

Terror attack on Glasgow airport an act of cowardice

Says Iftekhar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday condemned the Saturday's terrorist attack on Glasgow airport in the UK as an 'act of cowardice'.

He is currently in Geneva to attend a high-level ministerial conference of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

"It is an act of cowardice which all of us condemn," said Iftekhar in London, en route to the Geneva conference.

"All the members of the British-Bangladeshi community are deeply law-abiding and I know they join me in the hope and call for peace, calm and stability in this and every other society," he said in a press release issued from the Bangladesh High Commission in London.

He also said the government looks forward to working closely with the new British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and his cabinet.

"As is evident, these are difficult times and it is absolutely essential that our two countries, who share such common values, must coordinate over global activities to ensure a more secure and peaceful world," he added.

He hoped for a greater focus from the new government on poverty alleviation and development, as well as working through the United Nations, which he said would be helped by the appointment of former United Nations Deputy Secretary General Mark Malloch Brown to the post of State Minister for Foreign Affairs.

In Geneva, Iftekhar Chowdhury met UN Secretary General Ban Ki-

moon and invited him to visit Bangladesh.

He also met Secretary general of UNCTAD Supachai Panitchpakdi and urged his organisation to help train Bangladeshi officials in trade negotiations and help bring more investment to the country.

"We have achieved a high level of social and political stability in Bangladesh now, and conditions are most appropriate for greater foreign investment. UNCTAD can help us achieve this, and the Secretary General assured me it would," said the foreign adviser to the media after the meeting.

Iftekhar is due to present a report on Bangladesh's development success stories at the ECOSOC conference currently in session in Geneva.

Air chief calls on president

UNB, Dhaka

Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman made a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

During the meeting, the air chief apprised the president of the activities of the Air Force.

Iajuddin gave a patient hearing to the air chief and assured him of all out cooperation.

Military Secretary to the President Major General Md Aminul Karim and Secretary to the President's Office Md Sirajul Islam were present.

35 hurt in clash with cops in Kashmir

AFP, Srinagar

Thirty-five people were hurt yesterday when thousands of villagers chanting, "Death to killers," clashed with police in revolt-hit Indian Kashmir, accusing them of gunning down innocent civilians.

The demonstrations came as police continued to probe five cases elsewhere in the state in which innocent civilians were detained, killed and passed off as Islamic militants by security forces seeking cash rewards and promotions.

The new clashes, which left 15 policemen and 20 civilians hurt, erupted in Kupwara town, 100 kilometers (62 miles) north of Srinagar, the summer capital of Indian Kashmir where an Islamic separatist insurgency has raged since 1989.

"We've requisitioned more policemen to quell the protest," senior police officer Vijay Kumar said as police fired shots in the air, used teargas and charged at the protesters with batons.

The clashes, in which over 3,000 villagers chanted, "We want justice," and stoned government buildings, broke out after four people died in police firing last Thursday.

Police said three of the dead were militant suspects who were shot as they were about to storm an army camp and that the fourth, a woman, was caught in the crossfire.

However, the villagers maintained all four were innocent. They said the three men were shot in cold blood by police and accused the police of killing the woman as she was a witness to the deaths.

Separatists and several pro-India political parties have urged the government to probe the incident.

"The three were killed in a fake gunbattle. The woman was shot dead as she was a witness to the killings by police," said Bashir Ahmed, the president of the Kupwara lawyers' group.

Shashi, also a student of Home Economics College, was slaughtered at her husband's rented flat at Purbo Kafrul in the city on June 4 and local people caught domestic help Majnu Miah, 18, when he tried to dump the body at Dhaka Udayan Housing at Mohammampur.

The SI also said Majnu had confessed to the police that he himself committed the murder, which was also corroborated by the evidence gathered by the police.

Shashi's family members also claimed that it was not possible for one person to slaughter a woman, destroy the evidence, wrap the body in a sack and take it to Mohammadpur from Kafrul just within two hours.

"If the CID investigates the murder case, we are hopeful that the real perpetrators will soon be identified," Shahjahan Miah said.

He also said that his family came to know after the murder of Shashi that Majnu is a cousin of Hasnat Reza, which aroused their suspicion that her husband might also be involved in the murder.

Organised jointly by Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre and Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) was held at the conference room of the Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Speakers at the orientation highlighted the need for dissemination of flood early warning messages to grassroots level people timely and effectively so that they can get prepared and keep the damages to lives and properties caused by floods at the minimum level.

Samarendra Karmaker, director of meteorological department, Saiful Hossain, Kamran Jacob and Tasdig Ahmed were present on the occasion.

Sadat Salim has been elected the president of Nature Conservation Committee, a national organisation for environment, nature and wildlife conservation, at its annual general meeting recently, says a press release.

Sadat, an environment expert, has been elected for the term 2007-2010.

Other office bearers are Secretary General Shahjahan Sardar, Vice Presidents Altamash Kabir, Ali Imam, Enayetuddin Khan Kaiser, Dr Kazi Modiana, Mollah Mobinul Haque and Joint Secretary General Rahim Shah.

Day temperature may rise slightly over northern part and remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

Highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.4 degree Celsius at Maijdee Court.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:16am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Khulna Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy rainfalls are also likely at places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Dhaka divisions, Met Office said in a forecast.

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City/Town	Temperature in celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.1	26.2	81	83
Chittagong	30.0	25.3	94	93
Rajshahi	33.5	26.0	84	82
Khulna	29.5	26.5	92	92
Barisal	28.4	25.5	96	93
Sylhet	35.0	26.2	83	62
Cox's Bazar	28.8	24.9	91	89



ARMS CASE
Charge sheet against Ctg AL leader, 6 others
UNB, Chittagong

The police submitted charge sheet against Awami League leader Engineer Afseruddin Mohammad Ali and six others in an arms case on Sunday night.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Matiul Islam of Bayezid Police Station submitted the charge sheet to the Inspector of Chittagong Metropolitan Court at 9:00pm as the court was closed.

On June 5, the police in a raid recovered a 9mm pistol, two LGs, a muzzle loader and 300 rounds of bullet from an almirah at the closed Benga Melting Rubber Factory of Afseruddin in the city's Nasirabad industrial area.

Later, the police arrested his nephew Fazlur Rahman Jewel, factory manager Osman Gani Khan and guards Jasimuddin, Rabul Hossain, Abu Bakar and Abdul Ali in this connection.

A case was filed against Afseruddin and six others under the Arms Act.

English training course for high school teachers

DU CORRESPONDENT

In a bid to improve English language teaching skills of teachers at Bangla medium schools across the country, British Council (BC) Bangladesh yesterday started a training programme at its Fuller Road office in the city.

A total of 40 high school teachers are receiving training on pronunciation, grammar, writing skills, classroom management and structuring the lesson, BC authorities informed.

Prof Shahin Kabir of Jahangirnagar University is training them up with a focus on English language textbooks from class six to class ten of national curricular.

The four-day training programme, being held with the cooperation of Caritas, an NGO, will end on July 5, authorities said.

Father Philip Sujit Sarker passes away

Father Philip Sujit Sarker, a Catholic priest, passed away due to cancer in Khulna on Sunday at the age of 53, says a press release.

He was buried at the priests' graveyard at Mujunnabi parish in Khulna in the afternoon after a funeral led by auxiliary bishop Theonius Gomes of Dhaka and attended by the priest's relatives, laity, priests and nuns from across the country.

Father Sujit was general and executive body member of Caritas Bangladesh and played a significant role in socioeconomic development in greater Khulna region, said the press release of Christian Communications Centre.

Besides his pastoral services among the Christians, he worked for educational advancement of people irrespective of caste and creed.

He took the initiative to hand over the furniture used at the oath taking ceremony of the first temporary cabinet of Mujibnagar Government during the liberation war to the Liberation War Museum.

Born on January 2 in 1954 in Bagerhat, Philip Sujit Sarker became a priest in 1984 and started his pastoral activities at Bhabbarpara parish in Kushtia. His final workplace was Sathkira parish under Khulna diocese.

Nurunnesa Begum
Bss, Dhaka

Nurunnesa Begum, mother of Colonel Mujibul Hoque, sector commander of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Dhaka, died of cancer at BDR Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 68.

She left behind three sons, a daughter, a host of grandchildren, relatives and admires to mourn her death.

She was buried at Mirpur Graveyard after a narmaj-e-janaza at BDR Central Mosque at BDR Headquarters at Pilkhana after Zohr prayers yesterday.

Her qulhwan will be held at the Pilkhana residence of her eldest son after Asr prayers on Friday.

Death anniversary

Today is the 4th death anniversary of Prof Abdul Kader, a pioneer of ICT movement in the country and founder of The M o n t h l y Computer Jagat, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held at House No. 29, Road No. 6, Dhanmondi at 5:00pm. Friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Photo: STAR
Md Nurul Alam Selim, a businessman, addresses a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city yesterday urging the government to help evict illegal occupants from Monwarah Bhaban at Purana Paltan.

UN offers Pakistan aid as 600 die in South Asia rains

Foreign Office spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam said Pakistan had not sought international help but that the UN had offered helicopters and medicines.

"We have been approached by a number of countries, the UN particularly, regarding the kind of assistance that we require in the relief efforts," Aslam told a weekly briefing.

Provincial relief commissioner Khuda Baksh Baloch said flash floods at the weekend in Baluchistan's Khuzdar area killed at least 35 people, while other bodies had been found, bringing the toll for the week to at least 110.

Helicopters were still plucking cyclone survivors from their rooftops or dropping food to cut-off mud-brick villages on Monday, while other

victims are living in camps, television footage showed.

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz was quoted by state media after a trip to the disaster zone on Sunday as inviting international agencies and foreign countries to help the relief effort.

The last time Pakistan needed international aid was during the October 2005 South Asian earthquake, which killed 73,000 people and left more than three million homeless.

More than 200,000 are homeless while 1.5 million were affected, he said.

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Photo: STAR
Tariqul Haque, 2009

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