# Wife, 2 kids blown off

first, they marked a 1.5 by 1 kilometre spread over Kaliaiuri. Bishnupur and Judges Court area.

After closing off the area, they pinpointed Rowshan Villa (house No. 60 in Bishnupur, Kotwali) on information that Khaled Saifullah was holed up there.

Raiding the house early yesterday, the team found a huge cache of explosives including three live bombs, hand grenades and detonator powder.

JMB cadre Mustafizur Rahman alias Rajib alias Ushaka and a woman with two children were arrested in the house. The two later admitted that Saifullah and JMB activist Salam had left the house early Sunday.

Acting on information provided by Rajib, another team raided a tinroofed house near Thomson Bridge and arrested Abdus Samad with 3

As the Rab men were leaving the Bishnupur house at around 9:30am, Rajib disclosed that the militants had another hideout at Kaliaiuri.

A Rab team rushed to Kaliajuri and ringed a two-storey house named Jannatul Shafi at around 10:30am

As the crime busters knocked on the front door, no one responded. When the Rab men attempted to break in, someone from inside wanted to know why they would have to open the door.

"As we said we went there to make some arrests on specific information, one from within said they would not open the door and Rab will not be able to arrest them, a Rab officer who participated in the operation told The Daily Star

#### PM defends

FROM PAGE 1

was introduced by her government as per demand of the

opposition. Three general elections were held under the caretaker administration

Khaleda said it is also possible to conduct elections free and fair under the BNP government, citing some examples like Chittagong City Corporation election and different municipality elections.

"We believe in dialogue---but destructive activities in the name of discussion and movement will not be allowed," she said in an oblique reference to recent developments involving opposition agitation.

Criticising the past Awami League (AL) government, the prime minister said when the BNP-led alliance came to power in 2001, the entire country was in the grip of terrorists and the economic condi-

tion was fragile. "Our first priority was to recover the huge number of illegal arms, which the past government had distributed," she told her audience, defending the necessity of "Operation Clean Heart".

She said the government has formed Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), as police force was not good

enough to contain crimes. The prime minister said people don't believe them (AL) as they

didn't fulfill their promise while they were in power. She urged the countrymen to

cast their votes in favor of the BNP and its allies for continuity of her government's development work.

Chaired by Homna Upazila BNP President Sirajul Islam, the meeting was also addressed by Health Minister Khandokar Mosharraf Hossain, Agriculture Minister MK Anwar, Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury, Redwan Ahmed MP. Moniurul Ahsan

Munshi MP and MA Khaleg MP.

## Complainant

harboured Siddiqul Islam alias Bangla Bhai have not been mentioned even in the second charge sheet that Senior Sub-inspector Enamul Huq of Mollahat Police Station submitted to the court on February 14. complainant Tapan Poddar stated in his naraii petition.

The court had fixed March 12 for hearing on the second charge sheet.

Relevant sections of Explosive Substances Act and dacoity were not also mentioned in the second charge sheet, the naraji petition

Siddiqul Islam Bangla Bhai and his associates attacked the house of Tarapada Poddar, president of Gaola union Awami League of Mollahat upazila, on the night of August 15, 2002. Tarapada was among the injured in bomb and armed attack launched by Bangla

Bhai and his cadres Mollahat OC forced Tapan Poddar to lodge an FIR on August 16 accusing Bangla Bhai and his associates of theft, instead of bomb and armed attack, the complainant

On January 1, 2003, Subinspector Humayun Kabir of Bagerhat Detective Branch submitted a weak charge sheet, accusing six people while six others were left

The left out included Bangla Bhai whom the IO of the case described

In the wake of rise in militant activities, the home ministry ordered reinvestigation of the case in October last year.

open the door and surrender. In reply, a voice said, "We'll blow

Without exerting further pressure at this point, the Rab had reinforcements and strengthened the cor-

They also tried to negotiate the surrender of the insiders. Speaking over a phone from an adjacent house, they told the militants that there would be no attack on them if they come out. In response, JMB bomb expert Mollah Omar alias Shakil who was on the receiving end asked the law enforcers to drop their weapons.

During the phone conversation the Rab men learnt how many of them were hiding inside.

Shortly afterwards, the Rab men lobbed tear gas canisters and shot water on the house to flush the insiders out. In retaliation, the militants hurled a bomb through a window, injuring two of the Rab

The raiding team then opened fire on the house and continued ng water and teargas shells.

At this point, Alamgir came out and surrendered. Nabil, the JMB chief's eldest son, by this time was injured in the shooting.

At around 2:15pm, when he came near the doors, Rab men took him by the hand and brought him out. He received bullet wounds in

the hands and forehead The men inside the house soon detonated another bomb, which Rab claimed, killed Meem and Sayeed. No one was injured in the

third explosion. The Rab later made Nabil request Shakil to come out. "But it didn't work," said a Rab officer.

After the forth blast, the Rab men trying to enter the house saw Shakil's wife Shahida sitting as her entire body was covered with clothes Sensing danger, when the Rab

men backed off a few vards, another powerful bomb went off, killing nahida on impact.

On Being sure that no one inside was alive, the entered the house at around 2:30pm and found Shakil lying dead on the first floor with bullet injuries in his body. INUJRED

Immediately after the first blast, Rab men whisked off injured Deputy Assistant Director of Rab Masuduzzaman and Constable Golam Nabi to a safer place and later to Comilla Sadar Hospital.

After having Nabil treated at a local hospital, Lieutenant Commander Shahed and Major Faruk started for Dhaka with him in an ambulance late in the evening.

## Bogra court

petition by Special Public

Prosecutor (PP) Ataur Rahman to show JMB chief Abdur Rahman as arrested in the murder case of a rickshawpuller Shafiqur Rahman ir the same bomb attack.

Advocates Abu Bakker and Sirajul Haque placed the petition for Galib's bail to Special District Judge Anwar Hossain on Monday morn-

Two more accused in the case, Zainal Sarker and Shafigullah, were also produced at the court. Special PP Ataur Rahman submitted a prayer and requested the court to issue an order to produce JMB chief Abdur Rahman. The court scheduled the next date for trial of

the case on April 30. The plaintiff of the case. Habibur Rahman, appealed to the court that he is not capable of coming to the court time and again due to his acute poverty. The Special PP assured him that he will be paid for the expenditure on the next date of

the trail. Court sources said accused Zainal Sarker, Shafigullah and their accomplices carried out a bomb attack on a theatrical stage at midnight on January 14 last year on Shah Rawshan Primary School premises. The police raided the house of Zainal Sarker in nearby Gabtoli Upazila on suspicion and arrested Shafiqullah with bomb making materials in his possession.

## Rab, Betar

FROM PAGE 16

Mujahideen Bangladesh) chief Abdur Rahman and second-incommand Siddiqul Islam alias Bangla Bhai as well as their continuous action against the criminals have earned them the nomination

The name of Bangladesh Betar was proposed for its glorious contribution to the country's Liberation

Independence Award for prime minister's approval that included three cabinet ministers. The committee, however, expressed its reservations about the inclusion of ministers. The list was later

The award committee in another meeting on March 12 chaired by **Environment Minister Tariqui Islam** made the revised list selecting the Rab and Bangladesh Betar.

## Niko accepts

FROM PAGE 16 sign a GPSA (gas purchase and sales agreement) with Petrobangla, the state-owned hydrocarbon

corporation "I think Niko has accepted the government's offer and the gas price issue is likely to be resolved soon by signing a GPSA," he told

Rahman also said Niko has nformed him about its plan to ncrease production at Feni gas field by another 20 million cubic feet per day (mmcfd). Under this plan, Niko will invest

another \$ 15 million at Feni gas field to drill a new oil to increase output, After the increased production

the field's output will reach 50 mmcfd against Niko's present production of 30-mmcfd from the eni gas field The energy adviser said he has advised the Niko officials to place

their new plan at a meeting of the Joint Management Committee (JMC) of Niko and Bapex He said a JMC meeting will be convened within a week to discuss

Niko's new plan and the work

programme regarding the explora-

tion work at Tengratila gas field. Earlier, the government had approved a proposal of Niko to resume exploration work at Tengratila field on some conditions.

#### Eden College FROM PAGE 16

principal of the college and vowed not to leave the hall till their demands are met.

The demonstrators said the authorities tried to crush their movement using Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists and by threatening to cancel their registrations with the college. Failing to quell the movement the authorities decided to shut down the college and directed the students to vacate the residential hall, they said,

The students said they saw the notice vesterday morning.

Prof Feroza Begum, principal of the college, said the authorities took the decision at a teachers' meeting on Sunday considering the present volatile situation on the campus. She, however, declined to comment any further.

Several hundred students have been demonstrating since March 8 demanding reassignment of the seats at the residential hall to those who had been driven out allegedly by JCD leaders.

Their demands also include punishment for the JCD leaders involved in an illegal practice of arranging residential seats for new students in exchange of money.

Demonstrating students on Sunday threatened to paralyse the college administration by calling an indefinite strike if their demands are not met by March 18.

Meanwhile, different political parties and student organisations, ncluding Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, Progotishil Chhatra Jote and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, yesterday condemned the authorities' decision to vacate the campus and suspend the

#### 3 kids hurt

FROM PAGE 16

All of them were admitted to Meherpur General Hospital.

A team of Rab-6 (Rapid Action Battalion) visited the spot and the hospital. There might be two bombs n the bag

On February 25, three children were wounded in a similar explosion at Isannagar village in the upazila.

Police suspect that outlawed party cadres might have kept the bombs there in an act of sabotage.

### Even police not spared Capture of JMB

FROM PAGE 1 country's image abroad," said the

US congressman. Joseph Crowley, also the Chairman of Bangladesh Caucus in US Congress, said this while speaking at a function organised by the World Human Rights and

Development, an organisation to

raise fund for his election here

yesterday. Referring to his recent visit to Bangladesh, he said democracy in Bangladesh is progressing towards right direction. He identified corruption as the main impediment to achieving development of the coun-

"During my visit to Bangladesh, I requested the prime minister to form an independent human rights commission along with strengthening the Anti-Corruption Commissions to curb corruption," he added.

The US influential congressman, however, said Bangladesh is being deprived of US Millennium Challenge Fund due to corruption in the country. The amount of GDP in Bangladesh will increase remarkably if the government is able to contain corruption, he observed.

About the next general elections in Bangladesh, he said this election will be the most important election in the history of the country. The whole world is looking forward to this election, he added.

Expressing his hope for a free, fair and peaceful election in Bangladesh, Crowley said all political parties will have to play their due role in holding the election free, fair and neutral

# Sedition cases

reform held at the home ministry vesterday.

"An ordinance can be promulgated now under Article 93 of the Constitution and it can be approved later at next session in parliament."

sition and discussions are needed for it. he said.

charge is proved against anyone. The existing law only provides

and work behind the militants." Currently, nine courts of Speedy Trial Tribunal are dealing with the cases filed for militant bomb attacks since the serial blasts across the

are not enough to try the militants, the government will set up new tribunals, Moudud added.

Babar believes the militant network

in Bangladesh is not very active now after the arrests of their top leaders including JMB supremo Abdur Rahman and his deputy Bangla

"I don't think they are very active now. Two to four (top leaders) may be active. But it's not that much a big issue," he told the reporters

The minister however emphasised continuous attempts to eradicate the militancy.

"We'll have to stick to the issues so that all the arrested militants can be awarded punishment. New militants may rise if we don't stick to

Asked about interrogation of

Bangla Bhai, Babar said he is yet to

come round and be fit for interroga-

tion. Although his health condition has improved, he is still undergoing treatment, the minister said. "We'll have to get a court order for Bangla Bhai's interrogation and

for remand first "He is not in a safe physical condition now to be taken to the court," Babar said without specifying a time in this regard.

need to produce him before a court

# Entertainment bill

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' expenditure financed by the Parliament Secretariat. "I haven't done anything illegal. What I have taken are very much covered by my privileges," he told The

Daily Star at his office yesterday. responding to the allegation of making an unusual expenditure. Sources at the Parliament Secretariat said the chief whip had taken over Tk 8 lakh in last eight months during the current fiscal year (05-06) as entertainment cost. During

had taken Tk 1 lakh to 1.5 lakh each. About Tk 27 lakh was allocated as entertainment cost for the offices of the whips in the last fiscal (04-05). The chief whip alone has spent over half of

the same period, the other six whips

the allocation. The expenditure on entertainment rose because of his taking essentials from the Parliament Secretariat.

"Tk 8 lakh is not too much for a chief whip's office to spend." said Delwar. also chairman of the House Committee that is commissioned to oversee the accommodation and other facilities for the lawmakers.

"The Parliament Secretariat could have withheld the bills if the expenditure was really excessive "he said The chief whip directed the officials at his office to look into the situation

Besides, there is no ceiling on

about the expenditure and essential taken from the Parliament Secretariat and the cafeteria. "I personally don't submit any requisition or bill, it is the job of my office staff." Deputy Leader of the Opposition

of any office. "Question has already

been raised whether the expenditure

Superintendent of Police (SP) Masud

Mia on phone and left hurling abuses

Earlier on the day, Mostafa took

interviews of Bangla Bhai and his

'spiritual' leader JMB chief Abdur

Rahman at Bhawaniganj Women's

ruler' at Bagmara of Raishahi and Atrai

and Raninagar upazilas of Naogaon.

Mostafa, also the president of

Raishahi Press Club, said, adding that

the militant leader, who virtually got the

command over police, imposed a

stretched to Naldanga of Natore.

Durgapur and Puthia of Raishahi and

big political power was behind Bangla

Bhai who would ask his followers.

"Don't get afraid. Slaughter the out-

laws whenever you see them. Police

entrance of iournalists and newcom-

ers to those areas since April 1. A large

number of Bangla Bhai's workers

wearing green turban used to stand

like sentinels at all entry points and

Bangla Bhai three times, said, "We

visited the areas with police help upon

home minister had already ordered

arrest of Bangla Bhai. SP Masud Mia

took me to Bagmara by a vehicle of

ASP Alamgir Kabir. Detective Branch

Inspector Shamim Azad Chowdhury

and Sub-inspector Obaidul were

"I was taken to Sadhanpur Bazar

Mostafa, who managed to meet

"It was the night of May 20. The

Meanwhile. Bangla Bhai banned

will be bound to help vou.'

intersections.

Bangla Bhai's consent."

accompanying us.

Naogaon Sadar upazilas, he said.

Bangla Bhai's command also

Mostafa said he could sense that a

iungle rule in the area in 2004.

Bangla Bhai was a 'unproclaimed

College.

was excessive," he observed

In accordance with the laws pertaining to the remuneration, allowances and other facilities of the ministers, the chief whip is entitled to have at least Tk 12 lakh a year. He is entitled to have Tk 29,000 a month in salary, Tk 25.000 in house rent. Tk 750 in daily allowance and a yearly optional fund of Tk 3 lakh. Besides, he has the right to allowances for travel, medical, telephone and an amount for maintenance of an office in his constituency.

the parliament cafeteria said, had taken essentials from the cafeteria for about two years. The cafeteria would send the commodities to his residence at the beginning of each month. But for the last two or three months, they did not supply those to the residence of the chief whip. A national daily on Monday pub-

lished a news story on the matter and it was the talk of parliament secretariat vesterday. Khandakar Delwar denied taking

He said it is true that he has taken essentials for the use of his residence "My residence is a part of my office. can entertain guests there."

About taking cash from the cafete ria and submitting bill to the Parliament Secretariat through the cafeteria, he said, "My office took cash to buy goods only when the cafeteria failed to supply Whip Zahed Ali Chowdhury who

was present at that time echoed the view. Both the lawmakers blasted the cafeteria for hiking the prices of differ-Sources said the office of the

where I saw SP Masud Mia and

Bangla Bhai talking beneath a mango

tree near the bazar. I advanced and

shook hands with both of them." said

of 'good man' Bangla Bhai, the SP

said, adding that Bangla Bhai

achieved in 10 days what police could

Mustaque appeared on the scene

within hours and told Bangla Bhai,

"Arrangements for others will be done

by tomorrow." The SP then asked

Mustaque not to harm those who

On the following day, newspapers

reported that the body of Abdul

Quayyum Badshah of Raninagar, one

of the three abducted, was hanging

unside down with a tree in Bogra and

several weeks later, Idris Ali Khejur's

Bangla Bhai's bodyguard Shahidul

Islam of Joypurhat was carrying a

large bag. Being asked, he said in the

bag there were arms to root out the

properties of JMB. Do not touch

these," Mostafa quoted Bangla Bhai

"Look, what happens if one is

"Bangla Bhai once took us to the

body was found in four pieces.

of the house

as saying.

Mostafizur Rahman alias killer

notin 10 years."

"Journalists should write in favour

speaker, the custodian of the Jatiya Sangsad, has no plans to probe the

#### duct attacks in several districts including the divisional headquarters, said a source.

our Boara correspondent

Chief whip

FROM PAGE 16 Star that BNP is ready to discuss any issue for the sake of a free and fair election. The PM also favours discussion. He hoped the process of formation of a committee would begin shortly.

# Sunny, Awal

FROM PAGE 16 the explosion near Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on August 17 last year.

On expiry of their seven-day remand Sunny and Awal were produced before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Shamsul Alam yesterday and sought for another eight days of remand for further interrogation.

The DB of police accompanied by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) produced them before the court under tight security blanket. The two were wearing helmets and bullet proof vests.

The court granted the prayed remand. The magistrate also asked them whether they would appoint any lawyers to defend them. But they remained silent.

Earlier, JMB chief Abdur Rahman, operations commander of banned Harkatul Jihad (HuJi) Bangladesh chapter Mufti Abdul Hannan and regional commander of Gazipur Enayet Ullah were placed on remand

# Myanmar border

FROM PAGE 16

"All district and upazila livestock officials have been asked to remain alert against entry of poultry birds and products from Myanmar into the country," Dr Salehuddin Mahmud, director general of the Livestock Services, told the news agency.

He said though Bangladesh does not import any poultry birds or products from Myanmar, the frontier vigilance has been intensified as an extra-precaution against entry of birds by chance. Myanmar reported that it found

house of listed outlaw Ratan in strains of H5N1 virus in dead poultry Bagmara. He called the local people around its central city of Mandalaya. and asked them not to touch anything Veterinarians said the flu had killed at least 112 birds around the city. "This house, this land, trees, pond The government prohibited

and fish in it -- all are from now on imports of chicks from several countries, including Thailand, India and Malaysia, as part of its vigilance against bird flu to save Bangladesh's growing poultry industry. involved with terrorism," Bangla Bhai told Mostafa pointing to Ratan's

# Strict compliance

100 injured
FROM PAGE 16
At about 7:00am Jubo League

brought out a procession in front of

their central office on the

Bangabandhu Avenue. Police later

arrested Jubo League leader Ameer

Hossain Gazi at Bangabandhu

Avenue as angry activists pelted

teargas shells and chased the Jubo

League activists into their office

Police also charged batons on the

opposition workers at the main

entrance of the central office. At

least 12 people including three

police constables and two journal-

processions left five injured in

Mohakhali area, seven on

Panthapath, five on Green Road

area, 15 at Russel Square and one

in Dhaka University campus in the

city. As police dispersed a Jubo

League procession in Fakirapool

angry activists damaged five vehi-

League will stage demonstrations

today in the capital and across the

comparatively low while rickshaws

plied as usual on the city streets.

Long distant vehicles remained

halted. Educational institutions.

business houses, shopping centres

remained closed while attendance

at private offices, government

place when police intercepted an AL

procession around 9.30am. Police

dispersed the procession by charg-

ing batons while the picketers pelted

stones at police and damaged eight

Meanwhile 10 people were

iniured during clashes between

Jubo League and police in the

Sylhet city, reports our Sylhet corre-

The Jubo League enforced

hartal was observed partially in

Chittagong city yesterday, reports

our Chittagong correspondent

Vehicles remained off the streets in

the early hours of hartal but trans-

ports including some long distant

safe place, JMB chief Abdur

Rahman's son Nabil also took

shelter there. So did Khaled

Saifullah, a member of Majlish-e-

Sura, the highest decision taking

law enforcers revealed yesterday.

Mollah Omar was learnt to have

sent a big cache of explosives from

Bogra to Comilla recently, reports

Comilla as part of the plans to con-

Omar stored the explosives in

New JMB den

buses plied after 10:00am.

The clash at Savar Bazar took

Movement of motor vehicles was

Police action on pro-hartal

Police in retaliation lobbed

brickbats towards them.

ists were injured.

cles in the area.

offices were usual.

buses and two trucks.

spondent.

FROM PAGE 1

body of JMB.

country.

the workers and their safety. He said a large number of workers are losing their lives just in pursuit of livelihoods. Nobody even keeps appropriate data of the accidents and casualties, he said. He raised different issues including causes of accidents, ways to prevent them, and the existing laws related to the industrial sector.

"This discussion is not for any big investment to ensure safety for workers but to change the existing attitude of the owners and government officials and to start a good practice." he said Citing a study, Dr Bhattacharya

said in the last 10 years only 4.8 percent of the income from export went to the workers and 7.8 percent went into the pockets of garment factory owners while the net wage of a worker was reduced After Dr Bhattacharya's speech,

the chair opened the session for Protesting the attacks Jubo other speakers who came from a wide range of specialised disci-Suggesting for an industrial commission, Professor Nasrin

Khandakar of Dhaka University said workers safety is in a very vulnerable situation in our country. She also suggested for a management committee at every factory with representation from the workers to improve the situation. Kabir Ahmed Chowdhury, deputy director of the labour directorate,

said workers do not even know their rights. They should be made more aware of their rights and legitimate claims they could make, he said. "If we can just implement the existing laws, number of accidents

Annisul Huq, immediate past president of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said they had formed 10 vigilance committees to inspect the main and emergency gates of factories.

But the buildings within the city are not up to the mark for setting up factories. But we cannot move from the city to establish factories as we electricity there," he said.

do not get good supply of gas and Shirin Akhter from Karmojibi Nari said everybody should be conscious about implementation of the existing laws that could reduce the

rate of accidents Fazlul Haque, president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), said followng an accident the owner loses property. "So no owner wants any accident to take place but we should

be more serious," he added. Laila Rhaman, former president of Bangladesh Employers Federation said the Factory Rules-1979 should be amended. She said her organisation had proposed an amendment to the rule in 1994 but nothing has happened so far.

Nazma Akhter, a leader of garment workers, said, "The garment sector is booming in the country but we are merely surviving. Lack of safety in garment factories also has not changed over the years." Kabir Hossain, secretary of the

Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS), demanded exemplary punishment for those factory inspectors, government officials owners of factories and landlords who allow renting of vulnerable houses for setting up factories. Abul Hossain, president of

Federation, said since the independence the nation has not seen a worker-friendly government and that is the main reason for recurring accidents in factories. Touhidur Rahman, president of Garment Industry Workers

Textile Garment Workers

Federation also demanded a monitoring committee including people "No body wants such accidents. from different classes and sectors.

# A day of sheer horror

staying in the locality.

will be reduced.

to have heard several blasts in the house. The first bomb, went off around 2:15pm, blew up a window

Several JMB operatives had **BOMBS DEFUSED** rented flats in the town couple of The Rab claimed to have seized months back and had been living seven live bombs from the house there without having any problem. and dismantled those at a nearby paddy field at 7:00 in the evening.

> highly powerful and could have caused huge casualties if exploded in a public place. "The bombs had iron-coats and were long and round in

Experts said the bombs were

shape," said a Rab bomb expert. THE HOUSE The house is owned by a Saudi Arabia expatriate, Mohammad Yunus. His wife Khairun Nahar. who lives on the first floor of the

house, rented the house to the

IMR militants She told newspersons two youths introducing themselves as Rajib and Shawon rented the ground-floor flat on January 1 at Tk 2,000 excluding the utility bills.

# Myanmar reports

FROM PAGE 16 2,000 chicken carcasses on a dumping ground, officials said

The dead hirds were discovered in the southern city of Hyderabad, sparking fears among the public and prompting local authorities to order extensive precautionary measures, the local mayor said. The scare comes as Pakistan

tory whether birds found with the H5 strain in northwestern Pakistan last month had the deadly H5N1 strain. "We have summoned samples of the dead birds from Hyderabad to test in the laboratory," said

waits to learn from a British labora-

Mohammad Afzal, spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and

## Give me AK47

FROM PAGE 1

Monday.

He said residents of Jannatul Shafi, where he was staying with JMB bomb expert Mollah Omar and his family, were ready with bombs standing at the doors on the ground floor of the two-storey house.

"When they threatened to blow

Rab officer quoted Nabil as saying. Asked when he had come to the nouse, Nabil did not reply. Talking to The Daily Star after the operation, some Rab officials said they have no clear idea why Nabil

came out of the house. "Maybe he

up the house, they meant it," the

was frightened receiving bullet injury and came to the door and our men brought him out," a Rab officer Alamgir alias Saikat, another JMB activist who surrendered during the operation, said he went to the house 20 days ago. He said

local JMB leader Shawon rented the Before his arrest on March 2 in Sylhet, JMB chief Abdur Rahman instructed Shakil over phone to keep his son Nabil with him, a Rab source quoted Alamgir as saying. Nabil went there on March 1, he

"The youths claimed to have

been employees of a cellphone

she said, adding, they paid Tk

Expressing surprise after

company in Tongibari in Gazipur,

and a part of the boundary wall of the house

Locals and witnesses claimed

learning the identities of her tenants, she said they remained secluded from the neighbours. "The woman always kept herself veiled and did not get out of the house, but they had a lot of visi-

1,000 in advance.

"As a lot of people came to the house and used a good amount of water, I asked them to pay more for water. They however refused to pay more and said they would leave the house in April."

## JMB's Mollah Omar

Mamun and trained him about its explosion mechanism.

Barisal Speedy Trial Tribunal on February 20 awarded 40 years rigorous imprisonment to Shakil, JMB chief Abdur Rahman, Siddigul Islam alias Bangla Bhai, Abdul Awal, Ataur Rshman Sunny, Khaled Saifullah and Mamun.

Shakil also visited Barisal in mid October 2005 along with Abdur Rahman, Bangla Bhai, Awal, Sunny, Khalid, Mamun and participated in the assassination plot-making meeting and then supplied the bombs to Mamun, the killer, at

Rab said they were searching for one of JMB's bomb experts named Shakil in Naogaon after the August 17 countrywide bomb blasts. "We later got information that

Shakil works for the JMB in Pabna, Comilla, Sirajganj and Kushtia districts," said a Rab officer. Meanwhile, a Rab officer said it is

still to be confirmed whether the Shakil who introduced himself as Mollah Omar is that Shakil.

### Cabinet

FROM PAGE 1 minister opposed the law saying

is no such law in this subcontinent and the government should examine very carefully before making The proposed law has provi-

that it might be used as a political

Some of the ministers said there

weapon, the sources added

sions for death penalty or life term as the maximum punishment for an act of terrorism. It suggests forming a special court and completion of the trial within six to eight months. According to the proposed law,

any act that poses a threat to sovereignty, unity, integrity or security of Bangladesh is terror. Any act of damaging public or private property, hindering supply of

materials essential for people's life, keeping any person as hostage, threatening one with death, assaulting one physically or creating public panic has also been defined as terrorism. Yesterday's cabinet meeting

however approved amendments to a law for providing legal assistance for those who are financially helpless and unable to seek justice.

saw the capture of JMB (Jama'atul for the award.

On March 5, the award committee sent a list of 11 nominees for the

cancelled by the PMO.

FROM PAGE 16 inter-ministerial meeting on iail

But if the government thinks the law needs to be passed in parliament first, participation of the oppo-

The proposed law provides for death penalty as the highest punishment for militant activities if the

punishment for crimes relating to bomb and explosives substances, he said. "But the new law will be a complete one which will bring to consideration those who patronise, train up, provide funds, encourage

country on August 17 last year. If it is found that these tribunals

MILITANT NETWORK

But Khandakar Delwar, sources at

any illegal benefits and said the news was aimed to malign him before the next parliamentary election.

allegation of excessive expenditure by any office.

Abdul Hamid said there should be some kind of limits on the expenditure