

Police arrest 5 men near UK nuclear plant

AFP, London

British police arrested five men under anti-terrorism legislation close to a nuclear plant, but said Tuesday the case appeared to be unconnected to the death of Al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden.

Officers stopped the men in a vehicle near the Sellafield nuclear site in Cumbria, northwest England, at around 4:30 pm (1530 GMT) on Monday.

They are all of Bangladeshi origin but live in London, a police source told AFP. On Tuesday, counter-terrorism police raided properties in the British capital in connection with the arrests.

"Police officers from the Civil Nuclear Constabulary conducted a stop check on a vehicle close to the Sellafield site in west Cumbria," said the statement from Cumbria Police.

Dozens dead as Ivorian troops clash with militia

REUTERS, Abidjan

Dozens of bodies littered the streets of an Abidjan neighbourhood yesterday as fighting continued between Ivory Coast troops and the remnants of a militia loyal to deposed leader Laurent Gbagbo.

The clashes highlight the West African country's struggle to restore security after a violent power struggle between Gbagbo and his rival Alassane Ouattara, who won a November election and is now president.

"We have seen many dead. We recovered 40 bodies over two hours, but we were forced to stop because he had no room left in our van," said Franck Kodjo, an official at the International Committee of the Red Cross, adding at least five corpses were from yesterday's fighting.

The world's largest cocoa grower nation tipped toward civil war after Gbagbo refused to cede power to Ouattara, triggering a conflict that killed thousands and displaced more than a million people and only began to ease with Gbagbo's arrest last month.

A commander for the Ivorian army, known as the FRCI, said the remaining pro-Gbagbo fighters in the Abidjan neighbourhood of Yopougan were mostly Liberians who had crossed the border in the election dispute's aftermath as soldiers for hire.

Efforts to disarm them have so far failed.

Victim sent

FROM PAGE 20
maining our son," he told The Daily Star.

Md Shamsuddin, superintendent of police (SP) in Jhalakathi, denied the allegation and said the Rajapur police produced Limon before the court after his release from the hospital.

Asked about the progress of the case filed by Limon's mother, he said: "We cannot arrest any law enforcers according to one's will. There are some legal procedures for this."

The SP, however, said the investigation into all the cases is on.

On hearing Limon's arrival at Jhalakathi, his advocate and family members rushed to the court.

During the hearing, police appealed to keep Limon under their custody till May 9 when they will produce him before the District Judge's Court for hearing of his bail prayer.

Limon's lawyers opposed the appeal saying the victim is a teenage boy and needs treatment.

Rajapur police pressed charges against him and seven others in the arms case on April 24.

Contrary to the Rab chief's admission that Limon is not a criminal, the charge sheet described him as a criminal "arrested with arms and ammunition".

On April 11, Rab Director General Mokhlesur Rahman at a press briefing said Limon was a victim of a "shootout".

No interference

FROM PAGE 20

However, some rules of the proceedings could be amended to protect the rights of the accused, he observed.

"It's our established right to try the war criminals. Please allow Bangladesh to follow its judicial system... We assure the trial will be transparent," said Lt Gen (ret'd) M Harun Ar Rashid of Sector Commanders' Forum.

The trial will be held in the standard best to the country's judiciary, he said, adding: "We only need international support for the trial to be held. All observers will be welcome, but no interferers."

Liberation War Museum Trustee Mofidul Hoque said the international community has to be engaged more vigorously in supporting the war crimes trial because the genocide has not earned its recognition.

"While trying the war criminals, we must try protecting the victims," he added.

Bangladesh is a special case where the trial is being held under a domestic law and judiciary, which should be an inspiration for the international community, said Liberation War Museum Trustee Sarwar Ali.

Ruling Awami League lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury said a sense of impunity developed over the years as the war criminals were not tried for decades; rather they were rewarded following the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of the nation, in 1975.

"Therefore, the trial is very important. If we cannot complete the trial this time, we cannot do it in future," he

said, adding: "The international community must not be our roadblocks."

Former adviser to caretaker government Rasheda K Chowdhury said the fact that war crimes took place must not be negotiated. The international community can suggest, but finally it is Bangladesh that will decide the course of actions.

"While fairness in the trial is imperative, we also want fairness in the attitude of the international community," said Md Abdul Hannan Khan, coordinator of the investigation agency of International War Crimes Tribunal.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said, "People have committed unimaginable crimes and we as a nation have waited for years impatiently for some sort of justice. Now through a democratic process, we are again on the track."

"We were the first victims of ethnic cleansing," he said, adding that Bangladeshis were looked upon as inferior Muslims and one of the reasons behind mass rape was that they wanted to create a new race -- men from Pakistan and women from Bangladesh.

"We don't want to take the argument on sovereignty or emotion. We want to base the argument on facts and justice," Anam added.

Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Shafiqullah, former ambassador Humayun Kabir, Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman, Stamford University Associate Professor Syed Masud Reza, among others, also spoke at the programme moderated by Prothom Alo Editor Matiuur Rahman.

WB worried

FROM PAGE 20
restrict the commission's effectiveness.

"...a set of 10 amendments to the ACC Act which include a number of procedural changes but also three changes which, if passed into law, would circumscribe the ACC's effectiveness," the WB said in its half-yearly report titled Bangladesh Economic Update.

The three proposed amendments are requirement of permission prior to file case against any public servant, the provision of introducing punishment for giving false information, and curtailing ACC's authority to appoint its secretary independently.

The cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina approved the amendments in February maintaining secrecy and keeping even the commission itself in dark about the amendments.

Currently the amendments are under scrutiny of parliamentary standing committee on law and order and awaiting an expected passage in the parliament where the ruling party enjoys two third majority.

The WB said alongside developments on telecommunication policy and policy responses to stock market volatility, the development on ACC Act amendment is one of the major cause of concern.

Hill cutting

FROM PAGE 1

team in a drive found that Doctors Home Project had levelled a 40-foot hill in the area to erect buildings without taking permission from the DoE.

The team seized two trucks, equipment for hill cutting and 10 tonnes of soil from the spot.

Mohammed Munir Chowdhury, DoE director of Monitoring and Enforcement wing, realised the fine from the officials of the housing project after they appeared before him at DoE office in Dhaka yesterday.

The DoE asked the project authority to stop its construction work and erect boundary wall to protect the hill.

It also directed the officials concerned not to provide connections of utility services to the project.

Satkhira AL

FROM PAGE 1

negotiated tender money was being distributed among the parties concerned by local AL leader Jahangir Hossain, sources said.

Of the injured, Satkhira district BCL president Sheikh Jewel Hasan, Kalaroa upazila BCL president Sumon and BCL activists Tonmoy Adhikari, Arifuzzaman Mithu and Apu and AL activists Humayun, Gias Uddin, Rabi and Saidur Rahman were admitted to Satkhira Sadar Hospital.

According to sources, contractors of the Roads and Highways Department had negotiated a tender for reconstruction of the Satkhira-Kaliganj road at Tk 60 lakh about a month back.

As per negotiation, the contractor Babu of Khulna, who got the work, gave Tk 2.5 lakh to the other contractors who also dropped the tender schedules.

At one stage, local BCL leaders and activists led by district BCL president Jewel and general secretary Palash reached the spot and demanded Tk 1 lakh and they were given Tk 35,000.

Later, the BCL leaders and activists demanded more money but they were refused.

Then they stabbed AL activist Humayun and a clash was erupted between them which left 10 persons injured.

Contacted, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station Shah Jahan said police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

5 cops caught

FROM PAGE 1

Medical College Hospital with injuries to the head and right hand. One of his relatives also came under attack.

The gang, who went there in a white microbus, looted Tk 3 lakh, gold ornaments weighing eight to 10 tolas and six cell phones, said Kishore Devnath, Rajendra's nephew.

Half an hour later, the robbers exploded cocktails to make their way out as locals came in their pursuit.

The mob, however, managed to stop the microbus, blocking the highway at Boleya Bazar.

Introducing themselves as policemen of Birganj Police Station, gang members asked the locals to let them go. As the latter did not comply, they fired three gunshots, locals said.

The villagers caught five of them while the rest escaped. The five were confined to a room in Rajendra's house. People set fire to the microbus.

When ASP (Birganj Circle) Khairul Islam went to visit the spot early morning, angry locals also confined him.

Around 8:30am, Kaharol OC Shahidullah went there with eight policemen and became engaged in a furious argument with villagers, who at one stage overturned the pickup truck that had carried the OC and his team.

As the law enforcers fired rubber bullets at the crowd, villagers caught the cops and also confined them to the same room and torched the vehicle.

Getting the news, people from other villages of Birganj and Kaharol brought out processions and gathered in front of the house.

Two other groups laid siege to Birganj and Kaharol police stations.

They set fire to different rooms of Birganj Police Station and burnt three motorcycles there.

Birganj police said they had fired at least 100 rubber bullets and lobbed 60 tear gas canisters during the clash and five of their colleagues were injured.

Dinajpur Deputy Commissioner Jamal Uddin Ahmed and Kaharol UNO Azim Uddin went to Ghasiara and called for calm.

stones at the DC.

Lutfar Rahman Khan, additional deputy inspector general (Rangpur region), rushed to Birganj around 12:30pm and announced suspension of seven policemen and closing of ASP (Birganj Circle) Khairul Alam and 18 constables of Birganj upazila.

The suspended are: Kaharol OC Shahidullah, who was among the captives; Birganj OC Aktaruzzaman Prohdan, sub-inspectors Md Shajahan, Md Monsur Ahmed and Fazul Haque, ASIs Sukumar Roy and Javed Islam of Birganj Police Station.

Afterwards, following a home ministry order, Border Guard Bangladesh men from Thakurgaon and Dinajpur sectors rushed there to control the situation.

Around 3:30pm, the captives left the place heavily guarded by Rab and BGB members.

OC (investigation) Anisur Rahman of Dinajpur Police station has been appointed the acting OC of Birganj Police Station.

A four-member team, headed by Additional District Magistrate Azizul Islam, has been formed to investigate the incidents, the DC said. The committee has been asked to submit its report in 10 days.

He, however, denied any role of police in the robbery but said, "People suspect that some policemen were involved."

He claimed to have rescued only eight policemen and the microbus driver, Shahidul Islam, although 15 persons were freed in presence of journalists and hundreds of locals.

On March 8, villagers attacked a robber while he was leaving after robbery in Doptoir village of Biral upazila. The robber was later found to be a policeman of the upazila.

The next day, SP Shiddiqui Tanjilur Rahman and ASP (Dinajpur sadar circle) Mokbul Hossain with two platoon riot police baton-charged the villagers for attacking the policeman.

Rajshahi DIG Shiddiqur Rahman visited spot later and begged apology to the villagers for the atrocities. The SP, ASP, two OCs were closed in this connection.



WATCHING HISTORY UNFURL



Clockwise from top : US President Barack Obama looks tense in the Situation Room of the White House where he and his advisers watched in real time the Sunday's operation to get Osama bin Laden; makes a point to National Security Adviser Tom Donilon; talks with members of the national security team at the end of a meeting; senior officials listen as the president delivers a statement; Obama edits his remarks before making a televised statement. The White House has posted the pictures on image-hosting website Flickr

Top citizens

FROM PAGE 1

maintaining Islam's status as the state religion, and keeping the phrase BISMILLAH-AR-RAHMAN-AR-RAHIM above the preamble of the constitution, as those contradict secularism.

They also demanded banning of religion based political parties and organisations.

Eighteen out of total 26 invited intellectuals participated in the talks held in Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. The special committee will sit today with editors of different daily newspapers.

After the talks, many participants disclosed to reporters the suggestions they made to the special committee.

"I spoke for making the article 70 flexible. MPs must be given freedom," said eminent economist Prof Rehman Sobhan.

He said MPs should be allowed to express their opinions freely, excepting on no-confidence motion against the cabinet, and passage of the budget.

About the president's power during caretaker governments, he said, "Abuse of power by the president last time created a crisis. Therefore, the changes to the constitution should be brought in such a way so the president cannot abuse the power during tenure of caretaker governments."

Former adviser to caretaker government Dr Akbar Ali Khan said the power of the president during elected governments should be examined afresh as well.

"The president should have the power to send back any recommendation of the premier if the former does not like the recommendation. In that case, the cabinet will reconsider it," Akbar Ali suggested.

About prospective changes to the caretaker government system, he said no decision will bring positive outcome, if all political parties do not reach a consensus.

Some participants however recommended that the caretaker government system should remain in the constitution for holding two more parliamentary elections, said

Shahriar Kabir while talking to the reporters.

Eminent educationist and former adviser to a caretaker government, Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, proposed for inclusion of a provision in the constitution for maintaining the caretaker government system till 2021, a meeting source said.

About eminent jurists' opinion for not appointing former chief justices as chief advisers to caretaker governments, Advocate Sultana Kamal said many participants of yesterday echoed the view.

Sultana Kamal, also a former adviser to a caretaker government, said it was expected that the interim government system would not continue after holding a few parliamentary polls. But the political culture has not improved, she added.

Chief of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Dr Mizanur Rahman said the constitution says no person shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment or treatment.

He proposed for inclusion of a provision of punishing members of law enforcement agencies for violation of that clause. "The human rights situation will improve if the provision is put in the constitution," NHRC chief said.

Sultana Kamal, who is also an eminent human rights activist, supported the NHRC chief's proposal.

About the state religion, National Prof Kabir Chowdhury said the participants categorically told the special committee that the state religion and BISMILLAH-AR-RAHMAN-AR-RAHIM cannot remain in the constitution, and political parties based on religion must be banned.

Shahriar Kabir, executive president of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, said two generals Ziaur Rahman and HM Ershad inserted BISMILLAH-AR-RAHMAN-AR-RAHIM and the status of Islam as state religion in the constitution for their own political purposes, not for people's welfare.

Dhaka University Vice-chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Economist

Debapriya Bhattacharya, journalists ABM Musa and Syed Abul Maksud, Prof Muntasir Mamun, and writer Syed Shamsul Haque also joined the talks among others.

Pak security

FROM PAGE 1

much people in Pakistan knew of Osama's whereabouts.

Last week, WikiLeaks had revealed that a US diplomatic dispatch told the Americans that "many" inside Pakistan knew where bin Laden was.

The document stated that "In Pakistan, Osama Bin Laden wasn't an invisible man, and many knew his whereabouts in North Waziristan, but whenever security forces attempted a raid on his hideouts, the enemy received warning of their approach from sources in the security forces."

Other documents released by WikiLeaks also seem to indicate that the United States possibly got a clue about bin Laden hiding in Abbottabad three years ago from information gathered by interrogators at Guantanamo Bay, the controversial US detention facility where terror suspects are lodged.

Cables from 2008 released by WikiLeaks talk about the interrogation of a Libyan, Abu al-Libi, who had apparently been with Bin Laden in Afghanistan. In 2003, Libi was asked to become one of bin Laden's messengers, the document indicates.

The document says, "In July 2003, detainee Libi received a letter from [bin Laden's] designated courier, Maulawi Abd al-Khaliq Jan. The detainee was told to take on the responsibility of collecting donations, organising travel and distributing funds for families in Pakistan...The letter stated the detainee would be the official messenger between [bin Laden] and others in Pakistan...In mid-2003, the detainee moved his family to Abbottabad and worked between Abbottabad and Peshawar."

Abu al-Libi was captured in Pakistan in 2005.

NSI, Ulfa links

FROM PAGE 20

the then DGFI boss who had made sure the involvement of the National Security Intelligence officials and Ulfa did not come up in the report on the country's largest ever arms haul.

Rezaur also told the court that Rezzakul had very close relations with the then state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, said a court source quoting from the statement.

The court started recording Rezaur's statement at 3:15pm and continued till 6:15pm.

Outlaw

FROM PAGE 20

Mohammad Zahir, Sub-inspector (SI) of Bera Police Station.

On information, police recovered the bullet-hit body of Rafique from Shyampur char in the upazila around 11:00am and sent to Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The SI suspected that Rafique, hailed from Hasanpur village in Sujanagar upazila of the district, might have been killed by rivals in internal party conflict.

Police recovered two red flags from near the spot.

Three cops -- SI Md Kafil Uddin, Nayek Abdul Wahed and constable Shafique of Dhalarchar police camp -- were gunned down by miscreants at Daspara in Bera upazila on July 20 last year.

Landmines

FROM PAGE 20

and killed 8 paramilitary personnel and 3 policemen as the force of CRPF and district police were returning from Urumuru village, said the state's Inspector General of Police (Operation) R K Malik in its capital Ranchi.

The law enforcers went to Urumuru village after being informed that Maoists had been assembled there. But, when the law enforcers were returning after not finding anyone, the Maoists ambushed them.