTV

Giasuddin Al Mamoon, friend

and RTV, said the sources.

Alliance ministers, MPs and their

aside over 50 other applications.

ity of the news

with it directly.

behind it too.

his accomplices opened fire on them leading to the gun battle. Five constables of Salanga

Police Station were also injured in the incident, police said. They are Milan, Saheb, Gafur, Safi and Mrinal

Police said Zel Hag was accused in 18 different cases filed with Salanga, Ullapara and Tarash police stations.

Shop owners FROM PAGE 1

situation as the worst ever in Bangladesh, they said the government has not increased even a single megawatt of electricity production during the last four and a

half years although there is a 2000MW deficit The association leaders

demanded the government give the highest allocation for the electricity sector in the upcoming budget and

fix equal price for the electricity supplied from PDB, REB, Desa, Desco and West Zone Power Distribution Company Limited. They also demanded cancella-

tion of the interest in case of arrears electricity bills where the two-thirds of the arrears bill is interest and said the authorities should give 24 hours prior announcement about the load shedding

Association president Helal Uddin in his written statement said in view of the present power shortage in the country they cannot ask for uninterrupted power supply for 24 hours.

The government should declare the services of the electricity department staff emergency during the crisis period, he said.

The leaders announced their programmes that include distribution of glow-worm's light at 6:30pm on April 29 at market places, mock protest by lighting candles at markets and houses on May 6, human chain on May 18, countrywide sixhour strike in business offices on June 7 and laying siege to Desa and

Desco offices in the capital and district and upazila level electricity offices on June 29. They also warned of tougher

movement in future if their demands are not met.

Rezaul Islam Montu, senor vice president, Masud Kader Mona, secretary general, Delwar Hossen, joint secretary general of the association, among others, spoke at the conference.

perpetrated countrywide bomb blasts and suicide bomb attacks on innocent people recently.

He also informed the French foreign minister of the achievements of Bangladesh in poverty alleviation, empowerment of women. microcredit, elimination of gender discrimination in school enrollment and achieving several Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

On investment, the French foreign minister, while referring to Lafarge's investment in Banaladesh, said the French investors are aware of the investment-friendly environment in Bangladesh and will take the benefit of

The two foreign ministers discussed the two-way trade and expressed happiness at the fastgrowing trade between the two countries. They agreed that there was tremendous possibility of enhancing the volume of trade.

In FY 2004-05, Bangladesh's export to France stood at \$ 781.00 million, while, during the same period, import from France was less than \$ 100 million

In order to enhance bilateral trade, they stressed the need for regular and intense contact between the trade bodies of the two countries; increase in the flow of trade- related information and exchange of visits of trade delega-

BCL activist beaten up by cops dies at hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist, beaten up by police at Dhamarai during Sunday's hartal, succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) vesterday.

Milon Hossain, 20, an HSC student of Dhamrai Government Degree College, took part in a prohartal procession in Dhamrai's Islampur Bazar. Police beat him up during chase and counter-chase in the area, his relatives alleged at Dhaka Medical College morgue.

Milon was first admitted to a local hospital from where he was shifted to DMCH at around 7.00am yesterday. But he died within an hour.

in trade matters. He also sought support from France in getting dutyand quota-free access of goods from

the LDCs to the global market. The two ministers also decided to

strengthen cultural relations between the two countries. The French foreign minister mentioned the decision of organising a single-country exhibition of artifacts from Bangladesh in Paris for a period of three months in the first half of 2007. The two sides also decided on the exchange of training

programmes of academics and scholars. The two foreign ministers also exchanged views on other issues of mutual concern such as role of the UN

and UN Reforms and Disarmament. The French foreign minister accepted Morshed's invitation to visit Bandladesh at the time of the inauguration of production of Lafarge Cement Factory in Sunamganj.

Robbers

FROM PAGE 16 succumbed to his injuries at Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital.

During the robbery the gang beat up Ahsan's father and his wife along with his three sons Afzal, Mofazzal, Tofazzal

2nd ODI FROM PAGE 1

memory of pushing the world's number one team hard in the first Test and had two one-day successes against lowly Kenya. ESPN and state-run Bangladesh Television will telecast the

Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore said yesterday that his charges will go for victory to level the series

"Obviously we would like to win tomorrow and tie the series and that is always the objective in a one-day match. We feel that if we can put a little bit more pressure on the opposition for a longer period we stand a much better chance to win the game and square the series," said Whatmore.

Bangladesh made two changes as Alok Kapali, who missed the first match due to a last moment injury, comes in the place of Ashraful while left-arm paceman Syed Rasel is dropped to make way for local boy Shahadat Hossain. "Ashraful is out of form right at

the moment and his confidence is down. We feel a break may be helpful for him but we are hopeful about his comeback to the team later," explained Whatmore.

The BIWTA was directed to look into this and report back to the task force as soon as possible.

Housing Mirza Abbas pointed out

that the river Turag at Amin Bazaar

is narrowing down rapidly. Sand

traders are slowly grabbing the river,

Hunt for bosses FROM PAGE 1

appointed him to prepare EXPs (Export Related Documents) as he has the expertise. He also said he received payment for carrying out the task.

"He is a hard nut. He certainly knows their names, but providing us with cooked up information. What he is telling today denying the next day," said a member of the investigation team. "It is just the beginning of the investigation, we are hopeful to detect all others involved in the smuggling," the investigator said

wishing to remain anonymous. Replying to a question Ibrahim Fatmi said they have not yet cleared BD Foods from their investigation. "So far we have not found any link between the smuggling and BD Foods. The investigation is at the primary stage, if we find links with BD Foods, certainly we will mention its name in our report," he said.

"Whoever the persons or firms are, we will not let them get away if we find them to be involved in the smuggling.'

On Friday, CID filed a case against two food product firms --Messrs Emdad Trading and Jamil International -- for involvement in smugaling heroin to the UK. BD Foods was not incriminated in the case although it figured in the National Board of Revenue (NBR) probe report.

Earlier, complaints against five companies were received from the UK authorities for heroin smuggling. The companies are Messrs King and Company -- a sister concern of BD Foods, Emdad Trading, MM Enterprise, Jamil International and Green Haven.

The investigators already found Green Haven to be involved in smugaling 54kg of heroin to the UK and submitted a report to the home ministry in this regard.

JMB den

FROM PAGE 1

men carrying a sack on a rickshaw. Looking suspicious, the two were challenged by the crime busters. But as they could not give any satisfactory answer, the Rab men searched through the bag and found the explosives.

ate our activities work Iran said this month it had

The US envoy to the IAEA said he expected the agency's chief, Mohamed ElBaradei, to criticize Iran in his report.

pursue industrial-scale production, "Given the announcement they which it says is its legitimate right. made two weeks ago (about enriching uranium) and given the apparent failure to cooperate further with the IAEA, we can only expect a negative

report," Gregory Schulte told Reuters Washington has refused to rule out military options if diplomacy fails to curb the Islamic Republic's atomic ambitions.

FROM PAGE 16

2m suffer in capital

a high official.

Shvamoli, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Lalmatia. Green Road. Kathalbagan, Nilkhet, Panthapath, Shukrabad, a part of Shahbag, a part of Bangla Motor and adjacent areas.

Describing the suffering, Abdul Quddus, a resident of Green Road said, "For example on Saturday I was home all day. I woke up at 8:00am sweating as there was no power. Power came back at 9:00am, then went out at 9:20am. Then returned at 11:00am, it went out at 11:30am. I tried cooling myself when power returned at 1:00pm. Then I could barely turn on the water pump when power went off again at 2:00pm. It returned around 5:00pm. Then it went out again at 6:00pm and returned again at 7:15pm. Believe me, it went off again at 8:00pm and I stayed in dark till 1:30am. Wait, it did not end there power went off again at 2:15am and returned at 3:00am. Then again it failed at 3:30am and came back at 4:15am only to go out at 5:30am. You can imagine I did not sleep normally. I fell asleep amid sweat after that only for a couple of hours." A resident of Dhanmondi, Aziz Ahmed, was furious when describing the power scenario at his home. "I am quite shocked that till date

Desa has not taken any practical measure to restore normal power supply. Desa people do not even know when we will have some normal' load shedding!"

Desa sources said the problem came to Desa's notice on March 19. "We tried detecting the location of the problem. This cable is installed 24 feet below the ground. Our system of locating such a problem is manual. As a result, we failed," said

The UN nuclear watchdog has said it cannot yet confirm Iran's assertion that its atomic activities are purely civilian. But it has found no hard proof of a military programme Tehran ended snap inspections of nuclear sites in February after it was referred to the Security Council. "To detect such a problem from remote locations, developed countries use a scanner which we do not

have. Therefore we have initiated the process to bring in a foreign expert along with a scanner. We expect this help to arrive on May 6. Then we assume it will take another month or more to detect the problem and replace the cable," he added. "By that time the peak of summer will be gone," he pointed out, "So

Desa can do nothing but apologise to the people for the suffering.' The Ulan-Dhanmondi grid cable became completely dead by March

21. As a makeshift solution Desa arranged partial power supply by drawing power from nearby 33kv lines

"The reason for such problems is that the underground 132kv grid cables are 20 to 25 years old. When these were installed, there were fewer houses. Now we have a crowded city and we cannot maintain these cables as we used to. This is why we are considering installation of overhead grid cables in the future. But we don't know how much of that would be possible given the crammed growth of the city," the Desa official added.

Another Desa official pointed out that a similar problem has been plaguing the Moghbazar to Karwan Bazar 33kv line for the last one week. This 7-year old cable is located 10 feet below the ground. Desa technicians manually located the problem after four days of search.

Stadium, where they had a very good match live.