US launches offensive Natwar arrives today in western Iraq

4 more GIs, 10 Iraqis killed in attacks

About 1,000 US Marines and Iraqi forces launched attacks in western Irag in an operation aimed at disrupting insurgents and foreign fighters in the Euphrates River valley, the US military said yesterday.

Rebels killed 10 people in Iraq yesterday as a crucial meeting of national leaders called to settle constitutional problems was postponed because of an emergency session of the Kurdish autonomous parliament. The two-day delay came against a

backdrop of unremitting violence that has killed about 40 US troops in 10 days, and new al-Qaeda warnings that the United States and Britain risked more death and destruction if they do not leave Iraq and other Muslim lands. The operation, dubbed Quick

Strike, began Wednesday with Iraqi soldiers and Marines positioning their units, said a military statement. They focused on an area centred around the cities of Haditha, Haqlaniyah, and Parwana, about 200km northwest of Baghdad.

On Wednesday, 14 Marines and their civilian translator were killed when their vehicle was hit by a massive roadside bomb near Haditha as they were travelling inside a lightly armoured vehicle. On Friday, US and Iraqi troops,

including Special Operations forces moved into the city of Haglanivah, the Marine statement said. US jets conducted an airstrike on insurgents hiding in buildings outside of the town. Residents in the area said US and

Iraqi forces had cordoned off Haqlaniyah, about 220km northwest of Baghdad, and began conducting house to house searches. American warplanes were hovering overhead and a number of heavy explosions were heard. Witnesses said 500pound bombs were being dropped in The US military has defended its

operations in western Iraq, insisting it is reducing insurgent attacks, despite the deaths of the 14 Marines. The extremist Ansar al-Sunnah Army claimed responsibility in a Web posting and said its fighters used two bombs to destroy the vehicle. Four more ÚS service members

were killed in action Wednesday, the military said three in Baghdad and US military spokesman Brig. Gen.

Donald Alston said American military operations in Anbar province, which includes the area where the Marines died, have succeeded in disrupting insurgent activities. We still have deaths. We still have suicide car bombs," he said. "But the

numbers we see indicate (the insurgents) can't generate the same tempo. and I think that's because we've had some degree of effect in interdicting these forces. Alston cited figures showing there

were 13 car bombs in Iraq last week the lowest weekly number since April. "There's a clear indication to me that the tempo has decreased. US troops have stepped up opera-

centre of the Sunni Arab-dominated insurgency and a major avenue for foreign fighters infiltrating the country Alston warned that militants will

likely rally their forces in a concerted effort to derail the country's political progress, including a referendum on the constitution in October and an election in December. The president's office said a key

meeting scheduled for Friday by political leaders to hammer out differences in the draft constitution has been postponed until Sunday. The statement issued Friday did not say why the meeting was delayed. The gathering was called by consti-

tutional committee chairman Humam Hammoudi, who promised the National Assembly that the draft charter would be ready by the Aug. 15 deadline, provided the country's political leaders reach compromises on key issues including federalism, the role of Islam, and distribution of

Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari spent Friday in Najaf meeting with the country's top Shia Muslim cleric, the highly influential Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. The two were expected to talk about developments with the constitu-

US leaders, who pushed hard for the committee not to seek an extension on completing the charter, considers the constitutional process vital to maintain political momentum, undermine the insurgency and pave the way for the Americans and their coalition partners to draw down troops next

US commanders have warned that although the number of vehicle and roadside bombings are decreasing, they are increasing in potency and sophistication. Bombs on the roads or planted in vehicles account for 70 percent to 80 percent of the US deaths n Irag, command spokesman I t. Col. Steven Boylan said

A roadside bomb late Wednesday killed three US soldiers in Baghdad. the US command said. A Marine was killed Wednesday by small arms fire in Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province 70 miles west of Baghdad, the com-There has been no let-up in insur-

gent violence, with 10 Iragis killed Friday after some 40 US military personnel died in the past 10 days, one of the deadliest tolls for the

Russia races FROM PAGE 16

All crew members were said to be alive and to "feel fine," as a Japanese rescue ship steamed to join a dozen Russian naval vessels already at the scene of the accident, a chilling reminder of the sinking of the Kursk nuclear submarine in August 2000 that killed all 118 crew members. Rescuers did not have phone

contact but were in "technical" communication with the crew of the submarine, which can operate at depths of up to 1,000 metres (3,280 feet), RIA-Novosti news agency quoted Igor Dygalo, a spokesman for the Russian et, as saying. Officials said the craft was resting

on the seabed at a depth of about 200 meters (656 feet). A spokesman for the Pacific Fleet

acknowledged that food supplies were also running low on the vessel but said the situation was "not dangerous." The submarine became trapped

after its propeller was caught in a fishing net in Bay of Berezovava, 70 kilometres south of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, the regional capital of the Kamchatka peninsula, Dygalo explained. "The submarine's propeller snared

on a section of the net. While trying to break free, the net wound around the propeller," he said, adding that the vessel was submerged too deeply for the crew members to be able to swim to the surface. The rescue operation would

require a second mini-submarine similar to the one trapped on the seabed, Interfax news agency quoted officials as saving, adding that there was such a vessel in the vicinity and it was being prepared for use in the Weather conditions in this section

of the Pacific Ocean were calm, aiding the operation, rescuers said, and a Japanese vessel, the Chiyoda, has been called in for assistance.

"Fleet command took a decision to request assistance from Japanese colleagues in resolving the serious situation with the AS-28 submersible vehicle," the Interfax-AVN military news agency quoted Admiral Viktor Dmitriyev, commander of the Russian Pacific Fleet, as saving. RIA-Novosti reported that the

Pacific Fleet had also requested help with the rescue from the US Navy. The AS-28 mini-submarine. first

put into commission in the late 1980s, is a deep-sea vehicle used for research, surveillance and intelligence-gathering purposes, ITAR-TASS news agency said. Military prosecutors have opened

an inquiry into the incident

Its recommendations for possible

remedies to siltation and river training included capital dredging, periodic maintenance dredging and revetment work of the existing erosion-prone

Bureau of Research and Testing Authority (BRTA), Buet the consultant for making assessment, design and documentation, intending to launch the project by the yearend and complete by June 2007, sources said.

After completion of the capital dredging, the minimum four-metre depth will be possible to maintain even during low tide along the 13-km stretch of the Karnaphuli from the estuary to the Shah Amanat Bridge, said Project

Director Engineer MA Sabur. The protection wall will be constructed after redefining the shore and foreshore as per river hydraulic sci-

Economic Council (Ecnec) on February 2 and had administrative approval and financial sanction on May 11 this year.

uled to complete the feasibility study and other work within this year. They have already surveyed the site and made the soil test." said Sabur while talking to The Daily Star on Tuesday.

qualification and documentation done by September and appoint a contractor to start the project within this year," he said, adding that the dredging might cost 40 percent of the total allocation while construction of the bank protection wall and sheet-piling will cost the rest 60 percent. "We are planning to use sheet-

piling where it is most necessary while in other places we will build seamented dykes," said the project

The CPA sources said the dredging will also increase the river draft nea the main jetty areas of the port, while construction of the bank protection wall will enable domestic water transports to anchor near it and thus create newer sources of income for the port.

Meanwhile, settlers and a group of traders have encroached on parts of the shoal by constructing bamboo structures and plantation and felling large tree trunks.

The Karnaphuli underwent capital dredging back in 1981 and 1988.

India will use Singh's visit to

persuade Bangladesh to support

UN Security Council. The G4

nations comprising India, Japan,

Brazil and Germany are seeking

difficulties in the Myanmar-

Bangladesh-India pipeline project

exchange of views on international

and regional issues of mutual inter-

est including the 13th Saarc Summit

in Dhaka slated for November 12-

passing trade, investment, tourism

and business activities as well as

cultural, educational and other

matters of mutual interest will also

spokesman Navtej Sarna told

reporters at a briefing in New Delhi,

"We have a broad-based agenda

with Bandladesh. It is not a one-

issue visit. We have a close interac-

tion with Bangladesh at various

the context of our commitment to

improve and strengthen our rela-

tions with neighbouring countries

and will provide an opportunity to

review and assess all aspects of the

high-level political interaction

between the two countries and will

be a precursor to the visit of Prime

Minister Manmohan Singh for the

attaches the highest importance to

relations with Bangladesh which are

shared historical bonds, the

extended common border and

common perceptions on a number

of issues make the relationship

multi-faceted, dynamic and

policy of friendship, trust and under-

standing which will lead to mutual

benefit of the people of both coun-

minister is sending his external

affairs minister to Dhaka to assure

the Bangladesh government of New

Delhi's sincerity about improving

bilateral ties and India's seriousness

about having strong relations with

whichever party comes to power in

Sources said the Indian prime

"We are committed to following a

marked by warmth and cordiality.

Sarna said, "I can say that India

"The common cultural heritage

Saarc summit, he added.

extremely important.

It will also be an occasion for

bilateral relationship." he added.

"His (Singh's) visit takes place in

Indian External Affairs Ministry

Other bilateral matters encom-

Singh will also try to resolve the

Additionally, there will be an

permanent seats in the council.

during his visit.

be discussed.

levels."

the G4 resolution for expanding the

Americans since the March 2003

days for US forces as 18 troops were

killed in various attacks across Iraq. 14

vowed to "stay the course" in Iraq

despite a new threat from al-Qaeda

second-in-command that was aired

Thursday warning the United States

and Britain of more death and destruc-

"We will complete the job in Iraq,"

Al-Jaafari announced a new 12-

he said. "And the job is this: We will

help the Iraqis develop a democracy."

point security plan. He gave few

details but said it included steps to

improve intelligence, protect infra-

structure and prevent foreign fighters

We are in a state of war. It is one of the

most dangerous types of war because

it is not a conventional or a war of

Earlier at least 21 people were

killed in attacks across Iraq Thursday

as US President George W. Bush

vowed to complete his country's

mission there after al-Qaeda warned

Western allies risked losing thousands

Laden's right-hand man, Ayman al-

Zawahiri, in a video aired on Al-

Jazeera television as Iraqi Prime

Minister Ibrahim Jaafari unveiled a

new security plan to try to win the

drive the United States and its allies

out of the "broader Middle East" but

the US president said. "And the job is

this: We will help the Iraqis develop a

Bush said al-Qaeda wanted to

"We will complete the job in Iraq,"

In his latest video, Zawahiri had

warned Britain and the United States

of more horror and destruction in a

statement rebroadcast around the

that would make them forget the horror

point plan to fight insurgents which

included strengthening intelligence

coordination and more efforts to

secure the country's borders to pre-

"We are at war... the worst kind of

Meanwhile, the UN Security

Council unanimously adopted a

resolution strongly condemning

attacks in Iraq, including the murder

and kidnapping of foreign diplomats,

while the United States urged Syria

and Iran to honour their pledge to

reservation and in the strongest terms

the terrorist attacks that have taken

place in Iraq, and regards any act of

It followed the killing on

Wednesday of 14 US marines in a

roadside bombing in the western town

of Haditha, that brought US losses in

African Union summit on UN reform

refused to drop demands for two

permanent veto-wielding seats on an

Japan, a major aid donor, had banked on support from Africa and

other parts of the developing world to

by China, which says Japan must do

more to show regret for its past

aggression in Asia before joining the

Security Council, whose makeup

reflects the power balance at the end

veto power on the Security Council,

along with Britain, France, Russia and

Japan's candidacy but not the bids of

its G4 partners Brazil, Germany and

India and has refused to support a

deadline of September to decide on

the historic changes.
On Wednesday, Machimura said

he had complained to Washington that

its support for Japan, one its closest

allies, had verged on being just "lip

regret yesterday over a call by African

leaders for two veto-wielding seats on

an enlarged UN Security Council that

could hurt the chances of other aspi-

On Thursday, Africa Union leaders

rants including India for slots.

Meanwhile, New Delhi expressed

China is one of five nations that has

The United States has backed

Its bid has been strongly opposed

win a seat on the Security Council.

Iraq in the past 10 days to at least 39

UNSC berth

enlarged Security Council

The resolution "condemns without

as a threat to peace and

vent infiltration from abroad.

var." Jaafari said.

support stability in Iraq.

security.

FROM PAGE 1

of World War II.

the United States.

they saw in Vietnam." Zawahiri said

"The Americans... will see horror

Jaafari had earlier outlined a 12-

country's war against insurgents.

vowed to "stay the course."

The threat came from Osama bin

of lives in the war-torn country.

"We will not hesitate in saving this:

from entering the country.

borders," he said.

of them in a single roadside bombing.

Wednesday was one of the worst

US President George W. Bush

invasion.

Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the afternoon.

honour of the Indian external affairs minister at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre tonight.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the afternoon.

Opposition and main Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, Singh will also give a speech on Indo-Bangladesh ties at the Brac Centre Earlier in the morning, he is

expected to visit the Liberation War Museum in the city.

tomorrow at his residence. On the concluding day of his tour, Singh is due to visit Ramkrishna

Mission in Old Dhaka and leave by a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight at 11:00am on Monday. "It's a goodwill visit by the external affairs minister of India. We'll exchange ideas on all existing

told reporters yesterday. each other and move forward."

Dhaka is committed to strong

The minister said both countries should be sensitive to each other's concerns and initiate practical steps

night come up during the official talks with Singh, Morshed said trade imbalance, para-tariff and non-tariff barriers, border and water management, human trafficking and drug smuggling, among other issues, may be on agenda. "We feel that the visit is going to

be very important. It's a forwardlooking development in our continued efforts to strengthen existing friendly ties," Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin told reporters on Thursday.

substantial progress will be made in resolving outstanding issues," he added. Indian side said India has a

broad-based agenda with Bangladesh and it is not a one-issue

that," he said, adding that the presi-

dent had practised his constitutional

power while giving clemency to

lawvers have violated the rule of law

and tarnished the image and dignity

of the judiciary by burning copy of

the High Court judgement prohibit-

ing demonstrations on the court

ment by the pro-opposition lawyers,

the law minister said the lawyers

loyal to Samannay Parishad are

trying to make an issue of the presi-

dential pardon to Jhintu and plunge

for the pro-BNP lawyers, he urged

all to unite in opposition to the 'con-

Aminul Haq said the opposition

parties are trying to create 'anarchy'

in the judiciary as part of their 'large

Referring to the Wednesday's

outburst of conflict between the two

factions of pro-BNP lawyers, he

said. "There may have differences

of opinion among us. But we should

not do anything that might benefit

parent organisation' and said there

is no doubt among the lawvers

Mahbubuddin Ahmad said there is

no room for questioning the presi-

dential clemency to Jhintu as it has

been done by dint of the authority

bestowed upon the president by the

banning rallies and processions on

the court premises, he said, "Our

judges have showed a lot of

patience. If I were them, I would

Leaguebacked lawyers' rally on the

Bar Association premises does not

come under contempt rule then why

should ours be considered con-

tempt of court," said Mahbubuddin,

also the chairman of the parliamen-

tary standing committee on law.

Committee Member and former

speaker in the Jatiya Sangsad

Shaikh Razzak Ali said the pro-

opposition lawyers are plotting

against the law minister on the

pretext of the presidential amnesty.

He also alleged that a vested quar-

"Forum and only Forum repre-

sents the lawyers who believe in

Jatiyatabadi ideology. We know no

other organisation other than the

ter is out to harm the Forum.

Ainjibi Forum," he observed.

Ainjibi Forum Advisory

justice and parliamentary affairs.

"If the recent Awami

have issued the rule even earlier."

Regarding the High Court verdict

He described the Forum as the

JAF leader Khandker

the opposition parties.'

constitution.

about it and its significance.

conspiracy' against the country.

spiracy' of the opposition parties.

Billing JAF as the main platform

Forum's Secretary General

the judiciary into anarchy.

Criticising the on-going move-

India, Pakistan

FROM PAGE 16 restrained in developing its arms capability,"Bahadur said.

India and Pakistan conducted titfor-tat nuclear weapons tests in May 1998. They have fought three wars since independence in 1947, two of them over the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir.

After coming close to a fourth war in 2002, the rivals launched a peace process in January last year to resolve all issues through dialogue, including the Kashmir dispute.

When the experts from the two sides met in December 2004 in Pakistan, they agreed to push forward plans for a nuclear hotline but failed to reach a deal on advanced warning of ballistic missile tests. In January, as they do annually, the

two countries exchanged updated lists of their nuclear facilities in line with a bilateral agreement signed in 1988 prohibiting attacks against each other's nuclear installations. Although the two countries normally inform each other when holding

missile tests, no formal deal has been The Indian Express urged the two sides to "get a move on", saying in an editorial that agreements already

being negotiated must be finalised and

new ones put on the table. "India has trapped itself into demanding too many technical details of missile launches from Pakistan," the paper said. "This approach is unpro-

Next week, negotiators from the two sides will meet in Delhi to discuss other, non-military confidence building measures as well as ways to expand commercial ties.

The ongoing talks are aimed at resolving eight nagging disputes between India and Pakistan, including the core problem of Kashmir where a raging Islamic insurgency has killed tens of thousands of people since 1989. The delegations for the nuclear

discussions are being led by senior foreign ministry officials Tariq Osman Hyder of Pakistan and India's Meera

Cops torture FROM PAGE 16

The police is yet to comply with the court order but promptly arrested Zamil in a trivial case, sources said. Several hundred local Awami

League leaders and workers rushed to the police station and demonstrated at Madariganj Bazar and Ganipur union protesting the inci-Zamil was secretly treated at a

private clinic after a brief treatment at Raishahi Medical College Hospital yesterday afternoon. Meanwhile, Bagmara Officer-in-

Charge Motiar Rahman denied the allegations and said. "We arrested him [Zamil] in a regular case and no

3 Ctg cops FROM PAGE 1 According to sources, a patrol team

of Kotwali Police Station snatched Tk 1200 and a mobile phone set from one Jasimuddin near the outer stadium area on Wednesday night. The victim complained to the

CMP officials against the fivemember patrol team that included one member from Ansar Battalion and a microbus driver. The authorities also formed a one-

member probe committee comprising Assistant Commissioner Shah Mizan Shafiur Rahman.

Hospital for FFs FROM PAGE 1

College Hospital (DMCH) for the

1.75 lakh freedom fighters across the country, forcing to refuse many freedom fighters admission due to lack of accommodation. The misery of the freedom fight-

ers came under light after The Daily Star recently published the story of Arafat Ali Khan, a valiant freedom fighter, who did not receive proper treatment at the DMCH even after a month of his admission.

lagore FROM PAGE 16

Add to these his English translations, paintings, travels and lecturetours in Asia, America, and Europe: and his activities as an educationist as a social and religious reformer. and as a politician. Different government and non-

government cultural organisations have chalked out special programmes to mark the occasion. After having won world-fame

with the mystical-devotional poetry of the Gitaniali, he dug over much along that particular seam -- a onesided impression of his works. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature in 1913. Born to a wealthy land-owning

family of Bengal, Rabindranath was initiated into art fairly late in his life and painted close to 2,500 paint-In 1930, through a series of

exhibitions in Paris, London, Berlin, Moscow and New York, the world discovered the poet as an important modern painter. Politically active in India, he was a supporter of Gandhi, but warned

of the dangers of nationalistic thought. Unable to gain ideological support to his views, he retired into relative solitude

Between 1916 and 1934, he travelled widely, attempting to spread the ideal of uniting the East and the West.

Only hours before his death on August 7, 1941 (Sraban 22 in Bangla calendar), the poet dictated

Gono Forum confce

Blasting the government for distorting the history of the War of Independence in the school textbooks, the framer of the constitution stressed the need for creating

consciousness among the youths. He said though the country got rid of autocracy in 1990, democracy is yet to be achieved.

Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil announced that the 14-party will prepare a common minimum nationa programme that would be presented before the nation very soon.

"Greater unity is required to achieve the spirit of the Liberation War at the state level," Jalil said. Jyotrindrio Bodhipriyo Larma

alias Shantu Larma, chairman of the Janasanghati Samity and Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council, said the military rule in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in the past three decades brought no good to people, but pushed them to the edge of ruination.

"The much-desired unity should not be targeted to election only," Shantu said, adding, "It should be aimed at facing future crisis, if

Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon said the nine-

would be revised again to make it more pro-people

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) President Hasanul Haque Inu urged for a three-phased unity that he narrated as unity for movement. unity for election and unity for gover-

Blasting the government for enormous corruption, Krishak Sramik Janata League President Abdul Kader Siddiqui MP said: "If there were any competition for worthless government, the present government would have been on the top of the list.

Bangladesh Bar Council Vice-Chairman Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud warned not to float on day dream with the 'imaginary' good days of the next government.

Referring to several national issues like separation of judiciary, stopping extra-judicial killing and custodial death and turning the parliament into effective one by changing the rules of procedure. Rokan said the possible next leadership will have to settle when and how they will solve these issues. Dilip Barua of Samyabadi Dal.

Tofazzal Hossain of Gonotantrik Majdur Party, Morshed Ali of CPB

Kennedy objects Thursday night and drew his atten-

about it later." Sources in the US said the only issue Kennedy discussed with the

Bangladesh delegation was the killing of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria. Kennedy had asked the Bangladesh state minister to solve

manner and suggested to him to follow all leads, even if the government officials are implicated in the assassination, they added. A Bangladesh Press Information

July 29 said Babar during the July 28 meeting at the Capitol Hill informed Kennedy about the government's steps to ensure trial of all killings, especially that of Kibria. The PID release sent to the media also said Kennedy lauded Bangladesh for taking necessary

steps to fight domestic violence and assured Babar of his support for the Trade Bill. If passed in the US Congress, the Bill will allow quotafree access of Bangladesh's garment products to the US market.

Daily Star that the press release was grossly inaccurate.

ing their serious objection, said the The lawmakers have asked the

Bandladesh ambassador 'to make it clear to all in the Bangladesh government that such erroneous representation of their talks to the press only casts doubt on the government's credibility. When this correspondent called

Ambassador Chowdhury on

tion to Kennedy's points, he firstly said they are discussing the matter. Asked whether Kennedy's points that the Trade Bill issue and lauding

the government's steps to fight

domestic violence were not raised at the meeting, he gave a vague answer, saying, "We usually discuss many things. The ambassador however finally said he would not answer the ques-

Asked whether he would give a statement on the issue later. Chowdhury said he would not tell

anything more about it.

an official visit and is likely to return

Sylhet cinema blasts

Babar flew to the US on July 23 in

Police nabbed Soleman, an injured in the Monika cinema blast, from the nearby area. A case accusing Soleman and

Explosives Act was filed with the Sylhet Kotwali Police Station. Police later arrested another Akhtar Hossain suspecting his

Masum Ahmed in Arms and

involvement with this incident. The Joint Interrogation Cell in the capital guizzed the arrestees.

Soleman admitted his involvement in the Monika blast, said an official

The cases were later transferred

to the CID and Senior Additional SP Munshi Atiqur Rahman was made He visited the spots several times

terday that the investigations into the cases of Rangmahal and Monika cinema blasts were almost com-

Blair outlines plan

"Anyone who has participated in

terrorism or has anything to do with it, anywhere, will automatically be refused asylum in our country," he 52 people and four suicide bombers

repeat a fortnight later when the bombs failed, attitudes in Britain had hardened, Blair said. Overall, the response of the British people had been "unified and

He added: "However, I am acutely aware that alongside these feelings is also a determination that this very tolerance and good nature should not be abused by a small but

Blair said he had been asked many times in the past four weeks to "deal firmly" with those who incite terrorism, such as hardline clerics.

"The Muslim community, I should emphasise, has been and is our partner in this endeavour," Blair

only an administrative change to existing laws meaning they can be approval in the autumn.

introduced immediately, Blair said, while others need parliamentary Other changes would involve increasing court capacity to speed transport system during Thursday, mindful that it was two weeks after the second attack, which in turn came a fortnight after the first.

obscenity," he said.

Karnaphuli to be dredged

The authority took up the project as per recommendations of a survey report by the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) ahead of the construction of the proposed third bridge over the Karnaphuli. The survey revealed that around 78 percent of silt accumulation was caused by the deposition of earth when the large pillars of the Shah Amanat Bridge were inserted into the

The CPA has already appointed

ence, enabling the authorities to maintain the depth with low cost maintenance and dredging, he added. According to sources, the capital dredging project was sent to the

Executive Committee of National "The project consultant is sched-

"We hope to get the pre-

spurned overtures from UN Security Council hopefuls India, Brazil, Germany and Japan -- known as the Group of Four or G4 — to support their plan for overhauling the international Instead, the African leaders meeting in Addis Ababa approved their own proposal for reforming the UN body

that called for two permanent seats with veto powers. Foreign ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna called the African Union's decision "a matter of regret", but added in a statement India would "in close consultation with G-4 members continue to engage African

> reflects the 1945 post-war balance of power, the council has 15 seats -- 10 chosen by regions that rotate every two years and five permanent vetoholding members which are the United States, China, Britain, France and

> countries with a view to promoting a

common understanding."

Under the current set-up that

Saifur Rahman and LGRD and Morshed will host a banquet in

Singh will pay a courtesy call on

He will meet Leader of the

Morshed hosts a private lunch in the visiting Indian minister's honour

issues apart from discussing poten-

He said, "We'll not only discuss the disputed issues but also the positive and complimentary issues like how we can cooperate with

tial areas of cooperation," Morshed

bilateral relations with India, he said, adding that Bangladesh and India must remain closely engaged and work together in a fast-changing

Asked about major issues that

"We expect that the discussion will take place with a constructive and positive frame of mind and

Pro-BNP lawyers He alleged that the media have

blown up out of proportion the

differences of opinion among the

pro-BNP lawvers. Referring to the recent escala-Moudud said pro-opposition tion of conflict between two groups of pro-BNP lawvers. Forum leader Ziaur Rahman Khan said, "Huge participation by the lawvers has ended the drama of last two days."

> Shahiahan Omar said the movement of pro-opposition lawyers is aimed at nothing but creating anarchy in the judiciary. 'The Awami League lawyers

want a judiciary by the Awami League, for the Awami League and of the Awami League." he observed. The six-point resolution read out

by Khandker Mahbubuddin Ahmad MP said meetings will be held at every district bar to strengthen the Ainiibi forum. It also calls for all district units to hold election and form committees within September 30. The resolution said the Forum will hold another grand rally within

October 30. Presided over by JAF President Advocate TH Khan, the rally was addressed, among others by Advocates Nitai Roy Chowdhury, Mujibur Rahman and Sanaullah Miah. Leaders of the Forum's different district units addressed the rally at the second session. Organisers claimed that more than 3,000 lawyers from Dhaka and across the country attended the

Master plan FROM PAGE 16

ingress of pollution from sewage pipes and storm drains. As a result,

high among the city dwellers

Institutionally weak, DWASA barely meets its operational and maintenance expenses from the revenue it generates from the water

Unauthorised connections.

leakages in the system, inadequate

operation and maintenance, poor

quality of metering and meter read-

ng, as well as under-billing eat up

50 percent of the revenue.

the rate of water borne diseases is

On top of this, low collection efficiency has increased the receivables to around 13 months, which is extremely high by any standard. The ADB believes that, the financial and managerial powers of Dwasa need to be expanded to recover outstanding dues from government agencies without political interference. Critical institutional reforms and the active participation of the private sector are mandatory to future investment.

point demand of the opposition also spoke.

deny or admit it, but said, "We're discussing the matter and will talk

Kibria's case in a fair and impartial

Department (PID) news release on

But diplomatic sources told The

The US lawmakers are 'very upset' at such reporting and a couple of senators, breaking the normal rule, have called and written Ambassador Chowdhury, express-

and took testimony of 25 people. Munshi told The Daily Star ves-

Additionally, Britain's obligations under international asylum rules would be altered, the prime minister

After the July 7 attacks in which died in blasts on subway trains and a bus, and a bungled attempted

dignified and remarkable". Blair

fanatical minority, and an anger that it has been."

And although the four July 7 attackers were British Muslims, three of Pakistani origin, the new measures were in no way an attack on the Islamic community.

Some of the new rules require

up deportations, banning hardline groups such as Al Muhajiroun -- a British-based group that cheered the September 11 attacks in the United States, whose members say it has disbanded -- and setting a

Additionally, powers would be extended allowing the government

of this country", Blair said.

maximum time limit on extradition

to strip citizenship from people with

British or dual nationality who "act in

a way that is contrary to the interest

ment would extend the use of so-

For British nationals, the govern-

called "control orders", which currently allow measures such as limited house arrest for foreign nationals suspected of terrorism. Blair's personal popularity in Britain has been boosted by his response to the twin attacks, but he

remains dogged by the Iraq war,

notably whether his decision to back

the US-led conflict made London a prime terrorism target. On Thursday, al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden's right-hand man Avman al-Zawahiri released a filmed statement warning of more attacks unless Britain withdrew from

Blair responded angrily to a

groups putting such arguments forward were also killing innocent people in Iraq and Afghanistan. "And that is why, when they try to use Iraq or use Afghanistan or use the Palestinian cause as a means of saying, you know, we have justifica-

tion for what we do, it is a complete

Although the four July 7 bombers

question about this, noting that the

are dead and the main suspects from two weeks later are in custody. police have warned that London could face more attacks. Thousands of police, some armed. flooded the city's streets and

Blair is expected to leave on holiday in the next few days, although his office, following its standard practice, has refused to say where he is going or when.