## Hasina vows to keep essentials | Militants plan blasts

political parties as well as the contestants in the polls.

Analyzing the ruling parties' electoral pledges one by one, Hasina said, "In last four years, the present government failed to solve even a single problem of the people, rather they themselves [ruling alliance] have turned out to be a huge problem for the

"Lack of governance, state patronisation of the criminals, and rise of militants with government knowledge and support have pushed the country into sheer uncertainty," she observed.

"We want to say categorically that Awami League will not let anyone turn the country into a failed state," the former prime minister said, adding, "We will establish a modern, secular and democratic Bangladesh based on the spirit of the Liberation War."

She said, "We never wanted the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance to fail as we knew that failure of any government would mean misery of the people which now seems to be the order of the Reiterating the demand of the 14-

party opposition combine for immediate resignation of the government, she said, "Otherwise we will force the government to quit through united movement.'

Before spelling out the 16-point commitment. Hasina detailed what she said were misdeeds of the four-year

PRICE SPIRAL OF ESSENTIALS Giving a comparison between the prices of essentials when she left office in July 2001 and those now, Hasina blasted the alliance government for 'failing miserably' to check the price

Citing from a comparative chart of prices, she claimed prices of rice shot up by 65-100 percent, lentil by 60 percent, soybean oil 114 percent, flour 67 percent, salt 80 percent, sugar 50 percent, powder milk 100 percent, onion 167 percent, green chilli 400 percent, egg 64 percent, ginger 243 percent, beef 71 percent, mutton 50 percent, fish 90 percent, vegetables 40 percent, kerosene 113 percent, diesel 100 percent and petrol 83 percent between July 2001 and October 2005.

Transport cost has been raised 90 percent during the same period, she

LAW AND ORDER SLIDE

The opposition leader said BNP in its last election manifesto had pledged to improve law and order, but after four years of its rule BNP-Jamaat regime and terrorism have become 'synonymous'.

She said the president granted because he is a BNP leader. Besides, ministers had recommended release of militant kingpin Mufti Hannan, accused of planting bomb in

Hasina said, "In last four years, terrorism rose to extreme heights as the untrymen witnessed grenade and serial homb blasts across the country, recovery of huge stock of firearms in Bogra, Chittagong and Kuril in Dhaka.'

'How come the government claim that law and order situation is under control when a record 500 blasts have left the entire nation rattled?" the mer prime minister questioned UNABATED CORRUPTION and FAILURE IN POWER SECTOR

"Eliminating corruption was BNP's second most important pledge before the last polls, but after coming to power corruption has become their one and only policy," the AL chief said adding, Bangladesh became world champion in corruption not for once but for three consecutive years under the present

She said 'electricity for all' was the coalition's third electoral pledge, but in reality the government in last four years has managed to add only 80 MW ower. "During the last Awami League rule, power production rose by about 2700 MW." she added.

PLOTTO RIG NEXT ELECTION

Hasina said the level of failure and misrule of the government is so pronounced that the ruling coalition is 'trying to come to power by circumventing people's mandate through election engineering'.

She alleged that government has extended the retirement ages for judges just to get a loval person as the chief of the caretaker government Without consulting the opposition parties, it has already appointed another faithful as the chief election commissioner. Besides, a large number of BNP-Jamaat activists have been appointed election officers as part of a pigger plot to rig the next election in alliance's favour, she observed.

Referring to the opposition's proposals for reforms in the caretaker vernment and the electoral systems. e said those have become the pre

ABSENCE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE The former prime minister said politicisation under the present government has crippled the administra

Independence of judiciary is yet to be given when the integrity of the High Court has been undermined with the appointment of controversial people as judges, she said.

Politicisation in the judiciary is so grave that one incumbent district judge has been participating in BNP's etings regularly," she alleged.

'Bangladesh has been branded as a terrorist state under the present regime while the UN has termed it a vulnerable country," Hasina said on the government's performance in foreign rela-

THE OTHER COMMITMENTS The opposition leader's charter of

bombers with a firm hand for the sake of the country and Islam, for people who uphold religious values irrespective of creed, for safeguarding devel-

opment, democracy and peace

Terming terrorism as a potential international problem, she observed that although the area of Bangladesh is small, the country's maritime and land boundary is quite large. Bangladesh does not have the capacity to guard this extensive border constantly, and as a result, the movement of criminals and trafficking of explosives and other harmful substances through the border is quite possible.

Calling for reinforcing mutual understanding and cooperation among the countries of the region to stop this, the prime minister said of the South Asian nations to this subject during the forthcoming Saarc Summit in Dhaka.

community that Bangladesh is on the side of peace as there is no room for religious or any other brand of extrem-

The prime minister said she has posed the framing and application of strict laws for curbing bombings and terrorism. The government is moving ahead on this issue. She sought all-out cooperation of people especially of political parties, in the

and some more time are needed for qualitative improvements in the situation. "Today, I seek that cooperation and time from you all."

Calling for public awareness against terrorism, she noted that there is no inaccessible terrain in Bangladesh where the terrorists can hide. Here, the criminals tend to hide in the crowd. Catching them becomes quite easy if the people remain awake and alert.

"I, therefore, said we do not have the capacity to put close-circuit camera or CCTV at all places for identifying the terrorists. So, let the vigilant eyes of 14 crore people become our

Khaleda, who assumed power with a twin-objective to fight terrorism and corruption, said corruption in Bangladesh became a topic of discussion in the international arena before

However, she admitted, "We have not been so successful during the past four years compared to the successes achieved in curbing corruption during our tenure of 1991-96. The reason is corruption proliferated at all levels."

For freeing society from this infectious disease, Khaleda said the government took the initiative to bring transparency and accountability in government transactions, trade and

tion policy adopted by the previous AI government, ensuring education and legal protection for the women and poor, and building up a pro-people

health sector.

She also promised to arrange lowinterest loans to finance rural industries, commerce and agriculture, ensure adequate irrigation facilities and fertilizer supply for farmers energy supply to the rural areas, and increase agricultural subsidy.

Implementation of an employment plan in coordination with the private sectors to create employment opportunities for the unemployed youth is another pledge that Hasina made in heraddress

She also promised to reduce government involvement in trade and commerce

Bringing back the people's money that had been siphoned out from the country and introduction of egovernance to ensure accountability of the administration too figure among

### Robber killed in 'crossfire'

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, N, ganj** 

A notorious robber of Araihazar upazila in the district was killed in a 'crossfire' during a shootout between the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and a gang of criminals early vesterday.

According to Rab-3 sources, a Rab team arrested Rawshan Ali, 35, a listed criminal, at Navapur Bazar in Sonargaon upazila on Monday night. Following his statement, the team took him to Noikahon area to arrest his accomplices and seize arms at around 3:00am.

When they reached Nayapur Bazar, robbers opened fire and the Rab men retaliated against the attack. Rawshan, hit by bullets in the crossfire, was declared dead when he was taken to a local hospital, a Rab source said.

Rab seized one pistol, one gun, six oullets and machete from the scene.

Rawshan and his accomplices used to commit robbery on the Dhaka-Sylhet and Dhaka-Chittagong highways and in Rupganj and Araihajar upazilas.

### Tata for skipping

FROM PAGE 16

sought government guarantee for buying its power and fertiliser for 30

Bangladesh officials at the meetings with Tata representatives vesterday disagreed on the proposals and said these issues would be decided after discussion with the ministerial committee on Tata investment.

Tata sources said their officials found the government procurement system a lengthy and cumbersome one, which they would not like in case of selling their product to the government.

Three separate meetings at the Ministry of Industries, Petrobangla and Power Development Board (PDB) were held vesterday. Bangladesh officials tagged fixing Tata's power and fertiliser tariff with the government's coal and gas "We want to maintain an equitability

for gaining a win-win situation with industrial giant Tata Group in fixing the tariff of gas and coal as well as fertiliser and power," said a government high official, who led the team at one meeting The prices could not be fixed before

the receipt of the government-recruited consultant's report, he told The Daily Star, seeking anonymity. At the meeting with PDB officials,

Tata representatives proposed using the agreement for power purchase from Meghnaghat plant as an yardstick for power purchase from Tata. But the PDB team disagreed with them saying that Meghnaghat plant is a gas-fired one while Tata plans setting up two coalbased power plants.

At the Petrobangla meeting, Tata officials demanded construction of a gas pipeline from Chittagong to the proposed fertiliser factory with the government funding it. They also proposed to relocate its

fertiliser plant from Banshkhali to some other area as Banshkhali is too far from a river jetty.

'Éarlier, we did not consider this aspect. So, we now want to relocate our fertiliser factory from Banshkhali as it is located around 18 kilometres from a jetty," a Tata official said

The government side agreed on the relocation and suggested to Tata two other places for its fertiliser factory.

The Tata team at its meeting at the ndustries ministry sought government guarantee for 30 years for procuring its fertiliser, and an international trade agreement. Ministry officials disagreed on such a guarantee. The present third round negotiation

today and is scheduled to resume on October 16.

has been suspended for five days from

During the break, the two sides will ake up the issues with their respective nigher authorities, sources said.

The wrap-up meeting of the third round negotiation will be held on October 17 at the Ministry of

#### Schroeder

party in a coalition

In time, history may judge Schroeder as a chancellor who hung on too long, chasing a third term even after his Social Democrats won fewer seats and votes than their conservative rivals in elections on September 18.

A deal with Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union is likely to see him shut out of Germany's future coalition government, after early speculation that he was considering being vice-chancellor or foreign

Abdul Awal, son-in-law of JMB chief Abdur Rahman, would lead the squad and has already set out for border areas to collect explosives, the source added Several JMB activists have also left the district on the same mission.

The source also said the suicide squad members will be sent to all the major districts to 'free' their fellows arrested in Bogra, Gaibandha and Naogaon.

The bomb attacks would be 'well planned', the source continued, adding hat 'Ehsars' would play a vital role and be honoured as 'shaheed' if they die. Meanwhile, intelligence agencies

suspect female activists of the banned organizations may take part in future bombings. Police have recently seized a military cap from a female madrasa at

Intelligence sources said students of the madrasa might have been trained as militants to take part in any attack.

The daughter of Abdur Rahman and wife of Faruq, responsible for August 17 blasts in Gaibandha, was a trainer at the madrasa, the sources added.

Meantime, Mamunur Rashid, popularly known as Faruq and accused of attacking police at Moheshpur in Joypurhat, is living in Bogra shaving off his

The Huji has threatened to blow up key installations in Khulna if Mufti Hannan was not released, reports our staff correspondent in Khulna "We are just waiting for orders from

the high command to bomb the targets in cooperation with JMB," the caller told heads of different key installations over phone, sources said.

Police and intelligence sources said Huji may target KMP headquarters, offices of the divisional commissioner and superintendent of police, Rupsha Bridge, BTV substation, temples, Khulna station of Bangladesh Betar, power station, BTTB office, newspaper offices, press club, courts and other key installa-

The commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) said he knows about the threats, adding that a security blanket has already been thrown on the

### DRIVETO NAB JAMAAT

Police launched a fresh drive in Khulna division to arrest Jamaat-e-Islami leader Shahabuddin Lashkar alias Dhira, a suspected mastermind behind the killing of Khulna Bureau chief of Dainik Sangram Shaikh Belaluddin Intelligence agencies learnt Mufti

Hannan hid at Dhira's house after planting a bomb near the meeting venue of the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina at Kotalipara in 2000. Dhira went into hiding soon after the

arrest of Hannan. He is the alleged head of Khulna divisional unit of a Huji bomb squad and suspected mastermind behind planting bombs at a meeting venue of Sheikh

Helal, MPin 2001. Meantime, JMB cadre Shahidullah alias Lokman, 18, in his confessional

The mining project that started trial

down on Wednesday when the miners

at a depth of around 1,100 feet found an

alarming increase of carbon monoxide.

They were noticing a gradual increase of

happened because the Chinese contrac-

tor CMEC left highly inflammable coal

pits exposed to air since May and the

mining authority overlooked the matter

even when it took over the mine for trial

should not be left exposed to air for

more than 24 hours as this can lead to

self-combustion of the coal and emis-

sion of gas. Carbon monoxide also

the coal layer. But this fire has automati-

cally died down due to lack of oxygen

and as a result the mine has been satu-

rated with carbon monoxide," said one

As ner mining rules, CMEC was

supposed to use yellow mud to cover the

exposed coal pits. In addition, it was

supposed to keep the mine temperature

these were maintained despite repeated

reminders at different meetings with

in yellow mud. They had special fans

and two cooling machines which they

did not operate," the source mentioned.

gas mask and other safety equipment

required for emergency manual opera-

international rule number one that you

can't leave any issue for tomorrow. You

can't neglect anything. If you do, the

losses will be enormous," he pointed

of tunnels and two layers for mining. It

was working in one layer and the second

The Barapukuria project was

approved in March 1992 with the target

layer is to be used after five years.

flaws, according to official sources.

Through repeated rescheduling of

deadlines, cost escalations and various

types of irrational contractual exten-

sions, the contractor was given seven

CMEC had developed 18 kilometres

Besides, CMEC did not even supply

"In the mining business, it is an

below 32 degree Celsius. But none of

"They had the equipment to pump

"It is most likely that there was fire in

Mining rules dictate that coal pits

Mine sources said this disaster has

this gas over the previous week.

production three weeks ago.

causes instant death.

Petrobangla officials.

tion inside the mine.

as masterminds and bombers in Khulna. They are Abdur Rahman. Bangla Bhai, Maolana Arif, Palash, Feroz Mahmud, Musa, Suman, Munna

Shahidullah told the court he fled to Dhaka from Khulna after the bomb He said two people -- Suman and

Masum, Mintu and he himself.

Faruque -- took him to Satkhira by motorcycle to carry a bag to Khulna. They gave him Tk 1,000 in advance

near Tablig Mosque at Nirala in 2003.

He said Arif taught him how to carry out destructive activities and join iihad for establishing Islamic rules. Arif played a key role in placing the bombs and sent other JMB cadres early on August 17 to

NÉTRAKONA Our Netrakona correspondent adds: Detained JMB member Sanaullah admitted to police that six cadres were assigned to explode bombs at six points in Netrakona on August 17.

Sanaullah was arrested on Thursday and told investigators the bombs were made outside Netrakona and given to the bombers on August 16. Kawsar Alam Suman, a top JMB

leader of greater Mymensingh, coordi-

nated the bombings and led a team to supply the bombs. Sanaullah and the six took shelter in Liton's house in Kurpar in Netrakona in early June and left the place on August 17,

### More areas

police sources said.

FROM PAGE 16

have gone under rushing water that entered through the breaches of Karotoa flood control embankment at Bagulagar and Taraf Manu.

Flood affected people of remote areas, now crowding along flood control embankments and nearby educational institutions for shelter, are suffering for want of food and drinking water. About 35,000 people of badly affected

Keshoregari and Hossainpur unions under Palashbari upazila have remained marooned by floodwater that breached five points on the Karotoa embankment said Palashbari upazila nirbahi officer. At least 25 villages of Kamalerpara

Shaghata upazila and Badiakhali under Gaibandha sadar upazila have been affected by floodwater. A portion of embankment at Ratanpur under Gaibandha sadar upazila collapsed and floodwater engulfed a vast

Kachua, Bonarpara unions under

tract of croplands. Treatment at Gobindaganj Upazila Health Complex is seriously disturbed as the ground floor of the health complex has gone under knee-deep water.

Meanwhile, restoration of traffic movement on Gobindaganj-Dinajpur highway remains uncertain as surging water badly damaged the road. Our Rangpur correspondent adds

Fresh areas in Pirganj and Mithapukur upazilas in the district have been inun dated as rivers are overflowing.

Flood situation in Badargani upazila has slightly improved operation within next two weeks.

power-station managers. The meeting was informed that if all

Secretary of the Power Division Electric Supply Authority (Desa) A Rab

#### BSF kills

FROM PAGE 16 The identity of the injured could not be

Mofazzal Hossain Dulal, chairman of the Sixth Auliapur Union Parishad (UP) quoting villagers said 200 Battalion of BSF opened fire on the victims taking them for smugglers near Lalchandpur camp of India

The two young men died on the spot. The BSF sent the bodies to inside their camp for almost a day.

relative's house in India.

# FROM PAGE 1

"Last Thursday, they put up a signboard in the name of Orion Trading House and started the demarcation work," said a top official of the department of forest, requesting anonymity.

Witnesses said the workers have so that they can erect barbed wire.

the grabbers.

home secretaries as well as the deputy commissioner and superintendent of police of Mymensingh yesterday. He instructed them to take all necessary legal actions to recover the

Obaidul Karim told The Daily Star

## 2 share Nobel prize for game

economics

Robert J. Aumann, an Israeli-US citizen, and American Thomas C. Schelling yesterday won the 2005 Nobel Economics Prize for using game theory to explain conflict resolution, the Nobel jury said.

theory analysis

Using game theory -- interactive decision scenarios -- the laureates focused on why some people and countries manage to cooperate, while others suffer from conflict. Their work has helped understand

all kinds of conflict and cooperation, from trade fights, organized crime, political decisions and wage negotiations to outright shooting wars. American Schelling, now 84 produced his main work during the

Cold War, which pitted the United States against the Soviet Union, when he used game theory methods to explain the era's most vital issues global security and the arms race.

### Stop lighting

FROM PAGE 1 In view of the situation, the authorities

urged the owners to cease from lighting the shopping malls on the occasion of Eid-shopping binges. State Minister for Power Iqbal

Hassan Mahmood explained the mea-

sures taken in a meeting with the managers of different power stations at his "We'll enforce law if the owners fail

to comply with government orders," he Against the backdrop of countrywide electricity crunch, the power ministry

convened the meeting of the general

managers and chief engineers of differ-

ent power stations to discuss a way out. The chief executives of the state owned power stations informed the meeting that about eight large power plants across the country remained out of operation for various reasons, resulting in 800 MW to 1000 MW shortages in

electricity supply. They said all the power stations were either forced to shutdown by mechanical breakdown or for maintenance work. The plants need at least three to four weeks time to repair and resume operation.

"Most of the power stations lack exper tise and skilled manpower, causing the delay in repairs and maintenance works," they were quoted as saving. Chairman of the Power Development Board (PDB) ANH Akhtar Hossain told the meeting that the problem related to

shortage of skilled manpower has been

persisting for the last 15 years. But thi was not properly addressed. The state minister directed the chiefs of nower stations to make special effort to bring all the closed plants back into

"You have to increase generation to 3800 MW from 3200 MW," the minister told

the closed plants resumed operation, it would add about 360 MW electricity to the national grid, easing the present crisis

were also present at the meeting.

Balurghat for autopsy yesterday afternoon after keeping the bodies Sources from the victims' families

said the young men were going to their

Following the incident, 14 Battalion of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) of Khanpur border outpost (BOP) sent a strong letter of protest. The situation around the border area is still tensed as the BSF is yet to return the bodies.

### Orion grabs

already made a wall 400 to 500 feet long. They have also put up pillars along the border of the grabbed land The chief conservator of Forest

(CCF) and other high officials visited

the area in the morning. Forest officials alleged that some officers of the police department have been helping Being informed about the land grabbing, Environment Minister Tariqul Islam talked to the cabinet and

forestland at any cost.

last night that his company has bought Intelligence officials said Ataur 165 acres of land from the locals after verifying their legal documents. So there is no question of capturing forestland, he maintained.

## Over 10,000 communal

Jamaat-e-Islami, Nezam-e Islam and Muslim League," said the white paper.

Admitting that torture of minorities has seen a low now, the white paper said the country's constitution says that neither it nor the country is for the non-Muslims. "How can a country having such a communal constitution be a good example of communal harmony?" it asked. It is impossible to establish com-

munal harmony unless the state and the government are secular, it said.

Repression of religious minorities which began in mid-July of 2001 after the caretaker government took over, rose widely after the general elections. No single day could be found in the first three months of the coalition government's taking power when repression of minorities did not take

Incidents of physical torture, ooting, setting fire to households, forced extortion and rape were more than the number of killings, the white paper said.

The victims of murder included people of different ages, from newborn babies to 70-year-olds. Even priests of temples, Buddhist monks and elderly scholars could not escape In some cases, Hindus were forced

to convert to Islam, while Muslims or ethnic people who converted to Christianity willingly were tortured and even killed. Terming the coalition government as pro-Islam, the white paper said

BNP's political philosophy is Islamic

nationalism, like that of the Muslim

League, although it does not introduce itself as an Islamist party like the Jamaat-e-Islam and Islami Oikya Jote. The white paper said local activists and supporters of the four-party alliance started attacking, torturing, terrorising and even killing minority religious sects, especially Hindus, at different parts of the country from mid-July of 2001. They worked to

ensure that Hindus do not go to voting

centres and, if they go, do not cast their

vote for any one other than the alliance

candidates. A study of 1,500 days of repression on minorities shows that these efforts aimed mainly at turning Bangladesh into a religiously monolithic country like Afghanistan.

Blaming the government for its continual denial of the repression from the very beginning, the white paper said the local administration did not take any effective steps against the torture due to the government's denial. Complaints of the victims were not even recorded at police stations, it

The white paper blamed former chief advisor of the caretaker government, Justice Latifur Rahman, for his

denial from the very beginning that communal violence took place anywhere in the country. "Like him, the coalition government also continued

To make the government happy, the police administration at times forced the victims to say that no inci-

Knowing that the government will act in favour of them, the perpetrators were encouraged for further repres-

Coming to power, the coalition government ignored the implementation of the hill treaty, which resulted in continual repression of hill people by the military and Muslim settlers, said the white paper.

Communal thoughts are growing even in the Awami league, the pioneer of Bangali nationalism and follower of secularism, the white paper noted.

country for life in 1971 returned afterwards. But many of the victims of

was higher than that of any other past reign, the opposition failed to take effective steps to stop it, the paper

The white paper recommended five steps for immediate implementation and six for long-term implementation. The immediate steps include formation of a high-profile commission comprising a Supreme Court judge, joint-secretary-level representatives from home and law ministries and human rights organisations to make inquiries into reported incidents of minority repression in the last four years. The commission will submit its report in six months and make recommendations for stopping torture and

The long-term recommendations include creating mass awareness and implementation of a secular constitu-

Presided over by Prof Kabir Chowdhury, the function was addressed, among others, by AL leader Abdur Razzak, Bangladesh Community Party President Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Prof Muntassir Mamoon, Prof Ajay Roy, Prof Nim Chandra Bhoumik and Political Secretary of Parbatya Chattagram Jana

Sanghati Samity Usha Kar Talukder.

# Quake toll may go

ransacked military trucks which had just arrived in the city and took food, tents, blankets and medicines, an AFP photographer at the scene said.

get fuel to burn wood for cooking and "Everything is gone, people are buried alive, nobody is helping us to find them,'

Others broke into a petrol station to

ities late Monday had succeeded in reopening the mountain roads leading to Muzaffarabad and Balakot, which had been blocked by landslides, speeding up the relief effort. International rescue teams with

sniffer dogs and specialist equipment

tens of thousands of injured. Offers of aid have also begun pouring n from around the world. The United States said it had provided \$50 million, the World Bank offered \$20 million and the Asian Development Bank pledged

\$10 million. Survivors were facing an array of problems -- freezing overnight temperatures, rain, landslides, scarce food, little shelter, no communications networks

and almost non-existent healthcare. The United Nations said more

#### DU will never FROM PAGE 1

sations and Progatishil Chhatra Jote (PCJ), a combine of six left-leaning student organisations, took out separate processions and held rallies in front of the registrar building to press home their demand.

The activists of the seven organisa-

tions ransacked flower tubs and

windowpanes during the demonstra-

He also denied having had a meeting with Shibir leaders, who claimed the VC had appreciated their activities during the meet. Pointing a finger at Shibir, he said those who are trying to destroy the university's

between Shibir and BCL. Pro-VCAFM Yusuf Haider told The

Daily Star Shibir and Iativa Chhatra Samaj have been forbidden by the University Paribesh Parishad.

denying it since its taking power."

dents of repression took place any-

sion of minorities, it said.

Besides political vengeance, economic factors acted behind the torture of minority people. However, an overall study shows that in most cases, the perpetrators had an aim to oust the Hindus from the country.

"The minority people who fled the

communal repression who left the country during this coalition rule have told me and the BBC that they would never come back," Shahriar Kabir said in the white paper. Although the degree of repression of minorities during the coalition rule

discrimination of minority sects.

tion like that of 1972.

#### bring aid to the hardest-hit villages, most of which are nestled on hard-to-reach forested slopes 3,300 metres high in the

About corruption, the PM said: We could not succeed much in

fighting corruption as it had spread

over every sphere of society." She

previous tenure of 1991-96. Khaleda said. But she claimed that the government measures have

brought down the scale of corrup-

The prime minister mentioned that measures have been taken to bring transparency and accountability in the government dealings and the Anti-Corruption Commission has been formed

economy and trade. She however defended her administration saying it is not wise to compare the present scenario with that of four years ago. Assuming power on October 10, 2001, Khaleda declared her government's first task that was rooting out

"It is not possible to eliminate crimes entirely in one year because it has spread in every sphere of the society like cancer in the last five years. That is why I am seeking some more time," she said in her address to the nation in 2002.

In her 2004 anniversary speech

the prime minister categorically said

her government would not tolerate any kind of terrorism in Bangladesh, be it "in the name of politics, religion, ideals or social revolution." Khaleda said the criminals

responsible for the August 21 grenade attack on an AL rally in Dhaka must be found out so that such incidents do not occur again. She said all measures have been taken to

# PM pledges to root out

to return to parliament with assurances that their well-thought-out proposals on general elections would be taken into consideration. Admitting with regret the failure of the administration and intelligence agencies in detecting bombers in  $advance, the prime \, minister \, said \, these$ 

bombings tarnished the nation's

Khaleda, at the same time, held out an

olive branch for the truant main-

stream opposition as she urged them

image, struck at peace and security in public life, especially the reputation of Islam as a religion of peace. "With unqualified support of the countrymen we have faced and foiled the conspiracy for overthrowing the government and upheld the hard-

earned democracy," she apprised the

coalescing of bombers simultaneously

(with the hatching of conspiracy). I

"But we could not foresee the

regret this administrative and intelligence failure," said the prime minister as she took a fresh pledge to steer the country through a clear course ahead. The prime minister didn't specifically blame the quarters sponsoring the bombings, but said these desper-

ate acts were aimed at giving credence

to the recent anti-Bangladesh cam-

by the bombers. This is because the

She said, "Islam has been tainted

bombers wanted to hide their real intent and identity behind the masks of a sacred religion. About their designs, Khaleda said their aim is clearly to tarnish the reputation of Bangladesh, scare the people, disrupt peace and social stability and thwart the progress, social and infrastructure development

In an oblique reference to the

baseless campaign against the coun-

try, the prime minister said these

bombers made an evil attempt to

prove true the propaganda of those

who have waged a campaign against Bangladesh during the past few years. Assuring the nation of her government actions, she said the government has now come to know the identity of bombers and many have already been arrested. "It has also been possible to identify the main schemers. I can tell you, we shall be able to eliminate this bomb-terrorism from the country by the grace of Allah." The prime minister expressed her

deep sympathy and condolences for

those who were killed or injured in

bomb explosions. She also referred to

the bomb attack on British High

Commissioner Anwar Chowdhury in Sylhet, saving that the people of the country were deeply embarrassed by such outrageous act. Khaleda said her government has taken the initiative to deal with the

Bangladesh will try to draw attention Khaleda assured the international

latest move. She said sincere cooperation of all

she assumed office in 1991 and 2001.

of completion on July 31, 2001 at a cost of Tk 887 crore. But the project was suspended when sub-soil waters started gushing in at a rate of 700 cubic metres from April 5, 1998 at a depth of 1,100 feet. This happened because of design

Sheer neglect led years extra time to finish the job. Even it

> was given a five-year maintenance job The mine was producing 700 to 800tonnes of coal a day from September 4 with the target of increasing the production to around 2.000 tonnes a day or 7

#### 2 charge sheets FROM PAGE 16 Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh

(JMB) Ameer Abdur Rahman's youn-

ger brother Ataur Rahman and six

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) submitted the charge sheets of two cases filed with

Dhaka. The first case was filed under the Arms Act and the other one under the Explosive Substances Act. Other accused are AHM Shamim,

and Akramul Islam, 23. All of them except Ataur were arrested earlier and gave confessional statements to magistrates on different

In the charge sheets, the investiga-

tion officers (IOs) said the main objec-

property against Ataur. Farlier on September 8, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested five of

the accused, including the woman, at

Ataur rented the house four to five

a house in East Basabo.

manuals, 700 capacitors alike to those used in the August 17 blasts, 92 books and four audiocassettes on jihad, one computer, two printers and 10 floppy disks from the house.

Patwari Lane in East Basabo. Other seized items include one electric blower, 17 masks, three receipt books for raising funds for madrasa, three diaries, nine books of district maps, one motorcycle and Tk 2

lakh in cash.

lakh tonnes a year.

Sabujbagh Police Station to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,

23, Zakaria alias Jewel, 21, Nur Azam Siddique alias Yeasir, 27, Belal Hossain alias Tamim, 21, Aleya Ferdous, 27,

tive behind the blasts was to establish Islamic law in the country. They also prayed for issuing arrest warrant and attachment of movable

months ago using pseudonym Hassan alias Sunny and coordinated the countrywide serial blasts. The law enforcers believe he narrowly escaped The Rah also seized firearms, 60 CDs containing militant training

used to carry out all the subversive activities from the six-storey house on

He claimed the forest department has filed a case and even went to the court but could not come up with any documents to substantiate its owner-

local resident Akram Shah said. Major General Sultan said the author-

have begun arriving in Pakistan and setting up field hospitals to cope with the

# helicopters were needed urgently to

tion, chanting slogans against the administration. Meantime, DU Vice-chancellor SMA Faiz told reporters the university will never allow Shibir activities as it is a forbidden organisation on the

academic atmosphere will be punished. Prof Faiz also held meetings with the seven organisations and the PCJ leaders in the wake of Sunday's clash

Leaders of the seven organisations at a rally said students will resist any Shibir movement on the campus

foothills of the Himalayas, Karakoram and Hindukush mountain ranges

Little of blame FROM PAGE 1 her government has identified the masterminds behind the bombings.

claimed the BNP government had succeeded in curbing graft during its "Corruption in Bangladesh had become an issue of discussion in international forums before we assumed office in 1991 and 2001,"

aiming to root out corruption. On the present state of economy she said the country is facing adverse situation in every sphere, not only in

corruption and crime. One year later she sought more time to check crime as the law and order did not improve as per expectation.

track down the perpetrators.

and investments.