Massive hunt for more Hasina

A highly placed PBCP man

identifying him as a 'responsible

comrade' said they have listed a few

dozen people remain intent on

hampering their 'struggle for com-

hinted that accomplices of Bangla Bhai, sources of different law

enforcement agencies, aides to

police and civil administration, and

law enforcers active against PBCP

Joypurhat, and from now on, many

such incidents would follow across

the country", he said, referring to

latest the slaying of the vigilante

enforcement agencies, considering

time and opportunities," he said,

adding that they have gathered

strength enough to attain their

squads in every targeted operation

areas. Our comrades are ready

even to die when they go out on an

meetings to devise ways to motivate

villagers to help them during their

operations as they (villagers) did

some 50 members trained in quer-

rilla warfare from Nepal and Bhutan.

worked with Bangla Bhai last year

said they have already taken prepa-

ings regularly and are in touch with

mujahids [Islamic guerrillas] of the

rear their heads again. We will do

whatever we've got to do to thwart

the tentacles of the outlaws. The law

enforcers will help us like they did

papers have reported that Bangla

Bhai's men roam freely in Bagmara

of Raishahi and Atrai in Naogaon

and carry on the organisational

activities. Movement of the out-

lawed party operatives was also

agencies here told that they have

beefed up the security for the politi-

cians who have repeatedly been

adds: Police on Thursday night

arrested Belal Hossain and

Mohammad Ali, two students of

Charmonai Madrasa at Barisal

two were snapping a launch.

angles at about 8:00pm.

the photographs.

procession in the city.

US, UK

FROM PAGE 16

They made the arrest while the

Barisal Kotwali and river traffic

police said they arrested the

madrasa students and seized their

camera as they were taking photo-

graphs of Suravi-7, a Dhaka-bound

triple-decked launch, from different

large vessel decorated with bright

lights had tempted them into taking

clothes policemen remained on high

mosque areas following rumours

that militants of JMB might come to

leaflet the mosques and bring out a

Palestinians, and referred to those

countries as "these terrorist

bomber pilots came, unopposed,

safe in their state of the art aircraft

pressing buttons to drop bombs, to

kill and maim," Mahathir said. "Who

are the terrorists? The people below

who were bombed or the bombers?

Whose rights have been snatched

was no tally of Iraqi deaths while

every killing of US soldiers is docu-

mented. "These are soldiers who

must expect to be killed. But the

Iragis who die of the US action or the

civil war in Iraq are civilians who

under the dictatorship of Saddam

Bruce Cleghorn and several uniden-

tified US officials attending the

conference walked out midway

Justice Faizee

Earlier, Justice Faizee said Juma

prayers at a Paindong mosque and

met local journalists at upazila sadar

bungalow. He asked Upazila

Nirbahi Officer Khorshed Alam to

about 35km off the upazila head-

quarters, and spoke there for five

minutes. He assured locals of his

initiatives to renovate the dilapi-

Justice Faizee also attended the

marriage ceremony of Assistant

General Secretary of upazila unit

and President of Dantmara union

unit Jubo Dal Shafiul Azam

Chowdhury at Dantmara and went

Justice Faizee hails from

to the groom's village home.

Bhaktapur union in Fatikchhari.

He paid a brief visit to Kazirhat,

take steps to set up a press club.

British High Commissioner

Hussein would be alive."

through Mahathir's speech.

FROM PAGE 16

feeling insecure.

dated roads there.

He also questioned why there

"The British and American

Meanwhile, uniformed and plain-

in the city particularly in

The arrestees claimed that the

Our correspondent from Barisal

threatened.

launch station.

Top officials of law enforcement

Meanwhile, several local news-

rations to face the outlaws.

neighbouring districts.

According to him, they have held

Recently, the PBCP has had

A source inside JMB who also

He said they are holding meet-

"We will not let the Sarbaharas

operation," he observed.

"We have formed guerrilla

"Attacks will be made on the law

"We have just started from

may be included in the list.

leader's accomplice.

He did not name anyone but

massive hunt to arrest Ataur, known to his fellow militants as Hasan, Sunny and Abdus Samad, who rented the South Goran house, a few months ago. They (law enforcers) believe the mystery behind the August 17 bombings could be fully unearthed when they are arrested.

The other militants also use several names tohide their iden-

Rab officials said Ataur alias Hassan used to visit the East Bashabo house but never stayed at night. Ataur might have rented the South Goran house, using the name Samad.

Locals said some unknown people used to come to the South Goran house on motorcycles and bicycles. They always kept the door closed.

Rab sources also said Ataur might have rented some more houses in other areas of the capital and used those as hideouts of the militants.

A joint team of Rab and police on Thursday raided the East Bashabo house acting on information from JMB leader Shamim. son of former Habiganj district ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Rab intelligence unit had tapped the mobile phone of Ataur when he was talking to Shamim. Later police arrested Shamim

ARRESTEES REMANDED

DB police yesterday took two arrestees -- Shammi Akhter, wife of Samad, and domestic help Lokman -- on a seven-day remand. The two were nabbed from the East Goran House with 62 items including explosive substances, books, CDs, wires and bomb making materials.

Khilgaon police yesterday produced the two before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate seeking a 10-day remand under the Explosive Substances Act but the court placed them on a seven-

Meanwhile, Rab took six more arrestees, nabbed from the same house at Goran on remand for 14 days in two separate cases filed with the Khilgaon Police Station. The arrestees are AHM Shamim, Noor Azam alias Yasir, 29, Aleya Ferdousi alias Ayesha, 26, Akramul Islam, 23, Belal Hossain, 21, and Mohammad Zakaria, 21.

The court granted a seven-day in each of the two cases -- one an arms case and the other under the Explosive Substances Act.

Rab and DB officials hope their probe would make a significant headway when they interrogate the eight arrestees.

The 61 items recovered from the South Goran house on Thursday were put on display yesterday at the conference room of DB office.

The items includes 470 detonators, 20 bombs fitted with detonators, 30 plastic made electric devices, 100 Integrated Circuits (IC), 70 capacitors, one microscope, wire and bulbs, some 500 books on jihad, video and audio cassettes, and different other bombmaking materials.

Inspector General of Police Abdul Quayum, Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police SM Mizanur Rahman, explosive experts, and members of different law enforcement agencies yesterday visited the DB office to have a look at the seized objects.

Meanwhile, Sabujbagh police vesterday arrested Abdullah at the Fast Bashabo house where Rab held five suspected militants on Thursday.

Abdulah, a tenant living on the fifth-floor of the house, was arrested following leads extracted from the five arrestees. Police said the bearded man identified himself as a rickshaw-puller and claimed to have no links to the serial blasts

BDNEWS reports: The walls in the capital including the Dhaka University area have been covered with posters of the outlawed Sharbahara Party. The posters mostly in red call for the people to wage a war.

They were pasted on the walls amidst strict vigilance of different security agencies against the extremists and militants especially after August 17 countrywide blasts.

Containing a portrait of the socialist China's founder Mao Zedong, the posters were published in the name of 'Committee to Observe Comrade Mao Zedong's 29th Death Anniversary.

September 9 is the 29th death anniversary of Mao, leader of the Long March in the Chinese Civil War (1934) and the first president of

Communist China. The committee in the posters called on the people to wage a masses' war in Bangladesh, learning lessons from the experiences of

the peoples' wars in Peru, Nepal and India. By the e-mail address placed at

the bottom of the poster, political observers said that Anwar Kabir group of the Sharbahara Party has published the posters.

Our Staff correspondent from Rajshahi reports: JMB men and operatives of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) in the north-western Rajshahi are again at loggerheads after PBCP men on Wednesday gunned down a cadre

of Bangla Bhai in Joypurhat. Sources inside both the groups told The Daily Star that they would take steps to steps to prevent each other from holding sway over the

FROM PAGE 1

used to curb criminal activities. "Not laws, rather the govern-

ment's sincerity can make a real difference to the way to contain crimes in the country," she said. She alleged that instead of using

the law enforcement agencies to restore law and order, the government is using them to cater to its petty political needs. "If the law enforcers are not allowed to work freely then what's the

use of framing new laws?" Hasina auestioned. Asked about the likelihood of AL

joining the ongoing parliament session, she said her party is always keen to join parliament while the government is relentless in its efforts to keep the opposition off the house through 'destroying the atmosphere'

"The speaker does not let us talk. Then why should we go to parliament?" Hasina questioned.

The opposition leader accused the government of not co-operating with the foreign intelligence agencies who had been to the country to probe different bomb and grenade attacks. "Had the FBI and Interpol been

allowed free rein to investigate the August 21 grenade attacks on Awami League rally, they would have unearthed the ruling alliance men's involvement in the grisly crime," she observed.

Hasina also blasted Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for not making in her speech any mention of the August 21 carnage. On the prime minister's claim that

her government has improved the law and order situation. Hasina said. "Businessmen are being killed in broad daylight. Is it a sign of the mprovement she's is boasting of?"

Besides, the former prime minister alleged that the coalition government is letting off the hook the Jamaat-e-Islami cadres who were behind the near-simultaneous explosions on August 17'.

8 hurt

FROM PAGE 16

and secular opposition groups in response to recent talks between Pakistan and Israel and a crackdown on religious schools by President Pervez Musharraf.

"They were just crackers, not bombs, and apparently it was an attempt to terrorise and harass people, compelling them to stay at home today to make the strike a success," Siddiqui said. "We have, however, started our

nvestigations and we are looking into other aspects of the blasts." he said. "We just want to catch the real culprit instead of carrying out random arrests." The opposition denied any

involvement, saying the bombs were planted by government "The blasts were carried out by

those who are accusing us... it is a peaceful strike," Mairaj-ul-Huda, city chief of the Jamaat Islaami party, told AFP. The strike itself appeared to have

some public transport but most businesses in the capital Islamabad and the major cities of Karachi and I ahore were open Western fast food chains have

fallen flat. There were restrictions on

previously been targeted by Islamic hardliners in Pakistan, while Karachi has long been plagued by sectarian and religious violence.

On May 30, a Shia Muslim mob torched another KFC in Karachi in revenge for a suicide attack on a nearby Shia mosque, allegedly carried out by a Sunni extremist group.

Four KFC employees perished in the flames while two froze to death after hiding in a cold storage room.

Separately, Karachi police said they arrested an al-Qaeda-linked militant Thursday in connection with a May 2002 suicide attack outside the Sheraton hotel, which killed 11 French engineers and three Pakistani bystanders.

Noorani

FROM PAGE 1

When contacted on his cellphone Noorani said, "The expulsion decision is illegal. As they [IKNMB top brass] are uncultured and illiterate, they don't know how to expel one from a party. One cannot be expelled from an organisation, without giving him a scope to defend his position."

Mentioning that the organisation does not have any constitution, he

"They have an ulterior motive for their action. And I will go public with their hidden agenda. Ameer and secretary general of

Khatme Nabuwat at the press conference said all the scheduled agitation programmes against the Ahmadiyyas will continue. The organisation has declared to hold a mass rally and 'court arrest' programme on September 30, demanding the government declare the sect 'non-Muslim'.

Earlier on Thursday, Noorani at a press conference postponed the programmes against the Ahmadiyyas, considering the situation prevailing in the country after August 17 blasts.

Mamtazi and his secretary general have called yesterday's press conference in reply to



Extortionists

autopsv.

Police Station.

Saudi Arabia recently.

over cellphone vesterday.

Salam died instantly.

FROM PAGE 1

drum magazines

of Bengal on the other.

Police recovered the body and sent

it to Kushtia General Hospital for an

A case was filed with Dulatpur

In Meherpur, members of an

underground outfit demanded Tk. 1

lakh from expatriate Salam on

Wednesday. Salam came from

the gang belongs to an outlawed

party," a family member seeking

anonymity told this correspondent

According to police, the gang

stormed into Salam's house at

about 2:00am and stabbed him in

the chest and abdomen, as he did

not pay heed to their demand

On information, Mujibnagar

police went to the spot in the morn-

ing, recovered the body and sent it

Another big arms

Police could not arrest any of the

The sources said militants and

The regional commander said

smugglers hide their hoards of arms

in this area, taking advantage of

the latest arms seizures include new

kinds of weapons like SMGs of

AK47 model and AK47 rifles with

Earlier on September 1, Rapid

Action Battalion (Rab) and BDR in a

joint drive seized a huge cache of 20

AK47 rifles and 7,716 bullets from a

Army and BDR sources said over

200 deadly weapons were seized in

Naikkhangchhari in the last one

year. Army, BDR and the Rab in

different raids seized more than 100

firearms and about 35,000 bullets

on criminals launched on July 6

comprising about 1,000 army and

BDR men has destroyed all of their

seized earlier were made in

They said most of the weapons

A military team of experts visited

Naikkhangchhari in March last year

to trace how American firearms

reached the upazila. They

inspected the seized weapons and

held meetings with army and BDR

hideouts in Naikkhangchhari.

Germany, Russia and the US.

The sources said the crackdown

since July 6 this year.

deep forest in the same upazila.

difficult physical access to it.

to Meherpur General Hospital.

gang as of 6:00pm yesterday.

"We did not seek police help as

AL-led 14 party alliance takes out a procession in the city yesterday protesting price hike of essentials.

buildings, underground pump sta-

tion, skip hoisting tower and truck

Namnam officials on condition of

anonymity admit the company could

not complete the work in time due to

shortage of funds. They are not sure if

the company will be able to hand over

Kimm Hui Chun and Managing

Director (MD) Richungi declined to

making any comment on the allega-

tions, saying they no authority to do

Mining Project MA Rois Siddique

pointed out that the coal extract

operation totally depends on

Namnam. "We are waiting for

Namnam to hand over the project,'

Company Limited officials in Dinajpur

say they do not trust further commit-

ments of Namnam and that comple-

tion of the remaining tasks may take

six more months and not three

Maddyapara mine will commercially

sell 1.65 million tonnes of granite a

year. The country annually imports

3.4 million tonnes of granite. Local

production will save between \$38

million and 58 million. The project has

however be cheaper than the rocks

that are commonly imported from

India because of the increased

over 350,000 tonnes of granite and

Petrobangla has sold nearly 200,000

homes are becoming accessible to

approved a bill providing \$51.8bn

(£28bn) for the relief effort, on top of

mainly to pay for search and rescue

operations, drinking water and

expect further emergency requests.

Bush announced that every family

affected by Hurricane Katrina would

receive the initial sum of \$2,000 in

September a national day of prayer

and remembrance for the victims.

He also declared Friday 16

medical assistance, officials said.

On Thursday, Congress

The new funds will be used

Bush warned Congress it should

Speaking at the White House,

search and rescue teams.

\$10bn granted last week.

tonnes of it to different consumers.

Maddhyapara granite will not

Till date, Namnam has extracted

a life span of 45 years.

Katrina

3FROM PAGE 16

When the project is completed,

Maddhapara Granite Mine

he told the Daily Star over phone.

MD of Maddhyapara Granite

Project Director of the company

the project in another month.

weigh bridge.

Faulty deal doubles

"In supplier's credit, none sees the

cash but the equipment and materi-

als purchased under that loan. But in

this case, the North Korean contrac-

tor virtually procured equipment and

materials using Bangladesh's down

payment and repayments," an

Petrobangla's payment of 10 percent down payment (\$13 million).

Namnam began mining upon receiv-

ing repayment after three years of the

contract against this loan," he added.

Sources pointed out that back in

93-'94, the then energy minister and

the secretary for economic relations

division played a key role in design-

ing the faulty supplier's credit. While

repayment under other supplier's

credit schemes begin after comple-

tion of a project, the hard rock pro-

ject's loan terms dictated that repay-

ment will begin three years after the

mine approved in the early nineties

sought a production deadline of

June, 1998 and handover to

Petrobangla for operation in

But the contractor repeatedly

failed to start production and sought

fresh deadlines. In recent times.

Namnam repeatedly changed the

deadlines-- first from October 2004 to

April this year, then to July and finally

to September 8. It also sought extra

crunches. The project also got

shelved for two years due to delay in

With funds from Petrobangla

Namnam hit the first layer of rocks in

late 1998. At that time, realising the

loopholes in the payment system

Petrobangla stopped the so-called

'repayment'. On intervention from the

higher authorities, the repayment

resumed irregularly and the project proceeded at snail's pace. A fresh

deadline was set for 2001 and it was

government granted the company

one-year extension of its contact

along with an additional fund of Tk

207.41 core but it tumbled.

In June 2001, the Awami League

The company then sought one

year more but the Executive

Committee of the National Economic

Council (Ecnec) declined to sanction

additional funds. After 18 months of

work suspension, the company

resumed work as the Ecned

approved additional Tk 380 crore in

2003. But it continued to miss dead-

The project authorities completed

surface infrastructure like railway

track for transporting granite, office

lines for one plea or another.

appointment of a consultant.

This was attributed mainly to fund

November 98.

The project profile (PP) of the

"The project started with

insider said.

hampers Khulna drive against stale food STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Magistrate crisis

Drive against adulterated food is being hampered in Khulna City due to shortage of magistrates.

According to a press release issued by the chief metropolitan magistrate (CMM) yesterday, 198 cases were filed against dishonest businessmen in the city in the last 15 days' drive for selling stale food prepared in an unhygienic environ-The CMM in his press release

said only two magistrates are leading the mobile courts in the city. Metropolitan Magistrate Atique

Haque filed 145 cases against dishonest businessmen and fined them Tk 5.9 lakh.

On the other hand, Magistrate Shefina Begum filed 57 cases and realised fine of Tk 2.43 lakh during the drive, the press release added.

Manmohan

France enjoy a strategic partner-ship. We have been cooperating with each other in the international fora on a range of issues," Saran

He did not confirm domestic media reports that Singh will announce a deal to construct six Scorpene submarines in partnership with a French firm.

India, Pakistan talk opening of border points

PTI, Bhurban (Pakistan)

Encouraged by increasing flow of goods to Wagah border, India and Pakistan yesterday discussed the opening of land border points to ncrease bilateral trade.

Commerce Minister Kamal Nath, during a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart Humayun Akhtar Khan in this tourism destination, said opening of land routes for trade as well as to permit more goods other than the five essential items currently being permitted by Pakistan, would help in bringing down prices and inflation.

During the meeting on the sidelines of the G-20 Ministers Conference. Nath said he raised the issue of growing economic engagement which serves both countries well.

He said he tried to impress Khan, saying India was not only a large economy but also a large growing market which Pakistan could take advantage of "Indian market will provide large market access to Pakistan which no country could offer," he said, adding for India the emerging regional market would provide a

competitive edge The land routes provide more competitive edge in pricing, he said and asked Khan to open Wagah and other border points for more trade flows. Pakistan has opened the Wagah border route for duty free import of sheep, cattle and meat products as well as onions, potatoes, tomatoes and garlic besides sugar. Nath said more trade talks will

follow between the two countries as Khan was scheduled to visit India on September 19. "The Pakistan minister is visiting Mumbai and New Delhi and we would be meeting again in New Delhi.

Besides Khan, Nath also held meetings with members of other countries

Khan on his part noted that the two countries are currently engaged in Composite Dialogue process to resolve Kashmir and other contentious issues. "Any progress achieved in the

Composite Dialogue process will help trade negotiations," he said. adding Pakistan has already allowed imports of several items through the land border and progress on the political front would also help improving ties on the trade front.

S Arabia

FROM PAGE 1

Saudi Arabia has been battling a two-year wave of violence by supporters of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. Security forces have uncovered large arms caches including guns, explosives and ammunition.

On Tuesday, they stormed a villa in the eastern city of Dammam at the end of a three-day siege in which they killed five militants and uncovered a haul of weapons and forged documents to access possible targets in the area.

They now don't know

Pakistani child also had to feed and

ook after eight camels and take them eight to 10 kilometres away everyday for exercise. Obaidullah had only two days' holiday in a month and very little time to sleep.

"I would also fall down many times and cried, but there was no escape," Dalim said. For the first two years.

Obaidullah would get 400 and Dalim

300 dirhams monthly. The salaries

were later raised to 500 and 400 dirhams. Their mother had to pass her days idling in the house. After six months of their arrival. the employer sponsored their father

Hossain Śobhan to go to the UAE. He worked as a construction worker Obaidullah and Dalim lived in a

room near the camels' stable, while their parents at a place 8km away. Sahara Begum gave birth to four more children in the UAE. The

family is now living at a house in Narsingdi that Hossain Sobhan bought with the money they all had earned in the UAE. The trouble that remains now is the education of all the six children, including the two former camel

jockeys for whom it is quite difficult now to spend days without the financial support they used to receive from their employer in the It is also difficult for the two uneducated brothers weathered in Arab culture to do other works usually done here, officials at the

Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) "The parents also have no idea about how to employ the boys. They rather think that working in the UAE is the only means to earn a living," BNWLA investigation

Bangladesh National Women

officer Mominul Islam said.

This is not the case only with these brothers but with many others who went to the UAE and have now come back home, BNWLA officials said. The children's counselors said these children, who went at the early age and stayed in the UAE for a long time, will face difficulties in acquiring the common thought process

and adjusting to the local culture. Mominul Islam said these former camel jockeys will face problems as they mostly speak . Arabic and Urdu and have a different mindset. "Other children might make fun of them," he feared.

Moreover, as many of these boys stayed in the UAE with fake parents the officials, who entrusted to reunite them with their real parents will have to prepare the families with special care. "The issue of economic empowerment is a big factor in mitigating the situation," Mominul observed.

"That is why, the reintegration process should be very comprehensive," he said, emphasising that the people engaged in the process should handle the cases with commitment and sincerity.

Narayanganj

FROM PAGE 16 Tower Selim was wanted in nine

cases including three for murders, three for bomb blasts, one for creating blockade on the long-march led by the then leader of the opposition (present Prime Minister) Khaleda Zia at Kanchpur on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in 2000, one each for abduction and extortion, Fatullah police said.

माश्री अभिज्ञान्छ जास्काल র অংশ হিসেবে দেশবাস নেতান্য कार्थ पाणि श्चला (प्रक त्रका यथानगर ण्डा जात्य

PHOTO: STAF

Islami Shashantantra Andolon blocks half of the road while staging a rally on the other half near Paltan crossing in the city yesterday protesting the August 17 serial blasts.