

Stop excessive use of steroids to fatten cattle

HC asks govt to form expert committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to form a seven-member expert committee in eight weeks in order to stop excessive use of steroids for making sacrificial animals fatty.

The panel, within eight weeks of its formation, will have to submit its recommendations to the court to stop the practice.

HC bench of Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif and Justice Mohammad Ullah came up with the order after Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, a rights organisation, filed a petition recently seeking HC directive on the matter.

The court yesterday asked the secretaries of home, commerce, health and food ministries to include a health expert, doctor, nutritionist and veterinarian, among others, in the committee.

The HC also sought explanation as to why the government's inaction to stop the use of harmful chemicals to flatten up animals would not be declared illegal.

Secretaries to the ministries of home, commerce, food, health, and livestock and fisheries, director generals of Rab, livestock service and health services, and the DMP commissioner were asked to respond to the rule within six weeks.

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Syria-linked jihadist held

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"The UK national also had a mission to open branches in Bangladesh and Myanmar as per al-Qaeda supreme Ayman al-Zawahiri's recent announcement on the launching of al-Qaeda in Indian subcontinent (AQIS)," said Monirul.

According to police, Samiun fought against the forces of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad from September to December last year.

Samiun, who was placed on a three-day remand yesterday, denied being an IS member.

"I am not an IS member. I came to visit Bangladesh," he told The Daily Star at the DMP Media Centre where he was paraded before the media.

He suggested contacting the British High Commission in Dhaka to learn more about him.

Contacted, a spokesperson at the high commission said they knew about the arrest but refused to talk further on the matter.

The DMP joint commissioner trashed news reports that detectives had arrested the UK citizen several days ago but didn't disclose it.

He said Samiun was arrested on his arrival by a train at Kamalapur station.

Samiun, who was born in the UK in 1990, studied English and Arabic. His parents used to live in Habiganj before settling in the UK.

He visited Morocco and Mauritania last year but detectives couldn't say the reasons behind the trips.

Samiun had to spend a few days in a UK prison for his drunken behaviour. That incident had changed him, and he later decided to join jihadists fighting for Islam, said Monirul.

After entering Bangladesh on February 25, Samiun held meetings at Gulshan Azad Mosque and the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) in Sylhet to motivate people to join jihad, said the DMP high-up.

"We have information that he trav-

elled to different places in Dhaka, Sylhet and Habiganj over the last six months to recruit jihadists."

He, however, couldn't say whether anyone had already left the country to join the Syrian war.

"We don't want to say there are IS members in Bangladesh. What we are saying is that the outfit is trying to work here," he said in reply to a query.

Before travelling to Bangladesh, Samiun communicated with Asif, son of a former judge, on the social media. Asif then contacted Tanzil, son of a senior bureaucrat.

Detectives picked up Asif and Tanzil in the capital on September 24 night on information from seven Jama'at al-Mujahideen Bangladesh men, including its acting chief Abdullah al-Tasneem alias Nahid, arrested from Ashulia on September 19.

Another suspected militant was also arrested in the capital's Paltan area on September 25.

ISIS reconciles with pro-Qaeda group

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group's ranks and extend its reach at a time when air strikes are crippling its funding sources and slowing its advances in both Syria and Iraq.

Al-Nusra, which has direct ties to al-Qaeda's leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, called the attacks a "war on Islam" in an audio statement posted over the weekend. A senior al-Nusra figure told the Guardian that 73 members had defected to ISIS last Friday alone and that scores more were planning to do so in coming days.

"We are in a long war," al-Nusra's spokesman, Abu Firas al-Suri, said on social media platforms. "This war will not end in months nor years, this war could last for decades."

In the rebel-held north there is a growing resentment among Islamist units of the Syrian opposition that the strikes have done nothing to weaken the Syrian regime.

"We have been calling for these sorts of attacks for three years and when they finally come they don't help us," said a leader from the Qatari-backed Islamic

Front, which groups together Islamic brigades. "People have lost faith. And they're angry."

Kobani is the third-largest Kurdish enclave in Syria, and victory for Isis there is essential to its plans to oust the Kurds from lands where they have lived for several thousand years. Control of the area would give the group a strategic foothold in north-east Syria, which would give it easy access to north-west Iraq.

ISIS continued to make forays along the western edge of Baghdad, where its

Asif and Tanzil, who were among the 10 people planning to leave the country to fight in the war in Syria, told detectives that a UK citizen of Bangladeshi origin was in Dhaka to recruit fighters for the IS.

On condition of anonymity, a detective said Samiun, with the help of Asif and Tanzil, convinced 25 people to join the Syrian war.

Of them, 10 have been arrested. They had planned to leave the country for Syria through Turkey after the Eid-ul-Azha, posing as members of Tabligh Jamaat, a peaceful movement for spreading Islamic values.

Samiun told them that he would take them to different parts of Syria where several militant groups, including Islamic State, al-Qaeda and al-Nusra Front, are fighting.

Detectives said Samiun is a rich man, and they are checking whether he transferred money to Bangladesh using his or anyone else's accounts.

Punish Ramu attackers

Buddhists call for quick trial

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The Buddhist community in Ramu yesterday looked back on the day of horror that descended upon the upazila two years ago.

Still haunted by the attacks on their homes and temples, they called for expediting the trial of the hate crimes and ensuring exemplary punishment to the attackers.

They organised a daylong programme in the upazila to mark the second anniversary of the violence.

Fanatics attacked Buddhist homes and temples in Ramu, Ukhia, Teknaf and the Sadar upazila of Cox's Bazar on September 29 and 30 in 2012, following a fake Facebook post demeaning the Quran.

A daylong cultural programme was organised at Central Sima Bihar in Ramu to seek peace, prosperity and harmony among all.

"Bangladesh is a county of communal harmony and people irrespective of their castes and creeds have been living together here for decades," Dharmasen Mahathero, top religious leader of the Bangladeshi Buddhists, told the programme.

"We have to remain alert to maintain the harmony," he added.

Ramu Kendriya Buddha Juba Parishad brought out a procession from Ramu Khijari High School in the morning to mark the second anniversary of the violence. The procession

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Minu, Rajshahi mayor

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Of the cases, one was lodged for killing police constable Siddhartha Chandra Sarkar, 23, and the other under the explosive substances act.

On December 26 last year, Siddhartha and eight other policemen sustained splinter injuries after BNP-Jamaat men had allegedly hurled a bomb at a police patrol van in Rajahata of Rajshahi city during a procession ahead of the January 5 general election.

Siddhartha succumbed to his injuries at Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka that night.

About half an hour before the attack, law enforcers detained some 20 BNP-Jamaat activists at Sonadighi intersection, a quarter of a kilometre off Rajahata, following information of possible subversive activities.

Police believe the blast was in retaliation for the detention. At the time of the incident, the

BNP-Jamaat men were returning through a road in front of Loknath High School in Rajahata after joining a procession led by Mayor Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul at nearby Malopara.

Sub-inspector Saiful Islam filed the two cases with Boalia Police Station, accusing the 90 BNP-Jamaat men. The cases were transferred to DB on January 19.

Nur Hossain Khondokar told The Daily Star that 88 people were chargesheeted out of the 90 accused in the cases. The name of a BNP activist was included in the charge sheets later as his involvement was found during the investigation.

Most of the accused are now on bail. Minu, Bulbul and Milon were imprisoned in the cases, but they were granted bail by the High Court on March 4. Nadim Mostafa also got bail on April 30.

The world's first wearable drone

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using motion sensors.

The drone then returns to the wearer's wrist, which could be controlled using a timer, or summoned using gestures.

It was developed by Dr Christoph Kohstall, a physics researcher at Stanford University, with colleagues Jelena Jovanovic and Michael Niedermayr.

And the concept is a finalist in Intel's

annual Make It Wearable competition. As a result, the team has been awarded \$50,000 to help make it a reality.

Dr Christoph Kohstall has also created an early prototype, which will be developed and is set to undergo further testing later this year.

Earlier this year, Helio Aerospace Industries unveiled the first 'pet' drone that automatically follows its owner -- and could change the way sports are filmed.

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