



Police raid another den of militants

Recover 5kg of explosives, 96 detonators, 14 bullets

MINTU DESHWARA

Law enforcers discovered another hideout of the new militant group "Imam Mahmud Kafeela" in the hills of Karmadha union of Moulvibazar's Kulaura yesterday.

They recovered approximately five kilograms of explosives and 14 bullets from the hideout.

The Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, along with the bomb disposal unit, conducted a four-hour-long drive since yesterday noon. Around 60 police officials from the Kulaura Police Station also took part in the drive, sources said.

On Monday, the CTTC initiated a drive and took into custody 17 suspects who were apprehended by locals as they were trying to flee the area on five three-wheelers.

While briefing the media, CTTC chief Md Asaduzzaman said they found three houses in the hideout. "The 17 suspects were living in these houses. The explosives were concealed underground in one of the houses."

The CTTC disclosed the identities of the suspects yesterday.

Abdul Ahad Mendi, who called himself "Imam Mahmud," was among the arrestees, according to the CTTC chief.

Asaduzzaman said, "Through our initial interrogations we learnt that many of them played significant roles in the outfit."

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Workers renovating the Kalurghat bridge over the Karnaphuli in Chattogram. Traffic on the bridge has been suspended for the work. The rail bridge was built in the 1930s and later it was turned into a rail-slash-road bridge. This bridge is key to the Dhaka-Cox's Bazar rail service schedule to start this year.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

BUSINESS

Microfinance NPL nearly doubles

Microfinance institutions witnessed an 85 percent year-on-year jump in non-performing loans in 2021-22 as borrowers struggled to pay back owing to the impacts of coronavirus pandemic and economic slowdown. Thus, the volume of the NPL rose to Tk 8,370 crore in FY22 from Tk 4,528 crore in FY21, according to Bangladesh Bank's Financial Stability Report 2022. As a result, the NPL ratio soared to 6.74 percent in FY22 from the previous fiscal year's 4.77 percent.

STORY ON BI

BNP goes for 4-day fresh agitation

To hold nationwide road marches on Aug 19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday announced a four-day fresh anti-government movement starting today that will include nationwide processions and marches.

The programmes have been planned as part of their one-point simultaneous movement demanding the Awami League government's resignation as well as the unconditional release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her treatment abroad, said BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi at the Nayapalton party office.

Rizvi said partymen across the country will offer prayers today seeking improvement in Khaleda's health.

Tomorrow, leaflets will be distributed across the country demanding Khaleda's release and treatment abroad.

On August 18, BNP will organise mass processions in all metropolitan cities, including Dhaka, demanding the AL government's resignation.

And finally, road marches will be held nationwide on August 19 with the same agenda.

Rizvi said other like-minded parties that have been carrying out the simultaneous movement with the BNP will also observe similar programmes from their respective positions.

He said BNP and opposition party leaders and activists are becoming victims of enforced disappearances, accused in false cases, arrested arbitrarily, and denied treatment in custody, leading to "custodial deaths".

2020 POLLS INTERFERENCE Trump, advisers charged in Georgia

REUTERS, Washington

Former US president Donald Trump was hit with a fourth set of criminal charges when a Georgia grand jury issued a sweeping indictment accusing him of trying to overturn his 2020 election loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

The charges, brought late on Monday by Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, add to the legal woes facing Trump, the front-runner in the race for the Republican nomination for the 2024 presidential election.

The sprawling 98-page indictment listed 19 defendants and 41 criminal counts in all. All of the defendants were charged with racketeering, which is used to target members of organised crime groups and carries a penalty of up to 20 years in prison.

Mark Meadows, Trump's former White House chief of staff, and lawyers Rudy Giuliani and John Eastman were among those charged.

"Rather than abide by Georgia's legal process for election challenges, the defendants engaged in a criminal, racketeering enterprise to overturn Georgia's presidential election result," Willis said at a press conference.

Trump yesterday slammed what he called a "rigged" indictment. "Sounds rigged to me!" he wrote on his Truth Social platform. "Why didn't they indict 2.5 years ago? Because they wanted to do it right in the middle of my political

campaign. Witch hunt!"

Trump and the other defendants have until Friday noon to surrender voluntarily, rather than face arrest, Willis said. She said she intends to try all 19 defendants together.

"This one-sided grand jury presentation relied on witnesses who harbor their own personal and political interests," Trump lawyers Drew Findling, Jennifer Little and Marissa Goldberg said in a statement.

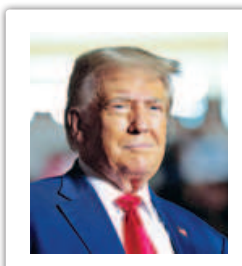
"We look forward to a detailed review of this indictment, which is undoubtedly just as flawed and unconstitutional as this entire process has been," Trump lawyers added.

The 13 felony charges against Trump matched those listed on a document that was briefly posted on the court website earlier in the day and reported by Reuters before it disappeared.

Lawyers for those named either declined to comment or did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In a January 2, 2021, phone call, Trump urged Georgia's top election official, Brad Raffensperger, to "find" enough votes to reverse his narrow loss in the state. Raffensperger declined to do so.

Trump's supporters stormed the US Capitol four days later in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent lawmakers from certifying Biden's victory.



Stay alert to prevent repeat of Aug 15: Momen

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has asked all to be alert to prevent the repetition of anything like that of 1975 when Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members were assassinated.

"Our time is very difficult. It is the time for all my colleagues to voluntarily think of this. We don't want a repeat of 1975. We all need to be alert about this," he said at a discussion marking the National Mourning Day, organised by the foreign ministry at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

He said instances of instability were created one after another in the country before August 1975.

"High commodity prices and the story of Basanti ... many people also visited Bangladesh. In today's Bangladesh, we can see an effort to create a similar type of instability," the minister said.

Bangladesh sees significant progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Despite this, in recent times, it seems that some people are trying hard to create instability.

"... it appears that a difficult time is coming ahead. We all need to be alert, especially those of us who are in the foreign ministry. We are the first defenders ..."

"Then there was the story of one Basanti, now we can hear the stories of hundreds of Basanti."

Momen said he is sad that they have not been able to stop such propaganda and falsehood and asked them all to be alert about it.

He called upon foreign ministry officials to conduct more research on Bangabandhu and spread the facts about

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Webb Telescope discovers one of oldest galaxies in universe

MAIL ONLINE

It was launched to peer back to the beginning of time and take pictures of the very first stars to shine in space.

Now, in the latest of its many exciting discoveries so far, the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has spotted one of the oldest galaxies in the universe.



Formed just 390 million years after the Big Bang, it has been named Maisie's galaxy after the daughter of the astronomer who saw it for the first time on her birthday.

Scientists say it is one of the four earliest confirmed galaxies ever seen — although they are currently evaluating about 10 others that might be from an era even earlier than Maisie's.

"The exciting thing about Maisie's galaxy is that it was one of the first distant galaxies identified by JWST, and of that set, it's the first to actually be spectroscopically confirmed," said Steven Finkelstein, who headed up the research led by University of Texas at Austin.

The way astronomers determine the age of a galaxy is complicated. It involves working out when light left an object, which is calculated by measuring the galaxy's redshift. This is the amount that its colour has shifted because of its motion away from Earth.

Therefore, because we live in an expanding universe, the higher an object's redshift, the older it is.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Spain defender Olga Carmona celebrates scoring her team's second goal during their 2-1 victory over Sweden in the FIFA Women's World Cup semifinals at Eden Park in Auckland yesterday. The Spaniards will face off against the winners of the second semifinal between England and Australia in the final on Sunday. Story on Page 11.

বাংলাদেশের সকল নদ-নদীর খসড়া তালিকা প্রকাশ মতামত আহ্বান

জাতীয় নদী রক্ষা কমিশন কর্তৃক সারাদেশের জেলা প্রশাসকগণের নিকট থেকে নদ-নদী সংক্রান্ত তথ্য সংগ্রহ করা হয়। উক্ত তথ্যসমূহ যাচাই-বাছাই ও সমন্বয়পূর্বক দেশের সকল নদ-নদীর একটি খসড়া তালিকা প্রণয়ন করা হয়েছে। খসড়া তালিকাটি গত ১০ আগস্ট ২০২৩ তারিখে কমিশনের ওয়েবসাইটে (www.nrcc.gov.bd) প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে। উক্ত তালিকাটি চূড়ান্ত করার স্বার্থে তালিকায় প্রদত্ত নদ-নদীর তথ্য সমূহের বিষয়ে সর্বসাধারণের মতামত আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে। আগামী ২৫/০৮/২০২৩ তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নের ঠিকানায় প্রেরণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

ইমেইল: chairmannrcc2014@gmail.com QR Code

ঠিকানা
জাতীয় নদী রক্ষা কমিশন
জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদ ভবন (লেভেল ১৬)
৬২/৩, পুরানা পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০

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