

COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVII NO. 76

DHAKA SATURDAY MARCH 31, 2007

CHAITRA 17, 1413 BS

RABIUL AWAL 11, 1428 HJRI

24 PAGES PLUS STAR INSIGHT PRICE: Tk 10.00



Abdur Rahman

Siddiqul Islam Bangla Bhai

Ataur Rahman Sunny

Abdul Awal

Khaled Saifullah

Iftekhar al Mamun

Six JMB militants hanged

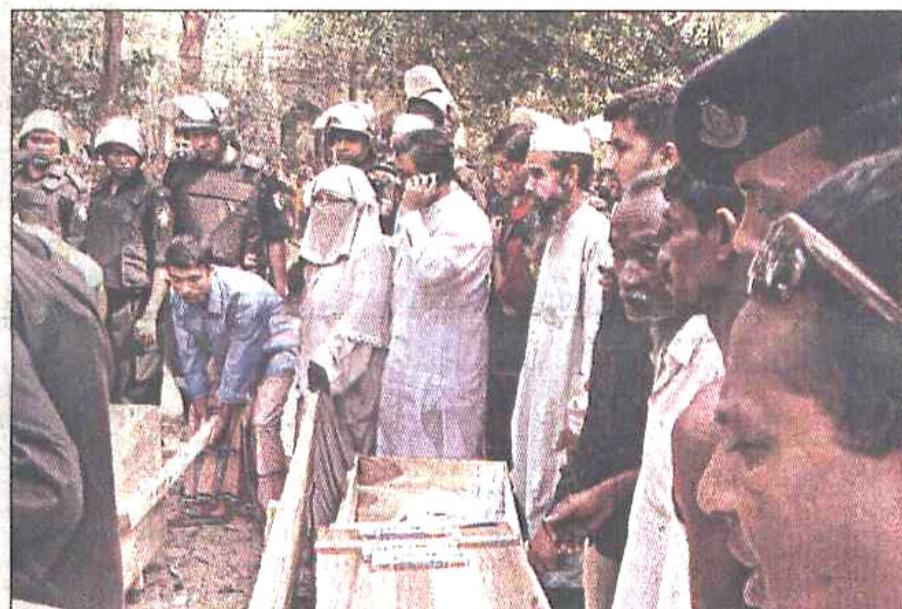
Countrywide security alert

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Security measures have been beefed up in the capital as well as elsewhere in the country on suspicion of reprisal from militants following the execution of six kingpins of the outlawed militant group Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) early yesterday.

Security measures were stepped up and members of the law enforcement agencies have been asked to remain alert on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Atika Begum receives the bodies of her brothers Abdur Rahman and Ataur Rahman Sunny at Jamalpur, left, and Nazir Uddin Master receives the body of his son Siddiqul Islam Bangla Bhai in Gabtali upazila of Bogra after the militant leaders were hanged yesterday.

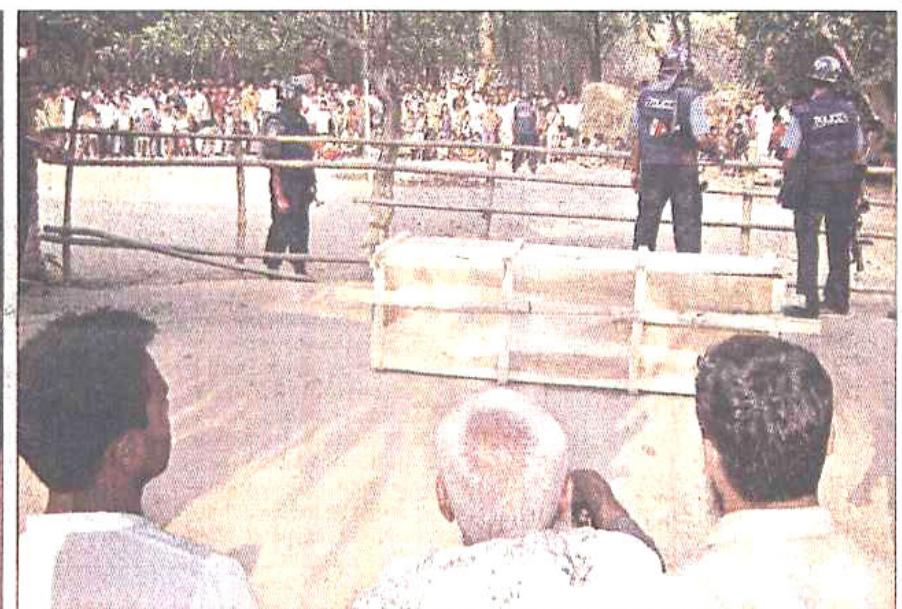


PHOTO: STAR

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and SHARIFUL ISLAM

Six top militants including Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) supremo Abdur Rahman and his deputy Bangla Bhai were executed late Thursday night for killing two Jhalakathi judges.

They swung from the gallows between 11:45pm and midnight at four different places amid tight security, said prison sources.

The executions mark all probability the end of country's first overt militancy campaign that rattled the nation through a series of coordinated blasts and suicide bombings in 2005.

They came within three years of the BNP-Jamaat alliance government's denying the existence of Islamic militancy. The ruling coalition high-ups even went on to describe JMB operations commander Siddiqul Islam alias Bangla Bhai as mere creation of the media.

But later on February 23, 2005 the government was forced to eat humble pie and ban JMB and its offshoot Jagrata Muslim Janata, Bangladesh (JMJ) that sought to establish Shariah (Islamic law).

Abdur Rahman was hanged at Comilla jail, Bangla Bhai and Abdul Awal, JMB Majlis-e-Shura (highest decision-making body) member and Rahman's son-in-law, at Mymensingh jail. The outfit's military commander and Rahman's youngest brother Ataur Rahman Sunny and suicide bomber Iftekhar Hasan Mamun were executed at Kashimpur jail in

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

The deadly terror outfit, rise of its kingpins

STAR REPORT

Militant activities of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) came to spotlight in April 2004 when its vigilantes started operations and killing people in Rajshahi-Naogaon regions. The extremist organisation, however, had long been running its activities secretly.

Local administration, lawmakers and a few ministers of the then BNP-led four-party coalition government were alleged for supporting the JMB activities.

When newspapers started

reporting on the activities of Siddiqul Islam Bangla Bhai and his Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJ) in the country's northern region in 2004, the government said it was false. It even blamed the media for creating the "fictitious" character of Bangla Bhai.

The government, however, on February 23, 2005 banned JMB, accusing the top leaders of the outfit—Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai—of carrying out bomb attacks and killings in recent times to create anarchy in the country.

Following pressures from both

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Execution says it all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The execution of six JMB militants, including its chief Abdur Rahman and second-in-command Siddiqul Islam alias Bangla Bhai, proved that the media reports about the militants were right although the previous government repeatedly denied their existence.

The immediate past BNP-Jamaat alliance government found the reports on JMB's militant activities very hard to swallow and termed those cooked up.

Describing the newspaper reports as not based on facts, the then government said Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai are "fictitious characters", and mere creation of the media.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Rejoinder

Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) in a rejoinder to the story headlined 'Corruption cases filed against Huda, Sigma, Nasim, Tuku, Lobi' published in The Daily Star on March 22 said the report is totally baseless, false and fabricated.

The rejoinder claimed that barrister Nazmul Huda and his wife Sigma Huda, also general secretary of BSEHR, did not receive any bribe from BSEHR and the organisation did not give them any bribe.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Trail of terror attacks

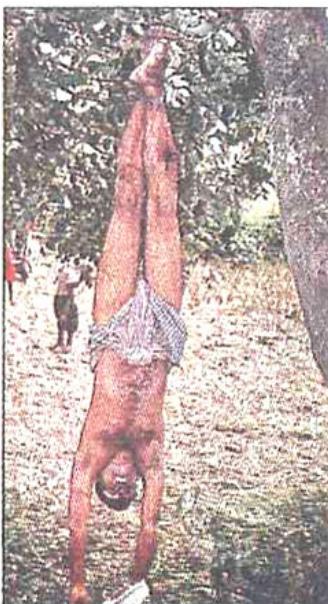
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JMB killed at least 64 people including Rajshahi University teacher Prof Mohammad Yunus and two Jhalakathi judges, and carried out more than a thousand bomb attacks across the country between 2000 and 2005.

The militant Islamic fundamentalist group killed at least 22 people in Rajshahi division alone, according to Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and intelligence agencies.

The identities of the people killed by JMB, ranges from common people to progressive teachers, intellectuals, judges, militant outlaws, religious persons and others, whomsoever it considered a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



2004 file photo shows the brutality of Bangla Bhai men who tortured Badsha Mia of Raninagar, Naogaon to death and later hung the body from a tree in Nandigram.

'Execution to help ensure rule of law'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leading lawyers, politicians, intellectuals and people of various sections of the society yesterday expressed satisfaction over the execution of six top Islamist militants and hoped that this would help establish and consolidate the rule of law in the country.

In his immediate reaction to execution of the top militants,

eminent Jurist Dr Kamal Hossain said the rule of law is being finally established in the country, and people are now quite satisfied. Court had awarded death penalty to the militants in accordance with law. All arrests, trial of offenders and court judgements on them would now be as per laws as, he observed.

"The main objective of the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

BANGLADESH BUSINESS AWARDS 2006 Corporate heroes honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four prominent businesspersons and corporate houses were honoured with the Bangladesh Business Awards 2006 in the city yesterday for outstanding performance in different fields last year.

Managing Director of Pacific Jeans Limited Md Nasiruddin won the Business Person of the Year award while Zinat Fatema Jahan, proprietor of Jahan Metal, was named the Outstanding Woman in Business of the Year.

Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited (DBBL) was adjudged the Best Financial Institution of 2006 while Acme Laboratories Ltd the Best Enterprise.

This was the seventh consecutive year that the Bangladesh Business Awards, jointly introduced by The Daily Star and DHL, announced the name of the Best Financial Institution of the Year.

Craig Grossgart, vice-president (South Asia-International) of DHL, announced the name of the Best Financial Institution of the Year

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

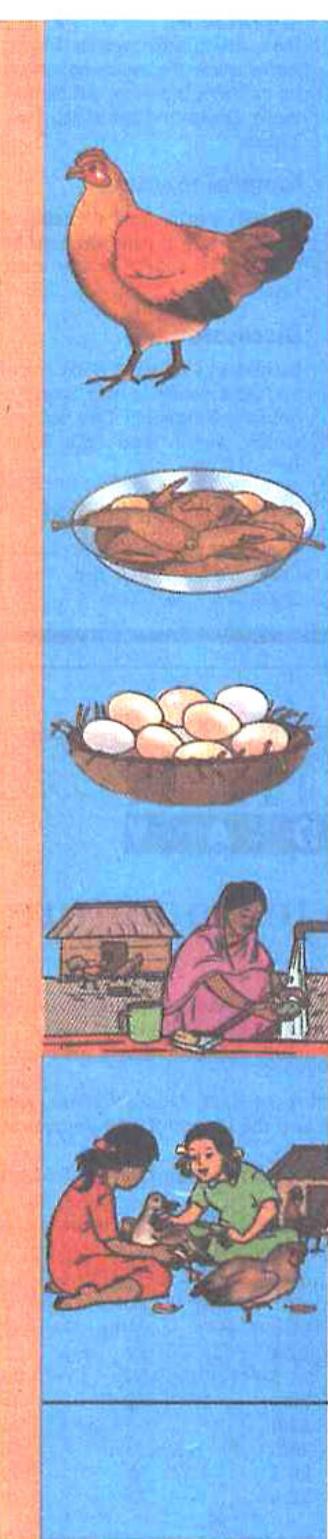
MORE ON PAGE 8



From left: Managing Director of Acme Laboratories Md Nasiruddin, Managing Director of Dutch-Bangla Bank Yeasin Ali, proprietor of Jahan Metal Zinat Fatema, Managing Director of Pacific Jeans Md Nasiruddin, Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam, Vice President (South Asia-International) of DHL Craig Grossgart and DHL Country Manager Desmond Quiah are seen at the Bangladesh Business Awards 2006 presentation ceremony in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Star Cruise from Mumbai to Goa
MEET JOHN & BIPASHA
SMS CLEAR to 5455



আপনার ইস-মুরগি 'বার্ড ফ্লু' মুক্ত রাখুন

▼ পরিচিত ও নির্ভরযোগ্য সুত্র থেকে বাচ্চা মুরগি সংগ্রহ করুন। নতুন মুরগি আলাদা রাখুন।

▼ অন্যের মুরগি-খামারে যাবেন না, আপনার মুরগি-খামারে কাউকে তুকতে দেবেন না।

▼ মুরগির শেড-এ ঢোকার এবং শেড থেকে বেরুবার আগে জীবানু নাশক-এ পা তুবিয়ে নিন।

▼ এক খামারের পোল্ট্রি সামগ্রি ও যানবাহন অন্য খামারের সাথে ভাগভাগি করে ব্যবহার করবেন না।

▼ অসুস্থ মুরগিকে আলাদা করে ফেলুন এবং মৃত মুরগিকে গর্ত করে মাটি চাপা দিন।

▼ মুরগি অসুস্থ হলে বা মারা গেলে স্থানীয় জনপ্রতিনিধির মাধ্যমে অথবা সরাসরি স্থানীয় পশুস্পন্দন কার্যালয়ে খবর দিন। রোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণে সরকারকে সব ধরনের সহযোগিতা করুন।