

# 3 teenage girls flee UK to join ISIS

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Istanbul in Turkey from Gatwick airport on Tuesday without leaving any messages behind for family or friends.

Shamima is possibly travelling under the name of Aklima Begum, UK police said. The third girl is not being named at the request of her family.

Both the named girls are British-born Bangladeshis, speak English with London accents and also speak Bengali.

Scotland Yard detectives yesterday appealed for any information about the missing girls, who all go to the Bethnal Green Academy school and were described as 'three normal schoolgirls' and 'straight-A students'.

Just two days before their disappearance, Shamima is understood to have been in contact with a female British ISIS member who now advises those desperate to join the terror group.

On Sunday, a Twitter account appearing to belong to Shamima tweeted to an account associated with female ISIS member Umm Layth, formerly known as Aqsa Mahmood.

She wrote: '@Muhajirah\_ follow me so i can dm you back'. 'DM' refers to a direct message, which allows users of the social network to communicate privately with each other.

Privately-educated Mahmood, 20, left her privileged life in Glasgow to marry an ISIS fighter in Syria in November 2013.

All three girls left their homes at 8:00 am on Tuesday morning and met at Gatwick Airport, where they boarded a Turkish Airlines flight to Istanbul.

Counter Terrorism Command (SO15) Commander Richard Walton said: "We are extremely concerned for the safety of these young girls and would urge anyone with information to come forward and speak to police. Our priority is the safe return of these girls to their families."

"We are reaching out to the girls using the Turkish media and social media in the hope that Shamima, Kadiza and their friend hear our messages, hear our concerns for their safety and have the courage to return now, back to their families who are so worried about them."

Shamina is described as 5'7" tall, and wearing black thick rimmed glasses, a black hijab, light brown and black leopard print scarf, dark red jumper, black trousers and jacket.

Kadiza is described as 5'6" tall, of slim build and wearing black rimmed glasses, a long black jacket with a hood, grey striped scarf, grey jumper, dark red trousers, carrying a black holdall.

The third missing girl is described as 5'6" tall, of slim build, wearing black thick rimmed glasses, black head scarf, long dark green jacket with fur lined hood, light yellow long sleeved top, black trousers, white trainers carrying a black Nike holdall.

ISIS supporters are believed to be offering cash incentives to encourage schoolgirls to travel to the group's de facto capital Raqqa and marry fighters.

It was reported in December that ISIS channels money for travel expenses through international money wire systems, enabling the group's UK cell to offer significant sums of cash to disenfranchised teenagers.

political expression, and said the two leaders agreed that violence has no space in a democracy.

Mahmood requested John Kerry to expedite repatriation of Rashed Chowdhury, one of the convicted killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Rashed is reportedly hiding in the US.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Mohammad Ziauddin, Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque and Director General (Americas) Mahfuzur Rahman, and US Assistant Secretary of State for South & Central Asia Nisha Desai Biswal were present at the meeting.

**BAN-MAHMOOD MEET**

The UN chief and the foreign minister discussed cooperation between the United Nations and the Bangladesh government.

Ban thanked Bangladesh for its contributions to the UN peacekeeping operations.

According to a foreign ministry press release, the UN secretary general shared his concerns over the ongoing violence in Bangladesh and stressed that the UN would continue to have dialogues with the government to understand the evolving political situation.

Ban said that the government had the responsibility to protect people in general from violence, and that all political parties should exercise their political rights upholding the established democratic norms and principles.

In this context, the foreign minister briefed the UN chief about the various initiatives taken by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to create the environment for an inclusive and participatory democratic process in the country.

He regretted that the BNP leadership persistently rebuffed the government's overtures, and instead chose the path of violence and terrorist methods at the expense of innocent lives.

The UN Secretary General assured the Foreign Minister of the UN's continued engagement with strengthening the democratic and development process in Bangladesh.

# Japan arrests Red Army member on return from US

AFP, Tokyo

A member of Japan's ultra-leftist Red Army guerrilla group, which attacked embassies and hijacked planes in the 1970s and 1980s, was arrested Friday when he arrived back in Japan, police said.

Tsutomu Shiroasaki, 67, returned home after serving a prison term in the United States and then being deported from the country.

Television footage showed Shiroasaki in a blue windbreaker quietly walking through an arrival gate at Tokyo's Narita airport, escorted by Japanese police officers.

Shiroasaki was arrested in 1996 in Nepal -- where he had been hiding -- on suspicion of attempted murder and arson involving the torching of a hotel room in Jakarta in 1986.

It is alleged that the arson was an attempt to destroy evidence related to mortar attacks launched on the US and Japanese embassies in Indonesia.

# Bangladesh

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Delving into the current political situation, Ahmed condemned the alleged restriction on food supply to BNP chief Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office.

He also said that when the Rapid Action Battalion was formed in 2004, it was a symbol of security, but many of its personnel had been identified as mercenaries now.

Speaking on the occasion, Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna said the words "dialogue" and "reform" had become contemptuous in the country now.

However, the civil society people who called for talks have escaped being branded as the Razakar (anti-liberation force) because the European Union and United Nations have made the same call, he added.

Speaking about Oli Ahad, he said the contributions of the language hero were not recognised because of the dynastic politics of Bangladesh.

Language hero Rawshan Ara Bachchu also spoke.

# Dhaka reaffirms

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youth in creative enterprises through knowledge and ICT development.

Ali further said women's social mobility in Bangladesh had helped weaken the religious extremist agenda at its core. He underscored the use of media to shatter the myths around the extremist narratives.

He lamented the "extremist agenda" being pursued by the BNP-Jamaat alliance to undermine the democratic, non-communal and non-confrontational narratives being promoted by the government.

The White House Summit, first of its kind, gathered government and civil society representatives, including faith leaders, from more than 60 countries to discuss a forward-looking strategy to counter the generational challenges of violent extremism.

Speaking at the Summit, US President Barack Obama said, "We come from different countries and different cultures and different faiths, but... we are all in the same boat. We have to help each other."

Participants at the meeting shared insights on the drivers of violent extremism, on effective community-based initiatives to build counter-narratives to violent extremism, and on various proven means of de-radicalising and reintegrating former terrorists and extremists.

The Summit adopted a statement highlighting eight work streams to take forward the CVE agenda through concerted global action, including developing a multi-dimensional CVE action plan under the aegis of the United Nations.

# US slams attacks

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end the recent violence in the country, which has claimed over 70 lives in the past seven weeks.

Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has encouraged the Bangladesh government "to seek concrete ways to de-escalate the situation and to engage constructively the opposition, for the long-term stability and development of the country".

He also expressed his concern regarding the loss of lives and political violence in the country since the beginning of the year, according to a UN readout following a meeting between Ban Ki-moon and Foreign Minister Mahmood Ali.

Both the meetings were held in Washington DC on the sidelines of the three-day White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism which concluded on Thursday. The summit was attended by leaders from more than 70 countries.

**KERRY'S CALL**

"The Secretary called for government action to peacefully end the recent violence, underscored the government's role in ensuring peaceful political expression for all parties, and emphasised the need for a free and fair media that plays a constructive role in ensuring human rights," a US State Department readout said yesterday.

During the meeting with Mahmood Ali, Secretary Kerry offered "renewed US support to help achieve a political solution that returns Bangladesh to its democratic foundations."

According to the State Department Press Office, Kerry and Mahmood discussed Bangladesh's economic growth and gains in development, as well as the shared efforts to address climate change fallouts and improve labour conditions.

"The Secretary noted Bangladesh's increasing strategic importance in the region and underscored the need to protect Bangladesh's fundamental freedoms," it said.

Meanwhile, a press release of the Bangladesh foreign ministry condemned the mindless violence and extremism in the name of ideology or

# Fresh brawl in Turkish House over protest bill

AFP, Ankara

The Turkish parliament descended into fresh chaos Thursday with lawmakers exchanging punches for a second time over a controversial bill to boost police powers against protesters, local media reported.

Ruling party and opposition lawmakers engaged in fisticuffs while one MP even fell down the stairs as parliament was about to begin a debate on the so-called homeland security bill, the private Dogan news agency reported.

The unruly scenes mirrored those seen in the parliament overnight Tuesday to Wednesday, when five deputies were left injured -- including two who suffered head injuries inflicted by a ceremonial gavel.

Opposition parties, strongly opposed to the government-driven bill, earlier this week vowed to stop the draft text from coming to the parliament floor by resorting to delaying tactics such as presenting motions on unrelated subjects.

# 10 killed in UAE fire

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Arman Ullah Chowdhury, counsellor (labour wing) at the Bangladesh embassy in Abu Dhabi told The Daily Star over the phone.

The condition of Ismail was critical as he suffered 90 percent burns. Moinuddin received 30 percent burns while Didar fractured his back after jumping off the first floor of the two-storey building, the counsellor said.

Zakir and Azam left the hospital after receiving primary treatment.

Officials at the embassy said none of the deceased could be identified as Bangladeshi immediately as the bodies were charred beyond recognition.

"We couldn't know whether any Bangladeshi was among the dead. But we have heard that at least three of our nationals were missing," said Arman.

The missing Bangladeshis are Selim Uddin, Abdus Shukur and Enamul. All of them hail from Chittagong.

The bodies were kept at Sheikh Khalifa Medical City General Hospital mortuary in Abu Dhabi, the counsellor said, adding that DNA tests would be carried out to identify the bodies.

The fire broke out at the building, which houses a tyre shop on the ground floor, around 3:40am (UAE local time), Arman said, adding that the fire might have originated from an explosion of a compressor at the shop.

On information, fire fighters rushed to the spot and doused the flame.

Around 100 workers of different nationalities, including some 70 Bangladeshis, were on the ground and first floor of the building when the incident occurred, Arman said, adding that the embassy officials had visited the spot and some local hospitals.

Quoting Abu Dhabi police, gulfnews.com said the owner of the building was arrested, and investigation was on to find the cause of the fire.

# AL activist killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Unidentified assailants hacked an Awami League activist to death in Dhobra village of Shibganj upazila yesterday evening.

The dead, Abul Kalam Azad alias Edu, 30, was the son of Abdus Salam of the village.

Around 6:00pm, some six to seven criminals attacked Kalam at a mango orchard and chopped him indiscriminately. Kalam died on the spot, said Motiur Rahman, assistant superintendent of police in Sadar circle.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital for an autopsy.

Police also detained three suspected killers in the village for interrogation.

Quoting the victim's father, the police official said Kalam was an AL activist.

The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately.

# Space travel

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race must be space and that it represents an important life insurance for our future survival, as it could prevent the disappearance of humanity by colonising other planets."

Hawking made the comments after telling his guest, Adaye Uyanwah, that the human failing he would most like to correct is aggression, which could "destroy us all".

Uyanwah was in London after winning a competition to get her perfect day out in the capital.

Human aggression could bring a nuclear war that would end civilisation and perhaps the human race, he said. Instead, humans should have more empathy, to bring "us together in a peaceful, loving state."

Hawking has warned before that artificial intelligence could bring humanity to its end.

# One more

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DMCH's burn unit during the ongoing blockades and hartals.

With the death of Jahid, 10 burn victims succumbed to their injuries at the hospital.

A total of 74 people, mostly innocent and unrelated to politics, were killed after the alliance continued to enforce the nationwide blockade.

In Munshiganj, alleged blockaders set fire to a parked bus of Apn Paribahan at Mawa intersection around 4:00am and fled, said Eunus Ali, in-charge of Mawa police outpost.

Bus helper Mohit Uddin, 16, managed to get down from the burning vehicle and locals doused the flame and no casualty was reported, he said.

Alleged blockaders threw a petrol bomb targeting the rear part of Sylhet-bound Kalni Express at Rashidpur in Habiganj around 10:00pm on Thursday.

However, the bomb had missed its intended target. The train driver sped up and finally reached its destination safely.

In Dhaka, police yesterday detained 11 BNP activists for their alleged involvement in hatching plots of sabotage while at least 20 activists of BNP-Jamaat were held on the same ground in Chittagong.

At least four people suffered splinter injuries after several crude bombs exploded in New Market area in the capital last night.

The injured -- Rakib, Abul Kashem, Rashedul, Abu Musa Ahmed -- took treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Nayek Masudur Rahman of DMCH police outpost.

A team of Rab raided a house at Munshipara in sadar upazila of Dinaipur around 4:30pm yesterday and detained two people -- Harunur Rashid and Deben Das -- along with 13 petrol bombs.

# Teesta turns

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"Tens of thousands of people living by the Teesta are entirely dependent on the river. Our suffering knows no bound as the river has dried up," said Feroz.

There was no question of survival of any fish. The water level has gone down so much that even pumps cannot be used for irrigation, he told The Daily Star over the telephone.

Feroz, also the convener of the Teesta Bachao Andolon, a Bangladeshi platform fighting to get the equitable share of the Teesta water, said a dried up Teesta in the dry season causes severe erosion during the monsoon making people homeless.

Thousands of people, including boatmen and fisherman who depend on the river for their livelihoods, become jobless for eight to nine months a year, he said.

With the livelihoods of so many at stake, the nation looks at the visit of Mamata which could put an end to all the sufferings.

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent contributed to this report.

# Gulf bloc backtracks on criticism of Egypt

AFP, Riyadh

The Gulf Cooperation Council has backtracked on criticism of Egypt in its row with bloc member Qatar over Libya, in a move a Saudi-owned daily said Friday reflected divisions among member states.

GCC secretary general Abdullatif al-Zayani had issued a statement on Thursday rebuking Egypt for accusing Qatar of supporting terrorism in Libya because of reservations it expressed about

Egyptian airstrikes earlier this week.

But late in the evening, Zayani issued a new statement disavowing the earlier one and insisting all six member states fully supported Cairo in its intervention in its lawless western neighbour.

"GCC states have stressed their full support to Egypt and its brotherly people in fighting terrorism and protecting its citizens at home and abroad," he said in the later statement.

# 72-hr hartal, once again

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The 20-party combine has enforced nationwide hartals for 19 days since January 5 when it called an indefinite blockade of road, rail and waterways across the country.

BNP Joint Secretary General Salauddin Ahmed in the statement also demanded a fresh election under a non-partisan administration, and release of all political prisoners.

The release said the 20-party alliance will stage demonstrations across the country on Monday.

**SSC EXAMINEES IN A FIX**

The fresh nationwide hartal has put around 1.5 million SSC examinees in a fix as two of their exams are slated for tomorrow and Tuesday.

The students could take only five exams in last 18 days, that too on week-ends. Candidates under eight general education boards took the math exam yesterday.

Though the law enforcers patrolled the streets in and around the exam centres, a sense of insecurity prevailed among the students and guardians.

Shima Akhtar, mother of an SSC candidate from Gendaria High School, said she doesn't care about her daughter's result as the exams have been put off frequently.

Tanvir Ahmed of Islamia Govt High School said he could not make a good preparation for the math test due to the interruption to the schedule.

An examinee from Govt Science Collegiate School, Mugdha Banik said: "Frequent changes to the routine make the preparation of the students really difficult. I don't know whether the Chemistry exam will be held on Sunday [tomorrow] or not."

Earlier, the education ministry had to reschedule the February 2, 4, 8 and 10 exams for February 6, 7, 13, and 14.

# Rab finds jihadi

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The youths, aged 18 to 23, were paraded during the press conference at the Rab-7 headquarters. The battalion has recommended quizzing them at the Taskforce for Interrogation (TFI) Cell in Dhaka, said Major Md Jahangir, commander of Rab-7.

The Rab officials recovered 12 memory cards from the detainees and a desktop computer, a laptop, five tablet PCs and 24 mobile phone sets from the madrasa.

In the memory cards, there were video files on training procedures of Bangladesh Army, Special Security Force (SSF), Hamas and Hezbollah guerrillas, airplane hijack, kidnapping and operation of arms including AK-47 and sniper rifles. A number of clips are on arms training for kids.

Other seized items too contained audio-video files and soft copies of books on jihad.

"We also found interviews and speeches of Osama bin Laden, Ayman

al-Zawahiri and other militant leaders, videos about oppression on Muslims in Iraq, Palestine and Myanmar, Afghan war, and bomb attacks," said Maj Jahangir.

Some eight others were held on suspicion from different floors of the building. They would be released as they were found innocent, he added.

Rab-7 Commanding Officer (CO) Lt Col Miftah Uddin Ahmed said they suspect poor students from different parts of the country were brought to the madrasa and indoctrinated into militancy in the name of Arabic and religious education.

The CO said the centre might have connections to the recently formed Sub-continent branch of al-Qaeda. The Rab, however, is yet to know it for sure.

A person named Fattah runs the centre but the Rab did not find him during the raid. Without going into details, officials said they were looking for the man.

# Triple bombing

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council in Qubbah, which is Saleh's hometown, security officials said. His house is close to the town council.

There have been suicide and car bomb attacks mainly in the east of Libya but the targets have tended to be police and army bases rather than civilians, with security officials blaming Islamist groups such as Ansar al-Sharia.

"We are announcing seven days of mourning for the victims of Qubbah," Saleh told Al Arabiya television. "I think this operation was revenge for what happened in Derna," he said without elaborating.

He said he was outside Derna at the time of the attacks.

A security official said the car bombs were probably suicide attacks, but no more details were immediately available.


The internationally recognised

prime minister, Abdullah al-Thinni, is based in Bayda, some 40 km from Qubbah. Saleh works out of Tobruk, another eastern town now home to the House of Representatives, the elected parliament.

The capital Tripoli in the far west is under the control of a rival government and parliament, set up after a faction called Libya Dawn seized the city in summer, forcing Thinni to flee to the east.

Libya's neighbours and Western powers are alarmed by a spread of militant Islamists in the country. Last month, militants claiming loyalty to Islamic State stormed the Corinthia luxury hotel in Tripoli, killing five foreigners and at least four Libyans.

Supporters of the group, which has seized large areas of Iraq and Syria, have also taken over government and university buildings in Sirte, a central city, according to residents.



পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড  
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Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban (New), 3rd & 4th Floor, Ramna, Dhaka-1000  
Web : [www.pgcb.org.bd](http://www.pgcb.org.bd)

স্মারক নং-পিজিসিবি/তত্ত্বাঃপ্রকৌঃ(পূর্তকাজ)/দরপত্র-৯/২০১৫/৯৮৮

তারিখ : ৯/১৮/০২/২০১৫ ইং

### বিনামূল্যে মাটি হস্তান্তর বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আফতাবনগর, রামপুরা, ঢাকায় অবস্থিত NLDC Premises এ পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড (পিজিসিবি) এর নির্মাণাধীন প্রধান কার্যালয় ভবনের Foundation হতে উত্তোলনযোগ্য মাটি (পরিমাণ প্রায় ২০,০০০.০০ ঘন মিটার) বিনামূল্যে গ্রহণে আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি, প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্মাণ স্থানের প্রায় ১০ মিটার দূরে স্থপকৃত জায়গা হতে আগে আসলে আগে পাবেন ভিত্তিতে নিজ খরচে শোডিং ও পরিবহনের মাধ্যমে নিম্নলিখিত শর্তাবলীর সাপেক্ষে গ্রহণ করতে পারবেনঃ

- ১। মাটি গ্রহণের জন্য কমপক্ষে ০৭ (সাত) দিন পূর্বে প্রয়োজনীয় পরিমাণ সহ অনুমতির নিমিত্ত তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, পূর্তকাজ, পিজিসিবি, প্রধান কার্যালয়, আইইবি নতুন ভবন, ৫ম তলা, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০ দপ্তরে আবেদন করতে হবে।
- ২। আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি, প্রতিষ্ঠান, সংশ্লিষ্ট জনবল ও যানবাহনের যাবতীয় Identity পিজিসিবি কর্তৃক গ্রহণযোগ্য হতে হবে।
- ৩। এই পরিবহনকালে NLDC Premises এর নিরাপত্তা ব্যহত হলে দেশের প্রচলিত Rules & Regulation অনুযায়ী তার দায় দায়িত্ব আবেদনকারীকে বহন করতে হবে।
- ৪। এই মাটি আগামী ০১ মাসের মধ্যে time to time স্থপ করা হবে, যা স্থপকৃত তারিখ হতে পরবর্তী ০৩ (তিন) দিনের মধ্যে গ্রহণ করে পরিবহন করতে হবে। এই মাটি হস্তান্তর প্রক্রিয়া পিজিসিবি'র সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্মকর্তা ও নির্মাণ ঠিকাদারের মনোনীত ব্যক্তি সম্পন্ন করবেন।
- ৫। স্থপ করা মাটি ০৩ (তিন) দিনের মধ্যে গ্রহণে ব্যর্থ হলে তার আবেদন বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে এবং এক্ষেত্রে সংশ্লিষ্ট ঠিকাদারের আর্থিক ক্ষতি (যদি হয়) আবেদনকারীকেই বহন করতে হবে।

(প্রকৌঃ সুকণ্ঠ লাল নাগ)  
তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, পূর্তকাজ, ঢাকা।