



Law enforcers surround a house from where the wives of three "Neo JMB" militant suspects were detained in Bheramara of Kushtia yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

'Safe haven' for top 'Neo JMB' leaders

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Talking to The Daily Star, Abdul Mannan, additional deputy commissioner of the CTTC, said they suspected that the hideout was also a bomb-making factory of "Neo JMB".
"We had information that Neo JMB chief Bachchu alias Lal Bhai alias Himu was staying in the hideout. But he somehow left a day before our raid," he said.
Bachchu and his wife along with Akia had also fled from another "Neo JMB" hideout in Savar just an hour before a raid on it on May 27.
Mannan said other top "Neo JMB" leaders, including bomb expert Sohel Mahfuz, who allegedly supplied grenades for the Gulshan café attack, used to visit the hideout in Bheramara.
Around 12midnight on Friday, a CTTC team along with members from

the district police cordoned off the tinshed house.
Around 5:00am yesterday, the three women came out of the house after being asked by the police to surrender. However, the law enforcers soon discovered that one of them, Sumaiya, was wearing a suicide vest, said counterterrorism officials, adding that they managed to arrest her before she could blow herself up.
A top official of the district police, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star that Sumaiya failed to explode the bomb as she was not properly trained.
Talking to reporters at the spot last night, Habibur Rahman, additional DIG of police (Khulna Range), said they would file a case against the three suspected female militants.
Police picked up Nasima Khatun,

owner of the house, for interrogation after the incident.
During the quizzing, Nasima, an office assistant of the public health and engineering department in Bheramara, told police that Toly Khatun rented the house from her four months ago after introducing herself as a tailor.
Toly's husband Arman worked in Dhaka. He used to visit her often, said Kamrul Islam, assistant superintendent of police (ASP) in Kushtia, quoting Nasima.
Four days ago, two more women came to visit Toly. Toly told Nasima that they were her sisters-in-law, he said, quoting the land lord.
A bomb disposal team from the CTTC went to the scene and diffused the bombs.

The valiant fighter

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members to bury him in Bangladesh. But I am yet to talk to them over the matter," he said around 11:15pm last night.
Contacted, Ashud Ahmed, Bangladesh's ambassador to Qatar, told The Daily Star over phone that they had talked to the family members of Shahidul in Qatar and that they agreed to take his body to Bangladesh.
"Hopefully, his body would be taken to Bangladesh on Monday," he said.
Shahidul, also a prosecution witness in the war crimes case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah, was admitted to the Qatar hospital following a massive cardiac arrest while flying to Sweden from Bangladesh on a Qatar Airlines flight on April 28.
He was first put on life support and later shifted to the ICU.
Earlier, the family urged the prime minister's intervention in bearing his medical expenses. An application was sent to the PMO on May 22 in this regard. The Daily Star ran a report on it on June 4.

SHAHIDUL'S LEGACY
Shahidul was a student leader before the Liberation War and had taken part in different movements, including the six-point movement of 1966 and in the 1970 election campaigns for the Awami League candidates of Mohammadpur and Mirpur areas, he said in his testimony.
On the morning of March 26, 1971, he saw the houses of Bangalees in Mirpur area burning and Biharis celebrating. He escaped by swimming across the Turag river and later went to India for training before joining the Liberation War.
Under his leadership, Mama Bahini played an important role in the Liberation War. He left Bangladesh for Sweden in 1986 and settled there with his family.
Over two and a half decades later, he returned to Bangladesh to provide his testimony and gave vivid descriptions of 1971 and crimes committed by Quader Mollah in the Bihari-dominated Mirpur area during the

Liberation War.
Shahidul was already ailing while giving his testimony in July 2012. But he refused to request adjournment when asked if he needed any break. "Ask me questions. I don't mind dying here answering questions. I'll answer for as long as I'm alive," he had said.
PM EXPRESSES SHOCK
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock at the death of the freedom fighter, reports BSS.
In a condolence message, she recalled with profound respect the contributions of Shahidul Haque to the great Liberation War.
Hasina said he played an important role in the anti-autocracy movement and building public opinion for the trial of war criminals.
She prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed profound sympathy to the bereaved family.
Meanwhile, the Chief Prosecutor's Office of the International Crimes Tribunal expressed deep shock at his death.

A mother

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in a hospital bed. I just heard him saying 'don't beat me anymore.'
Shaon died at the intensive care unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital on July 8 last year.
After his death, Monirul Islam, chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of DMP, told The Daily Star that Shaon was one of the suspects.
However, the case filed in connection with the attack did not mention his name.

Prayers for café victims

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mostly targeted foreign nationals, had asked Faraaz to leave. But his friends Abinta and Tarishi, who had foreign citizenships, were not allowed to go. Faraaz refused to leave his friends behind and was eventually killed along with them.
"We, despite such a brutal murder of our grandson, never thought of leaving Bangladesh, as we have to stand, fight and succeed in eliminating the menace," said Latifur at the milad.
"I do not have the strength of character that Faraaz demonstrated and our entire family is proud of the fact that we were honoured and blessed with a person like him," he said.
Faraaz is being honoured at both home and abroad for his love, friendship and courage.
Faraaz's elder brother Zaraif Hossain, while remembering Faraaz's

courage, sacrifice and love for humanity, said that his death brought honour not only for their family but for the country also.
Shah Syed Muradullah Ahmed, popularly known as the Pir of Narinda, who conducted the milad, said that the bravery of the 20-year Faraaz for the sake of friendship was praiseworthy.
"He preferred death instead of deserting his friends in dire danger to save his own life like a coward," said the Pir (a spiritual leader). Referring to the holy Quran, he said, "Those who have patience in danger will be rewarded in the afterlife."
"He died the death of a martyr, as he laid down his life for truth, justice and friendship," he added.
A doa mahfil was also organised in the Tangail branch of SKF Pharmaceuticals in the memory of Faraaz.

19 gunmen killed in clashes with Mexico police

Clashes killed 19 gunmen and injured five police officers in the northern Mexican state of Sinaloa, the heart of operations of some of the country's biggest drug traffickers, authorities said yesterday.
The incident occurred late Friday when a group of gunmen clashed with Mazatlan city police who were on a routine tour led by local police chief Joel Ernesto Soto.
The confrontation began around 8:00 pm (0100 GMT) in the town of Villa Union when police repelled the gunmen's assault, Sinaloa deputy secretary of security Cristobal Castaneda said.
The 19 men, who were riding in four vehicles, pursued their confrontation by a highway, where they were killed by municipal police.
"They faced quite a number of aggressors, but thanks to their training and professionalism, they managed to get ahead. The wounded policemen are well," Castaneda told reporters.

Malaysia

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Immigration Department Director General Datuk Sri Mustafar Ali said the detained illegal immigrants gave various reasons for not having applied for the E-Card.
"Here I want to stress that the expiry date for the E-Card application will not be extended, we have given ample time to foreign workers and employers to register, and we have also requested cooperation from the respective embassies of the illegal immigrants to make announcements about the E-Card," he told reporters.
Mustafar said there would be no compromising with employers and illegal immigrants who were found to have no documents and that operation to hunt down these illegal immigrants would be carried out on a daily basis.
The E-Card will act as a temporary

One killed

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the police and they retaliated. Four policemen were injured in the confrontation and Rabiul was shot dead.
He was an accused in five cases including one for robbery in Dumuria thana.
Police said they recovered one foreign pistol, homemade bombs and other local lethal weapons from the spot.

Minister

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India and the United States for standing by Bangladesh.
On July 1 last year, a group of young "misguided" people with sophisticated arms stormed the Holy Artisan Bakery in the capital's Gulshan diplomatic zone and killed 20 hostages, mostly foreigners, including Italian and Japanese. Two policemen were also killed during the 12-hour hostage standoff.
Shahriar said the government, led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, had been able to combat militancy to a large extent with support from all. "We've more to do."
"We remember those who lost their lives in Holy Artisan Bakery with deep respect and convey deep sympathy to their families and governments of their countries," the state minister said in a post on his official Facebook page.
He thanked law enforcement agencies for their efforts and remembered those who sacrificed their lives during anti-militant drives in the country.
The state minister also tweeted remembering the Holy Artisan Bakery victims, who were killed in the deadliest terrorist attack in Bangladesh.

Sharp rise

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Most accidents on highways occur near market areas and intersections. Local roads crisscross the highways making the intersections accident prone zones. Roadside shops, especially the ones on corners, obstructing visibility, also cause crashes, he said.
Shifun Newaz said unfit vehicles are responsible for many crashes. Besides, drivers overtake each other taking risks and drive recklessly leading to fatalities, he said.
Lack of awareness about road safety among people is also a major factor, he added.
Commenting on the increase in fatalities, he said the government in recent times did not take any significant step which can reduce the number of crashes. Highways and roads were widened only to reduce traffic jam.
Ashis Kumar Dey said poor road condition in last few months was one of the main reasons for the increase in the number of fatalities.
Road Transport and Highway Division, which surveyed 16,621km highway and road last year, found 79.6 percent of national highways in fair or good state while the rest were in poor, bad and very bad conditions.
The survey conducted between February and May also found 30.79 percent of regional highways in poor, bad or very bad states and 46 percent of the district roads in similar conditions.

Hyperloop Hotel

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Hyperloop is the brainchild of Tesla CEO Elon Musk, who first pitched the idea in 2013. The aim is to build steel tubes across the United States that would function as super-fast, country-spanning subway networks.
Siebrecht hopes to eventually expand into Asia and Europe.
"Broadband for transportation," is Hyperloop's motto.
The Hyperloop Hotel would use this system to take the travel experience to the next level, revolutionizing the hotel industry. Travelers would no longer need to buy individual tickets for each journey, nor book accommodation separately.
"Collectively, the jury was truly blown away by Brandon's concept, Hyperloop Hotel," John Hardy, founder of Radical Innovation and CEO of The John Hardy Group, tells CNN Travel.
"Hyperloop Hotel has the ability to disrupt the way we live entirely, beyond the hospitality industry. Radical Innovation exists to help bring these types of ideas to fruition."
Siebrecht has designed the rooms as repurposed, spacious shipping containers, decked out with modern hotel luxuries.
The result is a hotel design that is both well appointed and sustainable. Siebrecht estimates each hotel will cost \$10 million to build. The Radical Innovation Team have rewarded him \$10,000 to develop the concept further.
The Hyperloop system is yet to get off the ground, but the start-up says it could be up and running by 2020. Siebrecht says he's open to collaboration with Hyperloop.
"I hope the Hyperloop Hotel will become a reality soon, Siebrecht told CNN Travel. "This concept is completely feasible as the Hyperloop is already being tested in my home state of Nevada. I am open to a partnership with Tesla and further development of my concept as an expansion or sub-brand of the Hyperloop One."
"I believe the Hyperloop One is the next big innovation in transportation in the United States and possibly the world."

Flood situation

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OSMANINAGAR
Almost all eight unions have been marooned as the Kushiara was overflowing and the dam protecting the areas has developed breaches.
Umarpur, Sadipur, Paschim Poilanpur, Burunga, Goalabazar, Tazpur, Doyamir and Usmanpur unions have been badly hit by the flood.
Waterborne diseases have spread in the areas and children are mostly affected with many getting admitted to different hospitals and clinics.
Dr Shafayat Hossain at Burunga Govt Health Sub-centre said children and some elderly people were being treated at the health centre for waterborne diseases.
UNO Md Moniruzzaman said they had already opened a control room to monitor the situation 24 hours a day.
BARLEKHA
Ten unions are the worst hit as all rivers and canals are overflowing and water level in the Hakaluki haor is rising every day.
Around 90,000 people of 60 villages have been affected, with many of them already moving to shelter houses.
Talimpur Union Parishad Chairman Bidyut Kanti Das said all villages under his jurisdiction had been submerged, but no government initiative was seen to help the affected people.
UNO SM Abdullah Al Mamun said 115 families had taken shelter at three shelter houses. They had got allocation of 39 tonnes of rice and Tk 95,000 for the affected people, he added.
JURI
Most of the villages have been sub-

merged, but floodwater has not yet reached the municipality areas.
Gulshanara Mili, upazila parishad chairman, said the situation was very alarming and they had never witnessed such a flood before.
UNO Mintu Chowdhury said the flood was spreading to more areas every day. Around 60,000 people of 35 villages have been marooned and many took shelter at the shelter centres, he added.
He said the administration had already distributed 50 tonnes of rice among the affected villagers.
KULLAURA
Around 80 villages in five unions have been badly affected and floodwater is now reaching the municipality areas, blocking road communications with other upazilas.
UNO Golam Rabbi said water level of Hakaluki haor was rising every day and 80,000 people from all 13 unions have been marooned.
Indra Shankar Chakrabharty, executive engineer of Water Development Board of Moulvibazar, said the Kushiara was flowing 29 centimetres above danger level.
In Moulvibazar, academic activities in more than 100 education institutions in three upazilas have remained suspended thanks to sudden flood since last week, reports our correspondent.
Md Masudur Rahman, upazila education officer of Kullaura, said 35 schools in the upazila were still under water as of yesterday.
District Primary Education Officer Md Abdul Alim said 27 primary schools in Juri and 46 primary schools in Barlekha had been closed due to flood.

Messi ties the knot

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Mateo, one, had front seats at the ceremony attended by some 260 guests, including Shakira and her husband, Messi's teammate Gerard Pique, and numerous footballers such as Messi's Barcelona strike partners Neymar and Luis Suarez.
Argentine media called it the "wedding of the century" for Rosario, the gritty northern port city where Messi, 30, and his bride, 29, met when the player was nine years old.
Former Barca and current Chelsea star Cesc Fabregas was in attendance, along with Argentina and Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero.
- Roast gizzards -The party was to be a respite for Messi from his legal woes. A Spanish court last month rejected his appeal against a tax fraud conviction.
Brunette bride Rocuzzo wore a white, curve-hugging dress with a deep sweetheart neckline and embroidered straps by Rosa Clara -- a Spanish designer who has dressed actress Eva Longoria and Spain's Queen Letizia.
The wedding was held at 2200 GMT in the City Center casino, which stands right next to a crime-ridden slum run by drug gangs.
The civil wedding ceremony and party were all slated to take place inside the venue, and the guests will be lodged there too.
The feast will reportedly feature Argentine delicacies such as roast gizzards.
Uruguayan pop bands Rombai and Marama plus singer Karina, Aguero's wife, will perform at the reception.
There were also rumors that there would be singing by Shakira, the Colombian diva famous for "Hips Don't Lie" and "Whenever, Wherever."
Shakira had recently denied rumors that she would miss the wedding due to a quarrel with Rocuzzo.
Messi and Rocuzzo live in Barcelona where he plays, but still

return regularly to Rosario for vacations.
He moved to Spain when he was 13 to join FC Barcelona, but the couple kept in touch.
Messi has gone on to win the top Ballon d'Or award five times and is widely regarded as the world's best footballer.
But various old friends of the couple in their home city said the bride and groom are humble folk who have never forgotten where they come from.
"They are the love of each other's lives," Messi's childhood friend Diego Vallejos told AFP.
Instead of wedding presents, they have asked for donations to a children's charity.
The couple have reportedly spent the past two weeks in Rosario with family, but have kept out of sight of the reporters who have invaded the city.
Rumors circulated of bachelor and bachelorette parties, but the only evidence that emerged was a photo, posted by ex-Barca goalkeeper Jose Pinto, of Messi enjoying a barbecue with a few friends.
Some friends of Rocuzzo have shared pictures of her relaxing with relatives.
On the eve of the wedding, a festive atmosphere reigned in the Las Heras neighborhood where Messi grew up.
"We will celebrate," said Damian Lugoni, 27, a local sausage sandwich vendor.
"I wish good luck to Leo and Anto, who is just as simple and nice as him."
"We are all happy for them," said Lisandro Urteaga, an artist who was called in to paint a mural of Messi in the neighborhood for the occasion.
"Let him celebrate the way someone like him deserves. He is a real example as a human being -- although when he plays football he doesn't seem to be from this planet."

Xi draws 'red line'

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Protesters also called for the release of cancer-stricken Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, who was given medical parole earlier this week but remains on the mainland.
"Suppression by the regime has never let up and I don't see any end in sight," said activist Nathan Law, Hong Kong's youngest legislator, who was arrested Wednesday over an anti-China sit-in and attended the protest after being released Friday.
Xi insisted that Hong Kong had "more extensive democratic rights and freedoms than at any other time in its history" in his speech and pledged to uphold its semi-autonomous status.
But Beijing's foreign ministry declared Friday that the document signed by Britain and China which initiated the handover "is no longer relevant".
The Sino-British Joint Declaration gave Hong Kong rights unseen on the mainland through a "one country, two systems" agreement, lasting 50 years.
There are growing fears that freedoms guaranteed by the handover deal are now under threat, with Chinese authorities accused of abductions and interfering in a range of areas, from politics to media and education.
Xi cautioned that political conflict would "severely hinder" Hong Kong's economic and social development and called for education measures to promote China's national culture and history.
A proposal to include patriotic education in Hong Kong schools met with huge protests in 2012 and has since been shelved.

Pro-China supporters jeered and booed yesterday's democracy march, shouting: "Long live the communist party! This is China's soil!"
Earlier in the day, loyalists had also targeted a small peaceful march by activists in memory of the victims of Beijing's 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown.
Leading activist Joshua Wong accused "pro-China gangsters and mobs" for instigating the attack.
Democracy campaigners including Wong were taken away in police vans, with two of them saying they had been hit by officers inside, before all were released.
Activists said they had been repeatedly targeted during Xi's visit.
"What we've experienced this weekend was a whole new level of intimidation and direct violence that's unprecedented," said campaigner Avery Ng of League of Social Democrats.
Lam's swearing in by Xi was deeply symbolic for frustrated activists who pushed for fully free leadership elections during the 2014 Umbrella Movement rallies but failed to win concessions.
Those protests were sparked by a Beijing-backed political reform package which said Hong Kong could have a public vote for leader, but that candidates must be vetted first.
The plan was voted down by pro-democracy lawmakers and the reform process has since stalled, with Lam making no commitment to revisit it anytime soon.
Lam was selected by a pro-China committee, as were her predecessors.