Blowout scapegoats | Spin tames | Tigers |

blowout and the other was prepared to visit the spot from Sylhet but Niko, which arranges the visit, had not

with an incompetent and disqualified company like Niko."

Found disqualified in technical and financial aspects during the

first meeting with officials of the energy ministry and top officials of Petrobangla and nine of its affiliates, including Bapex.

officials of the energy ministry, Petrobangla or Bapex went to

sure of the prime minister on the issue.

The adviser stressed that Petrobangla and Bapex should have been alert all the time in the wake of the first Tengratila blowout.

including Titas Gas, for theft of gas and system loss.

Mahmud said told the meeting that the government is planning to hold the third round block bidding on oil and gas exploration in

investment, he said Tata will set up a coal-fired power plant in northern region of the country. Probe Body

The seven-member probe committee headed by Dr Anwarul Azim has a mandate to submit its report within 15 days

The committee lacking any drilling expert and dominated by handling the relief well.

how much property loss has been caused by Friday's blowout at Tengratila.

The committee consists of Joint Secretary of the energy ministry Sheikh Abdur Rashid as its member-secretary. Its members are Prof Nurul Islam, Kazi Shahid, Rahman Morshed, Moinul Haq and Fazle Elahi. Of them, four are chemical

disaster. This is a drilling disaster. Although some of these members are very competent, this committee will not serve the purpose," noted an energy expert.

Sources said the second blowout at Tengratila took place because there was a cave in of the gas layer when Niko was drilling the relief well. "Experts believe that they (Niko) once again failed to properly one expert pointed out.

Niko's agreement

Niko that makes the small company unaccountable to Petrobangla, which supervises and coordinates deals with other oil companies like Cairn or Chevron Texaco (previously Unocal), sources said.

pany to operate in Bangladesh

11 submit

FROM PAGE 16

of Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolan. Iftekhar Alam Limon of Jatiya Party (Monju), M Ataur Rahman of Janata Party and four independent candidatesformer secretary M A Mannan, M Nazrul Islam, Dewan Ferdousur Rahman and Nurul Islam

The parliamentary seat fell vacant following the death of Awami League presidium member Abdus Samad Azad.

Iran hardliner

veteran political heavyweight Akbai Hashemi Rafsanjani, who was supported by pro-reform parties and

Ahmadineiad is the winner." Interior Ministry spokesman Jahanbakhsh

takes office in August.

president for 24 years when he

Council, which must approve the election results, said that out of 24.8 million votes counted. Ahmadinejad had 61.7 percent, defying forecasts of a tight race.

without any PSC. Desperate to bag husiness in Bandladesh, it is operating through a unique joint venture agreement (JVA) with Bapex.

The JVA was signed in the name of developing three 'marginal' or previously used gas fields. However, one of these three -Tengratila field (originally known as Chhatak field) -- is an unexplored gas field. Under the government policy, an unexplored gas field should be developed through PSC, if awarded to a foreign oil company.

Bapex is a partner without any

This agreement was resisted by Petrobangla as it is full of loopholes but the Bapex signed it under heavy pressure from the then state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain and lobbies close to the 'alternative source of power' in the

As per the JVA, the government through the Bapex, not Petrobangla, would supervise the technical aspect of Niko's operation. But being a partner, Bapex cannot supervise Niko's activities. The JVA also did not lay down any organised procedure for such supervision. The JVA at no point involves Petrobangla in the operation.

In contrast, the PSCs are designed with a clearly defined monitoring and supervision task for Petrobangla. This is why Petrobangla had repeatedly resisted the JVA till it was signed.

Sources pointed out that Bapex's monitoring of the Tengratila operation could not have helped anything. Neither Bapex nor Niko has the knowledge or skill to handle a blowout situation.

'There are a few companies in the world that can handle gas field blowout issues. One of them is Canadian company GSM. Niko has hired a GSM expert to oversee the relief well construction. The blowout took place in his presence," said one

Tengratila gas field was originally known as Chhatak field that was developed in the late fifties by the then petroleum authorities. The field produced gas till 1989 and then it was sealed off considering the existing reserve was commercially non-viable for extraction with the technology available back then.

Niko's Statement Meanwhile, in a press statement,

Niko Resources Bangladesh President Qasim Sharif said, "We are actively formulating our future action plans and we would like to present these options to Bapex, Petrobangla and the government within seven days. Upon receipt of necessary government approval, we will implement our action plan and initiate operation within 15 days. We have already sourced a drilling rig for this purpose."

Chief Operating Officer of Niko Canada William T Hamaday reached Dhaka yesterday to lead

Qasim pointed out that the deputy commissioner of Sunamganj report yesterday said should pay compensation of Tk 1.13 crore to people of Tengratila. "We have agreed to provide this money,"

"The first part of this amount is being forwarded to the government at this time. In addition, and not included with the above amount, we are forwarding Tk 6,60,000 as our contribution for the mosques and other places of worship in the Tengratila area."

Boy carries FROM PAGE 1

other due to lack of space in the mother's uterus.

Generally, a mother in such cases gives birth to twin or conioined babies. But in this case the mother gave birth to a normal boy, the doctors said.

"When Abu Raihan was six months old, a sound of gurgling liquid could be heard when he turned from one side to the other. However, with his growing older the sound slightly abated but the boy started to feel pain in his abdomen, family sources of Abu Raihan told The Daily Star.

Day by day, the lump got bigger and started causing pained. The local doctors suspected it as a

At the age of two, Abu Raihan was taken to Barisal Medical College where also doctors suspected it as a tumour. They prescribed for an operation when the boy grows up.

Abu Raihan, son of Ahmadullah and a student of Kawmi Madrassa in Bhola, was admitted into the medicine ward of the BSMMU a month ago for the operation and two weeks ago he was taken to MA Majid.

"It is called 'macerated baby' in medical science that grows by taking nutrition through its brother's placenta circulation. Abu Raihan was going with an extra-euterine pregnancy," doctors at the BSMMU said, adding that the lump was first diagnosed as a pseudopancreatic

cyst and retroperitoneal mass. But the possibility of a monozygotic twin was suspected after X-ray, CT Scan and ultrasonograph examinations and the operation proved it true, they

Hundreds of people from different places gathered at the BSMMU hearing the news that a boy has come out from another teenage boy.

Tigers

FROM PAGE 16 for staying out late in the Welsh capital on Friday.

10 wickets after beating West Indies at Adelaide in 2001 and England in Sydney in 2003 by the same margin.

And it was only the 26th tenwicket win in the 2,254 game history

of one-day internationals Bangladesh were bowled out for ust 139 with more than 14 overs of their innings remaining. Mohammad Ashraful (58) and Shahriar Nafees (47), who put on 90 in 92 balls, were only Tigers batsmen to make

Australia's left-handed openers Adam Gilchrist and Matthew Hayden, who both finished on 66 not out, knocked off the winning runs in

just 19 overs.

Defeat left Bangladesh needing to beat England in Sunday's match at Headingley to have a chance of

circle for Bangladesh and was their second reverse in four days following their 168-run defeat agaińst England n Nottingham on Tuesday.

wo runs in 18 balls. Left-arm wrist spinner Brad Hogg chipped in with three for 39 as Symonds finished with an analysis of

40 Indian FROM PAGE 16

Bidisha

FROM PAGE 1

from the Indian government for collecting freshwater crocodiles.

Shamsur Rahman, conservator of wildlife management and nature conservation department, chaired the ceremony.

Forest Officer of Cox's Bazar Oboni Bhushan Thakur, among others,

yesterday's hearing that Bidisha deposited Tk 26,73,71, 746 in seven

accounts of five foreign and one local

He submitted that Bidisha depos-

ited £1,610,353 equivalent to Tk

19,32,42,360 in account no 6391168

of Council Tax Bank in London, \$8,000

worth Tk 4,80,000 in account no

DDOCB284859M of HSBC Bank in

N e w Y o r k , £ 4,99,913.73 amounting to Tk 5,99,89,560 in account no 98363867

of Natwest Diamond Bank in UK, £51,000 worth Tk 15,30,000 in

account no 91372823 of HSBC Bank

n London, Tk 28,23, 406.30 in account

no 003-005402-001 of HSBC Bank in

Gulshan, \$5,107.67 equalling Tk

3,06,420 in account no 003-005402-

151 of the same bank and Singapore

\$3,00,000 worth Tk 90,000,00 in

account no 553-5-026446 of OSBC

serious allegations of laundering

money abroad and the state gets into

having money in different bank

accounts does not mean money is

aundered. It added that the govern-

ment has extended the opportunity for

whitening black money for another

year and so, if Bidisha's money is

black, she may still avail herself of this

ad interim bail in three cases including

filed against Bidisha with Gulshan

Police Station under Section 13 of

Money Laundering Act on June 16.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Abdur

Rauf Khan on June 18 rejected her bail

was assisted by Deputy Attorney General Helaluddin Mollah, while Dr

Kamal Hossain, who moved for

Bidisha, was assisted by Barrister Sarah Hossain, Barrister Tanjib-Ul

Alam, Advocate Zahirul Islam and

they had taken the decision to post-

pone the selection of lecturers after

discussion with the teachers who went

The selection committee would,

"We will take necessary steps by

nowever, sit to recruit two assistant

taking departmental Coordination and

Development Committee's recom-

mendation regarding lecturers'

appointment after the university

Some 40 teachers, mostly leaders

of the opposition Awami League

backed Blue Panel and left leaning

Pink Panel including Dean of Science

Faculty Prof RIM Aminur Rashid,

Association President Prof AAMS

Arefin Siddique and General

Secretary Prof Aktheruzzaman went

warned that they would not cooper-

Earlier on Friday, Dean of the

"the university authorities' unfair

"If the authorities had taken the

move" to appoint six teachers at the

decision earlier, this situation would

not have appeared. I want transpar-

ency and consideration of academic

performance in recruitment of teach-

ers." said Prof Harun, who is also a

professor of the political science

Social Science Faculty Prof Harun-or-

Rashid at a press conference pro-

ate with the VC if he continues recruit-

ing teachers on political consider-

Dhaka University Teachers

Advocate Shafiuddin Bhuivan.

Recruitment

professors today, he said.

opens."the VC added

to the VC office and

department.

department.

ations rather than merit.

FROM PAGE 16

to his office.

The additional attorney general

one on charges of cheating.

Bidisha had earlier been granted

The money laundering case was

The court, however, observe

trouble if money is laundered.

Khan noted that Bidisha faces

Bank in Singapore.

opportunity.

depart tomorrow morning. This is Burns' first visit to

members of civil society.

Bangladesh since he was appointed under secretary on March 17 this year to oversee US policy in each region of the world.

Bilateral relations with the US have greatly improved in recent years and the regular visits of important US officials, including Nicholas Burns, is a clear reflection of strengthening of ties between Bangladesh and the US, said Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan.

yesterday, Khan said, "We will review the entire range of bilateral issues during the meeting with the US under secretary.' On a question about the attack

Talking to reporters at his office

on the Ahmadiyya area at Brahmanbaria ahead of the visit of a US under secretary, he said despite some destabilising factors, the government will not deviate from its avowed policy of maintaining religious harmony in Bangladesh. "There is no majority or minority

concept in terms of religion in Bangladesh. We believe all people of this country--irrespective of their beliefs--are equal," he added. The foreign ministry sources said

Burns will arrive at the Zia International Airport from Kolkata at 11:50am. Additional Foreign Secretary Major (Retd) Khairuzzaman will receive him at the airport. During the near-20-hour visit, Burns will meet with the foreign

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the afternoon. He is also due to meet with leaders of political parties and members of the civil society in Dhaka. In absence of Leader of the Opposition and Awami League

President Sheikh Hasina, Burns will

meet with her Political Secretary

minister and pay courtesy call on

Saber Hossain Chowdhury. He will

The US embassy in Dhaka, however, remained silent about Burns' meetings with the political leaders and members of the civil society.

The under secretary, who is now on this short tour, first flew to London on June 21 and met his counterparts. from the UN Security Council permanent member states and others to discuss UN reforms. He also met with his counterparts

from Japan and Australia as part of the US-Japan-Australia strategic dialogue. On June 23, Burns accompanied Secretary Condoleezza Rice at the G-8 foreign ministers' meetings. Burns then travelled to New

Delhi where he met with senior government officials and political leaders and discussed developments in the US-Indian strategic partnership prior to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's Washington

As an under secretary, Nicholas Burns is responsible for integrating political, economic, global, and security issues into the United States' bilateral relationships. There are six geographically defined bureaus and one functional bureau that report to the under secretarybureaus for Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Eurasia, the Near East, South Asia, the Western Hemisphere and International Organisations.

Prior to his current assignment, Burns was US permanent representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) where he headed the combined State-Defense Department US Mission to Nato during the Alliance's new missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

BNP top brass mourn

General of BNP Tarique Rahman and the PM's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury, were present at the time.

A top police official seeking anonymity said the way influential ministers, including even the prime minister, are treating Sagir even after his death, the law enforcers will think twice in future to arrest any notorious criminal holding important posts in the ruling party and its front organisations. "It is an open secret that Sagir

had links with several infamous gangs in Dhaka and we were looking for them. But from now on, will requesting anonymity repeatedly.

cepted the killers while they were leeing and shot dead one of assailants named Shaon after the

police havilder. LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Mannan Bhuiyan, Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas, Dhaka City Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka, and State Minister for Labour and Manpower Amanullah Aman rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital

where Sagir's body was taken. Dhaka city (south) unit general secretary of ruling BNP's youth front Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal Sagir was buried at Kolta Bazar graveyard in Sutrapur after his namaj-e-janaza in front of the party office yesterday. BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Tarique Rahman, cabinet ministers, party lawmakers and many party leaders and activwore black badges to mourn Sagir's Sources said Sagir used to lead

a criminal group in Old Dhaka that included dangerous criminals such as Hamid, Aga Shamim, Nirmal and Kaiol, the last one being the prime accused in the killing of Old Dhaka businessman Shamsul Islam, his son Russel and their driver. The bodies of the father and the son were found sliced in over 200 Earlier, following the arrest of two

Dhaka College unit for mugging Tk 12 lakh from a jewellery shop at Paltan on June 19, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan on June 21 told the Parliament, "The government is they belong to.'

sures in the city and the adjacent of the "killing squad" were from.

not find out the address of Shaon in the area until last evening.

Family members of Sagir did not file any case until last evening.

The Old Dhaka residents, particover the death of Sagir.

Some businessmen wishing anonymity said the death of Sagir will lessen extortion in the area, but also feared that if police do not arrest Sagir's associates, such offences might increase in future. However, some businessmen expressed shock at the killing of

Writ petition

The petitioner said the NBR's SRO fixed the tariff value for SIM/RUIM cards and new cellphone connections at Tk 2,172 by calculating 35 percent supplementary duty and 15 percent VAT proportionate to Tk price of these cards, which is arbitrary, illegal and capricious.

According to the Customs Act 1969, the government is supposed to impose duty on the actual price. But in fixing the tariff value for SIM cards. the NBR followed an arbitrary princinle to realise Tk 1.200 and nothing else, the petitioner noted.

their feet bigger to fit the size of the shoes." petitioner's lawver Advocate Asaduzzaman told the court. The government cannot fix a tariff

value without having any contemporaneous documents to show that the international market price of a particular item of import or export has either gone up or come down. He also argued that only the

BTRC has the right to fix the tariff value on telephone connections under Section 31(2)(e) of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Act (BTA) 2001. The NBR's fixation of tariff value is contrary to the provisions of sections 49 (a)(b)(d) and 29 of BTA 2001, which is why it is illegal.

explaining in the interest of the public how this tariff value has been set.

Cellphone is not a luxury product but an essential tool of communications for ordinary people in the rural and urban areas and it is not against the public interest. So, it is beyond the purview of imposition of supplementary duty, the petitioner argued.

The NBR stated that the mobile phone operators would have to pay a 35 percent supplementary duty, being Tk 760, and a 15 percent VAT on the tariff value in addition to the supplementary duty, being Tk 439.83, making a total of Tk 1,200 to be paid for every new SIM/RUIM card. It is evident that the tariff value has been fixed in order to ensure the collection of the said Tk 1.200 and not on the basis of market price or in public interest.

The actual price of a SIM-RUIM card on the international market is customs or import duty is paid.

tance of advocates Asaduzzaman, Syed Afzal Hasan Uddin, and Faiz

Lawyers

FROM PAGE 16 Court Bar Association (SCBA) auditorium.

The government is appointing disputed persons as judges, ignoring honest, efficient and neutral ones, they alleged.

They demanded recruitment of

judges through constitutional commission and judicial service com-mission, if need be, by amending The Parishad demanded formation of a constitutional commission

with authority to 'suspend politically partisan judges' Influence of the government should be removed

Bangladesh Bar Council, it said. The leaders slammed the extraudicial killing by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and demanded probe into it and punishment of ersons responsible.

"Rule of law and the judiciary become vulnerable if legal rights of the lawyers are violated. Freedom of judiciary is not possible without the freedom of lawyers' profession," said Convenor of the Parishad Barrister M Amirul Islam while reading out a resolution.

The Parishad has announced to form a human chain on June 29 in the city, observe Justice Day on July 6 and hold a grand rally on July 29. Former law minister Abdul Matin

Khasru, SCBA President Mahbubey

Alam and SCBA Secretary Enayetur

Rahim, among others, were pres-HC upholds FROM PAGE 1 Litigation (PIL) with an assistant

judge's court, Rajshahi., seeking injunction on the appointment of 546 employees and providing their sala-The judge of the court passed an injunction order on June 23, 2004,

The university authorities had filed

an appeal against the order with the Additional Judge's Court, Rajshahi. The additional judge vacated the injunction order on July 14, 2004. Abu Aslam filed a civil revision case with the High Court against the order of

the Additional Judge's Court. On January 2, 2005, The High Court imposed an ad-interim injunction for six months on the order and issued a rule upon the additional judge to show cause why the order should not be declared illegal.

Later, the university authorities filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking stay on the High Court order. The Appellate Division stayed the order and fixed the date for hearing the petition in the High Court.

After hearing for a long, the High Court yesterday passed the order upholding the order of the assistant judge's court.

Blaze rages

FROM PAGE 1 close to the gas field site have also been shut.

A team of experts vesterday flew to

Tengratila to see for themselves the situation and decide on remedial Bapex Managing Director Jamaluddin, quoting Niko officials,

claimed there is no possibility of spread of gas this time, unlike in the January 7 explosion at the gas field. The rig tower fell down after it melted due to excess heat of the

He also claimed that the extent of damage this time would be much less than that in the January incident. But he declined give details until a survey is made.

A Niko official told The Daily Star

vesterday it will take at least two to three days to ascertain the position of the relief well where the explosion took Requesting anonymity, he said gas has not spread that much to the surface and it is coming out with heavy

pressure only through the drilling pipe. "We will have to arrange drilling another relief well for sealing the first relief well that suffered a blowout on Friday. But we will have to wait for a few days for taming of the fire," he added. The company also plans to engage a fresh drilling company, replacing the

US firm Parker, for the job as subcontractor, the official said Local lawmaker Kolim Uddin Milon said people of the area are too agitated as they are yet to get compensation for the previous explosion. Different

affected institutions have also not received compensation. Quoting advisor for energy Mahmudur Rahman, he however said compensation for the educational and other institutions would be given

The advisor will visit Tengratila gas field on the day.

200 killed

during the period.

FROM PAGE 1

assaulted 1662 people in this time throughout the country, the BIHR report observed. Besides, various crimes have

increased in the country One hundred and twelve leaders, workers and supporters of different political parties were killed

Three journalists were also killed during this period. Meanwhile, BIHR will today observe International Day for the

Oppressed declared by the United

Nations BIHR Chairman Justice KM Sobhan has expressed deep concern over the present human rights situation in Bangladesh.

More areas

Forecasting and Warning Centre

It said the Surma. Teesta. Kushiara, Sarigowain, Balla, Dalia and Khowai marked sharp rise due to heavy rainfall in northeastern part of the country for the last two days.

6 new police stations

SIs and 50 constables have already been recruited besides OCs and

second officers, said sources. Of the recruits, some were taken from the existing PSs, some from reserve police forces, and some others from outside the DMP.

Forces of two of the six new PSs will have to face acute accommodation problem, as there is no housing arranged vet for them in the buildings of Shah Ali and Adabar police stations. Staff of the Khilkhet and Turag PSs too will have to face the crisis, as the arrangements are not adequate to house the full staff.

The DMP South zone presently has Kotwali, Lalbagh, Ramna, Dhanmondi, Hazaribagh, and Kamrangirchar police stations. Besides the addition of New Market PS. it will have four more stations. Bangshal, Chawkbazar, Shahbagh and Kalabagan, said a DMP source. In addition to the Paltan PS, the DMP East zone, which currently has

Gas goes to Bogra

FROM PAGE 1

connectivity. The prime minister's constituency is Bogra, sources mentioned

The Nalka-Bogra Gas Pipeline Project is split into two sections --Nalka-Chandaikona pipeline forms section-A and Chandaikona-Bogra pipeline section-B. The GTCL set up 30-inch diameter pipeline for 6 km between Nalka and Hatikumrul, and 20-inch diameter pipeline for 54 km up to Bogra.

The work for setting up the pipeline began last winter.

Maoists storm FROM PAGE 16

killed in the clash but their bodies were carried away by their com-The Maoists, fighting to replace

the monarchy with a one-party

communist state, usually carry

away their dead in a bid to conceal

the identity of the guerrilla network. Thapa denied reports that nine troops died in the attack Bardiya 535km southwest of Kathmandu, in which he said the rebels threw homemade bombs.

Jatrabari, Kadamtoli, Dakkhingaon, Rampura, Wari, and Gandaria PSs to be added. The Sabujbagh PS will be split into Mugda and Basabo added the source.

Besides Shah Ali and Adabar, six more new police stations will be added to DMP West zone. The new ones will be named Darus Salam, Rupnagar, Shilpanchal, Rayerbazar, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and Bhasantek PSs. This zone presently has Mirpur, Pallabi Teigaon, Mohammadpur and Kafrul

In the North zone of the DMP, five new police stations -- Dakkhinkhan Uttarkhan, Bhatara, Banani and Balurghat -- will be set up by 2006. This zone now has Uttara, Badda Gulshan, Cantonment and Zia

Earlier, Qatar asked for increase of its flights in Bangladesh from five flights a week, but at that time the civil aviation ministry declined the

The Qatar delegation showed interest to import cement, medicine and IT related services from Bangladesh, Morshed Khan said, adding that Bangladesh and Qatar will soon sign a number of agree-

concerned will take place soon to finalise the deals and chalk out the areas of cooperation.

The two sides are eager to strengthen cooperation in IT and health sectors and the two governments will encourage the private sectors, joint chambers or joint investment committee to find out the prospective areas of Qatar's invest-

Besides, a number of Middle Eastern countries have expressed interest to invest in Bangladesh, he

Int'l concern can't stop

lifting the government ban on Ahmadiyya publications but it could not stop the zealots from boosting

The Amnesty International, UN Human Rights Commission, US State Department, European Union, US-based Human Rights Watch and rights activists at home and abroad earlier repeatedly asked the zealots to stop persecution on the

In spite of the right bodies' concern, as many as 20 incidents of attack on the Ahmadivvas took place across the country in the last

boost in 1987 when Khatme Nabuwat Movement was founded in Brahmanbaria to lead the anti-Ahmadiyya campaign. The district has become the most dangerous place for the Ahmadiyyas where the zealots

from the area. Syed Abdul Wahed, a pir (religious leader) who was the head moulana of Annada High School in Brahmanbaria, preached Ahmediat

(belief of Ahmadiyyas) in 1912. Opposition was there against the Ahmadiyyas although they follow the same rituals as Sunnis who constitute 90 percent of Bangladeshi Muslims, apart from their belief about the emergence of Imam Mehdi, the last messenger of

The anti-Ahmadiyya people in a total distortion of fact propagate that the Ahmadiyyas do not believe Mohammad as the last prophet.

Organising anti-Ahmadiyya forces under the banner of Khatme Nabuwat Movement in Brahmanbaria in 1987, local reli-

mosques including their main mosque, Masjidul Mobarak. Although the Ahmadiyyas got back two mosques, four including Masjidul Mobarak are still under siege by the anti-Ahmadiyya elements. The zealots renamed the main

established 'Khatme Nabuwat Taiul Ulum Madrasa' in the mosque. Moulana Idris, personal assistant to Islamic Oikya Jote Chairman Fazlul Haq Amini, is the principal of the In the continuing persecution on the Ahmadiyyas, the zealots boycotted and outcast the sect mem-

bers in different parts of the country. Some people bombed the Ahmadiyya headquarters at 29, 1992.

Ahmadiyya families of Uttar Bhabanipur village in Kushtia for over a month in October, 2003. The zealots killed Ahmadiyya mam Shah Alam in

Aminul Islam had led the gang. publications for what it said was

"objectionable materials which hurt

or might hurt the sentiments of the majority Muslim population of Bangladesh". Khatme Nabuwat groups pulled down the signboards of Ahmadiyyas mosques at Puranbazar in Patuakhali on May 12 last year, at

August 11 last year. They hung new signboards there that branded the mosques as merely "place of worship" and asked people not to mistake those for

Bogra on March 11 and of another mosque in Shyamnagar, Satkhira on April 17 this year. The zealots attacked the Ahmadiyyas of Dharmapur, Dalpara

and Kazipara villages in Badargani upazila in Rangpur and looted their houses on April 29 this year.

Shyamnagar. Unknown people set fire to an Ahmadiyya mosque in Maharaipur

village in Gurudaspur upazila of Natore on June 21. And the latest attack came on Friday when the zealots set fire to an Ahmadiyya mosque of Kandipara in Brahmanbaria and blasted over two dozen bombs including some time bombs leaving two Ahmadiyyas injured. They also hurled bombs in Bhadughar in the municipal area

among the Ahmadiyyas who accused local Khatme Nabuwat operatives for the attacks. Leaders of left-leaning 11-party

alias Chanchal, 22, from Mowrail area of the town suspecting him as a bomb-maker. They started interro-

couple of days before the fresh

taken him, the sources mentioned. "They were not responsible for any negligence," said a source in Petrobangla's affiliates. "If the government must punish anyone, it should be people who are responsible for forcibly making Bapex sign the faulty joint venture agreement

evaluation of the second round block bidding in 1997, Niko's negligent operation led to the first blowout at this unexplored gas field in January this year. The adviser yesterday held his

Meeting sources said Mahmud was very annoyed with Petrobangla and Bapex, and he also reprimanded energy ministry officials for not taking up the Tengratila issue He mentioned that no senior

Tengratila till 10 am Friday. Even none of them informed him about the blowout, he said at the meeting. He also conveyed the displea-

He blasted the gas companies.

Discussing Indian giant Tata's

chemical engineers has been asked to find out to what extent both Niko and Bapex had been negligent in The committee will also assess

engineer and one is a geologist. 'This is not a case of chemical

design the casing for the relief well.' Yesterdy's meeting did not however discuss the flawed agreement of

Niko is the only foreign oil com-

FROM PAGE 16

Dulu.

wealthy Iranians fearful of a hardline monopoly on power in the Islamic "The figures show that

Khaniani told reporters. He will be Iran's first non-cleric An official at the Guardian

Officials said turnout was about 26 million, or 56 percent, down from the 63 percent of Iran's 46.7 million eligible voters who cast ballots in an inconclusive first round on June 17

US under secy

It was only the third time Australia had won a one-day international by

double figures in an innings featuring

qualifying for the July 2 Lord's final. This loss saw the wheel turn full

Bangladesh's last eight wickets fell for 26 runs, the final five going for

Conservator of Forests of Chittagong Region Abdul Motaleb, Safari Park Project Director Dr Tapan Kumar Dey and Divisional

on June 22 and directed the attorney general's office to present relevant nformation and documents regarding the money laundering before it. Additional Attorney General Abdur Rezzak Khan told the court during

anybody dare to arrest such criminals?" said a top police official An accused in the sensational doctor Milon and police sergeant Farhad murder cases, Sagir was gunned down by assailants near his Nasir Uddin Sarder Lane residence on Friday. The law enforcers inter-

gang had shot and wounded one

ists attended the ianaza. They also

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leaders of

determined to take tough action against hijackers, robbers and killers, no matter whatever party Meanwhile, the police could not arrest anyone in connection with the killing of Sagir despite taking mea-

areas of Keranigani, the place police are suspecting that members Keraniganj police said they could

ularly businessmen of Sutrapur area, expressed mixed reaction

1,200 in total disregard for the original

"It is like asking people to grow

The NBR, under the VAT Act, is authorised to fix a tariff value in public

interest by publishing an official

gazette notification; instead, through

the SRO it fixed the tariff without

between US\$ 2 and 4, equalling 120 to 240 in taka, the petitioner told the court and submitted copies of invoices showing the import price paid by a mobile operator and documents showing the standard international market price of SIM cards on which Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud moved the petition with the assisthe anti-Ahmadiyya campaign.

Ahmadiyyas.

18 months. The persecution on the Ahmadiyyas never stopped since the anti-Ahmadiyya campaign got a

captured six mosques including the main Ahmadiyya mosque, Masjidul Mobarak, in April 1987 to oust them

Prophet Muhammad.

gious leader Moulana Sirajul Islam demanded that the Ahmadiyyas should be declared as non-Muslim. They captured six Ahmadiyya

mosque as 'Masjidul Fathah' and madrasa.

Bakshibazar in Dhaka on October The cruellest attack was the explosion of a time bomb in a mosque at Nirala residential area in Khulna on October 8, 1999 during Juma prayers, which left seven

The 11-party leaders will observe a token sit-in in front of the DC office

International Airport PSs. Qatar rolls out FROM PAGE 16 Meanwhile, Qatar recently Motijheel, Demra, Shyampur, Khilgaon, Sutrapur, and Sabujbagh announced to recruit around 1.20 lakh workforce from Nepal after the Nepalese government allowed Qatar Airways to operate 12 flights

> in a week. proposal, official sources said.

ments and MoUs in trade, science and technological cooperation, cultural exchanges, avoidance of double taxation, and protection of investment etc. A series of visits by ministries

ment, Morshed Khan said.

Ahmadiyyas killed and 27 others injured. The fanatics confined 17

Roghunathpurbak village in Jhikargachha upazila of Jessore on October 29, 2003. Ahmadiyyas alleged that local Jamaat leader Trampling down Ahmadiyyas' fundamental rights, the government on January 8, 2004, banned their

Chawkbazar in Chittagong 16 days later and at Nirala in Khulna on

The agitators also changed the signboard of Ahmadiyya mosque in

A series of attacks on the Ahmadiyyas and looting of their houses left 17 Ahmadiyyas injured, including four women, in

and Suhilpur in Sadar upazila simultaneously. The bombs went off one after

another, sending a chill of panic

alliance visited the trouble-torn area yesterday and submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner and superintendent of police demanding arrest and trial of the

Police yesterday nabbed Sumon