



## Raid on 3 more militant dens

### SWAT launches operation in Moulvibazar, suspends later; Comilla den under siege

STAR REPORT

Another day, another militant hideout. Three to be precise.

Hours after the nearly five-day siege at a militant den in Sylhet ended on Tuesday evening, police said they tracked down three more terror hideouts - two in Sylhet's neighbouring district Moulvibazar and one in Comilla.

Police cordoned off the two Moulvibazar dens in Nasirpur and Borohat areas early hours yesterday and the one in Comilla in the afternoon.

Some 10 to 12 suspected militants are believed to be holed up in the two Moulvibazar houses, some 20km apart. Both the houses are owned by Saifur Rahman Shakil, a Bangladeshi man living in England for 30 years, police and local sources said.

When police were preparing to launch an operation on the Nasirpur den in the afternoon, Comilla police said they discovered a militant hideout in Comilla municipality. At least two militants are said to be hiding there with huge explosives.

Police may launch an operation on the Borohat den today. Any offensive on the hideout in Comilla is not expected before tomorrow, as the city goes to municipal polls today, according to police sources.

After the overnight and the daylong siege, police launched an assault on the Nasirpur den in the evening, but suspended it after an hour without any breakthrough.

A team of Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) started the operation

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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN, MINTU DESHWARA



Policemen outside a house in Moulvibazar's Nasirpur where militant suspects are believed to be holed up. Bottom left, security forces on a road near another "militant den" at Borohat, about 20km from the Nasirpur house. Bottom right, a suspected militant hideout in Comilla's Kotbari.

## INJURED IN SYLHET Rab official flown back from S'pore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The director of Rapid Action Battalion's intelligence wing who was hit by splinters



in an explosion near a militant den in Sylhet on March 25 was flown back to Dhaka on life support from a Singapore hospital last night.

Splinters hit his brain entering through the eye, Lt Col Abul Kalam Azad's younger brother Yusuf Ahsan Hemel told The Daily Star.

Doctors at Mount Elizabeth Hospitals Singapore did not find him fit to be operated on and he has been kept in Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka Cantonment, he said.

He will be flown back once fit for surgery, he added.

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## Shahnaz wins Business for Peace award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Durreen Shahnaz, a Bangladeshi and founder of Singapore-based impact enterprise Impact Investment Exchange (IIX) and IIX Foundation, has been selected as a 2017 Business for Peace Award honoree for her commitment to promoting an evolved form of capitalism that values both financial returns and positive social and environmental impact.

Durreen is the third Bangladeshi to receive the award after Latifur Rahman, chairman and CEO of Transcom Group in 2012, and Selima Ahmad, vice chairperson of Nitol-Niloy Group in 2014.

IIX has effectively created a social capital market in Asia over the last eight years, connecting investment to development and unlocking millions of dollars for high-impact enterprises, which in turn have left its mark on more than eight million lives.

A daughter of a former top civil bureaucrat in Bangladesh, Durreen was the first Bangladeshi woman to work on Wall Street and to graduate from the renowned Wharton School of Business.

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## Solar hope for Manpura

### The coastal island in Bhola to become a model of all types of green energy

SOHEL PARVEZ

The government plans to turn Manpura into a green island by installing solar power systems as part of its scheme to light up remote and off-grid areas through renewable energy and ensure electricity to every house by 2021.

Under the plan, Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources has identified 250 hard-to-reach areas to light them up by solar and other types of renewable energy. These areas range from remote locations in the coastal belt to chars and haors in north-

west and northeastern parts of the country, said SREDA Member Siddique Zobair.

Of the areas, the government plans to develop Manpura island as a model for renewable energy use with the aim to showcase the contribution of green energy in reducing global warming.

"We want to make it a green island. We will take all types of renewable energy -- solar, wind and bio-gas -- to the island," said Zobair.

"This is part of the plan to ensure electricity to all by 2021. We will gradually take up renewable energy to those areas where providing electricity connection through

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The 177 kilowatt peak solar mini-grid set up in November 2015 in Manpura island.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Maldives model found dead in Rajshahi hostel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi



A Maldivian medical student, who was featured as a model on the cover of Vouge India magazine last year, was found dead in her room at a dormitory of a private medical college in Rajshahi city yesterday.

Police recovered the body of Raudha Athif, 21, a second-year student of Islami Bank Medical College in Nawdapara area, around 12noon, an hour after some of her classmates living in the same building discovered it.

Her classmates saw the body hanging from the ceiling fan with a scarf tied to the neck, said Zillur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Shah Makhdum Police Station.

One of them cut the scarf with a knife and took the body down, believing she was alive, he added.

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## AL, BNP battle for Comilla pride

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Comilla City Corporation goes to polls today amid tight security as the archrivals Awami League and BNP are set to contest the elections.

The mayoral race has virtually turned into a "battle of prestige" for AL candidate Anjum Sultana Sima and BNP's Monirul Haque Sakku for some reasons.

In the maiden Comilla city polls five years ago, AL-backed Afzal Khan faced a humiliating defeat to Sakku.

This time around, AL chief Sheikh Hasina passed the baton to Afzal's daughter Sima. Her win could be viewed as

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Syed Ali Asghar Rizvi (Badsha bhai)

...my brother of soul, who loved all in the world, now beloved in heaven. We pray to be like him.

Muhammed Aziz Khan Summit Group

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