

US calls

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together on countering terrorism and violent extremism before they take root here, according to diplomatic sources.

It expressed concern over what it said was systematic assaults in the country in recent months on minorities, secular bloggers, intellectuals and foreigners, sources who were present at the meeting said.

The US delegates also said they were upset at the slow pace of investigations and trial of the recent series of murders.

Biswal yesterday also met the American Embassy community and held discussions with local human rights and civil society organisations. She is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina this morning and Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal at noon.

US Secretary of State John Kerry, who talked to Hasina over the phone on April 28 following the killing of the two LGBT rights activists, sent Biswal to hold discussions with the Bangladesh government to strengthen security cooperation.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque and several other senior officials attended yesterday's lengthy meeting.

Biswal was assisted by US Ambassador in Dhaka Marcia Bernicat, Deputy Chief of Mission David Meal and Political and Economic Counsellor Andrea Brouillette-Rodriguez.

Defending Hasina's zero-tolerance approach to terrorism, the ministry officials said fundamentalist groups and some people were trying to encourage militancy in Bangladesh.

The government is fighting them to maintain a secular society, they added.

The foreign ministry officials, however, claimed that the security situation in Bangladesh was under control and said the home minister at today's meeting would inform the US delegates about the progress of the investigation into the latest murders of the LGBT activists and also of the probes into other recent killings.

Leaders of civil society organisations, including Badiul Alam Majumder of Shujon, Lamiya Morshed of Yunus Centre, former ambassador Humayun Kabir of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute, and Founder and President at MOVE Foundation Saiful Haque were present at a luncheon meeting with Biswal and other US embassy officials yesterday.

At the US ambassador's residence, they shared their thoughts and concerns over the security situation and extremism in Bangladesh as well as across the globe.

"Xulhaz Mannan embodied courage and selflessness and his legacy will live on in the causes he championed," Biswal tweeted after her meeting with civil society representatives.

A reliable source who attended the meeting told The Daily Star participants unanimously agreed that militancy and violent extremism are on the rise in the country.

They also expressed worries over the deteriorating law and order situation here.

Staff of the US Embassy at the meeting with Biswal were emotional and seemed to be very shaken by the murder of Xulhaz, sources said.

In another tweet, Biswal said she joined Gayle Smith, USAID administrator, and Jonathan Stivers, USAID assistant administrator for Asia, to share memories of Xulhaz with the US Embassy and USAID in Dhaka.

SC today

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Former chief justice Muzammel retired on January 16 last year and Justice Manik on October 1.

The 168 cases include an appeal regarding the Warrant of Precedence of the republic, SC sources said.

On January 11 last year, the SC disposed of "with expunction, modification, observation and findings" the appeal against a 2010 High Court order that declared illegal and void the existing Warrant of Precedence, formulated in 1986 and revised in 2008.

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by the then chief justice Md Muzammel Hossain passed the short verdict, now available on the SC website.

The Warrant of Precedence is used for all government purposes including ceremonial occasions.

Allegations

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BNP-led four-party alliance government termed the allegations "totally false and baseless". "Till now nobody asked me about this. Nobody talked to me," he said.

Till date, two former BNP lawmakers, Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Abdul Alim, have been convicted of war crimes.

Other leaders have criticised the trials, alleging it was the ruling party's tool to eliminate political opponents, something the Awami League always refuted.

Only 3 of 53 cases

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cases include illegal assembling and attacking police and people with firearms and explosives to kill them, attacking police stations with arms and bombs to loot firearms, attacking government offices, banks and setting those on fire, setting fire to holy Quran and Hadith and other Islamic books, looting such books and hurting the Muslim sentiments.

Police arrested at least 376 accused, including some Hefajat leaders, but all of them were later released on bail.

Hefajat's General Secretary Junaid Babunagari, the main accused in sub-inspector Shahjahan murder case, was arrested on May 6 in 2013, but was released on bail on May 29 that year on health ground.

Shahjahan was killed during a clash between Hefajat men and law enforcers at Motijheel.

During interrogation in police remand, Babunagari confessed to the involvement of the activists of Hefajat, Jamaat, BNP and its front organisations in the anarchy, court sources said.

Harun bin Izhar Chowdhury, son of Hefajat's Nayeb-e-Ameer Mufti Izharul Islam, was also arrested. But he too was released on bail.

Some BNP leaders, including Moudud Ahmed and Sadeque Hossain Khoka, were also shown arrested in the cases. But most of them got bail.

Monirul Islam, additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, yesterday said that out of 53 cases, charge sheets were submitted in three cases, 15 cases were being investigated by the Detective Branch of police while 35 cases are being probed by different police stations.

DMP Deputy Commissioner (media) Maruf Hossain Sarder said that of the three cases, one was filed with Ramna Police Station and the two others with Kalabagan Police Station.

Maruf, however, could not say when the charge sheets of these cases were submitted.

However, a staff at the office of General Recording Officer at the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka said no charge sheet was submitted in any case filed with Ramna and Kalabagan police stations.

Asked about the reason behind the poor progress in investigation, Monirul said, "A large number of people were present during the incident. It takes time to scrutinise the names and details of those who were involved."

Veteran journalist and writer Shahriar Kabir attributed the slow progress in investigation and the release of the accused to the government's double standard policy.

"On one hand, the government is saying that it has taken zero tolerance approach towards terrorism. On the other hand, it is compromising with the godfather of terrorism," he

said. This double standard would be suicidal not only for the Awami League, but also for the whole nation, he added.

Shahriar Kabir, who was also a victim of the Hefajat mayhem, said that although the Hefajat leaders admitted their role in the atrocities, some ruling party leaders visited Hefajat leaders to compromise with them.

Shahriar, also the acting president of Ekatturrer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, claimed that he along with 26 other Nirmul committee members and four policemen were wounded in the Hefajat attack.

Contacted, Hefajat-e-Islam Organising Secretary Azizul Haque Islamabadi told The Daily Star that around 50 cases were lodged following the "Shapla Chattar incident" to harass the leaders and activists of the organisation.

The Hefajat leader claimed that the "Shapla Chattar movement" was not a movement to overthrow the government; rather it was a movement against the persons or atheist bloggers who insult Islam.

"From our side, there is no scope of maintaining communication with the government," said Azizul Haque. The government communicates with them because it wants to create a good relation with Hefajat, he added.

"The government or the opposition wants to keep a relation with Hefajat, as the organisation has the capacity to exert an influence in the society."

He also claimed that Hefajat-e-Islam was not a political organisation.

Call on Myanmar

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production, said Syed Arif Azad, director general of DoF.

"In Bangladesh, we are working in two ways -- conservation of hilsa and incentives for the fishermen -- to increase production," he added.

Dr Khin Maung Soe, deputy director for DoF of Myanmar, suggested that licensing of the fishing vessels be limited for the conservation.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Muhammad Sayedul Hoque, who attended the seminar as the chief guest, said there is no alternative to seizing all illegal nets for conservation and more production of the fish.

"We are taking legal actions against all illegal attempts that hamper conservation of hilsa. As a result, production is now increasing," he observed.

The minister expressed the hope that collaborative approach of Bangladesh, India and Myanmar would ensure interests of the respective governments in this regard.

Dr A Atiq Rahman, executive director of BCAS, chaired the seminar, which was addressed by, among others, IIED representative Essam Yassin Mohammed.

RAMPAL POWER PLANT

State minister rules out environmental hazards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World's largest mangrove forest Sundarbans would not face any environmental hazard because of setting up the Rampal Power Plant, Nasrul Hamid, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, told parliament yesterday.

He also said according to a feasibility study and the environmental impact assessment outcome, the plant would not cause any environmental risk to the forest.

Replying to lawmakers' queries, Nasrul said the plant, to be established almost 14km away from the Sundarbans, would have the ultra super critical technology for power generation, and there is no possibility of creating any risk to the mangrove forest.

The state minister added that the mangrove forest is particularly suitable for absorbing carbon dioxide.

The power plant would create an alternative source of income for the people who are living near the forest, and ultimately, the forest would be protected from damage for the power plant, Nasrul said.

Gold price

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said BAJUS General Secretary Enamul Haque Khan. He said the prices of gold in the local market had been adjusted in line with the rise in the prices in the international market.

After the latest hike, a bhoiri (11.664 grams) of 22-carat gold will cost Tk 47,415 from Tk 46,190, 21-carat Tk 45,315 from Tk 44,090, 18-carat Tk 38,667 from Tk 37,442 and traditional gold Tk 27,586 from Tk 26,361.

The price of silver is going up to Tk 1,165 from Tk 1,108 a bhoiri.

Following the previous hike in March this year, the price of the precious metal was hovering around \$1,200 an ounce. Now it has reached \$1,300 an ounce, said a number of businesses.

Local jewellers have to keep the prices in line with international market to avoid gold smuggling in and out of the country, said Anwar Hossain, president of Bangladesh Jewellery Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

The country does not allow commercial imports of gold. The sector runs on recycling, and a person can bring a small amount of gold into Bangladesh legally.

The sector's annual turnover will be at least Tk 700 crore, according to industry people.

They formed cell

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think blocking sites on the Internet is not an easy thing to do, we have to recognise that.

"We have to put a lot of emphasis on education, inoculation, but also recognise different people who face different influences. These ideas are sweeping the world and the entire region, including Singapore," he said, reports our New Delhi correspondent, quoting a PTI report from Singapore.

Members of the so-called ISB, formed in Singapore in March, had identified several possible targets in Bangladesh, which include lawmakers, ministers, and media personnel, according to a kill-list released on the Singapore home ministry website earlier.

In a document titled "We Need for Jihad Fight", which was recovered from detained Mizanur Rahman, the group also listed military targets such as the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), the air and navy forces and the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

Our New Delhi correspondent added that K Shanmugam, the Singapore minister, also said, "They [the Bangladeshis] were looking at bomb-making, they have material on sniper rifles, they have collected money and they have a list of targets."

Months after deporting 26 "radicalised" Bangladeshi workers, Singapore arrested the eight Bangladeshis recently.

Besides, another five Bangladeshis were deported for suspected militancy link. They were arrested from Banasree area in Dhaka on Tuesday.

A Dhaka court yesterday placed them on a seven-day remand each after police produced them before the court with 10 days' remand pleas.

A DB official said they were making profiles of the arrestees and that they would be quizzed about their suspected militancy links.

The latest Singapore home affairs ministry statement said the five Bangladeshis were not a part of the Islamic State in Bangladesh group but had been found in possession of jihadi materials or to have supported the use of armed violence for a "religious cause".

There was no indication that the detainees were members of the Bangladeshi "radical group" whose members were arrested last year. But some of them were acquaintances, the statement claimed.

It also said, "The uncovering of the Islamic State of Bangladesh (ISB) group in Singapore sends a strong signal that we cannot take our security for granted or be complacent."

"At the time of his arrest, Mizanur worked as a draftsman in a local construction firm. He had been working on-and-off in Singapore since 2007 and when he last entered Singapore in December 2015, the authorities had no information to suggest that he had radical views."

Several of the arrestees were liable to

be prosecuted for "terrorism-financing" and at the time of the arrests, the funds they had raised from the members' "own contributions", said the statement.

"The Bangladeshi nationals in both incidents [arrested in the last one year] were not known to have targeted Singapore at the time of their arrests."

"They are not known to have acted on their plans to procure firearms yet." The statement added that the Bangladeshi authorities had been informed of the group and its activities, and had been helpful in providing some information.

Contacted, a DB official, who is investigating the matter, said since the arrests have been made in connection with militancy, the issue was a matter of "serious security threat" and related to the image of Bangladesh.

He also said they would visit Singapore to collect information and interrogate the arrestees if they were not deported soon.

Dismembered

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investigating the incident.

"The arrestee will be taken into remand for further interrogation. Police will probe the incident from different angles to find out the exact reason behind the murder," SP Alamgir said, adding that they would also try to find if anyone else was involved.

A case was filed against Raheduzzaman with Pabna Police Station. The body parts were sent to Pabna Medical College morgue for an autopsy yesterday, police said.

'Drop-off

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Boxes and an advocate for baby boxes in Indiana for a number of years, said the scheme is beneficial as some people want total anonymity and yet know the baby is safe.

"This is not criminal," Kelsey said. "This is legal. We don't want to push women away."

But critics of the baby boxes say it makes it easier to surrender child without considering other options, which can deprive parents of medical care if they need it.

A second box opened on Thursday in Michigan City.

State Representative, Casey Cox, has supported the concept of baby boxes in Indiana and has been working with lawmakers and Governor Mike Pence's administration on safety protocols.

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have safe haven laws, which allow unharmed new-borns to be surrendered without fear of prosecution.

Indiana's law allows parents to drop off new-borns younger than 30 days old at police stations, fire stations and hospitals.

Trump, the last man standing

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In a series of Wednesday morning television interviews, Trump made clear he would not be looking to placate everyone after a tumultuous primary campaign in which many establishment Republicans rejected him and spawned Stop Trump and Never Trump movements.

"I am confident that I can unite much of it, some of it I don't want," Trump said on NBC's "Today" show. "Honestly, there are some people I really don't want. People will be voting for me. They're not voting for the party."

Trump believes more Republicans will support him when they consider the possibility of Hillary Clinton, favorite to be the Democratic nominee, being elected president, Trump spokeswoman Katrina Pierson said.

"They're going to come around," she said on MSNBC.

The New York Times quoted Trump as saying he would soon form a team to help him in the search for a vice presidential nominee to be announced in July. He put retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson on the committee. Carson endorsed Trump after pulling out of Republican race earlier this year.

Trump, a former reality television star who has never held public office and who has honed an 'outsider' image, suggested he might make a more conventional choice as his running mate.

"I'm more inclined to go with a political person," Trump told the Times. "I have business very much covered."

Trump's win in Indiana cleared the way him to prepare for a likely match-up in the November general election against former Secretary of State Clinton. She lost the Indiana primary to her tenacious challenger, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders, but remains on course to become her party's nominee.

'UNITE AND FOCUS'
Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus called Trump the party's presumptive nominee in a tweet on Tuesday night and said, "We all need to unite and focus" on defeating Clinton.

In an interview Wednesday, Priebus acknowledged achieving Republican unity would be difficult. "It's going to take some time but we're going to get there," he said on CNN.

Republican Senator Deb Fischer of Nebraska made clear she would support the nominee but is not comfortable with Trump, in an interview with Nebraska Radio Network.

"Mr. Trump is going to have to work hard to bring the party together," she said. "He's going to have to work hard to explain his stance on different issues and to talk about the principles and values he holds. I look forward to having a robust race here."

SC verdict

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The International Crimes Tribunal-1 on October 29, 2014 had handed down death penalty to Nizami, ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, on four charges of war crimes, including murder of intellectuals. The 71-year-old was also awarded life imprisonment on four other charges.

The SC on January 6 this year upheld his death sentence on three charges and life imprisonment on two other charges. The ICT issued the death warrant against him on March 15, hours after the SC had released its full verdict.

On March 29, Nizami filed the petition with the SC seeking review of its January 6 judgment.

The commission also singled out Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Laos, Malaysia, Russia and Turkey for various incidents of violations of religious freedom in these nations.

The report refers to the mass displacements triggered by ISIS persecution of Christians and minorities in the Middle East, acts of bigotry against Jews and Muslims in Europe, imprisonment of Christian lawyers and pastors in China who protested against crackdown on churches and crosses, among several other "serious and sustained assault(s)" on freedom of religion all over the world.

US urged to grant humanitarian

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The global situation is also not good. The refugee crisis, political strife and economic dislocation all contributed to a worldwide deterioration of religious freedom last year and an increase in "societal intolerance", according to the report.

The commission identified 17 countries as "Tier One" concerns meaning they have witnessed severe violations of religious freedom, which are "systematic, ongoing, and egregious."

They are Myanmar, Tajikistan, Nigeria, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Central African Republic, Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, and Vietnam.

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নজরুল ইন্সটিটিউট
সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়
বাড়ি ৩৩০-বি, রোড ২৮ (পুরাতন)
জাৰ্ণেসিক বিচারপতি আবদুর রহমান চৌধুরী সড়ক
ধানমণ্ডি আবাসিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৯ ফোন : ০২-৯১১৪৬০২

আউটসোর্সিং-এর মাধ্যমে জনবল নিয়োগের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

০১.	মন্ত্রণালয়	:	সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়
০২.	সংস্থার নাম	:	নজরুল ইন্সটিটিউট, ঢাকা।
০৩.	সংস্থাকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান	:	নজরুল ইন্সটিটিউট, ঢাকা।
০৪.	জেলা	:	ঢাকা।
০৫.	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	:	নই/প্র/নিয়োগ-২(২)/২০১২/১০৮১ তারিখ : ২৮ এপ্রিল ২০১৬
০৬.	কাজের নাম	:	আউটসোর্সিং-এর মাধ্যমে জনবল নিয়োগ। নজরুল স্মৃতি কেন্দ্র, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ ও নজরুল ইন্সটিটিউট কেন্দ্র, কুমিল্লা কার্যালয়ের জন্য চতুষ্টয় শ্রেণির (৫৬-২০) ১১(এগার) জন জনবল সরবরাহ।
০৭.	বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস	:	রাজস্ব।
০৮.	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	:	২৮ এপ্রিল ২০১৬
০৯.	দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ দিন ও সময়	:	তারিখ : ৩০ মে, ২০১৬; সময় : বিকাল ৪টা পর্যন্ত।
১০.	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	:	তারিখ : ৩১ মে ২০১৬; সময় : বেলা ২-৩০ মি. পর্যন্ত
১১.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	:	তারিখ : ৩১ মে ২০১৬; সময় : বিকাল ৩.০০ মি.
১২.	দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়, গ্রহণ ও খোলার দস্তাবেজ নাম ও টিকানা	:	নজরুল ইন্সটিটিউট, কবিভবন, বাড়ি-৩৩০-বি, রোড-২৮ (পুরাতন), জাৰ্ণেসিক বিচারপতি আব্দুর রহমান চৌধুরী সড়ক, ধানমণ্ডি আ/এ, ঢাকা।
১৩.	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	:	(ক) জনবল সরবরাহ কাজের জন্য নিবন্ধিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স থাকতে হবে এবং (খ) সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি বা স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের কোনো একটি প্রতিষ্ঠানে বিরতিহীনভাবে জনবল সরবরাহের কাজে কমপক্ষে ৩(তিন) বছরের কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।
১৪.	দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য (অফারভ্যোয়া)	:	৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকা
১৫.	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি	:	৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা
১৬.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম	:	ইক্রাম আহমেদ
১৭.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী	:	নির্বাহী পরিচালক
১৮.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা	:	নজরুল ইন্সটিটিউট, বাড়ি ৩৩০-বি, রোড ২৮ (পুরাতন), ধানমণ্ডি আবাসিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৯
১৯.	দরপত্র দাখিল করার সময় ট্রেড লাইসেন্সের ফটোকপি জমা দিতে হবে।	:	
২০.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নজরুল ইন্সটিটিউট ওয়েব সাইটে (www.nazrulinsitute.portal.gov.bd) পাওয়া যাবে।	:	
২১.	দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য নগদ পরিশোধের মাধ্যমে তা সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।	:	
২২.	যে কোনো দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা নজরুল ইন্সটিটিউট কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক সংরক্ষিত।	:	
২৩.	বিশেষ নির্দেশিকা : পিপিআর ২০০৮ (সংশোধনীসহ) অনুযায়ী দরপত্রের সকল কার্যক্রম পরিচালিত হবে। শর্তাবলী দরপত্র দাখিলে বর্ণিত আছে।	:	

ইক্রাম আহমেদ
নির্বাহী পরিচালক (অতিরিক্ত সচিব)
নজরুল ইন্সটিটিউট, ঢাকা