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Indian war veterans relive '71 glory days

In city to attend V-Day programme, they recall fighting Pakistan army, shoulder-to-shoulder with Mukti Bahini, how 'Joy Bangla' worked wonders

TAMANNA KHAN

Col MM Kapoor had to wait 44 years to come to the country that he had fought to liberate in December 1971.

"I was among the first batch of 106 odd soldiers who entered Dhaka on the morning of December 16 around 10:42am from somewhere near Mirpur," he said.

He recalled how his troops had intercepted some Pakistani phone calls about the plan of surrender in Dhaka and how a high-ranking officer in the Pakistan army laid down his pistol before him on December 16.

"The pistol is still kept in our battalion's mess," he told The Daily Star yesterday at the capital's Palm View restaurant.

Ten of the 27 Indian army personnel, who participated in this year's Victory Day celebration as guests on Wednesday, gathered there to meet freedom fighters with whom they had fought side by side against the Pakistan occupation forces during the Liberation War.



Col MM Kapoor Maj Gen Rajendra Cdr Raizada

Kapoor was among the over 800 paratroopers who had landed in Poongli Bridge of Tangail on December 11, 1971 to obstruct the 93 Brigade of Pakistani Army that was retreating from the north to defend Dhaka.

He recounted how the airdrop was made during the day, ahead of the scheduled time at night. He explained that airdropping by the day increased the risk of being caught or shot at but their visibility greatly helped to infuse fear in the minds of the enemy who overestimated their exact number. The attack was successful and they thwarted the Pakistan army from advancing towards the



With nothing warmer available, a woman and her child wrap themselves in a worn-out sari as they make the platform of Kamalapur Railway Station their bed. The photo taken on Wednesday night gives a glimpse of how miserable the lives of the city's underprivileged are becoming with the winter setting in.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Probe allegations of code breach by minister, MPs

EC asks six returning officers

PANKAG KARMAKAR

The Election Commission last night directed the returning officers of six municipality polls to investigate the allegations of violating electoral code of conduct by a minister and some lawmakers.

"We have noticed some media reports that said a minister and some lawmakers joined electoral campaigns in the last couple of days, including on Victory Day. We have asked returning officers to look into the matter," EC's Secretary



Sirazul Islam told The Daily Star.

"As the returning officers are responsible for conducting the polls, we have already directed them to take action if such allegations of rules violation are found to be true," the secretary told The Daily Star.

Breaching electoral rules, a minister and MPs on Wednesday in municipalities joined electoral campaigns in the name of Victory Day celebrations, according to media reports.

Health Minister Mohammad Nasim and AL-nominated

FIGHTING ISIS Controversy rages over Saudi-led coalition

Pakistan confirms its participation

AGENCIES

Controversy and confusion continue over the new Saudi-led "Islamic military alliance" for "fighting terrorism".

While some of the countries apparently in the alliance claim to have never heard of it, some major Muslim nations have been left out of it, calling into question the

coalition's aim.

After initial ambiguity, the Pakistan government on Wednesday confirmed its participation in it, but said the scope of its participation would be defined after Riyadh shared the details of the coalition, reports Pakistani daily Dawn.

"Pakistan ... is awaiting further details to

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It won't affect Bangladeshis in Middle East

Says minister over Dhaka's decision to join anti-IS alliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's decision to join Saudi Arabia-led Islamic military coalition will not lead to Islamic State targeting Bangladeshi expats in the Middle Eastern countries, said the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment minister yesterday.

He, however, could not explain why he thought so.

"We are not concerned about IS. Bangladesh has decided to join the alliance as the country's policy goes

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NATURE QUEST

Go birding in Purbachal

ENAM UL HAQUE

On holidays Purbachal is a few minutes' ride from the northern residential areas of Dhaka city. But the contrast between the claustrophobic concrete jungle of Dhaka's residential areas and the expanse of Purbachal is as stark as

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Forge nat'l unity to fight extremism

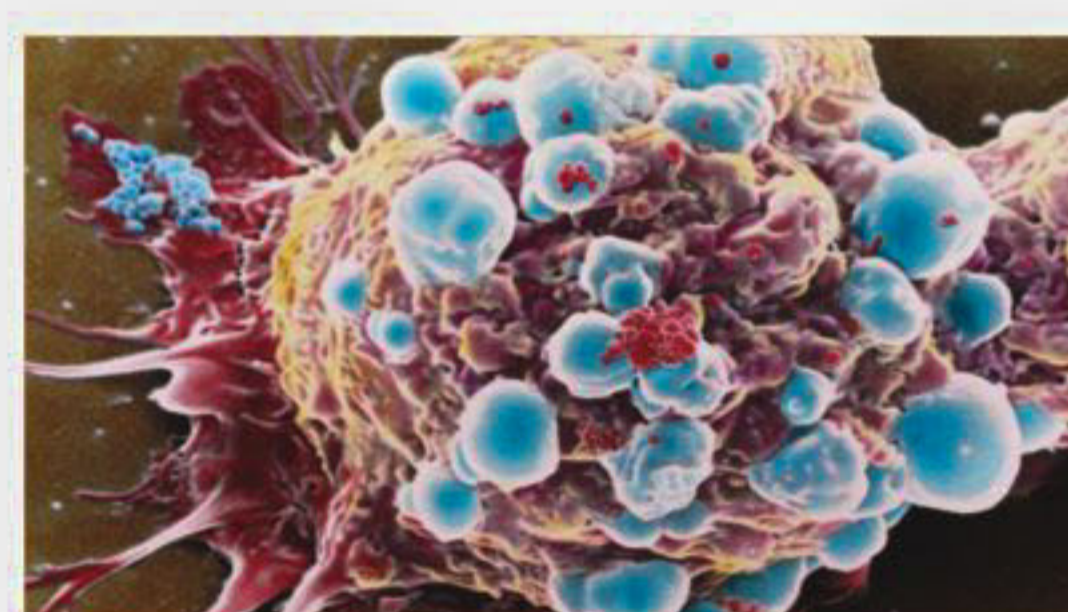
Fakhrul to govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saying that there is no scope to take militant outfit IS's alleged presence in the country lightly, BNP acting secretary general yesterday called upon the government to forge national unity to save Bangladesh from religious extremism.

"Different types of statements are being made regarding the [alleged] IS's presence here. We think there is no scope to treat militancy issue lightly," Fakhrul said while

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Cancer 'not just down to bad luck'

BBC ONLINE

Cancer is overwhelmingly a result of environmental factors and not largely down to bad luck, a study suggests.

Earlier this year, researchers sparked a debate after suggesting two-thirds of cancer types were down to luck rather than factors such as smoking.

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PRAYER TIMING

DECEMBER 18

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-20 12-30 3-45 5-22 7-00

JAMAAT 5-55 1-15 4-00 5-25 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

'No Militant links found'

Police press charges against 11 including Jubo dal leader

RU CORRESPONDENT

Eleven people, including a district Jubo Dal leader, have been charged with the killing of Rajshahi University professor AKM Shafiu Islam.

The charge sheet was submitted to Rajshahi Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on November 30, police told The Daily Star yesterday.

Prof Shafiu of sociology was hacked to death in front of his house in Choddopai area, outside Rajshahi city, on November 15 last year.

The 48-year-old was known as a progressive-minded teacher.

Initially, it was suspected that fundamentalists killed him after a so-called militant outfit, Ansar-Al-Islam Bangladesh-2, claimed responsibility for the murder on its Facebook wall.

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UN moves to tighten net around IS finances

AFP, United Nations

Russian President Vladimir Putin threw his support yesterday behind a US-backed measure at the UN Security Council to ramp up sanctions against the Islamic State group and cut off its revenue flows.

US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew will lead the council's first-ever meeting of finance ministers for the vote that comes amid a major diplomatic push to end the war in Syria, where IS jihadists control a large swathe of territory and have installed their de facto capital.

The draft resolution is expected to win unanimous backing from the 15-member council, including Russia, Syria's ally which is now in the third month of its air campaign in support of President Bashar Al-Assad.

"We support an initiative by the United States including on the preparation of a UN Security Council resolution on Syria," Putin told reporters during an annual news conference.

The Russian leader said he had discussed the draft resolution with US Secretary of State John Kerry earlier this week.

The measure builds on a previous resolution setting up an al-Qaeda blacklist, which will be renamed the "ISIL (Daesh) and al-Qaeda sanctions list" to signal the UN's stronger focus on the IS extremists.

It calls on governments to ensure they have adopted laws that make the financing of IS and of foreign fighters who join its ranks a serious criminal offense.

The measure urges countries to "move vigorously and decisively to cut the flow of funds, and other financial assets and economic resources" including oil and antiquities to the IS group, and to "more actively" submit names to the sanctions list.

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বিজ্ঞপ্তি

WARPO
পানি সম্পদ পরিকল্পনা সংস্থা

“পানি সম্পদ পরিকল্পনা সংস্থা (ওয়ারপো)” এর দপ্তরের ঠিকানা পরিবর্তন

‘পানি সম্পদ পরিকল্পনা সংস্থা (ওয়ারপো)’ এর দপ্তর ভবন স্থানান্তর করা হয়েছে, আগামী ০১ জানুয়ারি, ২০১৬ তারিখ হতে নতুন দপ্তর ভবনে কার্যক্রম শুরু হবে। পুরাতন এবং নতুন দপ্তর ভবনের ঠিকানা নিম্নরূপঃ

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