MUMBAI BUS BLAST

Indian court acquits eight

A court in India acquitted eight people vesterday who were blamed for planting a bomb in a bus in the western commercial centre of Mumbai, formerly known as Bombay, in 2002 that killed two and injured 50

The accused, all Muslims, were acquitted by judge A.P. Bhangale who said the prosecution had failed to prove the charges.

Police had sought to build a case that the accused planned the December 2002 bus blast to avenge the deaths of hundreds of Muslims who died in Hindu-Muslim riots in February 2002 in neighbouring Guiarat state.

The prosecution's case suffered a setback in March when key witnesses failed to identify the

centre of Mumbai, which is also famous for its shadowy underworld, has seen several bombings in the past and was rocked in 1993 by a series of blasts which killed some 250 people and injured over 1,000.

The 1993 blasts were termed an act of revenge by Muslim mafia for the demolition of an ancient mosque by Hindu fanatics a few month

Several top underworld bosses, who fled the country after the attacks, face charges over the

In August 2003, two huge car bombs -- one of them outside the city's famous Gateway of India monument -- killed 52 people and injured 150

Police have blamed Muslim underground figures and Kashmiri militants for most of the blasts.

"It is Japan's wish that in coopera-

Ichiro Aisawa's visit is the second

Describing his visit and meetings

tion and coordination with China also.

we work together as representatives

by a Japanese senior vice minister

after Shuzen Tanigawa's visit last

with the Bangladesh PM and foreign

minister as fruitful and successful

Aisawa said both Japan and

Bangladesh will continue to cooperate

each other for the causes of global

peace, progress and development.

Bangladesh is a responsible actor in

the international society and an impor-

assistance to the developing coun-

tries through its Official Development

Assistance (ODA) for achieving

socioeconomic development of the

Turning to Bangladesh, he said

Japan and Bangladesh have excel-

lent bilateral relations and truly want

Japanese people and investors in

Bangladesh are working hard for the

economic development of

Bangladesh, he said, adding, "Ban-

gladesh is one of the most top priority

tance. Ichiro Aisawa said Japan

thinks Bangladesh still needs help in

construction of major bridges, and

gave assurance to extend all-out

assistance for Bangladesh's human

resources, infrastructure and eco-

Khaleda Zia's visit to Tokyo next

month, he said a massive prepara-

tion is going on there to greet the

Bangladesh PM, and hoped that it

would be a very significant and

Bangladesh Matsushiro Horiguchi

was present at the press confer-

priority sectors of German

Bangladesh development coopera-

policy dialogue were the reform policy of the Bangladesh govern-

ment and questions of governance,

the ongoing endeavours of the

Bangladesh government to finalise

the comprehensive Poverty

Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)

Bangladesh is a priority partner

With 36.6 million euro, the larg-

est part was allocated to

Bangladesh's Health, Nutrition and

Population Sector Programme

mented together with other donors

in a jointly financed sector wide

will be spent for private sector

development. This includes 2 mil-

lion euro for technical cooperation. It

is intended to support a programme

to improve rural infrastructure in the

Dhaka, Rajshahi and Chittagong

divisions in close cooperation with

the ADB and other bilateral donors.

trade related technical advice to

strengthen the capacity of the Bangladesh government to negoti-

ate with international and regional

25,3 million, out of which 2 million is

for technical cooperation. These

funds will be mainly used to

increase energy efficiency in trans-

mission lines and to build up solar

home systems which will give

households, schools and health

stations in remote areas access to

Germany is one of the longest

standing supporters of the power

sector in Bangladesh. Previously

funds were mostly allocated to power generation including the

rehabilitation of old power plants

transmission lines and renewable

Among development partners

clean energy for the first time.

The power sector receives euro

Some funds are earmarked for

An amount of 25.4 million euro

approach.

(HNPSP), which will be imple-

The German side appreciated

Other important topics of the

Japanese Ambassador ir

Elaborating Japanese assis-

infrastructure development like

Referring to Prime Minister

further deepen the ties. The

poor nations.

countries to Japan.'

nomic development.

He said Japan is now focusing on

tant country in Asia. "Aisawa added.

of Asia." he added.

Japanese minister

Japanese Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Ichiro Aisawa said at a press conference yesterday evening at Sonargaon Hotel

"I have expressed Japan's gratitude to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as she reiterated Bandladesh's support to Japan for our permanent membership in the UNSC," he said lauding Bangladesh's role and contribution in the UN, especially in its peacekeep-

He said he requested both the Bangladesh prime minister (PM) and the foreign minister that Bangladesh play the role of a co-sponsor of Japan n the draft resolution for the UN reforms to increase the UNSC membership from 15 to 25. Japan along with India, Germany

and Brazil will soon submit the draft resolution seeking increase of the current five-member UNSC structure of the permanent membership to 11 by inclusion of six more countries including Japan, India and four other countries.

According to the draft, the new permanent members will not exercise veto powers until the next UN reforms in 2020. It will need the support of more than two-thirds UN members to adopt the amended

Asked whether Bangladesh has given any assurance in this regard, he said. "The Bangladesh side said that this matter is to be solely considered and examined in the government," he added.

The Japanese minister said, "We have to bring the reform to the UN to make it more meaningful for the future world," as the world has much changed since the inception of the

Replying to a question about China's position on the UNSC reforms. Aisawa said China belongs to the consensus group and is actively working in the UN. "We like to work together with all countries which share same 'will', including Bangladesh, and make strong diplomatic efforts to get the draft resolution passed by more than 128 out of the

Germany Shibir cadre FROM PAGE 16

FROM PAGE 16 after the Juma prayers that day

After recovering one AK47 rifle, one DBBL gun, and 122 bullets of AK47 from Munna's village at Mondakini, police set out with Munna for another search to recover illegal firearms at Pynedong under neighbouring Fatikchhari upazila. Munna received bullets in the right

leg when police opened fire as the criminal tried to flee, police said.

He is undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College and Hospital under police custody Munna, accused in eight criminal

country for German development cases including two for murders, took cooperation. the leadership of Islami Chhatra The release said the negotia-Shibir's criminal group Nasir Bahini tions which also covered the year after Yakub and Hamid were killed in 2004 decided on an overall allocashootout with police last year. tion of 87.3 million euro (Tk 663 crore) including reallocated funds.

Wealth, lifestyle

has proposed a new law that unconditionally allows professionals including doctors, engineers, and lawyers, who have got undisclosed income, the scope for whitening black money provided they pay in taxes 7.5 percent of the sum to be whitened.

Earlier, one was allowed to whiten black money without their having to pay taxes and disclose the source of ncome on condition that they would invest the money in the industries or capital market

tunity, as they do not want to expose themselves for obvious reason. They would rather choose the safer route of smuggling their money out to over-

One conservative estimate puts the amount of black money in the country at about Tk 50,000 crore. But over the last three years a paltry Tk 1,800 crore in black money was

whitened, the NBR official revealed. "For this reason, we are targeting those professionals who have got undisclosed income but tend to dodge tax or avoid payment altogether due to

Bidisha

On hearing both the sides, Metropolitan Magistrate Mir Ali fixed June 16 as the next date for hearing on the issue, subject to receipt of the

accusing Bidisha of theft, rampage. and making threats against him. Gulshan police arrested her the same day. But later she was shown arrested in a passport forgery case.

Jatiya Party (JP), is now abroad and will return shortly

rejected the bail petition of Jasmin alias Sangma, domestic help of Bidisha, arrested in connection with the theft case. The court ordered the police to send her to the Dhaka Central Jail. Gulshan police produced her before the court on completion of a two-day remand.

behalf of Bidisha was moved yesterday but the HC asked her counsels to file a bail petition with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, as the CMM's Court has already rejected the petition

Laws say if a bail petition is rejected in a lower court, it should be moved to the immediate next higher

2 outlaws

FROM PAGE 1

shotgun, one hand bomb and 14 bullets.

The PBCP men ambushed the police team on its way back at about 10:30pm prompting the police retaliation that resulted in an hour-long gun

the police van and died on the spot police said. A constable named Sohel was also injured during the gunfight.

In the other incident, upon confessional statement of NBCP activist Abdul Latif, the Khoksa police in early hours yesterday went to Hizlabot village to arrest regional leader of the outfit Akdil Hossain--a top listed criminal sentenced for life twice, and to recover hidden firearms.

Action Battalion-6 (Rab) had arrested on Friday.

reached Hizlabot, the NBCP cadres led by Akdil ambushed the police team at about 4:00am. The gunfight ensued as police countered the Trying to escape from the police

van, Latif was killed in "crossfire". The police filed a case against

Don't raise duty

parent.

even new ones." he said.

New Zealand and Australia are

tioned pick-ups and trucks have agricultural sector.

He urged the government to allow import of vehicles used up to

1000 crore as revenue from the sector by reforming import and supplementary duty policy, he added.

Hamid, Secretary General Shah Mosharraf Hossain and Vicealso present at the function.

Budget posture

FROM PAGE 1

On the issue of steps being taken to pointed out that the finance minister did not elaborate in the proposed budget whether the government is giving the ACC financial, administrative and legal independence.

4,600 crore for reducing poverty and creating employment opportunity, the BEA president questioned how the amount will be spent and how many jobs will be created for whom as there are no directions in that

"We also believe in ambition but it should be based on reality. The government will not be able to increase revenue income substantially within a year as well as improve efficiency of the administration according to the needs," he said.

ble to reduce dependency on foreign aid at the zero level by curbing corruption and reducing wastage and expenditure in the unproductive sectors, but there is no indication for addressing these areas in the proposed budget. Overall loan and aid from donors are declining but their diktats are on the rise, he

added Barkat and other BEA officials were Watchdog limps

Few effective measures are taken to prevent this pervasive adulteration practice even though the national constitution makes the government responsible to ensure food safety and public health

Section 18 (1) of the constitution, which deals with food, clearly states, "The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the improvement of public health as moving its primary duties, and in particular shall adopt effective measures to prevent the consump-Over the next few days, The

Daily Star will publish a series of articles exploring what we eat - a dimension of everyday life often overlooked, but highly relevant given the harmful elements to which the public is daily exposed. "Please write down that 99

percent of the food items we get for tests are adulterated and substandard. The market is flooded with adulterated food," Dr. Md. Zahurul Islam, head of the Public Health and Drug Testing Laboratory, told The Food adulteration flourishes

because concerned officials, despite knowing about the epidemic of adulterated food, are powerless to stop it, claiming they do not have sufficient authority to rein in the vast and organised groups behind it. Meanwhile, they admit that the tendency of adulterated food is increasing day by day, affecting greater portions of the public, and that thousands of cases they have filed can do little because of weak

The Bangladesh Pure Food Rules of 1967, the law addressing food, is now 38 years old, armed with such weak fines that traders are hardly intimidated by it. The highest penalty for adulterating food is Tk 5.000. But the expenses involved in proving such cases in court and realising the penalties are much

"If we file a case, the defaulter does not even go to a pleader, as the fees of the pleaders are much higher than his penalty," said an official from the health directorate. requesting anonymity. Food adulteration also flourishes

because of deficiencies in government-regulated quality assurance practices. Before going to commercial production, it is mandatory that the producers secure a certificate from the Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI), an agency that ensures the standard of products available in the market. The certificate is supposed to be renewed every year, and BSTI officials are supposed to make inquiries at the factory to test the product on a regular basis. But this rarely, if ever, happens, sources seals featured on products are fake, leaving the public in the dark about which is a quality product, and which

Among the 143 enlisted products of BSTI, more than 54 food items are entitled to receive the standard certificate. These include fruit and vegetable juice, syrup, squash, jam jelly, vinegar, honey, tinned and bottled fruits, sauce, marmalade, pickle, tomato paste, chutney, ketchup, milk powder, butter, baby food, butter oil, ghee, biscuit, bread, candy, chocolate, toffee, tea, liquid glucose, soft drink, noodles, iodized salt, mineral water, ice cream, chilli powder, vegetable oil, soyabean oil, mustard oil, coconut oil, palm oil flour and sugar. Among these products, hundreds in the market are being sold without any standard seals or with fake seals.

A dearth of manpower, evident in several agencies and regulatory bodies. is crippling the government's efforts to check food adulter-BSTI sources said that despite performing their routine duties, they are unable to check all the products available in the market. Even they are aware that most of the seals seen in the market are fake.

"The process is so lengthy that we can not check all the items available in the market. We do not have the manpower," said one of the directors working with the BSTI.

BSTI sources added that there are only 13 BSTI field officers for the whole country, five in Dhaka division, for checking seals and conducting mobile courts.

"We need at least two more field officers for every district. We could perform better if we had more manpower," said Lutfar Rahman Khan, director, Certification Marks (CM), of

The government amended the BSTI Act and fixed Tk one lakh as a fine for fake labeling. The mobile court from Dhaka has meanwhile been conducting seizures in different districts. In the last year, they have realised more than Tk 38 lakh, BSTI sources said. But that is far less than the required seizures, the

At the upazila level, sanitary inspectors sometimes seize adulterated products and send them to the Mohakhali public health institute laboratory for testing. If reports are negative, indicating adulteration, the inspector can file a case in the court. The health directorate has four hundred such inspectors, but most of them are inactive, concerned sources said.

In Dhaka City, less than 18 inspectors are tasked with ensuring the health safety of more than one crore people living under the city

Wheat importer

unloading of the goods through involved in the misdeed, he alleged. ighterage vessels from MV Celtic at the outer anchorage.

The Lol also urged the shipping agent to take release of the goods after completing customs and port formalities, and paying all the duties. The importer promised to bear all the expenses required. The importer on March 2 sent a

letter to the customs authorities informing them of 'No Objection' to unload the wheat, and later paid about Tk 10.4 lakh as 'river dues' in three pay orders to Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), sources said.

Following two letters of guarantee from the shipping agent, the customs authorities gave permission to unload the goods from MV Celtic through 32 lighterage vessels and appointed a customs official to supervise the unloading. Twentyfour ansar personnel were also deployed for security.

"But the importer secretly took six lighterage vessels out of the port area and unloaded about 5,650 tonnes of wheat and later unloaded another 4.500 tonnes from other lighterage vessels. The goods are worth about Tk 11.97 crore," said shipping agent Humayun Kabir.

The importer, owners of lighterage vessels, ansar personnel and some corrupt customs officials were The two guarantor banks had

earlier on March 31 lodged a complaint with the customs authorities against the importer for unloading the goods without informing them. The authorities on April 2 served a show cause notice on the shipping agent, who replied to it the next day.

The shipping agent said the importer has not yet submitted original import documents from the banks to the customs authorities.

When contacted, the importer denied the charges brought against him by the shipping agent.

"After arrival of the goods, I found some discrepancies in the documents provided by the shipping agent and also found that a substantial quantity of the wheat was not edible. I complained to the customs and other authorities about these and refused to receive the goods." Didarul said vesterday.

Opening of the LC on February 24 and 26, and arrival of the ship carrying the goods at the outer anchorage just a day after indicated that the shipping agent himself did something fishy and is now trying to shift the blame on him, the importer

CEC's holding

oath of office he had taken on January 7, 2004 as a judge when he accepted the office of CEC by taking a different oath on May 23. So, he ceases to hold the office of a Supreme Court judge from May 23. . After taking oath as Chief

Election Commissioner, respondent 1 (Aziz) has not been performing his constitutional duties as a judge of the Appellate Division for which he had solemnly taken oath under the Constitution," reads the petition. .. On taking oath as CEC, Aziz

cannot claim to be a judge under oath, and as such, his name cannot appear with other judges of the Supreme Court in official documents and publications of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh." The petitioners further observed

that Aziz's holding the office of CEC is also illegal and unconstitutional, as he disqualifies himself by holding another office. ". Once a person holding high

the petitioners.

CEC's office even after his retirement since that office is not judicial or quasi-judicial. "... When a former judge cannot assume the office of Chief Election Commissioner on retirement, the question of a sitting judge (assuming the same office) does not arise," the petition reads.

office of the CEC is impairing seriously the independence of the judiciary and its separation, and the dignity of the Supreme Court inasmuch as it opened up opportunities for appointment of sitting or retired judges, which may serve as a temptation and create scopes for tampering with the judges' independence during the concluding period of their

service, the petitioners noted

China hotel

FROM PAGE 16

'The incident on June 10 was the most serious fire accident in our province in recent years, this lesson of blood serves as a reminder that we cannot be complacent over work safety issues, Guangdong governor Huang Huahua was quoted by the Nanfang Daily newspaper as

"The fire was put out around 4:00 pm... Many rooms were gutted, said an officer on duty at the Chaonan district fire brigade, who refused to give further details. Four of the 15 injured, who were

taken to Shantou's Central Hospital. were in a serious condition, ar earlier report said. No one at the Huanan Hotel or

the hospital was available to comment Saturday. It is unclear how many people were in the hotel at the time of the

HC asks govt

capital, for non-payment of Tk 44.48

The HC also asked the government to inform it within three weeks

whetherits order has been complied with or

After hearing a writ petition filed by Mohammad Nasim Khan.

founder of Stranded

Committee (SPGRC) and its General Secretary M Shawkat Ali, a High Court bench issued a rule upon the government

Pakistanis General Repatriation

to show cause why the order for disconnecting the electricity lines should not be declared illegal

The rule is returnable within

JS resumes

In the day's programme, the question-answer session will be tabled but call attention notices will not be entertained to accommodate more

budget, parliament secretariat sources said. Discussion on the proposed budget will begin on June 15, and the House will pass the budget on June 30, according to the Bac

discussion on the supplementary

The current session of parliament will continue until July 10.

The main opposition lawmakers have been boycotting parliament since the 15th session, citing a number of reasons. The government's reluctance to hold discussion on the killing of former finance minister Shah ASM Kibria by adjourning day's business during

the 15th session was one. Other opposition members in two factions of Jatiya Party, Krishak Sramik Janata League, and independent lawmakers will take part in the budget discussion.

FM flies

will lead the Bangladesh delegation to the summit, leaves for Qatar on Tuesday.

Meanwhile. Foreign Secretary Hemavetuddin left Dhaka vesterday for Doha to attend the senior officiallevel meeting of the summit

Hartal

The GKDACC has been agitating for the last three years demanding infrastructural development of Mongla Port, completion of construction work of Khuna Airport and Abu Nasser Specialised Hospital, installation of a 210-mw power plant, gas supply through a pipeline.

Akram point and the reopening of all jute mills, Khulna Harboard mill, and Khulna Newsprint Mill.

Highway police

salaries of policemen to a satisfactory level

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar, Home Secretary Safar Raj Hossain and IGP Abdul Qayyum also spoke at the function. Khaleda switched on the lights

indicating the 72 outposts of the highway police on Bangladesh map. She also offered munaiat.

way police patrol.

Saarc summit

member countries have reached a consensus on the summit dates and decided to participate in it." he told the news agency. The foreign minister said

Bangladesh, as the next chair of Saarc, is confident of steering the forum ahead to foster economic cooperation through regional inte-He said the government and the

people of Bangladesh are looking for the opportunity to host a very successful summit, which will be the beginning of the third decade of the seven-nation forum that started its journey from Dhaka.

Rift widens over **EU** contributions

BBC ONLINE

The UK must compromise on its EU rebate so the bloc can reach a deal on its budget, the German chancellor has said amid mounting oressure on London.

Asked if there could be a deal without a UK concession, Gerhard Schroeder said: "That will not be possible" French president Jacques

Chirac has also urged Britain to make a "gesture" on the £3bn (\$5bn; 4.5bn euros) it gets back from the EU budget each year.

The UK says it will not renegotiate without a major review of EU

Schroeder was speaking after talks with his Luxembourg counterpart, Jean-Claude Juncker, who currently holds the EU presidency. He said he was not without hope

that a compromise deal could be reached. "What is important is that all countries show responsibility for this whole Europe and make a

serious attempt to secure the financing," he said. The chancellor met earlier in Paris with Mr Chirac, who called on Britain to "make an effort", saying

ness" in EU contributions. UK Prime Minister Tony Blair argues that even with the rebate, Britain's net contribution to the EU is much greater than that of France whose farmers receive generous subsidies from the EU's Common

there needed to be "greater fair-

Agricultural Policy. The BBC's Caroline Wyatt in Paris says the war of words has set able EU summit in Brussels next

The UK will be isolated on the rebate with the 24 other member states arguing that it should be

scrapped. The row erupted on Thursday, when the French president urged Britain to make a "gesture of solidarity" on the rebate, which the UK won in 1984 after tough negotiations by then-Prime Minister

Margaret Thatcher. Quickly responding, Blair said London would not give it up. On Friday, he added that the topic could only be discussed as part of

a general review of the EU budget. But during his news conference with Schroeder, Chirac made clear that a 2002 agreement that preserves farming subsidies should

"I am not willing to compromise' on this issue, he said.

be implemented.

Next week's EU summit is also overshadowed by the rejection of the European constitution by French and Dutch voters in recent referendums.

In Paris, both Schroeder and Chirac reiterated calls for other members states to go ahead with their own ratification procedures. The UK, however, has sus-

pended its own plans for a referen-Ten member states have already ratified the document. It cannot come into force until all 25

EU countries have approved it.

Arman keeps giving

a few years ago.

His (Arman) younger brother Raihan and brother-in-law Khorshed, two other criminals of Moghbazar in the capital, are now allegedly holding his llegal arms. Moreover, a large number of firearms of another top criminal. 'Pichchi' Hannan, who was killed in 'crossfire', are known to be in Arman's

Sources said police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) are pressing Arman to give a confessional statement about the August 21 grenade attack on the Awami League (AL) rally in Dhaka, implicating some AL lead-

about Arman's involvement in the grenade attack. I do not know how others are getting such information." Acting on a tip off from Arman Criminal Investigation Department (CID) meanwhile arrested AL leader Mokhlesur Rahman on Friday and took him on a five-day remand yester-

day, showing him arrested in the

A top Rab official however said

They did not provide any information

August 21 grenade attack case. yesterday referred to newspapers reports quoting Rab sources as saying that Arman gave important information about the grenade attack incident. "Such reports indicate there is plot to mplicate AL leaders in the case," one eader said wishing anonymity.

Some AL leaders of Moghbazar

like Kala Jahangir and Imon as he had close links with them before his arrest. And he now continues his criminal

hospital after police shot him in Mirpur

A source close to an underworld

gang said Arman can help police and

Rab arrest many hardened criminals

activities including firearms smuggling, maintaining contacts with his godfathers and some dishonest policemen. Arman's seven-day remand expired yesterday and he will be produced before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka

Our court correspondent reports: Investigation Officer (IO) of the August 21 grenade attack case ASP of the CID Abdur Rashid showed Mokhlesur arrested in the case, produced him before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka and prayed for a

seven-day remand. The court however granted a five-day remand. The IO told the court Mokhlesur and his accomplices are learnt to have

He said police have to launch special drives in different parts of the country to detect and arrest others involved in the conspiracy, after verify-

Baghdad blasts

people had been detained in connection with the Shula blast.

"The terrorists will try to penetrate the security cordon that we have erected around Baghdad and they succeeded in doing that at a late hour

the capital. on Iraqi television says that members

The commando unit had come to the capital from the main northern city of Mosul as part of Operation Lightning, a major offensive launched amid fanfare in May and reportedly

Asked how the confirmed "terrorists" had been identified, the minister said: "If we find in their possession hand grenades, certain tapes and medium-calibre weapons, then that

tells us they are terrorists. Plus intelli-

terrorists" had since been released.

without saying when or where. 12 to 0.6 a day," he said pointing to a

conspired to carry out the grenade

Mokhlesur So far 12 people including Saibal Saha Partha were arrested in connec-

He said the commando strike had been carried out by a former brigade member and that the force's chief Major General Mohammed al-

on Friday night in Shula," he said. A doctor said his hospital had received 21 wounded commandos following the strike against the vanguard of those trying to bring peace to

with their teeth".

and 219 "suspected terrorists" had been detained in the sweep, including 11 non-Iraqi Arabs, and 27 car bombs primed for use had been defused. Another 36 "terrorists" had been

killed, along with 37 civilians and four

gence. He said 73 of the "suspected

soon be extended outside Baghdad, "Car bombs have gone down from

ing primary information received from Mokhlesur, a former ward commissioner of Dhaka City Corporation and an uncle of Arman's arch-rival Tikka.

criminal of Moghbazar, died on way to

Quraishi was the target.

Apatriotic song regularly broadcast of the fearless brigade "disarm bombs

involving 40,000 Iraqis forces. Solagh said that 1.380 "terrorists"

security personnel.

The minister praised the operation's success and promised it would

The same tactic was used in Saturday's attack south of Baghdad in "Eleven Iragis were killed and three others wounded when men aboard

two cars opened fire on a minibus

taking construction workers from

Jbala, 70km south of Baghdad, to the

capital," said Captain Said al-Kraimi.

The US commander had warned

that insurgents would resort to more

such shootings as it became more

difficult for them to get car bombs to

of car bombings and other attacks in May, one of the bloodiest months since the US-led invasion in March 2003.

FROM PAGE 1

But the NBR official was sceptical about whether the new measure would bring about the desired results. He explained that those who have amassed huge amount of black money through such illegal means as smuggling and drug-peddling are not going to take advantage of this oppor-

FROM PAGE 1 arguing that the matters relating to

interrogation and bail are now at the discretion of the High Court (HC).

HC order. Ershad filed the case on June 4

Ershad, also the chairman of

The same court yesterday

Meanwhile, a bail petition on

Mizan got shot while trying to flee

Earlier on Thursday, the Rapid

FROM PAGE 16 cars after 2002 has not been trans-

importing Japanese reconditioned vehicles, he said indicating it as a currency saving means for a country. As the government now allows import of vehicles up to four years old, import and delivery of recondi-

role in transporting goods of exportoriented industries as well as the

seven years.

president Habibur Rahman were

Referring to the allocation of Tk regard in the proposed budget.

Kholiguzzaman noted it is possi-

BEA General Secretary Prof Abul high office as he breaks his solemn present at the briefing. pledge made to the people and the

Latif, accused in 10 cases including four for murder, from a house of Nakhalpara area in Dhaka and handed him over to the Khoksa police The police said when they

Akdil Hossain and his accomplices for attacking the law enforcers.

"Sometimes it is seen that old or reconditioned cars are better than Many developed countries like

greatly decreased whereas these vehicles always played a significant

The government can earn Tk Barvida Vice-president Abdul

make the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) effective, he

office under oath violates the same, he becomes unfit to hold another nation under the Constitution." said Aziz would not be able to hold

The induction of Aziz into the

Advocate MI Faruki assisted by advocates Saleem Ullah and MK Rahman moved for the petitioners while Deputy Attorney General Zaman Akhter Bulbul moved for the

FROM PAGE 16

a deep sea port at

FROM PAGE 16 actively considering to increase the

Later, the prime minister inspected the vehicles of the high-

FROM PAGE 1 "We are very happy that all the

> bar graph on a screen. The Shia-led government of brahim al-Jaafari is eager to demon-

was earlier quizzed by Rab soon after tion with the case but the probe made Arman's arrest. Tikka, an infamous

> strate that it is able to control the security situation and often points to mistakes committed under the USinstalled interim government of lyad

Allawi which had a Sunni Arab as

interior minister

support."

Even before the fresh blasts, a US commander had warned of the likelihood of renewed violence. "The enemy is pretty frustrated and looking for the opportunity to have large-scale coordinated attacks. That could happen within the week, but it won't last weeks or even days." he

said, because "they don't have public

brothers and a cousin were found on a

main road in south Baghdad, after they

were lured from their homes by men in

The bullet-riddled corpses of two

police uniforms the night before, an nterior ministry official said. Three police commandos were killed in a drive-by shooting, while a US patrol killed two insurgents after they also came under fire from a passing

their intended targets. which the 11 builders were killed.

PM Jaafari said Thursday that Operation Lightning would be extended to other cities and justified it by the "exceptional circumstances" facing the country. Almost 700 people died in a frenzy