



## They were expert bomb makers

Militants killed in Sylhet hideout were 'highly equipped, trained'; explosives found were homemade; 110-hr operation ends

SHAHEEN MOLLAH, MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and DWIWA CHOWDHURY

The militants at Atia Mahal were expert bomb makers and the Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) found in the Sylhet den were all homemade, investigators have said.

The detonators of the IEDs were assembled in various militant hideouts in Sitakunda of Chittagong and then brought to the Sylhet den. And the nitrate gel used as explosive was smuggled into the country through Chapainawabganj border from a neighbouring country where the substance is used for mining, multiple investigators told The Daily Star.



Troops returning to cantonment.

The fact that militants were getting hold of the substance came to law enforcers' notice after a police checkpoint came under attack in Comilla on March 7, and the subsequent arrest of two terror suspects, they said asking not to be named.

Officials of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) suspect that large consignments of the gel entered Bangladesh in recent months.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## CYBER THREAT DETECTION, RESPONSE

## Govt to install tools for constant watch

Tk 150cr scheme okayed to purchase equipment to ensure enhanced monitoring of internet use

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

The government is going to install internet monitoring equipment by May next year to help combat militancy amid growing concerns about extremists using the internet to spread their propaganda and communicate amongst themselves.

The equipment, to be installed under a project, would also help clamp down on cyber threats and crimes, and enforce the ban on pornography. It would enable law enforcers monitor internet activities of people round-the-clock.

The project titled "Cyber Threat Detection and Response" was approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) meeting yesterday.

Under the project, Tk 150 crore would be spent. Internet monitoring equipment, like

deep packet inspection (DPI) machines, would be bought to create a network for tackling cyber threats, said officials related to the project.

While the network would assist law enforcement agencies track criminal activities, it would hand enormous power to the government to observe and even control people's online activities. It might encroach upon citizens' private lives as well, said an expert.

Under this project, the government would set up 35 DPI machines, four of them very powerful.

The DPIs would examine and filter data packets as they pass an inspection point. The machines would help the authorities easily monitor people's internet usage, including their browsing, messaging and content downloading activities.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

'No major damage' in BB fire  
Says probe body, submits report to the governor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An inquiry team formed after the recent fire in the Bangladesh Bank headquarters submitted its report to Governor Fazle Kabir yesterday, saying there was no major damage in the incident.

The central bank formed the three-member committee led by Executive Director Ahmed Jamal to assess the damage caused by the fire, said Subhankar Saha, spokesperson for the bank.

The report said only some chairs and tables, three computers, a scanner, two printers and a photocopy machine were damaged, said BB sources.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

## TEESTA WATER SHARING

## Pranab may move to end stalemate

REZAUL KARIM

Indian President Pranab Mukherjee is expected to take an initiative to break the ice for resolving the long pending water sharing issue during the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to New Delhi on April 7-10.

Highly placed diplomatic sources in Dhaka and New Delhi said President

Pranab, who is due to complete his tenure at the end of this year, wants to leave his legacy by reducing the differences for a breakthrough on Teesta river water sharing deal.

Pranab is in action and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is backing it as both of them want to bring West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on board for reaching a

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

## Four killed in trawler capsiz

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Four women were killed and at least 15 people went missing as a trawler capsized at Moreganj upazila in Bagerhat yesterday.

The deceased are Beauty Begum, 38, wife of Mohsin Hossain of Kalikabari village, Piara Banu, 50, wife of Hashem Howlader of Guabaria village, Sufia Begum, 75, wife of Yunus Ali

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



The Mars rover "Mongol Tori" designed and engineered by six students of Brac University. Six Bangladeshi universities will showcase mars rover vehicles developed by their students at the competition scheduled to take place at the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah, USA on June 1-3.

PHOTO: BRAC UNIVERSITY

## Made in Bangladesh

Mars rovers built by Bangladeshi students selected for final round of global competition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six Mars rover projects of as many Bangladeshi universities have been selected for the final round of the prestigious global competition University Rover Challenge in the US.

The universities are: American International University Bangladesh (AIUB), United International University (UIU), Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB),

Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology (DUET), and Brac University.

They are among 36 universities of seven countries to compete at the final stage.

A record 82 teams from 13 countries had begun the year trying to design and build the world's best astronaut-assisting Mars rovers, according to the website of Mars Society which runs the University Rover Challenge.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

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