Political talks

Sources said the breach between the government and opposition further widened in the wake of the recent bomb attacks, especially after the suicide bombings in Gazipur and Chittagong, that diminished the possibility of a dialogue on electoral reforms.

In such a situation Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Wednesday called upon all the political parties and distinguished personalities in the country to sit across the table to find the ways to stop bomb terrorism.

Referring to the PM's dialogue offer, Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday told journalists that the government will formally take initiative for the talks with all political parties.

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, replying to a reporter's query about the talks, yesterday said the government, if needed, may send letters to invite the political parties for the talks.

But the opposition leaders yesterday said they will consider the dialogue offer only when the prime minister will show her government's seriousness to root out militancy by axing Jamaat-e-Islami and other "patrons of militants" from the government

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina vesterday in a statement said the prime minister's call for talks is nothing but a deception to the countrymen

"We can't think to sit in a dialogue with the militants to stop militancy," Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday told The Daily Star, terming Jamaat, a partner of the alliance government, as the main patron of militancy.

"Militants exist within the government. So the government has to prove first its sincerity by removing Jamaat from the alliance and expelling the BNP men who have link with the militants," said Jalil, also coordinator of the 14-party.

About opposition's demand for expulsion of Jamaat from the coalition before any talks, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda said it's a "trickery " of the opposition as they don't want to sit with the government to resolve the problem of militancy. "They should respond to the

prime minister's call within the existing form of the coalition government. It's not fair to drop anyone before the dialogue." he said.

"If the talks find anyone's involvement in militancy then there will be a scope to decide the matter," Huda, also a vice president of BNP, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Huda and his party BNP seem to be determined to keep Jamaat in the four-party coalition, political observers analysing the prevailing situation believe.

Sources in the ruling coalition said most of the BNP high-ups are very concerned about the ominous rise of Islamist extremism, but they

Bomb materials

FROM PAGE 20 same kind of splinters weighing around three kilograms were collected from the site of Tuesday's

The nature of the bombs blasted in Gazipur suggests that the same group is involved in manufacturing them, he said.

The primary investigation of yesterday's blast also revealed that the bomb was not tied with the bomber's body, who rather hurled it, the expert said.

appear to suffer from a tunnel vision as they need the support of Jamaat to win the next polls.

Janajuddha

brass held

second-in-command of the juddha faction of outlawed a Banglar Communist Party P) Sumon, was arrested in the

by the members of Rapid Battalion (Rab) yesterday

Rab sources said a team of the

On September 5. Sumon's elder

elite force raided a house in

Mohammadpur area and arrested

brother Ripon Ahmed alias Shoeb

28. chief of the Janaiuddha faction.

was arrested and killed in an

encounter with Rab at Jubusa under

Rupsha upazila of Khulna. He was a

charge-sheeted accused in journal-

ist Humayun Kabir Balu murder

After the killing of Soheb, Sumon

was next to Abdur Rashid alias

Tapan alias Dada Tapan of the

Hartal observed

morning and expressed solidarity with

The shutdown saw courts, schools

private offices and business houses

closed. Buses, trucks and private cars

staved off the streets. Rickshaws

formed a human chain near its office at

10:00am to condemn the bomb

attacks while Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi

Forum, Dhaka unit, brought out a

The SCBA brought out a proces-

sion from the court premises at about

8:00am, led by its President Advocate

Mahbubey Alam. The procession

marched different city streets and its

participants then held a rally at Purana

AL, which supported the SCBA hartal.

also brought out processions and then

held a rally at Muktangan. Later, AL

leaders and activists attended the

The organisations and parties that

expressed solidarity with the SCBA

included Bangladesh Bar Council,

Dhaka Bar Association, Sammilita

Ainjibi Samannoy Parishad, Peshajibi

Samannoy Parishad, Swadhinata

Chikitsak Parishad, Ghatak Dalal

Nirmul Committee, Sammilita Nari

Samaj, Gonomukti and Jatiya

Sampad Raskha Andolan,

and Workers Party of Bangladesh.

Communist Party of Bangladesh

Muiahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and its

The government's negligence to

investigate the bomb and grenade

attacks in the past encouraged the

militants, Ainjibi Samannoy Parishad

Convenor Barrister Amir-Ul-Islam

of the government for its 'failure' to

ensure security of the people

Advocate Mahbubey Alam mentioned

that Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman

Nizami blamed Indian RAW and Israel

for the August 17 bomb blasts but did

not name the JMB.

Demanding immediate resignation

militant operations across the country.

The 14-party combine led by the

procession protesting the hartal.

The Dhaka Bar Association (DBA)

however plied as usual.

Paltan crossing.

SCBArally.

Janajuddha faction of PBCP.

FROM PAGE 1

the SCBA.

BDNEWS, Dhaka

the notorious criminal

top

Many political observers believe the prime minister and her cabinet colleagues, taking the importance of Jamaat in consideration, have launched a counter propaganda on the rise of militancy by putting the blame on the previous Awami League government.

Such statements of the ruling party leaders are apparently to prove that Jamaat-e-Islami does not have any link with the militants, the observed said.

'The bomb blasts started to occur during the last Awami League regime and they did not take any step to stop such carnage," the nrime minister said on Wednesday. About the allegation against

Jamaat of harbouring militants, she earlier told in and outside the parliament that it's a conspiracy to split the four-party alliance. BNP Secretary General Abdul

Mannan Bhuiyan last week said instead of helping the government in the fight against militancy, the opposition is trying to reap political gains out of the issue.

Nazmul Huda also termed the opposition demand for expelling Jamaat from the ruling alliance "a long-term conspiracy" to split the ruling alliance.

'The opposition leaders know it very much that they will not be able to assume power if they can't break the BNP-led four-party alliance." he observed.

Senior leaders of the 14-party however termed the prime minister's call for talks "a farce" and said she made the call to save BNP's alliance partner Jamaat-e-Islami which is blamed for its role in militant

"Actually the government has no political will to curb the militants. Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain said on Wednesday.

The senior opposition leaders have also proposed a national dialogue of all political parties, excepting Jamaat, to face the national crisis.

Rejecting the prime minister's call for all-party talks, Jatiya Samaitantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Hague Inu said the ultimate aim of the prime minister is to save Jamaat-e-Islami in the name of offering dialogue.

"The prime minister in the same speech spat venom at the opposition parties accusing them of involvement in militancy. Senior ministers have also launched a campaign against the opposition parties linking them with the mili-"Under this circumstances there

is no atmosphere for a national dialogue," the JSD president said.

AL meets

sources said the government's proposal to sit for dialogues to face the problem of militancy and also for electoral reforms may also be raised

"We will sit to review the latest political development in the country, specially after the suicide bomb blasts in Gazipur and Chittagong, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil told The Daily Star about today's meeting

The government's special force Rab can kill Sarbaharas (leftist extrem-On holding the national council, ists) but why can't they kill JMB militants, asked Mahbubev Alam, who Jalil said a special council will be held as the existing committee is chaired the SCBA rally. going to complete its three-vear He demanded that the government term this month. He said no change

pay a compensation of Tk 50 lakh in the leadership is likely at the each to the families of those killed in special council session. the bomb blasts and announce a handsome amount of money for the JMB men's return to normal life.

Leaders of the 14-party, different bar associations and Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists also spoke at the rally

Our staff correspondent in Chittagong reports: The shutdown was peaceful in the port city. Delivery of cargo to and from Chittagong port remained suspended but loading and unloading of cargo took place to some

Our Bogra correspondent reports: At least 30 AL and BNP actvists were injured in a clash between the two sides in Dhunat upazila during hartal hours. The clash occurred as prohartal activists and anti-hartal ones in two processions faced each other.

AL leaders alleged the BNP activists damaged a restaurant of Dhunat upazila Jubo League President Boni Alam Mintu and set fire to two motorcycles. Additional police force was

deployed to avert further clash. Our correspondent in Netrakona reported that 10 AL activists were njured as police charged baton on a procession of the 14-party alliance at Kendua upazila headquarters. Police also intercepted a pro-hartal proces-

sion in Purbadhala upazila. Reports of peaceful observance of the hartal were received from our staff correspondent in Sylhet and correspondents in Comilla, Barisal Jessore, Pabna, Mymensingh, Dinajpur and Gopalganj.

Outlaw killed

FROM PAGE 20

were retrieved from the scene. Accused in 15 cases including long been on the run from police.

CHT peace deal

human-rights movement all across the world.

But unfortunately the accord could not bring any exemplary development of the situation except the halting of regular fighting between the state security forces and the indigenous guerrillas. PCJSS alleged that the basic terms of the peace agreement were not implemented in the last eight years and the incumbent government completely suspended the implementation process of the CHT peace treaty.

The government, however, said it is not true that they have halted the implementation process of the peace treaty.

Implementation of an agreement is a continuous process and it is going on. But a qualitative change in the political culture of the country is necessary to implement the treaty properly.
PCJSS sources told The Daily

Star that the anti-peace treaty activities of the present coalition government include keeping the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs under the Prime Minister instead of appointing a full-minister to the ministry, appointment of a non-hilly Bengali person to the post of chairman of CHT Development Board, not bringing the Board under the Regional Council, not activating the advisory committee of the concerned ministry and formation of cabinet committee instead of Treaty Implementation Committee.

In a press conference held in the Jativa Press Club on November 30. on the eve of the eighth anniversary of the signing of the accord, the PCJSS alleged that the government has been carrying out several other anti-peace accord activities. Those activities include continuation of military operations in the hill region not allocating sufficient funds to the Regional Council and District Council, encouraging outsider Bengalis to settle in the hills with the assistance of the administration, provocation to create communal conflict among the people in the region, security forces obstructing the implementation of the peace treaty through Bengali settlers.

As the government has not implemented the accord, the Bengali settlers are trying to form a movement against the peace accord. The Parbtya Chatttagram Samo-Odhikar Andolon, the forum of the settlers' Bengali people staying in the CHT region is still demanding a cancellation of the

At a meeting held yesterday at the Muktangon, Samo-Odhikar demanded a combing operation of

the Bengali settlers have been torturing and depriving the indigenous people with the support of Moni Swapan Dewan, deputy minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts

The PCJSS leaders alleged that

Affairs, said at a roundtable meeting. recently that the problem in Chittagong Hill Tracts region is a political and national problem. "It needs to be solved in the light of the peace treaty. But a qualitative

change in the political culture of the country is required in this regard," he said. The deputy minister said he took

initiatives to create a congenial environment in the political culture of the hill region despite having many limitations.

Ctg bomber dies

FROM PAGE 1

supporting equipment was withdrawn at 12:20pm, hospital sources His body was sent to the CMCH

morgue for autopsy.

Hossain was admitted to CMCH with both the legs and one hand completely blown off

On Wednesday, he made confessions to police and intelligence agencies after regaining consciousness, giving important information about the banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and its activities. The investigators considered the

(CPB), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) death of Hossain a loss to the probe Addressing the rallies, leaders of into the ghastly bomb attack that left two including a police constable the professional bodies and political leaders blamed the BNP-Jamaat government for the rise of Jama'atul

"We desperately wanted to keep him alive," said Assistant Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Detective Branch (DB) KM Mosharraf Hossain Mianiee, "The police personnel here did not hesitate to donate more than twenty bags of blood for him," he added.

Meanwhile, the condition of constables Prakash and Sriman. who were flown to Dhaka for better treatment after suffering severe njuries in the Chittagong suicide blast, was improving, sources said. HUNT FOR MILITANTS LAUNCHED

The CMP and district police on Wednesday night launched a combing operation in the city and district to net JMB cadres, particularly three named Mohammad, Mizan and

All the JMB cadres arrested in connection with the October 3 and November 29 bomb attacks on the Chittagong Court Building premises named the three as the key JMB operatives in Chittagong and Cox's

According to their confessions, Mohammad was in charge of Chittagong district while Mizan and Mehedi were responsible for making and providing the bombers with explosives.

AFGHAN-BACK **GUERRILLA NOT SHOWN ARRESTED**

Meanwhile, Joynal Abedin Kutubi, the suspected veteran of Afghan war held Tuesday from his residence in the city's Bakalia area, was not yet shown arrested.

"We are still quizzing Kutubi to extract information about his suspected involvement with militant activities and his stay in Afghanistan for militant training," Senior Assistant Commissioner of DB Mosharraf Hossain Meazi told this

Tight-lipped about their findings from Kutubi, the DB only said he has denied being trained up in Afghanistan

Mehedi, following a meeting with the deputy inspector general of against its enemies.

correspondent yesterday atternoon

However, Kutubi's elder brother M Shahjahan told journalists that Kutubi was in Afghanistan in 2002 to "fight for the cause of Islam and

case in this connection with Kaliganj

Hand-written and signed by an

unnamed JMB leader of the district,

the letter was posted from Jhenidah

central post office on Monday. It

says if the UNO does not follow the

directions of the letter he would be

killed in a suicide bombing and all

offices at upazila complex will be

over the district. Instead of arresting

us, you'd better follow our lead. You

have to stop all anti-Islamic activi-

ties in the upazila including running

"We want to let the government

cinemas, schools and colleges."

The letter reads, "We hold sway

Police Station yesterday.

blown up any time.

Bangla Bhai, operations commander of Jagrata Muslim Janata, Bangladesh (JMJB), was introduced to the lawyers, who moved his bail

August 2002. In course of time, the recruited

members were made JMB or JMJB cadres through brainwashing and adequate training at different mosques and madrasas, the cop added.

and committed to laying down their lives are moving in the guise of the general public. It is very difficult to trap them now," the policeman said.

FROM PAGE 1

home finding the DC office closed.

and ran to the DC office gate. Soon I heard an ear-deafening bang. There were sparks of a fireball and smokes blowing up,"Azad said.

water on the youth, he added. In an interval of one day, a gloomy

scene again descended on the DMCH as 19 of around 30 injured in the

ccumbed to his ini to the DMCH

hospital on their own around 1:15pm. Doctors and nurses were ready for the situation, as the DMCH authorities had already been informed about the Doctors alleged a huge rush of

family members, relatives, visitors and lawyers is hampering the treatments. "At times we even could not reach

the seriously injured patients, as they were surrounded by people," said a doctor showing apparent anger. Lawyers from Gazipur and the

Supreme Court also turned in to visit their colleagues. after UNO Moazzem Hossain filed a

Safta finalised

Saarc Summit in 2004 is to be fully

operational from 2016. "Implementation of Safta will

further strengthen our trade relations with Saarc countries," Nath said welcoming the finalisation of agreement according to an official release.

tariff liberalisation programme from the date of its coming into force, is envisaged. In first two years, non-LDCs (non-Least Developed Contracting States) will bring down tariffs to 20%. while LDCs will them down to 30% Non-LDCs will then bring down tariffs from 20% to 0-5% in five years, Sri Lanka (which a non-LDCs) in six years and LDCs (from 30% to 0-5%) in eight years. Moreover, non-LDCs will reduce their tariffs for LDC products to 0-5% in three years. This tariff liberalisation would not be applicable to the tariff lines included in the Sensitive Lists to be incorporated in this Agreement as an integral part.

SC hears govt's

Attorney general office sources said that, after hearing the government petition, the chamber judge referred

Maleka Begum told The Daily Star yesterday that the militants had made the threats in a letter she effective investigations and in containing court bombings since August 17 should not be declared a received on October 11. She did not failure" in protecting citizens' funda-

JMB suicide bomber

two other trains through Gazipur was also delayed due to the incident. THE BOMB STRIKE

Security at the DC office in Rajbari area had been stepped up following threats and Tuesday's carnage. "Sixteen police and Armed Police Battalion members were stationed at the gate, the place where the bomb attack was made yesterday. They had instruction to scan the baggage and bodies of everyone entering the DC office and the court buildings," said a police official

Several lawyers had passed through the gate and others were in queue when a tea-vendor aged around 20 years arrived there, evewitnesses said.

They said the youth, carrying a flask in one hand and a plastic bag containing cigarette packets in the other, looked suspicious.

Al-Amin, a peon at a local court,

said he suspected the youth and asked the on-duty law enforcers to check him. "He had a peculiar look in his eyes and did not seem normal," said police Nayek Belal, adding, "I asked one of my colleagues to scan Advocate Nurul Amin was standing

very close when the bomber was passing through the gate and a policeman challenged him. "I saw the policeman approaching the youth. But he oulled a wire attached to his body and the bomb went off," he described. Some other witnesses, on the

other hand, said they saw the youth doing something with his flask that triggered the bomb off. The deafening explosion in the

open rocked the entire Rajbari area and was heard even from several kilometres away. Witnesses said a cloud of smoke

permeated the air, while the clothes of the people standing nearby caught fire. Around 15 people seriously injured dropped on the ground, while the rest ran for life. Fire Service and Civil Defence

reached the spot and doused the fire. SMILES THE KILLER After the explosion, the bomber

remained standing alive. He had missed his real target, which he claimed was the DC office. The police who stood nearby asked him to lie down, but he refused, "I'll kill them all, blow them off." he shouted. 'to carry out the order of Allah'

Constable Mizanur Rahman said,

The firemen then used water jet to push him down on the ground." "I and several other policemen kept our guns aimed at him, but he nonchalantly kept

his hand inside his jacket." he went on. "Fearing that he may have another bomb inside his jacket, we warned him that he would be shot if he does not pull out his hand," said another constable. Aivub, "But, he just gave us a smile, a

smile of joy.' A police official ordered the constaoles not to shoot and to keep him alive. Two constables then ran and seized him. He was first taken to Gazipur Sadar Hospital and later to Orthopaedics Hospital in Dhaka.

INJURYLIST

Of the injured people, 21 were rushed to Gazipur Sadar Hospital. The hospital authorities referred the critically wounded ones to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), keep-The lawyers sent to the DMCH are

Shakhawat Hossain, 28, Dewan Abul Kashem, 48, Joynal Abedin, 35, Jahangir Hossain Himu, 30, Russell, 25, Nadira Begum, 45, Nurul Amin, 40, and former president of district Bar association Nurul Amin, 60. Among them, the condition of Shakhawat and Jahangir was reportedly critical

The three journalists injured in the blast are News Today Gazipur Correspondent Nazrul Islam Badami, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha Gazipur Correspondent Belal Hossain and local daily Ajker Janata News Editor Aminul Islam, Belal and Aminul were referred to the DMCH, while Nazrul was admitted to Gazipur hospital.

Sub-Inspector Jahangir, nayeks Bulu Rahman and Belal Hossain, and constables Akteruzzaman and

engineer Abul Kalam, 40, stamp vendor Nurul Islam Molla, 40, Ruhul Amin, 35, Hossain Ali, 50, Darag Ali, 32, Ripon Sarker, 28, Abdur Razzak, 20, shopkeeper Rezaul Islam, 22, M Rafiq, 28, Ismail, 50, Swadhin, 22, Dudu Mia, 35, Shakhawat Jamil Rony, 18, and rickshaw-pullers Nazim Uddin. 40. and Jahirul Islam. 30.

section of people, especially the

Some wayward people, who do not have support from the public or the Islamic scholars, are carrying out the bomb attacks across the country, the minister told reporters at his office yesterday.

"All walks of people will have to be nvolved to fight these elements," he

religious sentiment. "We're focussing on four things:

breaking their ideologically, blocking their financial supply, closing their sources of explosives, and apprehending and bringing them to justice." Village defence party personnel who once used to inform the officers-

militants. Babar said. LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan have assured him of taking steps in this regard,

Babar added. "Breaking the militants' motivation

The minister said the suicide attacks in Chittagong and Gazipur could cause more carnage if police failed to stop the attackers. "We must encourage police mor-

responsibilities. heard Jama'atul Mujahideen chief Abdur Rahman uses 20 to 30 num-

bers to organise attacks.'

The minister however admitted they do not have technological advan-He expressed the hope that verdict

by February **'VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION"** nspector General of Police (IGP)

Abdul Quayum yesterday termed the

"We're trying our best to ensure

agitate for better conditions. The militants are taking new ways to attack and the police are also working out new methods to counter them, he said.

to deal with the crisis. I've given them some strategies. "We know that such incidents may take place at times now. And we also know it well that we'll have to face

maximum casualties "We're taking steps to ensure least

casualties and maximum arrests. We'll accomplish our safeguarding strategy and bring changes to our checking

ers, Quayum said, "We're dedicated to our constitutional and legal duty to protect our own citizens.

We have joined the service knowing everything may happen while on duty. We feel proud to do something for

bombers, the IGP said, "You'll not get any equipment to track one carrying a bomb. Such people are active around the world.

their top leaders," he said. The police boss said investigators

have already submitted charge sheets of 75 of the 182 cases and arrested 695 people. As many as 221 of 457 charge-sheeted accused have so far been arrested.

no proof has been found in this regard. "We'll know it when the top leaders are

Hasına

FROM PAGE 20 against militants"

Accusing the government of harbouring extremists, Hasina contended that there was no bomb attack attacks continues unabated

ruling, she said the court issued a rule on the government for failing to curb extremists. The government was asked to submit a progress report on investigation into bomb blast cases. Earlier, she noted, the High Court in a verdict stated that Ziaur Rahman had ruled the country after 'grabbing power llegally'

Narayanganj. BNP ministers and MPs recom-

mended release of convict Mufti Kotalipara.

the attack was launched to kill her. But the investigation turned into a "farce". This shows that "the BNP-Jamaat government is encouraging terrorists and militants", she alleged. The opposition leader called for

unseating the alliance government for establishing a "people's government" to ensure security of public life

It's clear today

FROM PAGE 1

College ground here yesterday. "We have achieved independence of the country through war at the cost of blood. People cannot be made captive, nor can the country be made subservient by blasting some bombs.

She said acts of terrorism are

occurring in many countries of the

world, and those countries are taking united stand through discussion to resolve the problem. But in Bangladesh, the prime minister said, instead of cooperating with the government and coming forward for discussion to seek ways of tackling the problem, hartals are

being enforced to encourage terror-

ism and bomb explosions. "They don't want to stop bomb terrorism, nor want wellbeing of the people...it has become clear today who are behind the bomb blasts.' She said when the country is

advancing in all fronts-employment, investment, health, education, and increasing life expectancy and per capita income-a conspiracy has been put into play by those who want to make Bangladesh backward, to destroy the judiciary and do not want education of children. "Bomb terrorism is a part of that conspiracy. Criticising false campaign abroad about the country's communal harmony, Khaleda said Bangladesh is a moderate country

among us Urging the people to help catch the perpetrators of bomb blasts, as it is a moral responsibility, she said

and will remain so, where people of

all faiths are performing and cele-

brating religious rituals and festivals

peacefully. "There is no division

the perpetrators will be punished under the laws of the land. Reiterating the government's determination to stop bomb terrorism at any cost, she said a tough law will be enacted, if necessary, to give punishment to the perpetrators

to cooperate with police, Rab, Ansar and other law enforcement agencies to arrest the perpetrators of bomb blasts. "Those carrying out bomb terror-

ism are not followers of any religion;

The prime minister urged people

through guick trial.

they are terrorists," she said. Listing her government's development activities, Khaleda said the BNP-led alliance will again come to power by people's mandate to complete the ongoing development programmes

Chaired by local BNP leader Anwar Hossain Bakul, the rally was addressed, among others, by Health and Family Welfare Minister Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain. Communications Minister Nazmul Huda. Jute and Textile Minister Shajahan Siraj, Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury and State Minister for Communications Salahuddin

Earlier, the prime minister inau-

gurated over 500-meter-long Sayed

Masud Rumi Bridge over Gorai river

on Kushtia-Rajbari road in

Kumarkhali. She also opened the

upgraded Kushtia district hospital

accomplices fled, police said.

One shutter gun and 12 bullets

seven for murder, Shamsher had Recently Chuadanga police announced Tk 20,000 bounty on

Bomb threat The threat incident came to light

Sources said an unknown person called Assistant Private Secretary to the Foreign Minister

Ataul Hague at around 1:30pm and

upazila of Jhenidah

made the threat. The APS informed Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan immediately of the renewed threat. "Have you heard the news of Gazipur blast today (Thursday)?

quoted as saying. Security at the foreign ministry has been tightened further following the threat. An official on condition of anonymity told The Daily Star that the news of bomb threat was instantly

communicated to the state minister

Now your office will come under

attack." the unidentified caller was

for home and the authorities concerned. Witnesses said the entry of vehicles and visitors to the ministry has been restricted. Officials said another metal detector will be soon installed at the main gate while the

seen rounding every floor and compound of the ministry yesterday. AC-Land in Gazipur vesterday told the journalists that the suicide squad members of the banned JMB yesterday threatened to kill him and

other officials and blow up his office.

called the AC-Land within a couple

The unnamed bombers of JMB

of minutes of the suicide attack in front of Gazipur DC office and issued the threat. The authorities informed the law enforcers of the threats, prompting deployment of additional forces in

Our Kushtia correspondent

reports: The banned Islamist outfit

JMB in a letter on Wednesday

threatened to kill the UNO of

Kaliganj upazila in Jhenidah.

and around the office.

know through you that if we are barred from our activities, we will blow up your office (UNO office) any "This call for jihad is to establish Islamic rule in Bangladesh. Those other entrances will remain closed. who do not support us are the ene-Plainclothes policemen were mies of Islam.'

> Our staff correspondent from Khulna adds: JMB has threatened to bomb the Khulna Zilla School and kill its teachers and students. Headmistress of the school

in the upazila headquarters.

In response to the threats, police

have stepped up security measures

disclose the news earlier as the school has been holding test examimental rights. nations for SSC. But another letter received recently had prompted her to seek additional security for the body regulating lawyers.

200 JMB men FROM PAGE 20

spoke at the function

Businessmen

He feared that the recent attacks

will create a negative impact on the

foreign buyers at a time when

Bangladesh is making rapid growth as

the only Asian country in textile and

clothing exports in the post-MFA era.

"We may not survive in the open

Chamber of Industries, said the politi-

cal parties, trade bodies and the civil

society will have to unite and find out

the ways to stop this suicide bomb

the suicide bomb blasts are not

checked immediately, Bangladesh will

turn into a place like Afghanistan or

Habibur Rahman, senior vice-

president of Bangladesh Knitwear

Manufacturers and Exporters

Association, Towhidur Rahman, vice-

president of Bangladesh Frozen Food

Exporters Association, SM

Shafiuzzaman, president of Bangladesh Aushadh Shilpa Samity,

FBCCI First Vice-President

Mohammad Ali, Vice-President

Dewan Sultan Ahmed, and directors

Abul Kashem Ahmed, Helal Uddin,

Delwar Hossain, Gias Uddin

Chowdhury and Harun Ur Rashid also

Irag in the near future.

FBCCI Director Abu Motaleb said if

AK Azad, president of Bangladesh

market competition," Awal said.

to stop such terrorism."

August 17 blasts and are waiting for operations yet to come, the sources added.

The sources confirmed that Siddigul Islam alias Bangla Bhai stayed at the house of a pro-Jamaat journalist after he was released on bail from Bagerhat jail on November 20,

petition, the next day. A top official of Bagerhat police speaking anonymously said Bangla Bhai came to Mollahat upazila in the district on a recruiting mission in

"The JMB cadres made dedicated

I'll kill everyone

about to board a rickshaw to return "A youth appeared from the west

Moments later, he found four to five people lying on the ground, one of them looking for something Firefighters rushed in and showered

suicide attack were committed to the An unidentified man in his forties

The wounded started coming to the

FROM PAGE 20

Under Article 7 of Safta, a phased

FROM PAGE 20

the matter to be heard with the regular full bench of the Appellate Division of the SC on Sunday. In the rule, an HC bench had asked the government to explain why its "inaction" in conducting

The writ petition was filed by ZI Khan Panna, chairman of the Human Rights Committee of Bangladesh Bar Council, a statutory

The five injured policemen are

The rest of the wounded include

Govt focuses

said, stressing involvement of cross-

"The most important task is to put an end to their motivation as the militants are derailing the common people, taking advantage of their

in-charge of police stations, should be used as source of information about

will not be a difficult task if we can arrest their top level leaders. We've narrowly missed some of the top brass during several recent drives.

ally as they are falling prey to militant attacks because of their professional 'The militants are controlling their activities using mobile phones. I've

tage to tap the phone calls. of at least 35 to 40 cases will be made

prevailing situation 'very difficult' and asked all to face it with bravery and patience. security to all and have stepped up our operational activities," he told reporters yesterday, urging people not to

"I've already talked with the police DIGs and commissioners about how

Asked whether attacks on policemen are demoralising the law enforc-

the country.' On whether the police have suffi-

"The arrested bombers are halfeducated or madrasa students who are operating on blind motivations. But we don't know what is in the minds of

Asked about foreign links, he said

on the eve of the Saarc summit in Dhaka, but a day after the summit, two udges were killed in a bomb attack and since then the spate of bomb On Wednesday's High Court

The Awami League chief said the main accused in the Udichi blast case is now a minister. The alliance government has suspended all bomb blast cases, including those of Ramna Batamul, Baniachar of Gopalganj and

Hannan who wanted to kill me by planting 76-kg explosives in On the Augus-21 grenade attack on Awami League rally, Hasina said