# Terrorism figures in **OIC Summit: FM**

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT** 

The issue of terrorism was considered extensively at the 3rd extraordinary summit of OIC in Makkah and all leaders strongly condemned the acts of violence and terror being carried out by a few misquided individuals and groups in the name

Leaders at the summit, which endorsed the proposal to set up an International Centre for Counter-Terrorism to serve as a network in tracking down those elements involved in acts of terror, took an unanimous stand against those engaged in tarnishing the image of

Speaking at a press briefing yesterday on the outcome of the just concluded summit, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia underscored Bangladesh's firm position on terrorism and urged the OIC to clearly condemn all acts of terrorism in all forms and manifestations and take concrete measures to counter

Khaleda also underscored the need for establishing a multi-lingual OIC electronic media to reach out to peoples across the world in an effort to fight against the alarming phenomena of Islamophobia

Morshed said the PM's speech and proposals were highly acclaimed by the OIC leaders, who supported the setting up of an OIC electronic media to inform the world people about Islam and the message of the holy Quran as well as counter the propaganda against

Khaleda in her interventions at

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An unbiased civil society can play a

pivotal role in bringing about an

effective and meaningful parliamen-

speakers at a seminar here said

They called for inviting the civil

society members in the meetings of

parliamentary standing committees

in this regard and said parliamen-

tary democracy can be benefited

from the suggestions and guidelines

'Parliamentary Committees and the

Civil Society in Bangladesh', organ-

ised by the Strengthening

Parliamentary Democracy (SPD) Project of United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP)

and Parliament of Bangladesh, was

held at Hotel Agrabad yesterday. Former minister LK Siddiqui MP

was present as chief guest in the

inaugural session, chaired by whip

of the Jaitya Sangsad Syed Wahidul

Alam MP. Project Implementation

Specialist of the SPD Professor

ATM Obaidullah delivered address

sented in the plenary session.

Professor Muhammad Yeahia

Akhtar of the Department of Political

Science, Chittagong University,

read out his paper on 'Relations

between Parliamentary

Committees and the Civil Society in

Bangladesh' and Omar Kaiser,

Chittagong bureau chief of the daily

Bhorer Kagoj presented another

Committees in Bangladesh and the

Professor Yeahia in his paper

raised question about the compe-

tence of the members of

Parliamentary Standing

Committees and lack of profession-

strengthening the JS to make parlia-

mentary democracy meaningful and

to achieve this goal a stronger

"There is no alternative to

'Parliamentary

paper on

Civil Society'.

Two keynote papers were pre-

The daylong seminar titled

human resources of the Ummah through education in engineering and technology and sought further support for Islamic University of Technology in Bangladesh to strengthen the institution.

The foreign minister said a major outcome of the summit was that the entire Islamic Ummah was unanimous in expressing their outrage at the acts of the few who have hijacked the true image of Islam and the path of peace and goodness to e it a bad name

OIC leaders also expressed their firm resolve to unitedly confront the misguided groups and put an end to their efforts to defame Islam, he

He said the preambular paragraph of the final communiqué reads: "The summit reaffirmed that Islam is a religion of moderation which rejects bigotry and extremism, and underlines the importance of combating deviant ideology using all available means, besides developing educational curricula that firmly establish the values of understanding, tolerance, dialogue and multilateralism in accordance with the tenets of Islam.

Morshed said the summit highly appreciated Khaleda's decision to project the actual teachings of Islam and promote tolerance through the ams of mosques in Bangladesh.

He said the leaders of Islamic countries laid emphasis on the united efforts of political leaders, academicians and civil society nembers in the fight against terrorism and this was reflected in Makkah Declaration.

The foreign minister said terrorism in all its forms and manifesta-

democracy meaningful

Speakers say at Chittagong roundtable

Unbiased civil society can make

is not confined to any particular religion, race, colour or country, and this in no way can be justified or rationalised.

He said the leaders vowed to develop their respective laws of the land and frame legislation to root out terrorism and stop every single practice leading to the financing or nstigating the terrorism.

The Makkah Declaration also called for an orchestrated international effort to combat terrorism, including establishment of an International Counter-Terrorism Centre as endorsed by the Riyadh International Conference on combating terrorism, he added.

Replying to a question, Morshed said the counter-terrorism centre will complement and supplement and not to create any conflict with the UN counter-terrorism body or any other countries' efforts towards eliminating terrorism.

"Rather it would be helpful for all." he added.

He told a questioner that the OIC would soon start talking with the member states to prepare modalities and venue of the counterterrorism centre.

Morshed also hinted about holding of another extra-ordinary summit of the OIC after the OIC Foreign Ministers' meeting in Azerbaijan to follow up the decisions of the just concluded summit.

Foreign Affairs Advisor Reaz Rahman, Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin and other high offi-

trengthening Parliamentary Democracy

raise their voice for issues like

Chittagong port, court building,

He emphasised the need for

greater interaction between the civil

society and parliamentary standing

committees for the benefit of the

country as a whole

Professor Mahbub Ullah, Professor

Khanam, Professor Abdur Noor,

Shams Uddin, Professor Rashida

Professor Badiul Alam, Dr Abul

Kalam Azad and Professor Ali

Imdad of Chittagong University,

Jamaat-e-Islami leaders AJM

Obaildullah and Mohammad Tarek

and registrar of Maa O Shishu

Hospital Sved Murshed Hossain

man of standing committee on the

ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts

(CHT) affairs, and Shahjahan

Chowdhury, chairman of standing

committee on the ministry of hous-

ing and public works, replied the

queries and allegations made by

Mosharraf Hossain MP, chair-

discussed on the topics.

Bridge and ship breaking yards."

Khal, Karnaphuli Third

Whip Wahidul Alam speaks at a seminar on 'Strengthening Parliamentary

Democracy' at Hotel Agrabad in Chittagong yesterday.

parliamentary standing committee

democratic practices in political

parties and ill political interest in the

process of nomination have attrib-

uted the unwanted access of incom-

petent and dishonest people in the

suggestions to have a strong parlia-

ment as well as effective standing

to award nominations to the unedu-

cated, dishonest industrialists,

smugglers and owners of black

money during the parliament elec-

tions saying "If we can ensure

selection of honest person then I

believe the parliamentary democ-

racy and the standing committees

Journalist Omar Kaiser in his paper

said the civil society could also play

a role in bringing a positive change

Chittagong-perspective, he said,

in the port city has in recent time

The members of civil society here

Citing some examples in

be further strengthened".

Professor Yeahia made some

He urged the political parties not

parliament

in the society.

He said low literacy rate, lack of

system is badly needed," he said.

iliaht due to overbookina. "We were instructed by higher authorities not to hamper flight schedules of the pilgrims at any cost. This might have caused the overflow and five to 10 percent overflow or overbooking is quite a normal incident," he told this correspondent yesterday evening adding that alternative flight arrangements for the 66 passengers were already

#### Dialogue won't be fruitful without AL Says Ershad

UNB, Dhaka

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday replied to the Prime Minister's letter accepting her invitation to take part in a nationa dialogue to devise ways of facing bomb terrorism unitedly.

"We'll have our suggestions and place those during discussion with the Prime Minister for overcoming the crisis," Ershad told UNB. Date and time of the dialoge have no been fixed.

Asked if the dialogue will be fruitful without Awami League's participation, he said, "I don't think it would be fruitful without participation of a major opposition party. It would have been good if they

### Obituary

**CU CORRESPONDENT** 



Mostafizui Rahman, a renowned industrialist passed away at his residence at Panchlaish in Chittagong city yesterday at the

He was the chairman of Mostafa Group of Industries. He is survived by his wife, seven sons, four daughters and a number

of grandchildren. He was buried at his family graveyard in Lohagara upazila.

## **CU Pritilata**

The resident students of Pritilata Hall of Chittagong University (CU) yesterday submitted a memorandum to the vice-chancellor demanding uninterrupted supply of water in the hall.

In the memorandum the students alleged that there was not a single drop of water at the dormitory which had been experiencing irregular supply of water for the last six months.

As a result, the students had to suffer a lot of troubles while some were forced to leave the hall. Earlier, the agitating students

brought out a procession demand-Bangladesh (JAAB) organised the ing regular and sufficient supply of seminar titled 'Agriculture and While receiving the memo. VC Prof AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury assured the students of taking

Eradication of Food Deprivation in Rural Bangladesh' at Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council

EPZ workers stage a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding their rights to trade union representation. The workers took out a silent procession on the occasion of World Human Rights Day.

HUMAN RIGHTS FAIR HELD IN CHITTAGONG

### 'Take strong stand against corruption'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

PM to visit Saarc states next year

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will visit some Saarc countries as

Chairperson of the seven-nation grouping during the first half of next

year, a foreign ministry source said

confirm whether her visits would

include India and Pakistan. There is

pending invitations from both the

Saarc countries, the source said.

OVERBOOKING

Passengers

ransack Ctg

Biman office

at Sholoshahar in the port city.

Hajj pilgrims on the flight.

that of manager

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

ransacked the Biman Regional Office

Sources said they went to wildcard demonstration following cancella-

tion of their flight schedule of

Jeddah-bound BĞ-037 by Bimar

authorities to make way for some

uled at around 1:45am yesterday

they became furious at the

Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport, went to the

Biman office at around 8:00am and

ransacked different rooms including

Station rushed to the spot and

managed to calm them down.

Sources said the incident occurred

due to overbooking of passengers

mainly pilgrims from both

Chittagong and Dhaka, in the flight

Admitting the fault, Biman

District Manager JC Barua said

about 66 Jeddah-bound passen-

gers couldn't avail of their schedule

that has 274-seat capacity.

A team of Panchlaish Police

Unable to catch the flight sched-

The source, however, could not

here yesterday.

Speakers at a discussion vesterday called on every member of society to take a strong stand against corruption, which leads to the violation

They also called for removing the corrupt leadership at the grassroots level and forging a movement against corruption

They were addressing the inaugural ceremony of a Human Rights Fair at the auditorium of the Institute of Engineers in Chittagong city.

The Academy for Educational Development (AED) and the Bangladesh Institute for Theatre Arts in cooperation with a USAIDfunded project of Bangladesh Human Rights Advocacy Programme (BHRAP) organised the daylong fair to mark the World Human Rights Day.

The speakers also called for

State Minister for Home Affairs

Lutfozzaman Babar yesterday said

trial in the August 17 serial bomb

blasts will start from January after

the court vacation and most of them

He said those who are pulling the

strings from behind JMB leader

Shaikh Abdur Rahman and Bangla

Bhai of JMJB must be searched out

Bangla Bhai know very well what

they are doing. But why they are

doing, on what purpose, for whose

benefit and who are behind them

must be dug out," he said these

while was inaugurating the South

Babar said those trying to estab-

lish Bangladesh as a terrorist state

would also be unveiled and he

sought cooperation from the people

An increased rural productivity is a

must to ensure food security in the

country, speakers at a seminar said

up after independence, specially

after 1991, but the rural productivity

has come down sharply, causing

greater unemployment in rural

areas in the last decade, they said

adding that unsustainable policies

ways of increasing rural productivity

for millions of agriculture workers to

reduce the number of people suffering

from food deprivation." Prof Mosharraf

Hossain, a development expert and a

former member of the Planning

Commission, said in his keynote

JICA Alumni Association,

"We need to seriously consider the

are responsible for this situation.

The per capita income has gone

Speakers tell seminar

in this daunting task of his ministry.

"Shaikh Abdur Rahmna and

will be completed by February.

and their motives unearthed.

Keraniganj Police Station.

AUG 17 SERIAL BOMB BLASTS

Trial will begin in

January: Babar

South Keranigani thana inaugurated

establishing independent judiciary anti-corruption commission and election commission and a strong local government system. Speaking as the chief guest,

former chief advisor of a caretaker government Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman said corruption is an obstacle to redressing the violations of human rights. The judiciary should be made

more effective in order to protect and promote the human rights, he said and called on the administration and the people involved in the judicial system to play an active role in this regard.

The Anti-Corruption Commission formed under the pressure of donors also lacks adequate manpower and proper rules and the country is yet to sign the UN Anti-Corruption Convention Charter, he

Justice Habibur Rahman

"We will have to root out militancy

He said police so far rounded up

600 militants and some 85 charge

sheets were submitted in connec-

tion with the August 17 serial bomb

chaired by Baktiar Alam, SP of

Dhaka District. State Minister for

Labour and Employment Amanullah

Aman, IGP MA Quayyum and DG of

Rab Aziz Sarkar were present at the

Station consists of five

unionsKonda, Teghuria, Suvadda,

Aganagar and Basta. With this, the

number of police stations in Dhaka

Increase rural productivity

district rose to seven.

to ensure food security

The South Keraniganj Police

The inaugural function was

with cooperation of all, establish

Islam as a religion of peace," he told

the police function.

stressed the need for appointing an ombudsman in every sector of the administration to check partisan domination and for amending the Official Secrets Act.

Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Abul Momen, resident editor of the Prothom Alo in Chittagong, writer Selina Hossain and Gene George, director of USAID, also spoke as special guests

They underscored the need for political commitment from the niahest level of the aovernment to making the anti-corruption commission an independent and effective

They also said the movement should be geared towards putting an end to corruption, not against any particular government.

Almost all the problems facing the nation today have resulted from corruption, they said, adding that the people have been deprived of their rights because of corruption.

Presenting some statistics, the speakers said that 36 percent of children had to give bribes for admission to schools and around one third of those receiving stipends had to give bribes for enlisting the names while 54 percent of female students receiving stipends do not get 40

percent of the stipend money. In the health sector, around one third of the outdoor patients at public hospitals had to give bribes to receive proper treatment and medicines while 54 percent of them had to give bribes to get x-rays and other

diagnostic tests done, they said. Around 78 percent of people deprived of human rights had to bribe police to lodge general diary, the speakers said.

Corruption is contributing to the rise of poverty as it eat away around 7.5 percent of the daily income of general people and 9.5 percent of those living below poverty level,

Chief of Party of AID/BHRAP Susan Ward and BITA Executive Director Shishir Datt gave the address of welcome at the inaugural ceremony.

Civil society members and US Embassy officials also attended the function.

As many as 24 non-government organisations took part in the Human Rights Fair.

seminar as special guests. Vice-President of JICA Alumni Association Mohammad Azmal Chowdhury chaired the function, which was also addressed by Alumni General Secretary Mohammad Eiar Uddin, Professor Anwar Hossain and Professor Ashraf Uddin Chowdhury of Dhaka University, and Alumni Seminar Secretary Dr M Mofazzal

Bangladesh needs to create a linkage between agriculture and rural development in the true sense to ensure food security and sustain-

they are led to the right direction.

agri-productivity and introducing measures to promote diversified economic activities outside the agriculture sector

### 'Oust Jamaat men from cabinet'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Islami Shasontantra Andolon (ISA) yesterday demanded expulsion of the Jamaat-e-Islami members from the cabinet, saying that the ruling coalition partner has been patronising the religious militants.

"Unless the Jamaat is ousted from the ruling coalition, it is not possible to track down the masterminds behind the bomb attacks. SAAmeer Syed Mohammad Fazlul Karim said at a press conference at its office in the city.

He also called on the four-party alliance government to step down if it is unable to resolve the national crises, including the rise of mili-

The government's offer of diaogue with the opposition parties and professional bodies has been questionable, he said, adding that such dialogue is being arranged for its political gains.

The ISA ameer also alleged that the BNP-Jamaat alliance has been harbouring the militants' leaders Bangla Bhai and Shaikh Abdur Rahman, and thus tainting the image of Islam both nationally and internationally. He also suggested engaging

army men to crush the militants. Karim, popularly known as Pir

Shaheb of Charmonai, announced a series of programmes to protest the widespread corruption, rampant crimes and repeated bomb attacks. The programmes included

demonstrations at all Upazilas on December 15 and at all district headquarters on December 22. Protests will also be staged in Dhaka on December 27, in Khulna on December 30. in Raishahi on December 19, in Sylhet on January 20, in Barisal on February 1, and in Chittagong on February 10.

The ISA will also stage a onehour sit-in across the country from 12 noon on December 29 to protest the bomb blasts.

#### **Extortionists** stab 2 traders in Keraniganj

UNB, Keraniganj

Two businessmen were stabbed indiscriminately by two extortionists at Islampur in the upazila on Friday.

Police quoting local people said the extortionists Moktar and Shah Alam injured fruit traders Asgar, 32, and Shahidul, 30, with sharp weapons failing to realise Tk 5,000 as toll

They were rushed to the Sir where condition of Shahidul was stated to be critical

#### Help rehabilitate beggars with disability

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Among the physically challenged beggars, 47 percent have got inactive legs and 20 percent are between one and 18 years old reveals a recent survey.

The study over 200 beggars with disability in the capital also shows that 93 percent of them do not want to beg. Initiative for Radical Human

Rights, a voluntary social organisation, presented the report of its survey on the physically challenged beggars at a press conference in the

The speakers said even though they were not that much intelligent they could understand that begging is a humiliating profession and it does no good for the country.

They urged people to change their mentality towards the disabled beggars and help them

Those who are disabled because of old age should be rehabilitated and those who are able to work

should be brought under income generating project by providing vocational education for them, they suggested. The rich can play a significant

role to change the condition of these beggars, they said. They pointed out that though

there was a rehabilitation centre under the Social Service Department of the government for the disabled elders, most of them do not want to go there

Since the families of the most of the beggars with disability depend on their income, the family will face difficulty in absence of them, they found during the survey.

Delwar Hossain, general secretary, read out the written statement while Sultan Uddin, president of the organisation, spoke on the occa-

Treasurer Moshiur Rahman Palash and other members of the organisation were also present at the press conference.

#### Death anniversary Today is the first death anniversary of Shahnaaz Ahmed (Jessie), says

a press release. The Zonta Club III has arranged a doa mahfil in her memory at Shishu Bikas Kendra at Rayer

Qurankhwani will also be held at Banani graveyard and a milad mahfil will be held at her residence 'Sonali Shorgo', House # SE(D) 4, Road # 137, Gulshan 1, after Maghrib prayers

All relatives, friends and wellwishers are requested to attend the milad and pray for the departed



### Dry weather likely

major cities and towns yesterday were:

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Light to moderate fog may also occur over the river basins of the

country during early morning, Met office said, predicting that night temperature will remain nearly unchanged Highest temperature 30.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakundu and lowest 10.7 degree Celsius at Srimongal

The sun sets in the capital at 5:12pm today and rises at 6:32am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

Humidity in Temperature percentage Morning Evening 27.5 29.8 Chittagong 27.3 12.4 73 Rajshahi 27.5 14.4 77 73 Khulna 27.5 12.6 Barisal Sylhet 29.3 16.3 78 67 Cox's Bazar

### Water crisis at Hall

**CU CORRESPONDENT** 

water to the dormitory.

necessary measures to address the Prof Hossain said the steady problem within ten days.

BSS, Dhaka

yesterday

ment programme were aimed at only non-agricultural sector. Criticising the present trend of GDP-focused development agenda, he said the agriculture should be given the highest priority because of the huge population

increase of per capita income in last

three decades should have huge

positive impact on food security, but

things went wrong as rural produc-

tivity was ignored and the develop-

their food habit and land limitations in the country, where more than 70 percent people live in rural areas. Prof Hossain said the country can eradicate food deprivation through short and long-term

schemes such as greater subsidy to agriculture, peasants' incentives to encourage innovative agriculture and huge media advocacy to motivate people and policymakers to think anew. Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka

University Prof SMA Faiz was present as the chief guest while Japanese Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi and Resident Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Akio Arai attended the

Hossain. Ambassador Horiguchi said

able development. The people of this country, he said, are innovative and energetic and they can change their fate it

Akio Arai suggested improving