

# Terror don surrenders meekly

Abdur Rahman brought to Dhaka for interrogation on 10-day remand; he accuses Rab of violating human rights

**JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and SHAMIM ASHRAF with IQBAL SIDDIQUI from Sylhet**

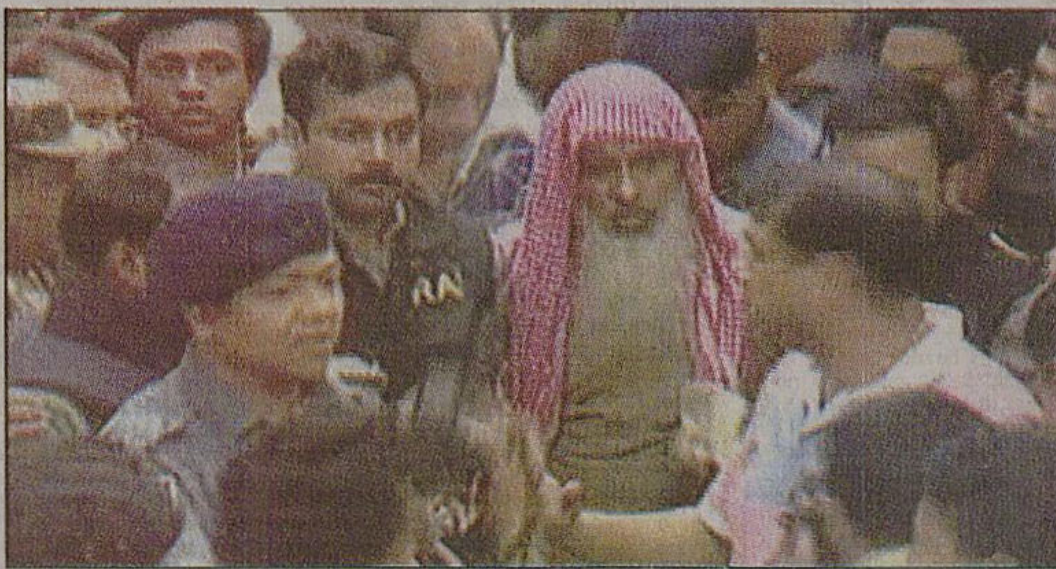
The man, who terrorised the country with his ruthless squad of bombers and preferred death to surrender in the cause of Jihad, yesterday walked out of his den, meek and cowed, into the law enforcers' hands, ending a 34-hour suspense.

Breaking a 26-hour silence, Shaekh Abdur Rahman, chief of the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), finally surren-

dered at 7:06am to the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) that had pinned him down at a Sylhet house since Tuesday night.

Under high security, he has been brought to Dhaka by road for interrogation at the Rab-1 office in Uttara after a Sylhet court remanded him for 10 days.

Before giving in, Rahman, whose band of killers carried out serial blasts on a number of occasions to kill more than 30 people and injure many others, charged



Law enforcers escort JMB chief Abdur Rahman after he came out of his hideout at Shaplabagh in Sylhet yesterday to end a 34-hour swashbuckling operation to capture him.

**He wanted dialogue with media**

**JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and SHAMIM ASHRAF**

JMB chief Abdur Rahman refused to admit, while giving in yesterday in Sylhet, that he has done wrong by launching militant attacks across the country.

"I'll not say I have done any wrong or any misdeed... You've forced my brother (Aatur Rahman Sunny) to say this and want to make me say the same thing," the militant kingpin told Rab officials while they were asking him repeatedly over loudhailers to surrender in the early morning yesterday.

As Rahman expressed his desire

# PM sings success of law enforcers

Hopes terrorism to die down with Rahman's arrest



UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said Bangladesh proved before the world community that it could successfully combat terrorism in the name of Islam, as the security forces captured militant kingpin Shaekh Abdur Rahman.

"This country can crush any

forms of terrorism," she told the nation in an address over radio and television within 12 hours of the arrest of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) supremo Abdur Rahman.

The prime minister thanked the friendly countries who extended their cooperation in the form of advice, training, technical and technological assistance, particularly Interpol, FBI and the Scotland Yard, in combating the militancy.

She urged all political parties to work jointly in greater interest of the nation by shunning the blame game and forgetting the trivial disputes with the government.

The prime minister hoped that any sort of extremism, or movement will die down and the terrorism in the name of Islam will end once for all.

Congratulating the law-enforcement agencies for their outstanding success in arresting

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Nerve-racking raid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT from Sylhet

Abdur Rahman wreaked havoc on the nerves of the thousand-strong raiding party that kept vigil for long 34 hours encircling his Sylhet hideout with a determination to

capture the militant kingpin alive. All along the operation since Tuesday night, the atmosphere around the single-storey Surya Dighal Bari was thick with a high-voltage tension. The law enforcers

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



From Left... Rab men take into their custody one of the JMB operatives who surrendered along with Abdur Rahman at their hideout in Sylhet;



sharp weapons, bomb-making tools, bomb and books including some written by Golam Azam found at the house;



and the drilled hole on the roof to peep inside.



the floor, mud and two tables after Rahman and his two aides were taken away from Sylhet hideout, Surya Dighal Bari.



the floor, mud and two tables after Rahman and his two aides were taken away from Sylhet hideout, Surya Dighal Bari.

## An arrest praised by politicians, public alike

But AL terms it eyewash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People of all walks of life have hailed the arrest of most wanted Islamist militant leader Abdur Rahman by law enforcers at his Sylhet hideout yesterday.

Political parties, Islamic schol-

ars, business leaders, lawyers, teachers, student leaders and people in general heaved a sigh of relief, terming it a great success of the government.

They observed that the arrest of the chief of outlawed Jama'atul

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

## Political patrons need to be caught

Stress security experts

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The government has yet to launch a probe into the allegation of political patronisation contributing to the rise of militancy while the security experts stress the importance of detecting immediately

financiers and patrons of the militants.

After the August 17 countrywide blasts last year, the government had ordered the law enforcers to find out the sources of finance for the militants. But despite repeated

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

## Golam Azam, Moududi books not on seizure list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, from Sylhet

Abdur Rahman had in possession a number of books on jihad and Islamic revolution, some of which by Jamaat-e-Islami founder Abul Ala Moududi and its former ameer Golam Azam were not seized by law enforcers.

The books were found littering

the floor, mud and two tables after Rahman and his two aides were taken away from Sylhet hideout, Surya Dighal Bari.

Law enforcers did not think it necessary to seize all the books and left most of those scattered.

After police completed a seizure list, Moududi's 'Shantipath', Golam Azam's 'Jibanta Namaj' and

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

## Where's Bangla Bhai?

Rab's first question to Rahman

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The first question of Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) interrogators to detained militant kingpin Abdur Rahman was on the whereabouts of another top militant Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai.

"We started interrogating Rahman in the car in which he was

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



Rab DG MA Aziz Sarker

## 34 HOURS OF SUSPENSE

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

- 8:00pm: Operation starts at Surya Dighal Bari after Rab team from Dhaka reaches Sylhet

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1**

- 12:30am: Rab, policemen surround the hideout
- 1:00am: Abdur Rahman asked to surrender
- 1:15am: Rahman speaks out to law enforcers
- 3:00am: Rab loots weapons shells inside the house
- 4:00am: Rahman threatens to commit suicide
- 6:00am: First explosion inside the hideout
- 6:00am: Gas line of the house snapped
- 8:15am: Two more explosions inside the den
- 9:30am: Power line of the house disconnected
- 12:30pm: Rahman's wife Rupa, eight others smoked out of den, three crackers exploded
- 1:00pm: Rupa asks her husband to surrender
- 2:00pm: Rahman shoots water into the house
- 2:30pm: Rab men break the wall of the house
- 6:30pm: A hole drilled on the roof to peep inside

**THURSDAY, MARCH 2**

- 7:06 am: The JMB chief, his 2 cohorts surrender
- 10:45am: Arrested militants produced in court
- 11:00am: Rab starts for Dhaka with the arrestees
- 3:00pm: Taken to Rab-1 custody at Uttara, Dhaka

## Capture to untie terror probe knot

Hope investigators

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and SHAMIM ASHRAF from Sylhet

Investigators hope the arrest of terrorist kingpin Abdur Rahman will lead to the revelation of a comprehensive picture of the JMB including its network, organisation, operations and links at home and abroad.

Immediately after his surrender at East Shaplabagh in this north-eastern divisional city yesterday morning, the law enforcers investigating into militancy termed the catch a big success in dealing with the Islamist terrorism menace.

"There's no doubt that he holds keys to many important things. But, we'll be able to say the exact

extent of his usefulness in uncovering the mysteries only after interrogating him thoroughly," Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) intelligence chief Lt Col Gulzar Uddin Ahmed told these correspondents at Rab-9 headquarters, after Rahman had been brought there following his surrender.

The four members of Majlish-e-Shura, the 7-member highest decision-making body of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), arrested so far have all named Rahman as the man who knows every detail of the banned Islamist militant outfit, Gulzar mentioned.

So, he hoped the JMB supremo would provide them with vital

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

In a free enterprise, the community is not just another stakeholder in business but is in fact the very purpose of its existence

**Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata**  
Founder Tata Group (1839-1904)

Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata - a man who was born to change history, knew industrialisation was the key to building a modern nation.

J.N. Tata understood that only self-reliance in developing steel, electricity and scientific knowledge could create economic growth for the country. As a result, all his strength, knowledge and wealth was deployed in starting an indigenous industrialization movement which today, a hundred years later, has evolved into a Tk. 1,25,000 crore business empire across 93 operating companies and business interests in 140 countries.

The Founder's legacy is not limited to the building of great industries alone. He ardently believed that success is measured not just by profits generated, but also by the extent to which that wealth was returned to society and stakeholders. Far ahead of his time, his belief led to the initiation of the 8-hour workday and maternity leave among other facilities in the work arena of this sub-continent.

J.N. Tata's "anything is possible" attitude and ethos of social commitment are today the guiding principles of Tata Group's beliefs. His extraordinary vision still lights the way and guides each of Tata's expanding businesses regardless of where they are located. The desire to thrive in business, while returning wealth to society, continues to be the bedrock on which the Tata Group operates. We pay homage to a great man, Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata, on the anniversary of his birth, 3rd March.