

# Patrons left out in militancy probe

Despite open-secret entente, no govt move yet against JMJB-JMB sponsors, allies

**JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and SHAMIM ASHRAF**  
It now entirely rests with the government core command whether to take or not any steps to bring the patrons of Islamist militants to book, according to the law enforcers investigating into the militancy phenomenon.  
While probing the cases, they leave alone the patrons and cohorts of Islamist terrorists in political parties, the administration and even in the police, as they have received no government instruction regarding these people, not even to track them down, sources close to the investigators say.  
Although the media have exposed the roles and links of several of these godfathers and allies since 2004 and although the government and intelligence agencies know very well who they are and what they do, the country is yet to see any initiative against them.  
So, the investigators say, they confine their concentration to working out operation plans to net the militant leaders still at large, leaving it for the government top brass to decide what to do about their party men, who are guardians or comrades of the militants.  
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# Bangla Bhai to become fit for quizzing soon

No foreign link found yet, says IGP

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Interrogators may start quizzing Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai within a day or two when the dreaded militant leader is discharged from the hospital.  
Bangla Bhai, now being treated at the BDR hospital, may soon be shifted to general bed from Intensive Care Unit, Director General of Rapid Action Battalion MA Aziz Sarkar yesterday said, adding, "On physicians' permission, we will quiz him."  
Earlier, the Rab DG said after release from the hospital Bangla Bhai will be brought before a Mymensingh court to take him on SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

# MURDER OF PROF YUNUS Findings of police probe contradict kingpin's claim

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**  
Findings so far of the police investigation into the murder of Prof Muhammad Yunus of Rajshahi University (RU) contradict the detained militant ideologue Shaekh Abdur Rahman's claiming responsibility for the killing.  
The government on Thursday disclosed that outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Rahman in interrogation said that he had ordered the attacks on prominent writer Humayun Azad and Rajshahi University teacher Prof Yunus in 2004.  
"The government move seems to be a bid to rescue its ally Jamaat-e-Islami from an image crisis," said a source closely connected with the murder investigation.  
"Yet, we have to wait for the evidence that Rahman may produce. If his statement turns out to be true, it will be a major blow to the government's case against the kingpin." SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

# ABDUR RAHMAN Charges in two cases to be filed in a week

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet**  
Charge sheets in two cases filed in Sylhet against the chief of outlawed JMB, Abdur Rahman, and his associates will be submitted in a week, said Superintendent of Police (SP) of Sylhet Anwaruddin Khan.  
He told the Daily Star yesterday afternoon that investigations are progressing in a good pace.  
There is no need for further remand of the JMB chief, the SP added.  
A three men team of Criminal Investigation Department officials from the capital are also in Sylhet monitoring the investigations.  
Sylhet Kotwali Police will produce JMB activist Hridoy SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

# DEPLETION OF 80,000 HECTARES A YEAR Policy being framed to protect farmland

**REAZ AHMAD**  
Amidst an alarming depletion of cropland in the country, the government is now considering policy recommendations for regulating the use of rice land for non-farming purposes, official sources said.  
The recommendations for imposing restrictions on the use and management of rice land for protecting it are now lying with the ministries of finance and agriculture.  
Official statistics show that the country is losing farmland at an alarmingly high rate of 80,000 hectares a year from a total of 14 million hectares.  
Against this backdrop, Bangladesh Rice Foundation (BRF) last month prepared and forwarded to the government a draft 'National Rice Policy' recommending immediate policy intervention to protect the agro-economic base of the country.  
Farmers now require an overwhelming 70 percent of the total cropland for producing 26 million tonnes of rice to feed 150 million people of the country. As the population increases by about two million a year, farmers are facing the challenge of producing an additional 0.5 million tonnes of rice each year, and that again from less land.  
"Since it (land) is a scarce and critical national resource, the use and management of rice land should be regulated through a combination of legal administrative measures and incentives keeping in view the greater national interests," says the BRF's proposed National Rice Policy.  
It recommends, "Non-agricultural or less productive land should be earmarked in each SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

# Jubo League calls for 8-hr hartal on Monday

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Awami Jubo League, youth front of the main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday called a countrywide hartal from 6:00am to 2:00pm on Monday protesting the killing of its Dhaka district unit leader Masudur Rahman Imam Ali in 'crossfire' with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel.  
The AL's other front organisations including Bangladesh Chhatra League, Swachchhasebak League and Jubo Mohila League have supported the proposed hartal.  
Jubo League leaders gave the hartal call at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity office yesterday.  
They also demanded arrest and SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



A 1924 model Rolls Royce at the Gulshan Youth Club ground where around 80 vintage and modified cars were put on display yesterday. (Story on Page 6)

# INDIA VISIT PM to stay at hotel suite that housed Bush

**PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi**  
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia during her three-day visit to India from March 20 will be staying at the same suite of Delhi's Maurya Sheraton Hotel where US President George W Bush had stayed during his trip earlier this month.  
The Chandra Gupta Maurya suite of the hotel is considered the best from security point of view and Bill Clinton too had stayed here when he had visited New Delhi as US president in 2000.  
Khaleida, who would be undertaking her first visit to India since assuming power five years ago, arrives here on the late afternoon of March 20.  
After she places a wreath at the SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# Hasina likely to meet foreign diplomats Tuesday

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Opposition leader and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina is expected to invite the heads of foreign missions in Dhaka to a dinner on March 14 to exchange views on the country's latest political scenario.  
She is expected to brief the foreign mission chiefs about her views on the overall political scenario, including the prime minister's proposal for forming a committee to discuss the opposition's proposed reforms in the caretaker government system and the Election Commission (EC).  
Asked if the dinner, which will be held at Hotel Raddison, is to SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# Gangster killed in 'shootout' with cops

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
An accused in Mirpur Commerce College student Momen murder case was killed during a "shootout" between police and his accomplices in the city's Damalcourt area under Kafrul Police Station early yesterday.  
Kafrul police arrested Javed Iqbal Mintu, also a member of notorious "Taj Bahini", in Dhanmondi residential area Thursday afternoon.  
On his confessional statement, police along with Javed went to Damalcourt area at about 2:15am to capture his cohorts and to recover illegal firearms.  
Sensing the presence of the SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

# Racketeers sell fuel to foreign ships at Ctg

**RAFIQ HASAN**  
Several foreign ships calling at Chittagong Port illegally collect fuel (bunkers) from vendors instead of the government nominated oil companies, depriving the country of huge foreign currencies, sources said.  
All ships according to provision should collect fuel from Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) nominated oil companies Jamuna, Padma and Meghna in the foreign currencies.  
But some foreign ships refuel through vendors in connivance with a number of local shipping agents and corrupt company officials and make the payment in the local currency.  
The vendors collect oil at a nominal price from the BPC-nominated companies through unofficial channels, sometimes showing fake documents of factories, the source said.  
Some influential businesspersons in Chittagong are engaged in the powerful syndicate and are earning handsome amounts of money, the source added.  
This is a kind of smuggling as the vendors also collect oil from mother vessel oil tankers, which anchor at the Bay of Bengal and offload oil through lighter vessels.  
They pay the crew members of the mother vessels or lighter ships to get oil from the tankers, the source pointed out.  
The sources said this illegal business is thriving and dozens of small oil tankers (trawlers) are often seen in the Karnaphuli river channel and outer anchorage carrying petroleum to the foreign ships. One such tanker carries 100 to 250 tonnes oil on an average.  
Bunkers are also supplied to the foreign ships by the small oil tankers used by the BPC oil companies.  
Statistics show that approxi- SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

# Sri Lanka poised for series sweep

**BISHWAJIT ROY from Bogra**  
Bangladesh were on the brink of another series whitewash against Sri Lanka after yet another second-innings collapse on the third day of the second and final Test at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium here yesterday.  
Dav Whatmore's charges were bundled out for 201 despite half centuries by Habibul Bashar (73) and Mohammad Rafique (64), leaving the Lankans with a simple task of scoring 120 and clinch the two-Test series 2-0. The visitors won the first Test at Chittagong by eight wickets.  
Sri Lanka whipped their way to 77 for no loss at stumps, needing a further 43 runs on the fourth morning. Interestingly, they also won the SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Leaning on her son, widow of Jamal Uddin breaks into tears as the slain businessman's remains were brought to their Chittagong residence yesterday after a DNA test. PHOTO: STAR

# Sons blame MP in public for Jamal murder

3 more janazas today before burial

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**  
Sons of murdered business tycoon Jamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury implicated in public a BNP lawmaker and his brother as the masterminds of their father's abduction and murder during his first Janaza yesterday afternoon, where the accused lawmaker happened to be present.  
Jamal's sons Chowdhury Farman Reza Liton and Chowdhury Arman Reza Rana demanded exemplary punishments for the accused killers.  
The bereaved sons were addressing the people gathered for their father's funeral yesterday afternoon at Laldighi Maidan in Chittagong City when they said everybody knows about the involvement of a local BNP lawmaker from Anwara, Sarwar Jamal Nizam and his brother Maruf Nizam in the killing. Sarwar was present there at the time to attend the Janaza standing in the first row but after hearing the accusation against him he participated in it standing somewhere in the back rows.  
Even those arrested so far in connection with the abduction and killing of their father also named Maruf Nizam as the mastermind, Jamal's sons said.  
"They are the god fathers of the abductors and killers of our father and we demand their exemplary punishment so that no son like us has to loose his father, no wife like our mother has to loose her husband and no mother like our grandma has to loose her beloved son in such a tragic way in future," said Liton with tears rolling down his cheeks.  
Liton and Rana received the remains of their father from Chittagong Kotwali Police Station at 11:30am yesterday, after it had been confirmed through a DNA test in Singapore that the remains are indeed of Jamal Uddin.  
Three more Janazas will be held today for the deceased before his remains are buried in the family SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

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