





# JMB 'plan for prison van attack' foiled

*The militants wanted to snatch Gulshan attack accused, says Rab; fugitive accused arrested*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) was planning a Trishal-like prison van ambush to snatch the inmates accused in the Gulshan café attack case.

Rab made the claim hours after the arrest of Mamunur Rashid alias Ripon, 30, one of the two fugitives accused in the café attack. Mamunur was arrested from Gazipur district on Saturday night. Four sketches of maps, a diary and Tk 1.47 lakh were also recovered from his possession, law enforcers claimed.

"As the hearing of the Holey Artisan case is on-going, the accused are being taken to courts from different jails. They [JMB] had a plan to free the accused in a way similar to the Trishal Prison van ambush," said Mufti Mahmud Khan, Rab's legal and media wing director, at a press conference in the Rab media centre yesterday.

In March 2015, an armed gang of around 10-15 men ambushed a prison van and snatched away three convicted JMB militants -- two of them on death row -- in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh in a well-orchestrated plan. The incident left a police constable dead.

Khan said Ripon had returned to Bangladesh from a neighbouring country in early 2018 and planned the ambush to encourage like-minded people to reorganise the outfit, he said.

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Fishermen gather around a boat teeming with fish in a haor in Sylhet's Baimtila area. They claim more fish are being caught this year compared to previous years. Inset, the sudden bounty has led to traders thronging the banks of the haor to buy the freshly-caught fish which they later sell at the nearby Nogori bazar.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

# 'Drug peddler' killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A suspected drug peddler was killed in a "gunfight" with members of Border Guard Bangladesh and police in Teknaf yesterday.

The dead is Mostak Ahmad alias Musu, 35, of Uttar Jaliapara in the upazila.

Earlier on Saturday evening, BGB members detained Mostak from Teknaf municipality area.

It Col Asad-uz Zaman Chowdhury, commander of BGB Battalion-2 in Teknaf, claimed Mostak was an enlisted drug trader and had more than 10 cases against him with Teknaf Police Station.

On information, BGB members, along with police officials, took Mostak to Uttar Jalaipara area around 4:00am yesterday to recover yaba tablets. But, his cohorts opened fire on the law enforcers, forcing them to retaliate, the BGB official claimed.

Musu's bullet-ridden body was recovered from the spot after the "gunfight"

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# CYBER HEIST BB to file case with NY court in 10 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank is all set to file a case with a New York court within the next 10 days over the central bank reserve heist, said Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal.

"I can assure you that a case will be filed with the given timeframe," Kamal told journalists at his secretariat office yesterday after attending a meeting with Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU).

Bangladesh Bank Governor Fazle Kabir and Chief of BFIU Abu Hena Mohd Razee were present in the meeting.

When asked against whom the case would be filed, the minister said lawyers of Bangladesh and the United States would decide.

Along with that, the timeframe and witnesses would be decided by the lawyers after more sittings together, he added.

According to ministry sources, Bangladesh will sue Rizal Commercial

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# Mentally challenged woman 'raped'

*Youth held on charge of raping teen; girl files rape attempt complaint against teacher*

STAR REPORT

A mute and mentally challenged woman was allegedly raped by a man in Sunamganj on Thursday, while one man was arrested yesterday for allegedly raping a teenager in Faridpur early Saturday. Meanwhile in Cumilla, another teenager filed a complaint in her school on Saturday against a teacher for attempting to rape her.

In Sunamganj, a 25-year-old mute and mentally challenged Santal woman was allegedly raped by Khairul Islam of Kapna village, according to the case filed with Bishwambarpur Police Station on Saturday, said Pabitra Kumar Sinha, acting officer-in-charge of the station.

He added that the woman was from Kaknimara Santal Basti area of Chunarughat upazila in Habiganj, and nobody could confirm how and why she was at Bishwambarpur.

"The woman was roaming around the Mathurkandi bazar area since the afternoon. In the evening, Khairul forced her to go behind a nearby bush where he raped her," he said, adding that locals took her to Sunamganj Sadar Hospital when they later found her at the spot.

The OC further said that the accused was on the run, adding, "We have traced the victim's family at Chunarughat and they were informed."

In Faridpur, police yesterday arrested a man from his house at Alipur area yesterday around 4:00pm for allegedly raping a 14-year-old girl, said AFM Nasim, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station.

According to the case statement, when the girl went outside the house

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# NOAKHALI GANG RAPE 3 of victim's relatives arrested

*Victim says they were not involved*

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday arrested three people in connection with the second gang rape in Noakhali's Kabirhat upazila, but the victim said the arrestees were her relatives and they could not have been involved with the incident in any way.

The arrestees are -- Harun-or-Rashid, Abdur Rab Hossain Manna and Md Selim. All of them are residents of Nabogram village under Dhanshiri union in the upazila.

Among them, Harun is the president of the union unit Chhatra Dal.

"All three are my relatives and arresting them is a conspiracy. Though the miscreants were hiding

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# A day on Saturn just over 10.5 hrs long



IANs, Washington

Nasa's Cassini spacecraft has revealed that a day on Saturn is just over 10 and-a-half-hours-long, a finding that solved a long-standing mystery of solar system science.

Using new data from the now extinct Cassini mission, scientists led by the University of California, Santa Cruz found that a year on Saturn is 29 Earth years. The day only lasts 10 hours, 33 minutes and 38 seconds.

This was unknown till now because it was hidden in the rings.

Christopher Mankovich, a graduate student in astronomy and astrophysics at the varsity, analysed the wave patterns within the rings.

The findings showed that they respond to

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# Delivery in the open

*Expectant mother denied treatment*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A woman gave birth to a baby boy under a tree outside a health complex after she was allegedly pressured to leave the complex by a nurse on Saturday.

Two separate probe committees were formed the same afternoon to investigate the incident.

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# PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 21

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-15 5-43 7-15  
JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-30 5-47 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# Three of a family killed as truck hits motorbike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Three people of a family were killed when a sand-laden truck hit a motorcycle from the opposite direction in Natore's Bagatipara upazila yesterday.

The victims are Abdul Khalek, 45, of Rajshahi's Bagha upazila, his wife Sonia Begum, 30, and son Tasif Ahmed, 10.

Sirajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Bagatipara Police Station, said Khalek along with his wife and son was returning home by a motorcycle from Bagatipara's Jamnagar.

The accident happened on Tamaltala-Jamnagar road around 3:50pm when the truck ran over the motorbike, killing the three on the spot, he added.

Police seized the vehicle, but its driver and helper managed to flee.

Khalek's cousin Sumon Ahmed said his brother used to run a grocery shop at Aranibazar and he was the sole breadwinner of his six-member family.



The headlights of a truck ominously break through the winter mist as the vehicle drives down the wrong side on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway in Baliapur area recently. The traffic violation is doubly risky during winter when visibility on the roads is much lower than usual.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# 6 Myanmar cops hurt in Rakhine

*Report says 10 armed members of Rohingya insurgent group attack border guard post*

REUTERS, Yangon

Six Myanmar border guard police have been wounded in an attack by Rohingya Muslim insurgents in Rakhine state, government media reported on Saturday, amid fears of escalating violence in the region.

About 10 armed attackers from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) ambushed a border guard post near Wet Kyein village in Maungdaw township in the north of the state on Wednesday, according to the government-controlled Myanmar TV network.

A government spokesman could not be reached for comment.

Rakhine has been roiled by violence for weeks, since fighting broke out between security forces and another armed group, the Arakan Army (AA).

The AA, which pre-dates ARSA, is a rebel group dominated by ethnic Rakhine Buddhists that has been fighting for autonomy for the western state for around a decade.

ARSA, which emerged with attacks on border posts in 2016, is focused on winning rights for Rohingya, the mostly stateless Muslim minority long persecuted in Myanmar.

Some 5,000 civilians have been forced to flee their homes in the recent violence, according to the United Nations.

A crackdown on the Rohingya Muslim minority in Buddhist-majority Rakhine in 2017 triggered an exodus of about 730,000 Rohingya refugees to neighbouring Bangladesh.

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