



DHAKA INT'L FILM FEST

Turkish filmmaker Sinan Çetin receives the best director award for his comedy-drama "Kaçýt"

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BISWA IJTEMA

The second phase of the Muslim congregation begins on the Turag riverbank

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PERRY DROPS OUT

Texas Governor Rick Perry ends presidential campaign, endorses Newt Gingrich for Republican nomination

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ATTEMPTED COUP IN ARMY

Major Zia used UK mobile SIM to talk to officers

STAR REPORT

One of the main suspects of the recent coup attempt in the army, Maj Syed Mohammad Ziaul Haque, who is absconding, used a roaming UK mobile SIM card to speak about the plot with at least 11 army officers of different ranks, army sources said.

He also used hi-tech software to operate on the internet through his laptop, said the sources adding that his detailed bio-data along with his photo has been sent to different cantonments and other law enforcement agencies to track him down.

A senior official in the army told The Daily Star yesterday that Zia, a former student of the Military Institute of Science

and Technology, is very intelligent and an expert in information technology, and that is why it has been hard for the authorities to trace him.

He was commissioned as an army officer through the 41 long course of Bangladesh Military Academy.

Zia had long telephone conversations with some mid-ranking and junior officers at different cantonments and tried to inspire them to move towards Dhaka with their forces to make the plot successful on the night of Jan 10 or 11, the sources said.

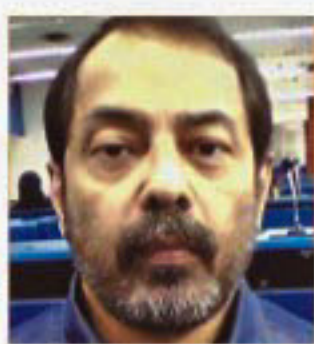
Army investigators found involvement of Zia, who hails from Mostafapur village of Moulvibazar district, while interrogating Lt Col (retd) Ehsan Yusuf after his

Ishraq had army link since 1980s
His 2 sisters live in Pakistan

RABIUL HASAN, back from Naogaon

Ishraq Ahmed, one of the conspirators behind the army coup attempt as described by the army on Thursday, studied at Rajshahi Cadet College during the 70s and maintained connections with many of his friends who joined the army during the 80s.

Sources in the army said they have information that Ishraq had been involvement in many instances of army



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Mixed reactions among parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties yesterday came up with their reaction to the army announcement made at a press conference that it had foiled a plan to topple the government.

BNP

Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, acting secretary general of BNP, yesterday said his party believes in power

transfer only through a democratic process, not in any other way.

He also rejected the allegation made by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that late president Ziaur Rahman, founder of BNP, killed 17 air force officers when a coup took place in 1977.

Hasina was addressing a view exchange with Khagrachhari Awami League leaders on Thursday, hours before the army's press briefing.

On Thursday, BNP made no comment on the army statement or the prime ministerial remark.

Mirza Alamgir yesterday claimed that it was Ziaur Rahman who had established discipline in the armed forces.

"BNP believes in democratic power handover, not in any other way," he said while talking to

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Hawa Akhter Jui at the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) at Savar.

PHOTO: STAR

A girl with determination

Jui walks out of hospital with renewed resolve to fulfil her goal for education with now-fixed hand

KAILASH SARKAR

For Hawa Akhter Jui, it has been a journey from the usual to the bizarre. Having filled in the forms on December 7 for the HSC exams, a mere three days after her husband had sliced off the fingers of her right hand on December 4 in an attempt to stop her from studying, she is desperately trying to bring back a semblance of nor-

mality in her life.

She defied her parents, who were justifiably concerned about her condition, and signed up for the examinations. She went to the extent of stealing money from her mother's bag to pay the necessary fees and affixed her signature on the form with her left hand.

The Daily Star engaged in a long conversation recently with Jui in the presence of her father

Mohammad Yunus Miah at the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) in Savar. Her enthusiasm about her studies was unmistakable.

Jui is in little mood to draw others' pity. Instead, she wishes to be on her own feet as she goes about translating her dream into reality. That way she can also send out the message to her brutality-

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EX-ARMY OFFICIALS' REACTION



Maj Gen (retd) KM Shafiullah

Culprits must be punished

The culprits behind the coup attempt must be found out and given exemplary punishment so that none dares to repeat such an act in future, said Maj Gen (retd) KM Shafiullah, who served as the first chief of staff of the Bangladesh army between 1972 and 1975.

"The undemocratic

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Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman

Fair probe needed

Terming the incident worrying and most unpleasant, former army chief Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman hoped that the truth would be revealed through a fair investigation.

"All of us must remember that the army is the symbol of independence and sovereignty. It must be kept above all sorts of

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Lt Gen (retd) Harun-Ar-Rashid

Plot to save war criminals

The coup attempt by a group of former and serving army officers was clearly aimed at foiling the ongoing trial of war criminals, said former army chief Lt Gen (retd) Harun-Ar-Rashid.

"This evil force will continue to plot against the democratic system until we complete the war

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Maj Gen (retd) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury

Enforce army laws strictly

The rules of the army have to be enforced strictly to avert chaos in the disciplined force, said Maj Gen (retd) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday.

"Negligence in enforcing laws and asserting command in the force triggers a lack of professionalism and sparks chaos in the army," he

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Maj Gen (retd) Ruhul Alam Chowdhury

Such attempt unwanted

A coup attempt is never desirable as everyone wants to see strict discipline in the army, said Maj Gen (retd) Ruhul Alam Chowdhury.

"For a long time, we have been hearing rumours that a chaotic incident has taken place in the army. The army has said it is investigating the

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BNP likely to return to next JS session

Party plans to raise caretaker issue

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The BNP and its allies are likely to return to parliament at its winter session beginning on Wednesday. The move is aimed at putting pressure on the government to restore the caretaker government system in the constitution.

The leading opposition party's standing committee and parliamentary party will convene soon to finalise a date for its return to the House as well as shape its strategy in the Jatiya Sangsad, party insiders have said.

Clearly cheered by the recent successful road marches towards Sylhet, Chapainawabganj, Khulna and Chittagong, BNP leaders are now planning to use parliament as a platform to press the government on some major

issues and to mobilise public support.

"We won't return to the House only for retaining our membership. Rather we will take the opportunity to speak for the caretaker system," said a senior BNP leader on condition of anonymity.

Under the provisions of the constitution, an MP's seat falls vacant if he or she remains absent from parliament for 90 sittings at a stretch without any prior permission from the Speaker.

The opposition legislators will have to return to the House if the session is prolonged for more than 34 working days.

Lawmakers of the BNP have been abstaining from parliament for about 48 sittings on average. Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia herself failed to turn up for 53 sittings.

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TIB-TII, AI slate BSF atrocities

Call for judicial probe

UNB, Dhaka

The Bangladesh and India chapters of Transparency International and the Amnesty International yesterday strongly condemned the brutal torture of a Bangladeshi young man by Indian BSF members for allegedly refusing to pay bribe.

In a joint statement issued simultaneously from Dhaka and New Delhi, TIB and TII demanded a judicial probe into the incident and exemplary punishment to the perpetrators without any undue delay.

TIB Executive Director

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Dhaka International Trade Fair draws a vast crowd on the weekend yesterday. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: STAR

Indian smugglers kidnap BGB man

1 smuggler killed in BGB operations

UNB, Comilla

Indian smugglers kidnapped a BGB man following a clash between the two sides at Dalkia village in Sadar Dakkhin upazila of Comilla yesterday morning that left a smuggler dead.

Major Istiaque, an officer of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), said a gang of Indian smugglers led by Shah Alam were bringing phenidyl syrup into Bangladesh through the Tripura border at about 6:45am.

On information, a BGB patrol team of Bouara Border Out Post (BOP) chased the gang.

Sensing presence of the team, smugglers fled the scene leaving behind a cartoon containing 50 bottles of contraband drugs.

Later, the smugglers equipped with homemade arms attacked BGB members from behind when they were returning to the BOP with the recovered drugs.

The smugglers also hit BOP commander Havildar Lutfur Rahman with sharp weapons.

In self-defence, BGB members fired six shots leaving Shah Alam, of Tarapukuria village of Sipajjala district in

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