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Take stance against propagandists

Arafat tells event

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mohammad Ali Arafat yesterday urged all to take stance against those who are spreading "falsehood and misinformation" against the government.

"If the government makes any mistake and it has any failure, you may highlight, criticise and oppose it... but you should unmask and protest against those who mislead people by telling lies and half-truths," he said.

The state minister made the remarks while distributing government grants for making films at the Tathya Bhaban.

Arafat said there are some vested quarters in

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'Lots of noise, no real penalties'

GM Quader says the corrupt will get away with crimes

UNB, Dhaka

Jatiya Party Chairman and leader of the opposition GM Quader yesterday alleged that the corrupt people currently under scrutiny would get away with their crimes, saying that none of them will face any punishment.

"We've seen this before with the casino cases - lots of noise, but no real penalties. It's all just a show, a drama. Some individuals have even been allowed to legalise their illicit money under the guise of amnesty," he said.

The opposition leader came up with the remarks while addressing the biennial conference of Gazipur district unit of the party as chief guest.

Criticising the current state of the country, GM

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'They mostly targeted madrasa teachers, students'

Ansar Al Islam tried to form new platform led by Indian national to avoid surveillance, says Rab after arresting six members

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Ansar Al Islam, under scrutiny by law enforcers, tried to form a new platform, "As Shahadat," led by an Indian national named Muhammad Habibullah, according to Rab.

Rab said the supposed ameer of the outfit is one Salahuddin.

From India, the outfit leaders were recruiting members, collecting funds, and providing training - mainly targeting the madrasa students and teachers in Bangladesh.

The majority of the students, who were targeted by the outfit's new platform, are aged between 19 and 20.

The outfit maintains communication through encrypted applications.

The information came to light after Rab-3, Rab-7, and Rab-15 in separate drives arrested six outfit members from Dhaka and Cox's Bazar in May and June.

According to the case statement filed with the Paltan Police Station in May, and the police investigation progress report, the group has been recruiting members in different districts of Bangladesh for a long time.

Commander Arafat Islam, director of the legal and media wing of the Rapid Action Battalion told

The Daily Star yesterday, "The outfit has at least 80 to 100 members."

"But we have successfully been able to detect the outfit's activities at the beginning, and one of their top leaders in Bangladesh is now under surveillance," he said.

Asked about whether they have reports of missing madrasa students,

22 arrested Muhammed Habibullah, from his residence in Paschim Bardhaman, according to a report of India Today.

Within a week after the arrest, the STF also arrested two other operatives - Anwar Sheikh, and Harej Sheikh, from Chennai and Howrah, reports Times of India.

This is not the first time that Ansar Al Islam has tried to form a new platform.

Ansar Al Islam was linked to the financial support and recruitment of Jamatul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya, a new outfit.

Mainul Islam, an Ansar Al Islam member, participated in Sharqiya's formation meeting in jail, according to counterterrorism officials.

Due to its cut-out strategy, Ansar Al Islam members remain out of law enforcers' radar and continue their activities on offline and online platforms.

For the past one and a half years, law enforcers have failed to trace two top Ansar Al Islam leaders, Moinul Hasan Shamim and Abu Siddiq Sohel, who were snatched from police custody while returning to jail after a hearing in a Dhaka court on November 20, 2022.

Md Asaduzzaman, chief of the CTTC unit, said the two are hiding in Bangladesh, and efforts to arrest them are ongoing.

In another development, the West Bengal Special Task Force on June

he replied in the negative.

"Three students, who did not return to a madrasa after spending Eid vacation, were arrested in Cox's Bazar in connection with the outfit," he added.

In another development, the West Bengal Special Task Force on June

AT A GLANCE

- The new platform has at least 80 to 100 members
- Formed by an Indian national Habibullah, who was arrested by West Bengal STF
- Ansar Al Islam has link with new outfit Sharqiya
- No trace of two Ansar Al Islam members who were snatched from court

India a political friend, China dev partner: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader has described India as Bangladesh's political friend and China as its development partner.

"China has contributed significantly to the development of many sectors in our country. Why will we not accept support from China for the sake of the country's overall progress?" Quader said yesterday.

He made the remarks after inaugurating a seven-day "Hilly Fruits Fair-2024" at the Sheikh Hasina Chittagong Hill Tracts Historic Protection and Research Centre in the city's Bailey Road area.

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BNP supports protests of teachers, students

Says Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said their party morally supports the ongoing movements by public university teachers and students based on "justified" demands.

Speaking at a press conference, he dismissed allegations of the ruling party leaders that BNP is inciting the teachers' protest against the new universal pension scheme "Protoy" and the students' agitation protesting the reinstatement of the quota system in government jobs.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



A team of Narayanganj district administration officials and ACC sealed off a duplex bungalow belonging to former IGP Benazir Ahmed at Purbachal in Narayanganj yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Benazir's Purbachal resort now under N'ganj admin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Narayanganj district administration has taken control of a resort belonging to former IGP Benazir Ahmed at Purbachal in Narayanganj's Rugganj upazila.

The development comes after Dhaka court earlier ordered appointment of administrators to look after the confiscated properties of Benazir and his family members.

A team of Narayanganj district administration officials, led by ADC (Revenue) Shafikur Alam, sealed off the resort by attaching a notice at the front gate yesterday.

A team of the Anti-Corruption Commission was also present during the drive.

ADC Shafikur told reporters that the district administration sealed off the property - Savanna Eco Resort Private Ltd - and took it under control following the court order.

"We found some birds and animals inside the property but couldn't enter into the duplex house as it was locked with a digital lock system. We will take a decision about the property later," the ADC said.

According to the notice, Benazir's daughter Farheen Rishda Binte Benazir is mentioned as the owner of the resort.

'Party feud behind my father's killing'

Claims MP Azim's daughter

UNB, Dhaka

Daughter of slain Jhenaidah-4 MP Anwarul Azim Anar yesterday said her father was killed for political reasons.

Anar's daughter Muntarin Ferdous Dorin said this while talking to reporters in front of Jatiya Press Club.

She said, "Of course, there must be internal party feuds [within Awami League] behind my father's killing. Otherwise, why would they [arrested suspects belonging to the ruling party] be involved in the brutal murder? They knew everything. They even came to comfort me!"

Two top leaders of Jhenaidah Awami League, Saidul Karim

Mintu, the general secretary, and Kamal Ahmed Babu, the welfare affairs secretary, are currently in jail in connection with the murder.

Babu initially gave a confessional statement, but has recently applied to recant it alleging that he was coerced.

The two local Awami League leaders were arrested based on enough information, Doreen claimed.

Azim went to Kolkata on May 12 and stayed at a friend's house overnight. He left the house the next day saying he would visit a doctor.

On May 22, police from India and Bangladesh said Azim was killed in a Kolkata flat.



MP AZIM MURDER

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