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## SUICIDE BOMB ATTACKS SCBA enforces hartal today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) enforces a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal today to protest against Tuesday's killings in bomb attacks on Gazipur and Chittagong courts.

Lawyers across the country yesterday observed a mourning day as nine people were killed in the suicide bomb attacks.

The Awami League-led 14-party opposition combine has extended its support to the first ever call by a lawyers' body for a countrywide shutdown.

The SCBA executives led by its President Mahbubey Alam called

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## HC RULE ON ATTACKS ON COURTS, JUDGES

# Why probes shouldn't be declared failure

### Govt asked to file progress report every two weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule on the government why its continuous failure to discharge constitutional obligations to hold impartial, adequate and effective investigations into the bomb blasts on court premises since August 17 should not be declared a failure in protecting fundamental rights.

A division bench, upon a writ

petition filed by a member of Bangladesh Bar Council, ordered the government to submit progress reports to the High Court every two weeks on the investigations into the attacks on court premises.

The rule also asked the government to show cause why government omission in taking adequate and effective measures to ensure security of the members of the judiciary, court officers, lawyers,

police personnel and court-users should not be declared to be a failure to protect the fundamental rights of the petitioner.

Advocate ZI Khan Panna, chairman of the Human Rights Committee of Bangladesh Bar Council that represents as many as 40,000 legal practitioners of the country, filed the petition on behalf of the committee.

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## Rise of militancy threat to nat'l security

Says JS body, calls for unity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body has termed the rise of militancy a threat to the state security and suggested launching a united move for the sake of national existence.

The parliamentary standing committee on the defence ministry yesterday also disclosed confusion among top officials of the ministry about their responsibilities.

It said there are anomalies in allocation of businesses between the Armed Forces Division (AFD)

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# Let's find together ways to stop bomb terrorism

### PM urges all political parties for talks, terms it a national problem

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called on all political parties and distinguished personalities to sit together and find out ways to stop bomb terrorism.

She also urged people not to rent or give shelter to strangers in their areas and warned that action would be taken, if necessary, against the defaulting landlords

and others.

She termed the bomb terrorism a national problem, not a problem of individual, saying that a tough law would be enacted to punish the perpetrators.

"Let us unitedly find out the ways through discussion how to stop this terrorism. This bomb blasts will have to stop. Come to parliament...if necessary, the cabinet will recommend a tough

law to award punishment to the perpetrators," Khaleda, also chairperson of the ruling BNP, told a public meeting at Jurain in the capital.

Those who are carrying out terrorism and killing people in the name of Islam will have to be punished, she said and termed Tuesday's killings in Gazipur and Chittagong heinous and brutal.

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## Party leaders' stance contradicts PM's talks call

ZAYADUL AHSAN

The effectiveness of the prime minister's call yesterday upon all political parties to sit in dialogues to find ways to end bomb terrorism comes into question as many of her party leaders have blamed the main opposition Awami League (AL) for the rise of militancy.

Besides, the government's anti-militancy steps so far also cast doubt on its sincerity to rout the Islamist extremists.

The government did not feel it necessary to discuss the militancy issue at any of its regular cabinet meeting, let alone to call a special session. Moreover, the issue was

not raised in parliament for discussion. Rather the Speaker turned down all the notices submitted by opposition lawmakers to discuss it in the Jatiya Sangsad in last few sessions.

Although BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and his cabinet colleagues had kept on denying the existence of militants for the first three years of the government, Bhuiyan on November 27 in a discussion said the problem originated during the previous AL government.

After Tuesday's twin suicide

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PHOTO: STAR

Visitors to the wounded people in Gazipur bomb attack at the Emergency Department of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital yesterday.

## CTG BOMBER'S CONFESSION Attack planned at Shakhipur mosque

### JMB chief's brother masterminded blasts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The suicidal bomber of Chittagong, who narrowly escaped death, yesterday gave important information about the ghastly blast he had carried out Tuesday and activities of the banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

He told a joint interrogation by police and intelligence agencies that all militant bomb blasts since August 17, including Tuesday's suicide attacks in Gazipur and Chittagong, were planned at the meetings at an Ahle Hadith mosque of Shakhipur and at the

JMB hideout in the hilly area of Chittagong.

Ataur Rahman Sunny, chief of the JMB arms wing and brother of JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman, is

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Still alive Chittagong bomber

## Benapole port fire guts Tk 100cr goods

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Imported goods worth about Tk 100 crore were gutted in a fire at shed No 10 (A-new) of Benapole land port Wednesday noon.

Local sources said the fire originated from inside the shed while welding work was going on at

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## UN FOUNDATION Dhaka hosts board meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka is set to host the meeting of the Board of Directors of the United Nations (UN) Foundation on December 11 and 12.

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## CHANGE OF TIME OF WRITTEN TEST FOR THE POST OF MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

THE WRITTEN TEST FOR THE POST OF MANAGEMENT TRAINEE IN BANK ASIA WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, THE 2ND DECEMBER, 2005 AT DHAKA COLLEGE, DHAKA FROM 2.30 PM TO 4.30 PM INSTEAD OF 10.00 AM TO 12.00 NOON. THE CANDIDATES WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE ADMIT CARDS SHALL HAVE TO REPORT AT THE EXAMINATION CENTRE BY 2.00 PM POSITIVELY. THE INCONVENIENCE CAUSED IS SINCERELY REGRETTED.



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## Gazipur mourns blast victims

### Courts remain closed

BISHAWJIT DAS

The entire Gazipur district yesterday mourned two slain lawyers and five others with daylong protests by people of all walks of life against Tuesday's bomb attack at the district bar association that left them killed.

Officials and employees refrained from attending offices in the private sector, markets and business establishment remained closed and shops kept their shutters down as part of the mourning. Processions were brought out all day long condemning the suicide bomb attack that killed seven and injured 60 others.

Judges and lawyers did not attend duties.

Political parties brought out separate protest processions in different parts of the district demanding punishment to the culprits and security of people.

The slain lawyers -- advocates Amzad Hossain, former secretary of Gazipur Bar Association, and Golam Faruk, former member of the association, -- were buried at their village homes after namaj-e-janaza in the district town.

Police meanwhile continued their hunt for the militants in the district and arrested two suspected Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) members in connection with the bomb attack.

THE COURT PREMISES None of the lawyers came to the

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## Free medicare lacking despite govt pledge

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Most of the injured in Gazipur suicide bomb attack now under treatment at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) have to buy medicines from outside, despite a government order to provide those for free and assuring that the state will bear all their treatment costs.

DMCH sources said the poor ones among the injured are simply unable to pay for the costly drugs, retarding the progress of their recovery.

Two of them, Nurjahan and her daughter Marzina Akhter, said they had to borrow Tk 1,500 yesterday morning to buy medicines.

"This is not the end. We are told

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## Bangladesh Shines in Colors 369 Thanas of 61 Districts

NEW THANAS

- Gomastapur, Chapai Nawabganj
- Alfadanga, Faridpur
- Nagarkanda, Faridpur
- Sadarpur, Faridpur
- Porsa, Naogaon
- Lowhojang, Munshiganj



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