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## NO TO DIALOGUE Bhuiyan, Saifur disappointed

Moudud says it deepens  
suspicion of AL link to  
bombings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the Awami League's (AL) refusal to sit in a dialogue with the government proves that instead of solving the militancy issue, they (AL) want to use it as a political weapon.

Talking to journalists at his Baily Road residence yesterday, the BNP Secretary General termed the AL's refusal to receive the PM's letter of invitation for dialogue as "unfortunate and discourteous", and said

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## ANTI-TERRORISM TALKS

# Chance of national consensus slim

Invited 30 parties, 15 trade bodies divided  
over joining the dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prime minister until yesterday invited 30 political parties and 15 professional bodies to a national dialogue on combating terrorism, but with the invitees clearly divided over the issue little possibility is there of striking a national consensus.

sus.

Except Jatiya Party (JP-Ershad), the mainstream opposition parties and opposition-backed professional associations refused outright to join the dialogue, while the ruling alliance partners, some minor political parties and pro-government professional bodies

accepted the invitation.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday and the day before delivered the invitation letters to the offices of the political parties and professional bodies of teachers, lawyers, journalists, physicians and engineers, saying

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## Khulna IOJ leader held for JMB link

Ex-NSI staff  
arrested

STAR REPORT

Police arrested a former employee of the National Security Intelligence (NSI) and his two friends for renting a house to the mastermind of Gazipur blasts, Jewel, regional commander of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) while death and bomb threats from the banned organisation continued across the country yesterday.

Two of the eight-member foreign team of explosive experts visited the site of the recent suicide

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# JMB's explosive supplier caught in Rajshahi

Govt mum about the sensational arrest

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Law enforcers on Monday arrested a key explosive supplier of the banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in Rajshahi region, but the government is hiding the sensational arrest for mysterious reasons.

Although State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar on Monday claimed to have "good news" for the nation, saying the authorities are arresting the suppliers of explosives to the militants, he

denied to give further details. "You will come to learn about it when time comes," Babar told reporters.

High officials of different law enforcement agencies are also abstaining from making any disclosure of their activities.

Different sources meanwhile confirmed that the name of the person arrested in Rajshahi is Tariqul. Terming the arrest "one of the big catches", they said he smuggled in the explosives used in all the JMB bomb attacks across the country.

Tariqul smuggled the detonators, power gel and other explosive materials by road, said the sources. JMB chief Abdur Rahman's younger brother Ataur Rahman Sunny paid Tariqul for the supplies, they added.

A team investigating into the rise of militancy and the bomb attacks across the country arrested the person, brought him to Dhaka, and is now quizzing him at an undisclosed place, some sources confirmed but declined to give further details.

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## Cabinet body rejects losing road contract

Turns down inflated health  
ministry proposal, okays 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Purchase yesterday rejected a communications ministry proposal for awarding a Tk 9 crore contract to a private firm to collect Tk 8 crore in revenues for the government.

The proposal projecting a Tk 1 crore loss was for contracting a certain private company to operate and maintain the 74 km Jagadishpur-Sherpur segment of the Dhaka-Sylhet highway and also to collect road tolls.

Meeting sources termed the proposal grossly flawed. One of them said, "Firstly, how can they want to pay this contractor Tk 9 crore when the income from this road is Tk 8 crore? Then, as this is an operation and maintenance contract, why there is no description of what maintenance tasks will be undertaken?"

The cabinet committee directed the communications ministry to either reduce the contract amount to a reasonable level or to scrap the whole idea and run the toll centre

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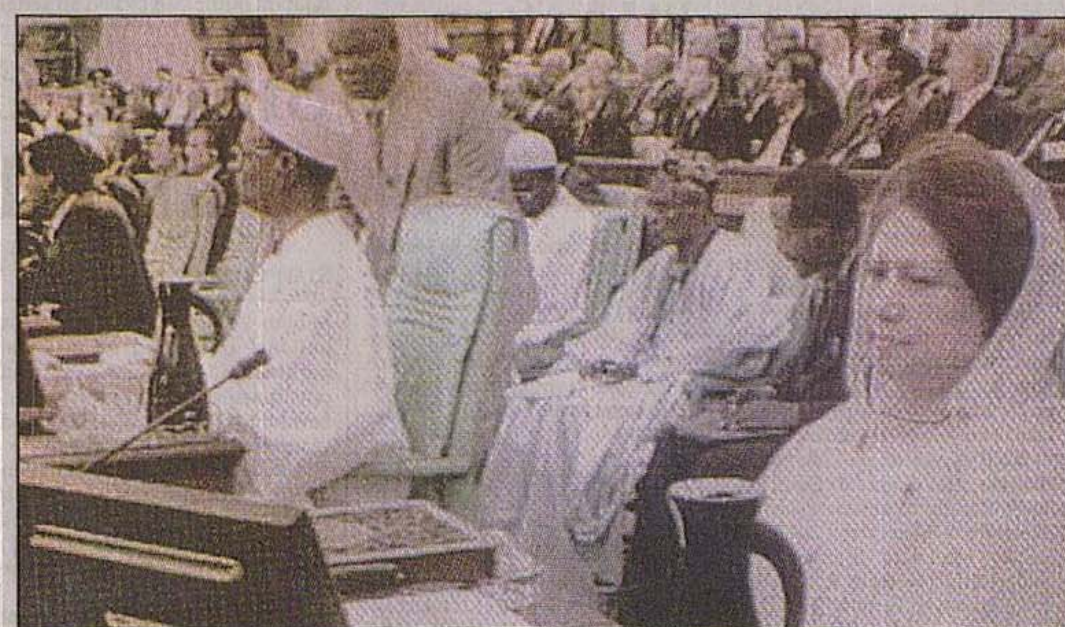


PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is seen at the third extraordinary summit of OIC in the conference hall of Al Safa Palace in Makkah yesterday.

## OIC summit opens with call to combat terrorism

AFP, Makkah

Leaders of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) opened a summit in Makkah yesterday with a Saudi call for moderation and tolerance and a rejection of extremist violence.

"Islamic unity would not be reached through bloodshed as claimed by the deviants," Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz said at the inauguration of the two-day summit at Islam's holiest city of Makkah.

King Abdullah, whose country hosts the 57-member OIC's head-

quarters, was referring to Islamist extremists, notably the al-Qaeda terror network of Saudi-born Osama bin Laden.

He called upon the Islamic jurisprudence arm of the OIC to "fulfil its historic role of combating extremism."

He also called for a reform of educational programmes in Islamic nations, which have been facing a relentless US campaign for changing school textbooks that Washington deemed intolerant.

"Developing the curriculum is essential to building a tolerant

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## Commentary

# The world has changed, our leaders have not

Political blame game continues as terrorists tear us apart

MAHFUZ ANAM

The opposition has rejected the government's call for a dialogue, terming it a 'farce' or at best a 'drama' to confuse the public. Why? Because the AL claims the government, while calling for a

dialogue, continues to blame the opposition for all the terrorist acts of the past, including the recent ones. As the guilt has already been apportioned, the opposition argues, the so-called dialogue will be only for the gallery (both domestic and international) while

nothing will be done to catch the real culprits, who they say exist both within the BNP and of course within its coalition partners, especially the Jamaat.

While we think there is substantial ground for the opposition to

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## SAFF CHAMPIONSHIP Bangladesh take on Bhutan today

AL-MUSABBIR SADI from Karachi

Bangladesh launch their title defence in the Fourth SAFF Championship when they take on Bhutan at the People's Sports Complex Stadium here today.

The match will kick off at 4.15pm Bangladesh time. Bangladesh, who won their

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