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35TH BCS

PSC publishes full results, picks 2,158 for cadre posts

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DEFECTION

'Disgusted' top North Korea diplomat defects to South in a damaging loss

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From crackers to rocket launchers

Scores of arms-explosives recovery over years show how terrorists armed themselves with modern weaponry

ZAYADUL AHSAN writes for The Daily Star

They are no longer into small arms and crude crackers only. Local terrorists over the years have mastered the skills of making deadly weapons like rocket launchers, mines, car bombs, and cycle bombs.

They even took initiative to make drones. Besides, various types of sophisticated weapons like AK-47 assault rifle and MK-11 sniper were recovered from them in the last three to four years.

In close liaison with cross-border terror outfits, they not only went abroad to train in making arms and explosives, but also brought in foreign experts for training programmes within the country.

Piecing together information gleaned from captured militants, findings of investigators and news of the recoveries, we get a picture where militants appear to have developed much earlier the capacity to launch attacks like the July 1 Gulshan café strike.

Though law enforcers had considerable success in recovering arms and ammunition, the policymakers failed to foresee the looming crises. They didn't notice the ominous signs in the reports of the recoveries, security experts observed.

As the possibility of further attacks like Gulshan

and Sholakia cannot be ruled out, the experts call for constant vigilance, especially to prevent building of new terror networks and stockpiling of weapons by militants.

"The recovery of arms and explosives proves that our law enforcers are vigilant. But what if an extremist group manages to gather military strength beyond the knowledge of law enforcers?" said security expert Brigadier (ret'd) Shahed Anam.

"There is always a risk like that. So the government must focus on capacity building of law enforcement agencies."

DMP's counterterrorism unit chief Monirul Islam believes that no radical group is likely to emerge with considerable military strength again because of continuous raids, seizures and arrests.

"But to eliminate the threat permanently," he said, "we need to do a lot of capacity building."

FORGOTTEN NEWS

One can recall that experts were brought in from Pakistan to train militants on making car bombs.

Two Pakistani nationals -- Mehmud and Osman -- came to Bangladesh sometime in 2012 posing as businessmen. When it came to the knowledge of the detectives, the two were interrogated several times

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One of the car bomb experts who came from Pakistan, top. Militants over the years developed the capacity to make drones, IEDs, suicide vests, car bombs and bicycle bombs as evident in the seizures by law enforcers across the country.

PHOTO: FILE



RAB on hunt for 10 female JMB suspects

RAFIUL ISLAM

The Rapid Action Battalion is looking for at least 10 more suspected female members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

The 10 members, mostly students, were associated with the four suspected female JMB operatives arrested on Tuesday. They used to communicate with the four regularly, Rab officials said.

The elite police unit came to know about the 10 members following interrogation of the four females and analysing their mobile phones and laptops seized during Tuesday's operation in the capital and Gazipur.

"We are looking for 10-12 associates of the [four] female JMB operatives,"

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400MW ASHUGANJ POWER PROJECT 21 foreign cos vie for job

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 21 foreign power companies yesterday submitted technical qualification documents in a large power plant tender floated by the Ashuganj Power Company (APC).

The high participation has pleasantly surprised officials concerned who had feared poor response due to the recent terror attacks as well as a general slowdown in implementation of power projects in the country.

It showed Bangladesh still enjoys bidders' confidence, they observed.

The APC floated the tender to construct a 400 megawatt gas-based power plant in Ashuganj East. Officials noted that natural gas was available for this power project, although gas supply is facing constraints elsewhere.

The project is being financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The participating companies are Spanish Isolux and Egyptian Orascom, Chinese CAMC, Korean Samsung, Korean Posco, Daewoo and Hyundai, China Tianchen Engineering, Chinese DF & Dongpeng, Indian L&T, Chinese CMEC and Indian NEPC, Korean Daewoo E&C, Korean Lotte, Spanish Acciona & Metca, Spanish Technicas Reunidas, Cgubese SEC and Soabusg Absakdo, Chinese Sepco, China National Electric Engineering Co and Guangdong, Chinese Harbin and Etern, Indian Essar and German BBN Group, Turkish Enka, Sri Lankan LTL Holding, Chinese CNTIC and CCOEC and Indian, Saudi and Irish joint venture Alfa Power Machine and Sanhanan.

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BANGLADESH BANK HEIST Filipino ex-bank manager held

RELITERS, Manila

Philippine police yesterday arrested a former manager of a Manila bank linked to \$81 million stolen from the Bangladesh Bank account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, broadcaster ABS-CBN reported.

Unknown cyber criminals tried to steal nearly \$1 billion from the Bangladesh Bank account between February 4 and 5, and succeeded in transferring \$81 million to four accounts at Rizal Commercial Banking Corp in Manila.

Maia Deguito was arrested in a supermarket in Manila's business district. Police served an arrest warrant related to a perjury case filed by former RCBC president Lorenzo Tan.

The broadcaster said Deguito will be held until offices open today when she can post bail of 6,000 pesos (\$130).

In April, Tan filed a civil complaint against Deguito for abuse of rights and



Maia Deguito

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Mysterious death sparks protests

Family alleges the girl was killed

STAR REPORT

Saturday's mysterious death of a female student of a private polytechnic institute in Mirpur sparked protest in the capital and her home district Thakurgaon yesterday.

Police initially recorded it as an unnatural death case, and sources in Dhaka Medical College morgue where the autopsy was done said they were conducting some chemical tests to determine the cause of her death.

The family of Afsana Ferdous alleged she was murdered by someone in her circle. They particularly named a leader of Chhatra League's Tejgaon College unit in the capital.

The BCL leader could not be contacted despite repeated attempts. His phone was found switched off yesterday.

The family was preparing to file a murder case.

On Saturday evening, two men took the girl to Al Helal Hospital in Mirpur and left the hospital without informing anyone, hospital sources said.

Doctors there declared her dead.

She was a final-year student of architecture department of SAIC Institute of Management and Technology in Mirpur.



Afsana Ferdous

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ARSON ATTACK CASE Warrants for arrest of 67 BNP leaders, workers

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants for 67 leaders and activists of the 20-party alliance, including BNP leaders Salima Rahman and Barkatullah Bulu, in an arson attack case.

Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after accepting charges pressed against 93 accused, including BNP Vice-chairman Salima and the other 66 people.

Judge Kamrul Hossain Mollah also directed the officer-in-charge of Motijheel Police Station to submit a report on the execution of the order on October 10.

Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas, personal assistant to BNP

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LOOTING OF SHRINE HC clears way for trial of ex-Rab man, 6 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for a lower court to resume the trial of sacked Rab official Zulfikar Ali Majumder and six others for their alleged involvement in robbing a shrine of Tk 2.07 crore in Chittagong.

The court lifted its earlier order that had stayed the trial proceedings.

According to a case filed on March 13, 2012, members of the Rapid Action Battalion in plainclothes entered Talsara Darbar Sharif on November 4, 2011 and held hostage pir Ahammed Safa Shah at gunpoint in a room.

They broke open three cupboards and took away the cash kept there.

Four months later, driver of the shrine Idris Ali filed a robbery case with Anwara Police Station, accusing 10 Rab men and two of their informants.

Police in July 2012

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Visually impaired Masud collecting eggs at his poultry farm in Delduar upazila of Tangail. It took him a while and a lot of effort to set up the farm but now he earns Tk 1-1.5 lakh a month from his business. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

A doer has no barrier

Tangail man crosses blindness hurdles to success

MIRZA SHAKIL with ANDREW EAGLE

For many a blind son, life's destiny proves to be living a mostly unproductive life in the care of relatives. But Masud Miah, 35, from Mongholhor village in Tangail's Delduar upazila, through determination and persistence has proved that blindness is no obstacle to independence and success.

When Masud lost his eyesight at two years of age to typhoid, his father Samad Miah, a simple trader, made every effort to pursue treatment. After consulting local doctors, he took his son to hospitals in Mymensingh and Dhaka in the hope of restoring his son's sight. Unfortunately, efforts proved to be in vain.

"I tried my best to restore my son's eyesight," says Samad, "I failed. I spent Tk 5 lakh for his treatment back then, and sold my only land to fund it."

With Masud's blindness proving permanent, the young boy passed childhood nearby the house, largely in his own world. "I was so busy looking after our other three children and running the house," says his mother Masuma Akter. "I worry I couldn't give Masud all the attention he needed."

In 1992 when aged 11, Masud was admitted in class one at Tangail town's Vivekananda School. Using Braille texts, he studied to class six, living courtesy of the social welfare department at the school's hostel. "Actually, I didn't feel comfortable in my studies there," he recalls.

What followed were sullen days at home, frustrated in

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CHANGE MAKERS

