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Youth in South Korea recruits 33 radicals

CTTC arrests him, three others in Dhaka

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

His plan was to form an online platform for radicalised youths who would be ready to work for the banned militant outfit, Ansar al Islam.

Self-radicalised 21-year-old Shahin Alam alias Omar Sharif, opened a Facebook group named “Darul Jannat” last year. Within a year, Shahin, a bachelor’s student of software engineering at a South Korean university, radicalised at least 33 people and added to his group.

The Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of police came to know about it following the confessional statements given by Shahin and two others at a metropolitan magistrate court in the capital.

The CTTC arrested Shahin and three of his associates -- Saiful Islam, Hanifuzzaman alias Biplob and Al Mamun -- from the capital’s Jatrabari area on October 10, Saiful Islam, deputy commissioner of the CTTC, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Gleaning information from the arrestees, the CTTC arrested Tareq Ibne Taher, another member of the online platform, from the capital’s Uttara area on October 14, the official said.

“We have already got some details of all the 33 members of the group. Shahin used to add members with a unique code number, so that no one can get their identities,” said the deputy commissioner.

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A pipe spews out sand illegally filling portion of the wetland near the Turag in the capital. Despite a few mobile court drives against such encroachment, it continues unabated. The photo was taken on Saturday from the Mirpur-Ashulia Beribandh road.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Nine new HC judges appointed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine new judges have been appointed to the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, creating hope of faster case disposal rate.

About 5.06 lakh cases are now pending with the HC.

President Md Abdul Hamid has appointed them as HC additional judges for two years under article 98 of the constitution.

The law ministry yesterday issued a gazette notification to this effect, saying that their appointment would be effective from the date of their taking oath.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Khurshid Alam Khan, an SC lawyer and editor of Dhaka Law Reports, hoped that the new HC judges would be able to increase the case disposal rate.

The judges are very young, honest, energetic, and competent, and they know the latest laws very well, he said, adding that they would do well in discharging their judicial duties.

Contacted, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said if the judges could address corruption in the judiciary and dispose of the cases speedily, they would be

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9 killed as India, Pak trade fire

Officials from both countries accuse each other of violating ceasefire along LoC in Kashmir

AFP, Srinagar

At least nine people were killed yesterday in firing along the de facto India-Pakistan border in Kashmir, officials said, adding to the spike in deaths in recent days as New Delhi eased a curfew in the disputed region.

Tensions escalated between the nuclear-armed neighbours after India revoked Kashmir’s autonomy on August 5 and imposed movement and communications restrictions to quell unrest.

Officials from the two countries accused each other of firing mortar rounds and small arms along the so-called Line of Control (LoC).

“Two soldiers and a civilian were killed and three others injured in the unprovoked fire by Pakistan,” Indian Army spokesman Colonel Rajesh Kalra told AFP of the “unprovoked” fire in the mountainous Tangdhar region of Kupwara district.

Several homes were damaged in the attack and three civilians were being treated in a hospital, he added.

Officials in Pakistan-administered Kashmir told AFP six civilians were killed and eight others wounded in Muzaffarabad and Neelum Valley.

“Mortar shells hit civilian houses and have so far martyred five people in Muzaffarabad and wounded six others,” said Muzaffarabad deputy commissioner Badar Munir said.

Munir said the dead included three members of one family.

Neelum Valley official Akhtar Ayub said one civilian was killed and two injured.

The shelling came after five people were killed in Indian Kashmir on

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FATHER-DAUGHTER MURDER Wife ‘admits’ killing both

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hasina Begum, prime suspect of a double murder in Chattogram, yesterday confessed to police that she killed her husband and daughter to cover up her extra-marital affair.

The 30-year-old accused killed her husband Abu Taher, 35, and daughter Bibi Fatema, 3, on Saturday night with the help of her lover Mainuddin, said Amena Begum, additional police commissioner (crime and operation) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police.

Police arrested Mainuddin in Noakhali’s Nobogram Bazar area early yesterday, the law enforcer said, adding that he also gave his confessional statement to police.

Initially Hasina and Mainuddin claimed that it was a murder-suicide. At one point of interrogation, they said it was a murder and confessed their involvement, the police

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Longest flight lands in Sydney



AFP, Sydney

The longest non-stop passenger flight touched down in Australia yesterday morning after more than 19 hours in the air, a milestone journey from New York that Qantas hopes to parlay into commercial success.

Qantas flight QF7879 took 19 hours and 16 minutes to fly direct from New York to Sydney in the first of three “ultra long-haul” journeys planned by the airline this year.

The national flag carrier is operating the test flights -- which also include one from London to Sydney -- as it weighs a rollout of regular services on marathon routes from the United States and Britain to Australia.

Just 49 people travelled on the Boeing 787-9 to minimise the weight on board and give the plane

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‘Drug dealer’ killed in Cox’s Bazar ‘gunfight’

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox’s Bazar

An alleged drug dealer was killed in a “gunfight” between law enforcers and his cohorts in Teknaf upazila of Cox’s Bazar yesterday.

Teknaf police had arrested Mohammad Aziz, 24, son of Saleh Ahmed of Dailpara in the upazila, at his home on Saturday night, law enforcers said.

As per the information given by him, police took him on a drive at Maheshkhali Noughtat around 12:30am, said Officer-in-Charge Pradip Kumar Das of Teknaf Police Station.

As soon as they reached the spot, cohorts of Aziz started firing on the team, forcing the police to retaliate, said the OC, adding that Aziz tried to flee from custody during the attack.

After the “gunfight”, Aziz was found shot and lying on the ground, OC

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A group of men allegedly from “Muktijuddho Mancha”, a platform of descendants of freedom fighters, swoop on a Chattra Dal activist near Madhur Canteen at Dhaka University yesterday. The assault was carried out following a press conference arranged by the platform to protest a Facebook post by the JCD general secretary. Supposed Chattra League men aided the attack.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

UK leaving EU on October 31

Says British minister Gove despite Johnson letter to bloc asking for Brexit delay

AFP, London

A defiant British government doubled down yesterday, insisting it would leave the European Union in 11 days’ time despite parliament forcing a reluctant prime minister to request another delay.

In a day of high drama on Saturday, MPs in the House of Commons passed up the chance to decide on the revised withdrawal agreement that Prime Minister Boris Johnson had negotiated with the European Union.

That defeat leaves Johnson under mounting pressure to find a way out of paralysing impasse on when and how Britain would leave the EU bloc after Britons narrowly voted to exit in a 2016 referendum.

Late Saturday, Johnson reluctantly sent European Council President Donald Tusk a letter legally imposed on him by parliament requesting an extension -- but refused to sign it.

The Conservative leader sent a second, signed letter insisting he was not seeking an extension to the Brexit deadline, which has already been postponed twice, warning that “a further extension would damage the interests of the UK and our EU partners”.

Having failed to back a divorce deal, which Johnson had secured on Thursday, they triggered a law requiring him to write to EU leaders asking to delay Brexit, to avoid the risk that Britain crashes out in less than a fortnight’s time.

Senior cabinet minister Michael Gove, the government’s Brexit planning chief, was nonetheless adamant that

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