Education system

FROM PAGE 16 pulsory," he said, adding that religious studies are not mandatory in any other country of the world excepting Afghanistan.

Referring to the marks distribu-tion for the subjects under the new curriculum, he said the students will study a science subject like physics or chemistry only for 37.50 marks whereas English-medium students will study the same subject for 200 marks. It will create more disparity in education standard of the two medi-

"Without consulting the teachers, students, guardians, or educationists, the education ministry has initiated the steps to bring about such an extremely important change in the secondary education," said Prof Jaheda Ahmed, presenting the keynote paper.

Jaheda, also a history teacher at Dhaka University, said religious fanatics have been conspiring to turn the country into a fundamentalist state and the proposed system will only help them in reaching that

Prof Ajoy Roy said madrasa edu-cation should be improved but the government's plans, which will bring down the standard of secondary education, simply cannot be

Besides, neither the authorities have preparations for the new sys-tem nor the teachers have the trainingnecessary to adjust to it, he said.

Secretary-general of Bangladesh Shikshak Samity Federation Kazi Faruq Ahmed called on the publishers not to print books for the new system. He asked the students of class nine and ten to keep their cur-

"A teacher's authority to provide 30 percent marks will open a floodgate for commercialisation of educa-

tion," he observed. Prof Shahidul Islam of Rajshahi University said business studies has been made compulsory though half of the schools in the country do not have the teachers of that particular subject, and students of 1,500 schools, who cannot take science stream due to lack of teachers, now

will have to study science without any subject-based teachers.

Prof Ahmed Kamal conducted the dialogue addressed, among others, v Siddigur Rahman, Khan Sarwar Murshed, and Salma Akhtar.

Speakers at the seminar titled Education System Suitable for National Development versus Unified Education System' demanded the government withdraw the decision to introduce the proposed unified education and called on all to save the country from sliding further into religious extrem-

ism. "Fundamentalism will be encouraged even more if the government introduces the proposed education system where religious and business studies have been given more importance," said MM Akash, a teacher of economics at Dhaka University.

"Around Tk 500 crore has been wasted in the name of formulating the system, when there are ample talents in the country to design a suitable education system free of charge," said Convenor of National Committee to Resist Proposed Unified Education Prof Mohammad Zafar Iqbal.

He also stressed the need for expediting the ongoing movement to force the government to withdraw its

The government took such a crucial decision unilaterally; they did not consult even the lawmakers in parliament, Dhaka University Teachers Association President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said.

Former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University AK Azad Chowdhury, Professor Momtaz Uddin Patwari and Bangladesh Teachers Association Vice-president Professor Joinul Abedin also spoke at the seminar presided over by Bangladesh Teachers Association President MA

Awal Siddiqui. Meanwhile Bangladesh Chhatra Union formed a human chain at Muktangon in the capital yesterday to protest the government move to introduce unified education sys-

Saptarshi: Grandmother

cause serious mental problem to the

30, Judge MA Halim granted the prayer and ordered the handover. The court also ordered to produce Saptarshi before the court on January

Earlier on November 23, the same court following the prayer of Manzila Khatun, Saptarshi's maternal grandmother, had ordered the Barisal Kotwali Police Station to pick up Saptarshi from the house of Mamataz Begum and hand over to

took measures for the handover in presence of both the parties, human rights activists, advocates and journalists on Thursday night.

take place as the girl refused to leave her paternal grandmother.

The police brought the matter to the notice of Sadar upazila Magistrate Munim Hassan and according to his decision sent

Meanwhile, Advocate Manabendra Batobayal, former president of Barisal District Bar Association, alleged that failure to

hand over Saptarshi to her maternal grandmother and sending the child to a safe home instead are in clear violation of the court order.

The officials concerned should be deemed to have caused contempt of court as the emotion of a minor girl should not get preference over a court order, he said.

Murdered Papiya's mother and sister Mahbuba Huq Kumkum alleged that from the very beginning the police are acting biased and conspiring to destroy the evidence of the murder through the influence of political godfathers.

The life of Saptarshi, the only witness to the crime, may also be endangered or her accounts may be fabricated by the accused family,

The police meanwhile refused to say anything about their findings in the three-day remand of Israt Jahan Swapna, 44, sister-in-law of Papiya and one of the two main accused in

Advocate Papiya, 29, was mured allegedly by her husband Tuhin and in-laws on November 3 and buried at the Barisal Muslim graveyard.

The police arrested Swapna on November 8 after the victim's sister lodged a case in this connection on November 7 night. Tuhin, however, has been absconding.

Marks of injury and torture were found on the dead body of Papiya at a post mortem after it was disinterred on November 8.

The next date for hearing of the Papiya murder case has been fixed

dead in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

A local leader of the ruling BNP was gunned down by unidentified assailants near Kazirhat ferry ghat under Bera upazila last night.

Police and witnesses said the assailants sprayed bullets on Abdul Matin, 30, general secretary of BNP's Kazirhat Union, at a shop at about 10:30pm and left the scene. Matin died instantly.

The motive behind the killing could not be known. Police recovered the body and sent it to Pabna General Hospital morgue for

Sylhet mayor

FROM PAGE 1 attack on an AL meeting in the city's Gulshan Hotel left office secretary of the city unit Mohammad Ibrahim killed and more than 30 injured.

Sylhet district and city units of the Awami League have called a half-day hartal in the city tomorrow protesting the grenade attack on the mayor. The AL units will also hold a protest rally today.

Ctg bomber
FROM PAGE 16
a cop, killed and eighteen others

injured.

The suicide bomber was admitted to the CMCH with both the legs and one hand blown off. The doctors at the hospital declared him dead after the life supporting equipment was withdrawn at 12:20pm.

Our Tangail correspondent reported that the family of Hossain Ali refused to take his body on Thursday.

The police superintendent of Tangail went to the house of Hossain Ali at Taktarchala village under Sakhipur upazila and proposed to hand over the body of the suicide bomber to his family.

The family members refused to take the body, saying that Ali was a misguided member of their family.

Police custody

yesterday noon.

Locals said Shafi has been living at Sultanganj in Rayer Bazar for the last 25 years and has no criminal record. He was known as a gentle and honest man to his neighbours. His landlady Momtaz, Begum said, "Shafi did not pay the rent

for the last four months. But I did not insist or demand the rent immediately, knowing well that he was a very honest person and will definitely pay me."
Shafi's wife Shahera Begum

said her husband, who had resigned from his job just two weeks back, had three months' salary due. He went to the market to collect the dues on November 30. He was supposed to join a new

job on December 1, she added. The police said they arrested him on Wednesday evening as some shopkeepers at the Sobhanbagh New Super Market alleged his connection with the robbery of Prince Jewellers in the early hours of the day.

Mohammadpur police yesterday evening claimed Shafi admitted to his involvement in the robbery and said the gold was with one Jasim of Agargaon. "We then took him with us to find Jasim. But, on the way he felt serious pain in his chest. So, we took him to the hospital, where he died," the duty officer at Mohammadpur Police Station said.

But DMCH morgue sources said serious injuries had been found in his legs and hands.

Marzina

FROM PAGE 1

love or want her. He said he loved a schoolgirl but married Marzina on his mother's insistence expecting some fast money as dowry with which to start a small business. As Marzina refused to buzz off,

Joynal started to beat her now and then. However, after three months, Joynal and his mother agreed to keep her only if her father paid them Tk 50,000 and a two-room house built by his in-laws. As Marzina's father said he had no

way to meet that demand, the physical and psychological torture on her worsened.

"Since the very beginning Joynal started to beat her mercilessly and asked for money on various pretexts. We were forced to pay him Tk 20,000 in the first year of the marriage, begging from our relatives and neighbours. But his demand for money never ceased," Nurjahan told The daily Star. On several occasions, the mar-

riage was on the verge of collapse. But each time interventions of the local union parishad chairman, members and other influential people saved it. In the face of increasing violence,

Marzina at last left her husband's house last year and filed the dowry case two months ago. Tuesday was the date for hearing of the case. But the terror strike has put the marriage of this hapless girl only in further

Her father reported that Joynal expressed delight at the news of his wife's predicament. "I will see how the chairman and members now persuade me to continue living with her. There is no way I will agree to keep a cripple as my wife," her father quoted the savage husband as say-

A bleak future looming ahead has outweighed the girl's physical suffer-

BNP leader shot | AL rejects dialogue

FROM PAGE 1
party's Dhanmondi office yesterday
afternoon, Abdul Jalil said, "This
proposal for dialogue is to mislead the international community and divert public attention at home. The AL working committee demands immediate resignation of the government in the greater interest of the people as there is no other option or alternative left to rescue the nation from the present crises."

Briefing newsmen on the outcomes of the nearly six-hour meeting staggered over two sessions from 10:00am to 1:00pm and from 3:00pm to 5:00pm, Jalil said, "We cannot sit down with a prime minister, whose hands are stained with bloods and who has killed thousands of our leaders and workers."

Criticising the government severely for being indifferent to preventing the rise of militancy, Jalil said it's frustrating that despite a prime ministerial order, militant kingpin Bangla Bhai has yet to be

arrested. Referring to Jamaat leader Matiur Rahman Nizami's comments that Bangla Bhai was a mere creation of the media, the AL general secretary said the government on the one hand speaks against terrorism and on the other, it encourages violence by sheltering the patronisers of the

The ALCWC meeting resolved that a dialogue with the government would not bear fruit, rather the ruling coalition's stepping aside, on accept-ing the opposition's proposal for reforms in electoral and caretaker government systems, would give a way out of the current situation.

The meeting noted that the statesponsored terrorists made the grenade attacks on Sheikh Hasina's rally on August 21 last year and killed 24 of its leaders and workers including Ivy Rahman. It also held the ruling coalition goons responsible for the killings of SAMS Kibria, Ahsanullah Master and some 30,000 party activists in last four years.
The ALCWC also condemned the

government's failure to deal with Monga (near-famine situation) in the northern districts.

In a resolution, it expressed the resolve to graduate the ongoing movement against the government

into a mass upsurge within the constitutional framework.

The meeting called on the people to join the current movement for "safeguarding the country's inde-pendence, restoring peace and secu-rity in public life, and rescuing the nation from the current crisis. MANNAN BHUTYAN'S CALL

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan last night asked the 14-party combine to re-consider the government's proposal to sit down and find ways to combat the recent surge in militant activities. falking to the journalists at his residence, Mannan Bhuiyan said the government will officially invite the

dialogue through letter or telephone.

"I hope they will get back to good intentions during this period of crisis," he told the journalists, in reaction to the 14-party's rejection of the dialogue proposal.

AL-led opposition combine to a

the dialogue proposal. Referring to suicide blasts target-ing the judiciary, Bhuiyan said this is a national problem and all the political parties and professional bodies, civil society members and the media should come forward to help the government in the fight against

"It's not possible for the govern-ment alone to resist the militants," he

The evil forces that are committing such gruesome acts, are very few in number, and if all the political parties get united, the problem could be solved very soon, he believed. Referring to the blasts during the

AL rule, he said the then government could not arrest and punish the culprits, but the present government has already arrested many of the accused including Muft Hannan and submitted a number of charge sheets. JALIL'S RESPONSE

In response to Mannan Bhuiyan's plea for reconsidering the dialogue offer, Abdul Jalil told The Daily Star last night, "We've made it clear that we can't sit for a dialogue meant for diverting public attention. However, can't say anything at the moment about the fresh call."

He said, "Let's see first what Mannan Bhuiyan had said and then we'll discuss it, if necessary, in the

Gazipur town of terror

In most cases, the police avoided coming too close to the people that looked suspicious to them. From a little distance, they first asked the suspects to show if anything was hidden under their clothes. The police also made them open their bags to make sure nothing unwanted

"Our duty is no longer protecting the people only. We also have to safeguard ourselves, as law enforcers are also being attacked," a constable told The Daily Star.

The local journalists also seemed to be a little reluctant to take any risk in carrying out their duties, as eight of them received death threats from the slamist terrorist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) on Wednesday. "Previously, we would overlook

any such threats. But, everything is changed now. We believe the Islamist nilitants may attack us at any moment," said a reporter, asking not to be named.

District Superintendent of Police (SP) Atiqur Rahman told The Daily Star they are taking every possible measure to ensure public security. Pointing out some limitations of the police force, the SP said with the existing resources they can take

preventive steps only. A lawyer said as the IMB has selected the judiciary as target the lawyers now feel the most vulnerable and do not gather anymore.

Since the first suicide attack on Ruesday, activities at the courts have remained suspended and the second attack on Thursday has made its resumption more uncertain. IANAZAAND BURIAL

The Namaj-e-Janaza of Gazipur Subassistant Agricultural Officer Abul Kashem Ali Sarker, 40, killed in Thursday's suicide bombing, was held at his Surabari village under Kashempur in the district at 4:30pm yesterday. He was going to the DC office to collect his salary when the bomb blast claimed his life.

Thousands of people including lawmaker Jahid Hassan Rusell and former minister Prof MA Mannan attended the burial service. Sarker

was buried in his family graveyard. The death of the lone breadwin-

ner of a five-member family left his wife Aleya Sharmin in grave uncertainty. Aleya cursed the attackers, terming them non-Muslims and demanding their harsh punishment.

Sarker left behind his daughter Farhana Yasmin Maya, an undergraduate student, and two sons -Asaduzzaman Rony and Samsuzzaman Johny--both HSC students.

THEINJURED

About 20 people wounded in the twin attacks were still undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) yesterday. The conditions of all, except one, have improved, hospital sources said.

The conditions of the other bomb victims admitted to Gazipur Sadar Hospital were also reported to be improving.

The condition of the suicide bomber, Abdur Razzak, being treated at the prison cell in the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) is improving too, doctors said, Razzak suffered critical injuries to his legs in the blast.

Security has been beefed up at the DMCH and Nitor since Thursday night. In addition to the 15 regular policemen of the DMCH camp, 44 law enforcers including 10 police-women were deployed at the DMCH.

Thirty law enforcers, both in uniform and plainclothes, have been deployed at the Nitor, where Jhalakathi suicide bomber Mamun is also under treatment. CASES FILED

Gazipur police on Thursday night filed two more cases -- one under the Explosive Substances Act and the other for an attempt to murder -- in connection to the second bomb strike, Sub-inspector Feroj Talukdar filed the cases with Sadar Police Station. The filing of a murder case was

also underway yesterday.

Gazipur police meanwhile have picked up eight people suspecting their involvement in the attacks and

Asian Highway

FROM PAGE 1 give it an alternative.

It wants to integrate the proposed direct road link between Dhaka and Yangon into the Asian Highway.

Although Bangladesh extended a helping hand to Yangon by promising to take part in developing a por-tion of the road, Myanmar is yet to show any indication that it would support Dhaka in its bid to bring changes in the route of the Asian Highway, the source said.

Meanwhile, Beijing in a letter to Dhaka declined to raise the issue of a route change in the next working committee meeting of the UN-Escap on December 14-15. An inter-ministerial meeting in

October had decided to approach three friendly nations for raising the issue on behalf of Dhaka. The other two countries are Thailand and Former director (transport) of

Economic and Social Commission

for Asia and Pacific (Escap) Dr

Rahmatullah, however, does not see much importance in China's rejec-He said China has nothing to do on this subject because it is not directly involved with Bangladesh in establishing the highway. Rather,

Myanmar is much more important

for bringing the change in the route because the changed route would go

He said Myanmar is the main party concerned in this regard and Bangladesh should pursue Yangon for declaring the proposed Dhaka-Yangon road as part of the Asian Highway. The Escap former director also rejected the existing apprehension in the government circle that joining the Asian Highway would mean giving transit to India.

According to him, the highway is just an international road network and there should be separate agreements for transporting goods and passengers between the countries concerned. "If a country ratifies the Asian

Highway agreement, it does not mean it is bound to allow transportation of goods or passengers to any country by road," he pointed out. According to experts, Bangladesh would miss out on a large amount of

revenue and investments if left out of the highway network, as goods would be transported from Tokyo to Istanbul through it. Investors would also think twice about investing money in Bangladesh as it would not be connected with its neighbours by roads, they said.

Lax security

FROM PAGE 16

become a threat to independence and sovereignty of the country, he

" No militant operations should be allowed in the CHT and its problems should be resolved through dialogue. And the policy makers of the government have a key role to play in this regard," Dewan stressed. Awami League (AL) leader

Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir said if militancy gathers strength due to non-implementation of the peace accord, it must be taken up seri-

Other speakers at the discussion included Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Huq Inu, Communist Party of Bangladesh leader Ruhin Hossain Prince, justice Golam Rabbani, Dhaka University teachers Mesbah Kamal, KHS Arefin and Robayet Ferdous, Dr Abidur Reza of Bangladesh Agriculture University, women's rights leaders Shirin Aktar, Rokeya Kabir and Adibasi leader Rabindranath Saren.

Indian Parliament

FROM PAGE 16 The ruling party members pro-tested over this following which the opposition rushed to the speaker's podium and started raising slogans against Gandhi and the govern-

Despite Speaker Somnath Chatterjee's repeated pleas they refused to calm down.

The speaker first adjourned the House till 12.30 p.m. and called a meeting in his chamber in a bid to resolve the impasse. When the House resumed,

Defence Minister Pranab Mukheriee said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh would make a statement on the issue at 2 p.m.

Advant then made a rather startling remark: "Keeping in view the seriousness of the situation, I would request the government to make a statement on Monday.' This prompted a Congress MP to retort: "It seems they want to

stall the House next week also." The Rajya Sabha was adjourned till 2.30 p.m. on the issue. Immediately after the Rajya Sabha assembled in the morning,

Leader of Opposition Jaswant Singh raised the issue and sought a statement from Manmohan Singh. Chairperson Bhairon Singh Shekhawat said a statement would be made after question hour because the prime minister was not present in

With the opposition insisting on a statement amid din, the House was adjourned till 12 noon. This was then extended till 2.30 p.m.

The Congress and Natwar Singh have been named as "non contractual beneficiaries" in the \$64 billion Iraq Oil-for-Food programme in the probe report by former US federal reserve chief Paul Volcker. Natwar Singh was removed as external affairs minister to facilitate a judicial probe by former chief justice RS Pathak.

In a sensational disclosure, Mathrani claimed that Natwar Singh, who was stripped off the External Affairs Ministry portfolio after being named in the Volcker committee report on Iraq's Oil-for-Food scam, had received oil allotment from Saddam Hussein's regime for his 'personal services".

Mathrani, who worked closely with Singh in the AICC Foreign Affairs Cell before Congress came to power, told Aaj Tak news channel that both the allotees of oil coupons -Singh and the Congress -- are "exactly the same.

The fact of the matter is that both allotees...In my view are exactly the same...One has been to Natwar and the other one to the Congress Party. One for Natwar's personal services. Don't forget that he has been the one who has been expousing Iraq's cause," he said.

The report was based on a long tape-recorded interview of Mathrani who has complete knowledge about the visits of Natwar Singh to Baghdad and had a series of meetings with top Ba'ath party officials of Iraq includ ing Tariq Aziz and the then President of Iraq Saddam Hussien who had been allowed to sell oil for food by the United Nations to keep its economy

Mathrani said Jagat Singh and Andaleeb Sehgal travelled together and staved in the same hotel. Andy was made part of the Congress dele gation and the manner in which Natwar and Jagat Singh operated it was clear that they were looking for

business in oil. Seaport security FROM PAGE 1

attacks on Tuesday and Thursday, the security level was not raised due to absence of the director general and for failure to realise the gravity of the situation on the part of those who were in charge, sources said.

Loading and unloading at the seaports continued during yesterday's hartal hours but the loaded trucks did not leave the jetty.

Balu murder

FROM PAGE 16 party in 2003 following a split in the PBCP Marxist-Leninist faction.

cadres attempted to snatch Abdur Rashid Malitha alias Dada Tapan, the founder of Janajuddho faction, from the custody of police at Khulna Judges' Court on January 26, 2002.

He along with nine of his armed

He had long been on the run from police and even in hiding, he used to maintain a stranglehold on parts of the Sundarbans. He had recently dissociated himself from Janajuddho and set up a party named Gono Fouz.

Maoists extend Nepal ceasefire by a month

Maoist insurgents said Friday they had extended a unilateral ceasefire by one month after joining political efforts to restore democracy in Nepal following a power grab by King

'Despite the provocative attitude of the government forces, our party has decided to extend the ceasefire by one month, taking into account the demands of the national and international communities for democracy," said rebel leader Prachandain a statement sent to AFP. A three-month unilateral ceasefire called by the Maoists, who

have been fighting for a communist republic since 1996, was due to end on Friday. Security forces were bracing for a major democracy protest planned by

leftists in Kathmandu later Friday. "We believe this decision will pave the way to strengthen the movement of democracy and peace against the autocratic rule and give new direction to find a political way out," Prachanda said.

There have been isolated clashes

between the Maoists and the Royal

Nepalese Army (RNA) during the

ceasefire which the Maoist leader blamed on the army.
"The security forces tried hard to breakthe ceasefire," Prachanda said. Human rights activists welcomed

the Maoists' decision to prolong their "By extending the ceasefire, the

rebels have shown that they are committed to the 12-point agreement they reached with the political parties of Nepal last month," said Subodh Pyakurel, a human rights

activist. 'The present regime is very alarmed with the understanding between the rebels and the political parties, so it could take drastic steps,"

On Thursday, UN human rights chief Louise Arbour warned that Nepal faced the threat of a full-scale armed conflict, and called on authorities to join a ceasefire with Maoist

rebels and allow free assembly.

"A mutual ceasefire between the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) and the government of King Gyanendra, and steps towards last-ing peace, are crucial to bring to an end a period of grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by both the Maoists and the State," Arboursaid.

"I am seriously concerned about the very real possibility that full-scale armed conflict could resume," she

The king was to return to Kathmandu Friday following visits to Bangladesh and several African nations, where he visited Nepalese

pected militants in Moulvibazar

Police arrested four alleged JMB

members in Sayar, Dhamrai and

Manikganj on Thursday night and

in the early hours yesterday, our Manikganj Correspondent reports.

retired army officer Ferdaus at

Dakkhin Gazirchat around 3:30am and arrested his sons -- Russell alias

Savar police raided the house of

Besides, Dhamrai police arrested

Rafiqul Islam, an accused in the

August 17 blast case, in Savar, while

Manikganj police on Thursday night arrested alleged JMB member Kamrul Islam, 55, at Ranjit Boarding

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and

police in separate drives arrested six

alleged militants and seized 550

leaflets in Louhajang upazila yester-

Begumganj Banglabazar in Noakhali, Mahe Alam, 25, of

Saralabad at Belabo in Narsingdi, and Sajedul, 22, of Dhunot in Bogra

as they were distributing the leaflets

of Hizbut Tawheed in Haludia

alternative to armed Islamic strug-

The leaflets read, "There is no

A police official said the arrestees

The Rab caught three alleged

militants -- Tanjil Hossain, 18, of

Courtpara, Kushtia, Mashiur

Rahman, 38, of Bhanga upazila,

Faridpur, and Jahangir Joarder, 18,

of Gangni, Meherpur -- in Pashchim

Kumarbhog for distributing leaflets

the area from Dhaka to carry out destructive activities. The police

and the Rab are looking for the rest

The IMB on Thursday threatened to

blow up Khulna Zilla School and kill

its teachers and students for not

introducing Islamic syllabus, our

Staff Correspondent in Khulna

said she had received a hand-

written letter sent by the JMB.

Headmistress Maleka Begum

Maleka said she sent photocop

ies of the threat letter to City Mayor

Shaikh Tayebur Rahman and KMP

Commissioner Khan Saeed Hasan

for taking necessary security mea-

Asked, KMP Commissioner

Khan Saeed Hasan said he has

directed police to take necessary

security measures for all academic

The JMB, Jagrata Muslim Janata, Bangladesh (JMJB) and Harkatul

Jihad in a joint letter threatened to

blow up the Dakkhinbhagh Union

Parishad at Gabtali upazila by

December 16 if local government

office is not run as per Islamic rules,

our Bogra Correspondent reports

to UP Chairman Nur Alam two days

ago, but the news came to light on

The handwritten letter was sent

An Islamic organisation, Muslim

Mujahideen Bangladesh, sent a

book on jihad to a mosque adjacent

to Jhenidah Circuit House on

Thursday night, reports our Magura

Imam of the mosque Maolana

Abdul Awal to take step so that

tion is a pistol and a pen, the Imam

of JMB suicide squad was arrested

at Unchipran village in Teknaf

Nayeem, is the convenor of

Jatiyatabadi Ulema Dal Teknaf

upazila unit and correspondent of

He was arrested at his house

upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday.

devotees read the book everyday.

A handwritten letter asked

The monogram of the organisa-

UNB adds: A suspected member

The arrestee, Maulana Taher

institutions in the city.

Thursday

Correspondent.

the Daily Dinkal.

Police said 30 militants arrived in

Police arrested Matin, 24, of-

ince the August 17 serial blasts.

MANIKGANI

Jewell and Sohel.

MUNSHIGANJ

day, reports UNB.

around 10:30am.

24 militants

IMBTHREATS

gle for establishing Islam.

might have links to the JMB.

9 powerful bombs

FROM PAGE 1 Thursday night, reports our

Sirajganj Correspondent. On information, police recovered the bombs wrapped in red adhesive tape and hidden in sands

Meantime, Ullapara police arrested three JMB members including a madrasa teacher and recovered some Islamic books and leaflets from a Mosque at Kayrarchar village in Ullapara upazila on Thursday night and early vesterday.

The arrestees are Abdul Jalil, 40, a teacher of Bakua Qawmi Madrasa, Ziaur Rahman, 25, of Natore, and Maksud Rahman Masud, 28, of Bogra.
The police said the arrestees took

shelter at Kayrarchar mosque for the last two weeks and were preparing to conduct a bomb attack on the Siraigani court. RAJSHAHI

city yesterday held five top militants of Hizbut Tawheed, a still ignored fanatic outfit linked to the IMB. when they were distributing leaflets calling for jihad after Juma prayers, reports our staff correspondent in Rajshahi.

Residents of Meherchandi in the

Tara Mia of Kalihati in Tangail, Mominul Islam of Mohadevpur in Naogaon, Mizanur Rahman Mintu of Raninagar, Piarul Islam of Talaimari in the city, and Yasin Ali of Charghat upazila -- all in their late

20s -- were handed over to police. The leaflets read, "Get united, listen to leaders, obey directives, go for Hizrat (migration) and join jihad for establishing Islam in the world." Hizbut Tawheed, despite having

a track record of militancy stretch

ing back to 2003, has been allowed to operate freely. The arrestees admitted that they were organised in Rajshahi under the leadership of Rabiul Islam of Kajla to collect members and they

sometimes work for the JMB.

Bangladesh fund their cause.

Muhammad Bayazid Khan Panni of Tangail and his deputy is Monwar Hossain. They claimed their top leaders' networks extend to extremists in India, Pakistan and the United States, and many rich people in

They said their chief leader is

MEHERPUR Meherpur police yesterday arrested three madrasa students in Kurigram for suspiciously wandering in a local bus stand, reports our Kushtia correspondent. The police suspect the arrestees-Imran Khandaker, Shahidul Islam

activists. They are Dakhil examinees of Panchpeer Aliya Madrasa at Durgapur village in Uilpur upazila The arrestees said they came to Kushtia on Wednesday and went to Meherpur yesterday to visit the

and Fakhrul Islam - to be IMB

SYLHET Police arrested three madrasa students believed to have links to the JMB at a residential hotel in the city in the early hours yesterday, writes

our Staff Correspondent in Sylhet. The arrestees -- Shahjaman, 18, Jobayer, 20, and Nesar Ahmed, 20, of Sunamganj checked in to the hotel with fake identities, police said. Police seized a VCD player, six

VCDs, one phone book and one Islamic book from them. They are students of Dhakadakshin Jamea Islamia Madrasa of Golapganj upazila in Sylhet. NATORE

JMB leader Mahtab Khamaru in Basila village under Naldanga Police station on Thursday, UNB reports. Bagmara police of Rajshahi raided the village and arrested Saiful, suspecting him a JMB

Police arrested the bother-in-law of

Khamaru was released a few days ago after he was arrested and since then drives are on to hold him again. MOULVIBAZAR Police on Thursday night arrested four people in different villages in

Kulaura upazila, suspecting their links to the JMB, writes our Moulvibazar Correspondent. The arrestees are Najmul Haque Mohsin, Basir Ali and his son Waris Ali, and Mojir Uddin.

after Tekanf police received a list of IMB militants from the home ministry. The list contains the names of two members of the IMB suicide squad from Teknaf. Naveem is one of them.

the only eyewitness to the incident, sources said. In the prayer, Mamataz Begum said Saptarshi has been living with her since childhood and never wished to go to her maternal grandmother's house. If she is forced to live in the safe home or with her maternal grandmother's family, that might

After the hearing on November

Manzila. Mamataz and Manzila are Sub-Inspector Habibur Rahman

However, the handover could not

Saptarshi to the safe home Friday

WB finally okays

The subcommittee held a round of meetings on the draft and then sent it to the law ministry for But the WB took a staunch stance on the issue and told the government if any fundamental change is made in the law it will not approve the DSC instalment. It also

FROM PAGE 1 of the law and recommend modifi-

deferred tabling the matter in its board meeting on November 17 as scheduled. A source said the government then assured the bank of making no major change in the law and getting it passed by parliament soon, which made the WB resume the approval process.

WHATISDSC The DSC funds a core and sectoral governance reform programme, a WB news release said yesterday. It is designed to assist the government in addressing key governance constraints by strengthening public expenditure and budgetary management, improving public procurement, modernising tax administration and enhancing delivery of public services, the release read. It also targets sectoral governance reforms in banking and energy sector and state-owned enterprises, and the government's trade liberalisation agenda.

The governance reforms sup-

ported by the DSC are "designed to

improve social service delivery to

the poor and improve the invest-

ment climate to enhance eco-

nomic growth, exports, and jobs.

Creating economic opportunity

through sustainable growth and

access to services is key to reducing

poverty in Bangladesh, and the

DSC supports both," said WB

Country Director Christine

According to the WB, Bangladesh has achieved significant economic and social progress in recent years, "GDP growth per capita has averaged around 3.3 percent since the 1990's, outperforming low income and IDA-only countries as a whole. GDP growth in 2005 remained above 5 percent, despite devastating floods in many

release said. Millennium Development Goals,

parts of the country," the news

However, the WB also pointed out that, despite sustained progress, the country faces some daunt ing development challenges. Among them it emphasised the high rates of child malnutrition and maternal mortality, widespread corruption and almost half the population still living below the poverty line.

observed the bank.

In the social sphere, the release went on, Bangladesh outperforms most low income countries across a range of social indicators: Gender parity in school enrolment at secondary and primary level has been achieved, child mortality has been halved and life expectancy has increased significantly since the 1990's. Bangladesh is also on track to meeting many of the

In this regard, WB South Asia Region Vice President Praful C Patel said, "Improving governance is a critical challenge for Bangladesh

and is very much at the heart of the

DSC. We hope the reforms will

reduce the scope for corruption,

and, in turn, build more effective

government institutions and

improve public service delivery,

giving long-term benefits for all

Bangladeshis.'