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Police form new anti-terror teams

With commando training, members of the new force will respond instantly to crisis situation in all major cities

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Bangladesh Police is going to create commando teams in all metropolitan areas and range police units to deal with any crisis situation such as militant attack or hostage situation.

"The crisis teams will respond to any emergency call within five minutes," Dr Kh Mahid Uddin, additional deputy inspector general (training and sports) at the police headquarters, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Recent militant attacks, especially last year's Gulshan café siege, prompted the police to make a move to create commando teams across the country, said officials at the police headquarters.

On July 1 last year, militants killed 20 hostages, including 17 foreigners, before army commandoes stormed the Holey Artisan Bakery in Dhaka's diplomatic zone. Now, only Dhaka Metropolitan Police

Each of 6 metropolitan police and 8 range police units will have a 'crisis team' with 20 cops trained for tackling hostage crisis and terrorist attacks

has a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team under the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit to deal with a crisis situation of this kind.

Primarily, each of the six metropolitan police units and eight range police units will have a "crisis team" with 20 police personnel trained for tackling terrorist attacks

and hostage crisis, said the officials at the police headquarters.

Seeking anonymity, one of the officials said they were also considering a proposal for creating a "commando battalion" to be led by a deputy inspector general.

Already 40 police officials -- 25 from Armed Police Battalion (APBn) and 15 from Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) -- completed 15-day commando training at the National Security Guard Centre in India on December 27 last year.

Of them, 20 are now posted in the CMP

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Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

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OUR NATION IS AT STAKE!

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Syrian refugee Baraa Haj Khalaf holds her daughter as she greets people at O'Hare Int'l Airport in Chicago on Tuesday with her husband Abdulmajeed, left. The family was previously banned from entering the US after Trump signed a ban on travel into the country from seven Muslim-majority nations. The family was allowed to enter the US after a judge blocked key parts of the order. On Thursday, a federal appeals panel rejected Trump's bid to reinstate the ban, dealing the new president a major legal defeat.

PHOTO: AFP

Bus-covered van collision kills 13

STAR REPORT

At least 13 people were killed and 10 others injured in a head-on collision between a bus and a CNG-run covered van on the Dhaka-Khulna highway in Faridpur's Nagarkanda last night.

Both the vehicles caught fire on impact, and almost all the dead were burned beyond recognition, said fire service officials who visited the spot.

Vehicular movement on the highway remained suspended till the filing of this report at 2:00am today.

ASM Nasim, officer-in-charge of Nagarkanda Police Station, said the 13 people, including the van driver, died on the spot, and the injured were admitted to nearby hospitals.

He feared that the death toll may rise as the condition of some of the injured was critical.

Talking to The Daily Star, ABM Momtazuddin Ahmed, assistant director of the Fire Service and Civil Defence in Faridpur, said, "The Khulna-bound covered van collided with a Dhaka-bound bus at 10:55pm, and the two vehicles caught fire immediately after the collision."

On information, four units of the fire service went to the spot and doused the flames, he said, adding that they had so far pulled seven bodies from the two vehicles.

CASE BACKLOG CJ blames loopholes in laws

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Moulvibazar

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha has blamed the many loopholes in



various laws for the huge pile of cases pending in courts across the country.

"We are at a loss when dealing with cases. We are not getting any law properly. Every law has some loopholes. The case backlog is rising because of such flawed laws," he said at a meeting organised by Moulvibazar Bar Association on Thursday night.

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US appeals court rules 3-0 against travel ban

Trump finds the limits of executive power, still pledges to battle on, calls the decision 'disgraceful'

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump suffered more than a legal defeat of his immigration ban Thursday night.

He ran smack into the limits of executive power.

Three federal judges unanimously refused to restore the White House's controversial travel ban, laying down the most significant marker yet that Trump's vision of an administration rooted in the muscular use of executive power -- similar to that he enjoyed as a business leader -- will not go unchallenged.

In a stinging rebuke, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the administration's argument that the judiciary

lacked the authority to block the travel ban as "contrary to the fundamental structure of our constitutional democracy."

The tone and content of the decision immediately called into question Trump's gamble in enacting such a fundamental reshaping of the nation's immigration laws through presidential order rather than a law debated and passed by Congress.

It is now certain that the saga of the immigration ban, which has consumed the presidency for two of its three weeks and is distracting from other priorities, will run on indefinitely with possible damaging consequences for the young administration. But the president is a long way from

admitting a final defeat. Drawing on the pugilistic instincts that sustained his business career, he dug in for a counter attack, reports CNN.

A defiant Trump quickly pledged to battle on, tweeting within minutes of the decision: "SEE YOU IN COURT, THE SECURITY OF OUR NATION IS AT STAKE!"

"It's a political decision, we're going to see them in court, and I look forward to doing that," he told reporters at the White House. "We have a situation where the security of our country is at stake and it's a very very serious situation."

The Justice Department had asked the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to

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7 KEY TAKE-AWAYS FROM RULING

1. The three judges think that they are well within their rights to check the president's authority on matters of immigration and national security, and the government's suggestion to the contrary is undemocratic.
2. The court isn't buying -- as Trump has suggested -- that the impact of the order was limited to extra vetting for 109 people.

MORE ON PAGE 2



India captain Virat Kohli (L) became the only batsman in Test history to score double-hundreds in four consecutive series when he reached the mark on the second day of the one-off Test against Bangladesh at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Mountain to climb for wasteful Tigers

NAIMUL KARIM from Hyderabad

If Day One of the one-off Test against India was frustrating for Bangladesh, day two was nothing short of a disaster. India did do well to pile on the runs before declaring on 687 for six, after which the visitors lost the wicket of Soumya Sarkar at the end and finished the day on 41 for 1.

But it was Bangladesh's lacklustre presence on the field -- which helped the hosts in their cause immensely -- that seemed more alarming.

So uninspired were the visitors that it seemed as though they were waiting for a declaration during the last hour of India's first innings in Hyderabad yesterday.

India's batsmen, meanwhile, broke a number of records. Virat Kohli, who scored a flawless 204, became the first batsman in the history of Test cricket to score four double-centuries in four consecutive series.

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Bangladeshi killed in BSF firing

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kurigram

Members of Indian Border Security Force shot dead a Bangladeshi cattle trader and injured another near Datbhanga border in Kurigram's Roumari upazila early yesterday.

The deceased is Tulu Mia, 60, son of late Asmat Ali of Kauarchar village in the upazila. The injured is Shifat Hossain, 35, son of Mozahar Ali of Dharmapur village in the same upazila.

According to Border Guard Bangladesh and locals, a group of Bangladeshi cattle traders

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