Jamaat link

FROM PAGE 1
militant organisation Jama'atul
Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) have
confessed that the JMB carried out the August 17 attacks,

Jamaat chief always ruled out JMB existence. The most wanted militant Bangla Bhai is a creation of

media, he has said several times. Even yesterday Nizami told parliament that "A section of media is also engaged in the evil design to implicate Jamaat in the incident [August 17 blasts] by hook or crook." Jamaat lawmaker Riasat Ali Biswas

in the last parliament session also denied the existence of JMB in

Analysts say the reason behind Jamaat-militant link can be answered with an observation that finds a deeprooted aspiration to secure more state

Jamaat is aiming to get tickets for 100 seats of the coalition in the next parliamentary elections and it wants to have other Islamist parties with it to make the plan a success, said an ana-

According to the analyst, Jamaat's quite-evident role in the bomb blasts is a powerful demonstration of its militancy prowess and also a warning to the BNP that it will have to face trouble ifitwants to break alliance with them.

Jamaat is also sending signal to other Islamist parties and militant groups that they will face trouble if they do not join hands with it," the analyst said, pointing to a recent speech of the prime minister in which she asked other Islamist parties to join the coali-

MILITANTS' JAMAATLINK
Bangla Bhai, head of the killing squad
of the banned Jagrata Muslim Janata
Bangladesh (JMJB), had been an active Shibir member until 1995. JMB chief Abdur Rahman and his

father were also Jamaat workers.

Many in the JMB leadership joined the organisation on special assignments from Jamaat and Shibir. Moreover, statements of the arrestees prove that Jamaat is involved with the JMB one way or the other.

Nasiruddin, whom police arrested in Satkhira on August 17 and who first confessed that the JMB carried out the countrywide bomb attacks, told the police that he was a Jamaat worker until 1995.

On September 1, police arrested Tariqui Islam in Faridpur with Shibir certificate and he confessed to police that he was involved with the organisationinhisstudentlife

After his arrest at Debiganj in Panchagarh on February 23 last year, militant Azizul told police he was previously a Shibir member and now a worker of the JMB.

IMB militants Samiul Al Siju and Fazlul Haq admitted after their arrest at Gangachhara in Rangpur on February 23 that they were active Shihirworkers. Flowever, the then assistant super-

intendent of police of Rangpur in his probe report us the must on Braco office identified the two as Rukans of

that he had applied to become a Rukon, a midlevel position in the Jaman partyhierarchy. In August 2003, Sohel, a student of Police also recovered a letter writ-ten to him by the district ameer of Jamaat and seized some leaflets, letters Sunangani Government College, was arrested for having links with the JMB. His brother Selim told the press on and JMB receipts of fund collection for jihad. Local police had told the press August 23, "Shibir turned my brother into an ultra-religious man and forced that a significant number of people, who subscribed to the JMB, were

Local Shibir President Abu Hanif, however, denied the linksaying, "Sohel might have worked for us previously but is no more a Shibir worker now."

Last November, three militants were arrested with 24 powerful gela-tine bomb-sticks and 124 electronic detonators in Gaibandha from a Shantahar-bound train. All of them said they are Shibir activists although Jamaat disowned them.

Able Hadith Andolon Bangladesh (Ahab) chief Asadullah Al Galib, who is now in jail custody for bombing an NGO office, organised a press conference in Rajshahi town on February 17. A Jamaat lawmaker from Satkhira

LOBBYANDRELEASE Police on the night of September 14 arrested two Shibir activists with CDs and books allegedly on Islamic jihad at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises. Jamaat lawmakers lobbied with the speaker for their release following the

The next day Tejgaon police produced the two before a court without bringing any specific charges against them and the two were released.

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar admit-ted that lawmaker Abdul Aziz made a phone call to him requesting him to initiate steps to release the two Shibir

Three days after the August 17 blasts, Rapid Action Battalion arrested five militants, including Jamaat leader Abdul Majid, in Dinajpur and handed them over to the police. Majid was freed within 30 minutes following

intervention of the local Jamaat unit. Police arrested five militants, including one Ramijuddin in Dinajpur on August 22. The district Jamaat unit bailed out Ramij from the police

JAMAAT & SHIBIR BOMBBLASTSUSPECTS Police arrested Jamaat activists Kafiluddin, Kazi Nazrul Islam and madrasa teacher Jarjis in Chandpur

Police arrested 11 suspected mili-

tants, including Enamul -- a follower of

Mufti Hannan

FROM PAGE 16 Hasina at Kotalipara in a bid to kill

her, has been taken on three-day

ional information about the coun-

rywide bomb attacks on August 17.

and Omar Faruk at Parbatipur on able, headded. Abdul Haq, former Jamaat unit chief of Gabtoli, Bogra, Abul Hossain and Mujibur Rahman were arrested in Tata officials also said they will apply the same business strategies in Bangladesh that they apply in India. Khulna a daylater. Police arrested Shibir activist Helaluddin at a mosque in The company's main strategy is to give back a significant amount of its Bianibazar of Sylhet on September 9.

profit to the community it serves. Sixty six percent of Tata's total profit goes for charity. As a result, Police in Kushtia arrested Shibir activist Mutassim Billah on August 22 for his links with the August 17 blasts. many hospitals, community clinics, schools, colleges, stadiums, sports grounds and other facilities have Bangla Bhai, and two Rajshahi University (RU) students, at their developed in the areas where it oper-

ates, they pointed out. The company now plans to increase its annual earning up to \$24 billion from \$17 billion. It's annual profitstood at around \$1.9 billion.

Tata is expanding its business to establish a strong base in South Asia since it is a fast developing area. "All the South Asian countries are developing rapidly and they require basic items like steel, power, coal and fertiliser, " a top official of the companysaid.

Meanwhile, one can observe the corporate culture of Tata while visiting Jamshedpur, a 60-square kilometre industrial city of 12 lakh people with all civic amenities and utility services maintained by the company.

Housewife

Puthiapara training camp in Paba

upazila on July 19. Enamul, also the team leader, was a

Shibir activist before he had joined the

Jagrata Muslim Janata, Bangladesh (JMJB) a year ago. The RU students

Golam Mustafa and Ibrahim Hossain

Police on September 16 arrested two topJMB militants with huge amount of bomb-making materials and four

firearms at a house belonging to a Jamaatactivistin Tanore, Rajshahi.

One of the arrestees Moulana Shahidullah Faruq, JMB's

Chapainawabgani sector commander, is the son of Moulana Meserullah Nasir

Uddin, a Jamaat activist and a madrasa

teacher. His elder brother Obaidullah

The Daily Star that Faruq was a Shibir activist and joined the Ahle Hadith

Jubo Sangha after completing

madrasa education in 2002. Faruq, however, said he had joined JMB in

2002 although the Ahab protested this

Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Md Mujahid in a protest letter regarding

the Tanore incident denied Jamaat's

links of any sort with the arrestees although Rajshahi Jamaat in a state-

ment on the same day admitted that

Obaidullah is the vice president of

recovered hundreds of bombs and

materials for bombs from the house of

Ataur Rahman, brother of JMB chief

Abdur Rahman, following the confes-sional statement by former Jamaat ameer's son AHM Shamim of

Habiganj. Jamaat claimed Ameer Moulana

Saidur Rahman, who had served as the district Jamaat chief for three years

since 1989, had been expelled from the

party.

Despite Jamaat's claim of having

no contacts with Shamim, the existing district Jamaat chief Prof Ashraf Uddin

requested a top official of the district

police over phone to release him,

saying Shamim is a "good boy" and that police had arrested him mistak-

The Jamaat-militant link was revealed at Khetlal in Joypurhat on

August 14, 2003, after a gunfight at Jamaat activist Montejar Rahman's

house, which was being used as a

training camp. Police arrested 39 suspected militants and 29 of them

confessed to being Shibir activists. They said Shibir had assigned them to

of Baraitola union Jamaat until 2001, however, escaped arrest. Police found

a list of Jamaat-Shibir activists and

Jamaat said it had expelled Montejar two years before the inci-

A training manual titled "Proshikkhan Guide" was recovered from a den of militants in Goran in the

capital. It was learnt that the text was

training manual, has translated several books of Jamaat founder Moulana

documents from the militants' house

that show that they used to regularly

different parts of the country played an active role in the last parliamentary

elections for Jamaat candidates

Jamaat, however, claims they were

subsidiary mills and factories would flourish near the steel plant and other manufacturing units across the coun-

try as steel would be available at very

Coal available in Bangladesh would be used in Tata's power plant

and half of the power generated would be used in its steel plant for uninter-

rupted power supply. The rest would be supplied to Bangladesh's national

The country has a market for more

than 70 per cent of the hot rolled coil to

The company plans to sell most of its products in Bangladesh in the

domestic market and export the rest.

liser and power plants in Bangladesh

because required raw materials are

available there," said T Mukhariee.

deputymanaging director of Tata Steel.

Tata will set up alants for finished products in those countries only

where gas, iron or coal are not avail-

"We are going to set up steel, ferti-

be produced at Tata plant, they said.

Market size

Hishami Al Talabi, writer of the

During the raids police found some

Some militants arrested from

The police found out from his diary

Jamaat publications from the house.

Montejar, who had been the chief

enly, said a police officer.

workforthe IMB.

members of Jamaat.

donate to Jamaat.

The law enforcers on September 8

local Jamaat supporters' committee.

Jamaat Secretary General and

Their mother Shahida Begum told

is a Tanore upazila unit Jamaat leader.

claimed they "support" Shibir. JAMAAT'S DENIAL

&THETRUTH

statement.

FROM PAGE 16 brought Rokeya to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) at 4:00pm where she succumbed to

her injuries at 10:00pm. Babul's relatives denied the allegation and told reporters that Rokeya's clothes caught fire accidentally when she was cooking. Babul could not be found.

Rokeya's uncle Motiur Rahman filed an unnatural death case with Lalbagh Police Station.

Meanwhile, an angry mob caught six alleged robbers in front of a house near Jurain rail-gate area in Shyampur when they were preparing for a robbery around 1:00pm yesterday and handed them over to police after beating them up severely, police said.

The alleged robbers are Mamun, 23, Sohel, 20, Zakir, 22, Swapan Sikder, 23, Zafar Ali, 20, and Dulal Miah, 22. They were later admitted to the DMCH for treatment under police custody.

In another incident, Akhtar Hossain, 22, the mason, was returninghome after finishing his work at a nearby house in Banani at around 1:30pm when three youths stopped himonhisway.

"They came by a car and tried to snatch away my cell phone," Akhtar said. "As I resisted they shot me in the leg and took away my phone," he added. Akhtar is undergoing treatment at DMCH.

In a separate incident, police recovered an unidentified newly born girl from the sunshade of a house at 52/1 RK Mission Road in

Azhar Ali, owner of the building, informed the police seeing the baby on the sunshade of the second floor of the building. Police went to the spot at 10:30am and called in the Fire Service and Civil Defence who rescued the child.

The baby girl was admitted to

Police suspected that someone might have wanted to kill the girl but the baby luckily caught the sun-

\$500m Saarc

FROM PAGE 1 Governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed was selected as the chairman of the Saarc Finance meet.

The contribution of each country to the fund will be determined on the basis of a certain country's foreign currency reserve, its import and export volume, balance of payment position and size of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Allocation from the fund for each country will be determined on the basis of its per capita income, poverty rate and other related indica-

According to the source, the relatively rich countries of the Saarc are not very enthusiastic about the fund. As per the draft modality of the fund, they will have to contribute more to the fund but will receive less from it.

Besides, a difference of opinion between India and Pakistan has surfaced regarding the size of the fund. While Pakistan wants the initial fund size to be over \$1 billion, India seeks an initial amount of around \$500 million on the grounds that it is still in the beginning stage and the fund size can be increased

after observing the results. The BB source said Bangladesh is trying to push the issue forward as once the fund is created, international donor agencies like World Bank and Asian Development Bank may contribute to it. However, the donor agencies will have to be convinced about the use of the fund before they put in their contribution, the source added.

If the heads of the Saarc countries give go-ahead to the fund, further details regarding the modality and size of the fund will be worked out and will be presented to the next Saarc Finance Governors' symposium on "Micro Finance and Poverty Alleviation" due next January in

AL won't take

FROM PAGE 16 Ramadan Awami League will exchange views with representatives of different groups and will launch mass contact campaigns all over the

Referring to the November 15 grand rally in Dhaka, Jalil said "striking programmes" including hartal, blockade and gherao will be announced from the rally.

He said Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina would announce this programmes from the grand rally to bring an end to misrule in the country.

Jalil said the minimum programme of the 14-party alliance will be announced for the month of

Emphasising the need for a greater unity of other opposition parties, he said the 14-party alliance has taken a shape and now is trying to unite the pro-liberation forces to launch a grand programme for the emancipation of the people from the clutches of misrule of this BNP-Jamaat alliance government.

The Awami League leader also hinted that his party is taking preparation for the next general election and said that they will spell out their national programmes on health, education and eradication of corruption and combating terrorism.

Referring to a press report of appointments of 150 election officials allegedly belonging to the ruling BNP's student wing, the Awami League general secretary said "The appointments will be cancelled if our reform formula is endorsed.

He reiterated that there will be no election without reform.

Hurricane Rita roars

FROM PAGE 16 The federal government was eager to show it, too, had learned its lesson after being criticized for its sluggish response to Katrina. It rushed hundreds of truckloads of water, ice and ready-made meals to the Gulf Coast and put rescue and medical teams

'You can't play around with this storm," Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said on ABC's "Good Morning America." He added: "The lesson is that when the storm hits, the best place to be is to be out of the path of the storm."

By early afternoon, Rita was a Category 4 storm centered more than 700 miles southeast of Corpus Christi, with winds of 150 mph. Forecasters predicted it would come ashore Saturday along the central Texas coast between Galveston and Corpus Christi. But even a slight rightward turn could prove devastating to New Orleans.

Meteorologist Chris Landsea of the National Hurricane Center in Miami said Rita could strengthen into a terrifying Category 5 with wind over 155 mph as it moves over the warm waters of the gulf.

Galveston County, population 267,000, was ordered evacuated, along with low-lying, flood-prone areas of Houston, which at its lowest point is 6 feet above sea level. Altogether, as many as 1 million people in the Houston-Galveston area were under orders to get out, said Frank Michel, spokesman for Houston Mayor Bill White. Houston is about 50 miles northwest of

Along the Louisiana coast, some

20,000 people or more were being evacuated or were warned to leave. Galveston, situated on an island

8 feet above sea level, was the site of one of the deadliest natural disasters in U.S. history: an unnamed hurri-cane in 1900 that killed between 6,000 and 12,000 people and practically wiped the city off the map.

The last major hurricane to hit Texas was Alicia in 1983. It flooded downtown Houston, spawned 22 tornadoes and left 21 people dead. The damage from the Category 3 storm was put at more than \$2 billion. Tropical Storm Allison flooded Houston in 2001, doing major damage to hospitals and research centers and killing 23 people.

JS session

FROM PAGE 16

salaries and remuneration of the president, prime minister, speaker and deputy speaker, judges of the Supreme Court, ministers, state ministers, deputy ministers and MPs were passed in this session. Some new bills were also placed

in the House yesterday. Legislators from both the trea-

sury and the opposition benches submitted as many as 794 questions for question-answer session. Of them, 333 were answered by the prime minister and other ministers. Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, in his

concluding speech, urged the main opposition party to end their boycott, saying I have maintained neutrality in running the House and I assure you to do so in future.

50 hurt in clashes

operated during hartal hours. Police charged baton on a proces-sion of Workers Party at city's Paltan crossing and picked up seven activ-

ists early in the morning.
At least 26 Awami Jubo Mahila League leaders and workers received

injuries when police charged baton to disperse their procession in Dhanmondi Road No 5 area. Jubo Mahila Deague activists also attacked police to snatch away their arrested colleagues. The daily Samakal photojournal-

ist Kajol received severe injuries in his head while the Jubo Mahila League activists hurled stones aiming at the police. Police picked up six activists Police intercepted a procession of

Awami Mahila League when it reached Mirpur-10 intersection at 10:30am. Ten activists including local

commissioner Shahida Aktar Dipti were severely injured when police clubbed the procession to disperse theALactivist Channel-I reporter Mahbub Matin was also injured in the police

attack. Police later picked up several

people including some female activists from the spot. Police also charged baton to disperse another procession of Mahila League in the Green Road area when it tried to proceed towards Russell Square, leaving at least eight women injured. Police picked up four Mahila

League activists including its General Secretary Fazilatun Nesa Indira. A group of AL leaders including some lawmakers brought out a procession and staged sit-in-

lemonstration near Dhanmondi Road No-32 during hartal hours. Police intercepted a procession of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL)

when it tried to go out through the main entrance of the Arts Faculty of

Dhaka University.
Police also dispersed another prohartal procession led by AL leader Haji Selim in the old part of the city. Several activists were wounded in police action while four activists were picked up from the spot. ALLAWMAKER INJURED

Our Staff Correspondent reports from Khulna: AL lawmaker Panchanon Biswas and five other people were injured in a clash between the activists of AL and BNP at Batiaghata of the district during yesterday's hartal.

The clash ensued when BNP activists attacked an AL procession led by Biswas at around 11:15am near Batiaghata bazaar, witnesses said. The five other injured are Kamrul Islam Shiper, Shumon Molla, Nazrul

Islam and Alok Mallick of BNP and AL leader Mithun Roy.

AL blamed BNP for the attack on the procession while BNP accused AL ot creating lawlessness in the name of

picketing during hartal. However, the hartal passed off peacefully in Khulna city and in other parts of the district.

Criminal killed

Sub-Inspector Shahidul Islam and Assistant Sub-Inspector Enamul Haque were injured in the incident. They were admitted to Belkuchi Upazila Health Complex.

Police recovered a shotgun with two bullets from the spot. Police said Lutfar was accused in

14 cases with murder, robbery and kidnapping charges. Later police arrested four accomplices of Lutfar, who were identified as Sultan, Takdir, Jahangir and Siraj.

JRC ends on a good

percent of our surface water. I am

convinced at the assurance that the Ganges and Brahmaputra would not be brought under the river linking project," said Hafiz Uddin

Hafiz also said Bangladesh had fears regarding the building of the Tipaimukh on the confluence of the a feeder for the Surma, Kushiyara and Meghna but India gave assurance that it would not build any barrage there and would not divert Barak water adversely.

Dasmunsi said that in the next IRC meeting his side would present a report if there were any more construction plans on the Barak Valley. "We'll present Tipaimukh's planned design to Bangladesh when it is prepared," he said.

The agreed minutes also covered other positive developments achieved through the two-day talks, held in Dhaka after two years following the last JRC meet in September 2003 in New Delhi. These include India's providing technical support and arsenic mitigation kits to Bangladesh, providing Bangladesh with advance flood forecasting data keeping more lead-time, joint inspection by both ministers to the bordering regions affected by erosion of cross-boundary rivers, advancing talks for an interim water sharing agreement on the Teesta and reviewing the 'opera-tional implementation' of the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty signed

To augment the Ganges water for mutual benefits, Bangladesh's water minister proposed at the JRC meetng to have tripartite talks involving Nepal for building a water reservoir in Nepal. However, Dasmunsi said he preferred to keep Hafiz Uddin Ahmed's proposal out of the frame-work of JRC as it has the mandate for having bilateral talks only.

Hafiz insisted that harnessing common river waters could still be discussed at regional forums like South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc). Saying that the available water flow in the Teesta now appears to be insufficient for both India and

proposed that neither side go for any new barrage building. The Bangladesh delegation informed the JRC meeting that the second phase of the Teesta Barrage had already been taken off last year.

Dasmunsi told reporters at the

press conference that the available water flow in the Teesta was not sufficient for India and Bangladesh, which is why both sides have to sacrifice in reaching an interim water sharing arrangement.

He said the Joint Committee of Experts (JCE) headed by the water resources secretaries of Bangladesh and India would ascertain the actual availability of water in the Teesta and draft modalities for presentation before the next JRC meeting.

On the concerns of losing territories due to bank erosion by various transboundary rivers, the Indian water minister said, "Both sides at the JRC agreed that erosion is a serious problem. Instead of discussing these problems on papers, we, both ministers, will visit and see for ourselves all the erosion sites after Eid. We'll not depend on the bureaucrats. I hope we'll be able to prepare a detailed report on the erosion sites by the year-end."

On the journalists' query about the irregular holding of Indo-Bangla JRC meetings, Dasmunsi said, "This time we decided to hold the meet at regular intervals and no more postponement of JRC meet-

Dasmunsi thanked the meeting host for successfully concluding the 36th JRC meeting on a positive note, while his Bangladesh counterpart, Hafiz thanked the Indian delegation and recalled with fond memories Dasmunsi's contribution in Bangladesh's War of

Bangladesh's Water Resources Secretary, SM Jahurul Islam, his Indian counterpart, J Harinarayan, and Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Veena Sikri, were present, among others, at the agreed minutes signing ceremony and also at the subsequent press Bangladesh, the Indian delegation

EC has nothing

FROM PAGE 1 The CEC told reporters that every-one has the right to have a political ideology. The fact is that they have got the appointments by virtue of their merit. If anyone shows his political bias in his work, steps will be taken against him, he added.
The EC is a constitutional body, he

noted. The officials whose appointments raised questions have also been appointed through the PSC, which too is a constitutional body.

The CEC mentioned that the process of the appointments in question started through a circular in newspapers on September 17, 2003. A total of 40,558 candidates took part in the written examination, of whom 3,212 were selected for viva and finally 328 were selected for appointment. Among them, 297 have already joined service while 27 had problems in passing the medical test and three others did not join as they are already in government service.

"Political lovalty is not our main concern", the CEC said. Everyone has his or her own political belief as they are entitled to cast vote. If one is meritorious, one should get a job. It is immaterial whether one was a JCD leader or not. One's past is not important and what counts is if one is working well or not, he said.

The CEC assured that the EC would ensure neutrality in the elections and there is no scope of politicisation after one joins it.

Hasına

FROM PAGE 16 She alleged the BNP-Jamaat government proved during the last four years that they have failed to run the country. "Their agenda is to become rich by embezzling public wealth, not changing the fate of the country and the people, "she said. The AL president said: "As the

BNP-Jamaat coalition is now sure of being rejected by the people in the next general elections, they want to deprive the people of their right to vote through election engineering."

Hasina urged the government to meet the "public demand" for reforming the caretaker government and the Election Commission. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) in a press release yesterday strongly con-

demned the appointment of party cadres as election officers.

SCBA President Mabubey Alam and Secretary M Enayetur Rahim said the process of appointing the partisan people as election officers proves that the Public Service Commission has become an institution loyal to the government.

PM

FROM PAGE 1

There was a breakthrough regardng the outstanding issues on common rivers," he was quoted as say-ing during the meeting with the

prime minister. The Indian water resources minister said the two sides discussed matters relating to the mitigation of sufferings of peoples of the two countries due to

erosion by the common rivers. Dasmunsi informed the prime minister that the water resources ministers of both Bangladesh and India will soon visit the sites of erosion and take necessary decisions to reduce the

He said the Teesta water sharing and sharing of expertise in flood forecasting and disaster management were discussed at the JRC meeting.

The Indian minister recalled with appreciation the role of late president Ziaur Rahman in Bangladesh's War of Independence and his meeting with himat alater stage. Khaleda, through the Indian minis-

ter, conveyed greetings to her Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh. Dasmunsi was accompanied by Indian Water Resources Secretary J Hari Narayan and Indian High Commissioner

in Bangladesh Veena Sikri. **Tigers**

FROM PAGE 16

Shahadat Hossain yet to score. Left-handed Nafees (51 off 70 balls), who was dropped down to number four after failing to impress as an opener, played wonderful strokes on both sides and reached his personal landmark with a square cut off part-time off-spinner Tillakaratne Dilshan.

Caught at slip on 36 off a no-ball, Nafees was dismissed in the penultimate ball of the day with the shadows deepening after the umpires refused the batsmen's appeal to stop play for inadequate light.

Steve Bucknor and Billy Bowden, however, called stumps just one delivery after Nafees had edged Muttiah Muralitharan to the lone slip. It ended a 75-run stand between Nafees and Ashraful, the visitors' second best in the series after skipper Habubul Bashar and Ashraful's 92 in the first innings of the first Test.

Bangladesh began their second essay shortly after tea and opener Javed Omar ended a poor series when he mistimed a pull to short midwicket fielder Marvan Atapattu.

A controversial decision prolonged Bangladesh's miseries as Bashar was adjudged caught by Muralitharan at gully although bowler Dilhara Fernando had clearly over-stepped. Nafees Iqbal, desperate to get some runs after returning to open the innings, was caught behind off his gloves down the leg. He clubbed four boundaries to notch 30 off 35 balls.

That wicket also went to Fernando, the wrecker in chief in the first innings with 5-60 from his 11-

Earlier, Sri Lanka declared their first innings adding seven runs to their overnight total of 449-7. Fast bowler Shahadat (4-108) clean bowled Muralitharan while Syed Rasel (4-129) dismissed Chaminda Vaas in similar way as the innings lasted just 2.3 overs in the morning.

Ex-army corporal

FROM PAGE 1 Investigators, however, declined to disclose the names of the experts.

Sources said the investigators maintained silence as there may be some in-service defence men besides the

Meanwhile, Abdur Rahman Masud, who was arrested at Kaliakair in Gazipur in the early hours yesterday, told the police that they held a secret meeting at Moinartek in the capital's Uttara the night before the August 17 countrywide bomb

Besides confessing that he himself blasted a bomb at Khilgaon, Masud told detectives that he along with several other militants took army training at a mosque in Narsingdi early this year. He named JMB chief Abdur

Rahman's brother Ataur Rahman Sunny, Solaiman and Hassan among others as their trainers. Masud, son of madrasa teacher

Moulana Akhteruddin of Fulbari in Kaliakair, and his associate Nurul Islam, son of one Iman Ali of Barua in Tangail, provided detectives with significant information during interrogation, sources said.

"In 2002, Gazipur JMB Ehsar [district chief] Jubair gave me dawat [invitation] to join JMB and I accepted it," Masud told reporters at the Detective Branch (DB) office in Dhaka.

Two or three days before August 17, one Reza of Gazipur told him that the call of Islam needs to reach more people and Masud should work for it

"One Zahid took me to an Ahle Hadith mosque at Moinartek the night before August 17," said Masud, a second year Alim (HSC) student of Tamirul Millat Madrasa at Gazipur.

At a meeting that night, Zahid gave Masud and seven others a packet of bombs and instructed to activate them at 11:00am. "I switched on a bomb and aban-

doned it in front of Khilkhet Rajuk

Trade Centre six minutes before

schedule," Masud told reporters. Heleft for Gazipur the same day. He said there were separate teams for planting bombs, distributing leaflets and monitoring these two

A former supporter of ruling Jamaat-e-Islami's student front Islami Chhatra Shibir, Masud said he used to contribute monthly donation

to Shibir regularly. KISHOREGANI Our Kishoreganj correspondent reports: Superintendent of Police (SP) Mollick Fakhrul Islam said Harunur disclosed significant information during primary interroga-

dien her hand Sources said Harunur also confessed to his involvement with the JMB and gave training to the JMB bomb squads in Kishoreganj, Tangail,

Jamalpur and Dhaka. A court also placed Sumon on a seven-day fresh remand.

Kishoreganj police started for Dhaka to join interrogation of Harunur and Sumon at the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC). HARUNUR'S BACKGROUND

Kutubpur in Bajitpur, Kishoreganj Harunur joined the 4th East Bengal as a sepoy in 1982, said DB sources. He was promoted as lance navek at 46th East Bengal in 1990 and joined

51st East Bengal two years later. He retired from army in 1998. Harunur set up a shoe store at 51 Duriangur Lane in Kishoreganj four months ago. He has another store at

Nababpurin Dhaka. On learning about Suman's arrest, Harunur left Kishoreganj and started staying at his father-in-law's house in Monipur area of Mirpur in

Dhaka with his second wife Rozy. Harunur is yet to divorce his first wife Ruby while his third wife Neela

has already divorced him. He was accused in a robbery case in 2003 in Bajitpur and was awarded imprisonment. He also killed a pedestrian while riding a motorbike. INDIAN CITIZEN REMANDED

Indian national Abdul Wahab Besania, arrested on charge of his involvement in the blasts by Ramna police at the High Court (HC) shrine, was placed on a seven-day remand

Wahab, son of Bhalee Mohammad of Daraji in Rajkot,

180 fishermen

FROM PAGE 16 towards the Indian coast.

Thousands of relatives of the missing fishermen gathered at the Patharghata riverside apart from other coastal belts and are looking for their near and dear ones.

In Barguna, 30 fishing trawlers with 390 fishermen aboard, who went missing during the turbulent tidal surge, returned Patharghata. But they could not confirm the fate of 700 other fishermen.

The fishermen told journalists that they have seen at least 50 trawlers and bodies of many fishermen floating on the seawaters.

On Tuesday night, trawler FB Jotsna, which was one of the six missing trawlers of Gulishkhali village, returned with 15 fishermen on board. Eight trawlers of Noli area did not return as yet.

One of the fortunate fishermen, Altaf Hossain, told the news agency that he witnessed sinking of more than 40 trawlers during the turbulent weather. He returned by another trawler along with 14 other fishermen. Owner of FB Al Salam of

Laxmipur Mohinuddin, who returned to Patharghata, said he along with 14 other fishermen, including Babul, Chandu, Musa, Yunus, Afzal, Mohan, Jahangir, Selim, Hazrat Ali and Tyeb Ali went to an island near the Indian territory. I have seen some 25-30 trawlers

overthere," he said.

failure, said Shamsunnahar Khawaja

We are going to take special mea-

supply during the Ramadan," the state minister for power said.

Gujrat, was shown arrested in a case filed under section 3 of the Passport

The police produced him before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka, seeking 10 days' remand.

He came to Bangladesh with valid passport and visa but did not return to India, though his visa expired on August 7, the forwarding report said. KHULNA

Rab yesterday arrested Ananda Kumar Das, 22, son of Bimol Kumar Das of Moulavipara, and Mostafizur Rahman, 18, son of Moslem Ali of Bagmara, on suspicion of their involvement in the bombing in Khulna city.

Detectives are continuing combing operation in Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Pirojpur and Barguna to arrest Moulana Muniruddin, Imam of Pabla Ahle Hadith Jame Mosque in Daulatpurin the city. Muniruddin was one of the mas-

terminds of the August 17 attacks in greater Khulna, said Jama'atul Moslemin leader Dr Masud bin Ishaque, who is now in Khulna Jail. Muniruddin is learnt to have met Dr Galib, Bangla Bhai and Abdur

Rahman several times in the last four years, a senior police officer said. BANDARBAN Police on Wednesday took suspected militant group Islamic Constitution Movement (ICM) leader Maolana

Detectives arrested him on September 19 in the hilly district and handed him over to police. He is accused of distributing JMB leaflets and having links to the countrywide BARGUNA

Abdul Malek on a three-day remand.

Shashantantra Andolan activist Mesbah Uddin Mukul in the town on Ruesday in connection with the **IOYPURHAT** Police detained JMB activist Aminul Islam, 22, also an active member of

Police arrested Islamic

(Ahab) and Ahle Hadith Jubo Sangha, in Komor village in Joypurhat, reports BDNEWS. He was arrested following a confessional statement of JMB activist Idris Ali Mondol, who was arrested on

Ahle Hadith Andolan, Bangladesh

August 18. Idris and his son Abdul Jabbar were sent to the JIC for interrogation, said the superintendent of police (SP) of Joypurhat. GAIBANDHA

Gaibandha Press Club, offices of the deputy commissioner, the SP and police administration yesterday received anonymous letters carrying names and addresses of IMB activists

involved in the bombings. Claiming themselves members of the IMB Nirmul Committee, senders of the letters suggested their arrest for significant information. COMILLA

Detectives arrested JMB cadre

Saifullah Akhand, 21, son of Mobin

Akhand of Birampur village in Titas upazila in Daudkandi at around 8:00 last night, reports our Comilla corre-Son of Abdur Rashid Mia of East spondent. Acting on a tip off, the detectives held him in front of the upazila head-

quarters with militant posters, audiocassettes, leaflets and videos of militancy training. Police sources said he is a student of Jamayadia Rahmania Madrasa in Dhanmondi in the capital and

involved with the JMB for the last few

Tk 858cr gas bill FROM PAGE 16

uninterrupted power supply in both rural and urban areas. State Minister for Power Iqbal Hassan Mahmood placed in the House a detailed picture of the power shortage of eight years from 1998 to 2005, and it showed average shortage of this year (until August) was 272.59

year was 449.04 MW in February followed by the last month's 402.45 MW shortage of power against the daily demand of 3800 MW. The power shortage graph shows that power situation was improving

The highest load shedding of this

from 1998 to 2003, but began to worsen from 2004. Average power shortage was 231.54 MW in 1998, 157.52 MW in 1999, 113.74 MW in 2000, 79.19 MW in 2001, 72.85 MW in 2002, 28.65 MW in 2003, 174.21 MW in 2004 and average

power shortage of last eight months of

the current year was 272.59 MW. While this year's highest power shortage was 449.04 MW in February, it was only 93.79 MW in the same month of last year.

During yesterday's questionanswer session in parliament, both treasury and opposition members who stood to place supplementary questions to the state minister for power attacked him for failure to improve power supply and said people have to face acute problems due to requent power failure. Power failure after sunset is a

regular event in almost all areas in my constituency. It is tarnishing the government's image," ruling BNP wmaker Abul Khayer Bhuiyan from Laxmipursaid. Criminal activities have increased in rural areas in the dark due to power

Ahsanullah. BNP lawmaker from Lalbagh Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu also criticised the minister for his inability to resolve power crisis in his constitu-

sures to ensure uninterrupted power

Police yesterday produced Anis before court and appealed for his remand. The concerned magistrate granted three days' remand for Anis.

The police have been trying to extract information from him through interrogation. Police believe Sagor might possess sensa-