New banks

effect, section 9(1) of Bangladesh Bank Order, 1972 became null and void and BB the sole authority to give permission to open new banks. Section 9 (1) used to empower the government to make recommenda-

A BB board member however pointed out that though the central bank is supposed to have the oversight in this regard, it cannot always exercise its authority. As BB is not an autonomous body, it has to carry out decision imposed from the highest level of the government, he said.

NEW GUIDELINES Last month the BB board approved

According to the guidelines, a bank draft of Tk 8 lakh as a non-refundable application-processing fee will have to be attached with an application. Besides, the application must be submitted along with feasibility report for the proposed bank company, shareholders' meeting, deed of the entrepreneur shareholders regarding resolution regarding organisational entrepreneurs' shareholding and

Another rule requires that sponsors' contributions to the equity capital of the proposed bank will have to be out of net worth declared to the tax authorities, and contribution out of

new bank will require a capital of Tk 100 crore.

stake of each sponsor shall be Tk 25 lakh and the maximum 10 percent of the proposed bank's total share capital. This ceiling of 10 percent applies to an individual, company or family member, either personally jointly or both. 'Family' is defined

submit a biographical report containing detailed information about their parents, spouse, children, brother,

NEW BANKS OR MERGERS At present, there are about 49 com-

mercial banks in the country, and 30 of them are private. Some of those private banks are widely tagged as 'problem banks'; many of which were established in the 80s. Besides, some of the banks set up in the 90s too show

to establish new banks was to create a healthy competition among the banks and therefore, provide the people with good and cheap banking services. But in reality, an unhealthy competition has started among the banks, increasing the interest rates and indulging in different kinds of irregularities.

The government in the face of pressure from the donors has taken up reform initiatives for the banking sector. The measures have already yielded some good results at least in the private sector. However, the reform programmes are only halfway through

believe permission should not be given for setting up any more new banks. A BB board meeting last month discussed the issue and concluded that given the country's present economic state, there is no necessity for new banks. They were instead of the opinion that two or three sickly banks should be merged into one.

The central bank also discussed the necessity for creating the legal basis of such merger or acquisition. BLACK MONEY IN NEW **BANKS**

According to the guidelines for setting up new banks, opportunity to invest black money has been sealed. However, this year's budget has the provision for paying just 7.5 percent ax on black money. Banking sources say many may take this opportunity and invest black money in new banks and may be that is why the finance minister has not attached any strings to the provision for whitening black

Huge profit and less risk are the main motivations for many to be lobbying the government for permission to set up new banks.

All the banks are making profit. In the last six months, private banks have made a profit of around Tk 1,000 crore. Moreover, directors of the banks enjoy a wide range of business privileges Bankers believe these are the reasons for many to be interested to invest in

Blair's anti-terror plans

opponents alive," he said.

spokesman

sures are like what we have seen in

Uzbekistan where President (Islam)

Karimov has been burning his political

to a military crackdown that claimed

several hundred lives in eastern

Uzbekistan in May, which the Uzbek

government said was a response to a

plot by Hizb ut-Tahrir to seize power in

expression, not for violence," said the

ment founded in the Middle East in the

create an Islamic state in the region.

the group's anti-Semitism.

It established itself in the former

Russia's Supreme Court classified

"We are frustrated to the bone with

thumbs up to many of Blair's propos-

sensible and are perhaps overdue," he

said, while also noting that the council

would seek assurances from the

government that expressions of

support for Muslims overseas, such as

the Palestinians or the Chechens.

Law Society, which regulates and

represents lawyers in Britain, said it

was important to strike a balance

between tough laws and human

"Some of the measures are quite

the group as a "terrorist" organisation

"Our members are all for political

Hizb ut-Tahrir, or the Party of

Waheed appeared to be referring

changed," he told the BBC.
"I think everybody including the Muslim community agrees that we need to take robust strong identifiable steps, well-targeted in their enforce ment, that provide the protection that

plans were vital and long overdue but others said they were misquided.

"For years, his government turned a blind eye while Britain became a haven for suspects wanted in their 'Londonistan'," the right-wing Daily

per countered: "The foremost objection is that these measures would have done nothing to stop the first and most deadly wave of suicide bombing. The first and best test of any legislation remains: will it work?"

national unity in Britain.

"If these proposed measures are allowed to see the light of day, they will increase tensions and alienate communities. The measures are counterproductive and will encourage more will perceive our prime minister as playing into the hands of the terrorists."

some of these people in the name of our great religion, in the name of our He criticised the government's way of life, going day after day and causing damage to our way of life here." Omar Faroog of the Islamic tion of an Islamic caliphate and is Society of Britain told BBC Radio. banned in several central Asian coun Similarly, Inayat Bunglawala of the tries. Supporters insist it is a non-Muslim Council of Britain gave a violent group persecuted by corrupt

The London-based human rights group Liberty strongly criticised the

"The fundamental values of a democracy cannot be changed because we are provoked by terrorists," said Liberty's director Shami

"Liberty is very disappointed by the prime minister's remarks. We want a unifying leader, not one who sows the seeds of discord," she said.

"We are deeply concerned that the criminal offence of condoning, glorifying, or justifying terrorism is broad enough to catch moderate as well as ranting politicians and religious

spokespeople ' Talks with Algeria, Lebanon and several other countries to allow Britain to deport their nationals without fear of

torture, also triggered concern. 'We are alarmed by his intention to

return individuals to countries where they may face torture," said

"Torturing, or sending people to face torture, can never be justified.

Similarly, a plan to outlaw the radical Islamic group Hizb ut-Tahrir in Britain was slammed as "most unjust" by a spokesman for the organisation.

'By doing this, he (Blair) is setting an example to the tyrant rulers of the Muslim world, encouraging them to further suppress their populations," said Imran Waheed. "Hizb ut-Tahrir is a non-violent

political party. "It has had a history of non-violence

the propensity for becoming bad

The idea behind giving permission

and need to be carried out fully.

Many economists and bankers

WHY SO MUCH INTEREST

Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, managng director of Pubali Bank, said, 'Investment in banking is a good one as the profit is ensured. Besides. banks are hardly at risk for decline in law and order or problems of that sort, as are many other businesses."

About allegations of the forest department's plan to implement a social forestry project, the DC said, "This is a reserve forest, and so there should not be anything like that.'

Meanwhile, Officer-in-Charge of Kulaora Helaluddin said he had received no order to evict the Khasias, while Mihir Kanti Mojumder, joint secretary of the Department of Forest said they have not instructed any eviction of Notun Choilta puniee

EC still in dilemma

were directed to assemble a dossier containing the existing electoral laws and precedents regarding the voter list.

Soviet republics of Central Asia 10 The meeting also discussed years ago and reportedly wants to again today to decide on the roll.

in February 2003. It is, however, legal in most Western countries, though Germany has imposed a ban due to In contrast to the negative com-"There is no legal barriers in having ments sparked by Blair's tough meaa fresh voter list," Aziz told reporters sures, two mainstream British Muslim after the meeting. "We will follow groups largely welcomed them, noting the precedents to prepare the list," that rules to counter the threat of he added. foreign extremists were long overdue.

The CEC and the other two

Ordinance 1982. The two other election commissioners want more examination of electoral laws before taking any decision in this regard. "It will take some time to make the decision as we've only started examining the electoral laws," Election Commi-

voter list on July 20 failed to come to a conclusion because of the commissioners' varying legal interpretations about preparing the roll. The internal conflict of opinions prompted the commission to arrange a three-day-long dialogue with the political parties to seek their opinions on the issue

The much-talked about dialogue had ended up in a farce amid boycott of the mainstream political parties including Awami League (AL). Of the 53 political parties who took part in the EC-initiated talks, 40 including the ruling parties had

at yesterday's meeting argued that legal details should be looked into before taking any decision regarding preparation of the roll.

Besides, they discussed the merits and demerits of having a fresh roll and revising the existing one, meeting sources said.

matters on preparing the voter list. We will decide on the issue at the next meeting, examining the laws, Election Commissioner AK Mohammad Ali told reporters after the meeting.

Natwar rules out talks

participation, he said, "Yes, of course. Without participation of Bangladesh how can it take off?" Talking to reporters, Saifur also said Bangladesh has agreed in Notun Choilta and would cost at

principle to participate in the trination pipeline, but added that there are more issues related to it. The ministries of energy and foreign affairs will carry forward the next course of discussion, he said. "Forming technical committees

alone cannot take us anywhere. To resolve issues including trade barriers and disputed corridors, I believe decisions must be taken at the political level of both the countries first." Saifur said. He added that such political decisions will then have to be con-

veved to the technical committees for execution. "Inter-state problems can never be resolved without such a mechanism." the finance minister observed. Saifur said Singh had informed

him about import ban on some goods (yarn) through land port. "I told them we shall lift those barriers tomorrow, if you create suitable infrastructure at the port point to carry the goods," he noted.

"There are trade barriers in both countries," the finance minister pointed out. "We want healthy trade between India and Bangladesh. At the same time we don't want to see our exports facing barriers in India."

Citing an example, Saifur said Bangladeshi export goods are subjected to state intervention in West Bengal. "The Assamese businessmen do not open letters of credit for import of Bangladesh goods because they need permission of the central government."

"Again, we are asking India for a few kilometres of road access to Nepal -- but it won't give us the access." the finance minister noted.

"There are problems on both the sides. But international relationships should be based on mutual trust and bilateral interest. I have told them you are a big country -why are you afraid of us? Why don't you open up more? The bigger power should always come up first in any initiative," Saifur told report-

TRI-NATION PIPELINE

During two rounds of meetings in January and February on the transnational gas pipeline involving Myanmar, India and Bangladeshone at ministerial level and another at technical level-- India had agreed

Rejoinder

FROM PAGE 16 delay in renewing our registration

for which we are not responsible at all," said the letter. Our reply

The Daily Star found that the NBL has valid registration of all 13 brands. We regret the error. The report was based on information provided by junior clinician of IPHN Dr Faruque Ahmed Khan, who at the time of filing the report said the Nestle had valid registration for seven brands only. However, following the Nestle protest when The Daily Star contacted the IPHN official again, he said the Nestle version is correct

On the other hand, the Dauphin itself in its letter of explanation admitted that its BMS products' registration is yet to be renewed.

Jubo Dal leader

FROM PAGE 1

Omar Faruque joined the Jubo Dal abandoning Jubo League in June this year. The murder is an outcome of political rivalry, said his father Yakub Ali, a prominent businessman of Daulatpur. Locals recovered Faruque's body

from a room of a club at Maheswarpasha and took to Khulna Medical College and Hospital (KMCH) where doctors declared him dead. Security forces have been put on

high alert in the city following the murder.

All shops in Daulatpur remained closed out of panic as Jubo Dal, BNP and Chhatra Dal activists brought out processions soon after hearing the news of Faruque's death.

The police cordoned the KMCH where angry activists of BNP, Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal were demonstrating to take the dead body of Omar Faruque in their control.

Transport services at Daulatpur remained suspended for hours.

Robber killed

FROM PAGE 16

injuries are Helal, Ansar, Rahim and Salam. Arms were found with them. The injured cops--Sub-Inspector (SI) Abdus Selim, constables Ansarul Hag and Sirajul Hag--were admitted to Sujanagar health com-

Police and locals said a gang 25 robbers stormed into the houses of Manju Kumar Das and Sambhu Das of Kadoa village at about 1:30am. Hearing the news, police from Sujangar Police Station rushed to the place and fired warning shots. The robbers returned fire, resulting in a gunfight between the two sides. At one stage, the gang mem-

bers retreated, leaving behind their

leader dead and four others

injured.

on three proposals of Bangladesh.

These proposals asked for a bilateral agreement between India and Bangladesh as part of the trination pipeline deal. Bangladeshi proposals also sought a corridor access through India to purchase power and other commodities from Nepal or Bhutan and measures to reduce trade gap with India.

New Delhi had asked Dhaka to place detailed proposals on these issues in a scheduled meeting in April. But the meeting did not take place before June and Bangladesh did not prepare any detailed proposal. And India suddenly changed its stance in early April.

According to reports from New Delhi by our correspondent, the Indian external affairs ministry objected to the Indian energy ministry's initial nod to Bangladesh's proposals. The external affairs ministry argued that a bilateral agreement between India and Bangladesh cannot be part of a trinational agreement.

India then signalled its disapproval of the bilateral agreement by inviting Bangladesh only one day before the next round of tri-nation gas pipeline talks in early June.

At the same time, the Indian media reported that India wants to go ahead with the pipeline project bypassing Bangladesh. As the invitation did not seek Bangladesh's participation clearly, Dhaka refrained from attending it.

However, the meeting between the ministers of Myanmar and India in June did not produce any encouraging results

According to Dhaka's energy experts, the option to bypass Bangladesh in the pipeline project is not only costly but also risky. India will either have to lay the pipeline in the Bay of Bengal to bypass Bangladesh or have to install an extra 1000 km pipeline in its eastern states around Bangladesh to get the iob done.

While the Bay pipeline concept is based on a risk factor due to the nature of the sea, the 1000 km extra pipeline in eastern India will not only increase the cost of gas transmission, but will always be a target for separatists of Assam. Nagaland and other eastern provinces.

Foundation stone FROM PAGE 16

meeting held at the communications ministry yesterday with Minister for Communications Nazmul Huda in the chair.

The meeting reviewed the progress of preparation regarding the construction of the bridge over the Padma at Maowa-Jajira point. The Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge

Authority (JMBA) would construct the six-kilometre-long bridge at a cost of over Tk 7,500 crore. Major donor agencies like the

Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC), the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have responded positively to finance the project, the meeting was Huda asked the officials concerned to complete land acquisition,

resettlement and environmental management plan at the project site The government wants to start the physical construction of the bridge

from the first quarter of the next year, he said Yesterday's meeting also reviewed the activities of the JMBA and said Tk 684 crore has so far been collected as toll from the Jamuna

No charge sheet

FROM PAGE 1

last year. However, the investigation officer of the case. Senior ASP of CID Munshi Atiqur Rahman claimed yesterday that the main task is almost complete. The charge sheet will be submitted soon, he added, without disclosing the findings of the probe.

The attack took place when the AL leaders were about to leave the meeting venue, Hotel Gulshan Centre, in the city. City AL leader Mohammad Ibrahim was killed in the attack while the mayor had left the place just minutes ahead.

The same night police arrested SM Nunu Miah, an expatriate, in connection with the attack. The law enforcers tortured him for confessional statement, it was alleged. The joint interrogation cell (JIC) also guizzed him repeatedly in Dhaka

However, Nunu Miah, a British citizen, was released two months The police arrested as many as

thrown the grenade. The CID may

submit the final charge sheet show-

ing Ibrahim as the main accused, the

source said.

50 people as suspects. After two rates for diagnostic tests have been months of the attack, CID interrogated the injured and other AL leaders, which raised questions. In December, the CID ASP talked the city mayor and others.

Besides, he managed a confessional statement from a guard named Belal from a neighbouring house. However, a source alleged that CID forcibly took the statement from the guard Belal, who had stated that remain the same. AL leader Ibrahim had himself

Oral saline

FROM PAGE 1

was fined Tk10,000 for producing and selling biscuits and cakes without expiry date while restaurants Changpai and Banshori were fined Tk 3,000 and Tk 1,000 for unclean

The court also raided the offices of Rupsha Company and Anchor Trading and fined them Tk1 lakh each for marketing products without the permission of the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI). The court found King Brand

soybean oil marketed by Rupsha

Company and Nova mustard oil and Kishan atta marketed by Anchor Trading without the BSTI certification As the companies failed to pay the fines, the court sent the manager of

executive officer of Anchor Trading to jail with one year's rigorous imprisonment. The same court also apprehended 50kilograms of jatka (immature Hilsha) fish from two traders in

Tk1,000 as fine from them. Meanwhile, the mobile court of Magistrate Jahangir Alam seized huge quantity of polythene-bags from eight shops in the Ray Saheb Bazar. The court collected Tk12 thousand

However, the mobile court formed by the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) still could not conduct its operation yesterday as it did not get police "We have applied to the police

commissioner for police force. But we

are yet to get a reply," said Md Golam Sarwar, the public analyst of the Ministry fails

FROM PAGE 16 University, Pundra University of Science and Technology, Southern University and Comilla University.

However, the ministry mysteriously dropped the name of Southern University and sent show cause notices to the others. Earlier, BGC Trust University Bangladesh, which was recommended for closure, was exempted.

BNP rebel

Sirajul Islam, who was elected a parliament member on the Awami League (AL) ticket, joined the BNP

The main opposition AL decided not to participate in the election

Bidisha

should not be granted regular bail. The bail for Bidisha will remain effective till disposal of the rule. With this, Ershad's estranged wife got bail in all five cases filed against her by Ershad, his staff and the govern-

The former military ruler's personal staff Golam Reza filed the case with the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka,

Bidisha appeared before the court in person vesterday morning while her counsels moved her petition for the interim bail before an HC bench. "Ershad is filing cases against me

one after another to harass me. This time he got the case filed by one of his assistants--it is very sad," she told reporters while coming out of the Golam Reza filed the case against Bidisha as a cheque of

Tk2.13 crore against the First Security Bank of Dilkhusha branch given by her was dishonoured. The court issued a warrant of arrest against Bidisha. In the complaint, Reza alleged that Bidisha had borrowed the

amount over the years 2002, 2003

and 2004 in cash and pay orders

from the complainant when he was the managing director of a cold storage owned by Ershad. Bidisha gave Reza the cheque (No. FSB-0178717) on March 21 this year but it was bounced back as her account (No. 22012440) in the bank

had insufficient fund, he alleged. In July, Bidisha filed a civil case praying for a court order so her exhusband Ershad or his staff Golam Reza could not use the cheques she has given against her. The court issued a "show cause" notice to the

respondents regarding the prayer. Dr Kamal Hossain, Advocate Zahirul Islam, Barrister Sarah Hossain and Barrister Tanjib-ul Alam argued for the petitioner while Deputy Attorney General ABM Waliur Rahman opposed the bail.

Medical tests

FROM PAGE 1 At least 20 diagnostic centres in the

city have implemented the new tariff on laboratory tests. Patients have complained the

hiked without any public notification. An association leader speaking anonymously said price hike of dollar and reagents in the international market has forced them to set new tariff for most of the tests.

The new tariff will not be applied to all categories of the tests as charges for the most of the imaging and manual examination tests

But cost of most of the biochemical, hormone, culture, blood and serum tests would be higher, the leader added.

Let's forget past

as a defense structure within 150 yards of the zero line while India said the fencing is not a defense structure.

On the signing of extradition treaty earlier proposed by India, Shyam Sharan said, "We hope this will be considered and signed soon."

About reducing huge trade imbalance of US \$1.5 billion, Bangladesh side stressed the need of removal of non-tariff and para-tariff barriers. The Indian side said the issue

would be taken up at the upcoming commerce minister-level meeting of the two countries. However, Shyam Saran said India decided to recognise the standardization certificate issued by Bangladesh

about its exportable items. A bilateral Free Trade Agreement could help resolve the problem by Rupsha Company and the chief increasing the volume of trade, he

Bangladesh side stressed the need for development of land ports in Indian sides including at Banglabandha, Phulbari and Petrapole to facilitate the border trade that the Indian side agreed.

the same market. The court collected Welcoming more investment from India, Dhaka said negotiations on US \$2.5 billion Tata investment is progressing well and a definite outcome

will emerge soon.

Bangladesh expressed concern over India's inter-river linking project and said it would badly affect the country's ecology and agriculture. The Indian side said the project is

still at a conceptual stage and they would not do anything without any consultation with Bangladesh. India agreed to exchange information and data about flood and weather forecasting with Bangladesh thrice a

day through e-mail. The two sides discussed crossborder terrorism and extradition of criminals during yesterday's talks.

Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin said Bangladesh is concerned over Bangladeshi hardened criminals' taking shelter in India as well as anti-Bangladesh campaign by certain groups in India. The Indian foreign minister

assured that they would take up the matter with authorities concerned. Bangladesh reiterated her stand on not allowing any terrorist group

operating from the country against its

Dhaka also submitted specific information about smuggling of drugs including phensidyl from India and the Indian foreign minister assured of taking steps against it.

India solicited Bangladesh's

support to the United Nations (UN) reforms as well as India's candidature as a permanent member of the expanded UN Security Council. Bangladesh side told the Indian side that being a facilitator on negotia-

tion on UN reforms Dhaka cannot take

any position in favour of or against any specific proposal, Hemayetuddin said. The foreign ministers addressed the process of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) and expressed commitment to work together for further integration of regional cooperation in South Asia where a fifth of global population live,

with over 15 per cent of the global poor. The twice postponed Saarc summit is now set to be held in Dhaka on November 12-13 this year.

As the issue of not telecasting Bangladesh TV channels in India was raised during the talks, the Indian side assured that the authorities concerned will see the matter soon. "We have agreed to work together

to realise our common destiny. We've

committed to strengthening our

relations through dialogues based on

mutual friendship, trust and under-

standing." the Indian External Affairs Minister told the reporters after the He said in addition to the 100 Indian Council for Cultural Relations scholar-

Technical and Economic Cooperation

Programme, 500 more scholarships will be offered to school students and 100 scholarships for undergraduates. In 2003-04, India provided training

to 250 Bangladeshi teachers, he said adding, "We have decided to train 600 more Bangladeshi teachers over the next two years. We will also gift 620 computers to schools in Bangladesh."

There is a great potential for

expanding the two-way trade and

investment and cooperation in educa-

tion, science and technology, Singh Appreciating the opening of Dhaka-Agartala bus service, he sought multi-entry visas for Indian travellers and abolition of travel tax and said the two sides discussed the establishment of more bus services

between Bangladesh and different

states of India. They agreed on the best management of border and checking illegal movements and activities from both sides that cause huge revenue losses for both the governments, he said.

He said the Indian side proposed a high-level meeting to discuss the illegal movement that the Bangladesh foreign minister agreed upon. Singh also referred to the proposal

for construction of the gas pipeline from Myanmar to India through Bangladesh. "My colleague Priyaranjan Das will visit Dhaka at the end of the month to

resources," he said. "Our discussions were marked by greater warmth and cordiality," said e Indian foreign minister.

discuss cooperation in water

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Morshed Khan said he emphasised the need for comprehensive cooperation between Bangladesh and India in the area of trade and investment. specially the need for narrowing the large imbalance of trade between the two countries

oillion dollar investment proposal from Tata was progressing well, he said Bangladesh will continue to welcome Indian businessmen to invest in Bangladesh. Singh will call on Prime Minister

Expressing happiness that the

negotiations towards finalising the 2.5

Khaleda Zia this afternoon. He would hand over a letter from Indian Premier Dr Manmohan Singh to Khaleda Zia inviting her to visit India,

Natwar told reporters. He is also due to meet with Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina. He will speak on Indo-Bangladesh

Earlier, upon arrival at the Zia

dialogue at BRAC centre.

International Airport, Natwar Singh was received by Foreign Secretary Hemavetuddin. Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain and Jativa Samaitantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) President Hasanul Hag Inu called on visiting Indian External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh at his

22 fishermen FROM PAGE 1

Kalapara upazila under Patuakhali Abdus Salam Howladar, president of the Alipur-Mohipur Matsya Aratdar Samity, told The Daily Star that the mighty storm hit the Bay about 80-90km south of Kuakata

coast on Friday evening. 2 held in CHT

anti-CHT peace treaty organisation and nabbed the two with the arms

The confusion recalled the chaotic

President Vladimir Putin met with

reaction to the sinking of the nuclear

submarine Kursk in the Barents Sea

almost exactly five years ago in which

intelligence and security service chiefs

and ordered Defence Minister Sergei

Ivanov to fly to the Kamchatka

Peninsula region to oversee the

for failing to take command over the

Kursk disaster, had yet to make any

long series of crises to hit Russia's

decrepit post-Soviet military, all the

more embarrassing because of major

sea-air exercises planned with China

Kursk disaster, Moscow immediately

called on foreign expertise to help the

rescue operation based in the militarily

Japanese rescue ships were due to

sensitive Kamchatka Peninsula

arrive on scene early next week

Earlier Saturday, Russian rescuers

managed to attach a cable and

attempted to tow the hull toward shore.

Dygalo said the Taiger rescue ship

However, in marked contrast to the

However, Putin, who was criticised

The accident was the latest in a

operation, ITAR-TASS said

and ammunition. They also recovered uniforms

FROM PAGE 1

used by the UPDF members and ships and an equal number of training some papers from the camp. opportunities under the Indian

Time ticks away

all 118 crew died.

public statement.

later this month.

As the clock wound down on the submariners' air reserves, Russian rescuers attached cables in hopes of yanking the AS-28 from the tangle of underwater coastal surveillance gear in which it became trapped on

The seven stranded men took emergency precautions to conserve air and families on shore kept an agonising vigil. "Papa's on the boat He's coming back soon," the wife of submarine Captain Vyacheslav Milashevsky reassured her children in footage on state-run Channel One

Thursday during a military exercise.

Officials contradicted one another on how long the crew could be expected to survive.

the end of these 24 hours and perhaps the next," Vice Admiral Vladimir Pelelyaev was quoted as saying by ITAR-TASS news agency at an unspecified hour Saturday. But other officials spoke of oxygen supplies being due to run out much earlier. The crew, described by naval

"Oxygen on board should last to

were waiting in temperatures of about five degrees Celsius (41 degrees Fahrenheit) and mostly in darkness in a bid to save energy. To preserve every bit of oxygen, they were wearing special thermal suits and making a minimum of movement, officials said.

spokesmen as highly experienced,

"We are sure that we will make a successful operation before the crew begin to experience the first signs of oxygen starvation," naval spokesman Igor Dygalo said. There were also conflicting reports

about the reason for the accident. Officials initially said the vessel had got caught in an abandoned fishing net, before saying the AS-28 was in fact snared in the coastal surveillance

dragged the crippled submarine about 60 metres (196 feet), but did not manage to free the AS-28. In a further sign of confusion hampering Russian efforts, Admiral Viktor yodorov, the commander of the Pacific fleet, had earlier said that the AS-28 was moved one kilometre (0.6 mile).

The Priz submarine is 13.5 metres (44 feet) long and was first put into service in the late 1980s. The model repair, news agencies reported

trapped on the seabed was in need of antenna, itself secured by a 60-tonne

for the last 50 years and these mea-

Bank (amended) Act, 2003 came into

tions in the public interest.

fresh guidelines on establishing new banks. The guidelines were adopted under the Central Bank Strengthening Project (CBSP). They include all the former rules while some new rules have been incorporated.

detailed minutes of the company establishing bank company, board other related documents.

borrowing shall not be acceptable. The rules say that establishing a Again, the minimum shareholding

herewith to include spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, sister of the individual or anyone dependent on Sponsors and directors will have to

the public are entitled to expect." London's police chief Ian Blair has added his backing to the powers but Britain's newspapers were divided. Some argued the prime minister's

ism. No wonder our capital is dubbed Mail commented. The left-leaning Guardian newspa-

The Islamic Forum Europe warned that the measures could jeopardise

radicalisation," group president Musleh Faradhi said. "Many Muslims plans to ban Hizb ut-Tahrir the radical Islamic group that calls for the forma-

"Proscribing it will be counterproductive," Faradhi said. "It will give a green light to despotic leaders in the Muslim world to silence political dis-

would not be outlawed. At the same time, both Bunglawala and Farooq warned against banning Hizb ut-Tahrir. Farooq said the group Chakrabarti. had been growing weaker and its newfound notoriety may boost its appeal. For its part a spokesman for the

> "We will study the detail of the proposals with care," he said. Charles Falconer, the lord chancelor, said the deadly July 7 attacks in London showed the government must act against people "who are encouraging young men who are becoming

suicide bombers.'

July 7th that things have changed. A new balance needs to be struck. It needs to be a lawful balance but it needs to be an effective balance," he told British Broadcasting Corp. radio.Blair's government has been trying to build support among political opponents and Muslim leaders for new anti-terrorism legislation since the suspected suicide bombings that killed 56 people, including four attack-

"I think there is a very widespread

sense in the country subsequent to

(Reuters, AFP, AP, BBC Online)

300 Khasias

FROM PAGE 16 Khasias are now living amid utter insecurity at the neighbouring punjees and hilly jungles, local leaders of Kulaora said, adding that the betel leaf gardens were the only source of income of the Khasias at

least Tk 50 lakh The forest department also destroyed on July 27 betel leaf gardens at Noonchhara punjee and Puran Choilta punjee in the same union, local leaders of Kulaora told The Daily Star. The Khasias in the Balaima,

Puran Choilta, Amuli, Noon Chhara,

Putichhara and Jhimai punjees now

fear further eviction, amid rumour of

the forest department's plan to implement a social forestry project in the area while some Banglaspeaking people threatened them of eviction The Khasia male members have been guarding their remaining betel

gardens at Notun Choilta at night

since the eviction.

government.

The Khasia leaders are planning to lodge a suit in this regard, sources said, adding that the Khasias are now prepared with their indigenous arms to resist further possible eviction by the forest department. Owel Khasia, leader of the Notun

Choilta, told The Daily Star that they

have been living on the Khas land of

district administration for years and so the forest department has no right to evict the indigenous people. Local Khasia leaders also said they had taken lease of the land and have been paying taxes to the

Meanwhile, a Khasia leader from

Notun Choilta punjee alleged that

the forest department had pledged

to the Bangalees in the area give a portion of land in the punjees if the eviction drive is successful The forest department, however, refuted the allegations that they conducted the eviction drive in cooperation with the Bangalees and

said the Khasias had been living

and cultivating betel leaf on the

But an official in the office of

forest department's land.

Assistant Commissioner (Land) at Kulaora requesting anonymity said the land is under the district administration though Md Yunusur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Moulovibazar said he is not sure if the land belongs to the forest department or the district adminis-

meeting, the EC secretariat officials

whether it was feasible to introduce an annual revision system of the voter list. The commission will sit CEC MA Aziz, who has recently backtracked on his earlier legal stance on the roll, vesterday hinted that a fresh list might be prepared.

commissioners--AK Mohammad Ali and M Munsef Ali--had repeatedly said that the electoral ordinance would have to be amended to prepare a fresh list. But the EC documents show that the commission had made fresh voter lists in 1983, 1990, 1995 and 2000 without having to amend the Electoral Rolls

ssioner M Munsef Ali said yester-The EC at the first meeting on the

favoured a fresh roll. The two election commissioners

"We have discussed the legal