

Jamaat leader, 6 Shibir men arrested

Crude bombs, jihadi books recovered

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday arrested a female Jamaat leader and six Islami Chhatra Shibir leaders and activists and recovered 21 crude bombs and jihadi books from their possession in Tangail and Dinajpur.

In Tangail, police held Humayara Begum, 38, Mirzapur upazila unit chief of Jamaat women wing, and her son Nazmus Sakib, 18, president of Corai union unit Shibir, pro-Jamaat-e-Islami student body.

Our Tangail correspondent reports, police raided the arrestees' house in Uttar Nazirpara village in the morning. The law enforcers also recovered jihadi books, leaflets and other documents from the house.

Mohammad Main Uddin, officer-in-charge of Mirzapur Police Station, said the arrestees were conducting anti-government activities from the house.

A case was filed against them under the Special Powers Act, he added.

Our Dinajpur correspondent adds, police arrested five Shibir leaders and activists along with 21 crude bombs and books on jihad in Dinajpur municipality area.

They are Dinajpur district unit President of the organisation Amanullah Sarker, 27, and the unit's Office Secretary Tarique Abedin, 22, Birganj upazila unit President Habibur Rahman, 23, and Shibir activists of Parbatipur upazila unit Biplob Hossain, 21, and Al Amin, 22.

Officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station Redwanur Rahim said a police team conducted a raid in Leburmor area in Ramnagar village yesterday morning and caught them.

The arrestees were sent to jail, the police official said.

In another incident, law enforcers arrested one Abul Khayer with some books on jihad from Rangpur's Pirganj upazila.

Police said Khayer might have a link with militancy.

A case was lodged against him.

PM

measures would be taken up as an important topic at the ASEM meet

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measures would be taken up as an important topic at the ASEM meet and that the ASEM would issue a clear message to the international community that terrorism could never be tolerated.

Shinzo Abe and Matteo Renzi also shared the view that Japan and Italy would closely work together to lead international counterterrorism efforts as this year's and next year's G7 chairs on the basis of the outcomes of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit.

As per the programme schedule, Hasina would leave Dhaka for Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, at 11:00am tomorrow and return home on the evening of July 16.

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an informal process of dialogue and cooperation bringing together 53 members, including the 28 European Union member states, two other European countries, and the European Union with 21 Asian countries and the Asean Secretariat.

The ASEM dialogue addresses political, economic and cultural issues, with the objective of strengthening relations between the two regions in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership.

Eagle tries

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She told the BBC the eagle flew straight for the boy from about 15m away.

"A fellow who was sitting closer said the little boy kept running his zipper up and down," said O'Connell, who caught the attack on her camera.

Distracted by the noise, the eagle grabbed the boy's green hoodie and attempted to lift him away before park staff moved in.

The attack left the boy crying and bleeding, but his injuries were not severe.

A Victorian man who was in the crowd, Keenan Lucas, told the NT News the show was ended quickly after the attack.

"We're at the bird show in the afternoon, having a great time and looking forward to seeing the wedge-tailed eagle come out for the finale," he said.

"The bird then flew over the crowd and tried to grab on to a young boy's head. He screamed, the mother was distraught and the presenters wrapped up the show very quickly."

The park issued a statement to the media after being contacted about the event.

"On Wednesday, 6 July, an incident occurred at the Alice Springs Desert Park where an eagle made contact with an audience member," the park said in a statement.

"A thorough investigation regarding the circumstances behind this incident is underway and the eagle will be removed from the show

EU migrant influx easing since April

Says border agency

REUTERS, Paris

The number of illegal migrants entering Europe has fallen since April after the European Union sealed a deal with Turkey to halt flows across the Aegean Sea, the border agency said, and Italy has become the new frontline for refugees, mostly from Libya.

"For the first six months of 2016, there were 360,000 illegal entries in the EU, which is higher than what we saw last year, but the influx has been diminishing since April," Fabrice Leggeri, executive director of Frontex, the agency in charge of protecting the bloc's external borders, told Europe 1 Radio.

Leggeri said Italy had overtaken Greece as the primary point of entry and most migrants were now embarking for Europe in Libya. About 750 were arriving in Italy daily compared with about 50 in Greece.

"So the new frontline is Italy," he said.

In all of 2015, Frontex recorded more than 1.5 million irregular border crossings into Europe, mostly to Greece before marching north to Germany and Sweden, fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East, North Africa and elsewhere.

A Frontex spokesman said the EU-

Turkey deal, under which Turkey agreed to halt illegal migration through its territory in return for financial and political rewards, and the closure of the Greece-Macedonia border earlier this year, were the two main reasons behind the declining figures.

Leggeri was speaking ahead of a news conference on plans for the agency's future later yesterday.

Most of those arriving in Italy were from sub-Saharan Africa, he said.

A humanitarian group said it had recovered the bodies of four migrants and rescued around 400 survivors yesterday from an overcrowded wooden boat in the Mediterranean en route to Italy from Libya. The dead suffocated below deck, the Malta-based Migrant Offshore Aid Station, whose rescue ship carried out the operation, said on Twitter.

The EU is preparing to rename Frontex, based in Warsaw, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, with a two-fold increase in staff and funding worth 322 million euros by 2020.

Border protection would remain a national responsibility and the agency will continue to rely on EU capitals for contributions to a proposed pool of 1,500 border guards ready for quick

Beijing's South China

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Crucially, it ruled that none of the Spratlys, a chain of outcrops in the south of the sea, were "islands" under the meaning of UNCLOS, meaning that whoever had sovereignty over them -- an issue it did not address -- they were not entitled to 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of their own.

Some sea areas were therefore definitely in the Philippines' EEZ, it said, as they were "not overlapped by any possible entitlement of China".

China had violated the Philippines' sovereign rights in its EEZ and the artificial islands Beijing has been furiously building in recent years -- reshaping facts in the water in an effort to bolster its claim -- have inflicted severe environmental damage, it added.

'BRANDED AS AN OUTLAW'

The damning decision was "as unfavourable to China as it can be", said Yanmei Xie, China analyst for the International Crisis Group.

The award by the five-member panel -- chaired by a Ghanaian -- "overwhelmingly favours the Philippines -- a huge win," said M Taylor Fravel of MIT.

Manila welcomed the decision but Beijing reacted furiously, saying it "neither accepts nor recognises" the ruling.

"The award is null and void and has no binding force," China's foreign ministry said on its website, reiterating its territorial claims.

The official news agency Xinhua cited President Xi Jinping as saying the islands have been Chinese territory since ancient times, and Beijing will not accept any action based on the decision.

China has consistently said the tribunal does not have jurisdiction on the issue -- declaring the support of multiple countries for its stance, many of them poor but with significant trading relationships with it -- and Xinhua reported the ruling under the headline: "Law-abusing tribunal issues ill-founded award".

In Washington, the State Department said the ruling was an "important contribution" to resolving regional disputes and should be seen as "final and legally binding".

China is a permanent member of the UN Security Council and has been seeking a greater role on the global diplomatic stage, and will not want to be seen as a violator of international law.

But how the decision could be enforced remains open to question. Richard Heydarian, a political analyst at De La Salle University in Manila, told AFP: "China has been branded as an outlaw in unequivocal terms. US, Japan and other major powers should now focus on enforcing this binding verdict if China fails to comply."

In the short term, the decision was likely to escalate the "war of words" but would not immediately change the geopolitical dynamics in the sea, said Xie of the International Crisis Group.

"We're going to see a continuation of the chest thumping we've seen, especially from the China side."

'TOUGH REACTION'

Beijing has held naval drills between the Paracels and the southern Chinese island of Hainan in recent days, while US Pacific Command said on Twitter that the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan had launched flight operations to support "security, stability" in the South China Sea.

Bonnie Glaser of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies told AFP: "I expect a very tough reac-

tion from China since it has lost on almost every point."

China could choose to withdraw from UNCLOS, or begin building on Scarborough Shoal, which it seized from the Philippines in 2012 -- which Washington would view as a provocation.

Beijing could also declare an air defence identification zone over the South China Sea, claiming the right to interrogate aircraft passing through the airspace, or try to remove a ship grounded by Manila on Second Thomas Shoal for use as a base.

Xu Tiebing, international relations professor at Communication University of China, told AFP that Chinese would see the PCA decision as evidence of international opposition to their country.

"These international organisations were not absolutely neutral, and in fact they are still subject to the manipulation and influence of big powers," he said.

The Philippines, which had lodged the suit in 2013, welcomed the "milestone decision", and foreign secretary Perfecto Yasay said: "We call on all those concerned to exercise restraint and sobriety."

Nationalist demonstrations are not rare in China, sometimes apparently with the tacit backing of authorities, and the Philippine embassy in Beijing has warned its citizens to beware of personal "threats".

Chinese police sealed off the street where the mission stands.

EU launches internet privacy deal with US

AFP, Brussels

The European Union yesterday launched a controversial deal with the United States aimed at curbing government spying on the personal internet information of European citizens.

The deal replaces one struck down by the EU's top court in October, a decision which left firms like Google and Facebook in legal limbo over whether they could transfer data to their US headquarters.

The court struck down that deal based on an Austrian activist's case against Facebook in Ireland, and its judgment cited US snooping practices exposed by former intelligence contractor Edward Snowden.

"The EU-US Privacy Shield is a robust new system to protect the personal data of Europeans and ensure legal certainty for businesses," said EU Justice Commissioner Vera Jourova, launching the deal with US Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker in Brussels.

The deal will take effect within hours once EU member states are formally notified, European officials told AFP.

"The approval of the privacy deal is a milestone for privacy at a time when the sharing of data is driving growth in every sector," Pritzker told a press conference with Jourova.

The deal will "facilitate more trade across our borders, more collaboration across the Atlantic and more job creating investments in our communities," Pritzker said.

Jourova insisted the deal offers the "highest standards" to protect the personal data of EU citizens.

But critics say it amounts to "a little upgrade" over the previous arrangement, called Safe Harbour.

Austrian internet activist Max Schrems, who brought the original case against Facebook, said the new deal was likely to face fresh legal challenges.

Govt urged

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The eminent citizens said although the government took some positive steps, more was needed to uproot militancy from Bangladesh.

They hoped that guardians and teachers would take proper steps to introduce students with moral studies and human values both at homes and educational institutions.

They also urged guardians to inform law enforcement agencies immediately if any children were missing.

They have also called upon the law enforcers to take such reports seriously.

Apart from education, they said, different kinds of cultural activities are also necessary for making students creative, cultural minded and scientifically knowledgeable, they added.

Those who signed the statement are Dhaka University Prof Emirate Dr Anisuzzaman, Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad, Mohammed Farashuddin, Sultana Kamal, Nazrul Islam, Selina Hossain, M Hafizuddin Khan, Ramendu Majumdar, Mahfuza Khanam, Jewel Aich, Syed Manjurul Islam, Rasheda K Chowdhury, Mamunur Rashid, Hayat Mahmud, Khushi Kabir, Mehtab Khanam, Kazi Faruk Ahmed, Mejbah Kamal, Arup Ratan Chowdhury, Mohit Kamal, MM Akash, Inam Al Haque, Manzoor Ahmed, Ainun Nishat, Kazi Rafiqul Alam, Aroma Dutta, Badiul Alam Majumder, Mohammad Shajahan, Shafi Ahmed, Ezazul Islam, Shahidul Islam Helal, Shahidul Islam Helal, Mansur Ahmed Chowdhury, Shaheen Anam, Farah Kambir, Nishat Majumder, Shirin Banu Mital, Bulbul Mahlanobish, M A Muhit and Korvi Rakshand.

Mustafizur

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who generally prefers to stay in his own shell and not speak to the media as much, spoke to The Daily Star in detail about a number of issues. From his favourite restaurants in Dhaka and love for his hometown, the many tricks up his sleeve to his desire to learn English, he opened up during a candid interview on Monday night.

Learn more about the youngster who has taken the cricketing world by storm on page 14.

Jailed 'militants'

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A superintendent of jail, wishing not to be named, told The Daily Star that the guards are on high alert round-the-clock to avert any untoward situation.

Besides, the officials concerned are regularly assessing security arrangements and monitoring whether the prison guards are performing their duties properly.

"There is an order to hand out severe punishment to any prison guard if he is found not doing his duties properly," said another jail official.

Only the family members and the close relatives are being allowed to talk to the convicts and suspected militants and that too, for not more than 20 minutes.

The visitors have to come with the photocopies of their national ID card, said a jailer of a Kashimpur jail.

Representatives from different intelligence agencies also remain present during the meet.

In late June, the government issued a red alert for all jails based on intelligence that subversive activities might be carried out in any of those.

A top jail official had said the authorities issued the alert following a warning from the home ministry that a car bomb attack might take place.

Later, prison guards in and outside the jails strengthened their vigilance.

3 youths held

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and one of them entered the temple with a bag, possibly containing machetes, the SP observed.

The detainees were identified as Sumon Ahmed, 25, of Kashinathpur in Magura Sadar; Shahabuddin, 20, of Ray Gram in Magura Sadar and Akash, 22, of Parla Beltala in Magura Sadar. Sumon was the one who entered the temple with the bag while another suspect, Shahabuddin Lashkar, 20, of Mirzapur in Magura Sadar, is yet to be apprehended, said police sources.

According to the temple authorities they became suspicious of four young men as three of them waited at the entrance of the temple while the other carrying a bag entered the premises at around 7:00pm and inquired about the whereabouts of priest Paresh Majumder.

Samar Kumar, a local visitor said the young suspect with the bag entered the temple and told him that he wished to see the priest for collecting amulets. After Samar told him that the priest was out of the temple at the moment and he will have to come back the next morning, the youth suspiciously hid himself behind a column of the Natmandir and made several calls on his cell phone.

He then walked out and handed over the bag to his companions waiting outside. He re-entered the temple several minutes later and kept waiting on the priest. The four waited for about twenty five minutes altogether before finally leaving the temple using the road on the temple's western boundary, Samar told this correspondent.

US sees links

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Islamic State, Daesh as we refer to it. We have seen also in prior attacks claims of responsibility from al-Qaeda.

"And we do believe that there are connections between home-grown networks and these international networks. And we are determined to learn more about exactly how those connections take place."

She added, "This is a challenge for all of the people of the world, all of the societies, to be able to work together, to do their part, and so we come here with the intention of offering to Bangladesh what we can in terms of information that we may be able to bring..."

The US envoy, who ended her three-day whirlwind engagements in Dhaka yesterday, was talking to Channel 24 in an interview aired last night. She arrived on Sunday following two deadly terror attacks on a Gulshan cafe and at Sholakia in Kishoreganj in a span of just six days.

She said the US is ready to assist in whatever way Bangladesh wants.

According to the senior US diplomat, misguided attackers of Gulshan cafe never represent the Muslims.

Biswal said it is destructive how some youths are heading towards terrorism and it should be stopped immediately.

She said recent attacks and efforts of terrorist groups are certainly causes of concern, but Bangladesh need not worry about investment. She believes the international community and business community will stand by Bangladesh and will continue to pursue business opportunities here.

Our diplomatic correspondent adds: before leaving Dhaka, Biswal said she discussed with the Bangladesh government "specific ways" of how the US could support Bangladesh fight terrorism.

"Discussed w Bangladesh govt specific ways US can support law enforcement & security forces in investigating & responding to terror attacks," she tweeted after wrapping up her Dhaka visit.

New Delhi too has assured Dhaka of all-out support in its battle against terrorism and extremism.

"As a neighbour, friend and partner, India has offered Bangladesh its fullest cooperation in its fight against terrorism. This was conveyed at the highest levels following the terror attack early this month," an Indian diplomat in Dhaka told The Daily Star yesterday.

Asked whether the US and India will work together on countering terrorism and violent extremism in Bangladesh, the Indian diplomat without giving a direct reply said, "We cannot comment on US cooperation with Bangladesh."

Biswal, who left Dhaka for Colombo at 12:05pm, tweeted five separate messages on her visit to Bangladesh.

Terming her visit important, Biswal said, "Concluding an important visit to Bangladesh, I conveyed support & solidarity of United States to stand w Bangladesh in combating terrorism."

During her meetings with government leaders, including the prime minister, home minister, foreign minister and two advisers to the PM, she offered "US expertise in building Bangladesh's counterterrorism capabilities."

At the meetings, the US diplomat elaborated on future cooperation

between the two countries, including sharing of intelligence information, providing training to enhance the capabilities of Bangladesh law enforcement to defeat those who will seek to drive terror in the society.

Prior to her departure from Dhaka, Biswal had an informal meeting with editors of six leading newspapers and TV channels.

She also had three separate meetings with envoys of top countries stationed in Dhaka.

On the eve of her departure, she tweeted, "Met w diplomatic community and business leaders who are concerned but committed to stand w Bangladesh."

On the first day of her visit, Biswal had an exclusive meeting with Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Harsh Vardhan Shringla and discussed the current security situation in Bangladesh.

After the meeting, an Indian diplomat told The Daily Star, "It was a very good meeting and both the countries are keen to support the government of Bangladesh in its fight against terrorism. So our objectives coincide."

"We believe the international community needs to come together in this common endeavour," he added.

On Monday morning, Biswal met envoys of the UK, Canada and Australia and exchanged views with them on Bangladesh situation and how the international community could support Dhaka in curbing terrorism.

The assistant secretary also had dinner with envoys of top countries stationed in Dhaka on Monday evening when she shared some of the experience she gathered from this visit.

The US delegation has felt Bangladesh government leaders and officials showed more open-minded attitude to the international cooperation, said an ambassador who attended Monday's dinner hosted by Biswal.

On July 3, US Secretary of State John Kerry phoned Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on behalf of President Barack Obama to offer support in the wake of the outrageous attack on the Gulshan cafe.

Kerry offered immediate assistance from US law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, in the investigation with the highest international standards.

Islamist attacks, migrant crisis make Germans anxious

REUTERS, Berlin

Germans have become far more fearful in the last year, with a possible terrorist attack, political extremism and the social effects of Europe's migrant crisis topping their list of worries, a survey showed yesterday.

Just over a year before a federal election in Europe's biggest economy, the annual study by insurer R+V showed a 10 percentage point increase in its annual "fear index" of Germans to 49 percent.

"Never before in the course of our surveys have peoples' fears risen so drastically within a year as in 2016," said Brigitte Roemstedt, head of the R+V Info Centre which conducted the survey of 2,400 Germans.

Cameron set to go

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Home Secretary May, the interior minister, was declared the new leader of the governing centre-right Conservative Party on Monday after junior energy minister Andrea Leadsom, her only remaining challenger for the post, withdrew from the contest.

BREXIT PRESSURE

May faces immediate questions on when she plans to trigger Article 50 -- the formal procedure for withdrawal from the EU -- which would set a two-year deadline for completing exit negotiations.

Before the leadership contest was cut short by Leadsom's departure, she had said she did not foresee doing so before the end of the year at the earliest.

While May supported Britain staying in the bloc, she cut a low profile during the referendum campaign and insists she will honour the popular vote, stressing on Monday: "Brexit means Brexit".

May also noted the need "to negotiate the best deal for Britain in leaving the EU" in brief comments outside parliament.

Cameron was to face MPs in parliament for a final time today in the weekly prime minister's questions session, before meeting Queen Elizabeth II to tender his resignation to the head of state.

The monarch will then call for May, the new leader of the majority party in parliament, to form a fresh government.

May, 59, will become Britain's second female prime minister after 1980s Conservative titan Margaret Thatcher.

She spent yesterday sketching out who will take the key roles in her administration, which will be focused on delivering Brexit.

May will have to keep Leave-supporting Conservative heavyweights