

## Militants buried

FROM PAGE 1  
political leaders, ministers and lawmakers have surfaced since the JMB leaders started operating in the northern districts in 2004, the investigators have made no visible move to detect and expose them. The alleged patrons still remain untouched and no charge has yet been brought against them. Even they were not officially pointed out.

In June 2004, Bangla Bhai told a journalist over the phone that four influential leaders of the immediate past ruling party, BNP, were patronising his operations. He also named four of the influential leaders, who are former telecommunications minister Aminul Haque, former state minister for housing Alangir Kabir, former deputy minister for land Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dul, and former lawmaker Nadim Mostafa. The report was published in different newspapers at the time.

Legal expert and human rights activist Dr Shaheed Malik told The Daily Star last night, "The executions are the end of a phase, but not the end of religious terrorism and fanaticism."

Their access to financial and other resources, and their ability to utilise those still remain largely unknown and unaccounted for, he added.

He also said, "Revelations of these are essential to root out this type of terrorism and I expect the government and the law enforcing agencies to find out these sources and the political support system for these terrorists so that we may really and actually be free of terrorism."

Advocate Zi Khan Panna, chairman of the Human Rights and Legal Aid Committee of Bangladesh Bar Council said it is the right of the people to know who are the patrons of these fundamentalist criminals.

He also said they believe that this government will take proper actions against the patrons of the funda-

mentalists who are responsible for the killings of innocent people in an attempt to destroy the secular and democratic image of our country.

On different occasions the militant kingpins wanted to talk to the media, but the authorities did not allow them to do that. The authorities started strictly keeping the arrested militants away from the media after Harkat-ul Jihad Al Islami (HuJI) leader Mufti Mohammad Hannan in a brief chance of talk to the media disclosed how he had gotten blessings from BNP and former home minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury. Hannan's disclosure caused a huge embarrassment for the then BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government.

Even when they were taken to courts for trials they were not allowed to talk to newsmen. Different sections of the people also demanded that the militants should be allowed to talk to the media to uncover the mysteries and secrets, but the government never allowed it.

Any hope of getting the secrets out of the six militants, five of whom were members of JMB's Majlis-e-Sura, was destroyed yesterday with their executions.

JMB Chief Abdur Rahman was arrested on March 2, 2006 from Sylhet, Bangla Bhai was captured wounded from Muktagachha in Mymensingh on March 6, Ataur Rahman Sunny and Abdul Awal had been arrested before them while Khaled Saifullah was captured in Dhaka after Rahman and Bangla Bhai's arrests.

Still two other sura members are in jails awaiting trials in several cases. They are Mohammad Rakib Hasan Russell alias Hafez Mahmud, an Afghan war veteran and the Khulna divisional commander of JMB, and Salahuddin.

However, the investigators could not extract any vital information from them excepting some common information that had already been

found from JMB's low level leaders and activists.

Sources said although the investigators unearthed as startling information as JMB's plan to attack army personnel and to overthrow the government, they did little to identify the political patrons and foreign links of the militants.

While this correspondent was visiting the Bagmara area last Tuesday many victims of JMB torture, their family members and many other local people expressed their satisfaction knowing that the JMB linchpins would be executed.

However, many of them at the same time expressed fear and concern, as many followers of Bangla Bhai are still present in the locality with their heads held high.

Amzad Hossain Dugu, who has become crippled after being brutally tortured by Bangla Bhai's goons at one of his torture cells at Bagmara Hamir Kutsa High School, told The Daily Star, "Bangla Bhai's cadres are still issuing threats and scolding us. I and my family are still passing days with a sense of insecurity."

He said fearing further attacks from Bangla Bhai's goons he usually does not allow his son to go out.

## England

FROM PAGE 1  
The presence of Paul Collinwood (42) and Andrew Flintoff (36), who added 68 runs for the unbroken fifth wicket, at the crease gave England hopes to build a challenging total against the ICC associate members.

Earlier, Kevin Pietersen lived up to his billing as the world's latest No. 1 one-day batsman when he launched an assault after Boyd Rankin had removed the England openers early.

Michael Vaughan's decision to bat was looking shaky when the England captain and Ed Joyce were back in the pavilion inside six overs. But Pietersen (48 off 47 balls) and Ian Bell (31) rebuilt in contrasting styles until Kevin O'Brien struck a third blow for the Irish.

Joyce, against his fellow countrymen who helped qualify for the World Cup, made a poor misjudgement against Rankin's first ball and watched his off stump fly backwards on one.

Buoyed by his early success the tall Rankin continued to trouble the batsmen with dangerous outswingers. His second victim was Vaughan, who edged through to Niall O'Brien on six.

However, the tension was eased by the third wicket pair as Pietersen immediately began to find boundaries and by the start of the second Powerplay was moving into top gear, crashing 14 runs off Trent Johnston's first over.

Bell was more sedate and his inability to find the boundary against the lesser pace of Botha caused England to lose momentum, especially as he kept stealing the strike from Pietersen. Bell's 74-ball struggle on way to score 31 eventually ended when he attempted to glide O'Brien down to third man.

## Rejoinder

FROM PAGE 1  
Protesting the report, the rejoinder said The Daily Star report mentioned that Huda took Tk 2.4 crore in bribe for allocating the land to BSEHR, which is not correct.

**OUR REPLY**

The published report was prepared on the basis of the first information report (FIR) of a case lodged against Nazmul Huda with Shahbagh Police Station, which was mentioned in the report.

The report also mentioned another case, which was filed with Dhanmondi Police Station against Sigma Huda. Both of the cases claimed that Huda took bribe for providing Bangladesh Railway land to the BSEHR through illegal procedure and abuse of power when he was at the helm of communications ministry.

The statement in the published report is not the opinion of The Daily Star.

## Tigers

FROM PAGE 1  
ball game against the fierce force of Ricky Ponting and his men, who are on the right track to win a hattrick of titles.

Although their last meeting with the Australians in a three-match series at home in April 2006 was not a happy one, they, however, proved once that their mighty opponents are not conquerable.

Dav Whatmore's charges pulled off one of their biggest limited-over wins when they stunned the Aussies with a five-wicket victory at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff during a triation series in 2005, thanks to a brilliant hundred from ace batsman Mohammad Ashraful. And it was this success that gave the Tigers the much-needed self belief that on their day, they have the ability to turn the table on the big ones.

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Carig Grossart also spoke on the occasion while Desmond Quiah, country manager of DHL Worldwide Express, Bangladesh, delivered the vote of thanks.

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Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited Managing Director Yesin Ali said right at the outset, its sponsor directors had decided to share a good portion of its profit with the underprivileged people. "They did not take any dividend for the five years," he added.

"We strongly believe that banking

business and corporate social responsibility (CSR) are co-related and without performing CSR no business is possible in the present context of global trade," he observed.

Pacific Jeans Limited Managing Director Md Nasiruddin said his company now can compete with any global brands and can also offer any design demanded by the buyers.

Earlier, The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Ahmed stressed the need for de-bureaucratization of the private sector and said that bureaucratic controls are taking a heavy toll on the private business houses.

Talking about the government's anti-graft drive, the finance and planning adviser said the government measures against corruption are not targeted at any particular sector like the private sector.

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production and export base is very narrow. "In order to find place or compete in the international market we cannot depend on narrow export basket. We have to diversify that and I urge the business people to diversify their products," he said.

He said the business community should not only concentrate on manufacturing products but also attach weight to research and development and technology transfer for diversifying their product-base.

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