

## DENIM EXPORTS TO US

Shipments remain almost stagnant, hovering around \$400m a year

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## EMERGING CUP BEGINS

Mominul Haque-led Bangladesh face Hong Kong in opener

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## CHINA'S NEW HK CHIEF

Carrie Lam becomes chief executive disheartening democracy activists

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ARMY-LED OPERATION IN SYLHET

# Two militants killed, raid on

One detonated suicide vest when shot by commandos; militants still in hideout with huge stash of explosives

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and MINTU DESWARA from Sylhet

Two militants were killed during the army-led operation inside the terror den at Atia Mahal in Sylhet yesterday, as the raid to take on the terrorists holed up there entered its third day, making it one of the longest anti-terror operations.

However, the operation codenamed "Operation Twilight" was far from over as more militants were believed to be still inside the five-storey apartment.

The Para Commandos are taking time because of the high risk involved as the militants have planted a huge stash of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in the building, mostly on the ground floor and the staircase, the army said.

"We have seen that two militants were killed. We assume there might be one or more militants in there," said Brig Gen Fakhrul Ahsan, who briefed reporters about the operation in the afternoon yesterday.

"They [militants] are well-trained and equipped," Fakhrul said, adding that the terrorists knew well how to make a place inaccessible. "That's why it is taking time to complete the operation."

One of the two militants killed detonated his suicide vest after being shot by the commandos, he added.

Explaining how well-trained the terrorists are, Fakhrul said when the commandos charged grenades at the militants, they lobbed those back at the troops. The terrorists also lit fire to protect themselves from teargas.

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An army Armoured Personnel Carrier close to the bullet-riddled Atia Mahal. At least two militants were killed during the army's Operation Twilight at the building yesterday, Brig Gen Fakhrul Ahsan told journalists.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# Police probing dead, injured

Saturday night's Sylhet blasts leave cops scratching heads

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and DWOWA CHOWDHURY

Investigators are looking into the conduct of the people who died and were injured in Saturday's twin blasts in Sylhet.

Six people were killed and more than 50 were injured and police are looking into why they were there and their background.

Besides talking to doctors and the injured admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, police have kept the bodies of Shahidul Islam and Khadem Shah at the morgue, saying they were collecting information on them.

"Some of the injured and the dead have apparently raised suspicion. We are collecting their addresses, why they were there and if they were residents of Sylhet. We are trying to see if they had any connection [to the attacks]," Additional Commissioner Rokonuddin of Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP) told reporters in Shibbari area.

The first of the two bombs went off in Shibbari area around 7:00pm on Saturday, minutes after Brig Gen Fakhrul Ahsan finished briefing newsmen on Operation Twilight. The spot was about 400 metres north of Atia Mahal, where militants are holed up. The second blast was

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## Shun path of suicide attacks

Prime Minister asks misguided people

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged those wasting their lives in suicide attacks to return to the right path and assured them of doing whatever necessary to ensure their livelihoods.

"But, I'll urge them [militants] not to choose the wrong path of suicide attacks as well as the path

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# Joy turns into sorrow

STAR REPORT

Police inspector Monirul Islam left for his workplace in Sylhet on Saturday morning after attending a family function at his village home in Noakhali.

Little did he know that it would be his last visit to his family home.

He was among the six persons killed in two bomb blasts that evening while army personnel and law enforcers were raiding a militant hideout in Sylhet city's Shibbari area.

His elder brother Abdul Wahab said Monirul, the fourth among seven siblings, came home to attend the wedding ceremony of their younger brother on Thursday night after taking part in a three-day training in the capital.

But the family's joy turned into bereavement when they learnt that Monirul died from his wounds at Ibn Sina Hospital in Sylhet around 2:00am yesterday.

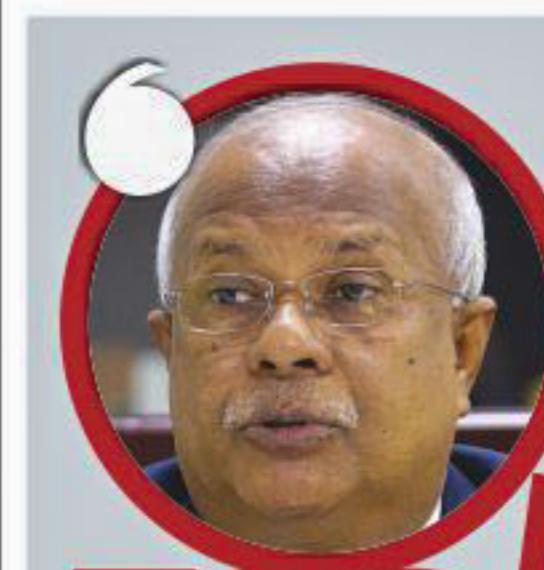
Married in 2010, Monirul left behind his wife Parvin Akhter and an 18-month-old son.

He joined the police as a sub-inspector in 2003 and went to the US the following year for a two-year training on bomb deactivation. Later, he was made an inspector (investigation) at Jalalabad Police Station in Sylhet.

Monirul would be buried at his village home in Noakhali Sadar upazila, reports our correspondent in the district.

The five other deceased include a court inspector in

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## TOP! QUOTE

"If banks operated under existing rules and regulations, scope for money laundering as well as militant financing would narrow."

ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION CHAIRMAN  
IQBAL MAHMUD  
WHILE INAUGURATING CORRUPTION PREVENTION WEEK AT THE ACC HEADQUARTERS

# Independence Day celebrated

Renewed vow to root out militancy from the country

AGENCIES

The nation celebrated the 47th Independence and National Day yesterday with a fresh vow to root out militancy from the country and build a happy, prosperous "Sonar Bangla" free from poverty, reports UNB.



On the occasion, different socio-political organisations across the country paid tributes to the martyrs and veterans of the 1971 Liberation War and remembered the martyrs through various programmes.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid tributes to the martyrs of the Liberation War by placing wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar in the morning.

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Family members of a deceased in tears after the body of their loved one arrived at their home in Chuadanga. The collision between a human haulier and a truck in Chuadanga left 13 people dead.

PHOTO: STAR

# 13 day labourers killed in road crash

Human haulier smashed in collision with truck

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushita

Like any other day, 22 day labourers, of Baro Baldia of Chuadanga, were traveling to their workplace yesterday on a locally-made engine-run human haulier when it collided head-on with a speeding truck.

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