

Muzaffer Ahmad

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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

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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, process of coming by transparency has been set in motion," she said.

Imtiaz Ahmed

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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

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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

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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 sari 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 bare-footed, 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

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

Another suspect Maj (retd) Zaki 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 source said.

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

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 dependents, 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 Tahir

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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 Andherkilla Shahi Jame Mosque soon after the Jum'a prayers. They had distributed leaflets urging people to resist the "anti-Islamic" government.

"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

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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," he added.

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.

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Hafiz demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits.

AL leader

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Awami League clashed over control of Motijheel market in South Keraniganj.

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

Soheb, 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 Skhawat Hossain said Hafiz filed a case on Thursday night against the four accused and 200 unknown others.

The body of Soheb was buried the same night at Ambigacha graveyard.

"I had pinned huge hopes on Soheb, 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.

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Harun-Ar-Rashid

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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'état 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

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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

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

KM Shafiqullah

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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 Ghulam Azam, the prime accused in the war crimes trial, was arrested," said Gen Shafiqullah who is also a BNP standing committee member.

Amin Ahmed

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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

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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 this to journalists after inaugurating a Load Control Station (weighing scale) at Bathul in Dhamrai upazila to protect the road from damage by overloaded vehicles and control road crashes.

Qauder 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 Benizir 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.

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A girl with determination

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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.

"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 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 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 some one's help.

When contacted, Abu Bakar 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.

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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.

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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

BGB man

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Indian Tripura State, injured. Shah Alam succumbed to his injuries while being taken to an Indian hospital.

Later, the