Govt gives nod to suspended bridge over Surma river

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

up a suspended bridge over the river Surma in Sylhet and a rail-cum-road bridge over the river Karnaphuli near the Kalurghat bridge in Chittagong.

The bridge would be the fourth one over the river Karnaphuli as the third bridge is also under government's active consideration. Bangladesh Railway will install the fourth bridge. The government is trying to attract foreign donors for

A high-powered meeting at the Ministry of Communication yesterday took the decisions. The Roads and Highways Department design of the bridge and appoint a foreign consultant for technical

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda chaired the meeting attended by the ministry high officials and Director General of

Bangladesh Railway.

ent government.

The meeting was told that the

previous decision on building a

oridge on the Surma would be put

on hold and a suspended bridge

installed instead in light of the

Huda told the meeting that the

overnment would build the

bridges on a priority basis. He hoped that the process of the

Surma bridge construction would

start within the tenure of the pres-

The rail-cum-road bridge over

er Karnaphuli would be built on

The new rail bridge would help

railway land keeping intact the

Kalurghat bridge set up around 80

establish smooth road communi-cation with the southern districts

of Cox's Bazar and Bandarban. It

would also help establish Trans-

Asian direct rail link between

Bangladesh and other countries of

South Asia and South-East Asia.

demand of the local people.

Siemens has received \$40.88 million of the business and Huawei the remaining \$35.17 million. BTTB chairman Md Nurul Islam signed the contract with his counterparts at the Telejogajog Bhaban in the city.

The BTTB has plans to raise the number of its cell-phone to one million in phases.

Earlier, the government said the roject would be financed through the of telecoms bonds to banks and other financial institutions.

The BTTB also awarded a \$9 million contract for digital exchange to Chinese telecoms equipment maker ZTE Corporation, the officials

The ZTE will install switching gear and transmission equipment for 1,42,944 digital telephone lines at 173 upazila and 47 'growth' centres which have good business prospects.

BTTB's mobile phone project, which created huge enthusiasm among people, would break the monopoly of four private sector operators in cell-phone operation and lower the call tariff.

The Cabinet Committee on Public Procurement, the highest government purchase approval vened the meeting of officials from Energy, Power and Finance authorities, at a meeting on January 24 rejected BTTB's mobile purchase Divisions, and state-run oil gas corporation Petrobangla, Power proposal and asked it for a re-tender. But the state telecoms monopoly did Development Board and Board of not comply with the directive.

The government, however approved the project on April 15 despite forged documents having been provided by Chinese vendor

Swedish Ericsson, French Alcatel Turkish Netas and US Motorola participated in the bid, among others.

Tremor jolts Ctg

An earthquake of 4.47 magnitude on the Richter scale shook Chittagong for 24 seconds at 5:39pm yesterday.

The epicentre of the mild earthquake was 225km off the Chittagong Seismic Observatory, said a report of Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

Proshika chief

FROM PAGE 12

order following petitions by investigation officer for to show him arrested in the cases.

The defence lawyers submitted petitions seeking bail of the accused. The court, however, fixed today for hearing on the petitions.

"He will be shown arrested in one case after another," said a home ministry_official on condition of

The High Court on Monday granted him bail in nine out of 15 cases filed by the Bac. However, the bail orders are still to reach the Dhaka Central Jail, where he has oeen languishing from May 22.

The home ministry official said if the Proshika chief gets bail in the two cases, the authorities are ready to show him arrested in the remaining four cases. This will be done step by step to ensure that Faruque stays behind bars for a long time, he

BSP concerned

President Barrister Mainul Hosein and General Secretary Salah Uddin Ahmed MP said new tax proposal would increase substantially the cost of newsprint and seriously affect the newspaper industry.

Local industries supply only 15 percent newsprint to newspapers while the rest 85 percent is imported, they said, adding that the government did not increase advertisement revenue in the new budget that would also hit the newspapers.

They said the government could not pay the outstanding bills of advertisement for four months in the current fiscal due to shortage of fund and substantial portion of the new budget allocation would have to be spent for payment of the

The BSP leaders urged the finance minister to withdraw the new tax proposal on newsprint and to raise allocation for advertiseers body, were present.

JCD leader threatens UNO with death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

has been threatened with death as he rejected a Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader's forged bill of Tk 3.96 lakh submitted Saturday.

Ishaque Mia, UNO of Chitalmari in Bagerhat, has stopped going to his office for fear of his life. Armed police have been deployed at his office and house for his security.

Shafiqul Islam Babu, general secretary of JCD Chitalmari unit and owner of Shajib Enterprise, won a tender for construction of Kalihati bridge in Shibpur at an estimated cost of Tk 3.96 lakh.

Manzoor Morshed Swapan, a central leader of the Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Dal and Shibpur UP Chairman Badsha Alam, submitted the bill for full payment, although he was yet to start construction work.

direction of Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Bagerhat, Peus Costa,' Ishaque said yesterday, adding, legal action will be taken against Babu for submitting forged bill and giving death threat.

When asked, DC Peus Costa

Bagerhat has also admitted that ruling party cadres have threat-ened the UNO.

TV artiste

floor house at Road No. 3 at around

"Sensing their presence, Farana, her brother-in-law Ekram Ahmed, a deputy secretary, and her nephew Arnab tried to resist the knife-wielding men," said an aunt of Tarana.

Tarana suffered injuries in her hands and Ekram in one hand. The attackers, however, retreated when Arnab struck one of them with a chair, family sources said.

valuables. They also suspect the attack on Tarana is a sequel to a

Police said Tarana addressing a public rally in Feni on May 28 spoke about the role of Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami. She also handed some thieves over to police when they looted her gold

hether there is a link between the attack on Tarana and the two incidents.

General Secretary of Main pposition Awami League Abdul Talil expressed concern over the attack on Tarana.

In a press release yesterday Jalil said anti-liberation forces carried out the attack as part of their plan to root out the pro-liberation

PM asks JS

The directives came when chairmen of five standing committees called on the prime minister at her office yesterday.

They are M Shajahan, chairman of the standing committee on disaster management and relief ministry, Nazir Hossain, chairman of the standing committee on expatriates welfare and overseas employment ministry, A Mannan Talukadar, chairman of the standing committee on LGRD and cooperatives ministry, Mosharraf Hossain Mongu, chairman of the standing committee on food ministry and Akbar Ali, chairman of the standing committee on planning min-

The meeting was part of a routine interaction between the Leader of the House and the standing committee chairmen, said Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury, who was also present at the meet-

Referring to the merger of the food ministry and the disaster management and relief ministry, the prime minister told the chairmen that there would be one standing committee for the reconstituted ministry.

"This is a huge budget. Its proper implementation depends on concerted efforts by all concerned," she told the chairmen of the standing bodies.

Chairman of the standing committee on disaster management and relief ministry, M Shajahan, told reporters after the meeting that the prime minister asked them to take special care for implementation of the rural welfare-oriented new national oudget.

He said the prime minister, during discussion, stressed identification of the real poor and proper utilisation of the VGF

Nazir Hossain of the committee on expatriates welfare and overseas employment ministry said the chairmen apprised the prime minister of the activities and achievements of their respective committees.

AL makes JS comeback

bill that the Jatiya Sangsad passed on May 16 drew flak from the AL and other opposition parties.

With the crucial decisions, the main opposition has apparently shifted its focus onto parliament from street agitation, although Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina said AĹ leaders would also be out in the streets to launch a fresh antigovernment movement.

"We will debate important ssues in the House and gear up a street agitation against the rulng alliance's misdeeds including political killings, other rimes and corruption," said Hasina, emerging from the three-hour meeting at the Sangsad Bhaban.

"We will try to speak for people ...We want to unmask the corrupt and criminal face of the government," Hasina, also AL president, told newspersons.

In a change of heart, the main opposition party agreed to send a list of its lawmakers to Speaker lamir Uddin Sircar for induction into the parliamentary standing committees, a decision that came about one year after formation of the parliamentary

The committees were formed in July last year, but the AL did not nominate its members, saying the committees were constituted without prior discussion with the opposition.

Of the 51 Jatiya Sangsad bodes, 39 represent ministries and the AL has participation in only five committees that deal with parliamentary functioning and do not represent any ministry.

"The present parliamentary tanding committees became illegal without the opposition's representation. A list of Awami eague MPs is ready for inducion into the committees, Hasina said, once again demanding proportionate committee chairmanship.

She directed her party deputies play active roles in the House discussion and meetings of standing committees on ministries to bring to light what she said was orruption of the ruling coalition.

Hasina said the opposition lawmakers would demand discussions on the hot-button issues such as the killing of Ahsanullah Master, a grenade attack on the British high

found the head of Frank Lampard

seven minutes before the break it seemed as if the sultry Lisbon sky

would fall in on the mercurial

But Beckham's second telling

ontribution was to place a second

Zidane grateful

commissioner to Bangladesh, arms seizure and terrorist training camps in Chittagong allegedly run by a state minister's cousin and $activities\, of\, Bangla\, Bhai.$

The AL marks its participation in the House, taking part in a discussion on the supplementary budget for the fiscal 2003-04.

Most AL lawmakers returned to parliament on May 12 after an 11month boycott and took part in the obituary reference on Ahsanullah Master, gunned down at a roadside rally in the industrial not join the House then, as she was in the United States.

Hasina said she would raise a uestion to Prime Minister Chaleda Zia in her question time in parliament on Wednesday on the government's failure to curb law and order downslide, killings, violence, arms smuggling and "We hope the speaker will allow the opposition MPs to speak on

these issues and run the House in line with the rules of procedure, she said. The AL began the House boycott on June 25 last year for what it said

were abusive words by treasury bench members against Hasina. The AL lawmakers demanded an apology from the ruling BNP lawmakers as a condition for their return to the House.

"Despite ministers' abusive words against the Awami League president, we are going to parliament to speak for people," Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul

Storm toll

east 20 trawlers capsized carrying an estimated 200 fishermen.

The police official said about 50 fishermen were picked up or managed to swim to safety.

"About 140 people were still missing, but we believe that many of them could be taking shelter in nearby islands, or were rescued by villagers," the official said.

Hossain who clung to a plastic water container for about 20 hours before reaching shore near Cox's

Zidane's acrobatic brilliance brought Real their ninth European

Cup two years ago but when he suffered injury going into the World Cup barely three weeks later

a whole nation became gripped by worry and doubt, their talisman

Outlaws gun down trader,

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Mirpur and Kumarkhali.

Purbo Banglar Communist Party's (PBCP) Janajuddha faction attacked Bilal Hossain, 40, a tobacco trader of Lakshmipur in Mirpur upazila.

Bazar at around 10:00 and left him dead on the spot. Family sources said extortion-

In Kumarkhali, outlaws

The victims are Jahangir, 35, of Bhuluapara village and Kolom Ali,

involvement with the killings.

Mizan Bahini leader lynched in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Mizan Bahini yesterday died at a local hospital at Sreepur upazila in Magura after locals had dug out his eyes before beating him up Sunday night.

nal cases including those of murders, and his son Sezan abducted Ashraful Haider Badal, 14, on Saturday and demanded Tk 20 lakh ransom, locals said. lodged a case with Magura Sadar

Police Station accusing the gang leader and his son, a classmate of Badal at Magura Collectorate School, of the abduction, sources

police said. The angry mob pounded the notorious criminal and Mojnu before gouging out Mizan's eves.

Local police came to the spot at 1:00pm yesterday and rescued wrath. They were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital in critical

Mizan succumbed to his injuries at 4:00pm while Mojnu was undergoing treatment, hospital

government however 'extended' the contract eight months later

January next year.

But to collect the gas to be

tive impact on its environment.

Officials of the environment ministry and Petrobangla say the impact will be negligible. "This official.

time. We need the gas by January, he added.

okayed the work.

proposal and some conditions.'

Outlaws on Sunday night killed a businessperson and two of their rivals in separate incidents in

ists earlier demanded Tk 1 lakh from Bilal and threatened him with death if he failed to pay them.

their leader Jahangir and Ali on

The SMA however denied its

Mizan, an accused in 25 crimi-

On Sunday night, about 200 people encircled a house in . Beelnathur village where Mizan, his son and Mojnu were staying,

condition, locals said.

Unocal plans pipeline FROM PAGE 12

minimum work commitment. The

filed in Moulavibazar, close to the Magurchhara explosion site. Petrobangla last year asked Unocal to develop this field and supply at least 35 million cubic feet of gas per day (mmcfd) in 2004 and 60 mmcfd

Unocal has drilled several wells in the area to begin gas supply from

extracted from these fields, Unocal Louwachhara natural reserve

groups, including Bangladesh Wildlife Trust, who believe laying of the pipeline will drive away the unique wildlife from the reserve forest and have a long term nega-

pipeline will be installed three feet below the ground and there will not be much of a hazard as this is not a main line," said a top Petrobangla He said the other option was to install a pipeline bypassing the forest. "But that will need 21 kilo-

The environment ministry has

Environment Minister Tariqul Islam said, "We have permitted Unocal to install the pipeline on the basis of an energy ministry

feet (bcf) of gas.

Dhaka-10 by-polls

same, we must ask the authorities to take proper steps," Election Commissioner Mohammad Ali told The Daily Star.

Twenty-two candidates are rying for the seat, but pollsters say the fight will mainly be limited between the ruling alliance candi-date Mosaddek Ali Falu and his key rival Mannan, who sought the support of the main opposition Awami League (AL) on the day. **CONTRASTING REMARKS**

Chief Election Commissioner MA Syed told reporters at his office that the EC would send a letter to the Armed Forces Division for army deployment in each of 130 centre. But a top election official declined to ask for army deployment, bringing to light an apparent conflict in the EC.

"I will not send such a letter. I don't know anything about the decision on army deployment in each polling centre. The security measures will be taken as per the home ministry plan," said SM Zakaria, EC secretary.

If army men guard every polling centre it will be first ever such deployment since 1990 in Bangladesh that saw the servicemen to act as a strike force in previ-

Mohammad Ali said army personnel would be deployed in the constituency two days before the polling to stop any form of rigging and violence.

"The EC wants at least five army men to guard each polling center along with regular law-enforcers." The measure will be in addition to army and Bangladesh Rifles

patrols close to polling centres. According to the EC, the home ministry will chalk out the details of security arrangement in consulta-tion with the Armed Forces

Dhaka-10 and Munshiganj-1 seats of the Jatiya Sangsad fell vacant when Mannan and Mahi B Chowdhury resigned from parlia-ment and the ruling party leader BNP to join the Bikalpa Dhara. Mahi swept back to parliament from his family borough on June 6 on the platform of Bikalpa Dhara, founded by his father and former

president AQM Badruddoza

The Dhaka-10 by-election was also scheduled for June 6, but a legal battle over a symbol dispute delayed the polls.

ELECTORAL PACT

Mannan yesterday sought support of the AL in the by-polls with 3,09,209 eligible voters, in replay of he Mushiganj ballot.

"We would like to convey our gratitude to the Awami League for extending support to us in Munshiganj-1 by-election. We will also thank them if they back us in Dhaka-10 by-polls," he said at a press conference in Dhaka yester-

Mannan and Mahi yesterday

weets in a show of political amity. Falu was not present at the

Prized al-Qaeda

FROM PAGE 12

The al-Qaeda suspect was the ephew of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the number three leader in Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network and the suspected chief planner of the September 11 attacks on the United States, said nformation Minister Sheikh

capture as a "major breakthrough" "The suspects are being interrogated," he told Reuters yesterday.

The process of dismantling the network has speeded up. We expect more arrests will take He said he believed the militants had attended an al-Qaeda training camp in South Waziristan

town of Wana. "They are linked to Wana, with the training camp and the firing range of al Qaeda. It was a main centre and well established transit

Lying dead

Chowdhury.

The expatriate welfare and overseas employment ministry however confirmed about 40 bodies are

The number was much higher

in Saudi Arabia at this moment.

in the past but now it will not be more than 40, said a high official of the ministry after contacting the Bangladesh Embassy in Saudi BAIRA officials said the number of bodies mentioned in yesterday's

paper was based on previous estimates as they do not have any current estimates Officials of the expatriate welfare ministry pointed out many of the over 14 lakh Bangladeshis living in the kingdom die natural s every year. Besides, some become victims of road accidents

and criminal activities or have unnatural deaths. In case of deaths due to accidents and criminal activities and unnatural deaths, the bodies are kept in morgue for autopsy and other investigation. Sometimes, the bodies are not released before completion of the cases relating to

the incidents. So, it takes lot of time to get back the bodies. This is the main reason why so many bodies are now lying

in the kingdom, the officials said. The government normally brings back at its own cost the body of any Bangladeshi who dies abroad. There is also a compensa-tion package for the family of the deceased, funded from the government wage earners welfare fund.

But sometimes the government faces tremendous difficulties to identify the dead and their families because of changes in the address mentioned in their passport. There are also some difficulties to identify actual nationality of the dead because of wrong passport, officials mentioned.

Many people, particularly Muslims, from a neighbouring country stay in the kingdom using Bangladeshi passport. In some

return home sell their passport to brokers, who then send other workers using those retaining the same names and addresses.

family members of the dead do not show any interest in bringing the body back due to feuds among them and this also delays the pro-

State Minister for Expatriate Welfare Quamrul Islam told The Daily Star the government will take all steps to bring back the bodies of expatriates after proper identifica-

Khulna PBCP cadre threatens to kill 3

policemen

Sadar Police Station.

An activist of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP M-L) on Saturday threatened to kill

PBCP cadre Ganesh Banerjee

came to the police station in the

morning and threatened to kill Officer-in-charge Mosharef Hossain, Sub-inspectors Dewan Koushik and Arman Ali present in Ganesh, an accused in local

to avenge the killing of fellow PBCP cadre Raja Chowdhury, they Admitting the incident, acting Commissioner of Police Sheikh

Sajjad Ali said they were trying to hunt out the PBCP activist. A general diary was filed

brick building that served as a hostel collapsed, crushing some inside. The stairwells, beds and

other furniture could be seen from

the street. Smoke was still rising from the burned-out shells of three civilian cars blown inside the ground floor of the hostel by the force of the blast. At least four other cars lay battered on the thoroughfare,

rubble, lifting casualties into waiting ambulances.

"There were three of these fourwheel drives on the road when a car came out from near that hostel, overtook them and exploded, sending one flying off the road and into flames," said passer-by Ali Rasoul Shammali. "There were a lot of ordinary cars parked on this street, a lot of people just going to

the convoy off the street into an adjacent park, where the blackened wreck smouldered in the morning sunshine. Witnesses said they saw at least two charred bodies inside. Amid the shattered glass inside one of the other four-wheel drives was a packet of American ciga-

the back of the other, whose tinted windows were still intact, were piles of documents and files. As U.S. forces began arriving at

rettes and a silver coffee mug. In

in the blast, jumping up and down on their roofs, hammering them with bits of debris and chanting: There is no God but Allah. America is the enemy of Allah.

vehicles on fire, sending thick black smoke into the sky as U.S. forces

tary of the home ministry, Nazrul Islam, secretary of the energy ministry, and Syed Sazzadul Karim, convenor of the owners and work-

Rail-road bridge to be built

over Karnaphuli

The government has decided to set

financing the bridge construction.

evaluation of the bridges.

PM's principal BTTB seals secretary blasts

for gas crisis **UNB**, Dhaka

his colleagues at Energy and Power Divisions and Petrobangla for pushing the country into serious gas and electricity crises. Kamaluddin Siddiqui, principal secretary to the prime minister, blasted the officials for "virtually"

welcoming the crises, "sitting

almost idle" during the past few

A top bureaucrat yesterday grilled

energy officials

"Why didn't you raise the prob-lem in past two and a half years? Why did we have to call you after getting complaints from the investors?" an official present in the meeting quoted him as saying. Being instructed by the top level, the principal secretary con-

Investment (BoI). Sources concerned said as the Petrobangla Chairman SR Osmani presented a short, mid-and longterm planning to face the situation, Siddiqui asked him to come up

"We don't want to listen to a wishful list, come up with timebound work programme," he was quoted by the sources as asking the Petrobangla's Planning Division. Siddiqui suggested to submit a

"real" mid-and long-term plan-

ning to the prime minister within 15 days and a "true work programme" within three days to face the present crisis. He also raised questions about integrity and honesty of the gas power sector officials, saying that if certain officials were not corrupt,

the dishonest quarters would not

the officials concerned to launch a

drive to snap illegal gas and power

connections to ensure uninter-

rupted supplies to the real custom-

The principal secretary asked

dare to go for illegal connections.

ers. He also called for realising the long outstanding bills or snap connections of the defaulting **Fuel station**

owners call off strike

Mosharraf Hossain.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The owners and workers of petrol pumps and tank lorries yesterday called off their indefinite strike following fruitful discussion with State Minister for Energy AKM

The indefinite strike was to start

from today in Dhaka division to

Tank lorries with 25-year-old

fitness certificates will also be able

to move throughout the country

protest extortion and harassment by police in the capital. According to meeting sources, the state minister agreed to meet their demands including stopping police extortion and bribe-taking.

instead of only in particular districts, according to a decision of the Iqbal Aziz Biju, coordinator of the agitation programme, said from now on police sergeants will not be able to prevent the tank

lorries from running in any district.

The minister assured the lead-

ers of the owners and workers to meet their other demands through discussion. Shafigul Islam, secretary of the communications ministry, Mohammad Omar Farooq, secre-

An upazila nirbahi officer (UNO)

However, Babu, brother of

"I have rejected the bill at the

said the UNO carried out his orders The superintendent of police of

According to police, the attack as a planned incident, as the criminals did not seek for any

ornaments two months back, sparking anger among their accomplices. Investigators are examining

> half penalty too close to former Manchester United colleague Fabien Barthez and thereafter Zidane emerged from his slum-A typically self effacing Zidane praised Barthez for keeping them

> > remain 1-0 and keep us believing we could still save the match," said Whereas Beckham failed to find his deadball range in contrast Zidane was accuracy personified, showing deadeye skills to sweep a

for making the difference by saving the penalty as he allowed it to

Zidane, who else, stepped forward to bury the penalty for his 28th goal in French colours to leave Beckham and company feeling as blue as the Gallic superstar's shirt.

"We had not had a good match and then came a little bit of a sur-

prise goal at the end," said Zidane.

"That meant that a match that

"It is matches like this that forge

had not at all been in our favour

suddenly produced a positive

the spirit of a team, especially ones that end like that," added Zidane,

whose two goals in the 1998 World Cup final inspired the French to

freekick past David James seconds into stoppage time after Emile Heskey fouled Patrick Vieira. And with James then upending Thierry Henry in the final seconds

the vehicles that export-oriented companies have to meet deadline. Masud also stated that police requisitioned a Lucida microbus of

vehicle was used for transportation of home ministry high officials and BTV camera crew to various

to come to the peace table, promising "maximum flexibility" in nego-

the incident.

state-run Gorkhapatra daily. The All Nepal National Free

Leave vehicles

owned by export-oriented foreign and local companies from the Requisition Act. He said the police remain heed-less of arguments by the drivers of

During the first two days, the

programmes attended by VVIPs, said Masud Karim.

starving till midnight, he said in the appeal to the PM. Maoists kill 21

He said 13 of the injured policemen were airlifted to a hospital in the capital Kathmandu, 440km away, and three others were treated locally after the ambush in Khairikhola village.

It was the deadliest attack in

Nepal since King Gyanendra on June 3 swore back in Prime

Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba,

whom he had fired two years ear-

died were of high rank. The Maoists

disappeared after the attack,"

senior police officer Ravi Raj Thapa

lier and replaced with a handpicked royalist government. The king had accused Deuba in 2002 of "incompetence" at fighting the Maoists, who have taken control of much of the countryside in their "people's war" aimed at ending the monarchy and establishing a communist state.

than 9,500 lives since 1996 and devastated the Himalayan kingdom's fragile tourism-dependent economy Deuba on June 9 used his first national address since his reappointment to appeal to the Maoists

The civil war has claimed more

PTI adds: The Maoists exploded

situated in Gauriganj area in Chitawan district in central Nepal was completely damaged by the explosion triggered by the Maoists on Sunday, according to state-run The Rising Nepal. However, no one was injured in

Students Union (Revolutionary) affiliated to the CPN-Maoists abducted the students apparently in connection with their nationwide indefinite educational strike

beginning from June 6.

gusts up to 30 miles an hour. A

Among the survivors were two brothers Nurul Amin and Noor

Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said police requisitioned one of its vehicles several times during last one month. He urged the prime minister to exempt the vehicles

meanwhile, in an appeal to Prime

the company on its way to Dhaka from Savar carrying company officials. Traffic Sergeant Mahmudur Rahman requisitioned the vehicle along with the driver for three days. But police kept it with them for more than the time speci-

The vehicle was used for personal business of traffic sergeants in the evening and the driver was left

a powerful bomb at the house of a top police officer in Central Nepal, even as they abducted nearly 200 students from eight schools in East The single-story house belonging to Deputy Inspector General of Police, Devendra Bahadur Malla,

The Maoists have abducted 197 students below the age of 18 from eight different schools at Udayapur district in east Nepal, according to

two rivals

Police said about 10 cadres allegedly belonging to outlawed

The outlaws shot Bilal point blank at a tea stall at Lakshmipur

gunned down two from a rival outfit near Kachikata bridge in Kumarkhali upazila at around

25, of Sanpukur village Police quoting locals said outlaws allegedly belonging to the Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF), armed wing of the Sramajibi Mukti Andolan (SMA), swooped on a meeting of 10 criminals and killed

The gang leader of notorious

Badal's father Ehtesham

However, Sezan dodged the enraged crowd, they added.

adding some new clauses. In 1999, Unocal found a new gas

needs to install a 10-inch-diameter pipeline through the sensitive This has irked environmental

metres of pipeline. Moreover we will have to get land from people. This involves a lot of trouble and

According to Unocal, the new field has about 350 billion cubic

The force of the blast blew one of the four-wheel drive vehicles in for labourers who gather in the area looking for casual work. The facade of a three-storey

traffic. Locals and firefighters doused the blaze and sifted through the

Mahi will be Mannan's chief lection agent, he added.

visited the election camp of key rival Mosaddek with flowers and

militants suspected in the bloody ambush of Karachi's military commander last week.

Rashid. Mohammed was arrested near Islamabad in March last year. Hayat described the latest

400 km (250 miles) southwest of Islamabad, where the army is mopping up after a fierce offensive last week near tribal region's main

cases, Bangladeshi workers on

Officials also said in some cases

tion and release from Saudi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT three police officials of Khulna

the office, police said. Awami League leader Advocate Manzurul Imam murder case, told that he would kill the law enforcers

Suicide bomb

which Iraqi police closed off to

the scene, Iraqi youths poured out from nearby alleys, some to hurl stones at them. Dozens of people gathered around two of the vehicles targeted

The cheering crowd set the