## Mastermind caught with bomb Asian highway

FROM PAGE 1 drive, the law enforcement members recovered a near-complete powerful bomb, explosive materials, manuals, two flasks, iron pellets, wires, voltmeter, pan, three cell phones and a list of targets in Gazipur from the house of the about 26-year-old militant, also

The bomb was to be blasted in the town at 9:00am yesterday, he told the investing officers. Hailing from Barshapara of Kotalipara in Gopalganj, Enayetullah was the JMB's in-charge of the Gazipur

The local administration declined to make any official com-ment on the arrest and barred journalists from talking to and taking

Following statements of JMB suicide squad members Milon Islam Mithu and Akash, arrested at Chittagong on Sunday night, police raided Enayetullah's house at the Telipara village, Chandana, Joydevpurat4:00am.

Police also picked up his wife Swapna, 24, one-and-half-year old child and caretaker Monir from the house, which was owned ironically by a former National Security

Enayetullah confessed to making the two deadly bombs blasted on the bar council premises on November 29 and in front of the deputy commissioner's office two days later, sources said.

a bomb to suicide bomber Abdur Razzak, held after the blast on December 1.

Claiming himself as a once-close associate of the militant kingpin Mufti Hannan, Enayetullah said he of the Harkatul Jihad (HuJi)

Bangladesh chapter in making the 76kg bomb planted near the rally stage of Sheikh Hasina in July, 2000. Meanwhile, locals and neigh-

bours told The Daily Star that the bomb-maker introduced himself as a lungi trader, saying that he had a shop at the Joydevpur crossing. He rented the tin-roofed three-

room flat two months back. "The curtain on the veranda of his flat remained drawn all the time, and his family refrained from having any communication with neighbours," a localtoldthis correspondent. His wife lived behind veils for

most of the time and hardly came out of the flat, said Sufia Begum, the next doorneighbour of Enayetullah.

Locals also said they saw no one coming to the house, adding that Enayetullah might have been communicating through his cell phone

However, the owner of the house said he was not aware of the real identity of Enayetullah. He told over phone that he lived at Uttara and his caretaker used to rent the flats on his

After the raid at Telipara, police brought the three arrestees to the office of the superintendent of police (SP) in Gazinur.

The bomb expert disclosed locations of some JMB dens in Gazipur during the primary quizzing. The police then raided different mosques and locations to pickup 26 persons. Sources said JMB chief Abdur

Rahman financed construction of several Ahle Hadith mosques in the

Police produced eight persons, mostly JMB suspects, before the court yesterday afternoon with

who is his uncle.

GAIBANDHA

Hundreds of people gathered to

The other arrestees are --Mejbah, 35, and Shafikul Islam

have a last look on advocate Anwarul

Azim on the bar association pre-

mises. His family and colleagues

broke down in tears when the body

with severe wounds in both legs and burns caused in the blast on

About 1,000 people attended his namaz-e-janaza held at Rajbari near

His colleagues, local lawmakers and political leaders delivered blis-

tering remarks condemning the

recent suicide attacks and demand-

He was buried at his home in

Talabah in Kaliakoir upazila,

Gazipur. He is survived by his wife,

daughter Tumpa (13), and son

Authorities of the schools in the

surrounding areas postponed

scheduled examinations for the next

few days, citing panic among stu-

will specifically target girls' schools.

The militants have threatened to

shut down schools saying "girls don't need study", said Asma Jalal, head-

mistress of the Joydevpur Government Girls' High School,

which is very close to the DC office.

on us to keep the school closed,"

Asma said. She added that she has

postponed the exams until December 8. "Many of the injured

and dead are relatives of my stu-

dents; it's tough for them to the

Thursday as the wounded were

She said 50 girls fainted on

attend classes and exams.'

being taken by the school.

"The guardians have put pressure

Rumours were rife that militants

ingpunishment of the attackers.

EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

CLOSED

dents and guardians.

Azim clung on to life for six days

was taken there at 1:30pm.

by joining Asian Highway," Communications Minister Nazmul Huda said. "So far our position is not to ratify the convention without bringing a change in the route map of the network."

Experts however are of the opinion that Bangladesh can join the Asian Highway network and ratify the convention without giving transit to any particular country.

The foreign ministry in a number of working papers emphasised signing the convention before the expiry of the deadline on December 31. It observed that the country should not be left out of the giant communication network.

Bangladesh will face an image problem in the international arena if it remains out of the network, the ministry said. It requested the communications ministry to take initiative so that the country is included in the network.

Foreign ministry officials also think that the change in the route map could be brought even after ratifying the convention. "If we do not ratify the convention, we will lose the opportunity to place any proposals regarding the network," said a top official.

The country should first ratify the agreement to become eligible for placing its proposals for consideration of the other countries con-

The working committee of the UN-ESCAP Asian Highway network will meet in Bangkok on December14-15. Foreign ministry officials are likely to represent Bangladesh at the meeting.

Officials of the communication ministry attended the committee meetings in the past but this time foreign ministry officials have been assigned to represent the country at pointed out.

the meeting, sources mentioned.

The foreign ministry however failed to persuade the neighbouring countries to place a proposal on behalf of Bangladesh to bring a change in the existing route of the highway. All the countries it approached expressed reluctance to do this showing time constraints.

The existing Asian Highway route enters Bangladesh through India and also exists through that country. Bangladesh wants a route through Myanmar but Yangon is yet to agree to the proposal. Dhaka is trying to have a road through Cox's Bazar and Ghundum up to Yangon via Bawli Bazaar in Myanmar.

Dhaka also extended cooperation in improving the road condition in Myanmar but Yangon is yet to agree to declare the proposed Dhaka-Yangon direct road as part of the Asian Highway.

A high official of the communications ministry told The Daily Star that the matter now depends on the national policy. It is true the country will hardly benefit from joining the giant network with the existing road

But, if the country remains out of the huge network, it may cause difficulties in future, he thought.

Former ESCAP director (communications) Dr M Rahmatullah had earlier told The Daily Star that joining the Asian Highway network did not mean giving transit to any country. The highway is just a communication network, and separate bilateral agreements are required to transport goods and people through this route. If Bangladesh does not want to

give transit to India, it will not sign those bilateral agreements. But still it can develop the roads up to the Asian Highway standard, he

# JMB again threatens to blow up

The District and Sessions Judge's Court at Satkhira yesterday ordered attachment of all moveable property of the 10 absconding accused, out of

members including a woman rented the house on Sub-Registrar Office Road on Friday, identifying themselves as students of Mohimaganj Aliya Madrasa. However, all the three fled leaving all their belongings behind yesterday morning. The landlord informed police about his tenants' missing, resulting in a raid by the

The police recovered a letter written to the house owner, the list, a mini tape recorder and some reli-

The list includes names of JMB cadre Sabuj, an accused in the Mohimaganj BRAC office bomb

The letter signed by Badiuzzaman reads, "You've learnt our real identity and please keep it secret. God likes secrecy. We are in a hurry. We'll pay the rent when we come back for our luggage."

RAJSHAHI The Rab and police yesterday arrested seven top JMB leaders in Bagmara and Godagari upazilas, according to our staff correspon-dentin Rajshahi.

Tarikul Islam, a suspected suicide squad member, was sent to Joint Interrogation Cell in Dhaka, while three others -- Rafigul Islam, a teacher of Nakhopara Dakhil Madrasa, Abu Sayeed of Konabaria, Mahsin Ali of Nakhopara in Bagmara -- were placed on police

The rest -- Nazrul Islam of Hamirkutsa, Ruhul Amin, a teacher of Khamarpara primary school, Akbar Hossain of Taktapara in Bagmara, and Nazrul Islam of Godagari - are yet to be hauled before a court.

Besides, police recovered a bomb-like material from the gate of Advocate Quamruzzaman's house in Alupotti in the city after the lawyer raised an alarm. However, it was a box wrapped in red tape and filled centre. Abdullah was placed on a

MADARIPUR Police yesterday submitted charge sheet against six people including JMB and JMJB lynchpins Abdur Rahman and Siddiqul Islam alias Bangla Bhai to a court in connection with six blasts in Madaripur on August 17, writes our Madaripur

correspondent. Other charge-sheeted accused are Madaripur unit JMB leaders Maolana Ali Ahmad, Maolana Abdur Abdul Hannan told journalists on Rouf, Hijbut Tawheed leader Abbas Akand and Ismail Khan.

The investigation officer of the case in the charge sheet said Ali Ahmad and Abdur Roufled a team to blast bombs at six places following a plantaken at Ali's house.

Meanwhile, panic griped the town's residents after two fake bombs were recovered on the pre-mises of Amin Uddin High School.

Khulna police recovered three bombstwo from Customs Ghat and one from Pabla -- in the city on Sunday and esterday, our staff correspondent in

Khulnareports. The two bombs recovered yesterday from Customs Ghat, close to

Khulna Zilla School, were taken to Rab headquarters at Khalishpur for exami-A few days ago, the headmistress of the school received a letter from JMB

threatening to blow up the school for not introducing Islamic education Meanwhile, a man who resembles Bangla Bhai was caught by a security guard of Gobarchaka Khalashibari

Jam-e-Masjid and madrasa yesterday noon, but he was freed later. Sonadanga police rushed there to was freed. It is unclear who influenced the locals to free the man. SATKHIRA

Abdur Rahman, his younger brother Ataur Rahman Sunny, Siddiqul Islam alias Bangla Bhai, ex-operations commander of Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (IMIB), Fakar Uddin Raji, Nayeem, Asadul, Momtaz, Noor Ali Member, Asadullah Hijan, and Abul

he 25 youths caught as suspected JMB activists from Derai upazila of Sunamganj district on Sunday were sent to jail by a magistrate court at Sunamganj yesterday, writes our staff correspondentin Sylhet.

clues from them.

aged between 15 and 42 years, however, claimed themselves as vendors. They hail from Kushtia, Jhenidah and MANIKGANI

Police arrested a suspected JMB member from a mosque at Shibalaya on Sunday night. The arrestee, Yakub Ali, hailing from Feniteaches Quran at Kholadi mosque at Shibalaya, adds

Tangail police yesterday arrested an Indian citizen at Jamuna Residential

The arrestee introduced himself to the police as Akram Ali, hailing from Boropeta district of Assam. He claimed that he is a student of Goalpara Madrasa and also the Imam of a mosque in India, sources said.

The police said the arrestee checked in to the hotel hiding his real address. He mentioned in the hotel register that he is a resident of

Islamic books and mobile numbers of different persons of Bangladesh from his possession. RANGPUR

The police arrested four suspected JMB members -- Hafej Abdul Gafur, Nayeem Raihan, Shariful and Raihan Kabir -- in the district yesterday, reports our Rangpur corre-

#### BNP man

of Chittagong (south) district unit

of ruling BNP, defeated Salim comprehensively bagging 14,268 votes. Salim received 5455 votes. The three other candidates were

AZM Helal Chowdhury, Farid Uddin and Abul Kasem.

for the six ward commissioner posts and 16 female candidates ran for the three reserved seats for women in Satkania municipality which was declared a municipality

The local Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) had been at the helm of the municipality as the 'Municipal Administrator'.

The BNP activists as well as the locals consider it a BNP victory particularly to its stalwart Oli Ahmad. They believe the victory of BNP backed candidate in the municipality election will encourage BNP regain the seat in the next parliamentary election.

## Thousands march

banner of 14-party opposition coalition, marched through different city streets and chanted slogans demanding that the BNP-Jamaat led ruling alliance step down.

Many of the marchers, led by ranking opposition leaders, carried placards and banners with antigovernment slogans inscribed on them. They also wore black ribbons and carried small black flags. The 14-party opposition coali-

tion organised the march from the city's Mukrangan to Central Shaheed Minar yesterday after-

At a rally at Muktangan preceding the march, opposition leaders once again accused two major partners in the four-party ruling alliance --- BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh -- of patronising terrorism in the country. They said resignation of the present government is the only way to stop terror-

They also reiterated the demand for bringing reforms to the system of caretaker government and the Election Commission for the sake of a free and fair election.

Addressing the rally, coordinator of the 14-party coalition also Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil said there is no other alternative to the BNP-Jamaat alliance government's resignation in resolving the present crisis.

about 4:15pm, the demonstrators marched through Noor Hossain Square, Golapshah Shrine, Nagar

government had created Bangla Bhai to serve their interests. "When news media wrote about Bangla Bhai, the government did not acknowledge his existence. Now the government have announced reward for his arrest, which proves its double standard in this regard,

Jalil also said they would not sit for a dialogue with those who are patronising the militants. "If the government took action against Bangla Bhai early, the situation would not have come to this," he observed.

He urged the people to forge a united movement to topple the alliance government terming it a 'complete failure'. He said peace will not come back to the country without ousting the alliance govern-

including Abdur Razzak, Rashed Khan Menon, Tofail Ahmed, Hasanul Haque Inu, Bimal Biswas, Dilip Barua, Mainuddin Khan Badal, Nurul Islam, Motia Chowdhury and Mohammad Hanif

# 14-yr old being trained

would become a big leader and earn established in the country.

their son to the madrassa in January this year to make him an 'Alem' (a well versed person on Quranic knowledge). Matiur often visited him at the residential madrassa. The last time Matiur talked to his son was in May. He could not meet Moni during his routine visit in June.

had' to establish Islamic rule in the country" Matiur, a day labourer,

He believed that his son was involved in a sacred work, which would bring 'blessings to his family'.

But after the recent spate of countrywide suicide bomb blasts Matiur got concerned and ran to the madrassa again.

well-known activist of Jamaat-e-Islami told him that he did not know where his son was. Matiur went to the elders and

The police received Matiur's written statement and said they would investigate the matter first and then think about taking actions. As this correspondent asked the

BDR seizes

The ammunition include 3,000 rounds of bullets for the German pistols and 3,000 rounds for others arms. They also recovered 20 magazines of pistol and two magazines officer-in-charge of the police station yesterday to comment on the matter he declined saying that higher authorities had instructed him not to comment to the media.

According to different sources in These madrassas are allegedly supplying the boys, who are from poor families, in exchange of a lot of

gating the matter.

#### **HC** unlists

FROM PAGE 1

The then divisional judge's court, Dhaka, on July 6, 1995, convicted Ershad with three years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Tk 10,000 and in default four months' jail. Ershad filed an appeal in the High Court against the judgement.

#### Outlaw killed FROM PAGE 16

in Khulna city on Sunday night, was wanted in eight murder cases with Paikgachha, Dumuria and Batiaghata police stations under Khulna district, said officers-incharge concerned.

gun and 14 live cartridges from the spot of the shootout. Bishwanath, the chief security

guard of NBCP founder Monoranjon Goshai alias Mrinal left the country during operations by joint forces last year but returned to Dumuria in August this year with plans to regroup his cadres, police said.

### Asia Energy complains about attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asia Energy Corporation (Bangladesh) Pvt Ltd has expressed grave concern over the repeated attacks by some local people on its information centre and residences of its officials at Phulbari Coal mine project in Dinajpur.

The company on Saturday wrote letters to state minister for home affairs, adviser to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Board of Investment (BoI), Inspector General of Police and Director General of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) to take immediate action in this regard.

They also filed a case against the attackers with the Phulbari Police Station on the same day.

Bol yesterday wrote to the home ministry for taking necessary steps.

### Latifur Rahman

FROM PAGE 16 (MCCI) for the year 2006.

A leading entrepreneur, Rahman has investments in jute, tea, pharmaceuticals, insurance, electronics, and media sectors said an MCCI press release issued yesterday. He will take over the responsibility at the annual general meeting (AGM) of the chamber scheduled for December 31, 2005.

AKM Rafigul Islam, managing director of Pragati Insurance Limited, has been re-elected vicepresident for the year 2006.

The other office-bearers include Kutubuddin Ahmed, chairman of Envoy Garments Limited, M Shamsul Alam, deputy chairman of Reliance Insurance Limited, M Anis Ud Dowla, managing director of Advanced Chemical Industries Limited, Steve Banner, chief executive officer of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC), Imtiyaz Husain, chairman of Imtiyaz Husain & Company; Md Nurul Islam, regional senior vice president of American Life Insurance Co (Alico), Mahbub Jamil, chairman and managing director of Singer Bangladesh Limited, Obaidur Rahman Khan, director of Transcraft Limited, Syed Nasim Manzur, managing director of Apex Footwear Limited, Feroz Rahim, managing director of Rahimafrooz Batteries Ltd and Shahab Sattar, chairman of Samah Razor Blades Industries Ltd.

### World's richest

FROM PAGE 1 primary and women education in particular, reducing child mortality

and ensuring safe drinking water. Bill Gates said they didn't know much about Bangladesh and his visit has helped them know that the country has done a lot. He was impressed with the government's pragmatic policies, programmes and achievements in education,

ICT and health sectors. There is no publicity of the country's such achievements and progress, Gates said assuring the prime minister of support in reducing neonatal mortality rate in Bangladesh.

The Microsoft chief also appreciated the initiative to set up Asian Women University in Chittagong where the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation provided financial support. He said they would also collaborate in ICT development in other universities.

Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, who was present at the meeting, briefed newsmen about the proceedings of the meeting.
Science and ICT Minister Dr

Abdul Moyeen Khan and BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman were also present. On April 20 this year, Tarique Rahman visited Seattle in America at the invitation of Bill Gates

Foundation. During his visit to

Microsoft Office, Tarique formally

invited Bill Gates to visit

Bangla Bhai FROM PAGE 16

Bangladesh.

Chittagong and stay there. He, however, did not reply to the question about where Bangla Bhai lived all these days and who patronised him and said Bangla Bhai was in the country and will be in the country, the official said.

said Bangla Bhai will soon go to

The commander also could not say the reason behind Bangla Bhai's visit to Rangpur, but guessed that he might meet the daughter of Rahman there.

Rahman's son-in-law lived with his wife in Rangpur before Thakurgaon police arrested him.

The commander also said before starting their open drive against outlawed Sarbohara on April 1, 2004, JMB Shu'ra Board members, including Rahman and Bangla Bhai, told that IMB and IMJB's main objective is to stop homicide. Following this objective, thousands of people joined JMB and IMIB.

But when the Shura board formed suicid squads to kill innocent people of the country, many JMB members like him could not agree with it and asked the board to stop killing immediately.

According to the police official, the JMB commander further said around 15 thousand JMB members will leave the party and will seek general amnesty if the Shura board does not meet their demand.

# Bill Gates promises

discussion with the ministers for education, information, finance, commerce, science and ICT, communications, and home affairs, and some senior leaders of trade bodies at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Commenting on his meeting with the prime minister, Bill Gates said, "I am pleased to see such a progress to bridge the digital divide and grow the software industry in an emerging market like Bangladesh. The results we are achieving here can only come through strong partnerships between industries and the govern-ment."

Microsoft Bangladesh signed the Partners-in-Learning (PL) MoU with the Ministry of Education.

The Microsoft chief walked into

Feroz Mahmud, country man-ager of Microsoft Bangladesh, and Abdul Aziz, education secretary, signed the three-year agreement, which aims to increase access to and build capacity for the use of ICT by educators and students.

the room with a mild smile in his face to witness the signing ceremony also attended by a number of ministers and secretaries. "Here in Bangladesh, we aim to train over 10,000 teachers and over

200,000 students over the next three years. We have also donated a sum of \$100,000 in cash grants," Bill Gates told the ceremony. We have also rolled out 'Unlim-

ited Potential' programme in part-nership with Learn Foundation

where community ICT training is

provided to a target of 2,000 disadvantaged youths each year. "In addition, alliances were also established with 10 leading universi-ties in Bangladesh to deliver the Microsoft Developer Network Academic Alliance (MSDNAA) where teachers and students will have easier access and exposure to affordable prices," Bill Gates mentioned.

The Microsoft Partners in Learning programme comprises three distinct programmes -- the PL grants, fresh start for donated PCs,

and PL school agreement. Under this programme, Microsoft providing technology access and skills-based training to primary and secondary-level schoolteachers and students in developing countries

around the world. So far, 100 countries have taken part in the PL programme reaching over 10.2 million students.

Bangladesh is the 101st country to be enlisted in this programme.

Microsoft Bangladesh is a joint venture of the Microsoft Corporation and Bangladesh's Square Informatix and is operating in the country since

Bill Gates yesterday visited different projects of International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), popularly known as Cholera Hospital, including a field site at Kamalapur, reports

BDNEWS. He visited the pneumonia sur-veillance network located in the

urbanslumin Kamalapurat 8:00am. The US Embassy in Dhaka deployed its own security personnel for the Microsoft chief's security. Besides, huge security men were on Education Minister Farruk

Sobhan M Osman Farruk said IT education at secondary and higher secondary levels will be strengthened as Microsoft gives the technical backup to the educational institutions, reports UNB.

Microsoft has already announced a grant of \$15 million for Asian Women's University in Chittagong.

On the agreement, the minister said. "The hall is now in our court the future of this agreement depends

### PM to send letters

approved a draft copy of the letter

The LGRD minister made similar announcement on Friday as well, but no initiative was taken to that end. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Wednesday called upon all political parties and personalities of the country to sit down with the govern-

ment and find ways to put an end to the raging bomb terrorism by the militants. But she is scheduled to leave Dhaka today to attend the OIC summit to be held in Makkah on On her return on December 9, political parties excepting the main opposition, professional bodies

including those of engineers, physicians, agriculturists and journalists, and academics and vice-chancellors of universities, might be invited to a discussion in line with her call. Though any tangible measures have yet to be taken to arrange the proposed talks, the prime minister on Sunday described her meet with

the business leaders a beginning of

the national dialogue and said it will In reality, things appear to be somewhat different. The country's major trade bodies said they went to the Prime Minister's Office as part of their continuing efforts to have a consensus reached among the political parties over ways to combat the menace of militancy which threatens

to scare off local and foreign investors and affect the country's econ-Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) President Mir Nasir

Hossain yesterday told The Daily Star

that they did not meet the prime minister on any formal invitation.

'We sought her appointment in a

"What can we say if the govern-ment terms it the beginning of a national dialogue," the FBCCI leader observed. The business bodies, who also sentaletterseeking the appointment of the leader of the opposition on

oflastnight. We are trying to meet the leader of the opposition too, as there's no alternative to getting united to stop the bomb terrorism," Mir Nasir Hossain said. AL President Sheikh Hasina has

Thursday, did not get any response as

parties have already rejected the proposal for a dialogue between them and the government, sources 'We couldn't help but wonder why the business community has to take such initiative now when there

was none to take one after the August

21 grenade attacks and the killings of

who are the perpetrators behind the blast incidents, he added. The AL-led 14-party opposition combine at a meeting on Thursday termed the prime minister's call for dialogue a farce. They said the government is making a mockery of discussion instead of hunting down the militants when every single democratic institution in the country is at stake due to repeated bomb

# Natwar removed

FROM PAGE 16 Ambika Soni announced the deci-

The removal of Natwar from the Steering Committee came a few weeks after he was divested of external affairs portfolio in the wake of the report by the UN committee headed by former US federal reserve head PaulVolcker.

The report said the Indian minister and the Congress party were among non-contractual beneficia-ries of illegal surcharges paid by business firms and politicians across the world for securing contracts in

Manmohan Singh as a minister without portfolio. Natwar's easing out of Congress

Steering Committee came hours after he had ruled out resignation

happen.' Congress sources said his statement appeared to have sealed his fate as far his being a member of the Steering Committee was concerned.

Singh told reporters accompanying him to his Moscow visit on Sunday night that if Natwar voluntarily decided to quit the cabinet, he would consider what to do. Manmohan's remarks came just

(NDA) paralysing parliament session last Friday. "Natwar Singh is consulting lawyers and is seriously exploring legal options to file a libel case against Matherani," an aide to former external affairs minister Natwar

party's foreign affairs cell, later said "off-the-record" interview with the magazine was "completely distorted" and taken out of context. "He (Matherani) has inflicted tremendous damage to the reputa-

had denied his remarks since, the damage has been done," the aide He, however, refused to comment . on whether Natwar was planning to

tion of Natwar, Although Matherani

triggered the controversy. with Natwar is going up with each passing day and a sizeable section within the party wants to see him out, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Priyaranjan Dasmunshi said last Friday. It was up to Natwar to decide whether or not to resign from the

tently been distancing itself from Natwar over the past couple of weeks and no party leader came to his defence in or outside the parliament.

already appointed a former chief justice of the Supreme Court and a and Congress.

known as Jewel and Walid.

snaps of the militant.

Intelligence officer Nesar Ahmed.

He also admitted to handing over

Jamaat-e-Islami. Meantime, police yesterday recovered a list containing the names of 54 JMB militants from a

house at Gobindaganj in Gaibandha JMB also sent a letter to the headmaster of Jessore Zilla School yesterday threatening to blow up the school and all important government installations. THREATTO SCBA

'ns sender as saying in the letter, "I have been assigned to carry bomb following the threat given in the previous letter". The sender identified himself as Md Baga Lokman, son of Md Almas Moral of Chandpur village in

Kapasia of Gazipur, and said his associate is Md Kala Kabir of the

"I carried out the bomb attacks in

Referring to the JMB letter posted on November 28 and

received yesterday, SCBA President

Advocate Mahbubey Alam quoted

Gazipur," Lokman claimed in the Superintendent of SCBA Nimesh Chandra Dash on Monday filed a general diary with the Ramna Police Station in this regard. Copies of the

submitted to the police. Earlier on November 27, one

Maulana Ali Azam, identifying himself as joint secretary of JMB, Dhaka, sent a letter to the SCBA president threatening to kill the Supreme Court judges for what he said delivering judgments taking Mahbubey Alam said they are

concerned over receiving such letters sent in the name of JMB, reports BDNEWS. "After receiving two letters from IMB, we have been passing our days in severe panic, fear and mental pressure. We informed the police about the letters and police will take steps in this regard," he said.

Shibir, was arrested from Kathal Tali village under Mirzaganj upazila on Sunday evening, reports our Patuakhali correspondent. Police arrested Al-Amin alias Santu alias Abdullah, 30, from his mother-in-law's house at the staff quarters of the local health sub-

A regional chief of JMB, who is former cadre of Islami Chhatra

PATUAKHALI

seven-day remand yesterday. Police said Abdullah admitted to them that he along with six other associates blasted seven bombs in Patuakhali town on August 17. 'Abdullah is the JMB chief in Patuakhali-Barguna region and a former Shibir cadre," Officer-in-Charge of Sadar Police Station

Son of Abdul Khaleq of Islampur village in Barguna Sadar upazila, Abdullah and 32 others were arrested in June last year from a mosque in Barguna town for their alleged involvement in militant activities. "I am a follower of Abdur Rahman, his brother Ataur Rahman and Bangla Bhai," police quoted Abdullah as saying. "I am on the right way and want to establish the

"I went to Saudi Arabia a few years ago as a Shibir activist and was trained on militancy there," Abdullah told local journalists without giving details. BOGRA

Rab and police in a joint drive

arrested three suspected militants including Abdul Mannan, brother-

in-law of JMB chief Abdur

rule of Allah across the country," he

Rahman's son-in-law Abdul Awal, reports our Bogra correspondent. Mannan claimed he is an activist of Jamaat-e-Islami and told Rab he used to provide JMB with financial assistance for long. He admitted that he had distrib-

uted several leaflets and books of

JMB supplied by Abdur Rahman,

see the man but in the meantime he

Police yesterday recovered a list of 54 JMB militants, whose monthly contributions were outstanding, 17 who were charge-sheeted in the August 17 bomb blasts cases in the from a house in Gobindaganj, writes our Gaibandha correspondent.
Police said three suicide squad district, reports our Satkhira corre-The accused whose property would be attached are JMB chief

Seven of the charge-sheeted accused have already been arrested.

The police quizzed the arrestees but failed to extract any significant Derai police picked them up from Derai College building. The arrestees

our Manikganj correspondent. TANGAIL

Hotel in New Bus Stand area of the town. Police suspect that he might have links with the militants, according to our Tangail correspondent. Kharbali village of Sarbuk thana in

Roumari in Kurigram district. The police also recovered some

FROM PAGE 16

Forty-eight male candidates ran

Bhaban, Bangabazar, High Court intersection, and Doel Chattar before reaching the Central Shaheed Minar premises. Jalil said the BNP-Jamaat alliance

Senior opposition leaders

### Starting from Muktangan at led the march.

FROM PAGE 16 for training in 'Jihad' and that Moni

a lot of money once Islamic rule is Matiur and Ayesha, admitted

"Hujur (the principle) told me that my son had been sent to a 'secret place' to get training in 'Ji-

Panic gripped him when the principal, Mohammad Firoj, also a

influential people of the area and then to the police station.

A source within the police station however said they were investigating the matter. the district, some madrassa authorities are doing business with several Islamist outfits by supplying 'teenage boys' for suicide bomb squads

The police said they are investi-

Police recovered a single barrel

not yet given the business leaders an appointment as the opposition

two of our lawmakers" Saber Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary to the opposition leader, told The Daily Star He said the business leaders should first make their stance clear. holding the government responsible for its failure to act, particularly when the prime minister says she knows

## letter on last Wednesday and met her

Although Natwar was stripped of his portfolio, he continued to be in the cabinet of Prime Minister

from the cabinet. He said, "I am not guilty of any wrong-doing in law or spirit. I refuse to sacrifice myself. I am aware that if I do that it will not stop with me. The opposition will use my resignation to further tarnish the reputation of the Congress party. I will not let that

When asked if he would accept Natwar's resignation, Manmohan

a day after Natwar had held a meeting with him in the wake of a fresh charge reportedly made by India's Ambassador to Croatia Aniel Matherani that it was Natwar who had secured oil vouchers from Saddam Hussein regime in 2001.

The charge, attributed to Matherani's interview to India Today newsmagazine, had set off a political storm in India with opposition BJPled National Democratic Alliance

Matherani, a former aide to Natwar and a member of Congress

take legal action against the newsmagazine that published the "conversation" with Matherani and The discomfort level in Congress

ministry, he added. Congress leadership has consis-The Indian government has

former UN under secretary general to examine the documents on the basis of which Volcker reached his adverse conclusions against Natwar