# Arrest warrant against 2 teachers

filed the cases against five persons including the editors and publishers of Prothom Alo and Janakantha.

Besides issuing bailable warrant of arrest against Prothom Alo Editor Motiur Rahman and Janakantha Editor and Publisher Mohammad Atiq Ullah Khan Masud, Metropolitan Magistrate AJM Abdullahel Baki issued summons upon Prothom Alo Publisher Mahfuz Anam and Janakantha Advisory Editor Toab Khan and Executive Editor Borhan Ahmed.

Accompanied by a few hundred of his supporters, Pintu went to the courthouse in a procession and filed a case against the editor and publisher of Prothom Alo and another against the rest three.

Although there is prohibition imposed by the High Court on processions and rallies on the court premises, they entered the court area in procession, halting court proceedings for about an hour.

Pintu protested a part of a repor on placing wreaths on the body of Sagir published in Prothom Alo on June 26 that said the Jubo Dal leade lobbied with the Dhaka City Corporation mayor for getting the renovation works of the Ahsan Manjil and locked in conflict with Pintu over this. "In fact, the renovation work is an under-implementation project of PWD [Department of Public Works], not of Dhaka City Corporation. So the information of lobbying and conflict with Pintu is false, imaginary and motivated." the complaint said. Pintu also protested another

Pintu's involvement in Sagir murder Innumerable false and imaginary information of the report, including "he [Pintu] succeeded to drop the name of his brother from the complaint of Shakil and Sentu murder by applying his influence" and "Sagir was andered and hurled abusive words at Pintu recently after Pintu got construction work of the Tk 2 crore reform work for Ahsan Maniil and another Tk 5 crore work of the Health Directorate" tainted the reputation and tarnished the image of Pintu, said the complaint.

Prothom Alo news of June 28 that

said the detectives were suspecting

Pintu said the judge of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 acquitted the complainant's brother in his judgement of the Shakil and Sentu killings as the charge was not proved against him.

Protesting another Prothom Alo report of June 29 that said a meeting was held to settle the conflict between Sagir and Pintu's brother the complainant said Sagir had never had any conflict with Pintu's brother Monir who has been suffering from brain tumour for several years.

The BNP lawmaker protested another Prothom Alo report of June 30 that said killers of Sagir had been ordered to leave the country and five including two of Pintu's brotȟers have been identified as Sagir's killers. He also protested part of the report that said the suspected killers had gone into hiding under the shelter of the influential lawmaker and said he or his family members had never fostered any relation with Sagir's killers.

"The accused have published such derogatory reports in the Prothom Alo for political gain by hiding the real killers," said the complaint.

The other case filed against the Janakantha editors and publisher said that a June 25 Janakantha report on Sagir murder hinted at

On a Janakantha report on the following day that said Sagir locked in conflict with Pintu over the Tk 2 crore renovation work of Ahsan Manjil, Pintu said the work was of Tk 47 lakh and Sagir never applied to get the work

Pintu protested a June 27 report of Janakantha that said the killers were close to Pintu's brother Monir He also protested a June 28 Janakantha news which said Monir had a conflict with Sagir and a meeting was convened to settle the con-

The lawmaker also termed part of

following day false and imaginary that said Pintu held a meeting on

police guard where suspected killers of Sagir attended. He said the reports were published to vilify him socially and politi-

cally.
Some other newspapers carried similar reports on Sagir murder and Pintu and his family members' link to it for several days.

### Amit loses

FROM PAGE 20 the ailing boy. Students from across the country collected money to help him and nearly Tk 1 crore was collected in no time. He then received treatment in BSMMUH for two years and went back home from hospital with an artificial breathing

"We had to keep eyes on him constantly as we knew he would die within five minutes if his windpipe got disconnected. It got displaced a ew times before but we managed to fix it. Yesterday nobody was around and he died." Moshiur said.

The family sources said his father was in his workplace while his mother was in the kitchen when Amit died. Amit was reading a Bangla newspaper after having breakfast when his mother saw him alive for the last time. "The mother suddenly realised

that she had not heard anything from Amit for a few minutes and rushed to his bed. The windpipe was disconnected and Amit's face had become yellow," said his father. His family members rushed him

to the local doctors and then to the BSMMUH. Doctors announced his death at noon.

His namaz e janaja was held in Basabo and later he was buried at the Banani graveyard last night.

### Fire shrinks

FROM PAGE 1

The drilling rig manager and some other staff of Century Resources visited Tengratila yesterday to inspect the gas field and the proposed location for a second relief well, where preliminary preparations have been going on for the last few days. Niko has hired Century, an Australian company, to drill the second relief

A drilling rig of Century from Unocal's Moulvibazar gas field is on the way and may reach Tengratila within a day or two, a Niko official said yesterday. Some of the materials of Parker, a US drilling company, used for drilling the first relief well now on fire will also be used for drilling the second, he said, adding they expect to start drilling by July 25

Meanwhile, Unicef has undertaken an initiative to arrange for arsenic-free drinking water for the locals, said a Unicef official vesterday. The UN agency will install pond sand filters in the area soon through the Department of Public Health Engineering.

Sunamgani Bachao, a citizens forum of Sunamganj district, yester-day afternoon called for a dawn-todusk hartal on Sunday in the district protesting the 'destruction of huge natural gas at Tengratila gas field by the Canadian company, Niko'.

The announcement came at a rally held at Traffic Point in namganj district town. A procession of several thousand people preceded the meeting chaired by former lawmaker Prosun Kanti Roy and addressed by Sunamganj Poura Shava Chairman Mominul Moujdin among others.

In Sylhet, the district unit of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rab) held a protest rally at Court Point in the afternoon. Jago Sylhet, a local organisation, formed a human chain followed by another rally at the same place in the afternoon demonstrating against the repeated blowouts at Tengratila gas field.

over a trivial matter.

FROM PAGE 1 Locals and Dipu's parents alleged Shaheena and three other teachers severely beat up him on Saturday

'He had returned home from school with a high fever and we admitted him to the hospital as his condition deteriorated," his mother

The locals allege the teachers of the school maltreat their students and some of the parents have even transferred their kids to other

BSS adds: Speaker Mohammad Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday directed the home ministry to properly probe the incident and take

minor boy was killed following [being] beaten up by his teacher the speaker replied to a point of order raised by Kader Siddiqui, Bir Uttam in parliament.

### Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1

tion at her Dhanmondi party office in

opposition Awami League, lampasted Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury for what she termed his failure to contain price hike of essentials, which, she said

ter's denial of the price hike, the AL chief remarked, "All the ministers of the coalition government have made so much through corruption that the price hike of essentials does not trouble them at all."

state minister for energy and mineral resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain, she said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia should have resigned too.

"The prime minister as the head of government cannot shake off her responsibility for the graft," the opposition leader observed.

Alluding to the allegation of corruption against the state minister for education by some ruling party lawmakers, Hasina said, "When their own MPs are bringing accusations of corruption against ministers, how does the government cling to power?"

Jamaat-e-Islami, a partner of the four-party coalition, for misusing religion to reap political benefits. She also pointed out that "Nizami himself admitted that they had formed the coalition with BNP not to serve Islam but to resist Awami League and to

## Int'l flights

crash landed on last Friday, by vesterday evening to resume international flights from the airport.

has been placed on a specially built trolley. Three powerful hydraulic acks of Bangladesh Air Force will be brought to lift the aircraft from the muddy patch, the Caab official said.

Meanwhile, the temporary ne recovery vehicles and transpo into the ground.

Sources said improvement of the approaches and dismantling of the aircraft might take at least another

### New discords

The Group primarily expressed their interest for the alternative railway land at the Bheramar Upazila near Pakshi Bridge. Tata will prepare a fresh layout plan for its giant steel plant at the

the government negotiation team, said: "We are proceeding satisfactorily towards the investment deal."

Both sides agreed to follow the instance of Jamuna Multipurpose

Bridge in land acquisition. They also said a number of consultants will be appointed to assess introduction of a modern train scanning system for cross-border transpor-

number of consultants to get their opinions about the complex investnent deal," Alan Rosling, executive director of Tata Group, said after the Tata will again sit with the govern-

incentive and gas and power pricing. Tata seeks special tax incentive while the government wants to stick to

### FROM PAGE 20

about two years. As the rules of procedure do not

specify any time limit to form the parliamentary bodies, the ruling party delays their formation. Many lawmakers, however, had

proposed formation of the commitees in the first session of each parliament. The speaker said there is a time

go into session within 30 days of the general election. By this time the cabinet is formed. "So there should be a time limit to complete the formation of the standing committees," Sircar observed. The meeting was attended by Law, Justice and Parliamentary

Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed, Agriculture Minister MK Anwar, Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain, Abdul Mannan and Awami The chief whip, however,

League lawmaker Rahmat Ali. opposed the decision, saying that there is no such time limit mentioned in the constitution.

# World leaders pledge Vested quarter

attacks on the civilised world and said they would stand together to defeat deadly extremism.

"We condemn utterly these barbaric attacks," the G8 said in a statement read by the visibly shaken summit host. British Prime Minister

"We are united in our resolve to confront and defeat this terrorism. This is not an attack on one nation, but on all nations and on civilised people everywhere," Blair said, flanked by the leaders of Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States and five emerging nations.

As condolences poured in from around the globe, Nato Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer condemned the "appalling attacks" and said the alliance would not waver in its fight against militants

The European Union called the blasts an "attack on democracy" and the "fundamental freedoms" that are at the heart of the 25-nation bloc.

This is an attack on the people of Britain, it is an attack on democracy, and it is an attack on the fundamenta freedoms which go to the heart of the European Union," EU commission head Jose Manuel Barroso said in a statement at a G8 summit. French President Jacques Chirac

told Blair of his horror at the outrage and expressed France's solidarity. his spokesman said. "The president told the British

prime minister that the tragic events in London fill him with horror, and expressed his grief and condolence, spokesman Jerome Bonnafont said. French PM Dominque de Villepin added: "More than ever, democra-

unity in the face of the terrorist threat. More than ever, we must show vigilance and determination." French members of parliament suspended work in solidarity with the

cies must rally together and show

The Queen said she was "deeply

shocked" by the explosions. US President George W Bush, at the G8 summit in Gleneages, said he was "impressed" with the resolve of

all the leaders to fight terrorism.

Pope Benedict XVI condemned the attacks as "inhuman and anti-Christian," in a telegram to the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor.

He added he learned of the attacks "with pain" and wanted to assure the victims and their families that he was spiritually close to them. The Spanish government issued

a statement strongly condemning the "savage attacks" that rocked London and expressed its solidarity with the British people. The US had no plans to up their

own state of terror alert, the White House said. But officials in Washington con-

firmed bomb-sniffing dogs and armed police officers were now patrolling the city's subways and The Australian Foreign Affairs office immediately set up a helpline

for families who have relatives in the UK while Israeli ambassador to London, Zvi Hefetz, said that the embassy was in a state of emergency following the explosions. Meanwhile London mayor Ken

Livingstone said there was nothing terrorists could do to destroy the city's principles of freedom and harmony.

"Nothing you do, no matter how many of us you kill, will stop that flight to our cities where freedom is strong and where people can live in harmony with one another." Livingstone told reporters in Singapore, where the Olympic announcement was made Wednesday. (AFP/SKY)

# Moudud finds

language skill or legal sense, Barrister Amir-Ul Islam told the meeting organised by Law Reporters Forum (LRF) at the National Press Club to mark the second death anniversary of

Barrister Ishtiaque on July 12. The worst thing that has happened to the judiciary is arbitrary appointment of the judges, Barrister Amir said and asked, "If the judges are appointed arbitrarily, how will they ensure justice for people and uphold the constitution?

There would be no discipline in the judiciary unless this trend is topped, he noted.

The judges themselves\_are blocking the stream of justice. They are destroying the very platform they are supposed to deliver from," said Barrister Amir, convenor of proopposition Sammilito Ainjibi Samannoy Parishad. The law minister, however, maintained that the judiciary is independent though it is yet to be separated from the executive. "Judges are given total free-dom and the constitution or law is not responsible if they themselves violate their own freedom.'

It is natural that politicians will look at things from political perspectives, but it is the responsibility of the judges to protect the judiciary, Moudud added. He, however, said it difficult to find out neutral people for appointment as judge.

Bangladesh Bar Council Vice-

chairman Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud said the judiciary has been dogged by an "acute crisis" not seen before in the last 35 years. The professional freedom of the lawyers is also being violated, he noted.

"Barrister Ishtiaque Ahmed would be the right person to resolve the current crisis." Rokanuddin said. "Now you are the right person to bring an end to the crisis of the institution (judiciary)," he said referring to the law minister.

"But you are pretending to be helpless. I do not think you will lose anything even if you lose the post of minister in trying to bring discipline to the entire judicial system including the appointment process," he told Moudud. Otherwise, he warned, the rule of law in the country would be in jeopardy in the future. Barrister Amir suggested forma-

tion of a Judicial Service Commission for regulating the appointment process of the judges and conducting academic evaluation to ensure quality of judicial service. He also suggested putting in place a permanent inspection system to ensure transparency and accountability of the judiciary.

At the meeting chaired by LRF President Faruk Kazi, other speakers including Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, Awami League Economics Cell Chief AMA Muhit, Daily Amar Desh Advisory Editor Ataus Samad and LRF General Secretary Abdur Rahman recalled the memories of the late Barrister Ishtiaque and his contribution to establishing the rule of law and the fall of the autocratic Ershad

They paid tribute to the late jurist for his honesty, humbleness, and friendliness and for his equal treatment to all in dealing legal issues "We all must practise the 'unblemished life' of Barrister Ishtiaque." said

### NSI men FROM PAGE 1

Journalists' Association (BPJA) Anisur Rahman of The Daily Star Hassan Raja of the Bhorer Kagoj AKM Musa of the Sangram, Masud Parvez Milon of the Financial Express, Hasanuzzaman Tarun, Enamul Kabir and Sheikh Mamun of the Janakantha and Mohammad Sharif of the Naya Digonto.

inside their office. On information, Mamun rushed

the spot but NSI men also nabbed him. "They seized our cameras and motobikes and tortured us in their office for more than two hours," Kabir alleged.

Rahman rushed there and saw three men taking Kabir's motorbike. "As I tried to settle the matter. around 100 NSI personnel swooped on me and started beating," he said.

"As I tried to take a snap of NSI men beating Anis bhai, they snatched my camera and attacked

me," said Raja who was nearby.
The other photojournalists then

to help us but police remained inactive." Raia said later. Policemen in two trucks reached the spot but remained silent specta-

more than one hour. Anis said. "We requested them to rescue us but they ignored and simply laughed at our plight." When journalists were making phone calls to their senior officials

NSI men shouted to them 'Call all the fathers (big bosses) and see if they can save you', Anis said. A rickshawpuller later took away Raja, others managed to flee the

Raia and Anis were admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital and later shifted to Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital Other injured were treated at different hospitals.

NSI men then handed over Kabir

and Mamun to Ramna Police Station.

their collegues. The road blockade created huge traffic jam stretching from Paltan

crossing to old High Court. Senior police officials including Dhaka Metropolitan Police

Rahman later went to the press club to resolve the problem. Kabir and Mamun were then released. NSI headquarters remained

# Blasts shock, sow

FROM PAGE 1 Christine O'Connor was on a Circle Line train at Edgware Road Station, west of the centre.

"I was in the last carriage, we pulled out of the station and then almost immediately there was an explosion, it just went very quiet The carriage filled up with smoke," she said.

One explosion ripped a red double-decker bus open like a tin of sardines near Russell Square popular area for tourists. Casualties staggered from the

"I was on the bus. I looked round and the seats behind me were gone." a middle-aged victim said. too shocked and disoriented to say

the Underground rail network, which was immediately suspended, leaving many commuters trapped in tunnels as they awaited evacuation n the semi-darkness.

Most of the several explosions hit

The number of dead and wounded was not yet clear.

Loyita Worley, 49, was travelling from Moorgate to Aldgate station in the City financial district when her Underground train was shaken by a large explosion.

"I saw an orange flickering on the side of the tunnel," she said, adding 20 to 30 walking wounded had been led from the damaged carriage, which had been torn from "floor to ceiling".
"Many were shaking, there were

a lot of head injuries, it was very bloody," she said.

One man's clothes had been blown off and he was totally black with soot, she said, but passengers remained calm even as debris fell down onto the roof of the carriage. Andrew Allwright, 42, a business

development manager at Reuters, narrowly escaped injury at Aldgate East station. "As I was walking up the steps there was a loud bang behind me and felt a blast of air coming from behind.

turned around and saw dust rising

from the station," he said. Traffic wardens, police support officers and private security guards were drafted in to man cordons near the blasts around the city. All buses in the centre were cancelled. They stood empty and silent, warning lights flashing.

London's cellphone networks quickly became jammed with callers trying to reassure or reach loved ones, and shops filled with people begging to use the phone

A terrifying picture began to emerge of the carnage that followed the bus blast on Woburn Place near Russell

air," said Doug Streeter, who was about 150 yards (metres) away from the blast at about 0810 GMT. "My immediate thought was Olympics, G8, this is big, I don't want

to be around here. Hordes of people

were running for their lives," he said.

'At the time I couldn't see it was a

"It was a huge, huge explosion -- chunks of building were flying in the August 31 last year.

> cancelled it after two days. Earlier, another court jailed three Pakistani women for life for pos-

The state of alert concerns all of state of alert and our staff Europe," Italian Interior Minister Giuseppe Pisanu told reporters after a meeting of police officials and

From Paris to Prague, officials stepped up security in transportation hubs and rail networks after the explosions in London, which rocked both underground trains and a bus. Police said at several people were

that he had ordered an increase in the country's anti-terror alert level to red, the second-highest rating. Security was especially tight around the British embassy in Paris

'green" to "yellow", the mid-level

British military bases. In Moscow, officials raised security in the metro system, which has been the target of several attacks in recent years. In February

people dead. including Germany and Greece set up crisis cells at their embassies in London, urging their nationals visiting Britain not to use public

rity patrols in and around ports that provide sea links to British destina-

Peter Gordon was working in an office overlooking the scene. "The roof of the bus was blown off, there was smoke everywhere," he said. "It was carnage, you could see bodies on the roadside alongside."

A quiet panic spread around the scene, which police rapidly sealed

At least 20 ambulances queued to take away casualties from the bus explosion, while victims from another blast underground -- seemingly on a train from nearby King's Cross -- were brought up on stretchers from Russell Square tube sta-

Angelo Power, a barrister emerging from the station, said a loud explosion rocked his train as it left King's Cross. There were flashes of light, people were screaming and smoke began to billow into the carriage.

There was mayhem as 20 to 30 minutes passed before police reached the train to take survivors to safety. Women passed out and agitation turned to hysteria as people smashed the glass windows to escape billowing smoke but feared jumping out on to what they thought could be live electric lines.

"We were trapped like sardines aiting to die, he said. Asked what he thought of the people who may have been behind the attacks, he said: "I pity them."

## 2 Pakistanis

FROM PAGE 20 The prime accused in the case, Mohammad Ibrahim died during the

The convicts were awarded the capital punishment as the number of addicts is increasing and mostly the youths are victims of drugs, the dge said. The convicts said they were

dlers who had brought them to Bangladesh with the heroin are unaccounted for. Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments

and the court recorded statements

of 18 prosecution witnesses.

victimised and the real drug ped-

Officials of the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) led by then director general Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury arrested Ibrahim, Rais and Alekian with the heroin from the city's Hotel Rajmoni Isha Khan on

A case was filed against them the same day. The investigation officer pressed charges against them along with the acquitted ones on November 24, 2000 and the court framed charges against them on

Alekjan obtained bail on July 5 ast year, but Judge Mohammad Matiur Rahman of the Court of

Metropolitan Sessions Judge

killed and 150 injured. Emergency meetings were

convened in capitals across the continent to assess security threats in the wake of the attacks. In France, Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin announced

as well as in Paris area airports and rail stations for passengers traveling to Britain.

Vigipirate security plan calls for random checks in trains, patrols on high-speed trains including Eurostar trains heading to London and airspace restrictions over certain sensitive areas. Berlin public transport officials raised their security alert level from

installations, including several

transport for the time being. Dutch officials heightened secu-

ties increased patrols in shopping centres and other buildings deemed sensitive, including power stations and the headquarters of the USfunded broadcaster Radio Free "This affects all strategic build-

reported.

### spokesman for New York City Transit. "I think we're being extra vigilant today, we're always vigilant but there's a heightened sense of awareness after this morning's events," he said.

"The subway system is always on heightened security alert so we're just double checking our trains," said a second spokesman at

New York City Transit, which operates subway, bus and some rail services in the city. (AFP, Reuters)

# No operator now

Resources. Tullow says Tengratila blowouts raise questions about The block was awarded to US giant Chevron-Texaco and Irish company Tullow Oil, with a 10 complimentary share for Bapex, through a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) back in 2001. Later in September 2003, Chevron-Texaco sold its shares to Canadian Niko Resources, which

round bid in 1997 Under the PSC, during the first three years of exploration, Tullow was the block's operator. In the second phase that involves development of discovered gas field, Chevron-Texaco was supposed to be the operator. The first three years ended in February 2004 but Petrobangla gave it an additional 120 days extension. Tullow discovered a gas field in Lalmai and Bangora. Tullow was unwilling to accept

was found disqualified in the second

Niko as its partner and 60 percent stakeholder of the PSC (Chevron-Texaco, being two large entities back then, got 30 percent share each). And it had expressed its reservations on the prospect of seeing Niko as lead operator in development phase. While Tullow is a small company itself, Niko is even smaller and inexperienced. But soon after the PSC's first phase was over in August last year, a total stagnation prevailed in the

block. Other than Tullow's objection

to Niko's operatorship, a number of

legal issues hindered Niko from

taking over the block. Following the Tengratila second blow out, Tullow wrote to Niko on July 5 saying, "For various reasons we would not be willing to transfer operatorship to Niko...our view has been reinforced by Niko's recent operational experiences in Bangladesh. Earlier in June, Petrobangla

gave its observation on the stalemate saying that legally there is no

operator for the second phase of the its unexpected new partner Niko PSC, although Chevron-Texaco sold its concerns to Niko. Petrobangla cited different

clauses of the PSC and the Joint Operating Agreement (JOA), and said, "...shares and related liabilities were sold to Niko, but they did not assign their rights, interests and obligations under the contract Since there was no assignment to Niko, as such, Niko cannot claim to be the assignee of Chevron and therefore, they are not Contractors as per definition given in Article 1.25 of the PSC, and since they are not

The PSC states that a contractor under the JOA can assign any part or all of its rights, interest and obligations to a third party subject to prior written approval of the government and Petrobangla. In case of the Chevron-Texaco's sale to Niko, it was unilaterally done. "The sale of Chevron's shares stand legal because any company has the right to sell its shares. But

the PSC dictates that it has to take

permission to assign its rights and

interests to third party, which has not

been done. Therefore. Niko is

contractors, they are not also a party

nobody in terms of a stake holder of the PSC," said a PSC expert. Petrobangla Director of PSC Raihan Abedin in a letter asked Tullow and its partners to decide among themselves who would be the operator once declaration of commercial discovery of gas is made and who would be the operator, and forward the same for decision to Petrobangla. "Petrobangla can only at that

stage intervene to give approval or to decide the ability of the proposed new operator," the letter said. If this problem is resolved, the

Block 9 PSC will get four years of extension for gas field development and seven years for production following a successful development

necessary action. "...it is unprecedented that a

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote delega-

Hasina, also president of the main.

caused heavy sufferings to the common people. Referring to the commerce minis-

Pointing at the recent resignation of

The AL chief also criticised

salvaging the aircraft, which was The front portion of the aircraft

approaches constructed by Bangladesh Army personnel with brick and sand for the movement of tation of equipment have subsided

FROM PAGE 20

region in the new land within next 1.5 After the meeting , Zakir Ahmed Khan, finance secretary and leader of

of goods by Tata. "Both the sides will appoint a

ment on July 25 on the crucial tax

JS bodies United States in its war in Iraq, where al Qaeda is waging a bloody insurwhile the previous parliament took DEAD AND WOUNDED

limit that each new parliament will

Terror strikes London "Secret Group of al Qaeda's Jihad in Europe", claimed responsibility for the

Police have so far declined to give

a death toll or comment on sugges-tions that suicide bombers were

involved Financial markets tumbled as the scale of the attacks became clear and Blair told reporters he would return to London from the G8 summit to oversee the emergency. He planned to return to the talks in Gleneagles later in The attacks recalled the 2004 train

bombings in Madrid blamed on al-Qaeda and left Londoners in shock. The Islamic Human Rights Commission warned London Muslims to stay at home to avoid any violence

The attacks came a day after a ubilant London was awarded the 2012 Olympic Games. "I'm deeply saddened that this should happen at the heart of an Olympic city. Unfortunately there is no safe haven. No one can say their city is safe." said International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge

Britain has been key ally of the

in Singapore.

Aldgate East underground station in the financial centre of the city, with a further 90 people wounded. Around 100 wounded people were taken to Royal London Hospital, 10 of them in critical condition Police chief Ian Blair said there

were indications of explosives at the

ordinated attack," he told Sky televi-

"We are concerned that this is a co-

Police said two people were killed at

London Mayor Ken Livingstone speaking in Singapore, said suicide bombers may have been involved "I wish to speak to you directly -- to those who came to London today to take lives," he said. "I know that you personally do not fear to give your own life in exchange for taking others, which is why you are so dangerous.

People were seen streaming out of

one underground station covered with

blood and soot. Passengers were evacuated from stations across the capital, many in shock and with their clothes ripped to shreds, witnesses The city's streets rapidly emptied and financial markets plummeted as it

became increasingly apparent that the blasts were an attack, and not a power surge on the underground train system as had first been reported. Security experts said the blasts bore all the hallmarks of al Qaeda.

"If what we are looking at is a simultaneous bombing, and it does

look like that it would very certainly fit

the classic al Qaeda methodology which centres precisely on that: multi-

seated hits on transport and infrastructural targets," said Shane Brighton, intelligence expert at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence. On the currency market, the safe haven Swiss franc hit a six-week high against sterling and rose more than 1 percent against the dollar following the

reaction, buying safe-haven currencies like the Swiss franc and euro and away from the dollar," said Marios Maratheftis, currency strategist at Standard Chartered. Oil prices initially fell three percent before recovering and the FTSE stock

study within next six months and

complete it by another six months.

exchange lost two percent

ROK firm

FROM PAGE 20

Youb Lee said.

the investment soon.

The market is showing a textbook

Sources said the Luxon Global has separate arrangement with the Korean Development Bank, Korean Electric Power Corporation and the Korean Coal Corporation. These companies have huge experience in their sectors and will come together to Bangladesh if the

investment proposal is realised,

and the Luxon Global will settle the

requirements for land, necessary

supply of utilities and approvals for

The Board of Investment (Bol)

Incorporated in Seoul, the Luxon Global is a globalising corporate operating in various areas in South Korea and other countries of the Asia Bol member Nazrul Islam and Luxon Global CEO Seung Youb Lee signed the MoU on behalf of their

respective parties. Energy ministry

Advisor and Bol Executive Chairman

Mahmudur Rahman witnessed the

signing programme held at the

caller threatened Sultana Kamal and asked her not to do anything "excessive" against the Rab. The ASK book is mainly a compilation of articles by different persons expressing concern over the "extrajudicial killings" by the Rab.

harasses ASK

for anti-Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After threatening Sultana Kamal,

executive director of Ain o Salish

Kendra (ASK), over telephone on

Sunday night for questioning the Rapid Action Battalion's "extra-

judicial killings", a vested quarter is

now propagating against the organi-

sation by putting up posters at

different parts of the city.
These posters, displayed mainly

in the city's Central Road and the

press club areas, criticise the ASK

and human rights activists for

objecting to the Rapid Action

Battalion (Rab) drives against

"Where were they [ASK and human rights activists] when people

died, were raped and mutilated by

ists "danobadhikari" (monsters), the

posters say, "If supporting the rap-

ists, murderers and extortionists is

manobadhikar [human rights], then

ASK held the publication ceremony

of a book titled "Rab: Curbing

Terrorism or State-run Terrorism.

On the same night, an anonymous

Earlier on Sunday afternoon, the

Terming the human rights activ-

terrorists?" the posters read.

we say 'no' to it

stance

was going on at the National Press Club, some 100 people from different districts claiming themselves victims of crimes entered the venue and spoke in favour of the Rab "We came to know that posters

and leaflets demeaning the human

rights activists will be distributed

after today's juma prayers," Sultana

The book also contains investi-

gative reports, newspaper clippings

and statistics of the number of the

When the publication ceremony

extra-judicial killings by the Rab.

Kamal told The Daily Star yesterday adding that they are also aware of the posters against the ASK at different parts of the city.

(GD) immediately after the threat.

The ASK had filed a general diary

punishment of those involved in the attack on photojournaliasts. The injured are Mir Ahmed Miru of the Janakantha, who is also secretary of Bangladesh Photo also joint secretary of BPJA, Wahid

Witnesses said Enamul Kabii was taking photographs of graffiti on the newly-painted boundary wall of the NSI office at about 12:30pm. NSI men held him and took him

Hearing the news, Anisur

turned up there and fell victims of brutal attack, Raja added. 'Even shopkeepers rickshawpullers and hawkers tried

tors as the mayhem continued for

spot while Kabir and Mamun remained in NSI custody.

Leaders and members of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) and BPJA then barricaded the road in front of press club and demanded release of the two journalists and punishment of the persons responsible for assaulting

Commissioner SM Mizanur

mum on the incident. Photojournalists will demonstrate today in front of the press club at 11:00am and continue their agitation until proper action is taken in this regard. BPJA President AKM Mohsin said, "We want an end to attacks on journalists."

Europe on terror "The embassy has been put on a

anti-terrorism experts in Rome. officials said they had "no immediate plan" to raise the nation's terrorism threat level.

The red level of France's

rating, but noted they had no information about a possible attack in the German capital. German officials in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia also boosted security at British and US

2004, a suicide bomb attack left 42 Several European countries

In the Czech Republic, authori-

Frantisek Bublan.

at their embassies in London

sessing 14kg heroin, the second largest haul, in August 2003.

told not to leave for now." Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Mark Regev told AFP. Across the Atlantic, officials in Washington beefed up security in the capital's metro system, but US

States is currently set at "elevated," the middle rank on the five-point Washington and New York beefed up security checks on their public transport systems and urged commuters to exercise extra vigilance vesterday after a series of explosions rocked London's sub-

"In response to events in

London, the Metro transit police will

increase their presence in and

around the Metro transit system. We

ask customers to please be alert

and report any unusual activity or

way and bus system.

The threat level in the United

suspicious packages," the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority said on its Web The US Department of Homeland Security said it had no indication an attack similar to the London blasts was planned in the United States and had no immedi-

ate plan to raise its terrorism threat

The explosions in London's

level, a spokeswoman said.

transport system early on Thursday killed several people and wounded scores. Prime Minister Tony Blair called the blasts an apparent terror attack coinciding with a meeting of Group of Eight leaders in Scotland. Fire and police spokesmen in New York, where twin hijacked plane attacks on Sept. 11, 2001

killed almost 3,000 people, said

there had been no additional secu-

rity ordered or any unusual incidents

"We're reminding people not to leave unattended packages. . We're also checking our trains before they leave the yards, before they leave the terminals, as we always do," said Paul Fleuranges.

ings," said Czech Interior Minister Israeli officials immediately mplemented a security clampdown

# eptember 20, 1999. RUNNING FOR THEIR LIVES