

Hasina: Militants

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Presided over by the Awami League (AL) Chief Sheikh Hasina the rally was addressed among others by AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil MP, Abdur Razzak MP, Babu Suranjit Sen Gupta MP, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Tofail Ahmed, Obaidul Kader and Sheik Selim MP, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, its General Secretary Bimol Biswas, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu) chief Hasanul Huq Inu, General Secretary of Shamyabadi Dal Dilip Barua, former home minister Mohammad Nasim, Gano Azadi League leader Advocate Zahurul Islam, and Nurul Islam.

Hasina said situation in the country is taking an ominous turn, as Khaleda Zia is unwilling to step down. Only a mass upsurge can force her to relinquish power and save the country from fanatic militant outfits, she said. The sovereignty and independence of the country is now at stake due to escalating militancy and the killings of innocent people including judges, lawyers and policemen. There is no other alternative but to force the government of the four-party alliance to step down and save the country from being an abode of Islamist extremists, she said. Rejecting the offer for a dialogue with the government on the issue of militancy the leader of the opposition said "People cannot betray the blood of those who were killed by Islamist militants. The 14-party coalition cannot sit with a government comprising anti-liberation forces who are providing funds for killing democratic forces by forming suicide squads." She called upon the people to forge greater unity to get rid of the present situation for greater interest of the country. Sheikh Hasina said Islamist militants have made threats to blow up different academic institutions, key installations and government offices in December to prevent the people from celebrating victory day. She said an accused in the Jessore Udichi bomb blast case has been appointed as a cabinet minister. No murder case has been properly investigated during this regime, which obviously means that the killers are being patronised by the ruling party to destroy the democratic system. She said prices of essential commodities have gone beyond purchasing capacity of the people. Mills and factories have been closed rendering thousands of workers and employees jobless. Members of law enforcing agencies are yet to be provided with better facilities including pay hikes. There is no security of life and property for the people, she said. The AL chief said bomb and grenade attacks by militants are being launched in the country at the instigation of Jamaat-e-Islami, which is not unknown to the prime minister. She asked Khaleda Zia to agree to the reform proposals put forward by the 14-party coalition on the electoral system and to announce national elections under a non-partisan caretaker administration. She also said policies to run the government are being determined at Hawa Bhaban. Those who are controlling Hawa Bhaban are involved in money laundering and looting of resources of the country. Politicisation of the administration and law enforcing agencies have surpassed all the past records, she said. People now want to get rid of this 'fascist' government which is playing with fire by letting loose militant outfits, she claimed. It was a human sea on the Circuit House Maidan, the venue where the rally was held organised by the 14-party coalition. The ground has a capacity to accommodate at least two lakh people. Thousands of people started to enter the city on foot and by buses from Bagerhat, Sakthira, Jessore, Magura, Jhenaidah, Chuadanga, Maherpur, Narail and Kushtia from 8:30am chanting slogans against bomb attacks, rise of Islamist militants, killing of people in crossfire incidents and in demand of resignation of the

Udichi leader dies

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district unit of the cultural organisation and an employee of a non-government organisation (NGO). Daughter of Sunil Pal of Azahor Road in Netrakona town, she died at about 2:45pm.

Thirty-seven people wounded in the attack were undergoing treatment at MMCH. Condition of four was stated to be critical. They are Sumon Saha, 28, Sanwar Hossain Bhuiyan, 45, Abdus Sattar, 40 and Shankar, 40. Bimol Saha, 40, son of Dharendra Saha, and Munna, 20, son of Dulal Debnath, were shifted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) yesterday as their condition deteriorated. Bodies of three of the dead were still at the hospital morgue under police custody yesterday. None turned up to identify or receive those. Autopsies of the bodies have yet to be carried out, hospital sources said. Surgeons at the Mymensingh Hospital have operated on five of the injured as of yesterday afternoon. Pieces of iron used in fishing net and shrapnel were removed from their bodies, added the sources. They also said there is no scarcity of blood and medicines in the

hospital and the treatment of the victims was going on without any major difficulties. Many people gathered at the hospital yesterday to donate blood for the victims. Over 60 bags of blood were collected from them and the army men, said the sources. Meanwhile, central leaders of the 14-party opposition combine yesterday visited the bomb victims at MMCH. Matia Chowdhury, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Panakaj Bhattacharya, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, KM Jahangir and a number of local leaders were among them. They inquired about the condition of the victims. Earlier the opposition team led by Awami League (AL) President Member Matia Chowdhury went to the Netrakona Sadar Hospital and talked to the injured, adds our Netrakona correspondent. The opposition leaders also visited the bombing site in front of Udichi office and residences of the victims across the Netrakona town. The district AL will observe protest day today and enforce a dawn-to-dusk hartal on Sunday in Netrakona.

Declare militants

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Dhaka University Teachers' Association President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said as a section of the patrons of the militants, the government is not investigating or taking action against the militants.

"Astate minister's comment on one Yadav who was killed in the Netrakona blast reveals only the government's fundamentalist thoughts," Prof Siddique said, adding that the government has no headache about the life and security of the people. Drama personality Mamunur Rashid said the anti-liberation forces have united and are continuing their fight against the country's sovereignty, democracy, judiciary, administration, and constitution to establish so-called "Islamicrule". The government did not take any action though one after another bomb blasts have been occurring in the country, he said, adding, "We have no other way but to launch counter attack on the militants."

Dr Niranjan Adhikari, another vice president of Udichi, urged the government to declare the militants traitors and take action against them according to the laws. Udichi came under first bomb attack in Jessore on March 6, 1999, which claimed 10 lives. Cultural personalities Kamal Lohani, Fakir Alamgir, SSJ General Secretary Golam Kuddus, Assistant General Secretary Manjurul Islam Sweet, General Secretary of Kabita Oikya Parishad Mahidul Islam, President of Joybangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote Salauddin Badal, General Secretary of Kendrio Khelaghor Ashor Renin Choudhury, women leader Rokeya Kabir and language veteran artist Emdad Hossain, Dr Mohammad Samad, Mannan Hira, also addressed the rally.

Hindu boy

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embracing Islam. Sadhan gave up his religion and accepted Islam through an affidavit in a first class magistrate court in Kushtia on November 20. Following the conversion, Sadhan took the name Ismail Hossain after his "mentor". Sadhan stopped his studies in class X last year and took a job at Saptarshi Garments in Bheramara upazila town. Sources said two brothers Selim and Anarul, owners of the garment shop, goaded Sadhan into changing his religion. "The incident has forced my family to limit itself within four walls," said the UNO, adding that he is one of a hundred other government officials living in constant fear of attacks from the militants.

When the government is trying to give the impression that it has been doing everything to ensure security for the people through local administration as well as law enforcement agencies, the employees at the grassroots level themselves seem worried about their families in the wake of recent spate of blasts. The security situation has worsened even more with the introduction of suicide bombing. "The way things have turned out is frightening enough to hamper normal functioning of the administration," the UNO told The Daily Star, seeking anonymity. The letter containing the threat from JMB was originally sent to the place where the UNO had served seven years as a magistrate. The militants also warned alongside him the local deputy commissioner (DC) and a district judge not to run judicial work under law other than that of Allah. Panicked since receiving the threat after November 14 suicide blast that killed two judges in Jhalakathi, he declined to speak to The Daily Star either at his office or residence. This correspondent managed to talk to him only over

BIMST-EC

FROM PAGE 16
countries --India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand -- had in October decided to explore the setting up of a trans-regional gas pipeline and a power transmission network to enhance energy cooperation. The grouping had agreed to the concept of a power exchange and a common regulatory framework for grid interconnections.

PM returns

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nary summit of the 57-nation OIC in Makkah on December 7-8 that was convened by the Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud. Addressing the plenary session, she called for strengthening solidarity among the OIC member countries and taking a common stand to face the challenges of the Muslim Ummah. On the sidelines of the summit, the Bangladesh prime minister had bilateral meetings with a number of world leaders, including the sultan of Brunei, presidents of Iran, Pakistan and the Maldives, the prime minister of Palestine and the foreign minister of Egypt. Khaleda Zia also performed Umrah on her arrival in Makkah on Tuesday night and Ziarat at the Rauzumubarak of Prophet Muhammad (SM) in Medina before her departure on Thursday night. Members of the Bangladesh delegation to the OIC summit included Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, M. Mosaddek Ali, MP, Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office Khandaker Shahidul Islam and Foreign Secretary M Hemayetuddin.

Tri-nation gas pipeline

FROM PAGE 1
transmission of hydroelectricity from Nepal and Bhutan to Bangladesh, assured and unhindered utilisation of corridors for trading between Bangladesh, and Nepal or Bhutan through Indian territory and effective measures to reduce trade imbalance between India and Bangladesh. A Delhi energy ministry official said, "things are definitely moving in positive direction. Even if this is not resolved bilaterally, it will be resolved multilaterally."

At the first minister level meeting between Bangladesh, India and Myanmar on January 13, former state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain spelled out three conditions which the Indian minister assured of positive considerations. Upon his return from Myanmar, former state minister for energy Mosharraf said that Bangladesh will not sign the tri-national gas pipeline agreement unless India signs the bilateral treaty with Bangladesh. In the follow up first meeting of the techno-commercial working committee in Yangon on 24-25 February, the two-member Bangladesh team comprising the then Petrobangla Chairman SR Osmani and Director of Gas Transmission Company Ltd (GTCL) Abu Salek Sufi were given India's initial response. India's initial response to these conditions was: Nepal itself is facing power crisis and Bhutanese electricity is generated in Indian funded projects. Secondly, there is a limited transit facility for trade between Bangladesh and Nepal/Bhutan which itself remains under-utilised. Thirdly, to reduce trade imbalance, Bangladesh should increase its export basket by including items like pipeline project, road and rail transit to India's northeast-- instead of seeking a balance in commodity trade. But India eventually agreed to the three conditions of Bangladesh and included them in the draft MoU

and experts to discuss the technical matters to explore the possibility of a trans-BIMSTEC power transmission grid. This will involve India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand, says our Delhi correspondent Pallab Bhattacharya. A Delhi energy ministry official said, "things are definitely moving in positive direction. Even if this is not resolved bilaterally, it will be resolved multilaterally."

India is the region's biggest energy consumer that is perennially facing energy shortage. To stay even with its power demand growth, India must add 100,000 megawatt new power generation by 2020. This is why India is tapping all kinds of resources. India is also hosting later this month a meeting of senior officials

and experts to discuss the technical matters to explore the possibility of a trans-BIMSTEC power transmission grid. This will involve India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand, says our Delhi correspondent Pallab Bhattacharya. A Delhi energy ministry official said, "things are definitely moving in positive direction. Even if this is not resolved bilaterally, it will be resolved multilaterally."

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Life after bomb threat

FROM PAGE 1
superiors and informed them of the disturbing developments. They suggested he restrict his movements and avoid going out unless it is an emergency. "The incident has forced my family to limit itself within four walls," said the UNO, adding that he is one of a hundred other government officials living in constant fear of attacks from the militants. When the government is trying to give the impression that it has been doing everything to ensure security for the people through local administration as well as law enforcement agencies, the employees at the grassroots level themselves seem worried about their families in the wake of recent spate of blasts. The security situation has worsened even more with the introduction of suicide bombing. "The way things have turned out is frightening enough to hamper normal functioning of the administration," the UNO told The Daily Star, seeking anonymity. The letter containing the threat from JMB was originally sent to the place where the UNO had served seven years as a magistrate. The militants also warned alongside him the local deputy commissioner (DC) and a district judge not to run judicial work under law other than that of Allah. Panicked since receiving the threat after November 14 suicide blast that killed two judges in Jhalakathi, he declined to speak to The Daily Star either at his office or residence. This correspondent managed to talk to him only over

telephone during a visit to the area on November 18. "I'm scared even to tell the truth whenever anyone during field trips queries about my rank," he explained. "The nature of my work requires me to travel a lot throughout the upazila. It requires me to go anywhere at anytime. But most of us working for the local administration had to curtail our movements after the threats. It has put an extra pressure on us."

"I can't move freely. Each time before going out, I have to check my vehicle first to see whether anyone has planted any bomb. Besides, it's not possible to find a safe parking space at every place I go," he said adding that he did not go anywhere other than his office in the last five days. He is sure that like his, the way life of many others in the local administration has been disrupted in the face of repeated death threats against judges, DCs and other officials. He said, "The threats have changed our way of life. I had to instruct my children not to step outside the school gate and requested the school authorities to ensure it. It's not different at home too. I can hardly take my eyes off them for a moment. "I think it's very difficult for a judge to concentrate on his work in the prevailing situation. It is tough for them to do justice to his duties. "I've heard many judges fearing bomb attacks are holding trials in their chambers. From my experi-

ence of 11 and half years as a magistrate, I can say it is hard to hold trials inside a chamber. Because a judge or a magistrate has to see both the complainant, defendant and witnesses, and listen to what they say."

"Providing the judges and law officials with gunmen is no remedy to the security problem. The law enforcement agencies should rather try to get to the root of the militancy."

The UNO, who has yet to get any special security, said, "Since there is a crisis of manpower in the law enforcement agencies, we're trying to do with what we currently have at our disposal."

Since the serial blasts on August 17, government officials held meetings at upazila, district and division levels and decided to take special security measures including mounting watch around their offices. "We're keeping watch especially on the people who are regarded as insane in the area. I've already instructed to check whether they are really mad or involved in other shady business in the guise of a madman."

"I've also directed the officers concerned to keep under surveillance slums, madrasas and other religion-based institutions. Since it is not possible to ensure special security for all government employees, they have been requested to move cautiously, he added.

Under this plan, Tripura will pump gas in the pipeline for transmission to West Bengal through Bangladesh. And Bangladesh can also add its own gas in the pipeline to transmit it from one point to another. Besides improvement of diplomatic relations, Bangladesh will earn a lot of foreign exchange through wheeling charge when the project is implemented, sources mentioned.

Imams, devotees

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the procession. Activists of different Islamic parties including Hibirut Thair Bangladesh, Nezam-e-Islami Party, Khilafat Majlish and Islami Oikya Andolan also took part in the procession. Khatib Obaidul Haque led the procession. No untoward incident took place. "Islam is a religion of peace and it does not support violence," the Khatib said adding that Shaikh Abdur Rahman is an enemy of Islam. State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharef Hossain Shajahan also offered his Jum'a prayer at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque. He told reporters that he offered his prayers there to mobilise opinion against the bombings. A large contingent of police was deployed in and around Baitul Mukarram during the prayers. Besides, members of different intelligence agencies in plainclothes were also put on high alert at the time. Close circuit cameras were set up on the roof of the mosque and a number of police were put on the roofs of high-rise buildings and foot- overpasses near the mosque to avert any attack. A police van equipped with ambulance facilities followed the procession of the Islamic parties. Tajul Islam, sub-inspector of the Palton police station told BDNEWS that at least 100 policemen were deployed during the prayers and procession. "Besides, plainclothes police were also deployed in and around Baitul Mukarram," he said.

Meanwhile, the Imams of others mosques in the city, including Sheorapara Kendriya Jam-e-mosque, told the Muslims that Islam does not permit militancy. Our staff correspondent from Chittagang reports that processions were brought out from almost every mosque in the port city protesting the countrywide suicide bombings after the Jum'a prayers. Khatibs of all the mosques in their khutbas made special speeches against the blasts carried out in the name of Islam and urged the Muslims and the people of the country to unite to fight the banned militant outfit Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh. People from all walks of life spontaneously participated in the processions that paraded the city streets chanting slogans against militant activities. The largest such procession was brought out from Jama'atul Falah National Mosque at Dampara. Smaller processions from different nearby mosques also merged into the procession. Other large processions included those from Andarkilla Shahi Jam-e-mosque, Chashma Pahar Jam-e-mosque and Badurtali Jam-e-mosque. BDNEWS's correspondents from Jhalakathi, Nilphamari, Bandarban and Rajshahi reported that the Imams of different mosques also conducted khutbas and munajats so the increasing suicide bombings across the country stop.

Panic-stricken Netrakona

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Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital (MMCH). Meanwhile, police sources revealed the identity of a suspected bomber as Rais Uddin, son of Kitab Uddin, of Malni area of Netrakona. Thousands of people gathered in a mourning rally yesterday morning followed by a demonstration procession, condemning the brutal attack. The rest of the town remained quiet as most residents stayed indoors fearing further violence. Normal life was disrupted with most of the shops and markets closed and the number of commuters very few. The police and Bangladesh Rifles teams patrolled the streets, cordoning off the narrow lane where the blasts took place. Additional police forces have been deployed at all entrances to the district, while vehicles and people were checked at different points. ANOTHER DEATH The latest victim in the blast was identified as Sudipta Paul Shelly, 28, organising secretary of Udichi's district unit. Sudipta succumbed to her injuries at the MMCH at 2:45pm yesterday. She had suffered severe splinter wounds all over her body, hospital authorities said. The hospital authorities also said the condition of 10 other victims is still critical. Around 39 injured have been undergoing treatment at the MMCH. RALLIES HELD A mourning rally organised by the 11-party alliance was held yesterday morning at 11:00am. People from all walks of life attended the rally. Another protest rally organised by the Awami League-led 14-party combine was held at the Shaheed Minar at 4:00pm. The speakers at the rally blasted the government for patronising militants and demanded immediate resignation of the government. Central leaders of the Awami League, including Matia Chowdhury, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, KM Jahangir, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Ashim Kumar Ukil, Chhabhi Biswas, Monjur Kader Quraishi, attended the rally. The Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh

also held a procession from the city mosque after the Juma prayers, protesting the recent bomb attacks. CASES FILED Sub-Inspector Manwar Hossain of Sadar Police Station filed two cases against unknown Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) members for the bomb blasts--one for murder and another under the Explosive Substances Act. The complainant mentioned that a JMB leaflet was found at the scene after the blast, saying, "The Rab and police are our enemy and if the law enforcers try to resist or oppose us, they will be at our gunpoint." INVESTIGATION Although the state minister for home affairs ordered the local police to arrest the criminals within 24 hours of the blast, there was little progress in the investigation. The police claimed that they detained eight suspects but did not provide any names. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of sadar police Samsu Alam said the arrestees are being interrogated and their names will be disclosed after their involvement is ascertained. IDENTITY OF THE BOMBER Sources in the police department said the name of the bomber, who died in the blast, is Rais Uddin. The police detained his mother Lal Banu, wife Parveen Akhtar, uncle Babul Hossain, and elder brother Shahid when they came to receive the body from the hospital Thursday evening. The identity of four other suspects remained unknown. Meanwhile, hundreds of people attended the namaz-e-janaza of cultural personality Khwaja Haider at the city's Gozinpur Market mosque. His body was buried at the family graveyard Gozinpur.

Since it is not possible to ensure special security for all government employees, they have been requested to move cautiously, he added.

Since the serial blasts on August 17, government officials held meetings at upazila, district and division levels and decided to take special security measures including mounting watch around their offices. "We're keeping watch especially on the people who are regarded as insane in the area. I've already instructed to check whether they are really mad or involved in other shady business in the guise of a madman."

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Rise of militancy

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December, we usually have all 262 rooms booked for the entire month. But since the blasts began to take place, our customers have been cancelling the bookings. And we already have incurred a huge loss," he said. World Health Organisation (WHO) booked for this month some 100 rooms for a programme, but its head office had directed them to cancel the event following the recent blasts. A few travellers are visiting Bandarban this winter due to the serial blasts and threats of bombing. Most of the hotels and motels in the district remain empty, different sources in Bandarban said. On December 7, there was a booking for eight rooms. But the guests came and confined themselves to only four rooms. Eleven out of 26 rooms were booked for this month on November 23, but all of them were later cancelled. The motel of non-government tour operator the Guide Tour too has been nearly empty for the entire last month. "Only a few guests came last month," said the resort authorities. Only three to four guests have been checking in a hotel a day on average in the district for the last few weeks, says our Bandarban correspondent. In the capital, people are cancelling their tours outside Dhaka. "Nobody knows when the next bomb is going to blast and where. I promised my children that I'd take them to Cox's Bazar. But due to bombing scare I had to cancel the programme. I told my kids that I'm going to take them there but only after a few months," said Aman Ullah Hossain, an employee of a private company.

SAFF Championship

FROM PAGE 1
tent of the defending SAFF champions after their 3-0 victory over Bhutan in their opening match on Thursday. The boys of Diego Cruciani know that victory against the Himalayan Kingdom would also ease the pressure before their last group match against India. The match will kick off at the People's Sports Complex Stadium at 7pm (Bangladesh Time). In the day's first match, India will take on Bhutan. Although the players looked a bit rusty in the first half against Bhutan, Bangladesh captain Arif Khan Joy told yesterday that their 3-0 victory over Bhutan in the opener was not bad at all. "I am satisfied with the result as it was our first game. We started well but after ten minutes, we slowed down. Most of us were not moving fast because of hectic practice schedule either side of a tiring journey. We were a bit shaky in the first half but once we scored the goal just before the break, things have changed," Joy said at the team hotel. Bangladesh have won ten out of 15 matches against Nepal so far and lost two. "I believe if we don't concede a goal in 90 minutes, we will win. The coach has made that possible by changing our style. In the past, we used to play the long-ball game. But it has changed. Now, the key is playing short-passes and keep possession," said the Abahani midfielder who is leading the national team for the first time.

Other speakers included TIB Trustee Hafizuddin Khan, Tanjibul Islam Chowdhury of Changemakers, DU Professor Golam Rahman, Advocate Abdus Sabur and poet Asad Chowdhury. Later, TIB also awarded prizes to winners of the essay competition and debate on curbing corruption held last month. Marufa Aktar of Habiganj Adarsha High School, Tarafdar Tasneem Rahat of Dhaka Agrani School and College and Asir Intisar Khan of Comilla Zila School got the first, second and third prizes in the essay competition for school students. Abdullah Maruf of New Government Degree College, Rajshahi, Kazi Rawnak Jahan of Shaheed Bir Uttam Lieutenant Anowar Girls' College and Mousumi Aktar of BAF Shaheen College got prizes in the competition for college students. ABM Enamul Hasan of Shahjalal Science and Technology University, Sylhet, Inamul Haque Sagar of Kishoreganj Guruday Government College and BM Mulehuddin Zilani of Chandpur Government College won prizes in the essay competition for university students. DU Rokeya Hall won the debate competition, beating DU Law department.

Rivalry of 2 main parties

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only helps the militants."

He regretted that politics now is the other name of investment for making quick money, and in the absence of effective deterrence against corruption it has become so widespread that general people are badly affected by it. Former commerce minister and a BNP lawmaker Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said the main problem in the county is the failure to necessary build public institutions and run them effectively. Explaining this, he said hearings on various national issues by the parliamentary standing committees should be held regularly and broadcast to bring accountability and transparency in the running of the state. The lawmakers should come forward in this regard. Stressing political will to curb corruption, Prof Salauddin Alimuzzaman of Dhaka University (DU) said more studies should be conducted on ways to eradicate it. He suggested making a survey on how the least-corrupt countries fought it. The PRSP objectives or the Millennium Development Goals cannot be achieved if corruption is not curbed, he thought. Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Maulana Abdus Sobhan said the government must design a mechanism to find out the sources of income of high officials and lawmakers. TIB Trustee Board Member Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, who moderated the seminar, said they always want to help the government in its development initiatives but unfortunately it takes them as rivals. Women's rights leader Khushi

Tangail: Bomb

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Hadith community. He disclosed to the police that a large quantity of explosives and bomb-making materials had been kept hidden in the area. Based on his statement, a team of the Detective Branch (DB) went to the area yesterday noon prompting two persons to run away from a tinshed house constructed on a beel (swamp) at Bhurbhuria under Delduar. The law enforcers raided the house and found the explosives and bomb-making materials. A large number of the police and Rab members cordoned off the area. The law enforcers arrested Sohnel from the house who informed them that the two young men who fled the scene are Meer Sumon and Meer Dipon, sons of Solaiman of nearby Baruha Maddhyapara village. The law enforcers arrested Solaiman, who works as a sub-assistant engineer in the Telegraph & Telephone office in Rajshahi. Captain Tareq of Rab-9 said, "With the explosives and bomb-making materials recovered, around 200 bombs similar to those now being used by JMB suicide squads, could be made."

Magistrate from Tangail went to the scene and prepared a list of confiscated materials. Flight Lieutenant Shajahan of Rab-9, who led the drive, said circumstantial evidences suggest that the place had been used to make bombs earlier. The explosives and bomb-manufacturing materials were wrapped in a newspaper published on December 2, suggesting that those were brought in last week. Sources in the intelligence agencies said JMB militants established a strong network in Tangail and carrying out their activities out of a good number of mosques run by a Kuwait based NGO, Revival of Islamic Heritage Society (RIHS). JMB had created safe houses at different parts of Tangail where militants were trained on how to blast bombs.