# Charge framed men in Dhaka

**COURT CORRESPONDENT** 

against four Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (IMB) members for the first time in Dhaka in connection with an August 17 bomb blast case.

The Court of First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge could not proceed with two other cases filed against JMB chief Abdur Rahman's son Navil Bin Abdur Rahman, his younger brother Ataur Rahman Sunny and nine others. JMB military commander Sunny and regional commander of Gazipur Enavetullah were not produced before the court yester-

Alam Khan fixed February 12 for

alias Reza, 25, of Jamalpur demanded justice after the charge was read out to him. The court framed charges against three

The three on the run are Musa alias Mustafizur Rahman, 22, of Naogaon, Habibur Rahman alias Habib, 23, and Mohammad Sagir Hossain, 35, of Dhaka.

sional statement to a magistrate, naming the other JMB members involved in the blasts.

Detective Branch (DB) of police on November 24 last year pressed

DB Inspector and investigation officer (IO) Mohammad Fazlul Haq submitted the charge sheet to the Court of Chief Metropolitan

The IO dropped the names of

former Islamic Foundation direc-

tor Maolana Fariduddin Masud

and Israq Ahmad Siraji, accounts

officer (part-timer) of Masud's

Islahul Muslimeen Parishad of

Bangladesh, and Sayeed Nizami,

The IO said he dropped their

names as the charges brought

against them were found to be

Meantime, Sunny was pro-

duced before the Court of Chief

Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka

remand yesterday in connection

The court had earlier remanded

Earlier, five courts in the city

him for 10 days in another case

remanded him for 119 days in 17

cases filed with different police

stations on August 17 last year.

Sunny is facing remand in these

could not be proceeded yesterday

are Habibur Rahman alias Habib,

23, Abdur Rahman Masud, 19,

Musa alias Minto, 23, Nurul Islam

alias Uzzal, 24, Faisal Ahmed, 23,

Monwar Hossain, 21, Arman Bin

Masud, Uzzal are behind bars,

while the rest including Navil are

Sunny, Enayet, Faisal, Monwar,

The two cases were filed with

Paltan and Khilgaon police stations

Azad, 34, and Shoaib Ahmed, 25.

Other accused in the two cases

filed with Tejgaon Police Station.

with another blast case filed with

Khilgaon Police Station.

on completion of his seven-day

co-ordinator of the Parishad.

false, baseless and concocted.

It alleged that SM Zakaria has been the one responsible for all the previous vote riggings and his

Instead of heeding to the opposition's demand for reforms, the CEC is busy paving the way for the government to rig the election in its favour, the 11-party resolution added.

President Rashed Khan Menon presided over the meeting attended among others by its General Secretary Bimal Biswas, Gono Forum Presidium Member Pankaj Bhattacharya, Samyabadi Dal General Secretary Dilip Barua.

Meanwhile, Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain said appointments of the two new election commissioners and continuation of the work of a faulty voter list, bypassing the HC verdict, have made things even more com-

"The present situation proves that reforms in Election Commission and implementation of 14-party opposition alliance's 23-point demand are rational," Dr Kamal said at a meeting held at the party's central office.

seem to have little trust in the electoral process.

'66, '69, '71 and in '90."

## More arms

A joint group of Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel raided the deep forest of . Bhaginajhiri in Naikkhongchhari early hours yesterday and made the recovery. They also demolished

The army and border guards also detained six criminals in the last 15 days.

sioner stopped us asking for the discussion," Munsef Ali told reporters after the meeting. out and detained three foreign

criminals were held on January 3.

sources claimed that the criminal camp belonged to the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation, but said the identity of the foreign criminals remained unknown despite continued interrogation.

## ists' queries on the status of the

Bangladesh (JMB).

rights and good governance.

and State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar. She is set to depart on January 28 afternoon.

involved with the militants.

A high official of the foreign ministry told The Daily Star that a number of countries, including US has praised Bangladesh government's anti-militancy crackdown in the recent months.

expressed its desire to extend all-out assistance to Bangladesh in curbing terrorism and enhancing the capability of law enforcers in Bangladesh to fight terrorism.

Dhaka, while talking to The Daily Star, said the US-Bangladesh relations are excellent. The relationship was boosted in March 2000 when President Clinton visited Bangladesh, the first visit ever by a US president, and when Secretary of State Colin Powell visited in June 2003, as well as when Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld visited in June 2004. Senior officials from the State Department regularly visit Bangladesh, the official added.

He said Bangladesh has become a valuable US ally in the global war on terrorism recently. As part of the war effort, Bangladesh has publicly addressed problems of money laundering, weak border controls, and other factors to ensure that

Bangladesh since her appointment in 2001 and her last visit to Dhaka was on May 11-12 last year.

# 15 hurt in Tel Aviv suicide bombing

**AP,** Tel Aviv, Israel

A suicide bomber blew himself up inside a restaurant at a crowded pedestrian mall near Tel Aviv's old central bus station Thursday, and at least 15 people were wounded, policesaid.

The Islamic Jihad militant group claimed responsibility in a phone call to The Associated Press.

"This happened in two seconds, he entered the shop, took two steps, and blew himself up," said Ari Sharon, owner of the targeted restaurant, the Mayor's Shwarma. A witness, who identified himself

only as Itzik, said he was eating at a fast-food stand when he began suspecting the man standing next to "All of a sudden, a policeman

came. He pulled him (the suspect) out, and started searching him," he told Israel Radio. The suspect fled, Itzik said, and five minutes later, the explosion was heard. In Ramallah, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas said the bombing

was meant to derail next week's

Palestinian parliamentary elections. "This is sabotage and aimed at and amend as sabotaging the elections, not only the elections, but also the security of Palestinians," Abbas said. "The culprits must be punished."

Witnesses said the bomber entered the restaurant pretending to be a peddler selling disposable razors. Israel radio reported he was carrying a heavy pack on his back.

Police said the bomber blew himself up in the restaurant's bathroom and may have been trying to prepare the explosive device when it went off prematurely.

After the blast, a crowd gathered outside the restaurant. An elderly  $man\,we a ring\,a\,felt\,hat\,wept.$ 

The blast came just a week before Palestinian parliament elections, and two weeks after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suffered a devastating stroke. Handling the aftermath of the bombing, and deciding on a possible Israeli response will be a key test for Sharon's stand-in, acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana urged Israelis and Palestinians not to let the attack

## Ctg JMB man Mohammad. his aide on fresh remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) Chittagong divisional commander Mohammad alias Javed Iqbal was placed on a fresh 10-day remand yesterday while his accomplice Abu Zar was placed on a seven-day remand in a case filed with the Khulshi Police Station.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) IMB Sitakunda commander Abu Zar, Cox's Bazar JMB commander Naimuzzaman alias Iafar, IMB activists Monirul Islam and Rafigul Islam before the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate Akram Hossain on completion of Rab's investigation and handed them over to court custody.

The court granted the remand prayer of Khulshi Police Station for the two which was placed before the court on January 3.

Sources said Rab has finalised charge sheets in three cases in connection with the recovery of large caches of explosives, bombs, arms and bomb-making materials within the stipulated 60 working days that ends today.

They also obtained approval of the public prosecutor to submit the charge sheets on Wednesday. Rab would submit the charge sheets

Eight people including JMB chief Abdur Rahman, Majlish-e-Sura's member Siddiqul Islam alias Bangla Bhai, its military chief Ataur Rahman Sunny, Mohammad and Naimuzzaman were implicated in all the three cases filed with the Pahartali Police Station.

## JCD men

FROM PAGE 1 The tenders were floated last

month. No boxes for dropping tender schedules were found at the NSC offices yesterday. Only an advertisement inviting bids was published inside a low-circulation newspaper last week, making it difficult for potential bidders to know about it.

When contacted, NSC Director Nurul Haq Pradhan claimed that the tender process was properly followed. "I don't know if any external syndicate got the tenders, but in our office everything was properly done. Sources say the JCD men were

patronised by two ministers, two lawmakers from Rajshahi and Barisal and NSC high-ups. Some potential bidders, also backed by other BNP high-ups, said they missed out on the tenders because they did not pay matching

commissions to the ministers and MPs concerned. The renovations and additions include building new pavilions, a media centre, galleries, playground development, security and border fencing, walk-ways, approach roads, a swimming tank and drains. Moreover, Tk 8 crore

district stadium.

On press reports about uncerhas been allocated for construction of new floodlights for Barisal

## 'Gunrunner' arrested

UNB, Kishoreganj

An alleged arms trader was arrested in Katiadi upazila of the district on Wednesday night.

The arrestee was identified as Shahadat Hossain, 20, son of late Sayeeduzzaman of Char Jhakalia under the upazila.

Being tipped-off, police arrested Shahadat at Katiadi Bazar and recovered a gun and six bullets from his village home.

On his confessional statement, the law enforcers recovered one foreign pistol, a home-made gun, and five bullets from a house of Shahadat's relative at Bhurangarchar village in Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

Police said Shahadat confessed to his involvement in arms trading.

### Bar sends FROM PAGE 20

discharge his duties in accordance with the constitution, not on political consideration," he added.

The SCBA's resolution demanded removal of Justice MA Aziz and the two newly appointed election com-missioners (EC) - Justice Mahfuzur Rahman and SM Zakaria -- in the interest of holding free and fair general elections in the country.

The resolution also said the comments of controversial EC Justice Mahfuzur Rahman regarding the High Court (HC) order on preparation of fresh voter list are contemptuous. On Tuesday, Justice Rahman in his first day at the office termed the HC order as unlawful' and said the EC is not bound to abide the verdict.

Replying to a query, M Enayetur Rahim said lawyers would help to prove the misconduct committed by Aziz if the president constitutes the Supreme Judicial Council.

"CEC Justice MA Aziz has committed gross misconduct by continuing the work on fresh voter list with the controversial men violating the HC order and ignoring the opinions of two other election commissioners," he added.

## 14-party demands

demanding resignation of the CEC and cancellation of the appointments of two new election commissioners, reports our RU correspon-

City unit AL President Mahmuduzzaman Dulu chaired the rally, while former state minister Zinatun Nesa Talukder, city unit AL General Secretary AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal General Secretary Sayed Zaffar Sazzad, among others,

NOAKHALI

AL leaders brought out a procession and held a rally demanding immediate resignation of the CEC and the two commissioners, reports our Noakhali correspondent.

They also burnt an effigy of the CEC. Presided over by Mohammad Hanif, the rally was also addressed by Mohammad Ali, MP, Ekramul Karim Chowdhury and Belal Uddin Kiron.

## 5-tier security

entrances to Khittas," a Rab officer

involved in Ijtema security told The Daily Star. Besides installing 54 closed-

circuit television cameras at different points, law enforcers will use 20 video cameras to record people's movement.

Bomb disposal units from the army and Rab will work during the three days and 24 mobile courts will operate there.

Rab men will keep keen watch in and around the area with two helicopters and set up observation towers and control room to moni-

tor law and order. They will also use patrol boats and stop movement of any suspected individuals or boats in the

To ease traffic congestion in the city, devotees from Barisal, Khulna, Chandpur and other regions, who previously used to board buses at

Sadarghat, will be taken by trawlers. The Ashulia Landing Station will be launched for them before the Ijtema begins. The Progati Sarani-Ashulia-Baypail Road will remain off-limits to public vehicles for 24 fours since

provide 315 shuttle buses for commuters on the road during the 24 hours. "There will be 18 parking lots for vehicles and no vehicles will be

January 28 evening. The BRTC will

allowed to park outside the parking space," Babar said. The Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway will be kept clear and

wreckers will tow the vehicles parked outside the parking lot, he Medical teams and advance teams of firefighters will remain stationed at different points so that

they can rush to any point in case of emergencies. The Ijtema organisers have been instructed not to set up any

loud speaker on the road or outside Highway police and other forces will be on hand to hunt down petty criminals like muggers and Criminal Investigation

pickpockets. The immigration desk at Zia International Airport has been directed for quick disposal of foreign devotees, who will use vehicles with special stickers to attend the Ijtema.

## Experiment on to probe climate riddle

BBC ONLINE

A three-week experiment to resolve the biggest riddle in climate science began in Australia yesterday.

Scientists will use radar, aeroplanes, weather balloons and a ship to study the life cycle of tropical

up into the atmosphere. A better understanding of these crucial processes should lead to

computer models that can predict the extent of global climate warming more accurately.

Current projections of global temperature rise, reported in the last assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), see increases by the end of

and much of it stems from unknowns to do with how the world's economy will develop over coming decades.

But there is also uncertainty over how the climate will react, and one of the key issues centres on a poor understanding of what goes on inside clouds - how they form, and how they behave.

Over the next three weeks, about 200 scientists drawn from 30 institutions in 10 countries aim to rectify this data deficit.

Tropical clouds carry heat and moisture from the Earth's surface high up in the atmosphere, a key process in driving heat around the globe.

committee.

"Also, you've got large areas of cirrus clouds which are reflecting a lot of incoming sunlight back away from the Earth; but they're also absorbing infra-red radiation coming back from below," he told the BBC News website.

"So you've got competing processes going on; and that balance depends on how big the ice crystals are and what the density is, how high

Existing computer models did not reflect these processes accurately, said Tom Ackerman of the University of Washington in Seattle, US, because they typically treated convection and cloud formation as separate processes.

"We're working now to develop a more integrated approach to the convection where these processes are all tied together, and the convection leads directly to the clouds," he

to understand this total life cycle of air going into the clouds, condensation, vertical lifting and then cloud being dumped out at other

All of which provides a mandate for a comprehensive and intensive new research programme.

Investigators and funding for the Fropical Warm Pool International Cloud Experiment (TWP-ICE) come from a number of countries, including Australia, the US, Britain, Japan and Canada.

## Criminals rule

further intensify the threat, the SFD official said requesting anonymity.

Besides replacing the outdated arms, training for the guards is necessary if the government wants to save the resources in the Sundarbans, he said, as none of the 177 guards for the 77 outposts are trained well enough to face the pirates or criminals.

In order to get a better picture of cloud life cycle, they have pulled together a formidable array of technology and manpower.

Radar systems on land and on the Australian research vessel Southern Surveyor will scan the atmosphere around Darwin night and day, producing a three-dimensional picture of water distribution and droplet

Aeroplanes will fly above the clouds, providing further information on what they contain.

Ground-based instruments will measure the flow of heat and moisture from land into the lower atmosphere, augmented by sensors on another set of aeroplanes.

between sea and atmosphere. And a barrage of weather bal-

"We have five sites in a 150km radius ring around Darwin from which we launch those weather balloons," said Christian Jakob from the Australian Bureau of

Meteorology. "We're going to launch eight balloons a day at each site for 23 days - if you do the maths, it's in the order of 1,000 balloons - and these stations are populated by poor students who have to stay out in the heat and rain and launch a balloon every three

In Darwin's intense summer rains, this surely qualifies as suffering for science.

All this makes TWP-ICE one of the biggest climate experiments ever mounted.

Southern Surveyor is able to remain at sea; but analysing the data and building it into climate models will take much longer. producing better estimates of global

temperature rise, this experiment, conducted as it is near the southern boundary of the monsoon belt, should provide better indications of how the monsoon may change as temperatures increase - a key factor for the billions of people who depend on it forwater.

into regional projections is crucial if nations and regions are to plan for a warmer future

"The overwhelming majority of the atmospheric science community believe that climate change is with us," said Peter May,

does it mean on regional scales, what does it mean for tropical cyclones or thunderstorm activity?' "You absolutely cannot say, as some people tried to, 'Hurricane Katrina was due to climate change'

more often?" If the TWP-ICE investigators are correct, we should start gaining answers to these key questions in the years immediately following their 23

## days of intense research. JMB member

BDNEWS, Feni

(JMB) at Tangail Sari Kutir in the town yesterday.

The arrestee was identified as Shafiqul Islam Dulu, son of late Makbul Hossain of Nabipur at Pearakandi village under Debidar Upazila of Comilla.

later, went into hiding. Recently, he shaved off his beard and resumed his cloth business.

The JMB member was produced in a court. The court placed him on a

## Nepal cracks down

Kathmandu are extremely concerned about recent developments in Nepal, in particular about the arrests of democratic party leaders, members of civil society and human rights activists," the EU

the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist Leninist), said at least 15 of his party's leaders were detained at their homes before dawn, while the Nepali Congress party said 24 of its members were picked up.

Powerful neighbour India

working together to achieve peace and stability in the country," the foreign ministry said. India had been vocal in its

constitutional forces in Nepal

he sacked the elected government on February 1 last year and had joined the United States and Britain in suspending arms shipments. New Delhi later resumed "non-

lethal military aid" following assurances from the monarch that he would restore democracy.

the High Commissioner for Human Rights, meanwhile, questioned the legality of the detentions. The arrests were made under

does not allow for arrests at night. said Ian Martin, the head of the

the Public Security Act, "but this

A rally by the seven opposition

parties in the southern town of Janakpur on January 14 attracted tens of thousands of protesters, according to eyewitnesses. Organizers hope even more will turn out in the capital on Friday.

## **AUG 17 BLASTS**

# against 4 JMB

A court yesterday framed charges

Judge Mohammad Shamsul

others in their absence.

Reza had earlier given a confes-

charges against the four in connection with a blast near ZIA Concourse Hall around 11:25am on August 17 last year.

alleged the two election commis "The chief election commis-

Election Commissioner SM Zakaria however informed the meeting that the voter-listing process has been at a standstill since the HC's judgement, Mohammad Ali

listing need not be stopped, as the court did not make any such order. The acting secretary of the EC Secretariat who was designated to brief the press left the conference room without answering the journal-

## ongoing enumeration.

Record hunt FROM PAGE 1 arrestees could be learnt; they are Sajib, 32, Riku, 22, and Biplob, 27. Sources said the three were involved

to locals for its religion-based activi-The joint forces raided the office of the organisation and conducted a one-hour operation to arrest them. The police said they suspect that the members of the organisation may be

said, "We did not have specific information about their presence, but we had information from a reliable source that 2-3 of JMB's Majlish-e-

On whether or not any of the 10 arrestees is a Majlish-e-Shura member or involved with the JMB in any way, he said the law enforcers have not found any proof of that until yesterday evening. "In fact, we do not

be able to arrest the militants if they are still inside the cordon. "No one with suspicious attitude or identity can escape our dragnet there.' The local police said they suspect ne militants are working in the area

The IGP said the law enforcers will

Asked about the operation, State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar told reporters at

appointment along with CEC's non-compliance with the High Court order has severely under-

Bangladesh Workers Party

He observed that people now

Calling on all to unite in opposition to the evil forces, the noted jurist said, "We all have to work together to bring about a meaningful change, fighting against black money, corruption and communalism like we did in '52,

FROM PAGE 1 According to security analysts, the GPS and range-finders, found in the country for the first time, are considered worldwide as highly sophisticated military navigational

three terrorist dens.

On Wednesday, on being informed, the BDR raided a criminal hideout around the Bhaginajhiri hills and seized 7kg TNT, a M1A1 machinegun, an AK47, one .303 and four M16 rifles, a long-range rocket shell, 3,500 bullets and a 500yard wire. The security forces destroyed the hide-

Earlier, three other foreign The army's Bandarban regional

Rocca arrives The source said Rocca is likely to

eral election, corruption, human During her three-day stay here, Rocca will call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and hold talks with Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina. The source said Rocca has expressed desire to meet some other top-level officials during her stay in Dhaka.

He said the US government

This will be Rocca's 4th visit to

Solana said the attack occurred at a moment of great importance "for the future of Palestine, because of elections." He appealed "to every-body to forget terrorist acts and to give political life a chance. Elections are the only way civilized countries

"It was a single suicide bomber who entered the restaurant and blew himself up inside the restaurant,"

an area crowded with shoppers and travelers. The bus station is in a working class neighborhood, where many foreign workers live.

security forces cordoned off the area. The Islamic Jihad militant group has claimed responsibility for each of the six suicide bombings in Israel since a truce took effect last February.

## Cellphone

FROM PAGE 1

officer for new subscription. Calling in the top brass of the six mobile phone operators, BTRC Chairman Omar Farooq yesterday briefed them in presence of intelligence officials at his office.

tested such unrealistic directive but the regulator remained uncompromising citing national security, sources said. The operators observed that it is almost impossible to gather personal

details of the existing prepaid cus-

tomers as the operators do not maintain any contact with them. They also apprehended that the mandatory certificate for fresh subscription would deal a severe blow to the growth of the mobile

General (retd) Moinul Hussain Choudhury doubted whether such certificate is going to serve any useful purpose of the authorities. "Unfortunately, we can obtain 'genuine' documents fraudulently in our country," he said. "The BTRC

caretaker government Major

subscribers' personal details and ilable to the govern ment as and when necessary. The BTRC has also asked the operators to record all calls, and archive text messages and contents transmitted in any other forms. Academic luminary Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed feared that the mandatory certificate may open up new avenues for criminals. Had the

US govt

FROM PAGE 20 to violence in Nepal by the Maoists." The US State Department official said both USA and India want to see

the kingdom to return to a demo-

agreement, an end to the violence that we've seen over the recent On Afghanistan, he said "We wish to support President Karzai, and we'll both be attending, India and the United States, a major international conference in London on January 31

to support the Afghan people and

## pledge economic assistance and support for the government."

invitations to her during the November 12-13 Saarc Summit in Dhaka, and she confirmed her visit.

Pakistan and India expressed agerness to welcome Khaleda Zia at the end of February and March. Officials are now working out details of the scheduled visits, he

Sources said foreign ministry officials are in close contact with Indian and Pakistani officials. Besides, Bangladesh high commissions in New Delhi and Islamabad are also in touch with officials of foreign ministries of the two coun-

Southern Surveyor will also take ocean measurements, looking at the impact of rainfall on heat exchange

loons, or radiosondes, will measure temperature and humidity.

Investigations are limited to 23 days, the length of time for which As well as refining the models and

The ability to turn global models

"The next questions are, 'how does it affect peoples' lives; what

tion you need to ask is, 'are we load ing the dice for more intense storms

that's just nonsense. But the ques-

held in Feni

Police arrested an activist of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh

Police said Dulu was involved in the August 17 serial bombings. He,

# seven-day remand.

FROM PAGE 20 would steer clear of the rally.

said a statement. Kashinath Adhikari, secretary of

"This is an attack on the fundamental rights of the people and the royal government has tried to take away people's rights by imposing the curfew and the ban on demonstrations," Congress party secre-Department personnel will look for tary Shobhakar Parajuli said in a statement.

condemned the crackdown.

criticism of King Gyanendra when

The United Nations Office for

Martin said he was seeking

trial of the case filed with Airport Police Station and summoned the complainant that day. Pleading not guilty, Rezaul Haq

ing work of the voter list, added the But with the newly appointed election commissioners Justice Mahfuzur Rahman and SM Zakaria decided to file the appeal against the HC directives.

By taking the decision to file the

appeal yesterday, the CEC in fact

commission and sought to justify the ongoing task of preparing the fresh

voter list, also preferred by the gov-

Although the HC in its January 4 ruling asked the commission to hold an immediate meeting, it was not convened before the CEC had two more election commissioners appointed by the government to win

him the majority

authorised to talk.

appointments. After about two and a half hours of meeting, MA Aziz left his office hurriedly without making any comment to the waiting journalists. New Election Commissioner Mahfuz, who on the first day in office on January 17 termed the HC directives contradictory and unlawful, also did not talk to the press, while

SM Zakaria said he was not

decision taken by the EC meeting:

Chief Election Commissioner

According to a statement on the

He remained absent from

January 8 to January 18, the time the

government took to give the new

Commissioner Justice Mahfuzur Rahman and SM Zakaria opined in favour of filing an appeal with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court to taste the legal validity and constitutionality of the judgement." Read out by acting Secretary to

the EC Secretariat Mohammad

Zakoria, the statement said election

commissioners Mohammad Ali and

Munsef Ali expressed their unwill-

however said they have no objection

if anyone files an appeal against the

'They [Munsef and Mohammad]

ingness to be party of the appeal.

High Court's judgement.' The decision of the meeting will be communicated to the counsel of the EC and he will take necessary steps soon to this end. Election Commissioner Mohammad Ali however said the CEC and the two new election commissioners decided on their own to file the appeal. "It's not a decision of the Election Commission," he argued. They were not even informed when the CEC and the

 $"We are \, not \, aggrieved \, by \, the \, High \,$ Court's judgement. We don't want to file the appeal against it," he said adding that the CEC held up a number of arguments for filing the appeal. **VOTERLISTINGAT STANDSTILL?** 

The EC meeting yesterday did not

discuss the continuing work of the fresh voter list although it was on the

secretary to the EC secretariat contested the two writ petitions chal-

lenging the preparation of a fresh

meeting agenda. Munsef and Mohammad at the meeting demanded discussion on the issue, but the CEC did not allow it,

under the Explosive Substances The court has fixed February 8 for hearing on charge framing

against the accused in the cases.

absconding.

He said he asked for an executive order to stop the work as an appeal is going to be filed. But in reply the CEC said the voter

with a local organisation named Bangla Cooperative Samity known

Meanwhile, hearing the rumour of Bangla Bhai's arrest, thousands of people from adjoining areas thronged and waited outside the law enforcers' cordon until yesterday Asked if the law enforcers had any information that Bangla Bhai or Abdur Rahman was attending the meeting at Poradaho, IGP Quavum

know exactly what other Mailish-e-Shura members except Bangla Bhai and Abdur Rahman look like. We are working to be sure of the identity of

Shura members are present there.

The two may or may not be among

in disguise and many of them might have shaved off their beard or changed outfits. On the length of the operation, the IGP said, "We hope to get the result by tomorrow [Friday] noon."

2:00pm yesterday that the operation was being conducted on intelligence information. "We have taken the information seriously and are conducting the operation. We cannot undermine any such information,"

## 11-party

FROM PAGE 20

mined the acceptability of the EC.

have talks with government and political leaders on a broad range of issues, including counterterrorism cooperation, next gen-

She is also expected to meet Leader of the Opposition and

An official of the US embassy in

Bangladesh does not become a terrorist safe-haven.

## derail the Palestinian elections.

can express themselves. Medics said one person was seriously wounded.

said Tel Aviv police commander David Tsur. He said there were no fatalities but 15 people were wounded. The blast went off in a pedestrian mall near the old central bus station,

Blood, shattered glass and debris covered the ground near shops. The windows of a parked car near the blast were blown out, and helmeted

The regulator did not disclose any agenda prior to the surprise meeting, and no minutes were also distributed The operators vehemently pro-

phone market in Bangladesh. The BTRC directive also sees issuance of certificates with flawed information as a punishable offence. Meanwhile, former advisor to

should have been more concerned about the quality of services, tariff reduction and timely collection of the government dues instead." As per the directive, the operators will have to develop a database of

## government issued national identification card to every citizen no certifi-cates would have been required, he

On Sri Lanka, Burns said, "I think it's fair to say we want to see a strengthening of the cease-fire

PM's visit FROM PAGE 1

"We had earlier given tentative dates in February and March when

our prime minister may be free to visit the two countries," the foreign

This will be Khaleda's first visit to India since she assumed office on October 10, 2001. She however visited Pakistan to attend the 12th Saarc Summit in Islamabad in January 2004.

tainty and complexity of the PM's visit to India, Morshed said, "The reports are most unfounded. There is no confusion, complexity or uncertainty regarding prime minis-ter's visit to India. Both Bangladesh and India are moving forward very positively and the relations are excellent."

They are searching for details of how clouds form and carry heat high

the century that range from 1.4 to The spread of possible temperatures represents a huge uncertainty -

"You have these 'hot towers' tropical storm clouds acting like chimneys to carry heat to the upper atmosphere," said Peter May from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology Research Centre, cochair of the project's organising

they are and so on.

told the BBC News website. "But in order to do that you need

more pirates and criminals. The modern equipment and arms of the pirates and criminals

The European Union voiced disquiet over the arrests. "The EU heads of mission in

"These actions of his majesty's government of Nepal are regretta-

ble and a matter of grave concern

## office in Nepal. access to detainees.

# EC finally decides proposal for filing the appeal and demanded discussion on the ongo-