Militants strike again India concerned

He, however, could not give details, saying he had just received the infor-LAXMIPUR

Two bombs went off one after another with big bangs on the ground floor of the district joint and sessions judge's court building at around noon.

While the audience-packed court of Joint Assistant Judge Abu Sufian was recording statements of witnesses of a case, the attackers threw a packet containing a book-like object on the judge's desk through a win-

"The bomb fell on the floor and exploded with a big bang," said a

Two minutes later, the second bomb went off on the veranda, rocking the whole area.

One Mujibul Haq of Ababil village of Raipur upazila died on the spot. Thirty other people were injured in

Of them, 10, including Judge Abu Sufian, court official Shafiq Ullah and parties of different cases--Delwar Hossain, Shahana Akhter, Idris Ali, Ali Ahmad, Tuka Mia and Shaheda Begum--were admitted to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital.

Meantime, injured Idris caught one young bomber named Mamun when he was fleeing the scene and handed him over to police.

Laxmipur Superintendent of Police (SP) Fazlur Rahman said Mamun introduced himself as a JMB

"However, he once said he is Mamun from Chandpur but later claimed his name is Masum and he is from Narayanganj," said the SP, adding police were verifying his

Narayanganj police later confirmed that Mamun hails from Alinagar village of Madanganj in the

CHANDPUR

A bomb went off in the courtroom of First Sub-Judge Dipen Dewan on the first floor of the Judge's Court at

While running down the stairs after the blast, two bombers blasted another bomb to clear their way out. But lawyers, police and people present in the area caught them a few

Abul Hashem Bakaul, who was sitting in the courtroom, died on the

Three persons, including a Sub-Judge Dipen Dewan and Advocate Kazi Mozammel Hossain, were found lying injured under thick cloud of

The two bombers were identified as Sohrab Hossain alias Belal, 23, of Kongshail village under Kachua upazila of Chandpur, and Abul Kalam, 22, of Chandina upazila of

Locals also caught an elderly person named Jinnat Ali and handed him over to police.

During interrogation, Belal, a as a JMB activist while Kalam said the JMB hired him for blasting the bomb.

Police recovered 10-12 handwritten leaflets from the blast sites after the explosion.

The leaflets bore writings--Establish Islamic rule" and "Introduce Islamic rule" followed by

"Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh". "The bombers arrived in Chandpur yesterday and received instructions on mobile phones, Chandpur SP BM Harunur Rashid

said quoting the confessions of the arrestees. Some people asked them to meet at a place at 10:00am vesterday and handed them a packet containing the bombs and leaflets. They were

told that people will get the leaflets after the bombs blast, the SP said. "When asked who gave them the bombs, at first they mentioned one Galib but later said one Hasan gave them those. They failed to give the

More destructive

address of the person but said they

stronger and more destructive," said Laxmipur Superintendent of Police (SP) Fazlur Rahman.

But the one blasted on the stairs was not as strong as others, which was connected to a battery like the ones in the August 17 bombs although no wire or detonator was found, he said.

A time device was used in the August 17 blasts, but yesterday's bomb had no such device.

"Today's bombs exploded just after those were hurled," the SP

Talking to The Daily Star, Chandpur SP BM Harunur Rashid

said two bombs hurled at the Chandpur court premises were stronger than those blasted and recovered on August 17.

"These were powerful. The splinters used in those bombs were much more destructive," he said

All four bombs were locally made. Although the army bomb squad was likely to reach Chittagong to examine two recovered bombs and the remains of a blasted one, nothing could be known about those as of the filing of this report late last night.

A team of Rab's bomb squad, meanwhile, went to Chandpur and Laxmipur for bomb examination

will recognise him if they see him

again," Harunur Rashid said. 'They said they blasted the bombs as part of jihad but also admitted they were paid Tk 40 each," Rashid added. CHITTAGONG

One Laltu, 18, hurled a bomb kept inside a thick and hollow HSC Test Paper of 2003, targeting Second Joint District Session Judge Dilzer Hossain

However, the bomb did not reach its target and hit the judge's desk, eaking the table-glass.

As the bomb did not explode, Laltu tried to hurl a second bomb kept inside a geometry box while

The crowd inside the courtroom, however, caught Laltu and one Shahadat Hossain, 25, who tried to help Laltu escape. Both Shahadat, son of Ibrahim

Hossain of Dhangarh at Haripur, and Laltu, son of Maqbul Hossain of Chunaiya intersection at Sepurikura, hail from Thakurgaon.

The crowd handed the two over to police after beating them up.

In another incident, one Dulal Chowdhury, 28, hurled a bomb kept inside a thick and hollow accounting book on Metropolitan Magistrate MM Akram Hossain when he was conducting a case at 11:55am.

The bomb hit the magistrate in the hand and dropped on the floor.

A man who was present in the courtroom picked it up and put in a bucket of water.

Magistrate Akram earlier ecorded confessional statements of five August 17 suspects--militant leader Asadullah Galib's nephew Sadrul Alam, Arshadul Alam, Jahangir Alam, Abdus Sattar Mollah and

While fleeing, Dulal hurled another bomb kept inside a geometry box on the corridor just in front of the

The bomb exploded with a big bang and injured a clerk named Abdul Wadood.

People caught Dulal, son of Shafiqur Rahman of West Baroipara in Patiya upazila in Chittagong.

An army team of explosive experts went to the spots to neutralise the unexploded bombs and to carry out a sweeping operation in and around the court building premises at around 2:30pm.

During primary interrogation Laltu told police he reached Chittagong by train at 7:30am on Sunday while Shahadat said he boarded a bus from Gabtoli, Dhaka, and got down at the GEC intersection in the port city a few hours before the

Dulal along with several other youths were staying at a house rented on October 1 on Chaitanya Lane under Kotwali thana.

Raiding the house, police later arrested Omar Faruq and Sumar Sarker and another suspect.

Police were interrogating all the six at the Detective Branch (DB) office in Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) headquarters.

CHUADANGA Two bombs exploded at a fish market in the town at 9:00pm Sunday night leaving Shuk Chand, 60, an employee of an ice depot, badly injured.

Jano Juddha, a faction of the Purbo Banglar Communist Party claimed responsibility for the blast but none was arrested as of yesterday

26,000 depositors

FROM PAGE 16 whole area into a virtual battlefield.

Doha was arrested along with his three staff in the morning yesterday after a probe body of the district administration found his company had no legal authority to collect

Formed in May last year, the company lured in about 26,000 clients, mostly middle class people and the poor, to allegedly garner about Tk9 crore.

As soon as the news of their arrests spread, hundreds of clients including women rushed to the office of the company on Bogura Road and nanded their money back. The company agents told depositors that it would be impossible for them to refund the money if Doha was not released, as he solely controlled the

The angry depositors then headed towards the police station, where the Officer-in-Charge Mizanur Rahman and Circle Inspector ASM Mizanur Rahman told them over a microphone that the company was illegal and that efforts would be made to recover their deposits.

With the depositors getting more desperate, police then resorted to a baton charge, which also injured Rafiqul Islam, Barisal Correspondent of BDNEWS.

The depositors then dashed towards the deputy commissioner's office and blocked the road for hours.

Sub-inspector Mohammad Nasir later filed a case against 47 people, including the four arrestees and some

general (DG) of the BSF had firmly refuted all such allegations during the talks," the high commission said referring to the recent meetings in New Delhi between the border chiefs of India and Bangladesh.

It also pointed out that the government of India in its press release on September 30 "already rejected these allegations as baseless and scurrilous, regretting that these have been made against a friendly country, particularly after the useful and constructive

The high commission reiterated that "in the interest of friendship and good relations between our two countries, it would be useful to directly discuss and clarify doubts or allegations rather than through the media."

Referring to BDR director general's allegation that the Indian Involvement was based on the reported arrest of an 'Indian national" Giyasuddin in Satkhria, the release said after such reports in Bangladeshi media, the high commission on September 6 sought credible inputs and also consular access from the government about his identity.

"Regretfully, there has been no response from the Bangladeshi authorities concerned till date," it

Earlier on Sunday, the foreign ministry spokesman said that a section of Indian press "distorted and twisted" BDR chief's comment that some Indian criminals might have been involved' in the August 17 serial bomb blasts in Bangladesh.

"What he said to the press in India was also officially recorded at the DGlevel BDRBSF meeting that 'some Indian criminals might have been involved' in the August 17 bomb blasts," Director General of External Publicity Zahirul Haque told newsmen at the foreign ministry.

Aug 17 blasts

said their observation of statements by the arrestees has so far revealed this

In all the courts where Galib's bail petition was moved, state lawyers have denied Galib bail on the commonly used argument that 'bomb blasts stopped after Galib's arrest'.

Bombs went off at most of the areas close to courts that had repeatedly rejected the bail prayers of Galib and In addition, a letter of Bangla Bhai's

(JMJB) to a local press club in early March this year threatened to wage militant actions' across the country if Galib was not immediately released. The letter, signed by IMIB's military section spokesman, Mutallib Hossain,

Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh

said, "Dr Galib, an envoy of Islam, and our other members arrested across the country should be released by March "If our demand is not met, we will

launch a militant drive in Raishahi and elsewhere in the country," it read. "Our words are not derived from

any extremism; we have made our decision in very cool blood."

Addressing journalists, the letter said, "We have been compelled to take these actions to protect Islam and to establish the rule of Islam in Bangladesh". Sources have said that Galib's

spiritual leader, Uttar Pradesh resident Abdul Matin Salafi, who was expelled from Bangladesh for his militant activities in the late 80s, had a hand in

the bombings. "No big militant activities occur without his knowledge," commented a

The sources also said the blasts were the joint operations of Harkat-ul Jihad (HUJI), Abdur Rahman's Jama'atul Mujahidin Bangladesh (JMB), Bangla Bhai's Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) and Galib's Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh

Low turns

FROM PAGE 16 'Squally weather may continue to affect

he seaports." Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal number

All fishing boats and trawlers over the north Bay have been asked to remain close to the coast and proceed with

35 mobile courts

secretariat with State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar in the

The mobile courts will also take action against unfit vehicles, illegal parking and encroachment of footpaths in the city.

The courts will enforce the newly enacted 'Pure Food Ordinance' in the drive against food adulteration and selling of unhygienic foods. They will check commodities

without expiry dates and visit slaughterhouses to prevent selling of the meat of buffalo and ram in the name of beef The magistrates will strengthen

their surveillance from October 10 to 14 to ensure security for the upcoming Durga Puja, the biggest Hindu festival. The magistrates will be replaced in

Security tightened

forces in all the districts ahead of Durga Puja. They have been given fresh instructions to be alert amid today's blasts," Rab Director General Aziz Sarkar told The Daily Star yester-

Both uniformed and plainclothes members of the Detective Branch (DB) have been deployed in the sensitive points in the capital. "Our teams are keeping vigil," said Shafiqul Islam, assistant deputy commissioner of DB.

The security at Zia International Airport (ZIA) has also been beefed up. 'We have alerted all our security personnel and instructed them to be more watchful," Azad Zahirul Islam, chief security officer of ZIA, told The Daily Star last night.

GAIBANDHA The police declared a 'red alert' in Gaibandha town and adjacent areas after the superintendent of police (SP) of the district yesterday received an anonymous phone call threatening bomb attacks on important establishments. The caller said a bomb was

planted in the Boali Oaumi Madrasa.

one and a half kilometre off

Gaibandha town, SP Bhanu Lal Das

along with his force rushed to the spot and encircled the madrasa. However, no bomb was found at the The SP told the press that the police have received letters claiming that bombs have been planted in

He said additional police forces have been deployed in all important

different establishments but none of

the claims proved true.

including the deputy commissioner's office, judge court, public library and municipality office for stricter vigi-

MYMENSINGH

Panic gripped the students, teachers and parents of Government Bidyamoyee Girls High School and city dwellers following a bomb hoax on the school premises yesterday.

Kotwali police rushed to the spot and recovered a bomb-like pot, which contained nothing but ash, SP Abdullahel Baki later told local journalists that someone might have kept the pot on the school compound to create panic.

KHULNA

Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) has also beefed up security in the divisional city following yesterday's serial blasts in three districts.

Police and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel have been deployed in all key-point installations and several striking forces of KMP have intensified their patrol

Meantime, army has been deployed at Goalpara Power Station, one of the major installations in the city, fearing attacks.

The police launched a massive search at the colectorate office, judge court and magistrate court in the town following the fresh serial blasts vesterday. The law enforcers evacuated

everyone from the court premises except the magistrates, lawyers and the court officials and searched the area thoroughly.

First charge-sheet

financed the district's seven blasts. The arrested accused are Shafikul

Islam, chief of Ahab's cultural wing Al Hera Shilpi Gosthi, Bazla Ahab mosque Imam Hafez Shafikul Islam, Ahab adherents Azizul Bari Mintu. Jahangir Alam, Rabiul Islam, rickshawpuller Atwar Rahman, Dulal Hossain, Majnu Mia, Abdul Mabud, Dulal Hossain, Mozammel Haque, Idris Ali, Md Selim, Abdul Jabbar, Aminul Islam, Ziaur Rahman, Rezwan Bari, Mustafizur Rahman, Hobibor Rahman Hobi and Afaz Uddin Poheli.

The accused at large include Montezar Rahman and Golam

Militant kingpin Asadullah Al Galib, Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (IMB) chief Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai were mentioned as top militant leaders, but were not accused in the charge-

"Bangla Bhai is not their leader, he had just led the anti-outlaw operations in Raishahi zone. There are many like Bangla Bhai inside Ahab and JMB," said an investigator quoting statements of the Joypurhat

He said Ahab has two wings -- one open and political and another underground. "The August 17 attacks were targeted to free Galib from jail," the investigator said asking not to be

Some of the accused including Dulal, Azizul, Jahangir and Rabiul gave confessional statements before magistrates.

Azizul in his statement said 10 people were involved in the blasts and Hafizar Rahman funded and

He also said the bombs were distributed through the Bazla Ahab

Hafizar, superintendent of Sikta Madrasa in Kalai upazila, went into hiding after extorting about Tk 50,000 from local traders on August 14.

He had submitted an application

Hasina

and patronised by the alliance government, blasted bombs in 63 districts.

"...But the government blamed the Awami League instead of arresting the culprits and bringing them to book," said Hasina, also the president of the Awami League.

"As a result, those who were

involved in the attack and those who masterminded the act remain out of the reach of the law and have been committing subversive incidents one after another." Hasina said yesterday's blasts were the sequel to the August 21 grenade

attack on Awami League's rally, assas-

sination of former finance minister

SAMS Kibria and the August 17 nation-

wide bomb blasts. She urged people to build unity of all pro-liberation forces against the "failed, corrupt, killer and bomber BNP-Jamaat alliance" Hasina strongly protested and

condemned the incidents of bomb blasts and expressed deep condolence at the sad demise of two people and injuries to Laxmipur judge Abu Sufian, a number of lawyers and other people.

to the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) seeking several months' leave with a recommendation of ruling BNP lawmaker Abu Yusuf Khalilui The UNO was stand-released for

not granting Hafizar the leave. KHULNA Our Khulna staff correspondent

adds: JMB cadre Shahidullah alias Lokman was remanded for 10 days vesterday in two cases filed with Khulna and Batiaghata police sta-He was brought to Khulna from

Dhaka Central Jail on Friday and

shown arrested in the cases in con-

nection with the blasts on the Judges

Court compound and Khulna University campus Police said he confessed to his involvement in the court compound

blast after they had made 50 bombs. Meantime, Bagerhat police arrested two JMB cadres -- Kalim Molla, 30, and Jasim Molla, 24, sons of Hekmat Molla of Uttar Kandi village in the district -- at Al Khalid Hostel in Daulatpur in the city on Sunday night.

said Bangla Bhai came to their house to train madrasa students in August 2002. Police arrested Bangla Bhai along with six JMJ cadres with bomb making materials, army uniforms and other things.

But a Bagerhat court released them on bail as the investigation officer submitted the final report in favour of the accused.

GAIBANDHA Ahab chief Galib will be hauled before the District Judge's Court today in connection with the Takierbazar bomb blast case, reports

 $our\,Gaib and ha\,correspondent.$ The court will hear the charge against the six accused including Galib in the case. Two of them are out on bail, while Galib and three others

are behind bars. On December 25 last year, four bombs went off at a Jatra (folk drama) show in Takierbazar in Palashbari

upazila. A petition seeking Galib's bail will be moved during the trial, said a defence lawyer.

ACC unearths

The two importers, whose names were not disclosed, imported three consignments of three-piece sets from India showing each costing only Tk 33 or 50 cents. But the lowest market price of a set is \$4 and the actual value of each set is over \$10.

5 Bangladeshi FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources quoted the BSF source as saying the Bangladeshi nationals were caught by the villagers at Boira under Barasat sub-division of 24 Parganas while trying to steal motorcycles at about

Locals beat up the five

Bangladeshis severely, resulting in their death instantly, sources said. The BDR sent an official letter to the BSF enquiring about the incident

Maizbhandari floats new political party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former lawmaker and ex-BNP leader, Sved Najibul Bashar Maizbhandari yesterday launched a new political party comprising mainly spiritual

He resigned from the ruling BNP on September 26 protesting the government's 'failure' to act against the party's coalition partner Jamaat-e-Islami which, he says, bears direct links to different blasts across the country.

Maizbhandari was the international affairs secretary of BNP and former convenor of the Jatiyatabadi Olama Dal, religious wing of the party. He formally announced the float

ing of 'Bangladesh Tariqat Federation'

(BTF) through a press conference at a

city hotel, declaring himself as its chairman Maizbhandari said prominent politicians, businessmen, judges and former army officials and secretaries

are going to join BTF soon.

He said all the political leaders go to mazars (shrines) seeking blessings before standing in election but when bombs explode in those mazars, they do not express any concern. He accused the Jamaat again of the bomb

Formed with a 19-member presidium, 201-member advisory council and 101-member executive committee, the BTF will hold its maiden grand conference at the Paltan Maidan in the city on November 30.

Additional Secretary General of

Zaker Party Munshi Abdul Latif also

spoke at the press conference, express ing their support to the newly formed Syed Shahjada Golam Chishti, leader of Bangladesh Dargah Mazar Federation, said as a partner of the coalition, Jamaat influenced the home

ministry to issue the notification to

disallow any religious gathering in BTF Secretary General Maulana Zakir Hossain read out a 21-point manifesto of the party. The symbol of

BTF would be a garland of yellow He said BTF will never form alliance

with anti-Liberation War forces.

Aussie duo wins

at the Royal Perth Hospital until 1999.

Adelaide in South Australia and now lives in Perth where he worked as a pathologist

"Thanks to the pioneering discovery

by Marshall and Warren, peptic ulcer disease is no longer a chronic, frequently disabling condition, but a disease that can be cured by a short regimen of antibiotics and acid secretion inhibitors," the jurysaid. Before the discovery of the bacterium in 1982, stress and lifestyle were consid-

ered the major causes of ulcers. But it has

now been firmly established that

Helicobacter pylori causes more than 90 percent of duodenal ulcers and up to 80 percent of gastric ulcers. In rich countries, infection with the bacterium is less common than in the developing world "where virtually everyone may be infected", the Nobel

citation said.

American researchers, Richard Axel and $Linda\,B.\,Buck, for\,pioneering\,work\,on\,our$ sense of smell, explaining how we recognise thousands of odours and remember The Nobel prizes, founded by

Last year, the award went to two

Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, were first awarded This year's laureates will receive a gold

kronor (1.1 million euros, 1.3 million The formal awarding of the prizes will

medal and share 10 million Swedish

take place at Stockholm's City Hall on December 10. The Medicine Prize kicks off the

coveted Nobel awards. The Physics prize will be announced on Tuesday and Chemistry on Wednesday, and the Peace Prize on Friday, The Economics prize, awarded by Sweden's central bank, the Riksbank, is

scheduled for October 10. The Literature prize is traditionally awarded on a Thursday, though the actual date is only announced 48 hours in

Ramadan

FROM PAGE 16 Anyone sighting the Ramadan moon

requested to contact the committee immediately over telephones 9559493, 9556407, 9555951, 9558337, 9559643 and 9555947, and fax number 9563397. **OFFICE HOURS** Meanwhle, the government vesterday announced the office hours for all

government, semi-government and

autonomous and semi-autonomous

organisations during the holy month

All these offices will remain open

anywhere in the country has been

from 9:00am to 3:30pm from Sunday to $Thursday \, (including \, prayer \, break \, from \,$ 1:15pm to 1:30pm) during the month. Bank, postal, telephone, railway

and state-owned industries and factories and other organisations, est, said an official handout.

Tour boat capsizes

survived the accident had been accounted for

The boat's captain, Richard Paris, a Canadian, survived the accident and was visibly shaken, witnesses said.

The National Transportation Safety Board and the Coast Guard will begin an investigation of the accident on Monday. Local resident Frank Sause, who went to the lake after hearing emer-

gency sirens, told CNN that several

boats rushed to the accident scene to

help rescue more than a dozen survi-

vors who clung to the capsized boat for several minutes before it sank in the placid waters on a sunny afternoon. Fire and other rescue teams were

on the scene within minutes to pull the

elderly tourists out of the water. Many

pleasure boats also responded and threw cushions and other life-saving devices to people in the water.

Some witnesses reported seeing smoke coming from the boat just before it sank by the stern.

"That's my wife, she's dead." Sause quoted one elderly survivor as saying as he was brought to shore. A temporary morgue was set up at a nearby campground, and bodies lay on the

ground under white covers. Media reports said the Ethan Allen was about 50 feet to 100 feet from shore when the accident happened.

Several local residents said the tour boat company had a good reputation with no known serious accidents and that nothing of the sort had occurred on the popular lake in memory.

China company lodges

Indian competitor Bhel by 24 million

But Harbin did not submit any technical bid as required, making its offer invalid. Yet the PDB's Technical Evaluation Committee (Tec) accepted the offer. To cover up this major flaw. the project's director on July 9 sought Harbin's technical evaluation afterwards, although the bid was already closed. Again this was a violation of the

While the Tec accepted Harbin's offer, its sub-committee in a report admitted that acceptance of Harbin's

bid was in violation of the rules. The Tec itself admits that the seemingly low price offer of Harbin is flawed. In its report it said, "Harbin has quoted some major items of lesser quantity and did not quote some consumables... it is evident that the price of Harbin is less due to lesser

the other Fenchuganj 90 MW com-

The CMEC had also warned the government of legal action for this, saying the PDB is violating the PPR. But under the influence of the business lobby behind Harbin, the PDB and the PMO went ahead with the

project triggering the CMEC to for-

mally lodge a complaint with the IMED as per the government's pro-

PDB source pointed out.

To lodge this complaint, the CMEC paid a registration cost of Tk 5 lakh, sources mentioned.

"Already a good number of reputed firms have stopped participating in the country's power sector tenders since corruption and irregularities have gripped the sector and the government is failing to ensure transparency," a

An industry insider said, "It will be

interesting to see whether the IMED review panel can work independently free from the influence of money and In the last four years, the BNP-led coalition government signed only two power project agreements - one for the Tongi 80 MW simple cycle plant and

bined cycle plant. Both the contracts went to Harbin despite its lack of experience and other shortcomings. The Tongi plant started test operation back in March and commercial operation last month, but it keeps on tripping repeatedly due to poor quality

technical work and other reasons.

Rise of a terrorist

invading Soviet army.

He had moved to Afghanistan on completion of his education in Karachi and trained as a firearms expert to fight the

When the Afghan war was over with

the fall of the Nazibullah government,

Hannan returned home in 1995 with many other Bangladeshis. He brought home a rifle given to him by the Afghan leaders during the war. He had established an organisation with students from different Qawmi madrasas at Kotalipara in Gopalganj. He

a soap factory, Sonar Bangla Chemical, at the BSCIC plot. The soap factory is believed to have

been used for making bombs.

moved to the Gopalganj town and set up

Hannan experimentally exploded a bomb at an Urs [religious gathering] of a shrine at Gurbazar in Faridpur in 2000, which left a hafez dead. An accused in the attempt on Hasina case had told police

recommendation of a ruling party Hannan is the second son of notorious 'Rajakar' [collaborator] Nooruddin Munshi of Uttar Heron village in Kotalipara. Nooruddin was a Muslim League activist who helped the Pakistani occupation forces bulldoze the house of his brother-in-law Kashem Munshi, a

freedom fighter and Awami League leader, during the Liberation War.

Hannan's father was shot dead after independence. Hannan has five brothers -- Nannu Munshi (eldest), Moti Munshi (third), Igbal Munshi (fourth), Mafiz Munshi

He had instructed Moti Munshi and

Iqbal Munshi to join Jatiyatabadi Juba

Dal and the BNP. Moreover, he allowed Anisur Rahman to get involved in Bangladesh Chhatra League politics. The previous Awami League govern-

(fifth) and Anis Munshi (youngest).

ment had announced a bounty of Tk 5 India, Pakistan sign missile test deal

AGENCIES, Islamabad/ Bhubaneshwar India and Pakistan yesterday signed a deal requiring them to notify each

other of plans for ballistic missile

tests, a key step in the peace process

between the two nuclear-armed Indian External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh and his Pakistani counterpart, Khursheed Kasuri, announced the agreement after talks that they described as cordial and constructive. Groundwork for the

deal was laid in talks in the Indian

"The agreement entails that both countries provide each other advance notification of flight tests that it intends to undertake of any surface-to-surface ballistic missile, the Indian side said in a statement.

capital of New Delhi last month.

"India has now handed over a draft memorandum of understandlakh for him. There are four cases -- two each with Gopalganj and Kotalipara police stations against Hannan filed in 2000.

He was sentenced to life-term impris-

The other case with Gopalgani Police Station was filed under the Explosive Substances Act and another case was filed against him under the same charge

He used to pass most of his time in Faridpur by doing organisational activities. Shamsul Ulum Madrasa in Faridpur was his second stronghold after

Bangladesh chapter chief of international Islamist militant outfit Harkatul Jihad (Huji). He reportedly has contact with

By this time he had emerged as the

Hadith Andolan, Bangladesh (Ahab). Hannan had bought about 30 bighas of land in his village home on return from He announced in 1999 to capture the state power through armed movement at

Pourapark in Gopalganj. He also

addressed a huge rally of Touhidi Janata

Hannan FROM PAGE 1

out blasts in three districts vesterday and the detectives suspect Huji, JMB and Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) are interlinked. Hannan who earlier confessed to his involvement in planting a 76-kg bomb at Kotalipara in Gopalganj,

Gazi, Azizul Haq, Tarek and Lokman who were involved in the bombing attempt. Detective sources said Hannan,

and high explosives. and explosives. They are searching for his followers, who were trained in

tioning him about the organisational network of Huji and its international

The accused, Kamaluddin Shaker, organisations including Jamaat-ewas later exempted from the case on Islami, Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) and Ahle

Gopalganj.

in August the same year at Janata Bank

vesterday told the investigators that he had made the bomb at his soap factory in Kotalipara to assassinate the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina. He also named several of his accomplices including Ismail, Hassan

arrested by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at Badda in the capital on October 1, is not only involved in bomb attacks but also has links to subversive activities using grenades The investigators are also interro-

making bombs and explosive devices, and carrying out bomb attacks. "We are quizzing him about all the

onment in one of the cases filed with Gopalganj Police Station under the Arms

with Kotalipara Police Station. The fourth one is a sedition case.

leaders of different Islamic political

crossing in Faridpur.

ending attacks by his men following The fear intensified after Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (IMB) carried

gating him to learn about the hideouts where they have hidden their bombs

bomb blasts in the country, but he is denying his involvement," said a Rab source. Hannan is now on a 10-day

The investigators are also ques-

agents of the company in the after-The BSF did not respond till the filing whose services are considered essening on measures to reduce the risks of She prayed for the salvation of the of this report as of 5:35pm yesterday. tial, will announce their respective very 15 days. accidental or unauthorised use of Bodies of the victims were lying at office hours as per their rules and The court sent the arrestees to jail Mobile courts have already started departed souls and expressed deep nuclear weapons under the control of and ordered the local authorities to sympathy to the bereaved family a hospital in India, the BDR said regulations considering public interboth countries," the statement said. their operation from October 2 in all the freeze bank accounts of the company. quoting the BSF source.