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## NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

# JMB's 'attack plan foiled'

Cops arrest 5 with explosives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested five suspected members of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh who were allegedly collecting explosives to carry out attacks in Dhaka during New Year celebrations.

The arrests were made in the capital's Darus Salam area on Tuesday evening when the suspects were carrying around 30kg of explosives in their bags to make bombs at a safe house, Monirul Islam, chief of Counter Terrorism unit of DMP, told a news briefing yesterday.

The police did not say anything about the target spots of the suspects.

The arrestees -- Md Riaz alias Engineer alias Rakib, Md Abubin Sayem alias Bappi alias Opu, Kazi Abdullah Al Osman alias Ahsan, Md Sohag alias Chairman and Md Mamun alias Himel -- are Ehsar or full-time members of the 'Old JMB', according to police.

This is the first time in months that law enforcers learned about a planned attack by the members of JMB. It was believed that the JMB was busy collecting funds for the organisation through robbery and planning ambushes on police and jail guards to free their arrested leaders, sources said.

The arrests and the seizure came days after the police had busted a "Neo JMB" den in Ashkona during which a female JMB member killed herself and seriously injured her four-year-old daughter detonating a suicide vest. A 14-year-old suspect was also killed during the operation, while two female militant suspects surrendered with their two children.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina giving financial help to family members of one of the four policemen killed during the militant attacks on Holey Artisan Bakery and in Sholakia. She gave nine cheques of Tk 50 lakh to the family members at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

**BCL INFIGHTING**  
Comilla Medical College closed  
A CORRESPONDENT Comilla

Comilla Medical College was closed yesterday for an indefinite period following a clash between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of ruling Awami League.

Exams will, however, be held as per schedule, said M o h s i n u z z a m a n Chowdhury, principal of the medical college.

The male students were asked to vacate their dormitories by 11:00am and the female students by 4:00pm yesterday, the principal said.

Only students who have exams were allowed to stay in the dorms, he added.

Two groups of students, loyal to two leaders of the BCL unit of the college, had an altercation late Tuesday night which later turned into a fully-fledged clash that left 10 injured.

Police later brought the situation under control.

Sources said the students involved in the clash were trying to establish supremacy in the college.

They said a probe body had been formed to find out the people responsible.

## Results of JSC, JDC exams today

UNB, Dhaka

The results of this year's Junior School Certificate (JSC), Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC), Primary Education Completion (PEC) and its equivalent Ebtedayee examinations will be published today.

Prior to the publishing of the results, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid will hand over the copies of JSC and JDC results to Prime



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**PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 29**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-00 5-27 7-00  
JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-15 5-30 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Mushy blow for Tigers

AL-AMIN FROM NELSON

He is one of the fantastic five of Bangladesh cricket. A strictly disciplined and committed cricketer, Mushfiqur Rahim has not missed a one-day international since 2010 -- a stretch of 92 consecutive ODIs. He picked up a finger injury during the first Test against Pakistan in Khulna last year. Still he featured in the second Test in Dhaka purely as a batsman. The Bangladesh Test captain only missed two T20Is early this year against Zimbabwe after suffering a cramp, but he will miss

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## Migrant outflow rises but earnings drop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Overseas employment for Bangladeshis increased 35 percent this year from last year but remittance inflow declined 11 percent almost over the same period of time, according to the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit.

Some 7.5 lakh Bangladeshis got jobs abroad from January to December 27. The figure was 5.55 lakh last year, Prof Tasneem Siddiqui, founding chairperson of the RMMRU, said yesterday.

She was speaking while revealing a report titled -- "Pattern and Trends of Labour Migration 2016:

Achievements and Challenges" -- at a press conference in the capital's Jayita Press Club.

This year's figure is the highest since 2008 when Bangladesh's overseas employment reached at 8.75 lakh, according to Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) data.

Bangladesh received \$12.65 billion remittance this year until November. It got \$15.31 billion last year, Prof Tasneem said.

"This year, the decline in oil prices in the global market has seriously affected the [job] markets of the Middle Eastern countries where more than 80

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Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US President Barack Obama bow their heads during a wreath-laying ceremony aboard the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Abe makes Pearl Harbor pilgrimage

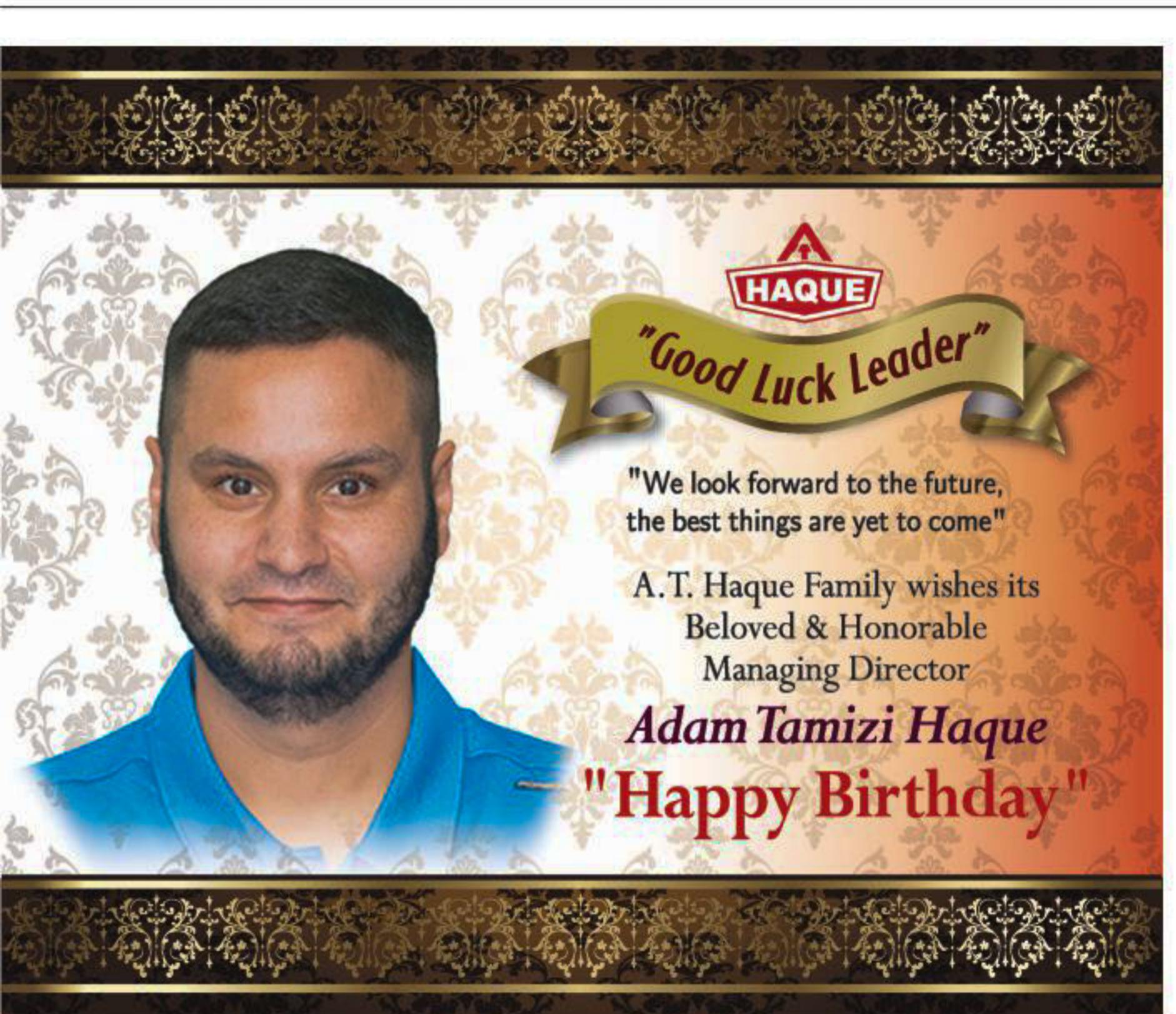
AFP, Pearl Harbor

The leaders of war-time enemies America and Japan made a poignant joint pilgrimage to Pearl Harbor Tuesday (local time), issuing symbolic declarations about the power of reconciliation and warning against the drumbeat of conflict.

Seventy-five years after Japanese pilots brought war to idyllic Hawaii and dragged the United States into World War II, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe offered his "sincere and everlasting condolences."

Abe and US President Barack Obama paid homage to the more than 2,400

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"We look forward to the future,  
the best things are yet to come!"

A.T. Haque Family wishes its  
Beloved & Honorable  
Managing Director

Adam Tamizi Haque  
"Happy Birthday!"

## 2-state solution in 'serious jeopardy'

Kerry blames Israeli settlements for endangering ME peace, defends US action at UN; Israel hits back

AGENCIES

US Secretary of State John Kerry yesterday warned that Israel's building of settlements was endangering Middle East peace, expressing unusually frank frustration with the long-time American ally.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu immediately denounced the speech as "skewed against Israel" and, according to an Israeli NGO, Jerusalem authorities authorised a new four-story block of settler homes just ahead of it.

The Israeli PM was due to make a statement at his office in response to Kerry.

In a 70-minute speech just weeks before the Obama administration hands over to President-elect Donald Trump, Kerry said Israel "will never have true peace" with

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Bangladesh  
Tourism Board



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