

War of ideas hops up as French police quiz eight-year-old

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

France is divided over the case of an eight-year-old boy who was questioned by police for saying: "I am not Charlie. I am with the terrorists." A moderate Islamic association said that the interrogation of Ahmed and his father was proof of a "collective hysteria" since 17 people died in terrorist attacks in Paris three weeks ago.

The education minister Najat Vallaud-Belkacem said the boy's school had reacted "entirely correctly" by drawing his behaviour to the attention of education authorities and the police. She said that there was no question of legal action against the child but that a complaint had been made against his father for an allegedly "brutal" attitude towards school staff.

Arguments for and against the questioning of Ahmed became the hottest subject on French social media for most of the day. The boy and his father were ordered to go to a police station in Nice on Wednesday. On 8 January, the day after the attack on Charlie Hebdo, Ahmed refused to take part in a nationwide two-minute silence.

He was reported to have said in class and then again in the playground: "I am not Charlie. I am with the terrorists. The Muslims were quite right."

Daughter

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marks of scratches. Black pepper powder was also found on her face and eyes, morgue sources said.

Abdul Ali, one of her neighbours, said the body was covered in a blanket and lying on the floor with her face down in the bedroom.

"Yesterday morning, Fahmida's domestic help Sabiha Begum pressed the doorbell of the flat for around 10 minutes but did not get any response. She didn't get any response from inside the flat the previous night as well," he told The Daily Star.

Sabiha informed Ali of the matter. Ali then called the building's security guard Abdur Rouf.

The door was shut, but not locked for hours. They found the body and saw the almirah was open around 10:15am. Clothes were lying scattered on the floor.

Rezwan-ul-Alam, elder brother of Fahmida, told this correspondent that her sister used to live in one flat and rented out another. She owned both the flats on the floor. Her husband Golam Rabbani works at a private firm in Bahrain. Siratul Mostaqin, 20, the couple's only son, is staying in the United States for study.

"My sister had no enemy," Alam added. He filed a murder case with Rampura Police Station against unknown persons.

Fahmida would seldom go out of the house. She didn't open the door to strangers, said residents of the building.

Mahbubur Rahman Tarafder, officer-in-charge of Rampura Police Station, said they detained Sabiha and Rouf for interrogation.

The motive behind the murder could not be ascertained immediately but police suspected that the murder might have taken place sometime on Thursday. An investigation into the incident was underway in this regard, police said.

The security guard told reporters that he didn't see any stranger entering the house on Thursday night while Sabiha said she last worked at Fahmida's house on Wednesday night.

Verdicts

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Some of the accused reported directly to Mladic - who is himself currently on trial at the tribunal in The Hague, also accused of genocide.

Railway

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Alleged blockade supporters also uprooted rail tracks and removed fishplates at many places, injuring over 51 passengers following derailments.

On January 12, 8,328 Ansar and Village Defence Party members were deployed across the country to safeguard rail tracks and keep the train communication normal.

Bapa, Khasis

FROM PAGE 5
Rajarbazar area and demanded that the government take immediate measures in this regard.

The local government and forest officials planted around 3,171 trees, including Akashi and Mahogany, eight years ago.

Giving assurance of taking actions against the miscreants, who are still unidentified, Chunarughat forest officials blamed inadequate manpower for being unable to protect the trees.

Malaysia stalls online system of hiring foreign workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Malaysian immigration authorities yesterday temporarily postponed an online system launched on January 15 for hiring foreign workers.

The authorities in a statement said the postponement had been announced to allow the immigration department and the Malaysian home ministry to evaluate policies concerning the system.

"It is also to review feedback from the public, notably employers," reports The Star, a Malaysian English newspaper mentioning the statement.

With the postponement of the system, the Foreign Workers Centralised Management System for Visa with Reference applications at immigration counters was reopened, the statement added.

The department reminded that all transactions at the counters must run smoothly and that applications must be made by the employers or their authorised representatives.

The immigration department took the decision following Malaysian Home Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi's directive to reassess the online system for hiring foreign workers.

Earlier, the Malaysian Employers

Federation (MEF) alleged the immigration authorities had made no attempt to engage with stakeholders before implementing the mandatory online system for hiring foreign workers.

"This [resistance to the new systems] is exactly the result of one-way decision-making," said MEF Executive Director Datuk Shamsuddin Bardan. Even if new systems were introduced, they should not be made mandatory, he added.

"While previously we could just provide information at the Immigration Department counters, now companies have to manually key in all the workers' information into the system. There doesn't seem to have been enough thought put into this -- it has actually made the process more complicated," he observed.

Thirty business associations and chambers of commerce on Wednesday jointly issued a strong statement against the online services.

Currently, around four lakh Bangladeshi migrants are working in Malaysia. Officials at the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur said they did not receive any official order from the Malaysian authorities yet.

Top Thai cops jailed in corruption case that toppled princess

AFP, Bangkok

Two senior Thai police officers allegedly at the centre of corruption network whose exposure led to the downfall of a senior Thai princess were jailed yesterday under Thailand's controversial lese majeste law.

Pongpat Chayapun, the former head of Thailand's elite Central Investigation Bureau, and his ex-deputy Kowit Vongrongrot were arrested in November alongside a string of top brass in a corruption probe that went on to implicate relatives of Princess Srirasmi, then the Crown Prince's wife.

She later renounced her royal title and was divorced by Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn in a dramatic and opaque moment of palace intrigue that shocked Thailand's elite at a time of heightened anxiety over the health of the country's revered but ailing monarch.

Both officers were sentenced to six years in jail yesterday after admitting lese majeste under section 112 of Thailand's criminal code and for corruption, a court official said.

"He (Pongpat) pleaded guilty to charges, including insulting the monarchy, and the judge sentenced him to

five years plus twelve months in jail," an official at Bangkok Criminal Court, who asked not to be named, told AFP.

"That sentence was commuted from 12 years because he confessed to the judges," the official added.

A second official said Kowit had also been handed a six year sentence.

Under the royal defamation law -- one of the world's strictest -- anyone convicted of insulting the king, queen, heir or regent faces up to 15 years in prison on each count.

At least 17 people were arrested during the investigation of the corrupt group, who were accused of amassing illicit fortunes through corrupt patronage networks as well as gambling and oil rackets.

The Thai authorities have yet to give a full explanation of how those charged in the corruption network defamed the monarchy.

At the time of their arrest, police said Pongpat and his group had made "false claims" to be acting on behalf of an unnamed royal in their allegedly corrupt dealings.

But senior police officers charged with investigating the circle hinted that they were unable to elaborate any further because doing so could in itself breach lese majeste laws.

Arson, bomb attacks

FROM PAGE 1

admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital with 6 to 15 percent burns, said hospital sources.

The arson attack on the "Turag Paribahan" bus was carried out around 8:55pm when it was heading for Tongi from Syedabad, said sources at the fire service and civil defence.

When the vehicle reached the Khilgaon Rail Crossing, three to four people posing as passengers asked the driver to stop, said one of the victims at the hospital.

As soon as the bus pulled over, they started to pour petrol on it and fled immediately after setting the vehicle on fire, he said.

On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and doused the flames around 9:20pm, according to fire service sources.

The injured were identified as Jamal Uddin, 50, a retired police constable; Raju Ahmed, 22; Jibon, 25 and Belayet Hossain, 25.

On January 23, at least 28 people suffered burns as two petrol bombs thrown by suspected blockaders exploded inside another bus in the capital's Jatrabari.

Even though yesterday was a holiday, a large number of businesses and roadside shops remained open. The number of vehicles on the capital's streets was also noticeable.

Alleged blockaders set fire to a total of seven vehicles across the country yesterday.

Two buses were torched at Tantibazar and Gulistan in the capital and four other vehicles at Maijdi of Noakhali, Putia of Rajshahi, Mahasthangarh and Ranirhat of Bogra. No causality was reported in the incidents.

Two pedestrians -- Abul Bashar, 45, and Topon Roy, 28 -- were injured after blockaders blasted two crude bombs at

Palashi intersection in the capital.

In Barisal, a passenger launch, MV Manashi, operating on the Dhaka-Gournadi route came under an arson attack, leaving two passengers injured, our Barisal correspondent reports.

The vessel with more than 150 passengers had left the Koyaria Ghat and took passengers at Hosnabad ghat of Gournadi on Arial Kha river bank around 6:30pm, said Sajjad Hossain, officer-in-charge of Gournadi Police Station.

As soon as the launch left the Hosnabad ghat, blockaders hurled a petrol bomb from the river bank, he added.

The launch was damaged slightly after it caught fire, said Humaun Kabir, a launch staff.

Dhaka district police arrested three activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal from South Keraniganj for their alleged involvement in an arson attack on a bus on the Dhaka-Mawa route on January 20.

Law enforcers arrested 30 Jamaat-Shibir men in Sathkira for their alleged involvement in subversive activities.

Meanwhile, the BNP-led 20-party alliance called a nationwide 72-hour hartal from 6:00am tomorrow protesting at "threats from Awami League leaders to arrest Khaleda Zia".

The announcement of the 72-hour hartal from tomorrow was made in a statement yesterday. Before that, the alliance had announced to continue the blockade.

The ruling Awami League has termed the hartal ahead of the upcoming SSC examinations 'sad and unfortunate'.

"We urge the BNP chief [Khaleda Zia] to withdraw the hartal and blockade," AL Joint General Secretary Mahubul Alam Hanif told The Daily Star.

Record-breaking

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Tiukhtyaev need to beat the 5,260 mile-distance set by the Double Eagle V in 1981.

The current duration record was set in 1978 when Ben Abruzzo, Maxie Anderson and Larry Newman made the first transatlantic balloon flight at a total time of 137 hours, five minutes and 50 seconds.

The Two Eagles team will need to stay in the air for around 138 hours and 45 minutes to beat it.

"We're not taking any time to celebrate," said Steve Shope, head of mission control. "We have a lot of work to do and we're just taking this flight one hour at a time."

The pilots are flying in a hi-tech balloon fitted with an array of monitors and other instruments designed to keep track of their course and accurately compile their flight data to be submitted to record-keepers.

Their capsule sits beneath a massive, helium-filled envelope and a specially-designed carbon fiber-composite capsule, which is built especially to be able to stay aloft for 10 days.

Despite their goal of beating the current distance and endurance records, the next real challenge for the Two Eagles team will be a safe landing; as there is no certainty about their final destination.

ISIS-affiliated

FROM PAGE 16
Ethiopia for an African Union summit yesterday.

Rockets were also fired at a hotel, a police club and more than a dozen checkpoints. Security sources in Sinai said three military planes left al-Arish for Cairo yesterday morning carrying 32 body bags, some of them containing corpses in pieces from the bomb attacks.

The Egyptian Army immediately issued a statement accusing former President Mohamed Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood of orchestrating the attack.

But hours before, Ansar Beit al-Maqdis had posted pictures of masked militants dressed all in black, carrying rocket-propelled grenades and flying the black flag of ISIS, from its Twitter account.

The militant group, which emerged after the 2011 Egyptian revolution, later claimed responsibility, saying on Twitter that two suicide bombers and three car bombs struck an army base and adjacent security building in el-Arish -- the deadliest of all attacks.

Meanwhile, Egypt's army clashed with jihadists in Sinai yesterday, leaving two children dead. Two more people including a 12-year-old were badly wounded by gunfire.

The most active group, Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, changed its name to Sinai Province last year when it swore allegiance to Islamic State, the hardline Sunni militant group that has seized swathes of Iraq and Syria, drawing US-led air strikes, reports Reuters.

A daily news broadcast released via Islamic State Twitter feeds said Thursday's attacks had been led by "men of the Islamic State".

Soldiers and police are often targeted at outposts outside Sinai's main towns, but the attack on military facilities in al-Arish could signal an escalation in their capabilities, said Zack Gold of the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv.

Thai military ramps up 'attitude adjustment' for critics

AFP, Bangkok

A prominent leader of the opposition Red Shirt movement and a former minister yesterday became the latest critics of Thailand's junta forced to report to barracks for "attitude adjustment" as the military ramps up its campaign against dissent.

Nattawut Saikuru, secretary-general of the movement loyal to ousted premier Yingluck Shinawatra, and Pichai Nariyaphan, a former energy minister in her government, were both ordered to appear before the military after publicly criticising the regime.

So-called "attitude adjustment" sessions are used by the military to haul in those deemed to be uncooperative with Thailand's generals, who imposed martial law and took over in a coup last May.

At least five people -- three former ministers, a Red Shirt leader and Yingluck's lawyer -- have now been ordered to report this week.

Thailand's junta has moved swiftly to stamp out any renewed criticism of their rule following the retroactive impeachment of Yingluck last week and after a top US diplomat made critical comments on Monday that infuriated the generals.

The military insist the summons are simply invites -- though in reality any refusal to cooperate would likely lead to significant censure.

"Please use the word invite, General Udomdej Sritabutr, army chief and a key junta leader told reporters at Government House.

"We ask for their cooperation... and if they don't understand we will invite them again," he added.

Earlier this week junta chief Prayut Chan-O-Cha made it clear he would not tolerate those who spoke out against the regime, adding he would use punitive measures including banning critics from travelling abroad and having their assets investigated or seized.

7 bodies found

FROM PAGE 1
claimed there were 70 to 80 people on the trawler that set off from the Sadar Ghat of the Karnaphuli river in the early hours on Thursday. They however could not confirm the number of passengers who remained missing.

Some of the rescued passengers, however, told reporters on Thursday evening that the trawler had about a hundred people on board.

The trawler was salvaged off the coast in Moheshkhali upazila's Dholghata, said Ongsa Thwai, officer-in-charge of Kutubdia Police Station.

Tarek Mostafa said a probe had already been started to find out the trawler's owner.

Meanwhile, Kutubdia Police Station has filed a case against 18 people including the six alleged traffickers on charge of human trafficking.

All the six traffickers -- Mohammad Tayab, Russell, Yasin Hossain, Ismail Hossain, Obaidul Hoque, and Nur

Muhammad -- are from the Pokkhali village in Cox's Bazaar Sadar.

The case's complainant, Sub Inspector Kamal Uddin, is expected to produce all the rescued passengers before a court today, seeking remand of the traffickers and a decision regarding the fate of the innocent victims.

In another incident last night, Police rescued a large group of 40 overseas jobseekers from a hotel in Chittagong.

On secret information, a team of Kotwali Police conducted a drive and rescued them from the Golden Inn hotel around 10:30pm, said Nezam Uddin, inspector (investigation) of Kotwali Police Station.

He however could not provide any more details about them.

During primary interrogation, they admitted that they were supposed to travel to Malaysia by sea, added the inspector.

9 killed in 2 road crashes

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6:45pm when the Mymensingh town-bound bus rammed the auto-rickshaw, said Abu Md Fazlul Karim, officer-in-charge of Mymensingh Kotwali Police Station.

Three passengers of the auto-rickshaw were killed on the spot while two others died at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, he said.

The critically injured woman was undergoing treatment at the hospital, added the police official.

One of the dead was Abdur Razzak alias Kajol, 25, of Ishwarganj upazila. The identities of four others could not be known immediately.

Police seized the bus, but its driver managed to flee, reports our Mymensingh correspondent.

A case was filed.

In another road crash, four betel-leaf traders were killed and five others injured as a three-wheeler fell into a roadside ditch after being hit by a truck

near Dudshar bus stand in Shaikupa upazila of Jhenidah yesterday morning.

The dead are Amul Hossain, 35, of Charpara village, Shafiqur Rahman, 32, Rezaul Islam, 40, and Mujibor Rahman, 42, of Kanapukuria village. Rezaul is a cousin of Mujibor.

Quoting locals, police said some betel-leaf traders in a three-wheeler, locally known as baby taxi, were going to Dakbanga Bazar in Sadar upazila from Sheikhpura Bazar for buying betel leaves, reports our Jhenidah correspondent.

Around 6:00am, the Jessore-bound truck hit the three-wheeler on Jhenidah-Kushtia highway from behind. The three-wheeler fell into the roadside ditch, leaving four dead on the spot and hurting five others.

MA Hashem, officer-in-charge of Shaikupa Police Station, said police seized the truck, but its driver and helper fled.

A case was lodged in this connection.

রংপুর ক্যাডেট কলেজ		দরপত্র আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়।	
০২	বাস্তবায়নকারী সংস্থা	রংপুর ক্যাডেট কলেজ।	
০৩	সংস্থার স্বত্বাধিকারীর নাম	অধ্যক্ষ, রংপুর ক্যাডেট কলেজ।	
০৪	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (সীলমোহরকৃত এক খামে দর উদ্ধৃতির ভিত্তিতে দরপত্র আহ্বান)।	
০৫	অর্থের উৎস	কলেজ পাবলিক ফান্ড।	
০৬	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	০১/২০১৫	
০৭	অন্যন্যোপযোগী প্রেরণ পদ্ধতি	অধ্যক্ষ, রংপুর ক্যাডেট কলেজর অনুকূলে, অগ্রণী ব্যাংক, রংপুর ক্যাডেট কলেজ শাখা বরাবর ডিমান্ড ড্রাফট (ডিডি)/ পে-অর্ডার জমা দিতে হবে।	
০৮	সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম, ঠিকানা ও বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	নাম ও ঠিকানা রংপুর ক্যাডেট কলেজ, পোঃ ক্যাডেট কলেজ, জেলা-রংপুর।	সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ বিজ্ঞাপন প্রকাশের দিন থেকে ২২ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১৫ (সকাল ০৮ ঘটিকা হতে দুপুর ০২ ঘটিকা) পর্যন্ত।
০৯	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	রংপুর ক্যাডেট কলেজ।	
১০	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২৩ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১৫ তারিখে ১১৩০ ঘটিকায়, রংপুর ক্যাডেট কলেজ।	
১১	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২৩ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১৫ তারিখে ১২০০ ঘটিকায়, রংপুর ক্যাডেট কলেজ।	
১২	কার্য সম্পাদনের মেয়াদকাল	কার্যাদেশের তারিখ থেকে ৩০ জুন ২০১৫ পর্যন্ত।	
১৩	দরপত্রদাতাদের যোগ্যতা	১। সিডিউল ক্রয়ের মূল রপিদ ২। হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ৩। টি আই এন নম্বরসহ বর্তমান বছরের আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদ ৪। ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ ৫। ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট ৬। অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র ৭। এফিডেভিট ৮। দুইকপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি এবং জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত এক কপি দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।	
১৪	ক্রম নং	বিবরণ	দরপত্রের মূল্য
১৫	ক	কলেজ কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত নকশা অনুযায়ী রেং হাউস নির্মাণ	১,০০০.০০
বিশেষ নির্দেশনাঃ			
১) দরপত্র The Public Procurement Regulation 2008 এর বিধি বিধান মোতাবেক পরিচালিত হবে।			
২) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন/সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন এবং সর্বনিম্ন দরপত্র গ্রহণে বাধ্য নহেন।			
৩) নির্মাণ কাজের জন্য প্রাপ্ত দরপত্র আলাদা আলাদাভাবে মূল্যায়ন এবং সফল দরদাতা নির্ধারিত হবে।			
৪) অগ্রণী দরদাতা এ বিষয়ে কোন তথ্য জানার থাকলে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর থেকে জানতে পারবেন।			
৫) সিডিউল ক্রয়ের জন্য হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ও সিডিউল মূল্য নগদ জমা করে নিজস্ব প্যাডে আবেদন করতে হবে।			
৬) প্রতিদিনি মারফত/ভাকবোণে সিডিউল ক্রয় বা জমা দেয়া যাবে। তবে নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে না পৌঁছালে উক্ত সিডিউল বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।			
আইএসপিআর/সেনা/২০১৫/১০৫৪			
২৮/০১/১৫			
জিডি-৪১৩			
অধ্যক্ষ রংপুর ক্যাডেট কলেজ			