

Muzaffer Ahmad

FROM PAGE 20
not isolated from society. It is influenced by ongoing unrest in our society," he said.

He said, "Although we live in a democratic country, we are yet to absorb democratic behaviour and culture. This is why such incidents occur."

He also stressed the need for national unity on the issue of the welfare of the nation in order for such attempts to be averted in future.

Sultana Kamal

FROM PAGE 20
activist Sultana Kamal has said.

"Over the years the fanatical forces have been infiltrated various sectors of society. They have their anxieties and it is natural that they will react," she told The Daily Star, suggesting that all the organs and institutions of the state act according to the constitution and laws of the country.

Sultana Kamal, who was adviser to a former caretaker government, lauded the army for foiling the coup bid and holding a press conference to clear any confusion over the issue.

"Though there is no scope to verify the statements of ISPR [Inter-Services Public Relations], they have started informing people. Thus, I think, a process of coming by transparency has been set in motion," she said.

Imtiaz Ahmed

FROM PAGE 20
in politics. The third force will have a role in politics until such polarisation ends, he observed.

He emphasised the need for immediately collecting more information to understand the depth of the coup attempt and appreciated the army's professional handling of the matter.

Akbar Ali Khan

FROM PAGE 20
has been successfully tackled.

"Things are quite under the control of the government and the army," he said, observing that any change in the government must take place in a democratic and constitutional way.

"Nothing extra-constitutional should happen," Akbar Ali Khan, also a former cabinet secretary, told The Daily Star.

Star helps

FROM PAGE 20
She has to beg at this age since her husband had died and children stopped looking after her. "How can I buy warm clothes when I cannot eat daily?" she said helplessly.

Nurunnahar was one of some 80 people, mainly elderly, who were given blankets by The Daily Star at two spots of Musallipara in Kaliragra char under Jatrapur union. Around 400 warm clothes were distributed among the people of the area under Sadar upazila.

"Although I had to face tremendous hardship to reach here, now I am happy to feel that I will be able to sleep comfortably from tonight," said Nurunnahar, who walked around two kilometres to reach the spot wearing a torn saree amid cold on Thursday.

Sexagenarian Hosne Ara of nearby Mandalpara said she has to remain awake throughout the night as her kantha (a sheet made of clothes) cannot protect her from the severe cold.

Defying thick fog and cold, many children, most of them in shorts and barefooted, gathered at the spots to have warm clothes.

"I do not have a trouser. I requested my father several times to buy me one, but he said he cannot. His entire earnings have been spent on daily commodities," said Kamrul, a class-three student of Goalpuri Musallipara Ebtedayee Madrasa.

Talking to The Daily Star, Asaduzzaman Miah, member of Jatrapur Union Parishad, urged affluent individuals and organisations to extend assistance to the poor people of the area during winter.

Major Zia

FROM PAGE 1

arrest on December 15 from his Matikata residence near Dhaka Cantonment along with his laplot.

Another suspect Maj (ret'd) Zakir is also currently detained.

The suspected planners of the coup attempt were propagating among some army officers establishment of Islamic rule in the country by toppling the incumbent elected government, the sources said.

They also planned to make senior army officers ministers of their government if their plot became successful, the sources added.

Army investigators are now trying to unearth the detail of the plan.

The army on Thursday said it foiled a "coup attempt to overthrow the present democratic government".

A band of religious fanatics, comprising mid-ranking officers and their retired colleagues, was involved in the failed putsch, Brig Gen Muhammad Mashud Razzaq said at a press briefing.

At the instigation of some non-resident Bangladeshis, they sought to "disrupt democracy by creating anarchy in the army, cashing in on the fanaticism of others", said an army statement.

Banned Tahrir

FROM PAGE 20
Talking to The Daily Star, Mohammad Shamsul Islam, general secretary of the mosque committee, denied allegations of their involvement and said they did not know the youths who were arrested.

Talking to The Daily Star all the five detained youths said that they believe in the ideology of Hizb ut-Tahrir.

Arrestee Mosabbir said, "Being a Muslim, I believe that the present government and the policies of the government do not follow the Islamic ethics and therefore we all support Hizb ut-Tahrir activities."

Commander M Sohail, director of Legal and Media wing of Rab, said injured Maj Moshtaque, who led the drive, was admitted to Combined Military Hospital while Corporal Idris Ali was given first aid.

Our staff correspondent in Chittagong reports: Around 15 Hizb ut-Tahrir men held a quick meeting in front of Anderkillah Shahi Jame Mosque soon after the Jum'a prayers. They had distributed leaflets urging people to resist the "anti-Islamic" government.

SM Tanvir Arafat, assistant commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (Detective Branch), said police could not identify the Hizb ut-Tahrir men as they were posing as devotees at Jum'a prayers. Sensing the presence of police, they left their banner behind and disappeared among the devotees.

Hizb ut-Tahrir is an international Islamist political party founded in Jerusalem in 1953. It started its activities in Bangladesh in 2000. Bangladesh banned the organisation in 2009.

The army in a press briefing Thursday mentioned that Hizb ut-Tahrir was involved in a recently foiled coup attempt.

AL leader

FROM PAGE 20
Awami League clashed over control of Momtaz market in South Keraniganj.

The accused are Mujibur Rahman, local AL leader, Chaklader Opu, a clothes trader, businessman Morshed Alam Opu and Momtaz market manager Md Swadhin.

Sohel, son of rickshaw puller Hafiz Uddin, was playing in front of his home along with friends when a stray bullet hit him.

Officer-in-charge of South Keraniganj Police Station Sakhawat Hossain said Hafiz filed a case on Thursday night against the four accused and 200 unknown others.

The body of Sohel was buried the same night at Ambagicha graveyard. "I had pinned huge hopes on Sohel, who was the youngest among my five children, to continue studying till graduation," said Hafiz adding that his other children could not pursue studies after class-II due to lack of financial assistance.

He said their financial condition is now better but his dream of seeing Sohel as a graduate was shattered.

Hafiz demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits.

Father of Zia, Syed Zillul Haque, a businessman, told The Daily Star over the phone last night that he was urging his son, through the media, to report to his senior officers immediately to show respect to the army and the law of the country. "None including my son is above the motherland and its law," he said from his Baridhara DOHS residence in the capital.

Zillul claimed that he has no contact with Zia since December 23 last year. He said many people wanted to know about Zia's whereabouts but he does not know.

He said Zia used to be a moderate practicing Muslim, but he submerged himself in hardline religiosity after his first wife died of cancer. Asked whether he believes Zia was involved in the plot against the army and the government, Zillul said he could not say for sure until he talks to his son.

The army sources said Maj Zia had been absent from work for 21 days once without any permission. Back then his unprofessional behaviour was forgiven because he is a recipient of the sword of honour.

Anwar Hossain

FROM PAGE 20
committed crimes against humanity and war crimes during Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971.

The top war criminals are now in jail and it is very much true that conspiracy is going on to foil their ongoing trial, Prof Anwar said, adding, "The army is a strong pillar of a state..."

"The army has identified a band of religious fanatics behind the coup attempt. But we have been stating for long that the Jamaat-e-Islami has placed its cadres in the army in a planned way, which is very dangerous," he commented.

Prof Anwar congratulated the army for disclosing the facts related to the foiled coup. He thinks that the army should have disclosed the facts a bit earlier since the coup attempt had partly been revealed through blogs and Facebook in the last few days.

"People are the ultimate source of power and such conspiracies should be faced with people supportive of the pro-democracy forces," he added.

Iran calls

FROM PAGE 20
and Israel have threatened to stop by war.

One diplomat told Reuters that the major powers seeking to negotiate an end to Iran's suspected pursuit of nuclear weapons would probably issue a statement later yesterday laying out what Tehran would need to do to resume talks. The group was expected to provide details of an offer it made to Iran in October in an effort to bring Iranians back to the negotiating table.

An Iranian lawmaker, however, had said earlier there was no chance of resuming negotiations with the group - the five UN Security Council permanent members plus Germany - unless they agreed in advance to exclude the nuclear issue from the agenda.

After Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei paid his respects to the families of two scientists assassinated on what Tehran believes were Israel's orders, one of them just last week, a close ally who is a former nuclear negotiator and currently speaker of parliament demanded retribution.

"Terrorism has a long history in some countries like the Zionist regime," Ali Larijani said of Israel, which views an atomic bomb in the hands of the Islamic Republic as a threat to the survival of the Jewish state.

"The Zionist regime should be punished in a way that it can not play such games with our country again."

Such threats have been made before in Tehran and it is unclear how or when they might be carried out.

Israel's deputy foreign minister has denied accusations that it deployed the hit squad which blew up Mostafa Ahmadi-Roshan on a busy Tehran street last week. But the country has a record of such attacks and is widely presumed by Western analysts to be engaged, along with allies, in a covert war against a nuclear development program which Iran insists is entirely civilian.

Harun-Ar-Rashid

FROM PAGE 1
crimes trial and root out the fanatical parties and organisations from the country for good," he said.

Gen Harun also warned that conspiracy had not ended.

According to him, the coup attempt is connected with the February 25-26, 2009 mutiny in the then BDR, later renamed as Border Guard Bangladesh. "After the mutiny, we had said that this was not the end and that the evil force would rear its head again. The recent coup attempt is nothing but a continuation of that effort."

"Those who assumed power through coups d'etat after 1975 and were the beneficiaries of such ill moves and still want to come into power through unconstitutional means were involved in the recent attempt," observed the ex-army chief.

Lauding the patriotic forces for destroying the sinister plot, Lt Gen Harun said the army of 1975 and the army of 2012 were not the same.

"Now we have a much more disciplined force than at any other time. The soldiers are well trained and more dignified, with belief in and respect for democracy, as all the serving officers were born in Bangladesh," he said.

Mahbubur Rahman

FROM PAGE 1
controversy and politics in the interest of the greater good of the country. Otherwise this might affect the country's security," said Gen Mahbubur who is also a BNP standing committee member.

Ruhul Alam

FROM PAGE 1
matter and we should wait for the findings to emerge," he told The Daily Star.

KM Shafiullah

FROM PAGE 1
effort has been made at a time when the trial of war criminals has taken a concrete shape. The conspirators attempted to topple the democratic government when Gulam Azam, the prime accused in the war crimes trial, was arrested," he said, adding that the coup attempt, without doubt, exhibited an intention of foiling the trial of the war criminals.

"Though there have been many ups and downs in the last forty years, the army and the intelligence services have become much more mature and they have foiled the evil plan successfully and in time," said Gen Shafiullah.

Amin Ahmed

FROM PAGE 1
said. He noted that in the past major chaos in the force occurred owing to small violations of discipline and rules being overlooked.

On the recent incident, he said those who attempted the coup follow an ideology, may be religious, political or something else, which is prohibited under army regulations.

Risky curves

FROM PAGE 20
In an attempt to check road accidents on the busy highway, the work will be completed in the next three months, he said.

The minister told three journalists after inaugurating a Load Control Station (weighing scale) at Bathuli Dhamrai upazila to protect the road from damage by overloaded vehicles and control road crashes.

Quader said the weighing scale begins operation from today [yesterday], but the highway users, transport owners, and workers will be given 15 days to be aware. During the period, nobody will face penalty; legal action will be enforced from February 6, he added.

The minister also visited the 22 accident-prone points including Joka where filmmaker Tareque Masud, ATN news chief executive officer (CEO) Ashfaque Munier Mishuk, and three others were killed in an accident on August 13, 2011.

Local lawmakers Benzir Ahmed and Zahid Maleque Swapan, Roads and Highways Chief Engineer Aminur Rahman Laskar, and Nirapad Sarak Chai Andolon chairman Ilyas Kanchan were present during the visit.

A girl with determination

FROM PAGE 1
driven husband that her life is what she plans to make of it, that it is not hostage to his cruelty.

Even so, a gnawing fear works in the 19-year-old girl. She fears further assaults on her if her husband Rafiqul Islam is freed from jail.

Jui is refreshingly frank in her expression of thoughts. "My parents had asked me to drop my studies this year due to my fingers being cut off, but I thought otherwise," she says. But "as Rafiqul had tried to put a stop to my studies by hacking my fingers off, I took the matter more seriously and decided to foil him in his sinister plans."

She makes it a point to inform you that Rafiqul's family had earlier created impediments for her as she prepared for her SSC exams. She scored A-minus despite the obstructions from her husband's family.

Jui says she has not been able to go on with her studies well since the incident took place. However, she now wants to fill in the gap and resume her studies. It was with these thoughts in mind that she left the CRP for her Narsingdi home, which was a clear defiance of doctors' suggestions.

"I have to go home and study seriously as I could not continue with it for around one and a half months. I must do well in the examination to fulfill my dream of higher studies", Jui says matter-of-factly. "I am capable of writing, but doctors

have suggested that I sit for the examinations with a writer as a helping hand."

It is here that the CRP comes in. Jui now can now write with her right hand after the CRP authorities set up a splint between the remaining part of her thumb and wrist.

Occupational therapist Sumanta Ray of the CRP has told The Daily Star that although Jui can write, she must not write for three hours at a stretch at the examinations and, therefore, she should take part in the examinations with someone's help.

When contacted, Abu Bakkar Siddique, principal of Narsingdi Government College, said he would extend his helping hand and do everything so that Jui could get a writer to help her in her exams.

"I will request the controller of examinations through explaining her situation", says the principal. Jui is upbeat as she expounds on her dreams of being a lawyer. "As I wanted to be a lawyer, I got admitted to the arts department in HSC although I passed SSC from the commerce department."

Asked whether she wants any kind of help from others, she answers in the negative and says, "Let me try by myself. If I fail, I will seek others' help. Actually I do not prefer others' pity. I want to stand on my own feet. I will try for a part time job even as I go along with my studies." Her feelings about

the attitudes of some people in a few non-government organisations and the media are not exactly complimentary.

She remains grateful, though, to the CRP authorities as well as its doctors and therapists.

About the future, Jui says firmly that her relationship with her husband Rafiqul is at an end. She wants exemplary punishment for him.

"After my recovery and at the end of my HSC exams, I must divorce him formally", Jui notes.

She is candid about it all. "My wish is that Rafiqul stays in jail forever. He can harm me again. I am afraid that he will create problems again if he comes out of jail."

Jui is of the opinion that Rafiqul's sister and her husband were also responsible for the brutalities on her.

"They helped Rafiqul commit the barbarity on me. They had invited me to their cantonment house through cheating. Although they knew that Rafiqul was coming to Dhaka, they did not inform me. They asked me to come to Dhaka to receive a gift said to have been sent by Rafiqul from Dubai."

However, talking to The Daily Star, Rafiqul's brother-in-law Corporal Shafiqul Islam on December 15 denied the allegation and said he had not been informed of Rafiqul's arrival and he did not help in the brutality.

Rafiqul is now in jail after he was arrested by Cantonment police.

Mixed reaction

FROM PAGE 1
reporters after placing a wreath at a monument built for those who were killed in the 2001 bomb attack on a Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) rally.

"Such remarks by the head of the government will harm the country's democracy. We condemn it," he said, adding that BNP always wants to see the army, which is the symbol of sovereignty, disciplined.

Asked about the army briefing, the BNP leader said his party believes in democracy and that is why it always stands against autocracy and one-party rule.

Meanwhile, the party's standing committee member, Nazrul Islam Khan, claimed that BNP did not introduce military rule in the country. Rather, it was Awami League leaders who are responsible for the imposition of first martial law in Bangladesh.

"BNP always believes in democracy," he said while addressing a discussion organised by Swadhinata Forum at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday to mark the 76th birth anniversary of Ziaur Rahman.

He said Awami League leaders came to power by declaring martial law after the assassination of Shiekh Mujibur Rahman in 1975.

JSD

The party yesterday condemned the coup attempt by some derailed army officials.

In a joint statement, JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu and General Secretary Sharif Nurul Ambia congratulated the army on its timely action and also for making the matter public.

The statement said people were filled with apprehension about a possible conspiracy while the war crimes trial got momentum. "The people's apprehension has now become a reality."

"Religious fanatic groups active in the country should not be undermined," it read.

The two leaders urged all secular and democratic people to be united against any conspiracy against the ongoing war crimes trial.

They also recommended looking into whether the recent comments of opposition BNP leaders have any link with the failed coup.

BANGLADESH WORKERS PARTY
Bangladesh Workers Party demanded those involved with the anti-state scheme be unmasked and brought to trial.

In a written statement, the politburo, the highest policymaking body of the left leaning party, congratulated the army for frustrating the putsch.

Ishraq was drug addict

FROM PAGE 1
indiscipline in the past.

Ishraq became a drug addict after completing his Higher Secondary Certificate examinations in 1980, according to locals.

The Daily Star yesterday went to Ishraq's house, Din Monjil of Chakdebpara in Naogaon town, to get details on Ishraq but none of his family responded. Contacted over mobile phone, Ishraq's father refused to say anything about his son.

Locals say Ishraq's father MA Rakib sent him to Dhaka in 1981.

His elder brother Ishiaq Ahmed is now in Australia while his two sisters Iku and Tonu are now in Pakistan with their husbands.

Ishraq's father served as the president of National Awami Party (Nap) of Naogaon district unit several times. Locals still know him as a Nap leader although he is now inactive in the party. He was elected chairman of Naogaon municipality in 1977.

Ishraq's mother Umme Kulsum Jannatun Ferdous is the retired headmistress of Naogaon Government Girls High School.

According to the army statement made on Thursday, one of the main plotters of the coup Maj Syed Mohammad Ziaul Haque on January 10 communicated with Ishraq, who is possibly living in Hong Kong, about "developments and execution process of the coup".

Locals told The Daily Star that a Bihari man, Aftab, rented their house before the country's independence. During the Liberation War, Aftab became the chief of Al-Badr in Naogaon.

The district was freed on December 18 from the Pakistani occupation forces when the freedom fighters caught Aftab and confined him to a room of KD High School in the town. Two days later, when Aftab was freed, he fled from the town and went to Pakistan through India.

Aftab and Ishraq's family

had good relations. After the weddings of Ishraq's two sisters, they went to Pakistan with their husbands-elder sister Iku in 1980 and younger sister Tonu in 1988. Aftab helped them to go to Pakistan and also managed jobs for the two husbands.

The neighbours said they only know Ishraq is involved in business in Dhaka. They learnt about Ishraq's involvement in conspiracy against the government after watching TV reports and reading newspapers.

Brutally killed

FROM PAGE 20
Rabeya said her son was a drug addict and was involved in petty crimes.

Sub-Inspector Maksudul Hasan of Shyampur Police Station claimed deceased Abdur Rahman was a mugger. He was beaten to death by a mob while he was preparing to mug someone last night, the policeman said.

BGB man

FROM PAGE 1
Indian Tripura State, injured.

Shah Alam succumbed to his injuries while being taken to an Indian hospital.

Later, the smugglers with the aide of some Indians of Tarapukuria abducted Havildar Lutfor from Bangladesh border area and beat him severely.

Later, Indian Border Security Force (BSF) members took Lutfor to their camp.

Meanwhile, a flag meeting between BGB and BSF aimed at bringing back Lutfor ended without any decision yesterday afternoon.

After the two-and-a-half hours long meeting that began at 12:30 pm, Col Akhtaruzzaman of BGB told journalists that another flag meeting will be held today.

A K Habbrom, commandant officer of BSF 29 Battalion, led his country's team in the meeting that held near No 2088 main pillar of the border in Sadar Dakkhin upazila.

Youth crushed

FROM PAGE 20
The deceased was identified as Palash Sarkar, 26, son of Gobinda Sarkar of Nowabganj in Dhaka.

The injured are Gautam Saha, 28, and Md Arman, 20. They are undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Witnesses said the accident happened at about 6:30 am when the helper lost control over the steering and rammed into the rickshaw, injuring its passenger Gautam and passers-by Palash and Arman seriously.

Palash died on the spot.

Locals chased the truck and captured it along with its drunken helper Ilias. On information, law enforcers from Bakalia Police Station rushed to the spot, rescued Ilias from the angry mob and seized the truck.

Police Sub-inspector Anwar Ullah told The Daily Star "Ilias could not show us his driving licence."

Besides, a medical report confirmed that he was drunk at the time of the accident, Anwar said.

Sajal Chowdhury, brother of Gautam, said Palash and Gautam were returning home after attending a wedding ceremony at a community centre in the morning.

As soon as Gautam got into a rickshaw, the trucker rammed it from behind and ran over Palash, who was waiting on a roadside footpath to ride with his friend Gautam, Sajal added.

A case was filed, said SI Anwar.

BNP likely

FROM PAGE 1
The BNP-led opposition MPs have so far joined only 51 sittings of a total of 253 sittings till the last session, which was prorogued on November 29 last year.

Party standing committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain has said the BNP leadership will discuss the issue of a return to parliament in the party forum in due time.

Rafiqul Islam Mia, another member of the committee, said his party wanted to see a continuation of constitutional politics in the interest of democracy.

"We don't want to go for any destructive programmes and that is why we joined the presidential dialogue [on the constitution of a new Election Commission] and organised road marches to drum up public support in favour of our demands," he pointed out.

On being reminded of the 90-day constitutional limit, the former minister said, "Of course we will join the parliament session. But the government has to create a congenial atmosphere before we do."

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque, however, said he did not have any directives regarding a return of his party lawmakers to the House. "I will take necessary steps if any new decision is reached," he observed.

Some BNP legislators contacted by The Daily Star said they had already begun preparations to attend the parliament session.

"Whenever given the floor, we will