



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE
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The show begins at Bashundhara Convention City in Dhaka
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'LECTURE ON FREEDOM'
New biography of George HW Bush reveals his tough relationship with Thatcher
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Anup Chetia sent back after 18 yrs

Modi calls, thanks Hasina after handover of Ulfa leader to India



Real name **GOLAP BARUAH**
One of founding members of Ulfa
Arrested in Dhaka on December 21, 1997
Accused in 3 cases; jailed for 7 years
Sought political asylum in 2005, 2008 and in 2011

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a major boost to bilateral security cooperation, Bangladesh handed over top Ulfa leader Anup Chetia to India yesterday, 18 years after his arrest in Dhaka for trespassing.

Chetia, a founding member of one of India's top insurgent groups United Liberation Front of Asom (Ulfa), had been in prison since his arrest in Mohammadpur on December 21, 1997.

New Delhi had been pressing for his deportation for years so that he could join the on-going peace talks between the Ulfa faction led by Arabinda Rajkhowa and the Centre, according to Indian media.

Finally, following personal intervention of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and active involvement of National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Chetia was sent back in pre-dawn hours from Kashimpur High-Security Central

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A passenger's leg is seen as a body panel is missing at the rear of a bus. Vehicles like this one, with broken or missing body panels, ply the city streets, increasing risks of accidents. The photo was taken from Rampura DIT Road on Monday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

TIB never intends to hurt JS

Says the watchdog in statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Transparency International Bangladesh has never aimed to tarnish the dignity of the House, rather it helps boost people's confidence in parliament.

"The only objective of the TIB-conducted research -- Parliament Watch -- is to play the role of a catalyst in enhancing the effectiveness of the honourable Jatiya Sangsad through making constructive contribution," said the anti-graft watchdog yesterday in a statement signed by Chairperson of its board of trustees Sultana Kamal.

The statement has come at a time when several ruling party lawmakers have been criticising it for releasing a report on October 25 on the functioning of parliament.

According to the report, lawmakers' participation in question-answer sessions and discussions on important issues were less in the current parliament -- from

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Radicalism growing freely

Counter-terrorism failing for 3 reasons; govt waging no effective war on terror; law enforcers not trained to take on motivated criminals

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The fight against rising extremism sees no results mainly for three reasons -- problems within law enforcement agencies, poor political will of the government and a general inability of the masses and even a section of law enforcers to separate religion from radicalism.

Taking advantage of all these, religious fundamentalists are growing in numbers and in strength and are attacking freethinkers, say investigators and security experts. They fear that more such attacks may take place in the coming days.

One of the biggest problems lies with the law enforcers tasked with countering extremism. They grapple with multiple problems -- inefficiency, lack of logistics, infighting, non-

sharing of intelligence and no capacity-building on counterterrorism, just to name a few.

And confusions over the government's political will or lack of it make things worse for law enforcers. True that the government gets kudos from around the world for its much publicised anti-militancy policy. But the fact remains that it has not waged any effective war on the ground against the ever-growing threat.

The proposal for a National Police Bureau of Counter Terrorism, for example, is gathering dust at the Prime Minister's Office for seven years now, and a nationwide campaign to create public awareness against radicalism lost its way years ago.

The general trend is that the party in power tries to keep radicals happy, the party in opposition looks for opportu-

nities to incite them and law enforcers do not -- and cannot -- do anything other than what they are told to.

In the meantime, more bodies are added to the body count. This year alone, four bloggers known for their freethinking writings have been hacked to death by suspected militants. Then came the recent spell of random killings. Since late September, two foreigners, two cops and a publisher lost their lives and an Ashura gathering of the Shia Muslims was bombed for the first time in the Sunni-majority Bangladesh, killing two people.

Probes are on, and investigators are not ruling out that militants might have a hand in some of these, if not all.

COPS: INTERROGATORS OR SYMPATHISERS?
Shockingly, there is no proper manual

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Putting blame on messenger won't work

SHAKHAWAT LITON

What Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta said about the TIB five years ago and what he is saying about it now are very significant.

Speaking at a discussion on December 27, 2010, he said when in opposition the AL had supported the TIB's report as it spoke about the BNP-led government's corruption.

"But now that we are in power, we are rejecting TIB's report," he said.

Suranjit, also chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the law ministry, might have forgotten what he had said five years ago. Alongside some other AL leaders, he has now launched a blistering attack on the TIB for its latest report on the current parliament's functions.

He has accused the TIB of humiliating the House, the

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FIGHTING EXTREMISM
WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THIS FRONT?

- It's not on government's priority list
- There's no capacity building, available expertise, resources are left to waste
- Some interrogators sympathise with militants; get motivated by radicals during questioning
- No campaign to deradicalise extremists and their potential targets
- Both AL and BNP have ties with radical Islamist parties, so they don't go tough on radicals
- Some good steps taken by 2007-08 nonparty caretaker government to fight terrorism fizzled out after AL took office in 2009

Khadem killed in Rangpur

STAR REPORT

Unidentified criminals hacked a khadem of a mazar to death in Choita intersection area under Kaunia upazila in Rangpur district Tuesday night.

The deceased was Rahamat Ali, 55, of Bade Moskur village of the same upazila.

According to police, a group of miscreants attacked Rahmat with sharp weapons while he was returning home from his medicine shop in Choita intersection area around 11:30pm, leaving him dead on the spot.

Locals said he was hacked brutally on the head and neck.

Rahmat established a mazar in his father Abdus Sattar's name in Choita intersection area and himself became a Khadem there. Weekly jikir is held there every Thursday, said locals and police sources.

On November 21 every year, Rahmat used to

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The Tigers capped off a fantastic 2015 with a thumping 61-run victory over Zimbabwe in the third and final ODI yesterday to sweep the series 3-0, their fourth consecutive ODI series victory at home. Story on page 14.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Consider gravity of crimes before granting bail

PM urges judges, again blames BNP, Jamaat for recent attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged judges to consider the seriousness of the crimes before granting bail to a person accused of militancy.

This should be done so that the criminals cannot resume their misdeeds getting out on bail, she told parliament.

The government has nothing to do if judges "grant bails to criminals", she said.

She also urged lawyers not to work for the bails of "criminals who are caught by police after making immense efforts and spending hundreds of crores of taka".

Hasina called upon the lawmakers, the people, and the media to identify those involved in militancy, terrorist activities and cyber crimes and help the government capture them.

She said people arrested at different times in connection with militant activities have their "roots in BNP-Jamaat and their allies".

"... if we look into their identities, we'll see that they are all BNP and Jamaat men and their allies who opposed our independence and Liberation War."

Accusing them of carrying out militant activities in the country, the PM said, "Records of the arrestees' student or young life politics clearly show that they are BNP-Jamaat men."

The premier pledged that her government would take all necessary measures to ensure safety of the people.

In a scripted reply to lawmakers' queries, Hasina