AL, allies plan

joint movement," Hasina told reporters at Zia International Airport before leaving for London.

the movement to be conducted in phases to realise the demands for reforms of the caretaker government system, the Election Commission (EC) and some electoral laws and regulations.

main opposition AL, said the government has to accept the reform proposals if it wants to ensure free and fair elections.

"The BNP realised what is people's power in 1996 and that they had to agree to the proposal of caretaker government," the AL chief said referring the opposition's mass upsurge against the previous BNP govern-

Meanwhile, at a one-hour meeting yesterday, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed discussed the opposition's reform proposals with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her

Considering the ruling party's attitude, opposition leaders said they have no alternative to launching a

the strategy and the programmes of the movement, as they have been busy for the last few months in drafting and finalising the reform agenda. But they already have started to discuss among them on the possible road map and hinted at beginning with a slowspace street agitation including mass contact to drum up popular support for

"We will sit together soon to fix the strategy for realising our demands. We will launch agitation programmes

said, "We will launch full-throated mass contact programme across the country to make our reform proposals credible to people.

coalition has been rejecting of the opposition combine's demands for reforms of electoral system and the caretaker government system, terming them illogical and aimed at creating anarchy in the country.

Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan

outright reject any opposition initiative, but finally they have to accept it

"This time, people will also force the government to adopt the agenda and the next elections will be held after carrying out those reforms," he said with apparent conviction.

The JSD president also lambasted the government and said they [the ruling coalition] are behaving like an autocratic government, without considering the opposition's proposals. 11-PARTY DISCUSSES

PRO-REFORM PROGRAMME

The left 11-party alliance yesterday at a meeting decided in principle to start a vigorous mass contact programme across the country to popularise the reform agenda. The alliance will hold rallies at district level and exchange opinion with the cross-section people. meeting sources said.

"We have just discussed on the various possible modes of the programme. We will finalise the decision later, after consulting with the other members of the opposition combine." Bimal Biswas, convenor of the alliance, told The Daily Star vesterday. The meeting was held at the Workers Party office

He also said the left alliance will continue with its own programmes simultaneously

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), a component of the alliance, did not attend the meeting, protesting the alliance's decision to join with the AL in the movement for electoral reforms.

Iwo int'l experts

According to sources, the experts also recommended removing the drilling pad to a point far west from

the endangered present location. Earlier, the Canadian operator had submitted a design to conduct a new relief well drilling 250 metres off the present relief well that itself blew off before the operators could proceed anywhere near relieving the gas mine of a previous blowout.

The two international experts one from the USA and another from Australia, gave their opinions recently when the Niko and the Bapex approached them for examining the drilling design.

The Niko first submitted the design on July 5 to the energy ministry seeking its approval to proceed for conducting a fresh drilling for a relief well to bring the flames at the gas field under control.

But the energy ministry had asked both the Niko and the Bapex to go for a third-party vetting of the design and work-plan before going for drilling a new relief well.

Other stakeholders, especially the locals who have to bear the brunt of the blaze--twice within six monthsalso were skeptical about the fresh drilling before thoroughly checking its viability.

Advisor of the energy ministry Mahmudur Rahman yesterday confirmed that the experts made the new suggestion.

The latest blowout at the Tengratila gas field occurred on June 24 during the drilling for a second well near the original production well that had exploded early

January. Mahmud said the government sought the third-party vetting since it wants to remove all sorts of uncertainty and skepticism over the fresh bid for drilling a third well in order to

avert any further accident. Sources said the Niko will now relocate its drilling pad from the present location in compliance with the opinion of the foreign experts. his will delay the start of drilling for a fresh relief well, scheduled to be launched on July 24," said one of

the country's potential jute sector, declaration of minimum wages for workers and curbing price hike of

The main opposition Awami League (AL), left-leaning 11-Party alliance. Bandladesh Samaitantrik Dal (JSD) and Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra extended their support to the countrywide shutdown and the strike in industries

A good number of buses, minibuses and CNG three-wheelers plied the city streets while most of the shopping malls were closed.

Workers' Sangram Parishad, Shilpa Sramik Karmachari Rakkha Samannay Parishad, Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik League and Bangladesh Garment Workers Union brought out separate processions in the capital in support of hartal

Pickets were active only in Platan, Zero Point and Bangabandhu Avenue areas in the capital for a few hours in

Some pro-strike workers swooped on the labourers working at Latif Bawani Jute Mills at about 6:30am, leading to a clash that left some 40 people injured.

The clash between progovernment and opposition-backed workers continued for half an hour. Police rushed to the spot and brought

the situation under control. Of the injured, Abul Basar, 35, was admitted to a local private hospital with head injuries. The others including a police sub-inspector took first-aid at

the mill's medical centre. Additional police and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel were deployed in Latif Bawani and

Karim Jute Mills in Demra to avert any untoward incident. Workers in Karim Jute Mills observed the strike peacefully. But in Bawani mills, the ruling party-backed CBA leaders managed to keep the

work going even after the clash.

group of pro-government workers attacked a procession of hartal supporters and workers of Kawmi Jute Mills in the morning when it reached Sheikh Mujib Road crossing in the district

General Hospital the attack. Leaders of the action nmittee announced a half-day hartal on Sunday in Sirajganj.

Our staff correspondent reports from Khulna: Industrial workers and left-leaning political activists brought out several processions in Khulna city in support of yesterday's countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal and industrial

However, the shutdown passed off peacefully in the city and the industrial

around \$3.5 billion, which was quite Train and launch movement was adequate for that time, said the BB normal but educational institutions. official, adding, to gain that adequacy offices and other business establishnow we need at least \$7 to 8 billion. ments remained closed during the It is the reason why the central bank is exercising caution in releas-

Jute mill workers brought out a prostrike procession in Khalishpur in the

Our staff correspondent reports from Chittagong: The daylong hartal was observed in Chittagong partially

was guite normal during the hartal hours. Train and flight operations were not hampered. Operation at country's premier seaport was, however, disrupted slightly, sources said.

Production in jute and textile mills in Sitakunda was suspended for a few

Disqualified firm for the power deals while some PDB

eral million.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists and employees of all the newspapers and news agencies of the country observe today a fourhour symbolic strike from 11:00am to 3:00pm. They will also hold a grand rally

a procession to press home their seven-point demand. The demands include immediate formation of the sixth wage board for the newspaper industry, declaration of 60 percent dearness allowance and full implementation of the fifth

wage board award, said a press

release vesterdav. A united forum of the journalists and employees, Sangbadik-Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad has asked all colleagues to join the

number 0171-232106 received

The messages were from sepa-'Leave the place/Come later to the Kalapahar/X is here/Be alert," etc.

Meanwhile, following Friday's ncident the BDR has beefed up its Sylhet region.

Three cases were filed against the four on charges of illegally enterng Bangladesh territory, possessing illegal firearms and grenades.

The arrested were sent to the Sylhet Central Jail yesterday evening.

2 more bodies

Police have identified them as Kabir,

40. helper of the bus, of Burimari

and Rafigul Islam, 32, of Aditmari in

The derailed engine and

The relief train that reached the

Road links between Lalmonirhat

and other parts of the country resumed

on Friday evening, but railway com-

munications remained suspended

No test needed

non-government colleges have

some 3 lakh 60 thousand seats for

enrolment in class XI while the

number of successful candidates in

this year's SSC examination stood

Education Ministry Ashabur

Rahman, chairmen of Dhaka

Chittagong, Raishahi. Barisal

Madrasah and technical education

boards, principals of different col-

leges of the capital, officials of

education ministry and the

Directorate of Secondary and

Higher Secondary Education.

among others, attended the meet-

Forex reserves

price increased by Tk .10 from the

of dollar many a bank has been failing

to meet their letter of credit (LC)

obligations, causing serious damage

to the country's reputation and ability

for securing future import contracts.

The situation prompted a leading

business chamber last week to

request the BB to release foreign

currency quickly before the current

dollar crisis further dents the coun-

Acentral bank high official said the

coalition government started with

around \$1 billion foreign forex

reserve, which now stands around \$3

billion. But, he said, the amount is not

On the other hand, under the

During the previous BNP regime,

in 1994-95, the forex reserve was

ing foreign currency and why the

finance minister rejected the busi-

ness community's plea to bail out the

banks by providing forex to them, he

The security forces arrested 30

criminals, mostly intruders, in

Bandarban this year. They have

launched a month-long combing

5 AK47s

rise further, the official said.

trv's image abroad.

Due to this scarcity and dearness

previous day, standing at Tk 64.40.

Additional Secretary of the

at 3 lakh 94 thousand and 993.

coaches are yet to be lifted back on

racks despite efforts by

spot at Mondolerhat on Friday noon

was continuing its rescue operation

Bangladesh Railway (BR).

until yesterday evening.

until yesterday afternoon.

FROM PAGE 16

FROM PAGE 1

Lalmonirhat.

including Harbin, were found responsive at the first stage although PDB's bid criterion was The criterion asked the bidder to

have 10 years' experience in the power sector and experience as a lead contractor of having successfully designed, inspected, supplied, tested, built and commissioned at least one 90MW combined cycle

and ministry officials bagged sev-

floated a two-stage bidding process

for the Chandpur plant in which five

companies participated with techni-

cal proposals. Three bidders,

In November last year, the PDB

Harbin's bid documents show that it has worked as a consortium partner with the General Electric (GE) of USA in the Uch power plant in Pakistan. GE designed and supplied the main plant as the lead contractor while Harbin worked as a

documents in its bid for the Fenchugani 90MW power project.

declared technically qualified because of the role of a PDB executive engineer against whom a departmental action is being initiated for previously approving a low quality gas booster for Harbin's Tongi plant

After technically qualifying Harbin, CMEC and Bhel, the PDB asked the bidders to submit both the technical and financial offers in one envelope by June 28, which Bhel and CMEC obliged but Harbin did not. In its cover letter, Harbin said the technical proposal provided at the first stage is still valid. However, any offer made at the

first stage stands legally obsolete at the second stage.

'Harbin has tactfully offered less

than required spare parts worth about \$10-15 million in its technical offer. Without these parts, the plant cannot operate for even a year or two. It seems that Harbin plans to impose this cost on the PDB later on during the operation and mainte-

nance period " Another industry operator explains, "Because the technical offer stands legally invalid, Harbin may provide low quality equipment and grossly deviate from the standards sought by the PDB. Ultimately the PDB will be left with a junk plant that does not properly generate

Normally in power plant bids, the price differences between bidders are not very sharp. Again, price offers of two companies from the same country are supposed to be very close. But in the case of the Chandpur bid, the \$11 million price difference between the Chinese companies Harbin and CMEC raised questions among all power sector operators.

The CMEC in a protest to PDB said Regulation 31 under the procedures for implementation of the Public Procurement Regulation 2003 clearly states that there is no such provision for accommodating deviations from the norms prescribed under the two stage tender-

The CMEC urged the PDB to maintain transparency and to unhold the fairness of the bid evaluation process by disqualifying Harbin as it failed to meet the minimum required condition of the bid.

The CMEC noted, "Otherwise we will be left with no option but...protecting our legitimate business interest, including exercising available legal options to ensure a fair playing field for all the participating bidders."

Once awarded the power project will need 18-24 months to complete.

kills 4 in Turkev

REUTERS, Izmir

A suicide bomber is believed to have triggered a blast which ripped through a minibus in a western Turkish resort vesterday, killing four people and injuring 14, officials and news reports

Five British nationals were seriously injured in the minibus blast.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the blast, the second in the region within a week. Kurdish militants said they carried out a bomb attack on July 10, which injured 20.

Television footage of the scene showed the top of the minibus had been blown off by the force of the blast, which occurred around 10:30 a.m. (0730 GMT) as the vehicle travelled past a square in the town of Kusadasi on the way to a beach, local officials

Kusadasi, some 70km from the port city of Izmir, is popular with Turkish and foreign tourists.

Britain's Foreign Office said five British nationals were seriously injured in the blast. Consular officials were with the injured in hospital and a senior honorary consul was on his way to Kusadasi from Izmir, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

State-run Anatolian news agency said five Britons were badly hurt in the explosion. It said two of the dead were

Authorities tightened security in the region following the blast, calling on police to look out for suspicious pack-

ages in crowded public areas.

Authorities a female suicide bomber was killed in the attack and police suspected plastic explosives were used, according to the NTV news channel said. There is a possibility of the explo-

sives being in a package. We are also considering the possibility of a suicide bomber." local governor Mustafa Malay told Anatolian. Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan sent his condolences and sympathy to

the victims of the blast. "This is always what we worried about. Our security forces are taking all measures but it is impossible to have 100 percent (security)," he told

Kurdish rebels, Islamist radicals and leftist militants have all carried out bomb attacks in Turkey in the past.

A Kurdish rebel group calling itself the Kurdistan Liberation Hawks (TAK) claimed responsibility for a bomb attack in the nearby resort of Cesme on July 10 in which 20 people were injured, including two foreign tourists.

Flood

FROM PAGE 16 workers toiling to stop seepage of floodwater.

About 50,000 people were reported marooned in 10 unions in Lalmonirhat district as the Teesta Dharala and Brahmaputra rivers swelled further at different points.

Five upazilas under Tangail district have been hard hit by the flash flood. The affected upazilas are Tangail sadar, Bhuapur, Delduar, Nagarpur and Kalihati where some 20,000 people are

Over 200 families of the affected areas were forced to leave their houses as the floods engulfed more areas in the district.

Standing crops including aus and aman paddy on about 10,000 acres of land have gone under water. The floods also washed away fish from hundreds of ponds. Our correspondent reports from

Bogra: More areas in Sariakandi and Dhunat upazilas were inundated yesterday due to rise in the water levels of Jamuna and Ichhamati rivers amid incessant rain and onrush of water from the upstream side.

In Dhunat, a 30-metre portion of a groyne was washed away yesterday, inundating houses and crop fields in the villages of Goshaibari and Bhandarbari unions. Meanwhile, flood situation has

seen a little improvement in Sherpur district with water receding from Nalitabari and Jhinaigati upazilas. The flood caused damage to the flood control embankment in Vogai and Chelakhali. Road communication between

Sherpur and Jamalpur was restored yesterday after remaining snapped

Public Health and Engineering said about 25 percent of the tube-wells have gone under water in flood-hit areas, causing a great crisis of fresh

Health Directorate sources yesterday said 191 people, mostly children, died of diarrhoeal diseases across the country this year. About 4.73 lakh patients have also received treatment at different district and upazila hospitals and

deployed 4,160 medical teams in over 41 districts to provide medical treatment to the sick

people in Chandpur, 97 in Noakhali, 68 in Dinajpur, 66 in Jessore and 60 in Thakurgaon in the last 24 hours until 6:00pm yesterday.

tutes and improve standard of passenger service were also discussed, meeting sources said.

warned that if any BRTC officials or for compensation.

'Suicide' blast | PM's Japan visit very productive

Says Morshed Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister (FM) M Morshed Khan yesterday termed Prime Minister (PM) Khaleda Zia's recent visit to Japan "very productive" and "a milestone" in the history of Bangladesh-Japan bilateral ties

the single largest bilateral donor and nvestor, might come up in much bigger way for economic and infrastructure development in Bangladesh n the days to come," he said at a press PM's July 11-15 Japan tour. The prime minister's Bangladesh

"I am confident that Japan, which is

and Japan discussed bilateral issues, had fruitful discussion on sub-regional regional and international affairs and agreed to work together on all these issues, he said. Morshed Khan said the Japan

government conveyed its intention to give due consideration to the construc-tion of the Padma Bridge, underground railway, solid waste treatment plant, sewerage treatment plant, power sector development, improvement of ports and other major infra-

The Japan government also agreed to enhance official develop-

ment assistance, trade and economic cooperation, he said, adding that signing agreement between Japan nternational Training Cooperation Organisation (JITCO) and the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment of Bangladesh is a remarkable achievement of this tour.

Japan will take Bangladeshi trainees on payment basis for around 60 types of technical jobs in private companies and provide them one to five years' training for enhancing their

The FM said that around 250-300 top investors expressed their willingness to invest in auto-parts manufacturing, artificial fibre, leather and many other sectors in Bangladesh.

Around 20 top company executives who met Khaleda Zia offered to construct port and improve the facilities of existing ports in Bangladesh for easing export and import in Bangladesh, he added.

On a question about the reforms in the United Nations Security Council, Morshed Khan said, "We prefer UN reforms on consensus instead of

Rohingya camps

water. We do not know what will really

happen to us," wailing Arafa added Like Arafa, nearly 12,000 Rohingyas who are not officially recognised as refugees, are now

Teknaf. Official statistics of the local authorities, however, shows that 6, 032 people from 1,470 families are living there.

Myanmar military junta, nearly 2,50,000 Rohingyas came to Bangladesh since 1991, among whom 2, 36, 490 were repatriated to Myanmar, according to official statis-

Local authorities, however, claim that actual number of the refugees is two times higher while more than a local community.

Bangladesh since 1994, are not registered as refugees according to the Geneva Convention, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) says.

"Nobody looks after us. There is Nations staff. We are left alone." said Laila begum, 24, a widow and mother of two children. Her husband died of

during the last ten years have not relief cards, they manage their daily meals by selling labour in the local market. Some have managed rickshaws some turned into hawkers and some others have become beggars while some female refugees are even forced to sell sex.

Quoting Marie Stopes, a clinic that works on HIV and AIDS across the country, the UNO said nearly 600 female refugees have become engaged in the sex trade, posing serious threat to public health Women at the unofficial camp

said their area goes under water when it rains and they cannot cook food. Besides, there is no drinking

Abdur Rahim, who entered Bangladesh in 1991 as single, has now ten children. "The birth rate as well as the maternal and infant mortality rate in the camp is very high," a

on a very urgent basis before there is any humanitarian disaster. The health of children and women is very crucial at this camp. They have to be moved urgently to safer places," said Esko Kentrschynskyj, ambassador and head of the delegation of the European Commission (EC) to Bangladesh on his visit to the makeshift camp last Friday.

'They live in low-lying areas. As it is rainy season something needs to be done just now," said David Sproule, Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh who visited the spot along with five other diplomats from Italy, Norway,

Australia and United States. "The situation is really very bad. The area may be washed away any time and a large number of people will die. To save their lives we have to act soon," Christopher Beng Cha

Lee, UNHCR representative in Rangladesh said But the local authorities, concerned over the law and order downslide in the area for which the Rohingya refugees are largely

blamed, show reluctance to give

them shelter. "The refugees are grabbing land in the area, destroying huge plantation. They shelter illegal outsiders and criminals and bring in arms through the hilly border areas. Agood number of refugees are engaged in various criminal activities including drug business," said Shajahan Chowdhury, a ruling party lawmaker

from Cox's Bazar. 'The presence of such a large number of refugees has become a grave threat to us." the lawmaker

added. With pledge to give financial support from the EC, Esko Kentrschynskyj said, "Repatriation of the refugees is the best solution and it has to be done on voluntary basis. If it does not work we have to look for durable solution like local integration

Esko expressed optimism that Bangladesh will try to find a solution

Shehzad Tanweer, 22, came together in November 2004, arriving at Karachi Airport, and returned to Britain in early February, the officials said on condition

separately on an undisclosed occasion last year, also to Karachi, and went back to Britain shortly afterwards, the officials added.

The officials said they had not been able to trace the three men's movements while they were in Pakistan.

Intelligence officials had earlier revealed that Shehzad Tanweer, one of the three British-born bombers of Pakistani origin, had visited Faisalabad and Lahore during his two trips to Pakistan over the past two

these two people (detained in Lahore) had any links with Tanweer." an intelligence official told Reuters. But he gave no details.

Blair called for a battle of ideas

Hasina reaches

Her British Airways flight took off at 8:10am on the way to the USA via London.

"What are you doing here? Go

and enforce the hartal," Hasina told

the party men gathered at the airport.

But a number of activists alleged that many leaders had gone home instead of joining the hartal. Talking to the reporters at the airport, the opposition leader said,

"People will compel the government"

to meet the demand for electoral and

caretaker government reforms. "The BNP government in 1996 was forced to meet the people's demand for caretaker government despite their refusal at first. This time also, they will be compelled to meet the demand for reforms the same

way," she said.

Hasina is going to the United States for treatment of her ear that was seriously injured during grenade attacks on an Awami League rally on August 21 last year. She is likely to return home on July 30. Party leader Kazi Zafarullah MP and Abdus Sobhan Golap are

fortnight-long tour. The AL chief said the reform proposals were made not to hinder the election process as described by the ruling party, "but to protect the planned vote rigging" by the BNP-led alliance government.

"We had introduced the system of

caretaker government to ensure

people's right to vote...reforms are

accompanying Sheikh Hasina on the

She alleged that the alliance

Battalion) and black money. Hasina urged all to come forward to implement the "uniform reform

ment."

General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan's comment, the opposition leader said the reforms are not complex at all. "Vote rigging will be difficult if the reform proposals are accepted."

people. Hasina said the alliance does not

for two days. Sources in the Department of

health complexes. The government has so far

Diarrhoea has affected 128

FROM PAGE 16 set up more driving training insti-

The communications minister

buses on Dhaka-Kolkata route.

spending their days at the makeshift government official said. camp at Domdomia Kerontoli in 'The situation has to be dealt with

To escape repression by the

lakh, who are apparently missing have integrated themselves with the People who have entered into

They can not go back to their home while the Bangladesh government does not want them here anvmore. The UN agency can not give them shelter in the two government administered camps--Nayapara camp in Teknaf and Kutupalong camp of Ukhia where around 20.000 people are still waiting for repatria-

diarrhoea four years back.

The refugees who infiltrated stayed in official camps. Having no

or settlement."

3 'London bombers'

appealed for new leads in a fast-

of anonymity. Hasib Hussain, 18, the youngest of the three Pakistani Britons, came

"We are interrogating whether

and madrasas, or Islamic schools, in Pakistan.

Agents of two security agencies

(AFP. Reuters)

alliance, JSD and NAP will launch a

She urged people to participate in

Hasina, also the president of the

Talking to reporters at his office after the meeting, Moudud termed the opposition-placed proposals selfcontradictory unconstitutional unrealistic, unnecessary, irrelevant, meaningless and intentional, among other

vigorous movement to force the government into accepting the proposals. However, they are yet to chalk out

taking people along with us," Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haque Inu told The Daily Star AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil

On Friday, immediate after the mainstream opposition bloc formally announced its reform agenda, BNP

Bitterly criticising the government attitude, the AL general secretary said it has become a custom for them to

From the very beginning, the ruling

Bhuiyan rejected it, saying it is aimed at hindering the smooth process of

4 Indians FROM PAGE 16

hand grenades recovered from their Lt Colonel Mirza Monwar Reza, commanding officer of the 21 Battalion of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), said yesterday a GrameenPhone (GP) cell phone was also recovered from the possession of Robin, apparently the leader of the group. The phone bearing

three messages just after their intrusion into Bangladesh, he said. rate GP numbers and in coded Khashi language, Reza said, adding that the army so far decoded the messages as simple instructions like

strength along the borders with Meghalaya, Tripura and Assam in

they were "politically motivated".

The ministry asked the district permission of an appropriate court.

Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka along with a photocopy of the home ministry's missive for revoking the case. Following the petition, the prosecution and the defence made submissions on it for several dates but the

the case on October 4, 2000 and was absent from the court for 25 consecu-The court on June 26, 2003 cancelled his bail and framed charges

and Mishuk on September 8, 1999. A senior lawver, on condition of anonymity, yesterday told The Daily Star that he does not know how the charges could be labelled "politically motivated". "It's nothing but a bid to save the lawmaker from a judicial trial,"

representing Pintu, on the other hand, told The Daily Star that his client Pintu was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him falsely.

Talukder also said the government

decided to take back the charges after

scrutinising the case documents and

now needed to avoid politicisation of

proposals to save the country from the misrule of the coalition govern-

She said the BNP-Jamaat coalition government "gives importance to

AL central leaders were present at

Snatching of bidding papers Earlier, the government on March 22 had withdrawn the first case against

bankrupt company's property. December 26. 2001 on the same

Pintu filed for robbing at gunpoint

The government on April 2 had also withdrawn the second case against In the case filed with the Lalbagh

came to intervene, injuring a number of AL men and police including the The police arrested Pintu and 12 others from the spot and filed the case against them the same day. Later, all

the accused obtained bail from the

Referring to BNP Secretary

have the strength to ignore 'people's power'. "They (people) will rise up and realise their demands."

embezzled money, they would be fired and their property confiscated The meeting observed that bus services on Dhaka-Agartala route has improved following issuance of

multiple visas. It also proposed to

that is both effective and human.

Tanweer was thought to have visited in 2004. The madrasa is connected to al-Qaeda-linked Jaish-e-Mohammad (Army of Mohammad) group.

An intelligence official said security

agents questioned people in the

madrasa for several hours, but it was

unknown whether it yielded any leads.

Officials at the madrasa were not mmediately available for comment. Pakistani intelligence officials say Tanweer met Osama Nazir, a member

Nazir was arrested last December

for the 2002 bombing of a church in Islamabad that killed two Americans among others. The intelligence officials say Tanweer, 22, made a second visit to Pakistan in late 2004 and had stayed

ideology" of al-Qaeda as the death toll from last week's London suicide bombings rose to 55.

Workers clash

kitchen markets and roadside shops were open during the hartal hours. But schools, colleges, universities and big Leaders and workers of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Jute, Cotton and Textile Mill

DEMRACLASH

remained open while a few buses plied during the hartal hours. Very few interdistrict buses moved from Sayedabad bus terminal. BDNEWS adds: In Sirajganj, a

Schools in Demra industrial area

t o w n Some 50 people were injured in the clash. The warring groups pelted brickbats at each other. Of the injured, 30 were admitted to Kawmi Jute Mills Kawmi Jute Mills Protection Action Committee organised a rally at Bazar Station Square in an instant reaction to

enough to meet the requirements and demands. present circumstances, there is not much scope for the reserve level to

hartal hours.

with little impact on normal life. Movement of all modes of transport

operation against arms smuggling in the frontier areas. "The operation will continue," said an army source.

Journos, staff observe 4hr token strike

today

supposed to disqualify Harbin. at the Jatiya Press Club and take out

power plant outside its country of

sub-contractor. Harbin had submitted the same

Sources said. Harbin was

An inside source pointed out.

magistrate to hand over the matter to the district public prosecutor (PP), who will arrange withdrawal of the case with PP Abdullah Mahmud Hassan on January 1 this year submitted a petition to the Fifth Additional Metropolitan

court did not pass any order. The court also fixed August 29 for further hearing

Pintu last appeared before court in

against him and two others. The court also declared Pintu absconding and issued arrest warrant against him. The investigation officer (IO) pressed charges against Pintu, Biju

Masud Ahmed Talukder, a lawyer

power in 2001 through vote rigging and in order to remain in power, they are now conspiring against the people by using Rab (Rapid Action

compel the alliance government to meet people's demand."

the airport to see off Sheikh Hasina.

Govt to withdraw finding them false. Besides. Section 494 of the Criminal Procedure Code authorises the government to retract any case filed against any person, he

> bidding documents for auction of a Pintu was also arrested on

Advocate Jahangir Alam Khan filed

the case with the Motijheel PS accus-

Assault on cops

ing Pintu and a number of his accom-

Pintu and a dozen others filed for assaulting and injuring police and AL members. PS. SI Mohammad Salauddin said Pintu led a procession in support of a hartal called by the then opposition

BNP at about 9:30am on April 15,

1998. The BNP procession came face

to face with the then ruling AL at the

swooped on the AL leaders and activ-

The SI said Pintu and his group

Baby Ice Cream crossing in Lalbagh.

ists as well as the policemen who

the caretaker government," she said. government captured the state

She said the leaders of the 14party opposition line-up will sit today (Sunday) to decide on the programmes to be declared soon to

the interest of the criminals and black money holders, not of the common

Govt to import

employees stole resources or

increase the number of BRTC

moving investigation which has so far linked Britain, Egypt and Pakistan. Mohammad Sidigue Khan, 30, and

The security agencies are probing Tanweer's links with militant groups

yesterday questioned teachers, students and other staff of Manzoor-ul-Islam, a madrasa in Lahore which of the Jaish-e-Mohammad, in Faisalabad in 2003.

in Lahore from December until last February, during which time he visited several mosques and madrasas. Meanwhile, British Prime Minister Tony Blair called yesterday for a hearts and minds struggle against the "evil

against what he called the fanatical beliefs and perversion of religion behind the London attacks and others around the world by the militant