

Turkey seizes unsafe boats intended for refugees

AFP, Istanbul

Turkish police seized almost 50 unsafe boats destined for migrants wanting to cross the Aegean Sea to Greece, in the latest crackdown on businesses exploiting refugees in western Turkey, reports said yesterday.

Police simultaneously raided three underground workshops in the port city of Izmir on Friday, seizing 49 boats that failed to meet safety standards, the official Anatolia news agency said.

The boats were destroyed by the police, it said, adding that the workshops now faced closure.

Turkey is home to at least 2.2 million refugees from Syria's civil war.

It has become a hub for migrants seeking to move to Europe, many of whom pay smugglers thousands of dollars for the risky crossing to Greece.

Ankara reached an agreement with the EU in November to stem the flow of refugees heading to Europe in return for financial assistance of three billion euros (\$3.2 billion) in cash.

After the deal, Turkey appears to have stepped up efforts, stopping boats, rounding up scores of suspected smugglers and seizing hundreds of sub-standard life jackets given to the refugees.

Clear law for SC

FROM PAGE 4

and 116 with those in the 1972's constitution for ensuring the complete separation of the judiciary from the executive and setting up a separate judicial administration.

Former SC judge MA Matin, former election commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hussain, local government expert Tofail Ahmed, SC lawyers Subrata Chowdhury and Mohsin Rashid, former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University also spoke while SUJAN Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar moderated the discussion.

Group of DU

FROM PAGE 4

attraction due to the rail line.

She cited Article 24 of the constitution, which states, "The state shall adopt measures for the protection against disfigurement, damage or removal of all monuments, objects or places of special artistic or historic importance or interest."

She said, "So the construction of the metro rail route will be a violation of the constitution."

They also claimed that it would violate the National Historic Preservation Act because the act did not allow any big structure within a radius of 200 metres of such establishments.

The academic atmosphere on the campus would also be affected, they said.

The students demanded shifting of the route elsewhere, and announced a cartoon exhibition on the fine arts faculty premises on February 11.

A mass signature collection campaign is also going on, and more than 12,000 people have already expressed solidarity with the demand, said Tazrian.

The 20.1km rail route runs from Uttara to Motijheel through DU campus.

Family role must

FROM PAGE 4

Nasima Begum, secretary to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, was present as the chief guest while Gazi Md Nurul Kabir, director general of the social welfare department, and Kazi Rafiqul Alam, the mission's president, were the special guests at the seminar, chaired by Khandaker Rakibur Rahman, director general of the DNC.

A memorandum of understanding was also signed between DNC and DAM under which the former will provide free treatment to children engaged in drug abuse and the latter will counsel and rehabilitate them.

Children of FFs

FROM PAGE 3

controversy."

The comments drew widespread flak and sparked protests.

Later she was also sued for sedition for the remark.

Speaking at the programme, International Crimes Tribunal prosecutor Tureen Afroz slammed Khaleda. "She [Khaleda] thinks the gravity of the crimes committed by the Pakistani forces during the Liberation War might be lessened if the number of martyrs could be reduced," said Tureen.

Muktijoddha Sangsad Santan Command demanded that all others who distorted the history of the 1971 Liberation War be brought to book and their assets confiscated.

Allottees to pay hefty price

FROM PAGE 16

Ruling Awami League lawmaker M Enamul Haque owns Ena Properties, which went into the deal with Korean DongAH and DDJ. Another ruling party leader owns HCL (Hamid Construction Ltd), which went into the deal with local company BFL.

For two years from 2012, the construction firms had only done "five percent" of the work, which led Rajuk to cancel the contracts, said PD Ferdous.

This encouraged the buyers to cancel their allotments and leave apprehending major delays.

Rajuk is not being nice to the ones who stayed with the project despite the delays. It wants more money from them saying the prices of construction materials have gone up.

On the rise of construction cost, buyer Qazi Mahmduur Rahman said, "Didn't they undertake the project calculating and adding the price hike? It's unacceptable."

Jahirul Islam, who wants to buy one of the 2,500 flats now on offer, said, "For the same space, facilities, and condition, we will have to pay a higher price. Do you think it is fair?"

PD Ferdous admitted that had the project completed on time, buyers would not have needed to pay more.

"We've failed."

On the work progress, he said,

"We'll be able to handover 840 flats by December 16, 2016."

However, according to a document signed by a deputy project director, construction of 504 flats would be done by December, 2016.

Wishing anonymity, a Rajuk official involved in the project said, "I doubt whether people will be able to move into the flats as the construction work of other facilities [adjoining roads, mosques, bazaar] will not be completed by then."

Talking to The Daily Star, PD Ferdous claimed that no irregularities took place while awarding contracts to the three construction firms.

However, sources said the Awami League leader exercised their influence to get the contracts.

Nineteen firms are now involved in the construction work.

A recent Rajuk document shows seven buildings out of 57 had been erected completely while three buildings had been built up to floor 14; six buildings were up to floor six, seven and eight; 15 were up to floor one, two, three and four while 26 buildings were still having their basements being built.

In 2013, M Enamul Haque had blamed Rajuk's delay in handing over the project land, its internal roads, and removing overhead electric lines for the slow progress of work.

Mother, baby

FROM PAGE 16

Later, her husband allegedly chopped her with a sharp weapon. When two-year-old Harichan embraced his mother, the father hacked him as well, Saptami further alleged.

The family members also chopped the mother and her son, leaving them dead on the spot, she alleged.

Later, they dumped the bodies under a stack of straw. However, when they were digging a pit to hide the bodies deep at night, locals saw their suspicious activities and informed police.

Nizam Uddin, officer-in-charge of Char Jabbar police, said they rushed to the spot, recovered the bodies and arrested Sonjoy and Dasharath that night.

The police also detained Sonjoy's mother Swapna yesterday morning.

The bodies were sent to Noakhali General Hospital for autopsy, said the OC.

Joy on star

FROM PAGE 16

The Daily Star editor was a participant.

It may be mentioned that during the 2007-08 period, almost all the media outlets, including TV and news websites, published reports based on investigations by joint forces without independent verification.

In his post, Joy alleged the editor was "constantly writing against politicians as being unethical and corrupt".

According to him, Mahfuz Anam had no right to remain a journalist, let alone an editor. "His activities went beyond just being corrupt. They were unpatriotic and anti-Bangladesh."

He claimed the editor's "false stories" led to Hasina's arrest and spending 11 months in jail. "I want Mahfuz Anam behind bars and on trial for treason."

Pedestrian killed

FROM PAGE 2

At one stage, Bhutto and Kabir allegedly fired several shots that hit Shimul and Sohan, the OC said, adding that the two went to there for personal reasons.

Hearing screams, locals rushed to the spot and took them to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where doctors declared Shimul dead. He suffered bullet wounds in his chest, the OC added.

Sohan suffered bullet injuries in his legs.

A tense situation was prevailing in the area. Additional police members were deployed there to avert further untoward incident.

No one was arrested in connection with the incident as of filing this report at 2:00am today.

Somali, AU troops retake key port from Shebab

AFP, Mogadishu

Somali government troops backed by African Union peacekeepers on Saturday recaptured the key port of Merka from Shebab insurgents, just one day after the Islamists swept into the city, the army and residents said.

"The Somali forces and AMISOM peacekeepers secured control of Merka again and now the situation has returned to normal," a Somali military official, Abdirisak Mohamed, told AFP by telephone from Mogadishu.

"There was brief exchange of gunfire, but the (Shebab) militants have fled."

He said "several" Shebab fighters and one Somali soldier were killed in the clashes, and "the security forces are now conducting clearing operations inside town."

A resident reached by telephone said the AU force, known by its acronym AMISOM, used tanks to recapture the port, and four civilians were killed after

they were caught in the fighting.

"Four people died in our neighbourhood and two others were wounded, I can see AMISOM and Somali troops returned to the city now and they are conducting security operations", Muhidin Osman said.

Another resident, Shamso Moalim, said "Shebab fighters pulled out of the town after putting up slight resistance, the Somali forces and AMISOM are back".

"There are civilian casualties but I don't know the number", she added.

AU troops had fled the city, the state capital of Lower Shabelle, as heavily armed Shehab fighters swept in with black Islamist flags on Friday, resident and local authorities said, in one of the most dramatic reverses for the multinational force in its nearly decade-long battle against the Shebab.

The historic port, some 100 kilometres (60 miles) south of the capital Mogadishu, was captured in August 2012 by African Union troops after four years under Islamist control.

Yatsenyuk threatens to quit as Ukraine PM

AFP, Kiev

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk on Friday threatened to quit along with his entire government in the latest escalation of a political crisis rocking the former Soviet state.

The warning raises the possibility of Ukraine holding snap parliamentary polls should Yatsenyuk's replacement fail to win lawmakers' approval or the current pro-Western coalition breaks up and a new one is not formed.

But analysts said the prospects of pro-Russian forces storming back to power in elections and Ukraine losing vital Western financial support made Yatsenyuk's statement sound more like a bluff designed to reinforce his increasingly insecure position.

"If it is decided that this team should be changed, then we will all leave together," the 41-year-old former banker told a televised meeting of parliament.

Ukraine has been on edge since the shock resignation on Wednesday of its reformist Economy Minister Aivaras Abromavicius. The Lithuanian-born economy chief accused a top member of President Petro Poroshenko's party of trying to get his own people into senior ministry posts and blocking his efforts to break the tycoons' years-long stranglehold on state industries.

Abromavicius has further been quoted as saying that he would like to see US-born Economy Minister Natalie Jaresko -- a key player in

restructuring Ukraine's massive debt -- replace his foe Yatsenyuk.

The resignation sparked alarm among Ukraine's Western allies and prompted Poroshenko to hold a meeting with ambassadors from the G7 countries in a bid to allay their concerns.

80,000 yaba

FROM PAGE 16

Mohammad Salam, 35, of Mongdu in Myanmar, said Maj Abu Rasel Siddiqui, deputy commanding officer of BGB Battalion-2.

Acting on a tip-off, a BGB team asked a fishing boat to stop when it was approaching Muchni area in the Naf river around 6:30am, he said, adding that three men jumped into the water soon afterwards.

They caught Salam and recovered 30,000 Yaba tablets from him. The other two fled.

He was handed over to the police later.

Two cases, one for trespass and the other for trying to smuggle drugs, were filed against him with Teknaf Police Station.

A couple of hours later, the BGB raided another fishing boat near Jaliardwip area of the same upazila and seized 50,000 more pills from there, said Maj Rasel.

However, those on board managed to escape.

Both the boats were seized.

Jihadists attack on Timbuktu repelled

AFP, Bamako

At least four suspected jihadists and a Malian soldier were killed Friday following an attack on a UN military camp in Timbuktu in Mali's restive north, a Malian security source said.

The assault came just a day after the fabled city celebrated the restoration of its greatest treasures -- earthen mausoleums dating to mediaeval times that were destroyed during an Islamist takeover in 2012.

Hours of fighting followed the early-morning attack on the camp in the south of Timbuktu, the source said, adding that the offensive against the attackers ended in the afternoon.

"At least four terrorists were killed, including those who blew themselves up in their vehicle, (and) three Malian soldiers were wounded and one killed," the source said.

"A Malian officer who was taking part in the hunt for the terrorists was unfortunately killed" when a wall collapsed on his armoured vehicle, the source said.

An officer taking part in a search-

and sweep operation said the mission "to destroy the terrorists" had wrapped up in the southern sector of Timbuktu, around a former hotel called La Palmeraie where the UN peacekeeping mission had a base.

Two people suspected of being jihadists were arrested close to the scene of the attack, an army General Staff source in Timbuktu said.

The raid was essentially a double attack with the assailants first blowing up their vehicle at a military roadblock near the camp and a second vehicle then coming in with others who started firing.

It was a "carefully prepared" plan targeting the Nigerian contingent of MINUSMA, the UN's peacekeeping mission, the source said.

A Nigerian peacekeeper was slightly wounded along with a civilian.

The army had reports that a vehicle being used by the suspected Islamists had "infiltrated the town of Timbuktu itself," another military source added.

Another Malian source said the camp had recently been evacuated by police officers from Nigeria but some soldiers had remained there.

13 dead after Taiwan quake

FROM PAGE 16

AGONISING WAIT Relatives huddled by the ruins late Saturday, hoping for news of their loved ones.

"I was woken up by the quake and called my brother's mobile -- no-one answered and I feared something was wrong," said Huang Yu-liang who lives near the site and is waiting for news of his brother, sister-in-law and their two children.

"I rushed here and saw the collapsed building and I was in shock. Their building is at the bottom (of the wreckage). I am praying for miracles."

Rescue workers told AFP that two of the toppled buildings fell against the other two blocks in the complex, crushing them.

Wang Chien-ming came from Yunlin county to the north of Tainan to find his sister and her family.

"My sister, her husband and their child live on the third floor and I haven't heard any news since I arrived here. I will keep waiting for as long as it takes. I won't give up hope."

Officials said there were 256

people registered as living in the complex, which contained 96 apartments.

More than 250 have been rescued so far, with more than 40 hospitalised.

Interior minister Chen Wei-jen said he feared there may have been more people in the building than usual as family members would have returned to celebrate the Lunar New Year holidays next week.

TERRIFYING POWER

Residents told of their horror as the quake hit, with survivors pulled bleeding and crying from the ruins, some just in their underwear.

"The quake was really powerful -- it shook up and down, left and right and even in a circle. It was terrifying," one elderly woman at the scene who was waiting for news of a missing friend told AFP.

One survivor used a hammer to break out of her crushed home, while another tied clothes together to lower himself to safety, local media reported.

Cranes towered over the disaster zone with diggers trying to move slabs of concrete as rescuers painstakingly freed survivors young and

old from the ruins.

Meanwhile groups of people chanted prayers at the site, accompanied by a Buddhist nun.

Eight shelters have been set up around the city, with over 100 people taking refuge there, while restaurants and hotels offered free food and rooms to residents.

Officials said several blocks had collapsed or half collapsed in other parts of the city, with some buildings left leaning at alarming angles.

Across Tainan, more than 400 people were injured, with over 60 hospitalised.

Around 250,000 were still without water, authorities said, and more than 2,000 homes without electricity.

The quake struck at a depth of 10 kilometres (six miles) at around 4:00 am (2000 GMT Friday), 39 kilometres northeast of Kaohsiung, Taiwan's second-largest city.

Taiwan lies near the junction of two tectonic plates and is regularly hit by earthquakes.

The island's worst quake in recent decades was 7.6 magnitude in September 1999, killing around 2,400 people.

Bhutan gets its crown prince

FROM PAGE 16

profound joy on the birth of His Royal Highness," itsaid in a statement.

"With the blessings of the guardian deities of Bhutan and protectors of the dharma (divine truth), and the prayers of the Bhutanese people, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness The Gyalsey (prince) are both in perfect health."

The prince's birth was marked by sacred Bhutanese traditions with the Je Khenpo, the chief abbot and spiritual leader of the majority Buddhist nation, presiding over religious ceremonies, the office said.

The baby's name has yet to be announced, reports AFP.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina congratulated Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and

Queen Jetsun Pema as they have been blessed with their first child.

In a message, Hasina said she is greatly delighted to hear the wonderful news of the royal birth.

On behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh and on her own behalf, she said, "I would like to extend to Your Majesty and Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen our heartfelt felicitations and best wishes on your Royal parenthood."

"It's our immense pleasure to join the people of Bhutan in the celebrations of this momentous and happy occasion in Bhutan's history. All our prayers and blessings are with the newborn and the mother for their good health and well being."

Hasina invited the Bhutanese King and Queen to visit Bangladesh with the new prince at a time of their convenience, reports UNB.

Known as the "last Shangri-La" the South Asian kingdom, home to just 750,000 people, famously shuns conventional measures of economic wellbeing, instead compiling a Gross National Happiness index.

Britain's own royals, Prince William and his wife Kate, are to visit Bhutan in the spring as part of an official trip that also includes India, British officials announced last month.

The hugely popular fifth Druk Gyalpo, or Dragon King, studied in Britain and the United States and was officially crowned king in 2008 after his father abdicated two years earlier.

He married Queen Pema in 2011 in an elaborate fairytale wedding ceremony that was the biggest media event in Bhutanese history.

Bhutan had no roads or currency until the 1960s, and only began

Bakhrabad Gas Distribution Company Limited
(A Company of Petrobangla)

Employment of Legal Advisers (Retainer) and Panel Advocates

Applications are hereby invited in plain paper from the members of the District Bar Councils of Dhaka, Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Feni, Noakhali and Chittagong for appointment of Legal Adviser for Comilla Area and Panel Advocates four for Dhaka, two for Comilla, Brahmanbaria and one each for Chittagong (Experience in Labour Law), Chandpur, Feni and Noakhali Area for a period of two years for conducting suits in different courts on the following terms and conditions:

- For Dhaka area the applicants must have ten years experience as legal practitioner in Civil Courts including five years experience in High Court Division. An advocate having a Bar-at-Law/LL.M or Doctorate Degree in any discipline of law will be given preference. Except Dhaka all other area's applicants must have ten years experience as legal practitioner in Civil Courts.
- Retired District Judges (age not exceeding sixty years) who are engaged in legal practice are eligible to apply.
- The applicants must be Bangladeshi by birth.
- The applicants must possess a good physique.
- The Legal Advisers will be paid a monthly retainer fee of Tk. 1,000.00 (one thousand). Legal Advisers and Panel Advocate will be paid legal fees separately at BGDCL's scheduled rate(s).
- Advocates engaged as Legal Adviser/Retainer in any other organisation are not eligible to apply for appointment as Legal Adviser/Retainer in BGDCL.
- Interested candidates should submit 2 (two) copies of applications stating name, father's, mother's/husband's name, present and permanent address, 2 (two) attested copies of certificates regarding nationality, experience/qualifications and 2 (two) copies of recent passport size photographs duly attested by First Class Gazetted Officer directly to the Secretary, Bakhrabad Gas Distribution Company Limited, Head Office, Chapapur, Comilla within 15 (fifteen) days from the day of publication of this notice.
- The words "Application for the post of Legal Adviser/Panel Advocate" should be mentioned on the application and envelops.

Secretary

BG-1271 February-16 Bakhrabad Gas Distribution Company Limited
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