

Three LeT, JMB men arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Monday arrested an alleged Bangladeshi associate of Pakistan based militant outfit Laskar-e-Taiba (LeT) from the capital while two members of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from Gazipur.

Detained LeT suspect Qari Abdur Rahim Master, 45, of Sunamganj, is a teacher at Islahunnesa Women's Madrasa in Savar.

Briefing reporters at Rab headquarters yesterday, its additional Director General Majibur Rahman said Abdur Rahim was arrested from Ahsan Manjil area of Islampur in the city following confessional statement from LeT's Bangladesh coordinator Mohammad Imran.

Imran was arrested on September 20 this year with large amount of counterfeit money, passports and books on Jihad.

Abdur Rahim is an accused in a case filed with Savar Police Station in connection with possession of explosives, said Rab officials.

Days earlier on October 6, Pakistan national Wazed Khan alias Salman and his Bangladeshi associate Abu Bakar were arrested in connection with the same case.

Abdur Rahim had been in hiding since then, added Rab officials.

Meanwhile, JMB militants Khandaker Kawsar, 22, and Mohammad Adam, 23, were arrested from Ribisha Garment at Nayanpur Bazar and Kashimpur Hatimara of Gazipur on Monday night.

According to Rab officials, both Kawsar and Adam were wanted in August 17, 2005 bomb blasts case in Gazipur when JMB militants exploded bombs in 63 districts.

Fugitive JMB men are trying to reorganise and carry out their mission in guise of garment workers, claimed Rab officials.



Buddhists people light balloons as they celebrate Prabarana Purnima, a religious festival, before Nanda Kanan Buddha Mandir in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Hasina for e-library at DU

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the education ministry to take immediate steps to set up an e-library at Dhaka University.

The premier gave the directive while addressing the launching of the first-ever Bangladesh-made laptop, 'Doel', at the city's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Drawing the attention of Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid and Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, she said the present library at the university is not modern enough to provide proper services to its huge students.

"I'm asking the education minister to take immediate steps to establish an e-library at the university," the premier said.

Later talking to the news agency, Prof Arefin expressed his gratitude to the prime minister for her visionary thinking.

Pirojpur Municipal Polls Contempt of court rule against CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda and five others for declaring a mayoral candidate of Pirojpur municipal polls as elected uncontested ignoring its order.

In the rule, the court asked the CEC and others to explain in two weeks why legal action should not be taken against them for violating its order.

The rule came following a contempt of court petition filed by Nasim Uddin Khan, another mayoral candidate of Pirojpur municipal polls.

On January 2 this year, the HC issued a rule upon the Election Commission (EC) and the government to explain why cancellation of nomination paper of Nasim Uddin Khan should not be declared illegal.

It also directed the EC and the government to allow Nasim to contest the municipality polls by allocating a symbol to him and not to declare anybody elected as mayor uncontested till disposal of the rule.

The EC on January 20 issued a gazette notification declaring mayoral candidate Md Habibur Rahman Malek elected as mayor uncontested, violating the HC order, said Sheikh Atiar Rahman, counsel for the petitioner, said.

Nasim Uddin Khan on October 10 filed the contempt of court petition against six persons, including the CEC for issuing the notification.

The rule was also issued against Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Munim, divisional commissioner of Barisal; Ruhul Amin, deputy commissioner of Pirojpur; SK Md Moniruzzaman, additional deputy commissioner (general) of Pirojpur; and Tarafder Sohail Rahman, deputy director of local government of Pirojpur, and mayoral candidate Habibur Rahman Malek.

3 arrested with fake notes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch of police seized fake note of Tk 2.53 lakh and arrested three alleged member of a fake currency-making gang from Azampur Bus Stand of the city's Uttara on Monday night.

The youths are Jalal Hossain alias Jamal, Jahangir Alam, and Abu Hasan. Police seized 253 notes of Tk 1000 denomination from their possession.

They confessed that they have been running the fake business for many days.

A case was filed against them in this connection with Uttara Model Police Station.

In another drive, police arrested Emdad Mia, a drug peddler, from Fakirapul in the city on Monday. A case was also filed against him with Mottijheel Police Station.

TREE FELLING AT NETRAKONA Maintain status quo HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to maintain status quo for ten days on felling trees on both sides of the road from Jhanjail Bazar to Durgapur upazila in Netrakona.

The court passed the order following a writ petition filed by Liton Mrong, general secretary of Garo Baptist Convention Bangladesh (GBCB), seeking status quo order in respect of cutting down the trees.

Petitioner's counsel Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the government cannot cut down the trees from both side of the road till further order, following the HC order.

He said the district council on July 27 issued a tender notification for selling 249 trees, which were planted by Garo communities around 100 to 150 years ago, without informing the Garo communities.

Liton filed the petition with the HC on Sunday also challenging the tender notification.

The HC bench of Justice Farid Ahmed and Justice Hassan Arif ordered the petitioner and the Netrakona district council authorities to inform the position of the trees and its land to this court within ten days.

During hearing of the petition, Khurshid Alam Khan told the court that the district council has illegally issued the tender notification for selling the trees.

The district council started cutting down the trees yesterday, he added.

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CLASH OVER POWER CUT IN N'GANJ UNO, cops among 30 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

At least 30 people, including local UNO and nine cops, were injured in a clash between police and power loom workers following protest over frequent load-shedding by the workers in Arahazar upazila on Monday night.

The workers vandalised at least 10 vehicles after blocking the Dhaka-Gopaldi road in the upazila.

The law enforcers had to charge batons on the workers and also fired at least 40 bullets to bring the situation under control, said Ashrafuzzaman, sub-inspector (SI) of Arahazar Police Station.

Some 4,000 to 5,000 workers are involved with over 100 power loom factories in the upazila. They get their payment based on production.

Their payment has been decreased in these days following the frequent power

cuts, the workers claimed.

Protesting the load shedding, the angry workers brought out a procession in the upazila around 7:30pm and also attacked a Palli Bidyut sub station at Mahmudpur.

Later, they blocked the road and vandalised the vehicles, said the SI.

On information, police rushed to the spot to quell the demonstrators. To disperse the agitators, the law enforcers charged truncheons on them triggering clash that left 30 people injured.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Sarwar Hossain and nine policemen, including SI Kawsar were also the injured during the clash.

Vehicular movement on the road remained suspended for two hours till 9:30pm following the clash.



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FM for pan-Asian crises fund

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni has called for Asian states to jointly build a "Crises Management Fund" to battle against natural calamities and major economic downturns.

She made the call while addressing the 10th Ministerial Meeting of the two-day Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) on Monday. The meeting ended in Kuwait City yesterday.

In her address, the foreign minister reiterated the offer of Bangladesh's assistance in the establishment of the fund and emphasised that ACD focus on concrete projects.

As the ACD enters its second decade, it is important to work towards taking ACD beyond a forum of dialogue into something focusing more on concrete projects, she said.

Dipu Moni said the projects should have an exclusive, pan-Asian appeal in order to attract the interests of and have positive impact on the member states and deliver tangible benefits to the people at large, says a press release.

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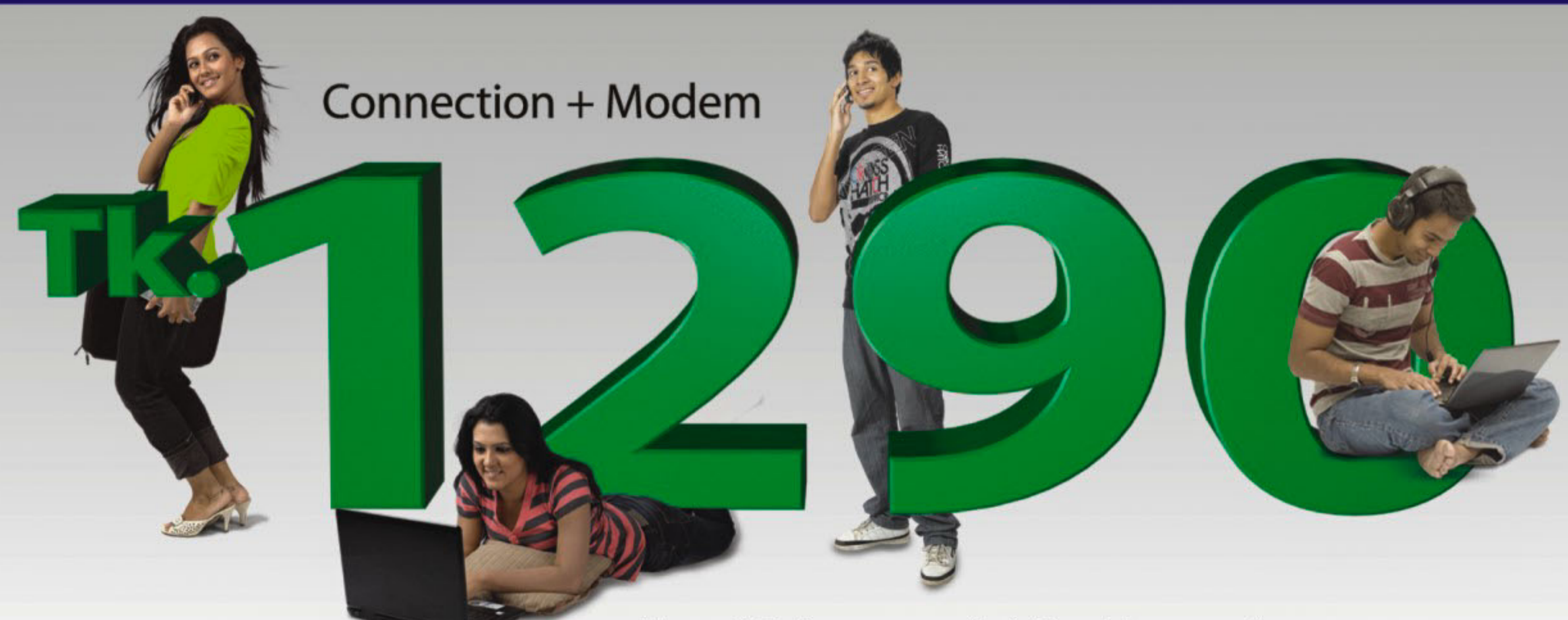
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