## Turning into a militant

mujahids (religious warriors)," Rajshahi chief Rabiul Islam told this

correspondent. "Enemies of Muslims are oppressing us all over the world. There is no alternative to Jihad. But the appropriate time has still not come. However, joining our group, one should be ready for sacrificing his life and property," he explained when asked for the reasons behind their activities.

"It is not very far when we will ask the aovernment to run the country under Islamic law. If they can not, we will ask them to hand over power to us. If they don't, we will tell them that they will face a war, which we will wage said the divisional operations commander, Altaf Hossain.

"We will have our 'trained mujahids' everywhere by that time to force the government to do as we say," the 55vear-old continued as this correspondent, posing as a new recruit, interviewed him near his Char Kaila house in the city a few weeks ago. Altaf Hossain worked for Jamaat-e-Islam party for eight years before he joined Hizbut Tawhid.

"Our Imam (Panni who is already criticised widely for his controversial book -'This Islam is not the Islam') is writing a new book to jolt the world soon, detailing our real targets," he added.

Asked about joining as mujahids in other countries, he said, "You (this correspondent) can go wherever you wish, even in America. We get everything we need for Islam..

You will get our mujahids at every district. Senior mujahids are sent to some districts to collect and train people. Six rich men from Kushtia were sent to Natore recently. They started living ther; three of them pull rickshaws while the rest do work for Islam alternatively," said Altaf.

The militant activities in Raishahi division are normally controlled from Kushtia, where their stronghold lies, they said. In Rajshahi city, their strongholds are Auctroy intersection, Dharampur, Char Kaila areas.

According to Altaf, the militants in Rajshahi are guided by an 11-member team headed by Rabiul Islam of Sakopara of Motinar than a in the city. LOCALS SUSPECT THEM OF **BEING ARMED** 

Local people of the area told this correspondent that the group has been active since 2000. But from 2003 their operations have become open and more aggressive. They freely talk about armed Islamic revolution.

They go out to a new village every Friday, said a source, adding that poor youths receive financial help if they ioin. Some also receive a cell phone. Many young people join the group, disobeying their parents, and some of the area-dwellers believe that many of

Some of them were arrested in other districts before. They must have arms, as they do not care for the local armed cadres of other parties," said a resident of Dharampur, a virtual hideout for

The Daily Star obtained the outfit's 48-

Hizraat, and the need for Jihad.

'After swearing in Tawhid (the sovereignty of Allah), the best work is Islam in the world', the booklet says.

The group criticises the work of existing Imams and acknowledged Islamic scholars, according to local people, who reported seeing the militants scuffling with Imams of mosques in the local areas

PREVIOUS MILITANT RECORDS

Hizbut Tawhid militants clashed with madrassa students at Poradaha railway station of Mirpur upazila in Kushtia, leaving 45 injured on September 9 in 2003, when some 15 militants were calling upon people to ioin a Jihad. Police arrested 13 militants, but they were later released.

A hizb leader's wife was killed and many other people injured in Jugia of Kushtia on September 13 when madrassa students attacked them for circulating leaflets.

On September 19, police raided a secret meeting and arrested 14 operatives in Kushtia town. Police seized a large number of leaflets from their possession.

On July 3, 2003, Police and Bangladesh Rifles in a joint raid arrested 14 Hizb operatives from the Borobazar in Kushtia town and seized leaflets from them.

### Govt assures

messages expressing sympathy and condolence after the unprecedented wave of countrywide blasts on Wednesday.

democracy of the country.

# Govt-backed religious

"Islam is a religion of peace. It does not approve of militancy. But the religious extremists having continuing support from the government are operating militant campaigns comfortably in every corner of the country," said Hasina, also the leader of the opposition, addressing a gathering on Bangabandhu Avenue after unveiling a plaque commemorating the victims of the August 21

taken both in and outside the Bangabandhu Avenue. A large contingent of uniformed and plainclothes policemen stood guard on every high-rise building in the area. Apart from law enforcement agencies. AL activists were quarding the AL office on Bangabandhu Avenue.

sonnel were deployed also at the be the place from where the last year's grenade attacks were carried out.

massed on Bangabandhu Avenue to pay homage to those who died on the day exactly a year before.

the AL office.

resistance to the religious fundafrom the extremists' clutch.

Germany and India as part of the so-She once again accused the government of destroying the evidence relating to the August 21 blasts in a bid to 'protect' the masterminds behind the grisly

Referring to the grenade blasts, Hasina said, "Without direct patronisation of the government, it simply would not have been possible for the attackers to execute the blasts so impecca-

Hasina, who narrowly escaped death in the attacks last year. alleged that BNP-Jamaat alliance has long been patronising the fundamentalist forces in their killing campaign across the country to eliminate the progressive

political forces. Demanding trial of the culprits in the bloodbath of August 21, the AL chief said the government's indifference to bringing to book the persons linked to the carnage

suggest that it too was involved in the attack Referring to the August 17 countrywide explosions, she said

the remarks of the state minister for home indicate that once again the ruling alliance has extended support to the perpetrators.

The AL president said, "Back

them have firearms.
"They are touts and work on hire.

HIZB LEAFLET & **PROGRAMMES** 

page programme paper, which outined its five-point mission for 'real Islam', including obeying one Imam,

to fight for establishing the rule of Allahi. 'Only a Jihad can establish

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan at a press conference yesterday said the government had taken it as an attack on "independence, sovereignty and

again today is the bloody August

The leaders and workers of AL

up bid for

vesterday.

**UNSC** berth

Japan will give up its bid to secure a

permanent seat on the United

Nations Security Council for the time

being after it failed to win enough

international support, a daily said

donor after the United States, has

been jointly lobbying for permanent

council membership with Brazil,

Japan, the second largest UN

21, the day when my party leaders and workers saved my life sacrificing theirs. "How long must we shed blood, how long must we carry the bodies of our dead comrades, and how long must people cry for the dear ones lost?" Hasina asked in an emotion-choked voice. After the speech, the AL president placed a wreath at the plaque and stood in silence for some time as a mark of respect for

carnage last year. Tight security measures were the deceased. Grenade blasts in an AL rally on Bangabandhu Avenue last year left 23 people killed and over 400 injured. Sheikh Hasina, who had barely ended her speech, came out alive but sustained injuries to her hear-

and its front organisations, along A large number of police perwith those of Workers Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu), left-City Bhaban, widely assumed to leaning 11-party alliance laid Japan to give

Hundreds of people yesterday

The AL chief yesterday came to the party office after one year. She arrived at the venue at 11:05am amid tight security. Police scanned with metal detector almost every person who attended the gathering in front of

Speaking at the rally, Hasina urged the countrymen to unite in mentalism and free the country

called Group of Four or G4. The G4 proposal calls for increasing council membership from 15 to 25, with six new permanent seats without veto power --- one each for Brazil, Germany, India and Japan and two for the African region,

and four non-permanent seats A two-thirds majority or 128 votes is needed in the 191-member General Assembly for adoption. But the Sankei Shimbun daily said only 90 nations, including Britain and

France, supported the G4 blueprint. The United States, Japan's closest ally, has said it supports Japan's bid but not that of the three others. The G4 proposal is also opposed by China, Japan's regional

rival, and the 53-member African Any of the five current permanent members -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States -could veto the proposals being considered by the UN General

Assembly to expand the council. While Japan will give up its bid for now, the government still sees a permanent UN seat as a major diplomatic goal and plans to expand its UN work through foreign aid and peacekeeping operations, the paper

## **Clarification**

In reference to The Daily Star story headlined "Women's seat in JS: BNP aspirants find nominations costly" and published on August 16. BNP Vice-president Begum Sarwari Rahman sent the following clarifica-

"When I was coming out of the BNP office in Naya Paltan on August 14, a number of reporters came up to me and someone asked me if I have bought the application form for nomination to which I said that I

"His next question was whether applicants will have to contribute Tk 3 lakh towards the party fund it nominated and I said that one will

"The last question was if I had signed the paper saying that I will contribute Tk 3 lakh towards the party fund if nominated to which I answered that I have. I had said nothing beyond this. There were no further questions asked."

## WB support

FROM PAGE 1 support Bangladesh for implement-Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) to alleviate poverty and for carrying out its developmen activities.

This assurance came when the WB president called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office after arriving in Dhaka on a brief

Khaleda sought continued support from the WB for the country's development works and to alleviate poverty. In reply, Wollfowitz said WB will continue its cooperation to overcome the development challenges of Bangladesh.

The WB president highly appreciated Bangladesh's successes in education, health, women empowerment, micorcredit programmes. anti-dowry campaign and eradicating gender discrimination. Woldfowitz termed the 5 percent

economic growth rate of Bangladesh as "wonderful and laudable" He appreciated the PM's personal interest in anti-dowry campaign by sending around 5 lakh

letters to the country's opinion

leaders to mobilise public opinion against it. Khaleda said gender discrimination would soon disappear from Bangladesh as women are now working in different sectors including administration, army and judi-

The WB chief acknowledged that Bangladeshis working in the WB office in Dhaka are performing very

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, PM's Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Siddiqui, ERD Secretary Ismail Zabiullah, Finance Secretary Siddiqur Rahman Chowdhury, WB Alternate Executive Director Zakir Ahmed Khan, WB Vice President of South Asian Region Praful C Patel and WB Country Director Christine Wallich were present, among oth-

### Militants' diaries

FROM PAGE 1 to squeeze out any information from the 11 militants, many local investigators after the countrywide bomb blasts started to believe that the militants were aware of the attack and were taking the training to that

The diaries and notes recovered from the militants carried details on military training on arms, ammunition and detonators, guerrilla warfare and revolutionary Islamic slogans and songs.

One lesson in the diary demonstrates how to make simple and sophisticated bombs, and conditions in which a bomb can injure or kill a man or leave no casualty.

The entries have details on the making of different kinds of bombs like time bomb and remote controlled bomb at different costs, their ingredients, and how to handle them.

The lessons in the diary also include the origin of AK47 rifle, its mechanism and range etc, sources Meanwhile, the Joint

Interrogation Cell (JIC), which gathered virtually no important information except identifying them as disciples of militant linchpin Asadullah Al Galib of the Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh (Ahab) during its seven-day interrogation. is likely to interrogate the militants further soon, the sources said.

## Rotten eggs

actually produced on August 20. The court also found some materials that apparently could be animal fat used

in the bread The court directed the police to shut down the factory and file a case against the owner of the Dhaka bakery under the Special Power Act-1974

Another Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) mobile court raided the kitchen of the Azimpur orphanage and found widespread mismanagement and unhygienic conditions in the kitchen. But the court did not fine impose any fines as no authorities were present.

"We delayed to go there and found nobody to charge fine. But we have found a lot of mismanagement there," said Md. Golam Sarwar, the public analyst of the DCC.

Later, the same court raided popular Kasturi Restaurant and Radhuni Restaurant in the city and collected total Tk 29,000 in fines. The court found both of the restaurants do not maintain hygienic

# Foreign funding

foreign funding, are now big enough to gather funds internally through various

According to the HDRC, these organisations earn about Tk 1,200 crore a year from their business investment.

These militants have invested in a arge number of shrimp farms, using fake names and a good number of cold storages in the south-western region, according to Khulna police. Saudi-based NGO Al Haramaine

Islamic Institute is one such organisation that brought in Tk 20 crore through the NGO Affairs Bureau from 1997 to 2001, its annual report of 2002 said. It was finally banned in September 2002 after the UN listed it as a terror cell Haramaine had Tk 19 crore more in the pipeline to be spent on Islamic education in 38 districts. The police arrested seven foreign citizens of Al Haramaine in September 2002 and later, under a special arrangement with a Middle Eastern country, they were taken to a five-star hotel right from the Dhaka Judge's Court and then put on a flight under strict secrecy.

Militants received funds for madrasas from UAF-based welfare organisations Al Fuzaira and Khairul Ansar Al Khairia, Kuwait-based Doulatul Kuwait and Revival of Islamic Heritage Society and Bahrainbased Doulatul Bahrain, said intelligence sources. The HDRC study said the JMJB,

Arabia, Kuwait and the Muslim World League. Laden's close associate Enam Arnot and his organisation Benevolence International Organisation, which was registered with the NGO Bureau, had bank

accounts in Bangladesh. A UN report

under a programme called 'Operation

Research', received funds from Saudi

said he was a top fundraiser for Laden. Pakistani citizen Mohammad Saiid, who was arrested for attacking poet Shamsur Rahman on January 18, 1999, told police that he received Tk 2 crore and gave it to someone called Bakhtiar. Bakhtiar, when arrested in Sirajganj the same year,

confessed to police that he distributed the money among 421 madrasas for training activists of Harkatul Jihad

Both the militants said Laden had sponsored them to develop madrasa infrastructure

The Korea Times reported on October 13 last year that three Bangladeshis, who were deported to Dhaka from Seoul in April the same year, collected about \$87,000 and sent the money to Jamaat-e-Islami in Bangladesh. The three were members of a Seoul-based Islamic Organisation, Dawatul Islam, Bangladesh embassy in Seoul, however, denied the contents of the

Dr Asadullah Al Galib, a militant now under arrest for attacking different NGOs including Brac and Grameen Bank, had confessed to the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) that he received around Tk 27 crore every year from the Middle East, especially from an organisation called Revival of Islamic Heritage Society (RIHS) of Kuwait. RIHS was registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau on January 11 1996. In his version, Galib spent the funds on the JMB, JMJB and AL Higma, all banned and the first one is suspected to be involved in the August 17 bombings. Since Galib's arrest the government stopped disbursement of funds from RIHS

RIHS was blacklisted by the State Department on September 9, 2002 for funding Islamist terrorists

## BDR man

FROM PAGE 16 The smugglers opened fire on the BDR personnel when the latter barred their way to Bangladesh.

The BDR returned fire, injuring four of the smugglers. They also arrested one of the wounded --Raihan, 22, of Panchbibi village in Joypurhat -- and admitted him to

Hakimpur Health Complex. Subedar Ashraf Ali said a BDR member was critically injured during the shootout

# BDR, BSF call peace

between Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), while one Bangladeshi was gunned down by the BSF members on Kushtia-Daulatpur border early vesterday.

The one and a half hours special meeting reached an agreement on three points--cease firing, withdrawal of the forces and munitions from both sides of the border, and stoppage of dumping sandbags and concrete blocks within 150 yards of the zero line on both sides.

Rajshahi BDR Sector Commander Colonel Rezanur Rahman Khan and Indian Malda BSF Deputy Inspector General Opi Gour met near the Indian Muchia BSF camp at 10:00am. The meeting decided that as per the previous Joint River Commission

(JRC) rules, both the sides will not dump sandbags or construct anything within 150 yards from the zero line, Major Ahmedul Islam, a BDR spokes-In case of bank protection work outside the 150-yard restricted area,

one should be careful so that the flow

of river is not changed, he explained. The meeting took place against the backdrop of two days of gun battle that erupted Friday as the BSF tried to drop sandbags on Indian Mahananda riverbank violating previous agree-

The BDR did not allow the work, but

enterprise, causing the gunfight that left one person injured and a two-day deadlock in the area.

Soon after the meeting ended at around 11:30am, both sides started withdrawing forces deployed along some 10 kilometres of the borde areas, BDR sources said.

The situation is changing for the good," said 28 Rifles Battalion Deputy Assistant Director Belal Uddin. Water Development Board

Superintendent Engineer Abdul Mannan and Executive Engineer Nazmul Haque accompanied the BDR zonal chief as his technical advisors on behalf of the JRC, but they did not attend the meeting. BDNews adds: Azizul Haque, son Shahabuddin of Adabar

hit by bullets fired by the BSF members and died on the spot An Indian citizen Biswanath also received bullet injuries in the incident. The BSF took the body of Azizu

Dharmadah village of Daulatpur, was

and wounded Biswanath to Indian The BDR at a company commander-level meeting Sunday noon urged the BSF to hand over the body

which the latter refused to comply. It was learnt that the BDR might send a letter to the BSF urging them to hold a meeting at the sector com-

mander level. A tense situation was prevailing in the bordering areas.

# JS body blames

The intelligence agencies could have detected the August 17 attackers if they were strengthened with proper training and logistic support. Committee Chairman Mahbubur Rahman told the meeting held at the

said. In the meeting attended by ministers, ruling and opposition lawmakers and chiefs of defence services, the chairman expressed deep concern over the August 17 attacks as well as the failure of the

intelligence agencies to preempt it. The JS body urged the prime minister, who also holds the defence portfolio, to initiate steps to save the country from the grip of the bomb-

The body demanded exemplary action against the culprits involved with the heinous attacks and urged the government to strengthen the intelligence agencies with adequate logistic supports and proper training to make them able to anticipate any

take necessary measures in this regard as it is a matter of national security and national defence as well," the committee chairman, also the former army chief, told reporters after the meeting.
The intelligence agencies should tell whether political interference is

### India rejects FROM PAGE 16

"Statements of this kind undermine efforts to promote the friendly and good neighbourly relations between Bangladesh and India," said the It also recalled that the Indian

government condemned the blasts

as terrorism directed against the

friendly people of Bangladesh and

offered its cooperation in dealing

with this reprehensible act

"Similar incidents happened earlier in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Even within weeks of the held in Islamabad," he added.

Bangladesh of their participation in the Dhaka summit in November. Returning to the bomb blasts again, he said the incident was defi-

Rahman, Advisor for energy ministry and Executive Chairman of Board of Investment Mahmudur Rahman. Foreign Secretary Hemavetuddin and other high officials were present at the

## 'al Qaeda letter' threatens grenade attacks

BDNEWS, Gaibandha

Unidentified people in a letter posted to Gaibandha Press Club in the name of al-Qaeda have threatened to carry out grenade attacks on several people and institutions including the press club in a week.

The letter says a constable of Kotwali Police Station is taking bribes from people and the news

must be carried in the newspapers "If the news is not published, grenade attacks will be made on the Gaibandha Press Club; cars of deputy commissioner, police super and the district judge; Mohila College, Government Boys' and Girls' High Schools, markets, bus terminal and any primary schools in the town in seven days." it adds.

The result will be the same if the constable leaves the town in a week

## BSP, Noab

FROM PAGE 16 Tk 7,000 within one and a half

The joint statement signed by the BSP President Mainul Hosein and Noab President Mahbubul Alam said the C&F price of a tonne of quality newsprint from abroad is between \$590 and \$600, which is equivalent to about Tk 39,000 to Tk 40,000.

While the price of local newsprint is higher than the foreign newsprint, the quality of the former is inferior. the statement said, adding that the newspaper mills cannot provide the required amount of newsprint for the

After paying all the taxes, vat, shipping agency's charge and insurance charge, the real cost of a tonne of imported newsprint stands at Tk 62,000 to 63,000 and taking this opportunity, newsprint mil owners are going on increasing the price of their products, the statement

BSP and Noab urged the government to withdraw import duties on

## Galib

FROM PAGE 16 an announcement through loudspeakers.

A huge number of police and Rapid Action Battalion personnel were deployed on the court premises during the hearing of the bail prayers.

India contradicts FROM PAGE 1 recent border incidents and that BSF personnel fired hundreds of shots at Bangladeshi construction

workers and the BDR.

A press release of the High Commission reiterated that BSF had always acted in a responsible manner to maintain peace and tranguility along the border and did not take any provocative action. The press release was issued in the wake of two days' border skir-

mishes on Friday and Saturday at

Gilabari frontier in Chapainawab-

ganj district when both BDR and BSF were locked in gun battle giving se to a panicky situation along the It said when BDR started dumping cement concrete blocks on August 18 for revetment work near the Gilabari camp, it was objected to by BSF and on the following day the

chief Sheikh Hasina.

FROM PAGE 16 Wolfowitz said in a written statement following his meeting with Leader of the Opposition and Awami League

He expressed sympathy to the families and victims of the grenade attack on an Awami League rally on Bangabandhu Avenue "I have just completed a construc-

benefit of Bangladesh," he said. "I am very pleased to visit Bandladesh and am delighted to have the opportunity to meet with

Sheikh Hasina," he added. Wolfowitz lauded Bangladesh's progress made for the poor in health and education sectors. He particularly praised Bangladesh's success in education for girls and women.

society acting on their own initiative. "Bút much more could be accomplished if all Bangladeshis can unite for the common purpose of helping the poorest people of this country," he added.

"I am here to ensure that the World Bank continues to assist Bangladesh in overcoming these challenges, and that we succeed in building on your success

development goals.
"The World Bank president has discussed the country's overall situation and issues relating to good governance, fundamental rights, rule law and democracy, Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary to Hasina, told reporters after the

gested that the ruling and opposition parties should work together for poverty alleviation. Wolfowitz also discussed issues relating to extra judicial killings with

He said the WB chief has sug-

Saber said they have informed the WB president the opposition should be given minimum opportunity in parliament: otherwise the current mpasse is unlikely to be resolved.

# Cops try to decode

Satkhira and one from Kushtia identified themselves to the cell as operatives of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and admitted to their participation in carrying out the bombings. Yesterday another Kushtia arrestee confessed the

same. Investigators in Dhaka said new arrestees from across the country will be brought in and interrogated at the JIC and the process will be on

On the telephone conversation an intelligence source said they had wiretapped it on Saturday, where "two men were talking in Arabic and Bangla, which seems pretty suspicious to us." The source did not give any

further details about the phone call for the sake of investigation and said they are working to interpret the conversation to find whether it contains anything suspicious or any clue to the blasts Intelligence agencies have been

The source said, "Even if we don't get any clue from this conversation. we'll continue tapping phone calls." Meantime, State Minister for

Home Lutfozzaman Babar yester-

tapping phone calls before and after

the August 17 countrywide blasts.

Galib, detectives said.

"We have evidence that he was involved in the planning of

report says. They are allegedly active members of Harkat-ul-Jihad.

One of the arrestees. Rubel murdered his father Mozaharul Islam, a retired army man, on May 20 last year as he asked him to sever connection with the militant

Khulna says: Police arrested Abdus Salam, a clerk in the Khulna regional office of Jibon Bima Corporation, who confessed to having link to Harkat-ul-Jihad. He also told the police that he had raised funds for Rohingya refugees.

containing information on military

training of the extremist group.

quizzed at the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) in Dhaka, gave shelter to JMB chief Asadullah Al Galib on several occasions, police said. Our Gaibandha correspondent

renorts: Police picked up nine

Moktadir, who is now being

people, who were arrested on August 17 and released later, to the Khulna office of the DIG vesterday.

grenade attacks' AL leader Tofail Ahmed administered the oath, as candles in the

tion leaders addressed a gathering of about 10 thousand people at the

vehicles, including rickshaws, on the adjacent roads Opposition leaders and workers began to gather at the venue since 4:00pm from different parts of the

across the country and urged people to join the opposition movement to oust the 'despotic alliance gov-

Tofail Ahmed, Abdul Jalil, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu, Workers Party Secretary Bimal Biswas, Gono Forum leader Pankaj

Chowdhury, among others, participated in the procession. Meanwhile, special prayers were offered at the houses of those killed in the August 21 grenade attacks.

AL and its left allies brought out similar processions from shaheed

#### FROM PAGE 16 administration officials and commanders in Iraq that the size of the

Among those conditions: an Iraqi coming days; it must be approved in a national referendum; and elections must be held for a new government under that charter.

to Washington from Kansas City. Mo., made no predictions about the pace of political progress in Iraq. But he said he was confident the Army could provide the current number of forces to fight the insurgency for many more years. The 2007-09 rotation he is planning would go beyond President Bush's term in office, which ends in January 2009.

day directed the law enforcement agencies to step up security measures across the country to avert any further bomb attacks.

"The minister has instructed us to keep tight vigilance in the city," Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman said

The ministry in a letter signed by Joint Secretary (Political) Md Abdul Haq also directed the district-level officials to hold regular meetings on law and order situation. Our Khulna correspondent reports: Law enforcers yesterday

continued a manhunt for Sheikh

Rafiqul Islam, a lecturer of Islamic

studies at Paikgachha College,

suspecting his involvement in Wednesday's bombings. Rafigul, who hails from Ghorahati village of Satkhira, has been on the run since Wednesday's

blasts. Member of Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh (Ahab), he is a close relative of Ahab chief Asadullah Al

Wednesday's serial bomb blasts,'

## 14 more held

Our staff correspondent from

Police also seized brochures

Meanwhile, the police seized two passports and a cellphone from the BK Roy Road house of Khulna Ahle Hadith Andolon leader Golam Moktadir, who was arrested last Wednesday night for his suspected involvement in serial bomb explosions in the city.

> Despite repeated attempts, the DIG could not be reached over

> > Our Bogra correspondent

reports: A scheduled meeting of

Awami Jubo League at Sonatala in

Bogra to commemorate the August

21 could not be held as local police

# Thousands march

Tight security measures were taken around the Shaheed Minar premises. Police were checking the

capital. They came in small processions, chanting anti-government Speaking at the rally opposition leaders accused the ruling alliance of being involved in all explosions

ernment' AL Presidium Member Amir Hossain Amu presided over the

rally.
Senior AL leaders Abdur Razzak,
Workers Bhattacharya, AL leaders Kazi Zafrullah, Saber Hossain

minars in different districts at US army planning

US force may be scaled back next year if certain conditions are achieved. constitution must be drafted in

Schoomaker, who spoke aboard an Army jet on the trip back said a Detective Branch official

26. Mosharraf Hossain, 25. Shahjahan Ali, 30, and Sohrab Ali, Our Satkhira correspondent adds: Police yesterday arrested Nazrul Islam, a fugitive, from Kushkhali village in Sadar upazila

nection with the countrywide bomb

blasts on Wednesday. Four of them

were identified as Delwar Hossain,

for his suspected link to Wednesday's blasts. Nazrul had been absconding for long in bank robbery and women

repression cases, police said.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Khulna Range started investigating the allegation that the police released most of the suspected people, who were arrested soon after the August 17 serial bombings, The DIG initiated the probe after

the allegation was brought against

acting Officer-in-Charge of Satkhira

Sadar Police Station Najib in the district law and order committee meeting held on Saturday. Superintendent of Police at Satkhira Abdur Rahim sent the 24

### suspected activists of JMB in conphone for comments.

hands of people lighted the area. Prior to the procession, opposi-

> imposed Section 144 in the area Police imposed the section after local unit of ruling BNP's youth front Jubo Dal had announced to hold a rally at the same venue at the same Our Mymensingh correspondent reports: Mymensingh Awami

5:22pm

League (AL) and its front organisations formed a human chain on Ganginar Paar Road to mark the first anniversary of the August 21 grenade attacks.

Later, a procession was brought

out that paraded the main roads of

#### The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) formed a separate human chain át Feroz-Jahangir Square yesterday afternoon.

Govt

condemns FROM PAGE 1 yesterday in a handout sent to news paper offices termed the blasts 'an attack on our independence and

tolerant society'.

Although the countrymen passed tense hours after the explosions in 63 of the country's 64 districts, the latest in a series of bomb and grenade attacks over the last few years, the government came up with the condemnation only yesterday.
"The bombing incidents in many

parts of the country on August 17, 2005

has been condemned by the govern-

ment and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia

sovereignty, on our democratic values

and beliefs and on our image of being a

herself in the strongest terms," reads the handout. "It was also an attack on all Bangladeshi citizens irrespective of religious faiths and political beliefs.

The government has taken the matter most seriously and is determined to find out the criminals who carried out the acts and also those who had planned the operations from behind the scenes, said the PID handout, adding that the PM has ordered a thorough investigation and actions are already underway to find out the actual criminals and their mentors involved in this heinous crime.

"It is too early in the investigations to

go into speculations and therefore it is best that none should engage in a blame game," it said, urging all political parties and the civil society to help the government in the investigation. "We would like to assure the inter national community that the

Government will spare no effort to keep Bangladesh a society free of extremism and violence," said the govern-

# the Indians still continued with their

Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, sources

threat to national security. "We urged the prime minister to

responsible for their failure to discharge their duties and detect the August 17 attackers, committee member and Awami League law-maker Shawkat Ali told The Daily

> nitely done by professional hands. say they were successful.

Asked whether he admits the failure of the intelligence agencies, Morshed obliquely replied, "I cannot Advisor for foreign ministry Reaz

#### observed that audit objections remain unresolved due to lack of coordination between the Defence Ministry and Armed Forces Division.

the incident.

Morshed intelligence help, if needed, to unearth

He said some 63 subcommittees

were formed for the 63 districts where

this regard, he said no one will be spared whatever their political or religious affiliation may be. Asked if the incident will cast any negative impact on the 13th Saarc

Summit scheduled for November 12-

13 in Dhaka, he said, "I don't see any

reason why the Saarc Summit should

be a victim of this blast."

Morshed said the Saarc member

#### Star after the meeting. The parliamentary body also discussed a number of audit objections on defence purchase and

bombs exploded and that one commit tee will submit its report soon. About the government's position in

Pakistani president's life came under danger, the 12th Saarc Summit was countries, including current Saarc Chairman and Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, reassured

border.

Wolfowitz

tive dialogue with Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, Her party is working with others towards the

He said much of that progress has been accomplished by elements of

He told Hasina the WB intends to remain an active partner of Bangladesh in working to achieve its

the leader of the opposition, he added.

World Bank Country Representative Christina Wallich among others, was present.

#### BSF again lodged protest with the BDR. But the BDR troops fired, the Central Shaheed Minar. BSF troops retaliated, it added.