JMB military commander

one of the biggest caches of JMB explosives, grenades, arms, ammunition, and bomb and bullet making paraphernalia from a Sabujbagh den in the city.

Earlier, on Tuesday night, Rab

arrested Fariduzzaman Swapan, a close associate of Sunny, raiding his house at Kalabagan. Swapan reportedly helped the JMB in channelling funds through bank accounts.

In the port city, besides arresting Mohammad, Rab yesterday also held his associate Jafar and seized a huge quantity of explosives, bomb-making materials, books, pamphlets and audiocassettes at a JMB den at

The Chittagong haul includes a blender bomb, seven flask bombs, 28 containers each containing 750gram ammonium nitrate, 29kg white and 3kg black gun powder, 500gram aluminium powder, 700gram potash, 200gram lead azide, 3.50kg sulphur 69 pieces of powder gel explosives 8kg chemical explosives, 20 hand grenades, two light guns, two dummy AK-47 rifles, one revolver and 38

RAB PRESS BRIEFING Although the news that a big shot of

JMB was caught at Tejgoan got around in the city on Tuesday, Rab officials kept mum about it. The silence and denial continued even after yesterday's Sabujbagh den bustina. Finally, at 4:00pm yesterday, the

elite police force suddenly called a press conference at its headquarters and disclosed the arrest.

The Rab officials met the journalists at a hall room at 4:30pm and asked them not to ask any question to the arrestees. They brought Swapan and Sunny in front of the press at 4:47pm and asked them to identify themselves.
Sunny said, "My name is Ataur

Rahman Sunny. I am a brother of Shaekh Abdur Rahman and my father's name is Ibne Fazle.

Swapan also identified himself. But at one point he broke into tears saying he is innocent and not involved of the JMB activities. ARREST OF SUNNY

Tipped off that Sunny would visit someone important at Latif dormitory of the Polytechnic Institute in Teigaon a team of the intelligence wing of intelligence wing of Rab headquarters took position inside the building at

around Tuesday noon. Sunny was arrested as soon as he entered the hostel. Rab told vesterday's press conference. Rab also seized Tk 44,982 in cash, a wristwatch and eight SIM cards from his

possession Rab said Sunny, a member of JMB Majlish-e-Sura, used to run and coordinate all militant and terrorist operations, including the bomb

attacks, of the banned organisation.
After the arrest, Sunny identified himself as commander Masuq Hassan Ahmed, director of JMB's legal and media wing, Rab told the press. But, Rab members became certain of his true identity by comparing his appearance with his photographs and varying some other information. And Sunny also owned

up his real identity. RAB RAIDS IN DHAKA

Based on the information extracted from Sunny, Rab on Tuesday night went out with him on a hunt for JMB militants and explosives. Rab teams made several raids in Tongi, Savar, Kalabagan and Manda areas.

A team first raided a house in Tongi and recovered some materials used ka euicida hambe and a hug quantity of partisan literature and combat training books, a Rab press release said yesterday.

Two youths rented the Tongi house

two months ago, one identifying himself as a student of the Tong College and the other as a madrasa student, Rab said quoting some locals, other tenants and the landlord.

Rab then raided another JMB den at Radio Colony in Savar and came across some ore bomb making materials and manuals. The tenants have been living there for a month, Rab said, adding the law enforcers also found some secret documents diaries and papers of the MB.

A Rab team arrested Swapan raiding his Kalabagan house. Rab then raided several houses at Manda in Sabuibagh and finally, at

about 6:00am yesterday, reached the Chhata Masjid Road den, from where it recovered the huge cache of explosives, arms and ammunition. The MANDA RECOVERY The seizure in Dhaka was made at a

rented house used as a JMB hideout in South Manda in Sabuibagh. The identity of the JMB cadre who rented the house could not be known imme

The seizure includes 27 locally made grenades, 24 pistols, 34 pieces of power gel. 19 pieces of water gel 50 pieces of electric detonators, 20 bomb-making circuits, 25 cartridge cases. 2kg of aluminium powder, 20kg of aluminium nitrate, about 70kg of other chemicals and 50 dry-cell

Rab also recovered bullet-making dies, bullets of rifle, revolver and pistol, a huge quantity of other bombmaking materials and over one thousand books and booklets on Islam, militancy and jihad.

The law enforcers without inform-

ing the local police broke into the room and found the hauls inside. On information, the police rushed

to the spot around 10:30am. Rab men did not disclose the names of any of the arrestees except Sunny and Rab picked up Suraiya Begum

wife of Abul Khair Bakhs, but could not hold her husband, who was missing since morning.

His family sources said he went Gani said.

out of the house to say Fajr prayers and was supposed to go to a bazaar

for business purpose. Suraiya, a diabetic patient went on a walk and ran into the raiding Rab men. The elite forces asked her about the owner of the house and picked her

cosmetics trader and wanted to rent a

single room. We did not want him to

rent the room, which needed some

'MYSTERIOUS' TENANT

Suraiva told reporters a vouth had come to rent the house two months ago. "He introduced himself as a

"But the youth insisted on taking i saying he would make the repairs by himself and would live there with his wife," she added.

The youth, who claimed to run cosmetics business at Baitul Mukarram Market, rented the eightfoot by 10-foot tin-shed room at Tk 1.100 a month.

Khair lives in a nearby two-storey building with his four children Momena Sharmin Zinia, 22, Mahmudul Haq Sampad, 18 Shaheda Sharmin Laxmi, 9, and Bahaul Haq Alaiya, 7, -- and his wife.

Locals said Khair is a tablig activist and the house is his only source of income, but his family claimed he is a

Suraiya, her family, tenants, neighbours and locals termed the youth 'mysterious' as they hardly saw him in the last two months

"As he did not bring his wife to live with him even after a month, my sister [Suraiya] asked him about it," Selina

Akhter Urmi told The Daily Star. "In reply, he said his wife, who was at his village, was expecting and will

come to him after the child is born." The Bakhs family however could not give the name and address of the

Nazma, Jebunnesa and Anwara three tenants who live next and opposite to the room, told reporters they hardly saw the youth as his room remained locked most of the time.

"He hardly showed up, and on a rare meeting I asked him what he does for his living. He said he sells agarbati [incense sticks]," said local opkeeper Selim

But the tenant's neighbours said they have never seen or smelt any kind of such sticks in the youth's room. **BOOKS & BOOKLETS**

Among the books, a voluminous SSC test paper was found with a hole inside so that bombs or small arms can be hidden there.

The bomb attack on the Chittagong courtroom was launched using such a thick book on October 3. The books are mostly on Islam jihad, Afghan wars and Islamic revolu-

tion in Bangladesh. Some of the books were published Simum Publications and Ahle Hadith. The publishers usually publish the books of Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of BNP's ruling partner Jamaat-e-Islami.

Simum Publications books are "Gulbagh theke Twin Tower" by Abul "Salatut Tarabih ba Muhahiter Azan", "Surigamer Sangkate" by Abul Asad and "Mafiar Parinaam".

The huge recovery of books also "Sashastra Jihad" by Ibnu Abdul Matin of al Jihad, "Paper Fall" by Asad Bin Hafiz of Crusade ublications, "Kabar: Mullah Omorer Afghanistan Bangladesh Taliban" by Maolana Ubaidur Rahman Khar Nakvi of Kitab Kendra, "Shathik Akida Bidati Amoler Porichoy" by Engineer Samsuddin Ahmed of Ahle Hadith 'Bibhrantir Berajale" by Khalid Saifullah of Jannat Prashani, and "Deen Kayemer Shathik Akida"

Rab arrested suspected Chittagong Division Chief of JMB Mohammad alias Aman Ullah and his associate Jafar from a house in the city's Kattali

area Tuesday night.
The battalion also recovered a large quantity of explosive materials different types of bombs, books pamphlets, bomb-making parapher

nalia and some audiocassettes from the house. Mohammad, 25, son of Maulana

Abdul Awal of Khurushkul in Cox's is suspected to be the iser-in-charge of JMB activities in the entire Chittagong division including the city, Cox's Bazar and the three hil districts. He is also the suspected main planner of the recent bombings in the city sources said

Based on a tip-off, three special teams of Rab took position on Tuesday night at Pahartali, Kattali and their adjoining areas. At about 9:00pm they entered a tin-shed house a Kattali, owned by Didarul Alam, and arrested suspected JMB cadre Naimuzzaman alias Jafar alias

Sohag. After searching the five-room residence the Rab team found a large number of explosives, bombs, books and other materials in two of the rooms. The cache includes a blende turned into a bomb, seven flask bombs, 28 containers each containing 750 gram ammonium nitrate, 29 kg white and 3 kg black gun powder, 500 gram aluminium powder 700 gram potash, 200 gram lead azide, 3.50 kg sulphur, 69 pieces of powder ge explosives 8 kg chemical explosives 20 hand grenades, two light guns, two dummy AK-47 rifles, one revolver and 38 electronic detonators

Rab officials said the explosives materials seized from Kattali could be used to manufacture a few hundred

At about 11:45pm, Mohammad alias Aman Ullah came to the house to meet his associates, totally unaware of the presence of Rab members. As soon as he knocked on the door a Rab officer in disguise opened it while the others caught him instantly and called in additional forces to encircle the

The arrested two were brought to Rab-7 headquarters at Patenga, After preliminary interrogations the Rab team set out yesterday morning with the two to several places in the city in search of more JMB men and weap-

Rab officials said Mohammad, a former student of Dhaka Alia Madrasa also a student of the Arabic department in Dhaka University, had joined the JMB three to four years ago.

"His certificate name is Javed lobal but he used to use few aliases like

Mohammad, Aman Ullah and Abu Hurrab," Rab Deputy Director Osman He said Mohammad had his

training in unarmed combat at Bagmara and later he concentrated his expertise as a planner of bomb attacks. For his skills, competence and success as a planner he was given the charge of leading JMB activities in the entire Chittagong

"Mohammad was the planner of all the bomb attacks on August 17, October 3 and November 29 in Chittagong while JMB bomb expert manufactured the bombs," the

Mohammad rented the Kattali residence about five to six months ago and used it as a safe 'warehouse' for manufacturing bombs and keeping explosives and other materials. The bombs were usually supplied from this den for detonation, Rab officials said.

"Mohammad was in Dhaka until Tuesday morning, had meetings with nis mentor JMB leader Ataur Rahman Sunny also brother of JMB Chief Shaekh Abdur Rahman, and then returned to Chittagong the same night before his arrest," said a Rab official.

Presenting a personal diary of Mohammad, Rab officials said he went to Kolkata on March 3, 2004 and returned home on March 12 the same year and obtained a nationality certificate from 24 Pargana district under an alias. Abu Hurrab.

Mohammad told Rab during nterrogation that they used to fix targets in consultation with Shaekh

Jamaat shaken

FROM PAGE 16 The top leaders of Jamaat expressed their determination to keep the four-party alliance intact on which they believe rests their chances of winning seats in the parliament in the coming elections.

In 2001 elections Jamaat fielded candidates in 30 constituencies as a partner in the four-party alliance. They won 17 seats in the parliament. In the four-party alliance government Jamaat has two minisers, Matiur Rahman Nizami and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Muiahid.

A number of senior Jamaat eaders have expressed their worries over the possibility of their expulsion from the alliance government in which case they may face a debacle in the elections.

A Jamaat leader, who did not want to be named, said the party has never been under such a pressure since the immediate aftermath of the country's independence. He also said the militant issue has not perturbed the party as much as the possibility of being an outcast in the field of politics.

While they are not afraid about the opposition's demand they are nevertheless anxious over the fact that a section of BNP leaders are also demanding their ouster, he

Families

FROM PAGE 16

the families the public now want a ban on fundamental politics.

She said a list of Razakars, Al Badars and those who helped Pakistani forces should be made in every village.
The AL chief said the BNP-Jamaat

alliance is distorting and trying to destroy the history of the Liberation War and all the symbols of it. She accused late president Ziaur Rahman of allowing the fundamen-

tal and anti-Liberation War forces in Hasina urged people of all walks to unite to end 'misrule' of the government, save the country from the evil grip of militancy and uphold democracy and the sprit of the Liberation War.

Anal Raihan, son of eminent filmmaker and journalist Zahir Raihan, said they may depart the country if Jamaat is not banned.

tvred iournalist Siraiuddin Hossain. said the war criminals are now using national flag in their vehicles. He suggested setting up a white plaque in every village with the names of

edom fighter. Dr MA Hasan, brother of martyr Lt Monim, said they must identify the anti-Liberation War forces to win the battle against them.

Salma Haque, wife of martyr Dr Azharul Haque, Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, wife of martyr Dr Alim Chowdhury, and Zebunnesa Hashem, wife of martyr Prof Abul Hashem Miah, demanded a ban on Jamaat politics and punishment of the war criminals.

Thirty family members of martyred intellectuals attended the view exchange meeting with Hasina.

AL leaders Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Zillur Rahman, Motia Chowdhury, Tofail Ahmed, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Suranjit Sengupta, Obaidul Quader, Asaduzzaman Noor, among others,

Rejoinder

to the prime minister during the talks, the chairman said. He also said no presidium meet-

ng of the party was held on Tuesday and no decision was taken to propose for Jamaat's expulsion as reported in The Daily Star Our Reply

der. A number of senior party leaders confirmed the information, which we reported.

They said a meeting was held at oarty's Banani office on December 12 (Monday) with available presidium members. Érshad chaired the meetng, which finalised a set of proposals including the demand for axing Jamaat-e-Islami from the government and the ruling alliance.

the government and the Prime Minister's Office asked the JP to drop the proposal for purging Jamaat from the government on allegation of harbouring militants. Kazi Firoz Rashid, political

adviser to the JP chairman, who was ncluded in the delegation to meet the prime minister, did not join the dialoque in protest against the lastminute change in the proposals.

meeting with the presidium members available on Tuesday at the party office before joining the dialogue. The meeting finalised the revised proposals, party sources confirmed.

Sunny met Rahman

FROM PAGE 1 elder brother regularly at different

Meanwhile, sources said JMB chief Rahman was staying at a hideout in Tejgaon a short while before the Rab arrested Ataur. Rahman left the house belonging to one of his JMB aides where Sunny met him Monday, they added.

Another source said Rahman was staying in the house of a JMB activist at Mohammadpur and that Sunny met him there two-three days ago The Rab also raided the house but did not find him there. Sunny, one of the seven members

of Majlish-e-Shura, the top tier of the JMB that supervised the August 17 countrywide bomb blasts, was caught from the gate of Latif Dormitory of the Polytechnic Institute at Teigaon at around 3:00pm Tuesday as he came to meet a JMB operative there.

The JMB chief was the key man to collect funds for the organisation. "He told me money was no problem, Sunny told interrogators, when asked

about source of funding.

"So far I know, our local fund comes from subscriptions collected for mosques and madrasas, monthly collections from activists and a big fund from the zakat collected during Ramadan," he said. On the supply of explosives, he

said they collect explosives through

different ways but mostly by road

Abdul Awal, Rahman's son-in-law and another Mailish-e-Shura member whom the police arrested in Thakurgaon last month, was responsible for smuggling the explosives through Rajshahi region.

Admitting that he was responsible for the coordination in Dhaka region, Sunny said he had trained four-five

activists in bomb making in Dhaka. After the law enforcers raided Rahman's Banasree den in Dhaka last month in search of Abdur Rahman, the JMB operatives staying in the area scattered.

"We began to stay at different houses but nowhere for long," Sunny told the investigators, adding that they have 10-12 trusted JMB men who provide them with shelter. Sunny did not provide any specific

information on the number of the

suicide squad members, giving

contradictory figures. "But he said the JMB is continuing to recruit members for the suicide squad. After they target someone. they keep watch on him and preach about Islam ultimately to move towards Jihad. They make one

believe that he will be considered

'shaheed' and will go to heaven if he

sacrifices life 'for the cause of Islam'.'

said an interrogator. Asked about the JMB's next target. Sunny did not give any details but said the Rab was their next target. 'They also had plan to carry out car-

bomb attack." the sources said. Sunny also did not explain their reason behind the bomb attacks. saying only they did it as the government did not pay heed to their demand of establishing Islamic rule.

Asked if the JMB has any ambition to grab power, Sunny answered in the negative. They only aim at establishing Islamic rule, he said.

Niko got Tengratila

to energy ministry sources.

"Niko is so sure about the Tengratila resources that it has illegally installed a gas pipeline in that area when the gas field was still burning. It is now trying to strike a gas sales agreement, bypassing the government, with Lafarge Cement factory to which it intends to sell Tengratila gas in future," said one

Petrobangla's Hydrocarbon Habitat Study was conducted by an international surveyor to map out oil and gas exploration blocks on the basis of geological structures and potential resources for the second round block bidding in 1997. As per the study, the government opened 15 blocks for exploration and 21 companies submitted offers.

At that time, Niko also submitted bid but it was brushed aside as the company did not qualify financially or technically. The company with no experience however had the then energy secretary Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury

push ahead an unsolicited and most unfavourable deal for Bangladesh. As part of this bid. Niko was tagged with Bapex to conduct a study of three so-called 'marginal gas fields' -- Feni, Kamta and Chhatak west fields. The study showed the probable reserves of each of these fields below 400 bcf. Accordingly, these fields were

In addition, Niko was illegally given the unexplored Chhatak west gas field due to Niko's close links with the 'alternative centre of power' of the present government.

"With such huge resources awarded to a company that proved its incompetence through two rounds of blowouts in Tengratila. Bangladesh is being deprived of a fair deal," observed a top official.

When Niko took over, Tengratila field had one well, drilled in the

"When Bapex-Niko study put the probable resource at around 400 bcf, there was not much of argument because there was no unanimous view about the projection given by the Hydrocarbon Habitat Study in the past. For a dependable estimate of the resource, we needed a three dimensional study," the official added.

Following the second round of blowout in Tengratila, Niko conducted a three dimensional study in August-September.

The Tengratila relief well was completed two months ago. But the company has been asked by the energy ministry not to announce it because gas seepage from the blown-out field is continuing. The government has now decided to accept the relief well as it is because experts have said this seepage will continue till a gas development well is drilled and gas is produced from that field.

Niko literally grew on deals in awarded to the Niko-Bapex joint Bangladesh and India, and it had no previous experience. Even now, Calgary-based Niko produces Bangladesh and runs an industry website indianpetro.com.

WTO meet faces

FROM PAGE 1 subsidies paid to farmers in the developed world, especially in the United States, were a major factor in the collapse of the 2003 WTO meeting

in Cancun Mexico Malloum said he did not want to see a repeat in Hong Kong but "if we don't get a concrete result, Africa will not be able to go along with a consen-

SUS. The cotton issue comes up for discussion later Wednesday.
"It's a very sensitive issue and there is a lot of emotion," an Australian

trade official noted. The cotton issue came up as 149 World Trade Organisation delegates were trying to find a way to bridge long-standing disputes on trade in farm products, industrial goods and

services. The likelihood of any major breakthrough was already slim because of deep-seated differences between the European Union and the United States, and between developed and developing countries, over farm trade and market access.

Speaking Wednesday, the United States said it was looking ahead to a new WTO meeting to break the deadlock in the Doha Round of trade talks. which were launched in Qatar in 2001 and are due to be completed by the "We should not leave without

setting a date -- early next year -- to come together again to break the deadlock so our negotiators can complete the work by the end of 2006," said US Trade Representative Rob Portman. EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson reiterated that Europe

would offer no bigger concessions on

agriculture subsidies and tariffs,

putting pressure on its trading partners to move first. "We need much, much more on the table," he said, seeking reciprocal proposals to open up market access for the developed world's industrial goods and services to match the EU's offer on farm products.

The EU and US also exchanged barbs over another irritant -- food aid reform, with an EU official telling reporters: "Food aid policies are being exploited for commercial The US was quick to reply.
"The fact of the matter is that the

European Union does some very

good work in development but in

terms of food assistance, they're missing in action," said a US official,

speaking on background. Outside the fenced-off conference centre on the waterfront there was an overwhelming police and security presence after some 5,000 people marched Tuesday to denounce the

WTO as a rich man's club. Early Wednesday, around 20 militant South Korean farmers, closely followed by around 150 press photographers, tried briefly to force their way

The protesters managed to tear away several police riot shields before they were forced to retreat by pepper foam and a baton charge. The shields were later returned to the officers In his address to the WTO plenary

treatment in any new global trade pact.
"If rural populations who are already in poverty are exposed to more serious negative impact, disasters can be triggered. Developed

countries wouldn't be free of trouble either," Bo warned. China announced earlier it would cut import tariffs on more than 100 categories of goods from January 1 to

report by the US Trade Representative's office which said that although China had taken steps to repeal or revise more than 1.000 laws and regulations to meet WTO obligations, the fact that it continued to manage trade remained a problem. (see more stories on page 8)

AL won't reply FROM PAGE 16

Samyabadi Dal chief Dilip Barua referring to a decision made by the 11-party alliance, said 11-party will send a reply of its own if the AL does not agree in this regard.

discuss in the dialogue issues like reforms of the caretaker government and electoral laws, apart from militancy. Asked about the AL's stance about the letter, party Presidium

Babar takes

FROM PAGE 1

the Netrakona suicide bomber as Yaday Biswas

Wire was tied around his whole body and the evidence of the bombings showed he was a JMB man and Hindu, said the minister, adding "The JMB has been speaking about an ideology. But now it is a new dimension. We need to look into it

Yadav Das, a cycle mechanic in Netrakona town, was coaxed to go to the scene after a bomb was recovered and fell victim with several others when a suicide bomber blew himself up in a gathering of people that included police and Barhatta police on Friday night

asked Satyen Chandra Das and Biplob Das, Yadav's father and brother, to come to the police station and detained them at dawn on Saturday when they showed up to meet the officer-in-charge. Police released them on Sunday night when media investigations

revealed that the claim of the state minister and the police were not based on facts. BDNEWS adds: The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday demanded immediate trial, punishment and resignation of

State Minister for Home

Lutfozzaman Babar for uttering a

"falsehood" about Yadav, who was

killed in the suicide bombing in Netrakona. The State Minister for Home had tried to stage "Yadav drama" to protect the fundamentalist and extremist terrorists and militants SCBA Secretary advocate M

Patricia Butenis FROM PAGE 16

the next US ambassador to Bangladesh.

Enayetur Rahim said.

"The US government has named Patricia A Butenis as the next ambassador to Bangladesh and we have given clearance," Foreign

sador Harry K Thomas, now the executive secretary at the Office of the Secretary of State, discharged his diplomatic assignment in Dhaka from August 11, 2003 to July 2, 2005.

The joining date of Butenis, who is

to be the 12th US ambassador to

Bangladesh, is yet to be set as there Foreign ministry sources, however, said the new US ambassador

is expected to join the Dhaka mis-

sion early next year. **Journalists**

accept such a law on the Press Council. bring amendment to the Press Council Act for empowering the council to provide higher punishment

Press Council Chairman Justice Abu Saveed Ahammed also suggested amendment to the section 12(1) of the act. He said under 12(1) of the Press

warn, rebuke and reprimand the editor or journalist of a newspaper or a news agency if he/she resorts to professional misconduct or violates any guideline of journalism. The press council chairman also

recommended inclusion of punitive

council stronger and effective. UNB adds: The prime minister during the meeting with journalist leaders urged the media to play responsible role through their writings and broadcasts to discourage terrorism, saying bomb terrorism will

not continue many more days and will have to stop. The journalist leaders gave suggestions individually on how to

News Today editor and Jatiya Press Club President Reazuddin Ahmed suggested constituting a committee at grassroots level with social and religious leaders, public representatives and political leaders to raise public opinion against the militants and find out the people

linked with the militants. DUJ President Flahi Newaz Khan expressed doubt about the existence of JMB, saying that ahead of the general elections such a path of violence has been chosen by a vested quarter in a planned way in the name of JMB.

Goldman Sachs

is largely regarded as an Asian Century, the new Goldman Sachs list has four other Asian nations--Iran, Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines in addition to the two South Asian countries. "Investors, always on the lookout

an economist said Mahmudur Rahman, Board of Investment (BoI) executive chairman, said inclusion of Bangladesh on the Goldman Sachs list of potential economies has proved that the country has great possibilities

"Major corporate houses including the Tata Group, Dhabi Group, Global Vulcan Energy are showing interest in Bangladesh's economy, he added.

Rahman said world business magnates such as Bill Gates and Ted Turner have visited Bangladesh amid soaring militant activities, which also testify the potentials of

Dhaka may use

FROM PAGE 1 on the sidelines of the plenary session on the second day of the sixth session of the 6-day WTO meet in Hong Kong, a member of Bangladesh delegation told UNB

over telephone from Hong Kong.

Bangladesh will use veto if the developed countries do not give duty and quota-free market access to all least developed countries' (LDCs). Chowdhury told the meeting.

Ambassador of Zambia and the LDC coordinator in the WTO trade talks, Love Mtesa, however, said the time is vet to come to say anything about veto. "If the developed countries try to divide LDCs, it will not be possible. The LDCs are all together They swim together; if drowned, it'll be together." Mtesa declared.

Trade experts said veto in the past. When negotiation comes close to an end, every country looks after the national interests instead of the group interests, they observed. At a sideline meeting with Altaf

Chowdhury earlier in the day, Zambian Commerce Minister Dipak Patel, who is the chief coordinator of the LDCs in the talks, said the LDCs would raise the 'red flag' if they do not get free market acces INDIA, AUSTRALIA TURN

LDC SUPPORTERS

Meanwhile, India and Australia have joined the EU, USA and Brazil in backing the LDCs' demand for dutyand quota-free market access of their products at the ongoing confer-

do so should provide duty-free and quota-free access without any staging and on a secure and predict able basis," India told the plenary session of the conference vesterday The LDCs' demand was the dominant issue of discussion on the second day of the six-day meet,

"Developed countries and the

developing countries in a position to

try group in the trade talks, reportedly supported the demand. So did the EU and the USA. The latest text of the conference released by the WTO General Council endorsed the main demands of the LDCs, but experts voiced concern and uncertainty as the

the issues. with strong support at an informal meeting on 'specific development' held on the sidelines. Guyanese Foreign Trade and International Cooperation Minister Clement Rohee, who chaired the meeting

of the LDC group. Besides the EU, a number of

delay or discrimination. Chowdhury, who leads an 18member Bangladeshi delegation, also mentioned that China has granted duty-free access for 83 and Korea for 139 tariff lines to

simplified rules of origin into the markets of rich nations. "The market access is very crucial for a meaningful unification of the LDCs with the multilateral trading system," he told Mandelson and requested him to support the LDCs' demands in the light of Livingstone

The Bangladesh delegation also drew attention of the EU trade negotiator for the need of meaningful

technical assistance. Altaf Chowdhury reiterated the

meeting organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), a leading independent think-tank of

Bangladesh, in Hong Kong yesterday.
The Bangladesh delegation was engaged in trade negotiations in three groups to follow up the progress of discussions on market access of non-agricultural products from the LDCs to the developed and

developing countries, farm products and other issues. Altaf Chowdhury also met the neads of delegations and trade leaders, who gathered in Hong Kong from across the world to attend the sixth session of the WTO Ministeria Conference, on the sidelines to

exchange views on mutual interests. He held discussions with Commerce Minister of Turkey Kermad Tuzmen and Sri Lankar Commerce Minister Joyraj ernandos to examine the prospects of bilateral trade. He had trade talks with the British minister for international development, foreign and commerce ministers of Japan. WTO director general and Afghan trade minister. He also took up the possibility of exporting less-skilled workers with UAE Finance and Planning

From Shibir

FROM PAGE 1 said adding that he had travelled to

Minister Eshaikha Hubna Al Qasimi

Afghanistan. He was arrested once earlier along with 18 others in Moheshpur village of Khetlal in Joypurhat in August, 2003 after some 150 armed JMB cadres had fought with the police at former Jamaat leader Montezar's house and fled away with six police rifles injuring six policemen.

. Siddikul Islam Bangla Bhai was arrested a month later from Joypurhat jail gate while lobbying for Ataur's release. However, Ataur was released on bail three months later. Abdur Rahman in media interviews

about Ataur's release from jail and said punitive measures had been taken against several police officials for arresting him, including transfers. Abdur Rahman's another brother, Maulana Obaidur Rahman, is now in Jamalpur iail while another brother

in Rajshahi region last year boasted

Maulana Oliur Rahman is now in Madina. UNB reports that Sunny hails from Charshi Khalifapara under Jamalpur sadar. He passed the Dhakil examination from Kamalkhan Haat Senior Madrasa. He started his academic life at the residence of his father Maulana

Abdullah ibne Fazal at Naodapara in

Later he earned his Bachelor

Raishahi.

degree with honours from Islamic University in Kushtia where he got involved in the politics of Islam Chhatra Shibir. He became a prominent Shibir leader on the campus. According to available disclosures while at Islamic University he switched

over to militant activities of JMB

headed by his brother Shaekh Abdur

Rahman. He built JMB networks with Jamaat and Shibir activists. Then he started functioning as the commander of JMB's armed wing Sunny acquired expertise through special training in bomb manufacturing and began leading JMB's suicide squads - or so the story runs. Arrested

members of JMB suicide squads

confessed to the police that they had

received training from Sunny. He was also involved in the bomb blasts in Chittagong. He is the one who brought the suicide bombers to Chittagong. Before the August 17 bombings, he had set up a secret militant camp at remote Gonarchar under Sharisabari in Jamalpur on the bank of Jamuna

River. He used to stay in different

districts, including Kushtia, Rajshahi,

Joypurhat, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra,

Sanghaty, Bangladesh Chhatra Union

and other socio-cultural organisations

placed floral wreaths at the Mirpur

Different socio-cultural and political

organisations arranged various

programmes, including seminars,

discussions and wreath laying at Mirpur

Martyred Intellectuals' memorial and

intellectuals' mausoleum at

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh

Hasina met the families of martyred

intellectuals at her Sudha Sadan

At the Rayerbazar mausoleum

Abdul Jalil placed wreath on behalf of

the Awami Legue President and Leader

Committee went to the Raverbazar

mausoleum with a big rally and placed

wreath there. Chandralok Khelaghor

Ashor and Surialok Khelaghor Ahsor

demonstrated a dummy show of slain

intellectuals lying down on the

Ekattarer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul

of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina.

Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Comilla and

memorial.

Raverbazar.

residence.

FROM PAGE 1 out of their houses in Dhaka and

killed them before dumping the bodies in Rayerbazar, Mirpur and other killing Different socio-cultural organisations and political parties observed the day through various programmes,

anger and resentment on the day as some of those who played key role in the massacre of intellectuals are now in power, 34 years after the macabre event. But the gatherings of common people this year were smaller than the

previous years, apparently due to the fear that gripped the nation following the series of bomb attacks across the country. President lajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina placed floral

wreaths at the Mirpur Martyred

Intellectuals Memorial. Ministers, leaders of BNP, Awami League, 11- party alliance, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Workers Party, different factions of Jatiya Party, Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh, Gono Forum, Jatiya Oikya Mancha, and Bangladesh

Muktijoddhar Santan, Ain-o-Shalish Kendra, Ekattarer

Rayerbazar killing field. A delegation of Lt General Jagjit Singh Aurora Foundation led by its Chairman Prof Abul Barakat placed wreaths at Mirpur memorial and observed one-minute silence in remembrance of the martyred intellec-

1971, different organisations urged the people to step forward to materialise the dreams of the Liberation War. They blamed the government for

Demanding trial of war criminals of

mausoleum premises and the construction of a public toilet adjacent to the Rayerbazar killing field.

The JP placed a nine-point proposal

We further checked our information yesterday after receiving the rejoin-

But the information was leaked to

The JP chairman held another

through police lines.

Minister Bo Xilai said the poorest nations should get preferential

session, Chinese Commerce

honorits WTO commitments.
The announcement followed a

He said the opposition's joint reply letter to the PM will ask her to

Member Tofail Ahmed declined to comment. He however said a meeting of the party presidium will disthe country.

ahead

Minister M Morshed Khan told diplomatic correspondents at his office yesterday. The immediate past US ambas-

are some formalities to confirm the appointment by the US Senate, an official of the US embassy in Dhaka

The government has a plan to for offences of the media persons.

provisions to the act to make the

combat terrorism.

FROM PAGE 16

for the next big trend, are scouring Asia as the region is home to booming economies, swelling populations and fast-developing markets,

according to a message received here. Brazil, which is representing the interests of the developing counduring JMB's 'anti-outlaw' operations

developed and the developing countries were at loggerheads over The demand of the LDCs for duty and quota-free market access met

stressed the importance of such an access for the LDCs. EC Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson also supported the demand at another sideline meeting

developed countries including

Australia, Canada, Norway and Sweden have already provided dutyfree market access to the LDCs. Altaf. Chowdhury informed the meeting. He said, "It's the legitimate claim of the LDCs that they must be accorded this access without any

Bangladesh. He sought the EU's support to the LDCs' concern of duty- and quotafree market access with realistic and

Declaration, which the LDC ministers had adopted at a pre-Hong Kong

Nation pays homage

including seminars, discussions and silent processions. They hoisted black flags and kept the national flag halfmast to commemorate the martyred Pro-liberation social and political organisations have expressed deep

Samajtantrik Dal placed wreaths at the Mirpur memorial in the morning Besides members of Amra

allowing 'anti-social activities' on the

halls of DU, Bangladesh Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Parishad, Gono

Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, authorities of Dhaka University (DU) Jahangirnagar university, National University, Open University, different