

# UK diplomat among 27 killed in Istanbul blasts

CNN/ AGENCIES, Istanbul

The British consul general was among at least 27 people killed when explosions rocked Istanbul, Turkey's largest city.

Diplomatic sources told CNN that Consul General Roger Short was killed after a car bomb exploded on a narrow street outside Britain's Istanbul consulate, one of at least two explosions in the city Thursday.

Father Ian Sherwood of the Anglican Church in Istanbul told CNN: "I've been with the family of consul general since it happened and, sadly, the consul general is dead."

Another blast destroyed part of the London-based HSBC bank headquarters near a shopping mall. As many as 390 people were injured in the explosions, CNN Turk quoted local officials as saying.

Men and women wept outside the consulate amid a chaos of wrecked cars and rubble, their clothes blood-stained, nursing wounds. Thick, black smoke into blue skies on streets that moments earlier had been teeming with pedestrians and traffic.

The Istanbul governor said 25 people had been killed. A health official said 390 people were wounded.

A caller to Turkey's semi-official Anatolian news agency claimed responsibility in the name of a Turkish group and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network, which Washington blames for the September 11 U.S. attacks.

German intelligence chiefs said

the bombings looked like al-Qaeda attacks timed to coincide with Bush's visit to London.

Eyewitnesses said they believe the blasts were caused by suicide car bombers.

Turkish Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu warned against speculation on which group is responsible for the attacks, saying that could hamper the investigation.

The explosion outside HSBC headquarters in Levent happened shortly before 11 am local time. Video of the HSBC building showed extensive damage to the exterior.

A CNN Turk reporter on the scene said there was a large hole outside the bank headquarters, possibly where the explosion originated.

Video of a shopping mall near the HSBC bank showed chaos with people streaming out of the area, some with bloody faces and blood-soaked clothes. Shattered glass and burned vehicles littered the street.

HSBC spokesman in London, Adrian Russell, said two of the bank's buildings were hit yesterday.

"With reference to the shocking events in Istanbul this morning, unfortunately two HSBC buildings have been struck by the bomb blasts across the city, including our head office in Levent," Russell said.

Chris Kitrinis, an English teacher at a school adjacent to the British consulate, said the damage there was "very extensive." The school's windows had been blown out and police told CNN Turk that the consulate's outer wall had been

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PHOTO: AFP

The HSBC bank building in Istanbul, Turkey, stands in ruin after a string of bomb attacks that also destroyed two annexes of the British High Commission.

## Three get life for beating 83yr-old dead

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A court in Dhaka yesterday sentenced three persons to rigorous imprisonment for life for beating former additional postmaster general Mohammad Sikander Ali, 83, dead in November 1999.

Judge Mohammad Shamsul Alam Khan of the Court of Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Dhaka, also fined convicts Nasir Uddin, Gaffar alias Ladda and Shafiqur Rahman Tk 50,000 each. In default, they will have to serve out another five years.

The judge read out important portions of the 16-page judgement in a crowded courtroom.

The judgement said the charges brought against the accused were proved beyond doubt but they were given life term instead of death penalty, considering their long

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## Armed Forces Day today

UNB, Dhaka

The Armed Forces Day will be observed today.

President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Iqbaluddin Ahmed will place wreath at Shikha Anirban (Eternal Flame) at Dhaka Cantonment in the morning to pay homage to the soldiers who embraced martyrdom in the War of Independence.

Military Secretary to the prime minister Brigadier General Sharif Uddin will place wreath at Shikha Anirban on behalf of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who is also in charge of the defence ministry.

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# Outlaws slaughter 5 fishermen in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, PABNA

Underground armed operatives slaughtered five people in sleep at the outlying Ataikula Beel, about 50 kilometres off Pabna town early yesterday, police said.

Witnesses said a gang of about 20 swooped on a makeshift house near the water-body in Laxmipur village at 3:30am and pumped bullets into the fishermen before slitting their throats in a desperate bid to confirm their death.

The dead -- all aged between 18 and 23 -- came from three next-door

families for which they were the sole breadwinners.

Another young man was admitted to Pabna General Hospital after he suffered bullet wounds in the pre-dawn attack on the village, home to fishermen who would pass their nights out in makeshift houses after daytime fishing in the beel.

"The victims went to sleep after pumping water out of the beel and catching fish," said Nazrul Islam, who witnessed the bloodbath 50 yards off the scene.

The attack terrorised men into fleeing their homes in as many as 15

villages in Ataikula upazila, now reeling from a swell of panic.

Those who died in the apparently rivalry-bred attack are: Lokman Sheikh, 22, Abdul Malek, 18, Pantu, 23, Ansar Ali Sheikh, 23, and Tipu, 22.

Physicians said the condition of 22-year-old Azad, taken to hospital unconscious from profuse bleeding, was critical.

"I woke up to the gunshots and found the attackers hacking my co-workers. I jumped into the water to escape. A volley of shots rang out behind

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# 3 lakh raze Bush effigy in London

US, Britain defiant as Turkey blasts upstage president's visit

REUTERS, London

Around 300,000 protesters marched through London and tore down a mock statue of visiting US President George W Bush yesterday, many of them convinced his policies were to blame for anti-British bombs in Turkey.

Demonstrators of all ages beat drums and blew whistles along a three-mile route that took them past parliament and the end of Downing

Street, where crowds paused to jeer toward Prime Minister Tony Blair's office.

When they reached Trafalgar Square, protesters felled a six-meter (20-foot) papier mache statue of Bush in a parody of the toppling of a statue of Saddam Hussein when US and British troops swept into Baghdad. In its top pocket was a puppet with a grinning Blair face.

"Bush and Blair said they were

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## Mahi decries BTV attitude

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP lawmaker and son of former president Badruddoza Chowdhury, Mahi B Chowdhury, yesterday said Bangladesh Television (BTV) has suspended transmission of two programmes of his production house "without any logical ground".

"The BTV authorities are yet to give us a convincing reason for halting the transmission of Ananda Ghanta (a talk show) and what they have so far said about the cancellation of transmission of a drama produced by my production house is not reasonable," Mahi said.

He was talking to reporters at an Iftar party last evening hosted by his production house Entertainment

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# ঢাকায় দারুন খবর শহরে নতুন শহর

এটাই প্রানের শহর ঢাকা!

উপচে পড়া মানুষের ভীড়,  
নিজের করে একটি ঠিকানা পেতে চাইলে  
চলে যেতে হয় শহরের বাইরে।

কিন্তু এটাই সব নয়  
আসছে শহরের মাঝে নতুন শহর!

গুলশান, রামপুরা এবং তেজগাঁও এর

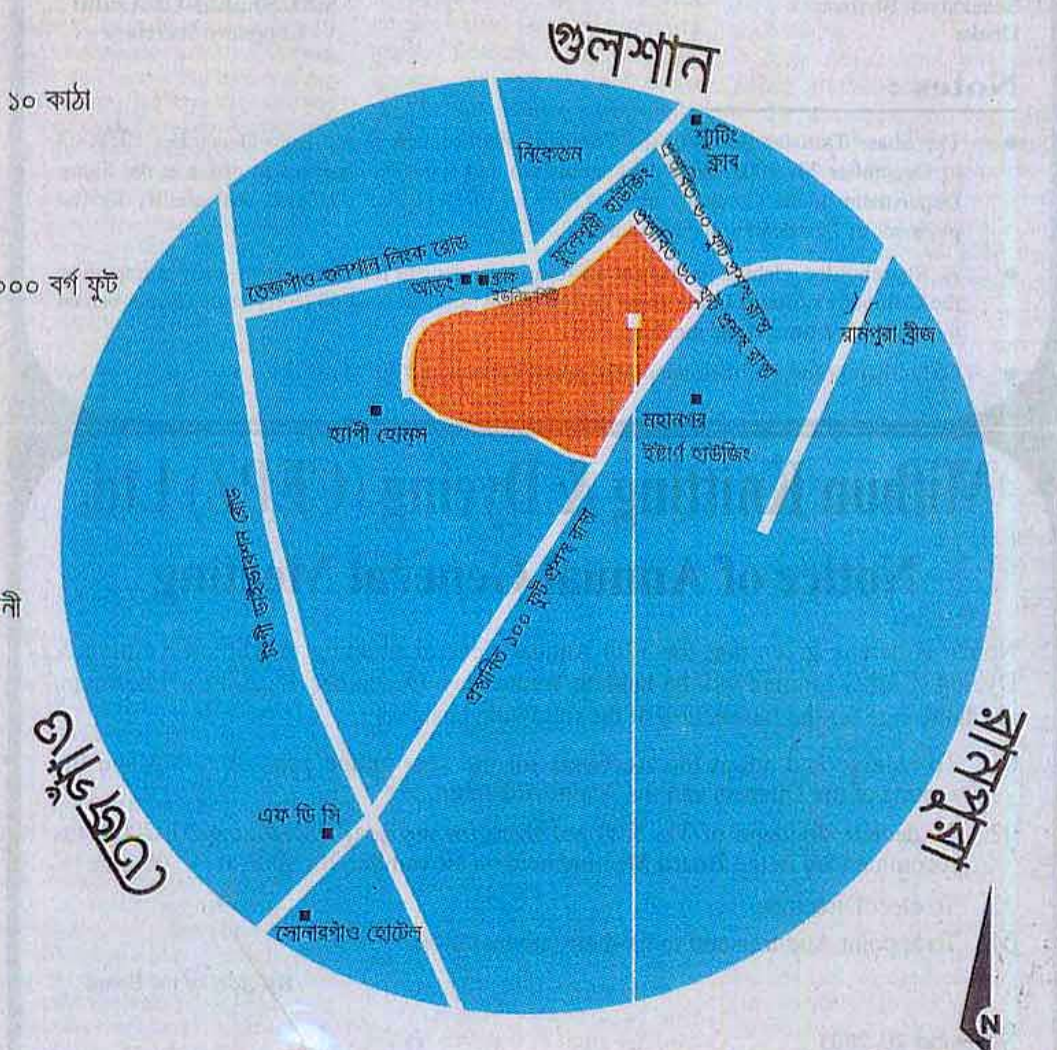
ঠিক মাঝখানে --

২০০ বিঘা জমি নিয়ে

পুরোপুরি পরিকল্পিত আবাসন

ঢাকা স্যাটেলাইট সিটি

আর দেবী নয়, সাত দিনেই হয়ে যান ভাগ্যবান



## জেশাইভ ইউনিয়ন প্রপার্টি ডেভেলপমেন্ট

(একটি গ্লোবাল প্রতিষ্ঠান-বহুজাতিক কোম্পানী)

বাড়ি # ৩৪৯, লেন # ৫, ডি, ও, এইচ, এস, বারিধারা, ঢাকা-১২০০, বাংলাদেশ

টেলিফোন: ৯৮৮০৬১৭, ৮৮৫৪৩০১, ৮৮১৭৫৮৪ এক্স-৩৩১, ৩০৪, ৩৫০, ৩৩৫, ৩২১

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ই-মেইল: union@sparkbd.com, gembind@sparkbd.com

