

# UK readies new laws as cops probe blasts

## World Muslims slam London bombings

AFP, London

Britain's government was preparing yesterday to introduce new laws to combat terrorism following the London bombings, as police hoped chilling pictures of the four attackers heading to the city would bring new clues for investigators.

Ten days after the blasts ripped through three London Underground subway trains and a bus, killing at least 55 people and injuring around 700, opposition politicians revealed they were being consulted about the new laws.

Interior minister Charles Clarke was scheduled to meet his opposition counterparts today to discuss proposed offences such as indirectly inciting terrorism, for example preachers who praise suicide bombers.

David Davis, home affairs spokesman for the main opposition Conservative Party, praised the government approach.

"Many of us have worried for

years as to why it is we seem to have people allowed into our country or living in our country who are able to say things which most of us would think to be disgraceful and incitements to violence and killing," Davis told BBC television.

Muslim communities worldwide have stressed that terrorist attacks like those carried out in London in the name of Islam are against their religion's values.

In London on Friday, dozens of British Muslim leaders unanimously condemned the July 7 bombings in which 55 people died, including at least one Muslim, saying the perpetrators did not deserve the title "martyr".

"It is our understanding that those who carried out the bombings in London should in no sense be regarded as martyrs," they said in a statement read by Mohammad Shahid Reza, imam of the Leicester central mosque, on their behalf.

In France, the president of Marseilles' Al-Islah mosque

accused Western media of "cultivating a fear of Arabs and Muslims" by insisting on the religion of the alleged bombers.

"We must stop saying that (the alleged perpetrators) are Muslims or Islamists. They are criminals, mentally handicapped," said Abdellil Bualia.

The leader of Spain's Muslim community, Riay Tatory Bakry, said the London attacks, like last year's Madrid train bombings, "harm all, especially Muslims who live in Europe, and don't help coexistence and peace between communities."

The president of Germany's Islamic council, which counts 140,000 people, said he was "dismayed" by the attacks.

In Rome, Muslim community spokesman Hamid Guersi said that Muslim leaders were "working to remove the bad ideas that can emerge from some of us", admitting that "it's a difficult job."

But while Muslim leaders in

## JS body to discuss Ctg ammo haul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday decided to discuss last year's Chittagong arms haul, the largest so far, to assess the country's security measures and the latest state of investigation into it.

The parliamentary standing committee on defence ministry decided to hold discussion on the much talked-about arms haul responding to the demand of main opposition Awami League (AL) lawmaker and committee member Shawkat Ali.

It also decided to discuss the activities of the Armed Forces Division (AFD) and the recent crash of an air force fighter plane at Uttara that killed two and injured four others on June 7 this year.

Referring to a report of the Jane's Intelligence Review, a leading defence magazine, Shawkat Ali told

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## Tk 64 lakh forex seized at ZIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials seized Saudi riyal worth around Tk 64 lakh from a Dubai-bound passenger at Zia International Airport (ZIA) Saturday night.

The customs also arrested passenger Mohammad Idris Chowdhury, son of Nurus Safa Chowdhury, of Nayapara in Raizan, Chittagong, and handed him over to the airport police.

Spotting Idris suspiciously walking about the boarding bridge at ZIA

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## 5 Bangla Bhai men nabbed for extortion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police yesterday arrested five extortionists on charge of collecting toll in the name of Bangla Bhai from a businessman in the city.

The arrestees are Wahidul Islam, 25, Russell Hasan, 25, Iqbal Parvez of Mohonpur upazila, Rubel, 12, of Natore, and Shariful Islam, 45, of Dari Kharbona.

"The extortionists have threatened the businessman with death after the arrest. That's why we're not

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## JCD men beat reporter at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

Cadres of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday assaulted a journalist at Jahangirnagar University (JU) and threatened three others with death for writing reports against them.

Up to 35 JCD cadres swooped on Alamgir Swapan, staff reporter of the Janakantha, on the Social Science faculty premises at 10:30am. Swapan, former JU correspondent of the daily and a student of history, came to the university to draw his

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## 24-hour strike at newspaper offices Aug 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists-Workers-Employees' Unity Council has called for a 24-hour newspaper strike on August 1 demanding implementation of their seven-point demands including formation of the sixth wage board and implementation of the fifth wage board award.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
July 18		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



Closed-circuit television image shows, left to right, Hasib Hussain, Germaine Lindsay, Mohammed Sidique Khan and Shahzad Tanweer, the four suspected London bombers, arriving at Luton train station on July 7.

## HC stays Rupali privatisation process

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday stayed the operation of a public announcement regarding divestment of government shares in state-owned Rupali Bank Limited to "an interested and eligible strategic investor."

Ordering the stay upon a writ petition filed by a group of Rupali Bank officers, employees and workers challenging the validity of the public announcement, a division bench comprising Justices MA Matin and Mamnoon Rahman issued rule on the government to explain why the move should not be declared illegal.

The stay will continue till disposal of the rule, the court order said.

The Privatisation Commission under the Prime Minister's Office

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

## Pak forces gun down 17 Taliban militants

### 20 rebels including 5 foreigners killed in Afghanistan

AFP, Miranshah/ Kabul

Pakistani forces gunned down 17 suspected Taliban militants in Afghan border areas while 20 Taliban rebels including five foreigners were killed in a joint operation by Afghan and US-led forces in south-eastern Afghanistan yesterday.

Pakistani forces surrounded a rebel compound in the rugged tribal

belt bordering Afghanistan and gunned down the mostly foreign militants, officials said yesterday.

The 17 were killed as they tried to flee the isolated compound in two vehicles after a shoot-out, military spokesman Major General Shaukat Sultan told AFP.

"Those killed were mostly for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## 3 killed in blast at Ctg scrap shop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three people were killed and four others injured, one critically, in an explosion, reportedly of an abandoned mortar shell in Hathazari upazila of the district yesterday afternoon.

The blast occurred at a scrap iron shop in Maittya Masjid area of Mirerkhil around about 5:00pm.

The dead were identified as Babul Mia, 27, owner of the shop, and two employees, Abdul Kuddus, 12 and Habul Mia, 30. Kuddus died

on the spot while Babul and Habul on way to Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH).

According to police and other sources, the projectile found abandoned in wilderness exploded while the workers of the shop were breaking it open.

The injured—Jasim, 25, another owner of the shop, Noor Hossain, 55, and two employees—Aziz, 30, and Abu Sayeed, 25—were undergoing treatment at CMCH. Of them,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6