



Indian policemen stand guard in front of closed shops during a curfew in Srinagar on Sunday. PHOTO: REUTERS

4 'ABT' men'

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Four swords, four machetes, one laptop, one tablet computer and six mobile phone sets were recovered from their possession, he said, adding that a large number of jihadi multimedia discs and documents containing instructions on attacks on Rezaul Masud, additional superintendent of Special Branch (CMP), said Musa is converted to Islam. Earlier, he worked as a quality inspector at a garment factory in the Chittagong EPZ area.

"We've information that the ABT men were planning to carry out attacks on law enforcers and important establishments in Sitakuda," he said, adding that the ABT men had been under their watch for the last few days.

Filing of a case under the Anti-Terrorism Act with Sitakunda Police Station was underway, said police sources.

If the four ABT men are placed under police remand, the police would interrogate them to find out whether they had any connection with the Gulshan attack on July 1 or with any subversive activities in the country, Rezaul added.

'Robber' killed

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death in Chaliatoli area of Moheshkhali upazila yesterday morning.

The victim is Lokman Hakim, 38. Babul Chandra Banik, officer-in-charge of Moheshkhali Police Station, said Hakim might have been killed over trade dispute.

Our Sathkira correspondent adds, a youth suffered bullet injuries as police opened fire on an organised gang of drug dealers who were holding a secret meeting at a mango orchard at Rasulpur Hajirber in Sathkira town early yesterday.

The injured is Jahangir Alam, 20, who is undergoing treatment at Sathkira Sadar Hospital.

Police also claimed to have recovered 145 yaba tablets and two bottles of phensidyl from the spot. A case was filed.

Tropical storm kills 6 in China

AFP, Beijing
A tropical storm in China left six people dead and at least eight more missing, reports said, after it lashed Taiwan with typhoon-grade winds and rain.

Super Typhoon Nepartak brought chaos to Taiwan Friday, forcing more than 15,000 people to flee their homes as part of the island saw its strongest winds in over a century.

It had weakened into a tropical storm by the time it made landfall in Fujian province on Saturday, but still wreaked havoc, with pictures showing cars upended, buildings ripped apart and towns left wallowing in a thick sludge of brown mud.

By late Sunday more than 200,000 residents in 10 mainland cities had been temporarily relocated and some 1,900 homes destroyed, the official Xinhua news agency said, citing the civil affairs ministry.

Six people had been reported dead and eight missing, it added, with direct economic losses estimated at 860 million yuan (\$129 million).

Get united

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Amirul Islam, Dr Qazi Kholiuzzaman Ahmad, AAMS Arefin Siddique, Ajoy Roy, Kamal Lohani, Ajoy Roy, Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Sultana Kamal, Farashuddin, Anupam Sen, Sarwar Ali, Rana Dasgupta, Ramendu Mazumder, Aly Zaker, Rasheda K Choudhury, Mamunur Rashid, Golam Sarwar, Abed Khan, Ziauddin Tariq Ali, Selina Hossain, Ayesha Khanam, Mamta Begum, MM Akash, Hashem Khan, Rafiqun Nabi, Abul Momen, Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Ferdousi Priyabhashini, Harunur Rashid and Kazi Salahuddin.

The statement came days after the attack on Holey Artisan Bakery in the city's Gulshan in which armed militants killed nine Italians, seven Japanese, two Bangladeshis, one Indian, one Bangladesh-born US citizen and two police officials on July 1.

On the Eid day on July 7, two policemen, a woman and a suspected militant were killed in another attack near the Sholakia Eid congregation ground in Kishoreganj.

Describing the incidents as unprecedented militant attacks, the famed citizens said: "Earlier, they killed Bangladeshi citizens and foreigners of different religions, communities, opinions and professions. This time the attacks were more serious."

They thanked the army, police and Rab men for the roles in tackling the two attacks and foreign states and heads of government for standing by Bangladesh.

It is noticeable that most of attackers were youths, got modern education

Strong quake shakes Ecuador: USGS

AFP, Quito
A strong 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck northern Ecuador late Sunday in the same area devastated by a powerful and deadly quake in mid-April, the US Geological Survey said.

Its epicenter was 42 kilometers (26 miles) south of the town of Propicia -- located next to the quake-devastated coastal town of Esmeraldas -- and 153 kilometers northwest of the capital Quito, the USGS said, revising earlier figures.

The quake, which struck at 9:11 pm (0211 GMT yesterday), was preceded just minutes earlier by a 5.8 magnitude quake with an epicenter at the same spot.

The USGS revised slightly downward its initial estimate of the strength of both quakes. Earthquake monitors in Ecuador had similar readings.

Ecuador is still reeling from a deadly 7.8-magnitude quake that struck on April 16.

At least 673 people were killed in the April 16 quake, and more than 6,000 injured, according to official figures.

The quake flattened homes and buildings up and down a long stretch of Pacific coast, reducing picturesque resort towns to rubble.

Ecuadoran authorities urged calm late Sunday, and said they should expect more tremors, all aftershocks of the April earthquake.

President Rafael Correa said there would be no classes yesterday in the quake-affected area so that school buildings could be inspected for structural safety.

Court orders

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commandos stormed the café around 7:40am the next day, killed "six suspected terrorists" and rescued 13 hostages.

One of the six was later identified as an employee of the restaurant, but police say he helped the militants.

WHERE ARE THEY?
FROM PAGE 1
He pleaded for the safe return of his brother.

Tahmid, a student of a university in Toronto, came home a day before the attack. He went to the restaurant with two female students of a private university on the night of July 1 when the gunmen stormed the upscale eatery and held diners hostage.

During the siege, Tahmid was seen standing near the door of the café with a firearm, DB sources said.

Hasnat, who holds British citizenship, was allowed to leave the restaurant with his family members before the commando operation was launched to end the hostage crisis on the morning of July 2.

He is a former teacher of a private university of Bangladesh.

and came from well-off families, said the statement.

The financiers and masterminds of the militants instilled extremist ideologies into them, equipped them with modern and locally-made arms and inspired them to commit suicide after carrying out attacks, added the release.

"We think it is urgent to enhance the capacities of law enforcement agencies to carry out intelligence activities and operations of such nature. Besides, it is very important to strengthen family and social bondage among new generations," the eminent personalities said.

The Pakistan army and their collaborators had committed crimes against humanity during the Liberation War, and now after 45 years they have started a bloodbath in the name of the holy religion, according to the statement.

All religions speak of peace, humanity and fraternity and none of them approves killing of innocent people, it added.

The militants aim to create panic among people and send the message to the international arena about security concerns in Bangladesh. Through this, they want to destabilise the country and resist national progress, the signatories said.

"We believe people would not accept defaming religion and cruelty in the name of religion. They are committed to the progress of peaceful and safe Bangladesh. However, discharging this national duty is not possible only by law enforcers. A social unity is needed like that of 1971," read the statement.

US sends Yemeni Guantanamo inmate to Italy

REUTERS, Washington
The United States said on Sunday it had transferred a Yemeni inmate from the Guantanamo Bay prison to Italy, bringing the number of detainees at the U.S. naval base in Cuba to 78.

Fayiz Ahmad Yahia Suleiman was approved for transfer nearly six years ago by six US agencies - the Departments of Defense, State, Justice and Homeland Security, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"The United States is very grateful to the Government of Italy for its continued assistance in closing the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay," said Lee Wolosky, the U.S. special envoy for Guantanamo's closure, describing the effort to shut the prison as a "shared goal."

A Pentagon spokesman declined comment on whether the man would be subject to detention in Italy and referred that question to the Italian government, which said it was taking him on "humanitarian grounds" but provided no further details.

MP Hannan

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December 2010 when he was a lawmaker of the BNP, the then main opposition party in parliament.

The JP is now the main opposition party in Jatiya Sangshad. Three of its lawmakers are members of the cabinet of the Awami League-led government. JP Chairman HM Ershad is a special envoy to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Investigation agency coordinator Hannan Khan said most of the accused were either involved with Muslim League or Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami. Both the organisations had opposed birth of Bangladesh. Currently, most of the eight are involved with the politics of JP and Jamaat.

The accused had links with three torture camps at Mymensingh District Rest House, East Pakistan Agricultural University campus, now Bangladesh Agricultural University, and Hannan's house on Rambabu Road in Mymensingh town, Khan informed newsmen.

The five charges are abduction, torture and killing of sculptor Abdur Rashid of Purohitpara in Mymensingh on April 23 and 24; killing of Jatish

Chandra Chakraborty Sentu of Bolar Hindupara in Trishal on August 2, injuring two others and torching houses of Hindus; abduction, torture and killing of Abdur Rahman of Boiral Munshipara in Trishal in between August 7 and 9; abduction, torture and killing of Khandakar Abdul Ali Ratan of Jail Road area in Mymensingh in between November 17 and December 7; and abductions and torture of Abed Hossain Khan of Natun Bazar in Mymensingh and KM Khalid Babu, former AL lawmaker from the district.

Later yesterday Investigating Officer of the case Motiur Rahman handed over the probe report, statements of witnesses and other related documents to the chief prosecutor's office. The prosecution would now scrutinise the documents before submitting formal charges to the tribunal praying that it takes cognisance of the charges.

Meanwhile, Sanaul Huq, co-coordinator of the investigation agency, said they launched a probe against a former Bangalee army man for allegedly working for the Pakistan army during the Liberation War and committing crimes against humanity. He, however, declined to give details of the accused.

Freedom fighter

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There were marks of injuries to Bari's face. Considering his condition, he was referred to the CMH, said Mushair-ul Islam, a civil surgeon at the Jamalpur hospital.

The freedom fighter died there in the afternoon, Haider Ali said.

The OC said by phone that after Bari punched constable Tapon, he just pushed him in retaliation, leaving him injured.

Eight railway policemen, including the OC, were withdrawn following the incident, said Shahabuddin Khan, deputy commissioner of Jamalpur district.

The DC formed a five-member body headed by Rusel Sabrin, additional deputy commissioner (general), Jamalpur, to investigate the matter.

The probe body was asked to submit a report within seven working days, the DC said.

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HUNDREDS KILLED
The current fighting between soldiers loyal to Kiir, a member of the Dinka tribe, and former rebels backing Machar, a Nuer, was triggered by a deadly altercation at a checkpoint on Thursday night.

That was followed by hours of violent confrontations on Friday evening that left "over 300 soldiers" dead, according to Makuei.

After a pause on Saturday -- South Sudan's fifth anniversary of independence -- battles began in earnest on Sunday morning, continuing throughout the day in several parts of the city before subsiding overnight and resuming yesterday.

It is unclear how many have been killed in the fighting since Sunday that has focused on the Jebel and Tongping areas of the city.

China, once the biggest buyer of South Sudan's oil, expressed serious concern over the flare-up which led to the death of a Chinese peacekeeper.

The UN Security Council demanded Sunday that Kiir and his longtime rival Machar, "do their utmost to control their respective forces, urgently end the fighting and prevent the spread of violence."

The clashes are the first between the army and ex-rebels in Juba since Machar returned to take up the post of vice president in a unity government in April.

The violence marks a fresh blow to last year's peace deal which has failed to end the civil war that broke out in

Ceasefire declared

December 2013, when Kiir accused Machar of plotting a coup.

ECONOMIC COLLAPSE
The war has been characterised by rape, ethnic massacres, attacks on civilians, the use of child soldiers, pillage, widespread destruction of property and displacement of the population.

The Security Council on Sunday pressed South Sudan's neighbours to help end the renewed fighting by offering extra peacekeepers.

Ministers from the regional IGAD bloc held a special summit in Nairobi yesterday after which senior official Tedros Adhanom urged, "all the parties to engage in dialogue instead of violence."

Addressing the summit, Festus Mogae, a former Botswana president who leads a team of internationally-backed monitors, called for an immediate resumption of the ceasefire.

South Sudan has seen more fighting than peace since independence in July 2011. The August 2015 peace deal was supposed to end the conflict but fighting has continued despite the establishment of a unity government.

Tens of thousands have died in the violence, with close to three million forced from their homes and nearly five million surviving on emergency food rations.

The humanitarian crisis has unfolded alongside an economic one with the currency collapsing and inflation spiralling out of control. The country's mainstay oil industry is in tatters and regional towns have been razed.

FROM PAGE 16
selling the fruit," said Nirmol Halder, a guava farmer of Satadas Kati village in Swarupkathi.

The boats are of "Panshi" type, built with wood and constructed by local craftsmen of Chami, Boitha Kata, Dabi, and Kathali villages in the area.

Seasoning of timber is important in boat making, and tar and tannin of mangosteen (gaab) are used for coating the boat and to make it water resistant, said boat carpenters who came to the Haat to sell their products.

The commonly used timber for these boats come from local Koroi, Raintree, Jarul, Shal, Sundari, and Mahogany trees.

"We mainly use Raintree, Chambal, Sundari and Mahogany trees for making this type of boats to carry guava, crops and other nursery items easily on shallow water during monsoon," said Mohammad Hannan, a boat craftsman of Chami village.

"The price of each boat ranges from Tk 1,200 to Tk 5,000, depending on design, size, finishing, coating and construction materials," he said.

Anowar Hossain, a boat carpenter of Boitha Gata village, said, "These boats usually have a flat-bottom suitable for shallow water and the hull is not spoon-shaped. The boats are sold

Boat market of Pirojpur

at a profit margin of 20-25 percent."

"The boats are on an average 13.5 to 18 feet long and 3 to 6 feet wide and could be operated easily by one or two boatmen to cover short distances," he said.

Anwar Mistri of Chami village said the boat available at Noukar Haat could sail on shallow water in good condition for one or two seasons, depending on the wood, resin coating and other materials used in making the vessel.

"The demand for wooden boats in deep water and on long routes is falling rapidly with the arrival of steel-sheet and engine boats in the market," said Haripada Halder, a boat carpenter of Dabi Kathali village.

"As a result, the rich tradition, cultural heritage and technological know-how of boat making passed on from generation to generation in Bangladesh are being lost," he said.

This is affecting the lives of the more than 500 families involved in the construction, art and ritual of boat making in this region, said Sarwar Chowdhury, an izardar (lessor) at Noukar Haat.

While large wooden boats that once reigned the mighty rivers of the country are disappearing fast, the seasonal Noukar Haat with its merchandise of small boats is struggling to keep the traditional boat making industry alive.

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Estimates show that around 50 percent of children suck their thumbs or two fingers and another 30 percent bite their nails.

Professor Bob Hancox looked at the records of 1,037 women and men who have been followed since they were children in the early 1990s as part of a major New Zealand health study.

All had undergone finger prick tests to check if they had any allergies aged 13, and again at 32.

On average, 49 percent had at least one allergy aged 13 or 32 but this was slashed to 38 percent if they bit their nails or sucked thumbs.

If they did both, the risk of having an allergy was cut to just 31 percent, according to the findings published in the journal Pediatrics.

Professor Hancox said: "The findings support the 'hygiene hypothesis', which suggests that being exposed to microbes reduces your risk of developing allergies."