NEWS

said.

River.

the bridge

for the port.

he said

FROM PAGE 1

this sector.

seekers

ing agencies.

ous government.

economy," he said.

to destroy the port.

also indirectly spoke in favour of a

hanging bridge, saying it will reduce

risk of siltation in the Karnaphuli

think carefully about the navigability

of Karnaphuli and the risk-factor for

Chittagong port as well before

making the final decision or starting

The CCCI boss further urged the

matter and to take their opinion or

"Otherwise, the new bridge will

Chief of Planning of CPA Hadi

become a death-trap for Chittagong

port as well as for the country's

Hossain Babul told this correspon-

dent that construction of any pillar-

based bridge might create problem

bility study with assistance from

experts of BUET regarding the

bridge and the study supported

construction of a hanging bridge

considering the future of the port.

She said small and medium-

scale industries are generating

massive employment and contribut-

ing to national economy as the

government is extending all possi-

ble cooperation for development of

Replying to a supplementary

question from Bangabir Kader

Siddigui, the prime minister said the

government will take action against

recruiting agencies for cheating

poor and innocent overseas job

dealing with such dishonest recruit-

lawmakers that many countries had

stopped recruitment of workforce

from Bangladesh during the previ-

her government held "fruitful negoti-

ations" with those countries, result

ing in resumption of recruitment of

manpower. For instance she said

Kuwait and Malaysia withdrew

restrictions and started recruiting

workers from Bangladesh.

After assuming office, she said

She sought cooperation of all in

The prime minister told the

PM tells JS

of all types of industries.

"We already conducted a feasi-

He urged the government to

Graft reports made

The TIB invited LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuivan and Environment and Forest Minister Tarigul Islam to have meetings with them and exchange views on how to curb corruption in the country.

"We would be very happy if the ministers convene a meeting with us and give the chances to explain our position. We also expect constructive criticism from them on the subject instead of threat or counter allegation against us," Muzaffer Ahmad said.

As all the political parties had committed for reduction of corruption and control of terrorism in their election manifesto, the TIB is helping them through informing about the right of people, weakness in the administration and wastage of public resources, he said.

Referring to the call of a parliament member to all politicians to become united against the TIB, the officials said, it would have been much better had he called all the political parties to become united in social movement against corruption.

Expressing hope that the corruption database would be discussed in parliament standing committees for the benefit of the people, the TIB officials said they would provide all sorts of cooperation to the government in this regard.

They urged the government to take proper action against the issues published in the corruption database instead of accusing TIB for conducting research and publishing report on corruption.

Ahmad said the allegation of corruption against him is baseless as he pays government taxes regularly. Regarding taking money from the university 'without work', he said he returned the money for the days when he did not work.

He said he was never involved with corruption and his resignation from Ziaur Rahman's cabinet was due to difference of opinion on the question of amendments to the constitution.

Asked what would be the TIB's course of action if the government files cases against it, he said. "We would talk to the lawyers and take decision."

The TIB chairman said they preserved the detailed report of corruption in the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and those had also been published in the newspapers.

"But it is not desirable that instead of criticising corruption report objectively a public representative would threat us for researching and publishing report on corruption," he said.

The local government minister

Govt retreats

in parliament termed corruption as a social disease and urged all to create social movement against it and the TIB is doing the same thing, he said.

Appreciating the minister for forming a cell at his ministry for monitoring the corruption reports, the TIB chairman said other ministries should follow this

Sarwar Murshid and Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman also spoke on the occasion while trustee board member Hafizuddin Ahmed and Rubi Ghaznabi were present.

mentioned in the database.

his ministry is several thousand crore taka and corruption can happen everywhere, they said, adding that it is meaningless to relate the corruption amount with budget allocation.

erosion of the ideals proclaimed by the

donors on the conditions set by TIB not set by the donors, Ahmed said.

District judge FROM PAGE 16

accompanied by three of his loyal lawyers.

into a scuffle after the protesters asked the judge to leave the court. The judge, in the wake of strong

seven minutes into the hearing announcing, "all the hearings for today are considered done." However, the court sources

informed that the judge said, on the records, he has heard hearings of 37 cases and gave bails to more than 50 accused in seven minutes. The district lawyers association

sent letters to the High Court and the law ministry requesting to withdraw the judge from the district and prosecute him for bribery, corruption

They threatened to go for tougher programmes if the judge is not removed.

reporters that some lawyers are instigating the incidents to disgrace his image because he did not entertain some of the lawyers' unethical

Additional police have been deployed in the court premises.

FROM PAGE 16 the market for purchasing law enforcement, Sobhan said, mentioning that the system of justice at lower levels remains negotiable and encourages contempt for the rule of

Deny polls

The minorities are now an endan-

gered constituency in the electoral

process, he said, adding that they

have been exposed to intimidation

prior to, and at the time of, casting their

vote and were the victim of violence in

hension at the rising risk of casting

their vote in the forthcoming elections.

As it stands, their representation in

parliament is insignificant and quite

incommensurate with their share of

the voting population," Sobhan noted.

Ethnic minorities in the hill regions

have representation in parliament, but

exercise very little political voice and

have good reason to feel that the

commitments made to them in the

Peace Agreement of 1997 have not

The tragedy of contemporary

Bangladesh lies in the progressive

constitution, which has culminated in

the emergence of an increasingly

turn be kept accountable to their voters

throughout their five years in office,

and not once every five years during

the polls, he said, adding that they

must account for their attendance in

narliament their performance on the

capacity to give voice to the concerns

the dispossessed, women and minori-

self-perpetuating ruling class differen-

obviously demand that no household

NGOs should also consider recon-

structing themselves as corporations

owned by their poor clients, he said,

adding that some of the largest NGOs.

owned and accountable to two or three

million members, could emerge as

powerful corporate players on behalf

of their poor owners, capable of com-

peting in the marketplace with the

Kamal and Prof Sirajul Islam, chairper-

son of Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed

Memorial Foundation, also spoke on

She hoped that the government of

India would be "able to bring the

perpetrators of this violent act to

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh

Hasina also expressed deep con-

cern and condolence at the series

bomb blasts at seven railway sta-

She prayed for the peace of the

departed souls and expressed deep

sympathy for the bereaved families.

Andolonerbazar and looted its

directed the police to take depart-mental action against a DC, an AC

and a sergeant for attacking the

newsmen in Chittagong during a

Giving an assurance that govern-

ment would extend all possible help

to each of the families in distress, he

said. "Mumbai stands tall once again

as the symbol of an united India, an

Paying tribute to all those who

showed courage and humanism in

responding to the cowardice of the

terrorists, the Indian prime minister

said the nation stands by the people

of Mumbai, who have endured the

trauma of terrorism, in this hour of

to deal with the challenge at hand.

one people, as one nation.

Manmohan

ndian prime minister said.

In the meeting, the state minister

MP Shahidul

Former chief justice Mustafa

biggest private corporations.

PM, Hasina

Ethnic minorities in the Chittagong

been honoured. he said.

fragmented society.

he said.

ike around 2020.

said.

they work.

the occasion.

FROM PAGE 1

tions in Mumbai.

FROM PAGE 1

cricket match.

FROM PAGE 16

inclusive India.'

materials.

ustice.

They remain in a state of appre-

the wake of the last national election.

The growing influence of money and muscle in the electoral process has effectively disenfranchised people of modest means, women and religious, as well as ethnic, minorities, he said

TIB trustee board member Khan

The TIB officials also termed illogical the forest and environment minister's claim that the total allocation of his ministry was less than the ministry's amount of corruption

The amount of resources under On the question of TIB's source

of income the TIB chairman said it has been registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau and government agencies concerned release money and monitor their transactions. The TIB takes money from the

Hill Tracts (CHT) also have reasons to feel excluded from a Bangladeshi identity, he said. The TIB is also working on the Elected representatives must in

activities of NGOs and the report would be published later, he said.

floor of the house, their willingness and

Two groups of lawyers locked of their constituents, and particularly

protests, left the courtroom within

tiated from the masses by the quality of their education and access to informa-

condemned to sub-standard educain a meeting yesterday decided to tion provided by the proliferation of poor-quality schools in both the public and private sectors, he said.

nd misconduct.

Judge Abul Mansur later told the

activities.

and told pre-qualified bidders that the construction work. the project cost would be increased. "Whatever is the design of the The ministry in January forced bridge, we want such a bridge that RHD to slash the contractor's will not create siltation in the river required time for site study in order and will not pose any threat to the to kick-start the project before the port," he said

next election campaigr The January bid added some government to sit with internally unusual terms at the last moment, recognised experts to discuss the forcing four short-listed bidders to quit participating in it. consultation before construction of

FROM PAGE 1

any modification.

the project said this project will be

implemented at any cost without

Moreover, unless this project is

approved, CPA cannot have the

approval for the highly over-

estimated Karnaphuli River dredg-

ing project. Based on the bridge

project, CPA dramatically inflated

the estimated cost for the dredging

project by a staggering 345 percent

to Tk 255 crore and awarded the

project to another Chinese com-

The dredging project was

approved with a budget of Tk 74

crore back in May 2005. However

during the tender floating process,

CPA added some new components

pany China Harbour.

Only three bidders -- CMB, China Harbour of China, and Hyundai of South Korea participated in the bid. All of their designs, submitted hurriedly, turned out to be faulty but the tender authorities marked CMB's bid as the lowest. At this point Hvundai objected, saving that CMB's quote was the lowest because it added eight piers in the design in violation of the tender requirements.

Hyundai quoted a price of Tk 452 crore and China Harbour quoted over Tk 500 crore with bridge designs with fewer piers. "Both the CMB and China Harbour are Chinese government companies. Therefore the tender committee should have asked why their price offers differed by more than Tk 250 crore." said an official.

Bangladesh's two societies are As the Kuwait government characterised by the emergence of an objected to fund a faultily designed elite which is becoming increasingly bridge, the Bangladesh government differentiated from the mass of society, lobbied Kuwait hard, and two months ago the prime minister The educational divide is creating a herself requested the Kuwait emir to release the fund. The government assured Kuwait that all design faults would be addressed before the tion technology, whilst the poor are project was implemented. As a result, Kuwait agreed to release the funds.

Mayor's Movement Against The Project

Sobhan spelt out a vision of what a Meanwhile, our staff corresponust and inclusive society should look dent in Chittagong reports, the The end vision for 2020 would Chittagong city mayor may launch a movement if the aovernment ages should be classified as poor, defined ahead ignoring his demand for not just by income but by access to constructing a suspension bridge on quality education and health care, he the river Karnaphuli.

"A suspension bridge is the "We would look forward to a demand of Chittagong's people and Bangladesh in 2020 that can move it is required for future safety of the beyond the class war between owners country's premier seaport," said city and workers, by recognising that Awami League leader Khorshed workers have as much of a stake as Alam Sujan, a close aide to the the owners in the productivity and mayor. profitability of the enterprises where

Sujan said, Chittagong port is the main source of revenue earnings here and construction of any bridge other than a hanging one will create serious siltation and as a result the Karnaphuli River will lose its navigability posing threat to the

Ministry forcing RHD North Korea not cooperating ment with the people of Chittagong

US nuclear envoy says beside us to resist any alternative decision of the government," he AP, Beijing

Sujan alleged that the four-party The US nuclear envoy accused alliance government has been North Korea on Wednesday of attempting to implement a blueprint refusing to cooperate in efforts to end the uproar over its missile and Acting President of Chittagong nuclear programs -- a sign that Chamber of Commerce and Pyongyang had rebuffed lobbying China. Industry (CCCI) SM Nurul Hoque

US Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill met with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing to assess Beijing's effort to persuade the North to stop missile tests and return to six-party nuclear disarmament talks. Hill said he had "very good" discussions with Li but reported no progress.

"China's really trying. We're trying. Everyone is trying except, unfortunately, the DPRK," Hill told reporters, referring to the North by the initials of its formal name. "So fail the DPRK seems to want to choose a road of deeper isolation.'

Hill said a Chinese delegation visiting Pyongyang have held meetings with North Korean officials but want to conduct more. He had no details of the talks.

Supporters of a UN resolution that would impose sanctions on the North over its missile tests last week have postponed a vote to give China time to use its influence as the North's main ally and aid donor to push for renewed negotiations.

"Unfortunately, we don't yet have any sign that the DPRK attaches the same amount of importance to this process." Hill said.

The resolution, introduced by Japan, would ban North Korean missile tests and prevent the regime -- by force, if necessary -- from acquiring or exporting missiles and missile technology or weapons of mass destruction and their compo-

Babar, IGP,

FROM PAGE 16 Police Hospital and other police offices but the law enforcers locked her up at the police control room until 10:00pm.

Then she went to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) but the hospital authorities did not let her see Milon's body. The following day, as she went there again for the body Rekha came to know that the body was sent to his village home in Pirojpur for burial

Then she rushed for Gulshakhali village under Mothbaria upazila in Pirojpur but the body was buried before she reached there and later she was informed that police did not let anyone see the body.

Meanwhile. Dr Quamrul, who performed autopsy of the body, in an interview with television channels said the body did not bore any bruises, although newspaper and electronic media reports said the body had marks of bullets and beatina

The complainant expressed doubt that the doctor did not perform any autopsy as the body was never taken to the morgue.

Barrister Amir-Ul Islam, advocates Nuruzzaman Nani, Syed Rezaur Rahman and Manju Nazneen moved the case for the complainant.

G-8 summit to focus on areas for agreement

AP, Washington

The upcoming annual Group of Eight economic summit, the first ever on Russian soil, is shaping up as a public relations coup for President Vladimir Putin, highlighting his country's return as a major player on the world stage.

If the three days of meetings turn out as Putin has planned, he will be able to point to the start of negotiations on a long-desired civilian nuclear agreement with the United States and G-8 endorsements of Putin's major summit policy objectives in the areas of energy, infectious diseases and education.

The activity will start Saturday when the leaders of the G-8 countries Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States gather for a glittering dinner in St. Petersburg, the former czarist capital founded 300 years ago by Peter the Great.

In the more than three decades that the world's major countries have staged these get-togethers. foreign policy crises often have intervened to take time away from the economic issues, and this year is no exception.

A search for ways to deal with North Korea's test firing of missiles and Iran's nuclear program are expected to take up much of the discussion time

Russian support is seen as critical in defusing both situations, and for that reason President Bush and the other leaders are expected to soften any criticism of Putin's backsliding on democratic reforms. Russia was added to the group of

FROM PAGE 16

major industrial countries in 1998 after a number of years in which first

Another 37 people were wounded in

the attack, three seriously, a medisions cal source told AFP, who was reluctant to reveal the identities of those hurt in the raid amid the reports that several Hamas leaders had been in the house.

Paramedics and firemen continued to sift through the rubble after daybreak, in the hope of finding survivors in what is one of the most populous districts in Gaza City.

The air strike was preceded by a large-scale incursion into the central Gaza Strip, east of Deir al-Balah refugee camp, penetrating up to one kilometre (more than half a mile) inside the territory

Israel has flatly refused to negotiweekly cabinet meeting, Palestinian ate with Hamas or free Palestinian prime minister Ismail Haniya prisoners in exchange for 19-yearwarned against a "humanitarian old Corporal Gilad Shalit, vowing tragedy" developing in Gaza as a the assault will continue "in places result of Israel's continuing "blockin time, in measures" at its conveade" nience.

A column of tanks escorted by bulldozers entered 700 metres concern about the difficulties of (yards) into the southern Gaza Strip northeast of Khan Yunis, taking up positions around the village of Al-Karara.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and then Russian President Boris Yeltsin were invited to meet with the G-7 leaders during a portion of their discussions to bolster the country's transition after seven decades of communist rule.

5

But some critics including Sen. John McCain (news, bio, voting record), R-Ariz., called for a boycott of this year's meeting given what they saw as a disturbing drift by Putin away from democracy and toward more authoritarian rule, developments that have also raised alarms inside the Bush administra-

In a May speech in Lithuania that angered Putin's government, Vice President Dick Cheney accused Russia of cracking down on religious and political rights and using its vast energy reserves as "tools of intimidation" against its neighbors. That was a reference to a January standoff over natural gas sales in which Russia briefly cut off supplies to Ukraine.

In an interview broadcast Wednesday, Putin dismissed Cheney's criticism. "I think the statements of your vice president of this sort are the same as an unsuccessful hunting shot," Putin told NBC's "Today" show, referring to Cheney's errant shot that wounded a hunting companion in February.

Former President Mikhail Gorbachev, interviewed on ABC's "Good Morning America," said, 'Americans have a severe disease, worse than AIDS. It's called winner's complex. You want American-style democracy in Russia. It will not

work. "We have made our mistakes. So what! Do you really think you're

Six Palestinians offensive, with infantry and armour

poised to carry out "in-depth" incur-Approval was granted during consultations late on Monday between Prime Minister Ehud

Olmert and Peretz. Further Israeli troops are massed on the eastern and northern borders of the densely populated Gaza Strip, as well as stationed east of Gaza City although an AFP reporter said they had withdrawn from Gaza's airport in the south destroyed by the military several years ago

In a statement issued after his

Aid groups have also expressed

FROM PAGE 1

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar said they were not interested in extending the tenure of the current session as they wanted to stay in their constituencies ahead of the next parliamentary elections.

"The bill to amend the constitution would not have been passed even if the tenure of the session had been extended for another week because it was sent to a parliamentary standing committee for scrutiny," the Speaker said.

He said nevertheless the government can pass the bill, if it wants, at any time before the House is dissolved.

Directed by the Speaker, the Parliament Secretariat had completed preparations to extend the tenure of the current session to pass the amendment bill.

The Speaker, also president of the Business Advisory Committee (BAC), convened a BAC meeting at 4:30pm yesterday.

The Parliament Secretariat hurriedly printed a few hundred copies of the bill and distributed it among the lawmakers. But in the afternoon the Speaker suddenly postponed the BAC meeting on receiving the suggestion from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) sources said.

The notice issued from the Parliament Secretariat in the afternoon and carrying the Speaker's order to postpone the meeting said the scheduled meeting was postponed due to unavoidable reasons.

The EC that breathed a sigh of relax for the government decision for not holding by-elections to the two seats will now have to conduct the by-polls due to constitutional

obligation. Section 4 of article 123 of the constitution provides for holding byelection in a constituency within 90 days of its becoming vacant. If holding the by-poll is not possible due to "any act of God", the constitution allows 90 more days.

"We will now have to conduct the by-elections to these parliamentary seats on time," Abdur Rashid Sarkar, secretary of EC Secretariat, told reporters vesterday.

In addition to the ongoing difficulties the EC is facing regarding revision of the voter list, it will be an extra burden for the EC Secretariat to conduct the by-elections, officials at the EC Secretariat said.

"We have not made any preparation as we knew that the byelections would not be held to these seats," a senior official said.

WHAT WAS THE BILL

The bill proposed that no by-election will be held to fill a parliamentary seat if it falls vacant within 180 days prior to the expiration of the term of parliament. The cabinet in its weekly meeting

with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the chair approved the draft bill to mend the constitution on Monday.

The government decision to hurriedly pass the bill in parliament during its current session by extending its duration was taken to avoid holding the two by-elections in the remaining tenure of the current Jatiya Sangsad

Moudud said on Monday when a lawmaker is elected for a short period before dissolution of parliament, he/she does not get any scope to represent the constituency.

Through the proposed provision, spending of a big amount of public money and hassles of the administration for holding byelections would be avoided," he said, justifying the amendment.

Main opposition Awami League lawmakers strongly opposed the government decision for amending the constitution and labelled it as against the basic principle of the constitution.

Strike

FROM PAGE 1 Point to National Press Club in the capital today from 11:00am to 12:00noon.

Prof Kazi Faruque, chief coordinator and convenor of the Front said they would continue to bring out processions and hold rallies at upazila and district levels today.

The Front will besiege the Thana Nirbahi Officer offices across the country on July 18 and deputy commissioner offices at all districts on July 20, Kazi added. Both organisations also want an

increase in house rent, full-fledged medical allowance and implementation of the recommendations by UNESCO and the International Labour Organisation.

Meanwhile, non-government technical college teachers under the banner of Bangladesh Karigari College Shikkhak Samity yesterday held a rally at the Muktagon in the capital compelling the government to meet their 12-point demands including introduction of separate pay scale and reduction of student

"We will launch a tougher move-

Hasina terms

FROM PAGE 1

port

"The alliance government has been conspiring not to take part in the next election as they have realised that they will not win," the former prime minister said, asking the alliance government not to place this bill in parliament and warned that the people will reject it if the bill is passed.

Hasina stressed that the existing electoral system should continue and people would not tolerate the dreadful game with the constitution. Pointing at the Chief Election

Commissioner's (CEC) remark that the draft voter list would not be published. Hasina said the Election Commission will have to publish the draft voter list and there cannot be any hide-and-seek over the electoral roll.

The AL president asked the CEC and two other "politically appointed" officials to stop messing with the voter list. She also urged the people to make sure that their names appear on the new voter list.

Hasina reiterated that the alliance government has completed its machination to engineer the next elections.

The opposition leader further alleged that the investigation was not conducted into the Bogra arms smuggling and the diamond recovery cases only because BNP leaders were involved in the incidents.

Hasina urged her party's grassroots level leaders to work together to ensure victory in the upcoming election. In response, the grass roots leaders pointed out wide-scale corruption in Bogra district by the BNP senior joint secretary general Tarique Rahman and demanded AL to nominate popular candidates to beat the BNP candidates in the upcoming election.

"We have told the party chief to He strongly asserted that governnominate popular candidates in all ment would do whatever is required seven constituencies as the people of Bogra district are infuriated at the Urging the people to remain calm Singh further said, "do not be proalliance government for their corruption and torment," Momtaz voked by rumours. Do not let anyone Uddin, president of Bogra district divide us. Let us stand together as unit AL told The Daily Star after the

In reply to a question from Zahiruddin Swapan of the BNP, the FROM PAGE 16 prime minister said nearly \$ 4,816 million was received as remittance

in 2005-06 fiscal from Bangladeshi

expatriates

Among others, Senior AL leaders including Syeda Zohora Tajuddin Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdur Razzak, Suraniitsen Gupta, Motia Chowdhury, Kazi Zafarullah Obaidul Quader and Abdul Mannan were present.

9 killed FROM PAGE 16

tral Baghdad's Zayuna neighbourhood, police said. Well over a hundred people

have been killed across Iraq in the past few days, especially in Baghdad, where a massive security clampdown has been in place since last month.

Rumsfeld flew into Iraq unannounced as a security precaution for talks with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki that are expected to focus on a national reconcilation plan he unveiled last month aimed at stem-

Meanwhile, Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki vowed Tuesdav that the country's security forces are

We heard they intend to occupy Karkh, but our security forces are well equipped to face them off, Maliki told parliament referring to one of the main districts on the west

failed. Do not worry, no one can threaten the security of Iraqi people or take over an area. On the contrary, our forces are marching on the hot spots to take back control.

cre of 42 Sunnis in the Jihad neighbourhood on Sunday.

Residents and gunmen clashed with security forces on Tuesday as they tried to raid a mosque in mainly Sunni suburb of Amiriyah

Traffic disrupted

up a bailey bridge through which the vehicles moved slowly.

At about 9:00am, a wrecker from the Roads and Highways Department managed to pull out the trapped truck

After the employees of the department repaired the hole, the bridge was opened again around 11:00am

Editor, publisher FROM PAGE 16

Biswas, Anwarul Kabir Babul, Ashraf Ul Alam, Chaitanya Chandra Halder, Monzur Alam, Khondaker Newajul Bari, Abul Kalam Azad Shahidullah Miah and Prosanta Kumer Karmaker appeared for the defendants

In his complaint, Pintu mentioned that the daily published a news item titled "Agitation in the Leather Technology College at Hazaribagh, local lawmaker Pintu took police to the college and beat the students" on June 12.

On June 14, the daily published another news headlined "Pintu has a project of Tk 1 crore for a road construction razing over 200 graves of the Azimpur Graveyard but Dhaka City Corporation knows nothing"

The next day the daily run the news titled "Mayor's stay order on a road construction of Azimpur Graveyard," he said.

These news stories were false and intended to undermine him politically and socially, the complainant added. **BAIL OF ABED KHAN**

The same court yesterday also granted bail to former editor of the Jugantor Abed Khan and its Publisher Salma Islam in a defamation case filed by a Jamaat leader last year PINTU'S ANOTHER CASE

The lawmaker Pintu yesterday filed another defamation case in the same court against the editor, advisory editor, executive editor and a reporter of the daily Janakantha for running a news item headlined "Pintu and his wife went to Singapore fearing public wrath" on June 27.

The accused are the daily's editor Atiq Ullah Khan Masud, advisory editor Toab Khan, executive editor Borhan Ahmed and its reporter Rashed Mehedi.

After the hearing, the court issued summons upon them to appear before it on July 30.

providing assistance to 1.4 million people living in Gaza following months of financial crisis and the suspension of direct Western aid to

A Palestinian policeman was the Hamas-led government. killed when exchanges of fire broke Khaled Meshaal, the exiled out near Abu al-Ajin village, which political chief of Hamas, has insisted Israeli troops had surrounded, east

the soldier will not be freed without a of the camp, local sources said. An armed militant of the Popular swap for prisoners jailed in Israel. Resistance Committees, which Visiting Japanese Prime Minister together with the military wing of Junichiro Koizumi was on Hamas and a third group claimed Wednesday to hold talks with the June 25 capture of an Israeli Olmert before meeting Palestinian soldier, was shot dead in clashes in Authority president Mahmud Abbas the next day.

Koizumi had been hoping to help calm tensions before the crisis was widened to Lebanon.

some anti-social elements would

Tuesday's attacks were at least

the sixth in Mumbai since 2002, and

many residents were riding the

trains again Wednesday and said

the violence would not keep them

"Terrorists can do anything they

"We are businessmen, we will be

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

going back to work. It won't hamper

our business, it won't stop our work.

blamed "terrorists" in a statement

late Tuesday but declined to specu-

late on who might be responsible.

Neighbouring Pakistan called the

India has repeatedly accused

attacks a "despicable act".

Indian police hunt

thing."

FROM PAGE 1

the same area, medics said.

Defence sources indicated

Tuesday that the government had

given the military authority to con-

tinue, and if necessary, intensify the

Lashkar spokesman Abdullah not be comfortable with that kind of Ghaznavi told AFP that his group was not involved.

"These killings are inhuman," he said. "Our jihad (struggle) is only against the Indian troops in Kashmir. Islam does not allow the killing of innocent people."

In Pakistan Hizbul Mujahedin, a away from work. leading umbrella group of guerrilla outfits, issued a similar denial. India ike," 52-year-old businessman Dilip has frequently accused Pakistan of Khadaria said, as he prepared to being behind militant attacks on its ride the Mumbai rail network on soil -- an allegation denied by Islamabad Wednesday.

Seven blasts went off in the space of 15 minutes along the western railway line, ripping open train carriages that were packed with people making an early commute home from work

The toll was at 183 dead and 714 injured, police chief Pasricha said. The injured were being treated at dozens of different hospitals in the city, and some were coping with horrific iniuries.

"We've got all kinds of traumatic niuries, some lost limbs," said doctor Supriya Kulkarni. "We've amputated some (limbs) and people have lost a lot of blood.'

Mumbai, formerly known as Bombay, is a city of 18 million people that has come to embody India's growing economic might and its engagement with the rest of the world

> "We know that some people want to disturb India's economic growth story," Pasricha said. "Naturally

Pakistan of letting Islamic militants cross over into its part of Kashmir, the disputed northern territory claimed in full by both nations. Pakistan denies the allegations. US President George W. Bush said the train attacks would bolster the world's resolve to battle terror-

British Prime Minister Tony Blair called the bombings "brutal and shameful." UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said he was "appalled."

ming the violence.

capable of fending off any attempt by insurgents to take control of west Baghdad.

bank of the Tigris.

They have tried before and

Large parts of west Baghdad are under the firm control of Sunni Arab insurgents and the area has seen a sharp rise in sectarian killings over the past week, including the massa-

AGAINST JANAKANTHA