

# Front-page stories

**Front-page status for a story gives the paper's view of what is most important for that day.**

In a very real sense the newspapers create – or manufacture – the news for the public. The front page presents the selected issue as compelling and vital to our understanding of the world, making us think this is the 'must know' stuff of what's happening locally, nationally or internationally. One of your tasks is to analyse how journalists and editors achieve this through photos, text and layout.

**Tabloids** and **broadsheets** take different approaches to the front page which presents the style, tone and visual appearance of the newspaper.

- ▶ In both tabloids and broadsheets, one leading story dominates with a headline, photograph and usually an article. For extreme dramatic impact only headlines and photos will be used.
- ▶ Because there is a strong commercial imperative to make people buy, the front page is designed to attract attention immediately.
- ▶ The photos and the written article show how a newspaper presents the news, e.g. sensationally, with balance, informatively and so on. This indicates the overall style of the paper.
- ▶ Tabloids and broadsheets aim to attract different audiences and so can differ significantly in their presentation of a main story.
- ▶ Broadsheets usually run two other stories in some depth while tabloids will signal another story in a brief paragraph or two.