

# Police detain 10 'militants'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police claimed to have detained 10 suspected militants on the sixth day of the nationwide crackdown on militancy. Of them, nine are allegedly members of banned outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and the other one a member of Hizb-ut Tahrir, police headquarters said in a press statement yesterday. In the first four days of the special crackdown, over 11,600 people were detained nationwide. Very few of them were militant suspects. The drive drew huge flak with increasing number of allegations that police were harassing innocent people and opposition party men, and extorting money from them.

# British MP

FROM PAGE 1  
over shot her once more in the face area. "Somebody tried to grab him, wrestling with him and then he wielded a knife, like a hunting knife, just started lunging at her with a knife half a dozen times. People were screaming and running from the area". Eyewitness Hithem Ben Abdallah, said the 41-year-old mother of two was left lying and bleeding on the pavement after the incident. Abdallah, 56, was in a cafe next door to the library shortly after 13:00 BST when he heard screaming and went outside. "There was a guy who was being very brave and another guy with a white baseball cap who he was trying to control and the man in the baseball cap suddenly pulled a gun from his bag". After a brief scuffle, he said the man stepped back and the MP became involved. Abdallah said the weapon had "looked handmade" and a man who had been wrestling with the gunman continued even after seeing the gun. He said: "The man stepped back with the gun and fired it and then he fired a second shot, as he was firing he was looking down at the ground." "He was kicking her as she was lying on the floor", he said. Her husband, Brendan, has since tweeted a picture of his wife standing by the side of the River Thames in London. David Cameron also tweeted to express his concern. "Our thoughts and prayers are with Jo and her family," he wrote.

Leeds North East MP Fabian Hamilton said he had known Jo Cox since before she became an MP. Hamilton said: "And I'm just completely devastated, I know Birstall reasonably well, and I think we're all totally shocked." It has been announced the Vote Leave and Remain have suspended campaigning in the EU referendum in light of the attack. Cox, who was born in Batley, was elected in 2015. She was educated at Heckmondwike Grammar School and graduated from Cambridge University in 1995. A former head of policy for Oxfam, she also worked as an adviser to Sarah Brown and Baroness Kinnock. Mark Goldring, Oxfam's chief executive, said: "Oxfam is deeply shocked to hear the news. Our thoughts and sympathies are with Jo and her family at this difficult time." Most MPs hold surgeries in their constituency to give people an opportunity to meet them and discuss matters of concern.

# Reform EC

FROM PAGE 5  
making appropriate laws is as important as it is to recruit honest, skilled, courageous people into the Election Commission," he said, adding that forming a law to appoint the commissioners was the demand of time. SHUJAN observed that several attacks were carried out on the religious minorities during the polls, and many social workers and politicians blamed EC as it failed to prevent those. The civil society body also criticised the AL high command as it did not take any action against party lawmakers, leaders and activists who violated the election code of conduct. The report recommended strengthening local government and enhancing the practice of healthy politics. M Hafiz Uddin Khan, a former caretaker government adviser and president of SHUJAN, and Muhammad Jahangir, a media analyst, said the country's democracy was on the right track.

# Police charge

FROM PAGE 20  
the fourth floor of a seven-storey building. Later, the two were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared them dead. The following day, victims' father Mohammad Amanullah filed the murder case against his wife with Rampura Police Station. Autopsies revealed strangulation as the cause of their death.



President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Raushan Ershad along with other government high-ups and dignitaries offering munajat at an iftar party of the president at the Bangabhaban yesterday. PHOTO: PID

# 'Attacker says

FROM PAGE 1  
Ripon Chakraborty, a lecturer of mathematics at Government Nazimuddin University College. As per the decision, Faizullah and two others went to Madaripur to carry out the mission. They always avoided cellphone conversation and maintained communications through SMS. Although the two other attackers managed to flee after Ripon was hacked in his home, Faizullah was chased down and caught by locals. The attack came amid a country-wide police crackdown on militancy. Over the last three years, suspected militants have attacked and killed university professors, writers, publishers, secular bloggers, gay rights activists, foreigners, policemen and members of religious minorities, including Shia and Sufi Muslims, Christians and Hindus. About 50 people have become victims of such targeted killings since February 2013. Responsibility for most of the murders was reportedly claimed by either Islamic State or Ansar al Islam (Bangladesh Chapter of al-Qaeda in Indian Sub-continent). This is for the first time the name of Hizb-ut Tahrir came up in connection with such an attack. The government banned all activities of this outfit in October 2009 in the interests of public security, saying the organisation had been carrying out anti-state, anti-government, anti-people and anti-democratic activities for long. According to police sources, Faizullah looked "hypnotised" during interrogation. In the face of extensive quizzing, he often said "whatever he had done was for Islam and Allah", added the sources. On Saturday, Faizullah went out of his house around 9:30am, saying he was going to a friend's in Tongi to take preparation for his HSC practical examinations. He did not return since then. Within an hour of his leaving, the father received an SMS purportedly from his son. It read that Faizullah was going aboard and will meet his family again if he remains alive, according to the investigation office of the general diary the father filed on Saturday night. Police teams from Madaripur and Detective Branch in Dhaka yesterday raided Faizullah's house at TIC Colony of Faidabad in Dakkhin Khan in the capital and different places in the city's Uttara but could not arrest those named by him. DB police picked up his mother Kamrunnahar and seized a computer and some documents from the residence, said Asaduzzaman, brother-in-law of the house owner Nazimuddin. Faizullah's father Golam Faruq, who works at a garment factory, was not found in his Faidabad home -- a first-floor apartment in a five-storey building. His cellphone was switched off. Asaduzzaman said the rent of Faruq's house is Tk 13,500 a month. He met Faizullah once or twice and the youth had no friends in the neighbourhood. A woman from the next flat, wishing anonymity, said Faruq's family rented the flat one and a half years ago but she has not seen Faizullah yet. Afrin Aktar, one of his teachers at Uttara High School and College, said Faizullah was regular in class and obtained GPA-5 in SSC. He was an HSC examinee from this institution and remained absent in last day of theory tests on Saturday, said the teacher. Faizullah's village home is at Dariapur in Chapainawabganj municipal area. There, his uncle Emdadul Haque told our correspondent that the youth was born in Dhaka

and he used to visit the village with parents once or twice a year. Police picked up Emdadul on Wednesday night but freed him after quizzing. He said another uncle of Faizullah is a top official who had served as a police commissioner at a metropolitan city. Faizullah, who was with police during the raids in Dhaka, was taken back to Madaripur last night as he would be produced before a court today. No case was filed in connection with the attack on the teacher till 8:00pm yesterday, said Additional SP of Madaripur Uttam Kumar Paul. As the victim's family members are busy with his treatment, they are taking time to file the case. Kamrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Madaripur DB police, said they seized a machete used in the attack near the place of occurrence early yesterday. Ripon Chakraborty, who is undergoing treatment at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, had suffered injuries in the head and shoulders. His condition is improving, doctors say. "After examining the CT scan report, we have found that the teacher is out of danger," said Associate Professor Dr Nazimul Haque of Surgery-2 unit. Two of the four injuries in the head were serious, added the doctor. In his statement before a detective team from Madaripur yesterday around 1:00pm, Ripon said, "I don't know who they were. I think they followed me from my college. When I crossed my gate, they followed me and suddenly started chopping". Different organisations demonstrated in front of his college and the residence of deputy commissioner of Madaripur around 11:00am yesterday, protesting the attack and demanding arrest and punishment to the attackers. [Shaheen Mollah and Rabiul Hasan Dollar also contributed to this report]

# RK Mission

FROM PAGE 1  
in Gazipur, sometimes in Kishoreganj and sometimes in Dhanmondi [of Dhaka]. "Informing police will not help... I am not scared of police and Rab." Swami Dhruvshananda, principal of the mission, said the letter could have been sent by any of the groups responsible for the recent killings in Bangladesh. He said they filed a general dairy with Wari Police Station over the matter, and added that they were feeling insecure but would continue with their daily activities. Security has been beefed up in and around the mission, said sources. Zeahad Hossain, officer-in-charge of Wari Police Station, said they learnt about the incident on Wednesday night. The hand-written letter has the name and address of the sender, one AB Siddique from Gazipur. But there are possibilities that those are fake, he added. Contacted, Monirul Islam, additional commissioner of the DMP, yesterday said they had already launched an investigation. The incident happened amid the ongoing nationwide crackdown on militants launched following some recent targeted killings of people, including those from the religious minority communities. Started in 1899 by the devotees, and affiliated to Belur Math, West Bengal, India, in 1916, Ramakrishna Mission Dhaka has been engaged in humanitarian, spiritual, educational, socio-cultural, relief and rehabilitation work and medical services since its inception, reads its website.

# Minority leaders

FROM PAGE 5  
Forum, and Ruhin Hossain Prince, presidium member of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, and youth organisations Garo Student Union and Juba Moitry expressed solidarity with them. Kerington Chakma, organising secretary of Dhaka city unit of PCJSS, presided over the rally. Earlier on Monday, Bandarban District AL leaders alleged that a PCJSS armed group abducted Mongpu. Denying the allegation, PCJSS leaders and activists, however, alleged that local AL leaders and activists stuffed ballot boxes after occupying Horina Government Primary School polling centre with the help of law enforcers in Bhushonchara Union Parishad of Barkal upazila in Rangamati during the elections. They, led by Uching Marma and Sunitimoy Chakma, also blocked roads and waterways in Rangamati, protesting occupation of polling centres by AL men and demanding re-election to the UP.

# 576 in jail

FROM PAGE 20  
the experience saddened him. He said the purpose of his visit was to verify some allegations received by the NHRC about mismanagements in jail. Another reason for the visit, he said, was to see if there were any changes inside the jail amid the countrywide police crackdown. "It is required to pay attention so that authoritarian attitude to inmates does not develop inside jail," the NHRC chairman said. He said he found a pregnant inmate who was not given breakfast even at 10:30am. Jahangir, however, claimed that the woman was actually fasting and that she had her Sehri on time. Mizanur said some inmates were accommodated in cells adjacent to toilets. The state of the jail hospital was poor as well. The hospital rooms were crammed with patients and the bed sheets were filthy, he added. "These were visible things. It won't be logical to talk about the unseen issues." He said he could have found more irregularities had he stayed there longer. The NHRC boss, however, said the Dhaka Central Jail is packed with inmates three times more than its capacity, which could be a reason for the mismanagement. Since the jail would be moved to Keraniganj soon, the authorities are apparently reluctant to improve the conditions there, he said. Mizanur, however, said he did not find any "influence" of the country-wide crackdown inside the central jail. As many as 7,328 inmates were in the jail as of yesterday, which is capable of accommodating around 2,600 inmates, he said, citing information from the jail authorities. Mizanur also criticised Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque who according to media reports said the NHRC chairman commented on the police crackdown on militants without being aware of the issue. In a meeting in Chittagong on June 12, the IGP criticised Mizanur for issuing statements in the media expressing his fear of "arrest trade" by police during the crackdown. Mizanur termed the IGP's comments "unacceptable" and "indecent". Admitting that they have some lacking in management, Senior Jail Superintendent Jahangir said this was due to the overcrowding of the jail.

# New era begins

FROM PAGE 1  
India's northeastern region, the transhipment facility would ease people's lives, Shringla said. The existing route within India is three times the Kolkata-Ashuganj-Akhaura-Tripura route. The Indian high commissioner thanked Dhaka for allowing New Delhi to use Bangladesh's territory to carry goods from India's one part to another. "This is an extraordinary gesture of friendship of Bangladeshi people to the people of India." At the ceremony, representatives of both the countries watched the unloading of goods from the first consignment at Ashuganj port. Now the goods will be loaded onto Bangladesh trucks to carry them across the Indo-Bangla border through Akhaura checkpoint. The vehicles will travel another 32 kilometres to deliver the consignment to warehouses in the Indian state of Tripura. Initially, Bangladesh will get Tk 192 per tonne as transhipment charge. "But once we put in place scanning machines and automation at the port, the charge will go up to Tk 700-800 per tonne," Shajahan said. Mashur Rahman, who has played the key role in negotiations on transhipment arrangement, said people have to understand the geographic reality as Bangladesh is surrounded by India. People living in the bordering areas of neighbouring countries depend on each other for their day-to-day activities. "So there should be exchange of goods and movement of people." Responding to criticism that Bangladesh would hardly get anything in return for giving transhipment facility to India, Mashur said India would give Bangladesh an annual fee for using the river route, which would be spent on ensuring navigability of the rivers New Delhi would use. "Nobody will invest in rivers and roads if goods can't be transported." And so the agreement will bring about a permanent solution. Already many government and development partners offered help to improve the transport networks. The government will consider them, Mashur said. A big terminal or jetty would be built at the river port with Indian funds to tackle large volumes of goods under transhipment arrangement, said Ashoke Madhab Roy, acting secretary of the shipping ministry. A move will be made soon to acquire land for an inland container depot near Ashuganj port. Earlier, efforts for land acquisition went in vain because of opposition from railway, fertilizer and food departments. "We will acquire more land for widening the road [from Ashuganj port to Akhaura]," Ashoke said. Work to maintain eight-metre depth of the 900km Chittagong-Ashuganj river route has already begun to allow uninterrupted plying of ships, he added. Mahub Uddin Ahmed, president of Bangladesh Cargo Vessels Owners Association, said the existing road and river networks should be improved to ensure smooth operations of trucks and ships. Steps should also be taken to prevent extortion at the port, said Mizanur Rahman, superintendent of police in Brahmanbaria. He also expressed concern over the traffic management

through the narrow road between Ashuganj port and the highway. Local businesses and people will benefit from the development of the infrastructure, said M Mosharraf Hossain, deputy commissioner of Brahmanbaria. Mohammad Mozammel Haque, chairman of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) that leads the implementation of the river protocol on this side, said mostly Bangladeshi ships would be used in the transshipment of Indian goods. MV Newtek-6 owned by Zed Shipping Lines reached Ashuganj from Kolkata in 12 days. Although the unloading of goods of the first consignment began yesterday, it is unlikely that trucks laden with the corrugated iron sheets will set out for Tripura via Akhaura before Monday because of weekly holidays in Bangladesh -- Friday and Saturday -- and in India, which include Sunday. It might take four to five days to deliver the whole consignment to Tripura, said Mahmud-ur Rahman Siddiqui, general manager of Anbis Development Ltd, a Bangladeshi operator that hired MV Newtek-6 to carry goods from Kolkata to Ashuganj. Rakib Transport, a local transport company, has been given the charge of mobilising trucks. At present, trucks from Kolkata travel around 1,600km to reach Agartala. The distance through Bangladesh would be only 500km, according to experts and businesspeople. The cost of transporting goods to Agartala from Kolkata is \$67 per tonne and it takes 30 days, said SK Mahfuz Hamid, a member of the Bangladeshi team negotiating an agreement on transshipment with the Indian side. The same consignment would take around 10 days to reach Tripura from Kolkata via Ashuganj at a cost of \$40 per tonne, according to operators.

# Transfer must

FROM PAGE 2  
Law enforcers rounded up 10,313 people and seized goods worth around Tk 1,487 crore during the anti-smuggling drives across the country from July to December last year, he added. Home and law secretaries and representatives from the BGB, police, Rab, Bangladesh Coast Guard, Department of Narcotics Control and NBR were present at the meeting.

# ACI Foundation

FROM PAGE 4  
students and officials martyred in the Liberation War will be renovated and placed on a sloped green base. There will be an open space with elevated platform and an elevated and peripheral walkway with seating arrangements. Vibrant lights will also be set up at the base of Aparajeyo Bangla. The entire area will be decorated with lights and grasses will be planted to make the premises greener. Anis Ud Dowla, chairman of ACI Group and a former student of DU's physics department, Prof Akhtaruzzaman, dean of Faculty of Arts, Dr Arif Dowla, managing director of ACI Limited, and Shusmita Anis, managing director of ACI Formulation Limited, were also present at the function.

# US wants armed

FROM PAGE 20  
in the upcoming partnership dialogue in Washington. "Security is the number one task of any government," the US ambassador said prior to departing for Washington yesterday for a three-week trip to attend the dialogue and some other events. She said the issue of human rights would come up broadly in the discussion, noting in particular reports of extrajudicial killings and harassment while arresting people during anti-militancy drives. Bernicat said there would be three broad areas that would be discussed in the dialogue. These are security cooperation, development and governance cooperation; and trade and investment. During the dialogue, diplomatic sources said the US would ask about the progress over investigation into the killing of locally hired USAID staff Xulhaz Mannan, also an advocate for LGBT rights activist. Xulhaz and his friend Mahub Tonoy were stabbed to death at his Kalabagan home on April 25. "We want to see a transparent investigation into it and want to see that killers are tried," Bernicat told The Daily Star. On ISIL, the US envoy said terrorism is a global threat, therefore its presence is global and there is no need to talk about where an organisation is or is not. "ISIL has global reach and can be everywhere thanks to the internet," she said, adding that the two governments have agreed that it is a global threat and they have to work on it globally and jointly. The US ambassador appreciated

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's condolence message sent to US President Obama. She termed the message "strong and compassionate". Hasina sent the condolence message to President Obama after the deadly gun attack in a nightclub in Orlando that claimed 49 lives. The US would also want to see Bangladesh addresses a number of vital issues regarding human rights, governance, transnational crime and cyber security. Diplomatic sources said money laundering and terror financing, migration, capacity building of law enforcement agencies, trade and investment, the environment, and education issues would also be discussed in the dialogue. Both the countries would also discuss how the internet could be monitored better to protect systems because the attackers know how to find weaknesses, they said. The countries would also discuss projects focusing democracy and rule of law and ways to keep the society free from conflicts. Meanwhile, an inter-ministerial meeting was held at the foreign ministry yesterday to finalise the dialogue agenda. Representatives from the ministries of home, foreign, commerce, energy, food and disaster management, the economic relations division and the armed forces attended the meeting with Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque in the chair. Meeting sources said the upcoming dialogue would be focusing on the expansion of security, trade and development ties between the two countries.