# Suicide bombings kill Dipu's body at least 40 in Iraq

**AP**, Baghdad

A man strapped with explosives blew himself up at an Iraqi military recruiting center in Baghdad as suicide bombers attacked five times in Iraq vesterday killing at least 40 people and breaking a relative full in violence in recent days.

The attacks pushed the death count to over 1.500 people killed in violence Ibrahim al-Jaafari announced his Shiite- and Kurd-dominated government in a country under attack from an insurgency led by Iraq's Sunni Arab minority.
At least 14 other people were killed

in attacks elsewhere overnight and into Sunday, and the body of kidnapped Iragi karate association chief Ali Shaki was found floating in the Tigris river southeast of Baghdad.

In the deadliest blast yesterday, a suicide bomber blew himself up at an Iraqi military recruiting center at

#### Hasina

FROM PAGE 16 Hasina said while speaking to the bereaved family members of those killed in the January 27 grenade attack at Baidyer Bazar of Habiganj district.

Khodeja Khatun, widow of late Abu Hossain and their son Abdul Matin, Sohrat Banu, widow of Siddique Ali and their son Mokhlesur Rahman, Aasia Khatun, widow of Abdur Rahman, their daughter Fatema Khatun and son Šohel Ahmed met Hasina, who is also the opposition leader, at her Sudha Sadan residence. "If proper investigations were

into the August 21 and Habiganj grenade attacks, the involvement of the state minister for home affairs and prime minister's advisor would be revealed," she said.

Hasina alleged that the government is trying to manage confessional statement from Arman and George Mia in a bid to divert the course of the probe into the August 21 grenade attacks incident.

Who is Arman? He had been involved in smuggling with a state minister," she said

Referring to the recent bomb attacks in London, she said, "Look at the British government and see how sincerely and quickly they responded to the victims of the attacks. Their intelligence agencies are making the best efforts to find out the criminals."

The government did not do any thing for the victims of the August 21 and Habiganj grenade attacks, she said, adding that the law enforcement agencies, being advised by the government, made way for the attackers' fleeing.

Hasina criticised the government for its "failure to control law and order downslide and curb price hike of essentials" and said people are being killed extra-judicially and AL party leaders and activists harassed, attacked and killed across the coun

She condemned the "crossfire" incidents by the Rapid Action

She handed over cheques worth Tk 50.000 to each of the families of the Habiganj grenade attack victims who called on her yesterday

AL leader Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Hasan Mahmud, Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Mirza Azam MP and Habiganj district AL leaders Muthana airfield near central Baghdad killing 25 people and wounding 47, according to the U.S. military and hospital officials.

The explosion occurred just before 9am as about 400 would-be recruits were crowded outside the gate of the center, which had been hit several times before by suicide attackers.

In February, a suicide bomber blew himself up in a crowd outside the recruiting center, killing 21 people and wound

The Iraqi Islamic Party the country's largest Sunni political party denounced Sunday's attack, saying "dozens of

acts that we strongly condemn."
In the northern city of Mosul, suicide car bomber rammed into a police convoy carrying Brig. Gen. Salim Salih Meshaal, killing four policemer and wounding three, police said Meshaal was not injured.

A suicide car bomb also exploded in Kirkuk, killing at least four civilians and wounding 15, police said. The attack occurred on a highway near a hospital and municipal building and the force of the blast toppled a few trees and shattered windows in surrounding buildings.

## Forces fight

the area in one of which the forces recovered a huge cache of explosives and bullets and eight rifles, and captured guerrilla member Abul Kalam from Naikhangchhari's Tengra Murong area on July 6.

A number of such drives in the area since last September has seen the destruction of many guerrilla dens as well as recovery of about 200 modern weapons. The Bandarban army sources

said the ongoing operation was launched on Saturday night based on information provided by Abul

## 8 Bangladeshis

The workers were suffocated to death as the fire swept through a furniture warehouse where the poor workers were staving. The workers were sleeping in a small room that served as their living quarters in the warehouse when the fire broke out Saturday night. The room could only be accessed

through the warehouse and did not have any window. Saudi newspapers quoted a civil defence official as saying that the blaze was caused by negligence and the men suffocated death from the smoke.

Al-Hayat daily said all eight victims were from Bangladesh However, Al-Riyadh reported that seven were from Bangladesh, while the other was an Yemeni

### Don't run

FROM PAGE 16 the 'changing scenario of the coun-

follow his views

"Criminal tendency is increasing

in our society due to changes in time So, the Press Council Act should be updated." he added.

'Guilty people can be warned and slammed under the current press

laws, but this is not enough," he said. The press council chairman expressed the hope the country's

# House passes tax

The ombudsman is supposed to be

way a Supreme Court judge is removed.

The bill provides the ombuds-

independent in discharging the

duties and can only be removed the

man with judicial power to investigate any complaint filed by a taxpayer. The ombudsman himself can probe any complaint or assign an official at his office to do the job. The authorised official can access any official documents necessary for investigation. The ombudsman can also issue

warrant asking anybody to appear The office of the ombudsman will

be a recommending body and the government is obligated to implement its recommendations. The government will have to explain the reasons in case it fails to implement the recommendations, according to the bill.

The ombudsman will receive complaints from the taxpayers and hear both the taxpayers and tax officials to resolve the disputes. If necessary, he can take help of an advisory committee to dispose of a complaint, proposed the bill.

The ombudsman can form an investigation team and direct it to raid the houses of taxpayers or tax officials if and when necessary.

If a tax official is found guilty, the ombudsman will recommend necessary action against him. If the NBR disagrees with the ombudsman's recommendations, it can explain to the ombudsman the reasons for the disagreement.

If the ombudsman continues to differ with the NBR on a particular issue, he will seek the finance minister or the president's guidance.

If a taxpayer is found guilty of making false allegation against tax officials, the ombudsman can suggest punitive actions against him.

The tax ombudsman will report annually to the president within three months of completion of a calendar vear.

Before complaining against tax officials, a taxpayer will have to sign a declaration. If an issue has been dealt with by the court or pending with the court, the ombudsman's

office will not deal with it. The bill stipulates that the tax ombudsman shall be aged below 67 years. A retired judge or government official can be chosen for this post. The ombudsman will have experience in and knowledge of revenue

According to the NBR, only 17 lakh people in Bangladesh, with a population of 14 crore, have tax dentification numbers (TIN) and fewer than five lakh pay tax. The taxpayers often complain of bribery and harassment

VESSELS' WAIVER The parliament also passed another

bill titled "Bangladesh Flag Vessels (Protection) Ordinance, 1982" proposing another two-year extension of general waiver of taxes on the Bangladeshi vessels for smooth handling of cargoes. The two-year general waiver is

due to expire on July 11 next year. SESSION PROROGUED Γhe budget session was prorogued

yesterday after 22 working days amid boycott by the main opposition Awami League. The parliament in this session passed the budget for the current fiscal year. Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar in his

wrap-up speech urged the Awami League to join the next session. He also condemned the bomb attack in London and sympathised with the

### Zero-performing

successful in this year's SSC examinations so that they can better perform in the future.

From 409 educational institutions none could pass the SSC examinations this year. These unsuccessful institutions include 224 madrasas, 89 institutions under the Rajshahi Education Board, 47 under Dhaka board, 37 under Barisal, five under Chittagong, four under Sylhet and three under the Jessore Education Board.

There are no unsuccessful educational institutions this year under Comilla board and the Technical Education Board, according to education boards statistics.

The number of institutions with zero-pass rate was 567 in 2004 and 642 in 2003. The ministry has so far cancelled

MPOs of some 42 educational

institutions for poor performance in Earlier, a committee was formed with educationists, researchers and non-government organisations in the education sector to determine the cause of mediocre performance

about the cause of the 12-year-old schoolboy's death after conducting pathological test.

Following a court order, a fourmember medical board headed by Prof Akhteruzzaman, head of Forensic Medicine Department of Dhaka Medical College, carried out the post-mortem yesterday.

A police inquest report also said here are black spots on the forenead and lips of the body. A class four student of Nayatola

Government Primary School, Dipu died at a city hospital on Tuesday, three days after teachers beat him up mercilessly at his school.

His body was exhumed from Azimpur Graveyard on Saturday after his mother filed a murder case with the Ramna Police Station on Thursday accusing the school Headmistress Shaheena Akhter and Assistant Headmaster Khorshedul Hag Khashru.

Both the accused are now being quizzed under remand.

On completion of autopsy, doctors handed over Dipu's body to his

### **NSI** regrets

FROM PAGE 1
Jatiya Press Club (JPC) Secretary
Shawkat Mahmud, Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) President Elahi Newaj Khan, Bangladesh Photojournalists Association (BPJA) President AKM Mohsin and ts Secretary Mir Ahmed Miru were n the delegation that met the DG at

NSI men on June 7 swooped on nine photoiournalists and injured them when a daily Janakantha lensman was snapping shots in front of the intelligence outfits' office. They held two of the photojournalists at their office for hours and later handed them over to Ramna police at 4:30pm. They also filed a case against the lensmen the same

The DG offered his sympathy for the injured journalists and promised to take initiatives to withdraw the case, said AKM Mohsin.

The NSI boss said the officials responsible for the attack would be disciplined if the probe finds them guilty, said a BPJA press release.

Meanwhile, Ramna police said they have yet to receive any official letter regarding the withdrawal of the case until filing of this report at 8:00pm. The officer-in-charge of the police station could not be reached for comment while deputy commissioner (South) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police could not say anything about the matter.
CONDEMNATION IN

Opposition lawmakers in parliament yesterday asked the government to take actions against the NSI men involved in the beating of photojour-

Raising the issue on a point of have worked most of the time under a order, Krishok Sramik Janata senior advocate and spent a little League lawmaker Kader Siddiqui "Two photojournalists were beaten up badly by NSI men inside their office recently "It's ironic that the NSI had filed a

case against those who were beaten up. Anisur Rahman, one of the injured, is still in hospital with injuries," he said, describing the cáse as false. He also demanded an inquiry

into the incident and punishment of the persons responsible for the assault.

The opposition lawmaker said country's security is under threat as the people who are responsible to maintain the national security are resorting to wrongdoing and false-

Rawshan Ershad, the parliamentary party leader of the Jatiya Party (JP-Ershad), also mentioned the

## JS body

FROM PAGE 1 they wanted to know the role of the law ministrv.

The meeting also decided to discuss the judicial probe commission's report on August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally on Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka and the removal of the IGP who was convicted in a contempt case this

About the presidential amnesty, the committee was informed that President lajuddin Ahmed in January this year granted amnesty to Mohiuddin Jintu, who was awarded death penalty 23 years ago in a double-murder case

In his appeal to the president for mercy, Jintu claimed himself to be the founder president of the ruling BNP's Sweden chapter. After evading capture by the law

enforcers for more than two decades, he surrendered to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka on January 3 this year. He was granted amnesty within 10 days of the surrender. Metropolitan Sessions Judge

Dhaka, Motiur Rahman in 1982 sentenced Jintu to death for murdering businessmen Abdul Khalea Rana and Firoz Al Mamun of Demra the same year. The judgement was delivered in absentia Meeting sources said respond-

ng to lawmakers' gueries, a senior official of the law ministry told the meeting that they had received a file from the home ministry in this regard. However, the official could not complete his statement as the law minister himself assured the committee of informing it of the matter in the next meeting.

'We will discuss the involvement of the law ministry in this matter," Committee Chairman Khandakar Mahbubuddin said after the meet-

Awami League lawmaker and committee member Suraniit Sengupta said he did not challenge the president's power of mercy. "But I have the right to know what opinion the law ministry had given to the

# Govt to enact law

appointed during the previous Awami League rule.

The debate over the judges' appointment brewed a few years ago is going on. Protests and agitation have now become a regular phenomenon on the court premises.

Alarmed at the situation, the government is considering working out a way to rid the judiciary of criticism and determine the criteria for appointment of the HC judges. "We are pondering over introduc-

ing a law on the required qualification

for judges; we need to do this," Law Minister Moudud Ahmed told The Daily Star on Thursday. Since this is a sensitive issue, the law should be formulated through talks with all political parties having representation in parliament, lega

experts, senior lawyers and jurists,

"I personally think there should be a guideline and law on the qualifications needed for a judge as there are many criticisms and allegations over the issue," said Moudud.

The existing provision (for advocates) of a 10-year practising experience in the Supreme Court is too minimal, more experienced people should be made judges, he said.

At present HC judges are appointed as per Article 95(2) of the constitution. The section 95 (2) reads: "A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a Judge unless he is

a citizen of Bangladesh and- (a) has,

for not less than ten years, been a

advocate of the Supreme Court: or (b) has, for not less than ten years, held judicial office in the territory of Bangladesh. "In some cases, it has been found that lawyers after their enrolment keep themselves busy otherwise, not in practice." Moudud said. adding that many of them practise

year professional career to achieve the qualification for a judge. Since 10 years' experience is too little, we will have to raise it," he said, mentioning that once there was a provision requiring 15 to 20 years

law hardly for two years of the 10-

experience to be a judge. Asked whether any constitutional amendment is needed to re-fix the qualification, the law minister replied the negative. "Article 95 (2) (c) provides the scope for fixing the qualification by introducing a new law. So, we are thinking to enact a law (in this regard)."

"The new law will not only raise the required level of experience, it will also determine other qualities of a iudge, which will be finalised through talks," Moudud said. The law ministry is presently

collecting relevant laws and court observations of other countries to review those for fixing qualifications Sources said a lawyer having 10 years' experience is usually found to

time for his own practice. A High Court division bench while delivering the verdict of a case involving a judge on May 20, 2002 observed the judges must have a firm character and should follow a code of

Appointment of judges should follow a transparent and fair system. It is not enough to appoint a judge just by consulting the chief justice.

Judges must be appointed through the full court reference of the High Court, the bench said

The bench also said the selection

Noted economist Prof Mozaffar

Ahmed, former cabinet secretary M

Mujibul Hag, Workers Party

President Rashed Khan Menon,

Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Goutam

Dewan, Asaduzzaman Noor MP,

Zahiruddin Swapon MP, economist

Debapryia Bhattacharya

Metropolitan Chamber of

Commerce President Kutubuddin

Ahmed, Dr Mahmuda Islam, Dr ATM

Obaidullah, among others, took part

Daily Prothom Alo, was the modera-

tor of the roundtable on good gover-

nance, parliament, democracy,

people in the country suffer hard-

ships mainly due to absence of good

governance and rampant corrup-

tion. "In our country, personal and

party interests take precedence

over the national interest," he

Mujibul Haq described the existing

constitution as the seedbed for all

problems. He proposed forming a

constitution commission comprising

civil society members for making

recommendations on reforms in the

the government of a number of

economic problems in the future. He

said that the rate of inflation would

go up following the hike in prices of

essential items in domestic and

He said both the main political

parties should take notice of the

future economic trends because

whoever comes to office next will

Kutubuddin Ahmed asked the

Depicting the country's overall

socio-economic conditions, Motiur

Rahman said people are getting

anxious about the looming political

unrest as the opposition parties are

gearing up for agitation for reforms

in the caretaker government and

electoral systems while the ruling

parties remain opposed to the idea.

political leaders to make the country

a profitable, and not a 'losing con-

have to deal with the situation.

international markets.

Debapriva Bhattacharva warned

Former cabinet secretary M

Prof Mozaffar Ahmed said the

Motiur Rahman, editor of the

in the discussion

crisis and potential.

constitution.

of judges from lawyers by the chief justice has some loopholes. To overcome this, the process must go

through a panel of Supreme Court judges.
In the greater interest of the nation, the executive must keep the issue of appointment of judges above

politics. The Supreme Court recommendations on the appointment must be made effective and meaningful, the judgement suggested. It further said during the selection of judges the background of nominees must be checked and cross-

The judgement said the appointment of the judges should be kept above political considerations.

checked as a precautionary mea-

On the qualities needed to be a udge, the then Indian Chief Justice Bhagavati said in a judgement in 1982: "What is necessary is to have judges who are prepared to fashion new tools, forge new methods, innovate new strategies and evolve a new jurisprudence, who are judicial esmen with a social vision and a creative faculty and who have, above all, a deep sense of commitment to the constitution with an activis approach and obligation for accountability, not to any party in power nor to the opposition nor to the classes which are vociferous but to the half hungry millions of (India) who are continually denied of basic human

Article 124 of the Indian constitution says categorically that in the case of appointment of a judge other than the chief justice, the chief justice of India shall always be consulted.

Article 111 (2) of Sri Lankan constitution says: The Judges of the High Court shall be appointed by the President of the Republic by warrant under his hand and be removable and be subject to disciplinary control by the President on the recommendation of the Judicial Service

However, the present government of Bangladesh did not consult the chief justice during judges' appointment, and also ignored his recommendations while confirming the judges, though it is a convention.

Former vice chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council Barrister Amir-Ul Islam said last week. 'Judges are being appointed according to their partisan identity, not considering their talent, character, quality, language skill or legal sense. The worst thing that has hap-

pened to the judiciary is arbitrary appointment of the judges, he observed. Supreme Court Bar Association had even decided once not to address the controversially

appointed judges 'my lord'. Barrister Amir suggested formation of a Judicial Service Commission for regulating the appointment process of the judges and conducting academic evaluation to ensure quality of judicial service.

He stressed the need for a permanent inspection system to ensure transparency and accountability of the judiciary.

### 'Outlaw'

They said Nazrul, a resident of Durgapur in the sadar upazila, was accused of four criminal charges

Locals however said Nazrul used

to drive a three-wheeler in the area.

AL, BNP stalwarts day while leakage of gas in innumer-

> Asaduzzaman Noor MP said, "It is useless to attend the parliament as adjourning motions brought by the opposition members get rejected.

### 2,547 questions in parliament but none of those were accepted, he

The AL MPs submitted a total of

### Dhaka doesn't

FROM PAGE 1

other countries. BK Handique, Indian state minister for parliamentary affairs and defence, who leads the eightmember delegation, made the remark when he called on Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan at his office in the city, said a foreign ministry

press release. Handique, also deputy chief whip of the treasury bench of Indian parliament, categorically said the allegations of Indian insurgent camps in Bangladesh do not reflect the position of New Delhi but emanate from the media and some vested quarters. He commended the Bangladesh

on Indian insurgents whenever found in its territory and flashing them out. The Indian delegation discussed BIMSTEC and a wide range of bilateral issues including trade, investment, security, multimodal connectiv-

ity and border management with

Morshed Khan.

government for launching crackdown

The release said both the sides underscored realisation of trade and nvestment potential between Bangladesh and the northeastern Indian states. The Indian team also emphasised the need for expansion of road, rail and air connectivity between the two close neighbours. Handique proposed to form a

Bangladesh-India parliamentary

friendship forum to enhance interactions and exchange of ideas between the democratic institutions and people's representatives. In response, the Bangladesh foreign minister said he has already suggested formation of such an interparliamentary committee. Dhaka

told the delegation. The delegation also called on Foreign Ministry Adviser Reaz Rahman earlier in the day.

believes in continued dialogue and

constructive engagement with India

for resolving the bilateral issues, he

## PM urges AL

neutral only when the Awami League wins the election," Khaleda said and bitterly criticised the AL for 'conspiring to destabilise the government'

The prime minister said: "Nothing will happen by their bringing out processions from the House with black flags. You will not be able to aet public attention through such programmes. Making a fresh call upon the AL

to return to parliament in the next session, the prime minister said, "People have voted you to parliament to take part in its proceedings not to create anarchy in the streets. The prime minister said the main

opposition is scared by the 'massive development works' of the govern-"The main opposition is concerned and for this it is now talking

about reforms of the caretaker

government," she added. Khaleda said the AL now demands reforms of the caretaker government system which it once termed the best system for free and fair election. It was also the AL's brainchild, she added. The prime minister was critical of

Hasina, and questioned her credibility because of her past remarks about caretaker government and Lauding activities of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in maintaining law and order, Khaleda said

the leader of the opposition, Sheikh

tion to stop activities of the elite force, the government will continue **PRICES OF ESSENTIALS** The prime minister told the House that prices of essentials have not

despite 'propaganda' by the opposi-

are cooking up reports. "We will have to consider prices of essentials in the international context rather than thinking of it in local context only," she said.

"We import edible oil among

many other items and prices of

these products are high on the

increased and some newspapers

international market," she pointed But, the premier said, prices of a few products have been increased

intentionally Khaleda justified the existing prices of different essentials including food by saying: "We will have to provide fair price to the farmers to encourage production. Despite these facts, we are aware of the situation and the government will take action if there is any suffering of commoners due to price hike."

### Hartal

FROM PAGE 16

At about 10:00am, several hundred locals brought out a procession and put barricade on the road in front of the gas field.

About half an hour later, police

baton-charged the agitators and cleared the road to make way for the Niko vehicles. Police also picked up two agitators who were released in the eve-

In the afternoon, a rally was held at the Traffic point area protesting the police's lathicharge on the agitators at Tengratila area.

Tengratila Dabi Aday Sangram Parishad also held a protest rally in front of the gas field in the afternoon. Fire at the main burning point at Tengratila and some other spots around continued burning yester-

able bubbles was still observed. However, the intensity of fire has lessened much during the last two

Niko and Bapex officials are hopeful that the situation will not deteriorate further as the gas in the pocket is exhausting fast.

As Niko authorities are preparing to start the drilling of the second relief well at Tengratila on 25 July, transportation of the materials for the rig from the Moulvibazar gas field to Tengratila continues. Energy Secretary M Nasiruddin and Bapex Managing Director Md Jamal Uddin visited the area on Saturday. Meanwhile. two Niko employees sustained burn injuries from fire sparked reportedly from a nearby whole while they were working on an electric generator in the gas field area yesterday.

# DC-10 finally

FROM PAGE 1

With the runway now cleared Muscat-bound BG-021 with 241 passengers was scheduled to depart at 9:45pm yesterday as the first international flight from the airport after July 1, Biman District Manager Ahmed Hossain said. After five hours' dragging

through the runway on three trailers, the damaged DC-10 aircraft reached Bay-5 point, about a kilometre away from the crash spot at The aircraft was earlier lifted on four trailers and dragged to the

runway from the muddy patch where

it was lying for the last ten days. The DC-10 flying from Dubai with 215 passengers aboard skidded off the runway on July 01 after it was forced to make a crash-landing "due to technical faults".

Due to the delay of the plane's salvage, Biman authorities had to cancel at least 10 outgoing and 15 incoming international flights from and to the Chittagong airport in last ten days and incurred huge financial loss, sources said. A 300-strong army contingent, a

40-member team of Bangladesh Biman engineers and technicians and Biman and Caab officials took part in the 10-day mammoth operation that used two army tanks, an armoured recovery vehicle, large cranes and trailers.

# PM flies to Japan today

Khaleda, who will hold official talks with her Japanese counterpart, will seek duty free access of Bangladeshi products to reduce trade deficit, more Japanese investment, and financial support to the

proposed Padma Bridge. Hemayetuddin said the two-way trade heavily favours Japan as Bangladesh's import from Japan was \$532 million in 2003-04 while its export to Japan was \$118 million

only.
Hemayetuddin said the Khaleda-Koizumi talks on July 14 will also encompass regional and international issues, including the proposed United Nations (UN) reforms. Japan's Press Secretary for

Foreign Affairs Hatsuhisa

Takashima at a briefing in Tokyo on July 8 said Koizumi will Bangladesh's support for the draft resolution on the UN Security Council reforms and look into the possibility of Bangladesh's cosponsoring of this resolution. The talks between the two premiers will be followed by an "exclu-

sive meeting" between Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and

Japanese Foreign Minister

Nobutaka Machimuri on July 15. During her four-day (July 12-15) official visit, Khaleda will have an audience with Emperor Akihito at the Imperial Palace on July 15. She will be a keynote speaker at a seminar on "Investment Opportunity in

Bangladesh" on July 14. Hemavetuddin said Japan Trade Organisation (JETRO) in its study has already identified Bangladesh as one of top 15 countries for attractive destina-

A select group of Japanese businessmen as well as heads of JETRO and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will call

on the prime minister. During the visit, the two sides will sign a Record of Discussions making way for training of Bangladeshi workers in as many as 60 different types of small and medium scale industries for a period of one to three

In the development of human resources sector, Japan has so far granted scholarships to 5,000 angladeshi students,

Hemayetuddin said. One major itinerary of the PM includes laving the foundation stone of a permanent Shaheed Minar in the centre of Tokyo city in memory of the martyrs of historic Language Movement of 1952. The PM's official entourage

includes Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Major (retd) Quamrul Islam, Deputy Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Moni Swapan Dewan, and Advisor to the energy ministry and Executive Chairman of Board of Investment (Bol) Mahmudur Rahman.

Mahmudur Rahman will lead a 24-member official business delegation while Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Investment (FBCCI) President Abdul Awal Mintoo will lead another 50-member business delegation.

The PM will return on July 15.

# 20,000 evacuated

Assistant chief constable Stuart Hvde, meanwhile, discounted a direct link to the London bombing of three trains and a bus.

"I do not believe that the incident that we are dealing with this evening is connected with the events of July 7 in London.' The heart of Britain's second city n central England, 195 kilometres (120 miles) from London, was

Midlands Police told AFP the cordon had largely lifted by 6:00 am (0500 As Birmingham gradually returned to normal, police continued

their hunt for the culprits behind

sealed off overnight but West

London massacre. UK-BORN TERRORISTS? Writing in the News of the World newspaper. London's former police chief, Sir John Stevens, said he

believed the bombings were almost

certainly carried out by Britons, not

He said police had foiled at least eight similar attacks in Britain in the past five years. Outlining his fears that UK based terrorists were behind the attacks, Lord Stevens said it was thought

als had been trained in al-Qaeda He said that authorities believed that either they, or others they had

3,000 British born or based individu-

passed their knowledge on to, were The British police said the three subway bombs went off almost simultaneously, making it more likely they were detonated by timers, rather than suicide bombers. That means the bombers may still

be at large and could strike again, they said RAT-INFESTED TUNNEL

Below Kina's Cross, workers were still trying to retrieve bodies from a not, narrow and rat-infested tunnel. Andy Trotter, deputy chief constable of the British Transport Police, said the search for bodies some 40 metres (100 feet) below ground in temperatures reaching 60 Celsius (140 Fahrenheit) was gruelling. "It is extremely hot, very dusty

and it is a great challenge for them to

continue their work to recover the

remaining bodies from the train

underground," Trotter told a news conference. An unknown number of bodies remained out of reach in crumpled remnants of a six-carriage train between the city's Russell Square

and King's Cross stations.

SEARCH FOR LOVED ONES

Anxious relatives continued to scoul London's hospitals in search of loved ones missing since Thursday's blasts -- the worst peacetime attacks on the British capital. Walls, bus stops and telephone

boxes close to King's Cross station, scene of the worst blast, were covered with photographs of missing people and appeals for information about them. Well-wishers have left hundreds

of bouquets of flowers outside the

station, many accompanied by messages testifying to London's multi-ethnic and multinational mix. "Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist. We are all Londoners," read one message

scrawled on a Union Jack flag.

"This is not about religion, race, eliefs. This is about human being: killing human beings," read the simple message attached to a bunch of flowers in Russell Square

Gous Ali, a Muslim whose part-

"I pray to God that God will pun-

ish them for what they have done,'

ner Neetu Jain remained missing

three days on from the attacks, condemned the perpetrators. "It's awful sitting here as a Muslim," Ali told Channel Four

# Japan not signing

of the prime minister.

would be able to sign at least a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the bridge during the visit

Japan has already suggested Bangladesh to organise the same financier group that helped construct the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge--the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Japan, and Bangladesh itself. "Bangladesh has already delayed its move in this regard. It has not yet requested the World Bank till now," Horiguchi pointed out. The Japan International

Cooperation Agency (JICA) completed a three-year feasibility study

n May at a cost of \$5.6 million. The

JICA studied four sites for the pro-

iect and found Maowa and Aricha as

feasible. However, of these, the

JICA believes Maowa is the best If the bridge is built over the Padma at Maowa, it will end at Janjira on the other side laying a four-lane 5.6 kilometres structure. The bridge will also have a railway track, gas and other pipelines to connect the central region of the country with the southwestern region and have huge economic

Families of about 3000 houses will have to be relocated from Maowa and Janjira points. "At present times Aricha sees

more commuters than Maowa. But IICA helieves within 10 to 20 years, Maowa will be the key gateway for the development of the southwestern region," Horiguchi pointed out.

returns for the nation.

The JICA also analysed aerial photographs of the Padma taken in the 1920s. '40s and two other decades to see how the river changes its course. It came to the conclusion that at the Aricha point the river changes its course more frequently while it is much stable at Maowa. This also makes Maowa a better spot.

television.

Government sources said the Padma bridge project will be enlisted in the annual development project (ADP) of the current fiscal without any allocation. The project has now passed the pre-Ecnec Meanwhile, during her visit to

Japan, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia

will be present at a MoU signing on

the International Training

Cooperation Organisation Agreement (ITCOA) between the two countries, the ambassador said. When this deal is finalised Japan will allow Bangladeshi employees of about 60 sectors of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to work in the same sector in Ìapan for three years. The Bangladeshi workers--or "trainees"-

serve in these sectors based on their performance. Japanese agency Japan International Training Cooperation Organisation (JITCO), which is negotiating the deal with Bangladesh, will facilitate the training programme so that the trainees are assigned to appropriate compa-

-may get additional two years to

"The idea is, when these trainees have acquired experience and knowledge of working in Japanese SMEs, they will return to Bangladesh and apply their knowledge and skills there. This will help improve the efficiency of Bangladeshi young people to develop the SMEs," the ambassador pointed out.

The Bangladeshi prime minister s also expected to participate in the 14th meeting of the Japan-Bangladesh Joint Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation where Japanese investors will share their experience advantage and disadvantages of investing in Bangladesh, and how to improve its investment climate

#### July 7 incident in her speech and demanded punishment of the opposition lawmakers hardly get the floor in parliament," he said in response to an allegation from the