



KERRY, HILLARY 'EAVESDROPPED'

German intelligence agency listened in on the US leaders' phone calls

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TIMELESS SHAMSUR

Poet Shamsur Rahman was a man of humility and politeness

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FALTERING START FOR VAN GAAL

Manchester United lose to Swansea 1-2 in league opener

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In prison, still ominous

No govt steps in nine years to counter-motivate JMB detainees

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and RAFIUL ISLAM

Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), the banned Islamist outfit that carried out countrywide bomb attacks nine years ago, still poses the threat of terror attacks.

The government's flagging socio-political campaign against militancy and slackness in monitoring JMB activities since 2012 has given the outfit space to regroup, believe many officials of intelligence agencies.

Hundreds of JMB operatives were arrested after the bomb attacks left one dead and more than a hundred others wounded in 63 districts on August 17, 2005.

According to official statistics, 478 JMB men have been tried in 177 cases between 2007 and 2014. Of them, 51 top leaders of the outfit have been sentenced to death, 178 given life terms and 245 jailed for various terms.

Around 250 more, accused in the cases, remain out of the police dragnet.

Many others, arrested in the cases, slipped through legal loopholes and rejoined the militant outfit, only to increase the threat of terror attacks, said officials, referring to the February 23 attack on a prison van carrying three high-profile JMB leaders from a Gazipur jail to a Mymensingh court.

They are Rakib Hasan Russell alias Hafez Mahmud, Salauddin Ahmed alias Salehin and Zahidul Islam alias "Boma" Mizan.

Hafez was later killed in a police shootout while in custody. But Salehin, in-charge of the JMB in Sylhet and Mymensingh, and Mizan, an explosives

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Parts of one of the bombs used by JMB on August 17, 2005.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN AND PALASH KHAN



Vehicles driving through waterlogged Minto Road yesterday afternoon. Torrential rain over the last few days has submerged many parts of the capital, causing sufferings to residents. Inset, Dhaka Wasa pumping out rainwater from Hatirjheel in Rampura into the channel of the Balu river.

BNP brings out black flag processions

Protests Gaza attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 20-party alliance yesterday brought out black flag processions in the capital and elsewhere in the country to condemn the Israeli military offensive against Gaza civilians.

The processions, the first

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PHULBARI OPEN-PIT COAL MINE PROPOSAL

Tricky to decide, easy to keep hanging

SHARIER KHAN

Asia Energy's proposal to develop open-pit coal mine in Phulbari has neither been rejected nor accepted in the last eight years as the government is uncertain about the environmental impact of the project.

According to high officials, the

Phulbari project may not get any green signal until the government gathers experience from a pilot open-pit mine in north Barapukuria, part of the country's lone producing underground mine in Dinajpur.

However, there is no visible progress regarding this pilot scheme.

The Phulbari mine project stalled

back in August 2006 following a local protest that resulted in the deaths of six people in police firing.

Since then the government had shelved the deal primarily to avert local protests.

But the government did not cancel Asia Energy's multi-billion dollar

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No one to care for

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Even a few weeks back, they had slept happily in their mother's lap knowing nothing about a grim future that was to befall them soon. A cruel twist of events separated them from their mother forever, throwing them into a world of uncertainty.

Four-year old Mim and her two-year old brother Arif had been passing their hapless days at the Victim Support Centre of Dhaka Metropolitan Police in Tejgaon in the capital since their mother died two weeks ago.

Their mother, Asma, died of cardio respiratory failure at Dhaka Medical College

Hospital on August 4 while their father, Shahjahan, had been killed in a road accident about six months back, said an official at the centre.

The loss the children were going through was colossal. They, however, were too small to come to terms with this.

Mim could talk, somewhat hesitatingly though. She could utter her mother's and brother's name. She also seemed to be aware of her father's death in an accident but when this correspondent asked about her mother, she said, "My mother is at work."

During a visit at the centre, they were seen

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WHO SAID WHAT AFTER AUGUST 15

"President Khandaker Moshtaque Ahmed believes in democracy and he wants to restore democratic atmosphere in the country."

-- Justice **Abu Sayeed Chowdhury**, who had served as the president from Jan 1972-Dec 1973 during the Bangabandhu government and later joined the Moshtaque regime as foreign minister, said this in London on August 23, 1975.



"I don't think so... I am being taken to an army detention camp."

-- **Tajuddin Ahmed** said this while being taken away by army personnel from his residence on August 23. He was replying to The Sunday Telegraph journalist's question if he would join the Moshtaque cabinet. Tajuddin was prime minister of the wartime government in 1971 and later served as finance minister of the Bangabandhu government before being asked to resign in October 1974.

"It is a historic step. May Allah bless you [Moshtaque]!"

-- **Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani**, who earlier was the president of AL and later floated the National Awami Party, made the wish on Aug 16, congratulating and supporting the Moshtaque government.



"I have to temporarily assume the office of chief of army staff and chief martial law administrator on the request of the people of Bangladesh, army, navy, air force, BDR, police, Ansar and others."

-- General **Ziaur Rahman**, who was made army chief by the Moshtaque government installed by the killers of Bangabandhu, said this in an address to the nation on November 7 following a coup.

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Moshtaque's much ado about tupi

SHAKHAWAT LITON

There was no agenda for the cabinet meeting on August 21, 1975. Yet newly appointed ministers turned up at the Bangabhaban on time. The meeting began with President Khandaker Moshtaque Ahmed in the chair.

Moshtaque, who had been installed in the presidency by the killers of Bangabandhu a week earlier, instantly set an agenda for the meeting.

"We have a national dress. But the dress is not complete. We do not have any headgear [cap]. If all of you do not mind..." Moshtaque said. There was a pause. He put his *tupi* on the table and said, "This headgear will be a part of the national dress if you approve it."



Moshtaque's proposal surprised some ministers. Yet nobody differed with him. Some of the ministers supported the proposal while the others remained silent. The proposal was passed ... Moshtaque's headgear became part of the national dress code.

The cabinet meeting finally prescribed an official dress that would have as its features a closed neck, full-sleeved coat and trousers of inky colour suited to the occasion. The cabinet also decided that there would be a national headgear [*tupi*] which would be black in colour of a specified design.

Next day, state run newspapers published on the front-page

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PM blasts Zia's 'role' in Mujib killing

Ashraf takes a swipe at errant party men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday criticised late president Ziaur Rahman for what she said was his involvement in the Bangabandhu killing, destroying the spirit of the Liberation War and allowing the rise of fundamentalism.

"Killer Rashid, in an interview with the BBC, admitted that Zia was



PHOTO: BSS

Sheikh Hasina wipes off tears as she recalls the August 15 tragedy at a programme yesterday.



Four-year-old Mim, right, and her two-year-old brother Arif are being looked after by female police members at the Victim Support Centre of DMP in Tejgaon. The young siblings lost their parents recently.

PHOTO: COURTESY

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