

EU tightens

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coordinated checks at external borders, including on individuals enjoying the right of free movement".

The decision came after many European countries announced plans to curb civil liberties and reintroduce border controls.

Citizens of the 26 Schengen countries have their documents visually checked by security forces when they leave or enter the area. The new proposal is likely to upgrade the controls so documents are systematically checked against criminal and security databases.

Some of the Belgian and French suspects involved in the Paris attacks had travelled to fight in Syria and returned, apparently undetected, to Europe. Officials have said some may have taken advantage of the large influx of refugees from Syria over the summer to evade normal border controls.

The EU agency for border controls, Frontex, is to get a stronger mandate to contribute to the fight against terrorism.

German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said before the meeting: "We are here to show our French colleagues, and the French people, that we stand by them and that we are determined to make a tough, clear response."

He said it was vital that Europe's national security services do more to share information, something echoed by numerous other ministers after the meeting.

Dimitris Avramopoulos, the European commissioner for internal affairs and migration, said the EU executive would propose a common "European intelligence agency". But questioned after the meeting, he made clear it was a distant prospect.

Ministers also agreed to press for a deal by the end of the year on sharing airline travellers' data, the so-called Passenger Name Record (PNR) programme, which has long been stalled in the European Parliament over concerns for privacy.

French Prime Minister Valls on Thursday warned of a chemical attack threat by the IS jihadists.

Also on Thursday, members of the French National Assembly overwhelmingly approved a first reading of a law to impose a three-month state of emergency, which will suspend some civil liberties and give police sweeping powers of search, arrest and detention.

Officials said later that there was no reason to suspect an immediate threat of a chemical or biological attack but that Valls thought it necessary to place the country on guard.

The State of Emergency law – which now goes to the Sénat – gives the government power to search and arrest on "suspicion" without need for a formal investigation or a warrant from a judge. Some left-wing politicians and commentators have expressed fears that France is going down the same authoritarian road as the post 9/11 Patriot Act in the US.

The draft law also gives the government power to ban public demonstrations. Among the first victims will be two marches planned during a global climate conference in Paris from 30 November.

In Brussels, Prime Minister Charles Michel unveiled plans to spend €400m (£280m) on measures to deal with home-grown terrorism threats, including jail for fighters returning from Syria and electronic tagging for suspected radicals. "We need to do more, we need to do better," Michel told the Belgian parliament.

The proposals provide Belgium's intelligence and security services with more staff and new technologies. Prosecutors will have the power to take suspected terrorists into temporary custody for 72 hours, up from 24.

Cop, friend

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bike and hurled abuse at us. All of a sudden, they started beating us."

Police later took the assaulters to Shahbagh Police Station. The two were freed after they gave undertakings to law enforcers.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque told reporters at the Combined Military Hospital that they would take departmental action against the cop after probing the incident.

Mashir, a police cadre of 33rd BSC batch, joined Savar Police Station as a probationary officer after completing his training recently.

This correspondent could not reach Mashir over the phone for his comment.

The authorities of Asian Television filed a general diary with Shahbag Police Station yesterday in this connection.

Memories of war scar

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"She [her mother] feels it's important for me to know my roots," Katrina said while explaining her visit to Bangladesh.

"... [I'm] thankful that the Bangladesh government at that time allowed four Canadians to adopt the war babies. Otherwise, I wouldn't be where I am today," said Katrina who graduated from a Canadian university recently and got a government job there.

According to historical documents, between 2,00,000 and 4,00,000 Bangladeshi women and girls were raped by Pakistani occupation army and its auxiliary forces in 1971.

They spared no one, from elderly widows to schoolgirls not yet in their teens.

After the independence of Bangladesh, the government made abortion legal for a certain period so that the unfortunate women, who got pregnant, could have a choice about the war babies they were carrying.

Having read about the Liberation War of Bangladesh and its aftermaths in newspapers, the Cappuccino couple decided to try to save war babies, who were unwanted here given the social context of the newly emerged country.

In mid 1972, Bonnie accompanied 15 war babies on a special Air India flight from Dhaka's Tejgaon (old) airport to Canada. One of them was Katrina's mother. The rest

14 were adopted by other Canadian families.

"My mom, as you know, was adopted and grew up in a very loving household," said Katrina.

"She asked me to kiss the ground upon arrival [in Bangladesh]," she said.

Katrina followed her mother's instruction.

The 21-year-old expressed her gratitude to grandmother Bonnie who sat was sitting beside her at the Museum yesterday.

"My husband and I were overwhelmed that the government of Bangladesh, which was so very new at that time, was very supportive. They [war babies] did not have passports but they [Bangladesh government] let them leave the country," said Bonnie, now 80.

"We will always love Bangladesh for that reason," she added.

The Cappuccino couple founded Child Haven International in Toronto in 1985.

Child Haven opened a shelter home -- Shishu Shorgo -- for destitute children in Chittagong in 2002.

Bonnie said she used to visit the child home three or four times a year.

Mofidul Hoque, a co-founder and one of the eight trustees of the Liberation War Museum, said Shishu Shorgo needs a permanent shelter home.

"We hope that the authorities in Chittagong will extend their hands so that Shishu Shorgo gets a permanent establishment," he said.

Fresh attack

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entire article has been dedicated to its activities in Bangladesh or "Bengal" as it refers to the country, reports PTI.

"A security cell belonging to the soldiers of the Khilafah in Bengal assassinated an Italian 'crusader' named Cesare Tavella on the streets of Gulshan in the city of Dhaka... only days later another security cell targeted a Japanese citizen in the northern region of Rangpur," the magazine says reiterating the IS's claim of carrying out the attacks.

"These back-to-back attacks have caused havoc among the citizens of the crusader nations and their allies living in Bengal and forced their diplomats, tourists, and expats to limit their movements and live in a constant state of fear," the PTI quoted it as boasting.

The article titled "The Revival of Jihad in Bengal" claims that while the IS, also known as ISIS, is busy preparing for further attacks, the "secular" government of the Awami League continues to "twist the facts" on the ground and play a blame game.

It concludes the article on

Bangladesh by stating that the soldiers of the so-called Caliphate continue to rise and expand in "Bengal" and will continue to terrorise.

In the magazine, the group has also put out snaps of what it claims to be the bomb that downed a Russian jet last month, killing 224 people. The photograph shows a soft drink can and two components that appear to be a detonator and a switch.

In the magazine, the IS slams Russia's joining of the war against it as a "rash decision of arrogance".

"France haughtily began executing airstrikes against the Khilafah (Caliphate). Like Russia, it was blinded by hubris (arrogance), thinking that its geographical distance from the lands of the Khilafah would protect it," the magazine says.

"Thus, the Islamic State dispatched its brave knights to wage war in the homelands of the wicked crusaders, leaving Paris and its residents 'shocked and awed'. The eight knights brought Paris down on its knees," the foreword says.

Waiting for mercy

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He added, "I am not informed when the convicts will be executed."

However, another minister, wishing anonymity, told The Daily Star that the condemned war criminals were given a day. "We cannot wait for an eternity."

The home minister at a function at Bottomley Home Girls' High School in the capital said the convicts will be hanged following the legal procedures.

"We're taking measures according to the order given by the country's apex court," he said.

In another development, Jamaat-e-Islami last night called a country-wide "peaceful" protest for today, demanding the release of its Secretary General Mojahed.

Announcing the programme, Jamaat acting ameer Moqbul Ahmad in a statement said Mojahed was an "honest and competent" politician who has "an unforgettable contribution" to all democratic movements of the country.

Gazi MH Tamim, a counsel for Mojahed, told The Daily Star that the Jamaat leader wanted to meet his lawyers before making the decision on presidential mercy.

For permission to meet him, the

counsel filed an application around 5:30pm on Thursday. "We haven't got any response as of 8:30pm [last night]."

Family members of Mojahed will hold a press conference at the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium today at noon about the latest developments, said his son Ali Ahmed Mabru.

Around 1:45pm yesterday, two lawyers for Salauddin Quader went to the jail with a list of seven counsels wishing to meet the BNP leader.

But the jail authorities did not receive the application. The lawyers waited till 5:45pm, but to no avail.

"Neither they received our application nor cooperated with us," said Salauddin Quader. "Mojahed was an "honest and competent" politician who has "an unforgettable contribution" to all democratic movements of the country.

Around 9:30pm yesterday, Salauddin's two sons went to the jail to request the authorities to allow the lawyers to meet their father. However, they could not meet any official, sources said.

IS threatens attack

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was being examined to determine its "veracity." "Everybody here in the United States government are taking these threats seriously," he said.

The US Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the video.

The video opens with television news clips of the Paris attacks and then shows two militants separately speaking to the camera.

Titled "Paris Before Rome," the

video shows an Islamic State fighter threatening to "pound" French monuments and vowing to strike at the White House.

"We will blow it up, the same as we blew up the idols in this good land," one fighter says, referring to the White House.

The second fighter threatens US President Barack Obama and French President Francois Hollande. "We will grill them ... with (explosive) belts and car bombs."

NEWS

AL leader killed in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A local Awami League leader was hacked to death by unidentified criminals in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong last night.

The deceased is Abul Kashem, 55, vice president of Yakub Nagar ward unit of the ruling party in Sitakunda municipality, said police. He was a resident of Yakub Nagar in the upazila.

Local AL leaders held Islami Chhatra Shibir men responsible for the attack.

Saiful Islam, senior assistant superintendent of police of Sitakunda Model Police Station, said some six masked criminals attacked Kashem with sharp weapons at Yakub Nagar around 8:00pm while he was returning home from a local market by a rickshaw.

They swooped on him and fled the spot, leaving him critically injured, he added.

Kashem was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead around 9:00pm, said Pankaj Barua, assistant sub-inspector of CMCH Police Camp.

MA Salam, general secretary of Chittagong north district unit of AL, claimed that Shibir cadres attacked Kashem.

No Shibir leaders could be contacted for their comments regarding the allegation.

2 cops hurt

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were in Amtali area, a team of DB police raided the area around 12:45am, said Monzurul Alam, inspector of Bandarban Detective Branch (DB) of police.

Sensing the detective's presence, the criminals opened fire on them. The DB team then returned fire, triggering the gunfight between the detectives and the yaba traders.

At one stage, the DB team arrested two alleged yaba traders, while the others fled.

A pistol, four bullets and 100 yaba tablets were recovered from the arrestees' possession, the police official claimed.

Two constables were wounded in the incident. They are Tohel Ahmed Chowdhury, 24, and Kamrul Islam, 26.

Both Tohel and Kamrul were admitted to Bandarban Sadar Hospital, said the OC.

The two were later released from the hospital after being treated, said hospital sources.

Bulu stands accused in several criminal cases with different police stations, according to police.

Bulu is the ringleader of a gang named after him. The gang, comprising around thirty members, has been running criminal activities like abduction and drug peddling in Bandarban, Rangamati and Chittagong for the last four years, the police official claimed.

In another incident, police seized 10,600 yaba tablets and arrested two people in this connection in separate drives in Chittagong city early yesterday, reports a staff correspondent of Chittagong.

The arrestees are Hidayet Ullah, 30, and Khairul Islam, 32.

Facebook

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to indicate they are no longer in a relationship, they will be prompted to try these tools."

The breakup tools are being tested in Facebook mobile device applications in the United States.

People can use the tools to see less of a former partner's name and profile picture at Facebook without having to "unfriend" or block the person, according to Winters.

Posts by an ex won't show up in News Feed, and their name won't be suggested when people write messages or tag photos, Facebook said.

The tools also limit pictures, videos or status updates that an ex can see, and let people "untag" themselves from posts with former partners.

"We hope these tools will help people end relationships on Facebook with greater ease, comfort and sense of control," Winters said.

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'Trinomul BNP' Huda's

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also head of Bangladesh Nationalist Alliance, a platform of 30 political parties. None of them are registered with the Election Commission.

He founded Bangladesh Nationalist Front (BNF) in August 2012 and Bangladesh National Alliance in May last year.

At the press briefing, he blasted the policies pursued by BNP chief Khaleda Zia and blamed her leadership for the party's "failure".

A founding member of the BNP, Huda said the party became almost "inactive and eliminated" after staying away from the January 5 polls last year. "The party is now being run from London."

Huda, who started his political career with Jagodal, founded by late president Ziaur Rahman in 1977, said