48-km Dhaka Bypass

FROM PAGE 1

districts to bypass the city centre and go to Chittagong and Sylhet without hassles.

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday paid a sudden visit to a construction site of the road and observed the progress of the work. The ministry has taken up the project in addition to the proposed Eastern Bypass as an immediate remedy to the heavily burdened roads in the capital, the source said.

Huda said after the opening of the road, the pressure of vehicles on the city streets would come down significantly. Besides, the freight trucks, which are not allowed to enter the city during daytime, would have an access to the capital at all times.

The Dhaka bypass project, which will cost an estimated Tk 283 crore, was taken up in January 2002. The minister was told that the construction of a bridge over the River Sitalakkhya on Kanchon part of the road is also nearing completion. The 445-meter-long bridge will cost Tk 77 crore to build.

Besides, the construction work of other smaller bridges and culverts on the bypass is also making fast progress.

The bypass, which would be a four-lane highway with divider in the middle, starts at Joydevepur and stretches till Chittagong Highway at Madanpur, connecting the Sylhet National Highway, said sources.

The construction work has suffered several setbacks as the finance ministry on a number of occasions had blocked the disbursements of fund following allegations of excess expenditure.

At first, the cost of the project was estimated to be around Tk 90 crore. But amid objections from the finance ministry it rose to Tk 283 crore.

A high-powered committee comprising the officials of the planning ministry had investigated the reasons behind the soaring expenses. It found that the cost went up because the road was being constructed with four lanes instead of two lanes of the original plan.

The committee found the ballooning cost reasonable and recommended resuming release of the funds.

AL demands removal

FROM PAGE 1

death penalty by a martial law court in a double murder case. Two other persons were also awarded death penalty in the case and were hanged to death, but Jhintu appealed for the presidential amnesty after absconding for 22 years.

Demanding neutral investigation into the "dubious quick process of appeal" to seek presidential clemency, the AL presidium member accused Law Minister Moudud Ahmed and State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar of collaborating to free the convicted person on political ground.

Suranjit, also a member of the parliamentary standing committee on law, justice and parliamentary affairs, said proper investigation into the matter is not possible until the two ministers and principal secretary to the PM are not suspended.

He said the country's constitution empowers the president to grant amnesty to a person if his or her life and liberty is affected due to apparent wrong judgement given by the court.

He said the application of law cannot be different for a particular case in which the death penalty of two others have already been executed.

"But before granting amnesty to any person, the president has to review the evidence and case records of the convicted person to ascertain if there is any lack in the judgement," the AL presidium member observed.

He also questioned how the convicted person, who had been absconding for 22 years in Sweden, could get the presidential clemency within 12 days of his return to the country.

Suranjit also said there is no bar in the constitution against repealing the presidential amnesty order.

He asked the law minister to make the report regarding the presidential clemency public for transparency and accountability as this report is not confidential and is not covered by the Official Secrets Act. He said the government should seek opinion of renowned legal experts on the issue.

AL leader Mohammed Nasim, Obaidul Quader and Advocate Rahmat Ali were also present at the press conference.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday in a statement said the law minister's statement blaming the home ministry for presidential clemency is false and devoid of reality.

The statement, signed by SCBA secretary Enayetur Rahim, also said prior to the presidential clemency to Jhintu, Moudud had gone to Sweden and received hospitality at Jhintu's house.

But talking to reporters yesterday the law minister contradicted the statement issued by the SCBA and termed it "baseless and politically motivated".

Moudud said he went to Sweden on April 20 to attend an international seminar and returned to Dhaka on April 22 while the presidential clemency came in January.

The law minister said he will take legal steps against the SCBA general secretary for issuing "false statement".

AK47, ammo seized

FROM PAGE 16

bullets on them.

The criminals, however, fled the scene soon as the army also fired towards them.

The army destroyed a den of criminals and recovered a sub-machine gun (SMG), 15 rounds of SMG bullet, a magazine, fatigues and confidential papers, army sources said.

In another incident early yesterday, on secret information BDR jawans led by Lt Col Abdul Awal raided two dens of criminals in Alekkhong area of Baishari upazila of Bandarban. An AK47 rifle with 20 rounds of bullet, huge military uniforms and hardware were recovered from the spot.

With this the number of AK47 recovered from Alekkhong in the last 10 days rose to six.

However, no one was arrested in any of the incidents.

The sources in security forces said due to the risk and remoteness of the hilly areas as well as possible duality of the informants the army and BDR are failing to arrest any criminals.

Requesting anonymity an army official said arms and ammunition possessed by the criminals in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region cannot be estimated. He also said even the army does not possess some of the arms recovered so far.

Sources said the anti-government rebel groups of Myanmar have set up hideouts in different areas of Bandarban and Khagrachhari districts near the Myanmar border.

In the last few months, 41 foreigners were caught from different border areas of Bandarban. Although cases have been lodged against these intruders, the names of their country have not yet been revealed officially.

Meanwhile, the army on Saturday arrested three indigenous firearms smugglers after a long interrogation at the Bandarban Parjatan Motel.

Later, the arrestees--Jonathon Bawm and Aung Thui Prue Marma of Bandarban and Nirmol Chakma of Rangamati--were handed over to Bandarban Police Station. They were produced before court and subsequently sent to jail.

11 Rajshahi militants

FROM PAGE 16

order for filing a sedition case against the militants.

"We are filing the sedition case as our investigations point to their (militants) anti-state activities", he said, denying any more detail.

The JIC, however, gathered virtually no more important information quizzing the militants for seven days, but identified them as disciples of the militant linchpin Dr Asadullah Al Galib's Ahle Hadith Andolin Bangladesh (Ahab).

'They (militants) did not give any important information. Observing their conduct and speaking with them, the JIC concluded that they are not linked with the notorious Bangla Bhai's Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh, they are more men of Galib', said sources quoting the JIC forwarding.

"Two of them -- Enamul and Mustafa -- are hardened militants," said the JIC, suggesting more investigation against them.

The JIC opinion was partly contradicted by some of the local investigators, who said Galib and Bangla Bhai are not separate.

Bangla Bhai is the operations commander of a group that was masterminded by Galib and Abdur Rahman who were familiar to each other, they added.

The JIC suggested to local police that they do not need further interrogation at present and so should not be taken in more remand.

About the reported trainer of the militants, pseudonym Aslam, the JIC said, Golam Mustafa did not confess that he was Aslam as local police doubted.

'A tall man who in his early 30s and wears Islamic dresses is Aslam' is what the militants told before the JIC.

Meanwhile, students at the Arabic department where Dr Galib used to teach before his arrest in February last and Mustafa, and a student informed this correspondent that Muslata was an Imam of Darul Hadith mosque in Jamalpur that was founded by Galib and funded by the Kuwait based Revival of Islamic Heritage Society.

Tk 4,000cr spent

FROM PAGE 1

If ministries are given the responsibility to prepare their own budget, this kind of pressure will end, the minister told the meeting.

A planning ministry official however questioned the effectiveness of the initiative, saying that if ministries are given the authority to prepare their own budget they might go for many low-quality projects which will amount to misuse of the national resources.

Saifur admitted that ministries sometimes submit bad projects but when his ministry rejects such projects, the ministers concerned express dissatisfaction blaming the finance ministry. "I have to face this kind of problem from my colleagues," he added.

When a ministry will prepare its own budget, it will not be able to blame the finance ministry, Saifur said.

About low-quality projects, the minister said his ministry will examine if the proposed projects are formulated in line with the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

The government has prepared a PRSP and to implement it the ministries' budget preparation will be brought within the midterm budget framework. The ministries that will be brought under this framework will be informed about how much allocation they will receive in the next three years in advance.

Saifur brands

FROM PAGE 1

other South Asian countries in all fields. But, the media do not reflect our achievement," he said.

The minister was addressing the concluding session of a two-day national roundtable workshop on Bangladesh country programme evaluation of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) at a local hotel.

He said Bangladesh, being a small country with huge population, has been making substantial progress in different areas.

"But, those achievements are not focused in the media. Only the bad things are reported which are also available in other countries."

The finance minister said resource constraint is not the main impediment to the country.

"Not resource constraint, it is the lacking in institutional development and governance which is the main problem for the country and the government is doing its best to overcome the problems, setting up new institutions," he said.

Saifur stressed the need for policy harmonisation with government's ongoing poverty eradication efforts and alignment of the donors' perspective with the government's point of view.

ERD Secretary Ismail Zabiullah chaired the concluding session.

Polls schedule

FROM PAGE 1

told reporters at his office.

The current parliament thus gets the women lawmakers for the reserved seats elected when only a year is left of its tenure.

The House passed the 14th amendment to the constitution in May last year that reintroduced the provision for women's reserved seats in parliament.

It also enacted a law for election to the seats on November 29.

But the election could not be held within the stipulated period (90 days from enactment of the law) because of a High Court stay order following three writ petitions filed by 13 women's rights groups and individuals.

The High Court on May 30 this year termed the 14th amendment "not unconstitutional" and said the election is to be held by the stipulated time, considering the period of time lost due to the stay as "not counted".

On July 19, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court rejected the petitioners' prayer for appeal against an HC order that upheld the 14th amendment.

The Appellate Division decision now enables the government to take initiative for holding the election to 45 reserved seats for women.

Drug amendment

FROM PAGE 16

is also widely used in developed nations like the UK, the US, Japan or Germany.

Previously, the laws restricted import of any products, if they were locally manufactured in plenty, to help local manufacturers survive in the competitive market.

"To continue supporting local drug manufacturers we proposed amendment of some clauses of the law," the health secretary said.

"The amendment will restrict import of the product during its registration process by asking importers to submit certain documents to prove its wide use in the developed countries," he added.

He said the amendment has the provision to resolve the long-standing issue of 'key personnel' in supervising drug manufacture at their plants.

Referring to the clause 13 (A) of the Drug Control Act, the health secretary said, "Only a graduate pharmacist is considered key personnel for manufacture supervision as per the existing rule. But now graduates from other disciplines like chemistry, physics and biology will also be considered so."

When time is wrong

FROM PAGE 1

his back resting against the lamppost. He looks grim and would only say, "Things are dull." Further probes will not bring out much from him, he becomes suspicious, asking hordes of questions in return -- who I am, why I am here, why I am interested in such things, and what good reports will do to the Bangladeshis living here.

Uchchhal at Salique's looks grumpy too.

"It is killing us off," his angry voice wafts over Lata Mungeskar's songs. "Whoever did the bombings are not Muslims, they are bastards. If things keep happening, the English will naturally think we are the enemies -- they can't differentiate whether I am Bangladeshi or Pakistani. To them all Muslims are the same and they will shy away from our restaurants. I am already down in business."

Moazzem Hossain sits with four of his friends deep inside a small hotel in Brick Lane. He came here without much education and still can't speak much English. But that did not stop him from finding a job at a Bangladeshi cloth shop at Bethnal Green.

"Our business is down by half," Moazzem says in heavy Sylhet accent. "We mainly cater to the Bangladeshis. But they now feel afraid to come out of houses. The papers of many of the Bangladeshis are still not formalised and they are keeping themselves shut indoors. If this continues, I might lose my job. If you don't have customers, you will not need me."

Kabir -- he did not want to give his full name -- works at a restaurant, Simple Spice, in East Sussex and talks of business plunge. "The English are not coming. And if they don't come, our income drops. The Bangladeshis are too poor to visit the restaurants."

But beside this simple story of the English avoiding the Asian restaurants, another fallout of the London attacks is taking toll on restaurant industry. The police have started a hunt for illegals and restaurants are their main targets.

So a lot many illegal Bangladeshis who do jobs at restaurants are not coming to work. This has robbed them of their small earnings -- not many of them get more than 200 pounds a week -- and pushed them to an uncertain future.

In front of a Bangladeshi area in White Chapel, Anwar was standing on the road. At our approach, he looked suspicious and frightened. He has left his job at a South London restaurant a week ago and is staying home, if a dirty 13 feet by 15 feet room at a rickety attic shared by three others can be called one. On entering the apartment block -- a council housing -- a strong stench of garbage almost makes one sick. The narrow stairway is full of dirt and filth -- cough, spits of betel leaf and everything. A half-worn rag reading 'Tolly Boy American Long Grain Rice' adorns the doorstep. Inside, the smell is even more revolting as dirty clothes are heaved on all corners, unwashed plates lie unattended and ashtrays overflow with cigarette butts.

"I pay 40 pounds for this," Anwar, an illegal for the last five months, says. "And I did not go to my restaurant for the last seven days and I don't have much savings to see me sitting here."

He left the job when he heard that police raided a restaurant next to his last Sunday and picked up five illegals. However difficult life may be here, Anwar does not want to be deported.

"This is a good country," he says. "The enemies of Islam have made it bad. English are good people, they say hello to us and talk softly. But the time is wrong now."

And when the time is wrong, the restaurateurs have to fork out extra money on 'hands'. They now even have to hire the English people, mostly whites, and then pay them many times more.

And when the time is wrong, nobody wants to hire illegals and so Anwar's chance of getting a job soon turns bleak. And when the time is wrong, Anwar even does not dare to venture out, in case he gets spotted by the police.

But when the time is wrong, the whole of Brick Lane broods.

Name-only parties

FROM PAGE 1

They also alleged that the CEC is desperate to prove the government's point that it is unrealistic to find a consensus candidate for caretaker government chief by showing that the political parties cannot reach a consensus on the voter list.

Of the 72 political parties slated to join the discussion today, only Jatiya Party (Manju) has representation in the current parliament. Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Rab) had representation in the seventh parliament while activities of the other parties are only on paper.

According to the schedule, the first session will be allocated for 25 political parties, the second for 23, and the third and final one will be for 24 political parties. Each of the sessions will last for two hours.

The remainder of the 114 will sit on July 27 and 28.

Meanwhile, officials at the EC secretariat yesterday were having difficulties in arranging accommodation for the participants at the EC conference room. One hundred chairs have been hired at a cost of Tk 500 a day. The officials were wondering how to properly entertain such a large number of leaders.

Names of many of the political parties sitting the dialogue today are hardly known in public. Triple Action Party, Bangladesh Green Party, Bangladesh Republican Party, Bangladesh National Congress, Bangladesh Gono Congress, Bangladesh Samajik Sangsad, Bangladesh Bekar Samaj, National Patriotic Party, Deshprem Party are a few to name.

The EC secretariat officials, however, appeared to be revelling in citing the names of such faceless parties and communicating with the leaders of those.

A person claiming to be heading a political party made a phone call to an EC secretariat official yesterday and wanted to know the location of the EC. He said his party wants to participate in the dialogue.

ERSHAD AGAINST FRESH VOTER LIST

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad yesterday paid a courtesy call on CEC MA Aziz. His party will join the dialogue on July 27.

Emerging out of the meeting, the JP chairman told reporters that his party is in favour of updating the existing voter list. "Does it really need to prepare a fresh voter list?" he questioned.

Ershad said his party wants overall reforms in the electoral system to check the use of muscle power and black money in the elections.

Igloo fined

FROM PAGE 16

other institutions producing food items. The government has formed two additional mobile courts, but those are yet to start operations due to the lack of police forces.

The first team, led by magistrate Md. Rokanuddoula, conducted the drive into the factory of the popular Igloo ice cream in Shaympur yesterday afternoon.

Under the Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI) Act, the court fined the ice cream factory Tk one lakh as the producer does not mention the manufacturing and expiry date on the label of the Chocobar. Such dates are mandatory for food products. The court said the General Manger of the company will be sent to jail if he is unable to pay the fine.

A witness said the high officials of the Igloo company, particularly the foreign consultant of the Igloo ice cream, made a huge bargain with the court.

"When I asked the foreign consultant," Rokanuddoula told The Daily Star, "if they allow the companies back home to market the product without manufacturing and expiry date, then he did not say anything."

The second team, led by ABM Abdul Fattah, conducted a drive in the two factories of Banoful sweetmeat and a showroom.

"We saw they were making sweetmeat in the filthy environment in a factory in the basement," said Fattah. "We also recovered unapproved food colour and rotten sweetmeat from them," he added.

The court instantly fined them Tk 30,000. As the manger Sabuj was unable to pay, the court sentenced him to six months vigorous jail.

The court also fined another sweetmeat shop of Banoful at the Jatrabari and fined them Tk 10,000. As the manger of the sweetmeat shop was unable to pay the fine, the court instantly sent him to jail.

The court also conducted a drive at the Dholaipar factory of the Banoful sweetmeat and collected Tk 22,000 as fine.

Finally the court went to the Sarola Bakery at the Jatrabari and fined them Tk 12,000 as they were making food items in a filthy environment. The court seized unapproved food colour from the factory of the bakery.

PM's nod

FROM PAGE 16

team and Tata reached consensus on the issues like land allocation, purchase deal of gas, coal and electricity and infrastructure development.

Meanwhile, the government is yet to select the next negotiation team leader while the existing team leader Zakir Ahmed Khan has been posted to Washington as alternative director of the World Bank.

On May 9, the government and the Tata group agreed to kick off formal negotiations on May 25 and wind it up by August 31 to clear the way for signing the investment contract before November 30 this year.

Tata on April 20 formally submitted a $2.5 billion investment proposal for setting up a 1,000MW power station, a steel mill with an annual production capacity of 420,000 tonnes and a one million-tonne fertiliser unit.

One killed, another hurt in BSF firing

UNB, *Benapole*

A Bangladeshi national was killed and another injured in BSF firing in Bornabaria border area of India in the early hours yesterday.

Sources said the BSF guards opened fire on a group of smugglers while they were proceeding towards the border with a herd of cows.

One of them, Aminul Islam 20, died on the spot. The BSF men took away his body. Another Bangladeshi, who was injured with bullets, managed to cross the border and was admitted to a local clinic.

On July 6, two Bangladeshis were shot dead by the BSF in similar incident in Bonbibitola near Benapole border.

6 outlaws

FROM PAGE 16

killing a union parishad (UP) chairman and Awami League activist in Bagmara upazila five years ago.

Second Additional District and sessions Judge Rezaul Islam delivered the judgement in a crowded court room.

Those who have been given death sentence are Faruk, Abdul Gafur Milon, Bikash Kumar Sarkar, Setab Uddin, Abdus Samad and Matiur Rahman Moti. Of them, Bikash and Moti have been absconding since the murder.

The lifers are Mohsin Ali, chairman of the Shubhodanga UP, Shahidul Islam, Boyen Uddin, Golam Mustafa and Mohabbat Ali. The court fined them Tk 20,000 each. In default, they are to suffer another year in jail.

The court also acquitted three accused--Ashraf Ali Tuku, Nayeb Ali and Sekandor Ali Paik--as charges brought against them were not proved.

According to the prosecution, Golam Rabbani, the then chairman of Shubhodanga Union Parishad, was slaughtered near Mochmoil Bazar on January 16, 2000, as he refused to allocate a shop to PBCP leader Bikash at Mochmoli Bazar.

During the trial, two convicts--Faruk and Milon--confessed to killing Rabbani as their party, PBCP, identified him as a 'class enemy'.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) investigated the case and pressed charges against 14 people on October 9, 2001.

Traffic stopped

FROM PAGE 16

Hundreds of vehicles remained stranded on both sides of the highway near Bathuli Bus Stand, causing immense sufferings to the passengers.

Witnesses said the Dhaka-bound truck overturned on the highway after a collision with another truck near the bus stand at about 4:00 am. Locals cleared the road at 10:00am.

They blamed police and local administration for their alleged failure in clearing the road after the accident.

Murder case

FROM PAGE 16

days after the murder.

After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate AJM Abdullahel Baki received the case and asked the Detective Branch of police to investigate it.

The complainant said Hosne Ara married Bappi Khan at a kazi office (marriage registry office) in Barisal on June 18 and went to his Pallabi house.

Bappi's parents did not accept the marriage and began mental torture on Hosne Ara when she said her family could not give them a dowry of Tk 3 lakh.

The couple had later shifted to a rented house on lane No. 15 in Mirpur-11.

The complainant said Bappi and others strangled Hosne Ara on the night of June 26 and fled the scene after tying a scarf around her neck.

Nazma informed Pallabi police about the killing the next morning. But the then OC Nurul Amin and Sub-inspector Shahjahan branded the killing as an act of suicide.

Nazma alleged the cops received bribes from the accused and conducted a quick autopsy on her sister's body to declare it a suicide. She said the OC forced her to sign on a white sheet of paper.

She accused the OC and SI of attempt to cover up the killing and destroy evidence.

The other accused are Hosne Ara's father-in-law Selim Khan, his wife Anwara Begum and Alam Khan.

Ctg power

FROM PAGE 16

of the transformers in about 10 hours after the accident and restored supply on a limited scale in a few areas.

PDB Chairman ANM Akhtar Hossain yesterday visited the Khulshi substation and instructed the engineers to repair the faults as soon as possible.

PDB Chief Engineer of Chittagong Region Quazi Bashiruddin Ahmed said the second transformer may be restarted by noon today.

Orion-NEPC

FROM PAGE 16

Then instead of cancelling the bidding process and initiating a new one under the guidelines of the PPR, the PDB kept on amending the bid terms.

"The bid terms were amended and bid deadline was rescheduled by a record number of 16 times," says a PDB official.

All on a sudden on January 29, 2004, the PDB gave the 16th deadline set in which only two bidders were found responsiveOrion-NEPC and Harbin and CMEC. The PDB evaluation recommended NEPC-Orion's bid as the lowest offer although it was not made on Suppliers' Credit terms.

In July last year, Technopromexport (TPE)--the Russian builder of the Siddhirganj phase 1 which was ready to participate in the bidprotested to the state minister for Power and sought his intervention to ensure transparency and fairness.

In its letter TPE said, "BPDB was extending the closing date of Unit No. 2 tender at Siddirganj for more than 16 times and we were under the impression that the closing date is being extended in anticipation of approval from the Economic Relations Division (ERD)…

To our knowledge (the) BDPD did not receive permission to float the tender as per the new suppliers' credit policy."

On the other hand, the CMEC-Harbin consortium also lodged a protest to the state minister at the same time saying: although the bids were invited under GOB/long-term loan/supplier's credit/ buyer's credit… the bid of NEPC Orion was, however, on a GOB financing basis and credit terms were not specifically mentioned.

It added, "The price structure for the two bases of financing is likely to be substantially different. The evaluators are not really comparing like with like. The different basis of evaluation does not lead to a fair comparison."

The TPE again on March this year informed the minister that the NEPC-Orion in its bid proposal had said that a Russian company "Institute Peploelectroproect" was its partnerbut it is not true.

Earlier this year the PDB sought the power ministry's approval in favour of Orion-NEPC.

On June 29, the power ministry in a letter told the PDB that it's proposal for approval of Orion-NEPC's bid did not explain the legal basis of evaluating that bid under commercial credit formula when the bid was under supplier's credit. It asked if there is any legal basis to place commercial credit bids under supplier's credit and whether the government would have been benefited if the bid was held under a commercial credit formula instead of supplier's credit.

The ministry also asked PDB if it at all sought clearance of the concerned authorities to resort to supplier's credit formula.

The ministry observed that although the bid closed after the PPR 2003, it did not follow the rules laid out in the PPR and asked the PDB to explain why it did not do so.

British cops race

FROM PAGE 16

pictures of the four suspects and police asked the public for help in tracing them.

Police declined to confirm reports that a fifth would-be bomber was on the loose. On Saturday, police found what may have been a fifth bomb, abandoned in northwest London.

The British press yesterday questioned the police handling of investigations into the July bomb attacks on the London transport system in the wake of the fatal shooting of an innocent Brazilian man.

Lawmakers also joined the debate about the police shoot-to-kill policy after 27-year-old Jean Charles de Menezes was shot dead Friday by police who mistook him for a possible suicide bomber.

"Now public trust in the police in ethnic communities, which holds a key to identifying terrorists, has understandably been badly shaken," The Guardian said in an editorial.

"It was silly for Jack Straw, the foreign secretary, to deny yesterday that this was not a serious setback for the police."

Ann Cryer, a Labour Party parliamentarian, sympathised with the police officers involved in the shooting, but voiced disquiet about the existence of a specific policy to kill, when police are otherwise instructed to disable an assailant.

"We mustn't automatically go down the path of the shoot-to-kill. We are taking on the mantle of terrorists if we do that," she told the Financial Times.

The investigation was dealt a blow and the reputation of British police severely tarnished when the Brazilian was shot dead by mistake on Friday by detectives hunting the bombers.

Jean Charles de Menezes, 27, was shot five times in the head after being chased onto an underground train by undercover police, witnesses said.

Police said Menezes had been followed from a block of apartments in south London that had been under surveillance since the July 21 attacks and was shot after running away from armed police who had ordered him to stop.

The Brazilian government has demanded an inquiry into the death. Brazilians staged a vigil in London and the electrician's relatives said they were considering suing British police.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim, who will meet his British counterpart Jack Straw on Monday, said: "The Brazilian government and the public are shocked and perplexed that a peaceful and innocent person should have been killed."

Despite the concerns of human rights activists, police say they will not abandon what they called their "shoot-to-kill in order to protect" policy with suicide bombers. They have warned that more people could be killed during the investigation.

An opinion poll on Monday showed that 71 percent of Britons defended the policy, under which police marksmen are being told to aim for the head rather than the chest to kill a suspected bomber.

Interior minister Charles Clarke said: "A mistake was clearly made which will be regretted forever. But I don't think that means that they are wrong to have a policy (to deal) with these appalling circumstances."

An opinion poll in the Daily Mirror suggested Britons believe their country's support for the Iraq war contributed to the London bombings, a suggestion Prime Minister Tony Blair has denied.

Nearly a quarter of those polled said Iraq was the main cause for the bombings, with 62 percent saying it was a contributory factor.

6 Pakistanis hunted

FROM PAGE 1

Pictures of more than 30 other suspects were also distributed, mostly Egyptians as well as internationally wanted terror suspects.

At least 130 people have been arrested in a police dragnet as part of a massive search for the perpetrators of the attack on a hotel, a market and a parking lot that came on the heels of deadly bombings in London.

Pakistan has come under increased international pressure to crack down on Islamic militants after it emerged some of the bombers in the July 7 attacks in London, British Muslims of Pakistani descent, had recently visited the country.

Cairo faced harsh criticism from Israel for failing to boost security following the October bombings in the Sinai resorts of Taba and Nuweiba.

On Monday, the security chief for the south Sinai stepped down, although officials stressed he was being replaced as part of normal rotations.

Police said some 600 kilograms (1,300 pounds) of explosive were used in the attacks, more than half in the suicide car bomb that rammed into the luxury Ghazala Gardens hotel.

The first explosion -- also a suicide car bomb -- struck at 1:15 am (2215 GMT Friday) at the market but was actually destined for a hotel 200 metres (yards) away, the sources said.

Police stopped the car for inspection and the explosive charge was then detonated.

They said it was unclear if the bomber had died.

The second explosion at Ghazala Gardens hit minutes later, followed by third when a bomb placed inside a bag went off, police said. The suicide bomber died in the Ghazala blast.

Saturday's pre-dawn attacks, which analysts said were an attempt to destabilise Egypt in the run-up to the first competitive presidential election on September 7, were first claimed by an al-Qaeda-linked group.

Another group calling itself Mujahedeen Egypt also claimed the attacks on an Islamic website and gave the names of five "martyrs."

According to various reports, the foreign victims included four Turkish nationals, an Italian couple, two Britons as well as holidaymakers from the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Russia, Ukraine and an Israeli Arab.

The interior ministry suggested the attacks could be connected to deadly anti-Israeli bombings on October 7 in Taba and Nuweiba further north on the Sinai coast.

"This cowardly and criminal act which is aimed at destabilising Egypt will reinforce our determination to press the battle against terror through to its eradication," President Hosni Mubarak said Saturday.

The bombings dealt a blow to Egypt's crucial tourism industry by striking its flagship resort at the peak of the holiday season.

As shell-shocked holidaymakers arrived back in their home countries, some of them with light wounds and scratches, some 700 Sharm el-Sheikh residents and foreigners working in the resort city held a peace demonstration, chanting "We are against terrorism", "United we will win".

A new scare on Sunday hit the capital Cairo, scene of deadly attacks against tourists in the 1990s, where police initially said a man was critically wounded by the accidental explosion of his own bomb.

However, the interior ministry later denied there had been a bomb.