

Militants buried

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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 Alamgir Kabir, former deputy minister for land Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu, and former lawmaker Nadim Mostafa. The report was published in different newspapers at the time.
Legal expert and human rights activist Dr Shahdeen Malik told The Daily Star last night, "The executions are of 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 discloser 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 *Majlish-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 also 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

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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 of 47 balls) and Ian Bell (31) rebound in contrasting styles until Kevin O'Brien struck a third blow for the Irish.
Joyce, against his fellow countrymen who he 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

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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 Dharmdandi 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 hatrick 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 unconquerable.
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 tri-nation 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.
This was their only victory in previous 12 encounters and everybody in Bangladesh will have their eyes on the number 13 to make it unlucky for the Aussies.

Security alert

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suspicion of reprisal attacks from militant outfits," Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Naim Ahmed said.
"Around 90 police check posts including 30 inside the diplomatic zone of the capital and 114 mobile check posts have been set up in Dhaka to search people and vehicles," the DMP commissioner told The Daily Star last night.
Additional law enforcers have been deployed at different strategic points in the city, police said.
Sources said the executions of the six JMB militants were kept secret recognising the possibility of subversive acts by followers of the JMB leaders following reports from an intelligence wing.
Apart from 3,000 DMP members, members from different intelligence agencies and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel were deployed at different sensitive spots in the capital to thwart any untoward incidents, the DMP chief said.
Law enforcement agencies yesterday also checked devotees at different mosques in the capital including Baitul Mukarram Mosque. They closed the road from Pallan to Dainik Bangla to vehicles from 12.30pm to 2.00pm.
"We have taken foolproof measures to avert any untoward incidents," the DMP commissioner said.
As part of this beefed-up security measures, law enforcers in the last couple of days started raiding residential hotels, slums and houses in the capital.
Security forces in Khulna Metropolitan City (KMC) and the nine

Rule of law

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country's Liberation War was to establish rule of law so that security of the state as well as people's security and fundamental rights are ensured, and peace prevails in the country. But those could not be achieved due to confrontational politics," the leading constitution expert noted.
The people want a meaningful change in their lives, and rule of law in the country, Dr Kamal said. "The nation should now march forward to establish fair politics and a proper democratic system to make that a reality," he told The Daily Star.
Former law minister and BNP central leader Moudud Ahmed said crushing the religious fundamentalists was one of the major successes of the previous government. And the present caretaker government has done a good job by executing death sentences of the militants, he said when contacted.
Moudud termed execution of the death sentences a fine example in the efforts to establish rule of law.
With their execution, heinous activities of such derailed people would come to an end, he hoped.
When asked, Awami League (AL) presidium member Kazi Zafarullah said execution of the top militants has taken place according to law.
He however said the militants had wanted to talk to the media, and if they were allowed to do so, many important information could be had.
Alleging that the patrons of militants are still active, the AL leader demanded immediate arrest and punishment of those people.
Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Matiur Rahman Nizami said militants had killed people and engaged in criminal activities in the name of Islam, which harmed politics of this party.
"Execution of the top militants is good for the politics of Jamaat. Militants harmed Islam and our politics. I think this has ended at last through execution of the top militants," Nizami told a private TV channel.
Islamic Oikya Jote (IOJ) Chairman Fazlul Haque Aminee said death penalty of militants is right because

upazilas in the district have also been put on high alert on suspicion of reprisal from militants, our Khulna correspondent reports.
Security measures were beefed up in and around key strategic points and other important points in Chittagong City after the JMB kingpins were executed, our Chittagong correspondent reports.
Additional forces of Rab, riot police, and other law enforcement agencies were deployed in the port city to maintain law and order.
Law enforcers were seen patrolling the port city's streets in teams, searching the luggage of bus and train passengers and searching bags belonging to pedestrians. Rab personnel were posted at all entry and exit points of mosques, bus terminals, railway stations and the airport in Chittagong. The members of the elite force thoroughly checked empty train carriages before allowing passengers to get on them.
They also thoroughly searched the bodies of devotees before allowing them to enter mosque for the Juma prayers yesterday.
Our Dinajpur correspondent reports that security measures were stepped up at all the railway stations in the western railway zone.
An official of Parbatipur Railway Junction said law enforcers have been frisking passengers and checking their luggage at the station as well as in the carriages to pre-empt any subversive acts.

they had killed people violating Islamic rules.
He however declined to comment on the militants' plea to talk to the media before their execution.
National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, president of the advisory council of Ekattorer Ghatatak Dalil Nirmul Committee, termed execution of the top militants 'quite right' as, he noted, their heinous activities were against humanity.
He however said there should not be any provision of death sentence. "The militant fundamentalists wanted to talk to the media. If they were allowed to talk, many things could be known, especially their godfathers could be exposed," he said when asked for his reaction.
Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon said execution of the militants again proves that there was militancy in the country. The previous BNP-Jamaat coalition government was responsible for this as it had for long denied existence of militancy, saying it was a creation of the media, he recalled.
Although the top militants have been hanged, the country is yet to be free from militancy as patrons of militants in BNP-Jamaat coalition' are still at large and sources of financial support to the militants are still operating, Menon said. And he demanded immediate arrest and punishment of those elements to end militancy.
Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haque Inu said execution of the militants is a major step in establishing rule of law in the country.
He demanded immediate arrest and punishment of those BNP-Jamaat leaders, officials in the administration and police personnel who, he said, patronised militants.
Inu cautioned that militants who are still to be nabbed might go for scattered violence in different areas in the country.

Asia to face floods

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Among the most vulnerable are three -- the Yangtze, the Yellow River, and the Zhujiang -- in China, the Red River delta in northern Vietnam, and especially the low-lying Ganges-Brahmaputra delta in Bangladesh.
Nearly 300 million people live in these delicately-balanced flood plains.
The report notes that "climate-induced diseases" are already a reality, and predicts increases in the frequency and toxicity of cholera outbreaks due to the rising temperatures of coastal waters, especially in South Asia.
The malarial footprint is also very likely to expand as the mosquitoes that carry the disease move into areas once too cold for them to survive.
In the Himalayas, which feed rivers flowing into southern China as well as South and Southeast Asia, glaciers less than four km long are projected to disappear entirely if average global temperatures rise by 3 C (5.4 F).
If current warming trends continue, the area covered by central Asia's glaciers is likely to shrink by four-fifths from 500,000 square kilometres.
The impact will be felt locally and downstream: increased flooding and mudslides, and eventually a decrease in river flows, exacerbated by reduced rainfall.
In the first volume of its report, issued in February, the IPCC predicted that world temperatures would go up 1.8 C to 4.0 C (3.2-7.2 F) by 2100, depending on how much greenhouse gas is emitted into the atmosphere. A third volume, issued at the end of April, will look at ways of reducing those emissions.
In the Brussels meeting, the document will be issued Friday after delegates hammer out an all-important "summary for policy makers," distilling in a couple of dozen pages their most crucial findings.
The process is often contentious, with sharp disagreements on some scientific questions, and on which conclusions should drive policy decisions.
Some participants complained that the summary, as currently written, does not adequately highlight the fact that those least able to adapt -- poor people -- will be the hardest hit.

"The message that is missing is the vulnerability of certain developing nations," said a Western delegate from a non-European country.
The draft summary concludes that global warming is "unequivocal," that human activity is the main driver, and that "changes in climate are now affecting physical and biological systems on every continent."
Besides the human impact, numerous ecosystems and other living organisms are threatened by global warming.
Across the planet, 20 to 30 percent of animal and plant species face extinction if temperatures rise 1.5 C to 2.5 C (2.7-4.5 F).
Increases greater than 4 C (7.2 F) above 1990-2000 levels would lead to "major increases in vulnerability" that would exceed "the adaptive capacity of many systems," the report says.

2 Bangla Bhai

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Golam Sarwar said.
The two were also accused in three cases -- one for Mukul murder, one for attempt to murder Sripur union Chairman Makbul Hossain Mridha and the other for police assault in Bhawaniganj, he said.
Mobarak and Mohammad had been hiding since Bangla Bhai went underground from so-called Bagmara operations in 2004.
Gaibandha police arrested a JMB leader from village Dhanghara under Gaibandha Sadar upazila in the early hours of Thursday, reports our Gaibandha correspondent.
Police got information that Raju Sarder was involved in reorganising JMB activists.
He was a charge-sheeted accused in two cases -- one for four bomb blasts at an open stage drama at Takier Bazar under Palashbari upazila on December 20, 2004, and the other for two powerful bomb blasts at Mohimaganj Brac office in Gobindaganj upazila on February 10, 2005.
Eighteen people were injured in the two incidents.

Saarc body meet

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the reports prepared by the Saarc Human Resource Development Centre, Saarc Documentation Centre, Saarc Centre on Tuberculosis and Saarc information Centre.
Reports from the working groups on biotechnology and disease surveillance were also discussed.
Bangladesh's Chief Adviser to the caretaker government, Fakhruddin Ahmed is set to arrive on April 2 to attend the summit. He will also hold a number of bilateral meetings with the heads of government of other Saarc countries, including India's Manmohan Singh on Monday evening.
Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury is scheduled to arrive in Delhi today to attend the Council of Ministers meeting, comprising Saarc foreign ministers, to be held on April 2.

Iraqi Shia market

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ending combat operations by March 31, 2008.
"President Bush's policy is the right one. There has been progress; there is also much more to be done," the 57-year-old Crocker said at his swearing in at the American Embassy in Saddam Hussein's former Republican Palace which is now in the heart of the heavily guarded Green Zone.
Violence has increasingly erupted in towns and cities outside the capital in recent weeks, as insurgent fighters take their fight to regions where US and Iraqi forces are thinly deployed. The US military and its diplomats have voiced cautious optimism about the sweep and emphasized that the full American surge force would not be in place until June. Crocker brought the same message.
"All of this will be very hard. But if I thought it impossible I would not be standing here today. I pledge my full support to this mission and to the people of Iraq, and I know you will do the same," he said.
When he finished speaking a military band struck up, "It's a Grand Old Flag."

Crocker, an Arabic speaker, is among the most experienced US diplomats in the Middle East. He had been ambassador to Pakistan since 2004 and served as ambassador to Lebanon, Syria and Kuwait, with other assignments in Iran, Qatar and Egypt.
In 2003, he was assigned to the Baghdad embassy when Iraq was being run by the Coalition Provisional Authority. In 1983 he was thrown against a wall but not seriously hurt when the American Embassy in Beirut was hit by a car bomb. In 1998, when he was in Damascus, the ambassador's residence was overrun by rioters. Crocker was not hurt.
The Shaab neighbourhood was one of the first that US and Iraqi forces tackled when the security crackdown began Feb. 14. It was also the scene of a bombing nearly two weeks ago in which officials said a car bomber used children as decoys to get near the busy complex of shops and street vendors.
At Imam Ali hospital in the poor

Pakistan

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its policy to encourage local tribesmen to expel foreign Islamic extremists, instead of costly and politically damaging army operations.
Local sources were not immediately able to confirm the death toll given by Sherpao, although communications in South Waziristan are poor because of the fighting. Last week they gave lower figures than Pakistani authorities.
Earlier a security official said tribesmen overnight seized control of a school which the foreigners were using as their base in Ghawakha, a town near Wana, killing seven Uzbeks.
Another official said three tribal fighters were also killed and six wounded in the fighting. Residents said the militants also shot dead a local man who was travelling in the area on his motorbike.
The latest clashes were concentrated in the mountainous Azam Warsak, Shen Warsak and Kalusha areas of South Waziristan. Residents say between 300 and 500 Uzbeks and Chechens are holed up in the area.
The Uzbeks were effectively under siege in the mountainous terrain as all roads leading to the

Ban nuke tests

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mechanism," human rights activist Altafur Rahman said in his presentation during a session.
Discussants in different sessions yesterday demanded stopping extra-judicial killings in border areas and urged the countries concerned to take effective initiatives for balanced trade transactions.
As a large country, India should take steps to build trust among others countries, they said.
Termining bird flu a result of industrial poultry, the participants expressed fears that in the wake of outbreak of bird flu a vested group tried to promote their medicine, temfilu.
The industrial poultry was brought in the region to destroy the peoples' indigenous knowledge of domestic poultry, they said.
Referring to the killings at Nandigram in India, the speakers expressed concerns that the farmers and indigenous people of Nandigram are going to lose their land in the name of industrialisation.
They condemned governments for opening floodgates to private industries and large businesses at the cost of people's lives and livelihoods. They strongly opposed the primacy being given to private enterprises.
Termining migration a human right, the forum demanded ensuring security of movement for livelihood. It expressed deep concerns over the enormous growth of internally displaced people in the South Asian countries.
"A large number of people in South Asia are engaged as over-

Shia Sadr City neighbourhood, where many of the Shalal wounded were taken, cries of pain and grief filled bloodstained corridors.
Salam Hussein, who was near the Shalal market when the bombers struck, said two of his relatives were killed and three others were wounded. He said most of the victims were women and children, including six siblings.
"I saw headless children and body parts everywhere. I brought four wounded to the hospital. But resources there are very limited. The refrigerators at the morgue are full. It's a disaster," he said at the hospital.
Nahid Abdul-Ameer, who runs a soft drink stand about 100 yards from the market, said he saw the two bombers explode their vests at the same moment. He was cut by flying glass but was able to help with carrying away the dead and wounded.
"People went out to shop today in large numbers. They had a false sense of security," he said. "People were removing dead bodies on pushcarts normally used for cases of vegetables and fruits," he said.
Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, whose backing is dropping even among fellow Shias, issued an angry statement pledging to bring bombers and their backers to justice.
"We call on you (Iraqis) not to allow the evil ones to triumph and to cooperate with your armed forces. ... Justice will reach them sooner or later," he said.
On Wednesday, Shia militants and police went on a shooting rampage against Sunnis in the far northwestern city of Tal Afar, killing as many as 70 men execution-style. The killings were triggered by twin truck bombings there the previous day that killed 80 people and wounded 185.
The Islamic State in Iraq, an umbrella group of insurgent and terror groups including al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for the Tal Afar bombing attack in an Internet statement.

troubled towns were being controlled by tribal commander Mullah Nazir, whose men are said to number around 1,500, they said.
A tribal leader, Haji Sharif, late Thursday ruled out any negotiations with the foreigners.
"We gave them shelter under our traditional Pashtun hospitality but they misused it and killed our people including tribal leaders," he said.
"We advised them to change their behaviour but they did not listen. Now we cannot tolerate them on our soil."
Thousands of al-Qaeda and Taliban militants fled into Pakistan's tribal areas after the fall of the fundamentalist Taliban regime in Afghanistan in late 2001.
Yuldashev, the Uzbek leader, was formerly a close confidant of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, officials say.
The government has signed a series of peace deals to get Pakistani tribesmen, many of whom previously offered shelter to the militants, over to its side. The first such deal was in South Waziristan in 2005.

Corporate heroes

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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 businesspeople 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.
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 business.
In her reaction on winning the Outstanding Woman in Business award, Zinet Fatema Jahan said she wants to press forward with her present business.
Receiving the award on behalf of Acme Laboratories, its Managing Director Mizanur Rahman Sinha said the company's future plan is to go global, maintaining the international pharmaceuticals standards and regulations.
Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited Managing Director Yesasin 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 first five years," he added.
"We strongly believe that banking

Rahim Uddin

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On April 20, the wall at the eastern side collapsed over the slum killing Tunni and injuring Jarina and a few other dwellers.
Jarina added in the FIR that she tried to lodge a case against Bhorosa then but could not proceed as she was threatened with death.