

## Teachers of terror

3 rooms turned into ammo store

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All the three rooms of teachers' dormitory of the militant den, which was unearthed in Bhola on Tuesday, were mainly used for storing arms and ammunition.

Besides, hidden stores were also found inside the rooms of teachers.

Sources in the local law enforcement agency told The Daily Star that most of the recovered arms and ammunition were made inside the centre and militant members were also trained up there.

A notebook was found inside the teachers' dormitory while The Daily Star

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

## London NGO about to open 2 more dens

Militants in Bhola found more equipped, trained than JMB, says investigators

STAR REPORT

The London-based NGO Green Crescent, which runs the madrasa-cum-orphanage in Bhola that turned out to be a mini-ordnance factory Tuesday, had plans to set up two more training centres for militants in Doulatkhan and Lalmoan upazilas of the district.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) officials said the four militant suspects arrested at the madrasa revealed that the NGO has already purchased 10-12 acres of land in remote areas of the upazilas. But the arrestees could not clearly locate the areas.

At a briefing in Barisal yesterday the Rab said the militant den has more developed mecha-

nism for operating terrorism and sabotage activities than Islamist outfits like Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB). The madrasa in remote Ram Keshab village of Borhanuddin upazila may even have connection with international terrorist organisations.

Major Qutubur Rahman Sarkar of Rab-8 in Barisal said, "The militants are more upgraded, modernised and well-organised than traditional Islamist militant groups like the JMB, reports our correspondent in Barisal."

The law enforcement agency yesterday recovered a speedboat and two bottles of acid from the madrasa. It also raided a Doulatkhan clinic financed by Green Crescent, a UK charity

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## War criminal trial under int'l crime act

Decides govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said the government had decided to try war criminals under the International Crime (Tribunal) Act of 1973 and the investigation, in this regard, had already begun.

Shafique told The Daily Star last night the inter-ministerial meeting on trial of war criminals at the home ministry yesterday approved the decision.

Earlier he said the home ministry sought his opinion on the issue of the trial of war criminals and he gave his

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

## Abuse of religion: old tricks at play

38th independence day today

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Religion was the major weapon of the anti-liberation elements including Jamaat-e-Islami in their attempts to foil the birth of Bangladesh and in helping the Pakistani invaders, who launched genocide triggering the nation's armed struggle for independence on March 26, 1971.

"Jamaat-e-Islami cherishes Pakistan and Islam as an inseparable entity," commented former Jamaat ameer Golam Azam in 1971. He was also the chief of the East Pakistan unit of Jamaat during the Liberation War.

Jamaat's mouthpiece the daily Sangram covered a speech by Golam Azam in 1971. "Pakistan is the house of Islam for the world Muslims. Therefore, Jamaat activists don't justify being alive had Pakistan disintegrated," Golam Azam was quoted by Sangram as addressing a reception of Jamaat ministers at

defunct Hotel Empire in Dhaka.

Jamaat incumbent Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, who was the chief of Islami Chaatra Sangha, student wing of Jamaat in 1971, said in an article, "Sacred land Pakistan is the home of Allah for establishing His rules."

Nizami, who has succeeded Golam Azam, had also labelled the freedom fighters as "khodadrohi" (rebels against Allah).

He said in that article, "The cowards (freedom fighters) who are against Allah have attacked this holy land [Pakistan]."

"Will the holy occasion of Shab-e-Qadr be able to evoke our courage to establish true peace and welfare through resisting all the attacks launched against Pakistan and Islam?" he asked.

Historical documents and news reports published during and after the Liberation War show that Nizami was the commander-in-chief of Al-Badr.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## Another BDR man commits 'suicide'

9 died so far since carnage

STAR REPORT

Another Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) member allegedly committed suicide at 38 Akhaila Battalion Headquarters in Sylhet yesterday was identified as Sepoy Sheikh Waliur Rahman, 25.

BDR Director General (DG) Brig Gen Md. Mainul Islam said, "So far I know, he committed suicide. The legal procedure after the death was on."

With his death, BDR men death number reached nine since March 9 and of them,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

## PM unwraps IT plan

10,000 programmers a year; IT curriculum must in SSC level by 2013, in primary 2021; opens digital expo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government will do whatever necessary to create 10,000 information technology (IT) programmers every year.

The government will introduce compulsory IT curriculum at secondary school level by 2013 and primary level by 2021, Hasina said at the inaugural ceremony of BCS Digital Expo-2009 in the capital's Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

Earlier, she had been informed at the Expo that the country's educational institutions produce only 2,500 programmers every year.

The premier said Bangladesh's major prob-

lem is illiteracy, not population.

"If we can educate a portion of the population in information and communication technology (ICT), they can get employment at home and abroad," she said.

Hasina said the present government is keen to introduce e-governance and now planning to make all its procurement through 'e-tender' to check corruption.

The ICT stakeholders placed a list of demands before Hasina. Her party Awami League had made an election pledge to have a 'Digital Bangladesh' by 2021.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Independence Day to get no parade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation is going to celebrate the 38th Independence Day today without observing the ceremonious national parade for the first time in its history over security issue.

The government earlier cancelled the national parade, held at the National Parade Square every year, against the grim backdrop of February 25-26 carnage at the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Pilkhana headquarters.

Against this backdrop, people from all walks of life will throng the Jatiya Smitishudho (National

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



This picture published in the daily Sangram in 1971 shows members of the fourth Razakar Force taking oath over the holy Quran after completing training under Rajshahi Peace Committee in 1971.

# ৭১-এর বিজয়ের শক্তিতে এগিয়ে যাবে নতুন যোদ্ধারা



আজ মহান স্বাধীনতা দিবস। প্রকাশিত হলো মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের লেখা চিঠির সংকলন 'একাত্তরের চিঠি'।

আমাদের বিশ্বাস বইটি আগামী প্রজন্মের অনুপ্রেরণা হয়ে থাকবে।

বইটি সংগ্রহ করতে আগামী ২৮ মার্চ থেকে যোগাযোগ করুন নিকটস্থ বইয়ের দোকানে।

প্রথম আলো

গ্রামীণফোন