The Baily Star

NEWS

waterlogging.

Thirty-two kilometres of silted up

implementation of the project

divided its flow into Hari river basin

and Upper Sholmari basin, leading

to the river's death, observed the

Bhadra and Buri Bhadra is also

The connection between Upper

Water Committee members.

Israeli jets

FROM PAGE 16 he still hoped the Security Council could adopt a resolution on Friday.

Other diplomats said no vote was likely before Saturday The war, which began after Hezbollah seized two Israeli sol-

diers in a cross-border raid on July 12, has killed at least 1,023 people in Lebanon. At least 123 Israelis have been killed. The Israeli army confirmed on

Friday that two soldiers had been killed in Lebanon the previous day An Israeli general had said about 50 Hezbollah guerrillas were killed on Thursday.

The conflict appeared to be inflicting political damage on Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Ölmert, who was elected in March.

A survey in Israel's Haaretz daily found only 48 percent of Israelis were satisfied with his performance against more than 75 percent early in the war

The US-French draft UN resolution calls for a "cessation of hostilities" but negotiations have repeatedly stalled on how and when Israeli troops would withdraw from southern Lebanon

The Beirut government has rejected an international force not under UN control, while Israel has insisted on a strong multinational force before it would withdraw.

The latest compromise calls for a phased Israeli withdrawal as the Lebanese army deploys in the

Key suspect Salehi

avoid arrest. Charges will be obstructing the funeral procession brought against him", said the IO in of Taher after his body had been the prayer found. After Salehi had been implicated in the murder, he first organ-

According to other arrested suspects, the revolver used in the murder, and Taher's wallet and a mobile SIM card were taken by Salehi after the killing, police said. Meanwhile, the Masters course

examinations of geology and mining department is scheduled to begin today. Salehi is also an examinee but his examinations will start on August 17, department sources said

A large number of police have been deployed at key points of the campus since last night

expelling him. Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and left leaning student **12 Myanmar** leaders in the meantime expressed concerns about today's rally by the fundamentalist student group ICS nationals held and Salehi's possible reappearance on the campus on the occasion **UNB**, Bandarban

They expressed their dissatisfaction with the university administration for allowing Salehi to enter the campus. Earlier, Shibir activists gave death threats to the university unit BCL president and general secretary after they had protested Salehi's plan to enter the campus.

Prof S Taher Ahmed, a senior pro-BNP teacher of the department of geology and mining, went missing on the night of February 1 and his body was found on February 3 morning inside a sewer behind his

south. At the same time the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, known as Unifil, would be reinforced by up to 15,000 French and other troops.

As part of the deal. Hezbollah would pull out from south of the Litani river, 20km from the Israeli border.

The resolution is expected to ban all arms supplies to Lebanon except those destined for the army and UN forces

A second resolution is expected within a month setting out terms for a permanent ceasefire, including the release of the two Israeli soldiers held by Hezbollah.

In Marjayoun, a Christian town occupied by Israeli forces on Thursday, Unifil troops were evacuating about 350 Lebanese soldiers and policemen from the local barracks under an agreement with the Israelis, officials said.

Many people in Marjayoun and nearby Qlaiah wanted to join the evacuees heading for the southern city of Sidon "The situation is so bad. There is

a curfew so we can't see the Israelis, but we hear aunshots near the house," one resident, Rana Daher, told Reuters by telephone. "We have no running water, no

Salehi led a Shibir demonstration

ised a Shibir-led movement profess-

ing his innocence, then after an

arrest warrant had been issued

against him he went into hiding until

organisations, and general teachers

and students were demanding his

expulsion from the university all

through the period. But, the vice-

chancellor of the university through

a special order allowed him to sit for

the upcoming exams instead of

Army personnel held 12 Myanmar

nationals at Amtalipara in the town

raided the area and caught the

Kepaya, Aman, Nuru, Rashid

Salimullah, Rafiq Ahmed and

over to the police who sent them to

Army personnel handed them

Acting on a tip-off, the army men

They are Tayeb Ali, Hakim,

BCL, some left leaning student

he got the anticipatory bail.

electricity, and we are running out of food. We have one bag of bread left." she said.

Oli won't care for party ticket Zakiganj border during the BDR-BSF clash have not

returned fearing more firefights. FROM PAGE 1 The BSF has dug more trenches

FROM PAGE 1

sources.

Habiganj.

night's firefight.

13 [tomorrow].

months ago.

shots fired

Thursday.

moves," said an official of BDR.

on high alert along the 700-

kilometre border with India in Sylhet,

Sunamganj, Moulvibazar and

Cachhar and Mizoram sector of

BSF yesterday in a letter to the BDR

sector commander, Sylhet, accused

BDR of starting the Wednesday

a protest letter today [yesterday]."

commander-level meeting since the

Indians did not ask for cancellation

of the meeting scheduled for August

15 villages, who had deserted their

homes after the Wednesday night's

and Thursday's firefight, did not

Kazipara were also badly damaged.

7 militants

station to see the arrestees.

through armed revolution.

ment Humayun Khan Panni.

Bangladesh (JMB), he said.

court yesterday.

PM urges

permanent two-state solution.

the devastated lands

approach.

August 3.

FROM PAGE 1

ists.

border.

FROM PAGE 1

niaht.

years.

return to their homesteads.

The meeting has the 256-acre

Deputy Inspector General of

surpassed all previous records. in the north and south of the dis-A section of the ruling alliance puted 256-acre farmland, gathered leaders and lawmakers including more troops and installed mortars some ministers has been involved in following the firefight, said BDR plundering public wealth and thus amassed a huge fortune.

"Bangladesh has also increased "Good people should unite and its strength in the area to retaliate if raise their voice against these unscru-BSF makes any further aggressive pulous deeds, or else we'll have to suffer more," he said. Meanwhile, BDR put its troops Slamming the ministers for corrup-

tion and inefficiency, the former minister said. "The country has not been leased to anyone and neither has anyone the licence to do whatever they please.'

Asenior lawmaker, gallant freedom fighter and one of the founding figures of BNP. Oli Ahmed Bir Bikram discussed with The Daily Star a number of issues ranging from corruption to the upcoming election.

Sector Commander of BDR, His conflict with the BNP leadership Sylhet, Colonel Abul Hossain said, could be traced back to the nomination "It is an absolute lie. We are sending for Chittagong-14 in the 2001 election In the fallout from the discord, he has Abul Hossain told The Daily Star been kept out of the cabinet after the yesterday evening that they are last election. preparing themselves for the sector-

On numerous occasions, he had voiced disgust at his partymen's arowing involvement in corruption. He also spoke out against the antiliberation forces within the ruling alliance for sheltering the militants.

farmland on the agenda. The farm-"I have been campaigning for the land triggered the dispute between last one year against a section of BDR and BSF one and a half ministers and lawmakers who have amassed a huge wealth through illegal Lt Colonel Abu Tasnim, 38 means. Democracy doesn't mean that Battalion Commander of BDR, told a handful of people will plunder the The Daily Star the situation still wealth of the majority." he said

remains tensed in Zakiganj border The Daily Star: Do you plan to form area even though there were no a new political party before the next eneral election? However, the inhabitants of the

Oli: Inshallah, I will carry on my movement against the corrupt and plunderers and try to mobilise public opinion against them. I know it's a verv risky job. no one has stood against his own government in last 36 years.

Muhibur Rahman, a septuage-It's high time that we unite and get narian hailing from the bordering rid of these elements once and for all. village Minapara, said "I could not The rule of law must be established sleep on Wednesday night as and the country should be a welfare shootings and exploding mortar state and I will be at the forefront of that shells kept me awake." Muhibur had campaign. No matter what gets in the taken shelter at nearby Anandapur way, I'll stick to it village after leaving his home on

TDS: Who are these people?

Oli: Everyone knows who they are The tin-shed houses of Abdul Starting from a street vendor to a CNG Quddus at Barothakuri and Mostafa driver, we all could identify them. Even Mian were razed as mortar shells hit members of the parliamentary standthe houses. Alai Mian's house at ing committee have come up with village Uttar Kul and Namor Ali's at

specific accusations. Organisations like Anti-Corruption

Commission (ACC) should take measures against them. Unfortunately, the ĂCC is working as a rehabilitation centre for the elderly and retired people.

TDS: From how many seats will you contest the next general election? Oli: The people of Chittagong-14 want me to be a candidate there and free them from the shackles of unwanted elements. I've agreed to

their call. Inshallah, I will contest from more than three constituencies includng Chittagong-14. TDS: How will you respond if BNP takes action against you on disciplin-

ary ground? Oli: It's my duty to speak against the corrupt and wrongdoers. Nobody has the right to dictate what should be my course of action. And I don't care what action they'll take against me, I will continue my fight.

TDS: Do you think Ershad's joining will bring better election results for the ruling alliance? Oli: Well, I have no idea about it

because it was never discussed at the party's policymaking level. Only time will prove whether his inclusion will bring any good or not. TDS: Why didn't you voice your

complaints at the party forum and why now, at the end of present government, have you decided to be vocal? Oli: To speak one's mind and get a

point across in the current party structure is somewhat impossible. We haven't had a council for ages now. The standing committee meeting is called only for candidate selection

TDS: Is it possible for the BNP-led alliance to win the next election? Oli: The present political situation does not bode well for the country.

People have lost faith in the political parties. Skyrocketing prices of essentials, shortage of power and rampant corruption have made their life miserable People must unite in opposition to

this trend, otherwise they will suffer more

TDS: Do you agree with the recent Washington Times report suggesting that Jamaat maintains a strong militant group?

Oli: Jamaat's involvement with the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) has been widely reported in the newspapers. Some of the Jamaat leaders have even been

British terror plot

Zone and Fakirhat areas and arrested five militants on Thursday FROM PAGE 1

official in Washington said that at least one martyrdom tape was They arrested Hamid and found during raids across Humayun early yesterday morning England on Thursday. Such a when the two came to the police tape, as well as the scheme to strike a range of targets at roughly The police seized around 200 the same time, is an earmark of alleaflets and books on Jihad from the militants. The leaflets call for estab-

Qaeda. Airline passengers faced a lishing Islamic rule in the country second day of disruptions and disappointment as airports strug-Sources said the militants were

aled to restore flight schedules. "It is going to be another diffi-

attack expected just days after that. The test run was designed to see whether the plotters would be able to smuggle the needed mate-

rials aboard the planes, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Targeted were United. American and Continental Airlines

flights from Britain to major US destinations, which counterterrorism officials said obably included New York. Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said the individuals plots," he said. plotted to detonate liquid explosive devices on as many as 10 aircraft. A British police official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the investigation, said the suspects were "homegrown," though it was not immediately clear if all were British citizens. Tariq Azim Khan, the Pakistani minister of state for information, said "these people were born and brought up in the United Kingdom. Some of them may have parents who were immigrants from Pakistan." Raids were carried out at homes in London, the nearby town of High Wycombe and in Birmingham, in central England, Cangnan county Searches continued throughout the day, and police cordoned off streets in several locations. Police also combed a wooded area in High Wycombe. Neighbours identified one of the suspects as Don Stewart-Whyte, 21, from High Wycombe, a convert who changed his name to Abdul Waheed. people died." "He converted to Islam about six months ago and grew a full Xinhua said. beard," said a neighbour, who refused to be identified. "He used to smoke weed and drink a lot but he is completely different now." Ibrahim Savant of Walthamstow, one of the names on the Bank of England list, was a convert formerly known as Oliver, neighbours said.

held for having links to the militancy. TDS: Many JMB cadres including its top brass Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai have been arrested. Do you feel the captures will mark an end to the crisis?

Oli: Of course not. As I said many times before, the real culprits remain behind the curtain and they will have to beunmasked

It is still not clear to the public how such a countrywide bombing was funded, how the JMB cadres amassed such huge firearms and explosives, and more importantly, why certain quarters were eager to hide or deny the militants' existence when the media had exposed the matter long before August 2005.

The very fact that Bangla Bhai would march processions under police escort indicates that the militants were operating with the blessing of a very powerful lobby. We only have seen the tip of the iceberg, and we must get to the core of militancy if we are to beat the menace of religious extremism

TDS: Currently, there's a strong debate centring the Karnaphuli Bridge. The city mayor opposes the pillar bridge for he maintains that it would be harmful for the river. What's your opinion?

Oli: Our major concern is why the construction of the bridge has been delayed for the last five years. People believe the government took time to decide on with whom to share the booty.

Teachers strike FROM PAGE 16 this decision considering the college

admission tests and second term examinations

If the government does not withdraw the new condition by August 25, NFTE leaders would hold a grand rally and a grand sit-inprogramme in the capital on August 26 and continue the sit-in until their demands are met.

locals said, adding that influential In the wake of the month-long owners of fish enclosures in the strike by the teachers of nongovernment high schools, colleges area are also playing significant and madrasas, the government role in the waterlogging that left announced cent per cent basic hundreds of hectares of land unussalary from the government excheable and damaged several thouquer with a condition of depositing sand houses. tuition fees of the institutions to the aovernment fund. 100,600 hectares of land spread

Previously, non-government teachers received 90 percent of their salary from the government.

Buriganga channel FROM PAGE 16

and flood vast areas of the western part of the city tions' "Our team of experts did not dare to say anything at the site but later we expressed our concern to the could not work in the proper way and LGED in a letter." said a top official complete their task in time due to of WDB requesting not to be named resistance from the local people. Nasir Uddin Ahmed Pintu told The Daily Star the bridge is being ful, he said, "Most of the rivers would built following a promise made by dry up if the project works were not the prime minister to the people. He said it is not his company's concern carried out." to find out whether there was any environmental clearance for the gate the waterlogging problem, but project or not. the project made the problem much

"It is the responsibility of the more difficult and complex to solve, LGED to ensure the environmental said a book on KJDRB published by issues," he said adding that the second channel has never been encroached by anyone. "Come and show me where they are selling

FROM PAGE 1 forum campaigning for measures to good amount of money from various solve the problem of persistent

'Massive' projects

projects, they said. Executive Engineer of Khulna BWDB Abdul Malek, however, riverbed of Hamkura river is now termed such allegations 'totally being used as agricultural land. The baseless' river was alive and flowing but

The Tk 272crore Khulna Jessore Drainage Rehabilitation Project (KJDRP) that was implemented between 1995 and 2004, included massive dredging work, construction of regulators, dams and embankments in the project areas, but it failed to improve the situation.

TRM attempts

instead of riverbed

convener of Keshabpur upazila

Local leaders of the successive

ruling parties mysteriously support

BWDB activities that have so far

failed to bring any positive result,

The KJDRP project covered

over Batiaghata, Daulatpur,

Dumuria and Phultala upazilas in

Khulna and Abhoynagar,

Krishak Sangram Samity.

nearly dead. Besides, rivers in Rather, the project further worsnorthwest part of KJDRP area, ened the drainage problem in the namely Teligati, Hari, Upper Bhadra region and led to the death of sevand Harihar are now under threat. eral rivers in the area. locals said. The situation could have further A cross-section of affected

worsened if local communities did people, whom this correspondent not implement TRM in Beel Bhaina. talked to, vented their anger on Nevigability of Ghengrail and BWDB officials who did not accept lower Salta has been substantially locals' suggestion to address the reduced after the connection problems through indigenous water between the two rivers was severed management practices known as under the project. Tidal River Management (TRM).

To ensure community participa-After wastage of quite a long tion in the project, Water time, BWDB included TRM system Management Association (WMA) in the project but faulty implementaand Water Management Federation tion resulted in failure of some of the (WMF) were formed at different levels. But there are allegations that The system developed over generations is simple -- to allow tidal

people's representations were never reflected in WMA and WMF flow into wetland basin and releasas local influential people used to be ing it back to the river. Through this elected in the bodies through the process, sediments carried by tidal use of power. flow deposit on the wetland basin The elected WMA and WMF

members used to support BWDM "As long as BWDB officials are activities, defying protest of local here, the problem will not be people resolved," said Shahidullah Sarder. Principal AMB Shafiqul Islam

president of Water Committee, said the project was similar to that of Costal Embankment Project under which 37 polders and 282 sluice gates were constructed in Khulna, Satkhira and Jessore districts in the 60s. "It is old wine in a new bottle." he said.

Following the construction. higher level of sedimentation in river channels gradually raised the riverbeds while adjacent beels (wetlands) subsided due to nondeposition of sediment, resulting in waterlogging in a vast expanse of land.

Regional dialogue FROM PAGE 1

Keshabpur, Jessore Sadar and Manirampur upazilas in Jessore. Eminent academics and profes-Local people resisted the project sionals, development and cultural for years as its design and approach activists, public representatives did not match with their 'expectaand political leaders and civil society representatives of the Superintendent Engineer of district are expected to speak at BWDB (Khulna) Nurul Ala said they

the dialogue beginning at 9:00am. Members of the Nagorik Committee 2006, who are preparing a "Vision Paper" for the country, will also be present to receive public feedback.

DFO sued

FROM PAGE 16

R&HD officials had earlier said when forest department started cutting trees on Bogra-Joypurhat

trees on different roads have

already been cut and many more

marked for auction sale, they men-

in London yesterday we further inten-

up security, including at the Indira

intelligence and paramilitary agencies

are maintaining the highest state of

alert as part of our Independence Day

security drill," a senior official from the

federal home ministry told AFP.

Police in New Delhi also stepped

The Delhi police backed by central

sified security," Sinha said.

Gandhi International Airport.

hoped to stage a practice run within two days, with the actual

recruiting members in different areas of the city, inviting them to join cult day today, both for airports Hizbut Tawhid. During a primary and for passengers, but there is interrogation the arrestees concause for optimism that we will get fessed to have been working for the more flights off today," said organisation in Chittagong for two Stephen Nelson, chief executive of British Airports Authority, which Quoting the arrestees, the police runs Britain's major airports. said the organisation's country chief At Heathrow, Europe's busiest is Bayezid Khan Panni, a cousin of airport, around 70 percent of flights former deputy speaker of parliawere running Friday, but many passengers turned around and The organisation started its headed home after an early mornactivities in Bangladesh in 1991, ing announcement that a raft of said Officer-in-Charge (OC) of the flights had been cancelled, includ-Bandar PS Abul Khair Matubbar. ing British Airways services to San The militants, however, denied Francisco and Los Angeles. having any connection with the British authorities arrested 24 outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen people on Thursday based partly on intelligence from Pakistan. The arrestees were sent to the More arrests were expected, the official said. The suspects were "Our drive will continue along believed to be mainly British with other law enforcement agen-Muslims, at least some of cies to catch other activists of the Pakistani ancestry. organisation," the OC told journal-Agents in Pakistan arrested at least seven people, including two British nationals of Pakistani origin, who provided information on the terror plot, a senior government official said Friday. The general to activate the Security arrests were made in the eastern Council to take forthright action for city of Lahore and in Karachi, the immediate and unconditional official said on condition of anoceasefire and urgent deployment of nymity because he did not have an adequate international stabilisaauthority to speak formally on the tion force on the Israel-Lebanon issue. Two were Britons arrested She also called for UN sponabout a week ago, he said. The sored conference on ways and five Pakistanis were arrested on means to enhance the authority of suspicion that they served as the Lebanese government and local "facilitators" for the two promotion of all initiatives for a Britons, the official said. It wasn't peacefully negotiated settlement of clear when they'd been detained. the Palestine-Israel conflict includ-The Guardian newspaper, ing the quartet roadmap and the citing unidentified British govern-Arab peace initiative leading to a ment sources, said that after the arrests a message was sent to Khaleda said ancillary measures Britain telling the plots, "do your of prime importance are release of attacks now." That message was detainees, safe passage, delivery of intercepted and decoded earlier relief goods and concerted steps for this week. The Guardian said. reconstruction and rehabilitation of A US congressman briefed by intelligence officials, who did not She said the root causes of the want to be identified because of crisis in the Middle East were well the sensitivity of the investigation, known and that a durable solution said US intelligence had intercould be achieved by pushing all cepted terrorist chatter. parties to reach a just settlement. The threat of liquid explosives The prime minister emphasised led to a ban on carrying nearly any that political issues could not be kind of fluid aboard an aircraft. resolved by military means and that Mothers tasted baby bottles in front history had proved the futility of this of airport security guards to prove it contained milk or formula not a The letters were written in the wake of the consensus among the component of an explosive. leaders of the Muslim countries at The raids in Britain on the special meeting of the extended Thursday followed a monthslong investigation, but US intelligence executive committee summit meetofficials said authorities moved ing held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, on quickly after learning the plotters

campus residence.

Ctg port

FROM PAGE 16 stevedore companies and foreign company, Saif Power Tech, temporarily at the port.

A 10-member committee comprising five from CPA and five from BMSA, led by CPA Member (Operation) Captain Qamrul Hassain, was formed to provide recommendations on the issue.

Container handling at Chittagong Port remained suspended for 20 hours since 10:00pm on Thursday protesting the decision of the port authority to stop operations of three local stevedore com-

First ODI

FROM PAGE 1

(BST) with state-run Bangladesh Television (BTV) and Channel i beaming the live coverage from the Kenyan capital. Before coming to their second

challenge in the African safari, Bangladesh had a disappointing 3-2 loss in the highly expected series against Zimbabwe. And the shocking result has made it a real challenge for the Tigers to at least console the heart-breaking defeat against the young Zimbabweans.

The Bangladesh think-tank made one change from the side that beat Zimbabwe in the last game of the series, by eight wickets, as pace spearhead Mashrafee Bin Mortuza returned in place of Mushfiqur Rahim. TEAM

Khaled Mashud (captain), Shahriar Nafees, Rajin Saleh, Aftab Ahmed, Mohammad Ashraful, Sakib Al Hasan, Forhad Reza, Mohammad Rafique, Abdur Razzak, Mashrafee Bin Mortuza and Syed Rasel.

Shamsur Rahman

FROM PAGE 16

complexities involved with old age. He is in the ICU of the hospital under life support.

Family members said a meeting of the nine-member medical board, which formed on Wednesday to monitor the health of the poet, would be held today, where the board will decide whether the poet will be flown abroad for better treatment.

Extortion FROM PAGE 16

Rashid Ahmed.

jail hajat

on Thursday.

Mvanmar nationals.

last one month.

involved in the crime, Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) commissioner said, adding, "We are trying hard to track down the criminals." While demanding tolls, most of the

Janajuddho founder Dada Tapan who is reportedly away from such activities now, a senior officer of Detective Branch of KMP said, adding that they have identified 35 cell phone numbers for investigation.

Expressing grave concern at the

Top criminals

FROM PAGE 16 criminals, Pichchi Hannan had died in Rapid Action Battalion custody and Ala Uddin died in a police chase.

The law enforcement agencies Ahmed Kachi, and Arman.

The rest who have long been on the run and evaded arrest by fleeing the country are: Jahangir Ferdous alias Kala Jahangir, Khandakar Tanvir Islam alias Joy, Subrata Bain, Rafiqul Islam Kajol, Haris Ahmed Haris, Jafar Ahmed Manik, Kamrul Hasan alias Hannan. Prokash Kumar Biswas, Jabbar Munna, Tokai Sagar, Mollah Mashud and

Shamim Ahmed. commissioner said the police have no proof if the top fugitives have already started to return to the country from abroad before the

"We have taken necessary soon as they step on our soil." The DMP commissioner also

deterioration of law and order.

Mahmudul Islam, Selim,

involvement in such acts during the A group of drug addicts are

callers are using the name of

rise of extortion in the city, Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Shaharuzzaman Martuza said it has seriously affected trade activities.

so far succeeded to put the following behind bars: Mohammad Liakat. Kamal Pasha, Khandakar Naim Titon, Moshiur Rahman Khorshed Alam alias Freedom Rashu, Abbas alias Killer Abbas, Sohel Rana Chowdhury alias Freedom Sohel, Helal alias Pichchi Helal alias Imamul Hasan

While replying to a question, the general election.

measures so that they cannot return," said the confident chief of DMP "We expect to catch them as

spoke of special security measures that would be in place before and after the transfer of power by the alliance government to the caretaker administration to check any

Security beefed FROM PAGE 1

ZIA said, adding that the measures are taken as precaution while there is no threat at ZIA.

We are restricting the entrance of visitors and thoroughly checking the passengers as well," said a duty officer at the airport security.

No guests are entertained and no visitors allowed to enter the canopy area unless they have proper authorisation, he added.

Passengers, especially of the British Airways, and India-bound travellers, are undergoing thorough checking, the officer said.

Additional police have been deployed at different posts inside the airport, he added.

The LGED's Dhaka Division Executive Engineer Mohammad Mominur Rahman said the consultant should have done all the environmental assessments.

Engineer Seraiul Islam of the consultant firm PDK Consortium said since no large vessels plied on the channel, there was no need to ensure navigability

"We did not find it necessary to do any environmental assessment or seek clearance for this bridge, because the people of the area did not ask for it," he added.

Typhoon Saomai FROM PAGE 16

"Lots of people were hurt here but my family are all okay," said Wu Yelian, an old woman doing a roaring trade in

instant noodles and canned drinks to drivers stuck in the heat in a jam on the narrow mountain road outside. "I haven't seen a typhoon this

strong in years. Last time we had a bad one, a dam collapsed and many

Power was also cut in five towns close to where Saomai made landfall,

Along a highway in Cangnan, trees were knocked flat, their branches and tops ripped off. Tiles and even bricks from flimsy farm houses lay strewn about on the ground. Power and fixed telephone lines were knocked down.

The typhoon crossed the coast with winds of 216 km (135 mph) per hour - more powerful than a typhoon that hit Zheijang in August 1956, killing more than 3.000 people.

Saomai was the eighth storm to hit China this year. Tropical Storm Risk (www.tropicalstormrisk.com) had graded Saomai a maximum-category 5 "super" typhoon, but reduced that to category 4 as it made landfall, the same category as Hurricane Katrina which devastated the US Gulf coast last year.

Much of south China has been battered by typhoons and tropical storms this summer. Nearly 1,000 have been killed by rainstorms, mudslides, house collapses and floods.

Tropical storm Bilis killed at least 637 in China last month and typhoon Prapiroon killed about 80 last week. By Friday morning, Saomai had

weakened into a tropical depression and moved inland.

local NGO Uttaran, which is working highway, they were requested to to help people get rid of stop this pending a joint inquiry but waterlogging. they ignored it. More than 2,000

Claiming the KJDRP as success-

KJDRP was supposed to miti-

Besides, the project has led to the death of several rivers, said locals and some members of Water Committee, a local civil society

Indian cities

FROM PAGE 1

website "Likely targets include major airports, key central Indian government offices, and major gathering places such as hotels and markets," it

said. "The embassy urges American citizens to maintain a low profile and be especially alert and attentive to their surroundings during this period." Embassy spokesman David

Indian government," Kennedy said.

however there had been no sharing of

intelligence on the embassy's advi-

advisory to their own staff. we have no

comments. It is normal for a mission to

issue advisories whenever they have

information. We too do the same thing

... I have only seen the advisory and

there is no intelligence input shared

celebrations, which are often targeted

are aware that there is a threat, as

Indian officials said however

security had been further raised in the

capital New Delhi and the financial hub

Mumbai, capital of western

Maharashtra state, with extra protec-

"Not only airports but we have

information about other vital public

installations which could be targeted.

Maharashtra Home Secretary AF

Sinha told AFP by telephone from

state of alert but after what happened

"We had been maintaining a high

tion ordered for key facilities.

India has been a target for militants."

"Our intelligence agencies are

intelligence inputs.

VK Duggal told reporters.

with us."

Mumbai

in divided Kashmir.

"All vital installations like bus and Kennedy told CNN-IBN news channel railway stations, airports, metro serthat the information was based on vices and government buildings are under the scanner," he said.

tioned

"The US embassy regularly shares Police said security was also raised information and works closely with the in the eastern city of Kolkata, where five quards of the American Centre The home ministry's top official said were killed in an attack by suspected Islamic militants on the facility in January 2001.

sory. "It is a very innocuous advisory. Police, meanwhile, announced the overnight arrest of two men at New And that's about it," home secretary Delhi railway station allegedly carrying a quantity of explosives. "I have read the advisory. It's an

Police said the pair, one of them a Pakistani national, had links with the Lashkar-e-Taiba Islamic militant group which is engaged in guerrilla warfare with Indian troops in disputed Kashmir. The US warning comes exactly a month after serial train blasts in Mumbai killed 183 commuters and

Junior foreign minister Anand injured nearly 900. Sharma told reporters in New Delhi On October 29 last year, serial that each year security is in any case bombings in New Delhi markets tightened ahead of Independence Dav ahead of a Hindu festival killed 62 people. Lashkar has been blamed by by Islamic militants fighting India's rule India for both the Mumbai train blasts and the attack in the Indian capital.

Another 250 already on alert," Sharma said. "We FROM PAGE 16

The chartered MEA aircraft will carry 250 of them from Damascus airport. They are expected to reach Dhaka at 4:30am.

The remaining Bangladeshis will be brought home on availability of flights. A total of 278 Bangladeshis have so far been repatriated from war battered Lebanon.

According to an official estimate, 10,000 Bangladeshi nationals are believed to be in Lebanon. Unofficial estimates however claim the number will be higher than 15,000.