Bomber admits

 $wing of the {\it JMB} \, and \, {\it JMJB}.$

The family of JMB cadre Masum, 22, who was caught while hurling bombs at Laxmipur court on Monday, is involved with Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, a key component of the ruling four-party

Masum was taken on a five-day remand after Laxmipur police had produced him before a court yesterday.

involvement in militant activities.

Chandpur

in the district.

told The Daily Star.

Masum during interrogation yester

day told police that he used to stay at a

rented house at Wireless Bazar in

Laxmipur police yesterday raided the

house and seized some books and

had a role in staging the August 17 blasts

vet to give any information regarding the

Superintendent of Police Fazlur Rahman

Masum's Arabic teacher Nesar Uddin,

who is now on the run, had in fact per-

suaded him to join the militant organisa-

A joint team of Chandpur and

Laxmipur police suspect that Masum

"We're interrogating him but he has

Acknowledging the family's involve-A group of four comprising Laltu, ment with Jamaat politics, Masum's mother told police that her husband is a rokon [full member] of Jamaat while her other sons are activists

Mohammad was at the helm of The family lives at Alinagar in Bandar upazila of Narayanganj. Masum, whose father Mofazzal Hossain is a hosiery trader of Nayamati

in Narayanganj town, is a student of management at Titumir College in the sional statements.

"We have been out of contact with him since April," Masum's mother told police, claiming that no one from her family did know anything about his Mehedi had managed to flee the

scene of the Monday's attack, blasting a less powerful bomb on the corridor of the court building. He kept the bomb inside a geometry box he was carrying. Besides, he had another powerful bomb kept in a thick book like object.

assigned to explode bombs at Bazarghata in Cox's Bazar on August 17.

nforcers that most of them would sport beard but they shaved the beards off August 17 attacks," Laxmipur $immediately after the August\,17\,blasts.$

Police yesterday gathered that materials, and a dairy, police said.

Police held Nesar's associates Nurul Hag, 45, and Selim, 25, in Madhabpasha area in Bandar upazila vesterday on suspicion of having links to JMB. Officer-in-Charge of Bandar Police

Station Abdus Salam told reporters that the two have confessed their role in the August 17 blasts in Narayanganj and Narsinghdi. In another development, Bazlur

Rahman, nazir of Joint District Judge Abu Sufian, who was injured in Laxmipur court blast, filed a case with Sadar Police Station Monday in this connection.

Meanwhile. Chandpur police produced IMB activist Abul Kalam and his associate Sohrab Hossain alias Belal, 23. before a court yesterday with a petition for a 10-day remand. The court granted the prayer for the two

Abul Kalam of Chandina unazila in Comilla said he had received training in martial art at different parts of the country including Bagmara in Rajshahi,

Comilla, and Narayanganj. "He has yet to give us information about his mentors. He has divulged some names but we are vet to find people by those [names]," Chandpur SP BM Harunur Rashid told The Daily Star last

Though seems to be a new recruit in the JMB, Belal has not yet given away any significant information, he observed.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports: Two of the three youths apprehended during the blasts at Chittagor courts have also been learnt to be the members of Snab

The recently assembled hit group had carried out the Monday's attacks while Dawati (recruiting) group of the banned Islamist outfit co-ordinated

Laltu alias Anam, 20, is a member of Snab while Shahadat Hossain of the

Investigators, meanwhile, have yet to get information about the other detainee Dulal Chowdhury's role in the outfit. A notorious criminal of Pativa upazila, he stands accused in seven criminal cases including one for murder.

Laltu and Shahdat were placed on a 10-day remand each yesterday.

Shahadat, Mehedi, and Mohammad were responsible for the Monday's explosions in Chittagong.

Chittagong division while Mizan, who was in charge of Cox's Bazar, made the bombs used in the courthouse attack, Laltu and Shahadat said in their confes-Army explosive experts defused two

bombs at Chittagong Jila Krira Sangstha Stadium ground yesterday afternoon. The bombs were recovered unexploded

Laltu further admitted that he was

The two detainees also told the law

Acting on the confession by Laltu,

police vesterday raided Mohammad Ali's mess at Uttar Kattoli and recovered one LG, two bullets, some bomb-making **SECURITYMEASURES**

With the latest trend of the militants to use camouflage and openly attack the courts, judges and magistrates, the deputy commissioners (DC) have been ordered to ensure close watch on the

'Since there is a constitutional obligation to keep the courts open to public, the law enforcers will rather go for checking people at the entrance," said a source present at a meeting on law and order held at the home ministry. Following the instructions, police

searched the body of court-goers including parties of different cases, lawyers and court officials before allowing them on the court compounds. The passers-by and vehicles were also checked. Besides, the law enforcers at different

courts did not allow people to wander aimlessly in the court areas. Rapid Action Battalion men have

 $been \, deployed \, at \, courts \, in \, Chittagong. \,$ At yesterday's meeting, the law enforcers were asked to have people helping them with the security arrange-

It also ordered round-the-clock surveillance on cinemas, messes and guesthouses and asked local police administrations to collect information

and search people with suspicious As it is not possible for the law enforcers alone to ensure security across the shopping malls in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country to install close-circuit televisions, metal detectors, archways

The meeting asked the DCs to expedite the entire process.

their own initiative.

and, if possible, explosive detectors on

gunrunners after gunfight

Rab arrests 2

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested two after an encounter and seized two foreign-made pistols and a pipe-gun at Raichatholi Para

Rab surrounded the village on Monday night to capture the criminals. Eyewitnesses said the criminals opened fire on Rab first and Rab returned fire. Mong Bra Cha was injured when he was trying to flee and the other arrestee Milon Chakma is being interrogated.

Rab, under cover, made a deal with the arms selling group earlier with the help of an informant to buy 10 AK47 assault rifles at Tk 1.5 lakh each, Milon and Mong, while trading with Rab, tried to sell some wooden fake arms. Rab, waiting for the opportunity, came out of hiding and tried to arrest the criminals when the criminals attacked Rab and opened fire. Rab's Chittagong office said one Rab officer received knife wounds in the incident.

Bandarban police said Mong was sent to Bandarban General Hospital for treatment under police custody. He admitted his involvement in the incident and claimed that this was his first attempt in such business. "I was to get Tk 5.000 only for this deal," Mong added.

2 fuel station FROM PAGE 16 against the verdict.

It also fined the service station Tk 10,000 for using a faulty dispensing unit, which showed misleading mea surements.

Earlier, the same court fined Sonar Bangla Service Station at Asad Avenue Tk 30,000 after finding faulty three of its six dispensing units, which showed measurements that were not accurate. The court found the dispensing

patrol and 50 millilitres less octane in every 10-litre measurement. The court also sealed off all the faulty dispensing units of the two

units showed about 100 millilitres less

Habibur Rab Majumder, BSTI Deputy Director (Metrology) told this correspondent that, according to statistics of the BSTI, the number of faulty measurement machines in the city's service stations has now been reduced to 15 percent, following regular raids by mobile courts. The number was about 75 percent before

Meanwhile, 35 mobile courts will launch a vigorous drive in the city from the first day of Ramadan to check irregularities in catering and transport

Led by magistrates, the courts will ake action against the sale of adulterated food, and will work to enforce traffic rules and to check extra fares and overloading in buses and launches.

Govt, Tata agree

Meanwhile, in another meeting at the Ministry of Land yesterday the government officials and the visiting Tata delegation discussed how to expedite the acquisition of land required for the Tata projects.

The government is planning to enact a special law for keeping the acquiring process of the required land for Tata beyond civil cases, sources

"The Tata Group is seeking speedy handover of the lands, but usually people file cases during the process of acquiring lands, making it lengthy," said an official of the Ministry of Land on the necessity of the enactment of the law.

He also said the enactment of such law is not new as the government had earlier passed a special law to acquire lands for establishing Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge, adding that the process would start after the selection of sites.

WITH TATA Finance and Planning Minister M

Saifur Rahman said the government would not provide any special advantage to the Tata Group so that other investors do not have to contend in an uneven competition. "We'll not give them any facility that

would be arbitrary," he told the reportvesterday.

Tata is a big investor, the government might consider providing some extra ncentives for it

When asked if the recently built up ension between Bangladesh and India vould have any impact on the proposed investment of Tata in Bangladesh, Saifur told there should

each other, but after a while things get Replying to another question about

the status of the negotiation in the face of what appears to be a rigid stance by both sides, Saifur said, both the parties are prepared to compromise and soften their demands.

When asked about a possible timeframe for the negotiation to be completed, Saifur said it would take months because of the huge size of the proposed investment involving a lot of complex issues. Besides, Bangladesh does not even have the expertise to deal with such complex issues, he added.

GDP growth rate

FROM PAGE 16
MTMF has seen a rise in the GDP growth over that shown in the draft PRSP in

Last year, the government set a GDP growth target of 6 percent but due to floods the target was revised at 5.5 percent while the estimated GDP growth stands at 5.38 percent.

Zaid Bakht, research director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) thinks the projected GDP growth is achievable but in the given cenario bringing down the inflation rate might prove very difficult. Although the economy is under pressure, Zaid says, growth has been

achieved in industry and export. Last fiscal year also saw a rise in the private sector credit and import of capital machinery. Besides, in spite of the central bank's tight monetary policy, import is rising. So, if the investments can be translated into production, a growth of 6 percent, if not 6.5, can be achieved, he He however mentioned a few risk

factors. The situation in the political arena and the government's fiscal management will determine if this target will be achieved or not. In the prevailing situation -- deprecia-

tion of taka, price rise of different things including oil both in the global market and local market -- Bakht believes scaling down inflation will be very difficult. Though these troubling factors were absent in the last few years, inflation rate still went up consistently. So, Bakht doubts if the projected rate of inflation can be ensured in the present context.

contained, it is also going to hurt the growth rate

The PRSP identified the continued high prices of commodities in the world market, high oil prices, domestic supply bottlenecks and market rigidities as the factors that pushed up last year's inflation rate. Easing of domestic supply bottlenecks and market rigidities, and reduction of monetary growth will bring down the inflation rate, it said.

While the price increases will have to be accommodated in the monetary growth in the very short-run, monetary policy of the central bank and a prudent fiscal policy that includes limiting government borrowing from banks will certainly help contain the ever-rising inflation rate. The PRSP also marked out seven

reasons which would help achieve the projected GDP growth rate. These nclude buoyancy in the agriculture sector especially in fishery and livestock, macro-economic stability, reforms in the state owned enterprises (SOE) and nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) as well increasing investments,

"The programme of NCB reform will be fully implemented, leading to marked improvement in the efficiency of financial sector which in turn will help reduce real interest rates and facilitate expansion of credit to the private sector," it said.

The MTMF also projects foreign exchange reserve of \$3.7 billion for the current fiscal year although the reserve

Govt may rush trial

killing," Reza Kibria said in an exclusive statement given to The Daily Star

"We are deeply distressed at the manner in which the investigation has moved so far. The investigation officer (IO) has failed in discharging his duties," lamented the Oxford-educated son of SAMS Kibria, killed in a grenade attack in his home district of Habiganj on January

Reza Kibria argues there are strong grounds for believing that the IO has intentionally avoided investigating certain leads that might have implicated important people. "In foiling the probe, the IO has been assisted by the Habiganj district administration, which had failed to provide security to my father.'

In the probing process, the IO did not oursue relevant clues to ascertain the source of the explosives used in the killing, the funding sources and also the aspects of training imparted to the perpetuators for throwing the grenades with such precision, Reza, a DPhil in Economics, explained

Reza alleged that Abdul Qaiyum, an accused in the Kibria killing, intended to give a confessional statement under section 164 before a magistrate, but police refused to allow him to do so. Dr. Reza Kibria, an economist by

profession who is currently the Director of Economic Governance at the Key Center for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance of Griffith University Australia, recalled with a deep sense of frustration that, "We filed two prayers pleading for further investigations at the local level in Habiganj, but the honourable magistrates concerned rejected those pleas back in May. The reasons shown for such rejections did not satisfy us. So we made an appeal to the High Court, which issued an order staying the case proceedings till mid-November.'

The son of the assassinated Awami League leader and former Executive Secretary of UN Escap found it hard to believe the killing of his father was an act of only the lower-level BNP operatives in Habiganj. Rather, "they must have their mentors in the upper echelon of the party in power and the masterminds needed to be identified," he said.

"The government is fully capable of influencing the judicial process as there is no independence of the lower judiciary in this country," he feared.

A judge can only try a case on the basis of the information provided by the IO, noted Reza, adding that, "if this information is flawed at the source, of

course, there is a fundamental problem That is why we called for the involvemen of an independent agency.' Reza Kibria went on to add that the

Prime Minister herself stated in the Jatiya Sangsad that a failure in the Habigani administration led to such an assassina tion being possible "It's interesting to note that all eight arrested people and two more fugitives

partymen as in the Ahsanullah Master He wondered why the BNP central leadership remained aloof and whether it considers Habiganj BNP as a separate entity. "Does not the BNP central leadership have control over the Habigan

 $belong to \, Habiganj \, BNP. \, Regrettably, the$

PM never condemned the actions of her

BNP," he asked. "It is important to find the masterminds not just for the sake of justice but to ensure that such killings come to an end. As long as the masterminds feel that they can arrange political murders with impunity, the reign of terror will continue," said Reza Kibria.

"If the government feels that this clumsy attempt to hide the truth (by hurrying up the trial process) will protect the killers, they're grossly mistaken. We'll continue our campaign to the end," asserted Reza, who worked for the IMF in Washington for almost a decade and now works as an economic consultant for various governments on public sector reformissues. He claimed the ongoing campaign

spearheaded by his mother is not only about seeking justice for his father's killing. "My mother calls for justice for all political killings. I'd refer everyone to our website: v , where we have collected articles on various issues Obviously my father's case concerns us personally, but our family is committed to supporting changes towards breaking the culture of impunity. On the criticism that their campaign

at home and abroad is tarnishing the image of the country as a whole, Reza argued that, "Unsolved political murders and bombings damage our image. Revealing the fact that crimes are taking place can't be blamed for image dent-

"We're prepared for a protracted and difficult campaign to obtain justice. In this country, under this government, one cannot expect justice without making an extraordinary effort.'

our campaign will go on and we'll expand it in the months ahead," said a

Daunting job

Development and Co-operatives (LGRD) Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuivan in November last year in front of hundreds of teachers observing hunger strike on the Central Shaheed Minar premises had said the government would soon meet their demands. The other demands include increase

rooms at the schools and education materials for the children.

government primary schools. The non-government primary school teachers get regularly 90 percent of Tk

2600 monthly salary from the govern-On the instructions of the primary and mass education ministry, thana-

level committees led by thana education officers (TEOs) had appointed the community teachers between 1992 and 1995 through competitive examinations, both written and viva voce. They told The Daily Star that most of them are graduate though the job circu-

lar required SSC as minimum qualification for females and HSC for males. "We teach the underprivileged children in remote areas while our

becomes so embarrassing when people

ask how much I get from the job," said a

children are being deprived of education as it is impossible to maintain a family with only Tk 750," said Hafizur Rahman of Bhaluka in Mymensingh. salary from the government in 1992. Now

teacher trying to narrate the distressing situation he is in

"We provide the same quality service as do the teachers of government primary schools. So, why should we suffer the discrimination, why we are not paid the same," questions Mahbubul Alam,

Academicians emphasised to spread out education especially primary education at the remote rural areas for making the country illiteracy free.

Choudhury said salary of the primary raised in the interest of ensuring qualitainvolve skilled people in primary education unless the salaries are increased and that too is irregular," he added.

and mass education Secretary AKM Samsuddin on May 18 recommended that the finance ministry approve for the community primary school teachers a monthly pay of Tk 1820, which would be 70 percent of Tk 2,600 scale. But the The government has also

organisations for the holy month.

special bus services on the city's two

3 share Nobel in physics for optics research

Americans Roy J. Glauber and John L. Hall as well as German Theodor W Haensch won the 2005 Nobel Physics Prize for groundbreaking work on the theory of light and on laser spectroscopy, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said vesterday.

Glauber, an 80-year-old physics professor at Harvard University, took half the Nobel prize for establishing the basis of quantum optics, which explained the fundamental difference between sources of light such as light bulbs and lasers, it said. Hall and Haensch shared the other

half for advancing the development of

laser-based precision spectroscopy, a

field that opens the way to the next generation of GPS navigation and ultraprecise atomic clocks. "Lasers with extremely sharp colours can now be constructed," the Academy said of the work of Hall, 71, and Haensch

Hall works at the University of Colorado and the National Institute of Standards and Technology while Haensch is a physics professor at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universitaet in Munich, Germany.

Their work made it possible to develop "extremely accurate clocks' and improve satellite-based navigation systems (GPS) for anything from car and boat trips to distant journeys through space, the Academy said.

How light emitted by a candle differs from the beam produced by a laser in a CD player, or how the already stunning accuracy of atomic clocks could be improved, were among questions this year's laureates had tackled successfully, the Academy said.

BSF kills 2 FROM PAGE 1

about 7:00pm. When they reached Khalsi, the Indian border guards fired on them, killing two, including a woman on the spot and injuring 10 others.

The identity of the dead and injured could not be known.

When contacted, Commanding Officer of 41 Rifles Battalion Lt Col Sobhani confirmed the incident. He however said they are trying to gather information about the incident and also the identity of the victims.

30.000 marooned FROM PAGE 16 near Kazirhat in Sadar upazila.

Deputy Commissioner

Rabindranath Roy Chowdhury visited the flood-affected people at the Ansar-VDP office and arranged food for them.

Galib, 18 others

Sources said Galib and 18 others were exempted from the charges as per direction of the central monitoring cell of On the night of February 10 this year.

two powerful bombs exploded at Mohimagani Brac office, injuring three Police filed charges against 21 per-

sons, including Galib, in March. The public prosecutor read out the chargesheet to the accused persons. The accused, however, denied the charges

After the hearing, Galib was taken by a prison van to Bogra under tight secu-Meanwhile, the hearing for charge

framing against six persons, including Galib, in the Takir Bazar bomb blast case could not be held as three of the accused were absent from the court. On December 20 last year, four

in Palashbari upazila, injuring 15 per-Police chargesheeted against the six

bombs exploded at an open-stage drama

persons on April 23. Of the three absentees, Harun-ur-Rashid and Rawnakul Islam are on bail while ATM Taibur Rahman is in jail in connection with the August 17 countrywide serial bomb blasts.

The next date for hearings of both the cases was fixed on November 20.

Kamadan

FROM PAGE 1

the opposition gave separate messages President Iajuddin Ahmed termed Ramadan the month of 'abstinence' and 'self-purification' and said it's a very significant month in one's personal and social life.

"The month is a blessing for us as it's one of the ways to get close to Allah through abstinence and prayers," he Prime Minister Khaleda Zia con-

gratulated the Muslims on the occasion of Ramadan and said it's a rare opportunity for every Muslim devotee to nurify himself or herself through fasting and abstinence. She urged people to keep friendly and brotherly relations with each other

on the occasion Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina also urged people to exercise restraint and abstinence in every moment of life $to\,maintain\,the\,sanctity\,of\,Ramadan.$

Meanwhile, the government has decided to sell various items like onion, chhola, and oil in the open market from today as the prices of essentials continued to rise due to short supply and hoarding by unscrupulous businesspeople ahead of Ramadan.

announced new office hours for all government, semi-government, autonomous and semi-autonomous State-run BRTC has introduced

League of Jahurul Haque Hall unit of the university, was not recruited as he

ACC plans to curb

The meeting also discussed how to mitigate the teachers' hassle in drawing their pension and seeking information about their monthly payment orders (PMO).

"I asked them [ministry officials] to introduce a system so that the poor schoolteachers can get their retirement benefits in their bank accounts without coming to the capital and paying bribes," Miah told the journalists.

Sources said Miah at the meeting raised the issue of corruption in teachers' appointment and the selection of books for the school curriculum.

He said the impression of the education department is not good. However most officials of the NCTB and the education directorate alleged

that newspapers publish baseless and

fabricated news items to harm their Education Secretary M Abdul Aziz directed the ministry officials to be honest in their work otherwise he

would hand over the corruption files to

the ACC. Prof Dilara Hafiz, director general of the Directorate of Education, said she had been trying to reduce corruption at the directorate and reform the system. "We have deployed some members people do not have to pay bribes to the officials," she said. "We will upload the MPO list on the website so that teachers from the rural areas can know it without coming to the head office.' NCTB official M Siraiul Hag said he

of Ansar so that the teachers and other

did not find any corruption in his department. He also blamed journalists for running "baseless" stories about corruption in the sector.

The engineers of the education ministry told the closed-door meeting that musclemen of the ruling party prevent the contractors from dropping the tender schedules. But the meeting

Meanwhile, ACC Member Moniruddin Ahmed yesterday held a meeting with the officials of the Dhaka Bond Customs and ICD at Kamalapur.

He told the officials that the ACC would keep an eve on the customs offices and investigate any allegation, if found against them.

Atiqur Rahman Khan, commissioner of Dhaka Bond Customs, Nasir Uddin, commissioner of ICD, Dhaka Customs House, and Azam-e-Sadat joint commissioner of Dhaka Customs, were present at the meeting.

Plan for motivation

militant organisations and carry out subversive activities with an aim to establish "Islamic rule instead of people-made law", a home ministry meeting with State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar noted yesterday. "In most cases, young people are

carrying out the bomb attacks. They have emotion, not wisdom," the state minister said after the meeting on law and order in Dhaka division. The top-level leaders like Abdur Rahman or Bangla Bhai have a "purpose",

these (bomb attacks) without any understanding, he told reporters. Islam doesn't preach killing any nnocent people with bomb but the people involved in the bombings do not nave this knowledge, Babar said.

but these ground-level activists are doing

also said that Islam does not advocate and support the violent way the militants are advancing with to establish Islamic rule, he told the meeting. "So, we emphasise motivation of these

Militant organisations and their young operatives have challenged and launched an attack on the existing legal structure and judicial system, deputy commissioners (DCs) and superintendents of police (SPs) said.

should reach these operatives, they added. "We're not only arresting the bombers and ensuring their conviction, we're also

Proper interpretation of religion

holding meetings with local communities and cross sections of people in a bid to motivate them," Babar told reporters. DCs, SPs, upazila nirbahi officers thana nirbahi officers and officers-in-

charge of police stations have been asked

to hold meetings at community levels to make people realise that the violent path of establishing Islam as shown by militant organisations is not the right one. For this the government officers will hold meetings with cross sections of

people, leaders of the society, imams of

mosques, school and madrasa teachers and local journalists. The DCs mentioned the shortage of magistrates and vehicles.

arrest and bring to justice the culprits behind bomb attacks on August 17 and last Monday.

Babar ordered expediting operation to

TIGHTENED SECURITY DURING RAMADAN AND PUJA

Babar asked law enforcers to take necessary steps about security of puja mandaps considering whether they are "risky", "mid-risky" or "low risky" and take special measures on the day of immersion

for any act of vandalising the idols. The meeting ordered checking exhibi-

meeting asked law enforcers to take steps to check extortion and mugging at bus, rail and train stations and on the highways and stop overcrowding in buses, trains andlaunches

It also asked to beef up watch to stop smuggling of diesel and fertiliser out to

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered a diamond weighing 57.75gm and arrested two people in this regard at

Sanchoi Office near Sherpur Bus Stand to purchase the diamond from Manik Devnath and Akhtar. The Rab members revealed their identities and arrested the two after getting the diamond in their possession. A Rab member, requesting

for examination along with the two

DU appoints

Mahabub to carry on his duty in both the posts, sources said.

The Syndicate, the highest decision

secured both first classes first in the BA and MA examinations, the authorities recruited Mohammad Habibullah, an Islami Chhatra Shibir leader who secured first class second in the BA and first class third in the MA examination and Mustaba Reza, who secured first class fourth in BA and first class second

Mohammad Shah Alam who secured first class second positions both in the BA and MA examinations. Zahid, whose younger brother was

did not discuss the issue.

In addition to the deployment of police and Rab men at puja mandaps, the home ministry asked Hindu community leaders to arrange their own security system and ensure a coordination with police and Rab

of the idols. He warned of exemplary punishment

tion of yulgar films during the Ramadan. On the eve of the traffic month, the

The cabinet secretary, secretaries of home and establishment ministries inspector general of police, directors $general \, of Rab, Coastguard, and Ansar \, and \,$ commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, among others, attended the

Rab holds two with diamond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Sherpur in Bogra yesterday. The Rab members, in disguise of diamond buyers, went to the Adarsha

anonymity, said Rab had been talking to Manik and Akhtar for 20 days to trap them. The diamond was sent to Dhaka

The arrestees asked Tk 300 crore for the diamond to the Rab members but the actual price of the diamond could

has Awami League family background

Zahid told The Daily Star that

among all the candidates who sat for

the viva voce he was the only person

who secured first class first positions in

He might go for legal action against

The authorities advertised for the

posts of three lecturers in June last

year. Another post became vacant after

a lecturer was promoted as assistant

lecturers then, as they wanted to

recruit a ICS leader who passed the MA

But the authorities did not recruit

sources said.

both BA and MA.

the recruitment, he added.

professor was made on political considerations, Prof Mahabub said, adding, "The appointment was totally unethical and for this I resigned from

the post of department chairman."

A selection committee headed by the DU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider and four other BNP-Jamaat backed White Panel teachers selected the candidates of Islamic Studies department on Saturday and

making body of the university will sit on October 8 to approve the selection,

Reza is a relative of a late professor

The authorities also dropped

However, such additional recruitment is not inconsistent with existing rules, Declining to make any comment on the qualification of the candidates, selection committee Chairman Prof

Haider said, "We will sit tomorrow

some of the Islamic Studies department teachers urged the Vice-Chancellor to recruit lecturers to the department on merit basis. In the face of widespread criticism

from the university teachers, the committee may review the selections,

Hannan discloses

information gleaned from Hannan, now on a 10-day remand, "to ascertain whether those are true", said a top Rab official, requesting anonymity. A day after his arrest, Hannan gave more embarrassing statement before a court, saying the law enforcers were not

The Rab is now cross-checking the

petition to the prime minister, home minister and some other ministers soon after the coalition came to power. In reply, they assured him that they will let

Gopalganj and Faridpur districts, where Hannan used some madrasas as his KHULNA

office of Continental Courier Service. Our Khulna correspondent reports

now being quizzed by investigators.

Court and Khulna University campus.

the sake of investigation.

supposed to arrest him as some influential ministers of the government had given assurance to exempt him from the charges of attempting to kill the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina. He also said he submitted a mercy

him off the hook. Hannan is claiming that he has been abstaining from militant activities for the last few years. Rab sources said Rab teams are

being sent to places, particularly in

Intelligence officials and Khulna Metropolitan Police continued their massive hunt for Moulana Arif, who received delivery of the cartons containing explosive substances and other materials on August 14 from the Khulna

that Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) cadres Mahmud and Masum are also wanted by police in connection with the August 17 serial bomb blasts in Khulna. Moulana Arif, ameer of Khulna

district unit of JMB, Mahmud and

Masum were named among the 12 JMB cadres by Shahidullah alias Lokman, Shahidullah, now on a 10-day remand, was arrested in Dhaka on September 8. He was brought to Khulna

on Friday night being shown arrested in the bomb blast cases at Khulna Judges'

According to police, Moulana Arif played a key role in planning the attacks and selecting the targets as told by

Shahidullah during interrogation.

schoolteacher Abdul Hakim Gazi.

Shahidullah further told police that

Arif every now and then monitored the

activities of the IMB cadres assigned

with making bombs in the house of one

He said Moulana Arif, Masum and Mahmud have close connection with Bangla Bhai and Abdur Bahman. 'I am completely wedded to jihad for establishing Islamic rule in the country," the 18-year-old JMB cadre

carrying huge explosives, arms and $other \, materials \, from \, Satkhira \, border.$ 'Moulana Abdur Rahim Salafi trained me to use arms and bombs,"

Police said Moulana Arif gave

Shahidullah told the interrogators.

'Moulana Arif is my leader and he

helped me get bail and be released from

Jessore Central Jail in 1999," he told

police, admitting to his involvement in

Shahidullah Tk 350 and the latter left Khulna on the morning of August 18 for Dhaka

SATKHIRA

told police yesterday.

Our Satkhira correspondent adds: Ashraf Ali Master of Tengra village and Abdul Ahad of Baliadanga village, the two IMB activists placed on a three-day remand on October 2 admitted to having links to the August 17 bomb blasts, police sources said yesterday. The two were held last week in nnection with the August 17 incident.

During interrogation, Ahad admit-

ted that he was a close associate of JMB

kingpin Shaikh Abdur Rahman and had coordinated the bomb blasts in the region on orders of the JMB chief, interrogation team sources told The Meanwhile, Officer-in-charge (OC) Golam Mohammad of Satkhira Sadar

police station on Saturday filed another

case for using religion for political

purposes against the 11 JMB activists

detained on charges of involvement in

the August 17 blasts.

Tata Group is to continue the negotiations for the next two weeks. SAIFUR ON NEGOTIATIONS

> ers at his office after a meeting with National Board of Revenue (NBR) Saifur, however, added that since

"Brothers sometimes quarrel with

As many as 10,565 teachers of 3,778 schools across the country have been observing indefinite strike since October 1, demanding salaries equal to those of teachers of the registered non-

in education facilities including more

"The salary is so small that it's simply impossible to bear the family expenses. It

Educationist Prof Serajul Islam school teachers in rural areas should be tive education. "It won't be possible to

proposal has yet to be approved due to bureaucratic tangles, a source said. If implemented, the salary proposal will cost the government over Tk 24 crore

1992," said Mahbubul Alam

brought against them.

"Internationally and domestically

general secretary of the association.

How can we expect quality education when these teachers are paid the lowest A meeting held at the office of primary

"We used to get Tk 500 as monthly

after 12 years, we get Tk 750 when prices busy routes so that people could return of essentials have shot up tenfold since home without hazard from their workplaces during Ramadan.

Islamic scholars or alem-ulemas have

neighbouring countries. people and have done detailed work on it,"

He expressed dissatisfaction over the failure in detecting the culprits behind not be known

Faiz, however, has not accepted the resignation and requested Prof

The DU Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA

Dropping Zahidul Islam who

of the department.

an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra

examination recently, sources said. The DU authorities again advertised for four lecturers in July this year. But they recruited five lecturers including one not advertised for.

[Wednesday] in this regard." Meanwhile, DU Teachers Association General Secretary Prof Mohammd Aktheruzzaman along with