Armed Forces Division | Int'l flights

months after its formation but another body, the Joint Chief of Secretariat, was formed on July 19, 1976, which worked until November 1978.

After the abolishment of the Joint Chief of Secretariat, the Supreme Command Headquarters Division was formed on July 12, 1989 with some more jurisdictions.

Finally, the BNP government in 1991 formed the AFD, dissolving the division. In the same year the government put the AFD under the Prime Minister's Office. In 1998, the Awami League government approved the organogram of the AFD.

WHAT AFD DOES? The AFD having four departments and an administration wing works like

The AFD is manned by 272 offi-

have been drawn from the civil ser-

submitted to the parliamentary

standing committee on defence

in 1996 empower the AFD to perform

major activities that include formula-

tion of defence policy, planning and

monitoring of different treaties,

planning, preparation and coordina-

tasks of coordination and control in

the deployment of the defence forces

to assist the civil administration

formulation of procurement policy,

planning for training, operation,

administration and management of

factories that manufacture arms and

ammunition, coordinate the defence

educational institutions, and process

the appointment and promotion of the

officials equivalent to colonel or

execution of the convention related to

chemical weapons in the country,

working as the "Bangladesh National

Authorities." It maintains correspon-

dence with the Organisation for

THE ROLE OF DEFENCE

The defence ministry had started

operation in December 1971 aiming

to coordinate the activities of the

armed forces and all other defence

tries and divisions in 1982, the gov-

ernment kept 21 wings in the

organogram of the defence ministry,

two of them were transferred to the

Ministry of Liberation War Affairs after

defence ministry performs all activi-

ties to coordinate the armed forces

but in reality the AFD does all these,

officials and employees, with a

number of key posts dominated by

the forces in line with the demands of

the forces but the AFD determines

the requirements. It appoints chiefs

of three services and leads the

country in signing any military treaty

legal matters and public relations

The ministry also looks into the

the military officials, sources said.

The defence ministry has only 144

The ministry allocates budget for

Official documents show the

During the restructuring of minis-

Prevention of Chemical Weapons

It also has jurisdiction to ensure

The AFD controls all kinds of

It has been entrusted with the

tion of war or national emergency.

The rules of business formulated

ing to a government circular.

ministry in 2003.

armed forces.

upper ranks.

MINISTRY

sources said

with other country.

SAY

a ministry and gives work order. A major general acts as the principal staff officer (PSO) in the division who to the prime minister. is equivalent to a secretary, accord-

cials and employees, only 41 of them vices, sources said quoting a report ing the tasks of the ministry.

with adequate manpower and logis-Mahbub said.

Former cabinet secretary Mujibul of the AFD.

the defence ministry is there."

He said a ministry may have

"It looks like a queer camel," commented the former defence secretary, also a member of the parliamentary standing committee on defence ministry

Major General (retd) Syed Mohammad Ibrahim said, "The higher defence organisation in Bangladesh needs to be reorganised in keeping with requirement of higher professionalism of the military and transparent control by an elected government. Present practice has room for duplication and isolation.

DU classes

FROM PAGE 16

Islam Babu.

temporarily expelled Shamim Reza, a student of Sir AF Rahman Hall and an activist of ruling BNP's student ng Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), for his involvement in campus vio-

Punitive measurers will also be taken against others responsible for the campus violence, DU Acting

student strike to press home their five-point demands including expulsion, arrest and punishment of JCD activists for attacking students on the campus on May 29 and 31, and compensation for the injured stu-

dents during the campus violence. driven out from residential halls in the wake of the campus violence, yester-

WHAT DEFENCE EXPERTS Defence experts oppose the existing structure, power and jurisdiction of the AFD. They termed it a duplication

FY 05-06 from Tk 103.65 crore in the

in constructing public toilets, purchasina bulldozers, dumpina trucks, development of graveyards and crematoriums, increasing citizens' recreational facilities and development of parks and children's parks

mosquito control activities and purchasing equipment and Tk 7 crore for

revenue target in some sectors that include advertisement and rickshaw licence fees.

launch terminals, public toilets, slaughterhouses, children's parks and graveyards and crematoriums are the same as in the last fiscal.

The DCC has increased the revenue target to Tk 210 crore in holding, conservancy and lighting tax, Tk 62 crore in market toll and rents, and rents in Nagar Bhaban commercial set-ups. Tk 35 crore in trade licence fees. Tk 13 crore from cattle markets, Tk 30 crore in road digging fees, Tk 35 crore in estate handing over tax, Tk 6 crore in renting machinery and Tk 2 crore in

The new budget earmarked a development expenditure of Tk 970.97 crore, which is 78 percent of FROM PAGE 16

Talking to The Daily Star, the experts said there is no need to maintain such a division under the PMO, as the prime minister holds the defence portfolio. Some of them suggested putting the division under the defence ministry.

Former army chief and chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on defence ministry Mahbubur Rahman expressed his views against the AFD

"I personally think a joint services headquarters can be formed under the defence ministry for better coordination of the activities of the armed forces," he suggested.

The Armed Forces Division was established in a shortcut way to work under the Prime Minister's Office." noted Mahbub, also defence advisor

He said every democratic country has the defence ministry to supervise and coordinate all the activities of the armed forces. But Bangladesh is an exception where the AFD is perform-

Perhaps the ministry lacked required logistic supports to discharge its duties properly, but the ministry could have been equipped tics without forming such a division,

Haque said earlier the defence ministry used to perform all tasks to coordinate the activities of the defence forces. Later some of the tasks were put under the jurisdiction

Former defence secretary ASHK Sadeque told The Daily Star, "I personally believe there is no logic to run the Armed Forces Division when

several divisions with separate secretary in charge, but the ministry is the top authority to coordinate their activities. "I don't understand why and how the armed forces division is being run as a parallel body."

The DU authorities yesterday

Meanwhile, a number of BCL eaders and activists, who were day returned to halls with the help of

the total budget, the mayor said,

adding that DCC expects to receive a

fund of Tk 100 crore from the govern-

ment and Tk 550.22 crore under

sites at Matuail in Demra and Amin

Bazar in Savar and improvement of

bins, Tk 10 crore for market construc-

tion and development and Tk 8 crore

for citizens's recreation, park, chil-

The other revenue expenditure

the waste dumping sites.

different foreign-aided projects.

Tk 1,247 crore

last FY for roads, drains and traffic infrastructure development and

The foreign-aided development expenditure of Tk 550.22 crore include Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover, market development and constructing multistoried car-parking building, improvement of city's damaged roads and It has allocated Tk 17.50 crore for drains, roads widening and beautification from Banani Staff Road to Shahbagh crossing, acquisition of 103.13 acres land for waste dumping

The city corporation targets earn-FY 05-06.

include Tk 31 crore for hydraulic is targeting to earn the revenue of Tk ladder, dump trucks, bulldozers, 432 crore through accelerating tax and equipment for health department and transport and equipment for conserexisting sectors," the mayor said in his vancy work, Tk 25 crore for constructbudget speech at Mahanagar Natva ing and development of community centres in each DCC ward, Tk 7.60 commissioners, DCC officials and crore for environmental development tree plantation, slum infrastructure The DCC has decreased the development, public toilets and dust-

dren's park and playground development purpose, he added. On suffering of the people due to road-digging, the mayor said lack of coordination among the city utility

> No utility service authority could finish their work in time, he added. To step up DCC's pace of work, the organisation will be brought under the ime Minister's Office, he said.

service providers is responsible for it.

About city government, the mayor said six mayors already had a meeting and they will again sit to set a final proposal in order to bring changes in the British-regime rules in running city

skidded off the runway, oversaw the salvage operations and spoke to high officials of Biman Bandladesh Airlines and Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab).

Two Biman flights each with 221 passengers on board are scheduled to fly for Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Émirates and Muscat in Oman at 8:45pm and 10:45pm on Wednesday, Biman sources said yesterday.

Thai Airways yesterday cancelled their scheduled Bangkok-Chiangmai-Chittagong flights for tomorrow, said Weerawat Swasdibutra, the general manager. He requested the passengers to contact their office for further information. The BG-048 flight of the national flag

carrier flying from Dubai with 215 passengers aboard skidded off the runway after it was forced to make a pelly-landing "due to technical faults". Meanwhile, the lightening of the

damaged aircraft including de-fuelling and removal of the two engines were completed yesterday afternoon. Engineers and staffs of Biman and Caab removed all seats and other instruments to enable easy dragging of the aircraft off the runway.

The army yesterday erected a makeshift brick platform through which the aircraft will be dragged 150-feet away from the runway. Director (Flight Safety) Habibullah Khan, also the head of the five-member committee formed to investigate the accident, yesterday said the probe committee was still gathering information and would submit a report "as early as possible".

Ministries asked

FROM PAGE 16 arrears have been added to their bills.

Saifur decided to sit with different ministries to discuss the irregularities in gas billing after July 15 and asked them to pay the portion that the ministries believe undisputed by

the deadline. He said there are some sensitive organisations such as hospitals and educational institutions against which drastic actions should not be taken to realise outstanding gas bills. He advised the authorities concerned to try to realise the bills through mutual understanding

After the meeting Mahmudur Rahman said they are going to take stern actions against the defaulting private organisations if they fail to pay the arrears by the deadline. Their unpaid amount is over Tk 700

The meeting also discussed the outstanding water bills. Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) reported that it could not realise a large sum of water bills from various organisations.

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, Science and ICT Minister Abdul Moyeen Khan, Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury, State Minister for Land Ukil Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan, State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar, and secretaries from different ministries were

Mugger

video footage of the close circuit television installed in the bank and identified one mugger. They have the mugger's criminal records as he came out of iail 15 days ago.

"We've sent two teams outside Dhaka to arrest him and seize the looted money," Deputy Commissioner (South) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Mazharul Hoque told The Daily Star vesterday.

He however did not name the mugger.

Garbage-choked

monsoon only setting in.

than 8 percent open space.

"For a low-lying city like Dhaka oreserving enough wetlands inside the city as rainwater retention places is a must," said Prof Islam.

Recently, an international conerence held in Dhaka also sugwetlands -- inside the city.

little about implementing the Dhaka City Master Plan, the longterm city development guidelines. The real estate firms are filling up the lowlands around the city right under the nose of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), the city development authorities, according to sources.

"We have started a detailed area planning and will finish the job within two years," said Md Nasiruddin, member planning of Rajuk, when asked about the

tures have already been erected, and it is impossible to knock them down," he added and clarified that development of the storm water drainage system and removal of rainwater from the city are the job of Wasa, not Rajuk.

The city has developed and expanded over the years but not the drainage system, said a Wasa official, wishing anonymity. Top Wasa officials blamed the city dwellers and DCC for filling up most of the drainage channels with solid waste.

age facilities due to lack of funds. What we need now is to formulate a drainage policy and carry a study on the system," said a high Wasa official on condition that he not be

AEC plan requires

over 30 years.

Lye says the study will end by September this year and his company will submit to the government its plan that will include details of mine development, and how it could finance and help the government rehabilitate and relocate the affected people of the area.

If the government approves the plan within this year, AEC can start production of 1.5 million tonnes of coal in 2007, six million tonnes in 2008, nine million tonnes in 2009 and finally 15 million tonnes from 2011. It will employ 1,200 to 1,500 people and deploy trucks that can carry up to 350 tonnes of coal each. Digging machines to be deployed there will pick up 50 tonnes of coal in

"Price of the coal at the mine gate is likely to be around \$13 per tonne," the CEO said talking to The Daily Star at his Dhaka office.

As per the AEC plan, bulk of this coal could be exported through Chalna port, using the railway link to Khulna from the northern region. While India can be one of the prime and easy export markets, AEC sees a broad market for Bangladeshi coal that is high in calorific value, and cause low environmental pollution.

The company also thinks that 20 percent of the production can be utilised by any steel industry, and another part may go for domestic power generation, brick kilns and other consumers.

But to make it all happen, AEC needs a mining area of 6,500 hectares of land because of its open pit mining, which most Bangladeshi energy experts term socially and environmentally hazardous. Lve and AEC Head of Corporate

Affairs Brian Mooney explained the

advantages of open pit mining over shaft mining (used at Barapukuria mine), and why relocation of the affected people is worth the venture. "In shaft mining, optimal extraction of coal is not possible. If you cannot extract even 10 percent of

the coal, what is the point in such

mining? Whereas in open pit min-

ing, you can extract 90 percent of

the reserve," Lye says. "Again, shaft mining creates land subsidence (as the mining progressively creates vacuum inside) posing a great risk. But in open pit mining, developers fill up the open pit when extraction in one part is over and then move to a new part. This is much safer than shaft mining," says Brian Mooney.

Lye points out that such mining exists in different areas of Australia and Germany. "There is a mine in Australia where 30,000 people had to be relocated. In Germany, there is a bigger mine in operation for a hundred years. The mine developers move ahead from one point to another, filling up the previously excavated land and giving it five to seven years to stabilise and then return that to people for farming," he

economic condition of people necessary. "Bangladesh had to relocate 50,000 people to build

Mooney noted that of the 6,500 hectares of Phulbari mining area, AEC will use a maximum of 2,000 hectares as open pit at any given time and move on to developing the next phase once that part is

cated, may be to the eastern side of the Jamuna river nearby. This will not be so difficult but it will be more difficult to relocate people from agricultural area, where most part of the mine is located," Mooney said.

standard dictates that every affected person should be better of when relocated, none will be forcibly pensated, they would be provided inject huge benefits for the commu-

They are talking to people of every village concerned," Lye said.

While producing coal, AEC will also extract white clay used for ceramics, clay for brick fields, gravel, sand and hard rocks as byproducts.

Late last month, energy ministry adviser Mahmudur Rahman at a meeting with Petrobangla criticised the AEC agreement for two years for feasibility study. A one-year agreement was good enough for this, he thought.

The adviser also criticised that Petrobangla gave AEC access to a vast area saying if people of the town need to be relocated for exploration, the social cost will be too much for the government to handle. However, he also suggested awarding AEC two new areas for mining exploration.

Mahmud also supports open pit mining over shaft mining, and has advocated a proposal from Tata to allow it open pit method at Barapukuria mine which is already being developed by a Chinese company. The energy adviser suggested Petrobangla to hire an international consultant to see if

the present context of high price of

PM's promise

FROM PAGE 1

were marooned for about three months last year and the prime minister during a visit there pledged to solve the problem. "After the visit, the prime minister also asked the authorities concerned to take up a project for resolving the problem," he said.

"As a lawmaker of the area. when I asked the water resources ministry what steps it took, the ministry told me that it is a matter of the local government ministry. But the local government ministry said it is a matter of the water resources ministry," he said.

Earlier, another BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu raised the same issue during the questionanswer session.

Replying to Pintu, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told the House that the government is going to take measures to recover the canals from illegal occupants and expand the sewerage lines to resolve the longstanding problem of waterlogging in

the capital. Steps would also be taken to pump out stagnant water from the city areas, he said. The minister, however, said the problem in some areas may not be resolved over-

He said Dhaka City is now inhabited by a population almost 10 times its capacity and most of the canals have been filled up. Even concrete roads have been constructed over some canals, obstructing drainage system, he said.

"We've already recovered 15 canals from illegal occupants," he said The minister said widespread

filling-up of water bodies, including ponds and canals, is the main reason for waterlogging in the city. **CORRUPTION IN LISTING** FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Rising on a point of order, Krishok Sramik Janata League lawmaker Kader Siddiqui alleged that the government-formed committees have included fake persons on the freedom fighters' list. He alleged that a 34-year-old

man was listed as a freedom fighter. "I will place the necessary documents in support of my allegation," Kader Siddiqui, a valiant freedom fighter, told the House. He said genuine freedom fight-

he told the newsmen. He emphasised necessary police force during drives to reclaim footpaths from illegal occupation and demolish unauthorised hotels and

ers are being harassed by peons regard." Khoka said. 131 women

FROM PAGE 16

women ansars to other countries especially to Middle Eastern nations where demand for female domestic helps is high.

The government decided on June 19 to go for overseas household jobs for ansar and VDP (Village Defence Police) members. "Male ansars will also be sent abroad in the future." a source at the home ministry said

In the first phase, 161 female ansars aged between 25-35 were initially selected from 64 districts for training.

They received training at Gazipur Ansar Academy in household work-operating television, vacuum cleaner, washing machine, air conditioner, dryer, oven, telephone, ironing, and serving foods and taking care of children and the elderly

They also received English and Arabic language training.

Four government-approved recruiting agencies -- Enam International, Royal Associates, Akbar Enterprise and Al Baraka International -- will look after the recruitment and their security mat-

Though there is demand for female labourers in Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries, housemaids there alleged harassment by their employers.

Ershad

FROM PAGE 1 Police Station accusing Ershad of

allegation.

threatening her and her family with The court ordered the IO to probe

the allegation brought against Ershad on June 30. The IO in his probe report mentioned he did not find any truth in the

Meantime, the court has extended the ad-interim bail of Bidisha in the cheating case until August 4 following expiry of her bail

ACC agrees FROM PAGE 16

The ACC chairman asked the ADB on April 30 for immediate appointment of a change management consultant/advisor and an organisation development consultant for the commission. The ADB in an aide-memoire

on Sunday proposed for the appointment of four consultants -former cabinet secretary M Mujibul Huq as Team Leader/Change Management Advisor-Domestic, Chua Cher Yak as Organisation Development Consul-tant-International Sakhawat Hussain as Organisation Develop-ment Consultant-Domestic and Abdul Matin as Legal Trainer and Capacity Building Consultant-Domestic

assistance in the short run would focus on the development of legal framework for ACC operationalisation, criteria and procedures for screening the staff of nowdefunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption and its organogram.

It also informed the ACC about the possibility of a follow-up ADB governance technical assistance n 2006 subject to progress under the current technical assistance. The ADB said the follow-up

equipment for the commission. Normal flooding

In July, the rainfall in Dhaka will be 370-420 millimeter, Chittagong 700-750, Sylhet 560-610, Rajshahi 370-420, Khulna 330-380 and Barisal 500-550, the report said adding that the capital should expe-

Analysing the weather data, the report stated that the country experienced almost normal rainfall last month although monsoon arrived 15 days after it was expected.

Govt plans

FROM PAGE 16 the gas users on how to save the

About 17 percent gas is consumed for domestic purposes and the introduction of cylinder system will save huge amount of gas on this front, he observed.

About 50 percent gas is used for power generation and only 15 percent for industrial use, he said, adding that if the coal reserves in the North Bengal could be used for power generation, more gas could be used in industries. "There will be more foreign direct

Blasting the trade unions of Titas Gas, he said there is a nexus between some corrupt employees

and some businessmen in the

private sector that manipulates gas Mahmudur, also the executive chairman of Board of Investment (BoI), said the Indian company Tata which has proposed for setting up a

500 MW to sell to the government from its planned 1000 MW plant," he The newly appointed energy adviser said Petrobangla's assump-

by the next 15 years is not right. "The reserved gas can be used for the next 25 years if we use coal for power generation and check gas wastage," he said. "I believe, more gas fields will be explored."

Niko will wait

entire area has become polluted because of smoke continuing for a

long time. Meanwhile, a five member Awami League (AL) parliamentary delegation led by deputy leader of the opposition advocate Abdul Hamid visited the Tengratila gas field vesterday.

"According to our primary observation, the gas field caught fire because of 'inefficiency' of the drilling company Niko," Abdul Hamid told journalists after observing the flame and talking to the Niko The AL parliamentary delegation

demanded immediate stoppage of the fire and proper compensation to the victims. They also demanded disclosure of actual losses of gas caused by the gas field disaster. "We can not accept that the

"Niko has prepared to dig a relief well only 100 metre from the burning well that may catch fire again. The relief well should be drilled at least 700 metre off the burning well," he

valuable asset of the country would

be burnt out in this way," Hamid

"We are doubtful whether there would remain any gas in the field

after the end of this fire," Dewan Farid Gazi MP, a member of the

delegation said. The delegation blamed the government for awarding contract to

the inefficient Candian Company Niko in exchange of huge bribe. The government yesterday distributed Tk 1.08 crore as com-

pensation to 283 fire victims Meanwhile, the Tengratila Sangram Parisad yesterday declared a three-day action programme to realise their demands that include dousing the fire and compensating the actual

The people in Sunamganj and Sylhet also brought out processions and demanded cancellation of the contract signed with the inefficient company Niko.

Niko will continue drilling the plant after the fire ends, a source related to Tengratila gas field told this correspondent, adding that Niko experts want to fence off half a kilometre area after evacuating the villagers and shifting the village market adjacent to the gas field.

The gas produced in the field will be supplied to the underconstruction Lafarge cement factory

Experts blame

government's technical evaluation in 1997, they recalled.

Professor Badrul Imam of geology department at Dhaka University said, "Blowout in a relief well (as at Tengratila) is very rare. I have not heard of such blowouts anywhere in the world."

Niko should have been very careful after the first blowout in January but it was not, he said.

government award the gas field to Niko when national petroleum exploration company Bapex itself had the expertise and experience in drilling such gas fields," Badrul With two blowouts, Tengratila gas field has now become very

expert noted. He urged the government to seriously consider cancelling the

deal with Niko. BNP lawmaker and member of the parliamentary committee on power and energy Shakhawat Hossain pointed out that the joint venture agreement on Tengratila gas field has no provisions for

foreign company, the government should prioritise the interest of Bapex," he added. Mahmudur Rahman claimed

during Awami League rule.

But former Petrobangla chairman and DU geology department Chairman Dr Hossain Monsur pointed said the Niko contract was drafted in February 2003 and

violation of the government policy that such fields should be awarded through PSC, Monsur

He termed the Niko deal a

Nasa projectile

The reason scientists are so excited is that comets circling the Sun, which are numbered in billions, are seen as leftovers from a massive cloud of gas and dust that condensed to form the Sun and planets

Universe and how it was formed, including Earth. The projectile was fired from a mothership spacecraft, "Deep Impact," that was itself launched

from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida in January. It undertook a 173-day, 431million-kilometer journey to get close to Tempel 1. After launching the projectile, it then recorded data

"It's just absolutely stunning," Nasa Associate Administrator Al Diaz told reporters. "To be in a situation where we are

here tracking a comet for this period of time and then precisely positioning a spacecraft in a way that creates that environment that is so bright... I am speechless!" He said the success was thanks

scientists and researchers inside and outside the United States. Although incoming imagery is still to be analysed, the impact was

expected to gouge a large crater on the surface of the comet, sending up a cloud of ice, dust and debris that researchers hope will offer valuable

Prof Tamim of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) said the blowouts at Tengratila are just a part of mismanagement in the energy sector.

Daily Samakal Editor Golam

Sarwar suggested the govern-

energy with foreign companies for review to ensure their transparency. Shafiqul Haque Chowdhury of Asa stressed immediate compen-

sation for affected people of Tengratila. Those present at the roundtable included Jatiya Party leader Anwar Hossain Manju MP former energy minister Ziauddin Bablu, Prothom Alo Editor Motiur Rahman, News Today Editor Reazuddin Ahmed, Manabzamin Chief Editor Motiur Rahman Chowdhury, Sangbad Executive Editor Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul and top business leaders Abdul Awal

Kutubuddin Ahmed.

Mintoo, Yusuf Abdullah Harun and

SSC results FROM PAGE 16

websitewww.educationboard.gov.bd. Authorities have taken sufficient preventive measures to protect the website, which collapsed after

uploading the SSC results last year in the wake of excessive hits. Different private IT firms have planned to publish the results through push and pull short mes

sage service (SMS). About 9.55 lakh examinees appeared in the SSC under seven education boards, Dakhil under Madrasa Education Board and SSC Vocational examinations held in

service to equipment vendors Siemens and Huawei, as a section of BTTB officials including the chairman deliberately did not opt for the service when signing the equipment deal. In the submarine cable tender, the chairman, who headed the bid

49.60 crore, dumping the lowest bidder Nortel which offered to do the job for Tk 33.80 crore. Following reports in The Daily Star, the prime minister in April ordered actions against six officials accused of manipulating the bid

the project. The BTTB chairman's shoddy role has delayed by about six months Bangladesh's access to the

global information superhighway.

On April 10, the Cabinet Division in a letter conveyed the prime minister's order to the telecoms ministry and asked it to inform the cabinet purchase committee by May 15 about the actions taken against

two defence officers would face departmental tribunal The letter quoted the PM as asking the ministry to keep the Cabinet Division updated about the

It also increased budget allocation

ing Tk 210 crore in holding tax applying its existing rules of 12 percent tax in the "Without increasing taxes the DCC fees collection activities from the Mancha in the city in presence of ward

Revenue target in bus, truck and

renting community centres.

said BCL General Secretary Nazrul

Proctor Siddigur Rahman said. The student combine called the

The experts say around 20 percent open space of a city should be preserved in order to have a healthy habitat, but Dhaka has less

gested preserving floodwater reservoirs -- a technical term for But the city authorities cared

"But a lot of unplanned struc-

"We cannot expand the drain-

major project that can change sociorelocation of a community becomes

Jamuna Bridge," he mentioned.

"To do this, eastern part of Phulbari town will have to be relo-

On the relocation, the AEC executives say they will follow the high standard set by International Finance Corporation (IFC). The IFC relocated, they would be fully comwith alternative livelihood and housing, and the miners have to

"Nearly 300 people are now working on socio-environmental impact assessment of the project

open pit mining is more profitable than shaft mining. Most local energy experts oppose open mining on socioenvironmental grounds. They also suggest that the six percent royalty under the coal development policy should be immediately revised as it undermines the high value of coal in

tee members at thana and district levels who were charged with preparing the list. "The freedom fighters are being

forced to bribe to get their names on

allegations, State Minister for

Responding to Kader Siddiqui's

and employees of the Liberation

War Affairs Ministry and the commit-

Liberation War Affairs M Rezaul Karim assured that if any irregularities are found, the ministry would take stern actions.

the list," he said.

Mayor FROM PAGE 1 Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) is responsible for tackling the waterlogging, not the DCC. He also blamed the Wasa for its delays in regular work.

"If the government does not help, it

is quite impossible to resolve the waterlogging problem in Dhaka, Khoka told reporters in the budget-

FOOD ADULTERATION The mayor said the DCC is unable to take necessary actions against adulteration of food items in hotels, restaurants, fast food and fruit shops for want of modern equipment and adequate

as preservatives, are causing serious public health hazard. Khoka however said the DCC is taking actions as per the Pure Food Ordinance 1959, Pure Food Rules

Khoka strongly felt the need for a

separate police force for conducting

drives to prevent various transgres-

He said the DCC authorities do not

sions of rules in the capital.

Newspaper reports say massive

adulteration of food items, particularly

the use of toxic chemicals and colours

get adequate help from the law enforcers in operations against the offend-"It is very hard to keep the footpaths free from illegal occupants...adequate police can hardly be available in time,"

restaurants. "We need a separate police force to facilitate the drives, and I urge the LGRD ministry and other authorities concerned to take steps in this

The ADB said the scope of its

assistance for next year may accommodate training of the ACC officials and procurement of some

FROM PAGE 1 that a couple of depressions on the Bay in this month.

rience 16-20 rainy days.

placing session at Mohanagor national resource

investment (FDI) in the country if more gas could be provided for the industries "he added 1967 and the DCC regulations. SEPARATE POLICE FORCE

> coal-based power plant in Bangladesh will not export electricity to India. "Tata has planned to use 500 MW electricity for itself and the rest

tion that the reserved gas will exhaust

ment should place in parliament all documents of the contracts on "I do not know what made the

vulnerable as many geological

voir, making it highly risky for any company to drill a well there, the

pockets of the field have devel-

oped links to the main gas reser-

compensation. "Before awarding any deal to a

the contract with Niko was made He also said it is easy to get compensation from Niko. "We can block payment for purchase of gas from Niko's Feni field and claim the compensation.

signed in October. He however said the process of the deal began during the AL rule. Ousted state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain played a key role in making Bapex sign the joint venture agreement through which an unexplored gas field has been awarded to Niko in

about 4.6 billion years ago. Their geological and chemical structures could thus contain important clues to the nature of the

from the impact.

to broad cooperation between

Minister okays FROM PAGE 16 He was also found to have wasted \$37 million in government funds by not taking the maintenance deal from Siemens and Huawei Technologies in the BTTB's

cellphone project, sources said.

Bangladesh also had to pay an

additional \$37 million for after-sales

evaluation committee, picked Siemens as the bid winner although it made the highest-priced offer of Tk

evaluation. At the same time, the government ordered re-tendering of

quilty officials. If the PM's orders were complied with, four high BTTB officials and

military officials in a scandalous public procurement.

progress of this unusual disciplinary

action against the serving civil and

The telecoms ministry, however, did not take steps in this regard and instead of punishing the culprits, it focussed on the project re-