JS body grills law

opinion casually if any file comes to

"The law ministry should have the authority to ask for any related documents on the issue, otherwise its opinion is unnecessary," he argued.

Echoing the committee chairman, opposition lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta said the constitution, fundamental rights and law have been violated in this case

Contradicting the law minister's statement at the meeting, he said the home ministry has nothing to do with the case. "It is the law ministry that sent a report to the prime minister and the prime minister advised the president on basis of the report." "The prime minister should not

have depended on the law ministry's report," he said adding that the prime minister has exercised the power wilfully to save her party man.

Mohiuddin Jintu, who was granted the presidential amnesty, claimed himself to be the founder president of the ruling BNP's Sweden chapter

Referring to the constitutional provision, Suranjit said the president performs all his duties without consulting the prime minister except in the case of appointing the chief justice in consultation with the prime minister

The Awami League lawmaker held both the prime minister and the law minister responsible for violating the constitution and fundamental rights by suggesting presidential mercy for a person convicted in a double murder case.

Yesterday's meeting of the committee was held in camera after the law minister said the report on the case was a classified document and it should not be made public.

The committee chairman agreed with his proposal for holding the meeting in camera, but Suraniit opposed it. The chairman then asked all the officials, except the law secretary, to leave the meeting

The one- hour discussion on the issue witnessed a heated debate between the law minister and the AL lawmaker

The law minister showed the committee members the documents relating to the presidential mercy. But the ministry did not provide the committee members with the copy of the report.

The report signed by the law minister, joint secretary and deputy secretary of the law ministry said three persons were sentenced to death in a double murder case. The

person [Mohiuddin Jintu] who

Referring to the amnesty power of the presidents of the US, UK and India, Suranjit said the presidents in those countries do not exercise the power whimsically. The ministries or the departments concerned play vital role in exercising the power. "So there is no scope of the law ministry to avoid its role on this matter.

Committee Chairman Mahbubuddin Ahmed, a lawmaker from the ruling BNP, also said the law ministry should have a role to play in this regard.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, Suranjit said, "The person [Mohiuddin Jintu] had been a fugitive for a long time while two other convicts in the case were hanged. Why was he granted presidential

The law minister said the home ministry did not mention in its note that two persons convicted in the case were hanged. "The home ministry sought our opinion whether the president can grant a pardon. We did not give any opinion in favour of or against it."

He said he showed the report to the committee members for the sake of transparency although it is a classified document.

President lajuddin Ahmed ir January this year granted amnesty to Mohiuddin Jintu, who was awarded death penalty 23 years ago in a double-murder case.

After evading capture by the law enforcers for more than two decades, he surrendered to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka on January 3 this year. He was granted amnesty within 12 days of the surrender.

Metropolitan Sessions Judge Dhaka, Motiur Rahman in 1982 sentenced Jintu to death for murdering businessmen Abdul Khalen Rana and Firoz Al Mamun of Demra the same year. The judgement was delivered in absentia

DISCUSSION ON AUG 21

The parliamentary committee also discussed the judicial probe report on August 21 grenade attack on an AL rally in Dhaka that killed 23. The law minister said his ministry had no involvement with the report as the home ministry is dealing with the

The law minister suggested raising the issue before the parliamentary standing committee on home ministry.

Flooding continues

In Gaibandha, the flood situation deteriorated further in sadar, Gobindaganj, Sadullapur and Palashbari upazilas yesterday, as waters from the upstream are surging through the Ghagot, Karatoa and Teesta rivers

Two minors-- Babu, 5, son of Pintu Mia of Rakhalburuj village and Shahin, 4. son of Rezaul Karim of Kukhatair village of Saghata upazila, drowned in the floodwaters

Water Development Board sources said, the Ghagot is flowing 119 cm. Korotoa 17cm and Brahmaputra 10cm above the danger

The Teesta, however, is flowing 29 cm below the danger mark. Many government offices, including Gobindaganj Upazila Health Complex and LGRD office, went under knee-

deep water About 15.000 families of five wards of poura area in Gobindaganj upazila were marooned while 1200 houses

washed away by the floodwater. Jamalpur, Faridpur and Bhatgram areas of the upazilas were flooded as

EU envoys

even affixed derogatory notices on Ahmadiyya mosques. Whereas, it is a duty of the police to effectively protect all citizens' right to freely practise their religions, a right guaranteed by the Constitution of Bangladesh, they pointed out.

However, the envoys felt encouraged by a report that eight people were arrested after the arson attack on an Ahmadiyya mosque in Brahmanbaria in June.

They urged the government to continue its efforts to safeguard the rights of the Ahmadiyyas as well as all other indigenous and religious minorities and also to prevent any further attack.

At a House of Commons meeting in London yesterday, UK Parliamentary Human Rights Group Vice Chairman Lord Avebury said it was time to "confront perverted interpretations of Islam" that allow human rights abuses to continue

unchecked against minorities. "If the Ahmadiyyas see themselves as Muslims then they should not be persecuted for this, as the principle of freedom of religion says anyone can call themselves what they like," observed Avebury. He urged the UK government to exert pressure on the Bangladesh government to quell the anti-Ahmadiyya

zealots. Avebury's call followed a viewing of the film 'Muslims or Heretics?' made by Naeem Mohaimen, a Bangladeshi expatriate, on persecution of the Ahmadiyyas in Bangladesh. Representatives from media, Amnesty International, rights watchdogs and Ahmadivva Muslim Association of the UK were present

sought the mercy.

amnesty so hurriedly?"

PRESIDENTIALAMNESTY

the flood protection embankment at

Daoudpur-Ghagat point was dam-

The situation in Nilphamari deteriorated further as the rivers Teesta, Buri Teesta, Charalkata, Burikhora, Dhum, Naotar, Jamunashawri and Chikli

ere flowing above the danger mark. The Teesta was flowing 55cm above the danger mark at Teesta Barrage point.

Diarrhoea took a serious tern in the district. At last three people died of diarrhoea in the district over the last few days and about 10,000 people were affected by the waterborne

JS body

FROM PAGE 20

(retd) Mohammad Faruk Khan of Awami League, Abdullah Mohammad Taher of Jamaat-e-Islami and Salahuddin Ahmed of

Blaming Niko for the Tengratila disaster, Petrobangla chairman SR Osmany said a committee has been formed to assess the loss at Tengratila.

"As we asked Petrobangla to explain how the Tengratila blowout occurred twice, it admitted that the blowouts took place due to Niko's fault." Faruk Khan said. "It is a matter of shame and regret that the parliament did not discuss the Tengratila blowout, which caused a huge financial loss to the country, he added.

The Petrobangla chairman placed at the meeting a report on the two accidents during drilling at the gas field, reports of the enquiry committees, and preparations for realising the compensation.

However, the meeting sources said the committee members made many queries, but were not satisfied by the answers made by the Petrobangla chairman and Bapex (Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company) Acting Managing Director Jamaluddin.

"After getting the report of the investigation committee, we will sit with the officials concerned to discuss realisation of compensation." Abdul Aleem said.

The meeting decided that the committee will visit Tengratila shortly. However, it could not take any decision on forming a parliamentary sub-committee to investigate the blowout.

The Petrobangla chairman said July 30 has been fixed for digging up the relief well at the Tengratila gas field but it may be delayed by a day

He also said the Niko has not ye submitted the design of the relief well as they are making corrections in the design.

PM to attend **UNGA** session in Sept

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to attend the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) sessions in New York in the middle of September, a senior official of the Ministry of Foreign affairs said yester-

day.
The UNGA this year is likely to witness stormy session on the reforms of the 191-nation world body. Three separate groups are working on different options for the increase of membership of the powerful UN Security Council

A draft resolution jointly sponsored by Japan, Germany, Brazil and India known as Group-4 has already been tabled seeking to become permanent members of the Security Council.

Besides, the African bloc has been seeking two permanent seats on the Security Council. The third one described as "United Consensus" group led by Pakistan, Argentina, Canada, Italy and Mexico, has made proposal for 10 new non-permanent Security Council members to be elected for two years, but with the provision for immediate reelection.

BB asks **Premier** Bank to explain why sacked MD still works

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday served a notice on the Premier Bank chairman and other directors, asking them to explain within three days why Kazi Abdul Majid was involved in the affairs of the bank even after being sacked from the post of managing director, official sources said.

The central bank also wanted to know why Majid was given facilities like six months' salary and vehicle even after his removal.

"We have evidence of Majid's involvement in the affairs of the bank," a senior BB official told the news agency.

A BB inspection team caught Majid red handed on May 18 at the bank's headquarters in Banani when he was working on a loan proposal of the bank. The team seized the file as an evidence of his involvement in the affairs of the

Premier Bank Chairman HBM lgbal had earlier refuted Majid's involvement in the bank after being sacked by BB. He said, "This is totally wrong. Majid is no more nvolved with the bank." Iqbal said the BB inspection

team found Majid at the board room of the Royal University. He is the adviser and syndicate member of the university he added BB sacked Majid on April 28

following his alleged involvement in a scam relating to the bank's initial public offering (IPO).

Natwar Singh

FROM PAGE 20

Singh's visit is taking place on the heels of Indo-Bangla foreign secretary level meeting held in New Delhi in June that practically started melting the ice of bilateral relations between the two next-door neigh-

Foreign ministry officials said the visit of the Indian external affairs minister will lead to a number of ministerial visits from India, including that of Commerce Minister Kamal Nath and Water Resources Minister Priya Ranjan Das Munshi to lead the Joint Rivers Commission

(JRC) meeting in October in Dhaka. Besides, the Indo-Bangla Joint Working Group meeting on trade will be held in Dhaka on August 1-2 for deliberations on entire gamut of bilateral trade, including trade imbalance, bilateral FTA and review of the trade agreement.

EC invites

decision," Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday told The Daily Star.

Convenor of the left 11-party alliance Bimal Biswas said the EC should have taken steps to discuss the overall electoral reforms. "We are not much interested to discuss with the EC partial reforms. The decision, however, would be taken at the 11-party forum," he added.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) President Hasanul Hague Inu said they do not have the time to hold talks with a chief election commissioner who does not have the backbone and is loyal to the ruling parties.

The commission on Wednesday at a meeting decided to invite a total of 96 political parties to discuss whether it should go for a fresh voter list or revise the existing one. The ruling BNP has been

requested to sit down with the EC on July 28 while the main opposition AL on July 27. The EC will sit for dialogues with the two major political parties separately while it will meet the others in several sittings, sources said.

An EC secretariat official requesting anonymity told The Daily Star, "We don't think all the political parties will participate in the dialogue. The number may be under

Blasts rock London

its windows blown out by a blast. There were no injuries.

Large areas around Warren Street, Oval and the Shepherd's Bush Hammersmith and City line Tube stations have been cordoned off. Four London Underground train lines were shut

Sky News TV reported that police were searching for a man with a blue shirt with wires protruding. In a memo to hospital staff, officers asked employees to look for a black or Asian male, 6 feet 2 inches tall, wearing a blue top with a hole in the back and wires protruding.

The explosions did not shut down the subway system, although three lines remained closed more than two hours later.

One witness told The Associated Press he smelled something similar to an electrical Police in chemical protection

suits were seen preparing to enter the Warren Street Underground station. Sky News reported that police said no chemical agents were involved in the explosions. British Prime Minister Tony

Blair called off a press conference with visiting Australian leader John Howard and officials said he would be making a statement later after convening a crisis meeting of emergency officials and ministers. "We can't minimises incidents

such as this ... we know why these things are done -- they're done to scare people, to frighten, to make them anxious and worried," Blair "I think we've just got to react

calmly and continue with our

business as much as possible as

normal," the prime minister

Back on the streets, train passengers who had fled reported panic and chaos below ground.

"I was in the carriage and we smelt smoke -- it was like something was burning," said Fosiane Mohellavi, 35, who was evacuated

from a train at Warren Street. "Everyone was panicked and people were screaming. We had to pull the alarm. I am still shaking." she told Britain's domestic Press Association.

Police were unable to confirm

the cause of the alerts, which

prompted the suspension of four subway lines. Victoria Line passenger Ivan McCracken said he heard a traveller's rucksack had exploded on

the Tube outside Warren Street

He told Sky News: "I was in a middle carriage and the train was not far short of Warren Street station when suddenly the door between my carriage and the next one burst open and dozens of people started rushing through Some were falling, there was

mass panic

"It was difficult to get the story from any of them what had happened but when I got to ground level there was an Italian young man comforting an Italian girl who told me he had seen what had

"He said that a man was carrying a rucksack and the rucksack suddenly exploded. It was a minor explosion but enough to blow open the rucksack.

"The man then made an exclamation as if something had gone wrong. At that point everyone rushed from the carriage Another witness on the same

line. Abena Adofo, 23, said people were running into her carriage. "I could just smell smoke and I saw lots of people panicking. I was just trying to be calm and get out. The smell of smoke was coming from the end of the carriage," she

told Adofo. (AFP, AP, Reuters,

WB concerned

Though an anti-corruption commission (ACC) has been set up, it is still busy with internal organisation, Patel observed, adding, "It is very important [for the ACC] to move on to the next step, start taking corruption cases and deal with them." He expressed the hope that he would see the ACC

'move faster" soon. Saifur agreed with Patel about the lack of progress made in governance and curbing graft, saying, "If we could progress further in governance, our GDP growth rate would exceed 6 percent." He said the government is working towards that end, but it is not possible to achieve the goal

About the ACC, the minister repeated his pet simile, "The ACC s but newly born. A newborn baby needs some time to learn walking. It is the same with the ACC. These problems will clear out and it will start functioning soon.'

While the WB VP accepted that it is difficult to institute good governance and eliminate corruption. he said. "We feel that moving in the right direction is absolutely critical if the economic performance is to be maintained.

About the next general elections, especially reforms of electoral laws, Patel said it is a concern not only of the World Bank and the donors but also of the people and the government of Bangladesh. He termed the 5.5 percent

GDP growth rate reasonably well,

but pointed out, "It is very impor-

tant not to take this growth rate for granted, because it requires continuous efforts to pursue policy reform agenda" to main-He praised the government's reform initiatives in some sectors like power and energy, and

emphasised continuing with the

reform agenda consistently. Referring to the current dollar crisis in the country. Patel said. "Some pressures on the exchange rate are being seen. We have discussed it with the finance minister and he explained to us that he is very much on top of it,

very concerned about it." During his four-day official tour, Patel will have a series of meeting with a number of ministries and the donor groups. He will also visit a project on HIV-Aids and a shelter for destitute children funded by

CCTV at public places

committee headed by assistant inspector general of police (security cell) to find the fact into the alleged extortion at the drug shops in Mirpur by local Assistant Commissioner of

police Ziaul Haq Zia. Chemists and druggists across the country observed countrywide half-day strike Wednesday to protest the police harassment and demanded Zia's removal by July 23.

The week also saw agitation by traders at Katabon over extortion while four policemen were arrested yesterday for extorting and snatching ornaments at a Tantibazar jewellery shop.

Babar said, "Rab, police and intelligence reports confirmed that the Katabon incident was not an incident of extortion but an outcome of internal conflicts among the traders. On arresting the police extortion-

ists, Babar said police themselves

are arresting the police extortion-

ists. "Solving the problem overnight

is not possible," he said. ROBBERY, MUGGING **CAR-LIFTING**

Babar denied rise of mugging in the capital but admitted that car-lifting and robbery have increased.

Finding that car garages are a source of crimes related to carlifting, the home ministry asked the garage owners to keep photocopy of the licence and the bluebook of the vehicles that come to them for repairing work The meeting noted that the car-

lifters sell stolen cars either intact or by disassembling the parts mostly to 794 garages in the city. A list of 78 car-lifters with photographs has been prepared, it said. On robbery, the state minister said the law enforcers are doing

their best. Six robbers died during

an operation recently.

On the home ministry decision that steps would be taken against the commanding officers of the law enforcement agencies for incidents of robbery, extortion and mugging in their respective areas, Babar said steps have already been taken and

it is "a continuous process." DHAKA SECURITY TO BE STRENGTHENED

The meeting asked the police and Rab to raid the resident hotels and slums in the city every alternative day and beef-up security at the KPIs and diplomatic zones.

The meeting also asked the law enforcers to stop any move that destabilises the situation in the Export Processing Zones (EPZs). The ministry ordered raid on Karwan Bazar to stop weight manip-

ulation. The chief metropolitan

magistrate (CMM) and mobile

courts will begin operation there

Meantime, the city corporations, communication ministry and interministerial bodies will sit to amend the existing traffic rules and speedlimits on highways.

On arresting Bangla Bhai and his men, Babar said the police are vigilant and active and have already arrested 11 people, including Bangla Bhai men, in Rajshahi. "Help us with information about Bangla Bhai and his men's whereabouts, we'll take steps keeping secret the identity of the informant."

general and the CMM were present

Babar expressed serious dissatisfaction over the delay in chemical test of heroin at the Department of Time Work and Piece Work', the Narcotics Control and asked the handout said. Besides, the wage department to quicken the process. board, if necessary, can make Home secretary, inspector recommendation for granting general of police, Rab director interim dearness allowance,

Shibir men confine RU proctor in office

RU CORRESPONDENT

Islami Chhatra Shibir activists yesterday confined the proctor of Rajshahi University (RU) in his office for an hour demanding withdrawal of a case filed against 16 Shibir activists.

Under the banner of 'Chor Protirodh Committee' (Committee to Resist Thieves) several hundred Shibir activists stormed the office of Proctor Prof Shamsul Alam Sarker and kept him confined in his office. They misbehaved with him and gave three days' ultimatum to the university authorities to withdraw the criminal case filed in May with Motihar Police Station.

One Hasan Ali filed the case against the Shibir activists after they beat up his son Milon and set his motorbike on fire on the campus on May 21 for "stealing a student's cellphone." On May 26, Shibir leader Shoaib Ullah filed a theft case against Milon.

The Shibir leaders alleged that the university authorities assured them of taking action against Milon. but instead, they encouraged Milon's father to file the case.

yesterday's incident at his office and said, "They [Shibir activists] misbehaved with me.' Additional police forces have been deployed on the campus

Asked, the RU proctor confirmed

following the incident. Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Bangladesh Chhatra League RU units condemned the incident and said the Shibir was trying to create tension to destroy congenial atmosphere on the campus.

Ctg jolted by tremor, aftershock

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mild tremor followed by an after

shock jolted the Chittagong city and its adjoining areas yesterday, sparking panic among city-dwellers for a The first quake, measuring 4.8

on the Richter Scale, struck at 5:41pm and lasted for 16 seconds. The epicentre of the tremor was 146km away from the Chittagong Seismic Observatory at the

Ambagan area, sources said, An aftershock then ensued after an hour, rocking the city for about 14 seconds. Scientists at the observatory said the epicentre of the aftershock was 124km away and the magnitude was 3.9 on the Richtar

Fifteen such tremors occurred in Chittagong this year.

Hotel Agrabad

FROM PAGE 20 Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Magistrate Syeda Sarwar Jahan directed the five-hour mobile court starting from 8am to 1pm. She awarded a fine of Tk 93,000 to some food outlets that includes Bonoful, Mishtimela. Model and Chinese

restaurant Sangri-La. The magistrate found unhygienic environment at the kitchen of Hotel Agrabad. She also noticed that substandard sovbean oil was being used in cooking and flies flitting on some food items

The magistrate fined the hotel authorities Tk 1,000 as the law awards to first time offenders.

Mishtimela authorities were fined Tk 50.000 as they failed to produce any genuine BSTI license.

6th Wage Board

FROM PAGE 20

Executive Director-1 of Ittefag Group of Publications Mainul Hosein and Editor of the Daily Samakal Golam Sarwar on behalf of Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parisad (BSP), Managing Director and Chief Editor Gaziul Hassan Khan of the BSS. Publisher and Editor of the Daily Independent Mahbubul Alam and Editor of the Daily prothom Alo Motiur Rahman on behalf of Newspaper Owners Association of Bangladesh (Noab), Ruhul Amin Gazi and Assistant Editor of the Daily Ittefaq Habibur Rahman Milon on behalf of the BFUJ, M Fazley Imam and M Abul Hashem on behalf of Bangladesh Federal Union of Newspaper Press Workers and M Motiur Rahman Talukder on behalf of Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Karmachari Federation. In making its recommendations.

the board will take into consideration the cost of living, financial benefits available in similar kind of jobs in government, semigovernment and private organisations and the prevailing condition of newspapers and news agencies in different regions of the country. The board can also make recommendations on the basis of

the recommended salaries.

the Triangle of Death. Sunni Arabs also decided Thursday to continue boycotting the committee drafting Iraq's new constituwhich will be adjusted later with tion pending an international investi-

Deportation result

campaign launched in May this year, added the source.

In most cases, the Saudi government deports the arrestees. It releases only those who can arrange and show the necessary legal documents.
"In between 300 and 500

Bangladeshis get arrested and are taken to deportation camps every month," said a high official of the expatriate welfare and overseas employment ministry.

Over the last couple of months Saudi police had picked up over 800 Bangladeshis. Of them, only eight could produce valid documents necessary for stay while the rest were proved undocumented, he said.

the number of undocumented Bangladeshis is not very high compared to over 1.5 million Bangladeshis staying in the kingdom.

He said the expatriate ministry or the Bureau of Manpower Export and Training (BMET) does not keep any record of the Bangladeshis returning

According to the ministry official

nome after deportation from abroad. AKM Shamsuddin, secretary in charge of the expatriate welfare ministry, also could not say how many people have returned from Saudi Arabia recently or how many are still at the deportation camps.

He said the ministry is not aware of the people who go to Saudi Arabia on haji, omrah, and visit visas. "The ministry deals only with the workers who go abroad through recruiting

He said the government's immigration ordinance 1982 and the wage earners welfare fund rules 2002 also do not provide for any step for the Bangladeshis arrested or facing deportation for illegal entry or overstay in foreign countries. A leading Bangladeshi recruiting

agency official told The Daily Starthat

recently Saudi police had picked over

20,000 foreign workers for illegal entry or overstaying. Of those, around 4,000 were Bangladeshis and most of them had been deported. Many foreigners including Bangladeshis go to the kingdom on visas for hajj, omrah, or visit, and instead of leaving the country, they

He said the Saudi government usually bears the cost of sending back the undocumented foreigners to their respective countries. It has a special budget for the job. Many foreign workers including Bangladeshis surrender to the police

take jobs and stay there month after

for free, the source observed.

A high official of the government who once worked for Bangladesh mission in Jeddah told The Daily Star that if an illegal foreign worker is caught in Jeddah, the Saudi government bears the expenses of his return. But if he is caught in other cities, the government realises the ticket money from the company concerned.

There are two huge camps in Jeddah for the arrested illegals, he said. The Saudi authorities confine the illegals in the deportation camps till issuance of an out pass from the respective embassies or an exit visa.

UNB from Dhaka adds: An interministerial secretary-level committee has formulated a set of recommendations to effectively deal with the country's manpower exports.

said the recommendations are aimed at sending Bangladeshi workers abroad after giving them some training, exploring new markets for workforce, and ensuring their safety and security abroad.

meeting on overseas expatriate welfare affairs in a week for approval.

Bangladeshi workers on unscruoulous manpower and travel agents. "It's like a devil's trap. People go abroad for jobs on valid passports

advertisements and other means. Meanwhile, Bangladesh

2 Algerian diplomats

ROM PAGE 20 Wahab Fellah, told AFP.

"I couldn't do anything. I just called the police," he said. The kidnapping occurred near the Al-Sa'aa restaurant in the Al-Mansur district of west Baghdad at

the kidnappers' cars had number plates from Al-Anbar province, a rebel bastion in western Irag. This was the second high-profile kidnapping within a month after the abduction of Egytian ambassador-

designate Ihab al-Sharif on July 2 from a Baghdad street. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the frontman of al-Qaeda in Iraq, later ciaimed the abductio tion was announced by his kidnappers

Within four days of Sharif's kidnap-

ping, Bahrain's envoy was wounded in a failed kidnap attempt, while the Pakistani ambassador was fired on and the Russian ambassador's car riddled with bullets. Iraqi insurgents launched their attacks on diplomats in a bid to isolate the Iragi government and dissuade

Arab countries from raising the level of their diplomatic representation, Iraqi officials and foreign envoys have said. Zargawi, who has a 25 million dollar US price on his head, has claimed responsibility for a large number of the attacks, kidnappings and murders in Iraq since the US-led invasion overthrew Saddam Hussein

two years ago. ln fresh Iraqi violence two suicide car bombings and other attacks in and around Baghdad yesterday killed 14 people, police and army officials said. Sunni Arabs also decided to con-

tinue boycotting the committee draft-

ing Iraq's new constitution until their

demands were met. A suicide car bomber rammed into an Iraqi army checkpoint south of Baghdad, killing five soldiers in Mahmoudiyah. about 20 miles south of the capital. Several other soldiers were injured, according to army Lt. Odai al-Žeiadi A second Iraqi army checkpoint in

bomber, killing one soldier, al-Zeiadi said. Six soldiers were injured, he said. Unidentified gunmen assassinated three members of the Qadisiyah provincial council as they were heading to an Internet cafe in the western neighborhood of Khadhra, said police

the southern Baghdad suburb of

Bueitha was also hit by a suicide car

In Baghdad's Shia enclave of Sadr City, an employee of the Ministry of Trade was killed in a drive-by shooting, said police 1st Lt. Talib Naim said. 'Salman Lazim Shikara was heading to work when gunmen in a speeding car sprayed him with

machine guns inside his car," Naim Explosives were thrown into the compound of a British security firm in the western Yarmouk neighborhood, killing one Iraqi guard and injuring two others, said police Maj. Falah Al-Mihamadawi. Witnesses said the armed attackers had driven up in a

speeding car.
Meanwhile, a roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi patrol detonated at dawn in Latifiyah, killing three and injuring three, said a Babil provincial police spokesman. Latifiyah is located about 30km south of Baghdad in a Sunni insurgent-heavy area known as

RECOMMENDATIONS ON MANPOWER EXPORTS

A senior foreign ministry official

The recommendations will be placed at a ministerial committee

ncidents of detention or deportation

If the proposed recommendations are implemented such unfortunate incidents might lessen, he said, adding that the expatriate welfare ministry plans to develop awareness among foreign job seekers through

Association of International

responsible for the incidents of "This is due to absence of tight guidelines," he told UNB, replying to query about deportation of 700 Bangladeshis from Saudi Arabia. "We should have a proper manpower

policy," he added.

are met, one of the group said. Kamal Hamdoun, one of the 12 decision to stay away from committee meetings was made during talks with According to the interior ministry Sunni community leaders following

Tuesday's assassination of a Sunni delegate and an adviser. The decision casts doubt on macy of a charter and whether it would

win Sunni approval in an October referendum. Fifteen Sunnis were appointed to the parliamentary committee last month in a move to lure many in the

Two prominent Sunnis committee member Mijbil Issa and adviser Dhamin Hussein al-Obeidi were assassinated in front of a Baghdad

restaurant two days ago prompting

other Sunnis to suspend participation

not a hike but rationalisation of the een the same since May.

ment will go for a smaller hike. About his meeting with visiting WB Vice President for South Asia Praful C Patel yesterday, Saifur said they discussed a wide number of issues including disbursement of the WB's Development Support Credit (DSC) mplementation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), governance

\$200 million was scheduled to be released by July and the foreign finance in last fiscal year's revised budget was prepared taking this amount into account. "But as we did not get it I had to manage it by hidden money," the finance minister said.

by .9 percent.

he would take immediate steps to bring down the tariff protection rate and requested for an early disburse-

government rather has raised the rate Source at the National Board of revenue (NBR) said the rate has been scaled up through supplementary duties. VAT and various other taxes for

and corruption.

The official blamed the recent

but at the end of the day, they find themselves trapped as they don't get he jobs promised," the official added.

Recruiting Agencies (Baira) Advisor MH Selim MP said few "touts" were

remaining Sunnis appointed to the commission last month, said the

gation into the assassinations of two

colleagues and until other demands

whether the committee can meet an August deadline to finish the constitution. Even if the Shia and Kurdish members decided to try to meet the deadline without the Sunnis guestions would be raised over the legiti-

influential minority away from the insurgency. However, two members resigned under rebel threats.

in the process.

Fuel price FROM PAGE 1 nternational market every day, like India. But, we are saying it's not possi-

ble, we will adjust the price regime

He said Tuesday's adjustment was

prices of octane and petrol, which had Explaining the necessity of another price hike, the minister said if the prices of petroleum products are not adjusted, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation's loss would go beyond

Tk 3,500 crore. However, he said if the

global price goes down, the govern-

The third tranche of the DSC worth

In yesterday's meeting he urged Patel to release the DSC-3 by August Saifur said the release of the DSC

the benefit of the local industry, but the WB has objection to it.

has been deferred due to the govern-

ment's failure to meet some conditions including decreasing the tariff protection rate. In the current budget the

periodically.

Saifur yesterday assured Patel that