FBI finds link between 9/11, **Madrid bombs**

REUTERS, Madrid

The FBI has established the clearest link yet between the March 11 Madrid train bombings and the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, a Spanish newspaper reported Sunday.

The FBI has told Spanish investigators that one of three men believed to have planned the Sept. 11 attacks from Spain in the summer of 2001 also gave the order to carry out the Madrid blasts, the newspa-

The train bombings killed 191 people and wounded 1,900 three days before a general election. In videotapes, the bombers claimed the attacks in the name of al Qaeda in Europe and said they were in Iraq and Afghanistan.

cluded that the Sept. 11 attacks were partially planned in Spain in July

Hijacker Mohammed Atta, and met two men.

One was Ramzi bin al-Shaibah. who is being held by U.S. authorities, while the other was unidenti-

ABC said investigators now believe that third man was the one who in December 2003 activated the Qaeda cell that carried out the March 11 attacks, which Spaniards

ABC said investigators had narrowed his identity down to three candidates and believed he was a lieutenant of Mustafa Setmarian, increasingly considered to have been a leader of the Madrid train bombers and who may have held a leadership role for al Qaeda in

Setmarian, aged 45 and of Syrian origin, was already wanted as part of a separate investigation into Islamic militant activity in Spain and is the subject of a Spanish wanted notice issued through Interpol.

The State Department said on Nov. 18 it was offering a \$5 million reward for information leading to the capture of Setmarian, also December 2.

known as Mustafa Setmariam Nasar or Abu Musab al-Suri. It described him as an al Oaeda member and former trainer at "terrorist camps"

Some 30 people are in custody or under court supervision for the train bombings for which one minor has so far been convicted. Seven prime suspects are dead and two or three other suspected collaborators

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in Afghanistan.

He said, according to newspaper reports quoting the judicial commission chief, his report blamed a country and a party for the grenade attack but did not mention any names. So, for the same of transparency, these reports should be placed in parliament for review and discus-

But, rejecting all the demands, Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar said, "As the judicial commission has already investigated the matter, I am not inclined to constitute a parliamentary committee. And forming an parliamentary committee is not an

On AL's demand for discussing the probe reports in the House,

minutes after the Maghrib break.

On a separate point of order yesterday, AL lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta accused the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) of discriminating against opposition lawmakers in allocation of relief materials.

Showing a distribution list of Sharees by the PMO dated October 18, Suranjit said, as per the list, the sharees were allocated to 221 lawmakers of the ruling coalition but none of the 77 opposition lawmakers received any of the relief materi-

The Jatiya Sangsad session resumed yesterday after a long Eid vacation and will continue till

Govt asked to reply

force contradictory to the constitu-

amending the Armed Forces Battalion Ordinance, which has been operational since July 12 last year.

Under the amended ordinance, Rab were given two responsibilities -to gather all crime and crime-related information from the state intelligence agencies and conduct inquiries

The writ petition was filed in the wake of criticism against the Rab activities. Different human-rights groups have accused the force of

50 hurt

FROM PAGE 1 Hospital with severe injuries and the rest released after first aid. The

The students boycotted their classes. At a press conference in the afternoon they announced a protest programme against what they said was attack by transport workers and owners. The programme includes a strike today, a protest procession tomorrow and a human chain on Wednesday.

They also gave a 72-hour ultimatum to arrest the attackers and threatened to go on indefinite strike if their demands including upgrading the college to a public university remain unmet.

On the other side, the transport workers, too, issued a 72-hour ultimatum demanding punishment of the attackers and compensations for the damages to their vehicles.

Police and Rab contingents were deployed in the area and other points of the city to thwart any further untoward incident.

Analogous

should not be drawn against them

Judge Faizee had been withsharp criticism of his appointment in August last. trafficking.

CU committee

Committee member and head of Computer Science Dr Md Nurul Mostafa told The Daily Star that the university authorities are yet to issue the relevant papers to the commit-

Sircar said the matter has been discussed but the main opposition members missed it. "There can not be a fresh discussion on the issue,"

The Speaker's rejection prompted the AL lawmakers to stay out of House business for about five

the formation of the crime-busting

The government formed Rab by government to disband the 'killing

into any crime on government orders. bestowed by the government. Rab is

violating its own laws." "Under the ordinance, Rab is to violating the constitution and laws to

injured transport men were treated at different hospitals and clinics in

legally-bound duties.

Akter Bulbul, representing the state, refuted the allegations. He said the law relating to the formation of the force has been passed in parliament and the force has been formed in line with the

Machine-readable passports soon

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar yesterday said the government was going to introduce machine-readable passports (MRP) to help checkillegal immigration.

cials to resist illegal immigration" at Rajarbagh Police auditorium, he urged the members of the law enforcing agencies to strengthen awareness activities against human

He said the government has taken effective measures to tackle illegal immigration and human

ciated globally. Australian High Commissioner Loren Berker, Inspector General of Police Shahudul Haque and Special Branch IGP Abdul Kaiyum also addressed the workshop.

Female ward

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Kamran, however, denied the allegation of discrimination and said the matter was a result of misunder-

Talking to the BBC Bangla Service last night, Kamran said he was trying to run the SCC in line with the government notification which ensures exercising equal rights by both the

sexes.
"If there is any misunderstanding among male and female representatives then it should be solved through discussions," he said.

Meanwhile, female ward commissioners are planning movements including hartal to realise their demands if they don't get any positive response from the mayor by

Cancel order

with local political leaders had started recruiting the employees in exchange for bribes.

However, the government is yet to take a decision regarding the recruitment of another 35,000 employees under different ministries. In many ministries, the government also suspended recruitment amid allegations of irregularities and corruption.

Sources said the government has withdrawn the cancellation order not only for the political pressure but it also feared legal battle since the order sparked resentment among those who got the jobs. The aggrieved employees appointed by the district administration threatened to sue the government against the cancellation order.

Rab members

FROM PAGE 1 were beating up the driver and conductor of the bus following a ticket dispute. As the Rab tried to calm down the situation by giving their identities, the youths turned their anger on them.

They swooped on the members of Rab-3, beat them up all, took the cellphone from Rab Sergeant Altaf Hossain and fled the spot. Sergeant Altaf filed a GD with

Siddhirganj Police Station Saturday after the seven -- Muslim, Pavel, Sharif, Liton, Arif, Kamal and Tariq -- were nabbed. They were sent to a magistrate's court

RU JCD unit

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separate processions at 11:30am. They pelted bricks at each other and fought with sticks. Later, Aslam's followers captured the organisation's hangout and drove Moti and his men from the campus after the RU proctor and students' advisor rushed to the scene with police.

At 1:30pm, Rafiqul Islam, a Moti supporter led a group of processionists who paraded down the campus brandishing firearms and tried to recapture the hangout. They however left the campus seeing police.

Motiar later told reporters that h

did not know of the armed procession and blamed 'some identified outsiders and non-students' for the violence.

Aslam held Moti responsible for the clash and alleged that Moti was trying to rehabilitate some expelled JCD cadres on the campus.

RU authorities called in an additional number of policemen on the campus to avert further clashes.

Rights activists

Speaking at the first session of the conference, Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain-O-Salish Kendra (ASK), said "We are not against the formation of Rab but we are against any sort of extra-judicial killings."

"Law enforcing agencies should be equipped with modern facilities and they must be free from all sorts of political interference," she said.

Ayesha Khanom, general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said, "Rab is not the long-term solution to improve the country's lawand order situation."

"Every citizen should have the right of access to justice but many people in Bangladesh are denied justice because of the judicial process," she observed.

She also said the constitution has to be followed while forming the Human Rights Commission (HRC).

Speaking at the inaugural session of the conference, Jorgen Lissner, resident representative of UNDP said formation of an independent HRC and ensuring the independence of judiciary could best address the problem of human rights.

Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Lorraine Barker urged the government to take effective steps for protection of religious minorities' rights.

Speaking at the inaugural session as chief guest, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed said the revised draft for formation of an HRC has been finalised and it will be placed before the cabinet very soon.

He also said the government is making changes in the country's judicial process so that people can have easy access to justice.

State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Barrister Muhammad Shahjahan Omar termed the Rab action against criminals'a need of time'. He also said human rights is a

multi-dimensional issue which varies from country to country.

Taj Mahal unveiled Iran apparently by full moon

Tourists thronged to the Taj Mahal as India unveiled the 17th century monument to love under a full moon for the first time in 20 years after a ban on night viewing was

Armed guards threw open the stately gates of the Taj Saturday night in this northern Indian town as visitors flocked to gaze at the architectural wonder which appeared to float in the moonlight.

This is the ultimate Valentine's Day rendezvous," said Pooja Kumar, who was here to celebrate her first wedding anniversary with her husband, Manish, a New Delhi-based physician.

'It's the most beautiful ode to love," she said as she gazed at the onion-domed, white-marbel mau-The Taj Mahal was built in the

17th century by the heartbroken Mughul emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his second wife Mumtaz Savitri Golcha, a poet who was visiting Agra in memory of her late

husband, paid tribute to the monu-"In this light mist, it's singing a soulful dirge," said Golcha, one of the 48 visitors who were allowed to join the first batch to enter the com-

plex. "It also sings songs of

unbounded joy," she said. The ban on night viewing was imposed immediately after the Indian army attacked in June 1984 the Golden Temple, Sikhdom's holiest shrine, in northern India to flush out heavily-armed separatist guerrillas from the complex.

New Delhi feared the attack could trigger a retaliatory strike on the Taj by Sikh militants.

India's Supreme Court gave permission earlier this month to allow tourists to view the Taj on full moon nights and on two evenings before and afterward from 8:30 pm to half-past midnight.

The court said night viewing would be allowed for three months to ensure proper security was in place. It said only 400 tourists would be allowed on a given night with entry allowed in batches of 50 people for security reasons.

Police stepped up security for the moonlight opening of the Taj.

"Over 200 hundred policemen have been deployed in and around the Taj and commandos will guard key access points," local police chief Alok Prasad told AFP.

Tourists will only be allowed to view the Taj Mahal from a red sandstone platform about 350 yards (318 metres) from the monument.

"This is a precaution... we do not want people to get too close to the monument at night," Prasad said. "Tourists will also be banned from carrying video cameras and electronic gadgets like mobile phones into the Taj complex.

Agra's tourism industry was upbeat about the prospect of more visitors flocking to the famed monument, which celebrated its 350th anniversary in September, after the Supreme Court decision.

This is certainly a welcome step and will help to boost tourism to this city," said Rakesh Chauhan, president of Hotel and Restaurant Association of Agra.

"If night viewing of Taj is made

Israel wants to change Arafat death certificate

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israel has asked French authorities to change Yasser Arafat's listed place of birth on his death certificate to Cairo

'We expect the truth to be revealed, especially in light of the fact that the formal document was published by a Western country," the official, based in Paris, told Reuters by telephone on Sunday.

Arafat's birthplace on the death document to Cairo, said the official who Arafat, who died at the age of 75 of

an undisclosed illness in a French military hospital on November 11, always maintained he was born in

hewasbornin Cairo. "History should not be altered. The significance (of the birthplace) is symbolic," the official said. The future of Jerusalem is one of

the most sensitive issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Israel considers all of the holy city its capital. The Palestinians want East

Jerusalem, captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war and later annexed in a move not recognised internationally, as capital of the state they aspire to create in the West Bank and Gaza. The official said that after the

Palestinian president's death, his wife Suhagave the French Foreign Ministry their nine-year-old daughter's birth place as Jerusalem. The French authorities are using

(that) ... as proof that Arafat was born in Jerusalem," the official said. "The French authorities didn't ask for proof of authenticity of (what was listed on the daughter's) birth certif-

Govt interference led

at Segunbagicha asked the staff to

cal parties are interwoven with corruption," said DG Matin, who joined Bac on March 6, 2002. "Neutrality of the commission will depend on its steps against the government high-ups involved in corruption."

Stating that the Bac had been able to punish influential people in the government in a very few cases, he said: "We faced various obstacles, dilly-dallies and problems with monetary allocation whenever we moved to bring them to book."

"If we had advanced with probe against the high-ups, fresh and eyewash investigations were made by a secretary in many cases," he said giving an example of interfer-

Stay orders from court also blocked their way of investigation, he said citing example of some 800 cases handled by the Bac investiga-

office and the intelligence agencies. The special divisional judges, too, did not help us," Matin alleged. "The prime minister called me often and assured me of help. But Bac failed to play the expected role for procedural complexities, legal

The ACC official said a small portion of the population is involved in corruption, putting the figure at no more than 15 to 20 lakh.

"We'll have to see whether the people who use luxury cars worth Tk 1.5 crore pay their taxes properly and the businessmen who are making millions in a few years are doing so through legal way," suggested Matin, also a former DG of DGFI (Directorate Gene al of Forces

He said the government formed the Commission as the last resort to fight corruption. "We'll have to face the challenge in a jihadi spirit and establish a corruption-free society," he said, adding that failure of the Commission would bring disaster

The Commission chairman mentioned the increase in population is no excuse for corresponding rise in corruption in all spheres of society. "We all feel and know the reason for the all-pervading corruption," he said without detailing further.

Justice Sultan said there are moves to humiliate the nation by identifying Bangladesh as the most corrupt country by international organisations.

Forget what you've done in the past and start anew with honesty, sincerity and neutrality," he said urging his staff to remain beyond all sorts of corruption and allegations. "We will not dump ethics or work under political or any other influence.

The ACC chairman asked the officials to beware of financial baits.

Talking on the over 2,000 pending cases, he said: "Lack of coordination is the reason of the large number of cases awaiting disposal. We'll try to dispose of them fast in 18 special courts."

blame for the reduction in the wild November 24 directive to its staff to submit wealth statements, Justice Sultan said the provision was there for a long time but it was not followed properly. The Commission will set up a media cell soon, said the chairman. Duc Phat.

With the formation of the antigraft watchdog on November 21, the government also dissolved the Bac under the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004. On November 22, the ACC absorbed all the Bac officials and staff into the

permanent than the impact will be even greater," said Sunil Gupta, president of the local chapter for the Indian Association of Tour

gested roads and ramshackle architecture if night viewing becomes a regular feature. "People expect for very romantic reasons and what they find in the city is not romantic," he said. "Tourists want to cuddle up here after

such a touching moment and we

should be there to give them the comfort," he added. A perennial image in tourist guides to India, the Taj Mahal last year drew 800,000 foreign and 2.2 million domestic tourists. It was given a facelift two years ago to remove decades of grime and pollutionstains.

However, tourists often chafe at the daytime entrance fee for the Taj Mahal. Foreigners pay 750 rupees (16.40 dollars) each while Indians pay just 20 rupees.

Graft case

FROM PAGE 1

case, she said. They also threatened to take her in their custody and implicate her in a dozen of cases if she did not pay them Tk 2 lakh for recovering the car, she alleged.

The plaintiff said fearing police harassment she paid the sum on Meantime, the court ordered the

OC to submit a report regarding return of the car to its real owner. As Shirin went to the cops, they again demanded Tk 20,000 for submission of the report, she said, adding, she paid the amount on July 30. She went to the police station on September 2 when the accused

demanded Tk 1.50 lakh for submis-

sion of the report. As they again threatened her, she paid the sum,

Kin, associate

Shirin alleged.

FROM PAGE 12 joint team of CID and police raided several hideouts of Medbul-at Kashempur, Kuch Pukur and Debnagar villages at dead of the night. It was then they arrested Mizan. Locals said Mokbul's mother is

Turi Begum of Kashempur and father is her former husband Islam Ali of Nalkura village. Turi is the leader of a gang of shoplifters known as 'Tana Party'. Members of Tana Party posing as buyers steal gar-ments and clothes from shops in the capital and sell their booties to the locals in Satkhira.

So, they said Mokbul inho criminal psyche from Turi and when he grew up formed a criminal gang of his own in the capital. According to locals, Mokbul, who

had for long been residing in Dhaka,

returned to his village home soon

after the grenade attacks, and some time later he and his brother Haroon with their family members went on hiding to avoid arrest. Satkhira SP Abdur Rahim said early yesterday police are still interrogating the arrestees to extract more information about Mokbul and his

grenade attack are expected to come But, later in the day, police placed the arrestees in custody of two local

whereabouts, adding once Mokbul is

arrested important clues to the

union parishad chairmen.

Skin thin FROM PAGE 12

aphrodisiac, can fetch as much as "It is believed that about 100 years back, the global population of wild tigers was about 100,000," Dey said. "However, the population dwindled to 8,000 by 1960. Today it

stands at around 5,000 to 7,000." The forum is an intergovernmental body set up to save the surviving tigers in the wild in 14 countries including Bangladesh, Vietnam, Myanmar, India, Russia, Nepal, China and North Korea. Dey said three out of the eight

sub-species of tigers were already

extinct -- the Bali tiger in 1940, the

Caspian tiger in the 1970s and Javan tiger in the 1980s. Another sub-species, the South China tiger, could also soon disap-

North Korea is doubtful and debatable," he said, noting that statistics were not available. Officials said illegal poaching of wildlife, especially in large parts of south and southeast Asia, is to

"Whether tigers still exist in

tiger population. "Illegal hunting of wildlife has not been strictly controlled resulting in the severely decreased population of tigers in Vietnam," said Vietnam Agriculture Minister Cao

The number of wild tigers in Vietnam does not exceed 150, he Vietnam had clinched several

agreements with neighboring countries, including China, Laos and Cambodia, to halt trans-border tiger poaching, he said.

agrees to stop enrichment

The Europeans say the deal com-mitted Iran to full suspension of

enrichment and all related activities

at least while the two sides discuss a

pact meant to provide Iran with EU

technical and economic aid and other

EU delegates to the Vienna meet-

ing said British Foreign Secretary Jack

Straw spoke this weekend with

Hassan Rowhani, secretary of Iran's

Supreme National Security Council

and his country's point man on

nuclear matters, in an effort to resolve

Monday, EU officials and delegates

spoke of the growing likelihood of

tough action at the board meeting if

Iran remained defiant including the

start of work on a harsh resolution that

Hinting at the possibility of such a

could include the threat of U.N.

draft, one of the EU delegates said Iran

was "fully aware" of the consequences

That would mean withdrawing a draft resolution written last week by

Britain, France and Germany contain-

ing intentionally weak language on

how any freeze would be monitored

by the agency in an attempt to entice

Tehrantosignontototalsuspension. That confidential draft, made

available to the AP, authorized IAEA

chief Mohamed ElBaradei to "pursue

his investigations" into remaining

suspicious aspects of Iran's nuclear

activities over the past two decades.

RU law exams

chancellor (VC) and raise their

AFM Mohin said, "If RU authorities

ensure security, then we will hold

examinations any time."

suspected

latest suicide pact.

Another mass

suicide in Japan

AP, Tokyo Hamov III (1

Four men were found dead yester-

day in a sealed Tokyo apartment

littered with charcoal stoves, a scene

police said appeared to be Japan's

carbon monoxide poisoning, police

high last year, exceeding 32,000.

lead in deserted cars

ever mass suicide.

It appeared the four died of

Suicides in Japan hit a record

Last week in two separate inci-

dents, six people were discovered

with charcoal stoves. In October,

seven people killed themselves in

what police said was Japan's largest-

of suicides pacts, with many involv-

ing people who met over the

Internet. According to the National

Police Agency, 45 people committed

suicide in groups after meeting

Japan has recently suffered a rash

Meanwhile, law faculty dean Prof

FROM PAGE 12

Security Council action.

of not accepting a full freeze.

As the clock ticked down to

concessions.

Backing down before a Monday deadline, Iran apparently has given up its demand to exempt some equipment from a deal freezing uranium enrichment programs that can make nuclear weapons, diplomats said

Diplomats from the European Union and elsewhere said on condition of anonymity that the International Atomic Energy Agency received a letter from Iran containing a pledge not to test some centrifuges during the freeze it agreed to November 7 during negotiations with Britain, France and Germany on behalf of the European Union.

The pledge appeared to resolve a dispute that threatened to escalate into possible referral of Iran to the UN Security Council for defying the IAEA board. The Security Council could

Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said Tehran was maintaining a demand made Thursday at the start of fuges. The centrifuges spin gas into enriched uranium.

The diplomats told The Associated Press on Sunday that the letter still needed close examination to deter-

agreed to. Earlier Asefi had said Iran was not worried about being referred to the Security Council.

mine what exactly the Iranians had

mate right of our country, and we won't give (that) up," he said. Only if the Iranians agreed to totally suspend enrichment including all use of the centrifuges would the

watchdog agency was scheduled to reconvene in Vienna amid a building crisis on the issue of enrichment suspension. Iran's program can produce both low-grade nuclear fuel and weapons-grade material for the core of nuclear warheads. Iran says its program is for generating electricity, but the United States

The IAEA meeting adjourned total freeze of its enrichment program. Delegates also were to decide on

France, Britain and Germany say a November 7 deal they worked out with he freeze but Tehran had insisted it had a right to run some centrifuges for research and development purposes.

further steps in policing Tehran's

nuclear activities.

hours before the revelations that they had apparently dropped their "Referral to the U.N. Security

online between January 2003 and Tk 3,000cr umbrella Trash books

and that it may be revised upwards FROM PAGE 12 through inclusion of additional

cause delay.

academic buildings across the The committee expressed its reservations about the provision for appointing teachers as project directors to supervise projects at schools and colleges. It noted that teachers do not have the experience about the projects or the tender process and the provision will only

explosion, rescuers were struggling

to make progress, local officials said. "The rescuers can't go any further because the gas density is too high," an official surnamed Wang from the Tongchuan city mining bureau told AFP.

miners working near the entrance, although some of them were reportedly poisoned by carbon monoxide.

mining bureau refused to speculate on the miners' chances of survival. "We cannot say yet. We cannot give up," said Duan.

The official from the Shaanxi

owned and produced 1.6 million tons of coal last year. "It's one of the large mines in China," he said. Officials at the site refused to

Shaanxi's communist party secretary Li Jianguo and acting governor Chen Deming had rushed to the site to oversee rescue work, Xinhua said.

This year's deadliest mining

gas exploded at the Daping mine in Henan province.

dents in recent years happened in September 2000 in southern Guizhou province, where a gas blast killed 162 people. China's mines are the world's

most dangerous, with more than

7,000 workers killed each year in

coal mines alone, according to official figures. Hong Kong-based human rights group China Labor Bulletin puts the

mine accidents in China, according to official figures, with at least 200 killed in the past month alone. Most accidents occur in small

eye to lax safety procedures. However, even state-run mines suffer from poor safety and old equipment.

Coal is in high demand with China's economy growing at break-

and for more than 70 percent of its

FROM PAGE 12

FROM PAGE 12

remain at large. AL walks out per ABC reported.

revenge for Spain sending troops to Investigators have long con-

believed to have piloted one of the airliners that crashed into New York's World Trade Center, visited Spain two months before the attacks

call "our Sept. 11."

deal with crimes and human rights through extra-judicial killings in custody and so-called crossfire. The main opposition Awami League has also demanded of the

Over 50 people have so far been killed in Rab custody and 'crossfire'. During hearing of the writ petition yesterday, Advocate Raziur Rahman Chowdhury said, "Rab is not operating in line with the responsibilities

run investigations on government orders, but it is apparent that Rab is running investigations without government orders," Chowdhury added. According to the Criminal Procedure Code, Rab is to inquire about an incident of crime in order to file FIR (first information report) before it can launch a probe. But Rab is

taking action on the basis of its own

investigations and then filing FIR, he

Chowdhury presented numerous press reports to corroborate his allegations and said, "I am not going into the question if Rab is good or bad, but these newspaper reports are proofs that Rab is not acting according to its Assistant Attorney General Zaman

Addressing a workshop on "Raising skill of immigration offi-

trafficking, which have been appre-

from Jerusalem, an Israeli official says.

Israel's ambassador to France, Nissim Zvili, made a formal request to the French Foreign Ministry to change

Israel and leading biographers say

work with honesty and sincerity overcoming all the shortcomings and free of interference. "Politics and influence by politi-

"We did not get necessary assistance from the attorney general's

shortcomings and some other reasons," he added.

for the country.

About the Commission's

AP, Vienna, Austria But Arun Dang, president of Agra Tourism Guild called for a facelift for Agra, known for its potholed con-

then impose sanctions against Iran. On Sunday, Iranian Foreign the IAEA meeting to use the 20 centri-

Tehran had insisted the November 7 deal allowed it to use those centrifuges purely for research, but the EU

"What is important is the legiti-

dispute be resolved, they said. The Iranian promise came a day before the IAEA the U.N. nuclear

insists Iran is trying to make nuclear weapons. President Bush (news - web sites) called Iran part of an "axis of evil" with North Korea and prewar Iraq. Friday with the intention of giving Tehran until Monday to approve a

Iranian officials had suggested the issue of using 20 centrifuges for research was not up for debate only

Council would not be the end of the world." Asefi said in Tehran earlier

FROM PAGE 1

The Daily Star. Donors other than the WB and ADB have also promised additional funds for the post-flood rehabilitation. Once the project is finalised, the Planning Commission and the Economic Relations Division will

meet donors about funding and the

components, meeting sources told

166 feared dead

project components.

The gas explosion happened in a pit some eight km from the entrance to the shaft, Xinhua said. Those who escaped were mainly

He said the mine was state-

comment and the exact cause of the accident was under investigation.

accident occurred on October 20 when 148 workers were killed after

One of the worst known acci-

annual number of deaths in the industryataround 20,000. In the first nine months of this year alone, 4,153 people died in

official control, with locals sometimes being bribed to turn a blind

and private mines operating outside

neck pace, relying on the "black gold" for its industrialization drive

and why they should not be punished for maligning the judiciary. drawn from the bench following