

Police sue 2 suspected militants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday sued two suspected militants, who are in law enforcers' custody, and "some other" unnamed people for the Eid-day attack near Sholakia Eidgah in Kishoreganj that left four people, including two policemen, dead.

Mohammad Shamsuddin, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Pakundia Police Station, filed the case with Kishoreganj Sadar Police Station under Anti-Terrorism Act-2009, said Sub-inspector (SI) Shafiqul Islam of the sadar police station.

A 15-member police team, led by the OC, came under attack when they were frisking people at a check post near Azim Uddin High School, some half kilometre away from the Sholakia Eidgah.

The two suspected militants who were sued are Shariful Islam alias Shafiqul Islam alias Saiful Islam, 22, of Raniganj Bazar in Ghoraghat Upazila of Dinajpur and Jahidul Haque Tanim, 24, of Pashim Tarapasha village in Kishoreganj Sadar Upazila.

Shariful and Tanim were caught on the spot following over an hour-long gun battle between law enforcers and attackers, said the SI.

Bullet-hit Shariful is in Rapid Action Battalion custody and undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital while Tanim is in police custody.

Morshed Zaman, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Kishoreganj Sadar Police Station, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We will produce them before the court soon," he said.

The attack was carried out in a planned way to undermine the security and sovereignty of the country, create panic among the people and tarnish the country's image globally, the case documents reads.

Around 8:45am that day, assailants attacked policemen with sharp weapons, guns and bombs, leaving two police constables dead.

Jharna Rani Bhowmik, a local, died after a stray bullet from the gunfight between the law enforcers and the attackers came through her window and hit her. A suspected attacker was also killed.

The attack was carried out barely six days after the gruesome attack on a restaurant in Dhaka's diplomatic zone where gunmen killed 20 hostages and two police officers in a 12-hour siege.

SITE Intelligence group that monitors terror activities said Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the Gulshan attack. However, no one has claimed credit for the other attack yet.

However, Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque on Saturday said home-grown militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) was involved in both the incidents.

8 JMB men

FROM PAGE 16
sources. All of them are from Pirgachha upazila of the district.

Police were trying to arrest the other charge-suspected JMB men, added the sources.

Masud Rana and Ichhat Ali confessed their involvement in the murder before a Rangpur magistrate in December last year, police claimed.

Police have arrested nine people in the case.

On July 3, police pressed charges against seven JMB members for the gun attack on Italian national Piero Parolari in Dinajpur on November 18 last year.

14 people, two families, shot dead in Mexico

AFP, Ciudad Victoria

Gunmen killed 11 relatives, including five girls, in a northern Mexican city plagued by drug cartels on Saturday while three people from another family were murdered in a second attack.

The two shootings are believed to be related to a dispute between rival gangs in Ciudad Victoria, said Herminio Garza Palacios, secretary general of Tamaulipas state, without identifying the groups.

Gunmen burst into a home in the Lopez Mateos district at 7:00 am (1200 GMT), killing two men, four women and five girls, he said in a video message.

Some 45 minutes later, armed men stormed the other family's home in the Revolucion district, killing a man and two women and wounding four others.

State and federal authorities are investigating the crimes and seeking

Bangladesh once again

FROM PAGE 1 rights.

Bangladesh was first suspended from the GSP scheme in April 2013, shortly after the Rana Plaza collapse, on grounds of shortcomings in workplace safety and poor labour rights in the garment sector.

The Obama administration then provided Bangladesh a 16-point action plan to win back the trade benefits.

The country has already handed in its progress report on the action plan, which fell short of the USTR's expectations. More needs to be done to regain the trade benefits, it said.

When contacted, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed declined to comment on the issue.

Before the suspension of GSP, Bangladesh used to export nearly \$36 million worth of products a year under the scheme.

GSP is a 40-year-old trade preference programme under which the US provides duty-free treatment to approximately 5,000 products from 122 beneficiary countries and territo-

ries.

Trade preference programmes such as the GSP and African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) can make a powerful contribution to lifting people out of poverty and supporting growth in some of the poorest countries in the world, said US Trade Representative Michael Froman.

At the same time, they reduce the costs to American consumers and businesses.

"We have used these programmes to give beneficiary countries a vital leg up vis-à-vis more advanced competitors," Froman said in a statement of the USTR.

In 2015, the total value of imports that entered the US duty-free under the GSP was \$17.4 billion.

Bangladesh's annual shipments to the US, its single largest export destinations, amount to nearly \$6 billion, with apparel items accounting for 95 percent of the receipts.

In the first five months of this year, Bangladesh's exports to US stood at \$2.54 billion and imports \$345.5 million.

Confusion follows

FROM PAGE 1

College Hospital on Friday. He breathed his last at 5:15pm, according to doctors.

According to his family and colleagues, he used to do the dishes at the bakery. They claim he had no links with the gunmen or any terror group or activities.

His younger brother, who worked at the house of a Holey Artisan Bakery owner, managed the job for Shaon, said their father Abdus Sattar.

Hospital and morgue sources said Shaon suffered splinter wounds and there were "marks of beating" on his body.

Contacted, Dhaka Medical College's Assistant Professor Sohail Mahmud, who conducted Shaon's autopsy, only said the body bore splinter marks. "But we need more examinations to ascertain the cause of his death."

Shaon was not named in the case. He was detained by law enforcers from near the bakery during the siege, well before the commandos entered the eatery, according to photos and footages seen in the media.

About Saiful, the case statement said he was a staff at the eatery. But he was with the terrorists and assisted them during the attack, it added.

On condition of anonymity, a staff said it didn't occur to him that Saiful collaborated with the militants.

"As the pizza maker, Saiful worked at the entrance of the bakery and he was probably the first to be attacked and beaten by the gunmen. Seeing this, most of us ran into the bathroom."

They saw a gunman pointing his gun at Saiful when he and eight others were forced out of the bathroom by other militants, he added.

On July 6, news agency Reuters reported that Bangladeshi police said one of the men they shot dead during the siege may have been a hostage killed by mistake.

"We killed six people in the restaurant... The sixth man was a restaurant employee," Reuters quoted a "top police

official investigating the attack" as saying.

"He may not be involved," he said, adding that the investigation was going on, according to the report.

Monirul Islam, additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police and chief of Counterterrorism and Transnational Crime unit, told this newspaper that both Shaon and Saiful were on the suspect list.

Shaon was taken to the DMCH by police two days after the attack, said sources at the hospital's police outpost.

His poor parents and extended family members, who attended him at the hospital, said Shaon seemed to have lost his mind and kept saying, "Please don't hit me anymore."

After his death at the DMCH intensive care unit, family members said "marks of beating" were all over his body.

They also alleged that he was "tortured to death".

His mother Masuda Begum told The Daily Star that Shaon called her around 7:30pm on July 1 and promised he would reach home in Narayanganj with his salary and Eid bonus.

According to the case statement, the gunmen took the Gulshan bakery around 8:45pm.

The family received Shaon's body on Saturday afternoon following autopsy.

On the other hand, Saiful's family members at Naria upazila in Shariatpur said they thought Saiful must have been killed by mistake.

They added that he worked for Holey Artisan for about 18 months and he had learnt baking while working at a restaurant in Germany for about 10 years.

The family has yet to receive Saiful's body.

Assistant Commissioner Rafiqul Islam of DMP (Gulshan zone) said Saiful's family verbally contacted them for the body. "They were asked to submit a written application."

Police have questioned people in Naria to know if Saiful had any militant

Not blinded by anger

FROM PAGE 1

work for the good of the world," said Toshiko Kitahara, a 47-year-old friend of Tanaka who is also engaged in overseas aid activities. "I wanted to hear more job stories from him."

The Jica president was among some 200 participants in Ogasawara's funeral.

A 41-year-old construction consultant who has worked with Ogasawara overseas described him as a giving person.

Toshiaki Okada, 54, who shared time with Ogasawara in a college boat club, said he was a gentle and kind senior member. "He was dedicated to working for Bangladesh. It's so regrettable," Okada said.

On Thursday night, a wake for another victim, Yuko Sakai, 42, was held in her hometown of Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture.

The next day, a Japanese investigation source said that five of the seven Japanese victims had gunshot wounds to their heads, which were likely fatal.

On their bodies, gunshot wounds and cuts were also found in places

other than the head, the source said.

The Japanese victims are believed to have been slain by militants before Bangladeshi troops entered the Holey Artisan Bakery restaurant to end an 11-hour siege.

Meanwhile, Japan did not show the least bitterness or anger over the gruesome attack on July 1, said Bangladesh's Ambassador to Japan Rabab Fatima yesterday, according to Emdadul Hoq, a Bangladesh national who runs an online portal there.

Citing the friendship between the two nations, she said: "I was struck mostly by the compassion and humanity that I saw in the grieving families. I did not see any bitterness. I did not see any anger."

The ambassador was addressing a condolence meeting organised by Bangladeshi citizens in Japan at Tokyo's Kaminakajato Takinogawa Kaikan Bunka centre over the attack.

Former Japan ambassador Horiguchi Matsushiro and leaders and activists from different political parties and organisations addressed the

Prominent Cambodian critic gunned down in daylight hit

AFP, Phnom Penh

A prominent Cambodian political analyst known for his trenchant criticism of the government was shot dead yesterday morning at a convenience store, police said.

The daylight slaying of Kem Ley comes at a time of heightened tensions between strongman premier Hun Sen and the country's political opposition, who accuse the prime minister of launching a fresh crackdown against them.

Police said Kem Ley, a popular commentator and grassroots campaigner, was gunned down as he drank coffee at a convenience store attached to a gas station in the capital Phnom Penh.

"He was shot dead at a mart just before 9am," Kirt Chantharith, national police spokesman, told AFP.

A suspect was arrested nearby and confessed to killing the analyst over an unpaid debt, Kirt Chantharith said.

"But we don't believe him yet. We are working on this case," he added.

Portugal stun

FROM PAGE 1

was captain. But it was Ronaldo's Portugal who prevailed.

The victory ended Portugal's run of 10 straight defeats against France, who had eliminated them in the semi-finals at Euro 1984, Euro 2000 and the 2006 World Cup.

They took the spoils in France despite having won only one match inside 90 minutes -- the 2-0 semi-final victory against Wales -- in the whole tournament. Coach Fernando Santos had dubbed the team "the ugly duckling".

Victory was above all sweet for Ronaldo, despite his early exit.

He had shed tears on the pitch as a 19-year-old after Greece's win in Euro 2004 in Lisbon, cried as he was carried off on Sunday and shed more tears as he raced on in celebration at full-time.

In winning a major tournament he surpasses Portugal greats Eusebio and Luis Figo. He has also stolen a march on his great rival Lionel Messi, who announced his Argentina retirement two weeks ago, in the battle for the next FIFA Ballon d'Or.

Taken off in the 25th minute, he returned at the start of extra time to deliver on-pitch pep talks that appeared to inspire his team to victory.

Eder, a 78th-minute replacement for Renato Sanches, saw a header pushed out by France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris, while Raphael Guerreiro hit the bar from a free-kick.

With 11 minutes of the extra period to play, the goal that Portugal's fans have waited their lives to see arrived as Eder held off Laurent Koscielny and drove a crisp shot into the bottom-left corner from 25 yards.

A sultry night in Saint-Denis began with a swarm of moths flitting around the French national stadium and littering the playing surface.

There was an early exchange of chances -- Nani shooting over for Portugal, tournament top scorer Antoine Griezmann's header drawing a fine finger-tip save from Rui Patricio -- before Ronaldo took centre-stage.

A juddering knee-on-knee challenge by Payet in the eighth minute left him writhing on the turf and after attempting to play on, he dropped to the ground in the 16th minute, tears filling his eyes.

After having his knee heavily strapped, Ronaldo re-entered the fray four minutes later, only to go down again in the 23rd minute, flinging his armband to the floor.

A stretcher was brought on and as the Portugal captain was carried off, to be replaced by Ricardo Quaresma, the whole stadium rose to applaud.

3 Indonesians kidnapped off Malaysia: police

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Three Indonesians have been kidnapped by armed men off an area in Malaysia, police said Sunday, where militants from the Abu Sayyaf group have been blamed for repeated kidnappings.

Malaysian marine police chief Abdul Rahim Abdullah confirmed the kidnapping to AFP, adding: "It happened close to midnight yesterday. The three were crew in a fishing trawler."

Authorities did not say if they believed the Abu Sayyaf was involved.

The incident happened off Lahad Datu in Malaysia's eastern Sabah state on Borneo island, which is just a short boat ride away from the southern Philippines.

Islamist guerillas from the south of that country staged a bloody assault in the area in 2013.

Earlier this year the Abu Sayyaf beheaded two Canadian tourists who had been kidnapped and a Malaysian man was beheaded last year.

Seven Indonesian sailors were kidnapped at gunpoint in June.

Also this year the group kidnapped 14 Indonesian sailors, holding them in their stronghold in the southern Philippines. They were later freed but there was no information on whether a ransom was paid.

The Abu Sayyaf is a loose network of a few hundred Islamist militants, formed in the 1990s with seed money from Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network, that has earned millions of dollars from kidnappings-for-ransom.

Although its leaders have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, analysts say they are mainly focused on lucrative kidnappings.

Sydney Schanberg

FROM PAGE 16

On the night of "Operation Searchlight", baffled by ominous sounds of tank guns and machineguns and puzzled by the confusing answers of the army officials at the then Hotel Intercontinental, Schanberg wrote in his report, "Every time newsmen in the hotel asked officers for information, they were rebuffed. All attempts to reach diplomatic missions failed. In one confrontation, a captain grew enraged at a group of newsmen who had walked out the front door to talk to him. He ordered them back into the building and, to their retreating backs, he shouted, 'I can handle you. If I can kill my own people, I can kill you.'"

He was confined with all other foreign newsmen and completely cut off from any information about the genocide and received orders to leave Dhaka by 6:15pm of March 26.

However, this was not the end of his journey to uncover atrocities of the war. Schanberg, along with Sir William Mark Tully, Manosh Ghose, Simon Dring and Ingyar Oja, was striving to play a crucial role from Kolkata and New York in uncovering the brutalities on Bangladesh in East Pakistan.

In June that year, he filed a number of eyewitnesses' accounts from the towns of East Pakistan.

Schanberg described the systematic subjugation and killing of Bangladesh. "Army trucks roll through the half-

deserted streets of the capital of East Pakistan these days, carrying 'anti-state' prisoners to work-sites for hard labour. Their heads are shaved and they wear no shoes and no clothes except for shorts -- all making escape difficult."

Later in an interview with The New York Times journalist Gary J Bass, he said the confined journalists watched from the hotel flames from Dhaka University where the army seemed to be shooting artillery.

He came back to Dhaka on December 16, 1971, on the day the country was liberated from the clutches of West Pakistan.

Born in Clinton, Massachusetts on January 17, 1934, Schanberg graduated from Harvard in 1955 with a bachelor's degree in American history. Drafted in 1956, he served as a reporter for an Army newspaper in Frankfurt, according to The New York Times.

He joined The NY Times in 1959 as a copy boy and became a staff reporter in 1960. He began covering the New York State Legislature four years later.

Schanberg joined The NY Times' foreign staff in 1969 and was posted as bureau chief in New Delhi. He was The Times' metropolitan editor from 1977 to 1980 and wrote a column twice a week, with a focus on New York from 1981 to 1985.

Investing in girls

FROM PAGE 5

STATUS IN BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh more than 50 percent of girls are married before they reach 18 years amid lack of proper sexual and reproductive education.

"As soon as she is married, she is out of school, she is getting pregnant. Then she has the responsibility in family. When you look at the sexual and gender-based violence survey, it shows that the violence is higher among the young married girls.

"They cannot defend themselves. They are still too young to articulate their thoughts, to mature their thinking."

The UNFPA official said surveys showed there was a very low level of knowledge about sexual and reproductive health in Bangladesh among boys and girls. Both sexes end up learning through peers or internet and sometimes they do not get correct information, she said.

UNFPA has a project with the education ministry -- "Generation Breakthrough" -- to teach the teenage girls and boys from 10-19 years about positive gender norms and reproductive health in 350 schools.

Piccin said majority of teenage girls missed schools during their menstruation; it was because they did not have proper protection to protect themselves against shame in schools. They do not have running water in the

toilets or separate toilets, she said.

There are stereotypes about what girls should learn and what they should not, Piccin said, adding that often boys went to the technical and vocational schools, while girls only went to learn sewing. In technology, engineering, science, the ratio of boys and girls is very different, skewed towards boys, she added.

WHAT SHOULD BANGLADESH IDEALLY DO?

The ideal situation would be for all schools to teach students comprehensive sexuality and reproductive education, Piccin thinks.

There should be incentives for girls to attend schools, and the schools should have proper infrastructure so that the girls did not miss classes while they have their periods, she said.

Investing in girls also means that the families understand that they need to send to school the girl too and delay her marriage, the UN official said.

For this to happen, a social movement through media, grassroots organisations and civil society is necessary, she said.

Piccin also recommended a budget increase for education and health of girls and women.

"Investment in teenage girls is something that societies do when they become enlightened. Bangladesh is moving in the right direction, but there is still a lot to be done."

BNP activist killed

FROM PAGE 16

When policemen retaliated with gunshots, one of the attackers was shot and fell on the ground. Others fled, said the police official.

The bullet-hit man was taken to Shyamnagar hospital where on duty doctors declared him dead.

Later, the man was identified as Oliullah, who was a fugitive accused in several cases filed over carrying out subversive activities, said the SI.

Oliullah was facing at least 13 cases filed for crimes, including murder and extortion, with different police stations in Satkhira, Bagerhat,

Madaripur and Gopalganj, claimed police.

However, Oliullah's elder brother Habibullah said the man was innocent.

Oliullah had been working as a supervisor at a garments factory in Dhaka for long. He left home for Dhaka at

6:00pm Saturday. He was travelling by a bus bound for Dhaka from Kaliganj.

Habibullah claimed that police picked up Oliullah from the bus in Devhata Parulia area. Later, he came to know that his brother had been killed in police firing, he added.

Police denied the allegation.

Officer-in-Charge Enamul Haque of Shyamnagar Police Station said an autopsy on the body of Oliullah was performed at Satkhira Sadar Hospital. It was handed over to his uncle Iman Ali later.

The police official said Assistant Sub-inspector Imran Hossain and constable Md Shahid if his station were also injured in the "gunfight".

Police recovered a locally-made gun, a part of an exploded bomb, and a motorcycle from the spot.

SI Sudhangshu Kumar Mondal filed a case for the attack on the police officials, he added.



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The intending bidders have to apply in their letter head pad for purchasing tender document which will be sold upon payment of Tk. 5,000.00 in cash (non refundable) from 11/07/2016 to 02/08/2016 during office hours. Tender will be received at the office of the undersigned during Office hours up to 3:00 P.M. on 03/08/2016 and will be opened at 3:10 P.M. on the same date and place in presence of the bidders who may like to attend. A pre bid meeting will be held on 25/07/2016 at 10:30 A.M. in the meeting room of PCHAD at 20, Dilkusha C/A (9th floor), Dhaka 1000. Details are available at Bank's website: www.islamibankbd.com or in the form of hard copy at the office of the undersigned.

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Senior Vice President

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