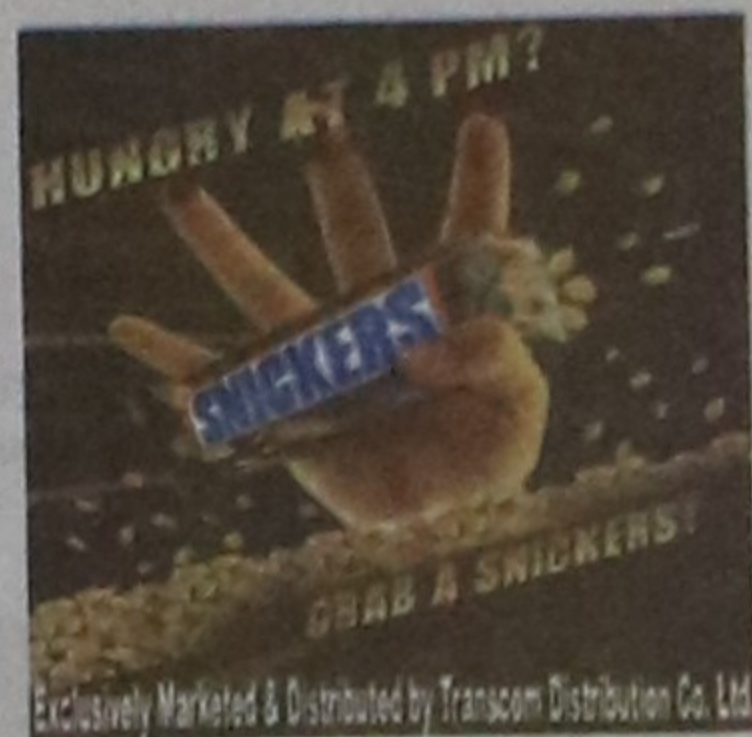




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Nerve-racking tests set JMB hallmark

The banned militant outfit picks full-time member through unbelievable tests

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

A Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh operative must pass a nerve-racking test of readiness to blow himself up to qualify as a full-time member of the banned Islamist organisation.

The information came out in interrogations of several JMB men including its explosives expert "Boma" Mizan, investigation sources have told The Daily Star.

Before an entrant could go on the simulated mission to detonate himself, he has to undergo motivational sessions designed to condition him to lay down his life for the cause of jihad.

The JMB trainers would not introduce a fresher to the simulation until they are convinced he would not harm the outfit even if he should leave it after some time.

The mock test is part of a three-day exclusive training, where the trainees do not know if the mission is for real or not, said sources.

"To be inducted as a full-timer (Ehsar), the JMB operatives have to distance themselves from all worldly concerns. They are made to consider life and family as matters of secondary importance," observed an investigator.

During the simulation, the trainers have bombs strapped around a recruit's

body and ask him to walk a few hundred yards. They have the remote control in their hand.

"The trainees are told the bombs they are fitted with may go off any time in the next 30 minutes," notes an investigator.

During the three days, the trainees attend classes where JMB ideologues imbue them with strong motivations for jihad.

Once the theory sessions are over, they go through a stringent regimen of physical exercise. After that, they get training on arms, ammunition and explosives.

On completion of the training, the

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Four drown in Tangail boat capsizes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Four people including two schoolboys drowned when a boat capsized on Sunday in river Louhajang of Mirzapur upazila in Tangail.

They were identified as Tushar Sarkar, 14, son of Makhan Sarkar, Partha Saha, 13, son of Adhir Saha, Partha De, 27, son of Niranjana De of Madhyapara of Joydevpur and Biswajit.

Divers recovered their bodies on Sunday night and yesterday morning.

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JMB finds chars, hills safe for training

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Not only in hill areas, Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh has training facilities in far-flung chars as well to stay beyond the reach of the law enforcers.

The banned outfit shifted their camps to distant places after Rapid Action Battalion had busted militant dens in the capital in recent months.

Lt Col Ziaul Ahsan, director of Rab's intelligence wing, told The Daily Star, "We are working to dismantle the JMB camps in chars (land mass on river) and deep forest areas."

"We have already broken their backbone. No matter how hard they try to regroup, it all flashes on our radar screen."

Rab busted a JMB training camp at remote Matiranga hill forest in Khagrachhari on Friday following up intelligence from the field.

During the raid, they arrested Abdur Rahim, second-in-command of Chittagong division JMB, and seized bomb-making materials.

The following day, the crime busters captured four other JMB operatives.

Fearing attacks in reprisal for arrest of the five, Rab has stepped up vigilance in the city, particularly at Puja mandaps.

"We have employed full strength to ward off militant attacks," said Ziaul.

Rab sources said they first learned about JMB moving its training camps following the arrest of a militant leader in Comilla around

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2 more BDR men die

STAR REPORT

Two more BDR jawans died in the last two days raising the BDR death toll to 46 since the paramilitary mutiny in February 25-26, 2009.

Of these 46 deaths, autopsies of 11 BDR members were conducted through the New Market police. Quoting the earlier autopsy reports New Market police confirmed that two of these jawans were killed. The victims were nayek Mobarak Hossain of Battalion-29 and havildar Mahiuddin of Battalion-28 of Chittagong.

Mobarak Hossain died on March 23 while Mahiuddin on May 5 at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Earlier this year, families of the two jawans brought allegations of murder.

BDR sources said they had submitted all the documents regarding the death incidents of the jawans to the four-member committee formed by the home ministry to investigate the death incidents.

They, however, said that they don't have any information about the post-mortem reports as those were submitted to the police.

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CTG ARMS HAUL CASE Former home secy Omar to be quizzed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The investigators of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) are preparing to interrogate former home secretary Omar Faruk and four other members of the probe committee the home ministry formed following the seizure of ten truckloads of firearms in the early hours of April 02, 2004.

Investigation Officer (IO) of the arms haul case ASP Muniruzzaman Chowdhury confirmed that they are going to interrogate former home secretary Omar Faruk and other members of the high-level probe committee soon.

The other members of the committee include former deputy inspector general of special branch Shamsul Islam, former director of DGFI Rezaul Haider Chowdhury, former NSI director Enamur Rahman Chowdhury and former CID DIG Farruk Ahmed Chowdhury.

Muniruzzaman told The Daily Star that around 50 persons, including the probe committee members and witnesses may be interrogated.

He said they have started issuing notice to 23 accused who are on bail to interrogate them at CID Chittagong regional headquarters at Dampara Police Line within next three to four days.

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Jalil remark irrelevant

Hasina says he should quit as MP before questioning polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In her first reaction to veteran Awami League (AL) leader Abdul Jalil's recent remark on the ninth parliamentary election, Prime Minister and party chief Sheikh Hasina has termed it "irrelevant", and said he should have resigned as a lawmaker before raising any question about the polls in which he also was elected.

"Why is he [Jalil] making the election an issue nine months after the party (AL) assumed power?" Hasina posed the question at a press conference in New York yesterday.

In an interview with London-based Bangla TV recently, former AL general secretary Jalil said the party's landslide victory in the December 29 parliamentary election came through an "understanding". His remark triggered criticism in and outside the AL, and drew kudos from the opposition BNP.

Sheikh Hasina said, "He (Jalil) was given party nomination (for contesting the election) and has been elected. Has he been elected that

way (through understanding)? He should resign before raising any such question (about the election)."

Following Hasina's reaction, AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam also resented Jalil's remark.

According to UNB, American News Agency and private television ATN Bangla reports, the prime minister said, "It (Jalil's statement) is like a man cutting the branch (of a tree) on which he is sitting. Let him speak. I don't have any headache about it."

Asked if her party would take any action against Jalil, she said it would decide on that later.

The AL president mentioned that none (except Jalil) has raised any question about propriety of the election that has been recognised as free and fair both nationally and internationally.

Asked whether her government would take any action against former chief adviser

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Durga puja ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The five-day-long Durga Puja, the greatest of all Hindu festivals, ended yesterday with solemn immersion of the Goddess Durga in the capital and elsewhere in the country.

Drenched in sudden rain in the evening devotees bade farewell to the mother deity and her children Lakshmi, Saraswati, Kartik and Ganesh through immersion of their idols in the water in tearful eyes while inviting her to return to them next year.

"I feel sad that our deity Durga is departing. I wish She returns with peace," said Sudipta Roy, a seven-year-old child at the mandap made by Shangkhamitra Puja Committee in Shankhari Bazar.

"Everyone -- from a child to an aged -- are getting drenched in the rain. It is obviously a good omen and also a sign of virtue if it rains before the immersion," advocate Taposh Kumar Pal, general secretary of Mohanagar Sarbojanin Puja Committee told The Daily Star.

In the morning, devotees celebrated Bijoya Dashami, the last day of the festival, at around 24,000 puja mandaps, including 172 in the capital, across the country.

In the capital, streets leading to Sadarghat were filled with thousands of men, women and children who began thronging Buriganga to observe final part of the festival.

Dhakeswari National Temple brought out the historical idols immersion procession, inaugurated by Maj

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A Hindu devotee on a boat on the Buriganga gets ready to immerse her Durga idol on the day of Doshomi, the last day of Durgotsab yesterday.

PHOTO: SHAFIUL ALAM

Return to JS, avoid 1/11 recurrence

PM urges opposition

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia to return to parliament for the sake of democracy, reminding her the 1/11 political episode.

"Come to Parliament. Democracy cannot be let down again. Mind you (Khaleda), you and I, too, had to go to jail," she said.

Hasina, here to attend the UN General Assembly session, made the remark of high political significance while addressing an all-party reception organised by the US chapter of Awami League at Hotel Grand Hyatt on Sunday evening.

This was Hasina's first public appearance in New

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PIROJPUR PORNOGRAPHY Rapist goes into hiding

Video stores raided, he held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police yesterday raided video stores in Pirojpur and arrested three on charge of trading in CDs containing footage of rape of a schoolgirl by a local leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

The law enforcers filed a case against the three and an unspecified number of accused on charges of rape, blackmail and distribution of obscene video footage in the market, said Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Pirojpur sadar police Mir Fashiar Rahman.

The police also visited the family of the victim and assured them of all legal aid and security.

The move came after The Daily Star reported Monday on the rape and taking footage of the scene by Ahsan Kabir Mamun alias Mamun Hawlader, information and research secretary of district unit BCL, student front of ruling Awami League.

The arrestees are Suman Talukdar, son of Abdul Hye Talukdar and owner of Soukhin Audio-Video Corner at Gopal Krishna Town Club Market, Shahin Howlader, son of Jabbar Howlader of Khamkata and apprentice worker of Digital Mobile Servicing Centre on Pourashava Road, and Faisal Gazi, son of Siddik Gazi of Shikarpur and buyer of a CD.

The police say they detected the video store after interrogating buyer Faisal Gazi yesterday morning and arrested the two others and seized some CDs.

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DHAKA, 5 METROPOLISES EC starts voter list update today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Updating the electoral roll with photographs kicks off in the capital and five other metropolises today.

Enumerators of the Election Commission (EC) will start making door-to-door visits in the six city corporations -- Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet and Barisal -- and continue it till October 5.

The enumerators in the fourth and final stage of the voter list update programme will collect necessary information for registering fresh voters, deletion of names of the dead and transfer of names from one electoral area to another during this timeframe.

On June 15, EC started the nationwide task of voter list updating with photographs, which is scheduled to be

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Visitors often cross the cage boundary of animals at Dhaka Zoo in the capital violating the warnings and pose for photos. This child is standing very close to a lion's cage.

PHOTO: SHAFIUL ALAM