Why probes shouldn't

population,

FROM PAGE 1
The respondents are secretaries of the law and home ministries and the

inspector general of police. Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud, Dr M Zahir Barrister Sara Hossain and Barrister Tanjib UI Alam moved for the petitioner while Additional Attorney General Fida M Kamal and Deputy Attorney General Adilur Rahman Khan for the govern-

...the respondents have failed to protect the fundamental right to life of the persons within the court premises by their failure to conduct adequate impartial and ineffective investigations into the said bomb blasts," the petition

the government to carry out their constitutional duty to protect the security and the right to life of judges, lawyers, police personnel and court-users on the court premises by taking immediate and effective actions on the basis of statements of surviving assailants and ruling party lawmakers.
The petitioner blamed the govern-

ment for its 'failure to discharge their obligations' to ensure the safety and security in the courts despite being fully aware of the declared threats to the security of people, the lawyers and certain citizens in particular.

... the impugned omission has

Free medicare

FROM PAGE 1

the doctors may prescribe more medicines, depending on the progress of healing of the wounds. But, we have no way to get more money," said Nurjahan, now in Ward 33. Some attendants of the bomb-

injured also said similar stories.

"We have been asked to fetch a number of antibiotics, injections and sedative capsules, as doctors cannot start treatment until we gather them, reported a poor patient lying in a Casualty Ward bed

DMCH Casualty Department head Dr Feroze Quader on the other hand said in the evening, "We received an order vesterday that directed us to take special care of the bomb injury patients, providing all medicines required for their treatment. The state will bear all costs of the treatment.'

He, however, admitted that, due to a chaotic situation on Tuesday, the onduty doctors at Ward 33 could not treat the female bomb victims in privacy.

Meanwhile, 20 of the bomb attack victims who suffered burns, fractures and splinter injuries are recovering fast, except for a few who may have to stay a little while for complete recov-

Advocate Nurul Huda, 32, with bones of both legs shattered by splinters, is undergoing treatment at the intensive care unit (ICU). Doctors described his condition as grave but his survival.

Huda, who was sitting near the explosion spot, also suffered burns and splinter injuries in his face and hands

Most of the rest of the victims, now in Ward 31. have injuries from flying shrapnel embedding deep into their body below the hip. Some of them were also severely burnt, which the doctors said would take in some cases weeks or even months to recover.

Hospital sources said they dis charged two patients yesterday and the day before. One of them, Mahbub Alam Shaheen, 30, was taken to the Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday morning for interrogation, while the other was released late Tuesday night.

Hundreds of visitors, mostly relatives, have been crowding the wards since the incident on Tuesday. The police said they are unable to check the influx of anxious visitors. The authorities vesterday deployed six police constables on a round-the-clock duty at the entrance to Ward 31 to check the thronging.

"At least fifty people visited

Advocate Anwarul Azim yesterday at the ward, already swarming with visitors, and leading to a chaotic situation," said a staff member of the

Meanwhile, the bodies of four people killed in the attack in Gazipur were handed over to their relatives yesterday and the day before. The dead are Shamsul Huq, 35, Marjina Begum, 40, Advocate Amjad Hossain and Advocate Golam Faruk

the strike after an emergency gen-

on Tuesday.

eral meeting at the Supreme Court

of the political parties, civil society members and people from all walks

of life to make today's general strike a

the apex organisation of the lawyers,

has called the hartal to protect the

lawyers, the constitution, the judi-

ciary and to establish the rule of law.

He said the lawyers will gather or

the SC premises in the morning, hold

a meeting and take out processions

The lawyers body sought support

14-party

FROM PAGE 16 national programme

They said the opposition movement will force the proposed reforms in the caretaker government and in the election commission to ensure a free and fair election next year.

Abdur Razzak, AL presidium member, said no election would be allowed in this land without reforms in the caretaker government and the election commission "We achieved our independence

by sacrificing blood. If necessary, we'll sacrifice blood again to protect the independence." he said. The senior opposition leader accused the government of providing protection to he militants.

He urged the countrymen to build resistance against the 'bomber government'

Motia Chowdhury, AL presidium member, said, "The killings, the bombings and the increasing prices of essentials are the main success of the alliance government. This government has announced their fight against the common people."

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD)

leader Syed Jafar Sazzad said, "Our enemies are taking direct action so we also have to take direct action. It is not possible to topple the government through mere speeches.

Benjir Ahmed, district AL president Dhaka. presided over the rally. AL leaders Obaidul Quader, Ábdul Mukul Bose, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Sultan Mohammad Mansur, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Gono Forum leaders Mostafa Mohsin Montu, Kazi Hanif and Jamal Uddin Ahmed, JSD leader Shirin Akhter, Anisur Rahman Mallik of Workers Party and MA Gani of National Awami Party (NAP) also spoke. Leaders and activists of the 14-

party opposition coalition laid siege to the DC office in Narayanganj yester-day morning, our Narayanganj correspondent reports.

A procession of the 14-party alliance headed towards the deputy commissioner's (DC) office but it was stopped near the DC office's main entrance by the police. The activists. locked in a brawl with law enforcers, demanded entry to the DC office premises. Failing to enter the office compound, the opposition men staged a sit in near the entrance.

Central AL's Relief and Social Welfare Secretary, Nazma Rahman, District AL Convenor SM Akram, City AL President Anwar Hossain, Gond Forum leader Delwar Hossain Chunnu, JSD leader Mohor Ali, and Workers' Party leader Shafi Uddin Ahmed led the demonstration

Niko to go

FROM PAGE 16 yesterday a letter about fixing the price of gas being supplied from Feni

On Tuesday, a high profile meeting between the Niko chief and the advisor to the energy ministry failed to resolve the gas price issue.

Official sources said the govern-

ment offered to set the tariff of per thousand cubic feet of gas from Feni reserve at \$ 1.75. But Niko rejected the offer demanding that the price should be fixed at \$ 2.35.

Niko has been supplying some 35mmcf gas per day to Petrobangla from its Feni gas field for the last one

The price of gas offered by the government is unacceptable to the company. "That's why we'll move for the international arbitration," said his meeting with Energy Advisor Mahmudur Rahman on Tuesday.

Oust MPs

Depicting a gloomy picture of law and order in the country, the emi-nent jurist said it is high time the people should unite to eliminate the evil forces.

The bomb blasts at the courts are not isolated incidents but part of an unending series of planned and organised attacks on the present government, said Dr Kamal, also President of Gono Forum

On the expulsion of BNP leader Abu Hena, MP, for speaking about the militants' links to a quarter in the government, he regretted that the allegation was not investigated, and that, rather, the lawmaker was

punished. No discussion on the masterminds behind the bomb attacks was held in parliament and effective steps were not taken as yet to track them down, he said. The people want to see the government

accountable to them. Terming the law and order situation a 'national catastrophe', Badruddoza alleged the government has not done its best to combat militant activities in the country.

Referring to Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami's blaming the Opposition for the bomb attacks, he said it is part of a con-

"It is a loke with the nation." he said, referring to the assurance of Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, now holding charge of the home ministry. that everything will be okay in the next

Alleging government inaction against the lawmakers and ministers linked to militancy, Badruddoza said this is just playing with fire. The administration will fall if killings by

militants go on, he added "Please take action against the militants, track down the masterminds, unearth the sources of bombs, and punish the culprits immediately," he urged the govern-

The BDB chief thanked the media for exposing operations of the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) but regretted that the government had not taken stern action against them in time.

Gono Forum leaders Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Abdur Rouf, BDB eaders Major (Rtd) Halim and Firoz M Hasan were also present at the press conference.



Graca Machel

Ruth Cardoso



NR Narayana Murthy









Rise of militancy Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice-

Members of the committee at a meeting at the Jativa Sangsad Bhaban also decided to sit with the intelligence agencies to review the present situation n the wake of a spate of bomb attacks.
"We'll invite the intelligence agen-

cies in charge of national security affairs to discuss the issue with us," Committee Chairman Mahbubur Rahman told reporters after the meet-"We want to know how the intelli-

gence agencies are planning to face the militants and to protect our people," committee member and Awami League awmaker Shawkat Ali told The Daily The chairman urged all political and social forces to unite like the times

during the Liberation War to face mili-The AL lawmaker however said,

"We have to be united, but we must exclude Jamaat-e-Islami, which has links to militancy." The committee members except ruling BNP lawmaker and State Minister

for Expatriates Welfare Quamrul Islam questioned the existence of the AFD under the Prime Minister's Office. "The AFD is not fit to function properly under the present parliamentary system of the governance," the committee

chairman told reporters. Shawkat Ali added that all the responsibilities should be transferred to the defence ministry from the AFD.

Marshal Fakhrul Azam told the meeting they have already asked for restructure ing the AFD "The air force chief however did not

elaborate their appeals in restructuring the AFD," Mahbubur Rahman, also BNP lawmaker, said. Defence Secretary Meibah Uddin

Ahmed and other top officials of the ministry also expressed their confusion when the committee asked them to explain the term "defence of Bangladesh" mentioned as the first task

"The defence secretary could not explain the term. He is not clear about his responsibilities due to the anomalies," Mahbubur said. The defence secretary told the

meeting he had asked his predecessor and a former cabinet secretary to explain the term. "But no-one of them could explain it: rather the cabinet secretary told me to carry out the work The parliamentary body asked the

defence secretary, the chiefs of army navy and air force and the principal staff officer of the AFD to find out the anomalies and submit a report to it in a bid to clear the confusion. It also asked the government to

chief of general staff of army

Attack planned

the mastermind of all these attacks, said the sources quoting Hossain. The training on the bomb attacks was held at JMB hideouts in Tangail, Hossain

He who earlier gave confusing information identifying himself once as Abul Bashar and again as Ahmad Hossain after recovering from unconscious state on Tuesday evening, also confirmed his name as Hossain Ali, sources said.

Son of one farmer Mojammel Hossain of Takerdala of Shakhipur Tangail, and a student of Baset Khan High School, Hossain confessed that the notes recovered after the November 14 blast in Jhalakathi and Tuesday's suicidal blast in Chittagong

were written by him. Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner Majedul Haq told reporters that besides the Chittagong suicidal blast Hossain Ali also gave important information on the blasts that took place at different

places of the country.

The extracted information has been sent to the higher authority concerned while some has already been verified, he said.

"It is essential to keep him alive to get more concrete information about the JMB and its activities," said the

ATAUR IN-CHARGE

OF ALL BLASTS During the interrogation, Hossain said Ataur Rahman Sunny planned all the bomb blasts, including the August 17 countrywide serial blasts. October bomb attacks on courts in Chittagong, Chandour and Laxminur November dead in Jhalakathi, and the November suicidal blasts in Chittagong and

A frequenter to the Ahle Hadith mosque at Shakhipur, Ataur takes care of supplying explosives to the JMB cadres before the operations, Hossain told the interrogators.

It was Ataur who made all arrange ments to help Hossain reach Chittagong safely, although only after the latter, imbued by the ideals of Shaikh Abdur Rahman and Siddigu Islam alias Bangla Bhai, agreed to carry out the attack, he said.

He claimed that he met Abdur Rahman at the Ahle Hadith mosque when Rahman visited Shakhipur some time in 1998-1999. "The "Jehadi" speeches of Abdur

Rahman and Bangla Bhai impressed and influenced me to join the JMB," he Giving a background of Tuesday's

bomb attack, Hossain said he left home saying he was going to see his sister and arrived in Dhaka by bus. From Dhaka Ataur took him to Comilla "In Comilla Ataur handed me a bag containing the bomb and returned to

Dhaka the same day. After a few hours

I boarded another bus for Chittagong,

Hossain said At Colonel Hat under the city's Pahartoli Police Station he met another man who took him to _aldighipar area. He was then taken to Hotel Sugandha where another person named Aman booked a room for him. Hossain said. He checked in at the hotel under

the name of Hakim Ali while his com-

panion took the name Kabir Rana.

"Some JMB leaders and cadres visited

us in our hotel room and gave us

necessary instructions," he said. Although Hossain had no idea

about the real identity of some of the visiting JMB leaders, he said two of them might be Cox's Bazar region Mizan and bomb expert Mehedi. Hossain and Rana left the hotel Monday morning and rented a room at Hotel Éden on the Railway Station

Chittagong, JMB cadre Taslim took us to the court building area to give us an idea about the entire court premises and adjoining areas," sources quoted

the bomber as saving. Hossain went to the old building of Bangladesh Bank adjacent to the court building at around 8:30am on Tuesday and waited for a few minutes. At 8:44am he went to the Annex Building nremises and detonated the homb as per instruction, Hossain told the

investigators. He said he has no regrets for what he has done. "My only regret is being still alive," he said.

Hossain became angry when told that he was recovered from neardeath and said he does not want to be alive. "I don't need any help from anybody. My Allah will help me

SECURITY BEEFED UP

The authorities have meanwhile wrapped the entire city under a heavy security blanket following Tuesday's deadly suicidal bomb attack on the court building premises, setting up 53 special check posts at key points in the

Additional forces from the CMP, Rapid Action Battalion and other intelligence agencies were also put on high alert in different parts of the city They were instructed to search any suspected person or vehicle, police

INJURED PERSONS OUT OF DANGER

The injured cops and civilians undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) are now out of risk, hospital sources said.

The CMCH authority is providing all nedicines to the injured free of cost.

Dear

FROM PAGE 16 Conference on Transport later that

Under the terms of the agreement a working group will be established and meet every two years. "It will be a forum within which

transport policy makers and railway managers will define a common vision, adopt joint programmes of action, identify investment requirements and sources, and benchmark progress," noted Mr. Kim. The TAR network comprises of

over 80,000 kilometres (km) of rail this report late last night. routes of international importance linking 27 UNESCAP member countries in the region. The aim of the network is to offer demanded a thorough investigation efficient transport services for the

movement of goods within the UNESCAP region and between Asia and Europe as well as provide improved access for landlocked countries to its major ports. ough search.





FROM PAGE 1

The UN Foundation was created in 1998 with the historic \$ 1 billion gift by the American entrepreneur and philanthropist Ted Turner to support the UN causes and activities.

Dhaka hosts

Chairman of the UN Foundation and founder of the TV channel CNN Robert E Turner (Ted Turner) and President of the foundation. Timothy E Wirth are coming to Bangladesh on this occasion along with other directors of the foundation's board who are also world renowned dignitaries. The big names include Director

General Emeritus of World Health Organisation (WHO), Gro Harlem Brundtland (Norway), Chairman of Infosys Technologies Ltd., N R Narayana Murthy (India), Judge of the International Court of Justice, Hisashi Owada (Japan), Director of the Centre for History and Economic, King's College, University of Cambridge, Emma Rothschild (UK), Chair of Communidade Solidaria Brazil's anti-poverty organisation, Ruth Cardoso (Brazil), Director of Investment and Technology Promotion at the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), Liang Dan (China), Chair of Foundation for Community Development, Graca Machel (Mozambique), Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General, Nafis Sadik (Pakistan), Chairman of Good Works International, Andrew Young (USA) and founder of Grameen Bank, Prof Muhammad Yunus (Bangladesh).

The UN Foundation holds three board meetings in a year. At least one meeting is held in a country other than USA. Previous board meetings were held in Brazil, Mozambique, South Africa and the UK and the next one will be held in Japan in 2006.

The activities during their visit will include; board meeting, visit to Grameen Bank, river cruise and discussions with the representatives of the government, civil society, GOs and UN bodies in Bangladesh

They will also meet the members of the press at Hotel Sonargaon at 2:00pm on December 12.

The UN Foundation is a public charity, engaged in four primary areas of work in pursuit of its mission grant making, strengthening UN nstitutions, conducting outreach efforts for educating public about UN's role and raising new funds to

support UN programmes. The UN Foundation builds and implements public-private partnerships to address the world's most pressing problems and also works to broaden support for the UN through advocacy and public outreach.

Bomb explodes

FROM PAGE 16

Eyewitnesses said the bomb was thrown through a second-floor window of the building at four policemen on routine security duty in the BNP office on the first floor, but missed the target and exploded outside. They said the bomber made good his escape after the attack. Khulna PS Officer-in-Charge

Mohammad lobal also confirmed that the bomb was hurled from the second floor, from where the police picked up three people for questioning. The floor was later sealed off.

The arrestees are Hafez Nasiruddin, 24, son of late Momin Molla of Katenga under Terokheda upazila, M Abul Hossain, 22, son of Shahar Munshi of Dearha under Rupsha upazila, and Tajul Islam, 25, son of Kazi Azizul Islam of Musalman Para under Khulna upazila in the district.

Nasiruddin works as a salesman at a cosmetics shop and Abul Hossain at a cloth shop. Both the shops are on Clay Road in the city, Khulna police said. The police also recovered electrical wires and plugs and short iron

bars from their second-floor room.

The law enforcers were interrogating them at Khulna PS until filing of In immediate reactions, Khulna BNP leaders expressed grave concerns at the incident and

Tight security has been arranged for the BNP office, where no-one is now allowed to enter without thor-

Party leaders' stance

FROM PAGE 1 bomb blasts by Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), Prime Minster Khaleda Zia once again warned the banned Islamic militant outfit of dire consequences of the desperate acts of subversion. and yesterday she urged all political parties to sit together to find ways to stop the bomb terrorism.

But, her government's sincerity to deal with the problem effectively comes under question as it is yet to take any step to investigate into the allegations of patronising and protecting militants by many of its ministers and lawmakers as well as lead-ers of ruling coalition partner Jamaat-

Intelligence officials also regretted that the government policymakers paid little heed to their reports on militants' existence and activities. Many law-enforcement officials, after the Tuesday's twin attacks, suggested that political will of the government is now more important to halt terrorism as it has taken a new form of suicidal attacks. Law enforcers recently sought the

home ministry's permission to interrogate a number of BNP lawmakers, including ministers and MPs from Division who allegedly harboured militant kingpin Bangla Bhai and his cadres for long. But, the government high-ups did not respond.

The permission was sought after

definite allegations against a BNP stalwart of having phone contacts with Bangla Bhai, the fourth man among the top seven JMB leaders comprising its Majlish-e-Shura, event after the August 17 countrywide orchestrated bombings. Commenting on the prime minis-

ter's invitation to all parties to sit

together, many observers said it is a good sign, but at the same time she Ithe PMI will have to cut relations with any individual or party surrounding her found to have link with militancy. One observer recalled a meeting of the PM with 'Islamic scholars' on October 6 at her office, just 11 days before the militant Islamist organisation Harkat-ul Jihad Al Islami (HuJi) was banned last month. At least two

'Islamic scholars' who met Khaleda Another political observer referred to the prime ministerial instruction to arrest Bangla Bhai being ignored, despite several public

HuJi top guns, Shaikhul Hadith and

Habibur Rahman, were among the

appearances of the militant kingpin. The government's sincerity to combat militants came into question once again when law enforcers released Mahtab Khamaru, top aide to Bangla Bhai, a few hours into his arrest. The Rapid Action Battalion

JMB threats

FROM PAGE 16
The JMB militants threatened the Rajair upazila branch of the ASA in the district to stop all its activities within seven days.

The leaflets and posters containing the threat said if the NGO does not follow accordingly, it will be blown up and its workers killed by bombs.

The JMB in Netrakona also threatened Channel-i journalist Zahid Hasan over his cellphone on Tuesday night to kill him and his family members by bomb attack if he further files any report against the militant organisa-

Meanwhile, in a hand written letter, the Islamist outfit threatening the Comilla DC and SP, said its bomb attacks will continue until the Sariah is established in the country BOGRA

A Bogra special tribunal for the first time in any explosives case yesterday ordered the authorities to produce Abdur Rahman and Bangİa Bhai before the court within December 9. Two cases were filed with the

Bogra Sadar Police Station and Special Tribunal Court against the two. Judge ASM Zahurul Islam also ordered to produce Maulana Abdur Rahman alias Ehsan, Mohammad Waliullah, Golam Kibria alias Yusuf and Mohammad Mamunur Rashid for their involvement in the August 17 bomb blasts in the district. If the accused are not present

within the due date, the trial will take place in their absence, sources said. TANGAIL Shakhipur police in the early hours

yesterday arrested Nazrul Islam, 45, a homeopath, in Taktarchala village under Shakhipur upazila of the district. Basail police on Tuesday night held Idris Miah, 50, Yakub Miah, 22, and Abdul Karim, 23, from Habla Dakkhin Para village, and Anwar Hossen, 34,

from Jiboneswar village.
Idris is the father while Yakub is the brother of Younis Miah, one of the main accused in the attack on police at Khetlal of Joypurhat and bomb attacks in Mymensingh and Netrakona.

BARISAL

The police arrested Sultan Sharif, 40, two brothers Jewel Howladar, 20, and Sohel Howladar, 18, Shafigul Islam. 28, Khokon Sikdar, 18, and Md Hasim 30, in different areas of the district town yesterday and produced them before the court with remand prayers. Meanwhile, panic gripped the

students, guardians and locals after a rumour about a bomb threat on Young Women Christian Association Kindergarten School spread , nothing was found later. NARAYANGANJ Fatuallah police on Tuesday night

arrested a JMB cadre named Ataur Rahman in Shasongaon area of the district. The police said Ataur admitted to his involvement in the August 17 bomb

SATKHIRA The police arrested JMB cadre Mahiduzzaman Mukul, 33, Tuesday night in Kushkhali village of sadar upazila, who went into hiding after

Bagherhat sadar police held two JMB cadres--Wahidul İslam Babu, 26, and Mohibullah, 25, on Tuesday night from the collectorate building premises in **JOYPURHAT**

district, BDNEWS added.

KHULNA

(Rab) members were reportedly forced to release Khamaru on a diktat of Deputy Minister Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu.

Not only Dulu, there have been numerous allegations against other top BNP leaders from Rajshahi region of having links with militants. They include Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Haq, Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu MP and another BNP

lawmaker Nadeenm Mostafa. On the other hand. Abu Hena MP before his expulsion from the BNP, named Minister Aminul Haque, Jamaat Ameer and Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami and Jamaat Secretary General and Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid as patrons of Islamist militant activities.

Instead of taking immediate and effective action against the accused, BNP lawmaker Abu Hena was punished for disclosing the facts.
After Hena's ouster, BNP whip

Ashraf Hossain also gave press statements on November 24, naming Jamaat as being involved in the rise of militancy. The next day, on November 25, BNP's standing committee member and former minister Oli Ahmed also pointed inger at Jamaat. Earlier. on September 26. BNP

International Affairs Secretary Syed Najibul Bashar Maizbhandari resigned from the BNP protesting the government's failure to act against amaat for its militancy involvement. On October 1, HuJi lynchpin Mufti Hannan named former home minister and presently Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowhdury for grant-

ing him protection. "The former home minister assured and asked me to stay in Dhaka," Hannan, who is sentenced to life imprisonment for an assassination attempt of the ther prime minister Sheikh Hasina, told before a court after his arrest. Replying to a guery of party workers in October State Minister for Housing and Public Works Alamgir Kabir said, "I have no link with mili-

tancy, but Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Hague has maintained relationship with the militants." At the beginning of open militant activities in the country early last year, the government policymakers ncluding the prime minister labelled it as 'well-planned propaganda of opposition' to tarnish the ruling coalition's image and to prove Bangladesh a dysfunctional state But, things have changed over the

government at least to 'believe' that there is existence of militants in the country and their acts are not isolated ones. It was not in a too distant past when cadres of Bangla Bhai killed their opponents openly in Bagmara of Rajshahi in the name of establishing Islamic rule in the country. But the government top brass and top police

last few months, when militants have

displayed their might by frequently

blasting bombs, including suicidal

attacks. The incidents forced the

Bangla Bhai and blamed the media for creating a false and fictitious character. Nizami on July 22 last year said, "Bangla Bhai was created by some

ment banned the JMJB and asked

officials denied the existence of

law enforcers to arrest Bangla Bhai. After the Gazipur and Chittagong blasts, the prime minister from a public meeting in the capital yesterday called upon all political parties and distinguished personalities to sit across the table to find out ways to stop bomb terrorism. A day before she issued strong warnings to the militant outfit about dire conse-

Such an effort of the prime minister has been appreciated by many corners, but at the same time many raised questions about her cabinet and also party members role about the problem of militancy.

quences.

On Tuesday, in a rally against comb terrorism, many ministers and BNP leaders categorically blamed the main opposition AL of patronising the militants. But, observers believe sincere political will of the prime minister,

which she at last showed through

public rallies in the last couple of

days, will help combat the terrorism.

Let's find

The terrorists are enemies of Islam democracy, development, humanity as well as the people and the country," Khaleda said, adding: "Nobody supports such terror acts in the nam

to inform police and law enforcement stranger in their areas.

among others, by Environment and Forest Minister Tarigul Islam Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, Public Works and Housing Minister Mirza Abbas, City BNF President and Mayor Saded Hossian Khoka, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman, Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury, State Minister for Labour

The prime minister also urged people to help catch the bombers and

and Employment Amanullah Aman and Jubo Dal President Barkatullah Bulu, among others, addressed the Sadar police yesterday arrested Salauddin, 25, at Dharki Ghonapara meeting.

Earlier, the prime minister inauguvillage, while Khetlal police held Afzal rated the newly constructed Dayaganj-Jurain link road and Hossain, 30, and Abdus Sabur, 35, suspecting their involvement in the August 17 serial bomb blasts in the

FROM PAGE 1

agencies if they find any suspected Chaired by local MP Salahuddin Ahmed, the rally was addressed

Dholaikhal new road by unveiling

Arefin Siddique, Bangladesh Federal Lawyers meanwhile staged demonstrations, held meetings, Union of Journalists (BFUA) wore black badges and hoisted black President Igbal Sobhan Chowdhury flags on all bar premises across the SASP Member Secretary Advocate c o u n t r y y e s t e r d a y . Mahbubey Alam said the SCBA, as Subrata Chowdhury, SCBA Secretary Advocate M Enayetur

in the city. "All the professionals' bodies, including Bangladesh Bar Council, civil society members, human rights activists and the 14-party combine have expressed solidarity with our programmes. They will remain on the streets during the hartal hours," he

mourning meeting chaired by its president at the south hall of the Lawyers at the meeting demanded that the government properly compensate the families of the victims of the bomb attacks. Sammilita Ainjibi Samannay Parishad (SASP), a forum of pro-

The SCBA yesterday held

opposition lawyers, has also backed the hartal call at the meeting.

Its convener Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam said fundamentalist and extremist forces are carrying out irreligious activities in the name of religion for several years.

"Investigations must be conducted to ferret out whether there are

ruling four-party alliance. He had specifically named Posts and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Haque for harbouring militants in Rajshahi, it added.
After Hena's expulsion, BNP's It appealed to the court for directing standing committee member and former minister Oli Ahmed also gave statements holding elements within the alliance responsible for the rise of militancy. Besides, BNP Whip Ashra Hossain gave press statements 'directly naming Jamaat-e-Islami as

being implicated in the rise of militancy', the petition said.

The petition also mentioned that BNP International Affairs Secretary Syed Najibul Bashar Maizbhandari resigned from party on September 26 protesting government failure to act against its coalition partner Jamaat-e-

to access to justice of ordinary citizens

by seriously undermining people's confidence in the security of the sites

of justice delivery, namely the courts,

and instilling fear and panic among the

maker Abu Hena was expelled from

the party on November 24 for giving a

press statement that the rise of

taking place under the patronage of

ministers and lawmakers of the

slamist militancy in the country was

pulation," reads the petition.
The petition also said BNP law-

It added that the Rapid Action Battalion arrested Mahtab Al Khamaru, alleged close aide of JMB leader Bangla Bhai, at Bagmara in Rajshahi on November 26 and ased him after several hours. was reported that elements within the

government had ordered the release Khamaru after he was detained."
The petition said effective measures to address the declared threats by militant forces to the life and security of the judiciary, legal professionals and other court-users and personne cannot be faced effectively only by

enhancing security measures. "[It] requires comprehensive efforts to undertake effective and adequate investigations regarding those responsible, and also regarding the alleged patronage extended to the perpetra tors of such violence by certain perit added. ROKAN'S PRESS CONFCE Bar Council Vice chairman Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud yesterday urged

the Supreme Court judges to refrain

from discharging all judicial functions voluntarily until adequate and effective steps are taken to ensure the security of judges, lawyers, litigants, police sonnel and court-officers. "The judges of the lower courts have already become victims of suicide bomb attacks. They expressed concern at the incidents of bomb attacks on the judges and court premises. The Supreme Court

Supporting today's hartal called by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), the former SCBA president said the government will not be able to face this current situation as the patrons of the bombers are hiding

nside the government.

iudges can also be victims of such

attacks any time," he said speaking at a

press conference at the Bar Council

should provide compensation for the victims of the bomb attacks and make public the probe reports on all the Bar Council executive members advocates Yusuf Hossain Humayun, ZI Khan Panna and Sahara Khatur

were also present at the press confer-

He demanded that the government

Benapole around 1:45pm. As soon as the fire broke out, the workers engaged in elding fled the shed. The fire soon engulfed the entire shed, gutting raw materials, cotton. fabrics and chemicals. Fire fighters

from Benapole , Jessore, Jhikargachha and Monirampur rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control at around Our Satkhira correspondent reported that two separate committees have been formed to investi-

gate the fire incident and estimate e loss amount. Saiful Haq, director of Benapole Port Authority told journalists that without investigation, it was not possible to estimate the actual loss caused by the fire.

SCBA enforces people in the government, even in the cabinet, who are patronising the extremists," he said. The lawyers expressed sympathy to the victims' families and prayed for peace of the departed souls. Dhaka University Teachers Association (Duta) President AAMS

> Haque, among others, addressed the mourning meeting. Lawyers of Dhaka Bar Association irrespective of groups also brought out mourning processions and held meetings yesterday to

Rahim, Advocate Shah Zahurul

Beefed up security measures have been taken in and around the Dhaka court in the wake of the attacks. Lawyers, litigants and other officials were permitted to enter the court premises after inspection by

metal detectors, while outsiders

were not permitted to enter.

otest the attacks.

Meanwhile, Awami League acting general secretary Obaidul Kader in a statement said nine were killed and scores injured in Tuesday's attacks orchestrated by Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh "under the patronage of BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government". "Corruption, looting, politicisation,

terrorism, killings and misrule of the government must be dissolved. The movement to resist militant attacks and uproot communal forces should be turned into a mass upsurge," said the AL leader.