FFs Council, Money **Laundering Prevention** Bills passed in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad last night passed two bills, one of them to establish a National Freedom Fighters Council to oversee the welfare of freedom fighters and work for upholding the sprit of the liberation war

Tabled by State Minister for the Liberation War Affairs Minister Redwan Ahmed on March 31, the House passed the Freedom Fighters Council Bill, 2002 by voice vote, while several amendment proposals moved by Bangabin Qader Siddiqui were nullified.

In line with the proposed act, the government will constitute a council supposed to administer all organisations related to the war and freedom fighters, undertake projects for preservation of the tradition, monuments, sculptures and memories of the war, and list and certify all freedom fighters.

With the act coming into force, all related organisations, including the Muktijoddha Sangsad (freedom fighters' council) and the Muktijoddha Kalyan (welfare) Trust should have to be registered with the proposed body.

The liberation war affairs minister will head the council that will have eight more councillors selected from the noted freedom fighters, including brigade commanders, sector commanders, subsector commanders or persons engaged in the liberation warrelated activities.

The prime minister will be the chief advisor to the council headquartered in Dhaka.

The other bill -- the Money Laundering Prevention Bill, 2002 moved by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman -- was also passed by

Aimed at preventing money laundering, the new act prescribes a maximum of seven years in imprisonment and fines for the offence of money laundering.



The inaugural function of the 4th National Day of the Persons with Disabilities, organised by the Ministry of Social Welfare, will be held with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as chief guest. Venue: Osmany Memorial auditorium Time: 11.30pm

Rally and discussion

The National Foundation for the Development of the Disabled People and the National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled have jointly organised a rally and a discussion meeting to mark the 4th National Day of the Persons with Disabilities. The rally will start from the Institution of Engineers premises at 4.30pm and the discussion will be held at the National Museum after the rally.

Lecture

The 4th Nurul Matin Memorial Lecture on 'Ehics in Banking', organised by Bangladesh Institute of Bank

Management (BIBM), will be held with Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: BIBM auditorium, Mirpur, Time: 3.00pm

Seminar

'The Role of NGOs in Good Governance', a seminar organised by the Mass-Line Media Centre, will be held with Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury executive director of BRAC, as chief quest. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium

Prakritajan award

The distribution ceremony of the 'Prakritaian Award 2000 and 2001' organised by Mass-line Media Centre will be held with eminent journalist Obaidul Huq as chief guest. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 10.00am.



Meeting

The 12th meeting of 'Bangladesh-

Japan Joint Committee for Commercial

and Economic Cooperation' organised

by the Federation of Bangladesh

quest. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon, Time:

Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be held with Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahmabn as chief

Conference The 10th National Conference of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will be held with former chief advisor of the care- taker government Justice Habibur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Institution of Engineers auditorium.

Certificate

awarding ceremony

The certificate awarding and closing ceremony of the training programme on 'Environmental Laws and Court Proceedings' organised jointly by Bangladesh Environmental Management Project and Judicial Administration Training Institute, will be held with Law and Parliament Affairs Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton.

Workshop

A workshop on 'Oil Spill Impact and Response Management Programme' organised jointly by the Shipping Ministry and the Asian Development Bank, will be held with Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9.30am.

Dialogue

national roundtable dialogue or 'Problem of Garment Workers and Industry: Towards Strategic Response', organised by Nari Uddug Kendra, will be held. Venue: IDB auditorium. Time:

VOA transmission

The inaugural ceremony of the transmission of VOA broadcasting on the FM radio band will be held with Information Minister Tarigul Islam as chief guest. Venue: Kalyanpur Transmitter site of Bangladesh Betar. Time: 9.00am.

police mean each year

respective constituencies.

of him and was given the ticket.

stituency, which he won

Kabir was however compen-

"Now, Kabir Hossain and his

sated at the last moment as he was

people are trying to teach Minu a

lesson by fielding a candidate

against him," said a Rajshahi city

BNP leader on condition of anonym-

secretary of city BNP and also a

ward commissioner candidate, was

confident that the plan by the anti-

trick and pitted a rebel candidate

against Minu in the mayoral polls of

1994. But neither the BNP nor the

voters had accepted Enamul

Hoque, an advocate and the then

rebel candidate, who bagged about

Ahmed also predicted a similar

But another BNP leader said the

Awami League (AL) voters are likely

to cast their votes for Munir and this

may upset the equation that tips

Minu as the favourite. Besides

although the AL is boycotting the

elections, its local leaders are not

willing to miss out on having a feel of

the polls and will try to play their own

Minu group would not work

600 votes only," he said.

fate for Quamrul Munir.

games, sources said.

However, Alauddin Ahmed, joint

They had employed the same

Rajshahi

mayor

Under the nationwide crackdown

plan, cabinet committee sources

said responsibilities would be given

to the lawmakers and ministers to

look into the law and order in their

New terrorism law

Steps have already taken to keep round-the-clock vigilance on the terrorists. Paramilitary BDR troops and riot police men will simultaneously launch joint raids in different parts of the city.

And if necessary, the army, which would be kept ready during the raids, would be called in to join in the operation. Sources said the law-enforcing

agency and intelligent agencies have already sent names of terrorists and their godfathers to the

They said the secret agencies are also probing into possible foreign funding behind terrorist groups in the country. The law-enforcing agencies have almost completed identification of the deans of terror-

The agencies, according to the sources, identified some slums in the city as the major source of terrorism, extortion, snatching, drugs and illegal arms. They have recommended eviction of all slums particularly the BNP Bazar slum at Agargaon and the slums at Bashantek and Tejgaon.

The cabinet committee on law and order earlier recommended increase in logistics, workforce, facilities and allowances for the lawenforcing agencies.

Besides, the government has decided to terminate the corrupt police personnel and those having any political allegiance. As a step. the government is now collecting secret reports on police officials and constables.

The government has also decided to recruit at least 5,000 Jute godown gutted in N'gani OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Jute worth Tk 90 lakh was gutted in a fire at a godown in Godnil area of Narayanganj yesterday morning.

According to Fire Brigade sources, the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a jute godown of Mutual Jute Spinners at around 7

Fire fighting units from Hajiganj and Mandalpara rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze at about

Five people were injured while extinguishing the blaze.

layebur

FROM PAGE 12 city BNP Secretary Nazrul Islam Manju as member-secretary, Whip Ashraf Hossain as convenor and Nurul Islam and Ali Asghar Lobi MP as joint convenors.

Speakers at the meeting called upon the police commissioner to arrest terrorists and professional killers and recover all illegal arms to ensure a peaceful atmosphere for the election.

They also called upon the candidates nominated by Tayebur Rahman not to hire terrorists to

Hannan Airport FROM PAGE 1

freedom fighter and an organiser of Liberation War.

The Mayor said the name of the saint (Shah Amanat RA) could be put in many places in Chittagong to

The then Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina on March 28, 1998 laid the foundation for reconstruction and expansion of the airport.

MA Hannan had first aired the proclamation of independence by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman through BDR wireless on March 26, 1971.

Kilgour: JS

rallies and demonstrations. Canadian High Commissioner David Preston, former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hossain Chowdhury, Political Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Sheikh Hasina's Press Advisor Jawadul Karim were present at the meeting.

However, David Kilgour said, " am not convinced by any of the reasons the leader of the opposition showed for not joining the parliament. Millions of people voted for her party and I think they should be represented in the parliament."

"In a parliamentary system, the opposition has to play a responsible role. If you decide not to join the parliament if you lose the election then how could democracy work?

"I am very much encouraged by the opportunities for cooperation particularly in the areas of energy, power and telecommunications, David Kilgour told the briefing.

The Canadian minister also advocated for exporting of gas,

saying, "It will bring prosperity to you [Bangladesh]. He also said there would not be

any investment in hydrocarbon sector unless the gas export option is kept open. Referring to his meeting with the

state minister for energy, Kilgour said he has sought assurance from the government that the Canadian companies would be get fair and transparent treatment in gas deals. A Canadian company, Niko, has

been trying to seal a deal for extracting gas from the abandoned gas fields. "We stand fully behind the company," Canadian High Commissioner David Preston said.

 $Canadian\, Secretary\, of\, State\, David\, Kilgour\, called\, on\, Awami\, League\, Chief\, and\, Leader\, of\, the\, Opposition\, in\, Parliament\, Canadian\, Ca$ Sheikh Hasina at Suda Sadhan yesterday.

Dhaka can play pivotal role Bangladesh, Kilgour said, adding

Bangladesh, adding that one such

company, Niko, has already sent a representative to explore the possi-

The Canadian secretary of state, who left Dhaka on his way back home yesterday after a three-day official visit, praised Bangladesh, saying that it has become a model for democracy and development partnership.

"It must stretch out its hands in partnership. We have already been impressed by the entrepreneurial vigour of your private sector and the creativity of the NGOs."

Kilgour said that the Canadian government was satisfied with Bangladesh's development performance in various social sectors and lauded the role of the government and the NGOs in this regard. Through the Canadian

International Development Agency (CIDA), Canada has the largest development programme in that his government has contributed 52 million Canadian dollars annually in development assistance to Bangladesh over the past few Since its independence,

list for over three decades now. He believes that Bangladesh has

immense potential in information and communication technology and in the energy sector.

Canadian companies to set up training institutions in the field of software development, he said. Entrepreneurs here can make

huge profit by entering into partnerships with Canadian companies, he observed, adding that representatives of three IT companies were on his entourage On his country's visa and immi-

gration regime, Kilgour said, "It is open and there is no specific quota for any country. The world quota is 300.000. he said. Qualified Bangladeshis can always apply for immigration as per rules. In this regard he praised the

Bangladeshi immigrants in Canada. "They are excellent, hardworking and dedicated.' He said that his government

would try to provide zero-tariff access to all products from Bangladesh with the exception of milk, chicken and eggs.

Manhunt on for masterminds

Shihab was taken straight to the election campaign office of Julekha Akhter Mridha, where he was served with noodles. The gangsters pressed the boy for his family telephone number

The boy got angry with the gang for the presence of the strangers at the election camp and for not giving him the promised bike. The gang hushed the boy. "I'll tell my father everything to have you punished," the abductors

quoted Shihab during the investiga-When one of the abductors tried to grab the boy by the throat. Shihab

reacted. And Raju strangled the boy, holding him from behind. Four of the six people arrested in connection with the abduction and killing of the schoolboy were placed

on a seven-day remand yesterday. The two women -- Julekha Akhter Mridha and her daughter Kankon Akhter Kanok -- were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail, as police did not seek remand prayer for

The DB produced them before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka at 3.00pm with a prayer for a seven-day remand for the four arrested -- Monir Hossain Liton, Abu Sayeed, Rashedul Islam Rashed and Fazlul Hag.

Julekha and Kankon. The prosecution opposed the

bail petition and prayed for remand.

After hearing both sides, Magistrate Mohammad Shahidul Islam placed rejecting the bail petition.

Medical College Hospital carried out the autopsy vesterday. The body will be handed over to the victim's family members for

held at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque after Asr prayers today. The second janaza will also be held today at the Eastern Housing Jame Mosque before sending the body to Jatrapur

'We are investigating the case very sincerely and hope it would be a model for the investigations of this

accused to the investigators. "The two will be accused as abettors."

Shihab was killed within two Although the boy met with his

macabre fate 53 days ago, the incident was revealed on Monday when the detectives recovered the decomposed pieces of the body from Bashabo and North Goran areas in the city. Home Minister Altaf Hossain

The family members demanded

exemplary punishment to the killers.

Taveb Sikder-were dropped from the charge sheet as allegations

for submission of the charge sheet, sources said. In the charge sheet, 11 people

were shown as prosecution wit-

anted ad-interim bail by the High Court on December 12. The court granted bail till submission of police

PSA scrapped

30 days. Moreover, unlike the PSA, which had little room for granting bail, the proposed law has provisions for bail in accordance with the

The introduction of the PSA drew flak from different quarters as it left very limited scope for granting bail to the accused. The AL government was blamed for politically abusing the stringent law that provided for speedy trial of criminals in special Despite challenging the law in

the High Court while in opposition, the BNP which now heads the coalition government continued using the PSA and filed about 400 cases under the law. It has already filed a writ with the High Court calling it extra-constitutional and the hearing in the case is ongoing.

Parliament sources indicated that an official gazette on the abolition of the PSA might be published before the court resumes hearing the writ this noon.

Last night, the Jatiya Sangsad passed by voice votes the bill seeking repeal of the PSA amid continued abstention by the main opposition Awami League (AL) lawmakers. The BNP-led coalition MPs supported the bill while opposition lawmakers belonging to the Ershadled Jatiya Party (JP), Anwar Hossain Monju of his faction of JP and Krishák Sramik Janata League's Ione MP Abdul Quader Siddiqui abstained from voting.

Meanwhile, the offences coming under the purview of the proposed law include terrorism, mugging, kidnapping, illegal toll collection, vandalism, obstruction to tender. and obstruction to works of government officers and employees and their relatives, hindrance to normal traffic movements and trespassing.

The provision in the proposed law regarding traffic movement says hindrance to normal movement of traffic on road, river and air space or diversion of the transports from normal routes against the will of the drivers, masters or pilots or damage to the transports will be considered as offences under this law. For speedy trials of cases filed

under the proposed law. one or more courts would be set up in every district and metropolis. And, first class magistrates will conduct

The proposed law provides for jail terms ranging from two to five years. Besides, there are provisions for punishment for bringing false charges. It also allows a magistrate to record a witness's account right on the spot. Moreover, audio- and video-tapes will be accepted as evidences. Earlier, in its previous stint in

titled Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) and kept it in force for two years (1992-Both the PSA and ATA drew flak from various sections of society

office the BNP had enacted a law

while human rights organisations dubbed them as 'black laws'. Lawyers and opposition politicians, however, fear that the proposed law may be used to clamp

down on opposition political activities rather than to contain terrorism. Giving rationale behind the framing of the proposed law, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said cur-

rently the process of justice is being

offenders are handed down punishment quickly

"So, for the sake of speedy trial. the home ministry had first proposed such a law," Moudud added.

Awami League leader and former law minister Abdul Matin Khasru told The Daily Star yesterday that the government was going to pass the new "anti-human rights law" to persecute the opposition activists

"It will be a black law. The Awami League taking the public in its side will build up resistance against this law," said Khasru.

Other Awami League leaders observed that the provision regarding the movement of traffic could specifically be applied to restrict different political activities like general strikes, sit-in demonstraions and road barricades. Legal expert Dr MA Zahir said,

'It's just like a old wine in new bottle, which may be politically motivated, he told The Daily Star last night. Dr Zahir also did not find any

convincing logic behind the decision to keep the proposed law in force for two years. "Laws are generally enacted forever." Lawyer Shahdeen Malik said to the BBC Radio last night, " The

ingredients, for which we had opposed the Public Safety Act, are very much there in the proposed He dubbed the move as a politi-

cal stunt because "many problems cannot be solved merely by making Earlier, in the parliament last night, the pro-Ershad JP legislators

opposed the bill's provision for

keeping the PSA cases alive as they

apprehended that the government would abuse its authority for political Refuting the JP contention, the law minister told the parliament that 4,152 cases implicating 32,743 people were filed under the PSA until the present government took over. More than 26,000 of the accused belong to the BNP and they

the previous government, he Defending the government's authority on deciding the fate of the PSA cases, the law minister argued the government needed to continue with certain cases to try some 6,000 hardcore criminals accused in the

had been politically victimised by

No responsible government can spare such listed criminals including llers, terrorists and extortionists.

lawmakers QM Quader, Golam Habib Dulal and Hafizuddin Ahmed, while opposing the provision for selectively withdrawing the PSA cases, observed that no government could rise above partisan interests in scrutinising such charges of political nature. They all suggested soliciting public opinion pefore scrapping the PSA.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and most of the front-ranking ministers were present as the controversial the law was repealed amid cheers by the treasury bench. "It's a historic day for the nation, for this is for the first time a government has repealed a black law," the law minister commented.

10 elephants killed

FROM PAGE 12 mine the behavioural status of the elephant before declaring it rogue and allowing anyone to kill it in 1996. This year round, the department did not carry out any investigation as

such but acted on the administra-

tion's report of 1996, condemning it

death immediately after the

Ramgarh incident. Nor did it respond to a proposal for a joint investigation by experts and forest officials, as suggested by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Two forest officials who had just returned home after attending a training course on elephants at the Bandipur National Park of Tamil Nadu in India are available to carry out such a study. The officials attended an ele-

phant camp at Bandipur where an elephant was tamed even though it killed 17 people. The Indian forest department did not condemn the elephant to death, though. According to Dr Mohammad Ali Reza Khan who had carried out an extensive study on Bangladeshi elephants in the 1980s on behalf of

the World Wide FUND (WWF) for

Nature. an elephant never forgets

any traumatic experience and

remain hostile to its tormentors ever

Ramgarh elephant be put to sleep with the help of a tranquilliser gun transported to its habitat and set free among the herd. The rejoinder did not mention anything of such scientific method to

tame the wild elephants going

All for leadership FROM PAGE 12

On the other hand, two top JCD leaders have so far taken admission in the university. They are President of DU unit Manir Hossain and Central Vice-president Shafiul Bari Babu. Both of them are doing diploma in health economics.

Babu told The Daily Star yesterday that he was studying health economics to build up his career. 'First I am a student and then a political worker. So I have to study

for a better future.' Mihir Kanti Ghosal, a BCL central member, however, said he got admitted to the Institute of Health Economics to continue study following the long delay in the formation of the new BCL committee. "As Sheikh Hasina said that only students will be accommodated in the BCL leadership, many BCL leaders like me have taken readmission in the university," he added.

Demand for council

rejected the committee and held démonstrations in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country demandng its dissolution.

The JCD leaders and workers who talked to this correspondent said they believe that JCD played an important role in BNP politics in the past and in the October 1 general election. Activities of the student body should be revived with "only promising faces, who must be students'

They said JCD suffered a lot due to internal feuds since the organisation was founded on January 1, 1978. Taking in of non-students and "identified terrorists" in different units was the main cause for the nternal feuds, they said.

"BCL will come with a new face after its council. We hope BNP policymakers will take right decisions to bring changes in JCD

Manir Hossain, its DU unit president Shafiul Bari Babu, vice- president of the central committee, said a

vate the student body. "A new committee comprising dedicated and student activists is now needed to face BCL, which will come up stronger after its council,"

new committee should be formed

without any further delay to reacti-

He said inactivity has gripped JCD due to non-holding of a council and moratorium on activities of the central committee Selimuzzaman Selim, another

vice-president of JCD's central committee said the leadership crisis has created a vacuum in the organisation, which can be filled up with a new leadership. This has also a demoralising effect on the rank and file, he said.

Israel offers 'one-way ticket'

pounded the headquarters of his

West Bank security chief Colonel

Jibril Rajoub, which Israel said had

Rajoub, speaking from else-

Palestinian officials said the

where, denied it and vowed to fight

on. At least one building was

Israelis used Palestinians as a

"human shield", forcing them to

march in front of their tanks as they

advanced on the security com-

house-to-house searches for mili-

tants and the army says it has

arrested 700 people. Hospital

officials in Ramallah said their

morque was so full that they had

Israeli checkpoint in Beit Jala.

In Bethlehem, Sumaya Abda, 64

and her 37-year-old son died

Israeli troops have been making

pound. Israel dismissed the claim.

250 well armed people inside

including wanted militants.

the building.

engulfed in flames.

Fault finder

"But after going through the relevant documents, we did not find any effective steps taken since September 2000 for upgrading or correcting the software," the investigators said in their report.

The DSE chief executive

informed the SEC investigation team that he came to know about the fault on January 20, 2002, which the SEC found contradictory to the statement by the IT surveillance officials who claimed that they had informed the CEO on different occasions "The DSE surveillance officials

conducting surveillance based on assumptions," the SEC investigation report said. The matter was later placed before the SEC board meeting following which the show- cause

notice was served.

also informed us that they had been

When contacted, DSE CEO Md Rezaur Rahman told The Daily Star that he took over charge on December 1, 2001 and came to know about the fault in January "My predecessor was informed

department to contact with the software vendors, who advised the DSE to install a new software. But it could not be put into operation as the hardware vendor said this would slowdown the system," Rahman

about the fault and he advised the IT

The DSE Council agreed to upgrade the hardware on March 23,

The CEO also admitted that the surveillance system was faulty and the DSE used to do it by analysing trade data. He also claimed that the DSE never supplied any wrong surveillance report to the SEC.

machine gun fire echoed through able to return," he said. the narrow streets as Palestinians

"These comments confirm that Arafat, and Sharon knows perfectly well that President Arafat has stated he would neither be expelled nor

President Arafat will not accept his proposal and rejects it in whole as well as in its details." he said. The Israeli premier had said a European or other foreign envoy

could accompany Arafat on leaving

Ramallah, in an operation that could

machine gun fire echoed through the narrow streets as Palestinians battled back for hours against the incursion. Palestinian security sources said one priest had been killed and at

The sound of cannon and

Santa Maria church. Some sources identified him as an Italian, Father Jacques Amateis, but the Vatican news agency said it was not him. The head of the local hospital

instantly when an Israeli tank shelled their shop, the son's wife

The defence lawyers for the accused sought bail and cancellation of the remand prayer for Rashed and Fazlul Haq and bail for

the four on a seven-day remand, Meantime, a five-member committee headed by the head of the Forensic Department of the Dhaka

burial after being X-rayed today.

The first janaza of Shihab will be

kind." one of the investigators said. Asked why DB investigators rested Julekha, a leader of Gono Forum and her daughter, they replied that a murder took place in her election campaign office and gave false statements about the

Arafat has rejected the proposal out of hand, said chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat Sharon still wants to kill president

told AFP. "Sharon knows full well that

killed but would die a martyr," Erakat

be carried out by helicopter. The intensifying rhetoric matched the explosion of fighting on the ground as columns of tanks. armoured personnel carriers and bulldozers, backed by helicopters. powered into Bethlehem before

least six nuns wounded inside the

said the Israelis opened fire on the church and another beside it when they refused to open their doors. A seventh nun was injured in the church next door, he said. The sound of cannon and

A Palestinian woman was shot

garden.

Bangladesh has received some two billion Canadian dollars from the Canadian government, he said. As to why Bangladesh figures at the top of Canada's aid recipients'

Kilgour, a member of Parliament for Edmonton who was the secretary of state for Latin America and Africa for nearly five years, said, "Bangladesh is country born in considerable difficulty. It has so large a population. But it has now made considerable progress and has even earned a name in international peacekeep-

hours of his abduction, when the things turned worst with the boy having recognised one of the cul-

Chowdhury visited Shihab's family

and assured the family members of the arrest of the culprits involved in

Giail Case

against them could not be proved. The IO got approval from the prime minister's office on March 27

Meanwhile, the accused were

dead by Israeli forces as she left the central hospital in Ramallah, medibattled back for hours against the cal sources said Over in the Gaza Strip, a 13-With Arafat cornered, Israeli year-old Palestinian boy was killed tanks and helicopter gunships by Israeli army gunfire at a check-

point near Khan Yunis, Palestinian

Three Palestinians suspected of

security and medical sources said.

collaborating with Israel were executed at a Palestinian police post in A senior Israeli security official Bethlehem, a Palestinian source said Marwan Barghuti, the head of Arafat's Fatah movement in the Israeli police said meanwhile that West Bank accused of orchestrating scores of attacks on Israelis, was in one Palestinian was killed and another wounded in the northern

Jewish extremists.

included Arab nations normalising ties with the Jewish state, set off an urgent round of diplomatic efforts. US Secretary of State Colin Powell insisted Arafat "still has a role to play" but stopped short of criticising Israel's campaign, saying

the Israelis had "dealt with the

West Bank in a revenge attack by

The violence, which comes just

days after Sharon rejected a land-

for-peace proposal that would have

Spanish Foreign Minister Josep begun burying the dead in the Pique said he would seek to convene an emergency meeting of EU The surge of violence reportedly foreign ministers to address the also left several civilians dead. situation, while the Arab League's including a baby who died on the foreign ministers are set to meet in spot when her mother was blocked Cairo on Wednesday. from moving after giving birth an Oil prices surged to six-month highs above 26 dollars per barrel in

terrorist threat as they see it".

London trading over concern about the violence, and Iraq said it was ready to cut off supplies to the United States in order to help defend the Palestinians. leadership with dedicated, sincere