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'Don't harass Ahab men'

Home ministry allegedly sends lists to police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
The home ministry sent lists of Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh (Ahab) members to various district police authorities, mostly in northern districts, with instructions "not to harass them".
Officials investigators the militant activities now feel embarrassed as the lists sent a couple of weeks ago include many names that they had collected through quizzing the arrested militants.
Pressure from BNP-Jamaat lawmakers acted behind sending

Jamaat rejoinder and our reply

Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh protested a news item headlined "Jamaat link to militants becomes evident" published in The Daily Star on 22 September.
In a statement, Jamaat's Publicity Secretary Prof M Tasneem Alam said The Daily Star published the false stories to malign the image of Jamaat.
He said Jamaat has no link with any "terrorist organisation or persons".
The statement said Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Abdur Rahman and his father, and Jagrata Maslim Janata Bangladesh (JMB) chief Bangla Bhai were never involved with Jamaat or Islami Chhatra Shibir.
The information that 11 persons namely Nasir Uddin, Azizul, Samiul Alam Sizu, Fazul Haq, Kafiluddin, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Omar Faruk, Abdul Haq, M Abul Hossain, Mujibur and Mutassim Billah are Jamaat or Shibir activists is also not correct and they never belonged to

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BDR, BSF hold talks in Delhi from Monday

UNB, Dhaka

A six-day director general-level meeting between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) begins in New Delhi on Monday.
A 19-member delegation, led by BDR Director General Maj Gen M Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, will attend the meeting.
The Bangladesh delegation comprises senior BDR officials, representatives from the home and foreign affairs ministries, Bangladesh-India Joint River Commission and Bangladesh Land Records and Survey Department.
BSF Director General RS Mooshahary will lead the Indian delegation at the talks, said a BDR press release.

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Khulna 'mastermind' of Aug 17 blasts held

5 more arrested in countrywide raids

STAR REPORT
Law enforcers yesterday discovered a den of banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) operatives at Batiaghata in Khulna and claimed that the place had been used to make the bombs that were blasted in Khulna city on August 17.
Police arrested Gazi Abdul Hakim, 48, landlord of the house, suspecting him to be one of the masterminds behind the serial blasts and a top JMB leader. During the raid, they also seized from his bedroom 16 empty cartons believed to have been used to store bombs.
Besides, some powder explosives, pieces of wire, jagged fragments of marble, and a large number of JMB booklets were also seized from the 1st floor of the house.
Meanwhile, at least five others were arrested in different parts of the country in the last 24 hours ending at 8:00pm yesterday.
In another development, JMB's bomb squad member Abdur Razzak, who was arrested on Thursday night in Bogra, yesterday described to the police how bombs were exploded in Bogra town on August 17.
KHULNA
Our staff correspondent from Khulna reports: The law enforcers



District Detective Branch of police conducts a raid on Khulna Alia Madrasa yesterday in search of militants suspected to be involved in August 17 bomb blasts.

Islam disapproves of terrorism

Scholars tell seminar in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Leading Islamic scholars and thinkers from South and Southeast Asia yesterday denounced terrorism and destruction of life in the name of Islam or any religion in a continued bid to clear the Muslims of alleged involvement in such activities.
They said Islam disapproves of militancy, extremism, wars, disorder, hatred and all sorts of terrorism; it rather preaches and promulgates peace, progress, moderation, tolerance and harmony.
The very objective of Islam is to promote ethical values, while any act of violence causing deaths of innocent people or destruction of property frustrates the basic spirit of the religion, they added.
The scholars were speaking on the second day of a three-day regional seminar on "Islam: Religion of Peace, Progress and Harmony; Bangladesh: Model of a Moderate Muslim Nation" at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.
Organised by the Dhaka-based Centre for National and Regional Studies (CNRS), the seminar is being attended by Islamic scholars from Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Singapore and host Bangladesh.
The speakers said the Muslims usually react when there is injustice and disorder, but they never cross

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Two outlaws lynched in Pabna

BDNEWS, Sirajganj

Two activists of an underground outfit were lynched by a mob at Aag Jaintapur village in Faridpur upazila of Pabna district early yesterday.
Villagers said four armed youths came to the village at about 1:30am. They claimed themselves as members of Sarbahara Party and demanded toll from a villager named Shamsul Islam Master.
Shamsul Master tactfully went out of the house and started shouting. One of his neighbours through the microphone of the village mosque announced that robbers stormed into the house of Master.
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80 fishermen held in India return home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Eighty Bangladeshi fishermen, who were detained in an Indian jail for more than nine months, returned home on Thursday night.
The fishermen with three trawlers were caught in a storm while fishing in the Bay in December last year. They lost their way and entered the Indian territory.
The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) seized the trawlers, arrested the fishermen and then sent them to a prison on charges of entering the country illegally.
The Indian border guards brought the fishermen to Haridaspur Checkpost and handed them over to the BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) through Benapole immigration.
The BSF also handed over the three fishing trawlers to the BDR personnel of Kalkhali border outpost in Sathira. The fishermen hail from Kutubdia in Cox's Bazar district.

US Gulf Coast cities empty as Hurricane Rita approaches

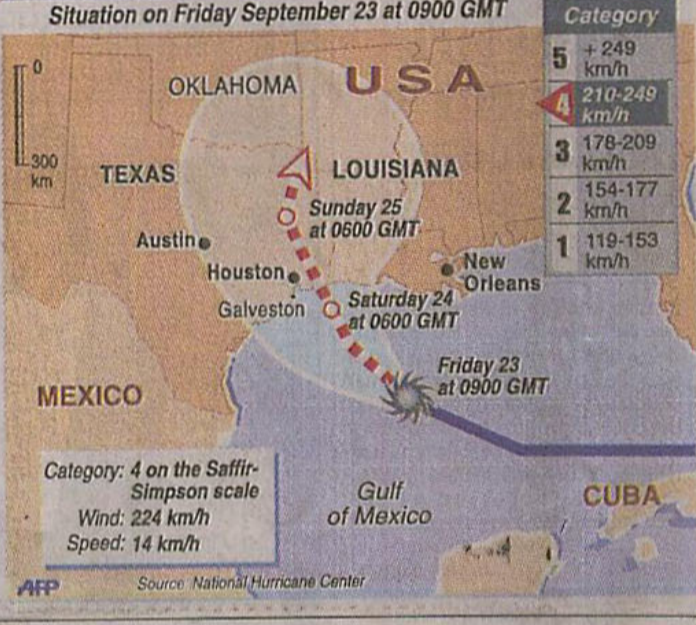
AFP, Houston
A mass exodus from the deadly threat of Hurricane Rita emptied towns along the Texas and Louisiana coastlines yesterday, amid frantic last-minute preparations for the second super-storm in a month.
With Rita expected to hit the Gulf Coast late Friday, more than one million people piled into cars and buses with whatever they could carry, creating monumental traffic jams on all roads heading inland.
The port city of Galveston, scene of the worst US natural disaster when a similar storm hit 105 years ago, was virtually empty early Friday. Only the most hardy survivors from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina on August 29 stayed in New Orleans. Residents also fled most other cities and towns on a 500km stretch of coast from Port O'Connor in Texas to Morgan City in Louisiana, which is under a formal hurricane warning.
The storm claimed its first victim before it even hit land when an elderly woman died of apparent heat exhaustion while stuck in a massive traffic jam of Texas evacuees on Thursday.
Some vehicles that had run out of gas were abandoned on the highway.
"We've got no gas. We're dealing with heat exhaustion, heart attacks," Sheriff Randy Smith of Waller County, Texas told local a television station shortly after midnight.
Smith worried many of the stranded motorists would not make

Bus blaze kills 24 evacuees

AFP, Houston

A bus carrying evacuees from Houston exploded into flames near Dallas killing at least 24 people yesterday, local television reported.
Reporter Erin Allen of NBC television affiliate KXAS in Houston said she spoke to a Houston nurse who was one of first responders at scene and managed to help driver pull several people from the bus before three explosions rocked the bus as the oxygen tank of several elderly passengers caught on fire.
"The sheriff's department says 43 people were on the bus and at least half are dead," Allen said.
While no cause of the blaze has been officially determined there was some concern it may have been forewarned.

One million flee hurricane Rita



Hunt for Islamist militants at DU

JCD hall units preparing list

HASAN JAHID TUSHER
Intelligence agencies are hunting through dormitories of Dhaka University for a number of students involved with the Islamic outfit Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh and Islamist militant activities.
Intelligence agencies are also looking for suspected female student militants in the female dormitories and have so far interrogated more than a dozen female students. Sources said at least 20 suspected militants have been staying at different female dormitories.
Provosts of different dormitories have admitted there might be suspected militants at different halls, and therefore have alerted the house tutors and the guards. The provosts and the house tutors are spending extra time at the dormitories to search for suspected students turned militants, teachers said.
The leaders and activists of different hall units of the ruling BNP's student wing, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), beat up at least 30 students for their involvement in militancy in the last couple of months. In Suryasen, Hazi Muhammad Mohsin, Kabi Jashimuddin and Sergeant Jahurul Haque Halls, JCD activists beat up at least 15 students after the 17 August serial blasts, suspecting them of involvement in militant activities, sources said.
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