

All terrorists are dead

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The apparently well-planned assault on a strategic military target just 25 km from the border has put pressure on an attempt by Narendra Modi and Nawaz Sharif to improve historically fraught relations between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

The Indian leader paid a surprise birthday visit to his Pakistani counterpart in late December. In a sign that both want the incipient dialogue to continue, Sharif called Modi yesterday to convey his "sorrow and grief" at the losses from the air base attack.

Pakistan will investigate leads and information provided by the government of India, Sharif's office said in a readout of the call. Both premiers are resolved to fight terrorism together, an aide also said.

According to a statement issued by the Indian government, Modi called for "firm and immediate action against those responsible for the air base attack", based on specific and actionable information provided to Pakistan.

A round of talks between the two countries' foreign secretaries has been tentatively scheduled for Jan 15.

The phone call came a day after US said it expects Pakistan to take actions against the perpetrators of

the terror attack. Pakistan has said it is working on the "leads" provided by India on this attack.

"The government of Pakistan has spoken very powerfully to this and it's certainly our expectation that they'll treat this exactly the way they've said they would," state department spokesman John Kirby said on Monday.

Describing terrorism as a "shared challenge" in South Asia, the US also asked all countries in the region to work together to disrupt and dismantle terrorist networks and bring justice to the perpetrators of the Pathankot terrorist attack.

The United Jihad Council (UJC), an alliance of pro-Pakistan militant groups based in the Pakistani-administered part of the divided Kashmir region, has claimed responsibility for the assault.

The group's leader warned that their attacks "can engulf all of India" if the issue of Kashmir's divided rule is not resolved.

The claim of responsibility has, however, met a sceptical response among India's security establishment, which blames another group called Jaish-e-Mohammed (Army of Mohammed).

That group was founded by Masood Azhar after he was released by India in 1999 in exchange for

passengers on an Indian airliner that was hijacked.

The head of India's National Investigation Agency, Sharad Kumar, told reporters in New Delhi that the attackers came from Pakistan but did not elaborate.

The day before the assault, a police officer returning from a temple was abducted by a group of heavily armed men speaking Urdu, among other languages, he said on Tuesday.

"The minute I saw them I realised that they were terrorists," Police Superintendent Salwinder Singh told media.

"One of the gunmen snatched my phone and made calls to Pakistan," Singh said. Urdu, widely spoken in Pakistan, can be mostly understood by Hindi speakers.

Phone records indicate the perpetrators used Singh's phone inside the air base by mid-afternoon on Jan. 1, according to the Indian Express, 12 hours before they were detected through aerial surveillance.

It remains unclear exactly how the attackers infiltrated the fortified base, which has a 24-km (15-mile) perimeter surrounded by a 3-metre wall topped with concertina wire.

Another case

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investigate the complaint and submit a report to the court on February 7.

Earlier in the day, AB Siddique, president of Jananetri Parishad, filed the case against the two for their insulting remarks on the Liberation War martyrs.

This is the second lawsuit against Khaleda in this connection after she was sued for sedition with another Dhaka court on December 27 last year. The court on that day asked officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station to take legal action against Khaleda after investigating the allegation brought against her.

On December 21 that year, Khaleda, in her first public address in more than a year, said, "There are controversies over how many were martyred in the Liberation War."

Two days later, a Supreme Court lawyer served a legal notice on Khaleda, asking her to apologise to the nation by seven days or face legal consequences for her comments.

Khaleda's comments drew widespread flak among the pro-liberation forces in the country. Many slammed Khaleda, terming her an "agent of Pakistan" and demanded that she leave Bangladesh.

On December 25 last year, in a flurry of outrageous remarks, Goyeshwar described the 1971 martyred intellectuals as "anti-liberation elements" who "died like fools" and drew salaries and allowances from Pakistan till the end of the war.

Different newspapers published the news items citing their comments which defamed the image of the freedom fighters who sacrificed themselves for liberating the country in 1971, said the complainant.

1,009 not out

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628 in England set in 1899. He had already surpassed Collins' score on Monday, finishing the day on 652, before crossing the 1,000 mark after lunch on Tuesday.

KC Gandhi decided to declare the innings 1,465 for 3, with their star batsman still unbeaten after 395 minutes at the crease. Their total is also a world record, overtaking Victoria's 1,107 against New South Wales made way back in 1926.

Their opponents, Arya Gurukul, had been bowled out earlier for just 31, according to the Press Trust of India. They will begin the second innings trailing by 1,434 runs.

"I have always been a big-hitter. When I started I never thought about breaking the record," Dhanawade told the Hindustan Times after his opening-day knock.

"The focus was never that. I just played my natural game, which is to attack from the word go," said Dhanawade.

"After reaching 300, my coach told me to play on. I did not know of the world record, but we had the Indian record in mind," he added, referring to the previous highest national total of 546, set by

Prithwi Shaw in the 2013-14 season for Rizvi Springfield against St Francis in the Harris Shield.

His father, Prashant Dhanawade, was present at the venue and, after witnessing his son's remarkable feat, he spoke to CNN-IBN shortly before Dhanawade crossed the 1,000-run mark.

"We are really happy and he is still playing, and I think this will turn into an unbreakable record," the proud father said. "[But] It has not been an easy journey."

"There have been lots of problems. Because we don't have a ground in Kalyan, there's no cricket development there. It's only played in Mumbai. Maybe after he completes his 1,000 runs, the talent in Kalyan also comes into focus. There are no sponsors a well, but hopefully all these problems will now be fixed," he added.

His coach Mobin Sheikh also reserved some special words for his budding student.

"Dhanawade is with me from the age of six. His feat would give a strong boost to cricket in this area. We have lot of talent in and around Kalyan but lack of proper facilities has hampered it.

City utility networks

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civil engineering of Buet said 35 percent area of Dhaka city corporations and 60 percent area of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha were vulnerable to the risks of utility network-related hazards in the event of an earthquake.

He suggested that the quality of soil be improved to reduce the possible damage to utility networks and buildings.

"Soil can be improved by injecting cement water mixture under very high pressure, which is commercially called 'jet grouting'. This method of soil improvement is suitable for loose sand and clay," said Ansary.

To assess the vulnerability of a physical survey of gas pipelines and

water pipelines would be done by Rajuk and GIS maps would also be prepared under a project funded by the World Bank, he said.

Director (operations) of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd HM Ali Ashraf said they were working on a study to find the solutions to this earthquake-vulnerability problem and would take effective measures following the survey.

He said it was necessary to set up seismic shut-off valves and they would try to do that after the study.

Deputy Managing Director SDM Quamrul Alam Chowdhury of Wasa said they had set up their large transmission lines considering the risk of

earthquakes.

He said water treatments plants were also set up considering earthquakes.

Chittagong too had this vulnerability.

Prof Maksud said if an earthquake of 8.5 magnitude on the Richter Scale happened at the Rakhaine fault, there would be gas leaks in 104 places and cracks in 125 places in Chittagong city's gas transmission network of 217km.

He said the 542km water supply network would have leaks in 320 places and there would be cracks in 407 points. The sewerage network would leak in 131 points and crack in 59 places.

No violence

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men too flouted the restrictions.

The BNP could not end its rally by 5:00pm, the deadline for ending its programme, as BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia wrapped up her speech there at 5:17pm.

Meanwhile, ignoring the DMP restrictions on processions, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, AL lawmakers Kamal Ahmed Majumder, Aslamul Haque, and Ilias Uddin Mollah were seen leading their processions that joined the AL rallies on Russell Square and on Bangabandhu Avenue.

Contacted, Aslamul Haque said he was not aware of any such restrictions on processions. He claimed that his party men came together to join the rally and that there was nothing wrong with it.

Activists of the AL and its front organisations -- Jubo League, Swechchhasebak League and Bangladesh Chhatra League -- were seen joining the party rallies in processions. Many of them were seen carrying bamboo sticks behind banners, defying the restrictions.

Besides, a group of ruling party men were seen bringing out a motorbike procession in the city prior to joining the rally on Russell Square.

Leaders and activists of Mirpur, Pallabi, and Mohammadpur Thana units of AL used horn speakers on their pick-up trucks, another clear breach of the DMP conditions.

"Who has forbidden us from bringing out processions?" asked Altaf Hossain, president of ward-7 of Dhaka North City Corporation of Jubo League. "Nobody told us about the restrictions," he told The Daily Star.

Mohammad Selim Hossain, an AL activist who joined the procession led by Aslamul, said they brought out a procession and joined the rally on Russell Square to celebrate "victory of democracy day" on this day in 2014.

Around noon at Mirpur-10 intersection, local AL activists set up a stage on an alley and used horn speakers. Later, they held a rally there with local MP Kamal Ahmed Majumder addressing it. A few hundred party men attended the rally held without the permission of the DMP. Some policemen were also seen standing near the stage.

AL completed one of its rallies on Bangabandhu Avenue before 5:00pm, as party General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam, who was the chief guest there, wound up his speech at 4:42pm.

But it could not end its other rally on Russell Square within the stipulated time given by the DMP. AL Presidium Member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, who presided over the rally, completed his speech at 5:15pm.

Though the DMP had asked both the parties not to block any roads, activists of AL and its front organisations occupied one side of the Mirpur Road, causing gridlocks.

Asked, two police officers who, among others, were on duty there, declined to comment. However, one of them, wishing anonymity, said, "The home minister himself is present here. So we should not say anything."

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal was present until the end of the rally.

The BNP men too violated some of the DMP conditions.

The party set up a podium on the street in front of its central office at Naya Paltan. BNP men occupied both lanes of the road in front of the office, blocking traffic.

Police had asked the BNP to place the podium on the pavement in front of its office and use only one lane of the road.

Many activists of the BNP, Jubo Dal, and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal were seen joining the rally in processions.

Many were seen carrying bamboo sticks under banners and festoons.

Shamsuzzaman Duda, an adviser to BNP chief Khaleda Zia, told The Daily Star that the main reason behind the restrictions was to make the rallies peaceful and the BNP held the rally peacefully.

Asked about the BNP men occupying both sides of the road in front of their central office, he said it was not possible to accommodate all the people in front of the party office for a rally, which they wanted in Suhrawardy Udyan.

Regarding the processions of BNP men, he said people like to bring out processions for their parties before joining a rally and that it had become a usual political practice of the country.

He also said it was not possible to hold rallies of large parties like AL and the BNP within a strict time frame.

There was no complaint of obstruction to BNP men joining their rally.

Asked about the violations of the DMP conditions, a senior DMP official said there were breaches of some conditions. But they were happy at the end of the day, as the rallies were held peacefully, he said, requesting not to be named.

Pakistan

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connections and did financial transactions with some militant groups, including Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh, according to a recent confession of a JMB militant.

On January 31, Pakistan recalled its diplomatic official Mazhar Khan for his alleged links with terror financing and currency forgery racket.

Diplomatic ties between Dhaka and Islamabad have soured after Bangladesh started executing the war criminals who actively collaborated with the Pak army in the genocide of some three million Bangladeshis and the rape of no less than two lakh women during the 1971 Liberation War.

Following the execution of top Jamaat leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, Pakistan summoned the Bangladeshi envoy there to lodge a formal protest on Nov 30.

It was Moushumi Rahman, acting high commissioner in Islamabad back then, who had met the Pakistan authorities.

Obama pleads

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mandates that individuals "in the business of selling firearms" register as licensed gun dealers, effectively narrowing the so-called "gun show loophole," which exempts most small sellers from keeping formal sales records.

Former Congresswoman and gun control advocate Gabby Giffords, who was seriously injured in a 2011 mass shooting, was also in attendance at yesterday's event.

Obama hammered congressional Republicans for opposing measures like expanded background checks as he called on Americans to punish them at the polls. He defended his actions to strengthen background checks for purchasing guns, answering critics who say the measure would not make it harder for criminals to obtain firearms.

"Each time this comes up, we are fed the excuse that common-sense reforms like background checks might not have stopped the last massacre, or the one before that, or the one before that, so why bother trying," Obama said. "I reject that thinking."

"We know we can't stop every act of violence, every act of evil in the world. But maybe we could try to stop one act of evil, one act of violence."

The US president blasted the gun lobby, particularly the National Rifle Association, and insisted that his actions are "not a plot to take away everybody's guns."

"I believe in the Second Amendment, there written on paper, that guarantees the right to bear arms," Obama said. "No matter how many times people try to twist my words around, I taught constitutional law. I know a little bit about this. But I also believe that we can find ways to reduce gun violence consistent with the Second Amendment."

Obama said Congress, which blocked a tougher gun bill in 2013, still needs to impose new gun control measures. He noted that many of the actions he's calling for can only

be imposed through legislative action.

"Congress still needs to act," Obama said. "The folks in this room will not rest until Congress does. Because once Congress gets on board with common-sense gun safety measures, we can reduce gun violence a whole lot."

"But we also can't wait," Obama added. "Until we have the Congress that's in line with the majority of Americans, there are actions within my legal authority that we can take to help reduce gun violence and save more lives."

In addition to expanding and bolstering the background check system to cover sales that take place online and at gun shows, Obama said the administration will provide more funding for mental health treatment, FBI staff and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms and Explosives agents.

On Capitol Hill, the reaction from Republicans was just as Obama had predicted.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin, said Obama's actions "will no doubt be challenged in the courts" and "can be overturned by a Republican President."

"From day one, the President has never respected the right to safe and legal gun ownership that our nation has valued since its founding," Ryan said in a statement.

Amanullah Kabir

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would remain under observation for 72 hours, Shat-el said, quoting doctors.

Kabir is now working as Senior Editor of online newspaper bdnews24.com

In four decades of his journalism career, he held important positions in a number of media outlets.

He served as executive editor of the Independent, news editor of The Daily Star, editor of Bangla Daily Amar Desh, and chief editor and managing director of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha.

Court accepts

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warrants for 10 fugitives and fixed February 29 for the next hearing on the case, said Public Prosecutor advocate Akbar Hossain Jitu.

On January 27, 2005, Kibria and four others were killed and many injured in grenade attacks on a rally of AL at Baidderbazar in Habiganj.

Later, Abdul Mazid Khan, a local AL leader, filed two cases -- one for murder and the other under the Explosive Substances Act -- with Habiganj Sadar Police Station.

Nineteen accused, including the eight who are on bail, were produced before the court yesterday.

Properties of the fugitives would be confiscated if they were not arrested even after advertisement was published, asking them to appear before the court, said advocate Jitu.

The murder case is now under trial at the Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
Noakhali
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No-LGED/XEN/NOA/TENDER/2015/01 Dated: 03/01/2016

Invitation for Tenders (IFT for Works)
e-Tender Notice No-44/2015-16

Reference No: APP ID-19848

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following tender ID & Schemes.

Tender ID & package No.	Name of scheme	The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank
Tender ID-39775 IRIDP-2/NOA/DW-30	Improvement of Sompara-Korpora Road (Battala-Sampur Dargha Road) from ch. 00-1000m (ID No: 475103012) under Chatkhil, Noakhali	Up to 20-01-2016 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-39776 IRIDP-2/NOA/DW-31	Improvement of Hatpukuria-Razzakpur Road from ch. 500-1100m (ID No: 475103017) under Chatkhil, Noakhali	Up to 20-01-2016 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-39777 IRIDP-2/NOA/DW-32	Part: a) Part-A: Improvement of Khilpara-Gomatoli Road (South Fomatoli Khalper Bridge to Gomatoli Gov. Primary School and Samsul Huda High School via Khorshed Member Bari front via Kotowal Bari Jame Masjid Road) road from ch. 1950-2950m (ID No: 475103011) Part: Part-B: Construction of 3x3.50mx3.50m RCC Box Culvert at ch. 1950m under Chatkhil, Noakhali	Up to 20-01-2016 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-39778 IRIDP-2/NOA/DW-33	Improvement of Molongmuri-Fawra Road (Kulsree Boro Bari-South Khalpar Poul Road) from ch. 00-1000m (ID No: 475104036) under Chatkhil, Noakhali	Up to 20-01-2016 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-39779 IRIDP-2/NOA/DW-34	Improvement of Datterbag MP Shahebe Wahab Taiyeba hospital-Kazi Office via Wamim house east side, Muktizodda Fazlul Haque House-Hospital Road from ch. 00-660m (ID No: 475105239) under Chatkhil, Noakhali	Up to 20-01-2016 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-39780 IRIDP-2/NOA/DW-35	Improvement of Rothi Primary School near connecting road to Nodona Bazar connecting Road from ch. 00-1000m (ID No: 475885154) under Sonaimuri, Noakhali	Up to 20-01-2016 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-39781 IRIDP-2/NOA/DW-36	Part: a) Improvement of Bangla Bazar Pucca Road to Kegna-Compani Bazar Road from ch. 500-1650m (ID No: 475885225) under Sonaimuri, Noakhali. Part: Part-B: Construction of U-drain (625mmx600mm) on same road at ch. 520m & 925m under Sonaimuri, Noakhali	Up to 20-01-2016 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-39782 IRIDP-2/NOA/DW-37	Improvement of Nodona Golam Nobi Road to Mowlana Badiul Alam Madrasa Road from ch. 00-515m (ID No: 475885170) under Sonaimuri, Noakhali	Up to 20-01-2016 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-39783 IRIDP-2/NOA/DW-38	Improvement of Kachihata Pucca Road to Hannan Master house front side road from-Ramdebpur-Sonaimuri-Korihati Pucca Road from ch. 00-1150m (ID No: 475885338) under Sonaimuri, Noakhali	Up to 20-01-2016 at 4:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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U-19 World Cup

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senior team had pulled out of their scheduled tour in October last year.

The decision has come following a series of visits to Bangladesh from CA officials in the last few months.

In order to replace Australia, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has invited Ireland, who finished second in the qualifying tournament in Kuala Lumpur in October.

"For some time we have been working closely with ICC security advisors and monitoring the security situation in Bangladesh and have been keeping our players, officials and the players' parents as up to date as possible," said Sutherland.

"Regrettably, the advice from our government suggests that the security threat to Australians travelling to Bangladesh remains as high now as it was when we postponed the Test team's tour of that country late last year."

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury

described the move as 'disappointing.'

"It is obviously very disappointing that a participating nation has decided against taking part in an ICC event. But we are still hopeful that we will be able to successfully host this event."

"We have promised the best possible security set-up. We have received assurances regarding this tournament from the highest possible level of the government. We have done everything that is possible from our side," said Nizamuddin.

The ICC, through a press release, reiterated BCB's sentiments.

"The ICC takes its responsibilities around the safety and security of ICC events extremely seriously. And taking into consideration the full and unequivocal support of the Bangladesh government that has been afforded to us at the highest level and through all local security agencies, the advice we have received from our own and independent security experts, and the robust security plan that has been developed, the

ICC remains of the view the it is appropriate for event planning to continue as scheduled," ICC Chief Executive David Richardson said.

"Naturally, as part of that planning process, the ICC's own security team, supported by an independent security agency, will continue to monitor the situation in Bangladesh closely, including all travel advisories provided by relevant government agencies.

"Security plans associated with an event of this size and stature are always subject to continual review to ensure that they remain appropriate and fit for purpose, and this event is no different," he added.

As of now, no other team is known to have similar intentions. According to news reports, New Zealand Cricket has also confirmed that they will be taking part in the tournament.

Australia were in Group D of the Under-19 World Cup along with India, Nepal and New Zealand.

Two killed

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around 10:30pm. The condition of the other two, including Sahabuddin's wife Maleka Khatun, was critical, said sources at the hospital.

Locals and police said some 46 landless families, including the ones of the victims, have been living on 116 Bighas of government land (Khas land), allocated for "Gangadaspur Bhumihin Samity", in the village since 1973.

Ali had been having a dispute over his land with Abdul Hye Tuku, an influential Awami League leader in the area, for the last three years.

Tuku could not be reached despite repeated attempts over phone.

Police have detained three ruling party men -- Solo Golder, Ayub Ali and Badar Uddin -- over the incident.

Contacted, Solaiman Haq Joardar Selun, chief of Chuadanga AL, admitted that the trio were involved with his party.

Belayat Hossain, additional superintendent of police in the district, said additional members of law enforcement agencies had been deployed in the area to avoid any untoward situation.

"We are raiding several places to arrest all the killers," he said.