## Question leak taints

candidates at different dormitories, particularly those of the DU, Rajshahi University, Khulna University, Jahangirnagar University and Chittagong University, had rushed and phoned since the early hours yesterday to get hold of a copy of the leaked ques-

The copies had been on sale at as high as Tk 5,000 at Shahidullah Hall. Fazlur Rahman Hall, SM Hall, Surva Sen Hall, Mohisin Hall, Jasimuddin Hall, Zahurul Haque Hall, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall and Ziaur Rahman Hall of the DU from the early

The leaked questions further spread out in the DU campus and to the rest of

the country over cellphones. Although questions of BCS exams have repeatedly been leaked out for the last few years, the government and the PSC have failed so far to identify and bring the culprits to book, letting the crime to turn into a profitable concern.

Despite widespread evidence, PSC Controller SKM Aladuddin denied the question leakage, saying, "It's not true. It's propaganda. We didn't receive any such allegation before the exam."

The examination would not be cancelled, as no question was leaked, he

Some JCD leaders admitted the leakage but denied any link of their Dal with it. "We don't select the questions or get them before the exams. How can we engage in such an illegal act," JCD President Azizul Bari Helal told The Daily Star over cellophane last night. adding he did hear of the leakage.

Many innocent candidates expressed agony at the incident. They demanded immediate cancellation of what they termed a 'mock test' and proper investigation into it.

We haven't filed any general diary with the police or placed any complain to the PSC, as we didn't get any result from doing that in the previous years," said Farhana, a student of Dhaka Medical College who sat the test.

At 2:00am yesterday, a group of JCD leaders of DU Shahidullah Hall first started to sell copies of the leaked questions in the capital, sources said. The news then spread out like wildfire to the other DU dormitories. The price went down with time and one copy was sold at Tk 150 at 8 in the morning just before the examination

Despite repeated attempts, Education Minister Osman Farruk and State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Hug Milon could not be contacted for their comments on the issue.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of the main opposition Awami League, in a press release last night condemned and protested the repeated leakage of BCS test questions. The president and general secretary of the organisation demanded immediate cancellation of the exam and holding a fresh one.

A number of other student organisa tions brought out protest processions yesterday while some others said they would stage protest programmes including rallies and processions at the SCENE IN RAJSHAHI

Our Rajshahi correspondent reports: The questions had been out in the city and the Raishahi University (RU) campus since Thursday night. Some JCD and ICS leaders who had come here from Dhaka on the occasion were seen busy with their local comrades collecting the questions from unknown sources over cellphones.

Thus they collected some 50 to 100 questions and distributed those among the BCS candidates loval to them until the early hours yesterday.

Some of the visiting student leaders had brought a set of questions with them that was later found to be same as the BCS Question Set 2, sources said.

Many photocopying and fax-phone stalls in the city remained open until

A large number of BCS candidates went to the local press clubs and also phoned to journalists to complain against or inform about the leakage Some of them said they obtained the questions and some others that they had

ICD and ICS leaders at every RU hall distributed questions door to door.

r Chittagong correspondent, on the other hand, says no specific allegation of question leakage of 27th BCS preliminary test was reported there yesterday.

who had sat the exam yesterday expressed ignorance about the leakage, a few of them apprehended that some examinees might had collected the leaked questions from Dhaka over

'Most of us who sat the examination fairly are likely to score 60+ while those who collected the questions ahead of the examination would score 80+," they

BCS coaching centre was involved in distributing the questions leaked

spondent adds: A large number of BCS candidates of the IU received the leaked questions early morning yesterday.

The JU students got hold of copies o the question paper containing 100 to 110 questions, reportedly distributed by me ICD leaders

copies through their lieutenants and even gave them to ICD activists for free. JCD sources and BCS examinees said.

#### JMB cadres

attack killing two lower court judges were in disguises too.

The Islammist militants, mostly from the northern districts, move with ease in their target areas posing as hawkers of books, mosquito-nets, clothes, honey etc, while some of them work as rickshaw-pullers and live in rented houses for short peri-

Abdus Sattar Mollah, nabbed for his suspected involvement in the August 17 bomb blasts on the city's Port Connecting Road, used to go for a mosquito-net vendor. Ahmad Mia, accused of the same, used to move from place to place as a book vendor and was arrested at a Bangla Bazar bookstall in Dhaka.

 $held \, in \, connection \, with \, the \, October \, 3$ attacks on Chittagong courts used to pull rickshaws while staying in Chakoria and Cox's Bazar before they came to Chittagong.

They admitted that along with two others they stayed at a rented ground-floor apartment of a twostorey building at Feroz Shah Colony in the city's Khulshi area in August and September and then shifted to Mohammad Ali's Mess at Uttar

On the eve of October 3, Mizan, an explosives expert, came from Cox's Bazar and made six bombs at the mess. Sources said a man named Mohammad co-ordinated the attack while Laltu, Shahadat and Mehedi were tasked with blasting the bombs in the courts. Laltu and Shahadat, who were in Cox's Bazar in August, also had an active role in the August 17 blasts there, they added.

The police have asked the mess and garage owners in the city to exercise caution in renting out rooms and rickshaws to suspicious or unknown persons, particularly those coming from the JMB-infested

Animal Health reported that the avian influenza virus has already affected Thailand, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia,

Leaders of the Citizens Committee on Bird Flu Prevention in Bangladesh through a news conference claimed that a low level of pathogenic bird flu virus had been detected in the poultry industry of India. The committee urged the government to continue its ban on poultry import from India.

Prof Mustafa Feeroz, chairman of the zoology department of JU however said, "There is hardly any possibility of bird flu being transmitted from the migratory birds as most of them are local and direct physical contact is required for the flu to be transmitted.

Though the number of migratory birds this year seems smaller than the previous year's, a considerable number of them have already taken shelter on the campus. This year the birds arrived a month later than expected due to excessive rainfall at the end of the monsoon that had delayed the coming of winter. As conditions of most of the lakes have become unfriendly to the birds due to unplanned and uncontrolled fishing, they can be seen floating only on two lakes. The lakes in front of the administrative building and behind Pritilota Hall are the most preferred resting grounds of the guest birds. The birds use the lakes during daytime and wander into the paddy fields near the river at night in search of food.

3:00am yesterday, witnesses said.

against dovish opposition leader Wickremesinghe, whose softer line on peace talks with the rebels won him wide support among Tamils, a largely The new president "will have to

sort out the country's main ethnic problem," said D. Maulana, 35, who sells auto parts in Colombo. "As all of us know without that, nothing can go forward until it is over.

Mahinda wins

The race pitted hardline Rajapakse

FROM PAGE 16

No polling stations were set up in Tiger strongholds because of security concerns, but the government set up special voting booths on the edge of insurgent territory to accommodate the more than 200,000 voters who live hehind rebellines.

But officials said roadblocks and intimidation kept most from making it out of rebel territory to vote.

Turnout was less than 1 percent in and around the northern Tamil city of Jaffna the lowest ever in any of the Indian Ocean country's 22 districts.

Grenade blasts forced European Union observers to pull out of the eastern city of Batticaloa, the scene of frequent clashes between the Tigers and breakaway rebel factions. At least two people were killed in the attacks.

In the Batticaloa district, split between the rebels and government, turnout was 43 percent, down from around 70 percent in the last presidential vote a drop officials attributed to the fact that few Tamils from rebel

Perinban, a 57-year-old Tamil farmer from a rebel area near the eastern village of Vavunathivu, wanted to vote.

But on his way to the polling station he saw a roadblock of burning tires and palm fronds and said he knew exactly what it meant: "Burning tires are a signal that we should not go beyond this."

The Tigers took up arms in 1983 over discrimination against Tamils by the predominantly Buddhist Sinhalese majority. Nearly 65,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

A 2002 cease-fire ended major fighting, but peace talks stalled in disagreement over the rebels demands for broad autonomy, and clashes especially between the Tigers and a breakaway faction have intensi-Election Commissioner

Danyananda Dissanayake said the overall vote was "largely peaceful and incident-free" compared with past

Rajapakse, who turns 60 on Friday has pledged to review the stalled peace process and not share political power or tsunami aid with the Tigers. His tough stand has won him wide support among Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority.

"I am not a candidate for war ... but t has to be an honourable peace," he said after voting in southern Sri Lanka.

Wickremesinghe, 56, who signed a cease-fire with the rebels in 2002 when he was prime minister, promised to strike a peace deal by granting Tamils a degree of autonomy. He also favoured further liberalising the

### Bangla Bhai

Suman, his elder brother Nazmul Hasan Ripon, also a Jamaat activist, Humayun Kabir alias Shawkat, Rafiqul Islam and Abdul Mannan.

Of the accused, Nazmul Hasan is now in Sherpur District Jail while the

remaining six are still at large. Inspector of DB, Sherpur, Ashraf Hossain submitted the charge-sheet to the magistrate court here on Thursday

Earlier, detectives and police had detained eight people, including Bazlur Rahman, Moslem Uddin, Azizullah, Abdul Khaleq, Ansar Ali, Ayub Ali, Zakaria and Sohel, from

different parts of the district suspecting

their involvement in the blasts. But

## Crime suspect

later, they were released.

FROM PAGE 16

a possible criminal act to be carried out by Maznu and his accomplices at Nalkhola village under Mogra union in Tangail. A team of police led by SI Abdur Rashid rushed to the area at about 1:00am. The armed group hiding in a bamboo plantation opened fire on the law enforcers. A gunfight ensued as the law enforcers retaliated. Maznu tried to escape and died in 'crossfire' during the shootout, police said.

A revolver with two rounds of real bullets and eight rounds of rubber bullets were recovered from the spot. Maznu was an accused in fifteen criminal cases including three mur-

### Khaleda

chairperson, sought support and cooperation of the newly elected Sri Lankan President in implementing the decisions of the regional body.

She wished his success during his tenure as the president of Sri Lanka.

#### Seoul eager FROM PAGE 1

Asean members.

The diplomatic sources said Seoul s expected to send a formal letter to the Saarc Council of Ministers comprising the foreign ministers who will meet in Dhaka in July next year. The meeting will finalise the summit decision on granting full membership to Afghanistan and the observer status to China and Japan.

## Mirza Fakhrul given

indisposition as the ground for his resignation, claiming that the recent controversy over hajj flight fare had nothing to do with this. He also categorically denied allegations of taking any commissions' from any airline

He was shown the way unceremoniously amidst media reports about his secret deal with at least one foreign airline for inflating hajj flight fares.

Nasir expressed his desire to engage in law profession along with his son Barrister Mir Mohammad Helal Uddin, in addition to his involvement in BNP Nasir's claim of no foul play in hajj

flight fare fiasco came at a time when the prime minister had to delegate the responsibility of resolving the deadlock to another minister, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, amidst agtiation on the issue by Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (Haab). It represents 363 agencies responsible for sending over 50,000 Hajj pilgrims in

Haab argued repeatedly that different airliners were flying Hajj pilgrims from Pakistan, India and Indonesia at as low fares as \$563, \$ 600 and \$820 per But Nasir once again said vesterday

that he found the Cabinet's August15 decision of fixing Biman's hajj flight fare at \$950 too low and unrealistic. He hoped that there would be no

crisis over hajj flights as Biman and some foreign airlines would operate hajj flights at \$1150 for the non-ballotee pilgrims. Nasir's son was also present at the briefing.

Nasir's Recent Track Records With the Biman's small fleet losing some

more aircraft in mishaps, Nasir failed to procure or lease aircraft to keep the national flag carrier operational. Even after the damage of two aircraft

in accidents in recent months, he failed to convince the finance ministry to agree to provide funds for procuring more aircraft. The finance ministry rather raised questions about poor management of Biman.

As the hajj season was approaching Road, Mir Nasir however showed fast, Nasir floated tenders seeking to procure at least two wide-bodied aircraft on lease but it turned out to be a futile exercise as no parties dropped Despite repeated cautions from

Biman's rational-thinking officials about operating loss-making flights, Nasir did not stop the Dhaka-New York flights that caused a loss of Tk 55 lakh

There have also been allegations of serious lapses in maintenance and repair of Biman's aeroplanes. According to some BNP insiders,

Nasir's days as state minister were numbered right after his debacle in the election of Chittagong City Corporation in May. Nasir however survived the power politics in the rift-ridden Chittagong BNP. But after the August15 cabinet

decision of fixing hajj flight fare at \$ 950 per pilgrim, Nasir suspiciously kept quiet for more than two months, till saving in late October that Biman would incur losses if the fare remains \$950. In the wake of this, some foreign and

private airlines said they would not operate hajj flights at a fare of less than \$ 350, which proved too much for over 50,000 intending pilgrims. Nasir managed to incorporate in the

agenda of the November 2 cabinet meeting his proposal for re-fixing the hajj flight fare at \$1250 but the cabinet

#### Charge sheets FROM PAGE 16

are certain to be among the charge

Since the judge killing, at least 20 people including Mamun and Sultan have been held in different areas under Jhalakathi, Bhola, Barguna and

Superintendent of Jhalakathi Police Mahfuzur Rahman said supplementary charge sheets would be ordered in case of need for more facts and evidence.

# Seminar on Bangladesh

number of legislatures, will also be launched, said a statement issued on November 17 by Lord Avebury, vicechairman, the Parliamentary Human Rights Group and chairman, the International Bangladesh Foundation. At the seminar, a statement will be

made by those principally concerned, including representatives of the religious minorities, the opposition, and victims of terrorist attacks. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, politi-

cal secretary of the Awami League president, will represent the opposi-High Commissioner of Bangladesh in the UK Sabi Uddin Ahmed and

Khondaker Mabubuddin Ahmed, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the law ministry, will be present. They will make a statement on

behalf of the Bangladesh government on the measures being taken to protect the minorities and to bring the terrorist Extremists showed their muscle

again in August, when nearly 500 bombs exploded simultaneously across Bangladesh, and again in

October when there were attempts on

In a latest incident two judges were assassinated in the hand of extremists. The police have still not arrested the ringleaders of the assassination attempts against the leader of the opposition and the British high commissioner in Bangladesh last year.

Besides, the murder of former finance minister and lawmaker Shah AMS Kibria is still unsolved, the statement continued.

The extremist Khatme Nabuwat organisation has again threatened violence against an Ahmadiyya mosque, and called on the government to declare the Ahmadiyyas non-Muslims. The religious minorities are under threat all the time.

"The continuing threats to the stability of Bangladesh demand firm action, if democracy and the rule of law is to survive," the statement added.

"The international community must do everything possible to shore up human rights and democracy in Bangladesh, since the cancer of extremism will not stop at the bor-

## Dhaka's move

Myanmar agrees to it and develops the road up to the required level, he thought.

What Bangladesh should do now, he said, is to work for mobililising political support of Myanmar first to have the Asian Highway run through Gundom in its territory, and Yangon along with Dhaka should propose this to the highway working group meeting organised by Escap every two years. Unless Bangladesh ratifies the

agreement by December 31 this year, it loses the right of voting as the Asian Highway charter says that any changes in the highway route shall be adopted by the working group with the consent of majority of the parties present at its meeting and giving vote, Rahmatullah mentioned.

The former Escap director went on, 'In my report in May 2002 after attending the working group meeting, I said we should work together with Myanmar and pursue Yangon to obtain their support but nothing has been achieved as yet in this regard although three years have passed."

Is there any official record that Myanmar has agreed to the highway passing through Gondum? he asked. Rahmatullah ruled out the fear that

joining the Asian Highway would mean giving transit to India. "Joining the highway does not mean giving transit to any particular country because it is only an international road network." The highway charter clearly says,

tion by any party to permit the movement of goods and passenger traffic across its territory," he noted. Separate agreement between the parties concerned is needed for movement of goods and people, the charter says. So, there should not be any misgiv-

ings among the people and policy

makers that the highway through

"Nothing in this agreement shall be

construed as acceptance of an obliga-

Bangladesh territory will ultimately turn into a transit, Rahmatullah felt. Bangladesh can ratify the agreement

allowing the highway through it without

giving transit to India, he stressed. If Bangladesh does not do so, the highway will bypass it and deprive it of links to a huge international road network, and millions of dollars of revenue earning in foreign currency. Foreign investors would also feel reluctant to invest in Bangladesh because it is not linked to international road network, he said.

Rahmatullah suggested selling 'transport services' to all neighbouring countries including India, Nepal and Bhutan The services could include both rail and road tranpsport. Why Bangladesh should not utilise

Instead of giving transit to India

its geographical advantages and export transport services as it exports commodities and manpower, he wondered "Geographically, we can become a transport hub." According to him, Bangladesh's

second major export item next to garments could be transport services, without comprsing its sovereignty.

## Jalil trashes

power," Jalil said.

FROM PAGE 16 has no moral right to cling to

Jalil said Motiar of Nilphamari, freedom fighter Nabakanta Roy, Shahiduddin of Rangpur and Razzak of Rajarhat in Kurigram have died from starvation. "How more have to die to prove that Monga is prevailing in the northern region?" he asked the minister.

The AL general secretary asked the food minister to provide food for the Monga-hit people, otherwise, he said, the BNP-Jamaat alliance will be responsible for each death.

## Hajj Airfare

Thursday at his residence, Mujahid assured them of lowering the Hajj flight fare for the non-ballotee pil-

Although he has not been given the charge officially yet, Mujahid chaired an impromptu board meeting of the Biman Bangladesh Airlines vesterday evening--second in the last four days--and slashed down the fare by another \$100.

Some HAAB leaders told The Daily Star last night that the revised fare for the non-ballotee pilgrims is still discriminatory as it is higher by \$200 than that of the ballotee Hajis.

"We have an executive committee meeting at 12 noon tomorrow [Saturday] and there we will decide our next move in the context of Biman's latest fare," HAAB General Secretary Jinnur Ahmed Chowdhury told this correspondent last night. With its dwindling fleet-size

Biman is not able to fly more than 18,000 pilgrims--2,600 ballotee and 15,400 non-ballotee--to Saudi Arabia although the religious affairs ministry had signed an agreement with the Saudi government in April for 60,000 intending pilgrims for the Hajj in

### JMB chief's

the five most wanted extremists, and his four accomplices, witnesses said. Later, Superintendent of Police (SP) Khandakar Golam Faruk started interrogating them, sources said.

Journalists were not allowed in the SP office while Thakurgaon police too declined to reveal any thing, not even whether the JMB chief's son-in-law Awal is among the arrested.

Police arrested another extremist from Ranishankoil area. Earlier, the government

announced a bounty of Tk 50 lakh each for arrests of JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman and Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh chief Bangla Bhai

#### At least FROM PAGE 1

conditions in Iraq.

authorities and promises by the Iraq government to investigate the matter. United Nations human rights chief Louise Arbour on Friday called for an international probe of detention

"In light of the apparently systemic nature and magnitude of that problem, and the importance of public confidence in any inquiry, I urge the authorities to consider calling for an international inquiry," said the UN high commissioner for human rights.

The Baghdad morning car bombs

storey residential building, and sent slabs of concrete flying, wounding many people as they slept in on their Two Turks and one Sudanese were

brought down the facade of a three

reported to be among those hurt, hospital officials said. Firemen and soldiers, assisted by local people, scrambled through the rubble, searching for survivors. A crater in the street quickly filled with water from ruptured pipes.

Witnesses said a first van, which lrove down a side street behind th interior ministry prison, exploded against a concrete barrier protecting the Hamra hotel. A second car then attempted to

penetrate further, but blew up at around the same place. On October 24, in a similar attack, triple car bombs rocked the Palestine and Sheraton hotels, used by foreign iournalists and contractors in the

centre of the capital, killing 17. Elsewhere, the US military said Friday it had killed 32 rebels after more than 50 of them had launched a series of concerted attacks Thursday against military outposts in Ramadi

west of Baghdad. An Iraqi soldier and a US marine were lightly wounded, it said in a statement.

"The attacks were planned to coincide simultaneously; however, once initiated the attacks lacked coordination," the military said. The attacks took place along the

main road traversing the city, some

100 kilometres (60 miles) from the capital, with much of the fighting concentrated around the Abdullah al-Karber mosque, from where rebels opened fire at Iraqi and US troops according to the US military. US forces also reported the death on Thursday of a US soldier in a road

crash near the northwestern town of Tal Afar, the 13th American serviceman to die in the country over a threeday period. At least 2,083 US military personnel

have been killed in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion, according to an AFP tally based on the independent Iraq Coalition Casualty Count.

### BNP MP

FROM PAGE 16 carrying out subversive activities

aiming at establishing an Islamic state -- a rule of Allah as opposed to manmade laws. "The association [between militants and coalition component] is likely, since some people of such a mindset are in the coalition. he said, in the first-ever criticism of the government by a ruling party MP.

As the BBC ask d him how Bangla Bhai could rise in his area without their knowing about it, Hena said, "The government is there. The law enforcement agencies are there. don't think it's possible for [him] to rise without our knowledge. Later, when the BBC contacted

some top BNP leaders for their comments about Hena's statement that some part of the ruling coalition is behind the rise in militancy, they brushed it aside.

## Annan appeals again

most of which has been reduced to

"I hope governments and individuals and private organisations, those with capacity, will give and give willingly and generously to help our fellow human beings in need," he

"When so many people are affected none of us should be indiffer-

The Asian Development Bank

Friday said 1.7 billion dollars was

The sum the recovery effort is expected to require was reached after an assessment by UN and Pakistani agencies, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

urgently needed to bring immediate relief to the quake survivors before the harsh Himalayan winter sets in. Pakistan has received pledges of 2.46 billion dollars for short-term relief and rehabilitation, of which only

211.2 million has been handed over. according to government officials. Annan, accompanied by his wife Nane, met survivors of the quake, telling some that the reconstruction effort should provide better housing than that lost in the quake. "We will do

whatever we can," he said. Musharraf praised Annan's efforts to mobilise world assistance for Pakistan, with donor fatigue after last vear's tsunami and Hurricane Katrina in the United States blamed for the relatively low-level response to the

The president will unveil at Saturday's conference plans to handle the mammoth task of rehabilitating

victims and rebuilding infrastructure. He said he would also spell out measures to ensure the money coming to the government for the quake was used correctly, including through the use of foreign auditors. There have

been concerns about corruption. Total "transparency and accountability will be ensured of every penny that we get," Musharraf said.

Annan said his visit had made him

"Depressed by the number of houses that have been destroyed and will need to be rebuilt, but impressed by the level of cooperation and determination that I have seen this morn-

the people, it is a really gigantic task we have ahead of us."

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz. He is scheduled to leave Pakistan on Saturday after addressing the

# Barisal intelligence

active in six districts of Barisal divi-

The Rapid Action Battalion-8 (Rab), meanwhile, has made a list of 25 JMB men to be members of the suicide squad. The elite crime-busters have prepared the list on the basis of

reports given by their own intelligence

They [Rab] have gathered details

about them, but said all of them had left the region shortly after the August 17 countrywide blasts. Rab-8 Commander Maior Mamun

said a list of 25 JMB activists has been made but declined to elaborate on the According to sources, most of

those listed hail from Barguna.

it is located far from the capital and near the Bay of Bengal has been instrumental in attracting the terror-In 2003 and 2004, 46 youths were arrested while they were taking fire-

arms training in a mosque in sadar

The district has long been a strong-

hold of religious zealots. The fact that

upazila and a madrasa in Patharghata unazila of Barguna. Of them, 13 had claimed to be the members of JMB. But police released them without producing before the court. An attempted murder case was filed against the rest of the arrestees, later released for absence of follow-up

Bagerhat on Thursday noon found out that Bangla Bhai and his cadres were released from the prison on a bond that no lawyer had signed though required by the law.

Earlier, the home ministry had

Some lawyers while examining the

documents of a case at the Court of

ordered a reinvestigation into the case, reports our Khulna correspon-The case was filed with Mollahat Police Station on August 16, 2002 for attacking the house of Awami League leader Tarapada Podder, Tarapada

and his son were injured in the attack led by Bangla Bhai. Sub Inspector Humayun Kabir of Bagerhat Detective Branch of police submitted the 'final report' (failure to prove the charge) in the case, resulting in the release of Bangla Bhai and four others. The five were accused in the

First Information Report. The specific date of their release could not be learnt as of last night. CHUADANGA

Our Kushtia correspondent reports: Acting on information provided by an unidentified caller, a team of Chuadanga police raided a house in Chuadanga town and recovered the bombs. They also arrested two people in this connection. The bombs were

The arrestees--Khabir Uddin and his tenant Shahjahan Mollah-- were

Police Station till filing this report last Shailkupa police yesterday arrested a

being quizzed at Chuadanga Sadar

our Kushtia correspondent. NILPHAMARI A minor boy was injured when a bomb

criminal wanted by the police, reports

The boy, Sabbir, 8, son of an army personnel, was digging on the yard of their house when the explosion took

containers of one-inch diameter and other evidence from the scene. Sylhet police have started looking for

countrywide blasts. The police and intelligence agencies meanwhile have been put on high alert after the Sylhet deputy commis-

Abdul Hai -- are not released soon. SHERPUR DB police on Thursday night submitted charge sheet against seven people, including JMB chief Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai in a case filed for the

Sherpur district, reports BDNEWS. Suman, his brother Nazmul Hasan Ripon, a Jamaat activist, Humayun Kabir alias Shawkat, Rafiqul Islam and Abdul Mannan. Of them, only Nazmul

demanded Tk 10 lakh from each of seven high officials of Wasa for running the organisational activities of JMB, UNB reports quoting Wasa Chairman Maksudul Hakim. Identifying themselves as fugitive

Shibir cadres Sazzad Khan and Habib

Khan, the callers on Wednesday night

also threatened to kill the Wasa offi-

cials if their demand is not met imme-

# AL blasts govt

negative items for free trade AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil

proves the government's failure to curb terrorism. He welcomed the inclusion of Afghanistan as new Saarc member and China and Japan as observers but said the government is reluctant to

Afghanistan though the latter's embassy is functioning here. "Is it due to influence of the defeated Afghan Talibans on the BNP led alliance government?" he ques-

both impressed and depressed.

ing," he said. "When you look at the terrain here and the logistical challenges that had to be overcome in order to get aid to

The leaders later returned to Islamabad where Annan was to meet Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri and

donors' conference.

MB activist in the upazila headquarters area yesterday afternoon. Abul Kalam Azad alias Bulbul, 35, is also a

went off in Gosaiganj village of Domar upazila near the Bangladesh-India border vesterday noon.

Domar police the same day gathered some black substance in metal

the people who had joined the Afghan war. The search has been launched on orders from the higher authorities that suspect these people might have been involved in the Augusts 17

sioner (DC) had received a threat letter Wednesday purportedly from  $the JMB's\,Sylhet\,region\,commander.$ The letter threatened to blow up al government offices including those of DC and SP if three arrested IMB men --

Akhtar Hossain, Mohsin Khan and

August 17 blasts in six places in The other accused include JMB activists Mojahidul Islam alias

is now behind bars. CHITTAGONG Some anonymous callers have

Bangladesh has not identified the

said the government spent a lot of public money for lighting and imposed undeclared curfew in the name of security when the northern region of the country was experiencing Monga (a famine-like situation). Former foreign secretary Faruq

Ahmed Chowdhury said holding the

summit in a curfew-like situation

opening a Bangladesh embassy in

AL Presidium Member Tofail

Ahmed said the Saarc Declaration had been made but no concrete steps have been taken so far for the welfare of the

1.5 billion people of South Asia. Getting the Saarc award for late Ziaur Rahman and arranging the visit of the seven heads of state to Zia's

Referring to the Bangabandhu's speech on January 6, 1972 at a dinner thrown by then Indian premier Indira Gandhi, AL leaders claimed that Bangabandu was the first to dream of a regional forum. AL leaders criticised the confer-

ment of Saarc award to Zia and said if

the government could overcome its

narrowness, it would have selected

grave are the only successes of the

government in the 13th Saarc summit

general Ershad for the award for forming Saarc that took a concrete shape through holding of its first summit in Dhaka during his tenure in The leaders, however, expressed

satisfaction as the Saarc summit created opportunity for opposition leader Sheikh Hasina to meet the South Asian leaders and exchange views on the latest situation in the

# Migratory birds

China, and Japan in Asia.

habitat for the birds on the campus. Experts fear that in a few years no guest bird will visit the campus if the situation does not improve immediately. The zoology department every year arranges a bird fair on the campus where a large number of city dwellers throng to learn about the verities of birds and to enjoy the panoramic view from the campus.

Several examinees even alleged that

But, though most of the candidates

Some candidates also alleged a local

III AS BUSY AS DU Our Jahangirnagar University corre-

The top JU JCD leaders sold the

Mohammad Shahadat and Laltu

Kattoli on October 1.

About 31 species of guest birds usually visit the campus every winter and another 100 species are seen all through the year on the lakes and in the bushes. The 31 migratory species include 28 local ones from different parts of the country such as Hakaluki and Hyle haors (lakes) and Tangaor beel (swamp) in Sylhet, and the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The other

three species come from Siberia and

the mountains of the Himalayas. Only

seven to ten species of the guest birds

are likely to float on the lakes while the

others are known as migratory tree-

Desi Khanjana, Pintail, Lanja Duck, Tufted Duck, Spoonbill and Moorhen are some of the endangered species among the local migratory birds that visit the campus. Though Siberian Ducks usually come in November they are yet to show up this year. Last year a new rare species of migratory birds named Yellow-Legged-Green-Pigeon was spotted on the campus which also has not showed up yet. Shovellers were last seen in 1992 and have not made any appearance since.

The university authorities have not

taken any step to preserve friendly