### **UN** issues

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

for staff

travel alert

The United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) yesterday issued a circular asking the staffs of 16 UN bodies and six UN-affiliated organisations not to travel outside Dhaka until further

The circular also asked the staffs to remain indoors during today's nationwide shutdown

Sources in the UN offices in Dhaka told The Daily Star yesterday that the latest circular came hard on the heel of suicide bomb attacks in Chittagong and Gazipur on Tuesday

The six UN-affiliated bodies where the circular was dispersed are: Asian Development Bank, International Organisation of Migration, Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP). International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research Bangladesh (ICDDRB) International Jute Study Group and Partners in Population and Development.

As resource persons will be unable to leave for Cox's Bazar because of the latest UNDSS caution, a two-day lawyers' training programme on refugee laws slated for December 2 and 3 under the join aegis of UNHCR and Bangladesh Bar Council has been put on hold.

#### Ctg bomber's father, brother held

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail** 

Sakhipur police vesterday morning arrested the father and brother of Tuesday's bomb attacker on Chittagong court premises from their house at Taktarchala village under Sakhipur upazila in the dis-

Abul Bashar alias Hossen Ali conducted the suicide bomb attack on the Chittagong court premises that killed two and injured many others. The badly injured attacker escaped death after the powerful blast and was identified and held.

The two arrestees, father and brother of Hossen Ali, Mofazzal Hossen and Sona Miah, are farmer and rickshaw van driver.

Hossen Ali, 17, a student of class ten of Nalua Based Khan High School of Sakhipur upazila, joined the Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) two years ago,

"Hossen Ali left home on Friday saying that he would go to his sister's house at Dhulutia village in Tangail Sadar upazila. Later, we knew that Hossen Ali was not there.' Mofazzal Hossen told Sakhipur

"Seeing the picture in the newspaper we thought that he might be Hossen Ali." Sona Miah, brother of Hossen Ali told Sakhipur police.

#### SUICIDE ATTACK

#### Govt urged to take action against Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

South Asian Peoples' Union against Fundamentalism and Communalism and Committee to Eliminate the Killers and Collaborators of 1971 at a joint statement yesterday condemned the suicide attack on courts in Gazipur and Chittagong on Tuesday.

Terming the attack an alarming rise of fanatic force under the shadow of Jamaat-e Islami, the statement said though the newspapers had revealed that the Jamaat and Islami Oikya Jote had link with the 71 fanatic groups, the government is yet to take action

It said even the arrested militants also confessed their association with the Jamaat and recently some Members of the Parliament also divulged information about it. But the government is still indifferent to the issue, which encourages the militant force to continue their evil activities.

The government's urge to resist fanatic groups will bring no result until it severs relation with the Jamaat, the statement said.

It called upon the secular democratic forces to be united with the spirit of the Liberation War and face the fundamentalist forces as they threatened not to observe the National Victory Day this year.

They urged all to take oath to root out the identified communal and fundamentalist forces from the country forever.

The signatories to the statement include Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan, Women leader Hena Das, Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam, Justice KM Sobhan, Advocate Gaziul Haque, Poet Shamsur Rahman, Prof Azay Roy, Writer Syed Shamsul Haque, Lieutenant Colonel Abu Osman Chowdhury, Language Veteran Abul Hossain, and Dr Zafar Igbal.

# Security vigilance heightened

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ordered heightened intelligence vigilance across the country and take stringent security measures in courts and diplomatic zones.

At an emergency meeting with ers and militants.

A combination of administrative

groups and suicide bombers, Mannan Bhuiyan said at the meeting that discussed the prevailing

professional bodies, members of the civil society, and the media to join hands to counter the militant

combing operation is on the card and intelligence members have been deployed throughout the country to locate the militants'

The policemen were asked to be

programme among the

Commonwealth nations was

accepted and the summit agreed on

cooperation among the member

states on developing early warning

system and post-disaster manage-

rial meeting in Hong Kong, which

will decide the next course of world

trade, the foreign minister said

Bangladesh wants special treat-

ment for trade following the

European Union's Everything But

clear that LDC (least developed

country) products should have free

access to the markets of the devel-

oped nations as well as of the devel-

oping nations like China and India,

wealth Summit will have positive

impact on the WTO ministerial

meeting in mid-December towards

addressing the concerns of the

Foreign Secretary Hemayet-

uddin, Director General of External

Publicity Wing Zahirul Haque and

other high officials were present at

Morshed said the deliberations

Bangladesh has made its point

Arms (EBA) policy.

he added.

TIB Chairman Samson H Chowdhury gives away an award to Farzana Tasnim

Tania, best debater of a debate competition organised by the Transparency

International Bangladesh to mark the International Anti-Corruption Day at a

Shahadat Chy laid to rest

homage to Shahadat.

of honour.

family members.

wreaths.

Mirpur for burial.

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote

opened a condolence book at the

Central Shaheed Minar where

people from all of walks of life

to the Jatiya Press Club where

journalists of different newspapers

and other media, colleagues of

Saptahik 2000 and Anondadhara

paid floral wreaths following a guard

They stood in silence for one

minute in the honour of the late

journalist. They prayed for salvation

of the departed soul and conveyed

their sympathy to the bereaved

Anam, Dhaka City Mayor Sadek

Hossain Khoka, Jatiya Party

President HM Ershad, leaders of

Bangladesh Federal Union of

Journalists, Dhaka Sangbadik

Union, members of Press Institute

of Bangladesh, Jatiya Press Club,

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, and

representatives of Karmajibi Nari,

Action Aid and different organisa-

tions also paid homage with floral

Then the coffin was taken to the

Shahadat Chowdhury left behind

Freedom Fighters Graveyard at

his wife Selina Chowdhury, two

daughters, Sasha and Esha, and a

host of friends, relatives and admir-

The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz

At 12:30pm the coffin was taken

On the upcoming WTO ministe-

target of the suicide bombers

The meeting decided to reward the killed policeman in Chittagong and provide good treatment to the njured policemen and civilians admitted into different hospitals.

Bhuiyan also enquired about the condition of the people injured in Chittagong and Gazipur bombings and asked ministers in charge of the two districts to see that they are given good treatment.

Home Secretary Safar Raj Hossain was present at the meet-

The November 29 suicide bomb attacks on Gazipur and Chittagong courts killed nine and injured about

#### Peacekeeping mission AIDS DAY TODAY 'Asian govts lack praise goes in vain if political will to no peace at home: FM fight Aids'

World Aids Day will be observed today in the country as elsewhere in the world with the theme 'Stop Aids: Keep promise'.

Different social and political

Only one in seven of the HIVpositive people in Asia has access to treatment, reveals a report of ActionAid Bangladesh.

Asian governments lack the political will to allocate adequate resources to comprehensively fight Aids.

ple were newly infected with HIV/Aids in Asia but the governments across the continent have still to wake up to the enormity of the impact on their people as well as

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan says in his message prior to Worlds Aids Day, "We have a clear plan of action to halt and reverse the spread of Aids."

elaborate programme that includes bringing out colourful processions in the city and in districts, holding discussions with the civil society talk show on TV channels and publishing posters and banners.

Anti-Corruption

#### DU Rokeya Hall becomes champion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

university yesterday.

Fahima Tasnim Tania of the winning team was adjudged the

The motion of the final debate was 'Only social movement can prevent corruption.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) organised the debate competition to mark the International Anti-corruption Day

public and private universities took part in the four-day debate competi-

Chairman of development studies department of DU Dr Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman, BELA Director Syeda Rizwana Hasan, and Associate Editor of Dainik Samakal Ajoy Das Gupta were on the judges

Speaking at the concluding ceremony at Hotel Abakash in the city, Chairman of TIB Trustee Board and Chairman of Square Group Samson H Chowdhury said there will be no development unless transparency is established in every sector in the country.

He blamed the politicians for corruption in the country.

Awards will be presented to the winners at the National Press Club in the city on December 9

**BRAC WORKSHOP** 'Govt, NGO's must work together to

METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

eradicate poverty'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday stressed the need for coordination of the government, NGO's and the civil society in order to eradicate extreme poverty from the country.

They said the civil society members could play a vital role in raising awareness about the rights of the ultra-poor people.

Brac Advocacy and Human Rights Unit organised the workshop titled 'ultra-poor programme and participation of the civil society' at Brac Centre Inn auditorium in the

Programme coordinator of Brac Rabeya Yasmin said different government and non-government organisations are implementing various programmes that are mainly micro credit programme to reduce poverty. But 31 per cent people in the country are ultra poor people who are always out of the micro credit coverage.

To make the ultra poor selfreliant, Brac took a programme titled challenging the frontiers of poverty reduction: targeting the ultra poor she said.

Abdul Muid Chowdhury, executive director of Brac, said apart from creating awareness among the people, cooperation from all walks of life is needed to reduce poverty from the country.

He urged the local government and wealthy people of the society to extend their helping hands for the ultra poor who are leading a misera-

M Hafizuddin Khan, former advisor of caretaker government said poverty can be completely eliminated if the government initiate proper project for the ultra poor and there has to be a strong commitment among the government and the NGO's.

Famous TV personality and lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor said monga, a famine like situation, occurs in the northern districts as most of the people in that part of the country are landless and do not have any work for two months. Moreover there is no income generating industry in that area so that they get an opportunity for work.

Praising Brac's programme he suggested that mere loan is not enough to reduce poverty, there should be a close monitoring system, as the poor people do not know where to use the money.

Afsan Chowdhury, director of Brac AHR Unit, Tajul Islam Chowdhury, a lawmaker of Kurigram and Dr Mezbah Uddin, member of Planing Commision also

#### JAMALPUR BLASTS

#### JMB chief, 10 others accused in charge sheet

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail** 

Jamalpur police pressed charges against 10 Islamist militants, including chief of the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), for their involvement in seven serial blasts in the Jamalpur town on August 17. Investigation officer of the blast

case Inspector Mohammad Zakir Hossain submitted the charge sheet to a Jamalpur court on Tuesday. accusing JMB Chief Abdur Rahman, his brothers Ataur Rahman (Sunni) and Maulana Obaidur Rahman, and his nephew Nahidur Rahman (Nahid). The other accused are Shibul, Mehidi Habib Rafique, Hassan, Golam Mostafa (Badsha Master), Amir Khan and Abu Noman Mohammad Amanullah.

Abdur Rahman masterminded the blasts, and Abu Noman Mohammad Amanullah and eight other JMB cadres carried out it. the charge sheet stated.

Amir Khan, Abu Noman and Obaidur Rahman are in Jamalpur jail but seven others have evaded

August 17 serial bombings UNB adds: Panchagarh Police yesterday submitted charge-sheet against 11, including Abdul Awal, son-in-law of Islamist outfit JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman, in connection with bomb blasts in the district during the August 17 serial bombings across the country. The other accused are Hafizur

Rahman alias Hafiz alias Noman, intervention in the country. Abdul Matin alias Ismail, "Those who are carrying out Tanviruzzaman alias Salman alias bombings have no relation with Murad, Khalilur Rahman, Azizul Islam alias Maznu, Abdul Momin, Rasidul Islam alias Asad, Hamidul Islam alias Habib, Firoz alias Murad and Fazlur Rahman. Of them, Asad, Habib, Murad and Fazlu are absconding, while the remaining seven are now in jail.

Tanviruzzaman, Noman. Ismail and Maznu gave confessional statements before a magistrate admitting to their involvement in the August 17 bombings

Rajshahi divisional commander of JMB Abdul Awal directed them in conducting the bomb explosions. Officer-in-charge of Panchagarh



Catherine Masud speaks at a press conference on 'Tri-Continental Film Festival' in the city yesterday. On her right is Mirka Kristiina Rahman while on her left are Jean Romnicianu, first counsellor of French Embassy, Dr Hameeda Hossain and Khushi Kabir.

#### Oust Jamaat from govt | Tri-Continental or BNP will ruin

Tariqat, Zaker Party leaders urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Tariqat Federation (BTF) and Zaker Party vesterday blamed Jamaat-e-Islam Bangladesh for the Tuesday's bomb blast in Gajipur and Chittagong.

They said the government is patronising Jamaat for carrying out the brutal bombings. The leaders urged Prime

Minister Khaleda Zia to expel Jamaat from the coalition otherwise the BNP will ruin very soon. Addressing as chief guest at a grand rally at the Paltan Maydan in the city Jaker Party Chairman

Mustafa Amir Faysal

bomb blasts in the country. Faysal said that Jammat is the godfather of the JMB, HuJi and other militant groups who are blasting bombs in the country.

said Jamaat is in the back of all

Mujaddedi

The Wahabist and Moududist Jamaat-Shibir want to stain country's image as a secular country and establish the state as a failed state, said Faysal He also said that the Jamaat

wants to go to power by killing Islam does not allow murder of people and there is no contradiction between secularism and Islam.

added Faysal "We do not consider Jamaat an Islamic party, because there is no similarity between the laws and rules of Islam and Jamaat.

He urged Jammat to delete the word 'Islam' from their party name. BTF President Syed Nazibul Basar Maizvandari strongly demanded to expel Jammat from the coalition government within February 28 of the next year.

He also demanded to find out the godfathers and the criminals who blasted the bombs and punish them within the deadline.

#### Four killed in road accident

worker, died on the spot as a passenger bus of Manjil Paribahan ran over her at Uttara in the city at around 7:30am when she was going to her workplace.

the driver and helper managed to

Gulistan at around 12:00 noon. A speeding bus of Panjeri Paribahan ran over an unidentified boy, aged around 12, leaving him critically injured. He had a packet of biscuit in his hand when the bus knocked him down. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared

At Mirpur, a speeding vehicle ran over Muhammad Salim, 22, on Darussalam Road at around 1:30pm. Passers-by rushed him to the DMCH, but the doctors pronounced him dead.

Another man, aged around 28, died on the spot at Begum Rokeya Sarani when a heavy vehicle knocked him down at around

#### Film Festival begins Dec 8

BDNEWS, Dhaka

A weeklong Tri-Continental Film Festival will begin in Dhaka or December 8

International award-winning feature films from Africa, Latin America and Asia will be screened in the festival organised by the French embassy, said a press release

Most of these films, among 12,

will come from predominantly

Muslim countries such as Tajikistan Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco, Senegal, Palestine and Pakistan. Apart from the host country Cambodia, Argentina, China and

First Counsellor of French Embassy Jean Romnicianu disclosed this at a press conference at

South Africa will also take part in the

National Press Club yesterday. Four films will be screened at Star Cineplex every day from December 8 to 13. Each of the 12 films will be shown twice over the

six-day period. A festival advisory committee has been formed with leading women personalities from different

sections of society.

Chaired by eminent human rights activist Dr Hameeda Hossain, the committee members include Nasrine R Karim, Geeteara S Chowdhury, Khushi Kabir, Tasmima Hossain, Dr Naila Khan, Shaheen Anam, Sara Zaker, Shameem Akhtar, Rifaat Rachid, Munira Morshed Munni and Catherine

Mirka Kristina Rahman, managing director of Star Cineplex, and Gaelle Le-Goff, cultural attaché of the French Embassy, are also on

#### Obituary



Masud.

Chowdhury (Meera), wife of Syed Golam Muktader, passed away due to respiratory complications at Apollo

Rokeya Sultana

She left behind her husband only daughter Mona and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death.

Hospital in Dhaka on Tuesday at the

age of 60, says a press release.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at Azad Central Mosque in Gulshan after Juma prayers tomorrow. Her qulkhwani will be held the

same day after Maghrib prayers at her residence at 'Trellis Court', House #3/B, Road #58, Gulshan-2.

Relatives, friends and wellwishers are requested to attend the namaz-e-ianaza and the gulkhwani and pray for the departed soul.

#### DHÂKA TODAY

#### Seminar

Islamic Relief Bangladesh organises a between Muslim NGOs and the International Community'. Venue: Sonargaon. Time: 10:00am.

#### Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum organises a discussion with Barrister Nazmul Huda in the chair. Venue: Hotel Sheraton.

**Discussion** 

Time: 6:00pm.

**Publication** ceremony The publication ceremony of 'Selina

Bahar Zaman Smarakgrantha' will be

held. Venue: Institute of Diploma

#### Engineers, Kakrail. Time: 6:30pm.

Vivekananda Shikkha O Sangskriti Parishad organises a discussion to mark the founding anniversary of the

#### Discussion

organisation. Venue: Jagannath Hall Upashanaloy, DU. Time: 5:30pm.

# ment is needed to face the extremist

The home ministry yesterday

the chiefs of National Security Intelligence, Special Security Force, BDR, police, and Rab, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, who is now in charge of the home ministry, ordered the special security measures to counter the suicide bomb-

action, political will and social move-

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT** 

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan

yesterday said it would be most

unfortunate if Bangladesh cannot

ensure peace at home when the

country is lauded globally for main-

taining peace abroad through UN

est number of peacekeepers for the

UN and if we fail to establish peace

in our own country, all our efforts

would go in vain," he told reporters

at the Zia International Airport on his

return from Commonwealth Summit

abroad in view of frequent bombings

by militants in the country, the for-

eign minister said, "Political leader-

ship must rise above party politics to

face it jointly." He also observed that

terrorism would spread like cancer,

engulfing the entire nation if the

parties fail to contain this menace

Benedict XVI at Vatican City on his

way to Malta, Morshed said the

Pope appreciated the longstanding

communal harmony in Bangla-desh

and told him that people of

Bangladesh would always be in his

Summit held on November 25-27,

he said Bangladesh's proposal to

Turning to the Commonwealth

(Pope) prayers.

city hotel yesterday.

**FROM PAGE 16** 

Saptahik 2000 and fortnightly

Anandodhara, passed away at the

Birdem Cardiac Centre in the capital

early on November 28 at the age of 62.

to the Central Shaheed Minar at

11:30am from his Lake Road house

in New DOHS, people including

political leaders, university teach-

ers. iournalists and members of civil

society stood in silence for one

LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan

Bhuiyan, Fisheries and Livestock

Minister Abdullah Al Noman, BNP

lawmaker Khairul Kabir Khokon,

Awami League lawmaker

Asaduzzaman Noor, Jatiya

Samaitantrik Dal President Hasanul

Huq Inu, Workers Party President

Rashed Khan Menon, Porthom Alo

Editor Matiur Rahman, Samakal

Editor Golam Sarwar, Manabjamin

Editor Matiur Rahman Chowdhury,

Bangladesh Observer Editor Iqbal

Sobhan Chowdhury, journalist

Shahriar Kabir, Muntassir Mamoon,

Dilip Barua, Fakir Alamgir, Sultana

Kamal, Ramendu Majumdar, Kazi

Hayat, Kamal Lohani, Chashi

Nazrul Islam, Prodip Ghosh and Aly

Zaker paid tributes by placing

League, BNP, Hindu Buddha

Christian Oikya Parishad, Ain o

Salish Kendra, Nari Grantha

Probatana, Chhatra Moitree, Dhaka

Theatre, Nijera Kari, Jay Jay Din,

Gonoswastha Kendra, Muktijoddha

Jadughar, Institute of Fine Arts and

many other organisations also paid

Representatives of Awami

wreaths on the coffin.

BNP Secretary General and

minute and placed floral wreaths.

As Shahadat's coffin was taken

About his meeting with Pope

Asked about the country's image

"Bangladesh provides the larg-

peacekeeping missions.

He urged the political parties,

Meeting sources hinted that a

on high alert and remain scattered so that they do not become easy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

organisations including Bangladesh Parliament Members Support Group (BPMSG), Association of Rural Development Bangladesh and Care-Bangladesh arranged various programmes to mark the

The report criticises that most

In the past year 1.1 million peo-

Care-Bangladesh organises an

# DEBATE

Rokeya Hall of Dhaka University (DU) became champion in the 'Anti-Corruption Debate Competition' defeating law department of the same

best debater of the final.

Thirty-six teams from different

They also disclosed that

Police Station Elias Fakir submitted the charge-sheet to the court.

seminar in the capital and sought foreign intervention." Asked to elaborate his statement

published in a national daily two days ago that the government might have used Bangla Bhai, Nizami said

**DMCH CORRESPONDENT** Four people, including a woman and a boy, were killed in separate road accidents in the city yesterday. Nasima Akhter, 20, a garment

Uttara police seized the bus, but

Another accident took place at

## Nizami now sees foreign hands in bombings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh chief Motiur Rahman Nizami vesterday said the suicide bombers are work ing to create an opportunity for foreign intervention in the country by

destroying political stability through "It is evident now that the suicide bombers want to portray Bangladesh as a terrorism-stricken and dysfunctional state and aim at crafting the opportunity for intervention by foreign powers through destroying political stability," he

Nizami, also the minister for

industries, made this comment at a press conference in Dhaka yester day, a day after nine people including two lawyers and a policeman were killed in two suicide bomb attacks in Chittagong and Gazipur. The Jamaat ameer did not mention the name of any foreign powers despite insistence from the press.

situation is worse than Iraq and Afghanistan. We all know what happened in Afghanistan and Iraq." Nizami alleged that the secretary for diplomatic affairs of a big political party (referring to Awami League) from a seminar in Dhaka after the August 17 blasts, had officially expressed the desire for outside

He just said: "It is not difficult to

understand the impression of those

who consider that Bangladesh's

Islam...I don't think they have any other ill motive than creating a havoc and make opportunity for another party," said the industries minister Asked about this 'another party', he said: "This party arranged the

On whether Jamaat's previous denial of Bangla Bhai's existence has resulted in the rise of Islamist militants, he said: "We never supported taking law in own hands, whoever he is....You cannot say that we earlier denied it and are now

he did not make such comments. " rather said when a mass resistance against the outlaws was built up there, Bangla Bhai went there to

establish his leadership." Referring to the media coverage, he said. "Those who do constructive politics do not get appropriate publicity or get no publicity at all sometimes, but those involved in negative and destructive politics get more publicity.'

that this publicity would encourage many. We have repeatedly said this," the Jamaat chief continued. On the past involvement of some arrested JMB men with Jamaat and Shibir, he said they might have been involved with Jamaat or Shibir in

"In this connection I earlier said

shoulder the responsibility of their militant activities later. "No one has any proof of Jamaat's link with the militants. A quarter is determined to implicate Jamaat in these incidents. We have noticed deliberate attempts to find Jamaat's relation with the arrestees.

Denying the information that 40

their student life but the party cannot

percent of those who were arrested after the August 17 blasts are Jamaat activists. Nizami said: "The responsibility of proving this goes to those who made this allegation. I want to make it clear that there is not a single general supporter among those (bombers), let alone an active worker (of Jamaat). Commenting on the opposition

leaders' statement that bombing would continue until Jamaat is axed from the ruling four-party alliance, he said: "It gives a message that the bombers want to force BNP to drop Jamaat from the alliance." Assistant secretaries general of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh Mohammad Kamaruzzaman, Abdul

Qader Molla and Muiibur Rahman.

and Nayeb-e-Ameer Mokbul Ahmed

were present at the press confer-