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'LINKS TO MILITANCY'  
**S'pore deports 6 Bangladeshis**

*In last one year, police arrested at least 37 Bangladeshis deported by the Southeast Asian country*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Singapore has recently deported six more Bangladeshis for their suspected involvement in militancy.

Later on October 17, they were arrested by the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police at the BRTC Bus Depot in the capital's Motijheel area. They were held while "inviting" locals to join militancy. Six to seven of their cohorts, however, fled, said police.

The arrestees are Hossain Kabir alias Rubel, 36, his brother Hasarul Kabir alias Rasel, 34, Mohiuddin, 37, Afzal Hossain, 35, Shahadat Hossain, 23, and Rakibul Islam, 23.

A case was filed against them with Motijheel Police Station after their arrest.

Later on, a Dhaka court placed each of them on a six-day remand.

With the arrest of the six Bangladeshis, police in the last one year arrested 37 migrant workers deported by the Singapore authorities for their suspected link with militancy.

Police could not say exactly when the six were sent back home from Singapore.

According to the case statement, all the arrestees had been in Singapore as migrant workers and they admitted that they were members of a militant outfit.

While in Singapore, they used to meet every Sunday evening in areas having high Muslim populations and tried to motivate and recruit people for carrying out militant activities in Bangladesh.

They also used to collect funds, spread jihadist propaganda, sermons and videos among people there, said police, quoting the case statement.

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Debutant Sabbir Rahman plays one through four during his enterprising unbeaten knock of 59 which has kept Bangladesh in the hunt at stumps on the fourth day of the first Test against England at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

BATTLE FOR MOSUL  
**Iraqi forces 3 miles off 'IS capital'**

*Forces claim capture of Bashiqa; after Kirkuk, jihadists launch diversion attack in western Iraq*

AGENCIES

Kurdish fighters said they had taken the town of Bashiqa near Mosul from Islamic State yesterday as coalition forces pressed their offensive against the jihadists' last stronghold in Iraq.

Masoud Barzani, President of the Iraqi Kurdish region, told US Defense Secretary Ash Carter that the Kurds had succeeded in liberating Bashiqa from Islamic State.

An almost 30,000 strong coalition of US-supported Kurdish fighters, Shia militias, Sunni tribal fighters and the Iraqi army have edged their way closer to Mosul on three fronts since the much-heralded offensive to liberate it began on Monday.

Following the new push by the peshmerga near the town of Bashiqa and the retaking of Christian villages to the east of the city, in some places the frontline is now just three miles (five kilometres) away from the city's outskirts, Reuters reported.

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**Farmland being fed with sand**

*Development of 'private economic zone' in Sonargaon puts life, livelihood of people in peril*

TAWFIQUE ALI

Life and livelihood of elderly Nazimuddin Mollah of east Kandargaoon in Sonargaon of Narayanganj is entirely dependent on his agricultural land.



Nazimuddin

His family has lived on the land for generations.

"We have for ages lived on three crops cultivated on the land in addition to catching naturally-grown fish during the monsoon and we

have no other means of livelihood," he said.

The land had been filled with sand in three years since 2009.

Now with all his 16 bighas of ancestral agricultural land in Char Bhabanathpur and Bhatibanda moujas filled with sand, he has not been able to harvest any crops for the last seven years.

"For all these years, I along with my family have survived somehow from hand to mouth only with the meagre income of my sons," said a

weeping Nazimuddin while talking to this correspondent in his village.

Private real-estate company Unique Property Development Ltd had embarked on a massive earth filling in a part of the Meghna river, adjoining low-lying wetland and multi-crop fertile land to make way for a resort city in six moujas including Jainpur, Chhoehishya, Pirojpur and Ratanpur.

The company has a contract with local land brokers to procure 2,350 bighas agricultural land for its project.



The UNO office puts a signboard, right, mentioning a HC injunction against filling up of land in six mouzas of Narayanganj's Sonargaon. But, a company has filled up arable land there and placed equipment to fill more.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



**Remarkable achievement**

*British-Bangladeshi scientist wins European award for research on Parkinson's disease*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

British-Bangladeshi Dr Miratul Mohamid Khan Muqit, a leading scientist based at the University of Dundee, has been named as one of this year's awardees of the prestigious European Molecular Biology Organisation Young Investigator Programme (EMBO YIP).

His research has made several important breakthroughs in the genetical

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**Australia Post delivers postcard 50 yrs late**



PTI, Melbourne

A postcard was delivered to its destination in Australia 50 years after it was sent, prompting the country's postal service to tender an apology.

The 'slightly faded' postcard, dated 1966, was found by an Adelaide couple, Tim and Claire Duffy, in their letterbox last Monday.

The card, which depicted a waterfront in Tahiti, had a stamp worth 13 Francs and was found by Tim Duffy underneath a water bill while he was going through his mails at his Wattle Park residence in Adelaide, local media reported.

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JSC, JDC TESTS  
**Exams to start on schedule**

*Says education minister, ending confusion over holding of tests*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The examinations of Junior School Certificate (JSC) and Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) will be held on schedule under his ministry, says Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid.

As per the schedule, the exams will start from November 1 and continue until November 17. The results will be published within 30 days, says the minister.

"There is no confusion, no concern and no uncertainties over holding the examinations. I call upon the students, guardians and teachers to take preparation

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**JSC, JDC EXAMS AT A GLANCE**

- Total examinees **24,10,015**
- Male students **11,23,162**
- Female students **12,86,853**
- Exam centres **2,734**
- Institutions **28,844**

**Rejoinder**

Mohammadpur Model School and College authorities yesterday issued a rejoinder to a report headlined "13 university admission seekers jailed" published in The Daily Star on Saturday.

In the rejoinder, the principal of the institution referred to a statement of Sanchita Rani Das, an admission seeker who was caught for adopting unfair means in a Dhaka

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**PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 24**  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-50 12-45 4-00 5-36 7-15  
JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-41 7-45  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION