'Serial blasts planned

"We are looking into the statements. These are very vital clues, said the official, adding, "We are trying to arrest Abdul Malek, the Hadith's information centre at He may give us some significant

He said Kuwait-based NGO RIHS was one of the key sources of funds needed for staging the nearsimultaneous explosions across the country.

cies have recommended banning RIHS for financing the Islamist militants in the country.

In a report prepared to suggest ways and means to root out militancy, the agencies have advised organisation, as it seems to be more concerned with promoting militancy

ut Turaj, had been accused of rearing Islamist extremists also in Pakistan and Afghanistan. It provided funds to Tawhid Trust and Hadith Foundation, both legally and illegally. Both the recipient organisations were founded by militant

in jail, and his organisation Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh (Ahab) had been channelling funds to JMB, blamed for the August 17 blitz. Following statements from Noor.

Habib and Shamsul, police raided Ahle Hadith Library and Information centre at Nagheswari on Wednesday and recovered six books titled "Islam ebong Attaghati Mussalman [Islam and suicidal Muslims]". But caretaker Abdul

Nageshwari house of Abu Bakar, a Oikya Andolon, and recovered banners and leaflets championing Islamic movement and documents of RIHS.

Our Correspondent from Raishahi adds: JMB leaders and activists plan to rename their outfit Jama'atul Mudar'resin (group of teachers) Bangladesh in response

They have also handpicked 50 people from across the country to form a suicide squad.

The organisation will soon have its women wing and 28 women educated in Qur'an and Hadith are already out across six divisions to collect members, said a source

known among the party members as Khadiza, Ferdousi, Aklima Jaifun and Razifa

A group of some 20 male teachers of madrasa who have experience in militant warfare abroad are

Saifullah and Didarul (Chittagong) Abdus Sattar and Zakir (Satkhira) Matiur (Narail), Rohidul (Jamalpur), Abdul kuddus (Cox's Bazar), Abdul Malek (Gaibandha) and Abdur Rahim (Chapainawabganj).

admitted their involvement in carrying out bomb attacks in the port city on August 17.

During an interrogation by Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) in Chittagong, Sattar Molla said he had carried the bomb that went off on Port Connecting Road, one of the city's 18 spots where the blasts took

Chittagong on August 15 to supervise the blasts in Comilla. Sattar and Arshadul said they

had planned the operation at meetings held at Ahle Hadith Jam-e-Mosque and Darul Hadith Salachhia Madrasa at Jhautala, sources said.

The two told the JIC team that Siddiqul Islam alias Bangla Bhai had taken the charge of the militant organisations in Chittagong some three years back. During this period, he had visited Chittagong on numerous occasions.

Intelligence agencies arrested Arshadul inside the Ahle Hadith Mosque and Madrasa on Tuesday night, following leads extracted from Sattar Molla.

Sattar, guard of the madrasa was arrested in adjoining Sardar Bahadur Nagor area in the morning the same day. A five-member committee led by Deputy Commissioner (Port) Ali Akber Khan of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) was interrogating Arshadul, Sattar, and the other three--Sadrul Alam Jahangir Alam, and Ahmad --at CMP Detective Branch office.

Sadrul, nephew of JMB leader Galib, is the president of Chittagong

The JIC team that also has representatives from Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), National Security Intelligence (NSI), SB and other intelligence agencies could not obtain anything significant from Sadrul, Jahangir, and Ahmad as of yesterday.

Our correspondent from Khulna reports: Detective police yesterday arrested two suspected activists of Hijbullah Bangladesh in Daulatpur

The arrestees were identified as Mamun, 28, and Selim, 25. Both are cousins of City BNP leader Khairuzzaman Khoka who is also the commissioner ward No 10 of Khulna City Corporation.

Zahir Chowdhury, assistant commissioner of DB of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP), said the two have long been involved in militant activities in favour of Hijbullah Party. They are students of city's Daulatpur Day and Night College, he added.

MASUD REALEASED FROM

Detained former Islamic Foundation director Moulana Fariduddin Masud was released from Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) at 3:45am yester-

He was admitted to the hospital on Thursday night following complaints of pain in the chest. Doctors at the DMCH found him to have developed high blood pressure. They suggested he take rest, hospital sources said.

Masud is now on an eight-day remand in a case filed with Airport Police Station for the August 17

News agency UNB from Bagerhat reports: Four people including a superintendent of a madrasa-cum-orphanage were arrested early yesterday in Bagerhat for suspected links to the August 17 explosions

Police said the four were arrested at their houses following a statement given by Abdullah Al Murshed, a teacher of Al Markajul Islam Al Shafi Madrasa and Orphanage. Murshed was arrested last week in connection with the explosions.

Police conducted a raid at village Dhakirkanda under Mongla Police Station in the early hours yesterday and arrested Jubair Hossain Dhali, superintendent of the madrasa along with his two brothers, Asadullah Dhali, 14, and Yusuf Dhali, 25. The other one, Mullah Mohsin, was held in village Khankhoria under the same police station.

Farlier, police arrested 12 suspects following the cross-country blasts and of them, 10 were released after interrogation.

Top Chuadanga outlaw held in Sonargaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Amirul Islam alias 'Shutki' Amir, local commander of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddha) Alamdanga unit under Chuadanga district, was arrested in Sonargaon of Narayanganj yester-

He had been hiding at Loknath Brahmachari Asram in Bardi Union of Sonargoan upazila in the guise of a construction worker.

Acting on a tip-off, the Detective Branch (DB) of police, Narayanganj, arrested him at the asram yesterday

He was later handed over to Chuadanga police. Police said Amir is an accused in

12 criminal cases, including five for murder, filed with Alamdanga Police Station.

Narayanganj district police superintendent (SP) said Amir had been absconding in Sonargoan since police intensified the anticrime drive in Chuadanga.

Saddam

FROM PAGE 16 Baghdad, where he had been the

target of a failed assassination bid. Saddam could face the death penalty.

Earlier this week, the government announced that three convicted murderers were hanged, marking the first executions since Saddam was toppled.

Arms flow

ammunition in the last two years The seizure includes anti-air rocket launchers, anti-tank and antipersonnel mines, heavy explosives, rifles like AK47, M16, M69, LMG SMG, SMC, shotguns and sophisticated pistols.

Army sources said the weapons n the last two arms hauls were brand new, while the previously seized ones were used.

The magazines of the AK47 seized on Thursday were novel. 'These magazines are drum-like and round, unusual to the earlier recoveries." said a source. The seizures indicate smugglers

and militants use the remote hilly forest areas, which have 288kilometre-long border with Mvanmar, as a route for smuggling and place for hoarding arms and ammunition. Sources said a strong network of

arms smugglers from China. Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar uses the Rakhine and Rohingya rebels of Myanmar to take this route as a transit point.

Locals allege two organisations Rohingya Solitary Organisation
(RSO) and Rohingya Nationalist Organisation (RNO) -- are active in

The law enforcers and security orces have recovered huge quantity of arms, but could not arrest too many of the gunrunners.

The forces however arrested 30 foreign nationals from June 17 until August this year and seized 24 AK47 rifles, 33 foreign pistols, thirteen .303 rifles, eight other rifles one heavy machine gun, one SMC one sack and two carton of TNT explosives, six rocket shells, four grenades, 33,000 bullets, four walkie-talkies, two hand micro-phones, 20 military uniforms and other military accessories.

Although the forces repeatedly denied existence of dens of foreian militants inside Bangladesh, they had three battles with the terrorists in June this year. They even did not disclose the identities of the arrestees.

Sources said the border areas cannot be made secure with only 18 BOPs (border observation post) on the 112-kilometre-long border with Myanmar along Bandarban. They said the district administra-

tion had repeatedly expressed its limitations and asked the government to increase the BOPs in vein.

JCD cadres

FROM PAGE 1

2:15am in search of JU BCU convenor Rakibul Alam Rusho, sources said.

Not finding him, they beat up Azad. Sumit Kumar Chanda, Shateel Kabir and Ashraful Alam Chanchal, third year final examinees of Drama and Dramatics, and vandalised a computer set and cell phone sets they found in the room.

Rusho ran to the third floor of the hall and took shelter in a friend's room where the attackers followed him and mercilessly beat with iron rods, hockey sticks. hammer and sharp weapons until he collapsed on the ground.

They also stabbed above the heels in an attempt to cut his tendons but failed as general students and other JCD activists thronged the scene and caught hold of the

College and Hospital from where he was shifted to Health and Hope Hospital in Dhaka. His condition is stated to be critical.

The other injured were given first aid at the university medical centre. Meanwhile, Sumon, one of the

attackers, who was beaten up by the hall JCD activists, was admitted to Enam Medical College Hospital. Later, Proctor Prof Kamrul Ahsan took

charge of the attackers and released them shortly afterwards.

Hall Provost AKM Shahnawaz at an emergency meeting yesterday formed a three-member probe body that was asked to submit report by September 9.

leaning student organisations fear that the way the group made the attack might be an indication of ICS's attempt to revive its activities on the campus.



Paribesh Banchao Andolon and Jana Udyog form a human chain at Shahbagh in the capital yesterday demanding formulation of consumers' rights preservation and pure food laws.

Asia overtakes ME

few years.
"Down the road there is always the prospect they would build substantial relationship with other Asian nations ... (the market is now) limited in many ways to two primary

In Southeast Asia, Russia has had some success in securing arms agreements with Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia Russia ranked first in Asian arms

deliveries in the 2001-2004 period with 14.1 billion dollars, followed by 9.6 billion dollars by the United

"Russian leaders have made important efforts, in recent years, to provide more flexible and creative financing and payment options for prospective arms clients," the report "It has also agreed to engage in countertrade, offsets, debt-swapping,

licensed production agreements in order to sell its weapons. The willingness to license production has been a central element in some deals with China and India.

and, in key cases, to make significant

Russia has sold major combat fighter aircraft, and main battle tanks to India, and has provided other major weapons systems though lease or licenced producIn 2004, Russia concluded a

major agreement with India for the transfer of the aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov, together with 12 MiG fighters, four MiG training jets, as well as six to eight Helix helicopters for about 1.5 billion dollars.

China, however, continues to be a central client for Russias arms export program, particularly in aircraft and naval systems.

In 2004, Russia sold China air defense missile systems for nearly one billion dollars. It also concluded a 900 million dollars agreement with China for engines for the Chinese J

Outlaws kill FROM PAGE 16

nearby, slit his throat and then dumped the body into a roadside

Locals found the body in the morning and informed the police. They (police) recovered the body and sent it to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital for an autopsy. Police quoted family sources as

saying that Thandu had a rivalry with the outlaws who had earlier threatened to kill him. Police could not arrest any of the

killers as of 6:30pm yesterday

Harrowing tales

parents. he notes.

parents handed him to Nurunnabi and Ratna for taking him to Abu Dhabi. Only he was directed to call them "Abba" and "Amma' (father and mother), Azad recalls. The BNWLA authority is vet to

discover whether Azad's real parents gave their son willingly or he Nurunnabi and his wife along with Azad and some other children and their parents first went to India

and stayed there for a few days. Azad, however, cannot remember the name of the state. Azad, his fake parents and their son went to Abu Dhabi separately and stayed at a room of Ratna's sister. More sisters of Ratna had been

living in Abu Dhabi since long, according to Azad.

A few days later, an Arab man named Ali Diliti--as Azad pronounced it--took him to his house by a car. The man handed Azad over to another Arab, who put him on the back of a camel as soon as he arrived his home.

"I was very happy to sit on the camel's back, but the accident took place when the animal started running. I fell down. The Arab man beat me and again put me on the camel's back, but I was so frightened that I fell down again." Azad narrates his first experience on a camel's back.

"He then tied me with a tree and beat me severely. Blood oozed out the cut skin," he says. "At one stage my employer Ali Diliti took me to his house where I was in bed for two weeks to be cured."

Azad savs the Arab man also used to beat him if he failed to become first in a race and gave him very little food to keep him light. There were more children from Pakistan and Sudan with Azad. They had to take part in camel races for different competitors--the employer and his friends.

"I also had to look after the camels, train them by running them for 20-40 kilometres. I had little time to sleep," Azad recalls his days of camel jockeying that became quite a habit within a few months.

But crueler was racing against a speedy car. "Some Arabs would drive cars and force us to race against them. We had no choice as they would whip us mercilessly if we disobeyed," Azad says. Overwork and lack of nutrition

have taken its toll on the little boy. In his sickly-looking, skinny frame, 20year-old Azad hardly looks more The authorities working on human trafficking say boys are often

injected drugs to hinder physical growth in a bid to prolong their work period. A camel cannot run fast when boys become heavy. Azad worked under Áli Diliti for four years

whenever I went to Amma's resi-

dence and would urge her to send

"I could not control my tears

incite threats which are aimed to stifling the media." said Warren. Seven journalists from different media organisations received death threats via post in Bagerhat on

Zamin, Ahad Haider of the Prothom Alo, Rob Molla of the Janmabhumi, Babul Sarder of the Janakantha, Nihar Saha of News Network of Bangladesh (NNB), Zakaria Mahmud of the Amar Desh and Azadul Hug of the Sangbad received separate threat letters.

Besides, Rifat Bin Taha, a journalist of the Janakantha, received a verbal death threat for his report on militants in Narail district.

Fear of floods tors, I think the possibility is remote

that there will be any severe flooding this year after September 10," he added

He, however, said waters coming from the upstream during the rest of the monsoon may submerge some areas close to the capital.

Meanwhile, the FFWC yesterday forecast that the low-lying areas in and around Demra may continue to remain inundated for some more The flood situation in Rajbari and

Munshiganj districts is likely to worsen while that in Manikganj and Chandpur may improve, it said. The rivers in Brahmaputra basin

are flowing below danger levels except the Jamuna at Aricha and the Balu at Demra. In the Ganges basin, the Padma at Pankha, Goalando and Bhagyakul, and the Gorai at Kamarkhali were flowing above danger marks. In the Meghna basin, all the rivers are flowing below danger

Chandpur while the water levels in the rivers of Southeast hill basin were normal Out of 86 monitoring points, 28 points marked rise in water level, 42

levels except the Lower Meghna at

fall while waters at two points remained steady. According to the FFWC sources, light to moderately heavy rainfal was recorded in some places across the country during the last 24

hours ending at 9.00am yesterday. During the same period, rainfall in Rangamati was recorded at 65mm while in Bhairah Bazar it was 36 mm and in Tangail 25.5 mm, the sources added.

4 suspecs held

FROM PAGE 16

The attack has created a sense of fear and resentment among the government high officials. About 30 high officials including two secretaries called Kuddus from Dhaka yesterday to enquire about

Earlier on Thursday, four masked assailants broke into his Panchlaish government quarters and stabbed him indiscriminatelyataround 3:30am.

Kuddus, also district and sessions

judge of the Chittagong Hill Tracts districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban, served as the returning officer of the May 9 Chittagong mayoral

20 AK47 rifles

FROM PAGE 1 bullets buried in a sack at a hill at around 5:30pm.

They continued with the operation and dug out the AK47s from another hill at around 8:30pm. The forces also recovered 50

magazines of AK47 rifle, 18 oilcans and 27 cleaning kits from the spot, but could not arrest anyone in connection with the seizure. Rab sources suspect smugglers of

the arms and ammunition fled, sensing the presence of the ioint team. The seized arms cache was

brought to Patenga Rab-7 Headquarters yesterday morning. The weapons and ammunition were to be handed over to Naikhangchhar Police Station, the sources added. Talking to reporters, Rab-7

Commanding Officer Lt Col Quazi

Emdadul Haq said the arms cache might have been smuggled into the country by tribal criminals from neighbouring Myanmar, China or any other country. The destination of these weap-

ons might be any part of the country for committing crimes, he said. The recovered firearms and ammunition could have equipped a band of terrorists to match a huge contingent of trained force, he added.

Essentials

must respect the freedom of the FROM PAGE 1 press and should not condone or

previous week's price. At Karwan Bazar, per kg hapai pari was selling at Tk 18, Nazirshail at Tk 20 and Minikit at Tk 22.

may rise further in the coming month due to Ramadan," said Shafiqul Islam, a trader in Karwan Bazar. "The cattle traders have to

depend on cattle brought from India to meet the local demand. During last few weeks the supply of cattle in Dhaka has dropped leading to the price hike of beef and mutton," the trader said

gone beyond the purchasing capacof middle class people, Azizul Haque, a buyer at Mirpur kitchen market said, adding that he dreads to think about the possible price hike of fish and meat in the upcoming

Judges in politics

Besides, the government started appointing the judges on political consideration, extended their tenures, and the judges also started counting years to be the chief justice.

Thus with the political attitude of the judges, total judiciary is losing public trust," he said, adding that the government, on the other hand, is not aking steps to separate the judiciary. Stressing the importance of the 14-party reform proposals on care-

taker government, he said the option of appointing the chief of the caretaker government a person other than the chief justice is more democratic, liberal and acceptable in the parliamentary democracy. It is mysterious that the govern-

ment took time on 24 occasions during the last four years of its tenure for the separation of the judiciary, but made no progress, eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain said. Criticising the law minister's

silence about the probe of debatable appointment of judge Fayzee, he said Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) sent a letter to the president following the High Court's reference to form a supreme judicial court in that regard, but the law ministry is yet to take any step in three months.

The government is not committed to developing the law and order situation in the country, he said. "Why should the home ministry be

run by a state minister?" he said. He also questioned the role of parliament when it does not hold the ministers accountable for their failures to fulfil the promises that the government made before elections

This is because the MPs are not elected through legal means. The party sold their nominations at a high orice to the businessmen who cannot make policies for the country," he said.

SCBA President Mahbubey Alam regretted that the educated people do not come to politics due to its criminalisation and commerciali-"Unless and until the caretaker

He urged for reforms of electoral process and demanded declaration of the assets and liabilities of the lawmakers before their elections. On the appointment of the chief

advisor of the caretaker government,

he said there are at least 100 people

government and the electoral pro-

cess are reformed, the country

cannot be free from such crimes," he

imperialism and expansionism to repress the revolutionary cause of the oppressed people in Nepal and India," it said.

in the country who deserve to be acceptable to all the political parties.

not willing to accept this proposal

other than the present options for the

caretaker government in the constitu-

tion, as they want to place its partisan

person in that post," he added. Justice Nizamul Haque Nasim

esented the keynote paper, while

Bangladesh Bar Council Executive

Committee Chairman Yusuf Hossain

Humayun and advocate ZI Khan

Panna spoke at the seminar moder-

ated by advocate Ruhul Kuddus

Indian, Nepali

late on Thursday.
"We two Maoist parties solemnly

appeal to the entire oppressed

masses, the world over, and Nepal

and India in particular, to raise their

voice against every evil design of

Kathmandu says that Nepali

"But the present government is

Maoists, fighting since 1996 to replace the Hindu monarchy with a communist republic in Nepal, receive support from Indian Maoist groups fighting for the rights of landless neasants.

Indian security agencies have also been worried about Maoists in the two countries working together and blame them for several raids on Indian police stations on the India-Nepal frontier. The nine-year insurgency has

killed more than 12,500 people in

Nepal, while more than 6,000 people

have died in the decades-old Maoist campaign in India. Nepal's King Gyanendra sacked the government and seized power in February, accusing politicians of failing to crush the Maoist revolt. But violence has continued unabated in

between India and China. Last month, India's southern state of Andhra Pradesh outlawed the Communist Party of India (Maoist), led by Ganapathy, after the leftist extremsts killed 10 people, including a provincial lawmaker and a bureaucrat.

the mountainous country wedged

The rebels remain active in Andhra Pradesh and about half a dozen other Indian states.

Born 15 years ago

Daily Star.

meeting since its formation." Asked about the NSC, former

cabinet secretary and incumbent Agriculture Minister MK Anwar told The Daily Star he is not aware of such a council The existence of the country's

prime minister thus remains in the dark, prompting demands for formation of an NSC in the wake of the recent bomb attacks. Senior defence ministry officials could not say the date of the coun-

top security body headed by the

ignorance about it. "I've come to know for the first time from you about existence of such a security body," a senior official serving the defence ministry for over seven years told The Daily

cil's inception, expressing their

Star reporter. Security analysts blame this situation on the successive governments' policy of denial of threats to national security.

making the NSC functional on emergency basis in the wake of the August 17 countrywide explosions. The analysts also raised the

question as to who advises the

They stressed the need for

prime minister on national security in absence of an effective council. Other South Asian countries like India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have made their NSCs effective and hold

security These NSCs even review the current security and political situations in neighbouring countries and their implications for national security and bilateral relations. The structure of the NSC, formed at the end of the Ershad regime, was changed on several occasions in

regular meetings to ensure national

the last 15 years. Currently, the NSC has 24 members, but no government took steps to make the council functional. A number of government high-

ups, who were in service during the Ershad regime, expressed their views to The Daily Star. They said NSC failed to become functional as the initiative drew flak from different quarters since Ershad

had planned to launch the council

with jurisdiction to review any cabinet decision. After the fall of the military ruler. the NSC took a different shape during the previous governments of

the BNP and the Awami League. The NSC was recast to be headed by the prime minister and dominated by policymakers, and it also followed the practices of other democratic countries.

In the present structure, though only in book, the prime minister is the council head and a number of senior ministers including the finance, foreign, home, defence, industries ministers and the chiefs of three armed forces are members. The NSC in the South Asian

countries has become a significant department with separate secretaries to advise security affairs Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur

Rahman, also defence advisor to the prime minister, said the NSC should be activated immediately in the wake of the August 17 blasts. "A meeting of the council should be convened on emergency basis to

assess the threats to national secu-

rity," Mahbubur, also chairman of

the parliamentary standing commit-

Well-known security analyst Maj Gen (retd) Syed Mohammad Ibrahim said the NSC is required so that a group of professionals can objectively assess the security situation and advise on it.

"Security does not mean only external aggression, it also means problems or situations which leave the lives of citizens individually or collectively, environmentally, politi-

"Such professionals may come from various disciplines, in no way only from military service. It has nothing to do with the unpopular

ants eat away furniture, drink away milk [from the milk pot in village

houses] while unguarded. "We have enemies within our politics and security situation, and the surprising reality is we don't want to recognise it.

ODI series

FROM PAGE 1 Tharanga, who notched his first ODI fifty in the first match two days ago. was dropped on 13 by Manjarul Islam at second slip off the bowling of Tapash Baisya, spoiled Bashar's

plan to use the overcast conditions.

looked back and shared two signifi-

The lanky southpaw never

cant partnerships to set the tone for a huge total. He added exactly 100 with Sanath Javasuriva (40 off 45 balls) inside the first 15 overs and put on further 71 with Tillakarate Dilshan (27) before completing the magic three-figure mark in 104 deliveries. Atired Tharanga, adjudged manof-the-match, was stumped by

wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud off Mohammad Rafique soon after his hundred. But captain Marvan Atapattu, whose unbeaten 43-ball 53 -- his back-to-back fifty in the series -- in association with Mahela Jayawardene (23 off 18 balls) saw the hosts rattle 50 runs in the final five overs.

Shahriar Nafees led the Tigers' chase but the young left-hander, who made his second half-century really did not get any help.

The opener, fresh from his top-

scoring innings of 39 at the SSC ground, made 51 off 83 balls. He smacked a tossed-up ball by off-spinner Dilshan to mid-wicket to

bring his half-century with four boundaries but in the next over skied the same bowler to Muttiah Muralitharan's safe hands at the same region while trying to force another one on the back foot.

escalating run-rate. The next match is on Sunday.

in Nagheshwari upazila of Kurigram on Monday.

man who looks after the Ahle Nagheshwari in absence of Ataur. leads to the investigation."

Recently, the intelligence agen-

the government to close down the than protecting Islamic heritage observed an intelligence source. The agencies found that the NGO. also known as Jomiatul Ehya-

kingpin Asadullah Al Galib Intelligence men said Galib, now

Malek managed to evade capture. Police also raided the Dhaka city unit leader of Islami

to the ban on the militant group.

within JMB. Some of the female trainers are

planning to train some 200 students. Some of the trainers will be known (during the training period) as Habibur Rahman (Sherpur), Sharifullah (Comilla), Atikul (Bogra),

Our Staff correspondent from Chittagong reports: Abdus Sattar Molla and Arshadul Alam, two of the five people detained for suspected links to the serial blasts, vesterday

Arshadul told JIC that he left

al-Qaeda claims

talk to you in a language that you understand. Our words are dead until we give them life with our blood." The two men did not appear together in the tape instead, shots of each were edited together and al-Zawahri did not mention Khan. A newscaster on al-Jazeera, which aired the tape, said Khan's last "will" came as part of a long tape that consisted mostly of al-Zawahri

But the association of the al-Qaeda leader and the 30-year-old suicide bomber was the strongest link yet of a role by the terror organisation in the attacks on three subway trains and a double-decker bus, which killed 56 people.

It was not clear where or how long before the July 7 bombings the tape of Khan had been made Khan did not claim responsibility in the tape for the impending bomb-

ings in the name of al-Qaeda. But he

said he was inspired by al-Zawahri.

by al-Qaeda leader Osama bin

Laden, and by the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq, Abu-Musab al-Zarqawi 'Until we feel security, you will be our targets." he said, addressing himself to Westerners. "Until you will stop the bombing, gassing, imprisonment and torture of my people, we will not stop this fight."

Apparently foreshadowing his plan to die, he said: "I'm sure by now the media has painted a suitable picture of me. Its predictable propa-

ganda machine naturally will tack a spin on things to suit the government and scare the masses to

conform to their power- and wealth-

obsessed agenda.

and appeared to be sitting against a wall lined with an ornate carpet. In his remarks, al-Zawahri did not say outright that his terror group carried out the bombings but said the attacks were a direct response Britain's foreign policies and its

offered Europe in April 2004. He threatened the West with "more catastrophes" in retaliation for the policies of President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony

Bangladeshi farmers' production cost of rice is 62 percent higher than that in Thailand, said the ministry sources, attributing this to high irrigation and fertiliser costs.

aggregate value of annual farm

output while the World Trade

Organisation's rules permit up to 10

percent subsidy.

FROM PAGE 16 of India, according to the MoA records.

Fuel price

Farm subsidies in Bangladesh stand at only 3.3 percent of the

Khan spoke with a heavy Yorkshire accent, sported a trimmed beard, wore a red-and-white checked keffiyeh and a dark jacket

Rusho was taken to Dhaka Medical rejection of a truce that al-Qaeda

General activists of JCD and left-

me back home. But she wouldn't listen to me," Azad narrates in tearful eves. Moreover, the monthly salary of 400 dirham he was supposed to get was given to his fake

One day Azad collected a mobile phone number from Ratna's house to contact his mother in stant appeal, Ratna sent him to another employer. One day in 2000, the young lad fled this second employer's house and started working under another

person. "But somehow my fake

mother came to know of my where-

abouts. She came to me and threatened me saying she would tell the police if I don't go with her." Ratna, however, had to go back as Azad lashed back at her that the police will not arrest him but her. One and half years later, Azad went back to his second employer as he had assured him of a better salary of 500 dirham. "I began sending money to my mother." he

told The Daily Star at the BNWLA home on Monday. There he only looked after the camels and did not take part in the race. "I used to spend rest of the

money on talking to my mother in

This year after the UAE govern-

Bangladesh," he says

ment directed all its citizens to release the Bangladeshi camel iockeys, his employer sent him to a deportation cell in Abu Dhabi from where he was flown back home. The youth, who never went to school before going to Abu Dhabi,

now dreams of being educated and

a free life. "I am happy now...my mother came to visit me here. I will be with my parents very soon and go to school," Azad says. "I want the people, who took me and others for employing as camel jockeys, be punished for our sufferings.

IFJ concerned FROM PAGE 1

"The prices of mutton and beef August 24, which warned them not to write against an MP. Hasanul Qaiyum of the Manab

The prices of fish have already

tee on the defence ministry, told The

cally or economically insecure.

event of martial law."

On the government policy of denial of the threat to national security, he said, "The situation in Bangladesh can be compared to the household scenario where white

Javed Omar (18) and Aftab Ahmed (18) were dismissed when they looked like being set. Rafique was promoted to provide some big hitting and Mohammad Ashraful (31), Bashar (41 not out) and supersub Tushar Imran (31) also got starts but their efforts were not enough to meet the demand of the