JMB continues to issue

admitted to Nilphamari Sadar Adhunik

The huge bang triggered panic among the college students as well as the slum dwellers. Four students suffered minor injuries while trying to come out of classrooms in a hurry hearing the sound of explosion

The police recovered seven bombs from the site of explosion and searched the pond and its adjacent areas to see if there were more.

found that pointed pebbles were used as splinters in the bomb. Superintendent of Police (SP) of Nilphamari Shoeb Ahmed told the press that it is too early to make any comment about the nature of the

up the Nilphamari Government Boys High School and Chilahati Merchant High School

Our Khulna correspondent reports Four farmers were harvesting in a field in Alaipur area under Tala upazila of the district at about 10:30am when some unidentified persons from a speedy motorbike hurled a bomb at them The farmers escaped any harm as

they ran for cover. The police said they suspected that the miscreants exploded the bomb

from a long distance for experimenta-

CHITTAGONG A powerful bomb was recovered in front of the Railway Polo Ground High School near the Tiger Pass in the port

Some passers-by saw the bomb around 100 vards off the school at about 9:15am and informed the police.

At 12:20pm a Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) team defused the bomb by slashing the wire fixed on it and took it to their office.

"The bomb has no timer device on it but its ingredients seem powerful," said a Rab official. SIRAJGANJ

Locals found a live bomb in front of the Hazrat Fatematuzzohra Hafizia Qwami Women's Madrasa at around 6:00am yesterday A team of Sirajganj police and

firefighters defused the five-inch bomb after one hour of hectic efforts and brought it to the Sirajganj Police **DINAJPUR**

The police recovered two powerful time-bombs from a paddy field in Bochagani upazila in the district vesterday morning after locals found them, our Dinajpur correspondent said. The police later defused the bombs.

Meanwhile, the JMB issued death threat through letters to the DC of Dinajpur and five UNOs in the district. The letter asked the DC to transfer the UNOs of Nabanganj, Birampur, Hakimpur, Chirirbandar and Phulbari

Al General Secretary and 14-Party

Coordinator Abdul Jalil told the press

after the meeting, "Many of the 14-

party coalition partners are yet to

receive the letter. So we will decide

whether to reply or not to the prime

minister's invitation after discussing the

decision on responding to the dialogue

offer would be taken after Dr Kamal

the government's deliberate reluc-

tance to taking effective action against

the militants led to deaths of hundreds

of innocent people in bomb blasts day

hiding in the alliance government are

brought to trial, the barbarous acts will

to quell the terrorists, the government is killing time in the name of dialogue and

discussions, allowing the evil forces to

reorganise," Jalil alleged.

"The government's stance on the

militancy issue is very much mislead-

ing and self contradictory, as it did not

take any action against its ministers

and lawmakers having link with the

militants," JSD President Hasanul Haq

Inu told The Daily Star after the meet-

He said, "At first, the government

should discuss the issue within itself --

in the Cabinet, among the ruling alli-

ance components, and at meetings of

their policymaking bodies or parlia-

Officials of the Prime Minister's Office

(PMO) on Tuesday and Wednesday

delivered a total of 38 invitation letters

of the prime minister to 27 political

to some other professional associa-

tions and political parties after the

No reservation

rights which go with the observer

status and that will be settled at the

next ministerial meeting," he said in

Afghanistan, Manmohan said the

country is going through a difficult

period and the government and

people of Afghanistan need "our

sympathies and support" to tide

President Hamid Karzai, the issue

of the destruction of the Bamiyan

Buddha by the Taliban was raised.

The public perception was that it

the issue with Islamabad of allowing

transportation of Indian goods to

of Afghanistan to Saarc, the Indian

been a part of South Asia. He hoped

all countries of South Asia would

agree on Afghanistan's entry into

prime minister said it had traditionally

Afghanistan via Pakistan

Saarc as a member.

Singh said New Delhi has raised

Welcoming the proposal of entry

was a "sad" happening, he added.

He said during talks with Afghan

Replying to a question on

Around 10 more letters will be sent

parties and nine professional bodies

THE INVITEES

FROM PAGE 20

over the problems.

"Unless the patrons of militancy

"When drastic actions are needed

But, a meeting source said the final

At the press briefing, Jalil alleged

matter sometime in the future."

Hossain returns from abroad.

not stop," he observed.

after day.

upazilas within December 24, otherwise all UNO offices will be blown up within December 30 **PANCHAGARH**

The JMB sent a threat letter to DC Azhar Ali, asking him to release all the JMB men arrested in the district within

The letter also said if any JMB men is arrested again, it will blow up the DC and if he fails to release the arrested JMB activists, they will shoot him down

Uddin of Sunamganj district on a Dhaka-bound bus from Meherpur. MAGURA

The police on Wednesday night caught suspected JMB cadre Shawkat Ali, 22, son of Badrul Alam Bakul, at his residence in Aksi village of Magura sadar upazila. Shawkat was produced before a court vesterday with a seven-day remand prayer. NOAKHALÍ

The police on Wednesday night held suspected JMB members Yusuf, 25, Abu Zafar, 27, Omar Faruq, 32, and Rezaul Karim, 27, from Begumganj.

The police arrested two JMB suspects-Hafez Mozammel Haq and Mamunur Rashid--in the town on Wednesday night and yesterday noon. Rashid claimed to be the imam of Barapukuria mosque in Dinajpur.

TRAINING GROUND IN **BOTANICAL GARDEN**

The JMB used the Botanical Garden in Dhaka as a ground for military training under the guise of physical exercise and morning walk, reports our Chittagong correspondent.

The information came out during the interrogation of five JMB activists arrested from Dhaka on Wednesday

Dhaka police held the five--Nazrul Islam Rubel alias Jewel, 26, Abdur Rahman, 45, Farhad alias Nasim, 28, Mohammad Hasan, 37, and Kamal Uddin. 40--following information provided by JMB men Akash and Mithu rested in Chittagong.

Quoting the five, police sources said Rubel, who hails from Jamalpur and is a martial art expert with black belt, used to train the JMB military wing activists under the guise of physical exercise in the Botanical Garden every

day in the morning and afternoon.

They said Rubel, who was held from a mess at Pallabi in the capital, joined the JMB as a trainer about a year

prime minister's return from Makkah

responded to the PMO expressing

their willingness to join the dialogue, a

the dialogue, only seven including two

actions of ruling alliance partner Islam

Oikya Jote (IOJ) have representation in

parliament. On the other hand,

although Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh

(BDB) has representation in parlia-

is not on the mailing list of the PM's

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan posed the

question to reporters, when they

wanted to know whether it is invited to

BNP, was briefing newsmen at his

official residence on Wednesday about

the government's position on inviting

AQM Badruddoza Chowdhurv after

being forced by the ruling party to

resign from the presidency formed the

BDB with two former BNP lawmakers

Janata League and Jatiya Party

(Manju), have one lawmaker each in

parties, who aim at establishing an

Islamic rule in the country, were invited

by the prime minister to the national

factions of the IOJ are components of

the ruling alliance. Of the four IO.I

factions, only two have lawmakers in

coalition partner, Bangladesher Jatiya

Party (BJP), have been invited. Of

them, the faction led by Dr. Abdul Matin

has four lawmakers but the other led by

Naziur Rahman Manzur has no repre-

chief Manzur had categorically

accused Jamaat of patronising mili

INVITED POLITICAL PARTIES

Jatiya Party (Ershad)

Jatiya Party (Manju)

6. Islami Oikva Jote (Azizul)

Islami Oikya Jote (Amini)

8. Islami Oikya Jote (Mohiuddin) 9. Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh

. Jatiya Samaitantrik Dal (Inu)

5. Krishak Sramik Janata League

National Awami Party (Mozaffar)

Islami Shasantantra Andolon

12. Jativa Samaitantrik Dal (Rob)

The BJP was split this year after its

Bangladesher Jatiya Party

. Bangládesher Jatiya Party (Matin)

Communist Party of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal

sentation in parliament.

tancv in the country.

1. Awami League

14. Workers Party

16. Gono Forum

20. Khelafat Majlish

17. Gono Azadi League

/lanzur)

Two factions of another ruling

Two other invitees. Krishak Sramik

A total of nine Islamic political

Of them, Jamaat-e-Islami and four

Bhuiyan, also secretary general of

A former senior BNP leader, Prof

the dialogue.

the political parties.

and some others.

dialogue.

Sources at the PMO said the BDB

"Is Bikalpa Dhara a political party?"

ment, it was not invited to the talks.

A few of the invitees have

Of the 27 political parties invited to

Response to PM's talks offer

JMB bicycle bombers

to MMCH later

MILITANTS

spondent

died during treatment at the hospital.

Doctors declared dead the second

suicide bomber when he was brought

treatment have been identified as ASI

Abdus Samad, havilder Shah Alam.

constables Ismail Hossain and

Humayun. The other injured are

Sudipta Pal, Sahana Begum,

Mohtasin Billah, Shafiq, Bimol Saha

Although JMB militants had threat-

ened on a number of occasions to

carry out bomb attack on government

offices, courts and educational institu-

tions, police did not take measures to

arrest the militants. They rather denied

all along the militants' existence in the

district, reports our Netrakona corre-

too had received a death threat over

phone told The Daily Star recently that

the threat was made from outside the

district. "There is no militant activity in

were sheltered in different madrasas

and mosques, taking advantage of

slackness of the law enforcers. Soon

the town became a safe haven for the

visited the spot and the victims at

different hospitals yesterday after-

noon. He instructed the law enforcers

to launch an extensive drive against

only in Netrakona but across the

country. Bombers must be cut off from

the ones supplying them with explo-

sives and funds. Besides, the people

will have to unite to resist them," he

As an uneasy calm descended on the

whole district after the ghastly attack,

paramilitary BDR have been deployed

n Netrakona town. Additional police

forces were called in from different

upazilas and were stationed at differ-

Police so far have arrested eight

Panicked, people shut their shops

people for suspected links to the

and businesses while vehicles

stopped plying the roads soon after the

scored in each half to take his per-

sonal SAFF tally against Bhutan to

four, while a sublime effort from

Emily ensured that the match fin-

ished with an identical scoreline with

the one in the first SAFF meeting in

Farhad opened the Bangladesh

Bangladesh scored their third

five minutes from time when substi-

tute Emily received a short pass

Dhaka almost three year ago.

the margin in the 58th minute.

ent points across the town.

Solid start

suicide bombing.

FROM PAGE 20

'Such blasts are taking place not

the militants and hunt them down.

Meanwhile, Lutfozzaman Babar

Local reports say many militants

my district," he observed.

religious extremists

said at the site.

SECURITY

District SP Ali Hossain Fakir who

Four of the policemen undergoing

themselves up apparently to raise the

Nasim is the younger brother of top

JMB leader Jahirul Islam while Hasan

is Nasim's brother-in-law, the police

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

A JMB letter yesterday threatened the

of Dhaka University not to allow their

students to sit around the hall at night.

Hindu bomber

criminals have attacked the common

people, Chief of the ministry's Media

the suspected suicide bomber

worked has confirmed his name as

the August 17 countrywide bomb

blasts 181 cases have been lodged in

connection with bomb attacks, and

charge sheet of 72 cases and final

investigation report (FIR) of six of

netted and 103 cases are still under

brother Biplob told our correspondent

that Yadav went to the spot to see a

Mine explosion

This is the first accident at a mine around

here. I'd heard that it had a problem with

the ventilation which trapped gases

underground and caused the explosion,

said He Wenping, who works at a nearby

colliery and has been a miner for 32 years.

were from poorer, inland parts of China.

pounds), state television said.

Local people said most of the miners

Families of the dead would each be

An explosion in the northeastern

Flooding at another Hebei mine days

province of Heilongjiang in late November

earlier trapped 18 underground. Three managers fled the scene, leaving rescu-

ers with no guide to the underground

compensated 200,000 yuan (14,000

bomb that was found there earlier.

About 700 suspects have been

Meanwhile, Yadav Biswas' elder

Yadav Biswas, he added.

them have been submitted.

investigation, he said.

FROM PAGE 20

The cycle repairing shop where

He informed newsmen that since

Cell Khandakar Manirul Alam said.

FROM PAGE 1

authorities of Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall

A letter from JMB and Harkatul

Jihad yesterday asked the principal of

THREATENED

number of casualties.

Fifth since the first ever suicide bombing in Jhalakathi, yesterday's attack took place in the hometown of State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar. Casualties rose to 25 with the latest one in a series of suicide blasts that earlier hit Jhalakathi on November 14, Chittagong and Gazipur on November 29 and Gazipur again two days later.

reports our Netrakona correspondent.

Hearing the news, officials of police and local administration rushed to the scene. Fire fighters splashed water on the bomb to keep it from blasting and laterpolice had it defused.

As onlookers crowded the scene two suicide bombers riding a bicycle got into the crowd and detonated bombs. One of them was in trousers and shirt while the other in lungi and Additional Superintendent of

Netrakona Police Saidur Rahman and Officer-in-Charge of Sadar Police Station Samiul Islam were at the site when the blast occurred. "Suddenly two men fell from a bike

and a powerful explosion rocked the entire area," an injured police constable, now undergoing treatment at Netrakona Sadar Hospital, told report-

Witnesses said the bombs that were strapped to the bodies of the suicide hombers blasted at the same time. The bomber in trousers and shirt died on impact. The blast severed his right hand and electric wire was found tied around his body. Udichi leader Khwaja Haider and

Jahanara, 35, of Patpotti area of the town also died on the spot while 44 including 10 police constables and the other suicide bomber were injured.

Of the wounded, 10 were admitted to Netrakona Sadar Hospital and the rest to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital (MMCH). One died while people were preparing to shift them to the MMCH. Ripon of Kachari Road and an unidentified man died during treatment at the MMCH

motor mechanic of Chhotobazaar area in the town, lying on the ground with most of his body charred in the blast. Another bomb, unexploded, was found tied to his right thigh.

Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. People at the hospital soon became unnerved, fearing that the bomber might anytime explode the bomb roped to his body.

hospital. The bomber eventually

union in Barhatta upazila of Netrokona. He is the son of Satvendra Chandra and Arati Rani, Netrakona SP Ali Hossain Fakir, however, did not

14-party
FROM PAGE 1
Metropolitan Police (KMP) claimed yesterday they have arranged full proof security for the rally by deploying police, Rapid Action Battalion and paramilitary

He however did not rule out the possibility of any untoward incidents

despite the beefed up security.

Meanwhile, the office of the opposition leader yesterday afternoon released details of her tour programme that said she will leave Dhaka at 7:00am today to attend the Khulna rally and visit Tungipara in Gopalganj. Senior leaders of the opposition

gathering at today's rally in Khulna. join the rally, organisers said.

Our Staff Correspondent in Khulna reports: The entire city has been brought

under a security blanket for today's grand

rally while tension is running high against

the backdrop of repeated suicidal bomb blasts in the country. "Full proof security measures have been taken for the rally and none will be allowed to enter the venue without body checking." KMP Commissioner Khan

Saeed Hasan told The Daily Star yesterday.
"Metal detectors and archway gates will also be set up to ensure full sécurity" he added.

Atotal of 1,500 police, Rab, BDR and Armed Police Battalion members will be deployed at all key points and the rally to maintain law and order, KMP sources

Opposition sources said they would set up their own safety cordon deploying more than 500 voluntéers.

AL Organising Secretary Abdul Mannan at a press briefing yesterday said any attempt to foil the grand rally would be resisted at any cost. He expected that about 10 lakh people will attend the rally. 14-party leaders of Khulna yesterday

urged people to show maximum restraint in any case of provocation by the govemment side. They also requested people not to carry any bag or bring children at the rally venue for security reasons.

Govt's inaction FROM PAGE 20

"Despite the presence of police, administration, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Cheetah and Cobra the country has become a slaughterhouse of militant terrorists only due to the government's lack of honesty and sincerity," she said in a press state-

Hasina said, "The ministers and member of parliaments (MP) of the alliance government are accusing each other publicly. If the government had courage and had no links to the militants, it would have expelled those ministers against whom allegations have been brought."

"When a drastic action is needed to quell the militants, the government is killing time in the name of dialogue and discussion, allowing the evil forces to reorganise," she added. Referring to the remarks made by

the state minister for home affairs that the situation in the country is better than ever. Hasina said bombs exploded in his home district within 12 hours of his 'boastful' statement

She said the militants have even threatened the celebration of Victory Day. "Echoing their voice, Jamaa" leaders claimed the situation in the country is not like 1971. It is clear to the people that the defeated forces of the Liberation War have let loose the militants in various names." she added.

The opposition leader asked the government to stop the bomb and grenade attacks and the activities of the militants to ensure peace for the

At the same time, she called upon the people irrespective of party and opinion to "free the country of terrorism, communalism and misrule by toppling the BNP-Jamaat government, the collaborators of militancy.'

Dad won't know

FROM PAGE 1 "Dad asked me to do well in exam and I have kept my promise. But I couldn't tell him this." said Shiplu, a student of Anjuman School in the district town. Haider's two-and-half-year son

Shaon is too immature to understand what happened. "While going out in the morning

he asked me what gift should I buy for a wedding ceremony we were supposed to attend today," said a wailing Shahnaj Begum, 30, wife of the victim. "He returned, but not alive...," she said.

Haider's mother was only saying "Bring my son back" Cultural activist Haider, joint

convenor of Netrakona Udichi, is among the seven people who died in the suicide bomb attack in the town yesterday mornin Another victim of the attack is

Joynal, a beggar. The disabled onehanded man was also known among the town dwellers. He had gone to the spot for begging as he found a big crowd there after the first bomb was defused

I hreat to blow up FROM PAGE 20

Claiming that the national anthem is a "Hindu song", the letter also stated that the national flag of Bangladesh belongs to the separatists.

JMB men with bombs are inside

the schools and would detonate the bombs any moment, the letter added.

The school authorities informed the local administration and the local police after receiving the letters. The incident triggered panic among the teachers, students and guardians

Take concrete steps

being faced by the Muslim Ummah and attempts to victimise the Muslims all over the world, the PM laid utmost importance on projecting the unity and solidarity of the Muslim countries and strengthening bonds of brotherhood.

During her speech, Khaleda Zia focussed on a number of issues ncluding strengthening of the OIC secretariat, promotion of intra-OIC trade and investment, combating fighting against Islamphobia and organising inter-religious

resources for poverty alleviation, establishment of an "OIC Emergency Fund" and establishment of an International Zakat Fund.

Stressing cooperation among the Muslim countries in all fields, Khaleda Zia said the focus would have to be on economic matters.

She suggested a framework agreement to establish a preferential trade system among the OIC member states and called upon all to sign and ratify urgently the existing agreements aimed at promoting trade and invest-

"Of particular importance is promotion of intra-OIC trade and investment," she said adding, "We believe that the target of intra-OIC trade reaching 20 per cent of the total trade of OIC countries by 2015 is achievable given our sincere efforts."

She said the establishment of the nternational Islamic Trade Finance Corporation and the wider use of the Islamic Corporation for Insurance and expansion of intra-OIC trade. She suggested 'a meaningful push

forward' in implementing the 'OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among OIC Referring to the common concern of combating terrorism, the PM said,

"At this critical juncture of history, we are all experiencing unprecedented incidents of terrorism affecting our In the war on terrorism, Muslim individuals and states have become

unfortunate targets and efforts are being made to stigmatise the Muslims and the Muslim countries, she added.

"Attempts are being made to equate our great religion Islam directly or indirectly with terrorism. Muslims in general, all over the world, are victimised because of acts of terrorism by a handful of terrorists claiming to be Muslims or acting in the name of Islam." she continued. She categorically stated that a

terrorist must be identified as a terrorist only, irrespective of his or her colour. creed or religion. "We condemn terrorism as such and in all its forms of manifestations." she said and urged the OIC to clearly condemn all acts of terrorism in the name of Islam and to take concrete measures in this regard.

"The alarming phenomenon of Islam-phobia is increasing, in effect, racism and discrimination against Muslims all over the world. We think coinage of terms such as Muslim or Islamic terrorists, militants or fundamentalists' in the media have contributed to the formation of an anti-Muslim feeling among the people." she said. A significant portion of the non-

Muslim population tends to believe in the venomous propaganda against the Muslims that are carried by certain

dominant sections of the print and electronic media, only aggravating the situation. This, in fact, indirectly helps the handful of terrorists who exploit the sentiments of the common Muslims,

Khaleda Zia said Bangladesh strongly supports and has participated in all moves to bring about interreligious, inter-cultural and intercivilisation dialogue and cooperation. "We sincerely believe that these can promote mutual understanding, respect and tolerance among religions, cultures and peoples," she said adding a dialogue among civilisations should be based on mutual respect,

The prime minister drew the attention of the Muslim world towards the advancement of science and technology for the welfare of the Ummah and said, "The more we educate ourselves

the zenith of scientific and technological advancement, our falling behind in this has contributed to the marginalization of the Muslim countries, particularly in the key areas of

Khaleda Zia stressed the need for nurturing the human resources with intellectual potentials in OIC member countries and establishment of new centres of excellence and allocating adequate resources to those institutions. She sought more supports from the Muslim countries in a substantive manner for the OIC-sponsored Islamic University of Technology in Gazipur.

The Islamic University of Technology is the realisation of the vision of Shaheed president Ziaur Rahman and the Muslim Ummah can indeed be proud of this institution for its remarkable progress in academic excellence and human resource development, she said.

Referring to the Palestine issue, the prime minister said the Muslim she added.

About strengthening of the OIC she said the immediate task to project the unity and solidarity of the Ummah will be to add vigour and substance to the

She also called for renewing commitment by signing and ratifying all OIC agreements and implementing

all Plans of Action taken up by OIC.

engulfing. But with the spirit of Islam properly infused in us all, we can surely tackle it to secure our position in the

Udichi again

militants themselves claimed responsibility for carrying out the serial blasts on August 17 and all subse-

For long a section of people were expressing concern over the rise of slamist militants and their destructive activities.

national militant outfit Harkatul Jihad Al-Islami (Huji) leader Mufti Hannan. saying he had a hand in the plot to kill the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina in 1999 by planting 76-kg bombs near her meeting venue at

taken against the militant outfit and its members for long.

On different occasions, militants Sunny and son-in-law Abdul Awal.

JMB militants led by Bangla Bhai and Abdur Rahman carried out exercises of their own style in Raishahi Naogaon and Natore in the name of outlaw cleansing operation with the backing of the local administrations and law enforcers.

ruling coalition ministers and lawmakers directly patronised the militants in the operation and provided administrative support to them.

Besides, allegations of patronising Islamist militancy were brought time and again against the coalition particularly Jamaat-e-Islami, even by many leaders and activists of the

Khulna, on October 8, 1999.

Ten killed at the Pohela Boishakh function at Ramna in Dhaka on April

Twenty-two killed at the AL office in Narayanganj on June 15,

Eight killed at an AL rally in Bagerhat on September 23, 2001. Four killed at an AL rally in Sunamganj on September 26, 2001. Three killed in Satkhira Cinema hall blast on September 28, 2002.

21 killed at a cinema hall in Mymensingh on December 06 Seven left dead at Falai Peer

Shrine, Tangail, on January 17, 2003. Al Leader Maniurul Imam killed in Khulna on August 25, 2003. Five killed at Hazrat Shahialal

Shrine, Sylhet, on January 12.

Journalist Manik Saha killed in Khulna on January 15, 2004.

Fatally injured in a bomb attack in Khulna on February 5, journalist

Shaikh Belaluddin succumbed to njuries on February 11, 2004. Three killed at Hazrat Shahjalal

Shrine, Sylhet, on May 21, Journalist Humayun Kabir Balu

killed in Khulna on June 27, 2004. One killed in a cinema hall in

Sylhet on August 05, 2004. One killed at the mayor's meeting

Twenty-three killed at an AL rally in Dhaka on August 21, 2004. Five killed at an AL rally in

Habiganj on January 27, 2005. One killed at an Akhaura shrine on August 12, 2005.

Three killed in countrywide serial blasts on August 17, 2005. Three killed in bomb attacks on

made on Sylhet judge Biplob Goshswami on October 18, 2005. Two judges killed in Jhalakathi on November 14, 2005.

November 29, 2005. One killed in suicide attack on

Grenade attack on Sylhet Mayor

Ten killed in June 3, 2001 at a church in Gopalgani

from Alfaz, dropped his shoulder to send Bhutan defender Tandin

9. Dhaka University Teachers'

Association

Ashraf Hossain have also voiced their

Some 25 districts including Comilla, Chittagong, Jessore, Satkhira, Magura, Kushtia, Jhenidah, Barisal, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Rajshahi, Dinajpur and Thakurgaon were considered Jamaat vote banks. But the scenario has changed a lot over the ast four years due to bickering of the

A BNP standing committee member, on condition of anonymity, said the party's vote calculation taking Jamaat along with it might very well result in disillusionment. "People may not like he said, referring to the Dinajpur-1 by-

Party (Ershad) leader Manoranjan Shil Gopal won the election as an independent candidate. Health Minister and standing

Mosharraf Hossain told The Daily Star, 'Those who want to create division in the party talking of Jamaat, are speaking against the party decision to include Jamaat in the coalition. So, if one still talks against Jamaat, s/he is talking on personal equation," he said.

in the election with Jamaat, there is no scope to think otherwise. Those who want to break the four-party alliance are talking in line with the Awami League that wants to break the coalition," he added.

24 Khelafat Andolon 25. Samyabadi Dal

Ganotantri Party

22. Zaker Party

26. Communist Kendra 27. Samaibadi Dal INVITED PROFESSIONAL BODIES 1. Supreme Court Bar Association President and vice president

Bangladesh Bar Council Dhaka Bar Association 4. President, Jativa Press Club Journalists (Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury) Bangladesh Federal Union of

Journalists (Gias Kamal Chowdhury) Dhaka Union of Journalists (Áltaf Mahmud) 8. Dhaka Union of Journalists (Elahi

Anti-Jamaat

suspicion of Jamaat link to militancy.

BNP at these places with the Jamaat. However, a source close to BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said the PM is not going to change her position on Jamaat. Although she is aware of the dissent concerning Jamaat in the party, she is determined to contest the next election with them as a partner.

the same old record again and again," election as a wake-up call for the BNP. Four-party alliance candidate and Jamaat leader Aftabuddin Mollah suffered a humiliating defeat in the seat that had been won by another Jamaat leader in 2001. Rebel Jatiya

committee member Khandoker "If the party chooses to participate

The new law has been penned at the suggestion of the USA in the wake of 9/11 and in the context of the worldwide rise in terrorist activities to prevent and crush money laundering and

October for scrutiny.

A BOMB UNEXPLODED People found suicide bomber Yadav, a

Police rushed him to Netrakona

Explosives experts of Rab defused the bomb at around 3:30pm at the succumbed to his injuries at around

Locals said Yadav hails from confirm his identity

SITUATIONAT **HOSPITALS** Condition of five of the injured undergoing treatment at the MMCH was stated to be critical, our Mymensingh correspondent reports. Two victims

Tshering the wrong way and curled the ball over the diminutive Singye from the edge of the area. Bangladesh will play their next

match against Nepal on Saturday. In the day's second match, India narrowly beat Nepal 2-1 including a youth aged about 18 years

Money laundering

According to another decision of the meeting, import duties from now on have to be paid through pay orders,

demand drafts or treasury chalans. The decisions followed threadbare discussions on a report tabled by a high-powered committee formed earlier with Bangladesh Bank (BB) Deputy Governor Mohammad A Rumee Ali in the chair. The other committee members are the managing directors of Sonali Bank, Janata Bank, Agrani Bank, National Bank, United Commercial Bank and Southeast Bank, BB executive director and deputy general manager, and National Board of Revenue (NBR) second secretary (tax).

Apart from the committee members, BB Governor Dr Salahuddin Ahmed, Finance Secretary Siddiqur Rahman Chowdhury and NBR Chairman Khairuzzaman were present at the meeting The meeting also decided to speed up the enactment of the draft Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing

Prevention Law crafted by the BB and

submitted to the finance ministry in

The draft law, which will replace the existing Anti-Money Laundering Act, provides for setting up a separate Financial Crime Investigation and Prosecution Office and taking foreign assistance to clamp down on financial crimes and terrorist financing. It clearly defines terrorist acts and prescribes harsh punishments including life imprisonment and death for such

"Militant activities can be controlled if money laundering is checked, as it is feeding these groups. But the existing

Anti-Money Laundering Act is not enough to address this new phenomenon," Saifur told the press. When the Anti-Money Laundering Act was enacted, he said, nobody anticipated such destructive activities carried out recently by the militants, adding, "Terrorist acts are happening

very fast, but we are falling behind,

being unable to keep pace with them." The committee headed by Rumee Ali was tasked with identifying weaknesses of the existing systems and finding ways to stop money laundering. After field investigations and scrutinising the nitty-gritty of the existing systems, the committee prepared a list of documents being used in the import procedure.

dealer banks and the land port authorities, the committee identified 13 weaknesses in the banking system and eight flaws in the customs. In yesterday's report, the committee put forward a 19-point short-term set of measures and some six long-

From its discussions with the

1 die, 30 hurt FROM PAGE 1 No one claimed responsibility and

few days ago.

term steps to stop forgery in import

procedure and money laundering.

no immediate arrests were made following the explosions. Police later recovered 10 unexploded bombs from the spot. Locals, however, said the miscreants who collect toll from the gold

businessmen carried out the blasts as the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) camp at Gangni was withdrawn a

14.2001.

MAJOR BLASTS Ten killed at Udichi function, Jessore, on March 6, 1999. Eight killed in Ahmadiya Mosque

2001.

Sylhet on August 07, 2004.

three district courts on October 3, 2005 A failed suicide bomb attack was

Ten killed in suicide bomb attacks in Gazipur and Chittagong courts on

"Once the Muslim Ummah were at

development," she added.

Ummah should continue to speak in one voice as we have always done. "We must maintain a principled stand for a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian question in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions, the Arab Peace Plan and the Road Map.

existing institutions. "We need to approach the OIC, the apex institution of our solidarity, in a more pro-active manner. This will enable the OIC to play a more effective

role in the international system," she

The PM said over the centuries the Muslim world has faced various challenges and on each occasion it came out recharged, strong in its faith and ever vigorous in holding the banner of Islam high.

She ended her speech in a positive note saying, "The challenge that we face today may seem to be all-

But this year the identity of the attackers has become clear as Islamist

guent attacks

They also pointed finger at inter-

Kotalipara in Gopalganj. No effective steps were however

fought with police and for mysterious reasons, police had to release militants including their linchpins Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) leader Siddigul Islam alias Bangla Bhai. JMB Chief Abdur Rahman's brother Ataur Rahman Even in March-April last year

There are allegations that some

rulina BNP CRONOLOGY OF

Seven killed at the CPB rally at Paltan in Dhaka on January 20,

Gazipur DC office on December 1. and AL leader Kamran on December

Liton, Abul Kalam Azad, Aurangieb Satkhira Women's College to introcombine will address the rally, which is Subrata Roy, Khokon Das, Milton, Visiting the site, our correspondent SHERPUR duce madrasa education in the institupart of its series of programmes to protest inter-cultural and inter-civilisation Three of yesterday's victims were Liton, Mahbub Zaman, Hirenda, Rony Nalitabari police arrested a JMB tion and threatened to blow up the the rise if militancy in the country and to identified as Udichi's joint convenor Nikhil Chandra Sarker, Saptam Saha member named Mohammad college hostel. She suggested establishment of a force the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition Khwaja Haider Hossain, Jahanara Suiit Dhar. Sushak Banik. Sumon Wahiduzzaman alias Daksu, 42, of Another letter sent to the headmismulti-lingual OIC electronic media to government to step down. and Ripon. Saha, Sarwar Hossain, Masudui The combine will also hold similar fight against Islam-phobia and project Bhati Baratia village under Nakli tress of Bogra Government High Back on March 6, 1999, a powerful School allegedly by JMB operations Rahman, Sattar, Alal Uddin, Shelly, upazila of Kishoregani district, from rallies in Raishahi and Svlhet as the true image of Islam. explosion at a conference of the same commander Mohammad Musa Rezaul, Munna, Ashraful, Razib On the proposals regarding funddignity and reciprocity. Garkanda area, said news agency announced from the November 22 grand cultural organisation in Jessore left 10 accused her of not paying any impor-Abdul Hakim, Shankar and Murshida. rally in capital to mobilise people for the ng mechanisms for capacity building Security has been beefed up in the people dead and scores of others **MEHERPUR** ance to Ismalic studies and asked her Bimol and Munna were shifted to January 22 long march towards Dhaka. poverty alleviation in the least town. The JMB earlier threatened to blow The JMB yesterday threatened to blow The opposition camp took all preparadeveloped countries and low-income to close down the school activities. Dhaka Medical College and Hospital The JMB yesterday threatened to THE CARNAGE tions in the last few days to ensure a huge member states, the prime minister up the Habiganj DC office if arresting as their condition deteriorated. Condition of no one of the 10 Locals found a powerful bomb 20 suggested setting up of a concessional fund with sizeable militants continues, said BDNEWS blow up the Pabna Alia Madrasa and its People from the adjacent districts will also yards off the office of Udichi Shilpi Meanwhile, Meherpur police students' hostels with bombs. The undergoing treatment at Netrakona the stronger we become." yesterday arrested JMB cadre Jamal Gosthi near Borobazar at 9:30am, threat gripped the students and teach-Sadar Hospital was learnt to be critical. SĂTKHIRA NETRAKONA: HAVEN FOR