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6 suspected Huji men arrested

Plan to launch attacks on cultural programmes foiled, claim police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested six "members of banned militant outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami (Huji)", including its "Kushtia regional commander", in the capital's Kotwali area on Tuesday evening.

The arrestees were active members of Huji and loyal to the outfit's convicted leader Mufti Abdul Hannan, who is now in jail, said Additional Commissioner Monirul Islam, chief of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), at a press briefing at the DMP Media Centre yesterday.

He claimed that the group was preparing to carry out attacks on cultural programmes and on secular-minded cultural and political leaders in the capital and elsewhere.

The aim of the attack was also to draw attention of international terror organisations and get funding from those, according to police.

On information, a police team arrested the Huji members at a park in Zindabahr area on Tuesday evening while they were holding a meeting there.

Of the arrestees, four are from Kushtia. They are -- regional commander Sazzadul Alam alias Mukti Sir, a mathematics teacher of Lahini High School in Kushtia; Mejbahur



Concrete tetra pods on a beach near the army camp on Marine Drive Road in Cox's Bazar. After constructing the road, Bangladesh Army is now placing the pods and geo tube sandbags along the road to protect it from strong waves. The photo was taken earlier this month.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

EC won't seek army for UP polls

BGB to join other law enforcement agencies to ensure security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission is not going to seek army deployment in the upcoming Union Parishad polls as the EC apprehends lower level of violence compared to other elections.

"Currently, we don't see any logical ground to deploy army. No such situations have arisen that requires the move," said Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz.

He was talking to reporters at his EC Secretariat office in the capital yesterday.

"As these are grassroots level elections, all candidates and voters are usually known to each other. So, don't think there will be major violence during the polls," he observed.

Backtracking on his earlier comment, the commissioner said paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh

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MINIMUM MARRIAGEABLE AGE OF GIRLS

18 years as per law, 16 years in rules

Govt to allow marriage of 16-plus girls under special circumstances, says minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the minimum marriageable age of girls will remain unchanged at 18, a rule of the proposed Child Marriage Restraint Act would allow girls, aged 16 to 18, to get married under special circumstances, with permission from courts or their parents.

In Bangladesh, around 65 percent girls are married off before they reach 18.

STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN 2015: UNICEF.

"The clause will be there in the rules. It would clearly state under what circumstances the clause could be applied," State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroze Chumki told a policy dialogue titled "Prevention of Child Marriage in Bangladesh".

Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) hosted the event at its office in the city's Mohakhali yesterday.

Under the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, the minimum marriageable age of girls is 18 now.

In Bangladesh, around 65 percent girls are married off before they reach 18, according to the State of the World's Children 2015, a Unicef report.

Chumki said people won't be able to use the clause at their whims. It could only be

used when "unwanted situations" occur such as pregnancy before marriage or elopement of underage girls with their lovers which undermine their families in the society, she added.

Argentina Matavel Piccin, country representative of UNFPA, said: "As a development partner of the country, we will really discourage any exception." She stressed the need for comprehensive sexual education for young people to make them aware about unwanted pregnancy.

Echoing the views of Matavel, Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Benoit-Pierre Laramée Matavel said the law should leave no room for interpretation.

Ayesha Khanom, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said the patriarchal society is the main reason behind child marriage since such an attitude refuses to provide women with equal rights.

Gowher Rizvi, international affairs adviser to the prime minister and also the chief guest of the event, emphasised the need for setting up more safe and community

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EXCHANGED ENCLAVES India's new citizens to get voting rights

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The Indian government will place a bill in parliament to amend electoral laws to give voting rights to people who became citizens of the country following the recent exchange of enclaves with Bangladesh.

A meeting of the Indian cabinet yesterday gave its nod to amend Section 11 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 and Section 9 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, in this regard, said an official statement.

More than 14,000 people of 51 enclaves, that became part of India, have become its citizens.

The budget session would begin on February 23 and the proposed bill is likely to be introduced on March 1.

The plan is to get it passed by both the Houses of parliament by March 4 so that the Election Commission can begin the delimitation exercise, said sources.

Once passed, the proposed Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016 will enable the EC to carry out limited delimitation of state legislature and parliamentary constituencies in Cooch Behar district of West Bengal.

In July last year, Bangladesh and India exchanged 162 enclaves.

The term of the 294-member West Bengal legislature ends on May 29 this year and fresh elections are likely to be held before that.

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Blast hits military in Turkey capital

At least 18 killed, 45 wounded

AFP, Ankara

At least 18 people were killed and 45 wounded by a car bomb targeting the military in the heart of the Turkish capital Ankara on Wednesday, the city's governor said.

The bloodshed came on the heels of a string of attacks in Turkey, blamed on jihadists but also on Kurdish rebels.

The bomb aimed at a convoy of military service vehicles, Ankara governor Mehmet Kiliclar said, quoted by the CNN-Turk and NTV channels.

Plumes of smoke rose from the scene, close to the headquarters of the Turkish military and the parliament.

The powerful blast was heard all over the city, sending residents to their balconies in panic, an AFP correspondent said.



Firefighters try to extinguish flames following an explosion after an attack targeted military service vehicles in Ankara yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Fakhrul sees crisis of free-thinking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Filing of cases against The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam has proved that the country is facing a crisis of free-thinking, says BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

"Reports in the media say the BNP is facing a crisis, but it is not the BNP alone. When 37 cases are filed against Mahfuz Anam [as of Monday], it has been proved that this ongoing crisis is of free-thinking, of speaking the truth, of speaking up

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PRAYER TIMING
FEBRUARY 18

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-20 12-45 4-30 6-03 7-30
JAMAAT 5-55 1-15 4-45 6-07 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

তুমি রবে নীরবে ...

"সবুজ ঘাসের
ঘাসফুল দু'পিয়ে মাথা
তোমাদের দেবে
পরানের বারতা।"



শামসুন্নাহার রহমান পরাগ
(মৃত্যু: ১৮ই ফেব্রুয়ারী ২০১৫ ইং)

'ঘাসফুল' প্রতিষ্ঠাতা শামসুন্নাহার রহমান পরাগ-এর আজ প্রথম মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী। তিনি আমাদের ছেড়ে আমাদের দায়িত্ব দিয়ে বিশ্রাম নিতে চলে গেছেন। তাঁর বর্ণিত কর্মযাত্রের মাঝে তিনি আজীবন বেঁচে থাকবেন আমাদের মাঝে।

- ঘাসফুল পরিবার

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Mega bug set to hit devices, apps



BBC ONLINE

A major computer security vulnerability has been discovered - with experts cautiously warning it could potentially affect hundreds of thousands of devices, apps and services.

However, due to the nature of the bug, it is extremely difficult to know how serious the problem is.

"Many people are running around right now trying to work out if this is truly catastrophic or whether we have dodged a bullet," said Prof Alan Woodward, a security expert from the University of Surrey.

Google engineers, working with security engineers at Red Hat, have released a patch to fix the problem.

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MIGRANT CRISIS
Greece rejects 'EU lies' over border controls

BBC ONLINE

Greece's migration minister has accused fellow EU countries of hypocrisy and lying about Greece's handling of the huge migrant influx from Turkey.

"This discussion that we do not have control of our border - this is a lie," Yiannis Mouzalas said.

"We have the best control of a sea border that anyone can have," he added.

He was speaking to the BBC ahead of today's EU summit, where Greece will report on its efforts to register migrants, many of them Syrian refugees.

Athens has been told to tighten border controls, to ensure that refugees are

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কিছু কিছু অসাধারণ অর্জন আমাদের আরো বেশী দায়িত্ববান করে দেয়

South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA) (An Apex Body of SAARC) কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত Awards for Corporate Governance Disclosures-2015 সালে সেরা রিপোর্টিং এর জন্য SAARC অঞ্চলের বেসরকারী উন্নয়ন সংগঠনসমূহের মধ্যে প্রথম স্থান অধিকারী হিসাবে 'উদ্দীপন' ট্রফি অর্জন করেছে।

উদ্দীপন The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত Non Government organization হিসাবে Best Presented Annual Report 2014 এর জন্য National Award অর্জন করেছে।

The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত Best Corporate Award -2014 অর্জন করেছে।

উদ্দীপনের ২০১৫-২০১৬ সালের Credit Rating নিম্নরূপঃ

গত কয়েক বছর যাবৎ Credit Rating এ উদ্দীপন প্রশংসনীয় মানদণ্ড বজায় রেখেছে।

2015-2016 (CRAB)	2014-2015 (CRAB)
Long Term AA ₃	Long Term AA ₃
Short Term ST-2	Short Term ST-2

এই কাঙ্ক্ষিত ও গুরুত্বপূর্ণ অর্জনে উদ্দীপনের সাধারণ পর্ষদ, পরিচালনা পর্ষদ, গ্রাহক, শুভানুধ্যায়ী, উন্নয়ন অংশীদার, কর্তৃকর্তা এবং কর্মীদের ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্তৃপক্ষের পক্ষ থেকে আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন।

উদ্দীপন
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House No. 9, Road No. 1, Block - F, Janata Co-operative Housing Society Ltd., Ring Road Adabar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh, Tel: (88-02) 58153216, 9145448, Call: 01713-147111 Fax: (88-02) 9121538, E-mail: udpn@agnl.com, Web : www.uddipan.org