Wednesday's countrywide orches-

trated bomb blasts, has been enjoy-

ing foreign funding for its militant

activities through Galib, now in jail

and his organisation Ahle Hadith

Foundation expelled their founder.

Galib, in 2002 for embezzling Tk 5

crore provided by the Kuwaiti

embassy and the RIHS. But, accord-

ing to some documents seized by

intelligence agencies, Galib, even

after his expulsion, continued to

receiving RIHS funds, a large part of

which was deposited directly into

Galib's and his wife's bank

The Hadith Foundation last

month issued a letter to the RIHS

asking to show cause why and how it

had provided some Tk 27 lakh

RIHS officials left the country on a

government directive following

specific allegations of their involve-

ment in fuelling Islamist militancy

and extremism and also in traffick-

with Al-Haramain Foundation (AHF)

in Bangladesh before joining the

RIHS. The government last year

closed down the AHF on repeated

requests from the US and Saudi

in early 1999 with four explosive

devices and five detonators in India

informed the police that a senior

AHF official had tasked him with

keeping watch on the US missions in

14 foreign officials had left the coun-

try but the five returned as tourists

The RIHS and Ahab jointly con-

structed an Islamic university, 10

madrasas, four orphanages and

over 1,000 mosques across the

country and trained several thou-

Intelligence sources said the

mosques and madrasas are being

used as Ahab and JMB strongholds,

while the trained men and women

Jihadies (Islamic version of crusad-

sand Imams and Muajjins

After the AHF wrap-up, all of its

India for possible terrorist strikes.

and joined the RIHS.

A Bangladeshi national arrested

Arabia for its link with al-Oaeda

The five foreigners had worked

It was also in July that five foreign

meant for the foundation to Galib.

The Tawhid Trust and Hadith

Andolon Bangladesh (Ahab).

Cops target 400 militants

HUNTING LIST

Wednesday.

He said no-one of the carriers

admitted to taking payment for their tasks, adding, "They said they did it as

part of their religious duties. In fact,

Law enforcement, intelligence and

security agencies are looking for the

members of the huge network of

operatives of the banned Islamist

militant organisation JMB and its allies

involved in orchestrating the bomb-

ngs across the country last

"As it is now quite certain that this

activists by grilling them at the JIC in

So far 123 people have been arrested, the home ministry told a press briefing yesterday afternoon. According to the ministry, 434 bombs exploded on August 17 and 51 unexploded bombs were recovered.

The ministry said 26 other arrestees from Satkhira, Feni, Kushtia Brahmanbaria, Khulna, Khagrachhari, Cox's Bazar, Joypurhat, Tangail, Narsingdi and Jessore districts would also be brought to the capital to interro-

organisation carried out the attack, we GRASSROOTS CLOCKWORK are listing all its leaders and activists Field-level JMB operatives and carriand will try to trace them," said an ers received the explosive devices on investigator. August 17 morning, only a few hours

Each carrier was briefed sepa-

"A few of the 14 received the

bombs on Wednesday from the same

persons who had briefed them while

the rest said they had to collect the

bombs from a designated place at a

plant the bombs at blast points desig-

nated earlier. Most of the bomb carri-

ers also received JMB leaflets with

also coming up with names and

addresses of those who briefed them

and handed them over the bombs, but

there. Some of them know only the

Two arrestees from Satkhira and one from Kushtia, who identified

themselves as JMB activists, told the

interrogators they knew Abdur

Rahman was their leader but have not

with the men, who briefed them or supplied them the bombs, many of the

arrestees said they had come to know

the 14 have no link with the bomb

blasts, the investigators yesterday

decided to release them after interro-

to verify their information," said one

investigator. Quizzing of some fresh

"We will interrogate the rest again

After being sure that half a dozen of

Asked how they came in contact

it is not sure whether we will find them

The source said, "The carriers are

direction to leave those at the sites.

They were strictly instructed to

specific time, "said the source.

Daily Star.

Sources said the investigators has before the bombing schedule, JIC already prepared a hunting list of about 400 JMB members and distribsources said quoting the 14 arrestees uted it among the police, Rapid Action "They received their briefings on Battalion (Rab) and intelligence the bombing assignments on August agencies in all districts. 13, 14 and 15," a JIC source told The

The list was prepared based on intelligence, confessional statements of arrested Islamist militants including rately but it is not clear whether the JMB members and press reports. I same man briefed all the carriers of a includes top militant leaders like Abdur region, as the carriers did not meet one Rahman and Bangla Bhai down to arassroots members.

"We will try to trace the JMB kingpins by interrogating those of the lower anes," the investigator said.

Law enforcers are keeping a strong watch on Abdur Rahman's den and madrasa in Jamalpur. "Although some intelligence officers believe Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai are now hiding abroad, we are continuing looking for them in the country," he

Our Barisal correspondent reports Police vesterday rounded up at least 25 people including college and adrasa students, teachers, Imams in and around the city, suspecting their links to the blasts.

Kabir Hossain, 35, a Jubo League cadre of Jhawtala, and Azam, 31, of Kawnia were sent to jail as accused in the blasts cases, police sources said.

The police claimed Kabir and Azam had been arrested earlier in different criminal and arms cases.

Our Gaibandha correspondent adds: Police picked up 11 suspects in the district in the last two days and continued hunting the masterminds including Matin Mehdi, central leader of the JMB, who went into hiding soon after the blasts.

During interrogation, some admitted to being the supporters of Ahle Hadith movement, while others claimed their innocence.

The police unearthed important information about Matin Mehdi, who

Motiul Huq Mondol who introduced himself as Motiul Islam, Mahbub Mehdi, Matin Mehdi and Mehdi

He formed an extremist religious group, Allah'r Dal, a few years ago and began running organisational activities in Hashem Bazar. But he soon ioined the JMB and gained a central post after locals opposed his extreme speeches.

He was accused in four cases of speeches of fatwas in Bogra, Jhenidah and Gaibandha.

Our correspondent from Jessore reports: Police placed Tokai Sagar, 10, and his relative Tuhin, 15, on a three-

Tuhin was arrested in Lohagara in Narail on Thursday night following the statement of Sagar held in the town ust after the blasts.

Our Dinaipur Correspondent adds: The Rab released Abdul Majid, 55, an activist of Jamaat-e-Islami, half an hour into his arrest on Friday sparking off resentment in the area. The Rab arrested Majid when he

was coming out of a Jamaat programme at Lok Bhaban in the town. The elite force also seized his cellphone and some documents, but released him. Officer-in-Charge Md Abu Bakkar Siddique said.

Our Nilphamari Correspondent reports: JMB activist Golam Mostafa. 45, arrested on Thursday in Jaldhaka upazila, has revealed important nformation on militant activities during nterrogation, police sources said.

He is a charge-sheeted accused in a case on planting bombs at Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service, an NGO, in

Locals alleged they saw many unknown youths with Mostafa on the evening of August 16.

Nilphamari police sought help from Panchagarh police for information about the four people arrested on charge of Islamist militancy on May 15, 2003 in Panchagarh.

Seven JMJB cadres arrested in Bagmara on Thursday were sent to the JIC in Dhaka yesterday.

Our staff correspondent from Khulna adds: Over 200 leader and activists of the district unit of Ahab have gone into hiding to evade arrest.

Intelligence agencies are keeping watch on 11 mosques of the Ahle Hadith sect, while most of the mosques have been cordoned off by

ers) are working underground. The RIHS also has received huge amounts of money through hundi since February last, when the government stopped releasing its funds on allegations of funding Galib for Jihad. The RIHS has usually been receiving some Tk 25 to 30 crore a year since the inception of its activities in Bangladesh in 1996.

Sources said RIHS Bangladesh Director Abdul Aziz Mal-ullah, a Kuwaiti citizen, who seldom visits the country, came to Bangladesh on August 14, three days ahead of the August 17 serial bomb blasts, and started lobbying a few ministers and top government officials.

GALIB-ABDUR RAHMAN LINK

social welfare.

in foreign land.

The Jamaat leaders also slammed

the AL for what they said was conduct-

ing propaganda against Bangladesh

baseless and name-only organisation

and we don't know any of them,"

Nizami said when asked whether

Abdur Rahman was once a follower of

Jamaat as reported in some newspa-

He said Jamaat-e-Islami is a

The Jamaat leaders alleged

Mosad constituted a number of 'Is-

lamic' organisations and is helping

them for running terrorist activities so

The main objective of such terror-

ism is to create a ground and provoke

international community for a crack-

down on Bangladesh, they pointed

Nizami observed terrorism is an

He also criticised and condemned

According to Jamaat, Veena in a

statement to an Indian TV channel

son Sabuj, 3; Parvin, 22, her daugh-

Kohinoor and Roksana hailed

from village Ramdebpur while

Shah Alam, 32, and Sharifa,

22, of Ramdebpur village

ter Ritu, 2, and son Al Amin, 5.

Parvin from village Kaikarchar.

international problem and it should be

the statement by Indian High

Commissioner to Bangladesh Veena

democratic organisation and has no

involvement in any sort of fanaticism.

"It believes in lawful movement".

that Jamaat can be blamed.

resolved by political means.

Sikri in the wake of the blasts.

10 die

FROM PAGE 16

remained missing.

"The Jama'atul Mujahideen is a

After his arrest on February 24, Galib told the press, "Whether we are hanged or jailed, our movement for Islam will continue.

Police and intelligence sources said Ahab is but a mass platform of the JMB and most of the Ahab workers are involved in JMB activi-

Some of the suspected militants arrested in Thakurgaon, Joypurhat, Bogra and Natore corroborated the information. They told the police that Galib was their leader and he used to meet them at Ahab mosques.

The spiritual master of Bangla Bhai and Jagroto Muslim Janata, Bangladesh (JMJB) Amir Abdur Rahman and Ahab Amir Galib were well known to each other. Rahman studied at the Medina University in Saudi Arabia at Galib's recommendation and after completion of the studies joined back with Galib.

Abdur Rahman formed the JMB in mid 1990s based in Dhaka. With the help of Galib, his JMB militants have been using the facilities of some 700 mosques built across the country by RIHS funds.

Talking to The Daily Star, Rezaul Karim, an expelled Ahab member. said Galib had introduced him to Abdur Rahman. "I heard them discussing whether an armed struggle to stage an Islamic revolution would be viable or not."

After a shootout in Joypurhat with JMB men in August 2003, the police arrested 38 people. Galib's name was written in the diaries of some of the arrestees. One of them named Anwar Sadat alias Ataur Rahman was later identified as a brother of Abdur Rahman, His diary too carried Galib's name, amounts of his donations and various instructions.

There are reports that between 1998 and 2003 Galib visited Afghanistan, Pakistan and India around 22 times, both legally and

Galib started his activities aimed at staging an Islamic revolution in the country in 1975 under the banner of Jomiyat-e-Ahle Hadith. Three vears later, in 1978, when he was a student of the Dhaka University, he splitting from that organisation and formed Ahle Hadith Jubo Shangha (AHJS), the youth wing of Ahab.

From the AHJS platform, Galib preached a necessity of Jihad to establish an Islamic rule in the country and also to fight against the Islamic deviations including the Mazar culture.

Sources said Galib started receiving funds from the Middle East through Moulana Abdul Matin Salafi an Indian leader of the Salafi sect, who had been working as a Muballig (religious preacher).

Galib and Salafi travelled to every corner of the country in early 1980s with a mission to launch an Islamist movement.

The government of HM Ershad expelled Salafi in 1988 for his Islamic revolutionary ideas and activities. Galib inherited the huge Saudi Arabian fund left behind by

Mobile tariff

(BTRC) has decided to conduct a study to formulate a tariff regime for mobile phone operators. The study will determine the actual

Many of their activists are

Afghanistan and Palestinian war

veterans who fought there after

receiving training in Pakistan, Libya

Bangladesh, these militants scat-

militant activities since the early

According to intelligence agen-

different organisations including the

Freedom Party were trained in Libya

Bangladeshi Jihadis were killed and

500 wounded in battles in

Afghanistan, Lebanon and

When they returned from foreign

frontiers, a number of them set up

madrasas as cover, mainly toeing

the Qwami line, which is the more

orthodox system of Islamic educa-

tion and needs no government

registration. They chose the forests

of the Chittagong Hill Tracts,

mosques and the Qwami madrasas

mainly in the north to train their

Dhaka, starting from Kamrangir-

char, and later spreading to Kafrul,

Adabar, Shekhertek, Basila and

Operating under different

Although the intelligence agen-

cies had made various reports on

these militant groups and recom-

mended their bans, the government

remained mysteriously silent since

2002. Rather, some militants

arrested at various places with

evidence of subversive activities got

free as the cases against them were

Although the government did not

admit the existence of any extremist

organisations, it banned Shahadat

Al Higma on February 9, 2003, and

Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh

(JMJB) and Jama'atul Mujahideen

Bangladesh (JMB) on February 23

A press note issued on February

names, the groups maintain close

contact with each other.

not properly pursued.

They also set up their network in

Sources said over 200

in the early 1980s and 1990s.

1990s

Palestine.

activists.

call cost of a mobile phone operator to enable the commission regulate the call rates. Currently, there is no benchmark

on how much the operators spend as call cost while they usually don't disclose Average Revenue Per User (ARPU), keeping the regulator in the dark about their average earnings. As BTRC does not have any

mechanism and expertise to determine the call costs, it will soon appoint a consultant firm to undertake the study financed by the World Bank. BTRC sources said, adding that the study will suggest an "allowable level of profit" on top of the break-even plateau.

Once the study is done, the commission will be in a position to determine the reasonable tariff.

Despite lower licence fees, compared to other regional markets, including India and Pakistan, mobile operators in Bangladesh charge much higher rates, BTRC officials said.

Following an open-market philosophy, the commission encouraged competition so that the rates be both business-oriented and consumerfriendly, commission officials said.

The mobile operators had to reduce call charges recently as competition is heating up, particularly after the entry of the state owned mobile phone operator Teletalk Bangladesh,

they added Currently, five operators --GrameenPhone, Telekom Malaysia International Bangladesh (IMIB), the service provider of AKTEL, Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited (PBTL), the brand operator of CityCell, Sheba Telecom, the service provider of Banglalink and state-owned Teletalk Bangladesh Limited provide mobile

Home ministry

scribers in Bangladesh

service to some 60 lakh mobile sub-

A seven-member central committee was formed on August 18 with the additional inspector general (IG) of Special Branch as its convenor. The members of the committee are the deputy IG (crime), director (intelligence) of Rab, deputy commissioner of Detective Branch of police, Dhaka, special superintendent of Criminal Investigation Department and representatives of Directorate General of Forces Intelligence and National Security Intelligence.

The committee will collect information and evidence and analyse those, identify the bombers and the mastermind behind the attacks and recommend steps to prevent recurrence of such incidents. It will submit its report within 15 days.

A total of 434 bombs were

exploded on Wednesday and 51 bombs were found unexploded, the official mentioned. The law enforcing agencies have

arrested 123 people across the country and 26 of them have been brought to the capital for quizzing at the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC). Beisdes. 152 cases were filed in connection with the blasts.

Asked if any of the arrestees admitted to their carrying out the blasts. Mohsin said some of them gave statements to police but none is yet to confess to any magistrate. He however declined to name their organisations.

Agencies for banning Trained in foreign lands "These groups are

engaged in murders, robberies and

bombings ... by capitalising on

religious sentiments But Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Palestine. After returning to on July 1, 2003, told parliament that no al Qaeda men exist in tered over the country and started Bangladesh.

"There is no fundamentalists or zealots in the country." she told Ulemas (Islamic scholars) on cies, about 7.000 members from September 6, 2003

> On the contrary, however, ruling coalition partner Islami Oikya Jote Chairman Fazlul Hag Amini on March 8. 1999 told a public meeting, We are for Osama [bin Laden], we are for the Taliban and we will be in government in 2000 through an slamic revolution.

"An Islamic revolution will take place by Qwami madrasas," Amini said at an Islamic conference in Comilla on March 1 this year.

"By terming us gunrunners and terrorists, Qwami madrasa movement cannot be stopped," he added. But as late as January 27 this

year, Jane's Intelligence Review, the leading defence magazine of the world, reported: "Bangladesh is one of the poorest countries on earth, on the brink of being a failed state, and that makes it a perfect target for al-Qaeda and its ever-expanding network of Islamist extremist organisations. Virtually unnoticed by the world at large, Bangladesh is being dragged into the global war on terrorists by becoming a sanctuary

CHANGING FACES In the wake of the recent bomb

blasts. The Daily Star investigation found most JMB and JMJB leaders were in the past members of the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), the student front of ruling coalition partner Jamaat-e-Islami Bangla-

Sources said the militants hide their identity by using the names of different organisations. Many have joined the Tablig Jamaat, the religious movement supposed to be non-violent and non-political

Whenever the militant groups

come under police suspicion, they quickly change name to continue their activities. The JMB is a case in point that has so far changed names 18 times, intelligence sources said. **ACTIVISTS**

By their own claims, the militant groups have some 10 lakh members across the country. An intelligence report says about 80,000 of them took training in arms and

Only the JMB has 10,000 fulltimers, 1 lakh part-timers and 10 lakh trainees

JMJB leader Bangla Bhai on May 12 last year claimed in an interview with The Daily Star that he has over 30,000 activists working in 57

Hizbut Towhid boasts of 1 lakh members while Al Higma Chairman Sved Kawsar Hossain Siddiki on February 8, 2003 claimed he has over 36,000 trained members.

Harkat-ul Jihad (Huji) has over 25,000 trained activists, according to some Huji men. But intelligence source says the claim is exaggerated and the organisation has around 15.000 members who are now working for different Islamic parties after crackdown on the group in 1999.

The militant members come from a varied spectrum -- several teachers of Dhaka University, Rajshahi University, Chittagong University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), Kushtia Islamic University, North South University, and Victoria University are involved with these militant groups, mainly looking after finances, public relations, and foreign connections.

Each group has various wings -the largest looking after publicity and recruitment, the wing that takes armed training is comparatively small. Another branch works as 'intelligence wing', mixing up with the common people and activists of other parties and attending political and cultural programmes

Four months into working out poli

cies on approval of projects, the

meeting between the finance minis-

ter and the Planning Commission

members yesterday decided to

Though different ministries

The original policy set 21 days for

requested to make policies more

relaxed, after the amendments the

a foreign-funded project and 30

days for a locally financed one after

its entry into the planning ministry

from the line ministry, to be placed in

the Ecnec (Executive Committee of

amend some of them.

policies look even tougher.

Changes in agencies on the cards

gation at the JIC.

met him yet.

Later the same day, she called State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar and wanted to know why the law enforcement agencies had failed to check such incidents. She said she was surprised how could the explosions take place in almost all districts, keeping in the dark the intelligence agencies and law enforcers

She also blasted Babar for speaking to the media immediately after the blast, making the government's failure

The PMO sources said Khaleda Advisor for Parliamentary Affairs Salauddin Qader Chowdhury.

Her main meeting however was with three top policymakers--Finance Rahman, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuivan, and

lasted for nearly two hours

In the evening, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and Foreign Ministry Advisor Reaz Rahman met the PM They briefed her about the global concern stemmed from the August 17 blasts and took her advises on how to handle the affair with the foreign

The blasts and subsequent incidents, their political implications, and prospective course of action were discussed at the PM's meeting with the three senior ministers.

Reliable sources said the three policymakers stressed the need for and law enforcement agencies as they said, those had failed time and time again to contain the bombing

They also questioned the efficacy of the agencies who are neither getting prior information nor being able to find out the criminals after incidents, including the August 21 grenade

incidents in the past.

given the next general election.

They said that it might have a negative impact if the government opts to clamp down on all the Islamist groups. They suggested the situation rather should be handled tactfully so that the sentiment of the religious people does not go against the BN

hunting down of the masterminds as well as their godfathers and disconnect the foreign links if they had any. They said that the August 17 incidents are definitely a part of a deep-rooted conspiracy to provoke the government bank" of BNP.

changes in cabinet and civil administration by getting rid of the incompetent

At the meetings with the PM, some people talked about the possibility of involvement of foreign intelligence agencies in the blasts.

Kashem Chairman knew better about

Rab is now preparing to get Shahid Chairman face to face with Sobhan and Kala Mahbub, who are now behind bars in connection with the abduction case.

Sobhan, the driver of the microbus used in the abduction, in a confes-Kashem chairman as the two masterminds and Nazim Uddin of Hiledhar.

On the other hand, Kala Mahbub. as per the confession of Shahid Chairman, was one of the fourmember squad responsible for murdering abducted Jamaluddin.

Shahid Chairman taking him face-toface with Sobhan and Kala Mahbub will help to get a clear picture of the CID will also take Shahid on a 5-

day remand, earlier granted by the court, to quiz him in connection with the Jamaluddin abduction after Rab finishes its interrogation.

Wednesday night and handed him over to Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Friday. Showing Shahjahan arrested in the abduction case, CID yesterday produced him to the Chief Metropolitan

Magistrate's Court with a 10-day remand prayer. remand prayer today, sources said. also a leader of Chittagong (south)

said. "Those who wanted to establish He however admitted questions have Islamic rule conducted the bomb arisen in the public mind about the role

of the country's intelligence agencies. "The Indian high commissioner Jamaat leaders at the conference assumed responsibility for the bomb categorically denied their involvement in the blasts as alleged by the main Nizami alleged. opposition Awami League (AL). They rather pointed an accusing

Jamaat blames RAW

finger at a mid-ranking AL leader, who is a close relative of Sheikh Abdur Rahman, spiritual leader of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB). "Accusing the Jamaat of any foil the upcoming Saarc summit; terrorist activities in the country is an present Bangladesh as a terrorist Awami culture," observed Ali Ahsan country to create grounds for outside Mohammad Mujaheed, Jamaat intervention; and destroy economic secretary general and minister for

> investigation into the blasts, identification of the culprits and exemplary punishment of them.

Polio free

and Indonesia have recently reported 25 and 219 polio cases.

"Polio virus presence in Indian State of Bihar is particularly of great concern where two cases of wild polio have been reported in Punai and Arairia districts, about 15km off Panchagarh in Bangladesh," he

As many as 14 countries still report polio cases. These 14 countries have recorded 1,053 cases of polio with Yemen being on top with 415 instances.

been set as a target year to declare the world free from polio. It requires five crore doses of poliomyelitis vaccines to be given to

each child under five years on every National Immunisation Day (NID). eradication campaign on April 16, 1995 and the last (12th) NID was

But the surveillance for Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) for the children under 15 is still on along with routine Extended Programme of Immunisation (EPI).

Polio virus invades local lymphoid (defence) tissue, enters the blood stream, and may infect cells of the central nervous system. Up to 95 percent of all polio infections are inapparent or not felt of its presence.

Blasts to hurt business

FROM PAGE 16

convey to the WB president that Bangladesh is not receiving aid under the Millennium Development Goals the way it was promised. Sometimes aids are not released over trivial issues, he added.

The issues of the Anti-Corruption Commission and governance may come up for discussion during the talks, Saifur said, adding that he would inform the WB chief of the government actions on these

Asked for his opinion about the notion held by many that it is possible to do development work without the assistance of the WB, Saifur said, "Yes, it is possible, but 10 20 years. By then, both you and I will become old."

Millions of dollars are required for developing infrastructure for water supply and health, and the government gets 40 years to pay off loans given by the WB. Even countries like India, whose foreign exchange reserve is about \$183 billion, cannot undertake infrastructure development projects without the assistance of the WB, he argued.

It is not possible for our government to invest a huge amount in infrastructure development, he

MFFTING WITH THE PLANNING COMMISSION diture by just 10 percent on the overall project In case of manpower and cars, a raise of even 10 percent cost would

2 cops held

"I received Tk 12,000 to Tk 15,000 as commission for selling the four rifles," Akash told journalists yester-

Akash said he returned the two other rifles to Sergeant Alauddin two firearms.

with the AK47 that was wrapped up with a white plastic sack from a rickshaw near the Rural Electrification Board (REB) office in Feni at around 1:25pm on Thursday,

that he bought the rifle through his friend Dulal from police sergeants

Following the statement, the elite force arrested sergeants Alauddin and Helal from their present workplaces under Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) on

Alauddin's Rampura residence in Dhaka yesterday.

after receiving a cheque of Tk 1 lakh from Akash a few days ago and they had another rifle under Dulal's custody in his village home in Noakhali, they said during interrogation.

The Rab then went to Dulal's home at Maizdi village in Sudharampur Police Station of Noakhali district and seized the AK47 and a cheque worth Tk 1 lakh.

the National Economic Council) Yesterday's amendments have brought down both the deadlines to Again, according to the initial

project approval policies, the ministry concerned could raise expenditure by 10 percent on each component of a project without any approval of the planning ministry. The amendment now allows the ministry concerned to raise expen-

require the planning ministry's approval.

months ago as he felt insecure about the arms but took back one rifle after a month by giving Alauddin a cheque of Tk one lakh as he (Akash) found a customer for the Tipped off, Rab arrested Akash

Rab sources said. Quizzed by Rab, Akash admitted

Alauddin and Helal

Thursday night. Later they arrested Dulal from

The two sergeants sold the AK47

Akash was handed to Mahipal Police Station and the three others to Sudharampur Police Station yesterday following filing of cases under Arms Act, Rab chief Kazi Emdadul Haque said.

BDR, BSF

FROM PAGE 1 zero point at Gilabari at 1:30 to decide about today's meeting. Rajshahi BDR Sector

Commander Col Rezanur Rahman Khan is likely to represent Bandladesh in the meeting to be held at 10:00am at Gilabari. Bangladesh may propose solv-

ing the matter through the involvement of the Joint Rivers Commission.

The two-day skirmishes between the border guards of India and Bangladesh began on Friday morning over a longstanding dispute over protection of banks from transboundary river Mahananda at Chapainawabganj-Malda region.

BDR Director General Ma Gen Jahangir Alam Chowdhury told The Daily Star earlier that Bangladesh wanted to protect her side of the Mahananda from river erosion using stone blocks, which the BSF barred. Later, BSF started placing sandbags on Indian side of the river. As Bangladesh requested them not to do it, BSF started firing, BDR DG said. A member of the Indo-Bangla

Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) told this correspondent yesterday that the upcoming JRC meeting might take up the issue on an urgent basis for an immediate solution.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain. It

Rickshaws plied as usual. The AL. left-leaning 11-party alliance. Jativa Samaitantrik Dal (Inu) and National Awami Party enforced the shutdown, protesting the August 17 serial bomb blasts across the

The Communist Party of

Bandladesh had separately called

Asmall number of minibuses came out

on the city roads despite the hartal.

hartal yesterday on the same issue. In the capital, police charged batons on pro-hartal pickets in different areas, leaving about a dozen injured, and rounded up about 30 hartal supporters. Pickets faced police action in

Kalabagan, Hossaini Dalan and some The law enforcers cordoned off the AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue and did not allow party workers to enter the office. Senior party leaders were however allowed to enter

Bangabandhu Avenue, Baitul Mukarram, Russell Squire, Mirpur,

Early in the morning, police inter-cepted a procession of the Workers Party of Bangladesh led by its General Secretary Bimal Biswas near the Police swooped on a procession of Mahila Awami League near Dhanmondi roads 5 and 9-A and picked up 15 activists. An injured

ted to Bangladesh Medical College In Mirpur, police baton-charged a procession of the AL and its youth front Juba League, leaving at least 12 leaders and workers injured, including local AL leader Ilias Mollah. Police also arrested 10 people including city Juba League (north) President Mainul

activist. Sadia Tarek Britti. was admit-

Abdur Razzak, Mohammad Nasim, Abdul Matin Khasru and Mirza Abdul Jalil paraded different roads in Dhanmondi and stopped at Russell Square at about 11:00am to hold a Another procession of the AL parliamentary party led by Chief Whip of the Opposition Abdus Shahid, Talukder Abdul Khalek, Shahjahan

Khan, Dr Abdur Razzak, Col (retd)

Faruk Khan, Col (retd) Shawkat Ali

A procession led by AL leaders

Hartal passes

Hossaini Dalan area. The 14-party brought out a procession supporting the hartal programme

nel were deployed in the city to avert any untoward incidents. Our Narayanganj correspondent reports that police charged batons on

a pro-hartal procession of the 14-party

Police swooped on the procession of the AL, district Gono Forum leader Delwar Hossain Chunnu and Jubo

under police action in rail gate area at about 11:00 am and around 10 people

Anti-hartal processions however got police protection. Our staff correspondent in Sylhet reports: At least 10 AL activists suffered minor injuries in police charge on

that the hartal was observed peacefully in the city and other parts of the district. There was no picketing for or

against the hartal and industrial units at the BSCIC and Rupatali industrial areas operated smoothly. Harta supporters brought out a procession in

and Bangladesh Chhatra League. Our Netrakona correspondent reports: Six people were arrested from a pro-hartal procession.

and Sohail Taj joined the rally.
Police dispersed an AL procession led by Mostafa Jalal Mahiuddin in

in Muktangan and Jativa Press Club areas under police cordon. More than 8,000 riot police, armed olice and para-military BDR person-

that left at least 20 people injured including district AL Convenor SM as it reached Ukilpara area. Anwar Hossain, president of district town unit

Mahila League leader Ishrat Jahan were among the injured. Another 14-party procession came

a procession in Court Point area, led by city Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Our Barisal correspondent reports

Our Rangpur correspondent added that the hartal passed off peacefully in the district. Police intercepted processions of the 14-party

Our correspondents in Nilphamari, Khulna and Comilla also reported peaceful observance of the shutdown,

attacks on Awami League rally, killing of SAMS Kibria, and other blasts

Sources said the three ministers told the PM that preliminary investigations found religious fundamentalists' links to the August 17 blasts, but they opined that it would not be wise to go for a wholesale crackdown on them,

The policymakers underscore

into going after the Islamic parties, which are widely considered as "vote

The leaders also proposed some

BNP MP's brother FROM PAGE 16

the fate of the victim afterwards, he To verify the confession further.

sional statement under Section 164 named Shahid Chairman and Ishaq Ahmad alias "one-piece Ishaq", Shafiuddin and Yusuf as directly taking part in the abduction.

Rab-7 officials hope quizzing

Meanwhile, Rab-7 held Hiledhar UP Chairman Md Shahiahan on

The court would decide on the Jamaluddin Ahmed Chowdhury. district unit of ruling BNP, was abducted from Chandgaon Residential Area while returning home on July 24, 2003.

attacks in Bangladesh.

blasts by issuing such a statement, The Jamaat leaders saw five reasons behind the August 17 attacks -- to destroy the constitutional and democratic system in Bangladesh; topple the alliance government and break the unity among Islamic groups;

prosperity and foreign investment in the country Jamaat also demanded proper

FROM PAGE 16 immunologist under the EPI, said, "SEARO members including India

According to the WHO, 2008 has

Bangladesh joined the polio conducted in January last year.