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LABOUR RECRUITMENT

Bangladesh mission against Malaysia move

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPLOB

In the wake of a series of controversies, the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur now says Malaysia's appointing a company would establish its absolute control over labour recruitment from Bangladesh.

"The Malaysian government will select Bangladesh Recruiting Authorities through online system supervised by a [Malaysian] company. The Bangladesh government will not have any control to ensure whether any recruiting agency will get work or not," reads a December 6 letter from the Bangladesh mission to the expatriates' welfare ministry in Dhaka.

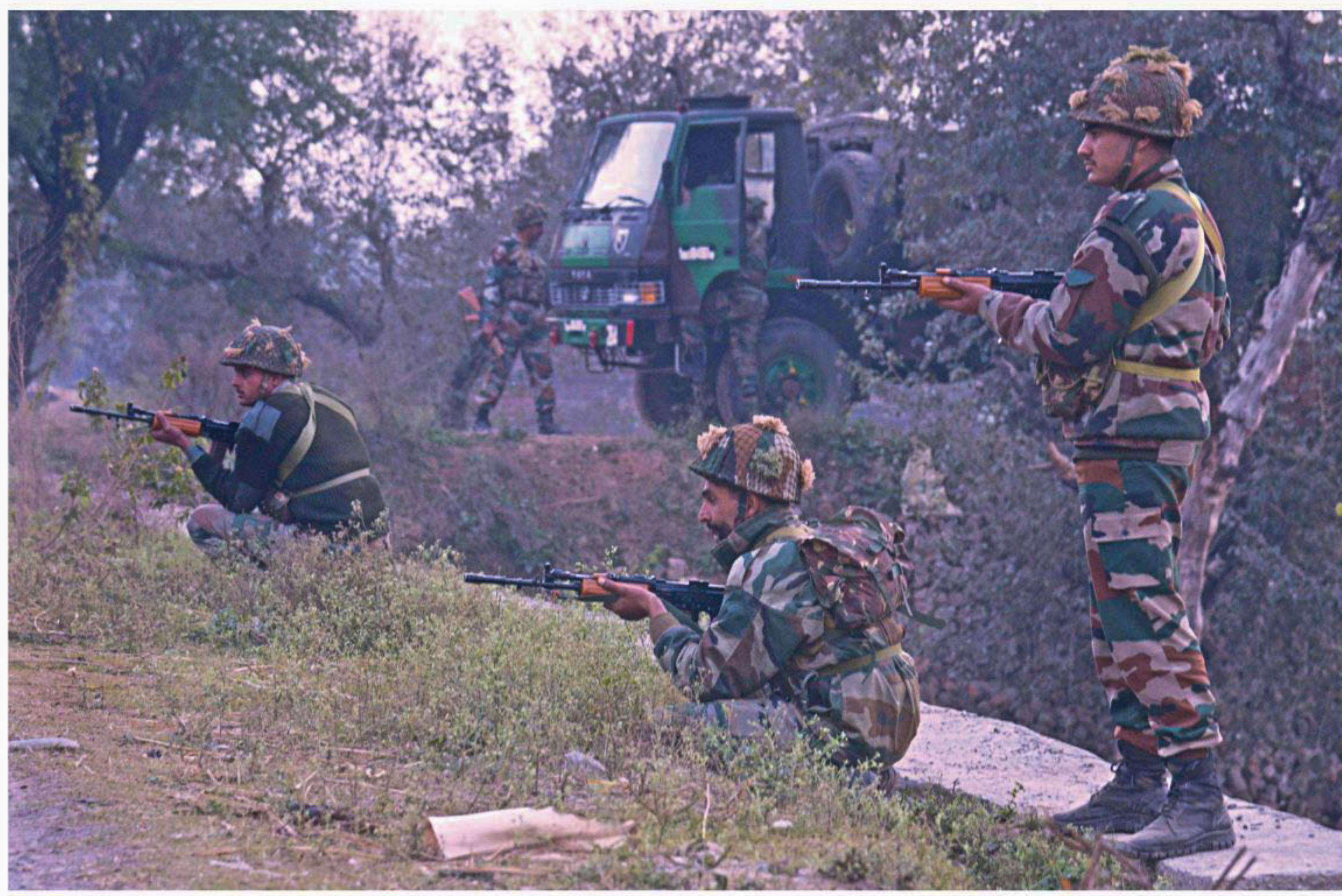
In the letter, Sayedul Islam, labour counsellor at the high commission, requested the ministry to look into the issues seriously before signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Malaysia on labour recruitment.

It mentions that the Malaysian government's decision is worrying because the Bangladesh government has to take all liabilities for failures of the selected recruiting agencies though Dhaka will have no role in the hiring process proposed by Kuala Lumpur.

"There is a fear of limiting the job of recruiting manpower only by some agencies after creating a syndicate by the company," the letter said without mentioning the name of any company.

However, in September, Malaysia informed Bangladesh

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Indian Army personnel stand alert near the Air Force Base in Pathankot yesterday during an ongoing attack on the base by suspected militants, who are believed to have infiltrated from Pakistan. A major operation to secure the base ended 14 hours after gunmen wearing army uniforms the military facilities in northern Punjab state.

PHOTO: AFP

College girl 'kills herself'

'Family's failure to fund her studies might be reason'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A college girl allegedly killed herself on Friday night for what seems to be her parents' inability to bear her educational expenses, including her HSC registration fees.

For over a week, the girl had been threatening her parents that she would commit suicide if they did not give her the money she wanted, said her family members and neighbours.

"She fought with us that night after we told her that we would not be able to pay Tk 28,900 in the morning. She said she'd kill herself, but we didn't take her threat seriously," her mother Shima Begum told The Daily Star.

She said her daughter was found hanging from a ceiling fan in her room at their rented house in Mirpur around 10:00pm. The girl was taken to Dhaka Medical

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JANUARY 5

AL, BNP plan rallies at same venue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League yesterday said it would hold a rally in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan on January 5 to mark the second anniversary of the 10th parliamentary election.

The announcement came hours after the BNP unveiled plans for a rally at the venue the same day to observe the day as "Democracy Killing Day".

In a press release last night, the AL said it would hold rallies and discussions and bring out processions in Dhaka and other metropolitan cities, all district towns and upazilas to observe the day as "Victory of Democracy Day".

In Dhaka city, 18 rallies would be held simultaneously at as many venues, including Suhrawardy Udyan, at 2:30pm.

Eighteen different teams comprising ruling party ministers and lawmakers have been formed in this regard, said the release.

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'For now, no confrontation'

BNP plans if denied permission to hold Jan 5 rally, say party insiders

RASHIDUL HASAN

The BNP will not go for any confrontation or movement right now even if it doesn't get permission for a rally to observe the January 5 as "Democracy Killing Day", party insiders said.

Instead, the party has moved to prepare a "master plan" to reorganise itself, boost the morale of its leaders and activists ahead of the upcoming union parishad polls and lobby through diplomatic channels to put pressure on the government for holding an early election under a non-party administration.

To make the plan a success, the party will play up the government's failure to hold a free and fair municipality polls, added sources.

On BNP chief Khaleda Zia's instructions, three groups are working to lay out the "master plan," a BNP central leader told The Daily Star last night.

The "diplomatic group" is led by BNP standing committee member Moyeen Khan, the "organisational group" by acting secretary general Fakhru Islam Alamgir and the "think-tank group" by Khaleda's adviser Amir Khashru Mahmud Chowdhury.

The BNP high-ups have instructed the party's central and divisional teams, which were formed to assist the mayoral candidates in the December 30 municipality polls, to start their activities centring on the union parishad elections likely to be held in the middle of this year, a BNP assistant publicity secretary said.

About BNP's plan on the second anniversary of January 5 "one-sided" election, Mirza Fakhru at a briefing yesterday said the party would hold a rally at city's Suhrawardy Udyan on Tuesday to mark the day as "Democracy Killing Day". Besides, he said, all the district units of the party would observe the day by holding discussions.

A BNP delegation yesterday visited the Dhaka Metropolitan Police office to know about the fate of its letter seeking permission for the rally.

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Intern found 32 hrs after 'abduction'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An intern at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in the capital was found last night, about 32 hours after he was allegedly abducted from the college compound on Friday.

The hospital authorities received Shamim Khan Topu from the office of the Detective Branch (DB) of police around 11:00pm yesterday, said hospital Director Prof Uttam Kumar Barua.

Quoting Topu's brother Shiplu, Prof Uttam said detectives "rescued him from a dope gang".

The director further said Topu told him that the abductors dragged him in a microbus, blindfolded him and forced him to "sniff something" that made him unconscious.

Topu was picked up by four to five men from near the main gate of the college campus on Mirpur Road around 2:30pm on Friday, said his colleagues.

Earlier yesterday noon, intern doctors blocked Mirpur Road in front of the hospital for about an hour, demanding his return.

The protest created long tailback on the road, causing sufferings to commuters. The

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PHOTO ON PAGE 5

PAKISTAN'S REMOVAL OF ARTICLE NYT leaves pages blank in protest

The piece was on Bangladesh's secular bloggers



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The International edition of the New York Times newspaper had two blank pages after printers in Pakistan removed an article.

An article by one of the paper's freelance correspondents, Joshua Hammer, headlined "The imperilled bloggers of Bangladesh" was removed from the front page and page two.

The New York Times' Pakistan correspondent, Salman Masood, tweeted a physical copy of the paper without the article and the online edition

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Two hurt as shots fired at human haulier

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two relatives were hit by bullets when unidentified gunmen opened fire at a human haulier on the Dhaka-Mawa highway in Keraniganj upazila of Dhaka yesterday afternoon.

The victims are Md Shahabuddin, 40, and his nephew Ali Hossain, 20.

Six people on three

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PRAYER TIMING

JANUARY 3
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:00 5:30 7:00
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:15 5:35 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Police detain 5 Jamaat men in capital

Tk 1 crore found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday detained a Jamaat-e-Islami leader and four activists from the capital's Banasree along with Tk 1 crore on suspicion that they would spend the money on subversive activities.

One of the detainees is Giasuddin, chief accounts officer of Jamaat central committee and also a Rokon of the party. The four others, whose names could not be known immediately, are his associates, police said.

Police raided the house-cum-office of Giasuddin on the first floor of a building at Banasree around 3:30pm, said Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Rampura Police Station.

Several passports and organisational books were also recovered.

The money was kept at the office to finance subversive activities ahead of

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A man trying to console an elderly woman amid the ashes of her home, which along with two other houses on Railway Station Road Colony in Chittagong city was burnt down in a fire from an electric short-circuit yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Step up effort to catch fugitives

Home minister asks law enforcers as more than 50 war crimes accused, convicts still at large

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

With more than half of the war crimes accused remaining fugitives in the cases filed since August 2014, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal has directed law enforcers to intensify their efforts to catch them.

The home boss issued the directive at a meeting with representatives of law enforcement and detective agencies, and the prosecution and the investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal at the ministry on Wednesday, sources said.

It was the first time the home minister held such a meeting over war crimes fugitives, they said.

The high-level meeting and the directive came three days after the investigation agency called for amending the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act-1973 by incorporating some new provisions to stop the accused from fleeing.

Despite several directives by the tribunal and initiatives by the government to arrest the war crimes accused, more than half of them still remain free, frustrating justice seekers.

The two war crimes tribunals have issued arrest warrants against 102 war crimes accused in 18 cases since August 2014, but law enforcers have so far arrested only 45, according to The Daily Star reports.

Besides, two war crimes tribunals have so far convicted 24 accused. Of them, five have been convicted in absentia.

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