

SHOLAKIA ATTACK No bail for 5 suspects

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Kishoreganj court yesterday rejected bail petitions of five suspects arrested in connection with the attack on Eid day near the Sholakia Eidgah where the country's largest Eid congregation was being held.

The court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Abdus Salam Khan also directed to send the suspects to jail, said court sources.

The order came after lawyers of the suspects -- Mamunur Rashid alias Mamun, 28, Sohel Miah, 20, Ariful Islam Hasib, 32, Mohammad Asanullah, 23, and Tara Miah, 58, -- moved the petitions before the court, said Aminul Islam, a sub-inspector at Kishoreganj Sadar Police Station.

They were arrested from different parts of Kishoreganj town following the attack.

In the morning of Eid day on July 7, two policemen, a woman and a suspected assailant, died while a dozen others including six police personnel were injured as armed militants battled with law enforcers and tried to cross a police checkpoint near the Sholakia Eidgah.

He left for KL

SCHOOL in Tanore of Rajshahi, eventually picked up after several calls were made.

"I am too disturbed. Please, don't ask me about my son. I have said everything to the police... ask them," he told this correspondent before hanging up.

The father and son relationship was not smooth and the reason is not clear, said Abdus Salam, OC of Tanore Police Station.

A general diary was filed with Kalabagan Police Station regarding Bashar, also known as Mohammad Basharuzzaman, going missing. He used to live there before he went missing.

Seven months ago, the 35-year-old left his in-law's house in Dhaka saying he was going to Malaysia for his office work for two months, said the OC.

He is one of the 10 people whose names came up in the media as missing ones in the wake of the Gulshan cafe attack. He is also on the Rab's list of 262 missing persons.

Bashar was in Tanore during his childhood and after finishing his primary education there, he went to Rajshahi city, according to the police.

Finishing college there a decade ago, he got into North South University and graduated from there, said police, quoting his parents.

The Daily Star could not independently verify the claim.

He was also working for a company. Bashar hardly visited Rajshahi since he moved to the capital, said Abul Kashem, chairman of Talondo union parishad and a maternal uncle of Bashar.

He got married two years ago. He used to stay at his in-law's place. He visited Rajshahi once after his marriage, said Kashem quoting Bashar's mother.

"I don't know much about them," he said.

"I learnt that he went missing after he left home for Malaysia. I do not know whether he ever went to Malaysia," he said.

Tobacco-fuelled

Cruikshank says the flights will build confidence among investors, including the South African government, which will allow the scheme to scale up. He believes that producing fuels locally will offer major benefits and savings to the wider economy.

"We won't need to buy dollars or oil, so we will not be hostage to oil price variations," he says, adding that scaled up production of the Solaris plants would also create thousands of jobs.

SAA is aiming to have 50% of its fleet using the biofuel by 2023, which could reach 500 million litres per year. SkyNRG chief technology officer Maarten van Dijk projects the crop will be offsetting 267 kilotons of CO2 emissions a year by 2020.

Solaris fuel could also be versatile enough to go beyond aviation.

"We can also deliver biodiesel for cars and bioplastics," says Sunchem SA Managing Director Dr Joost Van Lier. "Fossils fuels can make pretty much anything, and this is the same."

Van Lier adds that the Solaris crop offers new opportunities to farmers that have suffered with the falling demand for tobacco as smoking prevalence decreases in South Africa.

"Every hectare we plant creates a full-time job," he says. Project Solaris aims to plant 250,000 hectares by 2025.

Solaris plants also have the advantage of being certified by the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB), a global body that issues standards for sustainability practice.

The Solaris Project aims to expand into neighbouring Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe in the near future.

Decision beats the wits

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used to live in an apartment of a five-storey building in the capital's Khilgaon with two daughters and a son-in-law.

Naima inherited a major portion of the building from her father -- renowned homeopathy physician late Ali Ahmed.

Before leaving Bangladesh in July last year along with the daughters -- Rezwana Rokon Nadia and Ramita Rokon -- and Nadia's husband Saad Qayes Shishir, the couple said they were going to Malaysia and would visit some other countries, said Helal Uddin, a caretaker of the building.

"We will stay abroad forever if we feel better. We will otherwise return within two to three months," he quoted the doctor as saying at the time.

They communicated with their family members back home one month after they left the country. They informed that they were in a Muslim country and that they would never return, said Helal who has been working at the building for the last eight years.

Nadia and her husband Shishir were students of the English department of North South University. They didn't complete their graduation.

The other daughter, Ramita, was a student of Higher Secondary Certificate at Viqarunnisa Noon School and College.

Law enforcement agencies are suspecting that the entire family was radicalised and is now living in Syria.

The physician has reportedly been serving at an IS controlled hospital there.

The Daily Star could not independently verify this.

A close relative of Naima, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star that Naima and her daughters were not regular in prayers but inclined more towards religious rituals after the marriage of Nadia and Shishir around two and a half years ago.

"Shishir who used to live with the family might be behind everything," he said.

Another relative, who also wished to be unnamed, said Rokonuddin's family used to call once a month to talk for not more than three to four minutes.

"They said they were fine. We could not contact them for the last nearly six months," she said, adding that the family asked her to divide their properties among Naima's relatives.

Earlier, a family of two, including three children, went missing in May on their way back from Bangladesh to the UK, reports BBC.

They flew to Bangladesh on April 10, police said, and then to Istanbul on May 11. They were due to arrive at Heathrow three days later but did not.

US offer for anti-terror

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you are those of a partner; those of a partner who unfortunately has been fighting terrorism for a long time. We think we have some techniques and some knowledge, some value. And again, more importantly, we must work on this challenge jointly. No country today can fight terrorism alone because the terrorists don't operate within borders," she said.

"Please help me to tamp down the stories, the fears of some people that our efforts are not genuine. Our country's assistance to Bangladesh aims to help the country ride out the crisis, she said terming Bangladesh a partner in the fight against terrorism.

The diplomat was speaking at the monthly meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh at the Sonargaon Hotel.

Bernicat said Bangladesh and the US had been working jointly on countering terrorism for some time. "... I assure you we are both stepping up our efforts."

She appreciated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's unflinching commitment to fight terrorism.

The US envoy said there needs to be a clear recognition that the security environment "and will require additional tools and measures to address it".

She said they were all greatly saddened, angered and frustrated after the July-1 attack on the Holy Artisan Bakery in Gulshan which tragically took the lives of 22 innocent people, mostly foreigners.

The bombing at the Sholakia Eid gathering only added to "our pains", she said.

Bernicat said the Eid congregation was a gathering for seeking forgiveness but it turned into a gathering of mourning and loss. "This is not the Bangladesh I have come to know, and I know this is not the Bangladesh you have built..." she told the business people.

She called for a rigorous, open and thorough investigation into the attacks, which would be coordinated closely with international partners. There needs to be openness to accept the findings of those investigations, wherever and to whomsoever they lead, she said.

Bernicat said it was important that efforts of raising the confidence of foreign investors, the public and the business community remained non-partisan and she welcomed all responsible actors to join in.

She said the US investors and the broader international community were greatly concerned about the recent attacks. A strong response will be necessary to safeguard Bangladesh's future and its economic progress, she said.

The ambassador said the recent attacks had an impact on the sense of security, and any expectation that the violence somehow could not touch "us or change our life".

"But we won't be afraid. We all must act and respond and we can respond."

Bernicat said Bangladesh had become part of an international crime scene. So, evidence found and evaluated here would help others find perpetrators of attacks in other countries, and root out extremism.

The combined action of the Bangladesh government and like-minded governments for ensuring public safety would diminish the threat, she said. "But to win this struggle we need the business community, civil society, religious leaders, teachers and youth leaders."

She also called for reaching out

to the youths who were being lured into terrorism.

"There are so many ways you can reach out to youth and ensure that they know that their bright futures are with Bangladesh and not with the terrorists."

She said, "Monday's signing of an agreement between US-based Excelerate Energy and Petrobangla on setting up a LNG plant in Moheshkhali, to me, is the best vote of confidence that we can have at a time like this."

"It is not only a foreign direct investment, it is an investment that will help all of you continue to grow your businesses, attract partners and other industries that Bangladesh needs and deserves, and will help Bangladesh grow itself."

"In short Bangladesh should be a place where investors are coming," she said.

16 found

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have returned home.

They are Md Sabuj, 25, from Sarkari Pukur Par in Sadarghat and Jewel, 21, from East Madarbari.

Sabuj's father said his son returned home around three weeks after he went missing on April 6. He filed a GD on April 8.

Jewel left home on February 19 after his family refused to accept his affair with a girl. His brother Ilias Ali lodged a GD with Sadarghat Police Station on February 21.

"He returned home within two months and is now living here along with his wife", said Ilias.

Four more persons, reported missing in the port city's Akbershah area, also returned home, according to the register of Akbershah Police Station.

Asif Iqbal, 34, son of Iqbal Khan from East Firoz Shah, went missing on March 12 this year. His brother Shahbaz Khan filed a GD three days later.

He withdrew the GD on July 19 as Asif returned home.

Imran Hossain, 27, a doctor at a private hospital in Chittagong, travelled to the capital on February 25 and his mobile phone was found switched off that morning. His brother-in-law filed a GD on February 26 night. Later, Imran contacted him.

Another person listed as missing is Milad, 32, a shopkeeper. He returned home a few days after he had gone missing on February 17.

Hasan Kawser, 25, went missing on January 14. He was found 15 days later, said Bimol Kanti, sub-inspector of Akber Shah Police Station, quoting Hasan's brother Sawkat. He had been arrested in connection with a case.

In Comilla, six people whose names were on the Rab list have returned home. They are Abdus Salam, Saddam Hossain, Ehsanul Haque Kawsar, Rajon, Masud Parvez, and Dr Kazi Md Zahir.

Tomnoy Roy, a resident of the capital's Rampura, left for Cox's Bazar on April 1, but he missed his bus in Comilla. One of his friends filed a GD with Comilla police that day. Tomnoy returned home a day later.

In Pabna, Rafiq Mollah, 25, from Aminpur, went missing before the Eid-ul-fitr. After a GD was filed on July 7, police learnt that Rafiq, a carpenter, eloped with a woman, said Tazul Huda, OC of Aminpur Police Station.

In Bogra, Saidul Islam, who is on the Rab list, was found in the capital's Paltan area two days after his wife filed a GD on June 14.

Meanwhile in Munshiganj, a college girl, who went missing on June 19, reported to Srinagar Police Station yesterday that she had eloped with her schoolteacher and married him.

There were rumours that she had joined militants after her mother filed a GD with the police station on July 10.

Call for effective

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"We are dealing with terrorism which is different... For the first time, we have terrorism which includes suicide bombing to the extent that we never had."

The unprecedented terror attack left 22 people, mostly foreigners, dead on that night. At 7:40am the following day, the armed forces conducted a commando operation that led to the rescue of 13 hostages.

Imtiaz said, "If they [the authorities] knew the discourse, they would know that they [attackers] were not negotiating. The moment you know they are not negotiating, that means they are ready to commit suicide."

"Then you needed a totally different kind of structure to do something at that particular moment because the fellow [attacker] is not rational... It is a leap beyond reason."

He also stressed the need for "an alternative discourse" to deal with such a situation.

Bangladesh Institute of International Strategic Studies (BISS) and the Armed Forces Division (AFD) jointly organised the seminar titled "Civil-Military Relations in Democracy: An Effective Framework", held at the BIIS auditorium in the capital.

Brig Gen (ret'd) Sakhawat Hossain said, "The AFD is not serving the purpose of civilian control. It is a one-man control right from the beginning till today."

"In democracy, it is a collective control of everything. It becomes one-man control when one man takes a decision on strategy and policy, that gentleman -- he or she -- can go wrong. It has to be a collective decision," he said.

"If we talk about liberal democracy, if you want to establish civilian control, then you have to have a coordinating headquarter that should be a technical coordinating headquarter," said Sakhawat, a former election commissioner.

He proposed forming a joint chiefs of staff committee to strengthen the AFD and enable it to devise effective strategies for joint operations.

Lt Gen Chowdhury Hasan Sarwady, commandant of the National Defence College, said there is a national committee on security, but it exists on paper only.

"Where is the committee when there is a serious crisis? Who would take the decision?" he asked.

Hasan said the defence minister and chiefs of the armed forces are there but people don't know from where the decisions come or who implement that.

Prime Minister's Security Affairs Adviser Maj Gen Tarique Ahmed Siddique (ret'd) said the country saw a long period of undemocratic rule, and as a result the national interest varied at different times, leaving a severe negative impact on national security.

The country now witnesses the emergence of terrorism and extremism, he said.

According to the adviser, the military regimes would not have existed unless they got some encouragement or collaboration from bureaucrats, politicians, businessmen and, at times, diplomats.

Tarique said the military personnel now must play their due role in defending the democratic order, which would build trust and confidence in civil-military relations.

Nasim Manzoor, president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said they have no problem with the military getting involved in business.

"We have no problem in that as long as we know the rule of engagement, as long as there is a level playing field, as long as there is transparency," he said.

In the post-July 1 reality, it is more important for the military to enhance intelligence and counter-intelligence capability, he said.

PM's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi said the Holy Artisan Bakery tragedy united the entire nation against terrorism.

"And this unity means that there is no space, no assistance will be forthcoming to anybody [militants]," he said.

BISS DG Maj Gen AKM Abdur Rahman said inadequate exchange of information, lack of transparency and politicisation of the administration are some of the major problems with regard to the civil-military relations in many countries.

The seminar was addressed by, among others, BISS Chairman Munshi Faiz Ahmad, Prof Rasheduzzaman of international relations at the DU, Dr M Jayawardena of Kotewala Defence University in Sri Lanka, Economic Relations Division Senior Secretary Muhammed Mejbahuddin and AFD Principal Staff Officer Lt Gen Md Mahfuzur Rahman.

Five Ansarullah

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On September 1 last year, the detective branch of police pressed charges against the five for their alleged involvement in the killing

The arrestees told DB that Saiful was another member of their group and was supposed to join the mission before he was arrested at a police outpost for possessing arms.

A staunch critic of religious fundamentalism, Oyasiqueer was active mostly on Facebook and used to write in the Bangla blogosphere.

Turkey purge widens

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Turkey's foreign ministry has said criticism of the government's response amounts to backing the coup.

Erdogan returned to the capital late Tuesday for the first time since the coup and was chairing a meeting yesterday at his presidential palace of his national security council, composed of top military brass and security ministers.

He was in the Aegean resort of Marmaris when the coup struck and then flew to Istanbul where he had stayed since, appearing before supporters each night in a "vigil" for democracy.

He told supporters in Istanbul on Monday that "an important decision" would be announced after the security meeting, without specifying.

Sources said he was mulling strong measures like imposing state of emergency to restore order.

The purge has gutted the leadership in the country's security forces, with at least 118 generals and admirals detained, stripping the general-rank command of the Turkish military by a third, according to Turkish state broadcaster TRT.

Authorities have also suspended 8,777 Ministry of Interior personnel, mostly police, as well as 100 Turkish intelligence service personnel, according to the state-run Anadolu news agency.

Meanwhile, Turkey's High Board of Education has banned all academics from travelling abroad until further notice, state-run broadcaster TRT reported yesterday.

The report, which provided no details about the ban, came a day after the board ordered the resignation of 1,577 deans at all universities across Turkey. In a separate move on Tuesday the education ministry also revoked the licences of 21,000 teachers working in private institutions

2,745 judges and prosecutors have been listed for detention, although it is unclear if they have all been detained.

Anadolu reported that Turkey's top broadcasting authority on Tuesday revoked the licenses for 24 radio and television companies that it said are linked to Fethullah Gulen, whom Erdogan blames for masterminding the coup.

Turkey on Tuesday formally requested the extradition of Gulen from the United States, where he lives in self-imposed exile.

State broadcaster TRT also lost 370 staff members, who have been suspended, according to CNN Turk.

Hundreds more have been suspended from the Prime Minister's office and government bodies dealing with religious affairs, family and social policy and development have been suspended. The total fired or suspended is around 50,000 people.

More than 9,000 people are cur-

rently in detention and are under investigation over the coup, according to Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus.

The government has imposed restrictions on the WikiLeaks website after the whistleblower organization dumped some 300,000 emails from Erdogan and his Justice and Development Party (AKP) on Tuesday evening.

Access to the documents was restricted because of a "violation of privacy and publication of illegally obtained data," a Turkish official told CNN.

The most recent emails were sent on July 6 and the oldest dates back to 2010, WikiLeaks said.

The organization reported late Monday night that it had come under a sustained cyberattack after announcing on social media its plan to leak hundreds of thousands of documents on "Turkish power."

US President Barack Obama spoke with Erdogan on Tuesday about the coup and the status of Gulen, who lives in Pennsylvania.

Obama "strongly condemned" the coup attempt and "expressed his support for Turkish democracy," a White House news release said, without explaining whether Gulen would be extradited.

Prime Minister Yildirim said the justice ministry had sent a dossier to US authorities on Gulen, whose religious movement blends conservative Islamic values with a pro-Western outlook and who has a network of supporters within Turkey.

Under the US-Turkey extradition agreement, Washington can only extradite a person if he or she has committed an "extraditable act." Treason -- such as that implied by Erdogan's demand for Gulen's extradition -- is not listed as such an act in the countries' treaty.

The cleric has denied any involvement in the coup attempt.

Meanwhile Anadolu reported that soldiers who were sent to apprehend Erdogan during the attempted coup were told they were to "capture an important terrorist leader".

The soldiers involved in the President's apprehension were informed of the details of the coup as they were being airlifted to a hotel in a resort town where Erdogan and his family were vacationing during Friday's deadly attempted takeover.

It is unclear how many soldiers participated in the attack, during which two of Erdogan's bodyguards were killed, and it is unclear how loyal the troops were, given that they were briefed on the coup so late in proceedings.

Meanwhile, Erdogan's military aide, Lt Col. Erkan Kivrak, has been taken into custody in southern Turkey for alleged ties to the plotters, according to Anadolu.

Trump claims

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against presumptive Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

With three of the candidate's other children at his side, the younger Trump said: "It is my honor to be able to throw Donald Trump over the top in the delegate count tonight."

"Congratulations, Dad. We love you," he said.

Trump's Democratic rival, Clinton, who has been the target of withering verbal attacks during the convention, was quick to respond to the vote, tweeting: "Donald Trump just became the Republican nominee. Chip in now to make sure he never steps foot in the Oval Office."

Trump won with 1,725 delegates, followed by US Senator Ted Cruz of Texas with 475 delegates, Ohio Governor John Kasich with 120 and US Senator Marco Rubio of Florida with 114. Three other candidates emerged with a total of 12 delegates.

After the presidential nominating vote, the convention by voice vote nominated Indiana Governor Mike Pence, 57, Trump's choice for his vice presidential running mate.

TV CELEBRITY
Speaking to the convention for the first time since winning the nomination, Trump appeared on a video screen from New York promising to win the election in November, create jobs, strengthen the military, safeguard US borders and "restore law and order" in the United States.

The state-by-state vote to put Trump's name in nomination took place a day after opponents staged a failed attempt to force a vote opposing his candidacy at the start of the four-day convention, and after a speech by his wife, Melania, drew accusations of plagiarism.

A wealthy New York real estate developer best known to Americans for his starring role in a long-running TV show, "The Apprentice," where his catchphrase was "You're fired," the 70-year-old Trump was a long shot when he entered the race for the Republican nomination more than a year ago, having never held elected office.

On Tuesday, under the headline "Make America Work Again," speakers at Cleveland's Quicken Loans basketball arena were meant to assail Democratic President Barack Obama's record on the economy during his nearly eight years in power.

Instead, speaker after speaker took aim at Clinton, presenting her as out of touch with the concerns of ordinary Americans and the inheritor of Obama's "oppressive" administration

A former secretary of state under Obama, Clinton, 68, was due to be formally nominated at the Democratic National Convention next week in Philadelphia.

Trump trails Clinton in many opinion polls after a bruising Republican primary season. Trump narrowed his deficit against her to 7 percentage points from 15 points late last week, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Tuesday.

COMMANDING LEAD
Trump initially refused to rule out an independent run should he fail to win the Republican nomination.

Within weeks of announcing his candidacy at Trump Tower in New York on June 16, 2015, Trump had taken a commanding lead in the Republican race, defying pundits who were quick to write him off and eclipsing the man many had thought would be crowned on Tuesday night - former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, part of a Republican political dynasty.

In a campaign marked by insults and inflammatory rhetoric, Trump tapped into a deep vein of unhappiness running through white Middle America, giving voice to millions who felt left behind in the rush to globalization and who eschewed traditional establishment Republicans like Bush in favour of a brash political outsider who promised to "Make America Great Again".

"We've lost the confidence in our leaders and the faith in our institutions," Donald Trump Jr. said in a convention speech. "We're still Americans. We're still one country and we're going to get it back."

"I know we'll get it back because I know my father," Trump Jr. said.