## Greenback's peak

**FROM PAGE 1** opening letters of credit (LCs) against imports fearing further price

Association of Bankers Bangladesh (ABB) President M Aminuzzaman seconded Tahmilur's argument and both of them denied any persuasion by the finance minister or the Bangladesh Bank (BB) for taking the move.

The government had introduced the floating exchange rate in May 2003 as a condition for the International Monetary Fund's poverty reduction loan.

The dollar started to become scarce in November 2004. And though the crisis deepened following an import surge last year and taka began to depreciate, which in turn also shot up inflation rate, a binding commitment made to the IMF has all through been keeping the BB from interfering in the mar-

Import selling rate of dollar rose 5.57 percent to reach Tk 66.39 per unit in July last, which was Tk 62.89 in January. And in the inter-bank market the rate marked a 5.77

continuous pressure, the authorities [BB] used suasion to avoid depreciation of the taka. The suasion mentioned by the mission refers to the central bank's informal direction in

ment to adhere to market-based principles in the foreign exchange market, not to control the exchange rate and to allow the exchange rate

intend to resort to suasion for this purpose'

The commitment to the IMF makes the BB unable to take any direct step to halt the ongoing dollar price spiral, while the government is greatly worried over the situation as would further worsen the current flationary situation.

Sources said following the firstever meeting of the high-powered fiscal co-ordination council late last month, where the dollar price spiral featured prominently, the BB took some indirect measures to stabilise the forex market.

Sources said on the central bank's informal instructions, the Bafeda and the ABB initiated some moves to rein in the dollar price hike.

#### 50 hurt

Shibir, student front of Jamaat-e-Islami, with hammers, broken bottles and hockey sticks. Police intervened and quelled

"We got up from bed in panic to see a lot of blood downstairs. The groups were at loggerheads for the last few days," said Abdul Karim, second year student of laboratory medicine

Shibir men took out a procession on the campus and attacked a JCD group in front of the women's hostel at around 11:00am, sources said.

"The violence was unprecedented on the campus. We closed the institute only to control the situation," said acting Principal Prof SM Tofazzal Hossain.

JCD leader Chitrangsu Das Rajon was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital (RMCH) in a critical condition as he

vas hit by hammers. JCD leaders Shahidul Islam, Sajjad, Selim Reza, Arifur Rahman, Abdullah Al Mamun Sajib, Abdu Jalil, Russell Mahbub and Shibir men Mehedi Hasan and Rezaul Karim are receiving treatment at the

attacks was freed yesterday after

being cleared of having had any

involvement in the strikes, a top government official told AFP.

Tuesday. His total innocence and the

absence of any implication in the

London attacks have been proven.'

said the source, who declined to be

Cairo on suspicion of aiding the attackers behind the quadruple

suicide bombings. The Egyptian

authorities announced he had been

cleared five days later but had kept

him in detention up until now. (AFP,

urged the lawyers to unite against

those "who are trying to create

in a serious conflict with the faction

led by Communications Minister

Nazmul Huda over holding a rally on

the Supreme Court premises and

Nazmul Huda earlier announced the

dissolution of its Supreme Court unit

unilaterally. He also announced a

convening committee of the unit,

which meets today at the Supreme

quest at the meeting which will

discuss organisational matters

Huda will be present as chief

Lawyers say despite Law

Minister Moudud Ahmed's attempt

to bring unity among the feuding

groups, they are holding meetings

and counter-meetings, exposing the

serious rift among the pro-BNP

Supreme Court unit was chaired by

Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan MP.

Khandker Mahbubuddin Ahmed

MP, who also heads the parliamen-

tary standing committee on law

Without naming Huda,

Opposing the convening com-

mittee formed by Huda, he said, "A

new committee can only be formed

through election at a council. We will

form a new committee of the

Supreme Court unit through a

Former speaker Shaikh Razzak

Ali, Habibul Islam Bhuiyan, AKM

Mujibur Rahman, Shah

Khasruzzaman, Saidur Rahman,

Sanaullah Miah and other leaders

addressed the meeting held at the

28,000 from Sohel Rana and Habib.

employees of City Silver House, at

Mohammad Shafiqul Islam denied

the bail and directed the authorities

concerned to take necessary steps

to publish advertisements in daily

newspapers regarding the other

absconding cop Rafiqui Islam. The

court has set August 17 for next

investigation officer of Detective

Branch (DB), pressed charges

against the five cops and their three

informers to the Court of Chief

Metropolitan Magistrate in the

extortion case on July 30.

Sub-inspector Rezaul Hossain,

Metropolitan Magistrate

Tantibazar in Old Dhaka on July 21.

Bail of four

Yesterday's meeting of the JAF

JAF Senior Vice chairman

the dissolution of JAF committee.

The Aminul-led group has been

chaos" in the organisation.

Moudud

Court Bar building.

lawyer leaders.

council

Bar building.

FROM PAGE 16

FROM PAGE 1

Nashar was arrested on July 14 in

"Magdy al-Nashar was freed on

## Britain mulls secret

Simon Hughes, legal affairs spokesman for the smaller opposition Liberal Democrat Party, suggested that there "may be a case" for security-cleared judges doing special work, but he doubted a major exten-

"Suddenly to say you can justify three months when we've only got two weeks now of detention, you will need to persuade us and a lot of other people much more than has been done so far," he told BBC2's Newsnight on Monday.

"If the evidence is there yes, we'll take it but the evidence has not been shown and I am doubtful it would be

Edward Garnier, a spokesman for the main opposition Conservatives, urged the government to "calm down and think these things through" and consult other parties on the detailed

#### **ANTI-TERROR PLANS ATTACKED**

Proposals to crack down on Islamic extremists in Britain after the London for sowing confusion, while a radical

House of Commons home affairs committee and a former Home Office minister from the governing Labour Party, said he was concerned about how a 12-point plan to curb civil liberties had been rushed out by

emanating from the government over the last few days." he told the Financial Times newspaper.

"After the bombings, there was a very sensible and measured approach recognising things needed to be done and discussed.

"The flurry of announcements over the last few days, many of which haven't been developed fully, gives

Three key suspects behind a

ministry, addressed the meeting. copycat bombings in London on three subway trains and a double-Mahbubuddin said. "We should decker bus have been remanded in stand against those who are creatcustody until November 14. ing chaos in the organisation."

Mukhtar Said Ibrahim, 27, Ramzi Mohammed, 23, and Yassin Hassan Omar, 24, appeared in court Monday amid high security, charged with attempted murder, conspiracy to murder and possession of explo-

#### OMAR BAKRI LEAVES LONDON FOR LEBANON

One of the radical figures likely to come under scrutiny, Omar Bakri Mohammed, left Britain at the weekend for Lebanon, from where an aide said he would search for a country where he could practice his "Islamic

that he was "going to return back in four weeks unless the government says we are not welcome, because my family is in the United Kingdom".

"I left by my own passport. I do not think I will have any problem returning back to the UK, but I do not want the government to use the presence of Omar Bakri to change the rules, he told BBC radio

attack on a train in Britain "It's an obligation on Muslims that if they can't fulfill their Islamic duties in a certain place then they need to ... emigrate to a place where they can where their lives and their religion is

protected." he said EGYPTIAN BIOCHEMIST FREED

### 14yr old girl raped

UNB, Narsingdi

Miscreants killed a 14-year-old girl after raping her at Nalbhata village in Raipura upazila of the district on

Sources said Sulema Begum, daughter of Siddiqur Rahman, was abducted by a gang of five at about 8:00pm as she came out of their responding to the call of

The miscreants took the girl to a nearby cropland and raped her by turns. They later killed the girl and left the body on the field.

Police recovered the body yesterday morning and sent it to Narsingdi Hospital for autopsy. The victim's father filed a case with local police station.

### **BNP** cadres kidnap journo

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali** 

Local BNP cadres yesterday kidnapped the Baufal upazila correspondent of the Daily Jugantar for publishing a report on their criminal activities in the daily the same day.

Locals said about 25 cadres of the ruling BNP, led by Rafiq Talukder picked up Moniur Morshed, also a teacher of a local college, from the college campus at noon and took him to the upazila rest house.

They physically assaulted Morshed and then took him to an unknown place. Morshed remained untraced as of the filing of this report

superintendent of the matter. Morshed filed a report for the Jugantar after the BNP cadres looted 100 maunds of jatka (immature hilsa fish) seized by the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) on Monday. The report appeared in the daily

Pm's Dais

### Nine Indian decorators to be pushed back today

a dais for the rally to be addressed by Laksam will be pushed back to India through Bibir Bazar border of Comilla today following instructions from the home ministry.

Laksam police arrested the Indians in presence of different intelligence agencies on March 11

duced them in a Comilla court on June 16

The court convicted the Indians of illegal infiltration and fined them Tk 200 or seven days' imprisonment in default. The court ordered their return to India on expiry of the jail term

Though the convicts paid the fine

Anudeb, Mehadeb, Gautam, Dilip Das, Kalipad Saha, Haricharan Debnath, Dulal Sutradhar and Dipon Dev. They all are from the Indian

### Dipjal's market

Mirpur today.

Six platoons of police were on

over 50 illegal establishments on the first day of the drive along the Buriganga river on Monday.

#### **EC** plans

FROM PAGE 16 17 to 18 lakh people become eligible

for franchise rights each year and a on the roll.

listed on their own initiative. But after a voter list is published, such recording becomes much more difficult.

Only 1.23 lakh people were registered as voters after publica-tion of the voter list of 2000 and declaration of the schedule for 2001

as voters before the fifth parliamentary polls in two years between the publishing date of 1990 voter list and announcement of the schedule for 1991 polls. January 1, 1989 was set as the qualifying date in that roll when the election was held in

Electoral experts said the only remedy to such problems is the annual revision system. It was discussed also at the August 6 meeting of the EC.

'The system, if introduced, will leave less room for controversy centring the voter list," the EC secretary said

THE WORK FOR VOTER LIST BEGINS

The EC secretariat yesterday issued the government printing press with a work order to print five lakh forms to be used for gathering

information. More forms will be printed later. The EC secretariat will complete recruitment and training of enumerators, supervisors and assistant registration officers, sources said.

# Protect ethnic people's

constitutional recognition, which has not been implemented even in 34 years since independence.

Dressed in ethnic costumes, people of the Chakma, Marma, Garo, Khashia, Tripura and Santal communities rendered songs and dance pieces as part of a daylong cultural programme at the Shaheed

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Communist Party of Bangladesh President Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Hug Inu. Dhaka University Teachers Association President AAMS Arefin Siddique spoke at the programme.

Later at 12:30pm, they brought out a colourful rally that travelled to the Engineers' Institute, where a discussion meeting was held.
"Repression and discriminations

against the indigenous people will not be stopped if a pro-people and democratic government does not come to power," Larma said while addressing the meeting. Larma, also the president of Parbatya Chattagram Janasanghati

Samity, said the indigenous people are still facing various forms of repression by the majority Banglaspeaking people with direct or indirect support of the government. The Bangalee settlers have been grabbing the land properties of the ethnic people but the government is

not taking any action against the persons responsible, he alleged. The ethnic people are deprived of their rights as they do not have any constitutional recognition, Larma regretted. He also accused the government of violating the

Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Advocate Promod Mankin MP called on the government to with-draw army camps from the CHT without délay. "The army is trampling the rights of the indigenous people in the CHT," he said.

Speaking as the chief guest, Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain said the indigenous people also struggled for the country and they have to unite to achieve their "The government has been

grabbing the land of the ethnic people by naming it khas land while

the forest department declared reserve forests dislodging thouof indigenous people, Promod Mankin said. As many as 20,000 indigenous people were evicted due to the eco-park project

at Modhupur, he said. Besides constitutional recognition, the other demands of the indigenous people include ensuring their rights to land and forest, with drawal of army camps from the CHT and immediate implementation of the CHT peace treaty, cancellation of the eco-park project in Modhupur forest, and an end to repression.

Among others. Father RW Timn. Pankaj Bhattacharjee, Khushi Kabir and Anna Minj spoke at the discus-

Marking the day, Bangladesh Sanjukta Adivasi Khet Majoor-O-Sramik Federation (a federation of indigenous farmers and workers) brought out a rally parading different city roads.

sion meeting held at the city's Muktangan with federation Convenor Dewan Hemrom in the Odhikar, a human rights organisation, organised a discussion

This was followed by a discus-

meeting on the rights of indigenous people at its office in the city. Speakers at the meeting called upon all sections of people to come forward to establish the citizen rights

of the indigenous people in the country. The meeting was presided over by Odhikar Director Masud Alam Ragib Ahsan.

Speakers at another discussion meeting organised by Solidarity Bangladesh demanded that the government take proper steps to protect the socioeconomic and cultural rights of the indigenous people in the country.

Solidarity Bangladesh President Sheikh Faruque Ahmad presided over the meeting.

The Indigenous Peoples' Day has been being observed in 70 countries since 1995 to highlight the rights of the ethnic people across the world. Forty-five ethnic groups with population of 25 lakh in Bangladesh are left out of their

# Textile dyes in bakeries

**FROM PAGE 16** 

chemicals. They arrested the manager and sent him to six months rigorous jail time. The police raided the Kamal

bakery in the same area, where it discovered chemicals and 11 types of textile dye used in the food. The court sent Md. Jafar Mia, the manager of the restaurant, to one year of rigorous jail time.

I felt so bad when I found those textile dyes in those confectioneries. They are making us eat direct poison," said Md. Rokanuddoulah, the magistrate of the court

Another mobile court, led by ABM Abdul Fattha, raided Asia Food and Drink in the Pirerbagh area. The court sent Abdur Rahman, the owner of the company, to one year of rigorous jail and fined him Tk 50,000. He was found to be producing food items without prior permission of the Bangladesh Standard nd Testing Institute (BSTI).

Asia food and drinks produces two flavoured juices. Litchi and Orange. The company also markets the Rasna brand of soybean oil. sources present with the court told The Daily Star.

Another court led by magistrate Mujibul Haque raided two bakery product sellers in Shaympur and collected Tk 20,000 and also filed CTG MÖBIL F COURT

A mobile court here yesterday fined Tk 50,000 to Kwality Ice Cream, a conglomerate of the country's wellknown Sanowara Group, for keeping ice cream without manufacturing and expiry date labels.

Magistrate Shafig found ice cream boxes lacking manufacturing and expiry labels in cold storage at the restaurant, owned by prominent businessman and city Awami League leader Nurul Islam B. Sc. The boxes bore popular brand names such as Tutty Frutty. Vanilla. Mango Mania, Kulfi Malai and

"The items were manufactured about one month ago and required

labels will be tagged at the time of marketing," Anisur Rahman, the factory manager, replied to an inquiry by the magistrate. But the magistrate seized the ice cream boxes and penalized the factory the Tk 50.000.

plastic jars filled with unsafe food colouring and food-flavouring. He questioned the genuineness of the colouring, but the manager protested. "I'm sure this is textile colour. It

would vanish if it was real food colour but you see its not happening here although I wash my palms, Shafig told the two BSTI officials and journalists. As the factory manager main-

chemical tests. In other rounds, the mobile court found outdated shrimp in a refrigerator of Meridian Chines restaurant. Meenhar Sea Food Ltd manufactured the 2-kg shrimp packs on May 16, 2003 and the expiry date was May 16 this year. The restaurant

was fined Tk 10,000 as per section 149 of CCC Ordinance-1982. The manager of the Kentucky mini-Chinese restaurant, Mamunur Rashid, was fined Tk 40,000 under section 24 for maintaining stale meat and spices in a dirty kitchen. As the manager failed to pay the penalty on the spot, he was put on

Coffee Inn, a popular mini outlet, was fined Tk 3,000 for keeping stale meat in the refrigerator. The mobile court also inspected the medical college hostel but found nothing objectionable except the dirty kitchen roof. He asked the canteen owner to inform the matter to the college authority

# Benapole land port

the port activities for their living, were the worst victims of the long strike

Many factories, which import raw materials from India and export manufactured goods to Europe and America, also suffered as they could not produce goods in time and are likely to fail shipment of export items and count huge demurrage charges for the delay.

Around 10,000 goods-carrying trucks mainly loaded with raw materials stayed stranded on the other side of the border due to the work stoppage called by the Benapole C&F agents from July 19 for pressing their 12-point demand, the sources said.

described the revenue loss as temporary and expressed hope to recover it during the clearance of the waiting goods. "Although the average loss of revenue was around Tk4 crore a day

during the strike, it would be recovered once the operation resumes, said Hossen Ahmed, joint commissioner of Benapole Customs. The collection of revenue at the

On the C&F agents' demands he said most of their demands are illega Meanwhile, the C&F agents,

workers, day labourers yesterday

Shah Alam, a shop owner, said he

the sales declined to Tk 300-400 now. 'I have been working here for the last 13 years but never seen such a strike," said Riazul Islam, who works for a C&F agent. He said his com-

The normal turnout of passengers and tourists to India also dropped by at least 30 percent because of the strike, the passenger transport operators said.

### 98 fishermen

FROM PAGE 16 gunpoint and looted nets and valu-

ables worth about Tk 10 lakh. The pirates then sent a message to the association, demanding Tk 5 lakh for release of the fishermen. who hail from different areas of

#### Tk 36 lakh for the first time the BDR faced armed encounter from the criminals. FROM PAGE 16

sets worth Tk 32 lakh and Tk 4 lakh cash from the shop. He filed a case with Paltan Police Station but the police are yet to

### 481 mobile sets seized at ZIA

UNB, Dhaka

Customs at Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday seized 481 mobile phone sets from a luggage of a Bangladeshi passenger from

Bangkok.
The phone sets valued at Tk 40 lakh were found in the luggage of one Shamsul Huda who tried to use green channel on arrival by TG-431 flight, Assistant Commissioner of Customs Mahfuzul Hoque Bhuiyan told the news agency.

He said Additional Commissioner

Magrub Ahmed seized the sets, as the passenger could not show valid documents.

A departmental case was filed and the seized mobile phone sets were sent to the customs warehouse.

### Ulfa blows up two bridges, gas pipeline in Assam

AFP, Guwahati

Rebels in India's restive northeast have blown up two bridges, a pipeline and a power transformer in the latest in a string of blasts before national Independence Day festivi-

ties, officials said vesterday The separatist United Liberation Front of Asom (Ulfa), which traditionally steps up violence before the August 15 holiday, claimed responsibility for the blasts late Monday in Assam, the largest state in the insurgency-racked northeast.

Sunday four people died in a market blast that police blamed on Ulfa, which has been battling for an independent homeland since 1979. In the latest attacks the stateowned pipeline "was severely

There were no casualties. But on

damaged, disrupting gas supply to nearby tea garden factories," police official A. Das said. Rebels also bombed two bridges "considered vital as the route is used to move soldiers," said a

senior police official, who wished to remain unnamed. In another blast rebels knocked out a power transformer in the state's main city Guwahati, plunging areas into darkness.

attacks so far," Assam police inspector-general Khagen Sharma said. Over the weekend the rebels blew up three energy pipelines and a rail track. Ulfa said Tuesday it was respon-

"There have been about 16

market blast. It said it would not target "innocent civilians." Normally Ulfa attacks government buildings, bridges, pipelines and other infrastructure as well as security patrols but causes no

sible for the attacks apart for the

civilian casualties However, last Independence Day they detonated a powerful bomb during a parade in eastern Assam, killing 20 people -- many of them youngsters -- and stirring local outrage.

The Assam government on Fuesday announced unspecified cash rewards for people who help police spot militants. "The attacks are nothing but acts of desperation," state chie minister Tarun Gogoi told AFP. India won independence from

had trouble integrating the northeast, home to diverse ethnic and tribal cultures. More than two dozen rebel groups fighting for autonomy or independence in the region -- Ulfa is the most powerful -- mark

Britain on August 15, 1947 but has

Independence Day as a "black day." Over 50,000 people have died in insurgency-related violence since 1947 in the seven northeastern states. Some 10,000 have died in Assam since Ulfa took up arms in

### Foreigners

FROM PAGE 1 the security forces. The BDR jawans also replied with shots that led to a gun battle at about 2:00am,

sources said. After about four hours of fierce fighting, the criminals retreated. The BDR men, however, caught three criminals and seized one M16 rifle. one LMG, 400 bullets, a few combat uniforms and secret documents

Both sides exchanged more than 200 rounds of gunshots during the shootout. The border guards have

launched a massive arms recovery

operation in the border areas of Naikkhangchhari following the tips BDR sources said this was for

the earlier gunfights. The border guards this year arrested a total of 30 criminals, most of them are foreigners, from the Naikkhangchhari border areas, BDR sources said.

The BDR jawans recently seized five AK47 rifles, one SMG, 35 bullets, eight point 12-bore rifles, a huge amount of explosives, empty magazines, combat uniforms and secret documents from the remote frontie

About 250 rounds were traded during the gunfight.

## 66 die in rebel attack

and 159 soldiers were killed.
Another 50 troops had been taken soner, he said in a statement, and

26 Maoists were killed. "A search has been launched for the other soldiers as well as the rebels who launched the attack," he said adding that due to the remoteness of the region, information was difficult to

The clash took place overnight Sunday in the northwestern Kalikot

region where the soldiers were protecting workers building a highway. The army has confirmed two Nepalese soldiers were killed and

three wounded in the battle. Another 50 government troops had een taken prisoner, he said in a statement. Twenty-six Maoists were killed, he said.

The communists have been

fighting to overthrow the monarchy since 1996, and the uprising has left nearly 12,000 people dead. King Gyanendra sacked the government and took power in

February to try to restore security in the Himalayan kingdom. The statement was posted on the Maoist's website. However, Royal Nepalese Army

(RNA) spokesman, Brigadier General Dipak Gurung, disputed the high casualty count.

"We deny the terrorists' claims of killing 159 soldiers in western Nepal," Gurung told AFP. "Seventy of our soldiers have contacted their local commanders in

eir areas in the west." The rebel commander's statement was the first claim of responsibility for a major attack since June, when a bus bombing killed 36 people. The rebels

personnel but made a "grave mistake by killing civilians on the bus. Prabhakar said that during the Kalikot battle 26 rebels were killed,

said they were targeting security

including battalion commissar Lokesh. Another 50 government soldiers were taken prisoner and a large quantity of weapons seized, he

But his statement did not specify exactly how the 159 government soldiers were killed.

Earlier Monday, an army official said at least two Nepalese soldiers were killed and three wounded when Maoist rebels attacked an army camp

in the country's northwest. The attack on the camp at Pakha village in Kalikot district began Sunday evening and lasted through the night,

the official said, requesting anonymity. "A fairly large number of rebels attacked the newly-set up security camp Sunday evening around 8:30 pm and the gunbattle continued until

"Several rebels are also presumed to have been killed in the clash but the rebels carried away the bodies of their colleagues while fleeing from the scene as reinforcements arrived," he

"With the arrival of the massive reinforcement, the security forces launched a manhunt for rebels in and around the area." he said.

The army said about 200 personnel were stationed at the camp, set up to protect workers building the Surkhet-Jumla section of the Karnal Highway.

The communists have been

fighting to overthrow the monarchy

since 1996 and the uprising has left nearly 12,000 people dead. King Gyanendra sacked the government and took direct power in February to try to restore security in

the Himalayan kingdom.

# Discovery lands safely

touchdown

Force base slightly ahead of schedule at 5:11 am (1211 GMT), ending a 14-day mission that Nasa managers hailed as a success, Mission Control said after adjusting the touchdown time.
"Discovery is home," Mission

Control in Houston, Texas, said as

the wheels roared onto the 6,800

meter (15,000-foot) concrete runway shortly after two huge sonic booms rang out over the dark Mojave desert as Discovery approached its home "Welcome home," Mission Control told Collins and her six crew

"A job well done." she replied after a flawless re-entry into Earth's atmosphere and the one-hour descent to Nasa managers have hailed the mission as a success even though it showed they failed to resolve the

members individually seconds after

insulating foam problem that had doomed Columbia when it reentered Earth's atmosphere on February 1, 2003. Discovery was initially scheduled to land at Cape Canaveral in Florida, but bad weather forced Nasa to shift the landing site to California.

Mission Control officials heaved a

sigh of relief as a parachute deployed

from the rear of the shuttle, slowing

down Discovery, which then came to a full stop, safely returning the seven astronauts to Earth.

The final moments of a shuttle mission are among the most critical, and it was upon re-entering Earth's

atmosphere that Columbia had burst

The tragedy was blamed on insulating foam that fell off and damaged the orbiter's left wing upon

blasted into space on July 26. Nasa said the debris caused no significant damage, but upon its return, Discovery was grounded with the rest of the fleet until the problem is resolved. The US space agency was optimistic that a solution would be found soon, and tentatively sched-uled the next launch for September

external tank when Discovery

Under an agreement signed between Bangladesh and China on September 13, 2000, Dhaka was to get \$56 million to set up a DAP plant under Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC).
Of the \$ 56 million, \$25 million was

Later, Bangladesh requested into a concessionary loan due to the former's tough conditionality, which includes high interest rate (3.5 per-

cent) and 10 percent down payment.

On April 7, China signed a framevork agreement to convert the credit into a concessionary loan during Chinese Premier's visit to Dhaka. To implement the agreement

If the suppliers' credit is converted into a concessionary loan, the interest rate on the loan will be two percent from 3.5 percent and the condition of down payment will also be waived, a

top level ERD official told the news

# Same ADP story

for corruption, members of the parliamentary standing committee on the planning ministry pointed out in a meeting yesterday. The commit-tee chaired by M Akbar Ali MP

expressed dissatisfaction at the poor ADP implementation The spending binge in the last quarter also added pressure to the government bank borrowing. While that borrowing had been negative almost throughout the year, in the last four days it shot up to at Tk

source said. Planning ministry officials tried to quell the committee's bile, saving the government is introducing a new system to double the speed of project approval, requiring only 70 days compared to the present 105

days.
Akbar Ali told the Daily Star that they also would ask the government to amend the public procurement guideline, adding, the committee believes the present system is not only time consuming but also creates scopes for irregularities.

remaining seven even less than 45

The cabinet division and the civil aviation and tourism ministry have spent 94 and 82 percent of their

40 to 70 percent of their development allocations in the fag end of last FY include those of housing and public works, jute and textiles. industries, youth and sports, labour and employment, and Liberation War affairs. Defence, water resources, cultural affairs, commerce, environment and forest, establishment, communication, posts and telecommunications, science and technology, Chittagon Hill Tracts affairs, food and LGRD ministries and finance division are also in the same rank

However, the ministries, on their

construction, court injunctions and

large ADP, which they later had to scale down ahead the end of the fiscal year, but still could not imple-

have had a tendency to start with a

C&F agents

day.

The meeting decided to form a committee of representatives from both the organisations to settle the C&F agents' problems within the

The FBCFAA leaders demanded immediate cancellation of the clean reports findings (CRF) activity of pre-shipment inspection.

cancellation of monitoring by the NBR central intelligence cell and suspension of issuing new C&F licence for next five years. Export-import through Benapole, the largest land port of the country,

The Benapole C&F association demanded cancellation of the present valuation and classification . committees, and delivery of the products within 24 hours of arrival They also demanded that the fine on non-PSI goods should not be more than 10 to 12 percent and the con-

#### the situation before dawn percent rise to reach Tk 64.95 in July from Tk 61.40 in January. An IMF review mission report last month alleged, as the foreign exchange market came under

March to the commercial banks to keep the highest price of dollar at Tk 63.70, which did help steady the dollar price for a few weeks. The IMF also urged the govern-

to reflect the market forces.
In response, BB Deputy Governor Allah Malik Kazemi in a letter dated June 26 to IMF MD Rodrigo de Rato committed not to interfere in the foreign exchange market. He said the central bank "is not now resorting to, and does not

sion of the time suspects were held could be justified.

persuasive.

bombings came under fire yesterday Muslim cleric who left for Lebanon at the weekend vowed to return. John Denham, chairman of the

Prime Minister Tony Blair without prior consultation. "What is more worrying is the sense of slight panic that seems to be

the sense that the government is not fully in control of events and that's failed attempt on July 21 to carry out

Bakri himself declared, however

The Syrian-born cleric sparked outrage last week when he said he would not inform police if he knew Muslims were planning a bomb

# Monday night.

nature.

at 5:30pm yesterday. Local journalists protested the incident and informed the police

BDNEWS, Comilla Nine Indians arrested while erecting Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at

when they were putting up the stage. They failed to produce necessary papers including passports. Police and intelligence officials interrogated the Indians and pro-

they were not returned to India for 57 days. The home secretary inspected Comilla Central Jail on July 30 and instructed the authorities to take necessary steps in this regard. The Indians are Khokan Das,

and would continue the drive in

hand, but no untoward incident occurred during the drive, sources Earlier, the BIWTA demolished

large number of them fail to make it Eligible voters, if kept out of the voter list, have to have their names

Only one lakh people were listed

was Tk80 crore last vear. and illogical.

Magistrate Shafiq then found

tained his claim, the magistrate seized samples of the colouring and flavouring, handing them to BSTI for

police van and later released after the payment.

The customs officials, however,

Benapole Customs in July this year was more than that of last year, he said adding that the house collected Tk95 crore in July this year while it

were seen loitering on the roads, playing cards and idling on the office used to earn Tk 1500-2000 every day but

pany has already diverted a big portion of its business to other ports due to the stalemate at Benapole.

# Borguna district.

recover the stolen cellphone sets or

from their den.

of the arrestees. the third time in the last two months the criminals engaged in gunrunning in Naikkhangchhari border fired on the security forces. The BDR arrested five foreigners after

Sources said, that the security forces so far conducted four operations in Alekkhong area. On July 9,

On July 6, BDR seized TNT explosives, 199 bullets of AK47 rifles and 91 bullets of pistol from the same area. In another operation, they seized eight rifles.

#### China team FROM PAGE 16

given as "interest, subsidised and preferential (ISP)" loan and the remaining \$31 million was the suppliers' credit China to convert the suppliers' credit

Chinese government is sending a delegation of its Exim Bank to discuss issue with ment, and if possible, they will sign the formal agreement to convert the credit, a senior ERD official said.

### Similar chunks of foam fell off the agency.

4,000 crore, a finance ministry

Out of 45 ministries and divisions, 23 ministries managed to spend from 91 to 100 percent of their revised ADP allocations, 15 from 45 to 90 percent, while the

ADP allocations in the last quarter. The other ministries that spent

turn, identified delays in procuring project materials, sluggishness in

frequent transfers of project directors as major reasons for the delays in project implementation. Except for one or two occasions, all the subsequent governments

#### In FY04, the initial ADP size was Tk 20.300 crore, then revised to Tk 19,000 crore and finally could spend only Tk 16,817 crore of it.

FROM PAGE 1 Reporters' Unity auditorium yester-

next month.

Their other demands include withdrawal of the recent commerce ministry circular about turning all the C&F agents into limited companies,

had been stopped since July 21 as the Benapole C&F agents called an indefinite strike.

during the verification.

Federation President Abul Fazal Talukder, Secretary General AKM Akter Hossain, Sultan Hossain, Khan, Sheikh Mohammad Faridh, Shamsur Rahman and Advisor Ali Reza Razu attended the press

signments should be weighed only

# early Monday morning at 5:00 am, the official said.