

## 'Jihadi John' apologises for bringing shame on family

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Mohammed Emwazi has reportedly apologised to his family for the shame he has brought on them, but has expressed no regret for murdering Western hostages.

Emwazi, who has been identified as the Isis executioner known as 'Jihadi John', expressed remorse for the "problems and trouble the revelation of his identity has caused," according to the Sunday Times.

He sent his apology via a third party from Syria to his family, who have been forced into hiding.

However, Emwazi has not apologised for the barbaric murders he committed on camera of several hostages, including the British aid workers David Haines and Alan Henning.

Experts believe his apology may have been made for self-interested reasons, as Muslims who dishonour their parents are thought to be more likely to go to hell.

Emwazi's father, Jasem, who has fled to Kuwait, was reported to have called his son a "terrorist" and "dog" last week. Yet he appeared to have backed down from these remarks, questioning whether his son was in fact "Jihadi John," as there is "no proof".

Emwazi, a computer science graduate from the University of Westminister, is believed to have escaped from Britain in early 2013 by hiding in a freight lorry on a Channel ferry, before travelling on to Turkey and then Syria.

He was identified last month as Mohammed Emwazi by the Washington Post. Born to Iraqi parents, Emwazi and his family moved to Britain in 1994, after the Kuwaiti government rejected their application for citizenship.

## Dhaka, Delhi

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brought through Benapole and he could be handed over to Mamunur Rashid Mandal, officer-in-charge of Narayanganj Special Branch (SB) of Police, also the investigation officer of the sensational seven-murder case.

Bangladesh's letter was in response to an Indian external affairs ministry letter received in December last year.

The Indian letter mentioned that India was ready to send Nur back and India wanted to know when and where they could do so.

In June, 2014, Bangladesh sent a request to India urging it to return Nur Hossain.

On April 27, 2014, Narayanganj city panel mayor Nazrul Islam, his driver, and three associates, lawyer Chandan Sarkar, and his driver were abducted and later their bodies were found in the Shitalakkhya river.

Nur, the then councillor of Narayanganj City Corporation, fled to India. He was detained by the law enforcers in Kolkata on June 14 in connection with intruding into India.

Around 17 people have made confessional statements in court regarding the murders and of them 15 were members of the Rapid Action Battalion.

In a probe report submitted to the High Court on December 10, Rab said it found involvement of 21 of its men in the murder.

Although over 10 months have gone by since the murders, police could not submit any charge sheet yet.

## Bombs, arms

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areas for their alleged link with subversive acts.

Detainees Fakrul Islam, 50, religious affairs secretary of BNP's Sitakunda unit, and two Shibir members Majharul Islam, 25, and Abdul Aziz, 26, of Nunachhara, divulged information about the three spots.

Several Shibir cadres, who were earlier arrested in different raids in the upazila, also gave information about such hideouts in the hilly areas, said AKM Hafiz Akter, superintendent of police (SP) of Chittagong.

Over 150 police in four teams from Sitakunda Police Station and the district police headquarters took part in the six-hour drive that started around midnight yesterday.

Additional SP (Headquarters) Md Shohidullah, who jointly conducted the overnight drive, said, "We had to conduct the drive carefully as the area was in dense forest."

Sensing the presence of police, some criminals might have fled to Fatikchaari, he said.

SP Akter alleged that criminals had been using these hideouts, located at the borders of three upazilas, to commit subversive acts in the port city.

They might have been enjoying supports of locals, police said.

## UK police defend actions over teenage girls who flew to Syria

REUTERS, London

British police on Saturday denied accusations that they had failed to pass on crucial information that could have allowed families to stop three teenage girls from traveling to Syria to join Islamic State militants.

Shamima Begum and Amira Abase, both 15, and Kadiza Sultana, 16, who all attended the same London school, were reported missing on Feb. 17. They flew to Turkey that day and police believe they subsequently made their way to Syria.

Dozens of Britons, mostly young men but also some young women, have joined Islamic State, causing much angst back home about how they were being radicalized and what could be done to stop them.

Police officers had spoken to the girls in the weeks preceding their departure as part of an investigation into the disappearance of one of their school friends, an unnamed 15-year-old girl,

who had left for Syria on Dec. 6.

"The teenagers were all being cooperative, they were all being treated as potential witnesses and there was nothing whatsoever to indicate that they themselves were planning to travel to Syria," the police said in a statement.

Several relatives of the girls have complained to British media in the past two days that they had not been told about the first girl who had gone to Syria.

"The police neglected us, the school neglected us. It would have definitely alarmed me ... 100 percent I would have stopped her. They did not warn us, they did not contact us at all," Hussen Abase, father of Amira, told the Guardian newspaper.

Relatives complained in particular that police had handed the girls letters, intended for their parents, requesting that the girls continue to cooperate with the investigation into their friend's departure for Syria.

## Hartal, blockade

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Arson victim Suvash Shom, 56, died at the burn unit of DMCH around noon yesterday. He suffered burns after alleged pickets firebombed the minibus he was travelling in at Tiger Pass of Chittagong city in the wee hours of February 19.

The small trader of Double Mooring area had 25 percent of his body burnt.

No other major incidents of violence were reported on the first day of the 72-hour hartal enforced since yesterday morning.

The BNP-led alliance's indefinite countrywide blockade has been on since January 6 and hartals on all working days since February 1.

One person was shot allegedly by police when he tried to hurl a crude bomb at a vehicle in Dhalpur in the capital around 7:00pm, sources said. Student Abdullah Al Mamun, 20, was being treated at DMCH.

Cement shop salesman Mithu, 24, was injured when a homemade bomb went off in Azimpur as he was going home yesterday evening. He too was being treated at DMCH.

Rapid Action Battalion in separate drives arrested three people and seized 58 crude bombs, 48 petrol bombs, one pipe bomb, and 500 grams of explosives from their possession in Ramna and Sutrapur areas early yesterday.

They also seized a bicycle which had its frame filled with explosives, said a Rab press release.

A team of Rab-2 raided Ramna area and arrested Rakibul Islam, 25, around 1:45am. On Rakib's infor-

mation, they conducted another drive in a house in Kalta Bazar area of Sutrapur where they recovered the items and arrested Aminur Islam Rana, 30, and Reazul Islam, 22, the release added.

Shahbagh police yesterday detained four suspects in connection with vandalising a number of vehicles on Topkhana Road in the afternoon.

A union land office was set on fire in Munshiganj early yesterday and there were arrests of BNP and Jamaat activists and recovery of explosives.

Criminals set fire to the land office of Shologhar union in Srinagar upazila of Munshiganj, burning its door and window partially, said Sheikh Mahbubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Srinagar Police Station.

Important documents of the office were safe as locals doused the fire immediately, he said.

In Tangail, police recovered nine abandoned petrol bombs and three crude bombs from a carton hidden in a pile of straw in Phoolmalir Chala village of Ghatail around 11:00am yesterday.

Mokhlesur Rahman, OC of Ghatail Police Station, said locals informed them about the matter and that none was arrested in this connection.

In Rangpur, police arrested five activists of BNP and Jamaat at Mithapukur, Pirgachha and in Rangpur town yesterday and late Saturday night in connection with their alleged involvement in subversive activities.

## Texting makes spelling

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Prof David Crystal, an honorary professor at Bangor University, said those who text regularly were found to be "concentrating their minds" on the relationship between sounds and written words.

The linguist, who has written more than 100 books on the English language, pointed out a new generation is "constantly" reading and writing online.

"People say text messaging will harm your spelling. No...It helps you to spell better," he said at the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature in Dubai.

"This is because it focuses your mind on the connection between sound and letters.

"The best texters are the best spellers.

"People say young people don't read and write any more. They may not necessarily read... Shakespeare or Charles Dickens, but have you ever seen a teenager not reading?"

"Young people read probably more

than I did when I was that age."

He said the digital age had not necessarily heralded a "linguistic revolution" in the way critics had predicted and said the "moral panic" of the potential change has not been justified.

Prof Crystal's studies have found around 2,000 new words developed as a result of the digital age, including terms such as blog and twittersphere.

He said additions have so far not had a major, or negative, impact on the English language, which has more than one million words.

The linguist said many abbreviations such as "c u l8r" are not commonly used by modern teenagers.

Prof Crystal also claimed that hashtags, used on Twitter, are simply a new method of managing and classifying information and are likely to stay.

His comments dispel previous claims abbreviated language was worsening teenagers' grasp of the English language.

## Kamaruzzaman seeks time

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petition, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told this correspondent.

Earlier in the day, the chamber judge of the Appellate Division sent the review petition to its full bench for its inclusion on today's hearing list.

Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, the chamber judge, sent the review petition to the full bench following a petition filed by the government on March 5 praying to the SC for hearing and disposing of the review petition of Kamaruzzaman.

After the chamber judge passed the order, the attorney general told reporters at his office that the SC might start hearing the review petition today.

As per the SC judgement on Abdul Quader Mollah's review petition, such a petition should be heard and disposed of on a priority basis, he added.

Kamaruzzaman, the senior assistant

secretary general of Jamaat-e-Islami, filed the petition with the apex court on March 5.

In a 45-page review petition, he prayed to the SC to scrap his conviction and acquit him of the charges, according to the defence.

Earlier on February 19, the prison authorities read out the death warrant to Kamaruzzaman after the International Crimes Tribunal-2 had issued it the same day.

The SC released the verdict's full text the previous day.

On November 3 last year, the SC upheld the death penalty handed down on him by the tribunal on May 9, 2013 for his crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

The 63-year-old Jamaat leader was found guilty of mass killing, murder, abduction, torture, rape, persecution and abetment of torture in greater Mymensingh in 1971.

## Pranab lauds Prof Yunus

UNB, Dhaka

Indian President Pranab Mukherjee has lauded Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus for his role in the emancipation of poor in developing countries through micro-finance initiatives.

Addressing a global roundtable on inclusive innovations at Rastrapati Bhaban in Delhi, Pranab said Bangladesh's Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus has created an outstanding model for micro-finance that has led to the emancipation of poor in developing countries, according to an NDTV report.

Prof Yunus also attended the meeting.

Citing India's long tradition of grassroots innovations, Pranab said "To my mind, the next major breakthrough will come through micro-venture innovation finance, which has been pioneered by the Honey Bee Network and National Innovation Foundation."

He said the "Make in India", "Clean India", and "Inclusive India", under which financial inclusion is of prime essence, needs a significant push.

"A healthy eco-system is needed for harnessing the innovative potential of various segments in different sectors and at multiple levels in our society.

"Creating an inclusive ecosystem calls for linkages between grassroots innovators on the one hand, and academic institutions and market forces, on the other," he said.

## Qualified woman can't claim maintenance

TNN, Mumbai

A family court has observed that a well-qualified woman cannot claim maintenance from her husband.

"The wife who is well-qualified and claiming maintenance by sitting idle is not entitled to get maintenance. The wife is not entitled to advantage of her own wrong, she cannot harass the husband on the count of maintenance though she is capable to earn," the court said while dismissing a dietician's plea to seek a monthly maintenance of Rs 2 lakh from her divorced husband.

In the petition filed in 2013, the woman alleged that throughout their marriage, the husband and his family members had ill-treated her and harassed her both physically and mentally for bringing less dowry. She further alleged that they demanded Rs 50 lakh as dowry, gold and a luxury car from her parents.

The woman claimed that due to this, she was forced to live separately from April 2011 and had to move in with her parents. She also said that she had no source of income and is totally dependent on her parents.

The woman said that the man is a successful businessman and the family's business was also operational in Dubai. "They are running their business jointly and earning an income of more than Rs 15 lakh per month," the woman claimed.

## Court to decide

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The charge sheet mentioned Jasimuddin as the "instigator" and Redwanul Azad Rana, one of the seven students, as the "planner".

Rana is on the run while Jasimuddin and six others -- Md Faisal Bin Nayem alias Dweep, Maksudul Hasan alias Anik, Md Ehsan Reza alias Rumman, Nayem Sikdar alias Iraj, Nafis Intiaz and Sadman Yasir Mahmud -- are in custody.

The students had vowed to kill "atheist bloggers" after reading Jasimuddin's books and listening to his sermons, the investigation officer in the case said in the charge sheet.

They targeted Rajib "for his blog posts under the nickname of Thabababa" and got divided into two -- "intel group" to collect his details and track him down and the "execution group" to carry out the murder.

According to their statements, Dweep was first to strike Rajib and others then assisted him.

Arrested on August 11, 2013, Jasimuddin confessed before a magistrate that students inspired by his sermons might have killed Rajib.

Rajib, an activist of the Shahbagh movement demanding death penalty for war criminals, was hacked to death in the capital's Pallabi on February 15, 2013.

After the murder, radical Islamists spread the propaganda that the Shahbagh movement organisers, including Rajib, were "atheists". Hefajat-e Islam, a Chittagong-based Islamic group, began to press for hanging of the "atheist bloggers".

## Mali hunts jihadist nightclub killers

Militants attack UN barracks; 3 killed

APP, Bamako

Police in Mali yesterday hunted for the killers of two Europeans and three Malians in a jihadist attack on a nightclub, as a deadly assault on a UN barracks in the north heightened security concerns.

Officers in bulletproof vests patrolled the streets of the capital Bamako, where a masked gunman had burst into La Terrasse, a popular venue among expats, spraying automatic gunfire and throwing grenades early Saturday.

Al-Murabitoun, a jihadist group run by leading Algerian militant Mokhtar Belmokhtar, has claimed responsibility for the attack, which left a Frenchman, a Belgian and three Malians dead.

It said in an audio recording carried by Mauritanian news agency Al-Akbar the operation was carried out "to avenge our prophet against the unbelieving West which has insulted and mocked him".

As the investigation got under

way, the UN's MINUSMA peacekeeping force said one of its troops and two civilians had been killed by militants shelling its barracks in the northeastern rebel stronghold of Kidal.

MINUSMA sources said the civilians were members of the nomadic Arab Kunta tribe who died as stray rockets landed at their nearby encampment.

It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack, although the Kidal is the cradle of northern Mali's Tuareg separatist movement, which has launched several uprisings from the region since the 1960s.

Tuareg and Arab militias -- loyalist and anti-government -- have forged a peace agreement with the Malian government formulated earlier this month in Algiers, but the main rebel groups are yet to sign.

"MINUSMA expresses its indignation at the cowardice of the perpetrators of these attacks, which also killed innocent citizens," the force said in a statement.

## What's the motive?

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Coordination Cell to Implement the Vested Property Return Act" in a statement said a vested interested group, cashing in on the current political situation, was out to destroy all records of those offices.

Quoting newspaper reports, the statement added miscreants had set fire to the offices in Mymensingh Sadar, Feni's Chhagalnaiya, Rajshahi's Charghat and Bagha, Lakshmipur Sadar, Faridpur Sadar and Noakhali Sadar in last few days.

The platform doubts an ill motive is on to grab land by ousting the legal owners and making false documents.

"We apprehend that those who are always active in grabbing khas land, houses of religious minorities, vested property, and land and houses of indigenous people might be involved

in such sabotage," the statement reads.

It seems land grabbers are involved in deep conspiracy to get their job done, it adds.

The Citizens demanded that the authorities concerned look into the matter to identify if any "corrupt" officers and employees had any links to such acts. They also demanded that the authorities find out the quarters involved in the criminal activities through proper investigations and ensure their exemplary punishment.

They also called for ensuring security to all land offices across the country.

On behalf of National Citizen Coordination Cell, Sultana Kamal, Khushi Kabir, Kamal Lohani, Rana Dasgupta, Abul Barkat, Shamsul Huda, Tabarak Hossain, Subrata Chowdhury, Sara Hossain and Kajal Debnath signed the statement.

## Boko Haram pledges

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That followed a similar declaration by Baghdadi while both groups have captured swathes of territory.

In recent weeks, previously poorly produced Boko Haram videos took on the look and feel of more polished ISIS propaganda and were posted directly online, guaranteeing a wider audience.

ISIS was also reported to have received pledges of allegiance from militants in Nigeria.

Meanwhile, the armies of Niger and Chad yesterday launched a major ground and air strike against Boko Haram in northeastern Nigeria, opening a new front in regional efforts to eradicate the Islamist militants.

"An offensive is underway against Boko Haram," the source told AFP. "Very early this morning, the troops from Niger and Chad began an offensive against Boko Haram... in the area of Bosso and near to Diffa."

Thousands of troops from Niger and Chad have been positioned in Diffa for more than a month in a bid to quash the Nigerian militant group which has undermined security in the region with cross-border attacks, kidnappings and killings.

The insurgency has also threatened Nigeria's territorial integrity and triggered a massive humanitarian crisis.

A resident of Diffa, located in Niger near the Nigerian border, told AFP he saw troops headed toward the frontier early yesterday followed by the sounds of heavy arms fire.

## US envoy

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Ziauddin Tariq Ali and Akku Chowdhury received the telegram from Bernicat.

"I have come today with a special gift to present to the Liberation War Museum. This gift is an authenticated copy of the famous 1971 telegram signed by 29 Foreign Service Officers who raised their dissenting voices against the prevailing U.S. policy towards Bangladesh."

She said "this telegram is an important legacy for every Foreign Service Officer. It is a stark reminder of the value in voicing dissenting views against existing power and authority structures."

Consul General Archer K. Blood and the co-signers of his telegram embodied the importance of dissent and its role in sustaining an operational democracy. Archer Blood paid a price for his dissent, though he finished his career honourably, she said.

Bernicat said this document is yet another measure of America's longstanding relationship with Bangladesh and of their shared democratic values.

"I am honored to meet with the Freedom Fighters who fought for the cause of Bangladesh's independence, and to acknowledge your role as Liberation War Museum Trustees. May I convey my profound and deep respect for the struggle Bangladesh went through to become the independent and secular state it is today."

The Liberation War Museum is a sacred space which embodies the story of 1971 and the history of Bangladesh. This museum is a beacon of strength for so many Bangladeshis who believe in the cause of freedom, said the US Ambassador.

"Freedom is what you fought for, and freedom is a vital component of democracy," she remarked.

She said the trustees of this institution demonstrate the importance of ensuring future generations understand Bangladesh's heritage and draw inspiration and pride from history to build a better future.

She also referred to Chris Elms who "was so inspired by his recent visit to the Museum that he worked with the National Archives to obtain this official copy."