



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

COMMITTED TO People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVI NO. 59

DHAKA TUESDAY MARCH 14, 2006

www.thedailystar.net

FALGUN 30, 1412 BS

SAFAR 12, 1427 HJRI

16 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 10.00



## Rab kills JMB bomber; his wife, 2 kids blown off

### Rahman's militant son captured wounded from Comilla hideout; huge explosives seized from 3 dens; 2 Rab men hurt

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and SHAMIM ASHRAF

Bomb expert of banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) Shakil alias Mollah Omar died in Rab fire while three of his family members were killed in bomb explosions meant to resist the raid on their hideout in Comilla town yesterday.

The elite crime busters arrested JMB supremo Abdur Rahman's son Nabil Rahman and JMB cadre Alamgir alias Bijoy alias Shaikat 22, on the scene.

Shakil's wife Shahida, and two children Sayeed, 4 and Meem, one and half years old, died on impact.

Earlier the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) captured commander of Comilla district JMB Mustafizur Rahman alias Sohel, Ehsar [full-time activist] Abdus Samad Mintu, Khaleda Akhtar Rani, Kazem, 7, and Kaif 5, raiding two militant hideouts in the town.

The raids aiming mainly at netting JMB Majlish-e-Shura member Khaled Saifullah began in the

early hours yesterday.

Saifullah, who was in charge of the militant outfit in Rangpur-Dinajpur region, had reportedly left the militant lair Sunday morning.

Although the Rab men failed to arrest him, they said they have seized a huge stockpile of explosives during the 20 hours long operation.

The law enforcers found seven live bombs at Kalijuri hideout, where the bomb expert and his family perished.

Earlier huge explosives including live bombs and grenades were recovered from Bishnupur and 3kg gunpowder from another house near Thompson Bridge.

Over 200 members from Rab-5, Rab-7, Rab-10, the headquarters and intelligence wing took part in the raids. They were carrying out a follow-up operation till filing of this report at around midnight.

OPERATION COMILLA

A Rab team from Dhaka went to Comilla town Sunday evening. At

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PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Bodies of two kids of the JMB bomber lie under the debris after blasts at a militant hideout in Comilla yesterday.

## Operation started with 4 Rab men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only four Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel started the Comilla operation in the evening of March 12 and were gradually reinforced to launch the raid at midnight.

Rab sources said the four set out for Comilla from Dhaka to track down Khaled Saifullah, absconding Majlish-e-Shura member of the outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

They reached Comilla town in the evening and located an area

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## Give me AK47, I'll kill you all

Rahman's son tells Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nabil, the eldest son of outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Abdur Rahman, became furious after his arrest in Comilla yesterday.

"Give me an AK47, I'll kill you all," Nabil shouted when Rapid Action Battalion held him on his coming out of the house Jannatul Shafi.

As the elite force asked him why he needed a rifle, the 18-year-old boy said he had Allah's order to kill Rab personnel. "I know how to operate it."

Nabil did not reply to all the

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## Bomb expertise made him JMB's Mollah Omar

STAR REPORT

November 14 last year.

The Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) started calling Shakil as Mollah Omar, the infamous deputy of Osama-bin-Laden, as he proved his expertise in bomb making.

It is Shakil who supplied the explosives which were used in killing two judges in Jhalakathi on

Before his death, suicide bomber Hasan Al Mamun who killed the two judges -- Jagannath Pandey and Sohel Ahmed -- in Jhalakathi, disclosed Shakil's name in his confessional statement.

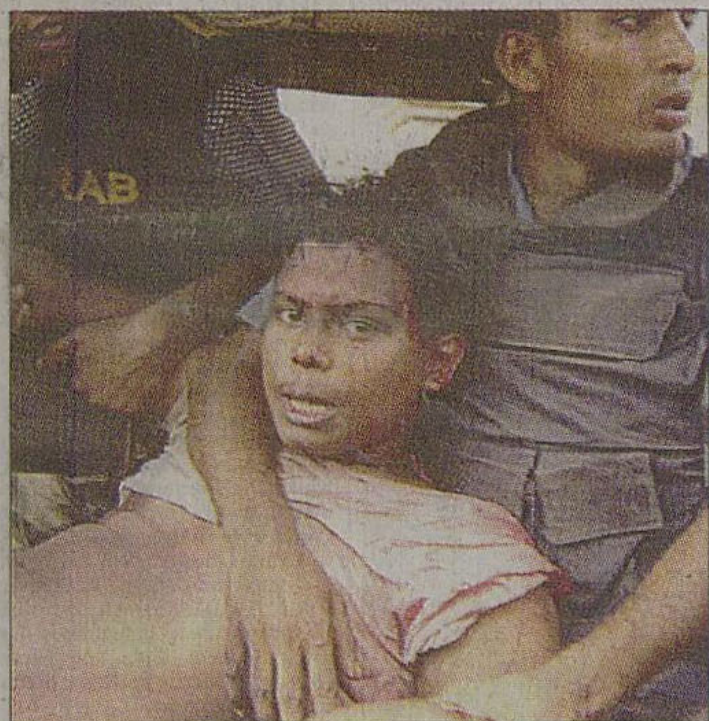
In the charge sheet of the two judges killing case, Shakil alias Molla Omar was described as

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PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

The body of JMB bomb expert Shakil alias Mollah Omar lies at a militant hideout in Kalijuri of Comilla after a Rab operation yesterday.



CLOCKWISE ... Bullet-hit Nabil, son of JMB chief Abdur Rahman, in a Rab vehicle after his capture from his Comilla hideout; Rab men take away a JMB activist; Jannatul Shafi, the hideout, after bomb blasts; a member of Rab bomb squad recover a bomb from the spot.

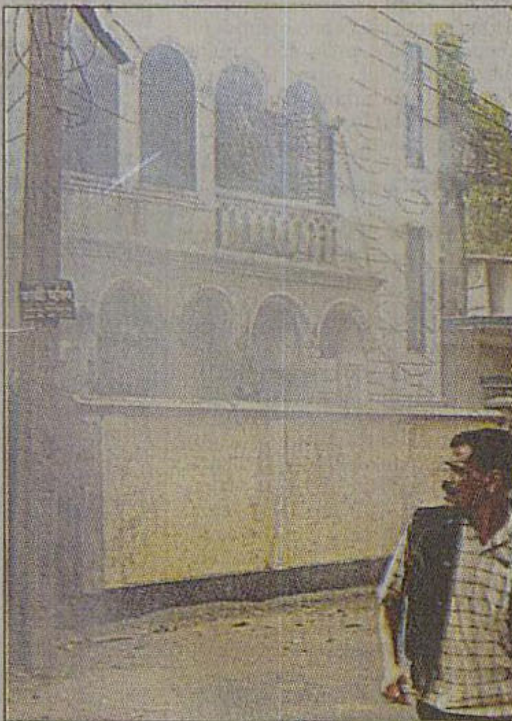


PHOTO: STAR/FOCUS BANGLA/TV GRAB

## JMB fighting law enforcers since 2003

STAR REPORT

Islamist militants have so far clashed several times with law enforcers and even snatched their arms and ammunition, starting at Khetlal upazila in Joypurhat in 2003.

The elite anti-crime forces faced another such resistance in Comilla yesterday when they went to arrest JMB explosives expert Shakil alias Mollah Omar.

During a shootout in Khetlal, Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) looted three rifles and 60 bullets from police as they raided a

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## Day of horror

SHARIFUL ISLAM from Comilla

The house Jannatul Shafi or 'recommended for paradise' was turned into a hell on earth yesterday during an operation by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) against militants of outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh.

During a visit yesterday afternoon, blood and debris were seen littering the entire house.

The hands of two children were blown up, one hand and one leg of a woman were detached from her body, while the other hand and leg were hanging loose.

All the pieces of furniture turned into ashes, the doors and windows

collapsed, and blood was oozing from the bodies scattering the rooms.

The walls inside the flats were riddled with bullets, the cushions of the sofa were torn and the lone PC was destroyed -- all a testimony to the intensity of the blast and gunshots fired by Rab.

Clean-shaved Shakil alias Mollah Omar, clad in a yellow T-shirt and black trousers, had wounds in his chest, possibly of bullets. Wires connecting detonators were wrapped around the body of JMB's bomb expert when he was found dead.

The mutilated bodies of his wife

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## CARETAKER GOVT PERIOD PM defends keeping army under president

UNB, Comilla

Defending the existing caretaker government system, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said the army will remain under the authority of the president during the interim period.

"Army will remain under the president during the period of the caretaker government, but they (opposition) don't like this. This will remain as it is, and it is the right way," she told a public meeting at Homna Adarsha School ground in Comilla.

Khaleda said the army performs various responsibilities, including

carrying out duties during elections, but the opposition opposes the deployment of army as they want

to capture polling booths by unleashing terrorism.

They will not be able to do that if army remains on duty, she added. Terming the opposition's reform proposal illogical, the prime minister questioned how much acceptable is their proposal. "None will support their proposal," she said.

She said the BNP believes in free, fair and peaceful elections and the caretaker government system

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## ANTI-TERROR LAW Cabinet doesn't approve as some ministers oppose

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday did not approve the proposed Anti-Terrorist Act 2006 as several ministers opposed the law and asked for revision before its enactment.

The cabinet however discussed in detail the draft law placed in a cabinet meeting that decided to form a cabinet committee for its further scrutiny.

The committee will comprise five members and submit a report within one month of its formation, sources said.

Several ministers present at the meeting chaired by the prime

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## Chief whip's lavish entertainment bill

I haven't done anything illegal, he says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Khandaker Delwar Hossain is entitled to Tk 1 lakh a month for his livelihood as the chief whip, but he has

been taking additional Tk 1 lakh every month since July 2004 as entertainment cost for his office.

According to the Bangladesh Whips Order 1972, the chief whip enjoys the status of a minister and

accordingly gets the salary, allowances, house rent and other facilities. Still the unusual expenditure in the name of entertainment by him has raised questions about his integrity.

Reportedly, he had been taking a substantial amount of daily essentials like rice, sugar, and oil from the parliament cafeteria for his family. The Parliament Secretariat had to cover the cost from the entertainment fund earmarked for the offices of the whips, sources said.

Delwar Hossain however sees nothing wrong in this 'unusual'

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## Comilla chosen as new JMB den this month

STAR REPORT

Explosives expert of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) Shakil alias Mollah Omar moved to Kalijuri in Comilla, considering it safe this month as the law enforcers paid less attention to the district where no militant activities were reported recently.

While the law enforcers had been searching for the deadly operative in the northern region and Tangail, Mymensingh and Jamalpur districts, Shakil had stayed safely in Comilla.

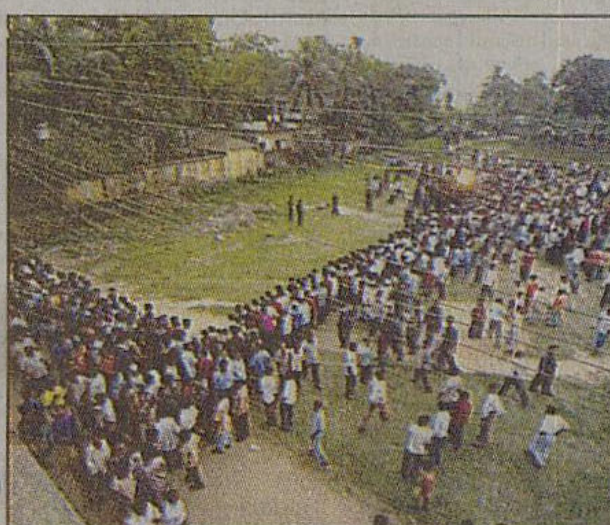


PHOTO: STAR/TV GRAB

CLOCKWISE ... Curious people gather near the cordoned off house Jannatul Shafi; bomb-making materials and equipment recovered from three JMB dens; Rab bomb squad men carry some seized bomb-making equipment.

## Capture of JMB kingpins proves govt's sincerity to curb terror

Says Congressman Crowley

BSS, New York

US Congressman Joseph Crowley has described the arrest of two top leaders of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) as a remarkable success of the government in curbing terrorism.

"It has proved the sincerity of the Bangladesh government towards curbing terrorism... this success will help build the

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