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JMB's mini bomb-making factory busted in city

KAILASH SARKAR and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday morning busted a 'mini-munitions factory' of banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) at the city's East Monipur in Mirpur, and recovered a huge cache of bombs and bomb-making materials.

They carried out the raid following up information obtained from detained JMB explosives expert 'Boma Mizan' and his wife Sharmin.

Mizan was captured from Taltola on Thursday evening, and a few hours afterwards his wife was picked up from their rented house at Pirebagh in Mirpur.

Sharmin, who tried to blow herself up when a Rab team went to arrest her, is now

undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). She lost one of her wrists in the blast that also wounded their two-year-old boy Saifullah Sukaine Naim and a little over two-month-old daughter Masroba Jannat Tora. The kids too have been admitted to DMCH.

Rab officials said they recovered 11 bombs, a pistol, and a huge stash of chemical residues, plastic explosives, grenade casings, fuses and detonators from the East Monipur flat that was also rented by Mizan.

The seized materials could be used to make at least 1,000 bombs, they observed.

Rab intelligence Director Major Azim Ahmed, who led the drives yesterday and the day before, said, "In fact, the flat was housing a mini-munitions factory. The chemicals and other materials recovered from there could even be used to impro-

vised land and anti-personnel mines." Mueeen, a youth who had been living in the house, managed to flee, sensing the Rab swoop that began at around 7:45am and continued till 2:30pm.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haque, Rab Additional Director General Col Reza Noor Rahman Khan and some other high officials of the police and the elite crime-busting unit have visited the scene.

Chand Miah, owner of the Monipur flat, said Mizan introduced himself as a private firm employee, and said that he hailed from Barisal.

Miah rented out the flat to him on December 1 last year for Tk 5,000 a month. Caretaker of the building Emdadul Huq said, "Mizan, together with his wife,

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PHOTO: STAR

Rab in a raid yesterday seized a huge quantity of bomb-making materials from a den of outlawed militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh at Mirpur in the capital.

Mizan, wife disowned by parents for militancy

KAILASH SARKAR and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Detained Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) man Mizan alias 'Boma Mizan' was disowned by his parents five years ago for his Islamist terrorist connection, and his first wife Sharmin was also disowned by her family three months after they had come to know that her husband is a terrorist.

"We got married in 2006 after I got my higher secondary certificate from Korotia College in Tangail. I fell in love with him while I was a student. Mizan was an employee of a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Speeding truck kills 2 fleeing muggers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two muggers were killed and another was injured last night as a speeding truck hit a taxi-cab by which they were trying to flee after mugging a rickshaw passenger at Nobaberbagh in the capital.

The deceased were identified as Mohammad Shahin, 35, and his brother-in-law Sentu Miah, 35, the driver of the cab.

Injured Sabuj, 30, cousin of Shahin, was admitted to the Pongu Hospital.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

TK 157CR GAS PLANT

SGFL board scraps 3rd re-tender process

SHARIER KHAN

Sylhet Gas Field Ltd (SGFL) board headed by the Petrobangla chairman-in-charge has cancelled the third re-tender process for purchase of a Tk 157 crore gas processing plant citing "unavoidable circumstances".

The SGFL itself is left baffled as not officially explains the "unavoidable circumstances".

Sources however said it is a bidding criterion modified in March that prevented some inexperienced Chinese companies from participating in the bid.

Earlier last week, Gas Transmission Company Ltd (GTCL) board headed by the same person had cancelled a \$150 million bid for installing three gas compressors in the country's major gas transmission line to improve its flow, pressure and quantity.

A powerful ruling party man unofficially representing some interested Chinese companies played a key role in cancelling the SGFL re-tender process on Monday using influence on some high officials concerned. The same person is simultaneously pushing Power Development Board (PDB) to favour certain Chinese companies

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3 more killed as 'shootout' continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three suspected criminals, including a Jubo League activist, were killed in separate incidents of shootout between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and their cohorts in the capital and Barisal early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Sohel, 28, and Babu, 28, two close associates of top city criminal Shahadat, and Jalal Akand, 36, an expelled Jubo League activist and son of late Motahar Akand of Nandapara under Bakerganj upazila in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Lanka vows to beat Tigers in 48 hours

AFP, Colombo

The Sri Lankan government vowed yesterday to capture all Tamil Tiger-held territory within 48 hours, despite international calls for a truce and accounts of a "humanitarian catastrophe".

The signal that a final push against the beleaguered separatist guerrillas was in full swing came as United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's chief of staff was rushing to the island in a fresh effort to stop the carnage.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the only neutral organisation working in the conflict area, said its staff were "witnessing an unimaginable humanitarian catastrophe".

Former colonial power Britain said it wanted an investigation into alleged war crimes, while the United States announced it

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

SUICIDE BOMBING They won't go to heaven, says Khatib

BSS, Dhaka

Terrorism is now a big problem for the world and Islam has no links to it, said Khatib of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque Prof Maulana Muhammad Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday.

"Those who carry out suicide attacks in the name of jihad will never go to heaven," he said during the Juma khutba yesterday.

Regarding adulteration of food items and use of carbide

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Pedestrians worst victims of road crashes

SHAHNAZ PARVEEN

Almost three quarters of people killed in road accidents in Dhaka city are pedestrians while mostly minibuses are involved in these accidents.

Even though pedestrians constitute around 60 percent of the road users in the capital they are one of the least cared for.

According to Accident Monitoring Cell of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), 377 people died in 620 accidents in Dhaka metropolitan area in 2008. Of them, 283 were pedestrians. Another 79 walkers were seriously injured.

Experts say that lack of pedestrian-friendly policies, poor planning and design, and high concentration of pedestrians in a small area are the main reasons behind this high death rate.

They also identified the absence of unbroken pavements, poorly planned, badly placed and ill-advised

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Reluctance to follow traffic rules and jaywalking contribute to high pedestrian fatalities in the capital. Picture shows one person jumping over the central reservation of Mirpur Road in front of New Market when there is a footbridge just steps away.

CTG ARMS HAUL Both govt, foreign hands involved Says ex-NSI man in confession

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Former director of National Security Intelligence (NSI) Sahab Uddin in a confessional statement yesterday implicated a number of high officials of the NSI and the government and some foreigners in the sensational Chittagong arms haul case, sources said.

However, no details could be known since the investigators of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and others concerned remained tight-lipped.

Sahab Uddin made the confessional statement before Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Abu Hannan. He took two and a half hours from 3:30pm to complete his 16-page statement.

Sources said Sahab Uddin confessed to his involvement

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

OnlinePoll ✓

Business leaders have expressed serious concern about the deteriorated law and order situation. Do you think the deteriorating law and order situation is harming the businesses?

Yes (80.11%)
 No (18.32%)
 No Comments (1.56%)

Total votes: 704


TODAY'S POLL

Do you support Finance Minister's statement of not having any provision of tax holiday for any sector in the upcoming budget?

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