NEWS

holding party portfolio in BNP. They

are BNP Chairperson's Advisory

Council member and former secre-

tary MM Rezaul Karim and

Chittagong (North) BNP unit

President Golam Akbar Khandaker.

ambassador to Egypt and Akbar to

Oman

the Philippines.

Rezaul has been appointed

Abul Kashem, a former secre-

Additional Foreign Secretary

Deputy High Commissioner in

He has been replaced by

The finance minister said earn-

ing from remittance has been

adversely affected by incidents like

the London bomb attacks. "Poor

countries like ours are the innocent

victims of such international inci-

The Cabinet Purchase Committee

okayed a payment of Tk 5.59 crore

(KPC) as extra premium for oil

Under an unsolicited deal for two

years signed in October 2004, the

KPC will supply 6 lakh tonnes of

diesel during July-December period

dents." he observed

PAYMENT FOR KPC

Maior (retd) Khairuzzaman has

tary, was also made ambassador to

enforcement

On Saturday, Rice told

The two leaders were to hold

alks in the Oval Office and hold a

ioint press conference in the White

House's ornate East Room at 11:15

am (1515 GMT) ahead of a black-tie

On Tuesday, Singh will receive a

Officials on both sides had said

that the visit would centre on broad-

ening relations on a number of

fronts, including economic coopera-

tion and waging the global war on

terrorism Bush declared after the

have built a relationship of great

potential as we face this century's

challenges. We look forward to

building on our strong bilateral

relationship to expand our eco-

nomic ties and to lay the foundation

of peace and prosperity for our

children and our grandchildren,'

Sunday, Indian officials said the

prime minister and Bush would

discuss cooperation on civilian

nuclear power and India's joint bid

for permanent UN Security Council

seats with Brazil, Germany and

said the three-day US visit would

mark a new phase in relations

between the United States and

India, a population giant with

rising economic and political

A senior US official said in

Washington on Thursday that Bush

will use Singh's state visit to

emphasise India's growing global

"India is emerging as a global

In talks with Bush and Secretary

was to stress the war on terrorism.

following the London bombings of

July 7 and a deadly militant attack

on a north Indian religious site days

Indian foreign ministry officials

Before Singh left India on

said Bush.

Japan.

clout.

influence.

earlier.

Backing US in Iraq

"The United States and India

September 11, 2001 attacks.

Film on persecution CPD to prepare Massive changes

might also adopt a resolution regarding the Ahmadiyya persecution. After the successful completion of

June 17 European human rights conference on Bangladesh, the steering committee of the conference has arranged the screening. The film contains detailed account of tortures on Ahmadivvas and capture of their mosques over the last three and a half years of BNP-led alliance government

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar vesterday gave the sect assurances when a delegation of the Ahmadiyyas met him at his office. He offered his sympathy for attacks on them and praised the sect leaders for exercising restraint in the face of continuous aggression.

"Hearing about torture on our community across the country, the minister has assured us that he will take steps to redress wrongs done to them and make sure that no such attacks take place in future," Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, Bangladesh Secretary Rezaul Karim told The Daily Star.

He said the minister is of the opinion that a group is getting funds to carry out atrocities on the Ahmadiyyas.

On the anti-Ahmadiyya campaigners' demand for government move declaring the Ahmadiyyas non-Muslim, Home Secretary Safar Raj Hossain said the Constitution does not provide for declaring anyone non-Muslim. "It is possible in Pakistan since the country is an Islamic Republic. But as ours is a democratic republic, it is

The Ahmadiyya leaders demanded the authorities take measures to free four of their mosques now in control of the religious bigots. They also demanded that the zealots signboards posted on the Ahmadiyya mosques in Bogra and Khulna be pulled down.

actions between the sect leaders and the police, the minister asked the police authorities for taking steps at the

SUNAMGANJ BY-POLLS to collect info on candidates' income source

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule upon the Election Commission (EC) to show cause why it (EC) should not be directed to compel the candidates of Sunamganj-3 by-election to furnish information about their sources of income

The HC also ordered the EC to explain why it should not be directed to properly implement the eightpoint directives the court had given earlier.

comprising Justice MA Matin and Justice Mamnoon Rahman is returnable within two weeks.

beginning of any move against the Ahmadiyyas so that the situation

AMJB National Amir Mobasher-ur-Rahman led the delegation that included among others Nayeb-e-Amir Dr Tariq Saiful Islam.

Conference on Bangladesh on June 17 reminded the Bangladesh government that the ban slapped on Ahmadiyya publication in January, 2004 must be lifted, Ahmadiyya mosques must be restored to the community, and equal rights ensured for the Ahmadiyyas and other minorities in employment and delivery of

public services of Bangladesh. A special hearing was held on the human rights condition in Bangladesh at the House of Lords on June 23.

A press release of the Bangladesh Conference 2005 Steering Committee said last week the foundations of democracy itself are threatened by the wave of violence against ethnic and religious minorities, secularists, and even development NGOs in Bangladesh. Meanwhile, a 25-member steering

October

simply not possible here," he added.

Stressing the need for more inter-

HC rule upon EC

BDNEWS, Dhaka

the Ahmadivvas.

The rule issued by a bench

on Sunday

cannot go out of control

The European Human Rights

committee of 18 international rights organisations plans a South Asian human rights conference in mid-

Zealots vandalise

FROM PAGE 1 yelling at the Ahmadiyyas for restarting the work. He also brought a couple of policemen from a nearby police post, said the Ahmaddivas.

'They hurled a torrent of abuse at us and at one stage as I was protesting their behaviour they tried to hit me," said Tofazzal Hossain, a government employee and also an Ahmadiyya.

"Then they vandalised the wooden structure built for tin-roofing and threw it to water of the adjacent ditch.

"They left the scene after warning us that they will harm our boys if they

go out of their houses," said Afzal. Earlier when the Ahmadiyyas began the construction work in February, some 40 bigots led by local Imam Mohammad Arafat forced them to stop the work. The sect members filed a general diary with Uttara Police Station but to no effect. Uttara police have yet to initiate

investigation into the matter, alleged

Shortly after they resumed work the following morning, union parishad Chairman Khalil Mollah ssued a notice saying that the Ahmadiyyas should stop the work as

a local had staked claim on the land. "Within minutes of issuance of the letter, he turned up with around 30 locals and ordered to stop the work,

said Afzal. Mohammad Shaiahan, a land broker and grand son-in-law of Hazi Faiz Uddin laid claim to the land saying Faiz had given the land to his

mother-in-law Azibunessa. for facilitating the expressway. "The chairman did not take any The highway will have facilities step to resolve the issue in last two like parking spaces, rest houses, months. Instead, to our dismay, he toilets, CNG pump sta has tasked the locals with solving the tions, food courts and mosques at dispute," said Bashir Ahmad, a local reasonable distances. Ahmadiyya. Meanwhile, a high powered The sect leader Sarkar on July 8 meeting at the communications sent a letter to the chairman, informministry that discussed the matter ing him of their decision to resume yesterday observed that the governthe work immediately as the conment should call international struction materials lay exposed to tender and try to get better proposdamage The locals, however, denied the als. Floating open tender is also allegation of attack and barring the construction work. Some of them necessary for bringing transparency including an employee of the local mosque, however said the in the project, the meeting observed. 'Kadiyanis' have no right to construct But a high official of the commumosque, as they are not Muslim. nications ministry told The Daily We have never asked them not to Star that the government is likely to build any mosque on their land," said accept the Malaysian proposal as Mosarraf, a local leader of the ruling hardly any other company will come BNP. "They [Ahmadiyyas] have a up with such a big investment. mosque on their land for years," said The Malaysian organisation is a Bashir who lives in the neighbourconsortium of six internationally hood. renowned construction companies OC Akhtaruzzaman later sat and it has long experience of condown with the locals and Ahmadiyyas structing roads and highways in and settled the matter. The two different countries, sources said. parties agreed to consult their law-Communications Minister vers to fix the dispute soon. Nazmul Huda told yesterday's meeting that the government wants JS became to start the construction of the FROM PAGE 16 expressway in the first quarter of

the decision at a meeting in the city

As per the decision, a number of task forces will be constituted on priority areas identified through consultations with the stakeholders and it will follow extensive countrywide open dialogues on the vision

paper and the task force reports. The programme objective is to stimulate policy debates on critical national issues during elections, a CPD press release said, adding, The high point of the programme will be organisation of a national policy forum with wide participation of major political actors and civil society activists."

been appointed ambassador to The CPD will also undertake, in Mvanmar, DG (Administration wing) collaboration with other organisations, of the foreign ministry Azizul Hag to a number of other activities including Sweden, DG (Europe wing) Nasima outreach to younger generation, Haider to South Africa, DG (UN publication and disseminating of policy documents, media campaign and wing) Ismat Jahan to the Netherlands and DG (Research and awareness building activities for improving policy accountability of the ICT wing) Mizarul Kayes has been political process and development appointed high commissioner to the administration.

Maldives. CPD Chairman Professor Rehman Sobhan chaired the meet-Kolkata mission Touhid Hossain has ing attended, among others, by CPD been made additional foreign secretrustees professor Muhammad tary and given the charge of Fareast Yunus, M Syeduzzaman, Fazle and South Asia desk. Hasan Abed, Laila Rahman Kabir Syed Manzur Elahi, Professor Mohammad Imran of the foreign Anisuzzaman, Khushi Kabir, Nurul ministry. Hag and CPD Executive Director Dr Debapriva Bhattacharva.

Rules for use

FROM PAGE 1

40 ministries several times to hand FROM PAGE 1

low price of selling. Bangladesh over project cars to the transport pool and clarify the position of Petroleum Corporation is in a bad government cars, but only a few shape. We cannot remain indifferent ministries responded. to this situation for long," he added.

The Parliamentary Standing Adviser to the energy ministry Committee on Establishment had Mahmudur Rahman, who was also asked the government to stop present at the meeting, said, "We unauthorised use of the project have not decided about petroleum price, but the way the price is Still the number of handed over increasing we may be compelled to

project cars to the transport pool is think about raising the prices for less than 400. domestic market." Since independence, over 4.000

expensive cars were bought against various development projects under different ministries.

The cars were supposed to be handed over to the government transport pool after completion of the development projects but aovernment high officials are allegedly using those for their office and family purposes.

Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Khan, Establishment Secretary Abdul Halim and high officials of purchase. different ministries were present at the meetina.

Malaysian firm FROM PAGE 1

constructed keeping the existing Dhaka-Chittagong Highway intact, will be named Dhaka-Chittagong Hiahwav-2.

The new highway will go through Dhaka, Narayanganj, Munshiganj Chandpur, Laxmipur, Sonagazi, Sitakunda and Hathazari

The two bridges over the rivers Meghna and Gumti will be widened

Tk 5cr wasted

FROM PAGE 16 contractor finished installation in 2003

As per the contract with the TPF. after the Siddhirganj plant came into operation, it had been providing operation and maintenance support services to the plant with 24 techni-

Assistant Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference AHA Moniruzzaman has also been appointed additiona foreign secretary and given the desk of Multilateral Economic Affairs wing and UNCLOS. The government has transferred

Bangladesh envoy to Sweden Sabihuddin Ahmed to UK as high commissioner and Mostafa Kama to South Korea from Oman. **OTHER CHANGES**

Minister at Bangladesh embassy in Washington Imtiaz Ahmed has been made DG (Europe wing), Deputy Chief of Protocol wing at the foreign ministry Golam Sarwar appointed Councillor in Washington, Consul General in Hong Kong Atiqur Rahman made DG (General Services wing) in the foreign ministry, Minister in Bangladesh embassy in Reiiing Imtiaz Ahmed has been transferred as Consul General to Bangladesh mission in New York, and foreign ministry directors Syed Masud Mahmud Khandaker and Syeda Muna Tashnim have been appointed councillors to France and

at a premium value of 4 cents pe

July and December. Now the gov-

ernment has to make an additional

The National Board of Revenue

yesterday tabled a proposal for

approval of four PSI companies

which will handle pre-shipment

inspections for five global blocks.

The committee approved their

has been permitted for inspection

for two blocks. The other companies

-- Bureau Veritas, Intertec Testing

Services (ITS) and SGS -- have

been assigned to perform the

purchase of 30 air-conditioned

railway bogies at a cost of Tk 63.54

November, the PDB even observed

that the monthly payment for the

senior engineer proposed by the

TPE was 'cheaper' than that paid at

the Ghorashal units 3 and 4 in the

past. In both these older plants, the

TPE was again the operation and

maintenance contractor

The committee also okayed

inspection for one block each.

crore from China and Iran

Swiss PSI company Cotec Na

appointment for three years.

its premium to 4.2 cents.

PSI COMPANIES

London

payment

al-Qaeda suspect walks free in **Germany** after court decision

AFP, Hamburg

A suspected top al-Qaeda operative walked free from jail in Germany on Monday after the country's highest court blocked his extradition to Spain on a new EU arrest warrant.

The federal constitutional court ruled that handing over Syrian-German businessman Mamoun Darkazanli to Spain under the EU policy would violate Germany's basic law.

Darkazanli, sporting a short beard and wearing a white T-shirt and jeans, was released from custody in Hamburg a few hours later, an AFF correspondent reported.

Spain accuses Darkazanli, 46, of being Osama bin Laden's "permanent interlocutor and assistant" in Europe and having provided the al-Qaeda terror network with logistical and financial support between 1997 and 2002

German Justice Minister Brigitte Zypries condemned the Karlsruhebased court's decision as "another setback for the German government in the fight against international terrorism"

Saifur hints at oil price Businessman's FROM PAGE 1

undergoing treatment at Central Hospital in Dhanmondi, may not barrel. But it has recently increased survive

The 34-year-old garment factory The KPC is also supplying keroowner is now being treated under life sene and other types of fuel, totalsupport system. Doctors on Sunday ling the petroleum import bill Tk night plastered his fractured hands and legs. 3,290 crore (\$514 million) between

Rab Director General Fazlul Bari Chowdhury told The Daily Star last night a departmental enquiry into the incident is on, adding, "We'll take steps after we get the report."

The Rab headquarters have asked the probe committee to submit its report in three days.

Headed by Director (finance and administration) Mokhlesur Rahman the committee includes Deputy Director (intelligence) Zafrul Haq, Senior Assistant Director Ainul Bari and Deputy Assistant Director Mohsin Kabir.

Bidhan's sister Khadija Rahman Maya filed a general diary (GD) with Uttara Police Station on Saturday night.

She alleged in the GD Rab ASF (assistant superintendent of police) Ashraful Islam and his colleagues beat Bidhan up for his protest against their assault on an elderly man The Rab had earlier filed a GD

against the victim, accusing him of assaulting ASPAshraful.

The investigation officer, Abu Sayeed, yesterday submitted a prayer before a court seeking permission to probe the incident. "I will consider both the GDs." he said

Students FROM PAGE 1

The students of the female dormitory have been agitating for the last three months to realise their demands that include reduction of

Manmohan, Bush

issues are expected to be on top of ism as he formally opened a state the agenda at the landmark sumvisit to the United States. As US and mit Indian flags fluttered together over Pennyslvania avenue outside the Doordarshan that New Delhi has White House, Bush and Singh been a good partner in the global shook hands and stood in the swelwar on terrorism, and added that tering Washington heat as a US both countries had "excellent coop-Army band played their respective eration" on intelligence and law

national anthems. "We meet as leaders of two great democracies, committed to working together for a better and a safer world. Your visit reflects the growing bonds of cooperation between your nation and mine," said the presi-

state dinner at 8:00 pm (0000 GMT) "The relationship between our two nations has never been stronrare honour: He will address a joint ger, and it will grow even closer in session of the US Congress, somethe days and years to come," said thing only a handful of foreign lead-Bush, who noted that both countries ers have done since Bush took were "confronting global terrorism." "I'm confident that my visit today office in January 2001.

will give us an opportunity to develop and take forward the strategic partnership between India and the United States," said Singh. "I am confident that from our

alks today will emerge an agenda of cooperation that reflects a real ransformation of our relationship. Its realisation would help India meet the expectations of its people for the better quality of life and more secure future." he added.

As the excitement builds up for the summit meeting on the first day of Dr Singh's three-day visit to Washington, officials of both sides have reportedly given the final touches to the 16 agreements that will be signed, which include pacts on investment, energy, space exploration, agriculture, science and preserving the endangered

Royal Bengal Tiger. The outcome of the meeting will depend on the two sides signing pacts on nuclear energy and space technology. There is unconfirmed speculation that these two pacts will also be announced, though Washington is yet to remove restrictions on the export of hi-tech to India after the 1998 Pokhran nuclear

blasts. External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh has joined Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's team in Washington after he had held meetings with other G-4 and African Union members to discuss the expansion of the membership of the UN Security Council.

On Sunday, US Secretary of player, and we think on balance State Condoleezza Rice paid a that's a good thing," the official told a courtesy visit to Natwar Singh at his small group of reporters on condihotel. Officials described the meettion he not be named. "We have a lot ing as an indication of the transforto cooperate on." mation of Indo-US ties since the Cold War era. of State Condoleezza Rice, Singh

It is understood that Rice and

Singh reviewed bilateral relations

and took note of the broad issues

expected to come up at Monday's

Terrorism, trade and technology

talks.

The HC directives came upon a writ petition filed as a public interest litigation by five citizens including Badiul Alam Majumder and Syed Abul Maksud of Sushasaner Jonno Nagorik (SUJAN).

The Election Commission (EC) chief election commissioner (CEC), returning officer (RO) and nine candidates contesting the Sunamganj-3 by-election scheduled for tomorrow have been made respondents.

The HC on May 24 directed the government, the EC and the CEC to compel the candidates for parliamentary elections to provide the EC with information about their academic qualification, profession, criminal records, if any, and sources of income before the election

Four Chinese FROM PAGE 16

The mobile court fined Mizanur Rahman Khan and Md Alamgir of City Garden Tk 50,000, Gouranga Chandra Halder of Midnight Sun Tk 40.000. Mahmud Raihan and Md Alam of G-1 Tk 40,000 and Abdul Kader Mollah of Kiangsi Tk 30,000.

They will be jailed for two years if they failed to pay the fines.

"We've found the restaurants using artificial colours and unprocessed meat, while their kitchens were too much dirty," the magistrate told The Daily Star.

The home ministry formed two mobile courts after a series of reports ran by The Daily Star on unsafe food last month.

The courts are raiding restaurants, kitchen markets and shopping malls almost everyday to curb sale of adulterated and poisonous food

Bidisha

FROM PAGE 1

mother and father. Matters of his schooling and treatment will be decided through negotiations between the representatives of both parties.

"I waited for this moment every single second. I had no way to know where was my child. I called many to know when he would come--and finally he is on my lap," said an overwhelmed mother.

Bidisha was arrested on June 4 in a case filed by her husband, former president HM Ershad, who later divorced her. She came out of confinement on June 27.

Committee candidate Nazrul Islam.

The by-election in Sunamganj-3 constituency will be held tomorrow. The parliamentary seat fell vacant following the death of Awami League leader Abdus Samad Azad.

On the unity of 14 political parties led by the Awami League, Dr Kamal said no evil force will be able to break this unity. "This unity will move forward through all risks and challenaes." he said. Workers Party President Rashed

Khan Menon, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Adv Zahurul Islam, Dewan Shamsul Arefin and Jagannathpur Municipality Chairman Mizanur Rashid addressed the meeting. A separate election rally was held

at Bhaber Bazar in Jagannathpur in support of four-party alliance nominee Maulana Shaheenur Pasha IOJ chief Mufti Fazlul Huq Aminee MP and Allama Mufti Wakkas MP

addressed the rally, seeking vote for 'sheaf of paddy". Besides, Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh leader Mahi B Chowdhury campaigned for their candidate Saedur Rahman Choudhury Rupa and sought vote

for "Kula". his election symbol. A total of nine candidates are contesting the by-election. The number of voters is 2,18,450 while number of polling centers is 127.

next vear. He asked the officials concerned to make all out preparations.

Floods

FROM PAGE 1 Cracks have developed in flood protection embankments. threatening millions of people

Rainfall is adding to the sufferngs of homeless and watermarooned people.

With fall of water level of Someshwary, Magra, Kongsa, Maharashi, Juga Chalakhali, Dashani, Karnajura Dhonu rivers in Netrakona and Sherpur districts, the flood situation there has improved, our Netrokona correspondent reports.

But erosion is observed with recession of water levels in several places. The erosion by the rivers Someshwary and Kongsa rivers has devoured some 300 dwelling houses of Barhatta and Kalmakanda upazilas in Netrakona district, compelling about 2500 people move for shelters.

Water born diseases like diarrhoea and dysentery have also broken out in the two districts. Farmers are facing scarcity of fodder. Meanwhile, prices of rice and

other essentials have gone up.

cal hands. The company was also supposed to train the PDB staff at Though this contract is a the plant, so that they can eventually take over the responsibility.

The PDB technical staff are typically comfortable with handling Russian plants, as these have been in operation in the country for the last 36 years, a PDB official says. "They know how to operate Russian and German machine [in Ashugani], because they already have the experience," he quips.

But, strangely, the project director of Siddhirganj plant last year came up with a proposal to contract out the operation and maintenance work of the plant to the TPE, claiming the PDB staff lacks the experience and efficiency to do that. This is why, he argued, the TPE has been asked to submit a proposal to run the plant.

The TPE initially proposed to employ 28 additional operation experts at a cost of \$123,00 a year. The PDB scaled the number down to 20.

At the board meeting last

BDR pushes back 5 Indians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday pushed back five Bangla-speaking . Indian Muslims through Sapahar border in Naogaon one hour after Border Security Force (BSF) pushed them into the country.

The BSF pushed three men and two women into Bangladesh by opening the barbed-wire fence on the border near Bamonpara BDR outpost at dawn.

Tension is prevailing on the border following the push-in and push-back incidents. The BDR had pushed back seven Hindi-speaking ndian Muslims a few days ago.

BDR sources said they have beefed up security on the border.

Belal murder

FROM PAGE 16

dead on June 8 this year at Shiromoni under Khanjahan Ali Police Station of Khulna city.

Meanwhile, the Khulna city unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir yesterday submitted a memorandum to the prime minister through the deputy commissioner demanding immediate arrest of the culprits involved in the murder of journalist Belal.

an annual basis, sources say, the TPE has 'made sure' it will get an annual renewal of the deal.

However, a senior PDB official says once the PDB staff have gathered enough experience to run the plant, the extra TPE staff will no longer be there.

Sit-in at JU FROM PAGE 16

with their agitation until their demand is met.

The leaders also urged the university authorities to take measures to ensure security of general students and activists of different organisations. The agitators wearing black armbands hung black cloths at the entrances to different administrative offices including the vice-chancellor's.

The pro-Awami League teachers have condemned the attack and threat on journalists by the JCD and expressed solidarity with the agitation programme.

The cultural and political organisations will take out a protest procession on the campus today in support of the agitation.

Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangbadik Forum, Bangladesh Chhatra League, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Jahangirnagar Theatre, Jahangirnagar Students' Film Society, Shikshak Manch and Dhwani in separate statements condemned the attack.

Noab, BSP FROM PAGE 1

The BSP and Noab leaders said the information ministry in the past played a direct role in awarding the wage board, invalidating the participation of the newspaper owners. As a result, the previous pay awards for the journalists and newspaper employees were unrealistic.

"If the wage-allowance award is determined in line with the financial viability of the newspaper industry, there will be no room for conspiracy," read the statement.

The Noab and BSP leaders also deplored that the government has vet to form in light of a High Court order a neutral committee with the chairman of the wage board to monitor the implementation of wage

hall charges. compliance with seat distribution rules, bus service from the hall to the campus and library facilities.

A meeting between the students and hall authorities on Sunday night ended after serious altercations between the students and the teachers. After the meet, the students kept Acting Provost Dr Shamima Nasrin and four house tutors confined in the TV room.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider went to the hall at 2:30am and requested the students to release the teachers. But the protestors continued their demonstration. The pro-VC left the hall at about 4:00am in the face of agitation.

The agitating students however released the acting provost and the house tutors at about 2:00pm yes terday after Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz went to the hall and assured them of meeting their demands within a week.

Prof Nasrin Ahmed yesterday told The Daily Star that she had resigned Sunday as the situation in the hall was going beyond her control. She said the agitating students misbehaved with the teachers during the 14-hour confinement.

"I believe this was a politically motivated agitation," she said.

The students, on the other hand alleged that the acting provost misbehaved with them and threatened to make a blacklist of the students who were demonstrating.

At a press conference at the hall the students said the hall and university authorities did not pay heed to their demands in the last three months. They demanded immediate solution to the problems of the resident students

JCD muggers witnesses.

The police arrested Liton and Azizul for mugging the sum from a jewellery shop employee in Motijheel on June 19, while Ruhul is still at large.

A court had earlier issued a warrant of arrest against Ruhul and ordered attachment of his movable properties.

Dhanmondi police had seized about Tk 10 lakh from a room at the International Hostel of Dhaka College soon after the arrest.

Mohammad Abul Kashem, manager of Uma Jewellers, filed a case against the three with Motijheel Police Station under the Speedy Trial (Law and Order Disruption) Act the same day.

Police filed another case under the Arms Act against Liton and Azizul.

percent in favour of such a move but 44 percent against.

The proposed new law is meant to protect people of all faiths from abuse but critics say it curbs free speech.

The poll of 1,005 people found those who were religious almost as likely to be against it as those who were not.

Prime Minister Tony Blair will meet leaders of the 1.6 million strong Muslim community in Britain today to forge a consensus on confronting Islamic extremism, his spokesman said yesterday.

Michael Howard and Charles Kennedy, leaders of the opposition Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties, will also participate in the Downing Street talks prompted by the July 7 bombings in London.

"The whole idea is that collectively, we listen to what Muslim leaders have to say, and they try to reach a consensus on how to move forward, not just in terms of expressions of solidarity but also in practical ways as well," Blair's spokesman said.

With the police investigation into the apparent suicide bombings in London gaining pace, the prime minister declared Saturday that Islamic extremism was an "evil ideology" that must be confronted head on.

Blair's government suspects the suicide attacks -- in which at least 55 people died on three Underground subway trains and a double-decker bus -- had a link to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network.

Besides consulting Muslim community leaders, Blair is to meet Thursday with senior police and intelligence chiefs on the need for any new legal powers to combat terrorism. England under anti-terrorism laws

Blair will also hold talks at Downing Street with visiting Australian prime minister John Howard, who like Blair is a staunch ally of US President George W. Bush on Iraq and the broader "war on terror".

In addition, Home Secretary Charles Clarke -- the cabinet minister in charge of public security -- is to make a statement in parliament on Wednesday on the July 7 investiga-

London." West Yorkshire Police said tion, Blair's spokesman said. Earlier Blair has always refuted in a statement, adding that officers the notion that Britain's role in wars were working closely with London n Iraq and Afghanistan has made police. the country less safe.

No more details of those arrested He argues that terrorism, includwere released. (Reuters, AFP, BBC ing the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the Online)

nited States, was a threat before those conflicts and has affected many different countries.

The security experts said British intelligence services had been preoccupied with Irish Republican extremists and had looked in the wrong direction for years.

"As a result of giving low priority to international terrorism, the British authorities did not fully appreciate the threat from al-Qaeda," they said. Wilkinson and Gregory said conducting counter-terrorism measures shoulder to shoulder with the United States was a key prob-

lem because London was in no way an equal partner with Washington. "Riding pillion with a powerful ally has proved costly in terms of British and US military lives, Iraqi lives, military expenditure and the damage caused to the counter-terrorism

campaign," they said. They said al-Qaeda's profile has

also been raised by the war in Iraq. "It gave a boost to the al-Qaeda network's propaganda, recruitment and fundraising," the report concluded

But they conceded it was "notori-

ously difficult to prevent no-warning

coordinated suicide attacks, the

characteristic modus operandi of al-

terrorist threat ever posed by non-

that bombings in Turkey and Iraq

since the London attacks had

underlined that terrorism was an

who stands in the way of their per-

"The terrorists want to kill anyone

Meanwhile, British police

arrested six men in northern

on Sunday but said they were not

directly linked to the July 7 bomb-

arrests were made under the

Terrorism Act 2000 in a suburb of the

West Yorkshire town of Leeds,

where two of the London bombers

not being linked to the events in

"At this stage these arrests are

A police spokesman said the

state actors." they said.

nternational problem.

verse ideology," he said.

ings in London.

lived.

"It is the most dangerous form of

Defence Secretary Reid argued

Qaeda."