him to keep the containers, saying

close to Rafia, who runs a fish

project in the locality and is now in

iail being accused in several cases.

including for arms. Masum's class-

mates told this correspondent that

Masum has been keeping himself

isolated from them for the last

of Gazipur Sadar Police Station filed

two cases under the Explosive

Substances Act in the two incidents

of explosives recovery--one against

Jewel, his wife Swapna, Selim Miah,

another against Jewel and his wife.

The police yesterday officially gave

statement to the press disclosing

some information Jewel provided in

interrogation. The authorities,

however, did not allow the press to

Superintendent of Police (SP) of

Gazinur Atigul Islam told the press

that police on Monday morning

recovered a flask from Jewel while

he was fitting a bomb inside it. like

the one that exploded in front of the

Among the seized equipment

were also a drilling machine, a

voltmeter, wires, knives, scissors, a

wrench, a compass, a toy-car and

Quoting Jewel, Atiqul told jour-

nalists that Jewel was one of the top

JMB leaders and in-charge of the

Dhaka-Tangail-Gazipur region. He

had direct connection with JMB

chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman, who

the two bombs blasted on the bar

association premises and in front of

the deputy commissioner's office in

Gazipur on November 29 and

bombs to the suicide bombers,

observed the blasts from distance

and then reported to his high com-

mands. The police seized a mobile

phone and three SIM cards from his

About the explosives recovered

from Masum's house, Jewel said the

load was transported to Gazipur

from Dhaka in paint containers.

Fresh voter roll

roll. In reply, the two gave note of

dissent in each of those files.

Bypassing the objections from

the two election commissioners, the

EC secretariat on orders of the CEC

has appointed 83 registration offi-

cers, 6,270 assistant registration

officers, 55,684 supervisors and

Munsef Ali and I have objected to

recruiting manpower for preparing a

new voter list. We said new staff can

be appointed only to revise the

existing list," Mohammad Ali said.

"Election Commissioner M

2,16,722 enumerators for the job.

He said he handed over the

Jewel also admitted to making

trained him bomb-making.

December 1.

FROM PAGE 1

sources said.

pieces of iron used in fishing net.

JEWEL'S CONFESSION

interview him.

Sub-Inspector Gazi Ruhul Amin

The locals said Masum was

they contained fish-food.

PM invites 16 parties to talks | 9kg explosive found

dialogue will be fixed in consultation with you," said the chairperson of the ruling alliance leader BNP.

Besides the AL, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday sent the invitation to the chiefs of Jamaat-e-Islami, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Janata League, National Awami Party (NAP), Samyabadi Dal, Zaker Party, Gono Forum, Bangladesh Smajtantrik Dal (BSD), and the three factions of Jativa Party, two of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and three of Islami Oikya Jote. Of them, Gono Forum, NAP, Samvabadi Dal and a JSD faction are components of the 14-party combine.

The 14-party opposition camp termed the invitation a farce, alleging the government is not sincere in routing the Islamist militants and the move is aimed at gaining political benefits.

"Consultation with the opposition parties is not needed to find ways to contain militancy. The government itself has spawned the militants and it alone can resolve the problem," Abdul Jalil. AL general secretary and coordinator of the 14-party opposition combine, remarked yesterday.

Zaker Party also expressed its unwillingness to join the dialogue. The party chairman, Mostafa Ameer Faisal, at a discussion meeting yesterday dubbed Jamaat-e-Islami the godfather of militants and said the dialogue is not possible keeping Jamaat in the government.

As of 8:00pm, when this report was filed, the CPB did not receive the letter.

CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim told The Daily Star, "We have asked the government to let us know when it will expel the war criminals from the cabinet and punish them. and when it will take actions against the ruling alliance leaders accused of patronising the militants. He said, "We have no problem to

join the dialogue if the government meets our demands.'

Kazi Firoz Rashid, political adviser to Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad, said they too were yet to receive the letter. But if invited, the JP will sit in the dialogue **HASINA REFUSES TO**

RECEIVE THE LETTER

Prime Minister's Assistant Private Secretary (APS) Shamsul Alam arrived at Hasina's Dhanmondi residence Sudha Sadan at 4:50pm to deliver the letter and waited until 5:05pm, when AL President's APS Alauddin Nasim told him Hasina will not receive it.

"As per a party decision, the opposition leader will not receive the letter,' Alam quoted Nasim as telling him over cellphone.

"I am here to deliver the letter as directed by Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury." Alam told reporters in front of Sudha Sadan. Before leaving the spot, he made another attempt to deliver the letter, but Sudha Sadan staff member Akkas Ali told him at the gate there was no

FROM PAGE 1

observed.

their evil aims, he said.

"Nobody, not even the most

"It is quite possible for various

sincere investigation officer should

be given this right officially," Zahir

government agencies to indulge in

eavesdropping. But it is not proper

to give them the official right to do

so when they may not be as con-

siderate as the agencies in the

western countries. And once this

law comes into effect, it will be very

difficult to retract it," the jurist

guard and specific guidelines for

expert Shahdeen Malik finds no

necessity of such an amendment. "If

the government thinks it necessary

for the sake of security or any inves-

tigation, it may seek court permis-

sion to tap phones. The court, if

finds it reasonable, may allow the

government to do so. There is no

necessity of a sweeping law," he

guarantees the right to privacy of

correspondence and other means

of communication. This right is

subject to restriction on account of

security of the state, public order.

public morality or public health. The

issue now is how far privacy of

communication and correspon-

dence can be or should be restricted

on the plea of these four necessi-

In a democratic society, these

restrictions are very limited and in

an authoritarian society, there is

ties," he told The Daily Star.

"The constitution in its Article 43

use of this privilege, he felt.

There must be adequate safe-

Eminent rights activist and legal

one in the house to receive the letter. Alam then went to Hasina's office in

the Jativa Sangsad Bhaban but found none to receive the letter.

PMO sources said the letter was then faxed to both Sudha Sadan and Hasina's Jatiya Sangsad office, and was also given to a courier service operator to deliver to the opposition

Before sending Alam to Sudha Sadan, Harris Chowdhury informed AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil and Political Secretary to AL President Saber Hossain Chowdhury about the government move over telephone.

Harris Chowdhury said, "We will send the letter to opposition leader's parliament office and if the office does not receive it our leaders will meet Awami League leaders.'

Saber Hossian Chodhury, political secretary to the opposition leader said the government is playing a dual standard role. "In one hand the government is calling us for dialogue on the other hand they accused us of bomb terrorism in the country," Saber told The Daily Star "We will have to assess the situa-

tion ...in which context the government sent the letter for dialogue ... as a political party or as a terrorist group, he said. "The government will have to

14-PARTY BRIEFING

Leaders of the 14-party opposition alliance met at an emergency meeting in the city last night where they discussed about the prime minister's move to send to different political parties including the opposition leader.

Quoting the meeting discussion, the co-ordinator of the 14-party alliance said, "It is now transparent that ruling coalition partner Jamaat-e-Islami is the main force of militants and action should be taken against them."

"Ministers like Aminul Hag and deputy minister Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu, and a number of other government men have been accused of protecting militants and government high ups should prove their sincerity in fight against militants by taking action against these people," Jalil said.

"Government is not sincere to root out militants,' Jalil said and about the prime minister's letter, he said, "Its nothing but a farce of the government to gain political benefits." 'Its not necessary to talk the oppo-

sition to find ways to combat militancy. It's the government who has created militants and government can alone resolve the problem," he said.

He said the prime minister should discuss the issue in the cabinet before meeting with opposition parties.

About Harris Chowdhury's phone to him before sending the letter, Jalil said, "Prime Minister's political secretary phoned me to inform about sending the letter to leader of the opposition. I told him to send the letter to the Parliament office of the opposition leader from where we collect it later.'

"Instead, the letter was sent to the residence of the opposition leader...the way they carry the letter is

questionable and there is political bad motive." Jalil said.

CONTENT OF THE PM LETTER 'We have differences in opinion, ways and techniques which is usual in a democratic society. But today's problem is not of any party or politics but of the entire nation. Therefore, resolving the problem unilaterally is difficult for everyone," Khaleda said in the letter to the opposition leader.

Expressing her willingness to have talks with the political parties, the Prime Minister said date and time of the dialogue would be fixed in consultation with leaders of the parties concerned.

"You know destructive bomb attacks are being carried out in different areas of the country. Innocent people are being killed, maimed and property damaged," she said. These well-planned terrorist activities by an isolated and derailed circle in the name of holy religion Islam has pushed our public safety to a threat along with damaging national interest and image, she added.

The letter said she has arranged the national dialogue to define ways and means to resolve the crisis, which, she said, is also expected by the

"I believe that you will perform the history-set duty and fulfil the aspirations of the people and demand of the day by participating in it," she added In the letter, the Prime Minister said

a ploy is going on to hinder the nation's success and advancement, including the democratic process, social stability and economic progress

"You have noticed that the government has already taken all-out measures to tackle the situation." she told the opposition political leaders.

Khaleda said a new negative dimension has added to the problem with adoption of the suicidal approach in the activities conducted with misinterpretation of Islam. "It is the demand of the present

time to face the national problem nationally," she said. The Prime Minister said such

problems are being faced with concerted efforts of all in many countries with good results. The people of Bangladesh are also expecting a "united role of ours," she added.

She said the political leaderships in Bangladesh are united in favour of the hopes and aspirations of the people in every moment of need.

"We have the burning instance of working together in the great struggle for independence, movement for democracy and different national calamities," Khaleda Zia said and expressed her firm conviction that there would be no exception in the

Munsef Ali earlier told The Daily Star that he never assented to the idea of having a new list. "I said definitely A top executive of a leading and firmly that the existing voter list cellphone operator said, "Maybe, should be revised." 500 subscribers are misusing

According to the schedule declared yesterday, the process of collecting information and scrutiny will end by January 31 and a draft voter list will be published on February 28.

The enumerators will start going from door to door for information about the persons eligible to be on the voter roll on January 1 and the supervisor will start checking those information on January 8.

Assistant registration officers will begin re-checking the information on January 22. Any complaint about the draft voter list will have to be submitted by March 16 and revising authorities will resolve the complaints by April 1.

Meanwhile, CEC MAAziz yesterday met President lajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban and apprised him of various activities of the commis-

Describing the EC's role as extremely important in holding elections in a free and fair manner, he assured the CEC of all-out cooperation in carrying out the task.

Jewel himself also had one of those League (BCL) activist Rafig asked one-kg containers and used around 80 gram explosives in each of the

> bombs blasted in Gazipur. The SP, who received training on explosives in the US, told the press that around 150-160 bombs could have been made with that amount of explosives.

> Jewel is an expert in bombmaking and each bomb he made was unique and different, he added. Jewel also admitted to writing the leaflets found at the August 17 blast sites and sending threat letters to the local journalists and making threat phone calls to one of them.

He has lost regular contacts with his high-ups following the August 17 Masum and his parents, and blasts, Atiqul Islam quoted Jewel as Our Tangail correspondent adds:

Top JMB leader Jewel stayed at the house of his brother-in-law Shoeb. another JMB activist, in Balla area under Kalihati upazila in the district. for collecting members and training

The police said a big consignment of the bombs used in the JMB attacks in Tangail, Gazipur and Dhaka was supplied by Jewel. **FOREIGN EXPERTS**

IN GAZIPUR The team of eight foreign explosive experts from Singapore visited the Gazipur blast sites yesterday noon at 12:45pm. They examined the evidences of the bomb blasts. They also had a meeting with the loca police officials, sources said.

The local authorities, however remained silent on the details of the foreian experts.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Abdul Quayyum last night told The Daily Star over phone that the team arrived on Monday night to examine the modes of bombs and explosives.

"They have come as a part of bilateral cooperation and will only examine the bombs," the IGP said. This is the first time that any

foreign experts went to the district following the August 17 countrywide

Niko seeking

the second on June 24.

State-owned Petrobangla sent the letter claiming the compensation to Niko following the nod to go ahead from the Prime Minister's Office and the energy ministry, sources said.

A Niko official said the company would possibly send a reply letter today after consulting with the company headquarters.

A source said, the amount in the compensation-claim is around Tk 250 crore which includes Tk 84 crore for environmental damage and the rest for the burning of 8 billion cubic feet of natural gas.

Niko has been operating two gas fields in Bangladesh, one in Feni and another in Tengratila of Chairman of Niko Board of

Directors Edward S Sampson, with intimation to the Prime Minister's Office, energy ministry, Petrobangla and Bapex, removed President Quasem Sharif of its Bangladesh operations from his position.

Sharif had been working in that position since the beginning of the company's operations in Bangladesh

Brian J Adolph, vice president and country director of Niko. is now working as the chief of Bangladesh operations. None was appointed to the vacant post of president.

Industry sources said Sharif and Niko relationship was facing troubled times for last few months.

Following the second blow out in Tengratila Sharif was criticised for his mishandling of the project. Even some of his decisions were guestioned at the Niko headquarters in Calgary.

He was staying in the United States for the last four months having no relation with the company, a Niko source claimed. Sharif was absent during Sampson's recent visit to Bangladesh.

PDB skirts review body's

started test operations earlier this year. Moreover, Harbin lacks technical qualification to be selected as developer of the Fenchugani pro-

In the June 28 bid for the Chandpur power project, Harbin filed a bid beating its nearest competitor CMEC by \$11 million and Indian competitor Bhel by \$24 million. But as required, Harbin did not submit any technical bid, making its offer invalid. Yet the PDB accepted the offer.

Harbin to modify its offer.

Following a series of complaints with no response from the PDB or

The review panel found that the 'low price" of Harbin was based on a

phantom technical offer and did not deserve any evaluation. The PDB's tender evaluation reports were based on wrong interpretation of rules, deliberately biased and

therefore unacceptable, it said. The panel noted that the power division secretary, PDB chairman and the project's director lacked professionalism as evident from the way they handled complaints from the bidders. Coupled with this, the PDB's illegal practices 'do not uphold national image'. If they were professional, the officials could have handled the complaints them-

Rahman and said the government should uphold the PPR. Otherwise, the regulation will stand meaningless and the investors' confidence in the government will decline further, sources mentioned

Robber killed Rab 'crossfire'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A notorious robber, Anu alias Anu Dakat, was killed in a shootout between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and his gang members at Bhatpara on the city suburb yesterday.

Rab sources said Anu, 40, was captured around 4:00am on Monday at his parent's house in Bhatpara. The Rab men took him to the battalion headquarters where he was quizzed. On Anu's information, Rab men

took him to Bhatpara Katapahar around 3:15am yesterday to capture other members of his gang and recover weapons. Rab claimed Anu's accomplices opened fire on the team forcing the special force to return fire. Anu was severely wounded in the Rab sources said he was rushed to

Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College and Hospital where the duty doctors declared him dead at 4:15am. His body was handed over to the family yesterday afternoon after autopsy. The elite force also recovered two

revolvers, one pipe gun and two cartridges from the spot. Anu is the fourth person to be killed

n 'crossfire' in Rab custody in Sylhet. He had robbery, looting and 11 murder cases filed against him with the Sylhet Kotwali Police Station. He had also served two years imprisonment.

OIC meets FROM PAGE 1

the future challenges and proposes

comprehensive solutions that take into consideration political, economic, social and cultural aspects of the Muslim Ummah.

The summit, aimed at restoration of the Muslim nations' selfconfidence, involved Islamic scholars in the preparation of the summit agenda, which is for the first time in OIC's history, officials said. Meanwhile, the issues concern-

ing Iraq, Kashmir, and Palestine are not on the draft agenda of the sum-

The summit aims at doing some-

thing concrete rather than indulging only in political rhetoric, OIC Secretary General Prof Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu told journalists in Jeddah yesterday. "We condemn terrorism in all its

forms and that includes state terrorism. We condemn terrorism because it targets innocent people,' he said. Saudi King Abdullah will lay the

foundation of the new headquarters of the OIC secretariat in Jeddah. Besides 57 OIC member states

and five observer states, 25 independent organisations are taking The OIC was formally estab-

lished in September 1969.

Textbook

FROM PAGE 16

not accept it easily," Abu Taher said. Referring to the price hike of paper and other materials, he said publishers and sellers will go for movement if the government invites tenders without increasing the books' prices. Bangladesh Book Publishers

and Sellers Association also demanded that the government make good about Tk 1,000 crore that the publishers claim to have invested for publishing the new textbooks under the proposed

Different teachers and students' organisations yesterday demanded taking stringent actions against those who have financially benefited from the process of introducing the uni-track education

Meanwhile, Education Minister M Osman Farruk yesterday told journalists at his office that the government will soon sit with the publishers for ensuring the timely availability of textbooks to the students

Silk Route FROM PAGE 16

delegation started the journey from Kunming, the capital of the western province Yunnan of China on December 1, by two cars. They were scheduled to reach Teknaf point on December 7 and reach Dhaka on December 10. At present they are awaiting the

permission to enter the Myanmar territory with their cars at the rally point of China-Myanmar border. Meanwhile, Bangladesh government took necessary steps to receive

the delegation at the Teknaf point The Chairman of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation Dr Mahfuzul Hague will formally receive the delegation upon their arrival. "We are ready to receive them at Teknaf after they cross the river

Naf," said a high official in the ministry of communication. The ministry of home affairs and National Board of Revenue have taken special measures to give them immigration and custom clearances, he added. The Cox's Bazar executive

engineer of roads and highways has also been given orders to arrange ferry services for carrying the delegation with their cars. The communication ministry

officials said the visit would contribute a lot in establishing a direct road link with China.

22 Ctg journos

24 people including a retired army sergeant on Monday night and yester-CHITTAGONG

journalists of Chittagong and to blow up the Chittagong Press Club, reports BDNEWS. The managing committee of the Chittagong Press Club (CPC) filed a

general diary with the Kotwali police The hand-written letter received by post was handed over to President of the CPC Abu Sufian at around

JMB claimed that it has a wellorganised network in Chittagong.

In addition to the president and secretaries of the CPC and of the Chittagong Union of Journalists. resident editor of the Protom Alo. Abul Momen, iournalists Farok labal, Biswajeet Chowdhury, Anjan Kumer Sen. Samaresh Baiddva . Sumi Khan and Ali Abbas are also on the hit list, the letter said.

The managing committee has convened an emergency meeting tomorrow to determine the next course of action, said CPC president Abu

The managing committee in a meeting on Monday also decided to install CCTV cameras and metal detectors at the entrance of the fivestoried Club building.

A similar letter threatening to blow up the club and to kill journalists was

sent earlier also. A contingent of police has been guarding the club round the clock.

Our Staff Correspondent in Sylhet reports: JMB sent a letter to the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Sylhet Ansar Uddin Khan Pathan yesterday threatening to kill him within a week if JMB members are not released immediately. TANGAIL

Our Tangail correspondent adds: Tangail police yesterday arrested three suspected JMB cadres. Rapid Action Battalion arrested Saiful Islam. Imam of the Biswas Betka Ahle Hadith mosque on Monday night. Two other JMB suspects were arrested on Monday in Nagarpur.

Meanwhile, suspected JMB members Habil, Ahad, and Rustam, of Madarkol village under Delduar upazila in the district who are accused n the August 17 countrywide serial blast case surrendered to a magistrate court on Monday. They were sent to

KUSHTIA Our Kushtia correspondent reports JMB threatened to kill the Kushtia DC.

four magistrates and the officer-incharge (OC) of Bheramara police station vesterday Six pieces of cloths, which are used

to make shrouds, were attached to the letters sent to the DC and the OC, sources said. In the letter DC Jamal A Naser Choudhury, was warned that he will be

killed and all offices of the district administration will be blown up any-In the other letter the militants

asked the Bheramara OC to eat good as his 'days are numbered'. MYMENSINGH Our Mymensingh correspondent

adds: Shah Alam Bakshi, DC of the district, received a letter yesterday in which the militants said he will be attacked by suicide squad members within 15 days if Islamic law is not established in the country. Bhaluka upazila UNO also

received a similar letter sent by Shahidur Rahman of Bhaluka municipality ward no 9 who claimed that he and his three sons belong to a JMB suicide squad and his sons have been assigned to carry out an attack on the SIRAJGANJ

Our Sirajganj correspondent reports:

JMB on Monday night threatened to

kill two first class magistrates-Khurshid Alam and Munira Begum-- of the district court. Security has been beefed up in the

districts following the threats. DINAJPUR 128 die

FROM PAGE 16 by the crash. It was like being in hell," he said.

The C-130 aircraft had just taken off from the nearby Mehrabad airport en route to Bandar Abbas, a port city in southern Iran. It experienced a technical problem and was returning the Mehrabad for an emergency landing when it hit the building, state-run television said.

The plane, which belonged to the army air force, carried 84 passengers and 10 crew members, Iranian television reported. All aboard were killed, the mayor of Tehran, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, told The Associated Press. Witness Iraj Mordi told AP he saw

the plane as it appeared to circle the Mehrabad Airport before seeing its tail suddenly burst into flames, leaving a smoke trail in the sky as it plummeted. Mordin said he thought the plane

was going to crash into a gasoline station and fled, but turned and saw it slam into what he thought was the building's eighth floor. In April, an Iranian military

Boeing 707 with 157 people aboard skidded off a runway at Tehran airport and caught fire, killing three people. Last year, a Ukrainian-built aircraft carrying aerospace scientists crashed in central Iran, killing all 44 people aboard.

Our Dinajpur correspondent writes: JMB made death threats to the DC of the district, the district judge, and the UNO of Kaharol upazila yesterday

through letters sent to them. In the letters the militants said suicide squads will kill DC

the UNO within three days. The threats were made in the name of Moshiur Rahman of Bogra who is supposedly a member of a suicide squad of JMB. Bogra police later

blow up the school

suspected militants from Parbatipur upazila yesterday. SATKHIRA

letter to Satkhira DC threatening to kill him and to blow up his office if Islamic Shariah law is not introduced. Labelling the DC and all officials as

resign if he fails to contain corruption.

The police said Mufti Azhar, general secretary, of Islami Oikva Jote, a coalition partner of the ruling alliance. phoned the OC of local police station requesting him to release the

a separate drive Shahjahanpur police arrested Waied Ali, 35, in the district. Meanwhile, police sent JMB chief Abdur Rahman's nephew Abdul Mannan to a court yesterday with a

Khetlal police arrested Ishaq Ali, suspected cadre of JMB, yesterday from Telabadul village of Khetlal upazila in Joypurhat, reports

BDNEWS JESSORE

The identity of two women, aged around 35 and a child aged around

Of the injured, 25 were admitted

presence of the leaders of two other "We informed the BNP secretary general, who convened the meetng, about this," Amini, IOJ chairman and lawmaker, told The Daily Star, adding, "The faction led by Ezharul

refused to sit in the meeting in

ers of the Jote," Yousufi said.

Meanwhile, Ahmed Abdul Kader secretary general of the Ishaq faction, claimed that they are the mainstream IOJ. "It is unfortunate that we cannot sit together to discuss the present situation of the country. The crisis should be resolved immediately and we should sit together to create a national consensus on the strategies of facing militancy," he told The

ers of the Azizul and Amini factions accused the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, the major alliance partners. of fuelling the conflict in the IOJ by recognising the two other factions as alliance partners. The IOJ has four seats in parlia-

Surutzamman, the district judge and

Dinajpur Zilla School also received letter from JMB, which threatened to

Our Stakhira correspondent adds: Rabiul Islam and Shariful Islam, who claimed themselves as suicide squad members of JMB, yesterday issued a

Meanwhile, police yesterday

yesterday suspecting their links to militancy. The police raided a house at Jaleswashari in the town and arrested Munshi Habibur Rahman, 63, a former madrasa teacher and 60-year old Abdul Malek, an ex-army sergeant. In

prayer for remand. Rab arrested Mannan from Bogra on Sunday.

Our Jessore correspondent reports: Police recovered a powerful bomb from the premises of a fish farm at Kholadanga village under the Sadai

upazila yesterday. MANIKGANJ

Rahman Sunny often visited Ashulia Jame Mosque and he trained 23 vouths, 12 of whom took special training for suicide operations while the rest went to Afghanistan, police

Rafikul, a first year student at Sharif Bagh Madrassa at Kafran under Dhamrai police station, is now on a seven-day remand, said the police

7 killed

Parul Bala Datta, 58, of municipal area of Sirajganj and Rahul Islam 14, son of Dr Rashedul Islam of Bera municipal area in Pabna.

12 could not be known.

to Pabna General Hospital, Bera and Santhia Health Complexes. The driver and helper of the bus

where they are invited as the lead-

Dailv Star.

ment, of which three belong to the Amini-led IOJ and one to the Azizul-

always a tendency to restrict these 3 militant accounts FROM PAGE 16 balance in the account was Tk 581,000.

at the Bazar Road branch of the Sonali Bank. One account was opened on June 26 last year by two

unidentified men, Mamunur Rashid and Rabiul Awal. It now contains Tk 2.613. but the highest ever balance was Tk 324,000. The other account was opened on July 15 in 2004.

Two more accounts were found

grants 'blank power', it will be an government to intrude into privacy intervention into privacy and it may of correspondence and communibe used by unscrupulous people for

cation, he pointed out.

of authoritarian law," said Malik. Kutubuddin Ahmed cast doubts over proper enforcement of the 'modified law', saying it should be

there is wholesale use of the

it is not necessary at all, " he said. cellphone and land phone conver-

Exporters Association (BGMEA) would curtail fundamental rights of The government should take

adequate steps so that it is not misused for political purposes, he suggested. sion, strong vigilance would be maintained to ensure that none

could abuse the law.

countries including India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, the US and the

There are strong possibilities of abusing this law to harass people on different grounds, he said. It would hamper the interest of the business mmunity and privacy of the citi-

happy with the government

Tele-tapping plan rights by enacting laws to allow

> "The proposed amendment, if passed with general and sweeping terms, would be a classic example Outgoing President of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry

ensured that there is no scope for the law enforcement agencies to "It would be very unfortunate if

amendment. But considering the present situation, I don't want to say The government will place the proposed amendment to the act before Jatiya Sangsad at its next session for approval. Once approved, law enforcement and other agencies will be able to tap

sations of any one in the wake of

militant activities in the country.

President of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Tipu Munshi said the proposed law

According to the cabinet deci-

There are such rules in many

"Militant activists did not gather strength overnight and it is the failure of the intelligence agencies. So, amending the law to hide their failure is not a right decision for the government," said another business ader, wishing not to be named.

export earnings and Young One is the single largest investor in the The cellphone operators are not EPZs with 16 industrial units, 30,000 employees and over \$200 million annual turn over.

cellphones but you can't penalise eight million subscribers for this. The civil society should sharply react to such a decision. If the amendment includes provisions for taking certificates from police stations or something like that to become a telephone

industry might be in jeopardy, he

subscriber, the whole telecom

Bol curtails land But the present government raised

questions about the projected

requirement of land and delayed

The company applied for a

approval of the operating license.

license on October 8, 1999 with a view to complete the project by 2010 which includes establishment of 250 industrial units and an information technology park. The KEPZ authorities invested

about Tk 64.20 crore to acquire land

for the project and for construction

works on the basis of a master plan.

declined to comment on the latest

Bol decision but he said the project

A senior official of the project

cannot be established according to the original master plan on the land eft after the curtailment. The official said due to the delay in approving the operating license the project may not start before

The project was to create 1 lakh

direct and 5 lakh indirect job oppor-

tunities in the zone. The government approved setting up of two new EPZs in the country the Adamjee EPZ and the Chittagong Steel Mills EPZ to be developed by the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones The six EPZs that are in opera-

tion at present earn \$1.7 billion,

about one fifth of the country's

And later on, to cover up this major flaw, the PDB even allowed

the power ministry or even the Prime Minister's Office, the CMEC on September 29 resorted to the provision of the PPR and paid Tk 5 lakh to the IMED for a review of the

selves and uphold national dignity. At a meeting in mid-November, World Bank officials pointed out this case to Finance Minister M Saifur

Meantime, the law enforcers arrested

JMB yesterday threatened to kill 22

arrested Moshiur, his father Masudur Rahman, and his elder brother Mostakul Alam Mamun.

Dinajpur police arrested at least six

corrupt, the militants asked the DC to

arrested three suspected JMB cadres in Satkhira town.

Our correspondent in Bogra reports: Police arrested three people including a retired army sergeant in Bogra early

Our Manikganj correspondent adds: JMB member Rafikul Islam yesterday admitted to police of his involvement in the serial blast at Savar on August 17. He informed the police that JMB chief Abdur Rahman's brother Ataur

sources said.

FROM PAGE 16 village under Shahajadpur upazila

managed to flee the scene.

Consensus FROM PAGE 16 Earlier on Sunday, a meeting of the secretaries general of the alliance parties was postponed as the Azizul and Amini factions of the IOJ

Haque is not a part of the Islami Oikya Jote.' The Azizul faction of the IOJ, however, has taken stand against the faction led by Ishaq. "We believe the faction led by Mohammad Ishaq is not a part of the Islami Oikya Jote so we cannot sit in any meeting

The IOJ split into four factions in May this year following which lead-