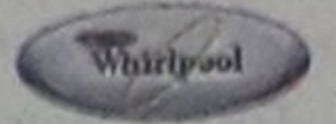




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Rohingya rebels trained JMB men

Investigators glean it from Boma Mizan; Huji too received training from the RSO

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) had close links with Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO), an insurgent group in the Arakan state of Myanmar, JMB's explosives expert 'Boma' Mizan revealed in interrogations. Sources close to Rab interrogators said Mizan and some other JMB operatives received training from RSO arms experts in a camp near Myanmar border in 2002. Now executed JMB chief Shaekh Abdur Rahman sent them for the training. In exchange

for the firearms lessons, JMB trained Rohingyas to improvise and set off bombs.

Harkat-ul-Jihad-al Islami (Huji) Bangladesh, another outlawed Islamist outfit, too had strong connections with RSO.

Officials from the police, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and some intelligence agencies have been quizzing Mizan, who was captured by Rab on May 14, and is now on a seven-day remand.

The sources said JMB military wing's former



Boma Mizan

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6 killed in Srimangal landslides

UNB, Moulvibazar

Landslides triggered by heavy rains killed six people, five of them a family, in two tea gardens in Srimangal upazila early yesterday.

The victims are Sufia Begum, 50, her daughter Parvin Begum, 24, son-in-law Samu Miah, 30, and her two sons—Sumon, 14, and Sujon, 12—of Lakhaichhara tea garden and Jharna, 11, of Jerin tea garden area.

Witnesses said a big chunk of mud collapsed on the hillside house of Sufia Begum "burying alive all five while sleeping."

Jharna also died instantly in a landslide in the other tea garden during heavy shower.

CTG ARMS HAUL

Some ex-ministers face interrogation

STAR REPORT

Several former ministers of the previous BNP-led alliance government are likely to face interrogation in the sensational Chittagong arms haul case, said the public prosecutor (PP) of the case yesterday.

Meanwhile, investigators of the Chittagong arms haul case were quizzing two former NSI chiefs—Maj Gen (ret'd) Rezzaul Haider Chowdhury and Brig Gen (ret'd) Abdur Rahim—in Chittagong.

Quoting arrested former NSI director (security) Wing Commander (ret'd) Sahab Uddin's confessional statement, PP Kamaluddin told The Daily Star that Abdur Rahim held several meetings with representatives of the UAE-based business firm ARY group in Dubai and in Dhaka.

"How could ARY have links with the chief of the NSI when a business firm is supposed to

have business talks only with the ministry for commerce or industries," he said.

"So interrogation of these two former NSI heads can help us know about the involvement, if any, of the then government high ups and that of foreign quarters, agencies or firms."

PP Kamaluddin Ahmed told private television ATN Bangla that nearly 80 percent of the investigation work is complete after the detained former National Security Intelligence (NSI) high-ups recorded their confessional statements.

He also said, "Involvement of an embassy was mentioned in the confessions. If the identity of the embassy is uncovered, our investigation will almost come to an end."

"It was a matter of a few thousand crores of taka. Where did the money come from? Who paid to whom?" Kamaluddin said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

HR Watch for disbanding DGFI, Rab

Accuses them of abuse, extra-judicial killing

REZAUL KARIM

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has recommended the disbanding of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), terming them symbols of abuse and impunity in a report released yesterday.

The New York-based HRW said if the two forces are not disbanded they should be made to comply with existing laws and international human rights norms.

In the 76-page report titled "Ignoring Executions and Torture: Impunity for Bangladesh's Security Forces," HRW Asia Director Brad Adams said "The very forces tasked with upholding the law and providing security to the public have become

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This reptile is called ring lizard, scientific name *Varanus salvator*, and it loves to live in and around fresh and marine waters. It grows as large as three metres weighing 15kg. This excellent swimmer can stay submerged for up to 30 minutes. This endangered species can even climb and jump off trees when required. Having a long list of things as diet helped them survive over the years. However, people killed them for their skins in the 70s and 80s. Now people kill these beautiful creatures with the excuse of stealing their poultry. The photo was taken at Nabiganj, a well-known lizard habitat in Narayanganj.

PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Criminals take on law enforcers in 4 city gunfights

Mugger killed, 4 goons injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four gunfights between law enforcers and criminals took place in the city's Gulshan, Pallabi, Mirpur and Turag areas yesterday leaving an alleged mugger killed and four other criminals wounded.

In an incident, Mohammad Manik, 32, was killed in a shootout between police and his cohorts on Banani Staff Road in Gulshan early yesterday.

Police said they chased a gang of five to six muggers when they were trying to rob a pedestrian at around 12:30 am.

The muggers opened fire on the law enforcers who also retaliated it leading to a gunfight, a sub-inspector of Gulshan Police Station said.

They found Manik with bullet wounds after the criminals fled the scene, he added.

Manik was rushed to National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) where he died in the afternoon.

In another incident, two alleged muggers Shamim and Rubel were wounded in a shootout between police and the gang in Pallabi area at about 1:00 am.

Police said the criminals opened fire on them in a bid to snatch one of their accomplices from the law enforcers.

The law enforcers also shot back starting a gunfight and

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ARMY PROBE Media reports misleading, says Ashraf

STAR REPORT

Misleading information was published in some newspapers about the army probe report on the BDR carnage, said LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam yesterday.

"We are protesting it and urging all not to spread misleading information," he told reporters at Bangladesh Secretariat. He, however, did not say what was the misleading

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

591 more BDR jawans arrested

Sent to jail after filing sedition cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 591 Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawans were arrested at different units in ten districts on charge of staging mutiny following the Palkhona carnage on February 25-26.

Police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) made the arrests after filing sedition cases against the suspected mutineers. The arrested border guards were later sent to jails in districts concerned following court orders.

Of the arrestees, 106 were apprehended at Teknaf in Cox's Bazar, 93 at Rajshahi, 78 at Khagrachhari, 44 at Jamalpur, 23 at Sunamganj, 72 at Netrokona, 53 at Naogaon, 43 at Moulvibazar, 30 at Chapainawabganj and 49 more at Mymensingh, according

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Prabhakaran 'shot dead'

His son, core LTTE leaders among 300 rebels killed; Lanka declares final victory

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's military declared a final victory yesterday in its decades-old conflict with the Tamil Tigers, after routing the remnants of the rebel army and killing its leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

The army said its commandos had overrun the last sliver of Tiger territory, killing the last 300 fighters and decimating the rebel leadership. It said Prabhakaran and two deputies tried to flee in a van, but were shot dead.

"All military operations have come to a stop," army chief Lieutenant General Sarath Fonseka announced.

"Now the entire country is declared rid

of terrorism," Fonseka said, adding the "dead bodies of terrorists are scattered over the last ditch."

His statement marked the end of one of Asia's oldest and most brutal ethnic conflicts which left more than 70,000 dead from pitched battles, suicide attacks, bomb strikes and assassinations.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) emerged in the 1970s, with all-out war breaking out in the early 1980s as they pursued their struggle for an independ-



Velupillai Prabhakaran

ent Tamil homeland on the Sinhalese-majority island.

Officials said all rebel leaders were now dead.

A senior defence ministry official told AFP that Prabhakaran and his two deputies had tried to flee advancing troops in an ambulance and another van but were ambushed by commandos.

"He was killed with two others inside the vehicle," the official said.

State television and the office of Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Attempt to loot arms shop in city Criminal held after he stabbed shop manager

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Locals in the city's Islampur area caught a criminal while he along with his two accomplices were attempting to loot firearms in broad daylight from a firearms sales centre yesterday.

The thugs stabbed Mohammad Halim, 50, manager of the sales centre, before

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

OnlinePoll ✓

Law enforcers in the city decided not to seize over four lakh rickshaws with fake documents considering the livelihood of rickshaw pullers and owners. Do you support this?

○ Yes (46.46%) ○ No (50.12%)
○ No Comments (3.42%)

Total votes: 848

TODAY'S POLL

Two ex-NSI chiefs have been arrested over 10-truck ammo smuggling in Chittagong. Do you think the probe is on the right track?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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Mr. Masud Khan, Finance Director of Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd. and Mr. Mir Mominul Haq, Head of Retail & SME Division of DBBL signed the agreement on behalf of their respective companies. Among others, Mr. Shaheed Siddique, Human Resources Director of Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd., Mr. AHM Nazmul Quadir, Additional Managing Director of DBBL and other Senior Executives of both companies were present at the signing ceremony.