EU offers help for

commission in holding a smooth vote.

sador said it is a real tough task for the Bangladesh government to make the polls completely fair, adding, "Our offer is to help ensure that the elections are

Ambassador Kentrschynskyj said the Tuesday Group was very much in focus during the 2001 elections, when it brought in a large contingent of

On the lack of compliance in the local apparel industry, Kentrschynskyj said European buvers had been shocked at the incident of Savar garment factory collapse. "We are closely watching the scenario," said, adding they have discussed the matter with the Bangladesh's com-

help to overcome the hostilities between the two major political parties, Anwar Choudhury said, "It not only affects the election but also the entire politics of the country. EU would always be supportive to dialogue between the major political parties and striking consensus.

"We will always be available for that, if we are needed, but it is essentially an internal issue of Bangladesh and it is up to the Bangladeshi leadership to find a solution," said the British

system, Choudhury said they would urge the politicians from both sides of the divide to sit, discuss and find a consensual solution to the issue. "It is simply not an issue to be resolved by the EU. It must be settled by the people, government and opposition parties of Bangladesh."

On terror risks in Bangladesh, especially against the backdrop of last Thursday's London blasts, the British envoy said one cannot be totally safe from international terrorism anywhere "If Bangladesh is free from internabecause no other country thinks so.

On any possible backlash against the Muslims in the UK, he said there is no reason to fear such a thing, as the British society typically becomes more united in crisis, remarking, Bangladeshi-born British is like any other Britons.'

Earlier, in his introductory remarks, the British high commissioner said during the next six months of its EU presidency, the UK would continue providing Bangladesh with support to democracy, good gover-

PM), who arrived in Tokyo on

Monday night, began her official programmes yesterday by laying

foundation of the Shaheed

The monument will be con-

structed as per the typical design of

Hamidur Rahman by April 14 next

year on the land provided by the

Bangladesh government has provided US\$ 30,000 for the con-

Khaleda Zia formally inaugu-

rated the construction work by

side of the park where a 'boishakhi

mela' (fair marking the Bangla new

year) is arranged every year that

draws a large number of expatriate

Bangladeshis, Japanese and

Speaking on the occasion, Toshima-ku Mayor Yukio Takano

said the memorial will enhance

friendship between Japan and

Bangladesh and contribute to

consolidating peace all over the

Khan. State Minister for Expatriates'

Welfare and Overseas Employment

M Quamrul Islam, Deputy Minister

for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs

Moni Shwapan Dewan, others

members of the PM's entourage and

a large number of expatriate

Bangladeshis and the local elite

attended the function.
As the Bangladesh PM arrived at

the park, the Toshima-ku mayor

received her with a bouquet and all

present at the function gave her a

one. Khaleda Zia said construction.

of the Shaheed Minar in Tokyo in

memory of the language martyrs, first of its kind outside the country,

will enhance cultural exchange

created a rare example in the world

history by shedding blood for their

'Showing respect to our language

martyrs means showing respect for

all the languages of the world and

giving recognition to the rights of all

to speak in their mother tongues."

The recognition of "Ekushe

February' (the 21st February) as

International Mother Language Day

by the UNO is a matter of great pride

sacrifices of the valiant sons of

Bangladesh to earn the rightful

place for their mother tongue

Bangla on February 21 in 1952, the

Unesco declared the day as "Inter-

national Mother Language Day" in

"Japanese friends" and "Bangladeshi brothers and sisters"

of Japan-Bangladesh Society and Boishakhi Mela Celebration

Committee in Tokyo for their role in

the construction of the Shaheed

language teaching centres in Dhaka

and Chittagong and teaching of Bangla language in two institutions in Japan, the PM expressed hope

that the scope for learning each other's language will expand further

in future leading to consolidation of

cultural communications between

Bangladesh is proud of the good

the two countries.

Referring to the four Japanese

The Bangladesh PM thanked the

In recognition to the supreme

mother tongue, she said, adding

The people of Bangladesh

between the two countries.

Terming the moment a historic

. standing ovation.

Foeign Minister M Morshed

people of other nationalities.

struction of the monument.

local administration of Toshima-ku.

PM lays foundation

nance, fight against terrorism and making better trade agreements as well as helping it achieve its Millennium Development

He said the EU presidency programme of the UK also includes human rights, where the issues of Ahmadiyas, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Rohingyas, stranded Pakistanis and other minority communities are very much prominent besides press reedom and an independent human

Grabbers attack

some 86 acres of land under illegal occupation for about 45 years, sources

Locals said that following a July 7 Supreme Court order in its favour, the CPA launched the drive to evict some 200 families at Laldiarchar.

The illegal occupants had put up about a dozen barricades with trees and burning tyres on a half-kilometre stretch of the airport road in that area. As the eviction team led by Magistrate Muhammad Munir Chowdhury reached

the area, they attacked it.
Of the injured, two were admitted to nittagong Medical College Hospital. The law enforcers fired around 50 blank shots and brought the situation under control after an hour and cordoned off the area. The drive then

Sources said illegal occupation the land at Laldiarchar hindered implementation of CPA projects like private inland

Galib

continued till afternoon.

FROM PAGE 16

Degree College, and Azizullah, centra organising secretary of Ahab, in the Porsha Brac office bomb blast case.

The defence lawyer in the petition argued that the accused were being exempted from the charge sheet of the

The court however did not issue any release order as the public prosecutor Jainul Abedin Mintu was absen rom the court. The court fixed next date of hearing of the case on August

Four others accused in this case had been granted bail earlier.

On the night of February 15, two

ombs blasted at the Porsha upazila Brac office injuring some people. Galib was shown accused in the case.

Galib, accused in the first informa-

tion report (FIR) of seven cases, was brought to Naogaon jail from Bogra or 11 under tight security.

Earlier. Galib was denied bail in nnection with the January 14 Lakkhikhola open stage drama bomb from the charges in five cases.

reputation earned by its expatriates

through their sincerity, devotion and

Bangladesh prime minister pre-

sented a replica of Shaheed Minar

presented her a computer image

photograph of the memorial to be

Toshima-ku Mayor who

fficiency, Khaleda Zia said.

Five killed in Comilla road crash

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Five people including three of a family were killed when a bus rammed into an autorickshaw at Papiya in Daudkandi on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday.

accident.

Abida Khatun, 65, her son Rafiqul Islam, 45, grandson Samsuddoha, 22, her neighbour Ruhul Amin, 30, and autorickshaw driver Salim, 40.

district while driver Salim from village Channi of Daudkandi upazila in Comilla. Comilla Kotwali police rushed to

the spot after the accident and sent the bodies to Comilla Medical College Hospital for autopsy. Injured Nazma Khatun, daugh-

Gouripur Health Complex A case was filed with Daudkandi

BSC decides to

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) has decided to procure a 700-750 TEU (twenty equivalent unit) capacity new cellular container ship with its own resources.

The decision was taken at the 228th meeting of the BSC held at its head office in Dhaka vesterday with Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain in

It also decided to formulate terms and conditions making it mandatory to build the ship in Bangladesh.

Mohammad Rafigul Islam and BSC Managing Director Captain M Azizul

The meeting also discussed procurement of a 15-18 year old mother tanker for the BSC to carry

7 Indians pushed back

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

She urged them to work relentssly to maintain this reputation. She said Japan is the larges bilateral development partner of Bangladesh and always played an important role in her development Naogaon border. At the end of the function, the

They are: Akhtar Hossain and Nowshad, Rafik Uddin, his wife Mustari Begum, Nargis, her daughter Meherunnessa and son Islam. BDR picked them up from

15 to die

BNP leader Monowar Ali, 63, his brother Badsha. 40. and two others named Hashem and Ismail Gazi on July 7, 2001. Anwar Ali, another brother of Monowar, and his nephew Salauddin were also seriously injured in the incident.

A murder case was filed with Shrinagar Police Station against Ayub and 61 others five days after the murders and the investigation officer pressed charges against Ayub and 107 others on November 30,2003 The proceedings of the case

were stayed seven times since it had been shifted to the tribunal for quick disposal. The convicts who received death

penalty are Ayub Ali, Salam alias Ketu Salam, Mannan Shah, Faruq Gazi, Kuti Chand, Sabuj Ali, Nazir Nizam, Mahfuz, Ripon, Shafiul Azam. Hashem. Abdul Mannan alias Mobile Mannan, Javed Ali and Mizan.

Of them, Ayub, Salam, Mannan Shafiul, Hashem and Mahfuz are in jail custody and the rest were tried in absentia. Of them, Ayub, Mannan and Farug were given double death penalties for killing Monowar and Badsha, but one of the sentences will be executed after confirmation by the High Court.

Those who received life terms are Salam Sikder, Mithu, Minto, Badsha, Abdur Rob, Ayesha Begum, Shawkat Ali, Joynal Moktar Nazir, Kuti Chand, Mahfuz Ali, Sabuj Ali and Nizam. Of them, nine were given double life-terms in jail but the punishment will run concurrently.

Of the convicts, Kuti, Mithu, Badsha, Abdur Rob, Ayesha and Mahfuz were present at the court and the rest were tried in absentia. The convicts who got two-vear

igorous imprisonment are Shamsuddin, Alek, Syed Chowdhury, Ratan, Rafiq, Masud, Pear Ali, Jasim, Titan Khan, Maram Ali. Nannu Sikder and Hossair Member. Of them, Shamsu, Rafiq, Titan, Maram and Nannu were present in the court yesterday and the rest were absconding.

The tribunal acquitted 68 others, as the charges brought against them were not proven.

Those sentenced to death may appeal to the High Court against the verdict within 30 days from the receipt of the copy of the judgement. The punishment of the fugitives will be effective from the day of their arrest or surrender, the judge said.

The Chittagong-bound bus collided head-on with the Gouripurbound autorickshaw at 9:45am. killing the five autorickshaw passengers on the spot, police said. Another passenger of the autorickshaw was injured in the

The dead were identified as

Abida hailed from Ragdul village of Kochua upazila in Chandour

ter of Abida, was admitted to

buy vessel

Secretary of the ministry

Haque attended the meeting.

unrefined oil, an official handout said.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) pushed back the seven Hindi speaking Muslims to India yesterday, a day after they were pushed into Bangladesh territory through

Sundoreel village after they were shed in through Sona porder in Naogaon district on

Energy advisor

mere partial and preliminary one," Rahman said at the Zia International Airport Monday night before going to Japan as member of the prime minister's entourage.

"I have sent back the report and asked to make a full and detailed report on damage to property as well as environment," he said adding that for realisation of compensation from Niko Resources, a complete report on total extend of damages was essential.

Meanwhile, a BSS correspondent who visited the affected site at Tengratila witnessed the extensive of damage caused to property and environment. The disaster caused severe environmental degradation in the entire gas field area and its

The blowout destroyed fruit bearing and timber trees in the green forest of the north-eastern hills and fishery resources of the haors and baors (water bodies).

It destroyed properties in four square kilometers around the gas field. Besides, gas has been leaking through hundreds of wholes that nad developed over one square kilometer of land.

Local people said there is hardly any possibility to grow crops on five square kilometers of land around Tengratila. BAPEX and Petrobangla technicians however said everything would be normal after digging the relief wells around the site

Policy guideline

FROM PAGE 16 the quality, price and economic lifeline of the capital machinery it

would import by the foreign loan. The proceeds of the loans will come through an authorised dealer bank operating only in Bangladesh. The borrower will also have to report the status of implementation and utilisation of the loan time to time to

Until December 2004, 41 Bangladeshi and joint ventures borrowed \$1.54 billion from abroad, Finance Ministry sources said. Of the amount, \$1.48 billion is loan and the remaining \$54.94 million is supplier's credit.

Sources said AES Haripur Ltd made the highest foreign borrowing of \$285.63 million, followed by AES Meghnaghat Ltd \$220.0 million. NEPC Consortium Power Ltd \$217.42 million, GrameenPhone Ltd \$138.80 million and Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd \$137.0 million.

Shipping authorities

number rose because of his bad luck. "Certainly the shipping minister himself did not sink any vessel.'

He claimed that the passenger capacity of the vessels was lower in the past so the number of casualties was less. "As the capacity of the launches increased, the number of casualties has also risen nowadays."
CAUSES OF THE ACCIDENTS

Shipping experts have for years been citing faulty designs and bad construction methods as the major causes of launch disasters. They observe that most of the recently made double decked or triple decked passenger vessels are unfit for plying, since they are being built manually without maintaining required balance and draft. "I have been included in several

investigation committees," notes

Khabirul Haque Chowdhury, Naval

Architect. "We inspected 38

launches once and found structural problems in each of them. But they had their certificates, which they got through bribing the authorities. He noted. "The designs are flawed. It's not enough for a ship to just float. It has to last. One can not term a launch safe which has not sunken yet and that can not be a

model for constructing new ones. A

flawless ship does not sink just like

Chowdhury points out the launch owners build their vessels first and make a design later, spending between Tk two lakh to four lakhs for the design and bribing the concerned BIWTA desk. "Yet, if they spend this same amount for a professional design, they save lives and their business.

Launch owners on the other hand blame the masters and drivers of the launches for accidents. They said often the masters do not stay on the bridge and pass time sleeping, giving charge to their assistants or to an apprentice.

Besides, they also do not follow the weather forecast or fail to take shelter even after observing bad weather, said a launch owner. The owners, meanwhile, avoid strong actions against employees because of the threat of agitation by the launch employees workers federation.

On the other hand, the government officials also fine the launch owners for any fault instead of punishing the masters, the launch

The DG of shipping, A K M Shafiqullah, also observed that the major launch accidents occur due to a lack of operational skills. "Even an unfit launch could be safe because of efficient operation, while a fit launch could be unsafe because of poor operation and bad Major launch disaster in the last

five years

The series of launch disaster started with the collusion of the MV Jalkapot and the MV Ranjhawnshi near Chandpur in 2000. According to official figures, a total of 222 people died in the disaster.

in 2001, only four people died in a launch disaster near Bhola. In

2002, the MV Salahuddin-2 sank killing 245 people. In 2003, four major launch disasters occurred At least 135 people died when the M V Mitali-3 sank in the river Burigaga with over 350 passengers on board, 51 died on the M V Mailishpur, 30 on the MV Sharifpur and over 500 on the MV Nasreen-

In 2004, the MV Lighting Sun and the MV Diganta capsized, killing 86 persons.

In the month of February this year, the MV Moharaj sank and killed 150 people. On May 15, the Prince of Patuakahli sank in the river Bura Gouranga with over 300 passengers. Only two days later, another launch, the MV Raipura, capsized with over 200 passengers in the river Jamuna near DECLINE OF PASSENGERS

Following the series of launch disasters this year, the number of launch passengers declined significantly. According to sources, on average 15,000 to 20,000 people used to travel by launches through Sadarghat, the premier launch terminal, but now the number has declined to between 10,000 and

Moreover, the launch owners observed token a strike on Thursday, protesting the remark by shipping minister Akbar Hossain regarding the president of launch owners. Hossain, however, withdrew the comments through a press release on Thursday eve-

3 cops closed for releasing criminal for Tk 1 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

and closed to Boyra Police Lines on Monday on charge of releasing 'Bomaru' Faruque, a listed criminal from Khalishpur Police Station on July 8 receiving Tk 1 lakh bribe.

The suspended cops are Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Ataur Rahman and constables Matin Howlader and Abdul Matin. Faruque, a cadre of Janajuddha

faction of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), was arrested on July 8 at Khalishpur. But the police kept him in the female lock-up in Khalishpur Police Station without filing a general diary about the arrest. Officer-in-Charge of the police

station was not informed about the arrest of such a notorious criminal. When asked, the OC admitted that Faruque was set free without his knowledge. "But I do not know if they (policemen) received bribe," he Police said they have launched a

drive to re-arrest Faruque who is wanted in several bomb attack cases filed with different police stations in Khulna city and district.

Govt yet to take action

FROM PAGE 16
One of the leading intelligence

agencies of the country has prepared the report and submitted it to the Ministry of Education. The ministry had issued a show-

cause notice on the director general

(DG) of the DSHE. The DG in reply

had claimed to be clean and blamed the corruption and irregularities on a ring of crooked employees, education ministry sources said. The report has given a detailed account of corruption and irregularities within the directorate, popularly known as Shikkha Bhaban. It men-

tioned the different rates of bribe charged regularly by a section of DSHE employees for signing off files. The rates of bribe, usually taken from teachers, range between Tk 300 and Tk 1 lakh for files relating to confirmation of service, transfer, posting, monthly pay order, gratuity,

pension and so on, said the intelligence report. Besides, the report has made a list of 14 officials and employees, who allegedly have developed a nexus of corruption over the years.

After being published by a num-

ber of national dailies, it has caused

widespread disgust among the In response to the allegations, the DSHE authorities have only imposed restriction on the access of visitors to the Shikkha Bhaban Building while the accused officials

are still allowed to attend the office Of the accused, one official has retired from the service.

A section of DSHE staff charges between Tk 50,000 and Tk 1 lakh for transferring a teacher to the capital from outside, the report reveals. They charge Tk 50,000 for trans-

fers to other cities, and Tk 10,000 for

an audit report in favour of a teacher.

and Tk 5.000 in favour of an

The report also mentions that for issuance of monthly pay orders, a teacher has to pay between Tk 10,000 and Tk 30,000 and for computer and housing loan Tk 12,000. Approval for a vear's education leave costs Tk 12,000 while for two

sections of the DSHE are more or less engaged in such corrupt practices and they do not do anything without bribe, the report added. Hundreds of teachers and employees from across the country come to the DSHE every day for

years it takes Tk 24,000.

various reasons such as obtaining seal of approval to institution, facilitating disbursement of time-scale pension, audit report, recruitment of teachers, opening new sections, and so on. The employees named in the report include three upper-division

clerks, an office secretary, an auditor, two deputy directors, three assistant directors, and a project director. The report specifically mentioned that a number of lower division employees fix the bribe rates and collect those on behalf of some

The DG of the DSHE could not be reached for comments despite repeated efforts. "She is now out of the country," one official at the DSHE said.

Outlaw

high officials.

FROM PAGE 16 Uzirpur and Gournadi police sta-

tions, Rab sources said. Barisal Rab arrested Sultan Mia along with another Sarbahara leader Imam Hossain last Saturday from Hotel Jamuna of Mahakhali area in Dhaka when they were in a secret meeting, Captain Iftekhar, commander of Barisal Rab said.

statement during interrogation, they were taken to Babuganj and Gournadi by separate Rab teams for recovery of arms and ammunition early Tuesday. When Rab members with Sultan Mia went to Brahmmandia village

Following their confessional

under Babuganj, his armed associates attacked Rab members who fired back. Sultan was killed during the encounter, Rab said, adding that Rab constable Abdul Malek was linguistic and religious minorities in also injured in the incident.

Rab members recovered a

shutter gun, two SMG bullets and two empty cartridges from the spot. The other Rab team with Imam Hossain went to Purbo Adhuna village of Sharikal union under Gournadi upazila and seized a shutter gun and a Chinese axe from

Meanwhile, Imam's father and younger brother claimed that the Officials and employees at all arms recovery was a "staged incident" by Rab. Local people brought out a

his house, Rab said.

procession protesting the arrest of lmam Hossain, a locally popular person who was defeated in the last . UP chairman election with a marginal difference of votes.

India relaxes visa rules for foreign students

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New

A day after announcing introduction of medical visa, India on Monday came out with a liberalised visa regime for foreign students wanting to study more than one course in the country. Easing of student visa involves

doing away with restriction on the number of courses a foreign student can pursue and also the provision that each time the periodicity of the visa will be counted afresh, an Indian home ministry spokesman said. All a student will have to do is to

extend the visa at the Foreign

Regional Registration Office

(FRRO), he said, adding that the students will be permitted to pursue multiple courses in a single institution or multiple institutions which are reputed and recognised. Under the liberalised visa system, a foreign student will be spared the trouble of returning to

his country and applying for a fresh visa if he wants to pursue higher studies in India. With the increasing number of foreign students coming to Indian colleges, universities and technical institutions for studies in recent

years, there was a need to liberal-

ise the student visa regime, the

spokesman said. A large number of students from Bangladesh study in Indian educa-

tional institutions. The number of students from other countries to India has also risen significantly even though Indian graduates rush overseas, particularly the US and Europe, for admission in technology and other new-age courses

Gas From Iran

Indo-Pak talks begin in Delhi

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New

Despite reservations of the United States, India and Pakistan yesterday began talks here on a timetable for building the \$ 4.1 billion Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline and the issues of financing the project and transit fees.

headed by their petroleum secretaries will discuss commercial and contractual matters, legal issues and security of the pipeline, 760-km of which will pass through Pakistan. Asked if the US was putting pressure on Pakistan to abandon the project. Pakistan Oil Secretary Ahmed Wagar told reporters that President Pervez Musharraf and

During the two-day meeting, the

Indo-Pak Joint Working Group

ated on numerous occasions tha we will proceed with the project based on our national interest". The pipeline, which may be completed by 2009-10, will allow a daily flow of 150 million cubic metres

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz "have

Pakistan will take about a third of the fuel and India the rest, making the latter's role as the larger consumer very important in the project. The talks will cover crucial issues

like pricing of the gas as well as the terms of supply, Indian petroleum ministry officials said. The meeting is also likely to take up the issue of extending another gas pipeline line from Turkmenistan

to Pakistan via Afghanistan. Indian Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar recently visited Pakistan and Iran to discuss the pipeline project.

Indian court

2004 general elections.

FROM PAGE 16 for us as this has been on our agenda for a long time," said Sushma Swarai, spokeswoman of the BJP, which lost power following

The All Assam Students Union, which has been at the forefront of a virulent anti-foreigner drive since 1983 in Assam, staged victory parades in the state, witnesses said. "Bona fide Indian nationals in

Assam have no cause for fear, but

illegal migrants from Bangladesh

who entered Assam after 1971 will have to go," Union spokesman Sammujjal Bhattacharya said in Guwahati, Assam's largest city. The United Minorities Front rights group, which has non-Assamese on its rolls, however, warned the law's scrapping could lead to large-scale persecution of

the region. "Assam's police and bureaucracy often join local groups to target minorities, and this (legal) act was their only constitutional safeguard in the state," Front chairman Hafiz Rashid Ahmed Choudhury "Now, many of our people may

be forcibly thrown out of Assam, Choudhury said in Guwahati. Assam saw one of contemporary India's bloodiest massacres in

1983, when more than 200 suspected aliens, mostly Muslim children, were butchered in a single anti-foreigner attack in the Assamese town of Nellie.

UK cops raid 6 houses

A police spokeswoman said Tuesday's searches were thought to We will be there for some time,"

London police chief Ian Blair told BBC radio the raids were "directly connected" to the bombings which the authorities blame on Islamist militants linked to al-Qaeda.

Ian Blair also told the BBC: "Another attack is likely. There's no doubt

about that."

Last Thursday's London bombs on the underground rail system and a double-decker bus killed at least 52 people and injured more than 700 Tuesday's operation was the first

reported swoop in what police have described as the biggest crime investigation in English history. Hundreds of extra officers have been drafted in to help in the inquiry, which involves examining footage from 2,500 closed circuit television cameras around the capital and assessing information given by

around 2,000 callers. Forensic experts are meanwhile attempting to reconstruct the bombs from evidence collected at the scene to give them further clues about the Earlier a Pakistani man was killed

n a suspected racial attack in the central English city of Nottingham. police said yesterday, amid fears that such assaults could increase in the wake of last week's bombings in Pakistani national Kamal Raza

Butt died Sunday, three days after the London bombings, and the attack was "being investigated as a raciallyaggravated incident," Nottinghamshire Police spokesman told AFP, adding that six youths arrested Monday were in custody

and being questioned. Inayat Bunglawala, a spokesman for the Muslim Council of Britain, linked Butt's death to Thursday's attacks on three London subway trains and a double-decker bus which killed at least 52 and left hundreds In London, where daily life has

clues and remains from the tangled wreckage of the bombed-out Underground trains. Fifty-two people were confirmed dead, and some 700 injured, from the bombs that went off at the peak of

morning rush hour Thursday on three

largely returned to normal, police and

rescue workers continued to pull both

London subway trains and a doubledecker bus.

The death toll was certain to rise, with police liaison officers assisting a

total of 74 families.

Police released the names of two more of the victims, taking the total of formal identifications so far to five. Also Tuesday, the US embassy evealed that a ban since Friday on US air force personnel entering London in the wake of the bombings

had been lifted following bitter criti-

cism from police, politicians and tourism officials Some 10,000 US servicemen and women at two air bases in the east of England were ordered to stay out of London after bombs exploded on four subway trains and a double-decker bus in the deadliest attack in Britain

since World War II. flooded Milon Bazar, Char Matha Cops gun down

FROM PAGE 1 gunned down and another critically njured in an encounter with police at Lalmatia in Mohammadour last

Police said a joint team of police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) vesterday took position in Lalmatia after a robbery attempt failed in the area Monday night. Three youths knocked at the door of a house in block-E in a bid to

commit robbery. When the youths were talking to the guard of the house, policemen appeared at the scene and nabbed them. Locals said the police in a loudspeaker asked the locals not to come out of their houses, saying there were robbers in the locality

firing, locals said. Mohammadpur police said they exchanged bullets for 10-15 minutes with the robbers and two of them died on the spot. Another critically njured robber later died.

Police recovered one pistol, one

Then the locals heard blasts and

British Defence Secretary John Reid told Sky News television he had been told earlier that the order was being "urgently reviewed"

The sweeping ban contradicted appeals from police and politicians for life in London to resume as quickly as possible to make clear that Britons

will never be cowed by terrorists. London transport commissioner Bob Kiley, who is a US citizen, said the directive had been in place too

"Maybe the instruction had some logic to it on Friday when it was giver on Thursday, but inasmuch as that order is still in effect now, there's a major or a colonel or a brigadier general whose future is very much at stake as we speak. Not smart," Kiley

concluded just before the ban was

rescinded British Prime Minister Tony Blair said Monday that no effort would be spared to find the bombers, whom he associated with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network -- the group behind the September 11 attacks in the United States in 2001.

tion that our country will not be defeated by such terror," he told parliament.

days after the attacks. Police set up a vast temporary mortuary in a military barracks just east of the city centre where next of

Meanwhile, British police are on the verge of identifying one person they believe was involved in the bomb attacks in London, a report said

vesterday. The Financial Times, which cited an unnamed European official involved in international efforts to find the bombers, said progress had been made towards naming who was

FROM PAGE 16 drinking water and sanitation prob-

The situation took the worst form at Mornea and Gajghanta in Gangachara upazila and Haragachh municipality areas as water gushed through a new channel that

appeared after the damage of a cross dam at Dhamur recently. No relief initiative was taken by the Rangour district administration til yesterday. When asked, District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer Noor Mohammed said the depart-

communication with the villages under Lalmonirhat sadar and Kounia Chairman of Haragachh

and the authorities kept the flood affected educational institutions closed for four days. He said water coming from the Teesta over the main embankment

Bazar and Dalaler Hat villages marks at different points. If it crosses the danger marks, entire Haragachl

municipality area will be inundated

BSS reports: The Teesta crossed its danger mark and was flowing 5 centimetres above it at Dalia point in Nilphamari, where the Met office recorded 200 millimetres rainfall during the past 48 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.
About 600 houses and 100 acres

Nilphamari and adjoining areas

of land have been devoured by the

river in Kurigram, Gaibandha

taking a serious turn every hour, the sources said. The district and upazila administration, and District Relief and Rehabilitation offices have made

DU standards to fall

at the university immediately to contain the malpractice in appointments. In an interview with The Daily Star recently, the DU treasurer said, "If the situation continues to remain the same, the academic and administra-

"When institutions across the world

have human resources department, the largest educational institution of

our country with around 4,500 officers

and employees and about 1.400

port its human resources needs," he said in despair. Prof Hasan said. "If a human resources department is set up to oversee the recruitment, hopefully there would be transparency in appointing teachers and staff at the

political appointments."

"In the absence of such a department, lobbying would continue unabated and push the university on the brink of a disaster in the near future," he feared. The DU treasurer said the culture

setting up a human resources depart-"We hardly get scopes for recruiting staff on merit and that is why the standard of the university remains to

He termed the interviews administered by the selection committee mere eyewash. He said interviewing applicants for teaching positions, keeping the 'favoured candidate' in mind, is

party dominated DU Syndicate is encouraging such appointments through nepotism. Children or relatives of the Syndicate members get jobs with ease while more qualified and experienced ones fail.

Referring to the rampant nepotism,

The officers and employees

appointed to the university in recent

he said when anyone of them [children

or relatives of the ruling party-backed

teachers] struggles to land themselves iob anywhere else, they are accommo dated in the university.

The officers and employees recruited on political considerations are of the worst quality, he added.

years cannot even maintain files observed Prof Hasan. "Personally I think the university has more employees than it really needs, and most of them just sit idle, he said, adding the DU authorities did

appointments. "Clause 1 of section 45 of the ordinance says that the university treasurer would sign all the agreements of appointments, but the rule is not in practice," the treasurer added.

Many of the DU teachers told The

ordinance regarding the agreement o

Daily Star that in most cases the university authorities do not abide by the rules of the university ordinance in appointing teachers and staff. Rather they seek Syndicate approval, which they know will suffice to have favoured candidates aboard. The DU Syndicate, which is always

dominated by the ruling party-backed teachers, naturally goes for candidates with allegiance to the ruling party, depriving the competent ones,

election gears like ballot boxes and other materials to assist the election

On this point, the German ambasgenerally accepted, free and fair."
Head of EC Delegation

election observers.

"This time," he said, "we have discussed with the government about deployment of a sizeable international team to observe the next elections and have already received a positive

merce minister. On a question about possible EU

envoy.

On the opposition demand for reform of the caretaker government

ment had no information of flood anywhere in the district. Strong current of the Teesta disrupted the Bailey bridge at Maya Bazar of Haragachh, snapping road

upazilas. pourasabha Mamunur Rashid said the floodwater has submerged all schools and madrasas in the areas

Pollimarir Char, Naiirda, Harinchar Premer Bazar, Haque Bazar, Menaz The Water Development Board sources said water level of the Teesta is nearing to cross the danger

during the past few days due to severe river erosion, official sources Flood control embankments have become vulnerable at eight to 10 points in these districts as erosion is

necessary preparations to face any eventualities. revolver, three bullets and two knives from the spot.

FROM PAGE 16 tive activities of the university will come to a standstill within five to seven

teachers has yet to have one to supuniversity. This will also help check

of political appointments had existed in the DU for a long time and it would be hard to come out of the rut without

be abysmally low.

Prof Hasan alleged that the ruling-

"We are united in our determina-

Dozens of people in London remain missing and feared dead five

kin were being taken to identify

responsible for a blast on a bus on Thursday morning. Lakhs marooned