NEWS

SC allows ex-judge

In the original writ petition filed on April 9, Mamun accused the CJ of violating the constitution and the

CJ "to show cause under what authority he was holding the office of

the president is the authority to initiate proceedings against a judge for the removal and act on the information received from the Supreme Judicial Council or from any other sources that include any

dent on May 4 to send his matter to the Supreme Judicial Council and the president directed the law "But I know nothing about the fate of

about the law ministry move regarding his petition, he came back to the Supreme Court with an application for the restitution for the original writ

around 12:30pm as one of them slashed a customer's bag contain-

ing Tk 500,000 inside the bank. Ramna police later arrested gang leader Abdur Rob alias Roba and his cohorts Robin Elahi Hannan, Moniruzzaman and Babu

branch manager Dilir Hossain said Abdul Kader, cashier of CGA Samabaya Rindan Samity Limited drew Tk 5 lakh from the bank housed in the first floor of a building opposite to Raimoni cinema hall

When he was clearing the transaction with a bank official, one of the criminals slit the bag containing the money," he told The Daily

the security guards to lock the collapsible gate of the branch," Dilir

He said the staff and customers inside caught the four, called in some policemen on patrol nearby

entered the bank following a man, who had five bills of Tk 500 and five of Tk 100 in his pocket. "Going inside, we saw a man drawing bundles of Tk 500 notes and thought we have to take the risk of snatching the money," Monir confessed told The Daily Star at the police station.

Roba was once arrested in 2002. A case has been filed under the Speedy Trial Act against the gang.

SUTRÁPUR ROBBERY

At about 6:30am, a gang of four to five armed robbers entered the house of a businessman on Thakur Das Lane in Sutrapur.

worth around Tk 32 thousand. Police arrested a man named

Mohammad Zahir on suspicion of involvement in the robbery. As of until 7:30pm, they could not recover any of the loot.

petition for the purpose of hearing and disposal of the petition.

However, the affidavit commissioners did not receive his application on Wednesday

Mamun sought the High Court's intervention yesterday in his plea for affidavit. The court immediately summoned an affidavit commissioner and asked him to do the affidavit or explain reasons why he would not do it by yesterday.

Finally, the affidavit was done esterday evening, Mamun told The

In the original writ petition Mamun alleged that the CJ did not process his case for his appointnent as a permanent judge of the High Court "out of ill will and mala fide intention," even though there was no allegation of incompetence or inefficiency against his functioning as a judge.

Thus the learned Chief Justice. disqualified himself to continue as judge of Bangladesh, inasmuch as has violated his oath, to do the right without ill will.'

UN reform

FROM PAGE 16 The PM will leave for Tokyo tomorrow at the invitation of her Japanese counterpart Junichiro Koizumi.

"I would expect that the issue of UN reform will certainly come up as one of the main agenda items of the talks between Prime Minister Koizumi and Prime Minister Khaleda," said Hatsuhisa Takashima, press secretary for Press and Public Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, at a press briefing in Tokyo vesterday.

Asked if Japan would again request Bangladesh to be a joint sponsor of the draft proposal to the UN on behalf of the Group of Four (G4) countries, Takashima said UN reform is currently the number one foreign affairs issue so far as Japan is concerned. Japan along with other members of the G4 is promoting the idea of expanding the Security Council-- both its permanent members and non-permanent members.

Japan-Bangladesh summit Takashima said. "We expect that UN reform would be one of the agenda

Japan's economic assistance to Bangladesh would certainly come up, he said. "We expect that training of Bangladeshi workers in Japan wil also be one of the agenda items to be discussed.' Moreover, there will be a wide

range of discussions including the international situation, especially the

that Japan has decided to provide a grant assistance of up to 360 million yen or \$3.4 million to Bangladesh for the Project for Human Resources Development Scholarship.

Responding to a question on the significance of the visit of Khaleda Takashima said, "We consider this visit as very important because although the relations between our two countries are very good, we see further collaboration between Bangladesh and Japan in various and political ties."

During her visit, Khaleda will be received in audience by the Emperor

The government of Japan sincerely welcomes the visit of the prime minister, which will further strengthen the friendly relations between Japan and Bangladesh," Takashima said.

Dhaka's top 10 schools

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten schools under Dhaka education board have been graded as best institutions on the basis of 100 percent pass rate in this year's SSC examinations.

The institutions are Holy Cross Girl's High School, Rajuk Uttara Model School and College, Udayan Bidyalaya, Mohammadpur Preparatory and Girl's High School, St. Gregory's High School, Savar Cantonment Public School, YWCA Girls' High School, Mirzapur Cadet college, Bangladesh International School (Jeddah) and Cantonment Board High School.

In this year's examinations, a total of 204 examinees appeared from Holy Cross, 196 from Uttara Model, 138 from Udayan, 129 from Mohammadpur Preparatory, 110 from St. Gregory's, 91 from Savar Cantt. Public School, 79 from YWCA, 51 from Mirzapur Cadet, 50 from Bangladesh Int'l School and 43 appeared from Cantt. Board High

The institutions that have hogged the limelight securing the highest numbers of GPA-5s are Vigarunnisa Noon School with 464, Ideal School and College with 452 Motijheel Model High School with 180, Monipur High School with 179. Rajuk Uttara Model School and College with 156, Government Laboratory High School with 148, Motijheel Government Boys' High School with 136, Dhaka Residential Model College with 131, Dhanmondi Government Boys' High School with 123, and Holy Cross Girls' High School with 109.

SSC result

Motijheel Model High School bagged 180 GPA-5s, Monipur High School 179, Rajuk Uttara Model School and College 156 and Government Laboratory High School 148.

The SSC exams are held simultaneously under seven mainstream secondary and higher secondary education boards, Dakhil tests under Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board and SSC Vocational exams under Technical Education Board.

This year, students under Jessore Education Board achieved the highest pass percentage of 69.19, followed by Chittagong with 60.92, Comilla 55.89, Dhaka 52.85, Sylhet 48.47, Barisal 43.41 and Rajshahi 43.13 percent.

A total of 751,421 examinees sat for this year's SSC examinations --218,674 of them under Dhaka board, 204,137 under Rajshahi 101,573 under Comilla board. 101,573 under Jessore 58,319 under Chittagong hoard, 52,316 under Barisal board and 29,459 under Sylhet board.

Education Minister Osman Farruk and State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Hague Milon, accompanied by the chairmen of the nine education boards, handed the result sheets to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

The prime minister, reportedly satisfied with the results, urged the teachers and quardians to work with more sincerity to help continue the trend of her government's success in the education sector.

Khaleda said her government attaches the highest priority to education, as investments in the sector always vields more dividend.

GPA-5

The letter-grading system was introduced in these SSC-level public examinations in 2002 when only 330 students secured GPA-5s. Students with 80 marks in each subject earlier could secure GPA 5 and no marks from the elective subjects were carried over to the

the 10 subjects. If a student, for instance, gets 60 marks in an elective subject, 20 marks would be added to his aggre-

"If the system was there in the previous years the number of students with perfect GPA would have been similar to this year," said one teacher, preferring anonymity.

AL, allıes

FROM PAGE 16 the AL, 11-party left alliance and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu). formed on July 1, prepared the draft at its second meeting held yesterday. AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil chaired the meeting at his

sition line-up are expected to finalise the draft at a meeting tonight. Jalil told The Daily Star, adding, "We will make it public within a week."

The salient features of the common reform agenda include appointment of the chief and other advisers of the caretaker government through political consensus and putting the onus of defence ministry under the chief adviser instead of the president during the tenure of caretaker administration. The electoral reform agenda include appointment of chief election commissioner through discussion with all active political parties, making the Election Commission Secretariat free from influence of the executive, and barring loandefaulters and their family members

Interest yield curve

"We have not raised the rates on deposits yet. If we have to do it, we may have to further push up the lending rates," he told The Daily

Banking sources said the move has reduced lending and increased deposits. Consequently, excess liquidity in banks has swelled, bringing down the interest rate on GOVT GIVES IN TO IMF RECIPE

Since the coalition government came to power, the finance minister and Bangladesh Bank have been persistently pressurising the commercial banks to scale down the lending rates to single-digit ones to meet borrowers' demand.

Though the finance minister's

target was not achieved, the interest

rate on export credit came down to 9

percent and on industrial loans below 12 percent. But, in last April, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) review mission advised the government to adopt a contractionary monetary policy. Following the IMF's recipe,

the central bank asked the commer-

cial banks to scale up their interest

Last week, the leaders of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (MCCI) at a meeting with Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman expressed dismay at the interest rate hike. They said it has dangerous implications for the manufacturing sector and would adversely affect the small and medium enterprises and the service sector.

In reply, the minister said in the past he had sat with the banks regularly and managed to keep the interest rates down, but the World Bank and the IMF have been insisting on a higher interest-rate

After the approval of the fourth instalment of Poverty Reduction Growth Facility (PRGF) loan to Bangladesh, IMF Managing Director Rodrigo de Rato at an Executive Board meeting remarked, "A tight monetary policy stance is important [for Bangladesh] to ensure price stability and orderly exchange market conditions.

2 editors, publisher

Anam and Janakantha Editor and Publisher Mohammad Atiq Ullah Khan Masud and Executive Editor Borhan Ahmed in two defamation

Ruling BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu filed the cases with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka on Thursday against the four and Janakantha Advisory Editor Toab Khan for publishing reports linking the lawmaker and his family members with the killing of Jubo Dal leader Sagir Ahmed.

Metropolitan Magistrate AJM Abdullahel Baki issued the bail order upon a bond of Tk 1,000 with two guarantors when the four appeared before the court at 12:30pm.

Metropolitan Magistrate AJM Abdullahel Baki issued bailable warrants for the arrest of Prothom Alo Editor Motiur Rahman and Janakantha Editor and Publisher Mohammad Atiq Ullah Khan Masud. Besides, he summoned Prothom Alo Publisher Mahfuz Anam and Janakantha Advisory Editor Toab Khan and Executive Editor Borhan Ahmed to appear before the court.

Pintu in the cases alleged that the reports were published to vilify him socially and politically. Moving the bail petitions, the

defence told the court that the reports published in the two national dailies on different dates were based on factual evidence. Besides, some other newspa-

pers ran similar reports on Sagir murder and Pintu and his family members' suspected link to it for several days. But the lawmaker singled out the two newspapers and filed the cases against the five only to harass them, the lawyers con-

have always played a great role in nation building. But their reputation in the society has been damaged due to the cases filed against them, the lawvers added.

The court also granted bail to Prothom Alo Editor Motiur Rahman and Publisher Mahfuz Anam in another defamation case filed by Shahadat Ullah Tutul, president of Dhaka City Chhatra Shibir (South) last year.

Additional police were deployed

avoid any untoward incident

Advocates Syed Rezaur Rahman, Sahara Khatun Shahjahan Khan, M Sajwar Hossain, Abdulla Abu, Sayed Ahmed Gazi, Ashraf-Ul-Alam, Samiul Karim Álamgir, Shahidullah Miah and Chaitanya Chandra Halder moved the bail petitions.

DC-10 lifted

FROM PAGE 1 onto the tarmac first and then with the help of aircraft jacks, it would be set properly on the trailers and carried to airport hanger (Bay-5).

The salvage workers from the Bangladesh Army, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Biman were preparing to start dragging the aircraft late in the afternoon yesterday.

They expressed the hope to clear the runway before midnight. The runway is likely to be open for international flights some time today after the recovery vehicles and equipment gathered inside the airport are cleared, airport sources

have to face tough time in future. Of the total unsuccessful educational institutions, some 224, more than half, are madrasas.

Education Board with 47. Education Board, five schools under

Chittagong Education Board, four schools under Sylhet Education Board and three schools under Jessore Education Board. for Education ANM Ehsanul Hague ministry would take stern action

against the educational institutions from which no student came out successful. "The ministry is going to launch a

fact-finding mission soon to reveal the reasons for their failure and findout the ways to solve the problem,

9 to 14-storey buildings

grounds at micro level. From the study he identified 100 sq km as the most risky zone for the nine to fourteen storeyed buildings during an earthquake.

"All types of earthquake are not destructive for all buildings," he said citing the example of the 1985 tremor in Mexico. "During that tremor only 18-22 storeyed buildings collapsed "he said adding ings collapsed," he said adding, "while the Taiwan tremor in 1999 destroyed the low rise buildings only

The vibration frequency of the ground depends on the characteristics of the soil and the soil of Dhaka city, which is mostly filled up to six metres, is not suitable for nine to fourteen storeyed buildings, he noted in his paper.
The ground of Dhaka represents

17 different soil types and each soil type exhibits its own characteristics responding to earthquake ground motion, it said. Citing the 1958 aerial survey, Dr

Maksud said 65 percent land of Dhaka city was lowland and the city has been growing up on that soft soil. Pointing to this fact, he requested the authorities to make a detail mapping of the safe heights for buildings in different parts of the

city.
To reduce the earthquake vulnerability he recommended developing an appropriate landuse regulation for urban earthquake risk management and updating and implementing the building code Muhammad Zafar Iqbal urged

the government to arrange detailed research in this sector to reduce earthquake vulnerability as the capital is situated in an éarthquake prone area. "If an earthquake occurs here,

we will be most affected as we do not have minimum preparation," he Prof Hossain Monsur, chairman

University of Engineering and Technology also spoke at the function. Abu Naser Khan, secretary general of Poribesh Bachao Andolon, conducted the seminar.

with the EC to implement effectively the HC directive in order to help citizens to make an informed choice.

Former advisor to the caretaker government ASM Shahjahan spoke

Faridpur-1 by-polls Aug 30

The by-polls for Faridpur-1 constituency will be held on August 30. The last date for submission of

nomination papers is August 6, said an Election Commission notification yesterday. Candidates will be able to withdraw their nomination papers until August 14, it added.

Alphadanga upazilas fell vacant on June 8. The deputy commissioner of the

officer in the by-polls. The upazila nirbahi officers of the three upazilas will serve as assistant returning officers.

CHEATING CASE

Bidisha granted permanent bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted a permanent bail to Bidisha, estranged wife of Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad, in a case filed by her former husband for stealing cheating and threatening him with death. Judge Mominullah of the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge issued the

counsels prayed for permanent bail Earlier on June 12, the same court granted her ad-interim bail until yesterday following a criminal appeal filed against the rejection order of the lower

order when Bidisha along with her

Bidisha was arrested on June 4 after her former husband filed the case. He filed a second case with the Court of First Class Magistrate, Dhaka on June 5 for cheating him after marriage, and a third one with Mohammadpur Police Station on June 8 for passport forgery.
The officer-in-charge of Gulshan

Police Station on June 16 filed a money laundering case against Bidisha.

Torture marks found on schoolboy's exhumed body STAFF CORRESPONDENT

body of schoolboy Dipu Islam beaten to death allegedly by his teachers has found black marks on his forehead and lips. Ramna police led by

A police inquest on the exhumed

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Rafiqul Islam yesterday exhumed the body from Azimpur Graveyard four days after his death on Tuesday. Physicians of the Department of Forensic Medicine at Dhaka

Medical College today perform an autopsy on the body. Teachers of Nayatola Government Primary School on July 2 beat up their class four student Dipu, who died at Ad-Deen Hospital

in Maghbazar in the capital

Jahanara Begum, Dipu's mother, on Thursday filed a murder case against two teachers and Ramna police arrested Headmistress Shaheena Akhter and Assistant Headmaster Khorshedul Haq Khasru the same day. They were taken on a three-day remand on Friday.

The teachers claimed during interrogation they are not responsible for Dipu's death and they used to treat him like other students, said the officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station.

Bangladeshi

in a pale blue scarf and top, embodies, it seems, the callous attack's victims: Londoners, Muslims, daughters, ordinary people off to work, the happy face of the cosmopolitan city. "It seems an unspeakably cruel

fate for a young woman who could have been a poster girl for British Muslims today." The Independent newspaper said Saturday. "Shahara embodies as much as anyone multicultural Britain and the

way in which younger generations of Muslims are embracing both their own and Western cultures. Killed "almost certainly by the terrorists of al-Qaeda, murdering

and maiming in the name of her The slaughter of a young British Muslim woman would provide 'proof' for the British public that the unseen enemy is indiscriminate in its violence but additionally show

the non-Muslim majority. Furthermore, her case has only strengthened the vocal condemnation of the attacks by the British Muslim community.

that the killers are not just targeting

The Sun tabloid printed her picture on its front page alongside one of Laura Webb. 29, who also left for work Thursday and never arrived.

"Two beautiful, decent women.

One Christian. One Muslim. Both missing with dozens more. Pray for them all," Britain's biggest-selling newspaper urged. Her parents came to Britain from Bangladesh in 1960, and now her

family are scouring hospitals across London to find her. Her uncle Nazmul Hasan was desperately seeking information at

the Royal London Hospital.

trying to keep it together.

"We have been constantly calling her mobile," he said. "Her mother is completely distraught and her father is desperately

"The whole family is completely devastated. If we had a body, at least we would be able to start mourning. If she was injured really badly, at least we could be there for her in hospital. "What tortures us is the fact that

police say that there are still bodies in the tunnel," he said. Hasan was scathing about the bombers who have almost certainly robbed him of his niece

"If there was a word to describe them. I would use it. "These people are not Muslims They have inflicted this on everyone in London and in Britain, including

3 killed in 'crossfire'

Relatives of Iqbal yesterday said he had gone missing from a function at a community centre in Asad gate area sometime after 9:30pm Friday.

A police press release said a team of Detective Branch of police went to Rayer Bazar area at 2:35am yesterday on information that a group of criminals had assembled in the southern part of Martyred Intellectuals Graveyard.

"As soon as the DB team reached there. 10 to 12 unidentified miscreants opened fire on them. and left the area after firing about 30 bullets," reads the police release. It said the police team found an

unknown youth lying injured on ground at the scene of shooting Police recovered a 7.62-bore

foreign pistol, two bullets and three spent bullets. They rushed labal to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital at

3:30am, but doctors declared him Police claimed Igbal was accused in five cases including four for murder. Of the murder cases,

Mohammadpur Police Stations. Sub-Inspector Shafiuddin Sheikh and Igbal Hossain were injured during the gunfight, the police release claimed. NARAYANGANJ

one filed with Ramna and three with

Police arrested Mokbul alias Moshu, an accused in five murder cases while he was extorting money from a Dhaka-bound passenger bus in Dariakandi area of Sonargaon on

A joint team of Sonargaon and

Bandar police took Mokbul to Madanpur of Bandar at around 3:30am yesterday to recover illegal firearms "We had to open fire as miscreants had already started firing on us. And at one stage, Mokbul received

bullets fired by the gangsters," said

Belayet Hossain, officer-in-charge of Sonargaon Police Station. Mokbul was taken to Narayanganj Hospital, but doctors

declared him dead. Identifying him as a member of nfamous Surat Ali gang, police said they had recovered a revolver with six round bullets and 13 cartridges

from the spot. They claimed three of the policemen received bullet wounds during the shootout. RAJSHAHI

A Rab-5 team arrested Golam Mortuza Chand, a leader of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) Taherpur Bazar of Bagmara Thursday. Following information obtained from him during interrogation, they took him to Mohonpur upazila to recover firearms in the

early hours yesterday. But as the Rab team reached Belgachhi area at 1:35am, a band of outlaws fired on them. The Rab men

"After about eight minutes into the gunfight, the Rab men found bullet-hit Mortuza lying along the Khoyra Bazar-Belgachhi Road. Doctors declared him dead when he was rushed to Mohonpur Health Complex," reads a Rab press release, adding that the Rab team had recovered a shutter gun, a

Chand was accused in three murder cases filed with Bagmara Police Station, said the Rab release.

Sergeant Julfikar

charge-sheeted

robbing a businessman of Tk 14.47 lakh in local and foreign currencies. DB Inspector Shamsul Islam investigation officer (IO) of the case submitted the charge sheet to the

The charges against Julfikar were primarily proved, the IO mentioned in the charge sheet.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman said they will continue

drive to recover the looted money.

Hunt on for London

ground trains "exploded almost

Scotland Yard Deputy Assistant Commissioner Brian Paddick said the attacks took place within 50 seconds of each other

wider range of timings between explosions. British experts have been joined by specialists from Europol to help analyse debris, sort through witness testimony, follow up the thousands

public with information and study . security camera film.

the bombs weighed less than 10 pounds and could be carried in a backpack. An explosives expert said they were likely crude homemade devices set off with a simple timer. Experts say Thursday's attacks had

investigating a purported claim of responsibility. Sir Ian Blair, commissioner of London's Metropolitan Police, said no arrests had been made but

all the hallmarks of an al-Qaeda

officials have "lots and lots" of leads. Home Secretary Charles Clarke, the Cabinet minister responsible for law and order, said it was a "strong possibility" that al-Qaeda or a sym-

The bombs were probably made from simple, relatively easy-toobtain plastic explosives, not the higher-grade military plastics like Semtex that would have killed far more people, said Andv Oppenheimer, a weapons expert who consults for Jane's Information

"Any crook with ready cash could

obtain this stuff if they knew where to look for it," said Alex Standish, the editor of Jane's Intelligence Digest. BACKLASH AGAINST MUSLIMS The first indications of a possible backlash against British Muslims came Friday with reports of suspicious fires at a mosque in Leeds and

Meetings were being held across Britain as the authorities and communities moved to limit any back-

Police said about 70 incidents against minorities had been recorded. They ranged from the suspicious fires to two possible assaults, verbal abuse and threat-

Muslims they "have no reason to feel ashamed" and should go about their daily lives. The home secretary, Charles

minor" indications of a backlash. defending Britain's "multi faith community" and voiced concern about some of the language used in

not be able to succeed," he said. THIRD CLAIM A group claiming links to al Qaeda called the Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades said on Saturday it was behind the blasts and suggested it could strike again. It was the third

since the blasts. "We will not rest until security becomes a reality in the land of Islam and Muslims in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine." it said

n an Internet statement. The group has claimed authorship of previous attacks in Turkey have treated its statements sceptically, seeing it as an opportunistic

group trying to associate itself to al-

WHO'S NEXT? After deadly rush-hour bombings in Spain and Britain just over a year apart, Italians and other US allies in Europe are asking themselves:

vear's Madrid train bombs and London's police chief has said Thursday's London attacks bore all the hallmarks of the loose Islamist

A vocal European proponent of

Two different groups claiming affiliation to al-Qaeda have warned of attacks on Italy within the past 24 hours alone.

Italy dispatched extra plain-

clothes police to guard public trans-

tive sites" were under special guard. But for many Rome residents, an "It will happen. Rome is an important city, it's home to the Vatican. Maybe not today, or tomor-

row, but eventually," said Rita Pesce, waiting for a bus. After the United States and Britain, Italy is the third largest Western member of coalition forces in Iraq, and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi acknowledged

Qaeda's Jihad in Europe", which also claimed credit for the London Denmark's Foreign Minister Per

ultimately vulnerable.

the threats. Even France, which won support

risk is high because it shares intelligence with Washington and London, and has helped leaders in its North African ex-colonies fight Islamic radicals. (AFP, REUTERS, The Guardian, AP)

my application since then," Mamun told The Daily Star. As the former judge was in dark

beaten black and blue. Describing the incident, acting

"Feeling the bag jerk, Kader looked around and saw a man putting a hand in the bag through the slit. He shouted in alarm, prompting

and informed Ramna police. One of the gang members, Moniruzzaman, admitted that they

The officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station said the gang led by Roba used to rob people of the cash they had drawn from the banks in Old Dhaka and Motijheel areas.

They held the inmates at gunpoint and looted Tk 12 thousand in cash, and jewellery and clothes

September 2003.

disqualify the group although making such change is a gross violation of the rules and renders the tender process meaningless.

Belhasa and Orion showed

experienced Japanese power

company Nissho Iwai Corporation

as lead sponsor to pre-qualify in the

tender for this power plant back in

But after the pre-qualification,

Belhasa named BN Consortium as lead sponsor while submitting the bid. This time Belhasa replaced BN Steag AG as lead sponsor. Being a trading company, Belhasa lacks the qualification to be

a lead sponsor in the bid for such a

big power project while Orion came

into being only in the context of this

Back in March, Saifur asked the

power ministry how the cabinet . committee could approve awarding a project to a party that did not win the bid or did not even exist when the PDB selected the bidders. Yet, Saifur changed his mind at the June 26 economic affairs committee meeting where the power

ministry and the PDB said they

approved the change of the name of the lead sponsor'. The Private Sector Infrastructure Guideline's clause 6.4.4 clearly states that the composition of bidders cannot change after prequalification. Other government bid documents also bar such changes.

The Orion-Belhasa-Steag con-

sortium has been asked to provide

only \$10 million worth of perfor-

mance bond, whereas in the case of Meghnaghat 1 or Sirajganj project, the bond was \$30 million. The ministry's proposal outlined a power tariff of 2.78 cents per kilowatt hour for the Meghnaghat-2

The BNP- led four-party alliance government has so far awarded only two power projects and that also to a single technically disqualified company -- Chinese Harbin-ignoring proper bids from some of the world's renowned power companies. Orion-Belhasa's Meghnaghat 2 deal will add to the list of disquali

Disqualified bidder fied companies bagging deals in Bangladesh using political influ-

Cops FROM PAGE 16 Burglars and low profile criminals are now forming gangs and committing robberies, he said, adding that making of a new list and crackdown

on the criminals will help to curb such

letters to different banks, financial

institutions, shopping complexes

The DMP has already issued

and business organisations in the city to install close circuit televisions to help check crimes like looting of money, he said. Admitting that misbehaviour with people by some policemen, particularly duty officers of different police stations, is causing embarrassment for the authorities, the DMP commissioner said, "We will undertake a workshop to impart training to police-

men posted at different police sta-

tions to teach them how to behave

In four city police stations, addi-

politely with people.

tional policemen have been assigned to help the duty officers and essen their workload, he said. He said he will discuss with the top brasses regarding journalists' demand for a DMP spokesman who will officially provide information to the newsmen after any big criminal

. Jatrabari and Shahbagh in around a Referring to police records, he said during the last six months (January-June) 120 people were killed in the city while 216 were killed during the same period last year. He said 482 incidents of women

repression, 52 of abduction, 355 of

burglary, 190 of car lifting, 771 of theft

were recorded during January to

Mizanur Rahman said two new

police stations will be opened at

June this year. During the same period last year, 610 incidents of women repression 69 of abduction, 436 of burglary, 320 of car lifting and 793 of theft were

On the issues to be focused at the

situation in southwest Asia. The press secretary mentioned

would like to promote these friendly relations further and we would like to

to 9,886 last year and 1,392 the year before.

aggregate. But the new system allows marks above 40 in the elective subjects to be added to the aggregate and equally divided for

Motilheel office in the city. The central leaders of the oppo-

of geology department of DU, and from participating in elections.

409 institutions institutions having zero-success will

Board wise: Rajshahi Education Board topped the list of zerosuccess educational institutions with 89 followed by Dhaka No student came out successful from 37 schools under Barisal

When contacted, State Minister Milon told the news agency that the

on the court premises yesterday to

HC order FROM PAGE 16

district has been appointed return-

Dr Shamsul Alam of Chittagono

HC directive is to ensure voters' right to know in detail about the candidates and such right is very much a part of the right to franchise. He said the responsibility rests

The Jatiya Sangsad seat comprising Madhukhali. Boalmari and

Police arrested Julfikar on June 29 on charge of looting the money from moneychanger Azhar Ali.

Technical data from London Underground disproved the earlier

simultaneously", say police.

of telephone calls made by the

HOMEMADE DEVICES USED The British police have said each of

strike, and authorities were gathering evidence on the ground and

pathetic group had carried out the attack.

a Sikh temple in Kent, as police confirmed that tension around the country was increasing.

ening calls. Imams used Friday prayers to condemn the bombings and to tell

Clarke, after meeting faith leaders, including Sir Iqbal Sacranie of the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB). said there were only "very, very He stressed the importance of returned fire and it soon escalated into a gunfight.

bullet, and a knife from the scene.

MONEY LOOTING

COURT CORRESPONDENT Detective Branch (DB) police yesterday pressed charges against Sergeant Julfikar Ali accusing him of

Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka, showing 22 people as prosecution witnesses.

our multi-faith community should

such claim by an Islamist group

who's next? Spain blames al-Qaeda for last

network. US foreign policy, Italy is a repeated target of Islamic militant threats.

port, heightened security at airports and said more than 13,000 "sensiattack seems inevitable.

that Italy's role in Iraq left it "exposed" to attack. Denmark has also sent troops to Iraq and found itself threatened along with Italy by the previously unknown "Secret Group of al

inevitably "slip through the net" and warned all European nations were Poland, which has about 1,700 troops in Iraq and commands a multinational division, played down

Stig Moeller said terrorists would

in the Muslim world for opposing the Iraq war, is warning that it too could be a target. French security experts say the

the media, particularly radio phoneins. "The response should be to ensure that those who try to destroy

oath of office by not confirming him as a permanent judge of the HC. He also sought a rule upon the

the chief justice of Bangladesh and why it shall not be declared that the office of the chief justice of Bangladesh has become vacant upon his disqualification." On April 17, the High Court rejected his plea and observed that

petition or representation. Mamun appealed to the presiministry to take necessary action.

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