

## Accord key reform proposals

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The JSD also wants an end to 'dual exercise of power' by placing the defence ministry under the caretaker government.

On electoral system, the AL proposes a 42-point reform that includes appointment of chief election commissioner (CEC) and other commissioners of the Election Commission (EC) through discussions with all active political parties. It suggests an independent EC secretariat, EC's freedom to announce election schedules, all-party poll monitoring team, voter registration, an end to muscle power and black money factor in elections, electronic voting system, transparent ballot boxes and not allowing election camps.

The party also proposes that persons who were loan defaulters even a year prior to elections must not be allowed to take part in polls even if they pay a certain percentage of the defaulted amounts. A time limit should be fixed for disposal of election-related cases.

No military official or civilian public servant should be allowed to participate in polls within five years of retirement, it suggests.

The 11-party's 12-point recommendation for electoral reforms includes appointment of persons acceptable to all as the CEC and other commissioners, independence of the EC with financial powers to prepare its own budget. The EC must remain free from control of the executive branch of the government and have right to recruit its staffs, it proposes.

The combine wants transparency in preparing voter list, banning electioneering at religious places including mosques, temples and churches, keeping the candidates' financial status as a public document.

The caretaker government should not be accountable to a 'party-nominated' president and it has to be ensured through necessary reforms, the JSD says.

ment open to all and curbing money and muscle power in polls.

Loan defaulters and their family members should be barred from participating in polls, and all candidates have to submit a statement of their election expenses within seven days of polls, it said.

JSD (Inu) comes up with a 31-point recommendation for reforming the electoral system that includes resignation of the present CEC and appointment of a new one on the basis of consensus, introduction of an 'election cadre service,' independence of the EC Secretariat, holding parliament polls in a staggered manner and mandatory registration of political parties with the EC.

## Withdraw case

**FROM PAGE 1**  
and Sheikh Mamun of the Janakantha, Anisur Rahman, BPJA joint secretary, of The Daily Star, Wahid Hassan Raja of the Bhorer Kagoj and AKM Musa of the Sangram.

NSI constable Sanaulah in the first information report (FIR) accused them under sections 147, 148, 353, 333, 389 and 114 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). The FIR says the accused trespassed onto the NSI premises and took photographs violating the law.

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They assembled unlawfully, obstructed government officials' duty and instigated others in criminal activities, the FIR reads.

Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) and the BPJA addressed yesterday's rally.

The leaders demanded withdrawal of the case, formation of a committee to probe the matter and publish its report and punishment of the responsible officials.

They also demanded compensation for the photojournalists, who lost their cameras, motorcycles and other valuables, and medical expenses for their treatment.

Photojournalists after the rally took out a procession raising their cameras as a symbolic protest.

"The case is false and mysterious," said BPJA President AKM Mohsin. "The NSI handed over Mamun and Kabir to Ramna police without raising allegation against them. Police brought the two in front of the Jatiya Press Club at 4:30pm without any claim," he added.

"The NSI has filed the case to defend their violent act," he said. "We demand that the prime minister and state minister for home should take measures for a peaceful solution."

## Wife, daughter

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Banshkhali Police Station. Osman will be produced before the court today.

Police recovered the bodies and sent them to Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) for autopsy.

## SSC results

**FROM PAGE 16**  
website [www.educationboard.gov.bd](http://www.educationboard.gov.bd).

This year about 7.60 lakh candidates took the SSC examination that started on March 10 and continued till April 7.

Some 37,000 candidates appeared at the SSC vocational examination.

## Security

**FROM PAGE 16**  
at all key point installations (KPIs) and sensitive places in the capital to prevent any untoward situation," SM Mizanur Rahman, commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said similar instructions have been given to police administration across the country, adding that bomb squads have been kept on high alert.

The commissioner said they have already beefed up police guard at every strategic point including the entry and exit points of the capital.

The law enforcers including police, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and ansars have been asked to gear up patrol in the city streets, he said.

The officers-in-charge (OCs) of the 28 city police stations including the newly-formed six ones had talks with their officers who should swing into action in case of any 'hint' of terror attack.

## Int'l flights

**FROM PAGE 16**  
us, we think we could place the third trolley beneath the aircraft by this midnight and start dragging it off the runway provided the hydraulic jacks reach here from Dhaka in time."

The rescuers yesterday removed the left rear-landing wheel of the aircraft after trying the whole day.

International flights from the airport now may resume within next two days, airport sources said.

## Contractor

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Police, however, could not give any information of his criminal activities. They suspect Ali was killed by his business rivals.

Meanwhile, a mugger was beaten up by a mob at Amirteek in Mohammadpur yesterday morning.

Police said locals quader the mugger, Abdul Quader Zilani, 27, while he was snatching money from a person at about 7:00am and beat him up.

"We rescued him in a critical condition and took him to the DMCH where he died at 8:40am," said the duty officer of Mohammadpur Police Station.

## G-8 fails to clinch deal

**FROM PAGE 16**  
However, an inhabitant of Barkharia village under Batiaghata upazila and an operative of the Janajuddho faction of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), Zahid alias Sabuj is also in the Khulna Jail at present. He had been arrested in another case under Batiaghata thana of murder happening a month before journalist Balu died in a bomb attack by extremists on June 27 last year.

Zahidur Rahman's mother Jannatun Nahar in a petition on May 12 this year to the State Minister for Home Affairs said the police arrested his innocent son Zahid on July 3 last year implicating him in the murder of Dainik Janmabhum editor Humayun Kabir Balu.

She further alleged that investigating officer (IO) of the case Inspector Mohiuddin (IO) of the Detective Branch (DB) of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) demanded a big amount of money as bribe for letting her son off.

"When refused, Inspector Mohiuddin sent my son to court on July 7 showing him arrested in the journalist Balu murder case and identifying him as PBCP (Janajuddho) operative Zahid alias Sabuj," Jannatun Nahar said in her petition.

The Ministry of Home Affairs is yet to respond to Jannatun Nahar's appeal to release her son and take punitive action against the IO for falsely implicating her son in the Balu murder case.

When contacted, Inspector Mohiuddin and Assistant Commissioner of DB Zahur Ahmed refused to say anything as the charge sheet of the case has already been submitted.

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## OIC: 'Islam prohibits

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He expressed his solidarity with Blair and the British people "in their resolve to fight terrorism and uttered his confidence that the solidarity of the civilised world will overcome the scourge of terrorism."

The Muslim World League, based in the holy city of Makkah, also denounced Thursday's "criminal and ugly act which aimed at killing innocent civilians."

Islam "categorically and unequivocally prohibits" such crimes, said secretary general Abdullah al-Turki in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

He called on the United Nations to "undertake a collective and coordinated action to combat terrorism ... which has no country or nationality and is not affiliated to any religion."

Saudi Arabia's grand mufti yesterday strongly condemned the deadly blasts that rocked London saying Islam strictly prohibits the slaughter of innocent people.

The explosions that ripped through central London's transport system, "targeting peaceable people, are not condoned by Islam, and are indeed prohibited by our religion," Sheikh Abdul Aziz al-Sheikh said in a statement in Riyadh.

Malaysia is ready to cooperate in the probe into the blasts in London, Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said yesterday.

Razak, who is also Defense Minister, said he was confident that Britain would not bow to those responsible for the attacks.

## Touching scenes

**FROM PAGE 1**  
"Some have been penetrated by pieces of the bus, others by pieces of nearby buildings such as glass.

The hospital said it treated 58 casualties. Some 27 people were kept in, with around 10 of them classified as seriously injured.

The blasts, which rocked the underground rail system and a bus during the morning rush hour, killed at least 37 people and injured around 700, according to police.

Ryan said that some of the victims may have sustained serious injuries which were not yet apparent.

"One of the features of an explosion, which we know from blasts in Northern Ireland and Israel, is a condition known as blast lung or shock lung, where people sustain a lung injury which leaks over time," he said.

"They appear fine but they slowly deteriorate," he went on. "We have people here who were in the bus blast and appear to be well but it is important that we watch them."

At the Royal London Hospital, near Liverpool Street Station, staff treated 183 patients from two of the incidents. Eight of them were critically injured, including one whose heart had stopped, and six people underwent surgery.

Michael Henning, 39, a broker, from Kensington, west London, walked out of the facility with a patch over his eye and cuts on his face caused by flying glass in the bomb blast between Liverpool Street and Aldgate.

"I was travelling to Tower Hill to a meeting, and nearly got into the carriage where the bomb went off, but thought it looked busy, so went in the next one. I was about 10 feet (three metres) from where the bomb went off," he said.

"I saw silver travelling through the air -- that was the glass -- and a yellow flash," he said.

Many people, both the injured and family members, were in shock.

At the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, George Koliass fought back tears as he told how his teenage daughter Danielle was caught up in a blast travelling in the underground.

"She has hurt her chest and

The United States, which is now giving an amount equal to 0.16 percent of its economy, objected to the setting a numerical target.

Even less progress was made on Blair's other summit goal of getting America on board with the other countries to make major reductions in emissions of the gases that some have blamed for global warming.

According to a draft communique on climate change obtained by The Associated Press on Friday, the United States, the only G-8 country that has not ratified the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on global warming, was successful in rejecting Blair's call for setting specific targets and a timetable for reducing greenhouse emissions.

The communique was to acknowledge the split between the United States and the other countries in a section that said "those of us who have ratified the Kyoto Protocol, welcome its entry into force and will work to make it a success." That was the document's only mention of the treaty yet into effect this February.

Bush contends the Kyoto accord's curbs on greenhouse emissions would wreck the US economy.

## Road crash

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Anwara was the sister-in-law of State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman while Saida was the daughter of her brother-in-law.

Injured Asif Jewel, medical officer of National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases, her wife Mona Farzana, medical officer of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), and car driver Manik were rushed to the DMCH in critical condition.

The victims were going to their village home to join a family programme.

## Saudi recruiter

**FROM PAGE 16**  
governments, the official told The Daily Star.

There are a number of anomalies in the current migration process, which allows sale of one visa to multiple job seekers. Dishonest agencies often take the opportunity and cheat the fortune seekers.

Besides, migration to the Middle East countries bypassing government clearances often creates situations leading to abuse of the workers and tarnished image of the country.

Baira President Mosharraf Hossain, MP appreciated the Sanarcom proposal, saying they will further examine it.

"If signed, the agreement will hopefully bring positive result both for Baira and the government," the official said quoting Mosharraf as saying.

Sanarcom has to convince the Saudi government first. Mosharraf said, adding, he does not see any apparent problem on the part of Bangladesh government for the unified contract system.

Abdul Alim, Baira executive member, at the meeting asked the Sanarcom to present to the Saudi government the monopolistic situation created by the Gulf Cooperation Council-Approved Medical Association (Gamca).

The Gamca makes a decision as to which medical centre the aspirant should go for a check-up before migrating to Saudi Arabia.

There are allegations that Gamca-enlisted medical centres charge more fees from the job seekers and even do not give them fitness certificates if they fail to pay in excess.

Waleeda has given assurance that his organisation will place the issue before the Saudi government for consideration.

The Sanarcom chairman along with four other members arrived in Bangladesh on Thursday.

He said the demand of the Bangladeshi women as housemaids is now increasing in Saudi Arabia for their Islamic identity and fast learning capacity.

"But of course they need more training," the Baira official said quoting Waleeda.

The Saudi delegation holds a meeting with Expatriate Minister Major General (ret'd) Qamrul Islam today.

## Bangladeshis

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Commissioner (HC) in the UK Mofazzal Karim told BDNEWS over telephone.

The High Commission is keeping close contact with the British government on the development following the ghastly bomb attacks, the HC said, adding, "We also conveyed the message of condolence from Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to the British government."

The High Commission contacted with the community leaders, Tower Hamlets Mayor, Tower Hamlets councillors and requested the community leaders there so that the Bangladeshi living in the UK are not harassed without any reason, Karim said.

Only some 8-10 High Commission officials and employees could attend the office on Thursday as many had to return home from the middle of their way to office after the bomb blasts, he said.

He could not go to East London area, where most of the people are Bangladeshis, as police prohibited him, the HC said, adding, "Tomorrow I will offer the Jumma prayers at the East London mosque. I hope I will be able to meet many of the Bangladeshis there and know about them in detail."

More than 50 people were killed and hundreds were wounded in a series of bomb blasts in London that rocked the subway and tore open a packed double-decker bus during the morning rush hours on Thursday.

## Dipu's body

**FROM PAGE 1**  
exhumed yesterday, but it had to be postponed as the magistrate was not available.

Meanwhile, two teachers of the school--Headmistress Shaheena Akhter, 42, and Assistant Headmaster Khorshedul Hoq Khashru--were arrested on Thursday after Dipu's mother filed a murder case. They were taken on a three-day remand yesterday.

Parents and relatives yesterday reiterated their demand for exemplary punishment to the teachers responsible for Dipu's death.

They also sought help from different organisations to run the case.

## Innocent

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## Shops reopen

**FROM PAGE 16**  
one, which has been on fire for the last two weeks.

Most of the parts of the rig for drilling the second relief well have already arrived from Unocal's Moulvibazar gas field by barges along the Surma river, said a Niko official yesterday afternoon. With the rest of the parts expected to arrive within two more days, work is on to prepare the drilling pad, he added.

A local logistic firm has been tasked with transporting the rig and started working on Tuesday.

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## London Muslims

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Road, an area just to the west of central London which for decades has been associated with the capitalists' Arab population.

After the bomb attacks, which Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said later "bear the hallmarks" of Osama bin Laden's global network al-Qaeda, British Muslim groups condemned the carnage.

"These evil deeds make victims of us all," the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) said in a statement.

"The evil people who planned and carried out these series of explosions in London want to demoralise us as a nation and divide us as a people.

"All of us must unite in helping the police to capture these murderers."

Rahman--who had been due to travel through Aldgate station at the time of the first blast on Thursday morning only to be called into work an hour early--agreed.

"Whoever has done it, it is not good at all. Islam is a religion of peace, and it does not agree with things like this. I hope the British government and the police work hard to catch the people who did this," he said.

Standing on the street beneath the minarets of the East London Mosque, mosque worker and community activist Abu Hanifa said he feared the sort of revenge attacks on Muslims seen in the United States following the September 11, 2001 terror attacks.

"There is always the worry about problems like what happened after 9/11," he said, warning that terror attacks in Britain could aid the appeal of extremist far-right groups like the British National Party (BNP).

"Relations are good and most people are sensible. But you have extremist groups like the BNP, and the concern is that people might feel slightly more receptive to their message," he said.

"This will make relations difficult, but we will deal with it as a community and see what happens."

Abdul Hasib, 64, who has lived in London for more than 40 years, confessed he was also concerned as he left the mosque.

"I am very, very shocked. No one expected this. Since I have been in Britain, I have been welcomed as a Muslim. I hope nothing will change now," he said.

The Guardian reports: A backlash against British Muslims began almost immediately as news of the bomb explosions spread.

The MCB received more than 1,000 emails containing threats and messages of hate, several reading: "It's now war on Muslims throughout Britain."

Government planning for how to cope with a terrorist attack has included how police and the authorities will calm community tensions and crack down on any surge in hate crimes directed at British Muslims.

On Thursday night an emergency meeting was held of the Muslim Safety Forum (MSF), where top police officers and representatives of Muslim communities met to discuss the policing of terrorism and other issues.

Azad Ali, chair of the MSF, said, "This is the biggest test for community relations. The years of planning, of ifs and buts--now the time has come. Our concern is of the potential backlash. We have already received numerous reports of spitting, verbal abuse and attacks."

At the Finsbury Park mosque in north London, worshippers said passersby had shouted abuse and rattled the entrance gates in the hours after Thursday's bombings.

Within hours of the attacks police forces across the country were sent advice from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) on how to counter any backlash.

Assistant Chief Constable Rob Beckley, who leads for the ACPO on policing faith-based communities, said, "We will deal very robustly with any hate crimes as a result of the bombings."

"Our aim is to prevent a backlash, we've got to work hard to prevent tensions and deal robustly with any incidents that arise."