

## Top Raozan criminal Jan-e-Alam, 9 aides killed in Rab raid

1,000 bullets traded in 6-hour shootout; huge arms including AK-56 rifle, ammunition seized



Bodies of top criminal Jan-e-Alam and his nine accomplices are kept in row in front of Raozan Police Station, left, and arms and ammunition Rab seized after the gunfight.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a pre-dawn raid on a hideout Thursday killed most wanted criminal Jan-e-Alam alias Jainnya, 35, and his nine aides in a six-hour shootout at remote Kalampati village of crime-infested Raozan upazila of Chittagong district, some 40 kilometres northeast of the city. Two personnel of the elite crime-busting unit were slightly wounded as they took bullets in the gunfight.

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PHOTO: STAR

From cowboy to criminal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Death of notorious criminal Jan-e-Alam alias Jainnya along with nine accomplices has apparently brought a sigh of relief to people of Kalampati of Dabua union as well as of the entire Raozan upazila and adjoining areas.

Jan-e-Alam, one of the listed top criminals of the district, came of a very poor family to start his life as a cowboy and then as a helper of carpenters.

His rise as a criminal began when one Eskander, a cadre of now defunct National Democratic Party (NDP), picked him for an infamous criminal group known as Azizya Bahini in 1991. After joining the bahini, Jan-e-Alam killed Jahangir Alam, a local Juba League leader and union parishad member, and also killed a Chhatra League leader in 1992.

Soon he established his hold within the group (Azizya Bahini) led by

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Death toll in Rab operations climbs to 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The death toll in Rab action, in its custody and during 'crossfire', rose to 27 with Thursday's 10 killings in Chittagong.

The first death in custody of the elite anticrime Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) was of Debashish, an alleged associate of top-notch criminal Pichchi Hannan, arrested in Savar on June 26. He died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) a few hours after his arrest.

The body of another associate of Hannan, Nitol, was found in Tejgaon the next day.

Hannan himself was killed, the force claimed, in crossfire between Rab and his henchmen at Diakhali in Savar on August 6.

Shajahan Ali, 28, a shopkeeper at Rifles Square, died on July 9 in the DMCH a few days after his arrest.

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## 109 Iraq militants die in US offensive in Samarra

Car bombings on Thursday claim 49 other lives, including 32 children

AGENCIES, Baghdad

A US-led offensive killed as many as 109 militants in the Iraqi rebel bastion of Samarra, a US military spokesman said.

"The latest numbers have gone up. We have an estimated 109 fatalities," said a spokesman for the 1st Infantry Division, referring to Iraqi insurgents.

The attack amounted to the first

major effort by US and Iraqi forces to reclaim a rebel enclave in the Sunni Muslim triangle ahead of nationwide parliamentary elections scheduled for January.

"In response to repeated and unprovoked attacks by anti-Iraqi forces, Iraqi Security Forces and Multi-National Forces secured the government and police buildings in Samarra early in the morning of

October 1 in support of the Iraq Interim Government and the people of Samarra," the military said.

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The offensive came a day after a string of bombings across the country that killed at least 49 people, including 32 children in a series of blasts as US troops handed out candy at a government-sponsored

celebration to inaugurate a sewage plant in Baghdad.

The bloodiest attack in Iraq was a twin car bombing at the site of a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new water pumping station in the poor Al-Amel neighbourhood of southwest Baghdad.

A crowd of curious children had gathered to watch the ceremony when the bombs went off, sending

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PHOTO: STAR

Devotees offer special prayers at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque on the occasion of holy Shab-e-Barat on Thursday night.

## Suicide bomber kills 25 in Pak mosque

REUTERS, Islamabad

A suicide bomber killed at least 25 people in a mosque packed with worshippers and wounded more than 50 during Friday prayers in the eastern Pakistani city of Sialkot, police said.

More than 1,000 people from Pakistan's Shia Muslim minority were in the Zainabya mosque at the time of the blast, police said.

"It was a suicide attack," Nisar Ahmed Saroya, district police officer for Sialkot, told Reuters. "It was a massive explosion which was heard several miles around."

"Fourteen people were killed on the spot and eleven died at hospital," Saroya said from Sialkot, some 100 miles southeast of Islamabad on the border with India and near the city of Lahore.

The explosion created a crater more than 60 cm deep, said private GEO Television channel.

Police said bodies were blown to

pieces.

"The floor of the mosque is strewn with blood and human flesh," Saroya said.

Several hundred angry Shia rampaged through the town after the explosion, hampering relief operations and police who were trying to investigate the blast.

The mob set fire to a gas filling station and two police vehicles, and hurled stones at buildings in the neighborhood, police said.

No group has taken responsibility for the blast against Shia Muslims, who account for 20 percent of Pakistan's 150 million people.

However, Sunni Muslim extremists were blamed for a series of attacks on Shia mosques in the southern port city of Karachi earlier this year.

Some of these Sunni groups have vowed to

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## Kerry 'leads' in TV debate

AFP, Washington

Democratic challenger John Kerry won the first televised presidential debate against Republican President George W. Bush late Thursday, according to instant polls released after.

A Gallup poll for CNN gave Kerry a 46 percent to 37 percent win over the president.

It added that 46 percent of those asked now have a better opinion of Kerry against 21 percent for Bush.

The CBS network, which asked 200 voters, said 44 percent gave victory to Kerry against 26 percent who thought the president had the upper hand. Thirty percent said neither candidate won.

An ABC poll of 531 people gave 45 percent for Kerry, 36 percent for Bush and 17 percent for a draw.

But the survey said Bush still had the support of 51 percent of voters

for the November 2 election against 47 percent for Kerry.

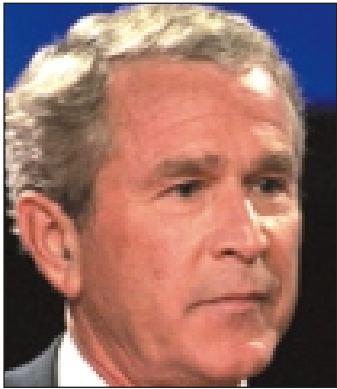
Earlier, a report from Coral Gables adds: Senator John Kerry charged that President Bush committed "a colossal error" by invading Iraq, as they clashed in a high-

released after.

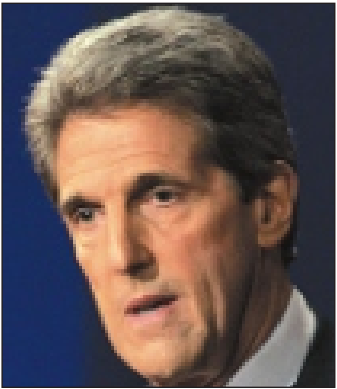
stakes debate that may decide their battle for the White House.

As tens of millions of Americans watched the televised confrontation, Bush countered that Kerry was undermining US credibility in the

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George Bush



John Kerry