Tk 1cr gobbled

forging cheques of the land

acquisition section of the

Office of the Deputy

Commissioner, Dhaka.

Besides, the accused have also

laundered the money, the

Kumar Bhattacharya, also

public relations officer of the

ACC, yesterday told The Daily

Star the commission

approved filing of the cases for

misappropriation of govern-

ment money through fake

cheques and laundering of the

Ahmed, who conducted the

enquiries, has been given the

green light to file the cases," he

found evidence that the

embezzlement was commit-

ted in between April 2008 and

According to the sources,

Sanah Ullah Jasim, senior

executive officer, and

Mohammad Maniruzzaman,

assistant principal officer, of

Motijheel corporate branch of

Al-Arafah Islami Bank Ltd, and

their accomplice Akhter Faruq

of Bhangura in Pabna misap-

propriated around Tk 10.66

lakh by forging land acquisi-

pal officer, and Mohammad

Maniruzzaman of Motijheel

corporate branch of Al-Arafah

Islami Bank Ltd, and their

accomplices -- Khalid Zibran

alias Almas Hossain and

Mostofa Kamal Khaza of

Bhabanipur in Pabna -- mis-

appropriated around Tk 20.84

Ishaq Miah, former princi-

tion cheques (LA cheques).

"Deputy Director Benjir

Benjir Ahmed said he

Deputy Director Pranab

FROM PAGE 20

sources added.

added.

April 2009.

Bonus, arrears

FROM PAGE 1 Bangladesh Knitwear Manufactures & Exporters Association, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association and workers unions at her secretariat office.

FROM PAGE 20

untraced.

the principal accused

Detectives on May 31

charged 28 accused in the

case plus BNP activist

Mirtazul Karim Badru with

mentioned in the first infor-

mation report (FIR). But his

name was included in the

charge sheet as police found

his involvement during the

After hearing arguments

of the prosecution and the

defence, the court fixed

August 26 as the next date of

Defence lawyer Mahbub

Uddin Khokon drew the

attention of the judge saying

that during the time of

occurrence, two motorcycle

riders hurled two 'bombs'

inside the Secretariat. But,

The IO did not even men-

tion the whereabouts of

principal accused, and

submitted charge sheets

only against 29 abettors. So,

the charges brought against

the abettors could not be

taken into cognizance, the

Prosecutor (PP) Abdullah

Abu told the court that the

IO of the case submitted the

charge sheet against the

abettors following deposi-

tions of prosecution wit-

nesses and circumstantial

evidence of the blasts.

Metropolitan Public

defence added.

the IO failed to trace them.

hearing the case.

DEFENCE AND

PROSECUTION VIEW

investigation of the case.

Badru's name was not

blasting the bombs.

The minister said the government would beef up vigilance in industrial zones so that no factory was shut down and no workers were dismissed ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

According to government data, as many as 247 incidents of labour unrest took place in May and 193 in June in Savar, Gazipur Narayanganj and Chittagong.

A meeting source said the government had identified some issues that caused labour unrest in Ashulia, Savar and Narayanganj in May and June this year. For instance, termination

of workers sparked protests at Radiance Knitwear, GB Garments Industries Ltd and Helical Sweater Ltd in Ashulia last month. Closure notice at a gar-

ment factory of Ha-Meem Group and no pay-hike announced by the authorities of Naz Knitwear triggered violence in Ashulia in

Another source said the government at yesterday's meeting warned of stern actions against factories mulling shutdown before Eid, as labour unrest does not remain confined to one factory but spreads to adjacent ones.

A report of the Special Branch of police revealed that in May, 35 percent of workers demonstrations in Ashulia took place over payrelated issues. During the same month, 31 percent of the agitation in Narayanganj was over the same issue and 22 percent over worker termination.

Sukkur Mahmud, president of Bangladesh Sramik League, who was present at the meeting, told The Daily Star that they were preparing a list of factories that work under sub-contracts. These factories, he said, go for layoff without prior notice and thus cause labour

The workers leader added that these factories do not follow the BGMEA or BKMEA rules and hence they should be held responsible for the violence in the RMG sector.

The home minister told the meeting that the government would ask banks to keep open on the "holidays' before Eid so that the factory owners could disburse sala-

ries to their workers.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku, Home Secretary CQK Mustaq Ahmed, representatives of BGMEA and BKMEA, senior police and intelligence officials, and leaders of different workers bodies were also present at the meeting.

'Dual policy'

World Bank, requesting it to reconsider its cancellation of the Padma bridge loan, while on the other, it is asking people to contribute to its costs," he said after visiting a few injured followers of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

Alamgir further said the prime minister is hoping to construct the bridge with our own fund while the finance minister is looking to the World Bank.

WB's allegations of cormonsoon. ruption have finally been proved true through the resignation of Syed Abul Hossain, reportedly involved in the Padma bridge corruption, said he. "In the process, the entire

saying it would put an extra

Mirza Alamgir remarked

that it would have been

government had paid atten-

tion to the World Bank report

nine months ago. "But the

government chose to pro-

tect some corrupts instead

of protecting the country's

"our economy."

interests."

months. nation has been defamed due to a minister's corrup-The BNP leader opposed the government's move to solicit donations for the Padma bridge construction,

burden on our people and repeated official reminders, some agencies are digging up roads even after the deadline," better for the country if the

he said. On repairing the Tejgaon-Gulshan link road, he said the authorities concerned could not restore the road as Wasa had not completed its work at

Court questions

A supplementary charge against 29 abettors keeping sheet against the two prime accused will be submitted if they are traced in future, the prosecution said.

> So the charges brought against the abettors could be taken into cognizance, he argued.

Amid this situation, the judge asked the PP whether the IO mentioned the names of the prime accused in the charge sheet. The PP replied that the IO did not mention anything about the accused in the charge sheet.

On queries, the prosecution informed the court that the IO did not even mention in the charge sheet whether he will submit a supplementary charge sheet in future if the two motorbike riders are found

NEXT DATE FOR HEARING

After hearing both the sides, the court said as there is a question of legality in the investigation of the case, both the defence and the prosecution will point out their arguments on the issue on August 26.

Meantime, the court also extended the bail period of 27 opposition leaders including Mirza Fakhrul till next hearing of the case.

Two other accused in the case--Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed and Kamruzzaman Ratan--had earlier obtained permanent bail from the same court.

Of the accused, 28 were present during the proceed

Road diggers

making the potholes invisible, leaving commuting in the capital more perilous than

A couple of weeks ago, Manzoor Hossain, a sports organiser, while going to Wari from Gulshan got stuck on a worn out muddy road near Ovishar Cinema in the capital's Haatkhola area.

He also spoke of a cargoladen truck that had fallen into a loosely filled trench dug by a utility service agency near Rajdhani Super Market in Tikatuli. The truck remained there, dangerously tilted and disrupting traffic movement.

"It took me more than an hour by rickshaw to cover the distance of a ten-minute walk. The entire stretch of the road is badly damaged and covered with ankle-deep mud," said Manzoor.

Md Alim Uddin, an employee of Sonar Bangla Transport in Bakshibazar, said at least three cargo trucks got trapped in the trench dug by Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) in the area, as the filling could not take the

Raju Ahmed, manager of a restaurant close to Alim's office, said Wasa had filled up the trench with mud. This has been hampering businesses in the locality for the last several days.

Fatima Ahmed, a resident of road No 126 in Gulshan, said Wasa had dug up the road in March but the city corporation was yet to repair it. Apart from mess created by the digging, the road was full of craters.

Mirpur resident Nasir Uddin said incompetent handling of road digging has been making people suffer miserably over the years. "If the work is done during the dry season we suffer from unbearable dust and from mud if it is done during the

Vendor Md Hasan in Tejgaon said the digging of roads had not only been making pedestrian movement risky but also frustrating their business for the last three

Brig Gen Md Ahsanul Huq, chief engineer of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), said the organisation had initially decided to permit road digging until April 14 but the deadline was later extended to June 30 for some of the utility agencies.

"However, despite

several junctions. The repairing of roads was

taking time because the agen cies concerned defying rules filled up the trenches with mud instead of sand, he said adding that an agency had filled up the trenches on roads in Kafrul and Mirpur areas

"Asphalt cannot be used on mud-filled surfaces as it will lead to subsidence," he said.

with mud.

Saidur Rahman, executive engineer of DNCC, said Dhaka Wasa had filled the dug-up portions o Kalyanpur-Mazar road via Technical and the road from Mirpur-1 intersection to Kalyanpur with soil.

Tagsem A Khan, managing director of Dhaka Wasa, ruled out the allegations saying, "It is a lame excuse that the trenches were not filled up according to rules. They [the city corporation] could have informed us or asked for extra money if the filling-up was not done properly."

Repair works are also pending on Rokeya Sarani, at Shyamoli, Sobhanbagh Technical roundabout and

near Bangla College. Wasa dug up Darrusalam Road, stretching from Mirpur-1 to Technical roundabout, about six months ago to lay storm sewer lines and completed the work, including filling-up of the trench, within three months. The road still

lies unattended. About the delay in repairing the roads from Technical to Kalyanpur and Mirpur-1 Saidur Rahman said Wasa had dug up more roads than it was permitted to.

Wasa dug the Technical roundabout-Russell Square Tibet- National Shooting Club, and Rampura-Malibagh

roads to lay water pipelines. Tasgem said they had completed the works on the roads much ahead of sched ule, but the city corporation instead of repairing those left

the roads in a sorry condition. Wasa had also dug many roads in Uttara, including road 9 in sector-4, last year but the city corporation took a year to repair them.

The Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd (PGCB) has been installing underground electric cable lines from Bhashantek to Agargaon through Mirpur, Agargaon to Satmasjid Road and from Kalyanpur to Agargaon since 2010. The work is supposed to be completed by mid-2013. They, however, stopped the work because of the mon-

Md Jamal Ullah said the authorities had filled the dug up portion of the roads with sand. They had conducted a joint survey with the city corporation on the dug-up sites in June and found it had been done through complying with the rules, he added.

The EC will sit again next week to work on it, he added. The boundaries of the constituencies were redrawn earlier in 2008 before the ninth parliamentary polls.

EC to redraw

boundaries of the constitu-

encies," he told reporters at

preparing to begin the task

of redrawing boundaries on

the basis of the size of the

He said they are now

FROM PAGE 1

population.

the EC Secretariat.

On holding by-election to Gazipur-4 constituency, the chief election commissioner (CEC) said the EC would announce the schedule for the polls immediately after the Eid-ul-fitr.

The ballots will be held anytime between September 27 and September 30, he said.

The seat has fallen vacant following the resignation of the ruling Awami League MP Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj from parliament.

The EC will hold a meeting with senior officials of law enforcement agencies before announcing the polls schedule, the CEC said.

About holding polls to Rangpur City Corporation (RCC), the chief election commissioner said the task for updating the voter list was going on in the RCC

"After the completion of the task, we will move for holding the polls," he added.

Roads officials

FROM PAGE 20

their alleged negligence of

During his first ever visit to Patuakhali and Barguna as the communications minister, he directed the authorities to serve show cause notice on Rafigul Islam, executive engineer of RHD in Barguna, and ordered stand release of Nazrul Islam, a subassistant engineer of the same office.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the condition of roads, he asked the RHD officials to repair those within seven days keeping in mind people's need.

Quader reached Patuakhali at 10:00am and from there, he went to visit Barguna-Amtoli, Barguna-Padreshibpu via Chandukhali and Barguna-Kakchira roads.

Later on he visited Amragachia-Galachipa, Patuakhali-Galachipa and Patuakhali-Bauphal roads.

Talking to local journalists at Patuakhali Circuit House, the minister said the officials should not keep themselves confined to air-conditioned rooms only; rather they must visit the roads to assess their real condition.

"Local officials have been asked to repair all the roads to ensure smooth trips for the homebound people during the Eid. We will start carpeting the dilapidated roads.... The ministry needs more funds to bring the roads to

good condition," he added. Regarding the Padma bridge project, the minister said many are making confusing statements over the scheme, but the construction work of the bridge would start soon as ordered by the

prime minister. Khan Mosharrof Hossain, administrator of Patuakhali Zilla Parishad and general secretary of district Awami League, Md Arifur Rahman, superintendent engineer of RHD, Amitav Sarker, DC of Patuakhali and Komolandu Majumder, executive engineer of Patuakahli RHD, accompanied the minister during the visit.

'Mugger' killed FROM PAGE 20

Police Station. Mohammad Ayub, additional police superintendent deployed at Rab-4, said a gunfight broke out between four muggers riding two motorbikes and a Rab patrol team on Dhaka Zoo Road around 9:00pm.

After the shoot-tout, the Rab personnel found bullet-PGCB Managing Director hit Sumon lying dead on the ground. Other muggers, however, had managed to flee, Ayub added.

The Rab officials said they had recovered a motorbike, a revolver with two bullets and a mugged laptop from the spot.

Abul a patriot

FROM PAGE 1

Moreover, the official websites of the Cabinet Division and the ICT ministry are still showing Abul as a minister.

Asked about it, a senior official in the Cabinet Division told The Daily Star yesterday: "We did not get the copy of his resignation. Therefore, we did not issue any notification and update our website."

The Cabinet Division's delay in issuing the notification has raised speculation as to whether Abul will be made a minister without portfolio, as was done in the case of former railway minister Suranjit Sengupta. Contacted, Kamal Uddin

Ahmed, additional secretary of the ICT ministry, yesterday said the ministry officials could not manage time to update the website, as they were busy with some other work. "It is not possible to update the website every day," he said.

Meanwhile, Abul's resignation letter was yet to reach Bangabhaban, the President's Secretary, M Shafiul Alam, said yester-

The letter is supposed to be sent to the Cabinet Division from the Prime Minister's Office, following which the Cabinet Division will prepare a summary and send it back to the PMO.

After that, the PMO will forward it to the president, and from Bangabhaban, it will go back to the Cabinet

Division. And on receiving it, the Cabinet Division will issue the notification.

Since the Cabinet Division was yet to receive a copy of the resignation letter, it means that the resignation letter was still with the PMO. On July 23, Abul resigned,

a day after Finance Minister AMA Muhith said that the government was considering accepting the WB's fourth condition to persuade the global lender into reviewing the cancellation of its fund for the Padma bridge project. Muhith on July 24 said, "A

few government officials have already been asked to go on leave. Gazette notifications on this will be published in a day or two." He, however, termed Abul's stepping down "an unusual Claiming his innocence

in an open letter to the country, published in different dailies on July 21, Abul hinted about the resignation "in the interest of the country". His resignation is likely

to end the 10-month-long impasse between the government and the WB following the global lender's corruption allegations in the \$2.97 billion project. The WB in September last year suspended its promised \$1.2 billion funding for the country's biggest infrastructure project which will substantially contribute to

the country's economy.

city

This is for the second time Abul has resigned as a minister. In August 1997, he had been forced to resign as the LGRD state minister following a controversy over using his private passport instead of a diplomatic one.

Though there has been strong public opinion against him for the last few months, Abul has refuted the allegations of any irregularities in the Padma bridge project and kept saying he had been innocent throughout his career. He accused a section of

the media of resorting to propaganda against him, saying it had misled the WB into cancelling the project's funding. The former communica-

tions minister first came under fire ahead of last year's Eid-ul-Fitr for failing to repair roads and highways in many parts of the country. Earlier, Abul had been

termed "a less than honest man in his business deal ings by former US Ambassador in Dhaka James F Moriarty, according to diplomatic cables revealed by WikiLeaks on August 30, 2011.

Abul was removed from the communications minis try and given charge of the ICT ministry on December 5 last year after the WB brought corruption allegations against him and suspended its loan.

Stage set for the 'Isle of Wonder' Poppins, the Beatles, the NHS, Industrial Revolution, best

winner that will enthral audiences for the best part of its three-hour duration which starts at 2am Bangladesh time.

For most sports, opening ceremonies are a chore; a necessary distraction before people get down to the real business. For the Olympics, this is markedly different. Opening ceremonies often set the tone for rest of the Games consider Beijing's remarkable pyro-techniques that doubled as coming out party in 2008, consider too a shaking Muhammad Ali lighting the torch in Atlanta 1996, or the archer of fire in Barcelona in 1992. All of these are moments frozen into the collective psyche courtesy of a flashbulb memory -- wondrous, charming, and endlessly recallable.

London's challenge was to create something similar and so they turned to Boyle who is not only a master director,

but, most crucially, versatile. How else does one direct successfully, films as widely different as the rags to riches Slumdog Millionaire, the apocalyptic 28 Days Later and the dark comedy that is

Trainspotting? Perhaps it is this quality above all that had originally endeared him to the organisers. Who better to do a threeact mash-up of Britain's long and storied history? Who better to encompass the Queen, James Bond, Mary

leaders and DMCH authori-

ties at the AL leader's office at

imposed on July 22 following a

news item published in the

national dailies about the

alleged assault of a patient by

however, termed the report

"false and ill-motivated" and

imposed the restriction on the

media's access, without prior

permission, to "restore disci-

with Shahbagh Police Station

by both the journalists and the

interns in connection with

Wednesday's incident, Dhaka

Reporters Unity President

Shakhawat Hossain Badsha

was quoted by UNB as saying.

two cases against more than

100 journalists, while the

journalists filed two cases on

Wednesday night against 10

DMCH doctors, including

one Mushfiqur Rahman, and

100 to 150 unnamed others,

At least eight journalists

reports our correspondent.

The doctors yesterday filed

The meeting also decided

to withdraw the cases filed body headed by a joint secre-

The DMCH authorities,

The restriction was

Karwan Bazar, reports UNB.

FROM PAGE 20

a doctor.

pline".

the green fields and quirky humour that characterise the British than Boyle himself?

For all successful shows, the key element is surprise. And Boyle has strived hard to maintain this surprise through the months spent in preparation and through the innovative plea in his two rehearsal shows at the Olympic Park on Monday and Wednesday. He asked the audience to 'save the surprise' and wrote personal e-mails to volunteers to keep mum. But as always, some details

seep through the cracks and the narrative that has emerged of the opening ceremony so far paints it in an eminently positive light. The whole ceremony is based on William

Shakespeare's brilliant play, The Tempest. The title in particular is borrowed from a stirring speech made by the native Caliban to his master Prospero. "Be not afraid," says Caliban, "for the isle is full of noises. Sounds, and sweet airs, that give delight and hurt

It is expected that the Isle in this case is Great Britain.

But Shakespeare is just the tip of the iceberg, as Boyle takes the viewers in a journey across Britain in three acts, the first depicting the lush green past of rural Britain complete with live animals, cricket games and horse drawn carts. The second act moves on to the dark days of Britain's tion.

were assaulted at the hospital

in sporadic attacks by the

interns. DMCH sources said

the interns assaulted the

journalists when the patient,

who was assaulted on July 19,

went to the journalists' office

at the hospital after his release

authorities yesterday regret-

ted the incident terming it

"unexpected" and assured

that they would pay compen-

sation to the victim journal-

five-member investigation

tary of the health ministry

with representations from

organisations of journalists

day formed another probe

committee on the incident.

The three-member panel is

led by Mahmuda Akhter, a

joint secretary of the ministry.

Earlier in the day, healthcare

services at the hospital were

hampered due to continuous

agitation by the doctors. They

also held processions on the

hospital premises protesting Andolon.

DOCS DEMONSTRATE

The health ministry yester-

and doctors.

The meeting also formed a

Meanwhile, the DMCH

to share his experience.

highlighted in the Dickensian novels of those times. Boyle bases his version on a William Blakepoem, which refers to those "Dark Satanic Mills" as the root cause of the decaying of human relationship. The final act of Boyle's work will look at the Post-War transformation of Britain into the tolerant, multi-cultural society that it has become today with references expected to be as wide-ranging as the NHS and the Beatles. Fittingly then, Sir Paul McCartney will pro-

vide the coup de grace. Britain's heaving past will be illustrated with choreographed danced moves and a dizzying array of stunts, the chief of which is expected to be James Bond abseiling into the stadium from a helicopter during the first act.

The opening ceremony will be followed by the tradi tional elements of the Olympic openings including pigeons, oaths and the ath letes' march of 204 nations, which is expected to take about 90 minutes and is scored by Underworld, long associates of Boyle.

For now though, there are a few nervous hours of anticipation remaining until the show officially begins with this 27-million-pound extravaganza which will involve 15,000 performers, 25,000 costumes and an audience in the range of 4 billion -- 60 per cent of the world's popula-

between 8:30am and 2:00pm.

people had to leave the hospi

tal without receiving treat

undergoing treatment at

different wards did not ge

as many doctors were

engaged in the demonstra-

backed student wing, and

demanded punishment of the

Biplobi Workers Party, Dhaka

University Journalists

The organisations include

PROTESTS

culprits.

Revenue (NBR).

The companies are now operating by taking an executive order from the BTRC.

The finance minister said it to the BTRC, of which 15 per-

VAT payment.

not be imposed on spectrum allocated in 2008. The operators also went to

DMCH lifts ban on journos for 18 years. BTRC and NBR appealed to

the filing of the cases by jour-However, the four mobile The interns, along with operators have already depossome other doctors and DMC ited their payment to the students, locked the gates of the hospital's outdoor section

around 11:30am. Services at charge BTRC Chairman Zia the outdoor are available Ahmed told this correspondent, "If the operators pay all Due to the agitation, many their outstanding amount of money, there is no problem to

give them the licences."

of the amount. Different organisations yesterday strongly condemned the attack on journalists by the DMCH doctors and the activists of the Chhatra League, the Awami League-

Mahmud Hossain, chief corporate officer of

Association (Duja), Progress meeting." Art and Mass Media Workers' "We will withdraw cases if we need not to pay 15 percent VAT," he said when contacted.

lakh, the sources added. Principal Officer Sayeed Hossain and Vice-principal Officer Mamtaj Uddin Chowdhury of Dholaipar branch of Jamuna Bank and their accomplices -- Al Amin Ratan of Chatmohar in Pabna and Wahid Murad of Munshiganj -- misappropriated around Tk 43.34 lakh.

Principal Officer AKM Zahirul Islam and Assistant Vice-principal Officer ATM Shahidullah of principal branch, One Bank at Dilkusha and their accomplices -- Al Amin Ratan and Mostofa Kamal Khaza of Pabna -misappropriated around Tk 43.34 lakh by forging LA cheques, the sources informed.

2G licence FROM PAGE 20

and the National Board of

The operators had filed a number of cases with court, which are yet to be disposed

was decided at yesterday's meeting that mobile operators will have to pay a total of 115 percent of their licence renewal and spectrum charge cent will be given to the NBR. Later, the NBR will adjust the amount (15 percent) with the operators along with other

About the Market Competition Factor (imposed on the operators when Grameenphone, Banglalink and Robi purchased some spectrum in 1,800 Megahertz band), Muhith said, MCF will

court against the regulator when it asked for extra amount of money for the spectrum that was sold in 2008

the higher courts against judgement in operators' cases.

regulator, except 15 percent of the renewal and spectrum

ment. Moreover, the patients He said the operators will have to pay their second instalment of renewal fees on proper treatment until noon August 1, which is 29 percent of the total amount. Earlier, they had deposited 49 percent

> The four operators will have to pay a total of Tk 8, 000 crore for their licence renewal and spectrum fee, and another 15 percent as VAT. BTRC will deposit the VAT to the NBR, Zia said.

Grameenphone, who was also present at the meeting, said, "Operators are happy with the outcome of the meeting. It was a productive and fruitful

Forum, and Shasthya