

Half win stares at a full loss

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messaging apps.
Terrorist groups may not be capable at the moment to carry out organised attacks, but they are striving hard to obtain the capacity.

According to counterterrorism officials, all forms of faith-based terror groups are breeding in the social media space. Militant groups are motivating people and recruiting operatives while many are getting self-radicalised reading radical contents and listening to provocative speeches available on the internet.

Militants are even planning attacks and even planting IEDs, they added.

A multi-pronged approach involving various stakeholders has to be taken by the government to fight militancy and extremism but due to lack of government will, Bangladesh never saw such an approach. Bangladesh is still largely relying on the use of force, according to counterterrorism officials and anti-terrorism and security experts.

They said a distorted religious ideology could not be defeated only by using force.

Socio-political campaigns against militancy get momentum after a major terror attack but they fizzle out when the situation is under control, they added.

They also said if terrorists are not deradicalised when they are in prison, they will go back to the community and infect and produce more terrorists.

Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) Unit and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) organised some awareness campaigns and rehabilitated several militants who got out of jail or sought help in rehabilitation, officials said.

But their numbers are nowhere near what they should be.

President of Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) Major General (ret'd) ANM Muniruzzaman said, "A national counter radicalisation strategy is needed involving all stakeholders to fight militancy but no such strategy is visible so far. Law enforcers will be only a part of that strategy."

"When militant attacks increase, we go for kinetic approach like arrest, jail and crossfire and temporarily suppress it, but the problems remain," he said.

"...we did not see any operational terrorism lately but militants' activities did not decrease," said Muniruzzaman.

A sense of complacency has been created which could be very dangerous, he observed.

The security expert also said that jail was one of the most vulnerable places. There contamination continues and militants radicalise others. Those getting out of jail cannot go back to normal life as they have not gone through any strategic rehabilitation or re-entry procedures. So they go back to militancy again and often develop a followers group of former inmates.

Inspector General of Prisons Brig

Gen Md Mominur Rahman Mamun said plans were being developed for a joint project with the CTTC for deradicalisation of militants in jail. The proposal was pending approval from the home ministry, he said.

TALIBAN RESURGENCE A WORRY
Anti-terrorism experts and counterterrorism officials feared that in the days ahead militant activities might rise in Bangladesh due to resurgence of Taliban in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of US troops.

All major terrorist groups in Bangladesh were born with an Afghan connection, they said.

The signs are already there.

Four members of Al-Qaeda-inspired militant outfit Ansar Al Islam arrested in May had planned to attack police or Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members and then leave the country for Afghanistan, investigators said.

"Ansar al Islam is now a major concern as Al Qaeda has a good position in South Asia and other parts," said an official the CTTC unit.

The official observed that with the fall of IS globally, many operatives of "Neo-JMB", which follows the ideologies of IS, might join Ansar-al Islam, known as Ansarullah Bangla Team before.

The strength and activities of "Neo JMB", which carried out the café attack, has diminished significantly, the officer added.

"Neo JMB" still has 25 to 30 characters. They along with JMB militants who are getting out of jail without being deradicalised can reinvigorate JMB activities," said the official.

A few Bangladeshis who had gone abroad to fight for the terrorists have the capability to reorganise the group, the officials said wishing anonymity. The official said 60 to 70 people left the country and joined IS. Most of them have either been killed or arrested in Syria. A few of them came back.

Md Asaduzzaman, chief of CTTC unit, said militancy is largely under control.

"We are not complacent. We are trying to find out those who are still active," he told The Daily Star recently.

He said militants could not carry out any serious attack since the café attack as law enforcers destroyed militants' networks. Since the attack, law enforcers carried out at least 30 successful drives on militant dens in which about 88 militants were killed. Since the attack, 2,066 militant suspects were detained.

Commander Khandaker Al Moin, director Legal and Media wing of Rab, said to contain militancy, their cyber monitoring cell was constantly patrolling the cyberspace.

He said they are helping those who want to return to normal life. So far, 15 militants have been rehabilitated with their help, he added.

Lawmakers blast health boss

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OPPOSITION MPS' PROTEST

Opposition MPs yesterday raised a hue and cry in parliament when the health minister asked them to play their due role in overseeing the activities of different hospitals in their respective constituencies.

Zahid Maleque said this when the opposition MPs came down heavily on him for his failure to ensure vaccine for people, stop corruption, irregularities and mismanagement in the health sector.

The lawmakers also alleged that the health minister has failed to ensure recruitment of the required number of doctors and nurses in this sector.

In response, the minister said, "Every MP is the chairman of the hospital's development committee [in their constituencies]. You have to take responsibility. You will have to oversee the development activities in

your hospital. You will have to inform me about hospital equipment or the required number of doctors. But you don't do that."

At that time, MPs opposed the minister's statement through raising a hue and cry at the House chamber.

The minister claimed that his ministry has so far showed 150 percent performance through implementing various activities include buying of Covid-19 vaccine, treating around 1 lakh Covid patients for free, and setting up labs at the cost of Tk 20,000 crore.

Earlier, opposition BNP, Jatiya Party and Gonoforum MPs criticised the minister for widespread corruption and irregularities in the health sector.

JP MP Pir Fazlur Rahman said, "How many times will I give a DO (Demi Official) letter? There is no ambulance in the hospital in my constituency. When will I get a doctor? When will

I get the X-ray machine? When will I get a radiologist? Every time I told the health minister, he asked me to give a DO letter. How many times will I give you the DO letter?"

Another JP lawmaker Shameem Haider Patwari said, "The health ministry could not spend the money. If the ministry cannot spend the money, share the money with 350 MPs. We will spend the money in our area for healthcare."

BNP's Harunur Rashid said the health sector was going through a crisis. Massive corruption took place in purchasing of different medical equipment.

BNP's Mosharrar Hossain, JP's Rustam Ali Faraji and Mujibul Hub Chhunu also slammed the minister.

The health minister, however, rejected all allegations and asked the lawmakers to raise the issue of corruption after proper verification.

Strict patrol to ensure lockdown

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briefing at the capital's DMP Media Centre yesterday.

The section criminalises anyone who "unlawfully or negligently" does any act which is, and/or which the person knows or has reason to believe to be, likely to spread the infection of any disease dangerous to life" and carries with it a jail term of up to six months.

Till date, no one in the country has been held or sued under the section.

The DMP commissioner said cars cannot ply the streets without emergency reasons amid the restrictions. If necessary, people can take rickshaws, he said.

Those landing at the airports from abroad can hire cars, but the passengers must carry passports and their air tickets, Shafiqul said.

He warned that police would go for a mass arrest if people continued to violate the Covid curbs. The action may be taken as the Covid situation across the country has turned alarming, he said.

"We might see as many as 5,000 people getting arrested on the first day of the lockdown," he said.

The Cabinet Division's gazette said executive magistrates, empowered to take legal actions through mobile courts, will also be present on the streets to check public movement. The public administration ministry has been instructed to deploy the magistrates.

The lockdown begins today at 8:00am and ends on July 7 midnight.

State Minister for the Ministry of Public Administration Farhad Hossain told the media that the government may extend the restrictions depending on the gravity of the Covid situation.

The country yesterday reported a record number of daily cases -- 8,822. Another 115 Covid patients were

reported dead in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday.

LOCKDOWN PURVIEW
All government, semi-government, autonomous and private offices will remain closed amid the lockdown.

Motorised vehicles are banned from operating on streets. Operations of public transport on road, rail and waterways will be halted. Domestic flights will remain suspended, said the gazette.

Besides, all shops, including malls or markets, tourist centres, resorts, community and recreation centers will remain shut.

There will be no public gatherings such as social ceremonies (weddings, reception, walima, birthdays, picnics and parties) as well as political and religious ceremonies.

Employees and vehicles of offices related to maintaining law and order and providing emergency services can move about on streets by showing identity cards and/or other valid documents.

Trucks, lorries and cargo vessels involved in transporting goods will remain out of the lockdown's purview. Ports and related offices are also exempted from the ban.

Kitchen markets can operate in open places from 9:00am to 5:00pm. The local administration will monitor it, said the gazette.

No one can go outside their home in any way except for urgent needs such as purchase of medicines and other necessities, visiting medical services, burial or cremation.

Legal action will be taken against those who disobey the instructions, the gazette said.

People can go out to take vaccines but they must carry their vaccination cards.

Hotels and restaurants can sell food (online or takeaway) from

8:00am to 8:00pm.

International flights will operate as usual and people going to the airports have to carry their passports and air tickets, the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh said in a release yesterday.

The Caab had earlier recommended that the government allow the operation of international flights so that migrant workers can go to their workplaces abroad.

In a circular, Bangladesh Bank said banks would remain closed between from July 1 to July 4. From June 5, clients would be allowed to settle financial transactions till 1:30pm every working day.

The Appellate Division and High Court divisions of the Supreme Court will function on a limited scale virtually.

Biden to visit Florida condo collapse site as hope dims for rescue

AFP, Surfside

US President Joe Biden will visit the site of a deadly apartment building collapse in southern Florida later this week, the White House announced Tuesday, as rescuers scoured the wreckage in an increasingly desperate search for survivors.

A 12-story oceanfront condominium in Surfside, a neighborhood near Miami, pancaked into rubble in the early hours of Thursday last week, with the official death toll of 12 expected to rise as hope dwindles for the nearly 150 people still unaccounted for.

The White House said the president would visit the site with First Lady Jill Biden on Thursday to ensure state and local officials have everything they need for the rescue effort.

Latifur Rahman's

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a student of Emory University in Atlanta, US, was brutally killed by terrorists during the July 1 attack at the Holy Artisan Bakery in Gulshan in 2016.

Latifur was the founding director of Mediaworld, the company that owns The Daily Star, and chairman of Mediastar, the owning company of Prothom Alo. The newspapers are the leading English and Bangla dailies in the country.

Soft-spoken and humble, the visionary and ethical businessman passed away in his sleep at his paternal home in Cumilla after suffering from lung-related illness for a long time.

A respected figure in the global business community, Latifur single-handedly built one of the biggest business conglomerates in the country with his hard work, perseverance, and entrepreneurial skills.

Born in Jalpaiguri on August 28, 1945, he began his education at St Francis School and then went to St Edmund's School, Shillong, in 1956. He also studied at St Xavier's College in Calcutta (now Kolkata).

After coming to Dhaka, he started as a trainee at his family-owned jute mills -- W Rahman Jute Mills in Chandpur -- in 1966. The jute mill was the first jute mill to be owned by a Bangalee in the erstwhile East Pakistan.

He became an executive and worked there until 1971. But the government nationalised industries in 1972 and Latifur found himself in a very difficult situation.

The family also owned some tea estates in north-eastern Bangladesh but after the independence of Bangladesh the price of the produce was less than the production cost.

But he did not give up hope. The same year, Latifur came across a Swiss company and started a trading business. There was no looking back after that.

Eventually, he established Transcom Group in 1981.

Latifur was a member of the executive board of ICC-Paris, vice president of ICC-Bangladesh and member of Brac's governing body. He was a member of the Bangladesh Better Business Forum and the Advisory Committee on World Trade Organisation.

He was also president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka for seven terms and of Bangladesh Employers' Federation.

Latifur was also chairman of the Bangladesh government's Trade Body Reforms Committee and a member of Bangladesh Bank's executive board.

He was an honouree of "Oslo Business for Peace Award 2012" and was awarded Business Executive of the Year 2001 by the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh.

The businessman was also honoured with the "Saar Outstanding Leader" award and Lifetime Achievement Award which was presented by the UK Bangladesh Catalysts of Commerce and Industry.

Latifur Rahman married Shahnaz Rahman. They have three daughters Simeen Hossain, Shahzreh Huq, (late) Shazneen Rahman, and son Arshad Waliur Rahman.

University of hope

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A virtual discussion will be held today marking the university's 100th founding anniversary, said a university press release.

As the chief guest, Language Movement hero and columnist Abdul Gaffar Choudhury will present the keynote speech on "Centenary of Dhaka University: Looking Back".

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman will chair the discussion and it will be streamed live on <https://www.facebook.com/ICTCellDU>.

The university hoped that more colourful programmes would be held with enthusiasm and festivity on November 1.

President Abdul Hamid, also the chancellor of the university, is expected to inaugurate the grand ceremony of the centenary celebrations then.

Prof Akhtaruzzaman in a message yesterday greeted all students, teachers, staffers, former students, guardians and well-wishers.

He said they were working to improve the quality of education

and research at the university and make it suitable for creating skilled manpower.

On July 1, 1921, the university opened its doors to students with PJ Hartog as the first vice-chancellor of the university.

The university started its activities with three faculties, 12 departments, 60 teachers, 877 students, and three dormitories. Now it has 13 faculties, 84 departments, 13 institutes, 19 residential halls, and three hostels.

The number of students and teachers has risen to 47,000 and 1,986.

Since its inception, DU had distinguished scholars as faculties who enriched the global pool of knowledge by making notable contributions.

It acted as the foundation of awakening in every moment of national need and eventually became the centre of the movement that led to the creation of the country in 1971, establishing Bangla as one of the sate languages, and restoration of democracy.

HC may begin

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appeal with the HC, challenging the trial court judgment.

Contacted, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin said his office will place arguments before the HC for confirmation of punishment of the convicted militants when the court will hold a hearing on the death reference.

On July 1, 2016, five militants, armed with guns, machetes, and grenades, stormed the upscale eatery in the diplomatic zone in Gulshan and held the diner hostage before brutally killing 20 of them -- three Bangladeshis, seven Japanese, nine Italians, and one Indian.

The militants were killed during a rescue operation by army commandos. Two police officials and a chef of the café were also killed during the 12-hour standoff while another injured staffer of the eatery died later.

A Dhaka court on November 27, 2019, sentenced seven militants to death for their involvement in the attack, terming it a disgraceful attack aimed at assassinating the non-communal character of Bangladesh.

The seven death-row convicts are Jahangir Hossain, Aslam Hossain Rash, Hadisur Rahman, Rakibul Hasan Regan, Md Abdus Sabur Khan, Shariful Islam Khaled, and Mamunur Rashid Ripon.

The Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal acquitted one accused as it found him not guilty.

Country logs

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After cases and deaths came under control in January and February, coronavirus transmission continued rising from the second week of March this year, with a small dip from late April to mid-May.

Due to the spread of the Delta variant -- first detected in neighbouring India -- Khulna and Rajshahi divisions have become the hotspots of the latest virus surge across the country.

According to the DGHS data, more than 50 districts have been recording positivity rates above 20 percent recently.

To curb the transmission, the government has imposed a countrywide lockdown from today for a week.

Living in the memories

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would make sure that it is operated smoothly as per his brother's plan. Many people have pledged to support the school, he added.

In 2007, Rabiul had set up Nazrul Bidyasiri, a kindergarten school, in the village aiming to realise his father's dream. The school has 175 students of up to class V.

"My brother wanted to construct a residential building and a hospital on the BLOOMS campus for the students and the poor. He dreamt of setting up an old home for the destitute. He also planned to run an agricultural project to fund these institutions," Shams told The Daily Star.

Rabiul's family has already started implementing the project by planting a banana orchard on 137 decimals of land of his uncle. It has also started farming fish in a pond.

His mother Karimon Nesa still cannot hold back her tears while speaking of her son. The heartbroken mother takes pride in thinking that her son sacrificed his life for the country.

"I had no worries when my son was

alive. After the death of my husband in 2006, Rabiul took the responsibility of our family," she lamented.

But the sudden demise of the family's lone breadwinner has left it in the dark.

Although the family received some government assistance, it has no permanent income now.

Karimon Nesa said the amount received from the government was deposited with a bank. "We could survive well if my younger son and Rabiul's wife get jobs as per their qualifications."

A Master's degree holder from Jahangirnagar University, Shams is serving a private company now while Salma, who completed Master's degree at National University, is still unemployed.

Salma said the Jahangirnagar University authorities had assured her of a first-class job.

"One year has passed, but the authorities are yet to deliver on their pledge," she added.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
Department of Environment				
Ecosystem-based Approaches to Adaptation (EbA) in the Drought-Prone Barind Tract and Haor Wetland Area Project				
(EbA Project)				
2 nd Floor, Room: 304, Poribesh Bhaban Old Building				
E/16 Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207				
www.doe.gov.bd				
Advertisement for Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) for Selection of Individual Consultant (National)				
1.	Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	
2.	Agency	:	Department of Environment (DoE)	
3.	Client (Procuring Entity) Name	:	Dr. Md. Sohrab Ali, Project Director, EbA project	
4.	Client (Procuring Entity) Code	:		
5.	Client (Procuring Entity) District	:	Dhaka	
6.	Expression of Interest for selection of	:	Individual Consultant (National)	
7.	Eol Ref No	:	22.02.0000.111.14.012.20-112	
8.	Date	:	29 June 2021	
Funding Information				
9.	Source of Funds	:	LDCF of Global Environment Facility (GEF)	
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Particular Information				
11.	Project Code	:	009869	
12.	Project Name	:	Ecosystem-based Approaches to Adaptation (EbA) in the Drought-Prone Barind Tract and Haor "Wetland" Area Project (EbA Project)	
13.	Eol Closing Date and Time	:	29 July 2021, 02:30 pm	
Information for Applicants:				
Package No.	Name of Position	Number of Position	Duration	Educational Qualifications and ToR*
	Economist (Monitoring and Evaluation)	1 (One)	36 months/Project Period	PhD/Master's degree in Economics/ Agricultural Economics
	Administration and Finance Officer (AFO)- Haor Area	1 (One)	36 months/Project Period	Master's degree in Commerce background or closely relevant subject
	Office Assistant- Haor area	1 (One)	36 months/Project Period	Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC)
Procuring Entity (Client) Details				
14.	Name of Official Inviting Eol	:	Dr. Md. Sohrab Ali	
15.	Designation of Official Inviting Eol	:	Project Director, EbA Project	
16.	Address of Official Inviting Eol	:	Department of Environment 2 nd Floor, Room: 304, Poribesh Bhaban Old Building E/16 Agargaon Administrative Area Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207	
17.	Contact details of Official Inviting Eol	:	Phone: 8181269, Email: sohrab@doe.gov.bd	
18.	Place of submission of Eol	:	Project Director's office (Director's office of DoE Dhaka Laboratory) EbA project, Department of Environment 2 nd Floor, Room: 304, Poribesh Bhaban Old Building E/16 Agargaon Administrative Area Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207	
19.	The Client (Procuring Entity) reserves the right to accept or reject all Eols.			

The Department of Environment is implementing EbA Project to increase capacity of government and local communities living in the Barind Tract and the Haor wetland area and to reduce the negative effects of climate change using Ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation.

Project Director of the EbA Project now invites eligible applicants to express their interest in providing the services. Applicants are advised to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services in completed Curriculum Vitae (CV) and proven documents with a cover letter. Detail Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) including Format of CV, Standard Request for Application (SRFA) and *Terms of References (ToR) including scope of works, responsibilities, educational qualifications and experiences are available in the DoE website (www.doe.gov.bd). Format of CV, SRFA and Copy of ToR may also be obtained from the office mentioned above.

One original and two copies of Eol must be submitted in the Project Director's office on or before 29 July 2021, 02:30 pm in sealed envelope and be clearly marked the position for Expression of Interest. In this pandemic situation, applicants can send the Eol through Email also at sohrab@doe.gov.bd with necessary proven documents.

Persons who are in service should submit Eol through proper channel, otherwise Eol will be rejected.