NEWS

5

the PM will lead the committee while

the leader of the opposition or any

opposition leader will be the coordina

The Jatiya Party led by Anwai

Hossain Manju suggested resignation

of those accused of harbouring mili-

ants from the government and the

administration for the sake of fair

Association in its nine-point proposal

observed that the government will

have to get to the root of militancy and

unearth the reasons why the persons

and agencies concerned failed to

identify the militants before the bomb

The apex body of physicians also

suggested that the PM come up with

the "correct statement" of the govern-

ment after discussions at the party

forums like BNP standing committee,

executive committee and parliamen

They also stressed the need for

The Bangladesh Medical

tor of the national body.

probe.

attacks.

tary partv.

Double trouble

FROM PAGE 1 workers and drivers. Some of them came to Dhaka to visit their relatives.

According to the latest information, around 8,000 people were arrested in the capital alone during the special drive. Of them, around 2,500 were sent to jail while police released others either after taking bribe from them or on recommenda-

tions from influential people. Jahanara Begum, 50, came to the jail gate from Dhamrai on Tuesday morning as her only son Altaf Hossain, a rickshaw mechanic, is in iail.

She spent Wednesday night starved at the jail gate with around 200 others, hoping that her son--the lone bread earner for her fivemember family--will be released by the next morning.

"The police picked him up from Dhamrai on Thursday on suspicion and he was granted bail on Monday, but he is yet to be released, Jahanara told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon. "The police arrested them in masses--why do you not ask the authorities to release them in masses too?" an angry Jahanara said

Mannan Kobiraj, a 60-year-old farmer from Chandpur, along with his brothers Abul Khair and Abdur Razzak has been wandering in front of the jail gate for the last two days Mannan's son Mohammad Hossain 17, an embroidery worker who was arrested in Kalshi area on Friday, got bail order on Monday but was

not released yet. MASS ARREST: BLESSINGS FOR

POLICE, SUFFERINGS FOR

VICTIMS Many mass arrest victims who did not bribe the police were implicated in false cases, mainly robbery and theft. Even some 14-year-old boys were not spared.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Karim of Mohammadpur Police Station allegedly picked up Murad Hossain. 14, a garage worker, and his friends Swapan and Chanchal from the College Gate area on Friday afternoon when they were returning home

The relatives of the three alleged that the SI demanded Tk 6,000 for their release. The relatives of Swapan and Chanchal could arrange only Tk 2,000; so, the SI showed the two arrested on suspicion.

"As we did not give any money for Murad, the SI implicated him in an assault case and provided a wrong name of my father," alleged Murad's sister Parveen Akhter.

Now the jail authorities are not releasing Murad because of the different name of his father although he was granted bail on Saturday, she said

When contacted, SI Karim, however, said he cannot remember arresting anyone named Murad and that the allegation against him is totally baseless. He also denied to have registered the names of the arrestees and their fathers.

"My mother is a patient of heart disease and further delay in Murad's release might lead to a serious situation," said a sobbing Parveen. Garment worker Kuddus Ali, 18

of Tongi is another victim of how the police forced the victims and their relatives for bribes.

Coming out of the jail after having iust dot released. Kuddus said he was having tea at a local restaurant on Friday evening when an SI of the Ikuria Police Station came to him

ΡM FROM PAGE 1 well as other regional and internaand said, "Come and follow me--I tional issues of common concern.

visit at the weekly news briefing in

Islamabad. Khaleda Zia will call on

President General Pervez Musharraf

during her stay, the spokesperson

The Pakistan president would host

a luncheon for Khaleda Zia while the

Pakistan prime minister would host a

banquet in her honour, the sources

Khaleda Zia is also expected to

The PM's official visit to Islamabad

visit the earthquake relief camp in

is part of regular high-level exchanges

between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz

visited Dhaka in November last year

Foreign ministry officials said

Bangladesh and Pakistan have

traditionally enjoyed excellent frater-

nal relations based on the principles of

sovereign equality and non-

interference in each other's internal

Both the countries have conver-

gence on regional and international

ssues. Bangladesh and Pakistan

have worked closely on the bilateral

level as well as in international forums

like the OIC, Commonwealth, Nam,

signboard at Ahmadiyya mosque in

Dhanikhola on February 10 that came

as "the latest in a series of attempts

by Islamist groups to prevent the

of Bangladesh with the help of police

protect the members of the minority

The Al letter also urged the gov-

ernment to take strict measures to

curb the use of hate speech and

authorities with request to prevent

February 10 anti-Ahmadiyya rally

within 10km radius of the Dhanikhola

mosque and received assurances

But there has been no official

Ahmadiyyas

affairs and mutual respect.

D-8 and Saarc.

FROM PAGE 1

their beliefs"

to iustice.

community

and local authorities.

to attend the 13th Saarc Summit.

confirmed.

added

Islamabad

need to save my job." Later, Kuddus Several agreements and MoUs aimed was picked up on a police van and at further strengthening the ties shown arrested on suspicion. between the two countries are Kuddus alleged that the SI took expected to be signed following the away his mobile phone and Tk 100 talks. According to the sources, Pakistan

he was carrying. He, however, could not name the SI Anwara, mother of another victim Anwar Hossain, a rickshaw-puller, alleged that Demra police arrested her son at their Shonir Akhra residence on Friday and implicated him in a theft case as they did not meet an SI's demand for Tk 4.000 for his release. She also could not name

Malaysian FROM PAGE 16

the SI

between Dhaka and Chittagong. This project of the expressway with an alignment different from the existing Dhaka-Chittagong highway is to be implemented in five years.

At the meeting with the minister the delegation also discussed bankfinancing, setting up of the project office and engineers' visit to the project site.

Communications Secretary Shafiqul Islam, Chief Engineer of Roads and Highways Department A R M Anwar Hossen and other high officials of the communications ministry were present at the meetıng.

The construction of Dhaka-Chittagong expressway was one of the priority projects of the present government, the meeting was told. The project would be implemented on build, operate and transfer (BOT) basis, where the company will invest money and get return

through toll collection for thirty vears. The project got approval from the Private Infrastructure Committee under Bangladesh Private

Infrastructure Guideline The proposal is now waiting for final approval from the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, the meeting was told.

The Dhaka-Chittagong expressway will cross Naryanganj, Munshiganj, Chandpur, Sonagaji Laxmipur Sitakunda and Hathajari.

The expressway will provide adequate parking, refuelling stations, restaurants and rest house facilities at certain distances for the travellers

The Malaysian consortium will also construct two new bridges over the Shitalakkhya and Meghna

The consortium, however sought ten years tax holiday from the year it starts collecting tolls.

Hanit

FROM PAGE 1 Doctors have termed his condition very critical' and he has been kept artificial life-support. Hanif, a senior AL leader. has

long been suffering from heart from the police superintendent of nents. Mymensing in this regard, it said. Leader of the Opposition and AL Chief Shiekh Hasina and senior 14-

confirmation of such assurances party leaders went to the hospital to while a Khatme Nabuwat leader has see him. AL leaders and workers of different city ward units and thouthreatened of viole

37.5pc factories lack

FROM PAGE 1 them having no such facilities.

As regards environmental regula-tions, 48.6 percent industrial units and establishments comply with them and 40.2 percent do not. In agriculture sector, 84.8 percent units do not comply with the regulations while 60 percent of them in construction sector foreign ministry spokesperson and 58.1 percent of hotels and restau-Tasneem Aslam on Monday formally rants do not follow the regulations. announced Khaleda Zia's upcoming

The report also pointed out that only 10 percent industrial units and establishments have ISO certificates while 75 percent of them do not have. Besides 78 percent manufacturing units lacks ISO certificates.

On environmental damage differ ent sectors are causing, the report said crop sub-sector is almost pollution free and in the non-crop sector particularly in fisheries and poultry establishments, pollution occurs in a small way.

Readymade garment factories are major violators of environmental regulations. While some of them have dust control device, their washing plants are polluting nearby water tioned. bodies. Besides, extras and cuttings

FROM PAGE 1 Muktagan. But if Khaleda-Nizami governof cloth that are sold out by the gar-ment factories often create water

pollution and stagnation particularly when dumped in nearby water bodies Tannery industries also cause great environmental damage. The toxic chemicals used in tannery factories pollute nearby water bodies Re-rolling mills also use toxic chemi

cals which, when channelled to adjacent water bodies, pollute water The mills also cause sound pollution. Pharmaceuticals and rubber industries, specially smaller ones, pollute air through offensive smell.

Chemicals used in paper and pulp industries as well as in match facto ries greatly pollute water bodies vehicles are another major Moto polluter with their hydraulic horns and emission of gases causing sound and air pollution.

Hospitals and clinics dump large volumes of wastes including solid and hazardous medical wastes that cause serious air and water pollution. A small number of them however have pollution control system, the report men-

reduce gas price accordingly. Again, in

case of the guarantee, the price will be

calculated against the international oil

price. The government is also willing to

provide a guarantee for a shorter

period to help Tata obtain loans from

They also told Tata it could proceed with its investment plan in phases.

Tata may start with power and steel

plants, and the government will pro-

vide das. The company may proceed

with fertiliser plant later on. But Tata

did not agree," one source said quot-

Tata's proposal to dedicate some gas

fields exclusively for its establish

On April 20 last year, Tata submit-

Gas price issue finally

pared to those countries?

ernational financiers.

ing a negotiator.

ments

FROM PAGE 1 has already proposed a competitive

price for gas. "We came to Bangladesh already knowing that gas price will be higher We offered a price 60 percent higher than that in the Middle East. Now, the gap between Tata and Petrobangla (on gas price) is very significant. We hope Petrobangla will come down (on

price issue)." The Tata executive said foreign investors have to make money. "That means they have to be competitive with other international competitors. And steel plants and fertiliser plants across the world have some sort of economics, which we need to match And that means we need gas price at a certain level which is competitive.

Rosling said, "If the government Ahmadiyyas from openly practising rejects our proposal, we will depart as friends." Tata's relationship with Bangladesh is very old as the com-The international rights watchdog pany markets trucks, cars, tea and has called on the government to telecom services here. Investment ensure protection of all Ahmadiyyas through those products will continue, he added.

At yesterday's meeting, Tata It has also asked the government negotiators referred to Iran's gas price of 42 cents per thousand cubic feet to declare that no member of any group has the right to intimidate or and said while gas is very cheap in the persecute any members of the Middle East, they are not seeking such Ahmadiyya community, and to bring low price in Bangladesh. those responsible for such incidents

A source in the government side "Iran's gas reserve is somenoted. Expressing apprehension of a where between 900 trillion cubic feet violent attack on the Ahmadiyyas, (tcf) and 950 tcf. Most of the middle-Amnesty International sent letters to eastern countries have high gas reserves. In contrast, what we have is the prime minister, law minister and below 15 tcf. How can we be comstate minister for home affairs on Tuesday, urging necessary steps to

FROM PAGE 1

public rallies to incite violence against Ahmadivvas and publicly denounce Alam. this threat as well as previous threats and attacks against the community. Ahmadiyya leaders on February 3 reportedly called on local police

based Islamic militant organisation." He also admitted to killing judges number of districts from October to December 2005 as commanded by Abdur Rahman and Siddiqul Islam alias Bangla Bhai, operations chief of JMB's sister organisation, Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB).

"We carried out the bomb attacks to ate a sense of disgust among

rule of Islam," he added.

Dhaka

others." he said

confessed.

planning attacks for the JMB.

"A Majlish-e-Shura meeting was

held at a house in Basabo in July 2002

where my brother announced that it's

station, a steel mill with an annual production capacity of 420,000 tonnes and a fertiliser unit with a production capacity of one million tonnes a year. To run these establishments, Tata needs 200 million cubic feet per day

(mmcfd) gas for 20 to 30 years. Later on May 9, the government and Tata agreed to begin negotiation from May 25, conclude it by August 31 and sign agreements before November 30 the same year.

that we should come out of the under-

ground and work openly. He also said

we needed publicity, which should be

done by leaving leaflets at the bomb-

blast sites. He said it would give rise to

disgust in people's mind against the

collecting explosives. Awal for collect-

ing detonators and explosive gel, and

Molla Omar for making the circuits for

the August 17 terror strike. "Akram of

He said he was responsible for

government, which we needed very

much," narrated Sunny.

JMB bomb attacks

Metropolitan Magistrate Jahangir

Sunny identified the two British citizens as Sajjad and Ataur Rahman, saying, "They are leaders of a London-

lawyers, policemen and common people by launching bomb attacks in a

No election

ment rejects the proposals, the opposition lawmakers will resign en bloc from the House, the leaders added

The 14-party alliance organised the rally as part of a countrywide agitation programme protesting mass arrest of the opposition activists in the build-up to the long march and grand rally on February 5.

AL Secretary General Abdul Jalil said urged the countrymen to inten-sify the ongoing movement and force the BNP-Jamaat government to implement the reforms.

He said the present government portrays itself as an Islamic governent but it has not yet condemned the Danish cartoon ridiculing prophet Muhammad (Sm).

"We extremely condemn the cartoons and seek apology from the authorities of Denmark and other European countries," he added. Jalil said the people as well as the opposition alliance will never accept 'caretaker government hand-

Rab seizes bomb FROM PAGE 1

picked by the present government'.

explosives, 5kg ammonium nitrate, 3kg charcoal, 2.5kg lead oxide, four electric detonators, four batteries, The government negotiators told Tata that gas price is related to sover-eign guarantee. If they ease the four switches and electric wires, said a Rab press release. guarantee issue, the government will

The Rab intelligence came to FROM PAGE 16 know that one of the most wanted JMB leaders, Reza alias Rabi alias Nizam, who is in-charge of Dhaka city, recently rented a house in Posta area of Lalbagh.

On information, a team of Rab-2 took position near the house at 69/2 Water Workshop Road at 8:00pm Tuesday night. But as Reza did not return home all night, the elite anticrime members raided the single-room flat on the second floor of the three-storeyed house yesterday morning and made the recov-

ery. Talking to owner of the house The government did not accept Shahida Begum, the Rab learnt that Reza, aged around 22, rented the house on February 2 at Tk 1,800 per month and shifted to the house on ted its \$2.5 billion investment proposal February 5 giving the landlady Tk for setting up a 1,000 MW power 500 in advance. He went out of the house Tuesday noon.

Reza said he is from Chandpur Shahida told the press.

Meanwhile, acting on a tip-off, the Rab-3 held JMB activist Milon Miah, 32, a close associate of JMB Ehsar (full-time activist) Sagir, from Kungurdia of Uttarkhan in Uttara at 4:30pm on Tuesday. The Rab claimed Milon and Sagir

were actively involved in subversive activities.

3 new envoys

FROM PAGE 16 has been appointed Bangladesh ambassador to United Arab Emirates. "Shaekh [Abdur Rahman] told us

Chhatra Shibir (ICS) leader named He was given a two-year contract. Maj Gen AIM Mostafa Reza Nur, Shalehi and Mohiuddin planned the murder to gain control over the geolprincipal staff officer, Armed Forces ogy and mining department. Division, has been made ambassador to Kuwait on a two-year contract. present during the killing and con-firmed Taher's death by personally touching his body in Taher's house-He is replacing former BNP office secretary and Sramik Dal President Nazrul Islam Khan. in his confession.

Salma Khan has been made ambassador to Indonesia on a twoyear contract. Her earlier posting as a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was cancelled

Besides, Ambassador to Morocco protest marches and rallies yesterday

Much-hyped

FROM PAGE 16 Ahmed Abdul Quader, secretary general of another faction of IOJ. told The Daily Star that the PMO asked them to contact for the date. "We contacted them, but have not received any date for the meeting yet," he said. IMPORTANT SUGGESTIONS

IGNORED Three political parties--two factions of the Jatiya Party led by HM Ershad and Anwar Hossain Manju and the Krishak Sramik Jananta League--placed some vital recommendations for combating Islamist militants during the dialogue.

The Krishak League on the first day of the dialogue on December 12 asked the government to expel Jamaat from the cabinet on charges of patronising militancy in the country. Ershad-led Jatiya Party, the sec-

ond largest opposition in parliament, on December 13 proposed a judicial commission headed by the chief justice to be formed to probe the allegations of militant links against some quarters, be they inside or

outside the government. holding a meeting of the general It also suggested that the PM form secretaries of the ruling four parties to a national advisory committee drawing representatives from all politica get the countrymen united against parties, professional bodies and civil militancy. None of the recommendations society for suggestions on tackling militancy. According to the suggestion, was, however, implemented.

Mohiuddin played

Protesters marched covering their official procedures will be completed faces with black bandanas; no class or after the strike is withdrawn." examination was held. The depart-

Pleading the remand prayer, Court Inspector Mahbubul Kuddus Siddiki ments were closed as the students old the court that the police already locked the offices detected the motive behind the murde The students also covered the and Mohiuddin played the principal faces of the statues of the liberation

"His remand is necessary for the war memorial, Sabas Bangladesh. national interest. Police now need to RU Teachers' Association (RUTA) know if there are more persons held a two-hour token hunger strike in involved and why a man of a noble profession and a conscious citizen like front of the senate building. It also held him would indulge in a heinous crime like murder," Siddiki told the court. a rally with its president Prof Nazrul Islam in the chair. Advocate Saiful Alam Shelly

a bulletproof jacket. He was looking

pale wearing a shirt and a lungi, but

was seen consoling his wife who was

Answering to questions, Salam said Mohiuddin was desperate for his

processing Mohiuddin's promotion,

Salam said it was done following Mohiuddin's complaint that he was

being deprived by the planning com-

mittee and his claim that he fulfilled the

conditions for a promotion. In a parallel development in the

case yesterday evening, Nazmul, one of the arrested five, in a confessional

statement to Metropolitan Magistrate

Zobeda Khatun said an RU unit Islami

Both Mohiuddin and Shalehi were

keeper Jahangir's room, Nazmul said

Jahangir's confessional statement

was recorded on Tuesday where he confessed his involvement with the

killing and implicated Mohiuddin as the

The RU campus was volatile with

Explaining the VC's order to begin

often breaking down in tears.

promotion

argued for the defence and said the The speakers at the rally said they RÜ vice-chancellor (VC) had ordered to process Mohiuddin's promotion last were feeling ashamed to find a teacher month and it had already begun. "And arrested for the killing. so, his promotion could not be a motive Bangladesh Chhatra League for the murder." (BCL) also continued its protest Mohiuddin was taken to the court in

sands of supporters also thronged the hospital after hearing the news.

A marriage decision

Agaijhara Police Station about the death of this young girl," Rahman said.

Biswanath, along with his neighbours and relatives rushed to Bahadurpur, two kilometres away and found a lifeless Beauty on a stretcher with her body and clothes bearing traces of blood and wounds. Madhu's family members claimed that Beauty was three months' pregnant and she died of a massive heart attack. They hurriedly prepared for cremating Beauty's body as per Hindu rituals.

A shocked Biswanath looked on without a word but villagers immediately suspected foul play. Only seven months earlier Biswanath was compelled to sell his last belongings to buy a colour television, a wristwatch and household items for the dowry demanded by Madhu and his family. A month ago Beauty told her mother that her inlaws were constantly demanding Tk 50,000 from her father.

Asking Madhu's family not to cremate the body, Biswanath went to Agailjhara Police Station with the villagers. It was not until the evening of December 23, more than 24 hours following the death of Beauty that Agailihara police agreed to bring in the body for autopsy. The body was kept overnight on a rickshaw van on the station premises before the police sent it to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital (BMCH) on December 24 All the while Madhu's family members were present with the body not permitting anyone near it. As per Hindu religion, the husband's family then cremated the body after the autopsy. The BMCH Forensic Medicine Department sent some samples of the viscera for chemical test at Mohakhali, Dhaka. The Daily Star learnt the chemical examine found active traces of "quinine and sodium chloride solution" in the samples.

When contacted. Sub Inspector Shamsul Alam of Agailihara Police Station said they had taken the initiative for the autopsy on the basis of written complaints by the victim's father and some villagers. There has not been any case in this regard with Agailjhara Police Station, he added

"As per my investigation, the young girl wanted to undergo an abortion and took wrong doses of drugs," Alam said adding, "She was probably thinking the poor family

would not be able to feed the baby once it was born." When this correspondent mentioned about the viscera report, the sub-inspector said his office was yet to receive the report but continued. "during this month of harvest every family has stock of pesticide and therefore suicides are high in the area."

Chairman Afzal Sikder of Raiihar Union told The Daily Star he had heard about the demand of dowry by Madhu's family. "I have also heard that Beauty had gastric problem and she might have died of a heart attack." he said Meanwhile a distressed and poor

Biswanath is now seeking justice at the offices of different human rights organisations in Dhaka. None has taken up his plea yet.

US renews

FROM PAGE 1 briefing in Washington on Tuesday

Replying to a question on government's crackdown on the banned terrorist organisation, JMB the Spokesman said he knows that the Bangladesh government is dealing with an issue of terrorism.

On another question whether the US government is supportive of this action by the government, he replied " I can't speak to any specific actions that the Bangladesh government may have taken to combat the terrorist threat there, but we do stand with the Bangladesh people in the fight against terror.

When asked about the forthcoming election and opposition's demand for reforms in caretaker system and what move would US take for peaceful election, Sean McCormack said, "In terms of this specific move, I'd have to look into it for you. And my initial reaction is to say how the Bangladeshi political class chooses to array itself and whether it chooses to participate in an election or in a parliament, that is up to those involved in leading those political movements -- peaceful

political movements.

their rally is halted, the letter said. adding that the threat is part of an ongoing campaign of threats, intimidation and hate speech by Islamist groups to pressure the government nto declaring the Ahmadiyyas non-

Muslims by law. "By targeting the Ahmadiyya community, Islamist groups are believed to be attempting to force the government to yield to their political demand for the introduction of more stringent Islamic law in Bangladesh. the letter said.

AL will not

FROM PAGE 1 the reform proposals and give an ultimatum to the government to meet the demands. Hasina is now preparing her speech to be delivered in parliament, a party leader said.

The government side has already rejected outright any reforms in the caretaker government system, but urged the main opposition to bring any proposal regarding reforms of the electoral rules in the form of a hill

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed told newsmen that the government will consider the opposition proposals if they place those in parliament under the rules of procedure and in the form ofabill

AL chief Sheikh Hasina at yesterday's meeting said she would give a time limit to the government to meet the reform demands. She did not specify the time limit but AL policymakers said it might be 15 days

to one month "We have decided not to place any

bill on the reforms. The government will place the bill if it agrees with our proposals," an AL leader told The Daily Star wishing anonymity. The ALCWC meeting decided that

the party chief will fix the date for the AL parliamentary party meeting "Party chief Sheikh Hasina will decide when we will join parliament." AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil told reporters after the meeting.

Sources said the AL parliamentary party is likely to sit on February 12 to discuss the issue and the lawmakers may join the House on that day or the next day.

After the February 5 announce-ment on joining parliament, party's senior leaders hinted at returning to the House this week, but the joining delayed as the preparation on how they will place the reform proposals was not completed.

The four-hour ALCWC meeting him detonators, power gel and single-shooter rifles. Sunny said, "I sent those held at AL's Dhanmondi office also decided to accelerate the ongoing to different parts of the country for using on August 17." antigovernment movement. Apart from the ALCWC members, party nakers were present in the meet-

ng. Hasina will lose her membership if she does not return to the House by February 14.

Mirzapur [in Tangail] printed 30,000 leaflets that we left at the explosion people at the government, with the ultimate aim to unseat it," Sunny told spots on August 17," he added. "Leaders from different districts the court. "Our aim was to topple the government through a mass upsurge, met in a house at Khilkhet in June.

hen capture the power and establish a where I briefed them about the attack There we decided to explode three to The JMB military chief also admitfour bombs at every courthouse and ted to mounting attacks on some frontline NGOs on Abdur Rahman's two or three at other important points Sunny said, adding 190 bombs were order, who taught JMB operatives that made for blasting in his area, the 'it's not a sin to loot valuables of Grameen Bank, Brac, Proshika, Asa southern part of Dhaka and and Karitas' as they encourage Chittagong.

women to shed Burqa (veil). A joint team of Detective Branch of "I issued the final order for the August 17 bomb attacks from a house police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) produced Sunny and Awal at Madartek on August 14," he said. After the countrywide near-

before the courts yesterday. The police arrested Awal, Abdur simultaneous bomb attacks JMB Majlish-e-Sura members Awal, Rahman's son-in-law and a member of MB's highest decision-making body, Khaled, Saifullah, Salahuddin and Mailish-e-Sura at his den near a hus Hafez Mahmud met at Sunny's stand in Thakurgaon on November 18. Basabo house in the city in the first Rab arrested Sunny on December 14 at Tejgaon Polytechnic Institute in week of September.

"Saifullah told the meeting Shaekh Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai have "The JMB was formed at a house at aiven orders to throw bombs on Jhilpar in Mugdapara at the beginning udges, magistrates, lawyers and of 2002, but we had started working secretly much earlier," Sunny told the policemen to create panic among people that would ultimately lead to the magistrate. "My elder brother declared fall of the government." Sunny conme a Mailish-e-Sura member at the meeting that day," where Bangla Bhai, Awal, explosives expert Salahuddin fessed. Accordingly, he said, bomb attacks on law courts were carried out were also present, he added. According to Sunny's confession, in Chandpur, Laxmipur and Chittagong, adding, "Activists of Saifullah killed two judges in he received his first training in bomb making at the house of one Sudha at

Jhalakathi on November 14." Toktarchala in Sakhipur of Tangail during the end of September 2001. To monitor the preparations for bomb attacks on law courts. Sunny "My brother Salahuddin and Molla Omar of Delduar trained me and four went to Chittagong on November 25, four days before suicide bombers blew He admitted to having the responthemselves up in Chittagong and sibilities of collecting explosives, making and distributing bombs, and Gazipur according to the plan.

Before his arrest on December 13, Sunny said, he sent an order through Salahuddin to make a bomb attack in Netrokona

legal to loot the goods of the NGOs that are working against Islam," he Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai called for jihad from a meeting at The police arrested 18 JMB opera-tives at the house of JMB activist Jatrabari in 2000, saying Muslims across the world are falling victims to Montezar Rahman at Moheshpur Village in Khetlal of Joypurhat in repression and an armed struggle is a must to stop that, Awal told September 2003. Sunny said they robbed the policemen who made the Metropolitan Magistrate Shafig Anwar in his confessional statement yesterraid of their firearms the same night day. "The arms are now kept with Salahuddin." he added.

According to his confession, JMB the government is running the country men also looted an NGO office in Tangail and the Brac office at Rupganj in Narayanganj in May 2004. They also snatched a rifle from some police men posted near the Brac office. In that month, "We exploded bombs at a jatra at Delduar in Tangail and stopped it successfully," said

Sunny. The same month. Awal sent northern region

Awal also said JMB chief Abdur About the planning of the August 17 countrywide orchestrated bomb strikes, Sunny said, "We met at the house of our member Sharif at Muktagachha in Mymensingh in June last year. We planned the whole attack into operation since then

Md Al Harun's contract has been extended by another year.

AL lawmakers

FROM PAGE 1 Babar defended the law saying that since its enactment there has been a marked improvement in law and order.

Political persecution has risen to absurd heights due to the act being grossly abused to harass the opposition men, Mohammad Nasim, also former home minister, told the meet-

He said whenever the opposition takes up a programme to protest the 'ill deeds' of the BNP-Jamaat regime, the government starts mass arrest to suppress the opposition movement

For instance, he said, the recent mass arrest was to foil the opposition alliance's long march towards Dhaka on February 5.

He said thousands of people were arrested for nothing and many are still behind bars.

Jamaat lawmaker Riasat Ali Biswas said a police official in his constituency told him that the mass arrest was necessary to avoid acts of sabotage against the long march programme.

"If it was the case, then I will urge the government to go for more such arrest, if necessary," a meeting source quoted him as saving.

When Nasim asked for Justice Joynul Commission's report on the August 21 grenade attacks, the committee Chairman M Shahjahan said the rules do not permit the commission to make the report public.

Meanwhile, senior AL lawmake Suranjit Sengupta at a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the law ministry demanded the government take departmental action against District Judge Reazul Karim Khan Chunnu who had recently announced that he will contest the next election on BNP ticket.

"Despite being a sitting judge, Rezaul Karim Khan has violated the service rule and government should frame charge against him, " Suranjit was quoted by a source.

On the current status of separation of the judiciary, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said the process is going on in line with the High Court directives.

Suranjit also raised question about the appointment of two new commissioners in the Election Commission But the law minister said the issues

will be discussed at the next meeting Suraniit, also member of standing committee meeting on the LGRD and Co-operatives ministry, at its meeting vesterday said it is unprecedented that the government has piloted a bill regarding amendment to the Birth-Death Registration Act 2004, when the law has yet to take effect.

as the geology and mining department students enforced a strike on the campus demanding speedy trial of the case.

chairman of the management depart ment, said he was feeling ashamed as a teacher at the university

to go for such kind of investment

tion of the investment with profit

Crimina

FROM PAGE 16

said

retaliate.

In reply, BRTC chairman men-tioned different investment rules and

assured the delegation of full repatria

earlier, a Rab team went to Habuler

Pukurpar in Paikpara at around

3:30am to recover his hidden weap-

ons and arrest his accomplices, Rab

spot. Alamair's accomplices opened

fire on Rab men, prompting them to

the line of fire, received four bullets

in his chest, and died on the spot,

Rab said, adding that a cut rifle and

dreaded criminal of Mirpur area and

Rab said the deceased was a

His body was sent to Dhaka

a pistol were seized from the spot.

When the squad reached the

Trying to escape, Alamgir fell on

demanding removal of the VC for

ordering Mohiuddin's promotion. "The

VC lost his moral right to stay in the

post because of assisting a killer", said

Ibrahim Hossain Moon, president of

Teachers' Reactions on Arrest

Prof Altaf Hossain, the vice-

chancellor, said the law will follow its

course. "It will be a painful incident for

me and the university if he is found

white panel teachers, said he was

anxious about teachers' security in the

Abdul Hai Talukhdar said, "The pres-

tige of our noble profession is getting

lost. All teachers will have to face

criticisms for the arrest if the allegation

Progressive Teachers' Association

Convener Prof Muhammad Nurullah

said it is sad and unbelievable to see a

Prof Moloy Kumar Bhoumik

university teacher as a killer.

face of politicking among them.

is found to be true".

Prof Abdus Salam, convener of the

RUTA General Secretary Prof

the university unit of the BCL.

guilty.

US investors offer

mastermind.

FROM PAGE 16 (CEO) Norbert Von Boode, met BRTC Chairman Advocate Taimur Alam Khandaker and Bol Executive Chairman Mahmudur Rahman. "We want to invest in transport

sector on joint venture with BRTC,' Norbert Von Boode told the news agency after the meeting with BRTC. Timeframe to go for investment is largely depending on how fast your government completes formalities," he

said, replying to a query. The ATSC team in the meeting expressed its interest to invest on build-operate and transfer (BOT) system. The BRTC authorities, however, agreed in principle on the ATSC proposal if there is no objection from the government, meeting sources said.

"You have shortage of hard currency. But we can somehow manage the money and financing is not difficult at all," he said, adding that his organisation itself wants to operate the buses until repatriation of the invested money

accused in a number of cases for He said they would hand over the different crimes. buses to BRTC forever after the expiry of the BOT period if they were allowed Medical College Hospital for PM sees more autopsy.

FROM PAGE 16 Young Tigers carried out in all sectors for people's

She said communal harmony is

prevailing in Bangladesh with

people of all faiths living peacefully,

performing their religious rituals and

festivals. She cited Ramadan and

puja observed simultaneously

without any unwanted happenings

people to remain alert about the

along the communal line.

Shilpakala Academy

welfare.

party.

country backward.

FROM PAGE 16 League of the ICC Under-19 World The prime minister said when the

country was advancing on all fronts, Cup for the first time. a party resorted to destructive It was Bangladesh's second activities and cooked up various successive victory after a threeconspiracies to obstruct the counwicket triumph against New try's development and push the Zealand in the Group-Aopener.

Mushfigur Rahim, the only Test player in the squad, led from the front with a well-composed 46 to steer Bangladesh to 171-6 in 34.5 overs.

In the previous four editions of the Youth World Cup. Bangladesh never managed to qualify for the Super League stage for the Cup.

The prime minister alleged that Left-arm spinner Sakib Al Hasan they (AL) had wanted to destroy the laid the foundation for the junior education system in a planned way Tigers as he took four wickets for 34 so aliens could capture all the to dismiss Pakistan for 170 in 43.1 important jobs keeping country's overs. people subservient. She urged

Australia, India, hosts Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and England also confirmed their places in the eight-team Super League.

Earlier, the prime minister inaugurated Piroipur Juba Unnovan Bangladesh will play their last Kendra, 100-seat hospital and group match today against ICC nursing institute and Pirojpur associate members Uganda

AWAL'S CONFESSION

In that meeting, "They told us that

according to non-Islamic laws. They said to introduce an Islamic rule we would need to launch bomb attacks at law courts, which would not only annoy the government but also instigate the masses against the government," said Awal, who was in the charge of the

He said Abdur Rahman, a Muslim ilitant leader of the UK, gave them £10,000 to materialise their plans.

Rahman and Bangla Bhai met Harkatul Jihad leader Mufti Abdu Hannan at his invitation in Gopalgan in early 2000, adding the JMB came