Meeting on UZ Parishad | Kolkata attackers |

body system.
Other members of the committee however were all for reintroduction of the Upazila system since it was one of the election commitments of the BNP for strengthening the local government system.

Excepting Information Minister Abdul Moyeen Khan, all other members LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuivan. Health Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Industries Minister MK Anwar and Communications Minister Nazmul Huda attended the

Meeting sources said Nazmul Huda was dead against the idea to reintroduce the Upazila system. He argued that it was introduced by autocratic Ershad regime and instead, suggested introduction of a four-tire local government system as well as Thana Development and Coordination Council.

During the previous BNP regime, a local government commission headed by Nazmul Huda had recommended a four-tire local government Gram Shava, Union Parishad, Thana Development and Coordination Council and Zila

Sources said Huda argued that the Upazila system will curb the authority of MP and BNP cannot reintroduce the system because it abolished the Upazila and the then autocratic government introduced

At this stage, MK Anwar said the Upazila system needs to be reintroduced soon to further strengthen the local government system and speed up decentralisation of the administration.

Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and Moudud Ahmed shared MK Anwar's views and stressed the need for urgent reintroduction of

Mannan Bhuiyan said the Upazila system should be introduced if the BNP was to fulfil its election pledge. He informed that the committee would hold two more neetings to fix the modality of the Upazila, authority of MP and Upazila Chairman, and finalise other necessary recommendations.

Bhuiyan said the committee would finalise its recommendations within a month and submit a complete report for approval of the

At this stage, Nazmul Huda said since Moyeen Khan, an important member of the committee, was absent in the meeting, so it should not take any decision

Sources said Nazmul Huda threatened to give a note of decent if the sub-committee finalised the eport ignoring his suggestion.

The sub-committee, which previously placed the recommendations at Cabinet meeting, also raised the issue of power-sharing between the MP and Upazila chair-

Saifur should resign

community work together with determination and in a spirit of

Kibria observed that the new finance minister was making irresponsible comments against virtually every segment of the society. Recently he characterised the garment exporters as dishonest people who are cheating the government.

There may be some black sheep in any business but that does not justify sweeping attacks on the integrity of the members of the particular business," he said.

Kibria said the Finance Minister also reportedly launched into a tirade against NBR officials for alleged corruption.

"It is these officials of the NBR who achieved 24 per cent growth rate in revenue collection in the last financial year of the Awami League government," said the former custodian of exchequer.

While there may be some corrupt officials, it is demoralising and indeed degrading for them to be accused of wholesale corruption, he viewed.

"Saifur Rahman seems to have lost the sense of direction and in a helpless rage he is lashing out at everyone without regard either for truth or even decency," he said.

"Who would be like to put the blame on for the increases in the price of rice, pulses, salt, oil, spices, gas, water, diesel and other daily necessities of life? Does he know that the bus fare has been shooting up and that the fixed income earners are already in distress?

Kibria said the finance minister's recent remark that the country is being run not by ministers but by Allah aroused nationwide concern. "Of course Allah Almighty runs the whole universe, but what about the 60 ministers of the BNP-Jamaat government?'

against mob execution, the minister

said that all needed to come forward

to create awareness against taking

Election of many union parishads,

for years on expiry their tenure.

There are also allegations that

Similarly, the elected representa-

tives in Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna

city corporations are holding their

respective positions since January

across the country were also not

held in the last three years due to

pending cases. The elections were

an end to such a situation, officials

held in February 1999.

Election of 28 pourasabhas

Passage of the new law will bring

the law into their own hands

Local bodies

Home ministry

Kolkata police arrested 75 Bangladeshis including Subrata Bain. Molla Masud, Kala Jahangir, Pichchi Hannan, Kamal Pasha and Tokai Sagar. Recently the government announced a list of 23 top terrors including these men.

Chowdhury said the home ministry is in touch with Kolkata to find out details about the arrested persons. He also pointed out that if identities of the arrested are confirmed, he would do his utmost to bring them back home although Bangladesh has no extradition treaty with India.

Replying to a question the minister further said that the rest of the 23 top terrors are in hiding within the country and are under political shelter. About the administration's failure to arrest any of those who are still in the country, the minister said this was due to the protection given to them by the high-ups at every tier of the system

Asked why suspected muggers were being caught and killed by mob while police failed to intervene, the minister said that police often hesitate to arrest muggers and extortionists because of their close links with high-ups in the society.

About the steps to be taken

problems.

the aim of making the import process less complicated and checking three parts and appointed three PSI companies to oversee the import

However, the business community made allegations against the PSI companies for 'harassing' them and there were also complaints from different quarters that the very first aim of checking tax evasion was not fulfilled. Even, the PSI companies came under scathing criticism from lawmakers at a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on finance ministry.

The FBCCI delegation stressed that the tax holiday issue should be looked into carefully so that the sectors which are over saturated and have no scope of export do not

The finance minister also said the sectors which have a strong footing should not get tax holiday

should be eligible for tax holiday."

FROM PAGE 12

Centre.

Kolkata Police yesterday located the motorbike that was used in the attack on the American Centre. The bike was taken into custody from a location in Tiliala which lies

on the outskirts of the city. Along with the bike, the police also confiscated the Maruti car that was used by the terrorists to run away after killing the guards.

persons from the Tiljala area.

First they arrested, Mohammed Nasser for providing shelter to the terrorists. Then they arrested Dilip Sinha, the owner of the house which Nasser had rented. Police also recovered two AK-56 rifles, 434 bullets, explosives, 11 cell phones and Rupees 15 lakhs from

Nasser, an Indian national, was charged with supplying the motorbike used by the two gunmen who carried out the drive-by attack and of sheltering them at his house.

He was produced before a city magistrate and placed on remand until February 13.

Two Pakistanis allegedly involved in the attack were shot dead on Sunday by security forces in the eastern state of Jharkhand.

According to Indian officials, one of the men confessed to the crime before he died from his wounds.

Shibir threatens

Didarul Alam Majumder, general secretary of the organisation. Zahed Hossain Bhuiyan and

ment may remove me from the post." VC Prof. Fazlee

Hossain told The Daily Star, when contacted "I cannot bow to the pressure of

minister and he requested me to run the university. In a couple of days, the government will appoint a new VC." Prof. Fazlee Hossain said. The administrative activities of the

university have slowed to a crawl because the administrative building university also remained closed.

kept the building locked since January 26. They threatened to push ahead with the programme until the resignation of the VC.

Siamese twins

As the parents, who preferred anonymity, were immediately informed of the loss of the first baby, the father said: "We have accepted the worst, but still we hope the other one survives. It was a big struggle for us." But later, with the second baby going into a coma, the parents

The brain-dead twin was on a ventilator and doing well until her condition dipped. The baby also had acidosis but at a tolerable level. the supervising doctors at the ICU said in the evening.

baby's electrolyte balance was guite normal with the exception of slight carbon dioxide accumulation. Her kidney and heart functions were also normal, the doctors said.

there is no record of such separated babies living too long as they grow with numerous complications. The complications become more complex with the growth of the babies," said Prof Masood when the second baby was still alive.

The conjoined babies were separated on Tuesday at the DSH in an arduous surgery that took

The twins, joined by their abdomen, were delivered by a Caesarean section conducted by Dr Suraiya Begum at the Ibn Sina Hospital at 2:30pm on January 24. Later, the twins were shifted to the ICU of DSH, as their condition deteriorated.

Bad news

FROM PAGE 12 tical basis.

But on the assumption that pollution by C02 and other "greenhouse" gases increased by one percentage point by year, this event would occur every 25 years in the northern Mediterranean, every eight and a half years or so in northern Europe and a northern swathe of the Indian sub-continent; and nearly every six years in northwestern Russia and the Tibetan plateau.

Although the study does not address flood levels -- a question that also requires such things as deforestation and river defences to calculate effectively -- Palmer said it was clear that some countries would have to grapple with serious flooding problems.

Bangladesh faces "a double whammy" of more frequent floods from rainfall and from higher sea levels from global warming, while China faces potentially "dramatic" consequences from the extra rain in

Pvt investment in tourism

proposal.

month during holidays if Bangladesh Tourism Corporation comes up with an appropriate

Tourism is deeply linked with education and knowledge, she

Urging entrepreneurs from home and abroad to invest in this sector taking advantage of the facilities available as per government's tourism policy, she said tourism is making important contribution to the economy of SAARC countries. "My firm belief is that there is enormous potentiality of this industry also in Bangladesh.'

She said though Bangladesh is not much advanced in money and wealth, it is enriched with natural beauty like the world's largest mangrove forest the Sundarbans and sea beach, and big lakes in Chittagong Hill Tracts. Khaleda reminded that however

much attractive Bangladesh may be, tourists will not be attracted if security in tourist spots and quality of tourism service are not improved. She urged all to uphold the image of the country through proper

while dangers gather. I will not stand

will not permit the world's most

dangerous regimes to threaten us

with the world's most destructive

weapons," he said, laying down a

Bush said that while Iran, Iraq

and North Korea might not have

been particularly active since the

September 11 terrorist attacks in

New York and Washington which

sparked the US war on terrorism, he

"We know their true nature," he

Bush accused Stalinist North

"Iran aggressively pursues

Korea of arming itself with missiles

and weapons of mass destruction

these weapons and exports terror.

while an unelected few repress the

Iranian people's hope for freedom,

he said, in an apparent reference to

Iran's alleged involvement in a

foiled Palestinian arms smuggling

comments for Iraq -- frequently

mentioned as a possible next target

hostility toward America and to

develop anthrax, and nerve gas,

and nuclear weapons for over a

decade." Bush said. demanding

that Saddam Hussein allow UN

weapons inspectors back into his

72,146 cusec Ganges water at the

Hardinge Bridge point during

January 1 to 10 cycle as against

67,516 cusec, provided in the

accord. During the second cycle of

January 11 to 20, the availability of

water at Hardinge Bridge was

61,281 cusec as against the stipu-

Based on the current figures of

water availability, the discharge of

Ganges flow during the first 20 days

of this dry season was in conformity

It was decided yesterday that

the next meeting of the JC would be

held at Farrakka at the end of

will continue to be monitored

throughout the dry season in 10-

As in the past, the Ganges flow

The dry season is from January

Bangladesh recently wanted a

to May, although the critical lean

review of the water accord. It pro-

vides for a review, if requested by

The officials told The Daily Star that

the move might reduce the number

of auto-rickshaws to 10,000 from

'about 50,000'. The officials are

uncertain about the actual number

of two-stroke auto-rickshaws (pop-

ularly known as baby-taxi) in the

March 2001, when registration of all

two-stroke vehicles was stopped.

about 39,647 auto-rickshaws were

registered with the BRTA. With the

passage of time, many of these

auto-rickshaws were scrapped.

Currently, about 20,000 vehicles

turn up regularly at the BRTA office

30.000 additional auto-rickshaws

without any papers ply the city

streets. But the auto-rickshaws

drivers' and owners' associations

estimate that more than 100.000

auto-rickshaws are plying the city

streets. They said up to quarter of a

million people make a living on

joblessness; we are allowing these

vehicles to go outside the city and

operate because these are one of

the main reasons for pollution and

traffic jam in the city," said Khawja

"We are not trying to create

The BRTA believes about

to renew documents.

auto-rickshaws.

But they said from 1960 until

of the accord, sources said.

lated 57,673 cusec.

February.

day cycles.

season is April--May.

in the anti-terror campaign.

support terror," he said.

But Bush saved his harshest

"Iraq continues to flaunt its

The Iraqi regime has plotted to

was not fooled by them.

"while starving its citizens.

direct challenge

"The United States of America

by, as peril draws closer and closer.

develop the tourism sector.

The prime minister said there remains a wide scope in tourism to present Bangladesh's traditional identity to foreigners. "So it is our moral responsibility to make enjoyable the trips of foreigners who come here as national quests."

should be improved and service charge should be competitive and reasonable. Khaleda also stressed the need

She said the standard of service

for creating tourism awareness in all tiers of the community. She called upon all concerned to

take a fresh vow to build up tourism as the source of recreation, knowledge and employment generation while observing the international vear of ecotourism Khaleda said proper expansion of domestic tourism is the basis of

ties should be directed towards making the domestic tourism popudo not tour their own country prop-

Bush: An axis of evil

international tourism. "Our activi-

She lamented that many people erly. "They frequently go abroad but

"This is a regime that has

already used poison gas to murder

thousands of its own citizens --

leaving the bodies of mothers

huddled over their dead children.

This is a regime that agreed to

international inspections -- then

thing to hide from the civilized

countries vague without mentioning

any specific actions that could be

taken against them, but he hinted

that he would move to use the full

force of American military might if he

He told Congress that the war in

Afghanistan was costing more than

one billion dollars a month to fight,

"It costs a lot to fight this war

and we must be prepared for future

sive precision weapons defeat the

enemy and spare innocent lives,

and we need more of them. We

need to replace again aircraft and

make our military more agile to put

our troops anywhere in the world

AP adds: Bush vowed to unearth

"a terrorist underworld" of training

camps in a dozen countries, includ-

ing the Philippines, Bosnia and

Somalia. He said nations will be

given a chance to wipe out terrorists

themselves, and the United States

any of the sides at the end of the

five-year period. This ended on

clause of the accord signed on

meeting yesterday is only man-

dated to look into water measure-

ment and whether technical proce-

dures are in place but it cannot

Bangladesh suffered an acute

Although the current water

shortage of water in 1997 and also

discharge figures are within the

stipulated level, some experts feel it

is too early to know the ultimate

discharge at Farakka during the

make observations on the accord.

some shortage last year

rest of the lean season.

Autorickshaws stay

The JC was set up under a

The JC which concluded its

December 12 last year.

December 12, 1996 in Delhi.

But, he warned: "If they do not

is willing to assist their efforts.

"Afghanistan proved that expen-

but that it was worth it.

operation," Bush said

quickly and safely.'

Ganges water flow

"This is a regime that has some-

Bush left his warning to the three

kicked out the inspectors

world."

wonderful culture and traditional

lifestyle.' The prime minister watched a video documentary titled "Visit Bangladesh, Welcome to Bangladesh" projecting different tourist spots and culture and lifestyle of Bangladeshi people.

She also enjoyed bamboo dance, New Year welcoming dance and umbrella dance displayed by Lusai, Tripura and Marma tribal girls respectively. She also released a bunch of

colourful balloons marking the inauguration of the programme for observing International Ecotourism Year 2002 State Minister for Civil Aviation

and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin said management of all motels but one in Cox's Bazar will be given to private entrepreneurs The government will run one motel to compare its standard with that of

Maj (Retd) Abdul Mannan MP and chairman of Bangladesh Tourism Corporation Abdur Razzak also spoke on the occasion.

act. America will."

The 43rd US president addressed Americans with a degree of national unity conferred on no other chief executive since Franklin D Roosevelt during World War II. In polls, more than 80 per cent of Americans say they approve of his

"As we gather tonight, our nation is at war, our economy is in recession, and the civilized world faces unprecedented dangers. Yet the state of our union has never been stronger," he said, prompting cheers and a standing ovation from the members of Congress. Cabinet members, top military brass and other dignitaries gathered to hear the address.

"We will prevail in war, and we will defeat recession," Bush said.

Bush's future is clouded by an economy in recession -- the same pitfall suffered by his father, former President George Bush, the Gulf War victor -- and the possibility of Enron evolving into a political scan-

Aware that Democrats want to portray him and his Republicans as tilted toward big business in a year pensions.

name, he called for full disclosure and better accounting to avoid a repeat of its collapse that wiped out retirement accounts for thousands of employees in the largest bankruptcy in US history.

Hajj flights

progress regarding accommodation

The religious affairs ministry had specified that such quarters should have to be located within 1000 metres of the Haram Sharif, But the Saudi Arabian authorities have declared certain such homes to be unfit for lease, making it difficult for tour operators to find accommoda-

A team of officials from the ministry is already in Saudi Arabia to sort things out. Another team is soon expected to go there to strengthen supervision, the sources added.

Khawia Abdur Rahman, secretary of the religious affairs ministry said that the government is aware of the situation and is taking steps to resolve it so that pilgrims do not face any problem. He said a meeting has been convened on February 3 to take stock of the situation and tour operators have been invited to

He said that over 3500 ballottee pilgrims who are to perform the Hajj under government supervision flying Biman are not facing any

of mid-term congressional elections, Bush called on Congress to enact safeguards to protect workers Without mentioning the Enron by

tions, ministry sources said.

working day. off roads

atmosphere'.

Television (ETV), Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid regretted that the speaker did not initiate any dialogue between the government and the opposition. "We had no problem in attending any such

Advani was involved in plot to kill Jinnah?

Pakistan digs up criminal file

Pakistani court officials are reexamining a 50-year-old criminal case against Indian Home Minister L K Advani but the government has refused to confirm reports it would demand his extradition

Senior officials of the Sindh

High Court in the southern port city of Karachi confirmed they were reviewing charges against Advani over his alleged involvement in a plot to kill Pakistan's founding father. Mohammad Ali Jinnah. soon after the partition of the subcontinent in 1947

"Such a case does exist, we have received instructions from higher authorities to send the file, a senior high court official told AFP.

"We are collecting the record and trying to dig out the file of this very old case. Pakistan has said it is preparing

a list of terrorist suspects it wants India to hand over in response to a similar list of 20 names issued by New Delhi after a terrorist attack on its parliament last month. India has accused two

Pakistan-based militant groups of launching that attack and threatened war unless Pakistan ends what New Delhi calls "cross-border terrorism" in the restive Himalavan

state of Kashmir.

Court sources said Karachi police registered a case on September 10, 1947, against 18 Hindu hardliners including Advani over the alleged plot to kill Jinnah and other leaders of the Pakistan movement earlier that year.

Jinnah was the first governor general of Pakistan and is now revered as Quaid-e-Azam, or the Great Leader of the Nation.

Six people were convicted in the case and were extradited to India in 1948, but 12 absconded, including the Karachi-born Advani and other leaders of his Vishwa Hindu

Parishad party. The News daily yesterday reported Pakistan may include the 72-year-old Advani on its list of suspects wanted here but an interior ministry official refused to confirm the report.

"We have not seen the file and we are not in a position to comment," the official said.

Advani, one of the most strident critics of Pakistan support for Muslim militants fighting in Kashmir, remained in Pakistan for 10 years after the partition of the sub-continent, moving to India in 1957, according to India's ruling Hindu-nationalist BJP party

Govt urges people FROM PAGE 1 help police in nabbing the criminals,

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Directive to speed

NAM suites

process

The House Committee at a meeting vesterday asked the authorities concerned to speed up the process of handing over 272 suites, constructed for the cancelled NAM summit, to the Parliament Secretariat The suites located at Nakhal

Para and Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city will be allotted shortly to the Members of Parliament (MPs) after their furnishing, for a five-year

Presided over by Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain, chairman of the committee, the meeting also suggested that the existing

in identified spots of the capital where incidents of snatching occur. Replying to a question on a press

of Bangladesh were arrested by Kolkata police, the Home Minister said the government is trying to confirm the news and then take steps accordingly. Referring to the snatching away

ing Mollah Masud and Subrata Bain

duty in this regard. The cops were, however, released on bail. "We have no question about their bail, but departmental action will be

rules be followed to overcome the Chowdhury added. housing problem facing the Mps.

NCTB to print books

Moreover, the printers will have to

get a 'unique number' from the NCTB to be imprinted on the back of each book to check counterfeiting. This will also delay the printing. The NCTB, acting at snail's

pace, held the lottery among the textbook printers to distribute the rinting jobs just a couple of days before the deadline for distribution. Earlier, the NCTB made a demand projection of nearly two crore new books for the secondary

level students for the current academic year. But it allocated jobs to some 264 printers to print 1,73,51,342 books in November Moreover, the government's mechanism for prompt supply of books to the market did not work

despite formation of a taskforce

Deputy Minister Abdus Salam Pintu to monitor printing and distribution. Earlier, the government claimed that this year's printing and distribu-

textbooks of the both primary and

secondary levels. But the government's plan went

Last year, the NCTB awarded the printing job for eight crore books of primary and secondary levels to Free Press, Shuktara and Pustaka sister concerns of Beximco Group. But the firms failed to carry

FROM PAGE 1
projects on energy sector if they found the studies viable and resulf

oriented. A sub-regional body on energy sector, under ADB's South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation, is working with a similar aim of expanding coopera-

JS session from today

sit at 4.30pm from the second

As per rule, the speaker is due to nominate a five-member Panel of Chairmen from among the lawmakers who would chair the session when he and the deputy speaker are not present in the House. Besides, an obituary reference to condole the deaths of noted personalities who had died since the last

Meanwhile, there was no official move until last night to bring the boycotting opposition to the House. Conceding a stunning defeat in the general election, the Awami League boycotted the eighth parliament's maiden session, alleging widespread rigging in the polls. It had, meanwhile, decided to continue boycotting the parliament proceedings for a 'lack of congenial political

attended the BAC meeting. However, the pro-Ershad faction of the Jatiya Party attended it.

Emerging from the meeting, Prime Minister and Leader of the brief remarks.

discussion." said Hamid, also the immediate past speaker. He added that his successor had not invited him even to have a cup of tea.

Asked by the ETV, Chief Whip of the House Khandakar Delwar Hossain refuted the remarks that the government side had not taken any initiative to resolve the crisis triggered by the main opposition party's continued boycott. Finance and Planning Minister

M. Saifur Rahman, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuivan, the chief whip of the House. Law Minister Moudud Ahmed and Industries Minister MK Anwar of the BNP, Agriculture Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami of Jamaat-e-Islami and Roushan Ershad of Jatiya Party were present at the meeting. Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid

Siddiqui and PM's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Salahuddin Quader Choudhury also attended it on special invitation. The law ministry has already

placed a bill at the parliament secretariat, seeking repeal of the controversial Public Safety Act. Besides. several other important bills including the one for restoration of women's reserved seats in the House are on the queue, sources said. He added that a good number of private members' bill were also in the pipeline.

The House is also due to move and adopt a resolution thanking the president for his address to the House. Before the adoption, a general discussion on the presidential speech will also take place.

Saifur: PSI system is ravaging the economy for long.

companies as this created the scope of monopoly and various The immediate past government introduced PSI system in 1999 with

process.

enjoy tax holiday.

"Only the new sectors and industry The FBCCI noted that smuggling pourasabhas and city corporations are not being held for long due to legal complexities, the officials pointed out. As a result, those elected once are continuing in their offices even

ning the UPs.

30.1994.

many of them filed cases for suspension of elections to be able to continue in office. Sources mentioned that election of 17 union parishads (UP) in different areas of Dhaka city was not held in the last 21 years due to various disputes and pending cases. Those elected 21 years ago are still run-

In reply to another question the minister admitted that incidents of mugging and extortion were on the rise but pointed out unemployment, deportation of workers from foreign countries and economic recession as the main causes behind it.

import process on only three PSI

tax evasion. The authorities also demarcated the whole world into

a paper placed to the minister. To check smuggling, FBCCI suggested making it mandatory to print the name and address of importer on the packets of goods. Packets not containing this should

"We believe, from India alone the

value of smuggled goods is about

US\$ 1.5 billion per annum," it said in

be considered smuggled ones. Referring to the recent price hike of electricity and petroleum, FBCCI said this was a blow to many industries, specially the SMEs, and urged the minister to develop a mechanism of rebate for the industrial consumers

BAC detects FROM PAGE 12 Saha was the quarantor of

Shafiuddin, owner of M/S AR Cottage of Araihazar in Narayanganj who opened three L/Cs through IFIC Narayanganj branch between 30th January and 10th February, 2000. As in the previous cases, no yarn was imported from India against the three L/Cs worth \$83486. Anti-corruption Bureau sources said Ohibur Rahman, Shafiuddin, Haripad and Nur Mohammad might be members of an organised international smug glers' group. None from the IFIC bank was

available for comments on the issue.

bility for the attack on the American

Sakyasen Mitra from Kalkata adds: In a major breakthrough

Police have also arrested two

FROM PAGE 1 Presided over by Alauddin Shikdar, president of CU unit of ICS, the rally was addressed by, among others,

Mahbubur Rahman Shamim. "I will not resign. The govern-

unruly students who want to destroy the academic atmosphere of the "I talked with the education

was kept locked by the Shibir activists. The school and college of the The Shibir activists drove the staff out of the building and have

had no words to express their grief.

The second seven-day old

"We hope this baby survives, but

more than nine hours.

Tibet, he warned.

silt at the intake point of the chan-

G. Ahmed, acting chairman of the Amanullah Chowdhury, director (Engineering) of the BRTA, said although his office has permitted 2.000 four-stroke three-wheelers run on petrol and CNG (compressed natural gas) to ply the city

streets, only 24 such vehicles have

so far got registered.

Mohammad Shahidullah Kayser, assistant director (Engineering) of the BRTA, said the reason that investors are putting their money on environmentally friendly three-wheelers is that they are not getting credit facilities. Most people who invested on two-stroke auto-rickshaws either belong to small associations or small groups. It is difficult for them to invest again on new environment-friendly vehicles unless they are offered bank loans and value addition for their old

The director, Engineering, said they have also officially allowed an additional 2,000 conventional taxis to join the already existing fleet of 2,200. Unlike in the past, these taxis are now allowed to carry passengers to Narayanganj, Gazipur and other peripheral city areas without having to charge the passengers for

It is learnt that the GK Project in Bheramara is facing serious funcattend the meeting. tional problems. However, the immediate reason is known to be the on aoina dredaina for removina

> cheaper to travel in the city by taxi than by three-wheelers. But, they admitted that many taxis do not run on metres; instead they charge higher fares. "We are negotiating with the taxi

operators in the city and hopefully,

the problem will be resolved soon,"

the director said.

The BRTA officials said it is

With the confiscation of 368 old buses recently, the 19 redesignated city bus routes have run short of vehicles. The BRTA and police officials said more investors are coming forward to filling the vacuum, but some others said the city needs 5,000 buses while there are only presently 771 plying the roads. "We have talked to the inter-

district bus operators who remain

idle during daytime in the city before

leaving for destinations in the eve-

ning. Some 50 such luxury buses

might join the city bus services soon

to operate during daytime," added the director. The acting BRTA chairman. however, said unless the traffic situation improves in the city, not many investors will be willing to launch city bus services since it takes too long to cover a single trip.

the Home Minister said adding that

up handing over police vigilance has been intensified report that 10 listed criminals includ-

> of outlawed leader Tapan from police custody in Khulna, the Home Minister said that two policemen were arrested for their negligence of

taken against them if their negligence of duty is proved,"

> havwire as making changes in textbooks and lack of market survey delayed their printing and distribution, sources in the industry said.

out the job even after elapse of three months of the academic year.

Power projects

headed by State Minister for Education Ehsanul Huq Milon and tion in the energy sector among countries of the region.

tion of textbooks would not face any hiccups despite changes to 1

FROM PAGE 1

session prorogued on December 2.

None of the AL representatives

House Khaleda Zia told the press that her party was all for the opposition's participation in the House proceedings. "We want them to attend this session," she said in her Talking to the Ekushey