Bali death toll rises, Durga Puja key suspect escapes

REUTERS, Kuta Beach, Indonesia

Police questioned more witnesses in the Bali backpack bombings yesterday after narrowly failing to capture a key suspect in a series of blasts in Indonesia over the past several years.

The death toll from the blasts one week ago has risen to 23 -- including the three suicide bombers who strolled into packed restaurants on Indonesia's resort island with explosives hidden in backpacks, police said.

A 20-year-old restaurant worker died late on Friday of internal bleeding said Wayan Sutarga, medical services director at Sanglah hospital in Denpasar. He was the 15th Indonesian victim of the blasts, which also killed four Australians and a Japanese and wounded 146.

Police have questioned a total of 152 witnesses over the past week in connection with the blasts, but no one has been arrested or charged, Soenarko Dhanu Artanto, National Police deputy spokesman told reporters yesterday.

Police narrowly missed catching Noordin M. Top, 35, during a predawn raid in the central Java village of Purwantoro, Abdul Madiid, police chief in the city of Solo, told Reuters late on Friday.

Noordin and fellow Malaysian Azahari bin Husin, identified by police and intelligence officials as leaders of the al Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiah (JI) militant network, are leading targets of the search for those with possible ties to the Bali blasts.

JI seeks to create an Islamic state across broad swathes of Muslim Southeast Asia, experts say.

Madiid said police had information Noordin visited Bali near the time of the bombings, but it wasn't clear whether he was there when the blasts occurred.

A U.S. trained anti-terror force called Detachment 88 took part in the

Police helicopters on Saturday dropped thousands of leaflets with pictures of Top and Noordin on traditional markets throughout central Java. The leaflets said: "These are dangerous terrorists! If you see them, please report to the nearest police. The two Malaysians were implicated in bombings in Bali three years ago that killed 202 people, and subsequent deadly attacks on a luxury hotel in Jakarta in 2003 and

Indonesian capital in 2004. The United States announced this week it was offering rewards of \$10 million and \$1 million respectively for information leading to the capture of Dulmatin and Umar Patek, two suspects in the 2002 Bali bomb-

outside the Australian embassy in the

The State Department said both were JI members and Dulmatin was an electronics specialist who had trained at al Qaeda camps in

Some police and experts say JI in its original form was largely destroyed by arrests and convictions after earlier attacks, and the group behind the latest attacks may be a new Islamic militant organisation or a violent offshoot of JI.

Most Muslims in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim country, are moderate but militancy has grown in recent years.

As the police search went on across the country, in Bali ordinary people were trying to move on with

"Our driver died in the first blast. Luckily everyone is safe now," said Felix Harahap, operator of an icecream store near the site of one of the bombings, Raja's cafe.

"We will not be disturbed. So that's why as soon as the police took off the police line, we started cleaningup and opened the shop," he said.

Just opposite Raja's, at a store selling bikinis and women's dresses shop assistant Made Wijaya, 35, told Reuters:

"I think we just have to face the situation. Hopefully there will be no (more) Bali bombings ... But for me it's important to open the shop very soon so we can have costumers

Bangladesh jolted

Our Satkhira correspondent reports: A mild tremor hit the district at about 10:00am and lasted for a few seconds The earthquake created unusual waves in water bodies.

The tremor was also felt in Jhalakati, Barguna, Narail and Panchangarh districts.

BDNEWS adds: The tremor was felt in greater Faridpur and Noakhali

districts. and lasted for a few seconds. Local people said water bodies overflowed during the sway.

Faridpur town also experienced the

tremor at 10:00am.

In Laxmipur, the tremor was felt around 10:00am, followed by two aftershocks. The Meghna and Dakatia rivers and other water bodies overflowed during the jolt.

The tremor was felt also in Belkuchi, Chouhali, Enayetpur and sadar upazilas of Sirajganj district at about 10:00am.

UNB says: In Mymensingh, the tremor was felt between 10:00am and 10:30am, creating unusual waves in water bodies in Fulpur, Haluaghat Ishwarganj and Fulbaria upazilas.

The tremor also hit Chandpur, Comilla and Feni districts.

and union parishad offices. Floods have

washed away many puja mandaps in

The district administration has

allocated eight tonnes of rice and Tk

15,000 for the flood affected areas but it

man at his own initiative distributed

some cash money, sari, lungi and dry

collapsed in Mithapukur, Pirganj and

Badarganj upazilas, forcing people to

Madankhali Union Parishad chair-

Thousands of thatched houses have

Seven people have so far died from

Crops of about 70 thousand acres of

land have gone under water, an agricul-

tural extension department official

said, adding that if the water recedes, 25

percent of the crops under water will be

maged but production of high lands

Waterborne diseases have spread in

In Naogaon district, about 10 lakh

the flood-hit areas while activities of

people of Raninagar, Atrai,

Badalgachhi, Patnitala, Dhamurhat,

Mohadebpur, Niamatpur, Manda and

Sadar upazilas have become

Over one lakh hectares of land have

Rajakpur, Bolalia, Sahapur,

Dogachhi, Chuntipur, Mothermollah

and Chakowji of the eastern part of the

district have been inundated due to

fresh breaches in the flood protection

embankment at Goshpara,

Besides, four unions of Porsha

There is acute crisis of food in flood

Seventy-two tonnes of rice and Tk 9

Meanwhile, river erosion has taken a

rious turn with floodwater receding in

Kurigram district. Over a hundred

families have been rendered homeless

lakh have been distributed among the

flood victims, which is very inadequate

npared to the requirement.

due to erosion of Jinjiram river.

ımbhadrapur and Tulshiganga.

upazila have been submerged.

affected areas of the district.

medical teams are vet to be seen.

ne under flood water.

is too scanty for the starving people.

food among the flood victims.

e under the open sky.

snake bites and by drowning.

Floods grip more dists

between Gobindagani and Dinajpur snapped due to further increase of water level that has created heavy damage to the road.

With flood waters submerging the ground floor of Gobindaganj upazila health complex, many patients have left the complex while the critical patients were shifted upstairs.

Public health engineering office, livestock office and upazila parishad are now under knee to waist deep water.

At least ten Durga temples in the area submerged in floodwater.

About 60,000 people of over 50 flooded villages in badly affected Gumaniganj, Sapmara, Darbastha, Fulbari, Taluk Kanupur, Rakhal Buruj, Nakai, Harirampur, Shibpur, Mohimaganj and Salmara unions are marooned. Many villagers have shifted to high land.

With water level still increasing, Gobindagani Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abu Bakker Siddique has asked for rice as relief for flood victims.

Erosion-affected Katakhali bridge on Rangpur-Bogra highway is also under threat now

Some 300 feet stretch of Karotoa embankment at Nayonpur under Palashbari upazila has been washed away and a large portion of it collapsed

at Kishoregari point. Water through the breaches submerged Hossainpur and Kishoregari unions of the upazila where 3,000 people are marooned. Standing crops on a vast tract of land went under water

and fish fry in around 400 ponds were washed away BDNEWS adds: With worsening flood situation in Rangpur district, three lakh people are now passing their days in utter misery while about one

lakh people have been rendered homeless, as the clay houses in Badarganj and Mithapukur upazilas collapsed.

Water level of Jamuneshwari, Akhira and Karotoa rose markedly, worsening

the flood situation in Pirganj upazila. People of Tukuria, Chatra, Gilabari Kumedpur, Kamilpur, Ramnathpur, Krishnapur, Madankhali unions of the upazila are facing acute crisis of food

and pure drinking water. Flood-hit people have taken shelter on the premises of schools, colleges

Durga, the slayer of Mahishashur, is lion-borne, wielding an array of arms in her ten hands including Kripan. Chakra, Gada, and bow and arrow.

Building of the Puja Mandaps and all ritual preparations there are already complete, where Goddess Durga will be displayed in an act of killing the brute Mahishashur. Offerings of delicious food, fruits incense etc will be made to the Devi and later be distributed among the assembled devotees.

Government sources said 22,000 Puja Mandaps have been set up across the country, including 145 in the capital. But the Bangladesh Puja Udiapan Parishad said 18,000 Mandaps were made in the country including 142 in Dhaka.

The main Puja Mandap in the capital will be at Dhakeshwari National Temple. Large Mandaps have also been put up at Jagannath Hall in Dhaka University, Ramkrishna Mission, Ramna Kali Mandir, Siddheswari Kali Mandir, Tanti Bazar, Shankhari Bazar, Bangla Bazar, and in Mohakhali and Farm Gate areas.

Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad has directed its district committees not to use loudspeakers and musical instruments during Iftar. Tarabi and Sehri so as not to annov and disturb the fasting Muslims. Leaders of the Parishad said 'dhak' can be used only for a while during the worshipping and Sandhya Arati. ORGANISERSWANT

MORE SECURITY

Leaders of Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikva Parishad. Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad, Mahanagar Sarbajaneen Puja Committee, Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Parishad and Bangladesh Christian Association yesterday alleged images of the goddess Durga had been damaged at some places. The areas include Chittagonj, Chandpur, Khulna, Jessore and Faridpur.

Around 200 miscreants reportedly attacked the Chateshawri Kali Bari emple in Chittagong and demolished the idols on Friday.

They blamed the incidents on an absence of adequate preventive government measures.

They alleged, although some idols of Durga had been smashed at different places in the country the government has not deployed any additional police or paramilitary forces at the Mandaps to counter the menace.

'The administration knows who the culprits are, but they have not been nabbed despite repeated promises to do so,' leaders of different social, religious, human rights and cultural organisations said in press

They urged all to keep vigilance to maintain communal harmony during the five-day festival.

They also urged the government to step up security measures to ensure smooth observation of the Puia. GOVTMEASURES

According to government sources, following press reports and allegations of insufficient security at Puja Mandaps, the government has formed a monitoring cell and set up a

ecurity control room. At a meeting chaired by State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar yesterday said special security arrangements have been made for all the Mandaps across the country to conduct the puja from today to October 13 peacefully.

He admitted that the received allegations of demolishing idols at the different places but said the number of incidents have been less than that in the previous years. Stern action will be taken against the perpetrators of this crime, he declared.

A large number law enforcers including members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), police, Bangladesh Rifles and around one lakh Ansars are deployed to provide security to the Puia Mandaps.

GREETINGS

President Iaiuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina have felicitated the Hindus on the eve of

Dhaka City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and leaders of Bangladesh Christian Association have also congratulated them.

Many other political, social and cultural organisations also felicitated Hindus on the eve of the festival.

ATTACKS ON IDOLS

CONDEMNED

Different legal, social and cultural organisations vesterday condemned attacks on the Mandaps and damage to Durga idols across the country.

The organisations include Awami Leageue, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Jubo Union, Bangladesh Minority Lawyers Association, Bangladesh Hindu Parishad, Prethok Nirbachan Bastabayan Parishad, Bangladesh Hindu Youth Welfare Foundation, Shri Krishna Mission, Bangladesh Tafshil Federation and Ramna Kali Mondir Committee

Dhaka shocked

profound shock at the tragic loss of life and property in the powerful earthquake in different parts of Pakistan.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, in a message to his Pakistani counterpart Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri, also expressed deep shock at the extensive damage and destruction to life and property caused by the earthauake

Purge alliance patrons

the NGOs who channel funds to the militants as well as against those who extend the administrative support.

He said most of the suspected militants arrested in connection with the August 17 blasts are involved with Iamaat and Islamic Chhatra Shibir [student wing of Jamaat] politics. The AL general secretary said the

extreme communal forces have spread their networks, taken military training and secured foreign funds with the government's full knowledge and "Intelligence agencies in their reports had tried on several occasions

of the militant groups but the govern-

spread of extremist tentacles," Jalil Terming the banning of Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) and Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) mere eyewash, Jalil said it is of grave concern that Mufti Hannan's Harkatul Jihad has not yet been

The opposition parties said Deputy Minister Ruhul Quddus Talukdar Dulu of Natore had not only sheltered Bangla Bhai, but also extended all-out support to his terrorist operations. He even had held a meeting with him. They said State Minister Alamgir

Kabir of Naogaon and Rajshahi Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu too had assisted Bangla Bhai and his men. Besides, Rajshahi's former superintendent of police Masud had aided him in his activities while Industries Minister Nizami had described Bangla Bhai as a creation of the media

On reforms in the caretaker government and the election commission systems, the opposition alliance said the government has not yet taken any initiative about it. Rather, they alleged, it [four-party coalition] has been busy politicising the election commission and making other arrangements to rig

"We like to say categorically that those reform proposals have got to be implemented if the next election is to take place in a free and fair manner,

Replying to a query, Jalil said had there been an atmosphere of speaking to alert the government to the activities out, they would have placed the demands before the parliament, "We ment did not bother itself about the can't join the House just to show our

> Asked about his party's Dhaka city unit President Mohammad Hanif's recent remarks in favour of leaving out secularism from the party principles, Abdul Jalil said, "It's his personal view and will not affect the movement of the 14-party opposition. We will take decision on the matter in the party

> AL leaders Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta and Obaidul Quader, Workers Party leaders Rashed Khan Menon and Bimal Biswas, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu) leaders Mainuddin Khan Badal and Sved Zafar Sajjad, Ganatantri Party leader Nurul Islam, Gono Forum leaders Zahirul Islam, Pankaj Bhattacharya, and Mafizul Islam Kamal, National Awami Party (NAP) leader MA Gani, and Maidur Party leader Zaker Hossain were present at the press conference.

Over 1,000 killed

River has been blocked because whole villages have fallen into the water."

Indian officials meanwhile said at east 178 people including 21 soldiers had been killed and 300 wounded in the Indian-controlled zone of Indian army spokesman P. Sehgal

said many soldiers died when their positions caved in along the Line of Control, the heavily-militarised de facto border which divides Kashmir's Indian and Pakistani zones. The quake also brought down

buildings in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, including the 10-storey Margalla Towers where rescuers used bare hands to claw through rubble to reach blood-stained people trapped under huge stone slabs. "We saw people rushing to a hal-

cony on the other building but while it was still rocking, it crashed down and the occupants came down with the mass of the concrete," said local resident Sajida Burki. "There were screams of women

and children. Many are still trapped inside and we can hear cries. It's a tragic scene," Burki said. Pakistani President Pervez

Musharraf visited the scene and said the disaster was a test for the nation.

"In the overall context it is a test for all of us ... the entire nation, and we are sure we will qualify this test," he said. The US Geological Survey and the Pakistan Meteorological Department

said the quake measured 7.6 on the Richter scale and struck at 0350 GMT. The Japanese Meteorological Agency put the temblor even higher at 7.8. The epicentre was around 100 kilometres (60 miles) northeast of

Islamabad, according to most agencies, although the Earth Sciences Observatory in the French city of Strasbourg said it was just inside The divided territory of Kashmir is

claimed in full by both India and Pakistan. Thousands of troops face off on each side of the Line of Control and the two countries have fought two wars over the territory.

In Islamabad, in the first minutes after the earthquake struck, thousands of people fled their houses and sought the relative safety of the city's broad tree-lined avenues.

The ground shook for over 30 seconds, rocking buildings and making it almost impossible to walk without falling over. At least 14 aftershocks, including one measuring more than 6.0 on the Richter scale, rattled Islamabad in the hours after the quake, according to the meteorological department.

All along the main roads, terrified people were sitting or lying down, sobbing or looking confused. Many mosques started reciting special prayers. The quake was also felt strongly in

Indian Kashmir, causing panic and bringing people pouring out onto the streets of the summer capital Srinagar. Screams were heard from across Srinagar as people fled homes, shops and offices, fearing they would be

buried under rubble.

Men spontaneously started reading aloud verses from the Muslim holy book, the Koran, and women beat their chests in a display of bereavement. Doctors at Srinagar's main hospital said more than 200 people were

admitted with injuries and shock, while more than 100 people were being treated at an army hospital in the northern town of Uri alone. The disputed Kashmir region is an area of high seismic activity that lies in the collision zone of the Eurasian and

Indian tectonic plates.

KASHMIR

AFP says: The powerful earthquake killed at least 237 people across India's Jammu and Kashmir

"In all 237 people have died and 600 others have been injured in today's earthquake," the spokesman said, adding the dead included 36 Indian soldiers killed when their bunkers caved in or trees fell on their

northern border districts of Baramulla and Kupwara, both bordering Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Seven people were killed in the summer capital Srinagar, including an

In all 192 people were killed in

eight-month-old baby boy Musa The region's top civil servant Vijay Bakava warned that the final toll could be much higher as reports came in

from isolated areas. Authorities reported at least 500 houses and buildings damaged in the quake, which had its epicentre across the de facto border in Pakistan where more than 1,000 were feared dead.

"The soldiers died along the Line of trol (LoC)," army spokesman P Sehgal told AFP, referring to the dividing line in Kashmir between India and He said some of the army's forward

posts caved in, while others were hit by falling trees and landslides. "There can be more casualties," he added. Thousands of army soldiers man

the LoC to prevent Muslim rebels from entering Indian Kashmir from the Pakistani zone of the divided state. Doctors at Srinagar's main hospital

admitted with injuries and shock. The army spokesman said more than 175 people were being treated at an army hospital in northern Uri town.

alone said more than 250 people were

INDIAN PM OFFERS AID TO **PAKISTAN** AFP from New Delhi says: Indian

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has offered to help Pakistan with rescue and relief operations in the wake of yesterday's earthquake. "While parts of India have also

suffered from this unexpected natural disaster, we are prepared to extend any assistance with rescue and relief which you may deem appropriate,' Singh said in a message to Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf.

to the families of those killed in Indian Foreign Minister Natwar

Singh expressed his condolences

Singh also wrote to his Pakistani counterpart Khurshid Kasuri to convey his sympathies, a government statement said. "Please do not hesitate to indicate to us in whatever way we can be of

relief in the affected areas," he said. ANNAN 'DEEPLY SADDENED' AFP adds: UN Secretary General Kofi Annan is "deeply saddened by the loss of life and destruction" caused by the major earthquake that rocked

Annan "extends his sincere condo-

some assistance both for rescue and

lences to all the victims and their families," his spokesman said in a "The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is in contact with the governments of

Pakistan, India and Afghanistan.

Afghanistan, India and Pakistan to explore ways in which the United Nations can assist in all efforts required to support relief and rescue operations and in subsequent recovery and reconstruction," the spokesman added.

Oct 3 blasts Genes determine sweet dreams

Shows study

AFP, Geneva

How well you sleep could depend on who your parents were, researchers at Switzerland's Lausanne University reported on Thursday after identifying for the first time a "normal sleep" gene among mice.

"The first lesson of our research is that the quality of sleep is genetically determined," Mehdi Tafti, a professor at the university's Centre for Integrative Genomics, told AFP.

The scientists used an electroencephalograph to study lowfrequency brain waves among mice. These so-called delta waves, the

result of neuron activity, are telltales of the depth and quality of sleep. "We realised that some mice slept less well because they lacked delta activity," Tafti said. "When we

compared their genes with those of other mice, we localised the gene responsible for this difference." The finger points at a gene that encodes cell receptor for retinoic

Vitamin A, found in eggs, carrots and other orange or yellow vegetables, is known to act on this recep-

Scientists already knew that vitamin A plays an important role in the brain, in respect of sight but also diseases such as schizophrenia, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's -diseases that are also accompanied by a lack of delta activity.

Research on the mice found too much vitamin A was bad for sleep, although the scientists are unsure what the results of a deficiency of the vitamin would be and what the ideal intake is. Too much vitamin A can damage health, especially among pregnant women. In humans, delta activity dimin-

ishes with age, which is why children

sleep deeply and awake refreshed,

while old people usually sleep less The study appears on Friday in

the US weekly journal Science. Previous research has identified genes that can cause sleeplessness, but this is the first to identify a gene linked with normal sleep.

Major quakes

FROM PAGE 1 province in the north.

March 25, 2002: Afghanistan - At least 1,000 people are killed in Nahrin district in the Hindu Kush by a series of tremors measuring as high as 6.1 on the

October 8, 2005: Pakistan - More than 1,000 are feared killed in Pakistan when an earthquake measuring 7.7 strikes northeast of the capital

2 hundi traders FROM PAGE 1

Liakot said he was bringing the money earned from selling fertiliser and rice from their offices at Nawapara, Jessore, to their Dhaka office.

Station said the recovered money was sent to treasury No case was filed with the police

station as of yesterday evening

Officer-in-Charge of Savar Police

20 hurt

FROM PAGE 16 the other by Maherul--locked in a clash at about 10:30pm over control of the

Witnesses said the two rival groups fired shots during the clash that continued for an hour. Seven of the injured, including

bullet-hit Asadul, 40, and Ali Hossain, 42, were admitted to upazila health com-

Both the groups lodged written $complaints\,with\,police.$

Bush, Blair

FROM PAGE 16 address at the Chatham House think tank in London.

"Tony Blair and George Bush are guilty of the crime of planning and committing aggressive warfare." Ritter was a UN weapons inspector

in Iraq between 1991 and 1998, when

he resigned, citing a lack of UN and US

support for his tough disarmament

In his speech he also mocked Britain's supposed "special relationship" with the United States, likening London's position to that of a "disre-

The sharing of information was a one-way system, with the US benefit ing from UK intelligence, Ritter argued. "Britain gets nothing, other than to

say they are America's closest ally in

Maoist rebels in the country. Officials

say rebels have joined hands with

Maoists fighting to overthrow mon-

archy in neighbouring Nepal.

garded mistress".

Europe," he said. 13 cops killed FROM PAGE 16

courts to resolve disputes and killing officials they believe are corrupt. In August, India's home ministry said there were about 9,300 armed

two more associates of Abu Taleb alias Babul Ansari, assistant security officer of the parliament secretariat, to probe their alleged link to the countrywide bomb-

Both the arrestees -- Saimum and Azizul Hague -- claimed to be researchers in Our'an, said sources.

But sources in the Detective Branch (DB) said Saimum is one of the 12 people who had attended a meeting in Dhaka to plan the August 17 blasts in Dhaka.

The detectives, acting on the infor-

mation obtained from Ansari, arrested Saimum in Salnabazar in Gazipur and Azizul in Nurdanil in Joydevpur at around 11:00pm Friday. Earlier the same night, they arrested Giasuddin Azad, 32, of Chandpur, and

Mizanur Rahman Badsha, 22, of Kushtia in the capital's Shewrapara area, following up leads from Taleb. The two were learnt to be members of the "12 Group", an exclusive team

assigned to execute bombings at some places on August 17. Detectives yesterday petitioned the four to be placed on a seven-day remand each, but the Court of Chief Metropolitan

As of last night, the four, shown arrested in the blasts in Tejgaon on August 17, were being quizzed at DB Abu Taleb, an alleged mastermind

Magistrate, Dhaka ordered for four days.

behind the August 17 blasts in Jessore, was arrested at his Green Road house in Dhaka on Monday, following the arrest of a JMB activist in Jessore. The parliament secretariat authori-

ties on Tuesday suspended him for his alleged links to the militant groups. The detectives, who are said to be convinced of his connection with JMB, are now interrogating him under a sevenday remand about the militant outfit's

CHITTAGONG

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports: Laltu and Shahadat have confessed to being members of Shaheed Nasrullah Al Arafat Brigade (Snab), the newly formed military wing of JMB and Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (IMIB).

They also admitted Laltu is a member

of the hit group that staged the October 3

blasts on the court premises, while Shahadat is a member of the Dawati (recruiting) group that co-ordinated the terrorist attacks. The two further disclosed that there were four members involved in the

two, Mehedi and Mohammad, are on the run from police. During the interrogation by JIC at Chittagong DB office, Laltu and Shahadat said they had been working under the direction of JMB and JMJB

attacks on Chittagong courts. The other

chiefs. Mohammad had co-ordinated the whole operation while Laltu, Shahadat and Mehedi, each equipped with bombs set in a book and a geometry box, went to carry out the blasts at Chittagong court ouildings.

After the attack, Mehedi had managed to flee the scene by exploding a less powerful bomb in the corridor of the Chittagong Court Building.

Acting on the leads given by Laltu and

Shadat, police have raided different areas

of Lama in Bandarban, Cox's Bazar and in the city, but to no effect. They only managed to recover a Light Gun and two bullets from Mohammad Ali's mess in the city's Uttar Kattoli area

Meanwhile, Arshadul Alam, one of the five suspects rounded up in connection with the August 17 blasts in Chittagong, is likely to be placed on another five-day remand, sources said. **IOYPURHAT**

ers yesterday that police raided village Bakhra of Khetlal upazila on Friday night and arrested Abdul Momin, suspected to be a trainer of the JMB operatives, reports UNB.

Superintendent of Police (SP) in

Joypurhat Abdullah Al Azad told report-

They also arrested Habibullah Dewan at village Dashra Kazipara of the same upazila. "The trainer Abdul Momin used to give military training to the JMB mem-

the villagers.

and arrested Abdus Sattar and Sagar.

Sagar, who hails from Doulatpur of Khetlal upazila, was holed up at his relatives' house to evade capture.

Karimpur of Kalai upazila the same night

BARISAL Our Barisal correspondent reports: The seven accused in the 12 blast cases include Ziaur Rahman, director, Golam Morshed Chowdhury Reza, manager

Moreover, Amin, another accused, and Ziaur's friends -- Jasim Uddin of Babuganj and Maruf of Uzirpur upazila --

are also accused in the cases.

behind the blasts, and he along with his six arrested associates conducted the mission in the city, according to the statement and investigation.

charges against Mohammad Kibria Kabira, a Jubo League leader, Azam Khan, a Jativa Party leader, and Saidul Islam Chowdhury of Natun Bazar, who

SATKHIRA

has prepared charge sheets of the five cases filed with Sadar Police Station against 11 people, sources in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) said. They are Nasir Uddin,

Maniruzzaman Munna, Anisur Rahman

Khokon, Monowar Hossain Uijal,

Alamgir Hossain, Mamunur Rashid

Mahbubur Rahman Liton, Riaz Uddin, Abdul Ahad, Ashraf Master and Indian Our Khulna staff correspondent reports: JMB cadre Shahidullah was placed on a

August 17 blasts are followers of Ahle Hadith Andolan, Bangladesh (Ahab) chief Dr Asadullah Galib, Shahidullah told police on Friday night. He has named Maolana Muniruddin,

All the JMB cadres involved in the

behind the blasts. Sources said some influential men of the four-party alliance are hindering

cadre when I was a student of Bamondanga Madrasa in Runsha upazila in 2000. Dr Galib used to visit the madrasa thrice a year to instruct us and deliver lectures on how to join armed struggle to establish Islamic rule in the

country," Shahidullah told investigators. Shayekh Abdur Rahman is also one of those who guided him to join the JMB

activities, he added. Meanwhile, the ongoing drive in the Sundarbans has so far achieved no $success\,in\,detecting\,militant\,dens.$

Joint forces are reportedly eyeing Char near the Bay of Bengal, where police may raid anytime, said a source.

BANDARBAN Law enforcers are hunting for JMB's training centres in Lama upazila as Biltu, who was arrested in Chittagong on October 3 for blasting bombs at a court

arrested in Bandarban on September 15, admitted to having direct links to the blasts on August 17.

the document" as part of an information campaign designed to reach those in remote areas, he said.

In the Baghdad neighbourhood of

with food rations. "Men ask for the constitution before the sugar. Woman want sugar and rice

first," Ibrahim Hassan Bahadli noted.

"Some people read the constitution in the street, while others are afraid and hide it in their bags.

But while Kurds and many Shias were expected to approve the proposed basic law, support is weak among Sunni Arabs who fear its federalist foundation could leave them bereft of oil resources found in northern and southern Irag.

weaknesses". Besides leaving some crucial issues for subsequent parliaments to decide, he pointed to "key contradictions

ties, potentially depriving the central government of billions of dollars in Sunnis might feel that "is worth fighting a war over", Cole told AFP. Meanwhile, a directive posted

Saturday inside Baghdad's heavily

protected Green Zone and confirmed by

an interior ministry source listed several

They include a curfew from October 13-17 the hours of which were not specified, partial closures of international and provincial borders, as well as air and sea ports and a ban on everyone

mortar fire in a nearby village, he added.

men killed police Captain Hakki Ismail, an interior ministry source reported.

tion was kept secret. The information came to light on bers at the house of Habibullah Dewan at the dead of night," said one cop, quoting October 6 when the two were produced before a court, which remanded each of Police also raided village Harunja and them for five days. Iraq on brink of civil war It was also possible that future oil

discoveries in the Shia south could fall under the control of regional authori-

revenue and services.

nationwide measures to ensure security during the referendum

but security forces carrying weapons.

Violence continued Saturday, with

the drive-by shooting of municipal councillor Abdelmawjud Ahmed Juburi in Hawijah, west of Kirkuk, in northern Iraq, police Colonel Ahmed al-Obeidi A seven-year-old child was also

Abu Solaiman, a blind office staff, and Jalal Arefin, accountant of Al-Ikram

maj Kalyan Sangstha.

Ziaur is absconding, while police

could not yet obtain details about Amin. The officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station said the charge sheets are based on the confessional statement of Solaiman made before a magistrate on August 27.

Ziaur Rahman was the mastermind Sources said the police dropped

were arrested earlier.

Our Satkhira correspondent adds: The IO of the August 17 blast cases in the district

national Gias Uddin. KHIJI.NA

resh two-day remand yesterday.

an Imam of Daulatpur Ahle Hadith Mosque who went into hiding since August 17, as one of the masterminds

police from arresting Muniruddin. The sources, however, did not name the alliance men. "I was inspired to become a JMB

There are some dens of Harkatul Jihad at Dublar Char and its neighbour

ng areas, the source added.

building, gave such information, reports our Bandarban correspondent. Meanwhile, Abdul Hafij of Lalmonirhat, one of the two people

Police arrested Hafij and Shafigur Rahman of Gaibandha in Faitong in Lama on September 15, but the informa-

Karradah, an Iraqi official said the document was being handed out along

Roughly 15.7 million voters are eligible to vote on the constitution out of

Iraq's total population of 26 million.

Middle East specialist Juan Cole at the University of Michigan also voiced doubts about the constitution's "many

between civil and Islamic law". "Can you have freedom of speech if blasphemy can be prosecuted?" he

killed and two others wounded by In western Baghdad, several gun-