

German intelligence chief urges "orderly procedures" for refugees

REUTERS, Berlin

The head of Germany's domestic intelligence services called for "orderly procedures" regarding the handling of the daily entry of thousands of refugees to Germany, saying extremists could exploit the sometimes chaotic migration situation.

Friday's deadly attacks in Paris in which at least 129 people were killed have fuelled a debate in Germany on Chancellor Angela Merkel's welcoming approach to refugees and on how to get a better overview of the people entering the country.

Europe is grappling with its worst refugee crisis since World War Two, and Germany has been taking in the bulk of some 1 million people expected to arrive this year.

"It's possible that there are also terrorists coming with the refugees, but we consider this as less likely," Hans-Georg Maassen, president of the BfV domestic intelligence agency, said in an interview published by several local newspapers on Sunday.

"For the security authorities it's important to have orderly procedures regarding the entry to Germany and the implementation of asylum procedures," he said.

While German police are currently conducting passport checks at border crossings and in border areas, thousands of refugees are thought to be coming into the country without any checks.

Maassen noted that the refugee route from Syria and Iraq to Turkey, Greece and north via the Balkan countries was extremely dangerous. "It would be risky and untypical for persons with a combat mission to cross over from Turkey to the Greek islands in a coffin ship", he said.

Doctor

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married to Mizanur Rahman, who is a physician of DMCH's medicine department.

Around 9:00pm, Mizanur returned home after work at the hospital and found Mithila's bedroom locked from the inside and informed the police about the matter, according to police.

Police broke open the door and saw her body hanging from the hook of a ceiling fan with a nylon rope.

The body was sent to DMCH morgue for an autopsy.

A suicide note was recovered from the spot, claimed Abu Bakar Siddique, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station.

"We're primarily suspecting it as suicide," he said, adding that after the postmortem, they would confirm whether it was the case.

Half of Dalits

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discrimination was not addressed. Research and Development Collective Chairman Mesbah Kamal, Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir, Manusher Jonno Foundation Director Rina Roy and Oikya Parishad Secretary General Nirmal Chandra Das also spoke.

Queen Máxima

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finance for development.

"The visit to Bangladesh is part of Queen Máxima's global efforts to raise awareness and foster action towards financial inclusion for everyone," UNDP said in a press release yesterday.

Access to financial services is an important tool to alleviate poverty, boost economic development, empower women and achieve other development goals as acknowledged in the recently adopted 2030 sustainable development agenda, it said.

The visit will focus on strengthening of the microfinance sector and advancing mobile financial services for financially excluded populations and small and medium enterprises.

During her stay in Bangladesh, Queen Maxima is scheduled to meet President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, Bangladesh Bank Governor Atifur Rahman, senior officials of the Bangladesh government, development partners and members of civil society and the private sector.

She will visit several locations outside Dhaka as well to explore the experiences and needs of low-income customers such as garment workers who are paid digitally, and meet a female entrepreneur, who built her business with the help of financial services, and clients and staff of banking agents and mobile money operations.

The queen will also meet representatives of the banking and microfinance sectors.

US, France

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and French militaries should take to further intensify our close cooperation in prosecuting a sustained campaign against ISIL," said Pentagon Press secretary Peter Cook.

"Secretary Carter reiterated the firm commitment of the United States to support France and move together to ensure ISIL is dealt a lasting defeat," he said.

France, which has described the Paris assault as an act of war, can quickly ramp up its contribution to the air campaign against Islamic State targets, reports Reuters.

Even before the Paris attacks, France announced that its sole aircraft carrier, the Charles de Gaulle, would be deployed to the Middle East, arriving on November 18.

IS claimed responsibility for Friday's attacks. There have been other major IS-claimed attacks in the past two weeks. Two explosions in suicide attacks in a Shi'ite Muslim district of southern Beirut in Lebanon killed 43, and 224 died when a Russian aircraft crashed in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

The US, long accused of taking an incremental approach to the struggle, is under growing political pressure at home and abroad to do more and it is expected to examine ways to intensify the campaign, including through expanded air power.

US President Barack Obama vowed yesterday to step up efforts to eliminate Islamic State in Syria and prevent it from carrying out attacks like those in Paris, while European leaders urged Russia to focus its military efforts on the radical Islamists.

Speaking at the G20 summit in Turkey, Obama said the US would work with France to hunt down those responsible.

The United States and its allies will redouble efforts to find a peaceful solution in Syria and prevent Islamic State militants from perpetrating attacks like those in Paris."

The two-day summit brings Obama and fellow world leaders just 500 km from Syria, where a four-and-a-half-year conflict has transformed IS into a global security threat and spawned Europe's largest migration flows since World War II.

Obama and his Western allies now face the question of how the West should respond after IS again demonstrated it posed a threat far beyond its strongholds in Syria and Iraq.

Washington already expects France to retaliate by taking on a larger role in the US-led coalition's bombing campaign against Islamic State.

It, however, remains far from clear whether Paris and Washington would be willing to radically expand the scope of their current military engagement, given a deep aversion to getting dragged into a large-scale ground war in the Middle East.

But Obama has been committing more to the fight in recent months, and lawmakers and counter-terrorism experts see the Paris attacks strengthening arguments for additional military might.

European Council President Donald Tusk said Russia too should focus its military operations on Islamic State, rather than on the

Syrian opposition battling President Bashar al-Assad, urging cooperation between Washington and Moscow.

Meanwhile, Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin had a short and unannounced summit meeting over a coffee table on the margins of G20 summit.

The two leaders agreed on the need for UN-sponsored peace talks and a ceasefire to resolve years of war in Syria, a White House official said.

They "held a constructive discussion" that lasted about 35 minutes, the official added, calling the need for a solution for Syria "an imperative made all the more urgent by the horrifying terrorist attacks in Paris."

A top Kremlin official said while Moscow and Washington shared "strategic objectives" to fight IS, divergences still existed.

"Differences on tactics still remain," Putin's foreign policy advisor Yuri Ushakov told reporters on the sidelines of the summit.

US officials said Washington will look in particular to European and Arab allies to step up their military participation in the war in Iraq and Syria.

Obama is also seeking to coax other European and Middle Eastern countries into more tangible steps to show their military commitment and will hold a bilateral meeting with Saudi Arabia's King Salman, US officials said.

Washington and Riyadh are part of a US-led coalition that last year launched an air campaign targeting the IS jihadist group in Syria and neighbouring Iraq.

The United States and its allies will redouble efforts to find a peaceful solution in Syria and prevent Islamic State militants from perpetrating attacks like those in Paris."

The fight is quickly spreading outside Iraq and Syria, and that's why we must take the battle to them," Feinstein said.

US officials say they are in discussions with allies, including from Arab nations, to also increase their roles in the air campaign. Talks are also underway about whether allies might deploy special operations forces, in Iraq and Syria.

Riedel and other former US officials said one quick way the US and its allies could do damage to IS would be to expand pressure on its leadership. Such pressure has been steadily growing with precision strikes in recent months.

It remains to be seen whether the Obama administration will generally loosen rules of engagement for airstrikes that some in Congress and elsewhere have called too restrictive.

CRISIS TALKS ON FRIDAY

European Union interior ministers will hold crisis talks in Brussels on Friday in the wake of the Paris jihadist attacks, the Luxembourg government announced.

Following the tragic events in Paris, this extraordinary [meeting] will strengthen the European response while ensuring the follow-up of the measures taken," Etienne Schneider, the internal security chief for Luxembourg, which holds the rotating EU presidency, said in a statement.

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Trial court

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its quick disposal. Following the appeal, the court took the decision.

Meanwhile, a metropolitan magistrate, who had recorded a confessional statement of the militant outfit chief, Mufti Jasimuddin Rahmani, yesterday gave his deposition before the trial court.

In his statement, the Metropolitan Magistrate, Md Asaduzzaman Nur, said he recorded statement of Rahmani on September 2 in 2013 after the investigation officer had produced the accused before his chamber.

"I gave the accused sufficient time to think before recording his confessional statement at his chamber," Nur said while giving his deposition before the Speedy Trial Tribunal-3 of Dhaka.

Judge Syed Ahmed of the tribunal recorded the statement of the witness and later fixed today for the next hearing on the Rajib murder case after defence lawyers' completion of cross-examination of the magistrate.

Earlier, the court recorded statements of 23 other prosecution witnesses, including the complainant in the case.

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

During yesterday's hearing, Rahmani and six other accused, now in jail, were present in the court while another accused remained absconding.

Acid victim

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at DMCH since acid was thrown at her allegedly by her husband when Mazeda was sleeping in their Baipail house in Ashulia following a family feud.

Quoting doctors, family sources said Mazeda suffered 60 percent burns of her body.

She sustained burn injuries to her face and upper part of her body.

The acid attack took place on October 25.

Hearing screams, their neighbours went to the house and saw the husband, Sohag Mian, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver, fleeing, said Sabuj Miah, owner of the house.

Later, a case was filed against Sohag with Ashulia Police Station in this connection.

Police could not arrest the accused husband as yet.

The body of Mazeda would be sent to her village home in Magura after an autopsy, said Dipok Chandra Shah, officer-in-charge (investigation) of the police station.

Six govt

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ordered some factories to stop such malpractice.

The court directed the officials and the representatives of people concerned to monitor whether its order is followed and to submit a report after complying with the order in four weeks.

The HC also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government and the factories to explain their hazardous and polluting operations.

It also issued a rule asking the eight to explain as to why contempt of court proceedings should not be brought against them, Bela sources said.

Muhibur, Mujibur

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deny the four charges.

7 Netrakona men

Earlier in the day, prosecutor Tapas Kanti Baul submitted a progress report on the probe and sought two more months to complete investigations against the seven.

Ahmad Ali, 72, Abdur Rahman, 68, Sheikh Mohammad Abdul Majid, 67, Abdul Khaleq Talukder, 67, Kabir Khan, 70, Mohammad Nuruddin, 70 and Salam Begh, 65, are from Purbachal upazila.

Police arrested Ahmad and Abdur hours after the tribunal issued arrest warrant for the seven on August 12. Ahmad died of old age complication on October 29 while the remaining five are on the run, Tapas said.

According to the investigation agency, the accused were involved with the anti-liberation Muslim League and Nezam-e-Islami in 1971 and later joined Razakar Bahini.

It is awe-inspiring to think of how this relationship first emerged. Humans started domesticating dogs as much as 30,000 years ago to help us with hunting, but slowly we have bred these creatures in our own image, allowing us to forge an intense emotional bond that crosses the natural boundaries between our species.

Today, they look like us, act like us, and -- unlike other humans -- they always reciprocate our feelings. In many ways they are the better reflections of our own true natures. It's little wonder we now consider anything that looks a bit like us. (Along

the way, it also shows itself in more subtle features, such as subtle differences in the shapes of the eyes that are shared between pooch and person.)

Maybe this is all due to the allure of familiarity: a dog may seem more comforting if it resembles the other members of our family, who we know and love. Yet some psychologists believe it might be a spillover from the way we evolved to find mates: dating someone that looks like us may ensure that their genes are generally compatible with our own. Thanks to this imprinting, we may therefore prefer anything that looks a bit like us. (Along

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