



AUG 17 SERIES BOMB BLASTS JMB weak but still a threat

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Militant outfit JMB that struck terror across the country in 2005 has almost no strength to carry out any organised attack, but it is still a threat, counterterrorism officials believe.

Its chief is still out of the dragnet while some of the outfit members who walked out of jail after serving their sentences in cases filed over a series bomb blast have gone into hiding and they are trying to recruit new members, they said.

The law enforcers said since many of the cases were filed under the Explosive Substances Act and the highest punishment is 10 years' imprisonment, many of the convicts already completed their jail terms.

Police failed to give the exact number of the JMB extremists who walked out of jail.

On this day in 2005, banned terror outfit Jama'at-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) almost simultaneously detonated 459 bombs in 63 out of 64 districts across the country.

After the synchronised attacks, 160 cases were lodged across the country. Police have completed probes into the cases.

They submitted the final reports in 17 cases and charge sheets in 143 others. In the charge sheets, 1,157 JMB leaders and activists were named as accused, the law enforcers said.

Of the accused, around 1,000 militants were arrested. There is no updated data about how many of them are now behind bars.

"Though most of the JMB members lead a normal life after walking out of jail, some 20 to 30 old JMB operatives have gone into hiding and are trying to recruit members,"

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Without any protective gear, a man carries a sack of raw cement materials, including fly ash, clinker, and gypsum, from a boat in Chattogram city's Sadarghat on Saturday. The tiny substances could enter body and cause diseases. Inset, a truck is being loaded to take those to a cement factory.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



Heavy rain forecast for today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country may see heavy rain and thunder today, while the sea will grow rough, as monsoon is active across the country, the Met office said.

According to Bangladesh Meteorological Department, most places in Khulna, Barishal, Chattogram, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions, and many in Rangpur, Rajshahi and Mymensingh divisions will face moderate to very heavy rainfalls.

There has been light to heavy rain in many parts of the country since yesterday due to the impact of low pressure generated in the Bay of Bengal a few days ago, said meteorologist Bazlur Rashid.

He said the situation will improve from August 17 but moderate to heavy rain will begin again from August 19, also due to low pressure in the Bay.

All maritime ports have been asked to hoist local cautionary signal number three as a well-marked low

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HASINA MEDICAL COLLEGE

ACC sues principal, suppliers for graft

They allegedly pocketed Tk 3.43cr

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

There is a common public perception that processes for government works are slow but they speed up when vested interests are involved.

A recent enquiry by the Anti-Corruption Commission shows why it is so.

It took only six days from awarding a contract to disbursing nearly Tk 4.5 crore by the authorities of Sheikh Hasina Medical College in Habiganj.

By inflating prices of items several times higher, principal of the college Dr Md Abu Sufian and two suppliers pocketed nearly Tk 3.43 crore back in 2018.

Yesterday, the ACC filed two separate cases

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Bangladesh becomes member of IMF, World Bank



Bangabandhu leaving London Clinic on August 14, 1972

August 17, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGLADESH ENTERS WORLD'S FINANCIAL COMMUNITY

Bangladesh today officially enters the world's financial community, a much required move for the new nation's economic development. SA Karim, charge d'affaires of Bangladesh Embassy in Washington, today signs and accepts the agreement making his government a member of the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) and its affiliate, International Development Association (IDA). "This will lead to a fruitful association and contribute positively to the development of our resources," says SA Karim after the signing ceremony.



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58 clinics, diagnostic centres closed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Health department officials have shut down at least 58 private clinics and diagnostic centres in different upazilas of Patuakhali on various charges, including operating without registration, non-renewal of registration and not having related facilities.

Seven of these facilities have been closed permanently while the authorities of the others have been asked to halt their operation until further notice.

A team of the health department led by district civil surgeon Jahangir Alam visited 149 clinics and diagnostic centres in eight upazilas of the district throughout the last week and issued the shutdown orders on Thursday.

According to sources, many of these facilities were operating without registration while some

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AI helps Japanese recall war days



AP, Tokyo

When Tokuso Hamai saw the colorized version of an old black-and-white photo of a picnic held under cherry tree blossoms sometime before World War II, forgotten memories of family members, most of whom died in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945, came pouring out.

"In colorized photos, people come to life," said Hamai, now 86. "I often played near (the picnic site), and sometimes I would do some naughty things and get scolded by my father."

The power of a colorized photo to reignite lost memories was eye-opening for Anju Niwata, a

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Bangladeshis stuck in Vietnam returning

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Around 150 Bangladeshi migrants, who faced exploitation in Vietnam, are finally flying home tomorrow in a chartered flight arranged by the Bangladesh government.

"They will be flying in a US-Bangla chartered flight on August 18," Bangladesh Ambassador to Vietnam, Samina Naz, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Apart from migrants, eight Bangladeshi businessmen

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 17

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:25 12:45 4:45 6:38 8:00
JAMAAT 5:00 1:15 5:00 6:41 8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Covid-19 tests drop again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health directorate yesterday reported 2,024 Covid-19 new cases and 32 deaths from the highly transmissible virus as the number of tests decreased again.

In the 24 hours till 8:30am yesterday, a total of 10,018 individuals' samples were tested.

The positivity rate was 20.2 percent.

The 32 deaths over that period took the total number of coronavirus-related deaths in the country to 3,657.

The overall death rate stands at 1.32 percent of all confirmed cases.

With yesterday's figures, the total number of confirmed Covid-19 cases rose to 2,76,549 -- 20.45 percent of the 13,51,666 people tested since January 21.

In the same 24 hours, 1,315 people have recovered from their illness.

As of yesterday, a total of 1,58,950 patients -- more than 57 percent of

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Tamanna Akter teaching some children, who belong to low-income families, at a Pearabagh house in the capital's Moghbazar as their schools are closed due to the pandemic. She does not take any fees from the children. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

India's Covid-19 tally rises to 2.5 million

Death toll nears 50,000

AGENCIES

A massive surge of over 63,000 new coronavirus infections since Saturday has taken India's tally past 25.89 lakh cases, the Indian Health Ministry said yesterday, adding that more than 900 Covid-linked deaths were recorded in the period.

India has been reporting more cases in a day than the United States and Brazil, which have a higher caseload, for the last 12 days, according to the World Health Organization data.

As many as 63,490 new Covid-19 cases were detected, and 944 people died due to the virus in the country in the past 24 hours.

There are still 677,444 active Covid-19 cases in India, while a total of 1,862,258 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals across the country.

The recovery rate of Covid-19 cases has risen to nearly 72 per cent, even as the death rate has come down to below 2 per cent, the ministry said.

Over the past weeks, India has ramped up the testing of samples.

Till Saturday a total of 29,309,703 samples has been tested, out of which 746,608 samples were tested on Saturday alone, said the Indian Council of Medical Research.

Indian scientists have been working on developing Covid-19 vaccine.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated in his Independence Day speech on Saturday that as many as three vaccines were in different stages of trials.

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