NEWS

JMB threatens

assistant judge as soon as possible, reports our Mymensingh correspondent. Terming the judges corrupt officials, the letter said," They have no right to

continue their services In another letter, the militants also threatened to blow up the press club in 15 days.

The letter read: "You, journalists, being a mirror of the society, are working against the people. If this trend continues, Islam will not be established in the country and our target will not be achieved."

The letter alleged journalists are involved in blackmailing and extortion and threatened them with death. The letters were sent by post by the

operations in-charge of the JMB regional office.

Press club authorities yesterday informed the deputy commissioner and superintendent of police of Mymensingh about the matter. UKMISSIONTHREAT

Police yesterday raided two villages in Faridganj upazila and arrested the three youths who had Manik in their names.

Sender of the letter Manik Hossair claimed to be a member of Al-Oaeda's Asian network and threatened to blow up the missions of the US, the UK and some other European states.

The arrestees are Khorshed Alam Bhuiyan alias Manik, 45, a pharmacy owner, Manik, 20, a VCD shop owner of Khajuria village and Manik, 22, a bicycle garage owner, of Shilodana village.

All the Maniks have claimed innocence. Residents of Khajuria told police there are two more Maniks in the village

who stay in Dhaka. Delwar alias Manik, son of Abdul Majid, and Mohsin Hossain Manik, son of Abdur Rab Patwari, are doing computer compose and internet browsing business in Dhanmondi and Eskaton in the capital for the last few years.

PROPERTY ATTACHMENT

Kishoreganj District and Sessions Judge Bhabani Prashad Singh yesterday ordered attachment of moveable property of Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai, writes our Kishoreganj correspondent.

The court passed the order as Rahman and Bangla Bhai did not appear before it during Sunday's scheduled hearing of a case filed in connection with the August 17 blasts in the district. Rahman and Bangla Bhai are the charge-sheeted accused in the case.

IMB cadre Obaidullah Suman. another accused, was hauled before the court and sent back to the district jail

after hearing FOREIGN LINKSTO MILITANTS

Maolana Abu Noman Mohammad Amanullah, arrested in Jamalpur on Thursday, confessed before a first class magistrate on Saturday to having direct links to the August 17 blast in the district, our Tangail correspondent adds.

Jamaat statement

FROM PAGE 1 Tasnim Alam claimed that Jamaat had in past protested the reports regarding Jamaat-Shibir links of Bangla Bhai, Montezar and Sohel.

He recalled that Jamaat had disclaimed such links in the past also by issuing rejoinders and urged the author of the commentary to refrain from misleading the people by publishing such commentaries.

Amanullah was an imam of an Ahle Hadith mosque at Andariapara under Fulbaria upazila in Mymensingh Kuwait-based Islamic Revival of Islamic Heritage Society (RIHS) funded the

mosque. Amanullah admitted that he has close links with JMB chief Abdur Rahman and Rahman's brother Obidui Rahman

He also told the police he had been paying fixed wages and allowances to some militants of the region as per direction of Rahman. He also said around 140 imams of

RIHS Ahle Hadith mosques across the country are active to establish Islamic rules in the country. DHAKA

JMB member Mohammad Monwar Hossain, arrested in Tangail on November 25, was remanded for seven days yesterday for his role in the August blast near staff quarters of Bangabhaban, our court correspondent adds.

Detective Branch (DB) of police took Monwar, 25, of Balla Tenguria in Kalihati upazila in Tangail, before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Dhaka. ARRESTS

Law enforcers have arrested six suspected militants including a suicide omber of the JMB in Thakurgaon Jamalpur, Rangpur and Khulna. Masud, 22, an alleged suicide

omber, and Saifudin, 55, were held in Thakurgaon, reports UNB. A joint team of Rapid Action

Battalion (Rab) and police arrested Masud, son of Ekramul Haq, in Bharnioa village in Ranisangkail upazila. Another JMB member, Abdullahe

Kafi, was caught in Jamalpur district. In another raid, the joint team arrested Saifuddin in Damal Chourangi village in Haripur upazila.

Jamalpur police raided the College Road area in the town and arrested Abdullahel Kafi, 23, with important documents including a notebook reports our Tangail correspondent. Kaf hailed from Andaria village in Fulbaria upazila in Mymensingh.

Police vesterday arrested suspected JMB member Moslem on the premises of a court, according to our Rangpur Correspondent.

The arrestee, a madrasa student, was absconding since the Augusts 17 blasts and shaved his beard.

The law enforcers arrested two JMB cadres -- Suman, 24, and Ouddus, 25 -at Chandni ferry ghat in Koira upazila in Khulna, reports our staff correspondent in Khulna

Police also seized huge JMB leaflets when the arrestees, both madrasa students in Koira, were about to distribute those among passengers at the ferry ghat

Lawyers divided FROM PAGE 1

The banned Islamist outfit JMB in a letter to Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president on Sunday threatened to kill the SC and HC judges accusing them of inefficiency and corruption. SCBA Superintendent Nimesh Chandra Das filed a general diary (GD) with the Ramna Police Station in this connec-

tion on Sunday. recruited through the Public Service Ramna police and members of the Commission, he added. Detective Branch (DB) visited the Moudud said a draft law in this Supreme Court Bar Association regard will be sent to the cabinet by (SCBA) office yesterday morning and December. Earlier in 2003, the cabinet talked to its officials. rejected a similar bill. Police and detectives told the SCBA The bill envisages that in the first office bearers that they are not taking the matter lightly and they are investiphase, junior level law officers will be appointed, while higher level posts gating the issue with great importance. Vice-chairman of Bangladesh Bar may be filled on contractual basis. Council Barrister Rokanuddin State Minister for Law Shajahan Mahmud, also the former SCBA presi-Omar and Law Secretary Alauddin dent, expressed his grave concern over Sardar, among others, were present at the matter. "There is no way to brush the press conference. aside the threat or calling it 'fake before making any investigation," the AL plans pro-opposition lawyer Rokan told reporters yesterday. FROM PAGE 1

Jubo Dal leader

Bus runs over

DMCH CORRESPONDENT

Azampur area in Uttara.

village in Narail.

the conductor had fled.

daughter Shahshi.

FROM PAGE 1

ministry.

him.

Lines

traffic sergeant

around 8:30am when a Netrakona

bound bus from Mohakhali crushed

The police found the bus abandoned at

Saijadur's body was taken to his

nome village for burial following his

namaz-e-janaza at Rajarbagh Police

He left behind his wife and a baby

Ministry probe

tampering with the dossiers, the

report says that 48 ACRs have gone

missing from the Active Wing of the

Senior officials of the establish-

ment ministry said it is very much

confidential and the matter should

ACRs are below joint secretary level.

League lawmaker KM Jahangii

Hossain however claimed that allega

tions of tampering with the ACR were

raised by some officials of joint secre-

"I also demanded an investigation

"We asked the ministry to submit a

The parliamentary body also

suggested the ministry to immedi-

ately complete the appointment of

148 employees in the government

the government is going to enact a new

Law officers for the Supreme Court

and the district level courts will be

law to create attorney service cadre.

copy of the report that was sent to the

tary and additional secretary levels.

reporters after the meeting.

prime minister," he added.

offence," he said.

printing press.

FROM PAGE 16

Moudud

Committee member and Awami

not be discussed openly.

ers after the meeting.

Boardbazar in Tongi. Both the driver and

arrest or surrender and the convicts A bus ran over a traffic sergeant vester can appeal to the High Court (HC) day killing him on the spot at the city's against the verdict within 30 days from the day of receipt of the judge-Sajjadur Rahman, 31, a sergeant of ment copy, the judge said.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) The judge said the convicts were traffic (north zone), hailed from Soratala given death sentence twice but one of the sentences would be executed after Witnesses said the sergeant was on the HC confirmed it. duty near Azampur foot over-bridge

The gang of miscreants led by Kajal abducted Shamsul Haque, 52, owner of a hosiery market in Old Dhaka, his son Russel Sheikh, 29, and driver Moazzem Hossain, 37, on March 26 last year and killed them in a bid to grab Shamsul's market and Tk 5 lakh.

The gang chopped the victims' bodies into 149 pieces and dumped them at different places of Dhanmondi and Gazipur to destroy the evidence.

Following the murder, over 1,000 businessmen from 36 markets of Sadarghat flocked the Kazi Abdur Rouf Lane home of the bereaved family to offer condolences. The businessmen blamed the government for neglecting their security concerns triggered by the murder of another businessman, Selim Reza.

Shamsul was an advisor to Awami "We assured the ministry that we League's (AL) Louhojang upazila unit will hold the next meeting in camera if n Munshiganj.

they submit the full investigation Victim's wife, also the complainreport," Committee Chairman Sardar ant of the case, Sufia Khatun, his son Shakhawat Hossain Bakul told report-Palash Khan, daughter Yasmin Sultana and sister Pushpa Begum The probe body has been investiwere present in the courtroom and gating the alleged irregularities for the broke down in tears as the verdict was last 10 years, Bakul said adding that delivered. the officials who tampered with the

"We are satisfied with the verdict but we fear for our lives as the fugitives had threatened us over telephone to withdraw the case. They

Industrial credit growth

nto the allegation of ACR forgery of FROM PAGE 1

The net government borrowing the officials who joined the service in 1979 and 1981," the lone opposition increased by 2.42 percent or Tk 620 awmaker present at the meeting told crore in the first three months of the current fiscal, while in the corresponding period of the last fiscal it had "Stern action should be taken dropped by 4.76 percent or Tk 1,510 against the officials involved in such crore. irregularities, as it is a criminal

A source in the BB said government net borrowing has further risen until the mid-November of this year and now stands at more than Tk 3,700 crore.

In other public sectors borrowing climbed up by 15.02 percent or Tk 1,680 crore in the first three months of the current fiscal. In the corresponding period of the last fiscal similar borrowing rose by only .42 percent or Tk 37

crore. The private sector credit grew by 3.43 percent in the first three months of the current fiscal while in the corresponding period of the last fiscal it had risen by 3.25 percent. The increase in private sector credit is only .18 percentage point.

it will continue."

down," he claimed.

will be in trouble.

the development sector," he said.

estimates, the year-on-year monetary

expansion rate is at 17 percent, which

on the high side. Net domestic credit

After high growth in industrial credit budget, particularly for Mongae last two years, it nas

Niko warned FROM PAGE 16

Regarding Niko's ultimatum that it will stop gas supply from Feni field if the (fugitives) also told us to be ready for price is not determined by 4:00pm on the 'dire consequences' as we did not Tuesday, the Petrobangla told the international oil company that it has no legal right to halting gas supply.

Niko on Sunday had extended its deadline from Monday to Tuesday, seeking a commitment from the government for fixing the gas price.

Sources concerned said the Petrobangla in the meeting with the energy advisor in principle decided to permit Niko to start gas production from the twice blown-up Tengratila gas field.

Before that the Energy Division wants to hand over the compensation claim to the Niko. However, the law ministry, which is

Sources concerned said a positive

development is likely in regards to the

Foreign missions

American and European missions in

the situation) and makes all efforts to

"The government is fully aware (of

Dhaka would be blown up.

Tengratila in the meeting.

news agency.

FROM PAGE 1

the Sutrapur Police Station accusing examining the compensation claim, is Kajal and four others a day after the yet to submit its report. murder of her husband and son.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police pressed charges against Kajal and eight others today on October 5 last year showing 59 people as prosecution witnesses. tariff of Feni gas and production from During the investigation, Rahim had given a confessional statement to a $magistrate\,disclosing\,the\,names\,of\,his$ fellow culprits.

withdraw the case," said Sufia.

the victims, they added.

example for the country.

The family members of the victims

urged the government to tighten their

security and take necessary steps to

arrest the fugitives otherwise they

(family members) would be killed like

Latif Talukder told The Daily Star that

it was the most gruesome and hei-

nous killing in the history of

Bangladesh and the verdict will be an

Sufia had filed a murder case with

Special Public Prosecutor Abdul

The prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 23 prosecution witnesses.

Special Public Prosecutor Abdul Latif Talukder and state appointed lawyer Advocate M Sajwar Hossain appeared for the state while Advocate Mosharraf Hossain Kajol defended the accused in the case

Another case was filed with Dhamrai Police Station for the killing of the driver Moazzem Hossain as his body was found at Dhamrai.

The driver murder case is now pending with the Fifth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka.

fiscal front. The excessive domestic

credit expansion is largely due to the

increase in the government's increased

net bank borrowing, which in the

current fiscal already stands at Taka

3,900 crore. Last year during the same

period, there was net repayment of

government loans to the banking

system instead of net borrowing. What

has gone wrong in the budgetary bal-

ances is not yet clear. The revenue

receipts are only slightly behind target.

But aid disbursements are likely to have

fallen behind the budgeted provision of

foreign funding, particularly because of

the deferment of the World Bank's

receipts from the sale of savings certifi-

cates. In the past, such shortfalls were

usually balanced by the slow pace of

annual development programme

implementation. This year, however,

there may have been speedy release of

some funds from the development

There is also a shortfall in net

meet these sorts of threats," he said "We have taken all possible measures to protect foreign embassies and their interests. Reaz noted that the government had already anticipated such threats

following the killing of two judges. "A heightened campaign of destabilisation was expected, especially in the light of political campaigns that have started and will continue up to the next election" A suicide bomber of the outlawed

Islamist militant outfit JMB killed two judges at Jhalakathi on November 14.

Officials of the home and foreign ministries told The Daily Star yesterday that security was further tightened in the capital's diplomatic zone after the bomb threats.

They mentioned that the foreign ministry last week cautioned the diplomatic missions in Dhaka about threats of possible attacks by militants blamed for a spate of bomb attacks across the country on August 17 and the killing of two judges.

The law enforcement and intelligence agencies have been on high alert since the August 17 serial blasts.

One killed FROM PAGE 16

his accomplices at Shonabo under Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj early vesterday.

He was identified as Monu Miah alias Munna, 35. Munna was wanted meeting. in 17 cases, including eight for murder, Rab sources said. Being tipped-off, a team of Rab-10

Saddam trades

be returned later on

invaders.

Saddam also fired off an angry

tirade against the court's US guards.

Please judge, I don't want you to tell

them, order them. You are Iraqi, you

have sovereignty, they are in your

country, they are foreigners, they are

148 men and youths from the Shia

village of Dujail, north of the capital,

after the Saddam escaped an assassi-

Barzan Ibrahim Hassan al-Tikriti,

Saddam's half-brother and a former

director of the feared Mukhabarat

intelligence service, and former vice-

president Taha Yassin Ramadan, one

give Ramadan time to find his own

attorney after rejecting a court-

appointed lawyer but rejected a

request from Saddam's team for a

The court was shown testimony

from wheelchair-bound Waddah

Ismail al-Sheikh, a former intelligence

official and prison warden, who said

400 people were detained in Dujail by

troops who took their orders from

Other evidence viewed by the

court included a video clip from a

British television programme show-

ing Saddam in Dujail in 1982. In

contrast to his earlier demeanour,

Clark, a left-wing activist who made

several visits to Iraq in the run-up to

sworn in as one of Saddam's lawyers.

There was tight security following

Former US attorney Ramsey

Saddam listened in silence.

China wants

liabao's Dhaka visit in April this year,

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia had agreed

to the proposal for opening up the road

link and during the latter's visit to China

in August, an agreement was signed

declaring Chittagong and Kunming, the

capital of Yunnan province, as "sister

tion status for group visit by Chinese

Route was taken from the civil society of

these countries, said Dr Rahmatullah

programme director (transport and

The first initiative to revive the Silk

Dhaka is also pursuing the matter

Barzan. He died after the interview.

Amin said he adjourned the trial to

The other defendants include

nation attempt there in 1982.

of the regime's "enforcers."

month-long break.

The charges relate to the killing of

sign of toning down the combative stance he adopted at the first hearing in October.

Iraq's one-time strongman and his co-defendants, who all pleaded not guilty to charges over a 1982 massacre of Shias, also watched video testimony from a witness who gave evidence from

a prison hospital before his death. $Dressed \, in \, a \, smart \, Western \, suit \, with$ white handkerchief neatly folded into the top pocket, Saddam engaged in an angry opening skirmish with judge Rizkar Mohammed Amin over his treatment at the high-security Baghdad courthouse.

He complained he had been forced to walk the stairs into the courtroom as the lift was broken and had been put in handcuffs on the way Niko's Executive Edward S to the court, making it hard for him to Sampson, now visiting Dhaka, meets carry a copy of the Koran. Energy Advisor Mahmudur Rahman

He then lambasted the court for apparently confiscating his pen and paper, saying: "How can a defendant defend himself if they take even his papers and pen?'

The Kurdish Amin -- who as in the "If Niko agrees in principle to make first hearing appeared unflappable in the compensation, the government will allow it to go for production from the face of Saddam's verbal jousts --Tengratila," a senior official told the promised the paper and pen would

Heated debate FROM PAGE 16

said responding to newsmen's query element in the government, but (they about the threat given in a faxed are) in the country," the minister told message to the British High reporters after the meeting. Commission on Sunday that the

At the meeting, Suranjit pointed finger at the Jamaat-e-Islami and said, "A part of the government does not believe the 2003 US invasion, was formally in the country's existing rule of law. They want to establish the rule of Islam."

Later, he told Journalists, "The the murder of two lawyers acting for government allowed the rise of militants Saddam's co-defendants and revelawithout taking any sincere steps to root out those elements ... Providing gunman tions by Iraqi police they uncovered will not bring desired results unless the an Al-Qaeda plot to assassinate the court's top investigative judge. militant groups in the country are uprooted.

The parliamentary standing committee on law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry discussed for about two hours the attacks on judges of lower courts across the country, and suggested initiating specific and pragmatic measures in tackling militancy.

"We have to tackle militancy together. Bold and clear steps should be taken against militancy," Chairman of the committee Khandakar Mahbubuddin Ahmed told the meeting, sources said.

The parliamentary body however decided to invite the representatives of Bangladesh Judicial Service Association at its next meeting to seek their suggestions to ensure security on court premises.

At the beginning of the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad, Sutanjit blamed the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government for 'indifference' to combating militancy.

Ruling alliance lawmakers said nilitancy is a national problem and sought cooperation of all in resolving this problem.

On the security of judges, the law infrastructure) of civil society think tank minister said the government has already Centre for Policy Dialogue. "Now the government is also considprovided necessary security to the ering the matter seriously that is udges. "If necessary, we will step up their security." he told journalists after the reflected by the Chinese team's scheduled visit," he said.

with the government of Myanmar, sources said. adding that the opening of the tri-nation road network is expected to encourage greater number of Chinese tourists to visit Bangladesh. On the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries this year, China conferred the approved destina-

tourists to Bangladesh.

cities"

FROM PAGE 1

The statement criticised what it dubbed the attempt to denigrate Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami by the satirical tone of the commentary.

Cop assaulted FROM PAGE 16

the incident to this correspondent yesterday afternoon at The Daily Star office.

The sergeant summoned a patrol police pickup van after half-an hour and handed him over to them. With him handcuffed, the patrol police patrolled different city thoroughfares for about three hours and returned to the previous spot at about 7:00pm.

"Hearing the news, three of my friends came there and requested Sergeant Jasim to release me but he pressed me to give an undertaking which I refused outright," Sabuj said adding "afterwards, the sergeant apologised for his act and set me free."

Protesting the brutality, Sabuj immediately started a hunger strike on the spot.

Later that night, leaders of CU Teachers Association and teachers of Sociology Department lodged verbal complaint to the Deputy Commissioner (Traffic) Mahbub Hakim and demanded the sergeant's punishment. The DC (Traffic) assured them of justice and closed the sergeant from duty.

Sabuj submitted a written complaint to the DC (Traffic) yesterday morning, asking for legal actions against Sergeant Jasim

Meanwhile, hundreds of CU students burst into wild agitation at the Sholoshahar Station at about 2:15pm yesterday as soon as the university shuttle train carrying them reached there.

At one point, some angry students attacked Sergeant Shahidul Haque, who was passing the area after finishing his duty at Bohaddarhat bus terminal, with brickbats. Later, they roughed him up and set fire to his motorbike.

Police picked up two pedestrians from the station area in this connec-

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner M Mazedul Haque and DC Mahbub Hakim couldn't be made available for comments despite repeated attempts over telephone from yesterday afternoon till filing of this report in the evening.

He said security should be tightened and extended following the threat. He also emphasised uprooting the militants by hunting them down and trying

Meanwhile, leader of the BNPbacked lawyers Jainul Abedin told the press that the letter is fake. The content and language do not have any resemblance to the letters JMB sent earlier, he continued. The letter did not ask to establish the laws of Allah, a common demand of JMB.

Khaleda talks FROM PAGE 1

antigovernment movement.

The meeting decided to ask party leaders of every echelon to speak against militancy and terrorism. The government's stance on the issue will be firm and it will go all out to nab the masterminds of the militant outfits, the meeting decided. Finance and Planning Minister M

Saifur Rahman, BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Health Minister Khandaker Mosharaf Hossain attended the meeting.

Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, the ime minister's parliamentary affairs adviser, was also present in the meeting for some time. The meeting decided that BNP will

organise rallies and meetings in the divisional headquarters following the party's December 21 grand rally at Paltan. Elaborate preparations are underway to hold the grand rally successfully. Lawmaker Abu Hena's expulsion

as well as the speeches of Oli Ahmed KM Obaidur Rahman and whip Ashraf Hossain also came for discussion.

Meanwhile, city BNP held a meeting at the party's central office vesterday. Presided over by Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, the president of Dhaka City BNP, the meeting worked out plans to make the December 21 rally a success.

national council was held on December 26 in 2002.

The council date has not yet been finalised, but it will be held in time. acting AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader told The Daily Star yesterday.

"As per the party constitution we are bound to hold the central council by next month as the incumbent committee's three-year term expires on December 25." he said. "A meeting of the Awami League

Central Working Committee will discuss the matter and fix the date on December 2."

Party sources said AL President Sheikh Hasina on Friday sat with the party's organisation secretaries and the joint secretaries and discussed the council in detail.

Hasina asked her party leaders to make preparations for the council and complete formation of the district committees before that.

"The November 22 grand rally was a successful showdown of the opposition despite all obstacles caused by the government. It has helped create enthusiasm among the party leaders and workers," said an AL leader quoting his meeting with Hasina.

He said, "We want to continue motivating party members through assembling leaders across the country at the central council."

has expanded even at a higher rate of The council will not change the about 20 percent, but its impact on present leadership of the party, he added.

"So far, 60 of the 72 district units have completed their councils," Obaidul Ouader said, adding that the rest will be complete by next month.

The council will boost party leaders and workers ahead of the 14-party opposition combine's march towards Dhaka on January 22, party leaders believe.

mitigation activities, he said. in the current fiscal. In the first three

programme lending.'

"Whatever the reasons, government months of this fiscal, industrial credit borrowing at the current rate is clearly dropped by 1.13 percent, compared to not sustainable. Even if some measures the increase by 36.53 percent in the of restraint in credit expansion in the corresponding period of the last fiscal. private sector are called for, a hike in the The BB source said IMF's suggestion rate of interest for lending is not the only to tighten monetary policy came foloption. In view of the existing situation lowing the pressure on Forex reserve. in the country's banking sector, a more Annual growth in private sector credit desirable way of credit restraint may be was 17.22 percent on September 30, through the screening out of risky 2005. It would be normal if it was within borrowers. One would not of course 13-14 percent, he said adding, "That is expect such unorthodox policy advice the reason we have adopted tight from the IMF, but Bangladesh Bank can monetary policy since last February and certainly use its moral persuasion to this effect." About annual net government

There are worrying signs also in the borrowing, the source said it rose by balance of payments situation. The last 28.45 percent as the Development few months saw a depletion of Forex Support Credit (DSC) had not been reserves to the tune of nearly half a released by the World Bank (WB). "If the billion dollars. This has happened in DSC is released the borrowing will come spite of hefty growth in remittances from abroad. The widening external Industrialist, Sved Maniur Elahi, current deficits are explained by the also former adviser to the last caretaker increased bill for fuel import and a government said if the BB chooses to slowdown in export growth combined control the private sector credit followwith continued high import growth, ing the IMF prescription, it will have a ProfWahid added. negative effect on private industries.

"The current macroeconomic Import of capital machinery has increased greatly in recent times. It will strains surely need policy responses, require at least a year to put the machinbut there are hard choices to be made. ery in use for production. If under the Both the public and the private sectors circumstances the private sector does have to bear the burden of monetary not get sufficient working capital then it adjustment to some extent. To avoid a credit squeeze in the private sector, the Zaid Bakht, research director of government will have to restrain itself Bangladesh Institute of Development from going for big public spending Studies (BIDS), said a steady growth was through domestic borrowing. The seen as far as the industrial growth is temptation will be there, with the concern. "If cold water is poured on it in general elections looming in the horithe form of credit control, the momenzon," he warned.

tum will be lost. As I have said again and "Bringing the external deficit to again, the government will have to sustainable level may involve the reduce its expenditure by stopping difficult choice among the policy wastage and bringing in discipline in options of domestic credit restraint further depletion of foreign reserves or Prof Wahidudding told The Daily letting the exchange rate of taka to Star yesterday, "According to the latest further depreciate."

There are other sticky points in the negotiations with the IMF regarding the reforms in the banking sector and in tax administration, remarked Wahiduddin.

monetary expansion has been to some "These reforms are of institutional extent absorbed by the decline in the nature and are essentially to do with foreign reserves in the recent months. governance-related problems such as The IMF is right in being concerned large-scale tax evasion. The key to about the rate of monetary expansion, success here is political will, not mere particularly given the already high adherence to certain conditions for inflation rate. But a credit squeeze getting foreign aid. With the general through the central bank's monetary instruments is not the only or the most elections drawing near, the time for appropriate policy response. The main such reforms may have already run problem seems to have arisen from the out," he said.

arrested Munna at his residence at 10/A Natun Road, Saidabad, Sunday evening.

Following his confessional statement. Rab took him to Naravangani to recover firearms and arrest his cohorts at 3:30am yesterday. When the Rab men along with Munna reached near Shonabo area, Munna's accomplices opened fire, forcing the members of e elite force to retaliate.

Munna was caught in the crossfire and received bullet wounds while trying to flee, the sources said.

He was rushed to Narayanganj Sadar Hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead.

After the gunfight, a loaded revolver and one light gun (LG) were recovered from the spot.

Accused placed FROM PAGE 16

10-day remand in a case filed for kidnap ping Dr Azizur Rahman of Mirpur on September 23, 2003. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) produced Hafiz before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court on November 10 on completion of the remand and sought for a five-day remand for further interrogation.

But the CMM Court ordered to send Hafiz to the Dhaka Central Jail and directed the jail authorities to produce him before the Chittagong Metropolitan Special Tribunal-1 on November 14 for trial in accordance with a High Court (HC) directive. The court also fixed yesterday for hearing on the remand prayer.

CID Inspector Nilotpal Dey and also the investigation officer (IO) of the case filed for killing Tayefuddin Ahmed of Mirpur in July 2003, submitted a petition for showing Hafiz arrested in the case on November 10 and sought for a further 10day remand for interrogation to find out vital information about the killing.

The court then granted the petition for showing him arrested in the case and fixed yesterday for hearing on the remand prayer.

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members accompanying the CID personnel, took Hafiz wearing a helmet and a bulletproof vest at 3:30pm, to the court where Metropolitan Magistrate Quamrunnahar granted the prayer sought by the IO.

Hafiz hailing from Patiya upazila of Chittagong surrendered to the High Court (HC) on October 26 and sought order to send him to the custody on security grounds. He said that he might get killed in "crossfire.

After hearing, the HC sent him to the Dhaka Central Jail with the help of the on-dutypolicepersonnel.

US wants

period of years, not months or weeks.'

States and many other countries

targeted by terrorists, recognising and

acknowledging the true nature of the

problem -- who the terrorists are and

what they hope to accomplish is "an

essential first step to create a durable

social and political framework for

"There are many causes of terror-

ism, including ignorance and extrem-

ism, and a long-term solution must

incorporate strategies, like providing

good education to traditionally

neglected constituencies, for sur-

mounting them," the spokesman said.

is no substitute for effective law-

enforcement action. In Bangladesh or

elsewhere, there is no better antidote

to terrorism than brining to justice

terrorists and those who sponsor and

He said because a successful fight

against terrorism is fundamentally

about "the triumph of freedom,

tolerance, and democracy over igno-

rance, fear, and extremism, it is also

In the short-term, however, "there

In the experience of the United

FROM PAGE 1 waged at many levels and over a

fighting terrorism".

assist them".

important to reaffirm and demonstrate a commitment to those principles that separate you from the pureyors of hate".

The spokesman noted that the US government has a long-term commitment to Bangladesh's social, economic and political development, all of which are vital for creating a strong bulwark against extremism and terrorism.

Ten US government agencies, from USAID to the Peace Corps, are represented in Bangladesh with programmes designed to promote good governance, education, trade, human rights, and international understanding, he said.

"But we also have growing programmes to improve the lawenforcement capabilities, including those specifically geared to counter terrorism, of most Bangladeshi lawenforcement organisations."

The spokesman said: "As the Bangladeshi track record in dealing with counter-terrorism grows, we are interested in considering new proposals for expanding this important area of cooperation."

134 killed in China

FROM PAGE 16 China's mines are regarded as the most dangerous in the world, and the problem has worsened in recent years as demand for raw materials has escalated to help fuel the nation's rapid economic growth.

China relies on coal for two-thirds of its energy needs and the government said early this month it intended to increase domestic coal production from 2.1 billion tons to 2.4 billion tons over the next five years.

More than 6,000 miners died in accidents in China last year, according to previously released government figures. Independent estimates say the real figure could be as high as 20,000.

Xinhua reported four weeks ago that coalmine fatalities had increased 8.5 percent in the first eight months of

2005 compared with the same period last year, without giving the total number.

trying to step-up safety measures for the nation's coalmines, closing down more than 9,000 illegal operations and suspending another 12,990, accord-

"However, it remains doubtful whether these efforts will finally pay off, given some worrying signs of lax supervision at provincial and county levels," the state-run China Daily said in an editorial Monday.

The central government's attempts have largely failed because corrupt, profit-driven owners and local governments do not supervise the mines adequately and often conspire to ignore mandates from Beijing, the Daily said.

The government has this year been

ing to state press reports.