The Baily Star



AL joins JS

FROM PAGE 1

marks its change of heart that came after it decided to take part in Jatiya Sangsad activities including nominating its lawmakers to parliamentary standing committees, most of them formed in July last year.

The main opposition insisted the parliamentary standing com-mittees be retooled as it termed their formation unconstitutional --a demand the ruling party brushed aside.

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

CRIME CONTROL

The opposition lawmakers came down heavily on the government for its failure to arrest killers of AL lawmaker Ahsanullah Master and attackers of British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury and racketeers of the largest arms haul in Chittagong.

The AL demanded that the ruling coalition hold general discussions on the hot-button issues in parliament and a brake on law and order downslide -- a demand that prompted LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan to assure the opposition lawmakers of strong anticrime steps.

"There is no instance of the rule of law in the country. The government patronises criminals. People want freedom," said Hasina, who ioined the session a couple of minutes after her deputies went in amid recitation from the Quran. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was not present in the House

AL lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta launched into an unscheduled debate on law and order that lasted over an hour with the participation

Goodbye pesticides

FROM PAGE 1

vegetables free from toxic elements, theyenvisage

Brinjal Shoot and Fruit Borer (BSFB), the pest mainly responsible for damaging 30 to 60 percent of eggplants, has developed almost full resistance against the chemical pesticide applied for its annihilation.

But the new stride forward in crop protection science has finally put survival of the tiny pest at stake.

Over the last two years, many brinjal growers in Jessore, which produces one fifth of the total output of aubergine in Bangladesh, have been doing away with pesticide use and yet having far bigger harvest of brinjal with no pest attacks whatsoever.

Artificial secretion of sex pheromone in brinjal fields is the secret behind the magic. Pheromone is a chemical compound, produced and secreted by an insect or animal, that attracts opposite sex of the same species for mating.

What the scientists and researchers have done in the case of brinial is that they have artificially produced certain dose of it in the middle of an eggplant field inside low-cost traps to lure the male BSFB for mating. In the process, the tiny pests got eliminated with farmers requiring no use of pesticide.

of his party colleagues Abdus Samad Azad and Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and Mannan Bhuiyan and State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar from the

treasury bench Bhuiyan alleged Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar allowed the opposition lawmakers to speak beyond the rules of procedure. The LGRD minister said the

government took measures to arrest Bangla Bhai and the killers of Ahsanullah Master, gunned dowr at a roadside rally in the industrial town of Tongi on May 7. "Nobody is above the law. If Bangla Bhai is arrested and proved guilty, he will

face legal action.' He said investigators would submit the chargesheet on the killing of Ahsanullah Master in 30

Hasina asked the state minister for home why Superintendent of Police (SP) Abdul Baten, who was investigating the murder of Ahsanullah Master, was arrested. 'Was the bribe less than

expected? Why did the SP offer to bribe the state minister? Is it true that the state minister is into malactice and police officials know it?" Hasina asked. Babar brushed aside the allega-

Hasina's remarks on him.

is running the state -- the government or criminals?" Earlier, a five-member delega-tion led by Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid met the

speaker and demanded enough time for budget discussion and retooling of parliamentary standing committees. (Read the editorial)



Dogs snatch away boy from jackal's maw

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two street dogs saved a baby boy from a jackal's clutches at Chayail village under Jhenaidah Sadar upazila at dead of night Sunday.

The jackal sneaked in the house of day labourer Abdul Quddus at midnight, and grabbed and dragged his threeyear-old sleeping son Ashik to a fallow land behind the house.

Hearing the baby's wails, two stray dogs rushed forward and launched a fierce attack on the jackal. The dogs could save the wounded baby just in time but failed to catch the jackal even after a long chase.

Hearing the dogs' barking, Quddus woke up and found his son missing. He and his wife came out and saw what seemed to them a miraculous scene of the dogs guarding their child.

Ashik was admitted to Jhenaidah Sadar Hospital next morning in a critical condition being severely bitten by the jackal.

pistol at court

UNB, Dhaka

murder case.

to the court vesterday.

Recruiters

crime, sources mentioned.

FROM PAGE 1

sources said.

Judge's Court yesterday.

tion and demanded expunction of Samad Azad said there is no rule

of law in Bangladesh, adding: "Who

As the duty on sugar import has been brought down, the local sugar industry would be seriously affected, Rouf noted, pointing out that around half a million

involved in this sector.

Taking part in the discussion,

areas Saiduzzaman stressed proper utilisation of foreign aid and implementation of development projects for improving infrastructure. Noting that the annual development programme (ADP) is heavily dependent on foreign aid, he pointed out that the share of foreign aid in the next ADP too

Mahmud observed that the share

Plot to kill Modi foiled, 4 killed

PTI, AHMEDABAD

Three days ahead of the Lord Jagannath Rathyatra, four Lashkare-Taiba terrorists, including a woman, were killed in an encounter with police in Ahmedabad early vesterday

Acting on intelligence reports that terrorists were in the city to assassinate Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi, Crime Branch sleuths intercepted a vehicle at Kotarpur near the city airport and in the ensuing encounter, the terrorists were killed, Joint Commissioner of Police PP Pandey said

The terrorists belonged to LeT's suicide squad and two of them hailed from Pakistan, he said.

FROM PAGE 1

PHOTO: STAF

Last year, a few days before the Rathyatra, crime branch had shot dead two members of Chhota Shakeel gang, who had allegedly

come to assassinate BIP leaders Ashok Bhatt and Bharat Barot.

> Meanwhile, two days after militants exploded a grenade in a Pehulgam hotel killing five tourists, the hardline Pakistan-based Lashker-e-Toiba (LeT) outfit today (June 14, 2004) said it was against harming tourists visiting Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have no plan to harm the tourism industry. In fact, we support the revival of tourism sector so that economic status of those connected with the industry can improve," a LeT spokesman told a local news agency.

However, he criticised Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed for "portraying the revival of tourism industry as return of normalcy in the State

the ministry and submitted joining

Several promoted deputy com-

Establishment and Anti-Corruption Bureau, private secre-

taries to different ministers and DCs dominated the list of

The several private secretaries to important ministers who are

elevated as joint secretaries include: PS to LGRD and Co-

operatives minister, PS to Social

Welfare minister, PS to Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, PS to Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs

minister, and PS to state minister for Energy and Mineral Resources.

Though the promotion was long

overdue, majority of junior officials

has expressed satisfaction, as they

think it would create vacancies in

the lower tier and in turn pave way

The three were among eight for-eigners arrested in Japan in con-

Interview of the sector of the

Dumont belonged to al-Qaeda's

logistics arm and police suspect he was engaged in raising funds,

Police and security agencies

have refused to comment on

and sent them to Bakolia and

Panchlaish Police Station con-

Chairman of the factory Ali

Zafor Md Belal, however, claimed

that some workers attacked the

factory at the instigation of some

itself more relevant to the common

people in the member states. Its

programmes should aim at

On socio-economic agenda, he

said: "We should focus on the key

economic and social areas like

illiteracy and basic health care.

poverty alleviation, eradication of

Seeking support for Bangla-

desh's candidate Salauddin

Quader Chowdhury for the post of

OIC secretary general, Khan said

the OIC can realise its purposes

through greater unity, understand-

and the agenda will also depend on

the leadership of the secretariat, he

Kidnapping

abductions, police said.

Kushtia and Chuadanga.

The future of the organisation

ing and solidarity.

FROM PAGE 12

abducted people

said.

enhancing human security.

Minister Junichiro Koizum

Panchlaish police stations.

Cops club

FROM PAGE 12

repeated attempts.

for their own promotion

al-Qaeda

eports.

promotees.

Those in the tourism trade can continue their business without any fear, the spokesman said.

High revenue

Man held with FROM PAGE 12

the government's stress on private sector-led growth was not properly reflected in the proposed budget.

Fulbaria yesterday.

Khosru however noted that Plainclothes police nabbed a the import tariff reduction is young man with a 5-star pistol on aimed at speeding up negotiathe premises of Dhaka District tions with neighbouring states for bilateral and multilateral free Police said they searched the trade agreements.

body of Md Jewel, 27, and found The former commerce ministhe pistol loaded with six bullets. ter called for bringing structural Jewel, who is now staying at changes in the capital market, Uttar Khan Miah Bari in Uttara, saying the country's stock came to appear before a court in a exchanges have been striving for modernisation and this drive should get active assistance from Jewel, son of Mujibur Rahman of Daulatpur, Kushtia, told police the government for further improvements.

that he had bought the pistol for Tk one lakh to kill the kidnapper of her Khoshru also maintained that sister who was scheduled to come the government should give more attention to developing basic He was handed over to Kotwali industries in the country.

> former finance minister M Saiduzzaman labelled the proposed budget as 'bold' and in a sense 'daring', as the targets fixed are not justified by previous performance in the respective

people from Iraq with cooperation from International Organisation for Migrants (IOM). The government had also filed a case against a travel agency --Grand Overseas Ltd -- that had sent 36 Bangladeshis to Iraq via Jordan. Three officials and employees of the agency were sent to jail for the Around 2,000 Bangladeshi workers go to Jordan every year for job mainly in garments sector. As the country enjoys duty-free and quota-free access to US market, would be around 44.5 percent.

The former finance minister said the government's plan to doubling the credit flow to rural areas has to be sustainable, otherwise people would not be benefited from it.

FROM PAGE 12 force responsible for providing protection to the VVIPs, including the president and the prime minis-Business leader Rouf Chowdhury said the proposed budget emits some wrong signals ter as well as some visiting foreign

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh candidate Abdul Mannan for Dhaka-10 seat, third from right, with his party colleague Mahi

B Chowdhury, third from left, take out a procession after the ruling party activists attacked a campaign procession in

while keeping silent over some dignitaries. important issues. He maintained Referring to terrorist activities that the expansion of the value in different countries of the world added tax (Vat) net would affect the prime minister admitted that it the country's SMEs. might logically need a change in

PM

Rouf regretted that the finance the structure and management regarding security of the VVIPs. minister in his budget speech did not explain the government's She also noted that with the position regarding pre-shipment development of science and techinspection (PSI) system, adding nology the pattern of crime is also the existing PSI system have been changing

disturbing the businessmen. "Members of the force have to think of keeping themselves one step ahead in knowledge, perception and use of modern technology in security matter," she said, add ing that exchange of professional knowledge and experience with people are directly or indirectly similar security agencies of other countries should be intensified.

Former ERD secretary Moshiur Rahman said the govministers, chiefs of the three serernment should reach an agreevices and other senior civil and ment with the banks to identify military officials attended the the core area of inflation in the function followed by dinner and a country. He also said it was not cultural function. logical that there would be no

debate on defence allocation. World Bank Country Director Cristina Wallich emphasised decentralisation of administration and strengthening of local government for getting better penefit out of the budget alloca-

tions President of International Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh chapter Mahbubur Rahman termed the budget a very positive and a challenging one. He urged the government to take initiatives so that the garment sector can be competitive in the

microbus, all of a sudden the quota-free market. attackers again swooped on them. Businessman Anisul Islam They assaulted some women and

seven-member authority which handles promotion of civil sermissioners (DCs) posted in the districts also rushed to the capital vants, in its final report submitted Monday DCs of different districts are in the promotion list, sources said. Several names were dropped and some were included after the Officials at important offices, including the PMO, Cabinet Division, Ministry of SSB report was sent to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for various reasons like political consider-

84 promoted

ations, sources alleged. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia approved the final promotion list and an official notification was issued late yesterday with approval of the president.

Superior Selection Board (SSB), the

Many eligible officials having more than 85 marks, including over a dozen from 1981 batch were not promoted reportedly from 'political consideration'.

All the new joint secretaries have been made OSD (Official on Special Duty) and posted at estab lishment ministry until fresh assignment. Majority of the officials promoted yesterday rushed to

Attacks 'halt Iraq oil exports'

FROM PAGE 12

reports said.

REUTERS, Baghdad

A sabotage attack on a southern Iraqi oil pipeline yesterday brought oil exports close to a standstill, reports say.

Oil Minister Thamir Ghadhban told Reuters that blasts had dam-aged a pipeline from the southern oilfields feeding the Basra oil termi-

money laundering and forming a terrorist network while hiding in The explosions, which occurred late on Monday, appear to have severed the flow from the oil pipeline.

Japan between July 2002 and September 2003, according to earlier reports.

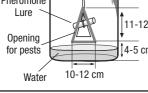
11-12 cm 4-5 cm 10-12 cm Water

we got free of cost, in brinjal fields in the last two years. This brought the crop damage to 3-4 kilograms a

Two other farmers from Gaidghat village of Bagharpara upazila --Nazrul Islam Khan and Shantimoy Sen -- said many brinjal farmers in their area got pheromone traps free of cost on an experimental basis for the last two years. But now that the project period ends, they want the government to make that available in

So long they used to get a tiny ipsule of 3 mg pheromone 2.25 lākh (Pheromone Lure) from the Bari and water-filled polyethylene vial dis-pensers inside which they used to place the Pheromone Lure. Such a

PHEROMONE TRAP heromone Lure



Some recruiters and travel he markets. agencies send workers to Jordan taking as much as Tk 1.50 lakh to Tk

The 'Sex Pheromone-based Management of BSFB,' a scheme under a DFID-(Department for International Development, UK aided project of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (Bari), is now at the final stage of field experiment. The Natural Resources Institute (NRI) of UK, Asian Vegetable Research and Development Centre (AVRDC) of Taiwan and crop science multinational company Syngenta are cooperting in the research, said Dr Syed Nurul Alam, principal investigator of the pheromone project.

Alam, also a senior scientific officer at Entomology Division of the Bari, said the pheromone technology promised to eliminate use of pesticides in brinial cultivation, saving about one third of the farmers' total expenditure.

Brinjal now tops all cereals and vegetables in terms of per unit pesticide use in Bangladesh.

Official statistics show pesticide use in Bangladesh dates back to 1956-57 when the quantity used stood at around 3,000 tonnes. Over the decades, it rose to 20,000 tonnes

Farmers apply only 0.2 litre pesticide per hectare in rice fields, 1.12 litres in vegetable (other than brinjal) fields but 1.41 litres in brinjal fields.

Alam said 98 percent brinjal growers apply toxic pesticides to save eggplant from the BSFB havoc and 60 percent of them apply that 141 times in a six-month season. This also causes strong headache, vomiting and physical weaknesses.

"Though farmers are always advised to stop applying pesticides in brinjal fields at least 7 to 15 days prior to harvesting, they do it even on the day of harvesting to save the vegetable from pest attacks. As a result, the residual effect of pesticides in brinjal ooses serious health hazards and a risk of losing export market too," said Alam.

Earlier, farmers had to spend Tk 56,354 a hectare on pesticides for cultivating brinjal in a season but now they will need only Tk 15,000 for pheromones.

Abdul Mannan, a farmer in Boilpur village in Jessore, told this correspondent on Monday, "Earlier 10 to 20 kilograms of brinjal per maund (37.5 kg) were damaged despite use of pesticides. On the advice of Bari scientists, 32 farmers in our area used pheromones, which

trap catches up to 20 male moths of BSFBanight. One Pheromone Lure attracts male shoot and fruit borers for two months. When the artificial pheromone secretion loses effectiveness, farmers are to replace it with a new one.

US hands over Saddam within two weeks

REUTERS, Dubai

Former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein will be given to the new Iragi government for trial within two weeks, Prime Minister Iyad Allawi says.

"Saddam and the others will be handed over to the Iraqis, to the government," he said in comments

to Arab satellite channel Al Jazeera yesterday. The trials would start "as soon as possible". "All the current detainees

without exception, will be handed over to the Iraqi authority. The handover will take place within the next two weeks," he said.

US troops captured Saddam in December near his home town of Tikrit and he has been in US hands ever since, held as a prisoner of war at an unknown location.

The United States has agreed to give him -- and other indicted officials in its custody -- to the Iraqis for trial once a sovereign government sets up a special tribunal capable of conducting a fair trial after June 30.

The tribunal plans to charge some of Saddam's associates by the end of this year, the top court administrator Salem Chalabi said last week.

It hopes former Saddam aides captured by U.S. occupation troops will testify against him during their prosecution, which could take many months.

Officials say the aides would be tried before Saddam appears in the dock in a Baghdad complex that once stored gifts for him.

The aides' trials could help the tribunal prove a chain of command linking Saddam to crimes against humanity.

The government has also turned down proposals from some quarters to send Bangladeshi nationals from Kuwait for temporary work in military camps in Iraq, sources said.

garment sector is booming there. Demand for Bangladeshi workers

in the sector is very high, the

DPRK envoy From page 12

state. He was taken straight to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and connected to life saving devices.

A ten-member medical board headed by Professor Mobin Khan, chief of the Hepatology Department of the university, was formed. Other members included Prof M A Taher, Prof Khurshid Alam, Prof Mahmud Hasan, Prof Sirajul Islam.

The medical board advised immediate stabilisation of his blood pressure, which sharply fell with functions of other vital organs

including his heart failing. He breathed his last at 12:40pm Ryol's body was handed over to

his family at 3:30pm. The body will be flown to North Korea soon.

The North Korean envoy took office in Bangladesh in January 2002. He left behind his wife Kim Gyong Sil and three daughters.

On hearing the death news, Health and Family Welfare Minister Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain rushed to the BSMMUH.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia expressed profound shock at his death and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

Muggers

FROM PAGE 1 'They were well aware of drawing

the money and appeared at the spot just in time," he said, hinting at the involvement of someone of the bank or the factory

The factory officials filed a case with Pallabi Police Station, but police failed to arrest any of the snatchers or recover the looted money till late in the evening.

While asked about law enforcers' role in preventing such incidents that are now commonplace at the Mirpur area, which houses many garment factories, the Pallabi police officer said, "We usually provide police protection in case of carrying money, but they did not contact us for protection, don't know why they carried such a big amount of money on their own.

He also termed the budget's target to generate nine lakh new employment in next year a very interesting one, and said, "We will be monitoring it to see whether it happens or not."

Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Fakhruddin Ahmed said, under the budget next year, there would not be any major problem in the macro-economy but there are some short- and long-term issues. We have to wait for addressing the long-term issues, he said.

Fakhruddin said the bank interest rate in Bangladesh is much higher compared to the neighbouring countries, adding the BB is trying to pursue the commercial banks to charge lower lending interest to facilitate industrial growth.

Dhaka blacklisted

FROM PAGE 1

foreign secretary are attending the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) of the Organisation of Islamic Conference in Istanbul.

Perennial US sanctions targets Cuba, Myanmar, North Korea and Sudan are the other countries to have been put on the list. However, the State Department removed from the list Nato allies Greece and Turkey and nine other countries.

The State Department in its report observed that Bangladesh is a country of origin and transit for women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation, involuntary domestic servitude, and debt bondage.

An estimated 10-20,000 women and girls are trafficked annually to India, Pakistan, Bahrain, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). A small number of women and girls are trafficked through Bangladesh from Burma to India.

Bangladeshi boys are also trafficked into the UAE and Qatar and forced to work as camel jockeys and beggars. Women and children from rural areas in Bangladesh are trafficked to urban centers for commercial sexual exploitation and domestic work.

The Bangladesh government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimi-

of private investment in the gross domestic product (GDP) has not been growing due to lack of infrastructure. For instance, he said, "The existing power system in the country is not suitable for running high-tech industries".

He demanded setting up of more specialised economic zones furnished with all utility services including gas-based electricity generating facilities for attracting foreign and local investment.

Asian Development Bank Resident Representative Toru Shibuichi said the approval process of foreign aided projects in Bangladesh is very slow. He urged the government to use foreign aid efficiently and smoothly and underscored the need for simplification of project approval process.

nation of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so.

Overall, the government's antitrafficking efforts stagnated although there was progress in the area of building public awareness and prevention. Public corruption is rampant, although the government did pass legislation in February 2004 to create an Anti-Corruption Commission to investigate and prosecute cases of all

Police officials are known to facilitate trafficking of women and children, though none has ever been charged or arrested. Bangladesh should take greater steps to address government corruption and prosecute officials who are involved in trafficking.

The Bangladeshi government works in close cooperation with the various NGOs fighting trafficking. Although the government faces significant resource constraints, it receives considerable international assistance, some of which could be used to attack corruption in the police and judiciary, and some of which is already being used to provide social services for trafficking victims.

The government has failed to make a priority of protecting trafficking victims or prosecuting their exploiters.

damaged the microbus. They again chased Mahi B Chowdhury and forced him to run for shelter in the police headquarters. The policemen closed the headquarters gate after he entered there. Later, Abdul Mannan also went to the Police Headquarters.

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar,

Director General of the SSF

Brigadier General Sayed Fatemy

Ahmed Roomy also addressed the

function, attended by the mem-bers of the SSF and their spouses.

Attacks on Bikalpa

The dispersed BDB workers, how-

ever, soon assembled again on the road near the Railway Colony after

the attackers had gone away.

Shortly afterwards, Mahi B

activists from the scene in a

As they were shifting the women

Chowdhury joined them.

From page 12

After the second attack additional police force reached the spot and ordered the attackers to leave the place and at one stage picked up three--Noor Mohammad Moazzem and Bellal--from there.

As normalcy returned, Abdul Mannan and Mahi reorganised the procession and marched towards Bangabazar where they held a wayside rally.

While addressing the rally Abdul Mannan protested the attack on his procession and said none would ever be able to make him deviate from fighting for the people's cause.

The rally was also addressed by

Raul dilemma

FROM PAGE 12

named Europe's player of the year, an honour eventually awarded to Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved.

The damage may also have been done in Real's disappointing domestic season in which Raul scored just 11 goals in the league as the expensively assembled galacticos' failed to win a single trophy.

Saez stressed before the Euro 2004 kickoff that Raul "must be our and said he had not leader" changed his mind after the Russia

"Perhaps I am a little stubborn but that's the way I'll be until the day I die," said the coach.

Raul insists he is prepared to drop out of the first eleven providing it helps his teammates, who are seeking to lay to rest Spain's puzzling lack of honours in international tournaments; their last trophy was the 1964 European title.

"I have no problem with being on the substitutes' bench," Raul said

When he last faced calls for his axeing, he responded in the best possible way - by scoring both goals in the 2-1 victory against Ukraine which proved crucial in securing Spain's place in the finals in Portugal

It seems almost certain he will be on the pitch against Greece to attempt to provide a similar response.

It was the second attack on the Basra terminal - one of the few operational outlets - in just over a month.

Dumont's reported stay in Japan although it has been tacitly It is estimated that repairs to the pipeline will take 10 days and cost \$60m a day unless deliveries are resumed. acknowledged in comments by politicians including Prime

Oil output has plunged from more than 1.6 million barrels a day to less than half a million.

In the last attack saboteurs hit the same pipeline, cutting Basra exports to around one million barrels per day for almost two weeks.

The al-Basra terminal, together with the smaller Khor al-Amaya terminal, in southern Iraq jointly export 1.6 million barrels daily. firmed that 30 people held from Rajakhali were under their custody. But Bakolia police station could not be contacted despite

According to Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, pipeline sabo-tage has cost the country more than \$200m in lost revenues over the past seven months.

Allawi recently blamed foreign militants opposed to the survival of Iraq for the attacks.

local 'miscreants'. Iraqi oil production in May stood at 2.1 million barrels a day, accord-ing to the International Energy He further claimed that no payment of any worker of his factory was pending.

Identify real source

FROM PAGE 1

Agency.

On the grave situation in Palestine where Palestinians are subject to indiscriminate killing, the foreign minister said: "Real peace in the Middle East can only begin with the end of crimes against the Palestinians and with the establishment of an independent state of Palestine having Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

He called for urgent action to salvage the key elements of the Road Map' and renewed efforts by the OIC to bring the peace process back to track.

Calling the situation in Iraq as challenging, he said the United Nations (UN) Security Council resolution adopted on June 8 is a step in the right direction.

The foreign minister said: "We hope this will lead to the restoration of effective sovereignty of Iraq and that the UN should play a leading role in establishing political institutions and facilitating reconstruction in Iraq.'

OIC should play its role in support of the Iraqi people, he added.

In his speech, Khan touched on the issues of Cyprus, Sudan, Somalia, Guinea-Bissau and Moro National Liberation Front in Philippines.

He said the OIC should make

There are widespread allegations of police inaction in checking abductions or rescuing the victims even after filing of cases with them.

The outlaws claimed responsi-

Abductions for ransom have

eated panic among people in

bility for killing at least 15 of the

game.

types of corruption.

Mahi B Chowdhury.