

# Militants pose no major risks now

## Says DMP counter-terror chief, claims terrorists have no operational capacity

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The DMP's counterterrorism chief has claimed to have destroyed the operational capacity of militants and has expressed confidence there will be no major militant attack in Bangladesh at this moment.

"We've been able to successfully destroy the operational capacity of the militants," said Ministry of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

"The militants' operational capacity increased last year, but they don't have that capacity any more. We've destroyed it by carrying out anti-militancy drives across the country. The militants have no capacity to launch any more big attack right now," said Minister, also the additional commissioner of DMP.

He, however, said militancy was a global problem and no country could do that there would be no more militant attack.

The CTTC chief was addressing a programme at the Dhaka Reporters Unity marking the inauguration of a spoken English course, organised by Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh (CRAB).

Twenty hostages, mostly foreigners, were killed in the country's deadliest militant attack at the Holy Arisan Bakery in the capital's Gulshan on July 1 last year. The attack also claimed the lives of two policemen. Law enforcers claimed militant outfit 'Neo JMB', an offshoot of mainstream JMB, was responsible for the attack.

Since then, a total of 68 suspected militants either died in police shooting or blew themselves up by detonating suicide vests during at least 20 anti-terror drives across the country. Besides, 150 militant suspects were being held according to officials at the Police Headquarters.

The suspected chief coordinator, **SEE PAGE 10 COL 2**



An emotional Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina wipes away tears as she recalled of the contributions of her mother, Sheikh Fazilatunnesa, to her family and the nation during a programme in the city's Osmani Memorial Auditorium. The event was organised marking the 87th birth anniversary of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib.

# BANGABANDHU'S POLITICS

## PM recalls role of Fazilatunnesa Mujib

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib was the source of all encouragement, strength and courage for Bangabandhu.

"My mother always encouraged him [Bangabandhu] to do politics for the people of this country... She never pulled him back, she never looked out for her own interests... she never thought what she would get in life," the PM said.

She was addressing a function marking the 87th birth anniversary of Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib in the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

She said Bangamata helped Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from behind the scene and Bangabandhu could become a great leader as she had been beside him.

Hasina, the eldest of five children of Bangabandhu, said her father used to talk to her mother before making any major political decision.

The presence of Bangabandhu's wife in his political **SEE PAGE 10 COL 5**

# 'Terror financier' held in Habiganj

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The Criminal Investigation Department yesterday claimed to have arrested a "terror financier" at Habiganj.

Mostafiz Ahmed Khan, once a Bangladesh expatriate in Turkey, used to collect money from different organisations and individuals in Turkey and spend it in Bangladesh.

In Bangladesh, he was involved in CIG special suppression, told reporters at his office in the capital.

"Several crore of taka was deposited in Mostafiz's account with a private bank and he later distributed it to different illegally run non-government organisations and some individuals," he said.

"He received Tk 1.89 crore from abroad only in the last six months of 2014," he said.

Nazrul said CID officials, who are investigating a case filed against him under the Anti-Terrorism Act, arrested him from in front of Kalapara restaurant in Habiganj town yesterday afternoon.

He stands accused in at least six cases under the Special Powers Act, Anti-Terrorism Act and Explosives Act. He was on bail, the CID official said.

According to the CID, Mostafiz, **SEE PAGE 10 COL 4**

# Haji pilgrimage at taxpayers' expense

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The Garobandhan and the PM's office in the parliament.  
Former adviser to a caretaker government and former comptroller and auditor general M Hafizuddin Khan told The Daily Star that sending people for hajj spending public money was highly unethical.

"If the government has nominated people from some particular districts and pro-ruling party men, which was shameful.

"How could a minister nominate about 80 people of his constituency for performing hajj at the cost of the people's money? I am so surprised to hear this," he said.

"A country cannot run in this way. The government should stop such practice and should punish those who are involved in the misuse of public money."

Maulana Faruk Uddin Masoud, the Imam of Shalika Eid congregation in Kishoreganj, said Bangladeshis are not hajj mandatory for those who are unable to meet all necessary expenses of the pilgrimage.

"Not only that, the person will have to be rich enough to bear the expenses of his family member during his or her stay in Saudi Arabia," he said.

"Hajj was made fare [mandatory] for only those who are physically and financially sound," he added.

Zafarullah Khan, principal of Manabrah Ulm Madrasa in Keraniganj, said there was no logic behind going on hajj with public money. Like Farid, **SEE PAGE 10 COL 2**

Zafarullah said hajj was mandatory only on those physically and financially capable.

He said performing hajj with public money was unethical.

Responding to a query, he said, "Allah is the sole authority to accept or reject someone's hajj."

Yet, ruling Awami League lawmakers Kamal Ahmed Majumder from Dhaka-15, Safura Begum and Fatematuz Zohura Rani, elected to reserved seats for women in parliament, would perform hajj as pious Muslims this year with the government bearing their expenses.

Three-time MP Kamal, a businessman by profession, was made commercial important person (CIP) five times, according to a Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat bulletin in 2012.

"I am going to Saudi Arabia not only to perform hajj," Safura told The Daily Star, adding that the government had nominated her to look after hajj management and the pilgrims.

The lawyer by profession said the religious affairs minister had asked her to do the job.

According to a circular of the ministry, each of the "pious Muslims" would get Tk 34,400 cash as expenses for meals during their 40-day stay in Saudi Arabia. The nominated government staffers and officials would also get their salaries and other benefits here, the circular added.

The National Hajj and Umrah Policy has the provision for sending on hajj with public money, "like Farid, **SEE PAGE 10 COL 2**

nominated by the president, prime minister and religious affairs minister, to Saudi Arabia for performing hajj with the government paying for it.

They would get all facilities as per the lowest hajj package rate under government management, the policy said.

The policy does not mention whether the affluent should be disqualified for the free hajj.

Asked, Religious Affairs Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday told The Daily Star that "pious Muslims" were nominated as per the recommendations of the office of the president, prime minister, religious affairs ministry and other important people of the government.

He said the ministry had sent a list of over 1,000 people to the PMO. "Upon the PMO's approval, we prepared the final list," the secretary said.

Asked what the grounds for getting selected were, he said the PMO and the religious affairs minister would be able to talk about that.

About nominating many people from the minister's constituency, he said the minister has the authority to do so.

The Daily Star could not reach Minister Motiur for comments despite repeated attempts since Monday night.

Ruhul Amin, senior vice-president, AL, Gopaganj Unit; Shariful Islam, general secretary ward-2 of Sinigajara in Tungipara of Gopaganj; Masud Ali Khan Mamun, general secretary of

Koukaran union AL in Patuakhali; Abdus Sattar, religious affairs secretary of Rajarhat union AL of Kurigram; AFHM Khairul Anam Chowdhury Selim, president of Noakhali AL; Shawkat Ali, president of Gorgori union AL in Bagha of Rajshahi; Mannan Mia, president of ward-9 of Moulvibazar AL in Tangail; Rafiqul Zaman Khan, vice-president of Daitijheel Mohila AL; Jannatul Chowdhury Anonna, women affairs secretary of Uttorkhania union AL in Dhaka; and Amir Ali, vice-president of Pallabi union AL in Dhaka, have been nominated.

Yusuf Khan Pathan, chairman of Myensingh Zila Parishad, was also on the list.

Apart from some class-III and class-IV government staffers, several high-level government officials, including Sheikh Md Wahiduzzaman, director general of secondary and higher education directorate; Mohammad Jahangir, chief accountant of Bangladesh Railway; Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan designer of Jatiya Sangsad; Bhaban; Mazful Islam, administrative official of the finance ministry; Abdul Halim Munshi, assistant director of Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad; Shahid Ullah, assistant secretary; Masud Ahmed, joint secretary of the LGRD ministry, were nominated for the hajj trip.

Source at the ministry said 124 "pious Muslims" were sent to perform hajj in 2014, 265 in 2015 and 280 last year.

# 12 get death for killing student

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail**  
A court here yesterday sentenced 12 people to death for murdering a 24-year-old student in Moulvibazar.

The court in Tangail delivered the verdict around 11:30am.

Judge Waheduzzaman Shikder of District Special and Session Judge's Court in Tangail delivered the verdict around 11:30am.

The convicts are Moziad, 45, Abdul Mazid, 35, Saidul, 20, Maznu, 20, Momtin, 27, Nizam Pramanik, 55, Abu Bakar Siddique Tunn, 60, Hanu, 30, Nazim, 30, Babu, 30, Siraj Pramanik, 55 and Wahab, 50.

Of them, Moziad, Abdul Mazid, Maznu and Nurul Islam were tried in absentia.

According to prosecution, following a long-running enmity over land the convicts stormed into the house of Lala Miah Sarkar of Bhalukhata village under Govindnashi union in Bhuapur upazila on the morning on April 13, 2014. He was killed by his son Rajan with sharp weapons.

The seriously injured Rajan, an honours second year student of local Ibrahim Khan College, was rushed to the Bhuapur Upazila Health Complex. He succumbed to his injuries in the afternoon while being transferred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

# Fish revolution

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Organisation (FAO) stated in its report titled "State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2016".

Ricardo Hernandez, IFPRI research coordinator and lead author of the study, said "Aquaculture has become an important driver of Bangladesh economy and the industry now employs as many persons as the garment sector, another growing success story in the country."

Just over a decade ago, rural farmers usually sold their fish to local traders, but now they are selling two-thirds of their produce to large wholesalers based in towns and cities, he said.

The study points out that volumes and actors in the fisheries tripled in Bangladesh in the last 10 years.

"Our kids face many cultural challenges at schools. They're used to the new language and the new culture quickly as they are taught that it would help them overcome the cultural challenge," Bipasha Chakma, who has been living in the city for over a decade, told The Daily Star.

Ullas Ignatius Suu, an MBA student at Dhaka University, said he participates in Wangala, the biggest festival of the Garo

(farmed in inland closed water) now overtake the volume of captured fish (grown in natural free-flowing open water).

DoF figures show that the country's annual fish production stands at 37 lakh tonnes, and nearly 56 percent of that comes from farmed fish, 28 percent from captured fish and the rest from marine fisheries.

Hernandez said, "What really surprised me about these findings was the extent of the growth in many sectors, not just in production but also in many off-farm segments, such as rural and urban traders, input dealers and feed mills."

"The rapid increase in mainly small and medium actors has produced a more competitive environment that has pushed the adoption of new technologies, which has increased productivity. This has greatly benefited poor and low-income consumers."

This rapid growth has been driven by increased demand, improvements in technology, communications and

infrastructure, and investments by millions of farm households and small and medium enterprises, he added.

The study says, "Very little change was brought about by NGO or government action, although the government did play an important role in the early stages with infrastructure investment (such as investment in fish seed production, electricity and roads), a production outlook, and a laissez-faire approach to land use and crop choice."

The researchers observed that Bangladesh saw proliferation of feed mills, hatcheries, farmers and traders as well as increase in the use of hired labour and investment in agricultural equipment.

Hernandez said, "Both rural and urban poor households have been able to improve their diets by consuming more animal protein products from a source other than rice."

According to the DoF, fisheries contribute 3.69 percent of Bangladesh's GDP and over 23 percent of agricultural GDP. With an average fish intake of 53 gram per person a day,

fish now account for 60 percent of protein supply for the entire population.

Besides, one crore 78 lakh people are fully or partially employed in the fisheries sector.

Aquaculture saw a robust growth of 8.2 percent, much higher compared to the average growth rate of all fisheries (5.4 percent) in the last one decade.

The IFPRI-led study noted that there has been rapid capital deepening in the form of investments by hundreds of thousands of actors in the fish value chain; apparent in a great jump in feed use, investment in equipment and pond construction, and investments in mills, hatcheries and vehicles.

These investments have been made by, and provided opportunities for, a multitude of smallerholder farmers and small and medium enterprises throughout the chain, it observed.

It also made mention of the diversification and specialisation beyond carps in production of commercial species such as tilapia and pangasius catfish, which have raised yields.

# Bogra 'rape' victim, mother taken to safe homes

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**  
The Bogra college girl, who was allegedly raped by Shramik League leader Tufan Sarkar, and her mother have been taken to separate government-run shelters in Rajshahi.

A police team led by Abul Kalam Azad, investigation officer of the case and also an inspector (Operations) of Bogra Sadar police, escorted them to Rajshahi, Assistant Commissioner Iftekhar Alam of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police told The Daily Star.

The victim's mother was taken to a victim support centre functioning by the police inside Shah Makhdum Police Station Complex in the city around 12:00noon yesterday, he added.

Doctors of Marie Stopes International would provide free medical aid to her, while the centre would arrange all necessary medical, food and accommodation support, the police officer said.

Her daughter was taken to Rajshahi divisional Safe Home for women and children in Baya area on the outskirts of the city at 11:00am yesterday, said Rexon Khatun, deputy superintendent of police.

They would stay there until August 30 as per an order of court, according to police.

A Bogra court on Monday ordered the duo to be shifted to safe homes on Saturday morning following their release from the hospital.

# Becoming estranged from cultural roots

**FROM PAGE 16**  
International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples being observed across the globe today. Advent parents and leaders have called for taking proper steps to encourage the children to learn their own culture, instead of blindly running after others.

"Our kids face many cultural challenges at schools. They're used to the new language and the new culture quickly as they are taught that it would help them overcome the cultural challenge," Bipasha Chakma, who has been living in the city for over a decade, told The Daily Star.

Ullas Ignatius Suu, an MBA student at Dhaka University, said he participates in Wangala, the biggest festival of the Garo

community in the capital every year. "But such initiatives are not enough," he said.

Ska, who was raised in the city, said he can't speak his native language—Mandi—fluently. "I understand it clearly but find difficulties in speaking it properly," he said, adding that his parents also talk to him in Bangla as he understands the language better.

Ska's father Jerome Chiran said, "We speak in Mandi. But we use Bangla a little more as we are used to it. It also helps our child to communicate with our neighbours and others in a better way."

Jerome, however, regretted that his son was unaware of most of the culture of their community.

Many other indigenous men and women came up with similar experi-

ences. Some of them said they prefer music and books of other languages to their own.

Sejuti Chakma, a student of management at Dhaka University, said, "I read Bangla or English novels as they are always available."

Sejuti, a fluent speaker of her native language said, "When I was in my hometown Rangamati, I used to frequently attend different festivals of our Chakma community. But such activities are rare here."

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