# JMB den busted in Ctg

FROM PAGE 1 According to Chittagong Metropolitan Police Commissioner Abdul Jalil, neither police nor Rab use this rifle in Bangladesh.

Contacted, security analyst Maj Gen (retd) MA Rashid said this weapon is not for regular military operations and Bangladesh Army doesn't use this rifle. It is mostly used by special forces or assassins.

Replying to a query, he said separatists in India and Myanmar and some smuggling rackets in the region are known to have this gun.

Talking to The Daily Star, a Rab official in Chittagong said MK-11 is an assault rifle and some rebel groups of Arakan use it.

During three and a half hours raid from 12:30am, Detectives did not find any JMB operative in the three-room flat on the ground floor of two-storey Haji Ishak Mansion just two kilometres off Chittagong Cantonment and on the main road to Chittagong University.

Searching a locked room of the den, the detectives also fund two magazines of the rifle, 5kg gel explosive, 13 army uniform, a pair of badges of army major rank, 252 bullets including 186 of sniper rifle, 25 detonators, bombmaking materials and documents of the outfit.

The high-precision semi-automatic rifle is able to fire 750 rounds of bullets every minute. Its effective range 1,500 yards, said a Chittagong police press release.

The raid comes days after the discovery of JMB's "grenade-making factory" in Mirpur in the capital. Javed, a Chittagong JMB operative killed in a "grenade explosion", had received training on bomb-making from the Mirpur factory, say police.

Babul Akhtar, additional deputy commissioner of Detective Branch of CMP, who led the Amanbazar drive, said they conducted the raid following information gleaned from three JMB



Chittagong's Hathazari upazila.

members arrested on Saturday evening in the city. The arrestees -- Naimur Rahman

Nayan, Faisal Mahmud and Shawkat Russell -- told police that JMB's regional commander Md Fardin had been using the Amanbazar as a den. Nayan, hailing from Nageshwari of

Kurigram, is a fourth-year student of physics department at Chittagong University. Faisal of Noakhali and Shawkat of Moheshkhali in Cox's Bazar are final-year students of the same department, said the additional deputy commissioner. A top DB official wishing anonym-

ity said they have found Nayan's connections with Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

The official said Fardin suffered minor injuries in the "grenade blast that killed Javed" and they had information that JMB member Shawkat Russell supplied him medicine.

Fardin, who rented the flat posing as a businessman named Nafis six months ago, had left the place a couple of weeks back, ADC Babul Akhtar said.

Owner of the building Haji Ishak said Nafis moved in with his wife and a daughter. Three months back, he went

and a month later came back alone with an injury in his hands.

motorbike accident," said Ishak, adding that later a cousin of Nafis started staying here with him.

DB told The Daily Star that it was not attack cantonment area. days this kind of uniforms of both

unlawfully and such activities must be checked.

October 5. They were involved in mugging a manager of a local distributor company at Sadarghat in the city on September 23. Two militants -- Robiul

thrown by the JMB men. The JMB men were also involved in killing a pir (a Muslim spiritual guru)

### Outfit

FROM PAGE 16

plan, any of their members might have been involved in the attack," said a Detective Branch of police (DB) official investigating the case.

On Friday, a man blew himself up inside an Ahmadiyya mosque in Bagmara during Juma prayers. The blast killed the suicide bomber and injured three people.

Just a day before that, detectives, after a drive at a building in Shah Ali area of Mirpur, claimed to have arrested the three JMB men and seized 16 improvised grenades, a suicide vest and bomb-making materials.

Abu Sayeed alias Russell, Mohammad Elias Omar Faruk, and Mohsin Ali Rubel, alleged operatives of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), were on a six-day remand each.

Quoting the trio, detectives claimed that the group had at least 20 fedayeen (suicide bombers). They said law enforcement agencies had held at least 30 JMB men and some of whom were fedayeens.

Sanwar Hossain, additional deputy commissioner (south) of Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said they were scrutinising the information gleaned from the trio during remand. DB officials said the JMB faction

had no bomb experts since the law enforcement agencies arrested Boma Mizan in 2009. The group opted for Mustafizur

Shakil, known as Boma Shakil, who had a diploma in engineering. Shakil and JMB second-in-

command in Dhaka region Sohel Rana Hiron slipped through police fingers blending with the tenants who were being taken out of the building during the drive in Mirpur. Under Shakil's supervision in

Mirpur, several JMB operatives trained on producing bombs and homemade grenades. Two of them became experts on producing homemade grenade while seven to eight people worked as their aides, the officials said. Meanwhile, family members and

neighbours of Abu Sayeed claimed that police had picked him up from his home in Dinajpur nearly a month ago, our Dinajpur correspondent reports.

"Everybody knows that law enforcement agency members picked him [Sayeed] up from home a month ago," said a family member seeking anonymity.

## Gonorrhoea

said gonorrhoea was "rapidly" developing resistance.

A highly drug-resistant strain of gonorrhoea was detected in the north of England in March. That strain is able to shrug off the antibiotic azithromycin, which is normally used alongside another drug, ceftriaxone.

In her letter, the chief medical officer said: "Gonorrhoea is at risk of becoming an untreatable disease due to the continuing emergence of antimicrobial resistance."

But while an injection of ceftriaxone and an azithromycin pill are supposed to be used in combination, this may not always be the case for all patients.

Earlier this year, the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV warned that some online pharmacies were offering only oral medication.

Using just one of the two drugs makes it easier for the bacterium to develop resistance.

The letter, which is also signed by chief pharmaceutical officer Dr Keith Ridge, stated: "Gonorrhoea has rapidly acquired resistance to new antibiotics, leaving few alternatives to the current recommendations.

"It is therefore extremely important that suboptimal treatment does not occur.'

The disease is caused by the bacterium called Neisseria gonorrhoea. The infection is spread by unprotected vaginal, oral and anal sex.

## Smugglers

FROM PAGE 16 Ali also claims the syndicates which organise the trade have reached an understanding with law enforcement agencies in both countries.

Aware of the prevalence of crossborder drug smuggling, the commanding officer of 15 BGB battalion in Lalmonirhat Lieutenant Colonel Bajlur Rahman Hayati says special drives are conducted by the BGB in the open border areas, which also include the Angarpota-Dahagram, Sree Rampur, Shamsernagr, Panbari and Burimari areas of Patgram upazila.

"To defeat the drug smugglers, we have proposed to set up additional camps with greater manpower in these open border areas," says the Lieutenant Colonel. "The proposal is currently under consideration."

## Ten journos

FROM PAGE 5 Swedish Ambassador Johan Frisell, present at the ceremony as special

guest, noted how diversity in societies should be accepted with an open mind. He suggested reporting on homosexuality along with decided not to proceed with the trial as

## AL to face debacle

FROM PAGE 16 election survey [by AL] will be of no use. I know the actual findings of that survey. It indicates their [AL's] debacle," she said, alleging that the "false campaign" aims at covering up govern-

ment corruption. Khaleda was addressing a biannual council of the pro-BNP faction of arrested journalists and reopen all the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists at the Supreme Court Bar Association

On December 20, the ruling party assessed that AL-nominated mayor aspirants were ahead in around 200 municipalities out of the 234 going to polls on December 30. Sources said the AL central organising secretaries presented the data on party's overall progress before the central leaders at a meeting.

auditorium in the capital yesterday.

The BNP chief yesterday claimed that her party would secure 80 percent of the total votes in the upcoming polls. She urged the voters to exercise their

franchise in a festive mood on that day. "People are waiting to cast their votes in favour of BNP's electoral symbol sheaf of paddy," she said. Khaleda alleged that the government

had prepared evil designs to prevent the BNP from joining the local polls. "But they [the government] made a

big mistake by arranging polls on the party lines. Joining the elections, the BNP has proved that it's a party that favours elections and believes in a fair and participatory poll," she said. Pointing to the recent media reports

that journalists will not be allowed to stay inside the polling stations during the voting, she said the main objective of the move was "transparent". "Journalist will come under restric-

tions so that vote rigging could go on. Journalists must have access to the polling stations."

She requested the media to present the real scenario inside the centres to the people on voting day.

Khaleda urged the local administration to play a neutral role without any

She also called upon the government to immediately release all

media outlets that have been closed. Lambasting the government for enacting the national broadcast policy and its move to introduce online registration for online news portals, Khaleda also blamed the administration for shutting down the media

outlets for "writing against govern-

### KHALEDA'S FB POST In a Facebook video post, Khaleda Zia

ment misdeeds".

yesterday asked people to cast their votes for the BNP in the upcoming A 38-second video was uploaded on the BNP's official Facebook page in the

early hours of yesterday and will be there until the election campaign ends at 12:00 midnight on Monday, Emran Saleh Prince, an assistant publicity secretary of the party, told The Daily Star.

"sheaf of padding" on the left side of her table, Khaleda asked people to vote for her party candidates for "protecting democracy". KHALEDA'S EMERGENY BRIEFING

press briefing this afternoon at her Gulshan office, the party said in a press release yesterday.

time will reiterate her call to the voters to vote for BNP-backed aspirants as the campaign ends at midnight. The BNP chief is likely to explain

the reasons behind her party decision to join the municipality polls, added

### Evidence found against FROM PAGE 3 Al-Badr Bahini with Chhatra Sangha

Latif, 61; Abu Muslim Md Ali, 59; Najmul Huda, 60; and Abdur Rahim Mia, 62; of Gaibandha's Sundarganj upazila are accused in another.

investigation reports and other documents to the prosecution which would scrutinise those and, if they find those satisfactory, submit formal charges to initiate the trials. HABIGANJ, KISHOREGANJ CASE

A college student in 1971, Liakat, son

of Khelu Mia of Lakhai, was involved with Muslim League along with his maternal uncle, said the investigation agency's Coordinator Abdul Hannan During the Liberation War, Liakat's

uncle became chairman of Fandauk Union Peace Committee in bordering Brahmanbaria's Nasirnagar upazila while he led the union's Razakar Liakat committed the crimes with

assistance from the Pakistani army, went into hiding after the Liberation War and later got involved with the AL, said Hannan, adding that he was now believed to be in the US.

Huq said Liakat was the incumbent chairman of Morakari union and they "had no information" on whether he had been expelled from the AL. He went into hiding when investigations began on November 5, 2014, he added.

Hannan said Aminul, son of Abdul Goni Munshi of Astogram, was president of Jamaat's the then student wing Islami Chhatra Sangha's Hazi Hasmat Ali College unit in 1970 and formed men during the Liberation War. He committed the atrocities in

association with the Pakistani army and his force and freedom fighters caught him at the end of the Liberation War, he said.

Three cases were filed against him under Collaborator Act-1972 and he was given life sentence but got released in 1981 after the political changeover, Hannan.

"The self-proclaimed criminal" even wrote a book titled "Ami Al-Badr Bolchi" after his release, said Hannan.

The seven criminal incidents they were found to have been involved in are looting and killing of 43 Hindu men in Krishanpur in Lakhai, killing of nine Hindu men in Chandipur in Lakhai, killing of 26 Hindu men in Gadainagar in Lakhai, killing of eight Hindu men in Sadanagar village in Lakhai, killing of one Rangu Mia in Nasirnagar, killing of five men in Sabiyanagar in Astogram, and killing of 10 other men in the same village.

GAIBANDHA CASE Abu Saleh, commander of a local Razakar Bahini, and the remaining five accused and the Pakistani army com-

mitted the atrocities, said Hannan. Now involved with Jamaat, all of them went into hiding after investigations began and are inside the country, said Hannan.

The three charges against them are looting and killing of one Hindu man of Moujamali village in Gaibandha sadar upazila, killing of one Chhatra League leader in Sundarganj upazila, and killing of 13 chairmen and members of five union councils in Sundarganj.

# War crimes probe

office in the capital yesterday. The agency held the news briefing to disseminate information about different aspects of two war crimes cases as investigation was completed.

Hannan, however, said as another country -- Pakistan -- was involved in the matter, they needed to get the government's directives before starting the investigation.

said, "We will start the investigation whenever we get a suitable environment and [necessary] directives." He added they had been collecting

documents regarding the 195 POWs whenever they came across any pieces of evidence during investigation into other cases.

POWs.

against the 195 Pakistani army personnel, who were in Indian custody as After a long-drawn stressful negotia-

However, legal experts say there is

The demand of trying the POWs has been intensified after Pakistan has recently denied committing any war crimes in 1971.

FUGITIVE LIST GETS LONGER

Despite several directives by the International Crimes Tribunal and initiatives of the government to arrest the war crimes accused, police have so far failed to capture more than half of them.

Two war crimes tribunals had issued arrest warrants against 102 war crimes accused in 18 cases since August last year, but the law enforcers could arrest only 45 of them, according to The Daily Star reports.

Sanaul Huq yesterday said under the existing criminal law, a court could order attachment of property of a fugitive to force him or her to surrender. But, the ICT Act has no such provision, allowing the fugitives to use their property through family mem-

He also said the law enforcers should carry out simultaneous drives across the country to arrest the war crimes fugitives. The drives should be carried out

# Bomber

FROM PAGE 16

the body.

Azad of Bagmara Police Station, the investigation officer of the case, said they were busy listing the evidence, taking court orders for sending the evidence to respective departments

The bomber before the attack told the mosque's muezzin Shaheb Ali Talukhdar that he studied at Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute (RPI) and that he hailed from Mohonpur upazila of Rajshahi.

He also told the muezzin that he

for tests, sending those, and burial of

had been visiting a relative in the "We could not visit the polytechnic institute, but we requested respec-

tive police stations for the enquiry," said Inspector Azad. Principal Abdur Rezzak of RPI said they had seen his photograph on newspapers and television channels

and that he was aware that the bomber claimed to be a student of RPI. "None of our teachers and students could recognise him. We can

check our registers if we could get his name or other details," he said. US-based SITE Intelligence Group said Islamic State claimed responsi-

bility for the attack. The claim could not be verified independently. The body of the bomber was buried

yesterday at Hatimkhan graveyard in Rajshahi by Quantum Foundation after police handed the body over to them. Central Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat leaders yesterday termed the Bagmara blast an international conspiracy and

directed Ahmadiyyas to find the

attackers.

Mobasserur Rahman, national amir of the Jamaat, and national muballig Abdul Awal Khan Chowdhury from Dhaka went to the village yesterday afternoon and talked to the Ahmadiyyas there.

"The communal mentality revealed in the attack was not typically Bengali. It [the mentality] is imported from another place outside the country," said Awal.

They called upon the police to find the perpetrators without delay and bring them to justice. They also sought security for the Ahmadiyyas at the village.

Meanwhile, security has been beefed up at Chandtara village of Ghatail upazila in Tangail where around 30 Ahmadiyya families live, our Tangail correspondent reports

### quoting local police. Two killed

FROM PAGE 1 house hurled homemade bombs injuring a Rab-1 member, claimed Rab

Deputy Director Major Maksudul Alam. The Rab-1 team retaliated with gunfire and cordoned off the area, he

Following the gun battle, Rab during its sweep of the area found two bodies, explosives, grenades, a

pistol, bullets of the pistol, and books on jihad, the Rab official said. Rab could not ascertain the identity of the deceased immediately.

During an impromptu press briefing at the spot early today, Rab Legal and Media Wing Director Commander Mufti Mahmud Hasan did not say whether the two suspects were killed in gunfire or bomb explosion. Our correspondent in Gazipur con-

## Electioneering ends tonight Star that Rafiqul felt embarrassed as

his daughter-in-law filed a case against him and other family members under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act on December 24.

On Saturday, two of his business

partners sat with him and told him

that they would negotiate with his daughter-in-law if he quit the race. "To get rid of the false case and to save my leaders and activists [from harassment], I am withdrawing myself from the election," he said at a press

withdrawal deadline expired on December 13. His electoral symbol will still be on the ballot papers. The other mayor aspirants in the municipality are AL-endorsed

However, with the nomination

### Mohammad Jobayer and Jatiya Partybacked Md Yusuf Chowdhury.

conference.

VIOLENCE CONTINUES At least 30 people, including a journalist, were injured in election violence at Sujanagar in Pabna, Hatiya in Noakhali, Trishal in Mymensingh, and

Sitakunda in Chittagong. In Daudkandi municipality of Comilla, AL lawmaker Subid Ali Bhuiyan's nephew Iqbal Bhuiyan allegedly assaulted the BNP's mayor

candidate in the upazila complex area. Police detained Iqbal but released

### him a few hours later.

2 MPs GET NOTICE The EC sent letters to AL lawmakers Dhirendra Debnath Shambhu (Barguna-1) and Showkat Hasanur Rahman Rimon (Barguna-2) asking them to leave electoral areas "within

the shortest possible time", said EC officials. Otherwise, the EC might take

actions against them, they said. The electoral code of conduct does not allow ministers and MPs to stay in the polls areas from the announcement of the polls schedule until the

voting was done. In the first week of December, Rimon received a show-cause notice from the EC for violating the electoral code. He apologised and pledged not to breach elections laws

### again. ADDITIONAL LAW ENFORCERS

Apart from BGB members, mobile and strike forces comprised of police, Ansar, the Armed Police Battalion, and the Rapid Action Battalion have been deployed in municipalities from this morning.

The additional law enforcers will stay there until Thursday. Instead of BGB, Coast Guard mem-

bers have been deployed in six costal municipalities -- Muladi and Mehendiganj of Barisal, Patharghata of Barguna, Ramgati of Laxmipur, Sandwip of Chittagong and Hatiya of Noakhali. **BNP'S DEMAND** BNP yesterday urged the EC to take

necessary measures to hold the

municipality polls in a free and fair

manner "for the sake of country's democracy". "Many BNP leaders and activities have come under attack by the ruling party men in different municipalities," said BNP Standing Committee Member Moyeen Khan after a fivemember delegation led by him met

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)

Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad yesterday.

The CEC later told reporters that the commission has taken every step necessary to hold fair polls. OFFICIALS WITHDRAWN

Mymensingh's Ishwarganj police stations, accusing them of working in favour of the AL-nominated candidates there. The commission also warned the

OC of Phulpur Police Station in Mymensingh on the same ground. On December 14, the police authorities were asked to withdraw the OCs of Uttar Matlab in Chandpur,

Madaripur. The commission has decided to change the RO of Joypurhat municipality following allegations of irregu-

Earlier, the RO of Kalaroa municipality in Satkhira was suspended on December 20 for the same reason.

the areas going to polls after midnight today and until the voting ended. The EC has placed restrictions on the movement of all motorised vehicles -- including auto-rickshaws, taxis, human hauliers, microbuses, cars, pick-ups, buses, trucks, launches and

Wednesday. the polling areas has already been restricted from 12:01am today and it

# Thursday.

FROM PAGE 16 told the court that the accused were directly or indirectly involved in criminal activities and making

"So, they should be kept in jail until the investigation completes," he

On December 22, the court placed the accused on a four-day remand each a day after they were arrested from the capital's Uttara area. They were shown arrested in the case

working in Singapore. The 14 militant suspects are Aminul, Abdul Alim, and Shah Alam, of Tangail, Golam Zilani, Nurul

Brahmanbaria, Akram Hossain, of Jhenidah, Abdul Ali, of Chuadanga, Ashraf Ali, of Pabna, Saiful Islam, of Dhaka, Alam Mahbub, of Kurigram, Dalar Parvej, of Chapainawabganj, and Mohammad Jasim, 33, of Munshiganj. According to the case statement, it

discuss militant activities and collect funds at Angolia Mosque near Mostafa Market of Singapore for carrying out militant activities in Bangladesh. There they made speeches on jihad every Sunday.

was alleged that the accused used to

Two detained alleged members of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh being taken away by police before yesterday's raid on the house in Amanbazar of PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH somewhere with his wife and daughter "He told me that it was from a On recovery of the arms, ammuni-

tion and the military uniform, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kusum Dewan of unlikely that the militants had plans to CMP boss Abdul Jalil said nowa-

army and police are being made ADC Babul Akhter said detectives had arrested five JMB men at a flat in Karnaphuli area of Chittagong on

and Rafik -- and the manger were killed in the explosion of a hand grenade

and his attendant on September 4, said

The EC has asked the authorities to withdraw the OCs of Pabna's Jagannathpur, Noakhali's Hatiya, and

Kulaura in Moulvibazar, and Kalkini in

larities, said EC officials.

RESTRICTIONS Outsiders will not be allowed to stay in

speedboats -- in the polling areas for 24 hours from 12:01am on

Besides, motorcycle movement in will stay in place until 6:00am

attempts to create anarchy in the country from Singapore.

On the other hand, lawyers of the accused submitted separate petitions, seeking their client's bail.

lodged under the Anti-Terrorism Act. Singapore police sent them back home, saying they were involved in militant activities. The accused were

Amin, and Mahmudul Hasan, of Comilla, Jafar Iqbal, of

transgender issues.

Ruhul Amin alias Manju, 61; Abdul

The agency will today hand over the

Khan.

Bahini, he said

The agency's co-coordinator Sanaul

FROM PAGE 16 conference held at its Dhanmondi

Coordinator of the agency Abdul Hannan Khan said they also shared the same opinion that the 195 POWs should be tried for committing crimes during the Liberation War in 1971.

Agency Co-coordinator Sanaul Huq

After independence, Bangladesh collected specific evidence of genocide

tion over the POWs, a tripartite agreement was signed in Delhi in April, 1974 in which Bangladesh said "having regard to the appeal of the prime minister of Pakistan to the people of Bangladesh to forgive and forget the mistakes of the past," Bangladesh

an act of clemency.

no legal bar to trying the 195 POWs and there has also been a longstanding demand to try them at the International Crimes Tribunal, which is now trying their local collaborators.

The ICT law should be amended, he

on a regular basis, he added. "The scenario may change if the two

municipal elections.

Clad in a green sari and with some

The BNP chief will hold an emergency Party insiders say Khaleda for the last

the insiders.