



JMB men lead 2 of 3 JMI factions

Find investigators quizzing militant
MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Jama'atul Mujahideen India, the Indian wing of mainstream JMB, was divided into three factions due to differences of opinion between leaders.

One faction is led by Salahuddin Ahmed alias Salehin, also the present ameer of the JMB. This group has a network in different states of India and its strongholds are in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

The second faction is led by Jahidul Islam Mizan alias Boma Mizan, a top bomb expert of the outfit, and its stronghold is in Bardhaman. And the third one is led by Ezaj Sheikh, an Indian, which mainly has strongholds in different districts of West Bengal.

Bomb Disposal Unit (BDU) officials of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit claimed to have gotten the information of JMB's Indian wing from Rezaul Haque alias Reza, 37.

Reza, who was the in-charge of JMB in Bangladesh, was arrested by BDU team from the capital's Badda on Saturday.

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Reza on a seven-day remand after SM Raisul Islam, an inspector of CTTC unit, produced him before the court with a 10-day remand prayer in a case filed under the anti-terrorism act with Bhatara Police Station in November last year.

Rahmatullah Chowdhury, in-charge of BDU, told The Daily Star yesterday, "We got some important information about the outfit's Indian part's activities and network

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A traffic jam in front of Gausia Market in the capital's New Market area as shoppers in large numbers gathered yesterday despite the restrictions on people's movement to contain the spread of Covid-19. Shops are allowed to open during the restrictions on condition that they follow the health-safety guidelines, which were hardly maintained.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



MITA HUQ 1962-2021

Voice for harmony, of melody goes silent

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Eminent Rabindra Sangeet exponent and Ekushey Padak awardee Mita Huq passed away at 6:20 yesterday morning in the capital's Bangladesh Specialized Hospital.

She was 59. After fighting Covid-19, she had tested negative for it five days ago. However, her condition worsened and she was taken to hospital again.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and President Abdul SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

UTTARA ABDUCTION

'It's pre-planned kidnapping'

Say investigators; 3 witnesses testify; victim, family hiding in fear

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The incident of abducting a man and demanding ransom for his release in the capital recently was pre-planned by the arrested elite force members, investigators said.

According to the plan, one of the arrestees hired a microbus the day before the incident. After the Rab members negotiated the ransom, they also rented an auto rickshaw to get the money from the victim's family members.

Police apprehended two Rab members when they went to pick up the ransom.

Yesterday, three witnesses, including the microbus driver and the auto rickshaw driver, made statements before a Dhaka court.

The three are: Ayub Ali, 35, driver of the auto rickshaw; Sumon Ali, 33, driver of the microbus in which the victim was kept; and Iqbal Hossain, 52, a distant uncle of the victim.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Atiqul Islam recorded their statements yesterday afternoon, court sources said.

On Thursday, police arrested three Rab members and a member of the air force for abducting and torturing Tamzid Hossain, 27, and demanding ransom for his release.

The arrestees are: Lance Corporal Dulal SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

China backs Pakistan and warns India

APRIL 12, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

SITUATION IN OCCUPIED BANGLADESH

The Martial Law Authority in Dhaka announced today that government troops had destroyed all "subversive elements" in Chandpur and it promised that the lives and property of "minorities and other people" in the eastern wing of the country would be protected.

The declarations were made over the official Pakistan radio station, which called on government employees in East Pakistan to return to work. In addition, citizens in Dhaka were warned by the press and radio to take precautions in case there should be an outbreak of cholera.

The radio also reported that an army column had advanced unimpeded from Dhaka 70 miles northwest to Pabna. The troops "did not encounter any subversive or antisocial elements" on the way, the radio station said.

An Indian government spokesman said today that the Pakistani army continued to hold onto major towns and garrisons in East Pakistan, but that it had been forced by frequent ambushes to move down main roads in units of battalion size or larger.

Quoting from intelligence reports, the spokesman said although Chittagong was in army hands, the road leading north to Dhaka ran through territory was held by "insurgents" who had declared their independence from the western wing. He said the road was disrupted at several points and that ferry operators who had supported the "insurgents" had moved vessels away from crossing points. As a result, he said, supplies coming by sea from West Pakistan were being sent up the river to the town of Chandpur for unloading and conveying to Dhaka.

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Closure of madrasas won't be tolerated

Says Hefajat; decries restrictions on Tarabi prayers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hefajat-e-Islam would not tolerate closure of Qawmi madrasas and restrictions on offering Tarabi prayers during Ramadan in the name of stopping the spread of coronavirus, said its Ameer Junayed Babunagari yesterday.

During a press conference at the Hathazari madrasa where it is based, he also urged the government to "stop mass arrest and harassment of Hefajat activists and supporters".

Hefajat announced that it would hold its Ulama Mashayek conference on May 29 in Chattogram's Hathazari upazila.

Babunagari also suggested that the holy Quran be recited and prayers be offered during Ramadan to get rid of coronavirus.

He asked the government to "reveal the identities of those who

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Scientists unearth skunk that walked among dinosaurs



REUTERS, Santiago

A fossil of a skunk-like mammal that lived during the age of dinosaurs has been discovered in Chilean Patagonia, adding further proof to recent evidence that mammals roamed that part of South America a lot earlier than previously thought.

A part of the creature's fossilized jawbone with five teeth attached were discovered close to the famous Torres del Paine national park.

Christened *Orretherium tzen*, meaning 'Beast of Five Teeth' in an amalgam of Greek and a local indigenous language, the animal is thought to have lived between 72 and 74 million years ago during the Upper Cretaceous period, at the end of the Mesozoic era, and been a herbivore.

Prior to its discovery, and the teeth of the *Magallanodon baikashkenke*, a rodent-like creature, in the same area last year, only mammals living between 38 and 46 million years ago had been found in the southernmost tip of the Americas, the team that discovered it said.

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China to give 5 lakh Covid jabs

Govt in talks to get Sputnik V

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

The Chinese government will soon send five lakh jabs of Covid-19 vaccines, developed by their state-owned drug maker Sinopharm, to Bangladesh as gift, health officials said.

Besides, the Bangladesh government has given the authorisation to the Sinopharm that they can inoculate all of the Chinese nationals working in different development projects.

Meanwhile, the health ministry has made "a primary progress" to procure the Russian vaccine "Sputnik V", according to the health officials.

"Sinopharm has confirmed that they will

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PRAYER TIMING APRIL 12

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:35 12:45 4:45 6:24 7:45
JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 5:00 6:28 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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