

SOCIAL MEDIA, ENCRYPTED APPS 80pc militants use those to stay in touch

Say police based on info from 250 arrested militant suspects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 80 percent of those linked to militancy use social media and different encrypted messaging applications to communicate with each other.

Militant outfits, who mainly target those aged between 15 and 25, use the tools also to recruit new members, said Md Moniruzzaman, additional deputy inspector general of police's Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU).

He made the comments while presenting the keynote speech at a seminar titled -- "Preventing Terrorism and Extremism Through Community Engagement" -- at the auditorium of Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) in the capital.

The analysis was based on information gleaned from around 250 arrested militant suspects, he said, adding that 120 of the alleged militants are aged between 15 and 25 while 110 between 26 and 35.

He said 82 percent of the 250 militants were radicalised through social media. Besides, 56 percent of the 250 had general education background and 22 percent madrasa background.

DIG Moniruzzaman identified frustration as one of the main factors that lead youths to extremism. The frustration stems from family affairs, unemployment, among other issues, he said.

He suggested engaging youths in different social activities to help them overcome that frustration.

He also said around three million people were involved in community policing across the country and that law enforcers were using those people to raise awareness on the matter.

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Relatives stretcher a critically injured burn victim to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery from nearby Dhaka Medical College Hospital. They had to bring the patient, named Emon, out in the open as no ambulance was available at the DMCH. Emon is among the eight of a family who suffered burns in a gas explosion at their home, inset, in Narayanganj's Siddhirganj earlier in the day. He lost his aunt in the blast. Story on page 2.

PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN

ABRAR'S DEATH Prothom Alo editor gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matiuur Rahman in a case filed over the death of college student Naimul Abrar Rahat.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (in-charge) Md Kaisarul Islam passed the order upon a bond of Tk 2,000 with two guarantors after Matiuur surrendered before the court and sought bail. The court fixed February 24 for the next hearing.

The High Court on January 20 granted him bail for a period of four weeks and directed him to appear before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court of Dhaka after expiration of the period.

While granting the anticipatory bail to Matiuur, the HC directed law enforcers not to harass or arrest him or any of the five other accused until police report was filed or charges were framed in the case over the death of Abrar, who was a student of Dhaka Residential Model College.

As per the HC direction, Matiuur surrendered before the court yesterday and sought bail, his lawyer

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Give us clear definition of gambling

Dhaka Club, Gulshan Club file petitions for stay on HC verdict

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Club and Gulshan Club yesterday filed two separate petitions with the Supreme Court seeking a stay on the High Court verdict that asked the government to stop games involving cards, roll of the dice or luck.

After holding a brief hearing, Justice Hasan Foez Siddique of the Appellate Division sent the petitions to its full bench and fixed February 23 for a hearing on those.

Barristers Rokonuddin Mahmud and Fida M Kamal appeared on behalf of the two clubs that sought the stay from the SC.

The clubs want a definition of gambling; they argue the casinos run commercially at sporting clubs and the indoor games at social clubs are not the same.

Following a writ petition, the HC on February 10 declared gambling in any form, involving cards, roll of the dice or luck and through games like bingo a criminal offence and ordered the government to stop these nationwide.

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Massive help needed without delay



Bangabandhu being presented with a leaflet titled 'Read Bengali and write Bengali' by the leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League on February 18, 1972.

FEBRUARY 18, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

MUJIB BLASTS NIXON ADMINISTRATION

Bangabandhu says that although he has friendly feelings towards the people of USA, he cannot support President Richard Nixon's administration, which has still not recognised Bangladesh.

In an interview with United Press International, Bangabandhu says that the Nixon administration had adopted a policy of

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CTG RESERVE FORESTS Won't allow road there

Inter-ministerial body decides about an RHD proposal

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

An inter-ministerial body has decided against making a road through two reserve forests -- Hazarkhali Wildlife Sanctuary and Boroiyadala National Park -- in Chattogram.

The body was formed to resolve the dispute between the forest department and the Roads and Highway Department (RHD) over the proposed nine-kilometre road.

In its final report submitted to the RHD on January 29, the body comprising nine members from the forest, environment and climate change ministry, road transport ministry and planning ministry also suggested an alternative -- expanding the existing Mirsarai-Narayanhat road connecting Mirsarai and

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Major search for aliens launched



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have launched a major new search for alien life.

The new scheme uses the latest techniques to scour the skies in the hope of finding data that could be an indication of extraterrestrial intelligence.

And they will also make the data from their searches available to the public in the hope that citizen scientists can spot potential evidence in what they have found.

The researchers at the SETI Institute, which is devoted to looking for alien life, are hunting for "technosignatures", or hints in the data that suggest they could be coming from planets that are home to other beings. They could be anything from sniffing hints of chemicals on alien worlds to indications that there could be structures or lasers on other planets.

Dr Tony Beasley, director of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) telescope based in Virginia, US, said: "Determining whether we are alone in the universe as technologically capable life is among the most compelling questions in

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CORONAVIRUS SCARE Don't bring back the 172 from Hubei

China envoy suggests Dhaka about the Bangladeshi students

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming has recommended that the 172 Bangladeshi students in China's Hubei Province not be brought back home as that would risk spreading coronavirus in Bangladesh.

"We should try our best to stop such possibilities and minimise the risk. Personally, I don't suggest, I

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 18

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:20 12:45 4:30 6:03 7:30
JAMAAT 5:55 1:15 4:45 6:07 8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Near a cautionary street sign, a bus lying on its side after the driver lost control of the vehicle on Rangamati-Chattogram Link Road in Rangamati's Manikchhari area around 7:00am yesterday, leaving at least 10 injured. The bus was carrying picnicers to Bandarban from Rangamati.

PHOTO:
ANVIL CHAKMA

India FM defends CAA in Brussels

AFP, Brussels

India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar yesterday defended his country's controversial new citizenship law and crackdown in Kashmir, as he came to Brussels to promote what he hopes will be closer strategic ties to the European Union.

Delhi's top diplomat was the guest of honour as EU foreign ministers met in Brussels with an eye to renewing relations and boosting trade with the south Asian giant.

EU president Ursula von der Leyen's new Commission wants to give Brussels a more "geopolitical role" and as part of that hopes to host a March summit with powerful Indian leader Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"India and the European Union share a lot of things," said Europe's high representative for foreign policy Josep Borrell, citing climate change, the digital revolution and rise of China as shared challenges.

Jaishankar, standing by Borrell, noted that the new government in India and the new commission in Brussels are "both quite fresh" and that they hoped to take relations to a "new level".

He said he hoped the lunch talks would confirm the "strategic partnership."

Taken together, the EU member states are Delhi's biggest trade partner, with India's imports and exports to and from the bloc each representing about 45 billion euros a year (\$49 billion).

But -- while Europe has inked trade deals with big Asian

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হুমি হবে নীরবে.....

শামসুন্নাহার রহমান পরাগ
(০১ লা জুন ১৯৪০ - ১৮ই ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১৫)

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