

# Tofail's proposal

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general secretary for more than two terms in a row.

He however stressed that his proposals do not intend to have the party minus any particular individual. He added that his will be placed before the central working committee meeting as per the AL constitution.

At the news briefing, the AL leader came down heavily on different moves by the party chief. Without mentioning Hasina's name, he said that the AL has been rendered controversial through selling nominations to those who had never been involved with it.

He also said leaders and workers across the country have been made stand against the military-backed caretaker government through provocative speeches.

"If one thing is said today and the other tomorrow, where does a political party's acceptability stand?" Tofail questioned in an oblique reference to Hasina who once said if voted to power her government would legitimise all activities of the present government and then a few days later, she termed the government unconstitutional and undemocratic.

Tofail, a former minister, said Bangabandhu would always keep the party and the government separate and take decision in consultation with the senior leaders.

He said today all the powers rest with one person surrounded by sycophants. He severely criticised the AL's now scrapped deal with the Khatia Majlish.

He pointed a finger at the AL chief also for not maintaining transparency in handling the party funds.

Citing his party's role in different historic movements including the Liberation War, he said he would never harm the organisation that Bangabandhu held so close to his heart. "If I'm responsible for any damage to the party, I will quit since I can never betray the ideals of Bangabandhu," he observed.

He also urged the leaders and workers not to do anything that might harm the organisation. He said none has the power to divide the AL. "Those who will try to split Awami League will in fact betray the blood of Bangabandhu and will be binned by the history," said the veteran AL leader adding that he would not stand anyone questioning his integrity.

Reiterating his support for the caretaker administration, he said the government is implementing what they have long been demanding for a free and fair election. So, all should come forward to help it as everything would depend on its success.

Even the advisers should not utter anything that would make the government controversial, said once a young firebrand.

He called on the leaders, workers as well as the countrymen to be on the alert for conspiracies and wait patiently for a free and fair election as promised by the chief adviser.

## PROPOSALS

Tofail said his reform proposals aim to make sure that democracy is practised at all levels of the party, and establish collective leadership to promote transparency and accountability in decision-making.

## Electoral dialogue

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the party, HM Ershad on Saturday quit as Jatiya Party chairman and appointed barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud as the acting chief until the party's next council.

Political analysts think Ershad's announcement will have an effect on Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina -- heads of two major political parties BNP and Awami League -- to take decision in the wake of the changing political situation.

Analysts also hint at some 'dramatic' political development by mid-July following completion of a framework for political reforms.

The government also plans to relax the restriction on indoor politics paving the way for holding the political parties' national council to implement proposals by the 'pro-reform' leaders.

The EC on April 5 unveiled a set of proposals for electoral reforms including the one for registration of political parties to ensure 'practice of democracy' and 'financial transparency' with the parties and announced that it would be finalised through consultation with the political parties.

The chief election commissioner on April 4 at a meeting with the law adviser asked the government to lift the ban on indoor politics allowing the EC to hold talks with the political parties on reform proposals.

Following no response from the government for over three months, the EC last week announced that any political parties could sit with the EC to discuss the draft proposals for electoral reforms by sending representatives despite the embargo on indoor politics.

But the initiative failed apparently due to the political parties' unwillingness to sit in talks amid the ban on politics.

A proposal is that the party funds should be deposited in a bank under supervision of the party treasurer, who will report quarterly at party meetings.

They also suggest a set of amendments to the AL constitution not to allow anyone to hold the posts of president or general secretary twice in a row. The same rule shall apply to those at district and upazila levels.

Anyone down to the secretary level cannot simultaneously hold posts in the party and government.

All committees will be elected through secret ballots. Anyone accused of having a role against the Liberation War or war crime will be considered ineligible for membership of the party. Likewise, criminals or black money owners will not be eligible to contest elections on the AL ticket.

A member convicted of criminal offence by the highest court will be disqualified from holding any post in the party and getting nomination for any election.

In the proposals, he also calls for national recognition of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the father of the nation, execution of those condemned to death for the gruesome killings on August 15, 1975, and punishment to those responsible for killing four national leaders on November 3, 1975.

He also suggests abolition of communal politics and establishment of a secular, democratic Bangladesh.

Some other proposals that he has come up with relate to economic, administrative and judicial overhaul, electoral reforms proposed by the Election Commission, and functioning of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Besides, Tofail proposed amendments to the national constitution to define the balance of power between the president and the prime minister.

## Rawshan, Anisul

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JP and urged them to keep calm at the present situation, said JP sources.

Meanwhile, Rawshan told The Daily Star yesterday, "It is not acceptable because he [barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud] has been declared the acting chairman of JP in an undemocratic way."

"We are the real JP," she claimed adding, "Their [Ershad and Anisul] recent move has created division among leaders and workers in the party."

"We will take actions and will hold a council after the ban on indoor politics is lifted," Rawshan said.

In another exclusive interview with The Daily Star yesterday, Anisul Islam Mahmud said, "If someone declares him or herself as the party chief with only one or two leaders present, will that [represent] the mainstream of the party?"

"What she [Rawshan] has done is against the party's constitution," Anisul claimed.

Anisul said that two separate councils would be held -- one for the reforms and the other for electing the chairman of the party.

He wished to work together with everyone to bring new and positive changes in the party.

## Hill plunderers

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organisations and commercial firms were involved in the evil practice.

The DoE teams detected 27 incidents of hill cutting in Sitakunda, 16 in Satkania, 14 in Rangunia and Chandroghona, 14 in Hathazari, 4 in Chandanaisa, 5 in Anwara, 5 in Banskhal, 2 in Mirsarai, 4 in Lohagara and 7 in Cox's Bazar, 5 in Ranganmati and 4 in Khagrachhari, DOE sources said.

Abdullah Al Noman levelled huge hills spreading over 10 acres of land on the west of Chittagong Polytechnic Institute till 2006 and gave it to one Md Sagor for setting up a poultry farm. Mayor Mohiuddin levelled a hill in the name of Thandachhari Chinnamul Asram project at South Pahartali, Prof Rabiul Hossain and SM Morshed Jafar levelled hills for setting up a hospital -- Imperial Hospital-- in Khulshi area near DoE divisional office.

Two brick kilns of Abul Khair Group and another of Yakub Ali & Sons were set up by devouring hills on the west of the Polytechnic Institute, the sources mentioned.

Indiscriminate hill-cutting went on for developing at least 12 housing projects in the city. These include Nandan Housing and Spandan Properties (North Pahartali), Kube Housing (Khulshi), Chakraborty Kanan (Nasirabad), VIP Residential Project (South Khulshi) of the CCC, Gaosia Lake City (Khulshi), Shapla Housing (Pahartali Biswa Colony) and Khulshi Garden View Housing Project.

Developer of Garden View Project SM Jamir Uddin levelled a large hill spreading over 42 acres of land since 2002, sources said.

## DANIDA STAFF KIDNAP Danish detective makes field visit

A CORRESPONDENT, *Bandarban*

The Danish detective who arrived in Bandarban on Sunday started field level investigations yesterday by visiting Thanchi -- from where Danida (Danish International Development Agency) project officer Hossain Shahid Sumon was abducted.

No official statement however was available over the Danish detective's visit in the area.

Local sources said the detective talked with locals and police officials in the area. He made detailed inquiries about the area and the abduction incident.

Meanwhile, to further intensify and expedite the rescue operation, joint forces deployed more personnel at new locations, said sources in the district administration and security forces.

A source in the army said the detained employees of local NGOs including Bangladeshi Danida official Kirti Nishan Chakma were not arrested. They have been taken into custody for interrogation.

The security forces confirmed that seven out of the 12-member group that abducted the two Danida staff on June 25 were indigenous. The security forces have gathered the real identity of all the abductors.

## PCJSS leader

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Police Station of Rangamati district and arrested the PCJSS leader for possessing the gun and cartridge illegally.

Sub-Inspector Osman Ghani of Kotwali Police Station filed a case against Salyabir under section 19 (ka) and 19 (cha) of the Arms Act. The charge sheet was submitted on March 8.

## 10 low-tariff

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BNP-led ruling alliance leadership.

The Power Cell had been trying to award small power project tenders for two years. Due to serious political interference, the cell's pre-selection of small power project bidders remained questionable for long.

In April, the government cancelled the Power Cell's two-year-old tender for small power projects having a total of 190 MW capacity on grounds of lack of transparency, and asked it to retender the scheme.

Under instructions of the power ministry, the Power Cell however once again floated a tender restricting it to 33 companies that were pre-qualified during the alliance government's tenure.

Some of these companies are non-existent. Some were selected on the basis of their proximity to highly controversial Hawa Bhaban. For instance, these include Orion Power Company Ltd of scamster Obaidul Karim.

"But the ones which have been selected and approved have reputation as good entrepreneurs," said an official.

## CA

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Chapainawabganj.

Environment and Forest Adviser CS Karim presided over the function. Acting Secretary of the Environment Ministry AHM Rezaul Kabir delivered the address of welcome.

The head of the caretaker government said if necessary, the existing laws will be amended to make tougher provision to protect trees and forests.

He stressed the need for bringing strategic changes in forest management to ensure good governance, honesty and discipline in this sector. This responsibility basically falls on the Forest Department and its officials and employees, he said.

The CA noted that despite increase in the number of trees in the country following social afforestation and participation of people in tree planting, the situation is not improving as much as expected due to the wiping out of natural forests in different places.

"We all have to give attention in preserving forests for the sake of our future generation," he observed.

Narrating the macabre experience of the loss of 126 lives in landslides in Chittagong on June 10, the chief adviser said hill cutting will have to be stopped to maintain ecological balance.

"From now on, all will have to stop cutting hill at any cost and all concerned will have to keep vigilance so that no such human disaster recur," he said and informed the function that directive has been given to the authorities concerned in this regard.

The CA called upon all concerned to plant tree on hillocks and hills on a large scale to prevent landslide and restore natural environment.

He said the government has planned to bring 20 percent land under government and private forestation by the year 2015.

Advisers to the caretaker government, environmentalists and senior government officials were also present at the function.

# Mamun's arms case

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defence, Judge Mohammad Abul Bashar of the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka set today for delivery of the verdict.

The court will give the judgement at 11.30am, court sources said.

During the arguments, the prosecution told the court that they were able to prove the charges against Mamun beyond of doubt and prayed for highest punishment while the defence appealed to the court for acquittal of their client.

Earlier, the court recorded statements of 26 prosecution witnesses including the complainant and investigation officer (IO) of the case.

On April 26, Cantonment police submitted the charge sheet against Mamun to the CMM's Court, Dhaka showing 29 people as prosecution witnesses.

Shahrum Khan, officer-in-charge (OC) of Cantonment Police Station and also the IO of the case, pressed charges against Mamun, who was arrested at his Banani DOHS residence on March 26. Police seized a .22 Spanish pistol and eight bullets from his house.

Later, Sub-Inspector (SI) Kazi Abdul Awal filed an arms case and Mamun was placed on a four-day remand.

Earlier, Mamun was sentenced three years' imprisonment for not submitting wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission within the stipulated time frame.

## REDWAN IN JAIL

Redwan was sent to jail with a proposal for thirty-day detention order after Uttara police produced him before a Dhaka court yesterday on completion of four-day remand.

OC of Uttara Police Station placed a forwarding report where he said Redwan gave important information about his corruption. So, he needs to be confined in jail custody until the investigation is completed.

Moreover, he was trying to stand against the present government after his name was included on the list of top graft suspects. So, the home ministry sent a proposal for detaining him in jail custody.

Opposing the prosecution plea, the defence lawyers submitted a petition seeking bail for their client.

After the hearing, the court rejected the defence petition and ordered to send Redwan to jail.

The army-led joint forces on June 26 arrested Redwan from the city's Baridhara area.

**BABUL CASE**  
Judge Nuruzzaman of the Special Tribunal-7 framed charges against Babul and three others in connection with a bomb blast case filed in March 2004.

Babul and others, who were present at the court, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after the court read out the charges.

Three others are Jahid Hossain, Saidur Rahman and Maj (retd) Mokbul Hossain.

The case was filed with Badda Police Station on March 21, 2004 for taking possession of a piece of land forcefully and exploded bombs there.

**BABAR CASE**  
A Dhaka court could not frame charges against Babar in connection with a case filed for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition at his residence, as the jail authorities failed to produce him before the court due to his illness.

Judge Sayed Jahed Mansur of the Metropolitan Special Tribunal-9 set Sunday for hearing on charge framing against the accused.

OC of Gulshan Police Station Obaidul Haq pressed charges against Babar on June 24 showing 18 people as prosecution witnesses.

SI Helal Uddin of the same

police station filed the case against Babar on June 3 under the Arms Act.

The army-led joint forces recovered four firearms --a shotgun, a rifle, a pistol, and a Brazilian revolver-- two magazines, and 297 bullets during a raid in Babar's Gulshan home on May 28.

## MOUDDUD CASE

Judge AKM Enamul Haq of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday adjourned the hearing following a time petition by the defence lawyers.

Complainant of the case appeared before the court for giving his statement.

In the yesterday's petition, Mouddud's lawyers mentioned that they had earlier filed a petition with the High Court seeking quashment of the case and the matter is pending for hearing.

So, the recording of statements of the witnesses should be adjourned until the matter is not held, said the lawyers.

The prosecution told the court that the law has given specific time limit to dispose of the case.

On hearing both the sides, the court fixed tomorrow for next hearing.

Mohamamd Obaidul Haque, OC of Gulshan Police Station, also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka on May 28 showing 10 people as prosecution witnesses.

The joint forces apprehended Mouddud, also an influential BNP leader, on April 13 raiding his Gulshan residence in the capital.

The forces also seized various documents and 220 saris meant for government relief to the poor.

## TUKU CASE

Another Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against wife, son and daughter of detained former state minister for power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku in connection with a graft case.

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order following a plea submitted by the IO of the case.

Three accused in the case are Tuku's wife Rumana Mahmud, son Abed Hasan Mahmud and daughter Sarah Hasan Mahmud.

On June 28, ACC Assistant Director ASM Akhter Hamid Bhuiyan, also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet against Tuku, his wife, son and daughter to the CMM's Court, Dhaka showing 61 people as prosecution witnesses.

Of them, Tuku was earlier arrested while his wife, son and daughter are absconding.

The ACC had filed the case with Mohammadpur Police Station on March 21 against them for giving false information about their source of income.

Our Chapainawabganj correspondent adds: Ex-MP of Chapainawabganj-1 (Shibganj) constituency Shahjahan Miah was placed on a two-day remand in an extortion case.

Police sources said SI Lutfar Rahman of Shibganj Police Station and also the IO of the case produced the lawmaker before a first class magistrate with a prayer for a five-day remand but the magistrate Shahidul Islam Choudhury granted two days' remand.

Meanwhile, charges were framed against wife of the ex-MP of sadar constituency Harunur Rashid and president of Chapainawabganj sadar thana unit of BNP Syeda Ashifa Ashrafi Papia and BNP activist and Baroghoria Union Parishad member Al Amin at the District and Sessions Judge's Court in an extortion case.

# 2nd Test from today

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considered as a better batting option than the veteran.

Bangladesh think-tank has decided to inject more young blood as they opted for giving Mehrab Hossain, who celebrates his 20th birthday on July 8, his Test debut.

Left-handed batsman and occasional spinner, Mehrab will be the 47th Test player for the country and replace fellow left-hander Shakib Al Hasan.

Bangladesh, who struggled at this venue -- the first Test venue of the island popularly known as P Sara -- two years back for the lack of an extra pacer, have picked Mohammad Sharif, also a useful late-order batsman. Considering the conditions, left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak will make way for Sharif.

The match will start at 11am Bangladesh time with TEN Sports beaming live coverage from the venue where Bangladesh played two matches so far, but never managed to go beyond the 200-run mark in any innings.

The 31-year-old Mashud earlier missed only three out of the Tigers' total 47 Tests as he had to return home from Zimbabwe in 2001 due to an injury before being dropped for the home series against South Africa in 2003 on disciplinary

## Sony-Rangs showroom robbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers broke into a showroom of Rangs Electronics Limited (Sony-Rangs) at Uttara in the capital and made off with electronic appliances worth Tk 8.22 lakh in the early hours of yesterday.

Uttara police arrested Ariful Islam and Moniruzzaman, two on-duty night guards of the under-construction Rangs Bhaban on road 12 in sector no 6, suspecting their connection with the robbery.

A group of 10/12 criminals entered the Rangs Bhaban breaking two locks at the main entrance to the one-storey building when both of the on-duty night guards were out between 4:15am to 4:30am, police said.

The robbed electronic equipment includes eight television sets, CD and VCD players and a number of digital cameras.

The night guards told police that they went out to respond to the call of nature, and on return they found the entrance to the Rangs Bhaban open and the showroom robbed.

They also saw a pick-up car speeding away at around 4:30am just when they noticed the showroom entrance open, the guards said.

There were electronic materials worth Tk 70 lakh in the showroom.

## Dulu's trial

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Dulu's nephew Sabbir Ahmed Gama on February 7 in 2004.

Dulu himself had been among the attackers torching Asaduzzaman's straw hut. In a couple of days, some 37 households and shops were looted and torched by spraying gunpowder.

Charges were framed against the 94 accused on June 27 this year.

In his statement to the court, Asaduzzaman, president of Natore district Jatiya Chhatra Samaj, narrated the atrocities of Dulu and his thugs. He claimed that the former deputy minister Dulu began the arson attack by first torching his (Asaduzzaman's) house at Ramsa Kaziapur village.

"Dulu, the minister himself, torched my home using a match-stick ... two sacks of gunpowder were unloaded from his government vehicle and distributed among his cadres. ...the cadres later sprayed the gunpowder on houses and set those on fire," said Asaduzzaman.

The public prosecutors produced five witnesses, but the court heard the deposition from Asaduzzaman till 4:00pm.

The court scheduled July 4 for hearing depositions from the rest of witnesses.

Dulu and 24 other arrested accused were present in the court while 69 others are still on the loose.

The plaintiff told the journalists of his worries that justice might not be served in the case since the public prosecutors had been appointed on Dulu's recommendation and they have been collaborating with the defendants.

## Govt allots

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housing ministry for approval. The implementation of the project will start once it is approved, he noted.

"In the draft, we have incorporated a provision for transferring ownership of the land to the slum dwellers once they complete paying up the instalments in 20 or 25 years," he said.

Asked on how the slum dwellers will be identified, Prof Nazrul said that the NGOs working on urban issues have lists of those who have been evicted from different slums.

He observed that there should be a plan for those who cannot afford the cost of the flats in these two housing projects. The money to be collected from the slum dwellers for allotting flats to them will be later used for other such housing projects, he added.

Prof Nazrul also said that the government should have a housing policy for the poor. "We took up the issue with the government, but they said that they are not going for any long-term policy in this regard now."

The example going to be set by these projects would, however, serve as models for the next government for accommodating the slum dwellers, one of the driving forces of the economy in the city, he added.

Housing for them should not be free of cost, Prof Nazrul observed adding that it may spawn other problems.

## Money transfer

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He made the remark after attending as chief guest the concluding ceremony of a training course for the newly recruited 100 assistant directors of Bangladesh Bank at its training academy.

He stressed the need for increasing security money of the remittance houses in the banks that have agreements with the firms.

In reply to a question about the recent scam committed by the Fast Solution, a company run by a Bangladeshi group in the UK, Salehuddin Ahmed said the Bangladesh Bank did not give licence to this remittance firm.

"The central bank officials today held a meeting with the officials of the banks who have agreement with this remittance house," he said about the process initiated by the regulators to help out the Bangladeshi expatriates who sent their hard-earned money through the Fast Solution, now declared bankrupt with its owners hiding.

The governor expressed his optimism about giving a considerable solution to this problem.

In this regard, he disclosed a plan that the central bank would contact the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) of the United Kingdom to break the case.

# 5 more US soldiers killed in Iraq

## Court sentences 4 'terrorists' to death

AFF, Baghdad

Five more US soldiers have been killed in fighting in Baghdad and the western Iraqi province of Anbar in a single day, the military said yesterday.

Two soldiers and one marine were killed in Anbar on Sunday "while conducting combat operations," a statement said.

Another soldier was killed while on patrol on Sunday with Iraqi national police in western Baghdad, when insurgents detonated a roadside bomb and then opened fire on them. Two Iraqi policemen were also wounded in the attack.

Insurgents ambushed another US military patrol in southern Baghdad, killing one soldier.

The latest fatalities took the military's losses in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion to 3,575, according to an AFP count based on Pentagon figures.

Meanwhile, Iraq's highest criminal court has sentenced four alleged terrorists to death, including two foreign fighters from Yemen and Saudi Arabia, the US military said on Monday.

"The Central Criminal Court of Iraq convicted 46 individuals from June 10 to June 21 for violations of the Iraqi Terrorist Law," it said in a statement. Four were condemned to death and three sentenced to life in prison.

Nabil Ahmed Awudah, 28, a Yemeni, and Faysal Abdallah Al Faraj, 22, a Saudi, were both sentenced to death for planning and participating in "terrorist

## ACC asks

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The notice recipients will be allowed seven working days to comply with the ACC directives. But, the ACC can extend the timeframe, subject to valid reason, by another seven working days.

According to the provisions, the corruption suspects are not legally bound to submit their statements appearing in person. Those in jail will have to submit their statements through prison authorities.

The 15 others who have been asked to submit their wealth statements are former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's assistant private secretary AFM Bahauddin Nasim, former commerce adviser and Juba Dal president Barkat Ullah Bulu, former APS to Hasina Rabiul Muqtadir, AL's Religious Affairs secretary Sheikh Md Abdullah, former Khulna city mayor Kazi Aminul Haq, former minister Mirza Abbas' brother Mirza Khokon, former prime minister Khaleda Zia's nephew Shahrin Islam Tuhi, former BNP MP Habibul Islam Habib, pourasava chairman Manirul Haq Saku, AL leader Ali Reza Chowdhury, former pourasava chairman Golam Kibria Gaus, former MP and Partex Group Chairman Abul Hashem, former secretary Ismail Zabullah, owner of Uttara Group Giridhari Lal Modi and former member of the National Board of Revenue ATM Sarwar Hossain.

# UK terror hunt

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airport, along with a Jordanian surgeon named by officials in Amman as Mohammed Jamil Abdelkader Asha, and his wife.

Asha is of Palestinian origin and carries a Jordanian passport, the officials said. He obtained his medical degree in Jordan.

London's Metropolitan Police, which is coordinating the anti-terrorism operation, refused to comment on BBC reports that all those arrested were from the Middle East.

Before the new arrests Monday, press reports indicated that police were looking for at least one more person suspected to be linked to an al-Qaeda cell intending to launch attacks in Britain.

Police say there are "ever clearer" links between the Glasgow attack and the failed bombings in London, in which two Mercedes cars laden with gas canisters and nails were abandoned in the capital's entertainment district.

The seven arrests have come in rapid succession.

They began on Saturday when police detained the two men who drove the car into Glasgow airport. One of them remains in critical condition in hospital with severe burns.

Hours later anti-terror officers arrested a 26-year-old man and a 27-year-old woman, believed