Niko dealings

cancellation of the contract with Niko, realisation of compensation from its share of gas that it gets from the Feni gas field, and immediately bringing all responsible for the agreement process with Canadian company under

As 270 billion cubic feet (bcf) gas reserve of the Tengratila gas field may be inaccessible due to Niko's blunders, Tk 3500 crore asset is damged, while with the environmental damage counted, the amount stands at Tk 8,000 crore, said the six-member committee that visited Tengratila on Friday.

"Éven the negligible compensation of Tk 1 crore that the government collected from Niko has not reached the victims. The government should have resigned after the repeated blowouts in Tengratila if it had minimum sense of responsibility," said AL Joint General Secretary Obaidul Kader who was present at the press conference.

The AL sub-committee noted that the BNP-Jamaat coalition government did not award the Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) with Niko through any bidding process, neither did it keep the option of Swiss Challenge in it, as was originally planned. Under the Swiss Challenge, the offer of an unsolicited partner is put on a bid to seek matching or better offer from other parties.

The government deliberately resorted to signing the faulty JVA while a High Court rule barred signing fresh Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) the committee observed.

"The draft joint venture agreement mentioned awarding only the marginal Chhatak West gas field, but the final agreement included the Chhatak East gas field, a new field with huge potentials." sub-committee Secretary Di Hasan Mahmud said.

"This is a gross irregularity by the government as any new gas field, if given to foreign companies, should be awarded through bidding process," he

candidates in substantial number of

candidature for one seat, 10 for two

and five for three seats out of 300

constituencies across the country in

2001 general election. Of the 96

political parties granted election

symbols, 41 have failed to field a

opinions from the political parties

mainly out of a discord between the

chief election commissioner (CEC)

and two election commissioners on

voter list for the next parliamentary

polls while the two Election

Commissioners --AK Mohammad Ali

and M Munsef Ali-- want to revise the

number of political parties has drawn

criticism from the EC secretariat

officials. They fear that discussion with

so many parties in such a brief period

would only plunge the meetings in

disorder. The EC in previous elections

had invited only the major political

parties and the number was betwee

20 and 22, said a source at the EC

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rab),

pate in the discussion on July 26 in

three separate sessions are consid-

ered minor parties. They hardly had

Apart from AL. Jativa Party

(Ershad), left 11-party alliance, JSD

(Inu), Bikalpa Dhara, and Krishak

Sramik Janata League, the 30 political

parties, which were invited to sit with

According to the schedule, BNP.

Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh Jatiya

Party, and Islami Oikya Jote were

invited to hold talks on July 28 in two

Inviting the political parties was a

troublesome task for the EC Secretariat officials as most of the

parties exist on paper only while official

addresses of many have been

communicate with the minor political

parties," a senior official in the EC

"It's been a kind of trouble for us to

The EC secretariat officials had

too are considered minor parties.

EC OFFICIALS FACE

DIFFICULTIES

changed.

any activities over the years.

the 65 political parties invited to partici

Except Jativa Party (Maniu) and

The decision to invite such a huge

CEC MA Aziz is in favour of a fresh

The EC has decided to seek

candidate in the election.

the issue of voter list.

existing one.

Of the parties, 33 had declared

The situation was the same in the

constituencies.

the election.

for realising compensation while the PSCs with the foreign companies should have it, the committee noted.

The Jalalabad gas field PSC gives Bangladesh 80 percent share and Occidental the remaining 20 percent But in the Bapex-Niko agreement, Niko gets 60 percent and Bapex only 40 percent," Dr Hasan Mahmud

"Whose interest has been served through the contract then?" he gues-

The AL leaders alleged that the alliance government declared the Tengratila gas field with 275 billion cubic feet (bcf) of gas reserve "marginal" to give Niko the contract.

Besides, it gave Niko Feni and Kamta gas fields in an unholy way,

The government signed the contract with Niko so that the minister concerned and officials involved in the process could share the commission.

he commented. Criticising the government for appointing a bureaucrat as the advisor to the energy ministry, Hasan Mahmud said, "The energy ministry advisor has begun working in favour of the Canadian company just as the former state minister AKM Mosharraf Hossain

"He [energy advisor] has expelled two Bapex officials though they had no faults and has already hiked the price

Dr Hussain Monsur, former chair, man of Petrobangla said the soil in a large area of Tengratila and its surroundings has been seriously damaged and it is uncertain if or when cultivation in that area will be possible.

Besides, the rate of arsenic also increased in the underground water,

Sub-committee assistant secretaries Md Ainal Haque Mintu, Aktar Hossain, Sujit Roy Nandi, Ajoy Kar Khokon and Giasuddin, member, were present at the press conference.

sits at last

First meeting today after 28 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A high-powered fiscal co-ordination council at last holds its first meeting today, two-and-a-quarter years after ts formation, with some pressing issues including inflation and dollar crisis on the agenda.

At the meeting, Bangladesh Bank (BB) is slated to table a report on the country's economic state and some crucial issues like inflation.

The council was formed on March 10, 2003 by amending the Bangladesh Bank Order, 1972. The amended order gave limited autonomy to the BB and assigned the with co-ordinating fiscal issues between the bank and the government so that corrective measures could be taken whenever needed.

Headed by the finance minister, the council is manned by the commerce minister, the BB governor, secretaries of the finance ministry and the Internal Resources Division, and the member (Programming) of the Planning ommission

The high-profile body approved by parliament was supposed to sit at least once a quarter to review the consistency of macroeconomic policies and also to revise the limits and targets set in the budget during formulation.

But, although exchange rate of dollar against taka has been rising steadily and inflation marking a crazy upward trend, the council failed to find time to sit and devise measures to address the issues.

A BB source said the central bank in its report would ask the government to adopt some noneconomic steps to check inflation. The BB also will request the government to allow it to follow the tight monetary policy it has been pursu-

Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 16

All 25 migrants had requested asylum in Šlovakia, police spokeswoman Magdalena Fecova said.

Slovakia, one of 10 mainly eastern European countries to join the European Union last year, hopes to join the EU's open-borders Schengen zone on January 1, 2007.

Last year, police in Slovakia arrested more than 8,300 illegal migrants - 40 per cent of them near the 98-kilometer border with Ukraine - and 272 suspected human traffickers.

Anti-personnel

FROM PAGE 16 The BDR, however, did not mention the name of the manufacturing country of the mines.

Earlier in 2003, security forces seized 40 anti-personal mines from

In another incident, during their routine patrol the jawans of the Madak border outpost under Bolipara BDR zone found two large rocket shells, two SBBL guns, five cartridges and 12 rounds of bullet of several firearms from a hut in the

deep forest of Bor Modak area. Earlier on Friday, Bandarban region army recovered two SBBL guns, eight empty magazines and one high power antenna from the Chakma Jhiri area of Roangchhari

parties cannot reach a consensus on Owners

FROM PAGE 16

(amended) Act-2003. It also filed a case against him under the section 272 of the Bangladesh penal code. In absentia, he was instantly sentenced to six months in prison Besides, the court sent two workers of the factory to jail for a month.

In South Shajahanpur, the court fined Anisur Rahman, the owner of Asia Mineral Water Company, Tk 50,000. It also sentenced him to six months' rigorous imprisonment in

VoIP not legalised

FROM PAGE 1

of legalising VoIP and is expected to send it to the ICT body again. But when the decision will become effective is still not certain, sources

The ICT taskforce committee decided to install a new technology n order to ensure revenues from the VoIP operators and establish common platforms in Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet and Bogra for the services through a single channel. The technology will help monitor the Internet telephony activities and calculate the revenue from individual VoIP operators, sources

said. "The fresh move to install the new technology will definitely delay the VoIP legalisation process," said a leader of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information

Services (BASIS). The move was expected to boost the IT-enabled services, including setting up call centres, providing medical transcription and many other services.

The aim of legalising VoIP for private operators is to bring the charge of international calls down to a fraction of the existing call-rates. It will also allow the mobile-to-mobile

phone users to receive overseas Once VoIP is legalised, the operators will also have to generate and terminate calls through the

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) international gateway.

VoIP operators.

Fiscal council London bombers

by police.

iustified.

suicide bombers.

type headline in the tabloid Daily

ng forensic evidence from the rucksacks and bombs that failed to explode, said they had received more than 400 calls following their appeal for help from the public.

British capital Saturday. Mile End Underground station in east London was briefly evacuated and closed

London subway trains and a bus, the new attackers attempted a repeat attack.

Their detonators appeared to work but the explosive mix in their rucksacks failed to go off. No-one was injured and the bombers fled

nside a subway train at Stockwell after a frantic chase. Screaming at onlookers to get out of the way, they shot him at point-blank range.

dead man had been carrying any explosives at the time

Soon after the Stockwell shooting, police arrested a man under anti-terrorism laws after an armed and another was arrested around

Both men were being held in a high security police station in central London in connection with the into the attempted investigation attacks on London's transport network, police said.

According to Saturday's edition of The Sun newspaper, one of the detained men is one of the suspected bombers, whose device partially exploded Thursday lunchtime on a Number 26 bus in east London.

"One down... three to go," was arrested man being driven away potential evidence on his clothes.

wearing a paper suit to protect Saturday's newspapers noted the "deadly dilemma" now faced by

British police in tackling suspects

Flood situations

Jamuna recorded further fall by 14cm at Noonkhawa, 9cm at Chilmari, 11cm at Bahadurabad and 5cm at Siraigani.

The Old Brahm fall by 4cm at Jamalpur but it marked further rise by 3cm at Mymensingh. The Buriganga also registered fall by 4cm in Dhaka.

by 8cm at Demra and was flowing 34cm above the danger level while the Turag recorded further rise by 2cm at Mirpur.

In the Ganges basin, all the rivers except the Padma at Goalundo and Bhaqyakul did not cross the red

rivers except the Surma at Kanaighat, the Kushiyara at Amalshid and Sheola, the Kangsha at Jariajanjail and the Meghna at Chandpur were flowing below their danger level.

by 17 cm at Kanaighat, 8 cm at Sylhet and 10 cm at Sunamganj, it is still flowing 50 cm above the danger level at Kanighat.

Rab asks police

FROM PAGE 1 members to their mother organisations," he added.

an altercation between them or Jasimuddin Road

The Rab also attached the probe committee report with the recommendation letters to the mother organisations for taking actions against the three--ASP Ashraful and Constable Nazmul Hag of police, and Ansar Manik Mia of the BDR, said the DG.

The Rab authorities found the show-cause replies of the three members "unsatisfactory", said a highly placed Rab source, adding that it had also issued show-cause letters to the

Meanwhile, the condition of Sultan remained unchanged. He has been suffering from severe headache causing frequent vomiting, and pain in the knee for the last two days, his sister Khadija Rahman Maya told The Daily Starlast evening.

Earlier, Khadija filed a GD (general diary) with the Uttara Police Station about the torture on July 16, a day after the Rab had filed one.

action about the torture," she alleged adding that it is also not compensating the medical expenses for the treatment of Sultan. The family has already spent more than Tk 50,000 for the treatment,

Beijing Aug 17

Britons, who have only become

accustomed to seeing their police

armed in recent years, appeared to

be torn between a sense of neces-

sity and disquiet about the shooting

tactics to those used by Israeli

security forces in dealing with

said a "shoot-to-kill policy" was

necessary for those suspected of

carrying a bomb, and he had strong

support from some quarters. The

Police Complaints Commission.

The four men named by police as

the July 7 suicide bombers were all

Muslim Britons, three of Pakistani

origin. The fourth was a Muslim

convert born in Jamaica.

A survey of British Muslims in

Saturday's Daily Telegraph newspa-

per found that only six percent

thought the July 7 attacks were

they had sympathy with the "feelings and motives" of the bombers,

13 percent said they had a lot of sympathy and a further 11 percent

said the Indian border guards

pushed the eight Indians into

Bangladesh by breaking open the barbed wire fences near pillar no

144 early yesterday.

A BDR patrol team caught the

Indians while they were roaming

around the Madhuil bus stand under

Sapahar upazila in the morning, the

up them from Nizampur area in Delhi on Monday and brought them to the

Security has been beefed up along the Noagaon frontier following

BRTA accused

border at midnight on Friday.

They said the Indian police picked

7 Indians

FROM PAGE 16

sources said.

FROM PAGE 1

However, when asked whether

lined: "Shoot all bombers"

Express newspaper head-

Some papers likened the police

London Mayor Ken Livingstone

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will leave Dhaka for Beijing on a four-day official visit at the invitation of her Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao on August 17. This is Khaleda's return visit to China after Jiabao came to Dhaka on a two-day visit on April 7, said Foreign

Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday. He said the visit will mark the 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties between Dhaka and

He expressed the hope the visit will further strengthen the unique relations

On Indian External Affairs Minister But the Muslim Council of Britain Natwar Singh's visit, Morshed said demanded police explain their his Indian counterpart will come to actions and said Muslims feared Dhaka on a two-day goodwill visit on reprisal attacks. Friday's shooting at Stockwell will be automatically Asked about the issues to be investigated by the Independent

between Bangladesh and China.

discussed during Singh's visit, he said. "It's not a structured meeting. We'll discuss various issues of common

"We'll also discuss the agenda of talks between Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the sidelines of the Saarc Summit in Dhaka on November 12-13."

Patel assures FROM PAGE 16

Patel referred to big foreign investment proposals to Bangladesh and expressed the World Bank's keenness to facilitate the country in this regard by developing infrastruc-He termed Bangladesh's eco-

nomic performance, GDP growth rate and macroeconomic management "excellent" Patel said Bangladesh, in many

sectors, has not only done 'very well but also emerged as leader in some sectors, including gender equality in primary and secondary education where girls are performing better than the boys.

assisting the construction of Padma Bridge along with other donors. He said Bangladesh has a good track record in implementing big projects.

Progress in health and education sectors also came up during the discussion. During the meeting, the prime

minister sought WB assistance in expansion and improvement of drainage, sewerage and drinkingwater supply in major cities, including Dhaka and Chittagong.

prime minister of bank's support for mitigating arsenic problem in the World Bank Country Director

Christine I Wallich, Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Kamal Siddiqui and ERD Secretary Ismail Jobiullah were present.

Independent

FROM PAGE 1

mechanisms to monitor the implementation process of its directives. For this, the credibility of the EC

has been questioned, he added. "The secretariat must be independent and free from government

way for full implementation of all of its

initiatives, he observed. He agreed with former chief election commissioner MA Syed's proposal for an independent secretariat, saving there is now no move in this regard.

not attend any meetings, showing different causes.

"But the secretary started attending the election commission's meetings after appointment of a new chief election commissioner." he added.

WB warns

FROM PAGE 16

situation, the WB said the government's interest payment against debt is low because most of the public debt is multilateral or bilateral and is on highly concessional terms. If prospects of concessional lending diminish and Bangladesh is pushed toward market-based rates, the cost of financing could increase significantly, which would worsen the budget balances and the debt situation, it pointed out, adding a large depreciation in real exchange rate can also add additional pressure.

The note also explained that since foreign debt is to be paid off in dollars. the depreciation of taka would add to the cost of debt servicing. It said lack of adjustment in

energy and oil prices increased the loss of SOEs sharply, consequently the consolidated public sector primary deficit is likely to have been around 3.5 percent of the GDP and the total deficit over 5 percent.

On economic growth the policy note said despite a mild rise in the recent years, a credible strategy to lift growth rates to a steady 6 percent is still lacking. WB Country Director Christine

"The medium-term budgetary framework envisaged in the PRSP is broadly consistent with pubic debt sustainability. But it hinges critically on the growth, primary deficit and external financing assumptions underlying the framework. Stronger domestic resource mobilization, continued prudent management of public spending and a reduction in the level of contingent liabilities are needed to protect fiscal

PM leaves for World enraged

a trip to the region.

UN Secretary General Annan expressed his "sorrow and anger" at the bombings, which were claimed by an al-Qaeda linked group and which follow blasts in London this month which left over 50 dead.

"Once again, in this tragic month he condemns the use of terror and indiscriminate violence against civilians, which no cause or belief can possibly justify," said a UN spokes-The near-simultaneous bombings

early Saturday struck at the heart of the Egyptian resort, which as well as a top tourist resort is also regularly used for high-level summits and international conferences. In Europe, from where many tourists travel to Egypt, French President Chirac stressed the world's

France's "profound solidarity" with the Egyptian people. In Berlin, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said that German tourists

'absolute determination to fight this

scourge," in a statement which voiced

were among the casualties. "Through blind and fanatical hatred terrorists want to create fear and horror in place of peaceful cohabitation." said Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer in a statement. "This aim must not be

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday called on countries which have suffered terror attacks to stand united against "international terrorism" n a telegram of condolences to his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak.

The only response to these challenges to mankind is solidarity and unity of action against this barbaric threat."he said.

chief Jose Manuel Barroso described them as "cowardly

In Toyko a foreign ministry official

said the government was "gravely shocked" by the attacks.

"Terrorism cannot be justified for any reason, and the government of Japan firmly condemns atrocious terrorism that victimises many innocent people," he said.

Closer to Egypt itself, Israel offered to send army rescue teams to the Red Sea resort on the tip of the Sinai peninsula to help emergency crews deal with the carnage, which it described as "inhuman acts of terrorism."

But Yuval Steinitz, the chairman of parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee, said the attacks appeared to represent a major intelligence failure especially so soon after the 2004 attacks in another Sinai resort, Taba, which killed 34 people

"At first sight, it looks like a failure on the intelligence and security front of the first degree," he told public radio.

Iran - long criticised by the United States in particular for sponsoring Islamist terrorism -- said it firmly condemned the bombings but called on the United States to change tack in its war on terror.

"We appeal to Western countries not to impose restrictions on Muslims as these attacks have nothing to do with Muslims and placing restrictions on Muslims is the best way of helping the terrorists," foreign ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi told reporters.

demned the bombings. "We wish the Egyptian armed forces success in fighting the cancer of terrorism which threatens the peace of the entire world," said Prime Minister Ibrahim

Ring Shine resumes

Star yesterday that Ring Shine industries having over 6,000 workers occupy 62

demanding withdrawal of cases against some workers of the factory and to realise their demands including the removal of a number of factory supervisors. Bepza Executive Chairman Brig

of Ring Shine were enforcing a strike

for the fourth consecutive day,

Gen (Retd) M Zakir Hossain had a series of meetings with the investors over the latest disturbances at DEPZ in the last few days and assured Ring Shine of providing adequate security.

rate' for the workers. He refuted the press reports that over 200 workers were injured in the

police action and said it was an exaggeration of the real incident that took place on Wednesday. Hossain said the authorities filed a case against some workers after they assaulted a foreign female technician

at Ring Shine on allegation of "misbehaving" with the workers. "But a group of workers on instigation from outside were illogically sors at Ring Shine units, which they cannot and the owners are also not bound to accept such illogical and whimsical demands." said Hossain.

He expressed a deep sense of grief that recurrence of such incident would shy away other foreigners from making investment.

The Bepza chief claimed that two separate cases were filed against 38 and 64 "unruly" workers of Ring Shine. But a duty officer at Savar Police

Station said the Ring Shine authorities filed the first case on July 7 against 59 workers and the second one on July 20 against 12 workers. He said 1,200 other unknown persons were also accused in the second case.

According to BEPZA rules, no EPZ investors are allowed to lockout their units and no EPZ workers are permit-

ted to enforce strikes. Meanwhile, various workers'

Twenty-three Ring Shine workers are now in jail, a workers' rights group said at a press conference in the capital yesterday. It said EPZ industrial workers are denied their rights as three main labour laws -- Factory Act

Six EPZs of the country with 200 industrial units and 1.5 lakh workers and employees fetched \$1.55 billion in

88 killed in Egypt

tourism industry so crucial to Egypt's economy, which was still recovering from the fallout of last year's bombings. There have also been several

Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, Chechnya."

Panicked tourists poured out of the many night spots dotting the Naama They (the bombers) are mad

go to heaven. No religion can accept such a thing," said Carol, a young British barmaid. Saturday's attacks followed a new terror scare on London's transport system on Friday after a series of

wounded but the foreign ministry said

park a few hundred metres (yards) away from the Ghazala hotel, smashing shopfronts. A third bomb ripped through a busy market area, killing an undetermined number of people some of them foreigners.

the souk. It was huge. There were still lots of people at terraces and shops were still open," said Ashraf, who owns nearby restaurant popular with Russian tourists. "I can't tell how many people were

"The blast took place at the edge of

killed but it was carnage. The panic was immediate and I saw a man die of a heart attack following the blasts."

anniversary of the 1952 revolution that saw the overthrow of the monarchy as Egyptians enjoyed an extended holiday weekend.

defence committee, Yuval Steinitz, was critical of the Egyptian intelligence services' failure to stop the new bombings nine months after the deadly blasts in the resorts of Taba and Nuweiba. "There was a terrible attack less

than a year ago in similar circum-

resume on Sunday.

great difficulty collecting the Bidisha

secretariat said.

books from her made defendants in the case.

she had taken the amount from him.

served only to humiliate her. Advocates Kazi M Sajwar Hossain and Kalyan Kumar Saha appeared on behalf of Bidisha.

illegally. Ershad, his personal staff HM Golam Kibria and the First Security Bank Limited have been

In her complaint, Bidisha mentioned that Ershad took her signature in four cheque-books on March 12, 2003 to purchase a Toyota Prado vehicle for her. Besides, Ershad had earlier

Security Bank without her knowledge to purchase the car, Bidisha Later, Bidisha received a legal notice served by Kibria on July 7 this year. In the notice, Kibria claimed Tk

or Kibria and the legal notice was

FROM PAGE 16

Judge Mohammad Golam Kibria issued a show cause notice upon Ershad and Kibria to explain the matter in 15 days.

taken Tk 20.68 lakh as loan in her name of Bidisha from the First

2.13 crore from Bidisha saying that Bidisha also mentioned that she did not take any money from Ershad

Ershad and the police had earlier filed four criminal cases against Bidisha but she was granted bail in of octane and petrol "he added

making it undrinkable

99 political parties addresses of minor parties. They are

not certain whether all the invitations

have reached the destinations. They

are afraid that some of the letters may

return to the EC without finding the The EC had originally decided to sit down with the 96 political parties that were allocated symbols in the last parliamentary elections, but the number was raised to 99 yesterday

Meanwhile, on learning about the

EC initiative for dialogue, leaders of

Peoples Party, seven-party alliance

and letters were sent accordingly.

(Mirpur), Muslim League (Jamir) Muslim League (Yousuf), Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Palli Dal, and Republicar

Party yesterday rushed to the EC secretariat to confirm their invitations. **ALREJECTION** AL has rejected the EC proposal, saying that they would not sit down with the CEC as they along with its allies have rejected MAAziz's appointment to the post.

"We have already proposed a set

and it includes also the one for a fresh voter list. If there is any dialogue it will be with the government," AL general secretary told The Daily Star last night The Al leader marvelling at the huge number of parties invited to the

EC dialogue, asked, "Where do these

parties come from? Do they have any

of proposals for reforms in electoral

caretaker government systems

existence at all? He alleged that the CEC is out to prove the government's statement that it is not possible to make a consensus appointment to post of caretaker government chief as the political

The mainstream opposition parties' reform agenda proposes for an appointment of the caretaker government chief by consensus among all Workers Party General Secretary

Bimal Bishwas echoed the AL general

secretary's view and said there must

the voter list.

be an ulterior motive behind the EC's "By-passing all our reform proposals regarding the Election Commission and electoral laws, it has all of a sudden initiated discussion on the issue of voter list with all parties. he said.

Biswas, also the left 11-party convenor, said the left alliance has no vet received any invitation from the FC and the decision whether to join the dialogue will be taken on receiving the JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu

also rejected the EC proposal and said

his party would not sit with the CEC as

it has already rejected his appointment No trace yet of

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

The whereabouts of the missing

Sources said the Rab released him on Friday night in Rajshahi city after it picked up him following his release on bail from Naogaon jail on Thursday.

Speculation was rife in the city that Samad was in Rab custody and the elite force has handed him over to Bangla Bhai men. He is accused of 17 charges mostly murders, and a listed tor

criminal. Samad was arrested in July

last year, but freed on bail.

forward with information.

"Find them," screamed the huge-Mirror Saturday.

"The four most wanted," said The Independent, like every newspaper carrying pictures of the casuallydressed men in subway station tunnels or on a bus, one with a rucksack believed to have held his

Police, who were already gather-

after an unspecified alert, police said after they received information. On Thursday, exactly a fortnight after four British Muslim men killed themselves and 52 others in a coordinated series of blasts on three

On Friday morning, police cornered a man of ethnic Asian origin

pinned him down in a carriage and Police refused to say whether the

raid on a nearby apartment block

The first man was being held under a section of Britain's 2001 anti-terrorism law relating to the "commission, instigation or preparation of acts of terrorism", a police spokeswoman told AFP.

the headline on the tabloid's front page, above a picture of the

> management, the meeting was told. It was alleged that the regional transport committee does not play any role to bring discipline in the road transport sector.
>
> Keeping FM band radios in trucks and other vehicles has been made mandatory for getting information from

> > the BRTA chairman to send him a report on the officials and employees who are responsible for irregularities It was disclosed in the meeting that

many three wheeler CNG auto rick-

shaws bearing the same number ply in

connivance with a section of BRTA

officials to identify those vehicles and take punitive actions against the officials who issued certificates against them. Communication Secretary Shafigul Islam and high officials of the

BRTA were present at the meeting on

transport sector development and BRTAactivities.

on terror.

Morshed Khan.

Dhaka slates FROM PAGE 1 strongest terms," Khaleda said assuring that Bangladesh would

of the departed souls and conveyed her deepest sympathy to the members of the bereaved families. should be considered terrorists.

spective of their religion or caste. Terrorists who in the name of Islam resort to such heinous acts are basically the enemies of Islam. Because Islam is the religion of peace and allows no room for such brutal actions "he added.

making the lives of the Muslims miserable, he said. "Muslims anywhere in the world are scared today, as others point a doubtful finger at them," he observed. The minister also condemned

acts of terrorism, but not single out any particular community or religion, he Referring to mounting tension among the Muslims in London follow-

ing the killing of an Asian, he

expressed the hope the British gov-

ernment would face terrorists patiently

and find out the real culprits.

Even bomb-weary Iraq con-In Rome Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi called the attacks "tragic," Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said they were "barbaric," while EU commission

FROM PAGE 16 production at the factories. Bepza officials told The Daily

out of 410 industrial plots at DEPZ and feed as many as 300 local sweater and garment industries with raw materials. Local newspapers reported that over 200 workers of Ring Shine were njured in a police action at the DEPZ on Wednesday. The police swung into action when several hundred workers

Hossain told The Daily Star vesterday that the workers and the Ring Shine authorities had no major problem except a dispute over fixing 'piece

applicable inside EPZs. 2004-05 that accounts for 20 percent

demanding removal of some superviof national export earning

attacks in tourist areas in Cairo in recent months, as Egypt prepares for its first multi-candidate presidential election in September. The al-Qaeda Organisation in the Levant and Egypt said it carried out the multiple bombings as a "response

Bay stretch of the resort known to Egyptians as "the city of peace." What's the point of all this. They won't

bombings on July 7 that killed 52 people plus four suicide bombers also claimed by an al-Qaeda group. dead, the foreign ministry confirmed in

been sent to Sharm. Israel offered to send specialist army emergency teams to help with the rescue effort in the resort, a popular haunt for Israeli holidavmakers.

there were no immediate plans to order the evacuation of the 10,000 nationals believed to be vacationing in the Sinai at the peak of the summer holiday season.

of cases against them.

1965. Labour Recruitment Act 1965. and Industry Ordinance 1969 - are not

The attacks dealt a fresh blow to the

against the global evil powers which are spilling the blood of Muslims in

An Italian tourist was among the Rome. Eight Britons were among the wounded, the Foreign Office said, adding that an emergency team had

At least one Israeli was among the

The attacks came on the 53rd

missing **PBCP** leader

anyone after his 'release', said family

however, denied arresting Samad, On previous Rab acknowledgement of the arrest, he said, "We were not sure of his name since he has many names.

outlaw leader, who was in the custody of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), was still unknown until yesterday evening. Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) leader Abdus Samad alias La Samad did not return home or contact

The commanding officer Rab-5

The BTRC will award licences and oversee the operation of the

Nerves were on edge in the

FROM PAGE 16 Chakrahimpur and the Balu at Demera were flowing below the The Brahmaputra and the

The Balu registered further rise

The Ganges and the Padma recorded further rise by 18cm at Pankha, 19cm at Rajshahi, 15 cm at Hardinge Bridge, 2 cm at Goalundo and 3cm at Bhagyakul. In the Meghna basin, all the

Though the Surma recorded fall

On July 15, a group of Rab members led by Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Ashraful hauled garment factory owner Abu Bakar Sultan to the Rab-1 office and tortured him following

"The government is not taking any

officials were proved, the meeting was The meeting decided to cancel the system of revenue collection from vehicles through the postal department and introduce the system of collecting tax directly through banks. Five vehicle inspection centres of

the government has become very

inactive due to corruption and mis-

the recently introduced radio traffic channel that gives information about traffic situation in the city time to time. Communications Minister Nazmu Huda who chaired the meeting asked

Nazmul Huda asked the BRTA

continue working with Egypt and the

international community in the war

She prayed for the eternal peace

"These savage attacks on inno-cent lives must be faced with united efforts globally, and the attackers These terrorists have no religion because they are acting against humanity," said Foreign Minister M

Talking with reporters at his office

vesterday, he said the world should

raise its voice against terrorists irre-

Morshed asked the Islamic world and the Muslim Ummah to be united against those involved in terror attacks. The terrorists in the name of Jihad are in fact weakening Islam and

those, who blame wholesale the Muslims after any acts of terrorism. 'Terrorists should be considered terrorists... they may be Muslims, Christians or from any sects; no-one should generalise only the Muslims. The British leadership should consider the attacks on London as He expressed eagerness in

The WB executive assured the

control to ensure transparency of the Election Commission," Ali asserted. If independent, the Election Commission would be able to train its officials properly, which will pave the

"During the last two years of his (Syed's) tenure the secretary to the Election Commission Secretariat did

Wallich in her forwarding letter said,

An Italian tourist and his wife were pacing up and down the main stretch of Naama Bay, desperately looking for their 17-year-old son. Hotel receptionists said many

groups demanded immediate and unconditional release of the arrested workers of Ring Shine and withdrawal

guests had warned they would cut their holidays short and small groups of haggard tourists could be seen dragging their luggage among the debris to board buses leaving the resort Another bomb went off on a car

demned the "senseless" attacks. The hawkish chairman of the Israeli parliament's foreign affairs and

stances and all the red lights should

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan reacted with "sorrow and anger", while US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who was in the region, con-

nave been flashing," Steinitz told The trial of three men suspected of involvement in the Taba bombings opened on July 2 and was due to