

## Yemen raid kills Qaeda militants

AFP, Sanaa

A Yemeni air raid yesterday in the country's eastern province of Hadramawt killed seven al-Qaeda militants, including the local military chief, a security official said.

The raid struck the group as they met in a "deserted coastal area" some 60 kilometres (35 miles) west of the city of Mukalla, the official told AFP, adding that the militants included al-Qaeda's local military chief Saleh Abdul Khaleq.

In an apparent indication that the air force had been tipped off about the meeting, the official said that militants were in a leafy area "under trees," adding that the raid was conducted by Yemeni warplanes, not US drones.

An American drone yesterday killed five Qaeda militants when it struck a convoy in the area of Manaseh, east of the city of Radaa in central Yemen, according to a tribal source.

### CHT

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At its fourth meeting, the committee agreed to place a bill for amending the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission Act, 2001, in the current budget session of parliament.

At the last meeting, the national committee on implementation of Chittagong Hill Tracts peace accord had finalised a draft for amending the 2001 act with 13 proposals, but the land ministry sought fresh opinion on three proposals.

At yesterday's meeting, the committee withdrew the proposal for handing over the functions of land commission to CHT affairs ministry, but stuck to the other two points, said Santu Larma, chief of pro-peace body Parbatya Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) and also a member of the committee.

He said, "Instead of taking any effective steps to implement the accord, the state rulers have been deceiving the hill people for the last 14 years. If the government does not pay attention to this, the longstanding problems in CHT may get worse."

Nothing significant had happened since the peace accord was signed between the government and PCJSS in 1997, alleged Larma.

After the meeting, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury said they had almost completed the tasks for amending the land commission act. The bill might be placed in the House after discussions with the prime minister.

Asked whether the land commission would be instructed to keep its activities stalled as it had stirred controversy among the hill people, she said it would also be finalised after consultation with the premier.

Santu Larma said he had also informed the committee about the "criminal activities" of the United People's Democratic Front and asked to government to ban the outfit, which to him, was working against the treaty at direct support of some quarters in the government.

He said the committee chair had taken the responsibility to convey the issue to the top echelon of the state.

Jatindra Lal Tripathi, chairman of Task Force on Rehabilitation of the Repatriated Refugees also attended yesterday's meeting.

Prime minister's adviser on foreign affairs Gowher Rizvi was also present there on special invitation.

Tension brewed afresh in the hills after the CHT land dispute resolution commission had announced that it might hear cases by way of "special measures" due to repeated crisis of quorum for its meetings. Regional political parties are reported to be preparing to resist the commission move. Commission members from hill communities have been boycotting the commission proceedings since February 2011, demanding an amendment to the 2001 act that set up the commission.

The three political parties in the region, the Parbatya Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samiti, the United People's Democratic Front and the Parbatya Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samiti (MN Larma) said they would not accept any such move.

## Nizami finally

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killing and genocide committed during the Liberation War.

During the war, Nizami was the president of Pakistan ICS (now Islami Chhatra Shibir), which formed Al Badr, a band of collaborators, infamous for orchestrating the killing of intellectuals, according to historical records.

"I don't think there is any scope of accusing someone of war crimes for his political role," he said.

### Wasfia

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month. The 29-year-old started her expedition on March 26, the day of Bangladesh's independence, as part of her "Bangladesh on Seven Summits" campaign.

Meanwhile, Nishat, the first Bangladeshi woman to conquer the world's highest peak, reached Lukla on Sunday.

Along with fellow mountaineer MA Mohit, she mounted the Everest on May 19.

Enam Ul Haque, president of Bangla Mountaineering and Trekking Club that organised the event, said there was no flight from Lukla yesterday due to bad weather.

"I talked with them and they are well," said Enam.

On her feeling, Wasfia said it was a tremendous achievement to be the second Bangladeshi woman to be on the top of the world.

This year is one of the toughest expedition years. Due to rough weather condition, many climbers were hurt while several others went missing.

The weather on the Everest was very rough this year, otherwise I could reach the summit on May 18 or May 25," she said.

She climbed the mountain with two sherpas -- Nima Girarpa Dorje and Kusang Sherpa -- but on her way down only Kusang accompanied her.

A rights activist, Wasfia said she wanted to contribute to the country's cause for fighting climate change.

Of the four Bangladeshis who scaled the Everest so far, Wasfia is the youngest.

Earlier, she became the first Bangladeshi woman to reach the highest peak of Africa, the Uhuru peak of Mt Kilimanjaro at 5,895 metres altitude in Tanzania.

She reached the summit of Mount Aconcagua in Argentina on December 16 last year.

Mohit is the only Bangladeshi to scale the mountain twice. He first topped the peak on May 21 last year.

Bangladesh entered the list of Everest conquerors with Musa Ibrahim raising high the red-green flag on the mountaintop on May 23, 2010.

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## Unipay2u

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against Pakistan and Islam." About other charges including murder and torture, Nizami said the incidents took place neither in his presence nor with his knowledge.

"I don't think there is any scope of accusing someone of war crimes for his political role," he said.



Sunirmal Roy, who was seriously injured by abductors Sunday, lies in the bed of Mitford Hospital in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLA CHOKH

## Doctor tricked

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and two legs, was now under treatment at the Mitford Hospital.

According to police, hospital sources and relatives, two persons came to Sunirmal's private chamber near Sir Salimullah Medical College and Mitford Hospital on Sunday afternoon.

They requested him to go with them to see a critical patient at Kadamtoli in Keraniganj, on the other side of the Buriganga.

As advised by police, the relatives agreed to pay the ransom when the abductors called them again. Accordingly, one of the

kidnappers came to a particular place at Azimpur to collect the money, and police arrested him.

Contacted, director of Mitford hospital Brig Gen AKM Fariduzzaman said Sunirmal was in a state of mental shock and unwilling to say anything about the incident now.

The duty officer at Kotwali police station said the relatives agreed to pay the ransom when the abductors called them again.

Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, vice-president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said the system would make the production cost vary, as big industries would be able to purchase electricity at high prices but the small factories would find it harder to afford non-stop power supply at this price.

"No doubt we need uninterrupted power supply, but the government should revise the prices," said Jahangir Alamin, president of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association.

Berc Chairman Syed Yusuf Hossain at a press briefing yesterday said the government had introduced the system to reduce subsidies and inflation.

"Once the system is launched we will not need to increase power prices frequently, as the sale value and the production cost is almost the same," he said.

On May 2, Berc held a public hearing in its office as per an application from Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB). According to the hearing, BPDB will primarily sell 500MW of electricity under the scheme throughout the month.

## Non-stop power

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MA Momen, acting president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said the government's concept was good, but the prices were too high.

"Businesses will not remain competitive if we buy power at this price," he said, adding, "On the other hand, we have no choice but to say yes to the Berc decision as our units are now running on high-cost diesel and furnace oil for seven to eight hours a day."

Considering this, the option is good but the government should come up with a uniform price for the premium packages keeping competitiveness in mind, he said.

Amjad Khan Chowdhury, president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, also welcomed the uninterrupted supply of power.

"But the price of electricity should be reasonable as the production cost has already gone up due to various reasons," he said.

Asif Ibrahim, president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, also urged the government to lower the electricity price.

The supply would definitely increase production in industrial units, he added.

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## PM flies

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"Voices, New Directions," emphasising the challenges of change.

Policy makers and officials, leaders, activists, entrepreneurs and journalists will meet during sessions to facilitate productive dialogue concerning problems faced in US relations with the Muslim world.

The Forum will discuss political changes in the Arab countries, the leading forces inspiring and shaping cultural development across the Muslim world, the power of non-state actors, and the new geopolitical challenges.

Hasina will lead a 38-member delegation, which includes Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Ambassador-at-Large Mohammad Ziauddin and high officials from the Prime Minister's Office and foreign ministry.

Sheikh Hasina will deliver a keynote speech at the gala dinner keynote speeches session scheduled for this evening (May 29) at Wosai Ball Room of the Ritz Carlton Hotel.

Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani, Secretary General of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, and Ambassador Martin S. Indyk, vice president and director of the Foreign Policy Program at the Brookings Institution in Washington D.C., will also address the gala dinner session.

Sheikh Hasina will leave Doha at 9:10am (local time) tomorrow and is expected to return home at 6:00pm.

## Quader Mollah

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The International Crimes Tribunal-2, led by Chairman ATM Fazle Kabir, drew up the indictment.

Yesterday's was the first charge framing by the Tribunal-2 against any war crimes suspect since its formation on March 22.

The tribunal fixed June 20 for hearing of the opening statement from the prosecution and examination of prosecution witness. It also directed the defence counsels to submit the list of their witnesses and other documents by the day.

"The proceedings shall continue on every working day until further order," the court said.

The tribunal charged Quader Mollah, considering his role during the war as a leader of Jamaat's student wing Islami Chhatra Sangha, a significant member of auxiliary force Al Badr or a member of a group of individuals.

Mollah, the then president of Dhaka University Shahidullah Hall unit Chhatra Sangha, organised the formation of Al-Badr with the members of the student body in 1971, the court said.

Yesterday, Justice ATM Fazle Kabir started his one-hour long order with a brief introduction. Later, he said about formation of the tribunal, historical context of independence, brief profile of the accused, procedural history, submission of prosecution and defence side, discussion and decision and the charges.

Quader Mollah, now assistant secretary general of Jamaat, was born in Amirabad village under Sadarpur of Faridpur in 1948. He was arrested on charges of killing 345 people during the war on July 13, 2010. Later, he was shown arrested in a case for crimes against humanity committed in 1971.

The prosecution on December 18 last year submitted formal charges against him before Tribunal-1, which took the charges into cognisance on December 28.

On April 16, the case was transferred to Tribunal-2, where both the prosecution and the defence placed their submission on May 2, 8, 9, 14 and 16.

The tribunal on May 16 fixed yesterday for passing the indictment order.

### CHARGES

On Quader Mollah's instruction, one of his aides named Akhter killed Pallab, student of Bangla Molla. They killed his two-year-old son Babu by dashing

the boy against the ground and when his 11-year-old daughter came out from hiding, 12 army personnel raped and killed her. His first daughter Momena, however, escaped.

The tribunal also said the allegations indicate that the accused facilitated, actively participated in and substantially contributed to the last five murders.

Pallab was then taken to an Eidgah at Mirpur-12, where he was shot to death.

On March 27, 1971, Quader Mollah and his aides murdered pro-liberation poet Meherun Nesa, her mother and two brothers at their house at Mirpur-6.

Before the charge framing, the tribunal rejected a petition seeking discharge of the accused.

As the reading out of the charges ended, the tribunal chairman asked the accused, "Do you plead guilty or not?"

"I am totally innocent. I was not in Dhaka during the Liberation War. All charges are fabricated," replied Quader Mollah.

The Jamaat leader said he left Dhaka on March 12 or 13 in 1971 and had come to Dhaka once in July for some 15 days to take part in examination.

After the proceeding, Abdur Razzaq, chief of defence counsels, told reporters that they would file a petition for review of the indictment order.

**PROSECUTION REBUKED**

The yesterday expressed deep dissatisfaction, as no prosecutor was present at the courtroom as the proceeding started at 10:30am.

Prosecution AKM Saiful Islam arrived at 10:40am