# NEWS

# PM accorded warm NOAB, BSP

FROM PAGE 1

During her visit Khaleda will discuss with the Japanese leadership various bilateral matters, including official development assistance (ODA), existing trade imbalance tilted to Japan, training of Bangladeshi workers and Japanese assistance for construction of Padma Bridge.

Formal talks between Khaleda and her Japanese counterpart Junichiro Koizumi will be held on July 14. official sources said. She will address a meeting of Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary League on July 13.

Khaleda will have a meeting with representatives of Japan External Trade Organisation (Jetro) and address the Bangladesh Business Seminar to be organised by Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industries in collaboration with other organisations on July 14.

The prime minister will also lav foundation of a 'Shaheed Minar' in Tokyo city and attend a Bangladesh community reception in her honour on July 12

decision-making body of the party,

sat in the meeting with AL President Sheikh Hasina in the chair at the

Jativa Samaitantrik Dal (JSD-Inu)

and National Awami Party (NAP) will

present their much-talked-about

proposals for reforms in the care-

taker government system as well as

the Election Commission at a joint

call for placing the reform agenda in

parliament, the meeting said at long

last the prime minister has felt that

reforms in the caretaker govern-

ment and electoral systems are

necessary for the elections to be

ity of AL joining parliament, the

acting general secretary of the party

ioining parliament to place the

reform proposals. We will submit the

proposals to the nation through

ment's response to our reform

proposals and a decision will be

made only after their reaction is

finalised a joint draft proposal for

reforms in the non-party caretaker

government and the electoral

The agreed draft proposal suggests

that the chief adviser and the other

advisers of the caretaker govern-

ment should be appointed through

consensus of all political parties. It

also proposes that the president will

act on the advice of the chief adviser

and defence ministry has to be put

under the caretaker government,

will remain accountable to the

constitution, and not to the presi-

dent. The interim government will

It says the caretaker government

instead of the president.

discharge only routine

CARETAKER GOVERNMENT

The AL and its allies on Sunday

"We will wait for the govern-

When asked about the probabil-

"There is no decision yet on

Referring to the prime minister's

The AL, left 11-Party alliance,

FROM PAGE 1

AL's Dhanmondi office.

press briefing on July 15.

free and fair.

said.

media.

systems

SYSTEM

known," he added.

AL won't join polls

The prime minister will call on the Emperor of Japan before leaving

Tokyo for home on July 15. After official talks between the two countries, an agreement is

expected to be signed on cultural exchange. Earlier, a special flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines with the prime minister and her entourage

departed from Zia International Airport at 9:30 am. Senior ministers, chiefs of three services, diplomats and senior civil

and military high officials saw the prime minister off at the airport. Khaleda is leading a high-profile

delegation that includes Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment M Quamrul Islam.

A 24-member investment and trade delegation led by Adviser to the Energy and Mineral Resources Division and Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment Mahmudur Rahman is also accompanying her.

Election Commissioner and other

members of the Election

Commission have to be made in

consultation with all the active

remain free from control of the

executive and have rights to formu-

late its own budget and recruit its

number of measures to check false

voting, violation of electoral laws,

votes, and influence of black money

prosecution witnesses was yet to be

Security was stepped up on the

All the accused including Alam's

court premises to avert any unto-

in custody, were brought to court yesterday under a tight security.

Three others, now on bail, were also

Alam, 64, and the domestic helps

Rahima, Sakhina and Kamala -

were murdered at his New Jurain

residence in the city's Shyampur

area on the night of January 2, 2002.

Shvampur Police Station the follow-

a new twist and the CID submitted a

Matin filed a murder case with

But the probe into the killing took

Besides, the draft suggests a

religion as a tool to seek

It also suggests that the EC must

political parties.

Verdict

FROM PAGE 16

complete.

said a lawyer.

disappointed.

ward incidents.

present in court.

ing day

51

using

#### FROM PAGE 1 various problems of newspape

industry and said duty on newsprint and VAT should be reduced and government advertisement rate raised to Tk 500 per column inch for balanced development of the industry.

They called for cancellation of the Statutory Regulatory Order and ensuring that the proposed wage board award be implemented in at least 95 per cent newspapers.

They suggested that a monitoring cell should monitor the implementation process of the wage board award.

The information minister gave the BSP and NOAB leaders a patient hearing and said the government is very keen to see that the country's newspaper industry grows n a free and fair atmosphere.

The government believes in free flow of information and its healthy development, he said.

NOAB President and Editor of the Independent Mahbubul Alam. BSP President and Chairman of the Editorial Board of the Ittefaq Mainul Hosein, Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, President of the Jativa Press Club and Editor of the News Today Reazuddin Ahmed and Editor of the Prothom Alo Motiur Rahman, Information Secretary Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman

and Principal Information Officer Abu Jafar Md Iqbal were also present on the occasion.

## 9 Bangladeshi

FROM PAGE 16 south of the capital Kuala Lumpur. Deputy Works Minister Mohamed Khaled Nordin said the ministry had met with all the relevant parties and the flyover's developer, SP Setia.

The cause of the incident is still being investigated. This is because the technical report from SP Setia is expected within the next 24 hours. Mohamed Khaled said in a statement.

Seventeen construction workers were on top of one of the sections that collapsed Nine of the workers all from Bangladesh, were rushed to hospital, and three suffered severe head inju-

#### ries, reports said. "We were dragging a reinforcing cable across the flyover with 15 other

workers when I heard a loud cracking sound," 30-year-old worker Nurzzaman Monzin told the Star newspaper.

The court heard arguments from "The section suddenly collapsed the prosecution and the defence for managed to break my fall by jumping days from January 9 this year, falling panel just before it off the crashed onto the road," said Hundreds of people carrying Nurzzaman, whose brother Shafiqul Mozahar was injured.

different posters and demanding capital punishment to the killers "Shafiqul could not escape as he was trapped by the cable he was holding," he said. gathered in the court area to hear the judgement. They left apparently A car passing underneath the

flyover seconds before the collapse narrowly missed being crushed but then crashed into a road divider. There were no injuries reported, said the New Straits Times

two sons-in-law Motiur Rahman SP Setia, which is building the road to link to one of its housing projects, alias Matin and Mohammad Ali Babul Hasan alias Babu Jamai, now issued an apology Sunday.

"We are sorry over the unfortunate incident and will spare no effort to investigate thoroughly and get to the root of the cause," the group's manag-ing director Liew Kee Sin was quoted as saving by the Star.

## Fresh exams

FROM PAGE 16 MA in Arabic

The syndicate decision, however, contradicted the Chairman of the Arabic Department's claim that the outgoing batch would have to sit for

### Empty promises take 3 'outlaws' FROM PAGE 16

FROM PAGE 16

punished for the faulty designs of their launches--the main reason for such disasters unanimously blamed

by shipping experts. Interestingly, after each of the accidents since 2001, Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain has made huge promises regarding improvement of the sector. All his promises have, however, proved elusive.

After the latest launch disaster near Aricha on May 16 in which at least 200 people died, the shipping minister said his ministry will initiate month-long drive to identify unfit vessels and take stern actions against them, which was supposed to start from May.

However, there are allegations that because of powerful launch owners - like the prime minister's sons Tarique and Arafat Rahman and their friend Giasuddin Mamun the shipping authority is rather serving the launch owners' interest instead of protecting public interest.

Also, overlooking the passenger launches, the government has recently raided cargo vessels and the marine court officials apprehended over 60 such vessels so far during the four-day block raid on the rivers Buriganga and Sitalakkha.

Asked why the faulty and defective passenger launches were not brought under the block raid, Akbar "It is very difficult to seize said. passenger vessels as they have survey certificates and licenses." The government decided to examine the condition of all the vessels and identify the ones with defective and faulty designs. Akbar added.

According to sources, Akbar took such steps several times but could not implement them because of pressure from the influential quarters

The maximum financial compensation the owners pay to the families of victims is also an only Tk 5 lakh, irrespective of the number of people killed

The government also failed to rescue all the victims of launch disasters and recover the sunken vessels due to lack of powerful vessels, the collection of salvage which has been delayed over the vears.

The government's initiative to introduce life insurance for the marine passengers has also failed following opposition from the launch owners nstead, a passenger welfare fund was introduced offering a negligible amount of compensation to the

Immediately after taking office, on February 10, 2002, Akbar Hossain made a series of commitments to mprove the condition of the ailing shipping sector but none of the commitments has yet to be mplemented, alleged Badiuzzaman.

powerful salvage vessels, collecting adequate dredgers, introducing insurance for marine passengers, setting up radar stations, installing echo sound system and solid ballasts on passenger launches, checking over-load, preventing travelling on the roof and carrying goods on the deck, introducing a local classification society for checking design and construction of the vessels, regular survey of the vessels, banning all unregistered vessels and construcvards.

According to government sources, all the above decisions are at various stages of implementation.

the industries for producing banned first-come, first-serve basis, board polythene items and for destroying officials said. environment. Police also filed cases A record students scored GPA-5 in this year's against them for illegal activities. SSC examinations. The pass per-The environment ministry is now carrying out a drive to enforce the centage rose to 52.57 percent from 48.03 percent in 2004 ban on production of polythene bags. Its taskforce recently detected several industries in Old Dhaka with UK customs huge quantities of finished polythene items and raw materials. FROM PAGE 1 Environment Minister Tarigul But the DCCI will not carry out the Islam said the taskforce comprising investigation, its Director General magistrate, DoE officials, paramili-(DG) Shah Alam Khan has told The tary BDR and police is regularly Daily Star. "The incidents were raiding industries in different parts of detected by the British customs and the capital, and has sealed several of the responsibility of further investithem for operating illegally. Steps have also been taken to gations lies on them," he explained. However, "if they request us for enhance production of alternatives to polythene bags, he mentioned. assistance, we will provide that," he added

Betbaria at about 3.30am to recover the firearms. The policemen raided sound system and solid ballasts on different areas of the village but to the existing launches is also unlikely no effect. After the raid, as they were to be implemented in the face of returning to police station, a band of GMF cadres lying in wait at Betbaria

opposition from the launch owners. FAILURE IN SALVAGING Due to lack of powerful salvage vessels many launches were not recovered at all. According to unofficial figures, with the latest MV Nasreen-1 and MV Raipura over 90 big launches could not be salvaged since independence.

The salvage capacity of the *MV* Hamza and *MV* Rustom is only 60 tons each against the average weight of 150-250 tons for a double-deck

#### launch. **DEMAND FOR RESIGNATION**

Facing public demand for his resignation for failing in his handling of matters, Akbar Hossain said, "Why should I resign? I will resign only after bringing discipline in the sector. Earlier, after the MV Nasreen-1

disaster that killed over 500 people Akbar had committed to The Daily Star that he will resign if any major launch disaster takes place again during his tenure.

## Sweden

FROM PAGE 1 "It is absolutely necessary to seriously increase the efforts to improve health in Bangladesh. It is important to create the conditions that allow poor people to improve their living situation " said Anna-Kari Bill a case worker at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida.

The agency said the aid contribution was the largest it had ever decided on.

"The goal is for this large-scale initiative to reach groups in Bangladesh that today have the least access to healthcare: poor people and village residents," Sida said in a statement.

Helping women and young girls receive adequate healthcare would also be a particular focus of the initiative, the agency said, adding that women's health in Bangladesh 'is clearly worse than men's"

"Now, we will work on equality strategies, healthcare workers will be educated and there will be a focus on initiatives for reproductive health. This will lead to a significant improvement in the possibilities women have of gaining access to relevant healthcare," Bill said.

## leam raids

FROM PAGE 16 licence for production of exportoriented items but they produce banned polythene bags, and one of them supplies such bags to hotels in

Dhaka, official sources said. colleges will be held soon to find One of the six industries was ways to enrol students at class XI for found operating without environmenthe academic year 2005. tal clearance from the Department of

Environment (DoE). State Minister for Environment Jafrul Islam Chowdhury and NBR Chairman Khairuzzaman Chowdhury were present during the raids.

The NBR chairman instantly ordered filing cases against the industries for misusing the bond licence. Besides, several cases relating to VAT and taxes were lodged on the spot.

The DoE lodged cases against

# 100 dead or missing

FROM PAGE 16 separate coal mine accident in

graveyard ambushed them at about

hour-long gunfight. According to

police, the arrestees while trying to

escape from the police van got

caught in the 'crossfire'. Mohammad

and Adil died on the spot while Yusuf

on the way to Kushtia General

Yusuf were accused in six cases

including three for murder, and Adil

in seven cases including two for

seven Bangladeshis' death in Taef

was suffocation following a sudden

fire spread from a nearby building

government sources said the victims

could not exit from the godown-like

house where they were sleeping as

the only door was blocked by fire and

"The Bangladesh consulate in

Jeddah has been instructed to

communicate with the Saudi authori-

ties and realise the compensation

money and take steps to send the

bodies home as early as possible.

said A K M Shamsuddin, secretary in

charge of the Ministry of Expatriates'

Welfare and Overseas Employment

after completion of lengthy and com-

plex official procedures of the kingdom

sation as he provided accommoda-

tion to the workers in the place with

out ensuring their safety, the secre-

If the victims' families do not get

compensation according to Saudi

law, every victim's family will be given

Tk 1 lakh as compensation from the

Bangladesh government, he said.

Wage Earners Welfare Fund of

district manpower officials con-

cerned to officially inform the victims'

families of the accident and offer

worked in a mattress manufacturing

College quota

worsen in the face of a substantial

rise in pass rate in the Secondary

School Certificate (SSC) examina-

Meetings between the ministry

In total, 2,425 government and

non-government colleges have

some 3.60 lakh seats to accommo-

date students at class XI while the

number of students passed in this

vear's SSC examinations stood at

students in class XI on the basis of

GPA, without requiring any written

tests. But because of a higher

number of GPA-5 this year, they

might adopt some testing measures

Last year, colleges enrolled

high-ups and heads of different

The ministry also asked the

The ill-fated Bangladeshis

may take at least two weeks.

He said reaching the bodies home

The owner should give compen-

Govt to bring

Police said Mohammad, 35, and

Police returned fire, triggering an

4.30am.

Hospital.

murder.

smoke

tary said.

condolences

shop.

tions.

3,94,993.

FROM PAGE 1

southern China's Jiangxi province. The accident happened on July 7 when the Yongsheng coal mine near Chishan township unexpectedly flooded, the state work safety agency said.

China's mines are considered the most deadly in the world, as safety is often sacrificed in the pursuit for the fossil fuel to drive the country's rapid industrialisation and economic growth. The country relies on coal for two

thirds of its energy needs and is not expected to shift significantly to other fuel sources for years to come.

Official figures show more than 6,000 miners died in accidents in China last year, although independent estimates say the real figure could be as high as 20,000. Many fatalities occur at illegal mines.

Reforms to the industry have often been promised, but enforcing the changes have proved the big stumbling block, mainly due to the profits that can be made, especially n industries such as coal-fired

power plants, steel and cement. The government has in the past ordered illegal or unsafe mines to shut and punished mine owners or local officials, but China's hunger for coal encourages owners to reopen mines illegally and officials to ignore the safety violations.

Investigations into the most deadly Chinese mine tragedy in recent years, which left 214 workers dead in February, blamed a disregard for worker safety by profitfocused operators.

Last month, China said it plans to limit the time coal miners have to spend at work underground to six hours a day in a bid to halt the trend of soaring fatalities.

Coal miners are currently made to work eight hours a day on average, with many forced to work overtime or when they feel the conditions are unsafe.

Critics, labour rights groups and miners have said the only way for the death toll to drop is to give workers rights, such as the right to insist on more safety and collective bargaining, which China bans.

I agree with you that food aid

The BNP-led alliance after taking

Briefing newsmen after the

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh

office in 2001 rescinded the state

said Douglas.

the chair.

AL calls 6hr

## Dhaka to see severe

FROM PAGE 16 of the VGD approach to better politically linked goons' illegal intervene into the hardly-hit povoccupation of free-flow water ertv situation. bodies and water retention canals Despite the dwindling food aid and lagoons, the DER Group chief scenario, the outgoing WFP counsaid, "Political commitment is a try representative thinks. must to get things right. Otherwise, Bangladesh can still fare well in Dhaka runs the risk of experiencaddressing the vast poverty and ing severe flooding even when rest malnutrition problems by further of the country remains out of danexpanding programmes aided by

ger." food, coming from other sources -Douglas, who also served for from bilateral donors and from the last three years as the World Food government's own stock Programme's (WFP) Country Representative in Bangladesh from multilateral donors is on the went on to add his personal experiwane, the food aid amount from the ence: "I've seen how the Gulshan bilateral donors remained almost Lake shrank over the last three static and Bangladesh's own food contribution is on the rise as the

years." "Rainwater has to go somecountry is being able to grow more where. If all the lakes in the city like grains now than it did previously, the ones at Gulshan and Banani get narrowed down and if drains are clogged how do we expect Dhaka to escape the waterlogging? These are man-made problems," asserted Douglas who is leaving FROM PAGE 1 with AL President Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh later this week to take up his next assignment in

Washington DC. mourning on August 15 which was Heavy monsoon downpour on introduced by the AL government in July 3 caused acute waterlogging 1996. and chaos in traffic across the capital, disrupting business and ALCWC meeting, acting AL General paralysing public life. Most parts of Secretary Obaidul Quader said the Motijheel, Demra, Sabujbagh, anti-violence procession will begin Bijoynagar, Azimpur, Jigatala, at 5:22pm, the time the grenade Mirpur-10 Circle to Sheorapara attacks occurred, leaving at least 24 Khilgaon, Malibagh, Mouchak, people killed. Shantinagar, Kakrail, Moghbazar, Shahbagh, New Market, Hasina escaped the attack nar-Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur, rowly Secretariat and Farmgate reeled

Obaidul said a monument will be under ankle-to-knee-deep water built in front of the AL central office in memory of the grenade attack On the seasonal food-insecurity problem of Monga in northern Bangladesh, the DER Group chair victims. Hasina will inaugurate it on August 20.

The AL's national mourning day programmes include a discussion in front of Bangabandhu Bhaban in Dhanmondi on August 14 and discussions, mourning rallies and 'human chain' by its front organisations from August 1 to 13.

Obaidul alleged the alliance

government is disseminating 'make-

believe' information about the

August 21 carnage to save its

perpetrators and shift the blame on

for an impartial international probe

He reiterated the party demand

The meeting demanded cancel-

lation of the agreement with Niko

and compensation for the victims of

It condemned the recent London

blasts and expressed deep shock

Tengratila blowout and fire.

the AL.

into the incident.

for the victims.

victims' families. UNFULFILLED PROMISES The promises included buying two

Three years into its tenure, the

tion of vessels at unregistered dock

like viva voce or take students on government is still hoping to issue an order by next November to buy two powerful rescue vessels from South Korea, which is unlikely to be collected in next one year due to its

shall not take any policy decision THE ECAND ELECTORAL LAWS The draft has 17 suggestions to make the EC an independent and active entity and 25 other suggestions regarding electoral laws and regulations.

Regarding the proposed reforms in the EC. the joint draft proposal says the 'appointments of the Chief

Court.

functions and

## Costly dollar makes

threat to the demand-supply situation especially of the importdependant products," Sujit Saha, manager of Jamjam Traders at Shyambazar told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said import cost of carlic rose by Tk 10 to 12 a kg during the period. Chinese garlic now sells at Tk 56 a kg which was Tk 40 a week ago. The price of local garlic has also risen to Tk 40 from Tk 32.

Local onion is sold at Tk 18 a kg, which was Tk 15 two weeks ago. Onion imported from India now sells at Tk 16 which was Tk 12 two weeks ago.

The price of lentil has risen sharply to Tk 50 a kg against the previous rate of Tk 44

Market sources said production of lentil in India. the major source of the item, has declined this year, which has pushed up the import price.

Although the wholesale price of sugar is decreasing, the retail price is on the rise. Sugar is sold at Tk 1,260 per maund (about 38kg) in the wholesale markets against last week's price of Tk 1.280. But its retail price rose to Tk 38 a kg against the previous price of Tk 34.

Prices of different categories of Mizanur Rahman Mizan and edible oil have increased by Tk 4 to Tk 5 a kg due to the demandsupply gap, the market sources said.

Importers said the import cost per 40-kg soya bean oil has increased to \$350 this year from previous year's \$190. Soya bean oil is now at Tk 1.700 per 40-kg in the wholesale market

Prices of all varieties of rice have recorded slight increase in both retail and wholesale markets. The average increase is Tk 1 a kg. Prices of potato, salt and flour

have also increased slightly in the kitchen markets. Vegetables have become dearer by Tk 2 to Tk 5 a

report on July 18 003 The CID also filed a murder and burglary case accusing Matin, Babu mai and 24 others the same day.

Earlier, the case was shifted to the Speedy Trial Tribunal but after 135 workdays, it was sent back to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's

kg in last one week

hike of vegetables.

essentials

It pressed charges against 19 people on August 9 the same year.

Retailers blamed torrential rain

across the country and illegal toll

collection from trucks for the price

Meanwhile, left leaning 11-

party alliance and the Communist

Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yes-

terday protested the prime minis-

ter's comment on the price hike of

tials are going beyond the capac-

ity of common people, the prime

minister thinks the prices have not

increased much, 11-party leaders

said at a party meeting at the

Workers Party office in the capital.

to withdraw her 'irresponsible'

Dhaka yesterday said the PM's

comment will inspire the dishon-

est traders and profiteers to con-

announced the programme at a

press conference in the Khulna

Press Club where city BNP

Secretary Nazrul Islam Manju, city

Awami League Secretary Alhaj

Secretary General of GKDACC

Shaikh Ashrafuzzaman, among

programme that includes an ulti-

matum to the government for

necessary allocation of fund for

implementation of development

projects in greater Khulna, said

movement, a sit-in strike will also

be observed from 4:00pm to

5:00pm today at Muktangon in

Dhaka where Ali Azgar Lobi, MP

from Khulna-2, will address a rally

In support of the GKDACC

They are planning a tougher

comments on the price hike.

tinue their malpractice.

FROM PAGE 16

others, attended.

Nazrul Islam Maniu.

as the chief quest.

1-hour work

They asked the prime minister

The CPB leaders at a rally in

Although the prices of essen-

only the last exam. The decision of holding all seven exams all over again has put the students in great Gazi Mohammad Obaidul

Haque, a frustrated student of the department, told The Daily Star that they have been demanding punishment of the culprits responsible for the leakage but nothing has been done so far. The MA students alleged that the examination committee chairman Prof Abubakar Siddique was responsible for the

question paper leakage. The Syndicate expelled Prof Siddique from the chairmanship of the examination committee and directed him to refrain from all the academic and examination-related activities after the probe found his

involvement in the leakage. Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Siddique denied the allegations and termed them totally false and fabricated. "The Jamaat-Shibir and the teachers belonging to White Panel have been conspiring against me in this regard," he claimed. He then went on to put blame on two teachers who were members of the four-member examination committee of 2004.

The Department Chairman Prof Mohammad Nurul Haque told The Daily Star that they would take fresh exams as early as possible. He, however, could not give any specific date, saying it is the duty of the controller of exams.

Meanwhile, Ahmed Saimum, an MA examinee, complained of receiving threats from anonymous callers for giving a statement on the question paper leakage to the probe committee on February 4. "I have sought security from the university authorities as anonymous callers have been issuing death threats to me over my cell phone as I dave a statement at the probe committee,"

he said He also showed The Daily Star a letter threatening him with dire consequences for his submission to the probe committee. The letter was sent to his Salimullah Hall room no 49 on June 4, 2005.

#### Borrowing FROM PAGE 1

Of the net borrowing in FY05, around Tk 3,627 crore came from the Bangladesh bank (BB) and the rest from commercial banks. It is generally held that excessive borrowing from the central bank heightens the inflationary pressure.

According to BB statistics, the government's outstanding bank borrowing stood at Tk 24,106 crore in FY05, which was Tk 20,475 crore on the same date in FY04

unavailability in the market. 'We have to issue an order [for such vessel] and then they will build the vessel," Akbar said.

As for introducing a local classification society, it took the government three years of official procedures to select three companies recently for awarding the job, but nobody yet knows when the private companies would be able to start functionina.

Setting up of 10 radar stations is also being delayed, pending clearance from the Ministry of Defence. The installation of the echo

## Framing for money

#### FROM PAGE 1

designer at The Daily Janakantha. Khan went on to say that his family was finally forced to pay a bribe to prevent Wasim from being tortured. "Ultimately we had to pay a bribe to stop him from being tortured in remand," Khan said, adding, "Let alone any case, there is not even a general diary (GD) against Wasim in any police station.

Wasim later corroborated the assertion. "Taking me on a one-day remand. SI Rahim forced me to call my family to bring the money or face torture," Wasim told The Daily Star.

"The very first hour into the remand, the IO struck me twice in the back and gave me a cellphone asking me to call my relatives to come with Tk 15,000 by 9:00 the next morning if I wanted to avert getting beaten up on remand," he said.

Wasim's brother-in-law Rafigu said, "After getting Wasim's call, I went to the police station and gave Tk 4,000 in a yellow envelope to SI Karim through his case writer Millat." He added also gave Tk 1,000 to Millat for "mediation"

SI Abdur Rahim, however, denied the allegation. "I do not even know Rafiqul Islam Khan well. I did not take any money from him," Rahim said.

Told that many others levelled the same allegation against him, SI Rahim said, "After the robbery incident I arrested many and produced them before court. You know people bring allegations of the police taking bribes whenever they are arrested

Another blanket-arrest victim Arafat, a secondary school certificate (SSC) exams candidate from Tejgaon Vocational Institute, said the police picked him up along with

Khan said his office has verbally informed its position to the UK mission in Mumbai. According to the letter signed by

Simon Sutcliffe, an official of the British mission, Green Heaven Enterprise of 64, BK Dash Road Sutrapore, Emdad Trading of 195/1 Fakirapool and Jamil International of 190, Fakirapool, Dhaka sent the drug by three manifested shipments of floor tiles, beauty products and foodstuff. The shipments reached Britain on April 17. March 3 and February 14 last.

But The Daily Star did not find any business house of those names to exist now or ever at those addresses

Abdur Rahman, owner of Rahman Mansion at 195/1. Fakirapool, said he never rented his house to any such business concern.

In the letter the British customs said the consignees were Assad Ahmed of Granite Enterprise at 2 Harrington Road, Levtonstone, Shuhel Ahmed of Ocean Line Foods at Rivington House, 82, Great Eastern Street, and Shah Alom of Bengal Bay at 377, Edgeware Road, London

The UK customs said the first freight consisted of 330 brown cardboard boxes labelled Trazoro Floor Tiles. Each box was marked to weigh 22/23 kg and to contain four pieces of ceramic and stone tiles. But inspection revealed 108 of the boxes contained approximately half a kilo heroin each. The drug was kept hidden inside the hollow tiles. Around 54kg heroin was smuggled by that shipment.

The Mumbai mission of the UK requested the DCCI to verify the authenticity and gather the backaround of the Banaladeshi firms. sought lists of their normal merchandise and also asked to find if they have any previous crime record

15,63 sion o tood-tor-work programme during Monga period could be a good intervention to deal with the problem." Douglas suggested.

for hours on end.

The WFP Count Representative acknowledged that though the UN body in cooperation with multilateral and bilateral donors are putting in the best efforts in the form of VGD (vulnerable group development) to help the poor, particularly women, some 25

pointed out that farm labourers.

mostly landless, are forced to

mortgage their labour (advance

selling of labour, known as dadan)

in one-third of their normal wage

rate and later they starve. "Expan-

million people in Bangladesh are still living in ultra-poverty situation. "These ultra-poor earn less than a dollar and partake less than 1805 kilo calories a day," he said, stressing the need for further expansion

alert, suggesting that authorities

had precise intelligence of more

The report came with govern-

ment and security forces under

pressure after it emerged in the

hours following the bombings that

the alert level had been dropped a

deputy chief constable of British

Transport Police, said that it was

perfectly possible, given the

attacks of Thursday, that terrorists

In another development, the

spiritual leader of the Church of

England, Rowan Williams, warned

vesterdav against making Muslims

scapegoats" for the London bomb-

ngs after a number of attacks on

Williams, the Archbishop of

Canterbury, told the General Synod

in the northern English city of York

that Muslims must not be made

The archbishop said that a day of

scapegoats" for the terror attacks.

visits to Islamic institutions Monday

was an opportunity to stress the

routine nature of friendly relations

between Muslims and Christians

all need to be heard saying quite a

lot in days ahead, when the tempta-

tion to scapegoat our Muslim neigh-

bours may be strong for some in our

British intelligence believes the

bombers did not die in the blasts on

three Underground trains and a

London bus but survived to plot

Investigations in the three days

since the attacks suggest parallels

communities," he added.

further outrages.

These were sentiments "we shall

On Saturday, Andy Trotter, the

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attacks, the paper said.

notch below maximum.

could strike again."

mosques.

across Britain.

Britain on highest with last year's train bombings in police were on "severe specific"

Madrid, which killed 191 people. On that occasion four trains were targeted in three railway stations, the explosions going off within minutes of one another, just as in London, in highly coordinated attacks.

British detectives are investigating the likelihood that the bombers all assembled at King's Cross, a central hub on the network, and then dispersed to create mayhem on the Circle and Piccadilly lines.

Investigators are examining closed circuit television footage of the stations hit and have also appealed for passengers to send in any mobile telephone video or still images they may have to add to the, in some cases, spectacular existing footage which some passengers took within seconds of the devices going off.

The Times quoted a senior intelligence source as saying that it was believed the bombers traveled into King's Cross together before splitting up.

After the attack on the number 30 bus near King's Cross, which came 56 minutes following the initial train blast, some passengers spoke of seeing a man behaving suspiciously and fiddling with a rucksack minutes before an explosion ripped off the vehicles' roof.

That sparked rumours the man could have been a suicide bomber. but no evidence has surfaced to back the claim.

On the contrary, a senior police source said that "the pattern of these attacks is that the masterminds make sure they are well clear before the bombs explode.

had to borrow Tk 1,500 to pay an officer of the police station for release. He is still trying to offset the deficit caused by the unforeseen expense. The vendor, who preferred to remain unnamed fearing police

too.

backlash, said, "The police picked up another fellow vegetable vendor and me at about 7:00pm on May 7 from Block C when we had gone there to collect money from houses where we supplied vegetables in the morning."

"A police van stopped near us and soon some policemen got down and asked us to get into the van They struck us twice in the back with a stick." he said.

After 20 hours in the lockup, a relative of one of the vendors paid a policeman Tk 3,000 for each to , secure their release.

Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, SM Mizanur Rahman, said they usually do not get allegations of police intimidating and arresting innocent people for bribes. "If we get any such allegation. we'll investigate and take punitive action if any policeman are found guilty," he told The Daily Star vesterdav

two of his friends, Jahangir Alam and Shahidul Islam, on April 26 soon after they had come out of a local restaurant at about 6:30pm.

"After forcing us to stay overnight in the lockup of the police station, the police released us after our guardians bribed SI Rahim Tk 2.000 for each of us," Arafat told The Daily Star. Rahim denied this allegation,

Among the victims, a poor vege-

table vendor, who is the lone bread-

winner of his four-member family