IMF for further

Rumbaugh told a press conference vesterday. On how to contain the pressures

Rumbaugh who heads a visiting IMF mission said there needs to be a policy in response to the situation. For instance, he said, the central bank would have to be a little more active in terms of absorbing excess liquidity from the banking system through auction sales of government securities.

He said, if the government continues to tighten macroeconomic policies to reduce inflationary pressures and speeds up reforms at the NCBs and the National Bureau of Revenue (NBR), the IMF executive board may discuss the fourth review under the Poverty Reduction Growth Facility (PRGF) in early 2006.

Explaining why the IMF wants the government to further adjust the fuel prices, Rumbaugh said the whole world is doing it, and Bangladesh too needs to adjust it. "At current domestic prices, the state-owned enterprises like the BPC [Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation] are losing money and eventually require the government to step in and make up their losses," he pointed out and observed such huge subsidisation cannot be sustained. The IMF adviser also told the press,

"We have discussed this with the government and there is no disagreement. They know there is a need for further adjustments at some point." However, he added that the government is in the best position to decide the timing The IMF mission arrived in Dhaka on

November 13 to review the status of fulfilment of the conditions for the fifth

Ouster shows

Abu Hena told The Daily Star last night.

He said he would soon wage a countrywide campaign against the extremists. "I am not alone. The entire nation is with me.'

Referring to his speaking out against the militants, Abu Hena said it's only the beginning. "The leaders who worked to have me expelled from the party are in favour of the militants," he argued.

"Militancy started to spread through the country soon after Jamaat-e-Islami had come to power, riding on the BNP," he observed. "They [militants] in fact did not exist four years ago."

"Jamaat's alliance with the BNP in 2001 had encouraged the spread of militants," he said.

Explaining his observations, the lawmaker said the objectives of Jamaat-e-Islami and the militant groups are the same and it is to establish the Islamic rule. "Jamaat leaders know it well that the militants are forwarding their agenda. So they do not object to the militant activities," he said. Abu Hena said besides Jamaat-e-

Islami, another component of the ruling coalition Islami Oikya Jote might as well be patronising the militants.

"The two ministers of Jamaat and Jamaat's man in the BNP Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Haque are doing everything for the militants," he said.

Referring to the rise of militants in his constituency in Rajshahi, Abu Hena said the post and telecommunications minister and the then superintendent of police extended all-out help in establishing dreaded killer and Jagrata Muslim Janata, $Bangladesh\,leader\,Bangla\,Bhai.$

"I informed on several occasions the government high-ups about it. I even informed the prime minister of the alarming developments," Hena said, adding, "But they did not care."

That is how the Frankenstein was created and holding sway over the country from Raishahi, he observed.

staff. A total of 39 people were

she sat up in hospital. "His nose was

hit and he couldn't breathe." The

body of her son, less than two years

old, lay on the morgue floor at

Yarmouk hospital in Baghdad, where

killed. "My 22-year-old son was killed

while trying to bring me some medi-

cine," she said. "I lost my only son."

"The glass flew at us," she said as

wounded, most of them civilians.

48 killed in twin

Textbooks PRGF tranche scheduled to be disbursed

early next year. Among the conditions,

three major ones are appointing a finan-

cial adviser to Agrani Bank, restructuring

the NCB boards and introducing an audit

minister, finance secretary and

Bangladesh Bank to discuss disburse-

ment of the \$75 million fifth instalment of

PRGF and the \$25 million second tranche

of Trade Integration Mechanism (TIM)

policy adjustments to protect the bal-

reserve stood at \$2.48 billion, which was

above \$3 billion a few months ago. The

overall balance also shows a deficit of

 $\$195\,million\,in\,July-August\,2005\,against\,a$

\$363 million surplus in the correspond-

down by 89 percent in July-August this

year from the corresponding months in

from 7.93 percent in August to 7.01

percent in September on a point-to-

point basis, in case of non-food items it

rose from 5.71 percent to 6.86 percent

The IMF mission chief praised the

government for setting up the Large

Taxpayer Unit (LTU) for income tax, the

central intelligence cell and other rele-

vant institutional structures in the NBR

He, however, noted that inadequate

staffing and resources, particularly at the

VAT LTU, are hampering revenue collec-

"Auditing procedures and enforce-

To enhance Bangladesh's export

ment of tax collection are also in need of

further improvement," Rumbaugh

competitiveness to survive in the quota-

free trade regime, Rambaugh suggested

addressing infrastructure bottlenecks

improving customs administration and

other aspects of trade facilitation, reduc-

ing regulatory requirements as well as

addressing corruption and security

Mohammad Anwar Hossain, com-

missioner of Ward No. 18, has denied

his involvement in filling up a part of

Gulshan Lake as reported in The Daily

Star on November 20 under the head-

The commissioner in a rejoinder

Anwar claimed he does not own a

yesterday said he is only helping locals

piece of land in or along the lake. He

only inaugurated the construction

work of a road in presence of the

locality's community leaders. There is

no question of filling up the lake, he

Anwar Hossain has put up a signboard

under his own name on the spot,

declaring the launch of Gulshan

Lakeview Housing Society. Workers

were also seen filling up a part of the

People suffering

pro-hartal activists allegedly by police

become an ineffective state" due to the

"failure and misrule" of the alliance

people from all walks of life to oust this

"failed, corrupt and anti-people

government" through mass move-

She demanded immediate and

 $unconditional\, release\, of\, all\, opposition$

leaders and activists arrested during

appears to be a ratcheting up in

violence by insurgents ahead of

December 15 parliamentary elec-

said the hospital had been the target

of the suicide attack, but the bomber

had failed to penetrate its security

barriers. The building suffered minor

damage to its facade, and three

Earlier a US soldier has died of a

No details were given on the

The latest death brings to 2,108

gunshot wound in Baghdad, the US

nature of the incident, which took

place on Wednesday and which is

the number of US military personnel

killed in Iraq since the March 2003

invasion, according to the Pentagon.

arrival at Araihazar Upazila Health

five bullets and some sharp weapons.

kolyandi village in Araihazar. He was

accused in more than eight robbery

The Rab recovered one revolver,

Daniel hailed from Shang-

Robber killed

nearby houses were badly hit.

military reported Thursday.

under investigation.

FROM PAGE 1

In a statement, the US military

the countrywide hartal yesterday.

Hasina said, "Bangladesh has

The opposition leader urged

lake. We stand by our report.

and ruling party cadres.

line "Gulshan Lake being filled up".

Rejoinder,

our reply

build a road.

The foreign aid inflow also went

Though the overall inflation reduced

ingperiod of 2004.

over the same period.

Rumbaugh vesterday also asked for

Yesterday the foreign exchange

The mission met with the finance

FROM PAGE 20 communities from some of these

"The class V textbook mentions Mandi as the Garo language which has no written form, but the fact is that the Garo language is called Achik which has its own written form. One can even have higher studies on this language," he

Through seminars and meetings and letters to the authority concerned the indigenous people have protested against these misrepresentations of them in the school textbooks. They have demanded to incorporate indigenous writers and representatives into the committee for writing textbooks, but no significant result has so far come in this regard, Drong said.

However, the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) authority strongly denied the allegation of misrepresenting the indigenous people and their culture in the primary school textbooks.

"We do not think the primary school extbooks have negatively presented the indigenous people. In the books they have rather been presented in a way so that all children can easily understand them," Prof Altaf Hossain, senior specialist and acting member of the NCTB primary school curriculum,

"We have maintained the truth about things regarding what the indigenous people eat and what they wear, and there was no bad intention," he

Asked why the rich heritage of the indigenous people's struggles and culture has not been put in the textbooks, he said this has been discussed in the textbooks of higher classes.

In reply to another question, he said, The word 'adibashi' cannot be used as t gives the impression that they have been living in the land since much earlier than the Bangalees." Altaf also denied receiving any

written complaint regarding these issues from the indigenous people. He, however, gave assurance that the textbook board must consider the issue if it has received any written complaint. Eminent educationalist Prof Serajul

Islam Chowdhury also expressed his resentment over the negative presentation of the indigenous people in the primary school textbooks. Opposing the use of both the words

'upojati" and "adibashi", he preferred using the expression "khudra jatisatta", meaning small nationality, for the indigenous people. The legacy of struggles, culture and

heritage of these "small nationalities"

should be put in the textbooks so that the children do not think that they are inferior, he viewed. "The differences of the small nationality people with the majority popula-

tion may be included in the textbooks, but it must be done positively," he said.

Jalil pledges FROM PAGE 1

revealing the truth. Don't compromise with falsification."

Jalil, also coordinator of the 14party opposition combine, said the government is out to torture the journalists, who are revealing its

AL Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed said, "Talking against the iournalists in parliament and the prime minister's appreciation by thumping the desk are not good signs for democracy. The journalists have always played

a significant role in all the democratic movements in the country, but Finance Minister Saifur Rahman termed them the 'enemies of the country,' he said.

AL leaders Matia Chowdhury and Asaduzzaman Noor were present.

Meantime, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid vesterday said Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar has lost his neutrality by supporting the media bashing in parliament by the ruling party lawmakers.

"I have been observing parliament proceedings since the Pakistan period, but not a single speaker had ever conducted the House the way the present speaker is doing," Hamid said at a press briefing at the Jatiya Sangsad

The speaker is violating the proceedings since the beginning of the session, the former speaker added.

Sircar nakedly expressed his hatred towards the journalists in line with the ruling party leaders' broadside against journalists in parliament. This is a sharp violation of parliament proceedings, Hamid alleged.

Journalists have become the worst enemy" of the government by uncovering all its misdeeds, Hamid

3 foreign criminals' FROM PAGE 20

criminal gangs used to set up temporary tents and gather heavy arms and They also used to take away cattle,

poultry, rice and vegetables forcibly from the locals.

The army however claimed that there is no possibility of existence of any terrorist group in Bangladesh land

after the frequent operations of the security forces. In the face of massive operation of

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in Naikkhongchhari area, the Myanmar criminals have taken shelter near the zero lines of the border in Alikadam and Thanchi, a government source said on condition of anonymity.

Trade gap widens

According to EPB statistics, in the first two months of the current fiscal year, export in woven garments went down both in terms of volume and value. The volume decreased by 6.51 percent and value by 9.14 percent from that in the corresponding period in FY05.

Meanwhile, the World Bank (WB) in a report titled 'End of Quotas: Strategic Options for the Readymade Garment (RMG) Industry' suggested a six-point strategy, including CBWs, endorsement of Saarc cumulation and permitting yarn and fabric import through land ports, to help the apparel sector survive in the free trade era The report is yet to be officially

launched but its salient points were tabled at the 3-day PRSP Implementing Forum meeting on November 15-17. It identified the unnecessarily long leadtime, of 90 to 120 days, as a major problem impairing the market competitiveness of the woven sector, and said CBWs to stock fabrics and other inputs at the EPZs would reduce the 'time to market' substantially.

The report observed that the government has been "concerned about possible leakage of duty-free materials into the domestic market (depriving govt of revenues), and has not therefore supported the proposal" for setting up CBWs. To address that concern, it suggested setting in place safeguards, like computerisation of record keeping and reducing anti-export bias. It also advised the government to cut

garments by no more than 30 percent in order to minimise the incentive for leakage from the bonded system. The donors pledged to support the government in carrying out these lead-

the protective tariff on textiles and

time reduction measures. The WB also prescribed to remove the current ban on importing yarn and fabric through land ports and strength-

opposition activists, injuring AL lawmaker

Photoiournalist of the Associated

Press (AP) Pavel Rahman, Channel-i

cameraman Billal Hossain, police consta-

bles Masum and Mahfuz, and at least 12

Awami League workers, including a

The 14-party opposition combine

comprising AL, 11-party alliance, Jatiya

Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and National

Awami Party (NAP) enforced the 12-hour

shutdown to protest the government

move to foil the opposition grand rally at

At Lalbagh, police charged batons on a

procession, led by former lawmaker Haji

Mohammad Selim, at noon, leaving

In the morning, police picked up two

women pickets from a procession near

Noor Hossain Square led by AL leaders

Motia Chowdhury and Mofazzal Hossain

Chowdhury Maya. The two AL activists,

opposition activists in a procession near

the Dainik Bangla intersection in the

morning, injuring two, Aleya Khatun Doly

Most buses and minibuses stayed off

the roads in the capital but rickshaws were

seen during the hartal hours. Long-route

buses did not ply anywhere in the country.

Yesterday's hartal coincided with a

transport strike called by Bangladesh

Sarak Parihahan Sramik Federation to

However, launches, trains and flights

Educational institutions and most

business establishments remained

closed. However, bank transactions took

The AL lawmakers staged demonstra-

tion at Russell Square in the capital under

police cordon. Besides, senior AL leaders

ALleaders Abdul Jalil, Tofail Ahmed, M

Akhtaruzzaman, Asaduzzaman Noor and

its front organisations' leaders Jahangir

Kabir Nanak, Pankaj Debnath, Roy

Ramesh and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD)

leaders Hasanul Huq Inu, Mainuddin

Khan Badal and Workers Party leaders

The opposition leaders then brought

In Netrakona, some 20 AL leaders and

workers were injured when police charged

baton on a procession. Led by district AL

goods being smuggled from

Of the goods, 1,260 tonnes are salt

loaded in six boats and 148 tonnes are

sugar loaded in one boat, the duty-

officer of the Patenga PS told this

Bangladesh Navy also filed a case

was gunned down in front of his

His father Abdur Razzak filed a

Hasibul Haque Johnny, one of the

13 arrestees in the case, confessed

before a magistrate to his involve-

ment in the killing on September 22.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police

closed Rafiqul on September 15 and

suspended him on October 2 for not

reporting to Rajarbagh Police Lines.

murder case with Kafrul Police

Station accusing Rafiqul and 27

Ibrahimpur home on September 13.

correspondent vesterday evening.

with the Patenga Police Station.

OC Rafiq

FROM PAGE 20

52 smugglers

FROM PAGE 20

Myanmar.

out a procession that ended at the AL

Dipankar Saha Dipu spoke at the rally.

addressed a rally at Muktangon.

press home its three-point demand.

operated normally during the hartal.

The police also clubbed women

Shilpi and Dipti, were released later.

Paltan Maidan on Tuesday.

several AL workers injured.

and Hasina Alam Baby.

place on a limited scale

woman, were injured during the clash.

Asaduzzaman Noor.

14-party hartal

customs to prevent smuggling of these

The report argued Bangladeshi woven garments are losing out substantially on the export potential of the EU market, which provides preferential and zero-tariff access to the RMG of the developing countries, subject to some local value-addition criteria.

"Unlike Nepal, Laos and Cambodia, the government of Bangladesh has not yet taken advantage of the EU offer of regional cumulation and relaxation of value-addition criteria, possibly due to pressures from the domestic textile groups who may feel that such relaxation might work in favour of other regional inputs," it observed. According to the WB, "In fact, a competitive textile sector should have nothing to fear and can only benefit from a faster growth of RMG in EU markets.' Following those arguments, the WB

value addition criteria to promote RMG exports to the EU by taking advantages offered by its 'Everything but Arms' programme. The six-point strategy put forward by the WB also include creating a technolngy 'ungradation fund', a refinancing facility to reduce capital cost of installing

advised the government to endorse

Saarc regional cumulation and relax the

industries. Sources said the government has agreed in principle to act in line with the WB prescription.

Reflecting on the WB suggestions,

a positive list of new machinery in textile

Mustafizur Rahman said the government should undertake a comprehensive policy-measure, encompassing both the textile and the RMG sectors. and ensuring that neither is affected by interventions to develop the other.

President Shamsuzzoha, the procession

came under attack at Machuabazar in the

The injured include Shamsuzzoha

The police dispersed another proces-

district AL General Secretary Ashraf Ali

Khan Khasru and Joint Secretary Nur

sion of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL)

in front of Netrakona College, charging

In Sirajganj, hartal supporters pur

Our staff correspondent reports from

nained off the road during the shut-

Educational institutions, commercial

Delivery of goods to and from

There were reports of peaceful obser-

ipur, Pabna, Gopalganj, Narsingdi

"We are ready for production, but

the government is not approving the

Officials at the Energy Division said

Energy Advisor Mahmudur Rahman

has asked the Canadian company to

agree to compensate for two blowouts

at Tengratila before going for produc-

for environmental damage is esti-

mated at Tk 768 million and an addi-

tional amount for the proven burning

of three billion cubic feet (BCF) of gas

is now being examined by the law

Officials at the Energy Division

"We already made compensation

officials said Niko will have to make

more compensation if it is found that

52 BCF gas was burnt, as claimed by

for the people around Chhatak gas

field. Niko is fully agreed to do every-

thing and bear all liabilities as per joint

venture agreement (JVA) signed

hetween the Niko and the Bapex

(Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration

the blowouts in January and June this

itself is the loser for "one BCF or what-

ever quantity of gas burnt in Chhatak'

as it owns 80 percent under the JVA

delay in fixing the tariff for the gas Niko

has been supplying from its Feni gas

Officials at Petrobangla, the state-

run oil, gas and mineral corporation

said Niko wants 2.35 dollars for a

thousand cubic feet of gas while

Petrobangla is willing to pay 2.10

Niko chief said with their vast

experiences in the offshore explora-

tion, they are willing to take part in the

 $third\, round\, bidding\, the\, government\, is$

planning specially, for the Bay of

On investment climate in

Bangladesh, he said foreign investors

must have patience and "we have that

signed with the Bapex.

dollars

patience".

The Niko executive chairman said

The Niko boss said the company

He also called "disappointing" the

Company Limited)," said Sampson.

year were disappointing for them.

They said the compensation claim

proposal. It is disappointing," he said.

establishments and business centres were

Chittagong Port remained suspended,

though loading and unloading and other

vance of the opposition hartal in Jessore,

activities at the port were normal.

Brahman-baria and Bandarban.

Niko says

for starting production.

FROM PAGE 1

ministry.

Chittagong: The hartal passed off peace-

fully in Chittagong. Most vehicles

barricade on the Dhaka-Dinajpur high-

ing and damaged several vehicles.

baton on the demonstrators.

town at about 10:00am

Aug 17 blast case

Moulana Masud was arrested at Zia International Airport (ZIA) on August 22 for suspected links to the August 17 blasts. He was shown arrested in the bomb blast case and placed on remand on several occasions.

Immediately after his arrest, he had accused Iamaat-e-Islami Amir and Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami of having a direct role in the countrywide explosions. In the charge sheet, the IO said he

did not find any evidence of the three having links to the August 17 blasts at Airport area. Moreover, there was no conclusive proof that Masud had channelled money to the militants for staging the countrywide blasts. Earlier the IO in his forwarding

report placed before the court on August 23 had described Masud as bearing links to the blast near a dustbin adjacent to ZIA Concourse Hall at around 11:25am on August 17. The report also portrayed Masud as a central leader of banned JMB and accused him of providing funds for the countrywide blitz of handmade bombs The charge-sheeted accused

include Mohammad Rezaul Haq alias Reza, 25, of Jamalpur, Musa alias Mustafizur Rahman, 22, of Naogaon, Habibur Rahman alias Habib, 23, and Mohammad Sagir Hossain, 35, of Of them, Reza is behind bars while

the others are on the run. Reza had given a confessional statement to a magistrate, naming the other IMB members involved in the August 17 The IO petitioned for arrest war-

rants to be issued against them and attachment of their moveable proper-

Transport strike

He said, "The communications minis-

ter has issued a letter pledging to discuss and meet our demands and to implement other agreements that had signed earlier between the government and the transport leaders." He said, "The bilateral meeting

with the communications minister will be held at the Railway Building at 4:00pm on Sunday and if our demands are not met, we will decide what to do next.' The opposition-supported section

of the federation on Monday threatened to enforce an indefinite transport strike if the government-backed transport strike that started Monday morning apparently to prevent opposition supporters from attending the Tuesday's grand rally was not with-The transport strike was with-

drawn on Tuesday night. Our Dinajpur correspondent

reported that the district transport owners vesterday enforced an indefinite strike on 52 routes of the district protesting the attack on Subal Ghosh a member of Dinajpur District Bus Owners Association, allegedly by Mujibur Rahman and his associates on Wednesday night.

Immediately after the incident, the district transport owners held a press conference at the local press club and gave the strike call demanding arrest of Muiibur Rahman, secretary of North Bengal Transport Workers Union, and his associates involved in the attack on Subal Ghosh.

They also filed a case with Dinaipur Sadar Police Station, accusing Mujibur Rahman and his two associates -- Mohammad Jabbar and

Mujibur Rahman was arrested in Dinaipur on November 20 in three criminal cases and was released on Tuesday night under pressure from the government-backed transport

C'wealth agenda FROM PAGE 20 legitimate right and a responsibility to

showleadership. Foreign ministers were due to

deliver a communique late Thursday on their two days of talks, which focused largely on the trade issue. "I am sure that the damage of the

round failing will be significant and it will hold up the development agenda in a way that we'll live to regret," Britain's Africa minister David Triesman told "That should give us the impetus to

carry on and try and get a solution to the In an apparent effort to head off a

row at the summit, which brings together G8 members Britain and Canada with some of the world's poorest nations who are denied access to rich country's markets, he said developing nations had understood that Britain, as current EU president, had pushed for the gradual lowering of trade "We are arguing for a long transition

period, as well as for as much aid as can be achieved across that transition period, "the British minister said."Even if they (developing states) didn't know we were arguing it from us

they would know it from the French because they keep telling us off for it." France is a major beneficiary of EU agriculture programmes and has come under fire from Britain in particular for

refusing to give ground on subsidies. Agriculture has proved the main stumbling block to wrapping up a round of trade talks, which began in the

Oatar capital Doha in 2001. The Hong Kong summit of the World Trade Organisation aims to achieve a template for a new global trade deal to boost the global economy and lift millions out of poverty.

BNP sacks Hena

Hena, a lawmaker from Rajshahi-3, from the party and cancelled his primary membership for violating party discipline and tarnishing its image.

In his instant reaction to the party decision, Abu Hena said the expulsion proved that the government and the BNP want to establish the rule of militants in the country. "The leaders who support the rise of militants have expelled me from the party," he said.

Sources said the BNP chairperson and prime minister took the decision to axe Abu Hena from the party in an apparent hid to defuse the grievances of its alliance partner Jamaat-e-Islami, which is blamed for its alleged link to the The BNP chief called party General

Secretary Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan a couple of days ago to her office and discussed the issue relating to Hena's comments. Yesterday, the PM summoned Post and Telecommunications Minister

Barrister Aminul Haq, who is also the minister in charge of Rajshahi and Naogaon districts, to her office and asked for his opinion about Hena's allegations against him. The BNP policymakers did not discuss the issue in a formal meeting but

the party chairperson was learnt to have talked to a number of senior leaders about the issue. The leaders reportedly suggested taking drastic action against The top leaders of BNP told the party

chief that if the high-command goes lenient about the issue now, the party may face further dissidence in future. Party insiders said BNP expelled Abu

Hena under the pressure of Jamaat-e-Islami as the lawmaker has annoyed the Islamist party through his remarks. Abu Hena in his interviews said the

activities of Islamist militants spread across the country after the Jamaat-e-Islami came to office in 2001 as a coalition partner of BNP. The lawmaker also the dominance of BNP.

said grievances and difference of opinions among the rank and file of party leaders are rising on the militant issue. Four MPs from Chittagong, greater Jessore and Rajshahi are aggrieved at the

Other sources in the party said a section of BNP leaders, known to be the liberal group, believes Jamaat is responsible for the rise of militant outfits in the

They also hold a number of ministers responsible for patronising Siddigul Islam alias Bangla Bhai and his men in Rajshahi region last year.

Former bureaucrat Abu Hena, who oined BNP on May 3 in 1996 after retir-

date by huge margin on both occasions. Talking to The Daily Star last night, the lawmaker said he would launch a campaign across the country against the

lost his membership for joining parliament ignoring the party decision.

the then opposition BNP was boycotting the House.

"But Abu Hena did not violate the party's decision. His membership from parliament could have been vacated if ne resigned from the party. But he did not resign," the speaker said

he is still a member of parliament," Sircar The speaker said he has not received any letter from the BNP seeking his

directive to vacate the membership of

Íslamist militant group. The suspicion of police link to the JMB

Rangpurhideout in its seizure list The police have in fact denied recovering any JMB hit list from the rented house

targets of the IMB. The slow pace Rangpur police in conduct-

been mysteriously inactive to launch

further drive to detect militant network in ousted on Tuesday night.

The suspicion of police link to the JMB got stronger as an SP from Nilphamari was tasked with carrying out the operation in

police Baharul Alam told The Daily Star

nform the Rangpur police about the operation, fearing disclosure of informaion from them. THREATS IN NETRAKONA, BARISAL Our Netrakona correspondent writes:

SPAli Hossen told The Daily Staryesterday

Ali Hossen, however, expressed hope that the militants threatening him will be arrested in three or four days.

first time admitted that the district's people are involved with the IMB.

Following the threats, additional police forces were deployed at different points of the main roads, bus stands, railway stations, and the offices and residences of DC and SP.

nformed that many JMB cadres from different parts of the country have taken shelter at different mosques in the remote areas of the district as Tablig Jamaat activists. Our Barisal correspondent adds: The

threat-letters on Wednesday afternoon through regular postal delivery. The letters read that after the attacks on the judiciary, the militants will now

take steps against the NGOs. Sources said the letters were posted from the Barisal divisional head post office

A highly-placed source in the BNF

country.

ing from government service, was elected MP twice from Raishahi-3 constituency, defeating the AL candi-

militants. "I am not alone. The countrymen who do not believe in militancy are with me," he said. In the last parliament, rebel BNP lawmaker Major (retd) Akhtaruzzaman

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar said Akhtaruzzaman had violated the party decision and joined parliament when

"He has been elected by people and

SP, 5 NGOs

working as an informant of the banned

became more evident as the law enforcement agency concealed and did not include the IMB hit list recovered from the

of Abdul Awal, detained son-in-law of JMB chief Abdur Rahman. But sources in the law enforcement agencies confirmed the seizure of one such list, naming the next Our Rangpur correspondent reports:

ing any drive to arrest any local militant has raised doubt about its link to the The law enforcers in Rangpur have

the district after its Rangpur den was Ouestion of involvement of a part of the police administration with JMB activities further deepened following the recovery of a handwritten letter of Awal's wife, which was supposed to be delivered.

the joint Interrogation Cell (JIC). The letter reads, "Bangla Bhai is trying to negotiate with the authorities concerned for your case. Don't worry about

to Awal, who is now being interrogated in

Meanwhile, the recovery of an identity card (ID) of one Abdur Rahman, showing him as an employee of the Saudi Arabian embassy in Bangladesh, created speculations inside the police administration.

The police wondered that this Abdur Rahman is the absconding JMB chief himself as the photo has resemblance with a young Abdur Rahman.

Awal's den at Noorpur in Rangpur, bypassing the Rangpur police. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of

that the Nilphamari SP conducted the operation because he got the clue first. A police source said the DIG did not

that some JMB cadres have been threatening him for the last three days over telephone that if he further "disturbs" the IMB cadres, they will kill him and his family

Meanwhile, Netrakona police for the

Meanwhile, some reliable sources

ive NGOs received the hand-written

on November 22 and delivered the next

Awlad Hossain and Abdus Salam

Talukdar, regional in-charges of NGO Forum and SAINT Bangladesh, acknowledging the facts said they informed the law enforcers about the threat-letters and lodged general dairies in this connection with the Kotwali Police Station.

Kotwali PS officer-in-charge Sheikh Zillur Rahman and duty officer Habibur Rahman said the NGOs have been advised to take precaution regarding their movements, allowing visitors to their offices and taking law enforcers' help in case of any

Our correspondent in Nilphamari adds: Some JMB members are now helping the police, supplying information about their cadres after the countrywide crackdown on the Islamist outfit began following the

August 17 countrywide serial bomb blasts, police sources claimed. The JMB members started helping the police after killing of two judges in Jhalakathi, fearing arrest, the sources

The police also claimed that Awal was arrested in Thakurgaon on November 18

following tips from the IMB men. Earlier on Wednesday, Nilphaamari Shoeh Ahamed told The Daily Startha a very important source contacted him at 7:15pm Tuesday and gave information about the Rangpur JMB hideout.

He said they were very close to arresting Shaikh Abdur Rahman. RĂISHAHI

Our staff correspondent in Raishahi reports: Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested two JMB leaders with huge explosives and bomb-making materials. According to a Rab press release, the

arrestees are Jahangir Alam alias Abidur of Lalpur, Natore, a Raishahi district leader. and Abdur Rahman alias Shaikh Khalid of Naldanga, who was responsible for the August 17 blasts in Chapainawabganj.

The recovered bomb-making materials are similar to those used on August 17. The Rab members also recovered Tk 20,000 from them. Tipped off, the JMB cadres were held from two separate houses in Dingadoba

and Chhoto Bangram areas in the city. The Rab did not disclose information about The arrestees confessed that they were planning for a fresh subversive operation

in Rajshahi and gathered all necessary equipment including gunpowder. The Rab also said the arrestees confessed that they exploded bombs at the Kajla Gate of Rajshahi University and Gouranga point in the city on August 17 at

 $the \, order \, of \, JMB \, chief \, Abdur \, Rahman.$

Japanese FROM PAGE 20

named Itokawa, collect material, then bring it back to Earth, failed to touch down after maneuvering within yards of the surface. However, the agency said

Wednesday that data confirmed that Hayabusa had landed on the surface Sunday for a half-hour, although it failed to collect material. JAXA officials had said earlier that Hayabusa dropped a small object as a

touchdown target from 130 feet above

the asteroid and then descended to 56

feet from the surface, at which point

ground control lost contact with the

probe for about three hours. But after analyzing data, the agency said the probe landed on the asteroid within about 99 feet of the initial landing

The agency officials were still analyzing the data and will decide by Thursday whether to conduct a second landing attempt Friday, according to Seiji Koyama, a spokesman for the space

The mission has been troubled by a series of glitches.

ment) Bill 2005; and The Code of Civil

Procedure (Amendment) Bill 2005. The session also held discussion on the Press Council Act and freedom

many of the wounded were brought. Hasna Aboud's son, who was due to get married next week, was also

The second suicide car bomber attacked a crowded market in Hilla, south of Baghdad, yesterday killing at least 14 people and wounding 23 others, police said. The bombing is the latest in a series of suicide attacks and car bomb

IS session FROM PAGE 1 Conditions of Services) (Amend-

blasts that have killed nearly 200

people since last Friday, in what

of press.