# More militants held Inflation rate

outfit JMB at a students' mess in Shashwan Gaon area. They also seized seven audio cassettes and a

good number of books on jihad.

Shag Main, 30, and Rafiqul Islam, 27 - are not members of the mess, said Meanwhile, police and intelligence officials guizzing Moulana

The arrestees--Mehdi Haas, 25

Obaidur Rahman, brother of JMB chief Abdur Rahman, gathered some important information from him, a police official said. The source said the interrogators

are trying to elicit from Obaidur the whereabouts of some top JMB leaders including Abdur Rahman and Ataur Rahman

Biswas Afzal Hossain, superintendent of police (SP) in Jamalpur, said Obaidur still maintains that he has never been involved with JMB or its militant activities.

"We have got some important information from Obaidur, but we will not disclose those for the sake of nvestigation," the SP added DHAKA

Tofael Ahmed and Mamtaz Alam own the two factories where the detectives found machines, tools and raw materials for making bombs Monday. The two were arrested the same day.

Detectives said it is difficult to trace the perpetrators of the August 17 blasts and those involved in hoarding explosives in Goran as they use different names on different occasions. "We've got names of several

people who used to visit the factories but to identify them appears to be difficult as they had been operating under false names." Shafigul Islam additional deputy commissioner (ADC) of Detective Branch (DB) of police, told The Daily Star yesterday. "We've learnt several names of

one man from different people. Acting on the information obtained

from the two and Shammi Akhter Abdus Samad's wife arrested with bomb-making materials last Thursday, the detectives are now were involved in the bombings and planning further blasts in the capital. Samad's close associate and Ahle

Hadith Andolon Bangladesh activist Tofael has yet to disclose any information about Samad and his where-Machinery Industries, the bomb factory in Nawabpur in partnership

He was being quizzed at the DB office yesterday on the first day of his seven-day remand.

He is producing the same story of not knowing beforehand anything about the August 17 bombings or Samad's plan for another wave of attacks. "He maintains that he met Shammi only for once and that too was at her wedding with Samad," said DB ADC Shafiqul.

Tofael's mother, Lailunnahar Begum yesterday told reporters that although her son has always performed Islamic rituals he started sporting beard only after his acquaintance with Samad. "I don't believe my son was with

him [Samad] in these bombing things "she said

The Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka yesterday remanded Mamtaz Alam, owner of the bomb factory unearthed on Jagannath Saha Road in Lalbagh

Detectives yesterday produced him before the court with a petition for a 10-day remand, saying that he was involved in producing materials used

"He had been busy plotting a fresh spell of terrorist attacks. He needs to

were involved," they said in the

forwarding report. The court granted a seven-day **STATKHIRA** 

Our Satkhira correspondent reports: Three arrestees -- Nasiruddin, Maniruzzaman Munna and Mahbubur Rahman Liton --. who have given confessional statements. said they took training at Bagmara in

Satkhira blasts case. CID Assistant Superintendent of Police Munshi Atiqur Rahman at a press briefing on Monday said the three got training at Obaidul Islam's sadar thana house and at training centres in Rupsha,

The IO quoting the statements said they attended several meetings addressed by JMB chief Abdur Rahman, Siddiqul Islam alias Bangla Bhai and Harkatul Jihad chief Mufti Hannan in Satkhira about one vear

four years ago and have been engaged in militants activities since then. They also said in their statements there are over 5,000 activists in the district the IO added

Meanwhile, two more JMB cadres Gias Uddin and Monwar Hossain Ujjal -- gave statements to a Satkhira magistrate yesterday, confessing their links to the blasts.

Plainclothes men seized two computers and huge Islamic books and CDs on Monday night from a computer centre. Its owner, Shamim, son of a former district unit Jamaat-e-Islami president, was arrested in connection with the August 17 bombings, reports

Detectives led by Magistrate Porimal Singha raided IB Computer Training Centre at Tinkona Pukurpara in the town at about 11:00pm. They seized 120 CDs, seven Islamic books, two computers, one chequebook, one telephone diary and cash.

7, is now on a 14-day remand in two cases filed with Sabujbagh Police Station in the capital. Acting on his confessional state-

ments, police have arrested five others along with bomb making materials, firearms, Islamic books and CDs at a house in Dhaka. RAJSHAHI

reports: Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) sterday handed over two cadres of Bangla Bhai to police after arresting them in Puthia upazila on September 7. Mosharraf Hossain, 37, of Kismat

Zamira, and Abdul Hamid, 35, of South Zamira in Puthia were shown arrested in the blast case. They used to collect toll on behalf

Bangladesh (JMJB) and others from nearby districts collected the sum Rab sources said they could not

gather more information from the two through interrogation. KHUĽNA

Abu Zafar, 23, a suspected Harkatul Jihad member and blasts suspect was arrested on Monday and taken on a four-day remand yesterday.

A college student. Zafar was also arrested in 2001 with a uniform of Afghan Taliban fighter and many booklets, which indicated his link to nist extremists. He was from prison three months into his

human body.

As per the proposed bill, the

LGRD minister will be the chairman

of the national food safety advisory

council. The council remembers will

include senior officials of the minis-

tries of agriculture, commerce, food

and natural disaster management

health and family welfare, industry

environment and forest, home

affairs, fishery and livestock, and

establishment, deputy commis-

sioner of Dhaka, director general of

Bangladesh Standards and Testing

Institution (BSTI), chairman of food

and nutrition department, Dhaka University (DU), chairman of chem-

istry department, DU, and a repre-

sentative of the Federation of

Bangladesh Chambers of

ernment on food safety, standard

and quality control (National and

and policies and strategies related

adjustment between the transport

response following transport own-

ers' allegations of highway extor-

tion, the minister said that is a differ-

extortion will submit its report by this

month and prompt actions will be

taken on its basis, he added

to curb extortion, the minister said.

Highway police are already patrolling

actions against those involved in

extortion and unruly activities in the

transport sector due to political

of law and that's why the successive

governments can't take action

against the lawbreakers." the minis-

ter noted. He said this when the

reporters alleged transport owners

autocratically charge fare, ignoring

Mohammad Shafiqul Islam was also

Communications Secretary

reasons, Huda observed.

the government-fixed rates.

present at the dialogue.

The government cannot take

'Political rule dominates the rule

Asked on the government's

The sub-committee on transport

to food safety and quality control.

Bus fares

fare and fuel price hike."

FROM PAGE 16

ent issue.

The council will advise the gov-

ommerce and Industries.

Dhaka with firearms at around The intruders snatched valuables worth about Tk 85 lakh and warned

the officials they would not be permit-Dohar during the BNP rule.

activists to take possession of the foundation office, and they still remain there, the complainant added. Salman F Rahman on March 1

Joypara Bazar in Dohar to run the foundation founded and named after his father in 2001. The foundation, which works for

had given her as per contract Tk 6 lakh in three instalments. The house owner is also accused of helping the minister and his men.

plainant went to Dohar Police Station to file a case, but the duty officer refused to register it.

2-day strike

### Codex Standard) for food with the view to ensuring the purity, safety and proper nutritional value of food

FROM PAGE 16

The other demands of the freight owners include a reduction in all kinds of taxes, bridge tolls and ferry fares and preventing extortion and police harassment to bring down the overall cost of goods transport.

goods transport rose abnormally high due to the recent fuel price hike, the eighth time in four years, said Rustam Ali Khan, convenor of Bangladesh Truck-Covered Van-Tank Lorry-Long Vehicle Transport Agency Owners and Workers Unity Council

"We are forced to call this strike as the government took no steps to meet our demand," said Babu Markus Gomes, member secretary of the council.

Meanwhile, the business community said the strike would cause severe loss, mainly to the exportnport business.

"Export of around Tk 135 crore takes place every day so the business will incur a great loss in these two days," said Annisul Huq, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association

(BGMEA). The exporters will face more trouble with the buyers if the shipment is missed, he added.

The vegetable suppliers are also afraid as their business has already suffered from the increasing transport fare.

## **Duty-free access**

before placing it in the US con-

The prices of vegetables, spices, oil

and sugar have also seen rise over

the last few days. "If the government

raises the prices of different com-

modities, what can the shopkeepers

and small businessmen do?" Rina

Rina, who has to maintain her

family with the limited income of her

banker husband, is now finding it

increasingly difficult to manage her

household expenses in the wake of

the never-ending price spirals of

to the inflation index. According to

vesterday's market rate provided by

the Trading Corporation of

Bangladesh, prices of all varieties of

rice have increased by 14-20 per-

In the last one month, prices of

nilsa, chicken, sugar, eggs, onions

and ginger have also increased.

Prices of onions alone have wit-

Zaid Bakht, research director of

Bangladesh Institute of

Development Studies, said the

inflation rate has already been on

the rise for some time, so hiking

prices of oil was not done at the right

time. The government could have

adjusted the higher international oil

Rise in oil prices will also push up the

"The government may consider

reducing taxes on the essential food

items and cut down public expendi-

ture to tackle the situation." Bakht

Political leaders including leaders of

Khulna Awami League have

expressed their deep concern over

Munjir's murder. They blamed the

law enforcement agencies for failing

to stop bomb blasts in the city and

capture the zealots moving at large.

city BNP and Phultala Upazila

Teachers' Association strongly

condemned the murder in separate

press statements and urged the

police to track down the bombers

Saeed Hasan accompanied by Deputy Commissioners Akbar Ali

and Rezaul Karim visited the spot

but declined to comment on the

the slain BNP leader, filed a case

with Khanjahan Ali Police Station

Hossain Alam, 32, were picked up

consultant of Beximco, filed the

case with the Court of First Class

Magistrate Shahina Khatun passed

the order after hearing, saying there

was no elements for taking the case

However, Second Class

later in the night for quizzing.

Case agaınst

Sarder Yasin, 30, and Alamair

accusing no one.

FROM PAGE 16

Magistrate, Dhaka.

into cognisance.

Tanjir Ahmed, younger brother of

Police Commissioner Khan

and zealots hiding in the city.

Leaders of Khulna district and

rrigation cost, which will ultimately

increase the prices of food items and

other daily essentials further.

Khulna BNP

FROM PAGE 16

prices by reducing the tax, he said.

cent in the last one year.

nessed a rise of 44 percent.

Rice contributes 60-70 percent

daily essentials.

gress." he said. The BGMEA (Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association) chief said the bill is not under the US administration and the administration never passes such a bill. "It is a legislative process where we are trying. The lobbyists, who are lobbying to get the bill passed, are also still positive. And we are also still optimistic that the bill will be passed in the US congress within the next one year.

Hug said. Speaking at the function, Chammas expressed her concern about the political stability of Bangladesh and said the August 17 attacks made international headlines, adding that these reports of political and extremist violence tend to overshadow reports about economic growth and development in Bangladesh.

"To counter these concerns that

that it is even a so-called failing state, the government must mount a credible and effective effort to bring to justice the perpetrators of these acts of political and terrorist violence." she observed.

Chammas said international confidence in the political process is also an important element of business confidence. "While Bangladesh is recognised for conducting generally free and fair elections in the past, it should address concerns that the next elections may be problematic. Political parties must engage in the political process. The government must ensure an environment that fosters constructive participation. Political stalemate feeds uncertainty about the long-term viability of political institutions and undermines the stable and predictable political environment that is necessary for robust economic growth," she

# Brokers lure away

money and treatment. They don't have a single orthopaedic special-

A residential building houses the hospital, which do not have the minimum standard considering its space and hygiene factor, among other issues. Heat from the kitchen and odour

from the only toilet adjacent to the ward spread to the entire wardroom. Hospital authorities claim they have renowned full-time doctors.

but according to Akram Hossain, one of the owners, they are called in when required. The authorities also claimed to have regular presence of Dr Amir Hossain, orthopaedic specialist,

who claims to be from the Nitor. Asked. Amir said he visits Golden Hospital occasionally on call but its standard is so poor that

the government should shut it down. The investigation, however, revealed Amir is no longer a Nitor physician, but has a close link with its staff. Nitor Director Prof Siraj also does not know about his involvement in the hospital.

Patients at the Golden Hospital claimed doctors did not give them any specific report about their

They were not cured even after undergoing operation, and most of them have infections due to the use of non-immunised surgical equipment. Even the hospital's operation theatre is not hygienic, a spot visit showed. "The duty doctor had never given

me proper reports about my health and visited me only when called in. He checked my blood pressure but never recorded it." said Karim Molla. who is suffering from infection after undergoing an operation. "The medicines given me were

sub-standard and without manufacturing date, and some were torn inside," he added.

The authorities claimed they have three regular medical officers to monitor patients' health, but the duty doctor said he is the only physician at the hospital.

A patient said Akram told him he had enough control over the area to manage police and journalists for running the hospital.

The authorities had even tried to make a settlement with The Daily Star correspondent. Two days after the spot visit, they made a move to improve the hygiene standards as well as services, but that was barely

### 12 killed

killed and a rickshawpuller was seriously injured when a passenger bus hit a rickshaw on Netrakona-Mohongani road yesterday noon.

The dead were identified as Saleha Begum, 50, and Amirunnesa, 35, of Satpai area in Netrakona town, reports our Netrakona correspondent.

Saleha Begum and Amirunnesa were coming to Netrakona from Barhatta by rickshaw, when the Netrakona-bound passenger bus knocked down the rickshaw at Satarasree, killing them on the spot.

The rickshawpuller, Alaf Mia, 32, was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in a critical condi-

reports: A bus driver was killed in a collision between two buses on Bogra-Rangpur highway yesterday. Local people said the driver of

the Bogra-bound bus from Gaibandha lost control near Bagopara and dashed a Kurigrambound BRTC bus at around

gers were admitted to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital

# Niko stops relief

FROM PAGE 1 supplies and the payment of com-pensation for the Tengratila blowout. He requested the AG office to appeal against the freezing of Niko's account --but not against the whole directive, AG office sources said.

The government may place its appeal before the Supreme Court vacation bench today on grounds that the directive may affect the government.

Meanwhile Niko's Counsel, Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud, told The Daily Star that Niko will also appeal against the directive to freeze its bank accounts.

The High Court Monday issued an injunction on payment to Niko and ordered to freeze the bank accounts it maintains in Bandladesh. asking the government to explain in six weeks why the Bapex-Niko gas exploration agreement should not be declared can-

Niko started drilling the Tengratila relief well with an undisclosed budget recently using a fund from its insurance company. It did not even clear the scheme from the joint committee comprising officials

Till yesterday Niko's contractors drilled 133 metres and installed a concrete casing down to 130 metres. Niko aims to drill up to 500 metres and seal the damaged

structure by October 1. But the company stopped drilling further as it could not pay its con-

"Niko has no problem with foreian currency flow right now --but it does not have local currency to pay for everyday costs," pointed out the

Following the second blowout in Tengratila on June 17, Niko started drilling a "data well" in late July to compile geological data that would help it undertake a flawless relief well drilling programme. Sources said Niko finished

drilling the 540 metre data well last month and started drilling the new relief well on the basis of the col-Being a very small company that

depends entirely on hired contrac-tors for all work, Niko's faulty drilling in the Tengratila area under Chhatak east led to the first blowout in January this year. Niko started drilling in December with a target to reach 1700 metres.

The government formed three

that Niko did not take proper safety measures and went on drilling up to 800 metres through the well that had only 300 metres of concrete casing.

Niko proceeded slowly in the Tengratila remedial works. On June 17, the company once again proved its incompetence through the sec-

explore oil and gas in Bangladesh in the government's evaluation during the second round block bidding in

## Holiday

FROM PAGE 1

offices will remain closed on September 16 and 17 for weekly holidays. On September 18, the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will observe a hartal across the country.

September 19, there is a public holiday on September 20 on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat. The following day is a dawn-to-dusk countrywide hartal to be enforced by Awami League-led 14-party alli-

There will be a working day on September 22 (Thursday) before ber 23-24) for the public servants.

criticism from the business community who are demanding weekly holiday on Sunday.
Talking to The Daily Star.

Kutubuddin Ahmed, president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) said. 'Industrial production and export will be severely hampered during these He said the national economy is

people are facing a hard time. "So we have to think whether we can afford the luxury of hartals at this moment." he added. The 14 opposition parties and

## FROM PAGE 1

Tigers reeling

footwork to the next ball and was duly trapped lbw.

Reduced to 36-3 after conceding a 182-run lead on a turning Premadasa Stadium pitch Bangladesh's blushes were spared by bad light and heavy showers as the second day's play was called off 12 overs before schedule.

Captain Habibul Bashar was batting on 13 with Tushar Imran who blocked Muralitharan's hattrick ball.

The other wicket the Tigers lost was that of opener Javed Omar (9) whose old habit of flicking close to his body saw him giving a catch down the leg side to wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara off Lasith Malinga. It was Malinga's first delivery of the second innings.

Muralitharan's performance overshadowed Mohammad Rafique's five-wicket haul in a disciplined bowling performance by Bangladesh who made scoring quick runs difficult for the home side. Overnight 160-3. Sri Lanka

declared their innings on 370-9 just after Tillakaratne Dilshan (86) was bowled by Syed Rasel with the second new ball half an hour after tea. The home team's innings was built around patient half centuries by Mahela Jayawardena (63 off 120 balls) and Thilan Samaraweera (78 off 198 balls) who shared 101 for the fourth wicket. Dilshan, who hit eight fours in

128 balls, gave one chance when wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud missed a regulation stumping chance off Rafique. Rafigue, who finished with 5-144

from 37 overs, earned the respect of his opposition. The ace left-arm spinner, the highest Test wickettaker for the Tigers, had Jayawardene, Rangana Herath and Muralitharan caught by Mashud and then trapped Vaas Ibw. When he dismissed Murali-

tharan for his sixth 5-wicket haul in his career, the Sri Lankan was just one run shy of 1,000 Test runs.

### College student FROM PAGE 1

His death created a commotion among his friends and classmates who thought his treatment had been neglected. Students and teachers of his college swooped on the police, doctors, nurses and staff of DMCH as soon as the duty-doctor declared him dead. Their rampage injured around 12 and left several hospital windows smashed.

Kamrul's elder brother Saiful Islam said OC Rafiqul Islam of Motiiheel Police Station, with whom the family is having a feud over land for several months, killed his brother 'The OC, who has a one and a

half bighas of land next to our house, tried to encroach our land until we constructed a boundary wall three months back which made him

Taaj of the locality threatened us over phone when we started constructing the wall and demanded that we stop the construction and pay him Tk 5 lakh in toll," Saiful said. "He even sent one of his [Taaj's]

captured him and handed him over to Rab; he later died in a crossfire," he continued, "after Panu's death the caller threatened us several times." The locals also admitted the

dispute between the OC and the family over the land. The OC, tried repeatedly for comments over the phone, could not be reached last night. No case

### Still no final

scandal.

After marathon overnight talks, a US spokesman had said Monday that the discussions on setting up a revamped human rights council and on UN management reforms had

### Fu-Wang

owner, Su Chin Hua, a Taiwanese citizen, and against Dulal Chandra Roy, under the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institutions (BSTI) act. The court realised Tk 1,00,000 from them.

kitchen and storeroom was damp. "We found their staffs in the kitcher do not worn clean clothes and also found some uncovered food over there," the

magistrate told the journalists. Another mobile court of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) raided Swad restaurant in the Lalmatia area and fined

ematic and they could not show the health certificate of their staffs. said Md. Golam Sarwar, the public analyst of the DCC. The court also raided Lemon Grass, a

Chinese restaurant in Gulshan, and

unsafe oil preserved for further use. The court fined them Tk 20,000 and warned them verbally.

# Huji became JMB

full-timers working in Joypurhat district under different covers, including tea-stall owners or grocers, rickshaw or van-pullers and day-labourers. Besides, there are several hundred followers, accordna to him.

The full-timers get a monthly allowance of Tk 2,000.

"I have been working actively for JMB for the last two years," he told a magistrate in Joypurhat Sunday, adding that he was involved with the militant group for four years. The organisation arranged a

cise for about 100 activists one and half years ago at an undisclosed place surrounded by jungle. "We were ordered not to ask any questions about the training or the identity of the trainers and other

two-month physical training exer-

trainees or the place," Mintu said in his confessional statement. "We were blindfolded while taken on a bus and were kept blindfolded during the whole journey that took

about four hours. So, we failed to identify the training venue." The training focused on selfdefence without any arms. Only bamboo and wooden sticks were

used as weapons, he said. Mintu set up a small shop in Joypurhat town to make cover and used to get paid Tk 2,000 a month from his organisation as an active

"The part of work of active workers like me was to give oration among different groups of people to establish Islam in an ultimate aim to recruit them," he said. They introduced themselves as 'muiahideen' (Islamic version of crusader) during their work.

On the plan of the August 17 operation, he said: "Top district and Joypurhat town leaders held a meeting at an Ahle Hadith mosque at Bazla in the town on August 16 night where I and three other hardcore activists were asked to join." The JMB district commander

paid the four Tk 2,000 each and five other people unknown to him an undisclosed amount of money. "The commander, whom we call 'hujur', asked the five men to meet

him at his house after Fazr prayers the next day and receive some leaflets." said Mintu The 'hujur' also asked the four to

meet him at the same time.

"He said the five would carry out an operation on August 17 and we'll have to follow them to see whether they can accomplish the mission and rescue them if they face any problem." Mintu said.

When the five men and Mintu and the three JMB activists met the hujur the next morning, he handed over a bag containing some leaflets

and a packet. "Hujur briefed the five about their operation and instructed us to follow

them.' Being the senior most of the four JMB activists, Mintu went to a point in the town and saw one of the five men abandoning a packet. "It went off rocking the whole area minutes

after he abandoned it." Mintu said. When he went to another point the Judges Court, he saw that 'the packet' abandoned there had already exploded.

"Not knowing what was going on rushed to hujur's house and told him what happened. Hujur then told me not to be frightened and that the whole incident was done as per the order of 'top hujur'," he said. expressing ignorance about the identity of the 'top hujur'.

The district commander told him that he willingly concealed the contents of the packet (bomb) suspecting that they might be frightened after knowing what was in it, according to Mintu.

"But he told me that the bombs were blasted to attract public attention to the message in their leaflets." The five unknown men planted as many bombs, but four of them

plasted and police recovered one

unexploded. Well-placed sources said Mintu disclosed names of some local JMB leaders, but did not disclose them before the press for the sake of

nvestigation. Talking to The Daily Star over the phone last night, Joypurhat Superintendent of Police (SP) Abdullah Al Azad Chowdhury admitted that Mintu confessed to his involvement in the August 17 bombing in Joypurhat and disclosed some significant information apart from his involvement with the JMB.

The SP, however, declined to

# AL bins home report

The report said it is learnt that the experts of Interpol have sent a report of the laboratory tests of the evidence they had gathered from Bangabandhu Avenue, the scene of the carnage. The Interpol experts visited

Dhaka in January this year and

returned with video footages and

splinter, levers, and pins of the grenades that were hurled onto the rally of the opposition party. The packet is now in the custody of customs authorities and a process is on to have it released." meeting sources said quoting the report. "It will be very helpful to the

investigation into the case," report reads. The five-page report focused mainly on the situation following the blasts, the government measures. FBI and Interpol officers' visits, and Mia's confession to having been involved in the attacks on AL rally.

The report mentioned the arrest of George Mia and his confessional statement describing in detail the attacks as progress made in the case. It said most of the people whose

names came up in the investigation as accused had fled to a neighbouring country. "We have sought assistance from the Interpol in arresting the suspects and also requested the international police organisation to issue a red notice," the report says.

"Besides, the law enforcers are still on a massive manhunt for the accused who might be holed up inside the country," adds the report. In the report, it has been suggested for several times that no

shooting took place on Bangabandhu Avenue on that day. "The autopsies on the casualties of the carnage revealed that all of them had died from the wounds sustained in grenade blasts. None of the bodies bore marks of bullet injury though some quarters claim that some of the victims died after

being hit by bullet," the report says. Submitted by the inspector general of police, the report described the situation immediately after the blasts. It said the entire area plunged into anarchy, forcing the police to use tear gas to disperse the mob. Still the mob took over the entire area and started vandalising vehicles and public properties. They even went on to assault the law enforcers, hampering severely the efforts to catch the perpetrators.

But the AL lawmakers rejected the claim and said there was no anarchy or any such situation. "People were simply scared to

death. They did not damage any vehicles and properties. No one in fact dared to run vehicles through the area after 18 or 20 grenades had gone off," AL lawmaker Mohammad Nasim said, rebutting the report. "The law enforcers did not try to nab the perpetrators, rather they

opposition activists who were trying to rush the injured to hospitals and clinics," he added. The report for as many as five times blamed the AL for not assisting in the investigation. It said the investigation officers repeatedly sought co-operation from the oppo-

The government attaches high importance to the probe and has nitiated steps to have on board the responsible and senior officers of different agencies to monitor the investigation and assist the investigation officer, said the report, adding that the intelligence agencies

are probing the case on their own. About the investigation by the FBI and Interpol officers, the report said they had examined the bulletproof jeep, which was used to carry the leader of the opposition out of the spot. On looking into the vehicle. they said verbally that the damage to the jeep had been caused by grenade shrapnel. The experts wanted to take into their custody the damaged parts of the jeep for ballis-

not allowed. "No other evidence or materials were observed, identified, collected, or submitted for examination that would indicate any type of explosive weapons or devices other [than] those identified in this report were used at or in close proximity to the incident site," the home ministry report said quoting from a report

submitted by the Interpol experts. In another report on the August 17 countrywide serial bomb blasts. the ministry described how the blasts were staged and the mea-

The report said intelligence agencies and police are out to hunt down the perpetrators and masterminds behind the near-

DISCUSSION ON THE REPORTS The AL lawmakers yesterday blasted the home ministry and the

AL lawmaker and committee member Mohammad Nasim told reporters after the meeting, reiterating the demand for international probe. He described the home minis-

of mockery in the name of investiga-"If the government agrees to allow the international agencies full rein in probing the carnage, we will

Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar said all at the meeting have concluded that the investigations of the August 21 and 17 blasts should be completed.

members have agreed to bring the perpetrators to book through investigations

### Tough bill against PCBs oil etc) or flavouring agents in subsequent times include selling any food which may cause injury to

diseased animal or unwholesome food, giving false warranty, failure to display name and address of the manufacturer, manufacturing, selling or touching food when suffering from leprosy, tuberculosis or any other notified diseases, and resisting or obstructing inspection, examination or seizure by authorised person or inspector.

Placing the bill, LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said,

"Amendment to the existing ordi-

nance is necessary to check adul-

terated and contaminated food and for the sake of public health. He said the law enforcement agencies are facing tremendous difficulties in curbing the selling and marketing of the adulterated and sub-standard food items as well as

in absence of an effective law. The bill was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on LGRD and co-operatives for scru-As per the bill, every local author-

ity, including the city corporations

and pourasavas, shall appoint one

or more persons the public analyst

in taking action against the culprits

of food within the area to carry ou the anti-adulteration drives. The pure food court consisting of an officer vested with the power of a first class magistrate will be formed in each district and metropolitan area. The officer will have the power to impose any sentence provided in the proposed act. The territorial iurisdiction of each court will be

tion later The bill proposed prohibition of sale and use of poisonous and dangerous chemicals and intoxicated food colour like calcium carbide, formalin, pesticides (DDT,

specified by a government notifica-

that a report and an editorial of such kind are aimed at damaging his "Ĭ have sent a rejoinder to The Daily Star in this regard," Saidee

told the House.

Rajshahi and in Chittagong. The investigation officer (IO) in the

He also said they joined the JMB

Shamim, arrested on September

Our Raishahi staff corresponden

Jagrata Muslim Janata,

Our Khulna staff correspondent adds:

Rouf in the complaint said Nazmul Huda, his brother Kamrul uda and their accomplices on September 9 entered the Fazlur Rahman Foundation in Dohar

> ted to do any welfare activities in Moreover, the accused asked BNP and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD)

ented a house from Meher Nigar at the welfare of the destitute in Dohar,

Following the incident, the com-

of both Bapex and Niko. The operational cost of the

tractors the daily fees.

Police and witnesses said

Our correspondent from Bogra

10:30am, killing its driver Rasul on the spot. Seriously injured five passen-

## probe committees after this chapter and investigators told The Daily Star

ond blowout. Niko was found disqualified to

After a working day on

another two-day weekend (Septem-The government has recently introduced the two-day weekend to cut fuel costs amid a looming economic crisis, sparking widespread

now at stake and the low-income

the CPB have separately called hartals demanding resignation of the BNP-Jamaat coalition government, protesting fuel price hike and the rise of extremism in the country.

angry," he said.
"We even complained to Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and home ministry against the OC during his encroachment attempts," he added. Following the feud, top goon

accomplices Panu Howladar. We

# was filed with Kafrul Police Station

FROM PAGE 16 aftermath of the UN oil-for-food

## fallen apart.

Later the court raided the luxurious restaurant Topkapi and found their

them Tk 20,400 for not following the DCC "We saw their kitchen was not sys-

found different essences to use in food The restaurant also could not show health certificates for its staffs. At both the restaurants, the court found burnt and

Anther three mobile court raided different restaurant and confectioneries in Kafrul, Pallabi and Sutrapur of the city. They filed a total of 13 cases and fined Tk 2,15,000 for not serving safe and healthy

tic and chemical tests, but they were

sures initiated by the government.

simultaneous explosions. government for their failure to arrest the culprits in the August 21 attacks even after a year since the incident.

"We do not have the least faith in

the government-run investigation,'

try's progress report as a chronicle

of the investigation," Nasim, also the former home minister, added. The AL lawmakers also called for the report of one-member judicial probe commission to be placed before the committee at its next

sit down to fix the terms of reference

Committee Chairman and ruling BNP lawmaker Prof Shajahan told

The AL lawmakers however said they gave a note of dissent against making any recommendation by the committee on the investigations into the August 17 and August 21 blasts.

# Coming out of the meeting, State were busy baton-charging the

the reporters that all the committee

sition leaders. "But none of them has assisted the investigation," it

### Saidee FROM PAGE 16 and the editorial 'baseless', the

"If the newspaper does not

publish your rejoinder, you can go to the Press Council for remedy." the speaker told the Jamaat lawmaker.

# Jamaat lawmaker told the House