

Yemeni cleric advocates killing US civilians

AP, Cairo

An American-Yemeni cleric whose Internet sermons are believed to have helped inspire attacks on the US has advocated the killing of American civilians in an al-Qaida video released yesterday.

Anwar al-Awlaki has been singled out by US officials as a key terrorist threat and has been added to the CIA's list of targets for assassination despite his American citizenship. He is of particular concern because he is one of the few English-speaking radical clerics able to explain to young Muslims in America and other Western countries the philosophy of violent jihad.

The US-born al-Awlaki moved to Yemen in 2004 and is in hiding there after being

Musa

The team departed from their last camp, situated at 8,300 metres, at 10:00pm Saturday.

Musa, founder of the North Alpine Club in Bangladesh, left Dhaka for Nepal on April 8.

Along with a group of young mountaineers, he had been preparing for years to summit the highest peak on earth.

Income tax

The House body also asked the government not to allow in the next budget whitening black or undisclosed money except for those who will invest in productive sector.

"At present it is not obligatory for public representatives to submit tax returns, some lawmakers submit those while others do not. Other public representatives also do the same. But we have asked for making it mandatory for all," chief of the House body AHM Mustafa Kamal told journalists after it met at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhawan.

Submission of tax returns does not necessarily mean that all have to give tax, said Mustafa Kamal, popularly known as Lotus Kamal.

"Earlier in 1996, we [the then parliamentary standing committee on finance ministry] also recommended making it mandatory for lawmakers to submit tax returns. But it was not materialised," said Lotus Kamal, a ruling Awami League lawmaker.

The committee also asked the NBR to simplify the tax return forms and ease the process of paying tax.

It recommended expanding the tax net as well as reducing the tax rate both at individual and corporate levels.

CCC elections

whose applications were rejected are AAM Haider Ali, Wahed Asgar Chowdhury, MA Salam, Yakub Hossain and Kamal Uddin Chowdhury.

The rejected applicants will, however, get scope to file appeal with the appellate authority, Chittagong divisional commissioner, within three days of the rejection order.

Meanwhile, the Awami League high command's announcement to support ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury in the June 17 polls has invigorated his supporters.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mohiuddin said yesterday that he filed application after getting 'green signal' from the party high-ups and the party chief later declared his candidacy formally.

Mohiuddin hoped that this formal announcement would help him get all out support from the party and general voters.

"If anyone goes against the decision, the party will take steps against him," he said.

Grass roots level leaders and activists, however, think that it is the duty of Mohiuddin to take initiative to minimise gaps between him and some senior leaders of AL local unit.

Sources said AL Chief Sheikh Hasina might take initiative to sit with the Chittagong AL leaders soon in Dhaka to talk on CCC poll.

Mohiuddin's main rival and AL city unit Vice President Nurul Islam MP welcomed the party decision, saying that it is Mohiuddin's duty to minimise gaps among the leaders since he sowed the seeds of conflict.

linked to the suspects in the November shooting at an Army base in Fort Hood, Texas, and the December attempt to blow up a US jetliner bound for Detroit.

"Those who might be killed in a plane are merely a drop of water in a sea," he said in the video in response to a question about Muslim groups that disapproved of the airliner plot because it targeted civilians.

Khaleda

Khaleda's lawyer barrister Mahbub Uddin Khokon in separate letters replied the ACC notices, saying that the ACC has no jurisdiction to deal with the functions of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Charitable Trust, since the trust is a private organisation, which is controlled by the trust law.

Khokon also said his client (Khaleda) could not remember when and how she signed the file regarding the project for construction of the Bhairab Bridge when she was the prime minister of the country.

Copies of the writ petitions were served to the ACC yesterday.

Fair probe

Qamrul Islam and State Minister for Home Affairs Shamsul Huq Tuku, among others, were present at the meeting.

The law minister said the government would provide within a week necessary logistics and manpower to the investigation team and prosecutors as per their requisition.

He said the government has already collected evidence of crimes against humanity and war crimes from different countries through Bangladesh embassies. The minister, however, gave no further details.

Shafique Ahmed said the trial will be held as per the law, and it should not be made a political issue.

He also said they will hold a meeting every month like the yesterday's one with the prosecutors and investigators to discuss the progress of the trial process.

Meanwhile, investigation officer of the International Crime Tribunal AS Shamsul Arefin yesterday told reporters, "The process is long. It's not mandatory to complete the process within 5 or 10 years."

People, against whom evidence will be found, will face trial, he said, adding, "We will supply documents as per requirement of the prosecution."

Derailment Rail link with Ctg snapped for 4 hrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Rail communication with Chittagong and other parts of the country was interrupted for four and a half hours on Sunday morning as a container train derailed midway between Rasulpur and Rajapur railway stations in Comilla.

Akhaura railway junction sources said a bogie of the train went off the track at about 9:00am when it was heading for Dhaka from Chittagong.

Train movement on Dhaka-Chittagong; Dhaka-Noakhali; Sylhet-Chittagong and Sylhet-Noakhali routes were halted following the derailment, sources said.

The rail link was restored at about 1:40pm after a rescue train from Akhaura undertook the salvage operation, Deputy Assistant Engineer (Technical) TA Chowdhury of Akhaura junction said.

Malaysia mulls

looking into existing legislation and the possibility of introducing new regulations to curb the problem of illegal foreign workers.

"After the amnesty offer expires, we will act against all those who harbour foreign workers without permits," he said.

Stop harassment

The police were also ordered not to harass vehicle owners or drivers during the course of requisition.

Manzill Morshed, president of the petitioner organisation, told the court that it is clear from newspaper reports that police threaten drivers with requisition to extort money from them.

The bench asked the DMP commissioner to submit within three days names of three policemen who were photographed harassing a taxi driver reportedly over requisition on May 13. It sought the name of the cabbie as well.

Jugantor, a Bangla national daily, published the picture in its May 14 issue.

The court fixed June 7 for hearing on the rule upon the government, and assigned seven senior lawyers as amici curiae (friends of court) for expert opinion on the matter.

The amici curiae are Rafique-ul Huq, Mahmudul Islam, M Amir-Ul Islam, Rokanuddin Mahmud, Ajmal Hossain, AFM Mesbahuddin and president or secretary of Supreme Court Bar Association.

Home and law secretaries, inspector general of police, DMP commissioner and deputy commissioners (traffic) of DMP south, north, east and west were asked to comply with the order and reply to the rule.

Hardrock

every day due to the suspension of production, an official said requesting not to be named.

Earlier, the workers, who have been working under Blue Star Service, an outsourcing company, wrote a letter to the mine authorities saying that they would not continue working in the mine under that company from April 1.

They demanded that they should be employed as regular staff of MGMCL, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

Mustafizur Rahman, general secretary of the miners' union, said the mine company is in arrears with the workers' salary which comes around Tk 2 crore for the last two months.

The workers have been demanding regularisation of their jobs since 2001, he said.

The union's president Mominul Islam said the workers were earlier given the assurance that the mining company will regularise their jobs after their training under the outsourcing company is over.

MGMCL Managing Director Feroq Hossain told The Daily Star that MGMCL would not be able to resolve the issue unless the ministry concerned gives a policy guideline on the matter.

Captain (ret'd) SR Patwary, chief liaison officer of Blue Star Service, said the work contract between the mine company and the outsourcing company expired on March 31, and then Blue Star Service won another contract in a bid.

But the miners refused to work under the outsourcing company from April 1 by not signing in the company's register book though they went to their workplace every day.

Rab, police

FROM PAGE 1 competition for publicity of their activities.

Both Rab and police arrange security measures for the same programmes like celebrations of Pahela Baishakh, Independence Day and Victory Day without any coordination, the meeting observed.

Even each of the units competes for holding press briefings to announce their success, the meeting discussed.

Replying to a query from The Daily Star after the meeting, IGP Nur Mohammad admitted a lack of coordination among the Rab and police personnel. He said, "All the units of Rab and police have been asked to work together with proper coordination from today."

"There may have been competition with any unit or person which is not bad. But we must avoid unhealthy competition," the police chief said.

Replying to a query over the competition of holding separate press briefings, he said, "Both the organisations will be directed to hold joint press briefings."

The IGP added he directed both Rab and police to refrain from giving statements against each other.

However, Rab DG Hassan Mahmood Khandker declined to admit lack of coordination between Rab and police saying, "It's not right there is no coordination. The meeting held today testifies to our coordination."

Rare encounter

shots that could be considered to be of some value. Out of frustration for not getting good picture that would help me identify the warbler I started continuing my nature watch through the garden.

Within next half an hour, I could hear the Shakhk calls from hedge of man height and the huge growth of Motmotia or Busy Mat grass (Lippia alba) in all the marshy areas along the periphery of the garden. After four hours of walk I have heard and seen at least a dozen of this warbler.

Soon after reaching home I tried to download pictures and identify the warbler from the pictures with the help of the guidebooks on birds. Also dispatched some of the pictures to local and overseas birdwatchers. At least two of the responses suggested that the species is Radde's Warbler that is one of the rarest migratory birds of Bangladesh.

As per Enam Al Haq- the most ardent birdwatcher in Dhaka- there are just two records of its sightings in the country in past century or so as reported in the Bird volume of the Asiatic Society's Encyclopedia of Fauna and Flora of Bangladesh.

Considering that the birds I saw and photographed on 8th May is the Radde's Warbler and its presence in the Botanical Garden in good number during the second week of May is a sure proof that the species is not only a rare winter migrant but also a passage migrant through Dhaka City.

Earlier on the day, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture Ministry Shawkat Momen Shahjahan said Qamrul's earlier remarks on Zia were unwarranted and unnecessary.

"Such comments could only ignite unwanted debates in the political arena. We would get nothing good from this," Shahjahan said while addressing a budget discussion organised by Unnayan Shamannay at a city hotel.

Rainwater

Technology (Buet) said the city will face a huge water crisis in the near future if Wasa continues lifting groundwater through the huge number of its deep tube wells.

The practice, if goes on unabated, might lead to disasters like subsidence of the ground surface, said Selim Bhuiyan.

Around 80 percent water of unconfined aquifers, which are the closest to the ground surface, is used up, said Md Eftekarul Alam, an engineer of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation.

Dhaka Wasa has already been forced to lift water from the deeper confined aquifer at 90 points of the city including Mirpur, Nakhla para, Ibrahimpur and Manipur, said a former chief engineer of the agency, Md Nurul Haque.

According to a Wasa statistics, currently the source of 87 percent of supply water in the capital is groundwater through 551 deep tube wells.

The remaining 13 percent comes from surface water through 4 water treatment plants at Sayedbad and Chandnight in Dhaka City; and at Godnail and Sonakanda in Narayanganj.

Md Nurul Haque said there are also around 1,200 authorised private deep tube wells in the city, which are extracting groundwater as well, on top of which there are almost 2,000 illegal ones.

To save Dhaka from an impending disaster, the experts suggested stopping pollution of the rivers in and around the city, and reclaiming other water bodies as well, along with recharging the aquifers.

Use of effluent treatment plants in industries, and setting up waste treatment plants to treat human excreta, are a must for preserving surface water sources, said Prof Mujib

College teacher

FROM PAGE 16 arrival of the police.

Lotifa told The Daily Star yesterday, "Some students of the college stalked me while I was going to the teacher's hall room after taking a class."

Zakir said, "As I protested the incident, the gang harassed me physically. They also kept me confined in the hall room till I was set free by the police."

The teachers said they will continue work abstinence programme until the stalkers are brought to book.

A four-member probe team headed by S M Shah Alam, assistant professor of Islamic history department, was formed to inquire into the matter and submit report within three days.

Additional police forces were deployed on the college campus.

US to give

Rollins said the US is likely to provide additional \$15.5 million this year for agricultural development in Bangladesh.

She mentioned that the US government contributed \$475 million to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Trust Fund. Other donors include Spain, Canada, Australia and South Korea. The total amount of the fund will be \$1.3 billion for next three years.

DB official

him as extortion. They threatened to implicate him in a Yaba processing charge if he tried to do otherwise.

As the complainant refused to pay the amount the accused threatened him with "crossfire", says the case statement.

Later, the complainant gave them Tk 1 lakh the same day and the accused released him after taking his signature on a blank paper.

Following the threat, the complainant brought the matter to the notice of their higher authorities.

Moreover, Zahirul filed a complaint with Sabujbag Police Station but to no avail. He then filed the case with the court, he said.

The complainant appealed to the court to issue arrest warrants against the offenders.

Ctg arms haul

truckloads of arms and ammunition from the jetty of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) in 2004.

Muniruzzaman Chowdhury, the investigation officer (IO) of the case, also senior assistant superintendent of police of CID, submitted the petition.

The same court on March 22 extended the time till Sunday.

Mentionable, a Chittagong court on February 12, 2008 ordered further investigation into the case following an appeal by the then Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Ahsanul Haque Hena.

CID started a probe into the case on April 26, 2004 after the first IO Ahadur Rahman, erstwhile officer-in-charge of Karnaphuli Police Station, was relieved of his duty in the wake of controversy.

Non-students

involved in extortions and snatching at the university during the BNP-led four-party alliance government.

Ashiq, however, denied the allegations against him and said that he would soon enrol in MBA programme to get back studentship.

Some JCD men said the new committee members Golam Mostafa Tuhin, former student of sociology department, Salauddin of Islamic history department, Iqramul Haque Hira of anthropology department and Moniruzzaman Shah Tuhin and Zahirul Haque completed their university education at least two to three years ago.

According to the central and RU/JCD leaders, the new committee was asked to form a 61-member full-fledged body within next three months.

JCD central unit president Sultan Salauddin Tuku told The Daily Star that Ashiq and others are dedicated leaders of RU unit of JCD.

He also affirmed that no non-student would be on the new full-fledged RU committee.

8 cops injured

FROM PAGE 1 Zannatul Hasan, knew about the criminal gang.

Hasan, who was undergoing treatment at Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital, was not available to talk to this correspondent, as doctor did not allow.

But some other injured policemen in Dhaka Medical College Hospital told this correspondent that they believe it to be a 'militant' group.

Kadomtoli Police Station second officer Azam Khan Faruki also told The Daily Star, he suspects the criminals as militants.

The injured criminal, whose identity could not be ascertained, was arrested and admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police and witnesses said several bombs were found abandoned in and around a three-storey building at South Dania.

Injured policemen are Additional SP Zannatul Hasan, Sergeant Shah Alam, ASI Sirajuddoula, and constables Samsuddoha, Sohrab Hossain, Morshed Ali Mollah, Jonny Biswas and Neuren Islam.

Of them, Sirajuddoula, Shah Alam, Samsuddoha, Sohrab, Morshed and Jonny were admitted to DMCH while four to Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital.

Sohrab told The Daily Star,

Tongi flyover

flyover. The width of its foot-path is six metres and the number of spans is 14.

Roads and Highways Department sources said the construction work of the flyover began on March 16 in 2006 and Tk 18.33 crore was earmarked to complete it on March 15 in 2008.

In the preliminary design, the length of the flyover was 42.68 metres and the link roads on both sides were 450 metres. But the local people started movement demanding changes in its design, as there was no arrangement for movement of the people under the flyover.

In the face of the movement, the work of the flyover stopped within 7-8 months. Later in June 2007, the work of the flyover resumed as per the revised design.

In the changed design, its length was raised to 350 metres and the link roads reduced to 200 metres, while the cost increased to Tk 23.75 crore. The time fixed to complete the flyover was in March this year.

An additional amount of about Tk 5.50 crore was spent due to changes in design and increase in time of construction work, the sources said.

Ahsanullah Master, who was elected parliament member from the area in 1996 and 2001, placed his demand at Jatiya Sangsad on different occasions for constructing a flyover near Tongi Rail Station.

In recognition of his contribution, the PM directed the authorities concerned to name the flyover after him.

"During the fight, one of the male criminals fled firing bullets while two women ran away brandishing bombs," he said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Parveen Rahman, a local who witnessed the scene, said she saw two men and two women running away and one of the males getting injured when a bomb exploded in his hands.

Soon after the incident, DMP Commissioner AKN Shahidul Hoque visited DMCH. But he could not give any detail.

ABM Khurshed Alam Bhuiyan Jewel, a doctor at Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital, told this correspondent at 12:50am that four injured police members were taken to the hospital.

Of the four, Constable Neuren Islam, who suffered critical injuries in his legs, was sent to Orthopedic Hospital.

"His both legs were hit by bomb splinters. We sent him to Pongu Hospital," Jewel said.

BA strike set to go ahead after talks falter

AFP, London

BA cabin crew were set to strike for five days from Monday after talks between the airline's management and union chiefs collapsed.

However the head of the country's biggest union said he would cancel the strike if BA agreed to restore staff benefits that had been stripped away by the loss-making carrier.

Talks between the two sides that collapsed on Saturday had yet to resume with just hours before a mass walk-out was due to begin.

"As a sign of goodwill and good faith I am making this offer now to (BA chief executive) Willie Walsh," Tony Woodley, joint head of the Unite union, told reporters on Sunday.

"Willie, turn round and reinstate our people's travel (benefits) ... and this union will call off" the strike.

A BA spokesman earlier told AFP that the airline was willing to meet again with union bosses.

"We are certainly available for talks," he told AFP.

Last-ditch negotiations to try and halt the planned strike were abandoned on Saturday after dozens of noisy protestors stormed the building where negotiations were being held.

Walsh was harangued by protestors, television pictures showed, and police said they had to escort him from the building in London after the security breach.

Air India plane

reach the aircraft, doused the fire with foam.

"The preliminary observation is that the aircraft touched down and did not contain itself within the runway space," minister Patel said.

He described the chief pilot, a Serbian national, as a "very experienced" flier who had logged 10,000 hours of flying time.

Stressing that it was too early to determine the precise cause of the crash, Patel noted that the sanded safety area surrounding the runway in the event of an overshoot was shorter than at some airports.

"It does not have much of a spillover area and in this case apparently it had not been able to stop the plane," he said.

Air India Express is a budget airline operated as a subsidiary by the state-run carrier. Many of the passengers were Indian migrant workers returning from jobs in the Gulf to visit their families.

US-based aircraft manufacturer Boeing said it was sending a team of investigators to India to help in the inquiry.

The last major plane crash in India was in 2000, when 61 people were killed after a passenger jet plunged into a residential area near the eastern city of Patna.

The country's air safety record has been good in recent years despite the rapid increase in airlines keen to serve increasingly wealthy domestic customers.

The disaster came as Air India is struggling to turn round its finances after posting a net loss of more than one billion dollars last year.