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Ansar al Islam plans to beef up its female wing

CTTC officials claim

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Militant outfit Ansar al Islam, said to be the Bangladesh chapter of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, is aiming to strengthen its female wing with at least 25 female members directly involved in its organisational activities.

The outfit also has around 300 female supporters connected with its online social media accounts, counterterrorism officials said.

The female operatives of Ansar al Islam are using fake social media accounts, pretending to be males to avoid law enforcers' vigilance, they said. They do this because a female user hosting or spreading militant content raises more suspicion than if a male member does so.

Officials said although the outfit has no present plan to use female members in violent operations, they are recruiting females to marry male members in order to create husband-wife units that would promote the outfit's secrecy and efficiency. Ansar al Islam was also recruiting females to work for their social media section to recruit new members and collect funds from the outfit's financiers.

"If any female member marries [an existing operative] and stays in the house, it will not raise locals' suspicion. The outfit is now working with that strategy," said a senior official of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit.

The outfit is also working to set up some clinics where female doctors will only provide treatment to female patients, said the official requesting anonymity.

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A greater painted-snipe is searching for food in a marsh in Laxmikola Deuly village of Bogura's Shibganj upazila. The bird feeds on insects, crustaceans, molluscs and seeds. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SHABBOSACHI DAS



Flight to India may resume tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Flight operations under the air bubble agreement between India and Bangladesh are likely to resume from tomorrow instead of today, sources at the civil aviation ministry and Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh said.

Earlier, the date of resuming flights was deferred twice.

Speaking to reporters at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday, State Minister for Civil Aviation M Mahbub Ali said Bangladesh-India flights would hopefully start from tomorrow under the air bubble agreement.

Caab Chairman Air Vice Marshal Mofidur Rahman at the airport said, "We hope to issue a circular by tonight [last night] stating conditions for resuming flights with India."

Earlier on August 28, the Indian civil aviation ministry in a circular said flight operations between the two countries might resume from September

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New Afghan cabinet 'today'

Say Taliban sources as Qatar working with the Islamist group to reopen Kabul airport

AGENCIES

The Taliban said yesterday they were close to forming a new government, as dozens of women held a rare protest for the right to work under a new regime that faces enormous economic hurdles and deep public mistrust.

The Islamist militants, who have pledged a softer brand of rule than during their brutal reign of 1996-2001, must now transform from insurgent group to governing power.

The announcement of a cabinet, which two Taliban sources told AFP may take place today following afternoon prayers, would come just days after the chaotic pullout of US forces from Afghanistan, ending America's longest war with an astounding military victory for the Islamist group.

In one of the most symbolic moments since the takeover of Kabul on August 15, the militants paraded Wednesday some of the military hardware they had captured during their offensive, even flying a Black Hawk helicopter over Kandahar, their movement's spiritual heartland.

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Nazrul's family refuses pension from Pakistan

SEPTEMBER 3, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

YAHYA'S MONEY UNTOUCHABLE: NAZRUL'S SON
Kazi Sabyashachi, son of rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, outright rejected today Pakistan's offer to renew payment of monthly allowances to the poet. He said they would not touch the blood-stained money of Pakistan.

Kazi Sabyashachi said in a statement: "I am surprised at the audacity of Pakistan proposing to renew payment of monthly allowance to my father, who has been in bed for the several years."

"It is known to all that in poems, songs and other writings, Nazrul Islam has been the embodiment of Bengal's cultural and revolutionary spirit, sought to be crushed today by the barbarous army of Pakistan in Bangladesh. Whatever difficulties we may have to face we shall not touch any of Pakistan's money stained with the blood of innocent millions."

Radio Pakistan reported yesterday quoting an official spokesman in Islamabad, that payment of monthly allowance to the poet "had been resumed through the Pakistan high commission in New Delhi".

When Pakistan stopped the allowance, the Bangladesh government-in-exile announced an allowance to the ailing poet. The Government of West Bengal had for a long time been giving a

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Violence in Barishal Court gives bail to all accused

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A Barishal court yesterday granted bail to every Awami League leader, activist, and Barishal City Corporation employee arrested over a recent conflict between them and the administration officials.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Masum Billah, issued the bail order at 12:30pm yesterday upon a bond of Tk 10,000. The order will be in effect until submission of the next police report, Khokon Chandra Das, general recording officer of the court said.

Talukdar Mohammad Yunus, lawyer of the accused, said, "We are pleased to receive the bail, and the settlement process will proceed."

On August 18, at least 50 people were injured when BCC employees

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'Lost ancient capital city' discovered in France



MAIL ONLINE

A Bronze Age hillfort in France may represent a lost Celtic capital city, archaeologists said after finding treasures there including jewellery, weapons and chariot parts.

The priceless trove was unearthed near Gannat in France's Allier department, some 80 miles northwest of Lyon, by experts from the University of Toulouse-Jean Jaurès.

Excavations revealed a large — 30 hectares in total — fortified settlement which would have sported a double row of ramparts and 20-foot-high stone walls.

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ACC sues a retired RHD official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed a case against a retired additional chief engineer of the Roads and Highways Department and his wife for amassing about Tk 1.44 crore.

ACC Assistant Director Ataur Rahman Sarkar filed the case against RHD additional chief engineer (retd) Junaid Ahsan Shibib and his wife Shahana Parvin.

According to ACC sources, Junaid presented fabricated information to the ACC during quizzing.

He mentioned that a shop at Bashundhara City Shopping Complex, a 1,250sqft flat in Elephant road, and a total of 37 kathas of land in the capital's Adabar, Banasree, Uttara and Purbachal cost only Tk 1.45 crore.

Junaid also said that the properties were purchased in the 80's and 90's, whereas

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AL lawmaker Hasibur passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hasibur Rahman Swapon, Awami League lawmaker from Sirajganj-6 (Shahjadpur), passed away at a hospital in the Turkish city of Istanbul early yesterday.

The 67-year-old politician is survived by his wife and three daughters.

Hasibur, also a valiant freedom fighter, was elected thrice as an MP. He underwent a kidney transplant at a hospital in Turkey in February, sources

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 3

Fajr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:30	12:30	4:45	6:23	7:45

JAMAAT 5:05 1:15 5:00 6:26 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Bus Owners Association of Patuakhali and Sramik Union yesterday called a strike for an indefinite period and blocked the Kuakata-Barishal highway by placing buses near the district bus terminal. The organisations went for the strike demanding banning of three-wheelers on the highway.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Star HEALTHLINE

Dos and don'ts after BYPASS SURGERY

FARHANA AHMED

Coronary artery bypass surgery, commonly referred to as "bypass surgery", is very common nowadays -- with thousands of patients undergoing this procedure every year in Bangladesh.

The surgery is needed when coronary arteries are blocked by plaques (calcium and fatty deposits), reducing blood flow to the heart, said Dr Syed Tanvir Ahmad, assistant professor at Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital and Research Institute.

Blood vessels from other parts of

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