

Deadly attack stokes Iraq pilgrimage fears

AFP, Karbala

A deadly mortar attack near the Iraqi city of Karbala yesterday stoked security concerns as millions of Shiite pilgrims gathered for one of the largest religious gatherings in the world.

"There were one person killed and four wounded when mortar rounds hit an area on the western side of the city" shortly after midnight, a police colonel said.

"They crashed into an area called Souk al-Basra, around seven kilometres (four miles) from the city centre," he said, adding the victims were residents and not pilgrims.

A medical source in the holy city of Karbala confirmed the toll.

Record numbers of Shiite faithful have been converging on Karbala from across Iraq and other countries for Arbaeen, which on Saturday will mark the end of a 40-day period of mourning following the anniversary of Imam Hussein's death.

Hussein is one of the most revered figures for Shiites, who are the largest community in Iraq and the overwhelming majority in neighbouring Iran.

Defence Minister Khaled al-Obeidi said on Thursday that more than 17 million pilgrims had come to Karbala for Arbaeen, which in a normal year is already considered one of the largest religious gatherings in the world.

The Karbala governor has said this year's was the biggest on record.

This year's pilgrimage has taken on a political dimension as it is the first since the devastating offensive the Islamic State group launched in Iraq in June.

The jihadist organisation -- led by Sunni extremists -- considers Shiites to be heretics and has made targeting the community one of its main objectives.

War criminals'

FROM PAGE 3

"We are suspicious whether they at all believe in human rights," said journalist Serajuddin Hossain's son, adding that there was also an evil scheme working centring the number of martyrs and capital punishment.

"We question these ignorant people -- does statistics over mass killings in 1971 have any significance to us who lost their relatives. How many people need to be killed to prove mass killings are grievous? Does it demean our victory? Does it relieve us of our pain a bit?"

Time has come to fight such evil attempts and conduct an investigation immediately to find the reason behind the conspiracy, Touhid said.

Projoanmo'71 urged the government to take all-out initiatives to bring back all the fugitive war criminals convicted by the international crimes tribunals and execute the judgments.

Academic Jyotirmoy Guhathakurta's daughter Meghna Guhathakurta, writer-novelist Shahidullah Kaiser's daughter drama personality Shomi Kaiser and Salimullah's son dancer Shibli Mohammad also addressed the press conference.

Trader shot dead

FROM PAGE 16

hospital and sent the body to the morgue for an autopsy.

Family members said some local terrorists demanded money from Milon a few days back as he built a house in the area. Milon might have been killed for refusing the thugs money, they suspected.

Shahadat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Polash Police Station, said they detained three people for interrogation.

Road crash

FROM PAGE 16

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports, a man was killed and five others were injured after a truck and a CNG-run auto-rickshaw collided head-on in Fatikhkhari upazila head-quarters yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was Sada Mia, 28, of Gaibandha.

Of the injured, two took primary treatment while the rest were taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital, police said.

Our Jamalpur correspondent adds, Hashmat, 15, son of Mongol, died when a sugarcane-laden tractor ran him over in Dewanpara area of the town on Thursday night.

Our Sherpur correspondent reports, a woman died when her scarf got entangled with the wheel of an easy bike in the district town yesterday.

The dead is Ripa Akhter, 22. She along with her husband Abdul Aziz was going to the district general hospital to see a doctor for her one-year-old son Riham suffering from fever.

Microsoft to unveil Windows 10 in Jan

MAIL ONLINE

Microsoft is set to show off the next major version of its Windows software at a January event at its Redmond HQ - but admits its release has already been delayed until fall 2015.

Chief Operating Officer Kevin Turner told Japanese news service Nikkei on Wednesday that the new system would be released 'early next fall'.

Microsoft has not publicly set a firm timetable for the release of Windows 10, but only last week suggested the possibility of an earlier release. The keynote from the day-long event on January 21 will be live streamed.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, Windows execs Terry Myerson and Joe Belfiore, and Xbox chief Phil Spencer will be speaking.

The event will focus on the 'Windows 10 consumer experience,' a spokesperson confirmed.

Earlier this year Microsoft was derided for 'missing one' when it announced it has decided to jump straight to version 10 of its Windows software in a bid to convince con-

sumers the software is different from current versions.

The firm announced the latest version of its Windows operating system, called Windows 10, at an event in San Francisco. The firm admitted the software was 'at a threshold' after the poorly received Windows 8.

Terry Myerson, Microsoft's Windows chief said: "Our new Windows must be built from the ground up for a mobile first, cloud first world. It wouldn't be right to call it Windows 9."

Microsoft says the new operating system will run on the 'broadest types of devices ever' and sees the companies various app stores merged into one platform, called the One Store.

This will cover all of the company's smartphones, tablets and desktop computers.

Myerson said Windows 10 will be 'a whole new generation' and, as expected, will work across a variety of devices - from phones to gaming consoles. It also marks the return of the Start Menu, which had been removed from Windows 8.

Infighting grips AL

FROM PAGE 1

of another district unit was made president. Barisal city unit, which was being run by a convening committee, has a new committee.

And though the councils elected new general secretaries in eight district units, six units saw no change in the post.

The picture is grimmer in thana units -- at least seven AL lawmakers have been elected presidents or general secretaries in their thana units.

In addition, in many places, MPs have misused their powers to ensure that those loyal to them get the top posts, insiders said.

This has compelled party President Sheikh Hasina to warn party lawmakers and ministers against meddling in grassroots committees and asked them not to run for local office.

Talking to The Daily Star, AL policymakers said they were upset at how things have unfolded.

They added the party grassroots were losing strength because of infighting and internal clashes.

Sources said dozens of AL men have been injured in violence centring on the councils at Shreebordi thana of Sherpur, Paikgachha thana of Khulna, Nandail of Mymensingh and several places of Patuakhali and Noakhali districts.

AL Presidium Member Kazi Zafarullah said he was frustrated to see some lawmakers trying to control the party grassroots. "Coming out of nowhere, many people are now lawmakers. Many MPs do not want to forgo anything."

Referring to Sirajganj's Ullapara thana council, Hasina told a party meeting on November 28 that some newly elected MPs wanted to control the party's thana committees because they wished to "keep everything in their grips".

Shafiqul Islam Shafi, former general secretary of the unit, said 36 prominent local leaders, including himself, were not invited to the council held on November 14.

At the council, Tanveer Imam, a newly elected MP and also son of PM's Political Adviser HT Imam, was made general secretary though he was not active in local politics, Shafi told this correspondent.

Tanveer, however, quit the post upon the PM's directives, after Shafi met Hasina and informed her of the development.

Other lawmakers who secured posts in local committees include Rajshahi-6 MP Shahriar Alam, also state minister for foreign affairs, Rajshahi-4 MP Enamul Haque and Rajshahi-5 MP Abdul Wadud Dara.

Besides, Chapainawabganj-1 MP Golam Rabbani, who joined the party just before the January 5 polls, was elected president of AL Shibganj thana unit. Sirajganj-5 MP Abdul Majid Mandal, who had no involvement in AL politics in the past, became president of its Enayetpur thana unit.

There have also been incidents of announcing counter committees following formation of new committees.

For example, many central leaders, including Syed Ashraf, were present at the Kushtia district unit council on November 25.

Ashraf announced a new committee with Sador Uddin as president and Asgor Ali as general secretary of the unit.

In response, aggrieved party leaders announced a fresh committee with Kushtia Municipal Mayor Anwar Ali as president and Kushtia-4 AL MP Abdur Rouf as general secretary.

Contacted, Anwar Ali claimed he was not invited to the council.

"Those who are not loyal to Hanif [AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif] were not invited," he claimed.

But Hanif dismissed the allegation. According to him, those who announced the counter committee were "isolated" and that they were trying to create controversies over the councils.

UK woman jailed

FROM PAGE 16

In an interview with BBC Newsnight, she said: "I was posting up my belief."

She said the UK was "the last place I would want to live in... the majority of people with my mindset are actually behind bars because they don't want to stay in Britain".

Khan added when she talked about jihad she was not suggesting killing innocent people.

She told the programme: "I have always said I don't believe in going and blowing myself up in a shopping centre where there are going to be innocent children."

"And when I spoke about suicide missions, I only spoke about it because it's a much feared war tactic, which should only be used in a battlefield, not anywhere else."

In September 2013, Khan had reposted an article entitled "Raising Mujahid Children", intended for Islamist mothers, the court heard.

The judge said the article amounted to "a manual in encouraging women to carry out jihad".

Khan had also posted a message on an extremist website, saying she wished her son would one day become a jihadi.

"I pictured the future while I was zipping up his jacket, in sha Allah I'll be tying the shahada bandana round his forehead and hand him his rifle and send him out to play the big boys game," she wrote.

Prosecutor Paul Jarvis said Khan held "extreme Islamist views".

Her actions were uncovered when she started speaking to an undercover police officer, with whom she had a private conversation on Facebook.

In that message, she sent him details of a route into Syria which had been passed to her by Mohammed Nahin Ahmed, a British man who was jailed for terrorism offences last Friday.

When police raided her home in October 2013, they found images on her phone of her two-year-old son wearing a turban and holding a toy assault rifle.

Other pictures showed small children in Syria holding guns, and in one case a hand grenade.

Khan's barrister, Jo Sidhu QC, described his client as "inflexible" in her religious beliefs.

He said she was "extremely insecure, unsophisticated, binary in her thought processes... devoid of any proper... reasonable Islamic teaching."

Commander Richard Walton, head of the Metropolitan Police's counter terrorism unit, said Khan had used social media as a "tool for terrorism".

"Khan used it to spread extremism, radicalise others and justify children being used for terrorism," he said.

"We aim to make the internet a more hostile environment for terrorists; today's sentence supports that aim."

West Bengal

FROM PAGE 1

Trinamool leaders termed the arrest of Mitra "politically motivated" and said they had anticipated the "vindictive move" after BJP President Amit Shah's recent rally in Kolkata.

Reacting to this, Amit Shah said: "CBI is doing its work."

West Bengal Panchayat Minister Subrata Mukherjee alleged that CBI had become BJP's "tool" and BJP was "indulging in politics of vindictiveness".

BJP in West Bengal said the investigation into the hit fund scam was slowly leading to Mamata Banerjee's doorstep.

BJP National Secretary Siddharth Nath Singh alleged that Mitra's arrest showed Trinamool (TMC) leadership's involvement in the scam.

Communist Party of India's (Marxist) Mohammed Salim said: "Madan Mitra is not only a minister but is also a close aide to Mamata Banerjee."

"Now the people of Bengal are getting impatient. They want more culprits in Saradha scam to be arrested. Saradha owner and TMC top leadership was operating as a joint venture in Bengal," Salim added.

Congress leader Abdul Mannan demanded Mamata Banerjee give an explanation for Mitra's arrest and resign.

Mamata Reaction Mamata Banerjee has reacted angrily to the arrest of Madan Mitra and termed it a "political vendetta" and a "dirty conspiracy" by BJP and dared the federal Indian government to arrest her.

"What has happened is illegal and unconstitutional. It is a dangerous step towards the destruction of democratic institutions. My government condemns the arrest in the strictest of terms," she told reporters in Kolkata.

"It is a conspiracy, a very dirty conspiracy, I ask the Prime Minister to put me in jail first. He (Mitra) was called as a witness. Within a few hours he was arrested. Is it not a political vendetta?" asked an angry Mamata.

"I will visit Mitra in SSKM Hospital [when he will be taken there for medical examination]. Arrest me with whatever police Narendra Modi and Amit Shah have at their disposal," she said.

Taking on the BJP leadership and its president Amit Shah, the Trinamool Congress boss said, "We will tear open their masks; we will fight them in Delhi."

"A man who himself has been arrested and charge sheeted by CBI is pointing finger at us," she said.

She said Trinamool Congress would hit the streets from today and threatened to take up the issue in parliament.

"The situation in India is like Emergency now, a new battle has begun. We accept your challenge," she said, adding the "centre" was behaving like a coward and an autocrat.

Toxic poultry

FROM PAGE 16

chromium, while the poultry feed contained 4,205.70 PPM though permissible level is below 30 PPM for both the feeds.

The use of tannery waste in poultry and fish feed poses serious health risk for consumers as the hazardous waste has the possibility of directly entering the food chain.

Experts say consumption of tannery waste through fish and poultry might cause liver and kidney diseases, even cancer.

A study in 2007 by Dhaka University and Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) found higher rate of chromium in eggs and poultry meat than the tolerable level.

Studies suggest that tannery waste contains a huge amount of chromium, which, if used in poultry or fish feed, would enter the food chain. People eating such fishes, chickens or eggs may be subjected to cancer or liver and kidney-related diseases.

The manufacturers first boil the tannery waste, dry it in the sun, grind and then mix with other materials to make the feed for poultry and fish.

Saiful, director of the factory, who was given the jail term, told the mobile court that he was running that illegal business for the last four years without

informing the main owner.

He said they first boiled tannery waste and dried in the sun and made meat bone, which he sold at Tk 17 per kg.

Many feed manufacturers also manufactured their fish and poultry feed using the meat bones, he said, adding that he also made feed using the meat bones.

Pasha said while the price of 100 kg quality feed is Tk 4,500, it is Tk 3,000 for that is mixed with the toxic tannery waste.

He said they used the tannery waste meat bone as it helped fish and chicken grow up fast and size of egg also became larger.

Pasha further said they also used the tannery waste as one of the ingredient of the feed named meat bone as using powder of dry fish imported from abroad was costly.

An enquiry by The Daily Star in July 2010 found around 100 small traders in and around Hazaribagh who used raw tannery waste as ingredients and supplied those to some 20 feed factories across the country.

The practice of using tannery waste for fish and poultry feed started around 14 years ago, as the price of imported protein for feed has gone up over the years.

'Phantom' sold

FROM PAGE 16

Including a previous \$1 million sale of his picture 'One' in 2012, Lik's works make up four of the top 20 most expensive photographs ever sold.

Some commentators have raised questions over the validity of the price tag because it has not been independently verified.

The buyer's lawyer Joshua Roth, from Glaser Weil, said he was unable to provide documentation because the terms of the contracts were 'strictly confidential'.

"I can assure you that the sale was made but unfortunately that's the best I can do," Roth told Daily Mail Australia.

Lik said: "The purpose of all my photos is to capture the power of

nature and convey it in a way that inspires someone to feel passionate and connected to the image.

"The intensity of contrasting light and dark spaces was surprising, but made for some of the most powerful images I've ever created."

Lik's passion for photography began during his childhood in Australia, where he grew up the son of Czech immigrants.

He took his first photo at eight years old after his parents gave him a Brownie Kodak camera and he snapped a picture of a spider web in his backyard.

In 1984, the then-25-year-old moved to the US, where he developed a passion for landscape photography and the panoramic camera.

Che's son offers 'Motorcycle Diaries' Cuba tour

AFP, Havana

The youngest son of Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara has opened an agency offering two-wheel tours of the Caribbean island nation on Harley-Davidsons, in a nod to his father's passion for motorcycles.

The Marxist guerrilla's storied motorbike journey through South America was immortalized in the 2004 film "Motorcycle Diaries," directed by Brazil's Walter Salles and starring Mexican actor Gael Garcia Bernal.

The trip, spanning from December 1951 to July 1952, took the 23-year-old revolutionary to Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela.

Now, Che's son Ernesto Guevara wants to honor his father's famous ride


by giving visitors to Cuba a "unique" trip through the country on Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

Prices start at \$3,000 per person and go up to \$5,800 for six or nine day trips. Airline costs are not included.

The itineraries give visitors a glimpse of "the varied landscapes of this beautiful island," while also offering "intimate contact with a part of the history of a unique revolution," according to the website of La Poderosa Tours, run by 49-year-old Ernesto, who is also a lawyer.

The company promises a luxury visit, including stays at five-star hotels and a visit to Che's mausoleum.

"We will make your trip a unique experience, an unforgettable memoir. We will personally take care of every detail during your journey," the website says.



INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB)

Operations & Maintenance Department

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

(Revised)

Work: Design, Documentation, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of

Access Control System & CCTV for IUB Campus

1. Sealed Bids are hereby invited from the bona fide Company / Firms for **Design, Documentation, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Access Control System & CCTV for Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) Campus at Bashundhara, Dhaka**. The bidders shall be required to submit a complete offer in two separate envelopes, one for the Technical Offer while the second envelope shall contain the Financial Offer.
2. The interested bidders must have minimum 3 (three) years of experience in similar type of works.
3. The bidders shall apply in their Official Letterheads to Director, O&M, IUB, along with the following documents:
 - I. List of the Clients for whom they have Designed, Supplied & Installed the Access Control System & CCTV,
 - II. Copies of the Work Orders & Completion Certificates from the renowned Clients for similar type of works,
 - III. Copies of the updated Trade License, Bank Solvency Certificate / Statement, Income Tax & VAT Registration Certificates of the Company / Firm.
4. The bidders shall furnish an earnest money, equivalent to 2.5% of the bid amount, in favour of Independent University, Bangladesh, in the form of Bank Draft / Pay Order from a scheduled Bank of Bangladesh, as part of the Bid Documents.
5. Interested bidders are requested to collect the Tender Schedule from the Office of the Director, O&M, IUB, between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm from 21st December to 24th December 2014 on payment of a non-refundable amount of Tk 1,000/- (Taka one thousand) only in cash.
6. A Pre-bid Meeting with the intended bidders will be held on 12th January, 2015 at the Office of the Director, O&M. The time of the Pre-bid Meeting will be notified to the bidders in time.
7. The Tenders will be received at the Office of the Director, O&M, IUB up to 2:00 pm of 19th January 2015 and the Technical Offers shall be opened at 2:30 pm on the same day & at the same place, in presence of the bidders who may wish to attend the Tender Opening.
8. The Financial Offers of the technically responsive bidders will be opened on a later date with due notification to the respective bidders.
9. IUB Authority reserves the right to accept only the technically responsive tenders without any consideration of the lowest bid and shall have the right to reject any or all tender without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Engr. A.S.M. Shah Alam
 Director, Operations & Maintenance
 Independent University, Bangladesh
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