



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

SHOUT**WORLD PRESS PHOTO AWARDS**Taslima and Rahul bring home honours
for Rana Plaza pictures

PAGE 9

COMING SOON, KEJRIWAL-IIThe "third alternative" still remains an
unfulfilled experiment in India

PAGE 8

Qaeda for intifada in Bangladesh?

Message posted last month; authenticity not confirmed; govt cautious

STAR REPORT

An audiovisual message purported to be from al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri has urged the Muslims in Bangladesh to wage an intifada (popular uprising) to confront the "crusader onslaught against Islam".

Posted in Jihadology.net, the message alleged thousands of people were being killed in the streets of Bangladesh for protesting the "collusion of the anti-Islam secular government with a bunch of transgressing secularists".

"I invite you to lead the masses in a vast and inclusive popular uprising (intifada) whose tide dose not recede, nor its dynamism subsides, until the Shariah of Islam governs the land of Islam, instead of being governed over," it went on.

Titled "Bangladesh: A Massacre behind a Wall of Silence", the message was released on January 14, but it surfaced in the media only yesterday.

In it, the voice of an unseen narrator is placed over still images including Zawahiri's and video clips along with English subtitle. Not a single shot does show the al-Qaeda chief speaking on camera.

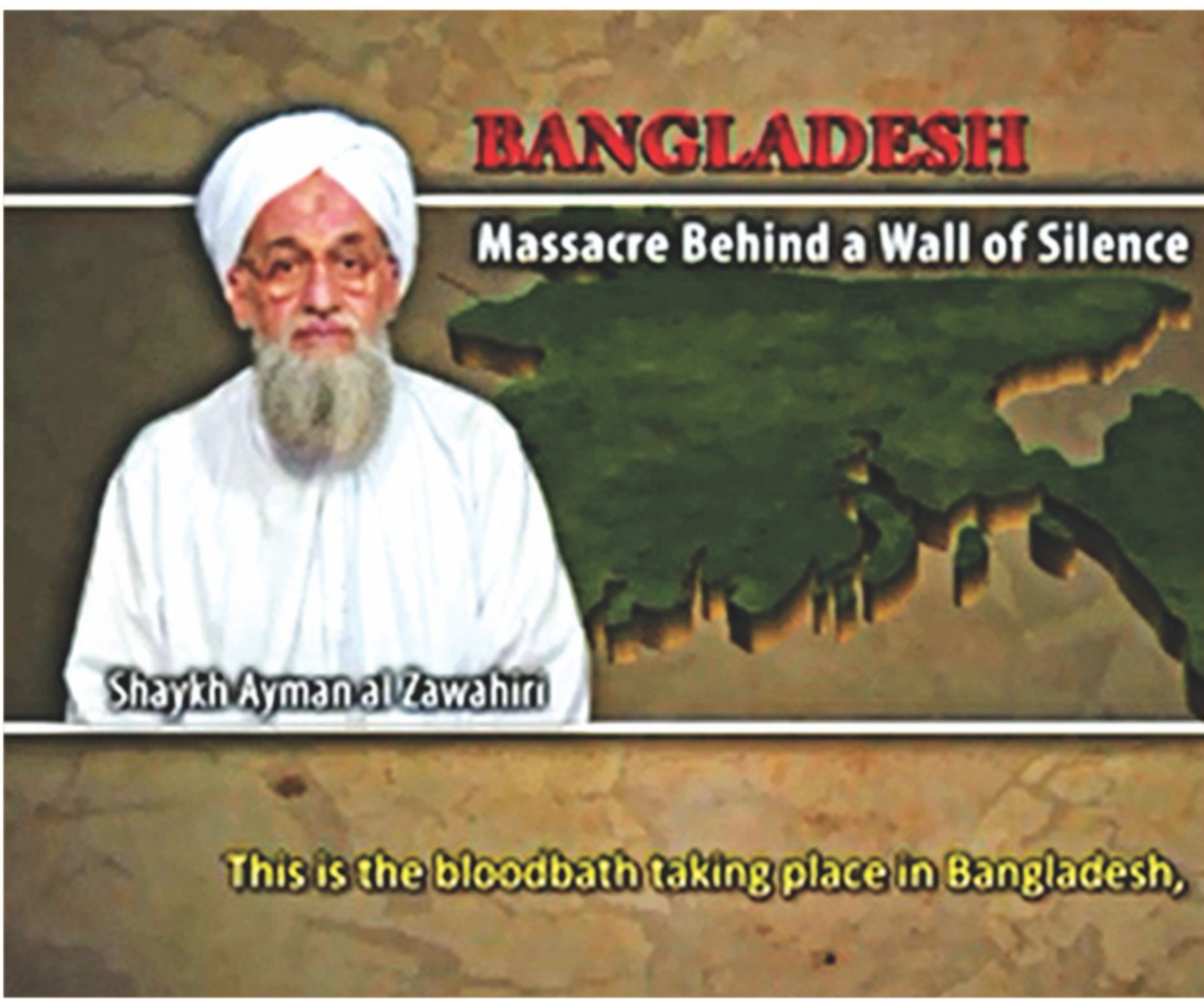
Jihadology, which describes itself as a clearinghouse for jihadi source materials, said this was a new message of Zawahiri and it was presented by As-Sahab, known as the media house of al-Qaeda.

The Daily Star could not independently verify the authenticity of the message.

The government was communicating with counterterrorism partners like the US and the UK to verify whether the voice was indeed of

SEE ONLINE FOR VIDEO, TRANSCRIPT

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Dhaka likely to get \$50m

Global fund for fighting terror

REZAUL KARIM

Dhaka is expected to receive around \$50 million equivalent grants from a newly floated global fund to support local community-based efforts to counter violent extremism.

The new fund -- Global Fund for Community Engagement and Resilience -- for the first time is financed by both public and private entities. It aims to identify credible local organisations, develop, monitor and evaluate programmes, and channel funds to local projects that target groups and individuals that can easily be lured into terrorist groups.

Foreign ministry officials said Dhaka is now almost sure that it would get the fund, financed by an organisation of 29 countries, including the United States and Turkey, and the European Union.

Bangladesh expects that the new fund will be operational by mid-2014 and will raise more than \$200 million over the next 10 years.

To secure the fund, Dhaka is sending a four-member delegation led by Foreign

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Two killed in city 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were killed in a "shootout" with police at Shutikhalpar Balur Math in Jatrabari in the capital yesterday.

The dead are Salauddin, 30, and his accomplice Mohammad Jewel, 32.

Earlier on Friday, the ringleader of an alleged forest robber gang was killed in "crossfire" at Karamjal of Dakope in the Sundarbans.

Assistant Commissioner Mohiuddin Kamal of Demra Zone said they had arrested 'Dakat' Salauddin, 30, and his accomplice

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

SIRAJGANJ AL LEADER MURDER Third accused too found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yet another accused in an Awami League leader killing case was found dead in Sirajganj yesterday, days into the killing of two other accused in the same case.

The dead is Jahangir Alam, 30, accused of murdering Sirajganj Sadar upazila AL leader Saiful Islam, said police.

The latest death comes hard on the heels of a series of such incidents in Nilphamari, Jessore and Sirajganj, where at least seven prime suspects of murders and violence had to embrace death in mysterious circumstances since January 18.

Of the seven, who are linked with opposition politics, four were found dead while three were said to have been killed in "shootouts".

In another incident yesterday, two suspected robbers were killed in a "shootout" with police in the capital's Jatrabari area.

Meanwhile, eminent rights activist Sultana Kamal called upon the government to probe all the killing of murder suspects and put an end to such killings.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Stop 'killings' right away

Asks rights boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman yesterday termed the law enforcers' versions of recent "shootout" incidents "cooked up fiction."

"Replacing the word crossfire, *Banduk Juddho* [shootout] is now being used for describing these incidents," he mentioned.

The rights body chief called upon the law enforcement agencies to stop extrajudicial killings immediately.

He was speaking at a programme organised by Manabadhikar Khabor, a human rights and tourism monthly, to mark its

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Seven kids killed in picnic bus plunge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Seven schoolchildren drowned when a bus carrying them home from a picnic veered off the road and plunged into a pond in Chougachha upazila of Jessore last night.

The tragedy occurred at Jhautola on Moheshpur Road around 8:00pm.

The ill-fated kids are Shanto, 6, Mithila, 7, Sabbir, 8, Suraiya, 8, Akil, 8, Shahana, 9, and Akhi, 10.

At least 20 others were hurt. With serious head injuries, eight of them were admitted to a hospital in Jessore.

Around 60 students from Benapole Primary School, all aged between six and 13, were on the bus. They had gone to Mujibnagar in Meherpur for the picnic, Officer-in-Charge Motiar Rahman of

Chougachha Police Station, told this correspondent.

It was drizzling and the road was slippery when the accident occurred, police said.

The driver of the bus fled the scene.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed shock at the death of the children. She prayed for the eternal peace of their souls and sent her condolence to the bereaved families, reported a TV station.

In March last year, seven children were killed when a truck rammed their school bus in Monohorganj of Comilla.

On July 11, 2011, at least 43 schoolchildren died in Mirsarai of Chittagong when a truck, packed with children returning from a football match, flipped over and fell into a roadside ditch.

PHOTO ON PAGE 10



Students of Aeronautical Engineering department of Military Institute of Science and Technology pose with their prototype UAVs on their Mirpur Cantonment campus yesterday. Two of the unmanned planes, the one on the right and the second from left, are heading for competition in the US this year. *Bottom*, a prototype quadcopter.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Flying fine

Budding engineers set their eyes on US competition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for military and rescue operations are being built by students of Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST) and they are honing their skills for designing manned aircraft.

The Aeronautical Engineering department of MIST has already entered a design contest scheduled in May for the replacement of the T-38 Talon, a supersonic trainer aircraft used by air forces across the world, including the US Air Force, and even NASA.

A team from MIST will compete against universities from across the world, said Squadron Leader Saifur Rahman Bakaul, a faculty member

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



CONGRATULATIONS



Mohammed Shajahan receiving the CIP Card from the Honorable Minister for Industries Mr. Amir Hossain Amu MP.

It is our great pleasure to congratulate Mr. Mohammed Shajahan, Managing Director of Jalal Ahmed Spinning Mills Ltd. for achieving the status of a Commercially Important Person (CIP) for the 9th time by the Ministry of Industries, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for his outstanding contribution in establishing large scale industry in private sector, commodity production, generation of employment and GDP growth for the economic development of the country. Besides Jalal Ahmed Spinning Mills Ltd., he is also the Managing Director of Shah Fatehullah Textile Mills Ltd., Former President of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), Former Director of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI), one of the Founders and Former Chairman of North South University (NSU), Honorary Consul of the Republic of Moldova and President, Consular Corps in Bangladesh (CCB). He is also Chairman, South Asia Region Committee of the World Federation of Consuls (FICAC).

The Management of Jalal Ahmed Spinning Mills Ltd. and its sister concerns, on behalf of all our staff, officers and the workers convey our best wishes to our Managing Director and wish him more success in future.