



OOPS! **UK astronaut Tim** Peake calls wrong number from space PAGE 8

REGD. NO. DA 781

Your Right to Know

It's suicide bombing

Evidence from Ahmadiyya mosque spot, autopsy suggest dead youth was bomber

ANWAR ALI, from Rajshahi

It was a suicide attacker who blew himself up inside an Ahmadiyya mosque in Rajshahi on Friday, initial police findings and the autopsy report have confirmed.

While the investigators point finger at the outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) for the attack, US-based SITE Intelligence Group has reported that the Islamic State militants have claimed responsibility for it.

The IS claim could not be independently verified.

The attacker, aged around 20, detonated the bomb around 1:35pm during luma prayers inside the mosque at Sayedpur Chalkpara village under Bagmara upazila.

Around 70 members of the Ahmadiyya community -- a Muslim sect that has been frequently targeted by the radical Islamists in Bangladesh -- were offering prayers at the time.

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Three people were injured during Juma prayers in a suicide bomb attack in this mosque on Friday. Police cordon off the Ahmadiyya mosque at Bagmara of Rajshahi to conduct investigations as curious onlookers crowd the scene.



Swayamsevak Sangh [RSS] still believes that one day these parts [India, Pakistan, Bangladesh], which have for historical reasons separated only 60 years ago, will again, through popular goodwill, come together and Akhand Bharat will be created."

BJP GENERAL SECRETARY RAM MADHAV IN AN INTERVIEW TO AL JAZEERA

JMB regroups

Ahmadiyya Muslim community leaders in Rajshahi are of the opinion that those who are hostile to their ideology orchestrated Friday's suicide bomb attack on their mosque in Bagmara upazila.

Locals, however, blamed law enforcers for being indifferent to militant activities in the trouble-prone upazila.

"We're always being persecuted in different districts, including Rajshahi and Natore, over the years by religious fanatics for having a certain ideology," said M Salauddin, muballig (religious preacher) of Rajshahi district unit of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat.

He said Ahmadiyya people in the area SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

without watch Staff Correspondent, Rajshahi Who, why?

Law enforcers must have the answers before it's too late

SYED ASHFAQUL HAQUE

It just cannot be the country the world knows of.

The blast at Ashura gathering in Old Dhaka killed two. A Pabna pastor survived an attempt to slit his throat. A leader of Baha'i community was shot in Rangpur. An Italian pastor came under a gun attack in Dinajpur after living in the countryside peacefully for decades. Armed attack on people in prayers at a Shia mosque in Bogra left the muezzin dead and three others injured. Explosions in two renowned Hindu temples -- Kantaji Mandir and ISKCON temple -- left eight injured. Bomb attacks on two Sunni mosques inside a well-fortified navy area in Chittagong left six injured and one attacker held with "14 improvised grenades" in pockets of SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

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YEAR FULL OF **ATTACKS**

It started with individuals. Then shrines, mosques and temples started to become their targets while the attacks on secular and religious individuals, continues.

The attack two days back on December 25 on an Ahmadiyya mosque in Bagmara, Rajshahi is the latest in the worrisome rise this year of suspected militant hits. The first high profile attack came in February this year during the book fair. Writer Avijit roy was killed and his wife was injured in a street attack right outside the fair. In all the incidents Islamic extremists claimed responsibility or their involvement is suspected.

MIRPUR JMB DEN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The JMB threat is still there as two of its key leaders slipped through police fingers during a raid into a JMB "bomb and ammunition factory" in Mirpur on Friday.

Top men fled;

risk too high

According to the statement of the case filed in this connection, JMB second-in-command for Dhaka region Sohel Rana Hiron and trainer for bomb and grenade making Mostafizar Rahman had cleverly fled the scene blending into tenants who were being taken out of the Mirpur building.

It said Hiron and Mostafizar slipped away pretending to be tenants after the raid at the "factory" when law enforcers were evacuating the tenants

from the six-storey building. The "factory" was in a flat on the fifth floor. Some police officials said the two militants would remain a threat until

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