NEWS

Moments of shock

shocked to know what to do.

They sat by the dead and

wounded, and cried. Some

others brought in microbuses,

rickshaw-vans and minibuses

the rescuers with clubs, and

started beating them indis-

criminately, delaying the

nade exploded with a big bang

in the alleyway opposite the

AL office. Soon after,

Bangabandhu Avenue

became almost deserted as

two more live grenades were

found lying amid shoes and

exploded the two grenades,

one in front of the AL head-

quarters, and the other in

Osmani Udyan after finding it

at Rony Sari Bitan in the

claimed by the attack on that

afternoon are Ivy Rahman,

Moshtak Ahmed Sentu, Lance

Corporal (retd) Mahbubur

Rashid, Rafiqul Islam alias Ada

Chacha, Sufia Begum, Hasina

Momtaz Rina, Liton Munshi

alias Litu, Ratan Sikder,

Mohammad Hanif, Mamun

Mridha, Belal Hossain, Aminul

Islam alias Moazzem, Abdul

Kuddus Patwari, Atik Sarker,

Nasiruddin Sarder, Rezia

Begum, Abul Kashem, Zahed

Ali, Momin Ali, Shamsuddin,

Abul Kalam Azad, Ishak Mia,

some people with a gunshot

wound to the head on Friday

maker Nurunnabi Chowdhury

Shaon's driver filed an unnat-

ural death case with Sher-e-

Bangla Nagar Police Station

saying Ibrahim was handling

Shaon's gun in the lawmaker's

car parked near the parlia-

ment when it went off and

Ibrahim's family filed a mur-

der case with a Dhaka court

accusing Shaon and 15 others.

contacted Dr Abul Khayer,

who conducted the autopsy at

DMCH, but he refused to talk

already handed over the

report to Sher-e-Bangla Nagar

police station Reaz Hossain

said they had forwarded the

the case. He instead asked The

However, Additional

Deputy Commissioner of DB

Mohammad Moniruzzaman

told The Daily Star that they

were yet to receive the report.

meeting on August 24," DU

Vice-chancellor Prof AAMS

Arefin Siddique said yesterday.

'We have taken the initiative

as per our aim to digitise the

university's academic and

will also ease students' suffer-

ings in buying and submitting

admission forms as they will

be available at

www.admission.univdhaka.e

go through a lot of hassles to buy

and submit admission forms.

Every year, college graduates

Prof Arefin said the last

du on the internet.

He said the online system

administrative activities."

DU goes

Morgue sources said it

Officer-in-Charge of the

about his findings.

Police Station.

Five days after the incident,

The Daily Star yesterday

Later, Awami League law-

and unidentified two others.

FROM PAGE 1

the 13th.

People whose lives were

Railway Supermarket.

A 35-member army team

sandals strewn in the area.

At 6:27pm, another gre-

them to hospitals.

rescue further.

to pick up the victims and take

But police descended on

FROM PAGE 1 fateful afternoon.

"Within a second of the first blast, I understood it was a grenade attack," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

As the grenades kept raining, Hasina, now the prime minister of the country, ducked on the flatbed truck from where she was addressing the rally, and many of the senior AL leaders created a human shield over her. The grenades kept missing the truck, and were landing on the sides.

The AL chief, who was the apparent target of the attack carried out from rooftops around the party's headquarters, miraculously escaped unscathed shielded by her

party colleagues. "As the second blast occurred, we all started running to save our lives," said Sultan Mansur adding that the entire AL central leadership and other key leaders were present there.

After the third grenade missed Hasina, she was quickly moved into her sports utility vehicle (SUV), and her body guards started firing blanks to clear the way for the vehicle to get out of there through thick smoke. The unknown assailants

ured the rear wheel of the vehicle, and later a large hole was found on the right side of the rear windshield. The front windshield prevented three bullets from

fired seven bullets at the bul-

letproof SUV. A bullet punc-

hitting the front seat passenger Hasina. The attack killed 24 people

and wounded more than 500, a majority of whom are AL eaders and workers. The attackers later fired on

fleeing ralliers and pedestrians as well The wounded lay bleeding

on the street, some profusely. It was a ghastly scene of disointed limbs and blood, accompanied by heartbreaking screams of pain. Interestingly enough, the

armed police on duty at the site, ran away for cover during the attack, instead of launching a counter attack or ensuring the safety of the large number of vulnerable people.

About 20 minutes later, some people re-gathered at the spot. But they were too

3 wounded

ROM PAGE 16

the mob that came to protest the attack on Ripon at around 8:30am, she said.

They also beat up other slum report to the Detective Branch dwellers, including women of police, which is investigating with their rifle butts and bamboo sticks, other witnesses said Daily Star to ask the DB about Ansar members said they the contents of the report.

ppened fire as the slum dwellers attacked them. "Opening fire was excessive

on the part of the ansar members," Nazrul Islam, officer-incharge (OC) of Sutrapur Police Station told The Daily Star.

He also raised question over the legality of the ansar camp saying that law does not allow deployment of ansar members on disputed land.

One Bina Chowdhury and another Asif Chowdhury are the claimers of the same piece of and. There are at least 15 shanties set up on a portion of the land by Bina Chowdhury while Asif Chowdhury leased out the remaining portion to Rupayan Real Estate Company that set up

the ansar camp. The camp members, however, were withdrawn soon after the incident and another team was deployed. Police were also deployed. Despite repeated attempts, neither Bina nor Asif

the Sutrapur Police Station.

with Motijheel Police Station in

connection with the killing of

Family members identified

the criminal as Saiful Islam

Nayan, 29. Police are investi-

gating Nayan's criminal

Nayan's sister Kakoli said he

Maruf Hossain, assistant

commissioner of Dhaka

Metropolitan Police, Motijheel

zone, said they so far found that

there are two cases against

Nayan-- one for police assault

in 1999 and another filed under

he was going that night with

Shafiullah Khan, sub

inspector of the police station,

said they recovered a foreign

revolver, five bullet shells and a

Manjurul's namaj-e-janaza

was held at Rajarbagh Police

Line Mosque after Juma

prayers and his body was sent

to his village in Madaripur.

Rajarbagh Police Line

"We are investigating where

arms act in 2001.

the pistol," he said.

mobile phone.

was a trader at Nababpur in Old

records.

Dhaka.

the police constable on duty.

year's price of Tk 300 for each was available for comments. admission form will remain Ripon's brother Saiful Islam the same this year. Students, filed a case against the ansar however, must pay an additeam for firing at the mob while tional Tk 20 for bank charge the platoon commander of this year, he added. ansar filed another case on charges of attacking them with

Students will be required to fill in and submit admission forms as per directions available on the website. Cop Manjurul

They will have to download a three-part pay-in-slip, fill that up, and deposit Tk 320 with the slip to any branch of Agrani, Rupali, Sonali, and Janata

banks across the country. Admit cards for admission tests will be available on the website as well after 48 hours of depositing the money. The applicants will have to download the admit cards and get

them printed. There will be a hotline for the students who will face difficulties in filling and submitting the admission forms online," said Prof Arefin, adding that a team of technicians will monitor the processes.

Mentionable, the admission forms will not be available at any branch of banks or at any university office this year.

Students, who successfully completed the HSC examinations in 2009 and 2010 and fulfil other requirements set by the DU authorities, will be eligible to take the admission tests.

Koko's parole

FROM PAGE 1 bringing allegation of breach-

ing the condition of the parole. It's a politically revengeful decision," Mirza Fakhrul said.

His wife Salma told journal-On Thursday, the governists that he joined police in ment ordered BNP chief 2005 and they got married in Khaleda Zia's younger son 2007. They have two children, Marzana and 23-day-old boy Arafat Rahman Koko to return Maruf. They reside at the city's to the country within August Kadamtali Kalibari near 31 accusing him of breaching the condition of the parole.

38 fall sick

FROM PAGE 1 Besides, two 10-member expert teams vesterday visited the affected areas to determine the cause of the disease and collect blood samples. They urged people not to panic.

Jahangir Hossain, assistant secretary of ICDDR,B clinical section, and scientist Subodh Kumar Kundu said judging by the patients' symptoms, they suspect it might be a case of anthrax infection. It could be ascertained only after lab tests, they said.

Shafiqul Islam, officer of Sirajganj district livestock department, said all the cattle in the area have been examined and vaccinated. There is no possibility of spreading the disease anymore.

Civil Surgeon Nurul Islam Talukder said they did not have the vaccine in the store. However, they have managed it and distributed the medicine free of cost among the infected Friday morning. Each patient has been given a dose of for ten days. Although the government

veterinary department is to regularly examine the cattle of the area, they do not do so as MilkVita Ltd maintains around 400 dairy farms in area. Babul, veterinarian of Milk

Vita, said no one had informed him about the situation.

Pre-paid

FROM PAGE 1

could tamper with the traditional meters will no longer be able to do so.

Each of these top industries consumes no less than half a million cubic feet of gas a day and some of them consume up to five million cubic feet of gas a day. Such industries produce up to 30 megawatt power for self-consumption.

This means, if one such consumer tampers with the meter, the consumer can steal gas worth crores of taka a year.

Meanwhile, from the beginning of this year Titas has encouraged many industries operating their boilers on natural gas to switch to furnace-oil-based boilers and

But there are many very old boilers still in use which Titas had earlier advised to shut down and replace with new energy efficient boilers. Titas officials said the industries that own such boilers will be given a final notice in this regard with a deadline by which they must replace the old ones with efficient new

As the country's biggest gas distribution company, Titas has 14.58 lakh customers. Of this, 14.42 are domestic customers, 4,443 industrial customers and the remaining represent commercial, CNG stations and bulk consumers (like fertiliser and power plants).

Currently, domestic consumers use 150 million cubic feet of gas a day (the country's total gas consumption is around 2,000 million cubic feet of gas a day). The home burners have very low energy efficiency and they waste around 65 percent of gas. In addition, many domestic users keep their burners on to save matchsticks.

Dhaka-Sylhet

FROM PAGE 16 sources said.

The road communication was restored at about 10:00pm Thursday while the train communication resumed at about 9:30am yesterday after a relief train from Akhaura reached the spot.

The passengers of the truck suffered minor injuries during the accident.

Beaten by BDR

FROM PAGE 16

locals recovered the body at about 1:30pm yesterday in presence of magistrate Zilal Hossain, SI Sobhan said.

The agitating locals and relatives of the victim later brought out a rally at Mogholhat Bazar demanding exemplary punishment to the guilty BDR men.

The body was sent to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Locals and victim's family members claimed that Rashidul was a farmer by profession while the BDR authority from Mogholhat camp said he was a member of an identified smuggling gang in the area. Lt Col Aslam Hossain,

commanding officer of Lalmonirhat 31 Rifles Battalion, told The Daily Star a three-member probe committee was formed on Thursday to investigate the incident.

The committee will submit its report within three days and necessary steps will be taken accordingly, he added.

Toxic chemicals

import of adulterated fertilis-

ers came down, the report says.

cals are now found in the

locally produced zinc fertilis-

manager of Aftab Fertilisers

and Chemicals Ltd that manu-

factures zinc fertiliser, said they

use zinc ash, by-product of tin

factories, as raw material for

tories of Dhaka University and

SRDI, but no heavy metal was

found, he said. It was beyond

his knowledge how cadmium

or lead could be in zinc sul-

director of RS Agro Fertilisers

and Chemicals Ltd in Rajshahi,

said it is more likely that zinc

sulphate imported mainly

from China contains heavy

Bangladeshis

incident as "many aspiring

overseas workers from

Bangladesh unknowingly fall

prey to unscrupulous recruit-

ment agencies and traffickers".

handsome amount of money

for promised jobs in foreign

countries. They, however, often

end up as undocumented

migrants in foreign lands and

are generally detained by the

law enforcing agencies of

countries concerned," the

advise the general public to

exercise caution and to deal

only with reliable and legal

channels for overseas employ-

Kitchen market

generate bad smell. The market

path on both sides from

Razlaxmi footbridge to Muscat

Plaza in Uttara is also under

illegal occupation of hawkers

who are on business on rick-

shaw-vans. The nearly one-

kilometre long footpath has

become a place for earning a

living for nearly 500 hawkers

shop for seven years," said Rois

Miah, who sells clothing items

on a rickshaw-van on the

footpath near Muscat Plaza

Bellal, another hawker, sells

rent a rickshaw-van and Tk 40

for "security" purpose.

as to who comes to collect the

very much under the control of

the hawkers, pedestrians are

compelled to walk along the

main road taking high risk, said

Sagor Bhattacharya, a resident

occupation, officer-in-charge

of Airport Police Station

Shamsuddin Saleh Ahmed

Chowdhury said it is DCC's

duty to take action against the

market and they will help DCC

Sadeque Hossain Khoka said

the Creative Destination offi-

cial, said they have written to

the CAAB authorities recently

asking permission for doing

some paintings on their wall

and planting some trees by it as

part of their beautification

work on the entire footpath if the

research -- for a full-fledged

In addition, he recom-

Considering the country's

limited resources, the former

NHRC Chairman Justice

Amirul Kabir Chowdhury

sought a 65-member office

staff for the head office alone

establishment ministry

approved only half of that

requirement against which

the finance ministry has

finally endorsed appointment

yet to formulate rules to

implement the law, which

allows the commission to look

into allegations of human

rights violation even against

the members of disciplined

Commission should be dealt

in a different way from any

other commission in a coun-

try," said Mizanur Rahman

Khan, "The stronger the

human rights commission of

a country is, the better

impression it has interna-

"Human Rights

Also, the government has

of 28 staff members.

After a long delay, the

commission.

officers.

to begin with.

authority allows us," he said.

"We are ready to start the

illegal market soon."

Contacted, DCC Mayor

Meanwhile, Shahidul Islam

Asked about the illegal

ofsector-11.

if it wants.

As the footpath remains

money and for what security.

footwear for last three years.

"I have been running this

But that is not all. The foot-

The government wishes to

statement read.

ment," it added.

has 60 shops.

for years now.

"In most cases they pay

Kamruzzaman, managing

These were tested in labora-

ers, it adds.

zinc fertilisers.

phate, he said.

metals.

FROM PAGE 1

However, such toxic chemi-

Hemayetul Islam, general

FROM PAGE 1

Zinc fertiliser has been used in Bangladesh for the last three decades to save soil from sterility, scientists say.

The annual amount of organic fertilisers used in the country is 3.5 lakh tonnes, say officials of the Department of Agriculture. Use of such fertilisers has been on the rise for several years. SRDI Director Mainul

Ahsan said these toxic chemicals accumulate in soil and water, contaminate ecosystem and enter plants and aquatic resources. Regular use for two to three years is enough for such contamination, which can also make land sterile, he added.

Expressing concern on the issue, Prof Dr ABM Faroque of pharmacy, Dhaka University, said once in food chain, cadmium and lead could affect livers, kidneys and cause blood cancer and thalassemia.

"Chromium could affect reproduction system resulting in deformed babies," he noted. Cancer specialist Dr Akram Hossain of Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujib Medical

University said cadmium and

lead could also cause cancer. Local fertiliser manufacturers, however, say they are "unaware" of such high concentration of heavy metals in

zinc or organic fertilisers. In laboratory tests of 658 samples conducted during July 2009 and May 2010, SRDI found 72 percent of available zinc sulphate adulterated, which means those either lack required zinc or are contaminated with heavy metals.

In 234 samples, SRDI found 42 percent locally manufactured zinc sulphate contaminated with cadmium and lead, while the percentage is 3 in imported ones.

The samples were collected from the licensed dealers, manufacturers and importers.

Chromium in organic fertilisers may come from poultry litter of farms that use tannery waste as poultry feed, said Omar Faruq, managing director of Faruq Fertilisers Ltd, an organic fertiliser com-

"However, I don't think it will be beyond tolerable level,"

A study by Dhaka University and Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in 2007 suggests tannery waste contains huge amount of chromium. The SRDI, however, has not mentioned sources and reasons of these heavy metals in fertilis-

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said presence of heavy metals in fertilisers is not

'However, we are taking action and will continue to act against fertiliser adulteration," she told The Daily Star. In 2009-10, SRDI tested

3,780 samples of different fertilisers and found 40 percent samples adulterated. Adulteration of these fertilisers is caused mainly for lower levels of nutrients that cause soil degradation and thereby affect productivity.

"The most dangerous thing is cadmium, lead and chromium," said SRDI Senior Scientific Officer Dr Zainal

Abedin. Adulteration rate of zinc fertilisers was 71 percent in 2008-09, 67 percent in 2007-08 and 57 percent in 2006-07. Most of the tested fertiliser samples contained high rate of cadmium, but comparatively less concentration of lead or

In 2008 SRDI identified a high level of cadmium and lead in imported zinc fertilisers. After strengthening testing system at the Chittagong Port,

commission in September,

2008 under National Human

Rights Commission

Ordinance, 2007 in an effort to

protect, promote and ensure

did not ratify the ordinance

but enacted the National

Human Rights Commission

Act, 2009 instead, pledging a

stronger human rights watch-

However, the commission

chairman says the commis-

sion would "never stand on its

own" without having a strong

research cell and a wing to

thing if it can't be exercised,"

he said while talking to The

Daily Star in his office early

"Power doesn't mean a

Concern over organisa-

tional structure and man-

power shortage has its origin

since the human rights

watchdog formally began its

journey in December, 2008

under Justice Amirul Kabir

Chowdhury as its chairman.

tant from New Zealand under

the commission's capacity

development project who

proposed a workforce of 128

members. He also suggested

opening of four wings -- train-

ing, monitoring, legal and tionally."

UNDP then hired a consul-

train its officials.

this month.

The current government

human rights and justice.

Manpower

Truck kills

FROM PAGE 1

Hossain, 58, of Narayanganj. Witnesses said a human

haulier stopped on the road all on a sudden and the motorbike rear-ended around 10:00pm. While Mosharraf was lying on the road a speeding truck ran him over and the motorbike. Mosharraf was crushed

under the wheels of the truck while pillion Amir Hossain escaped the death with injuries, witnesses said. Shahin Uddin, sub-

inspector of Jatrabari Police Station, said Mosharraf was returning to his Banglabazar home from his chamber at Demra.

The injured Amir was rushed to a local hospital, the SI said. The drivers and helpers of

the truck and the human haulier managed to escape. Our Lalmonirhat corre-

spondent reports, Raihan, 10, son of Helal Uddin of Chapartol village of the upazila, was going to his uncle's house when the accident happened.

A shopkeeper, who witnessed the accident, told The Daily Star that the boy, also a student of class-V at Chapartol Government Primary School, was walking along the road around 12:45pm when a bus heading towards Lalmonirhat ran over

The bus wasted no time in escaping the scene, the witness added. Furious by the accident,

locals barricaded the highway for two hours from 1:00pm. During the time they also vandalised two buses. On information Kaliganj police rushed to the spot to

pacify the mob. The villagers withdrew the blockade given assurance of legal steps against the killer driver. A case was lodged with

Kaliganj Police Station in connection with the accident.

AL men

FROM PAGE 16

lakh, Shamnagar road at Tk 20 lakh, Tatigara to Shamnagar road Tk 2.25 crore and Vitbila bridgeTk58 lakh. Ranju, contractor of the

As for their business cost, they need taka one hundred to bridge, told The Daily Star that workers stopped their work on orders of the upazila unit AL Someone comes to collect the president and the secretary. "security" money but the The contractors said hawkers would not elaborate

Sujanagar AL leaders threatened to keep all the works in the upazila suspended until the issue is resolved. Golam Sarwar, Sujanagar

upazila LGED engineer, said, "I have received complaints from the contractors over the phone today (Friday) but I have nothing to do, as the ruling party men are involved....The decision would come from the head office."

BNP struggles

FROM PAGE 16 "We will take action against the

joint secretary general, said formation of district units would be completed by August 31.

Party insiders said leaders dealing with the crisis struggle to convince the leaders, who lead factions in the party at district level.

Two BNP factions in Barisal got involved in a clash when party Joint Secretary General Aman Ullah Aman moved to form Barisal city committee through direct

He tried in vain to settle disputes between the two factions led by former mayors Mujibur Rahman Sarwar and Ahsan Habib Kamal.

Aman also sat with leaders of Patuakhali district unit at mended six divisional offices the party's central office but and 32 (combined) district failed to resolve disputes offices for coordinating the between them. task countrywide, which Mohammad Shahjahan, would require another 192

> said he is working hard to bridge the gap between the leaders of Sylhet city unit. He hoped that the Sylhet committee would be formed

BNP joint secretary general,

in time. Party insiders said committees have been formed recently in Kishoreganj Netrakona, Gazipur and Jamalpur.

But central leaders find it hard to settle conflicts among local leaders in Barisal, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Narail, Chapainawabganj, Bogra and Joypurhat.

Formation of Dhaka and Manikganj units still remains uncertain because of conflicts between two factions led by Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and former DCC mayor Mirza Abbas.

Dhaka district unit president Nazmul Huda said he does not want to continue with his post.

Joint Secretary General Mahbubuddin Khokon said they are working on it and would follow the instructions of the party chairperson.

Cops identify

FROM PAGE 1

Sources involved in the probe said indications are that more big names would appear in the accused list along with men of banned Islamist outfit Haraktul-Jihad-al Islami (Huji) which executed the attack.

Kahar on October 26 last year showed Babar arrested in the August 21 case. In the forwarding report placed before the court, he said former deputy minister and BNP leader Abdus Salam Pintu during remand told interrogators that Babar lent administrative support to the attackers.

The report also said Babar and other accused in the case were involved in the supply of the grenades used. In August last year, Kahar

Akand was assigned to investigate the case after a Dhaka court ordered reinvestigation. The reinvestigation was ordered as the source of the grenades was not revealed in the first probe report submitted in 2008 by Fazlul Kabir, another investigation officer of CID.

sought time for the probe five times from the court and the last extension received on August 11 would end on November 22. A few other investigators involved in the probe said

Since he got the job, Kahar

Kahar was busy with the sensational BDR carnage case which caused delays to the August 21 enquiry. Kahar, however, said they are trying to unearth the

whole truth and that is why it

"I can't say any specific time such as by this year, but certainly, the investigation would be complete before the seventh anniversary of the attack," he said.

was taking time.

Meanwhile, other sources said this is a "very sensitive" investigation as the probe is likely to reveal names of many influential people in politics and the administration who might have been involved. When we get the smell of

bigwigs' involvement in this crime we definitely feel and face pressure in many ways, which compels us to tread carefully and that is also a cause for slow investigation progress," said an official involved in the investigation.

The official, however, said they are ignoring the pressure and are hopeful of unearthing all mysteries behind the attack. During his probe, Kahar

arrested four people, Babar Huji founder and chief of Islamic Democratic Party Sheikh Abdus Salam, BNP man Arifur Rahman Arif, also a Dhaka City Corporation councillor for Ward-53 and Indian national Majid Butt, who belongs to Kashmir-based militant organisation Hizbul Mujahidin.

Sources said Butt's arrest was a major step forward in tracking down the source of the grenades.

Butt and Salam are now in jail and they have given their confessional statements before magistrates in this connection. During the last caretaker

government in 2008, CID's Fazlul Kabir submitted the charge sheet for the August 21 case before a Dhaka court accusing 22 people including former deputy minister of BNP Abdus Salam Pintu. Other accused were from Huji including its top leader Mufti Abdul Hannan.

Of the 22, 14 are arrested including Pintu and Hannan. Among the eight fugitive, one is Moulana Tajuddin, younger brother of Pintu who has strong ties with Pakistanbased extremist group Lashkar-e-Taiba.

Before Kahar took over and throughout the tenure of the BNP-led coalition government, steps had been taken to have stage-managed probes Fictitious characters like Joj Mia were produced out of the blue to scuttle the investigations.

A judicial investigation commission was formed a day after the attack. The one-man enquiry commission of Justice Joynul Abedin, which filed its report in just 40 days, mentioned the hand of "a foreign

grenades in their bid to kill Hasina. The same brand grenades were also used in several attacks before and after August 21, 2004; including the attack on then British high commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Choudhury in Sylhet on May 21, 2004; the attack on former finance minister SAMS Kibria in Habiganj on January

used the same brand grenades and belong to the same group and all the attacks were made under a comprehensive plan. Kahar said even though investigation of each attack is being done separately, only

one group seems was involved

personnel who are experts in criminal investigation have been working to this end in this year.

told The Daily Star last night. The investigation is still going on, Sobhan said, adding

back to face trial. cannot be disclosed now for

seeking anonymity. some have been mentioned in the charge sheet while the

others are suspects, the source added.

tries including the UK and France and sought assistance from the Interpol to arrest the criminals. Home ministry sources said one team from the CID has been staying in France for

mentioned in the charge sheet while the other team visited Malaysia recently to obtain information about a number of suspects.

Sources said the governchannels to find out the whereabouts of the culprits.

Allegations were rife that

the government had been

trying its best to divert the

investigation to save the main

culprits of the grenade attack

on an AL rally on Bangabandhu

Avenue in the capital. Twenty-

four AL leaders and workers

were killed and scores injured

probe that the statements

given by Joj Mia and two other

Kashimpur jail following a

CID filed a case against its

former officials Abdur Rashid,

Munshi Atiqur Rahman and

Ruhul Amin on charge of mis-

directing the investigation in

accused of destroying evidence

and forcing people to give

case during the tenure of the

his village home at Senbagh in

and Ruhul Amin told him that if

he gave statement according to

their instructions, they would

send him abroad and help his

his family Tk 2,000-2,500 a

month after the arrest of Joj

Mia, the lone breadwinner of

"The CID officials threat-

The CID officials also gave

They have also been

The three investigated the

Joj Mia was arrested from

CID officials Rashid, Atiq

the grenade attack case.

confessional statements.

BNP-led government.

Noakhali in June 2005.

family financially.

the family at that time.

The CID later found in a

Joj Mia was freed from

On March 30 last year, the

in the incident.

court order.

accused were false.

brother, a fish trader, is the lone breadwinner of the family.

Hasina promised him a job when he met her seven months back. But nothing has happened, said Joj Mia, who was released from Kashimpur prison on July 26 last year.

He was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment in the second case in 2005.

Shipon, Babu and Kabir persuaded Abdur Rashid and Ruhul Amin of the Criminal Investigation Department to arrest him.

three, who demanded protection money from him. Joj Mia with his father ran a scrap shop at Tejgaon at that time. The CID investigators in the

the then BNP-Jamaat coalition government. They picked Joj Mia as the fall guy. They also forced Abul Hashem also known as Rana

and Shafiqul Islam to confess to their involvement in the August 21 grenade attack. The then investigation officer Abdur Rashid, assistant superintendent of police

ened me that they would make me a key accused in the case and have me hanged. So, I decided to work according to

their instructions," Joj Mia said as to why he gave the false statement. Ruhul Amin, Rashid and

submission of the charge sheet Atiq had earlier denied misdirecting the probe.

enemy country". The attackers used Arges

27, 2005. Some investigators observed that criminals who carried out several attacks

and this is why the probes are helping each other. POLICE CLOSE TO CATCHING THE REST Police are very close to finding the absconding culprits of the attack. At least two teams of police

different countries since early "We're at the final stage of tracing the criminals," home secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder

that appropriate measures will be taken to bring them "We've enough information about the hideouts of some of the criminals. But it

the sake of investigation," a home ministry source said Of the ones on the run,

The teams have already visited a few European coun-

several months to track down the accused who have been

ment is also using diplomatic

Tale of a scapegoat

FROM PAGE 1

Prime Minister Sheikh His mother had to sell their

sole seven-katha plot of land at Senbagh in Noakhali for Tk 2 lakh to bear the expenses of two cases against him. One was filed in connection with the August 21 grenade attack and the other for possession of illegal arms and ammunition in 1998.

Joj Mia said informants

The informants took revenge on him for beating the

grenade attack case staged a farcical probe at the behest of

(CID), obtained confessional statements from them. But questions were raised about the authenticity of the poorly crafted statements. The government held back

based on Joj Mia's statement in the face of flak from various