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MILITANCY IN TWO DECADES

Poverty, blind faith at play

Anti-Terrorism Unit finds most religious extremists from north due to socioeconomic condition

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Eight out of every 10 militants, arrested in about the last two decades, were from the northern districts and dragged into militancy by their poor socioeconomic status and religious bigotry, reveals a police study.

The report, prepared by Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU), a police unit dedicated to combat militancy, finds that 80 percent of militants are from general education background while the rest from madrasas.

The study, first of its kind in Bangladesh, has detailed information on the rise and spread of militancy, age of militants, their income group and how they got into militancy. It has also made some observations and recommendations.

According to the study, the highest number of militants are from the age group of 31-40. Militant outfits recruit a significant number of their operatives by "misinterpreting religion" and using online platforms.

Formed in 2017 as the lead coordinating, operating and investigating body to fight extremism, ATU prepared the report analysing data on 1,217 militants, arrested in connection with terrorism related cases filed between 2001 and 2020 in three metropolitan cities and eight divisions.

They are members of Harkat-ul-Jihad Al Islami Bangladesh (Huji-B), Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh

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At least six children sit huddled together on the bow of a speedboat, dangerously close to the water, while guardians stand nonchalantly behind them. Such carelessness by parents could result in tragic accidents. The photo taken on the capital's Gabtoli bridge over the Turag.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

MITU MURDER

Court rejects PBI's final report against ex-SP Babul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

A Chattogram court yesterday rejected the final report in Mahmuda Khanam Mitu murder case submitted by the Police Bureau of Investigation.

In the report, her husband former SP Babul Akter, who filed the case, was implicated.

The Court of Metropolitan Magistrate Mehnaz Rahman also asked for further probe into the case, said his lawyer Iftekhhar Saimul Chowdhury.

He told The Daily Star, "But the court did not say which agency will investigate the murder case further."

On September 27, Babul filed a no-confidence petition on the PBI's final report implicating him in the case. The court later

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DU's current, ex-VCs face contempt rule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against Dhaka University's Vice Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman, its former VC Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, and two others on charges of violating the Supreme Court directives over giving seniority and financial benefit to a teacher.

The two other respondents are DU's acting registrar Prabir Kumar Sarkar and former registrar Md Rezaul Rahman.

In the rule, the HC asked the four to explain in four weeks as to why contempt of court proceedings should not be brought against them for violating the directives.

The HC bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman came up with the rule, following a petition filed by Professor Ayesha Mahmuda, a teacher of Dhaka University's psychology department.

Ayesha's lawyer Md Asrarul Hoque told The Daily Star that the HC on August 11, 2009, following a writ petition, had cancelled the appointments of three associate professors -- Afroza Hossain, Kamal Uddin and Mehjabin Hoque -- as they did not have the required

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Indira, Nixon confer

NOVEMBER 4, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

INDIRA MEETS NIXON

Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi called on US president Nixon today at the White House. The two-hour talk covered the Bangladesh issue in substantial detail.

Indira described the atrocities which were occurring in Bangladesh. She pointed out that despite oppressive measures, the Pakistani military had been unable to establish control in the area. She further noted that India had been accused of supporting guerrilla activity but that the situation was not that clear. She drew a parallel to the problems the US government had when Cuban refugees based in Florida launched forays against the Cuban mainland. She added that realities were that it was no longer realistic to expect East and West Pakistan to remain together.


The Indian premier then turned to the great numbers of refugees who continued to stream across the border from East Pakistan. "I come here in search of some wise impulse that has sometimes worked to save humanity from despair," she declared.

President Nixon stated that US efforts with respect to Pakistan were designed to alleviate the situation along constructive lines. The restrictions the US had placed on military assistance to East Pakistan had been undertaken with the relationships with India clearly in mind, added Nixon.

Indira replied that the crucial issue remained the future of Mujib who was a symbol of the imperative for autonomy.

Nixon further noted that president Yahya had indicated a

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2 Bangladeshis shot dead 'by BSF'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two Bangladeshis were shot dead by Indian Border Security Force in Dona border area of Kanaighat upazila yesterday, police said quoting locals.

The identities of the deceased could not be confirmed till filing of this report last night.

Mohammad Tajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kanaighat Police Station, said the duo was shot on the "no man's land" along the Dona border early yesterday. Locals saw the bodies around noon.

Police went to the spot, but could not recover the bodies as those were lying on "no man's land", he added.

A BGB-BSF flag meeting is needed in this regard, the OC said.

This correspondent could not reach the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) official concerned over the phone for comments.

PARASITE THREAT TO HIVE

Honeybees applies socially distancing



INDEPNEDENT.CO.UK

Honeybees use social distancing when their hive comes under threat from parasites, researchers have discovered.

A study, led by an international team involving ethologists from UCL, found that honeybee colonies respond to an infestation from a harmful mite by modifying the use of space and the interactions between nestmates to increase the social distance between young and old bees.

Researchers said they believed the bees had evolved to socially distance to reduce the risk of infection spreading within their colony.

Dr Alessandro Cini, co-author of the

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'CUSTODIAL DEATH' HC asks Rangpur cops to submit probe report

STAR REPORT

The High Court yesterday sought a probe report, an autopsy report and a copy of the case filed over the death of Tajul Islam in the custody of Rangpur police.

The bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman made Rangpur police a respondent to the rule and asked it to submit the report by November 11.

The bench passed the order on a suo moto move after Deputy Attorney General Amit Das Gupta submitted a statement of police on the incident before it, following the court's directives.

Rangpur police formed a four-member committee, headed by an additional police commissioner, to investigate the incident, DAG Amit Das Gupta said

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Mamunul faces trial for rape

Court frames charges against Hefajat leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A Narayanganj court framed charges against Hefajat-e-Islam's former joint secretary general Mamunul Haque in a rape case yesterday.

Narayanganj District and Sessions Judge Anisur Rahman framed the charges and fixed November 14 for the hearing from the witnesses.

The case was sent to the court as the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal was sick, said Moniruzzaman Bulbul, the public prosecutor of the court.

On September 10, Shafiqul Islam, the investigation officer of the case, submitted a charge sheet before the court.

Mamunul was made the sole accused in the case.

The court yesterday

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A child, wide-eyed with eagerness, waits for his cotton candy at a vendor's stand in the capital's Hazaribagh area. As locals there are mostly poor, vendors usually use toxic colours to make cheap, low-quality cotton candy, which can be harmful for one's health. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

PRAYER TIMING NOV 4	Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha				
	AZAN	4-55	12-45	4-00	5-30 7-15
	JAMAAT	5-30	1-15	4-15	5-34 7-45
	SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION				

Obituary



Halima Kabir, popularly known as Rekha Kabir, passed away in London on the 1st of November after a long battle with a chronic illness. She was formerly the Principal of Dhaka English Preparatory School, which became Udayan School after the independence of Bangladesh. She was the daughter of the Late Mr. Nurul Amin and the Late Mrs. Ayesha Khatun, and widow of the Late Mr. Nurul Kabir of Ghorasal. An alumna of Holy Cross College, she was a teacher and an artist. She is survived by her son Junaed Kabir, daughter Nadia Kabir Barb, daughter-in-law Ann Kabir, son-in-law Roger Barb, 6 grandchildren, two brothers, 5 sisters and many friends, former students and well-wishers. She was laid to rest at the Mill Hill Cemetery after funeral prayers at Hendon Mosque on Wednesday November 3rd. The family have requested all to pray for the departed soul.

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