

**Manmohan, Bush talk deepening Indo-US ties**  
*Washington, Delhi to ink 16 pacts*  
 AFP, ANI, Washington

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday held talks with US President George W. Bush on expanding trade and battling terror  
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**Massive changes in foreign ministry**  
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has brought massive changes in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Bangladesh missions abroad by making fresh appointments and postings.

Foreign ministry officials said the government has recently appointed eight new envoys, transferred two, and promoted two others to additional foreign secretary.

Two of the new ambassadors are  
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**CPD to prepare 'vision papers' ahead of next polls**  
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), as part of its series of activities ahead of next national elections, will prepare a "vision paper" by eminent citizens that will articulate strategic national goals for the next decade.

The CPD board of trustees took  
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# Backing US in Iraq put UK at risk

Say British experts; Blair meets Muslim leaders today; 6 detained under new laws

AGENCIES, London

Backing the United States in Iraq has put Britain more at risk from terror attacks, an authoritative think tank said yesterday.

In a report that may make uncomfortable reading for Prime Minister Tony Blair after the London bombings on July 7, terrorism experts said Britain had suffered by playing "pillion passenger" to the United States.

Experts Frank Gregory and Paul Wilkinson said the Iraq war had boosted recruitment and fund-raising for al-Qaeda, which is sus-

pected of being behind the bombings that killed 55 people.

"The UK is at particular risk because it is the closest ally of the United States," the security experts said in the report from the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Defence Secretary John Reid rejected the report's conclusions, arguing that terrorism was a global problem that the whole international community had to confront.

"One of the lessons of history is that if you run away from this it doesn't actually get better," Reid told the BBC.

"Every child in the playground

knows the idea that if you just avoid the bully, the bully will not come for you is refuted by every piece of historical experience," he added.

The report was issued as Britain's interior minister, Charles Clarke, meets opposition party leaders to find political consensus in drawing up tougher anti-terror legislation.

Public opinion is divided over controversial plans to ban incitement to religious hatred, according to an ICM poll for the BBC News website.

The poll, taken in the days following the London bombings, found 51

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**JS became ineffective**  
*Says Dr Kamal*  
 UNB, Sunamganj

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said the present parliament has become ineffective and urged the people to free the future parliaments from the hands of terrorists and corrupts.

"People's voice is not heard in parliament...people do not get justice, parliament will have to be made free from the hands of terrorists and corrupt people," he told an election rally at Jagannathpur in Sunamganj in support of Nagorik

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**JOURNO ASSAULT**  
**Sit-in at JU for action against JCD men**  
 JU CORRESPONDENT

Journalists and activists of different cultural and left-leaning student organisations at Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday staged a token sit-in, demanding punishment of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadres for Sunday's assault on a journalist on the campus.

Organised by correspondents of different newspapers and news agencies, the programme was held in front of the administrative building at 10:30am. Leaders of different organisations vowed to continue

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**UNSAFE FOOD**  
**Four Chinese restaurants fined**  
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday fined four Chinese restaurants Tk 1.6 lakh for using unsafe food ingredients and keeping their kitchens unhygienic.

The restaurants are City Garden and Midnight Sun in Mohammadpur, Kiangsi in Darussalam and G-1 in Mirpur.

A team led by Magistrate Rokanuddoulah visited the restaurants and found the authorities using chemicals and artificial colours in food and keeping kitchens unhygienic.

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**SIDDHIRGANJ POWER PLANT**  
**Extra Russian staff cost additional Tk 5cr a year**

SHARIER KHAN

Power Development Board (PDB) has to spend an additional Tk 5 crore a year to pay 20 extra staff of Russian engineers and technicians to operate and maintain the Russian-built Siddhirganj 210 megawatt power plant.

The power board has deployed 44 Russian technical hands, an unusually high number, at the Siddhirganj plant, compared to around 10 foreign technical hands at the Ghorashal 210 MW sixth unit and around 15 at the two units of Raozan 210 MW plant. The board operates and maintains the rest of its plants entirely by its own staffs.

The PDB made this costly arrangement following a decision of a board meeting on November 29 last year. It also has to pay each of the staff members belonging to the

Russian company TPE at a rate much higher than that given to the foreign staffs of Ghorashal and Raozan plants.

For example, a TPE senior engineer at the Siddhirganj plant draws a monthly salary of \$4,400 and each of the 15 TPE engineers and four senior electricians \$3,500. In contrast, the senior foreign engineer at Raozan plant draws only \$2,300 a month.

As the original project profile does not have provisions for this Tk 5 crore extra expenditure, the board is providing this money from its revenue.

Plagued with inefficiency and corruption, the TPE completed installing the Siddhirganj plant six years behind the schedule. In case of the sixth unit at Ghorashal plant, which was supposed to come into operation in 1998, the Russian

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**BELAL MURDER**  
**Home ministry summons IO**

BDNEWS, Khulna

The home ministry has summoned the investigation officer (IO) of Journalist Belaluddin murder case.

The Monitoring Cell of the ministry will review the progress of the case at a meeting tomorrow with State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar in the chair.

The IO, Iqbal Hossain, also the officer-in-charge of Khulna Police Station, will meet the high officials of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Dhaka today.

Our staff correspondent from Khulna reported that Jamaat Leader Shahabuddin Laskar alias Dhira, the main accused in journalist Belal murder case, was taken on a two-day remand on Sunday in outlaw Tariqul Islam Shiplu murder case.

Police sources said the Jamaat leader gave some important information about his involvement in Shiplu murder. Shiplu was found

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PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka University Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz talks to the students of Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall who kept five teachers confined at the hall for 14 hours until 2:00pm yesterday to realise their 13-point demand.

Prayer Timing		
July 19		
	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