

Brac, Grameen Bank

FROM PAGE 1
Earlier on Sunday, Krishnakumar and Saiful Islam fell victim to another bomb attack on the Brac (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee) office in Kalai upazila sadar in Joypurhat district.

On yesterday morning, three powerful hand grenades were recovered from the premises of a Brac office in Rangpur Town.

The attacks are guessed to be made by Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB), as an arrested JMJB operative in a statement to a Bogra magistrate last Monday said the ultra-militant Islamist outfit has been carrying out and is determined to continue bombing NGO offices.

ATTACK ON GRAMEEN BANK
Our Bogra correspondent reports: A group of about three men arrived in front of the bank branch at 7:30 last night riding motorbikes, hurled three bombs into the office one after another and fled, locals said.

The attack critically injured Kona Khatun and peon Nurul Islam, who were working inside the branch office at Nabagram village under Ullapara upazila. They were rushed to a local hospital.

No-one was arrested until filing of this report at 11:00pm. Police were still clueless about the attack.

ATTACKS ON BRAC
A group of unidentified bikers hurled three bombs one after another at the Brac office in Porsha at around 9:30 Tuesday night and sped away, said local police.

The critically injured four Brac employees were first rushed to a local medical centre and, as their condition aggravated, they were later transferred to Naogaon Sadar Hospital.

Police arrested two people -- Noor Mohammad of Chakdebpara in Naogaon Sadar upazila and Apple Mahmud of Shitpati village in Porsha upazila -- at Matinagar village in Patnitala upazila with a motorbike at around midnight, suspecting their involvement in the attack.

Police said, on primary quizzing, the arrestees claimed to have gone to the spot out of curiosity, learning that some Brac employees died in a bomb attack.

The earlier attack in Kalai upazila was also made in the same manner. Kalai police said three youths on motorbike threw three bombs successively on the Brac office and fled.

Police so far have not arrested any one in this connection.

A five-member probe committee headed by Superintendent of Police (SP) ABM Shawkat Ali of Joypurhat district has been formed into the incident and asked to come up with its report within a week.

GRENADE RECOVERY
Our Rangpur Correspondent reports: Three powerful hand grenades were recovered from the premises of Brac office at Darshana in Rangpur Town yesterday morning.

A team of explosives experts from Rangpur Cantonment disposed off the grenades in an open field, about 150 yards off the office six hours after the detection.

Brac Regional Manager Nishanur Rahman lodged a general diary with Rangpur Kotwali Police Station in this connection.

Police officials seeking anonymity said the grenades were very powerful and the office and its staff had narrowly escaped a great danger.

But the officer in-charge of the police station termed the incident an isolated one. He said, "This incident has no connection with the bomb attacks carried out in other different places of the country."

Rangpur SP Mahbub Morshed told The Daily Star they are yet to detect who planted the grenades on the office premises.

Brac Rangpur Area Manager Abul Hossain said he saw a bottle shaped object wrapped with black tape at 6:45am in the backyard of the office. He took it up and found it to be unusually heavy.

Fearing it to be an explosive device, Hossain carefully put it back on the ground and informed the regional manager and other colleagues. The staff then started searching the whole office premises and found two more similar objects -- one in

front of a training room and the other near a toilet.

Nishanur Rahman said, after detecting those objects, he promptly informed police, who reached the spot at 9:30am.

He said all Brac employees in the region are panic stricken.

At about 11:00am a team of explosives expert from Rangpur Cantonment came to the Brac office and took away the grenades. They detonated the grenades in an open field nearby at around midday in presence of police.

Police sources said the grenades were connected to Taiwan-made 12-volt batteries.

According to a police official the grenades were locally made but the technology is definitely foreign.

JMJB INVOLVEMENT
An arrested JMJB operative, Shafiqullah, in his statement given to First Class Magistrate Mostafizur Rahman Mridha in Bogra last Monday admitted that JMJB has been responsible for a number of bomb attacks on NGOs.

He said the JMJB bomb squad would continue attacks on NGOs like Brac and Karitas and on cultural activities that they consider as anti-Islamic until an Islamic revolution takes place in the country.

Shafiqullah, arrested with explosives in a fellow operative's house on January 16, one day after JMJB had carried out a bomb attack on a jatra (folk theatre) show at a village in Bogra, also said they use motor-bikes for making these attacks.

Twelve operatives of Jama'atul Muzahidin, the former name of JMJB, arrested in Natore, also gave similar statements confessing to have carrying out bomb attacks on 'anti-Islamic' cultural shows and NGOs.

Rice sale under OMS starts today

BSS, Dhaka

The government launches today the Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice across the country through 11,888 dealers.

Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf and Deputy Minister for Food and Disaster Management Asadul Habib Dulu will inaugurate the OMS at 9:15am at Motiheel Colony Market and at 10:15am at Plassey market.

Each family will be able to buy 3kg to 5kg rice at the rate of Tk 14.5 per kilogram from the dealers, who will sell rice under the OMS every alternate day, ministry sources said.

They added that 10 dealers will sale rice under the programme at each district town and three at each upazila and the Union Parishad.

Besides, 319 dealers in Dhaka city, 45 in Chittagong city, 40 in Khulna city, 35 in Rajshahi city, 14 in Sylhet city and 35 dealers in Barisal city will sale rice, the sources added.

BGMEA polls formality today

STAR REPORT

Garment manufacturers and exporters today elect their new leadership in a unique way as all the contesting panels have already reached a consensus on the directors who will take charge of the BGMEA for the 2005-06 term.

The 2,227 voters of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) will exercise their franchise in a mere formality, to elect the 27 directors from 75 candidates whose names will be on ballot paper.

The contesting panels have reached an understanding to elect 12 directors from Forum panel led by Annisul Huq, 10 from Sammlito Parishad led by Tipu Munshi and five from Sammlito Parishad led by SM Fazlul Hoque.

They have also decided that Annisul Huq will be the BGMEA president in the first eight months of the two-year term, Tipu Munshi will lead the association for the next eight months and Fazlul Hoque for the last eight months.

Dhaka, Yangon

FROM PAGE 12
Myanmar (and India) for the pipeline slowed down following postponement of Saarc summit scheduled to be held in Dhaka this month.

Bangladesh government will construct the 100 feet long bridge as part of its assistance to the next door neighbour in building 20 kilometre highway, necessary for establishing direct road link between the capital cities of two countries.

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda and high officials of the ministry yesterday held a meeting on the subject and discussed necessary preparations for laying the foundation stone by the Myanmar FM at Taungbro.

The distance from Bangladesh border area to the existing union highway in Myanmar leading to Yangon is around 130 kilometres.

Bangladesh has taken up the initiative to construct 43 kilometre road in the first phase, out of which 23 kilometre is in Bangladesh side and 20 kilometre in Myanmar side. Myanmar government will construct the rest of the road.

The communications ministry has

HABIGANJ CARNAGE Another AL leader arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested another Habiganj Awami League (AL) leader in connection with the January 27 grenade carnage at an AL rally that killed former finance minister SAMS Kibria and four others.

Meantime, a six-member high-powered investigation team including the deputy inspector general (DIG) of police (Sylhet range) and CID investigation officer (IO) of the killing case met Kibria's wife and son yesterday.

Police had asked the arrestee, Abdur Rashid Talukdar Iqbal, general secretary of Habiganj sadar unit AL, to meet the intelligence officials for the second time Tuesday.

His family said he did not return home and they did not know his whereabouts since then.

Police sources said Iqbal was shown arrested under the section 54 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and remanded for six days.

On Monday, four local AL leaders including Iqbal were questioned about the January 27 rally at the office of Habiganj superintendent of police, the sources said.

They added that the investigation team released them all but asked Iqbal to come back Tuesday.

A police source said, "We arrested him not as a suspect in the case. His first day's statement was contrary to that of second day and we just want to clarify it."

Earlier, Laskarpur union AL Secretary Jahedur Rahman Jahed was shown arrested. He was on an eight-day remand until yesterday.

In Dhaka, Reza Kibria, son of SAMS Kibria, told The Daily Star the investigation team held an hour-long meeting with him and his mother Asma Kibria.

They enquired whether the family suspected anyone involving the killing, said Reza. "We don't know anything about the killing, he said, adding, "My father was not supposed to have any personal enmity with others since he never attacked anyone."

DU strike enforced

DU CORRESPONDENT

A strike was enforced at Dhaka University yesterday ahead of another strike at all educational institutions in the country today at the call of six opposition-backed student organisations demanding immediate investigation and punishment of the culprits involved in Monday's bomb blasts on the DU campus.

Police probe in the blasts at a Valentine's Day crowd at the TSC road island on the campus has apparently made no headway as the culprits are yet to be nabbed.

No classes were held at the DU yesterday because of the strike enforced by the Awami League's (AL) student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and five other student bodies.

The student bodies and other organisations also formed human chains and held rallies on the campus to press their demands.

At least 16 people including 12 DU students were injured in Monday's blasts.

About the police probe, the officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station however said, "We have made progress in our investigation but we cannot disclose it now in the interest of proper probe."

Intelligence sources said they are also trying to hunt down the culprits. Rapid Action Battalion yesterday submitted its primary report on the incident its headquarters.

Moreover, a six-member probe body headed by DU probe body also started work.

DU Vice Chancellor SMA Faiz told reporters yesterday hunting down the culprits is not the job of the university authorities or teachers, it is the duty of law enforcement agencies.

In a joint statement yesterday, 321 DU teachers denounced Monday's incident. Signatories to the statement includes Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Dr IRM Aminur Rashid, Prof AK Azad Chowdhury and Dr Harun-or-Rashid.

6 die

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The bus reached Muljan, the driver lost control over the steering and hit the roadside trees, leaving six passengers dead on the spot and injuring 25 others.

According to our Manikganj correspondent, three of the dead were identified as Hassan Molla, 40, of village Anwara in Mohammadpur upazila of Magura district, Binoy Bagchi, 32, of Pangsha upazila in Rajbari, Zakir Alam, 40, of Kotchandpur upazila in Jhenidha. The identity of the rest three could not be known.

The bodies were sent to the Manikganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Of the injured, Mannan, 50, Nurul Islam, 55, Rezaul Karim, 35, Jashimuddin, 35, Moktar Ali, 30, Rana, 25, Amir Hossain, 35, Moshir Rahman, 18, and Faruq were admitted to Manikganj Sadar Hospital, while Nannu Mollah, 40, Sona Banu, 30, Fazlur Rahman and Noor Mohammad were sent to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital in a critical condition.

Police seized the bus, but its driver and helper managed to escape. A case was filed.

Powerful blast near Iran's nuclear site

REUTERS, Tehran

Iranian state television sent ripples through world financial markets on Wednesday after it reported a powerful explosion near the town of Dailam, about 100 miles from the oil state's only nuclear power plant.

The Al-Alam satellite channel, which broadcasts in Arabic, said the explosion may have been caused by an aircraft firing a missile in a deserted area near Dailam or by a fuel tank falling from a plane.

But Iran's Revolutionary Guards said the television reports were wrong, although they declined to give any further details or confirm whether there had been an explosion.

Later Iran's ISNA students news agency said the explosion was caused by dam construction.

Adding to the confusion, Iran's deputy interior minister said there had been a loud bang in southern Iran but there was no sign of any explosion.

The Al-Alam report moved financial markets, underscoring

Bogra case docket

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the docket along with his notes after recording the statement of the accused, as per normal procedure.

Court officials concerned said a top staff of the Bogra police then took the docket to the office of the Superintendent of Police (SP) although SP does not have the authority to read the statement.

Sources in the police department are not sure of the whereabouts of the docket, but said that it may not have been sent back to the court in order to make some changes to Shafiqullah's statement.

But any such changes to the statement after it had been recorded would be a violation of law, the magistrate concerned confirmed. "There is no scope to change the statement given under section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC)," he said.

However, SP Kazi Mortaz Ahmed said he did not go through the statement that Shafiqullah gave to the magistrate while the investigating officer (IO) of the case knew nothing about the docket.

Meanwhile, Shafiqullah told police that JMJB chief Abdur Rahman Shai Bhai is indoctrinating JMJB trainees in jihad using quotes

Japanese medical

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"With an investment of \$75 million, this is going to be the largest private-health sector investment in Bangladesh," he said.

The Japanese chain operates 250 hospitals, nurse stations and clinics worldwide.

This is the second major investment in Bangladesh by a hospital company in the past month. In January, India-based Apollo Hospitals Group said it would invest \$35 million with a Bangladesh partner to build a 450-bed hospital in Dhaka.

Private clinics, nursing homes and small hospitals targeted at Bangladesh's small but growing middle class have proliferated since the early 1990s when the country firmly committed itself to a free market economy.

Most are small, however, and offer a limited range of services.

Although nearly half Bangladesh's 140 million population still lives on less than a dollar a day, the country's rich elite and growing middle class have sought medical help abroad because of concerns such as blood tainted with HIV.

FBI probe help

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that FBI should take full charge.

The US State Department's position is that it never takes full charge of any investigation in a foreign country. It only assists the host government.

Also the fact that nearly 20 days have elapsed since former foreign minister Shah AMS Kibria was killed in the grenade attack, and the scene of crime has not been protected has further dampened FBI's willingness to participate in the investigation.

Meantime, FBI special agent of legal affairs Trung Vu visited Bangladesh on February 9-10 and held talks with a number of government high officials about a draft TOR.

But the TOR could not be finalised as the government and the US agency failed to reach a consensus.

In another development, the US has shown interest to assist Bangladesh in probing the arms hauls that may have link to the deadly grenade attacks carried out in recent time.

The government faces a dilemma in allowing FBI to investigate all these matters as several top policymakers are learnt to have opposed the idea of giving the foreign agency full access to strategic establishments.

Giving full access to evidence as demanded by FBI means the US agency looking into different strategic documents which the defence ministry is reluctant to allow, sources said.

The FBI had investigated another

world jitters over growing tensions over US charges that Iran is pursuing nuclear weapons.

"A powerful explosion was heard this morning on the outskirts of Dailam port, north of Bushehr province in southern Iran. Witnesses said the explosion was caused by a missile fired from an unknown plane 90 miles from the city of Bushehr, where Iran's nuclear reactor is located," Al-Alam said.

"A team of military and security experts was sent to the area to investigate the incident," it said without elaborating.

"A local source said the explosion could have been the result of the falling of an empty fuel tank from an Iranian plane," it added.

Despite the Revolutionary Guard denial, al-Alam continued to broadcast the report.

Iran's Russian-built 1,000-megawatt nuclear reactor, its only nuclear power plant, is due to start operating in Bushehr province in late 2005.

from religious scriptures. He lures the operatives with rewards after death for performing 'jihad' activities and also imparts various forms of training, Shafiqullah said, adding that he himself has attended such lectures.

Meanwhile, the investigation of the two bomb attack cases currently underway by the Shahjahanpur and Gabtoli police stations could not be proceeded after the names of certain college and university teachers were exposed. The arrestees named a teacher of Bogra Azizul Haq College and Dr Asadullah Al Galib, head of the Arabic department at Rajshahi University, as regional leaders of JMJB.

A district police official admitted that the investigation of the two cases -- one involving the bomb attack on Laxmikola village under Shahjahanpur upazila on January 14 and the other regarding the recovery of explosives from Chakshadu village under Gabtoli upazila on January 16 -- has not gone far.

The investigation faltered as the two major accused -- JMJB operatives Osman and Joyanal -- could not be arrested.

BB to seek Rab help to check money laundering

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank (BB) will seek home ministry help to include Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in anti-money laundering taskforce to check monetary crimes.

At a meeting chaired by BB Deputy Governor Muhammad A (Rumee) Ali, the central anti-money laundering taskforce observed that inclusion of the elite force Rab would help combat money laundering.

It decided to recommend inclusion of Rab members in the central taskforce in Dhaka and regional taskforces in Chittagong.

The central taskforce will also seek inclusion of BDR personnel in regional taskforces covering border areas. Of the seven regional taskforces, only Rajshahi taskforce has BDR men on it.

Inclusion of BDR personnel will greatly help combat money laundering as border patrol force has intelligence on smuggling through the country's frontiers, meeting sources said.

The issue of Premier Bank scam also came up for discussion at the meeting. A large number of accounts in fake addresses were opened with the bank.

The central bank asked commercial banks to take lesson from the Premier Bank scam. It also asked the banks to impart training and start awareness campaign on anti-money laundering for their branch managers.

GRAFT CASE HC gives Hasina 6 weeks for hearing

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted six weeks' time to Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina and others for hearing the petitions to quash the graft cases against them pending with the lower court.

The hearing was scheduled for yesterday. Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud and Barrister Amir-UI Islam, counsels for the accused, prayed for time for hearing the petitions.

The now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac) had prosecuted Hasina and others for illegally obtaining financial benefits in purchasing Mig29, frigate and the appointment of foreign consultants for Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) during the AL rule.

The accused had moved the High Court with the petitions for quashing the cases and the court had issued a rule upon the government to show cause why the cases should not be cancelled.

HC asks

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University of India in the middle of last year. Detectives picked him up from a cyber café at Elephant Road in the capital on August 25, four days after the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally in front of its central office that left 22 people, including party central leader Ivy Rahman, killed.

Partha was also shown arrested in the August 21 grenade attack case.

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blew out them at 6:00pm as the programme ended.

Apart from the 73, a large number of people spontaneously took part in the programme, the sources added.

PM says

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India, Tata Group, has expressed its interest to invest \$2 billion and Dhabi Group of United Arab Emirates about \$1 billion in telecoms, infrastructure and tourism sectors.

Besides, Orascom of Egypt, Telinor of Norway, TMI of Malaysia and a number of investors of Dubai also have registered their interest to make considerable investments here, the prime minister said.

"Hi-Tec International Group of Saudi Arabia has proposed to register with the Bol a \$2 billion investment in petroleum and oil refinery sectors. An investor of China, Dhaka Sanghai Ceramics Ltd, has submitted a proposal for \$7 million investment in ceramics and tiles industries," she went on.

Apart from that, Khaleda said, another Chinese investor, China Metallurgical Construction, would invest \$2 billion to set up a methanol plant. The process for signing the agreement in this regard between the investor and the Bol is under way, she added.

SUBMARINE CABLE
Replying to another query, the prime minister said, "We hope the submarine optical fibre cable connecting Bangladesh with the information superhighway will come into operation in August this year."

A total of Tk 657 crore has been allocated for the project, she told the House.

RU teacher with

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turning the country into an Islamic state.

"Of course, we have political ambitions for an Islamic state, but we do not follow traditional politics. We have our Islamic way of invitation and jihad, which are devoid of



any terrorism. We will continue our movement unto death," said the bearded man, whom the arrested Islamist militants in Bogra and Natore mentioned with awe as the linchpin in the recent spate of bombings in the northern region of the country.

Sitting in his Naodapara office in Rajshahi, Asadullah told this correspondent that a vested quarter is out to link him with extremism and that he does not support terrorism in the name of jihad.

He has called a press conference for this morning and a country-wide demonstration to protest against the allegation of his involvement with militants.

However, Asadullah has been exposed in newspapers since 2000 for his alleged underground role in various Islamic militant groups.

Last Monday, 12 arrested militants of Jama'atul Mujahidin Bangladesh (JMB) in Natore, as well as Shafiqullah, a bomb squad member of Bangla Bhai's Jagrata

Muslim Janata Bangladesh, admitted before magistrates that Asadullah was their leader.

Asadullah, meanwhile, said he knew Bangla Bhai's spiritual leader, Abdur Rahman, very well. "Rahman is the son of Abdullah Ibne Fazal of Dinajpur. I helped him to read at Madina University, but he later derailed from mainstream Islam."

Replying to a question, he said he last met Rahman in 2000 and did not see him during any Bangla Bhai operations in Rajshahi, Natore and Naogaon.

His name first surfaced in 2000, when militant organisation 'Qital Fee Sabillillah' circulated leaflets calling AHAB its ally, and then again in 2001 after the bomb blast in a JMB den in Dinajpur.

In August 2003, police arrested 23 JMB men from Mohespur in Joypurhat after some 150 militants fought with police and looted three of their shotguns and 60 bullets. Several diaries and other documents left by the militants at Montajer's house (camp) also carry Asadullah's name.

Moreover, Bangla Bhai's group has belonged to AHAB, according to sources. The JMJB leader at Bogra and JMB activists at Natore confirmed that Asadullah used to visit them and inspired them to take action against NGOs and anti-Islamic activities.

Founded in 1978, AHAB now has three wings for youths, women and children, as well as branches at the villages and upazilas of 42 districts.

Galib claimed that his organisations were functioning legally with the financial assistance from abroad and that they have constructed several hundred mosques at various villages. He also runs a large madrasah built on 19 bighas of land at Naodapara, a NGO named Tawhid Trust and Ahle Hadith Foundation, a publication outfit.

Khulna Rab on high

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district. The victims included Journalists and political leaders.

Records available with police said Janajuddo cadres claimed responsibility for more than 100 murders in the last one and a half years. They also killed 14 policemen in Khulna and Bagerhat districts during the period.

Janajuddo shifted its main hideout to Khulna last month and is 'recruiting' drug addicts and wayward and jobless youths in the organisation, providing them financial support. They are being trained to carry out destructive activities using bombs and arms.

Meanwhile, a reported row between police and Rab in Khulna centring their authority is affecting maintenance of law and order, particularly containing murders. Officials of the two law enforcing agencies however termed it 'misunderstanding'.

Rab remained inactive in Khulna city in December and January for

reasons yet to be known. Unconfirmed reports said police did not help Rab to nab criminals. But police alleged that Rab operated in an unauthorised way, affecting police action.

High officials of police and Rab-6 yesterday held a closed-door meeting to sort out the problems and create a congenial atmosphere to crush criminals.

Police-Rab row figured prominently at the meeting. It also took up exchange of fire between the two sides on Khulna judge's court premises on September 7 last year and assault of two Rab members by the additional superintendent of police at his office on Monday night, sources said seeking anonymity.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Abdul Aziz Sarker, Director of Rab-6 Lt Col Farhad Ahmed and metropolitan police commissioner Javed Patwary could not be reached over telephone for their comments on the meeting.

PM reaffirms stance

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Naval Staff Course and the 25th Air Staff Course at the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) at Mirpur in the capital.

"Our armed forces must move forward imbued with that ideal and we're working towards that goal emphasising modernisation of the armed forces through professionalism and regular training," she told the function.

A total of 83 army officers, including 16 overseas officers, graduated in the 29th Army Staff Course, 23 naval officers, including eight overseas ones, graduated in the 23rd Naval Staff Course and 23 air force officers, including six foreign participants, received certificates from the prime minister.

The overseas participants of the courses included officers of the rank of major and lieutenant colonel from 15 countries China, India, Indonesia, Jordan, South Korea, Malaysia, the Maldives, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Turkey and the US.

On her arrival at the DSCSC, the prime minister was received by Commandant of the College Major Gen Razaul Haider.

Ministers, MPs, diplomats, chiefs of the three services and senior civil and military officials were present at the function.

The prime minister, in her speech, lauded the role of the armed forces in standing beside the friendly people of Sri Lanka and the Maldives, who were severely hit by the recent tsunami.

"They have set an example of humanitarian assistance through relief, rescue and rehabilitation programmes under 'Operation Saarc Bondhon'. This unique recognition of our armed forces has further enhanced the image and dignity of Bangladesh abroad," she said.

The prime minister also appreciated the role of the armed

forces in various peacekeeping missions under the United Nations (UN) apart from the noble task of safeguarding the sovereignty and independence of the motherland.

A total of 8019 members of the armed forces are currently serving in various UN peacekeeping missions and 856 are taking part in nation-building efforts in 12 countries.

Khulna outlaw confesses to his role in bomb attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Outlaw Swadhin of Purbo Banglar Communist Party's (PBCP) Janajuddo faction yesterday made a judicial confession of his involvement in bomb attack on Khulna Bureau chief of Dainik Jugantor Dip Azad on January 4.

He also confessed to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Khulna to being involved in Monday night's incident at the office of Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Mofazzel Hossain.

Rapid Action Battalion-6 (Rab) Monday held Swadhin and Hasan at the ASP's office where two Rab members were hurt as they grappled with Mofazzel and his guards to take hold of the PBCP cadres.

Swadhin and Hasan are suspected of making an attempt on the life of Dip Azad on January 4. The latter was under interrogation at the Rab headquarters in Khalishpur until yesterday.

Meantime, sources said the cellphone and official revolver of ASP Mofazzel were seized before he left for the capital, as he was closed to Dhaka Police Headquarters.