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## 16TH JUDICIAL SERVICE RECRUITMENT Gazette delay leaves candidates in limbo

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

Rashed Ahmed, a former student of Rajshahi University, was provisionally recommended to become an assistant judge following the final results of the 16th Bangladesh Judicial Service (BJS) exams. After getting the recommendation, Rashed thought his days of uncertainty and anxiety would finally come to an end, as he would be joining a government job, which would help him finally start providing for his family. But to his utter dismay, even after nine months of the results being published, he has yet to join the office due to the delay in publishing the official gazette.



Over 37 lakh cases are pending in the country. If the recommended candidates could join their positions sooner, it would help alleviate some of this backlog.

Due to that, a total of 104 candidates have yet to join their positions as assistant judges, despite being provisionally recommended. Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission (BJSC), which is responsible for overseeing the appointment of assistant judges, published the recruitment notice for the 16th BJS on February 7 last year. According to the BJSC website, the preliminary exams were held on March 18, followed by written exams from May 21-31. Oral exams were completed on September 19 and the final results were published on September 24. Despite the completion of these stages, the final step -- publishing the gazette -- remains pending, causing significant distress among the selected candidates. "Being recommended for a job and then waiting for nine months is unbearable and truly disheartening. Many people ask me where I have

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## Freedom fighters' quota not constitutional GM Quader tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Not all freedom fighters are under-privileged, therefore, keeping quotas in the name of freedom fighters in government jobs is unconstitutional, Opposition Leader GM Quader told parliament yesterday. Opposing the freedom fighters' quota in jobs, the JP chief said making the freedom fighters' quota permanent to a large extent destroys the main purpose of the spirit of our independence. GM Quader said this in his winding-up speech at the third budget session of parliament. Highlighting the various statements of students protesting against the quota system, GM Quader said, "In my view, permanently setting a large number of quotas for the employment of the upcoming generation of freedom fighters undermines the



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## Militants using prisons to run operations

### Smuggling in phones with help of guards for communication, say police intel report

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Neo JMB, the IS-inspired militant group responsible for the 2016 Holey Artisan Café attack, has been using cell phones from prisons for communication and operations, as per a recent police intelligence report. The outfit is also increasing its funds through foreign donations and agricultural earnings. One of the top leaders of the outfit Abu Ruham alias Kunia has been smuggling cell phones in jails with the help of some prison guards, the report added. Then the inmates install encrypted apps like Signal, Telegram, and Wicker Me for communication. Md Asaduzzaman, chief of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit, told The Daily Star that militants in jail are now under increased surveillance. The report revealed that Neo JMB's current Ameer, Saudi expatriate and Afghan returnee Abu Bakar, maintains regular communication with jailed members in Bangladesh. A high-ranking counterterrorism official confirmed that members provide money, SIM cards, and smart phones to inmates with help from some prison guards. Financial support is also sent through mobile financing services, the official added.

### REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- ➔ Increase cyber patrolling
- ➔ Take initiative to deradicalise extremists
- ➔ Heighten vigilance in prisons
- ➔ Enhance police monitoring in CHT



Militants collected 1.5 lakh phone numbers for using those to recruit new members through text messages

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## NEW CURRICULUM Questions of half-yearly exams 'leaked'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT


The question papers and their answers to the half-yearly assessment for classes 6 to 9 have been allegedly leaked on social media before the exams. The recently introduced assessment process began yesterday involving approximately one crore students. The leaked questions, centrally prepared by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), were found to be identical to those used in yesterday's assessments. Prof Md Moshuazzaman, acting chairman of the NCTB, admitted that the papers had been found on social media. "These [question papers] were sent directly to the IDs of the headteachers around noon before the exam. Unfortunately, these questions were shared by the headteachers, leading to their distribution among the students." "You can't call it a question paper leak," he said, explaining that during last year's evaluation, such papers were published on the official website about two weeks before the exams. "As the evaluation process is activity-based, students won't get any advantage, even if they get the questions a week in advance. They have to perform and do tasks in front of their teachers during the evaluation," he said. Regarding steps taken to address the leak, he said an urgent notice has been issued to headteachers, warning of strict action against anyone found responsible for future leaks.


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