

## 3 brothers shot

FROM PAGE 16

armed Rohingyas went to Habibur's house in Jadimura village and fired bullets around 3:30am.

His three sons suffered bullet injuries, he added.

On information, teams of APBN and Teknaf police went to the spot and took the injured to Teknaf Upazila Health Complex, said Tariqul, adding that the on-duty doctors gave the injured treatment and then sent them to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital.

Locals said there were 10-12 Rohingya criminals in the group. Hashemullah, Nuru, Abu Taher, Abdur Rahman, Prakash Beji, Azimullah, and Shukkur were among the criminals, they said.

Police patrol has been increased in the area, said the APBN commander, adding that the situation was under control.

Hafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, told The Daily Star that police were trying to arrest the attackers.

A case was filed in this connection.

## Khaleda

FROM PAGE 16

considered that appeal under 401 [of penal code] and her sentences were suspended on two conditions and she was released," the minister said.

In addition, he said, the two conditions were that she would receive treatment from home and she would receive treatment within the country.

Khaleda's family accepted the conditions and took her home from jail, he added.

Pointing to BNP leaders' repeated appeals to send Khaleda abroad, the law minister asked, "Once an application is disposed of, can it be reconsidered?"

Throwing out a challenge, the minister said there are six sub-sections in the law.

"If you [BNP MPs] can show under those sub-sections that you will be able to apply again [to take Khaleda abroad], then I will not be in the legal profession anymore," he said.

Referring to Khaleda's treatment, he said she was treated at Evercare Hospital and got proper treatment.

Amid the coronavirus outbreak, the government on March 25 last year freed Khaleda from jail for six months suspending her jail sentences in two graft cases which were extended several times.

On February 8, 2018, the BNP chief was sent to the Old Dhaka Central Jail after a lower court had sentenced her to five years imprisonment in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case.

The High Court later doubled her jail sentence.

Khaleda was found guilty in another corruption case the same year. Her party, however, claims both the cases are politically motivated.

## 7 houses

FROM PAGE 16

no beneficiary was interested in living in those houses as many already developed cracks and some others collapsed partially.

Salma said they were not willing to put their life at risk by starting living there.

However, the upazila administration said they were trying to protect the houses from further damage by piling bamboos along the bank of the canal.

Asked why such land was picked for the project, Project Implementation Officer Samsunnahar Sheuly said, "The khas land was selected by an upazila taskforce committee."

Moynul Islam, Sherpur upazila nirbahi officer, told The Daily Star that they had filled up a low-lying land with soil during the construction work.

"After the recent rain, the soil started subsiding into the canal. As a result, seven toilets and some walls of the houses have collapsed. We are now dumping sand in the area to protect the land. We will repair the houses later."

The UNO said the local public health department would soon install some tube wells in the area. Besides, electrical wiring work in those houses was going on, he added.

## Former US

FROM PAGE 16

defense secretary Robert McNamara as the most powerful men to hold the post, brought charisma and bombast to the Pentagon job, projecting the Bush administration's muscular approach to world affairs.

With Rumsfeld in charge, US forces swiftly toppled Iraqi President Saddam Hussein but failed to maintain law and order in the aftermath, and Iraq descended into chaos with a bloody insurgency and violence between Sunni and Shia Muslims. US troops remained in Iraq until 2011, long after he left his post.

Rumsfeld played a leading role ahead of the war in making the case to the world for the March 2003 invasion. He warned of the dangers of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction but no such weapons were ever discovered.

Only McNamara served as defense secretary for longer than Rumsfeld, who had two stints - from 1975 to 1977 under President Gerald Ford, for whom he also served as White House chief of staff, and from 2001 to 2006 under Bush.

## Half win stares at a full loss

FROM PAGE 1

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.

## Faith in mankind reaffirmed

FROM PAGE 1

Artisan café on the fateful evening of July 1, 2016 at the mercy of armed Islamist terrorists, when most would have made a beeline for the exit.

That evening, the 20-year-old grandson of Transcom Group Chairman Latifur Rahman was a paragon of gallantry, selflessness, purity, friendship, and optimism -- confronting an adversary consumed by hatred and sadism.

The five militants' plan for the venue frequented by foreigners was loud and clear -- annihilating non-Muslims.

The diners were segregated on the basis of their ability to recite verses from the Holy Quran, which Faraaz was able to and was allowed to walk free.

But he stopped to ask if his two friends could come with him. His friends were Abinta Kabir, a US citizen of Bangladeshi origin, and Tarishi Jain, an Indian national.

The militants refused to let the two leave, so Faraaz stayed behind -- innocently sealing his fate.

The nation watched with utter horror, incredulity and agony as the five militants fended off attacks from the police and held the diners hostage overnight.

The terrorists went on to kill and maim the bodies of 20 hostages -- including Faraaz, Abinta and Tarishi along with nine Italians, seven Japanese, and another Bangladeshi.

The five militants were killed

during the joint forces operation the next morning, bringing to an end a 12-hour standoff.

Faraaz, the younger son of Simeen Hossain and Muhammad Waquer bin Hossain, lost his life but stood out as a beacon of hope for generations that will continue to reaffirm faith in mankind.

His bravery and sacrifice has been recognised with several posthumous awards.

Faraaz was a student of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia in the US. He came to Dhaka on May 18, 2016 to spend his summer holidays and was scheduled to return to the US a few months later.

On the fateful evening of July 1, he went to the restaurant to meet Tarishi and Abinta for a cup of coffee. During the siege, he made the unflinching decision to stay back with his friends in a situation that had only one possible ending -- death.

He remained staunch in the horrifying face of terror and death, proving with pride that humanity stands above all.

After the bloody siege in the Gulshan café, Faraaz became a symbol of friendship, hope and bravery. His sacrifice is being recognised across the world.

He was awarded the Mother Teresa Memorial International Award for Social Justice in November 2016. His mother Simeen and elder brother Zaraif Ayaat Hossain received the

## Who will give back 24 yrs

FROM PAGE 16

she fell into a canal adjacent to our home [at Choto Haji village under Pirojpur's Mathbaria upazila], and so I said that in court."

Piara, whose father Anis Mridha passed away before the incident, told The Daily Star that her family had a dispute with her uncle Ziaul Haque over land. Piara's elder brother Yunus Mridha was out of the picture as he was working as a mason in the capital then.

When Ziaul's seven- or eight-year-old daughter died in 1997, he conspired so that Piara said in court what the police official had taught her. She was then taken to Pirojpur District Jail.

Piara could not remember the name of the police official. The local administration and this newspaper tried to reach Ziaul but could not because he lives in a

remote area.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (Barishal Range) SM Akhtaruzzaman said, "We have heard of this incident. If there was any police role behind it, no apology would be accepted. We are investigating this incident."

Pirojpur District Jail Superintendent Shamim Iqbal said Piara had been convicted in a murder case.

She was sentenced on September 29, 1998 by a Pirojpur district and sessions judge and her age was shown in the case docket to be 18 years.

She had since been in Barishal Central Jail until her release earlier this month.

Over these years spent in the women's ward of the prison, she said she has forgotten her family members, none of whom contacted her while she was incarcerated.

"I couldn't really identify my

## Nixon writes to India, Yahya

FROM PAGE 16

needs," added Nixon.

He explained the US's position regarding arms sales to Pakistan and said, "It is hoped that the recent difficulties over the delivery of arms ordered by Pakistan prior to March 25 will not prevent us from working together to achieve the objectives of peace and prosperity in South Asia, which are in the United States' interest as well as in India's. I understand the nature of your Government's concern. You can appreciate the essentially restrictive nature of the interim actions we have taken since the civil strife began in East Pakistan. The United States must maintain a constructive relationship with Pakistan so that we may retain some influence in working with them toward important decisions to be made in that country, as we have

in the past."

**NIXON'S LETTER TO YAHYA**

In a letter dated July 1, 1971, Nixon expressed regret to Pakistan President Yahya Khan as to the meeting of the Aid-to-Pakistan Consortium which concluded that that assistance, running at about \$500 million a year, should be withheld pending a political settlement of the crisis.

"The Consortium meeting was an informal one. No decisions with respect to economic aid to Pakistan were sought, and none were reached. Furthermore, a common position was not developed whereby all members of the Consortium would jointly suspend future aid or withhold already committed assistance. The Consortium members are now awaiting the final reports of the World Bank and Fund Missions and also the

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.

very spirit Faraaz showed.

Besides, his family set up the Faraaz Hossain Foundation which works for distressed people.

Faraaz was honoured with a place in the Garden of the Righteous at the Italian Embassy in the Tunisian capital, Tunis.

Milan-based non-profit organisation Garden of the Righteous Worldwide, with help from the Italian foreign ministry, took the initiative to set up the first Garden of the Righteous in an Arab country on July 15, 2016.

It hosts trees and memorial stones dedicated to five righteous Arab and non-Arab Muslims, one of whom is Faraaz.

The tree dedicated to Faraaz bears the inscription: "In Dhaka, he chose not to leave his friends and was murdered by the terrorists."

In March 2018, students of Rummo High School in Benevento of Italy planted a tree honouring Faraaz.

On the first death anniversary of her beloved son, Simeen said, "I always thought he was a bit weak, except that night when he proved me wrong. Undoubtedly, he was among the strongest ones in the world."

"But I could not imagine he would make me so proud," said his mother.

Faraaz's sacrifice sent out a message of true humanity throughout the world. He was indeed a silver lining to a dark cloud -- a bright star who lit up one of the darkest nights in the nation's history.

Barishal Deputy Commissioner Md Jasim Uddin Haider said, "I am shocked to hear about Piara Akhter's case. I think something went wrong somewhere. A child of class five is not supposed to be convicted in this court. I think her age then may have been eleven or twelve.

"We have decided not only to release her, but also to give her a government house and a job."

Al Mamun, deputy jailer of Barishal Central Jail, said Piara's age was not shown in the jail documents, adding that after she served for 24 years, authorities applied for a mercy release due to her good behaviour.

"While in prison she acquired the skills of a tailor and gained a reputation," he added.

Deputy Commissioner Jasimuddin Haider said, "She is somewhat traumatised. It will take some time to settle down."

## Locals save

FROM PAGE 16

The pair were driven onto the beach by locals after previous encounters in which people have been killed, Fazlul Haque, councillor for the seaside town Teknaf, told AFP.

Elderly villager Jahid Hossain said residents had "very bitter experience of losing crops and even lives to these elephants as they can become very aggressive".

Stuck on the beach for four days without food, and having attracted thousands of onlookers, the elephants swam out to the Bay of Bengal in a panic on Tuesday.

Fishermen had to carry out a dramatic rescue using boats and ropes to bring them back to shore.

"The fishermen rescued them from certain death in the sea," regional forest department chief Humayun Kabir told AFP.

On Wednesday, the pair were being led inland, Kabir said.

Local residents tied ropes around the massive animals' necks to coax them to safety.

Raquibul Amin, country head of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), said this was the fourth such incident since last year.

"We need a transboundary dialogue between Bangladesh and Myanmar to monitor the elephants so that we take measures to reduce human-elephant conflict," he added.

At least seven wild elephants have been found dead in the region since last year, according to the forest department.

## Nationwide

FROM PAGE 16

Another 20 lakh doses of the vaccine were ready to be delivered from China.

Meantime, migrant workers heading abroad will get the Pfizer vaccines at seven centres in the capital from today. The vaccination will be done based on lists of workers provided by the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), said the health officials.

The centres are at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital, Mugda Medical College Hospital, Shaheed Shuhrawardy Medical College Hospital, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Kurmitola General Hospital and Sheikh Russel National Gastroenter Institute & Hospital.

Prof Shamshul said students would also be able to register for the vaccination of the Sinopharm jabs as per lists of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

"No one will get the vaccine without registration and confirmation messages. The online registration has resumed," he said.

He also said the vaccine recipients would be able to go to the vaccination centres amid the ongoing nationwide strict Covid-19 lockdown, beginning today.

### TWO MILLION SINOPHARM VACCINES READY

Two million shots of Sinopharm vaccines in Beijing are ready to be delivered to Bangladesh, said Chinese government officials.

Hualong Yan, deputy chief of mission at the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka, wrote in his Facebook post that the first batch of Sinopharm vaccines, under Bangladesh's commercial purchase, was ready for delivery.

Health ministry officials earlier said Bangladesh would have to make arrangements to transport the doses from China.

Besides, Bangladesh will get 2.5 million jabs of Moderna vaccine by July 3 under the Covax facility.

In yesterday's briefing, Dr Shamsul also said, "We expect to get many more vaccines in July."

The country has so far inoculated less than three percent of its population. Its vaccination campaign, which started on February 7, stumbled due to suspension of vaccine supplies by the Serum Institute of India amid a surge in daily new cases and deaths there.

Bangladesh and Serum had an agreement that the latter would ship three crore shots of the Oxford vaccine in phases to Bangladesh between January and June.

Serum delivered the first 50 lakh doses in January, but shipped only 20 lakh the following month. No shipment has been made since. Besides, India sent 3.3 million doses as a gift to Bangladesh.

Amid a fast depleting vaccine stock, Bangladesh suspended administering the first dose of the vaccine on April 26. Registering people for vaccination was suspended nine days later.

## Rape victim's

FROM PAGE 16

the law is affecting rape victims because the supposedly immoral character of the victim is being used as a tool of presumption of consent in case of rape, say rights activists.

India in 2003 deleted the clause and prohibited raising the issue of complainant's character in cross-examination.

Rights activists have long been demanding Jatiya Sangsad amend Section 155 (4) of the Evidence Act as it is totally a humiliation for a rape victim.

Cases of rape are usually filed under the Women and Child Repression Prevention Act.

Parliament in November last year amended the Women and Child Repression Prevention Act. The word "rape" was replaced by the word "rape victim" through the amendment. In addition, the provision of capital punishment for committing rape was included in the law.

The law minister yesterday also said the use of digital and information technology would be added to the Evidence Act.

Arthur Bottomley, a former UK secretary of state for Commonwealth and Labour MP told newsmen in New Delhi today that he did not think the political solution proposed by President Yahya would be acceptable to the people of Bangladesh. He said solution to the problem must mean that "the Awami League and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman are involved in finding it".

His two other colleagues Reginald Prentice (Labour) and Toby Jessel ( Conservative) agreed with this view. They arrived in New Delhi this morning from Calcutta. They had visited a number of refugee camps in West Bengal. Earlier they had visited Dhaka.

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completion by your government of a revised national development plan. As soon as resumption of national development programs was possible, we expect that a formal meeting of the Consortium, with Pakistani participation, will be called to review new aid requirements," informed Nixon.

He assured, "We wish to proceed with new agreements, subject to US legislative criteria, as soon as adequate grounds are established for a resumption of economic development throughout Pakistan. In the meantime, we are extending new humanitarian relief aid to East Pakistan within the framework of the UN-coordinated program, and are urging others to contribute as well."

**BANGALEES WILL NOT ACCEPT YAHYA'S PLAN: BRITISH MPS**