

### Massive hunt for more

**FROM PAGE 1**  
 A highly placed BPCP man identifying him as a 'responsible comrade' said they have listed a few dozen people remain intent on hampering their 'struggle for communism'.

He did not name anyone but hinted that accomplices of Bangla Bhai, sources of different law enforcement agencies, aides to police and civil administration, and law enforcers active against BPCP may be included in the list.

"We have just started from Jyoypurhat, and from now on, many such incidents would follow across the country", he said, referring to latest the slaying of the vigilante leader's accomplice.

"Attacks will be made on the law enforcement agencies, considering time and opportunities," he said, adding that they have gathered strength enough to attain their goals.

"We have formed guerrilla squads in every targeted operation areas. Our comrades are ready even to die when they go out on an operation," he observed.

According to him, they have held meetings to devise ways to motivate villagers to help them during their operations as they (villagers) did earlier.

Recently, the BPCP has had some 50 members trained in guerrilla warfare from Nepal and Bhutan.

A source inside JMB who also worked with Bangla Bhai last year said they have already taken preparations to face the outlaws.

He said they are holding meetings regularly and are in touch with mujahids [Islamic guerrillas] of the neighbouring districts.

"We will not let the Sarbarahas 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 earlier."

Meanwhile, several local newspapers have reported that Bangla Bhai's men roam freely in Bagmara of Rajshahi and Atrai in Naogaon and carry on the organisational activities. Movement of the outlawed party operatives was also reported.

Top officials of law enforcement agencies here told that they have beefed up the security for the politicians who have repeatedly been threatened.

Our correspondent from Barisal adds: Police on Thursday night arrested Belal Hossain and Mohammad Ali, two students of Charmonai Madrasa at Barisal school station.

They made the arrest while the two were snapping a launch.

Barisal Kotwali and river traffic police said they arrested the madrasa students and seized their camera as they were taking photographs of Suravi-7, a Dhaka-bound triple-decked launch, from different angles at about 8:00pm.

The arrestees claimed that the large vessel decorated with bright lights had tempted them into taking the photographs.

Meanwhile, uniformed and plainclothes policemen remained on high alert in the city particularly in mosque areas following rumours that militants of JMB might come to leaflet the mosques and bring out a procession in the city.

### Hasina

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 used to curb criminal activities.

"Not laws, rather the government'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 questioned.

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' there.

"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 improvement she's boasting of?"

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



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

### Magistrate crisis hampers Khulna drive against stale food

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**  
 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 environment.

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

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

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

### Faulty deal doubles

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 Police recovered the body and sent it to Kushiya General Hospital for an autopsy.

A case was filed with Dulpur Police Station.

In Meherpur, members of an underground outfit demanded Tk 1 lakh from expatriate Salam on Wednesday. Salam came from Saudi Arabia recently.

"We did not seek police help as the gang belongs to an outlawed party," a family member seeking anonymity told this correspondent over cellphone yesterday.

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. Salam died instantly.

On information, Mujibnagar police went to the spot in the morning, recovered the body and sent it to Meherpur General Hospital.

Police could not arrest any of the gang as of 6:00pm yesterday.

**Another big arms**  
**FROM PAGE 1**  
 of Bengal on the other.

The sources said militants and smugglers hide their hoards of arms in this area, taking advantage of difficult physical access to it.

The regional commander said the latest arms seizures include new kinds of weapons like SMGs of AK47 model and AK47 rifles with drum magazines.

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 deep forest in the same upazila.

Army and BDR sources said over 200 deadly weapons were seized in Naikkhanchhari in the last one year. Army, BDR and the Rab in different raids seized more than 100 firearms and about 35,000 bullets since July 6 this year.

The sources said the crackdown on criminals launched on July 6 comprising about 1,000 army and BDR men has destroyed all of their hideouts in Naikkhanchhari.

They said most of the weapons seized earlier were made in Germany, Russia and the US.

A military team of experts visited Naikkhanchhari in March last year to trace how American firearms reached the upazila. They inspected the seized weapons and held meetings with army and BDR high-ups.

### Extortionists

In supplier's credit, none sees the cash but the equipment and materials purchased under that loan. But in this case, the North Korean contractor virtually procured equipment and materials using Bangladesh's down payment and repayments," an insider said.

"The project started with Petrobangla's payment of 10 percent down payment (\$13 million). Nammam began mining upon receiving 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 designing the faulty supplier's credit. While repayment under other supplier's credit schemes begin after completion of a project, the hard rock project's loan terms dictated that repayment will begin three years after the agreement.

The project profile (PP) of the mine approved in the early nineties sought a production deadline of June, 1998 and handover to Petrobangla for operation in November '98.

But the contractor repeatedly failed to start production and sought fresh deadlines. In recent times, Nammam repeatedly changed the deadlines--first from October 2004 to April this year, then to July and finally to September 8. It also sought extra costs.

This was attributed mainly to fund crunches. The project also got shelved for two years due to delay in appointment of a consultant.

With funds from Petrobangla, Nammam 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 missed.

In June 2001, the Awami League government granted the company one-year extension of its contact along with an additional fund of Tk 207.41 core but it tumbled.

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 Ecnec approved additional Tk 380 crore in 2003. But it continued to miss deadlines for one plea or another.

The project authorities completed surface infrastructure like railway track for transporting granite, office

### 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 investigations 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 agents.

"The blasts were carried out by those who are accusing us... it is a peaceful strike," Mairaj-ul-Huda, city chief of the Jamaat Islami party, told AFP.

The strike itself appeared to have fallen flat. There were restrictions on some public transport but most businesses in the capital Islamabad and the major cities of Karachi and Lahore were open.

Western fast food chains have 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.

## India, Pakistan talk opening of border points

**PTI, Bhubran (Pakistan)**  
 Encouraged by increasing flow of goods to Wagah border, India and Pakistan yesterday discussed the opening of land border points to increase 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.

### Katrina

**3FROM PAGE 16**  
 homes are becoming accessible to search and rescue teams.

On Thursday, Congress approved a bill providing \$51.8bn (£28bn) for the relief effort, on top of \$10bn granted last week.

The new funds will be used mainly to pay for search and rescue operations, drinking water and medical assistance, officials said.

Bush warned Congress it should expect further emergency requests.

Speaking at the White House, Bush announced that every family affected by Hurricane Katrina would receive the initial sum of \$2,000 in aid.

He also declared Friday 16 September a national day of prayer and remembrance for the victims.

### US, UK

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 Palestinians, and referred to those countries as "these terrorist nations."

"The British and American 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 away?"

He also questioned why there was no tally of Iraqi deaths while every killing of US soldiers is documented. "These are soldiers who must expect to be killed. But the Iraqis who die of the US action or the civil war in Iraq are civilians who under the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein would be alive."

British High Commissioner Bruce Cleghorn and several unidentified US officials attending the conference walked out midway through Mahathir's speech.

**Justice Faizee**  
**FROM PAGE 16**  
 feeling insecure.

Earlier, Justice Faizee said Juma prayers at a Paingdon mosque and met local journalists at upazila sadar bungalow. He asked Upazila Nirbahi Officer Khorshid Alam to take steps to set up a press club.

He paid a brief visit to Kazirhat, about 35km off the upazila head-quarters, and spoke there for five minutes. He assured locals of his initiatives to renovate the dilapidated roads there.

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 to the groom's village home.

Justice Faizee hails from Bhaktapur union in Fatikchhari.

### Noorani

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 When contacted on his cellphone, Noorani said, "The expulsion decision is illegal. As they [KNMB 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 said,

"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 Ahmadiyahs 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 Ahmadiyahs, 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 Noorani's.



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

## They now don't know

**FROM PAGE 16**  
 Pakistani child also had to feed and look 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 Sobhan to go to the UAE. He worked as a construction worker there.

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 UAE.

It is also difficult for the two uneducated brothers weathered in Arab culture to do other works usually done here, officials at the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) said.

"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 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.