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RECENT ATTACKS
Arrest of all perpetrators a matter of time: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday in parliament said arrest of all perpetrators involved in the recent militant attacks in the capital's Gulshan and Sholakia in Kishoreganj was "a matter of time."

"Perpetrators behind the scene -- patrons, plotters, trainers and financiers of the terrorists -- should be tracked down no matter whether they are from home or abroad. It's our duty to trace them," she said.

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Prime Minister's Security Adviser Major General (ret) Tarique Ahmed Siddique speaking at a seminar titled "Civil-Military Relations in Democracy: An Effective Framework" organised jointly by the BISS and the Armed Forces Division at the city's BISS auditorium yesterday. Inset, US Ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Bernicat along with other dignitaries at the programme.

FIGHTING NEW WAVE OF TERRORISM

Call for effective policy, measures

Experts suggest forming nat'l security council, civil-military cooperation

- RECOMMENDATIONS**
- Ensure professionalism, transparency in civil and military bureaucracy
 - Stop "civil-civil" conflict
 - Avoid political influence on military
 - Reduce military intervention in civil affairs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of security experts and academics yesterday suggested having new policies and structures to enhance civil and military cooperation to fight terrorism that threatens the country's peace and stability.

At a seminar, they said the present institutional arrangements don't allow effective civil-military cooperation that can properly deal with the crisis in the changed global scenario.

Imtiaz Ahmed, professor of international relations at Dhaka University, recommended the formation of a national security council.

"In regard to terrorism, civil and military have to come together," he said. All developed countries and also neighbouring India have national security councils, but Bangladesh doesn't have it, said Imtiaz.

Referring to the July 1 terrorist attack in the capital's Gulshan, he said,

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US offer of anti-terror help genuine

No other intention, says Bernicat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Obama administration genuinely wants to help Dhaka strengthen its ability to fight terrorism and it has no ulterior intentions, said US Ambassador Marcia Bernicat yesterday.

"I have been sad to see reports lately of some people who are saying that US offers to provide counter-terrorism assistance are either our effort to invade Bangladesh, or take over Bangladesh, or control Bangladesh in some way, or even to drag you onto a battlefield.

"We have no such desire to occupy this country in any way. I just want to assure you that the types of assistance we provide to

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BLOGGER OYASIQUR KILLING

Five Ansarullah men indicted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against five members of the banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) in connection with the killing of blogger Oyasiqur Rahman Babu in March last year.

The accused are Zikrullah alias Hasan, Ariful Islam alias Mushfiq, Md Saiful Islam, Akram Hossain Hasib alias Abdullah and Junayed alias Taher.

Of them, Zikrullah, Ariful Islam and Md Saiful Islam, are now in jail and pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge SM Ziaur Rahman of the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court read out the charges to them.

Akram and Junayed have been absconding since the incident took place. Charges were framed against them in their absence. The court issued arrest warrant against them.

The court also fixed August 4 to start trial of the case.

During yesterday's hearing, the accused did not get any lawyers to defend them in the court. Assistant Public Prosecutor Mohammad Salauddin Howlader represented the state.

Hasib, known as "Boro Bhai" among the ABT members, masterminded the killing, according to the charge sheet.

Zikrullah, Ariful and Junayed, who had been enraged by Oyasiqur's write-ups on facebook and other social media platforms, participated in the killing mission on March 30 last year.

Clever-wielding Zikrullah and Ariful, who are madrasa students, were chased by locals while fleeing after they hacked Oyasiqur to death at Begunbari in capital's Tejgaon Industrial Area.

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FBI lab to test café attackers' blood samples

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors yesterday collected hair and blood samples from the bodies of six "terrorists" to ascertain whether they had been under the influence of drugs while "carrying out" the attack on a Gulshan café.

The samples will soon be handed over to the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for a test in their laboratory, said investigators and one of the doctors.

Sohel Mahmud, assistant professor of the forensic and medicine department at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), said they collected the samples on the request of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

The move came amid media reports that militants, especially members of the Islamic State, are popping addictive pills, which help "fuel their fury", before attacking their victims.

The brutal way the attackers killed people at the Holey Artisan Bakery prompted investigators to suspect whether the terrorists had also taken similar drugs.

During a special meeting on terrorism and militancy at the Gono Bhaban on July 4, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina too

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Tobacco-fuelled jets take off

CNN ONLINE

The first commercial planes in Africa to use biofuels carried 300 passengers between Johannesburg and Cape Town on July 15.

The Boeing jets, operated by South African Airways (SAA), were partly powered by nicotine-free, high-energy "Solaris" tobacco plants cultivated by farmers in Limpopo Province.

The flights represent a major step forward for "Project Solaris," a partnership between biochemists Sunchem SA, fuel specialists SkyNRG, SAA, and Boeing, which launched in 2014 with the aim of delivering "local, sustainable jet fuel production" at large scale.

"This is very significant as it proves we can use this biofuel," says Ian Cruickshank, SAA Group Environmental Affairs Specialist. "It shows the industry is really changing. Four or five years ago biofuel was seen as futuristic, and today it's here."

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RACE FOR WHITE HOUSE

Trump claims GOP mantle

REUTERS, Cleveland

Thirteen months after launching an improbable bid for the White House, Donald Trump captured the 2016 Republican presidential nomination on Tuesday, having vanquished 16 party rivals, warred with much of its establishment and provoked controversy at every turn.

His eldest child, Donald Trump Jr, announced the support of New York, their home state, during a roll-call vote at the Republican National Convention, ensuring Trump had the majority of delegates - 1,237 - needed to contest

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Even though the modern integrated checkpoint in India's Petrapole has been complete three months ago, the authorities in Bangladesh are yet to finish building theirs, inset. The multi-purpose integrated checkpoints between the two countries will be inaugurated today. PHOTO: SUBRATA ACHARYA AND MOHSIN MILON

Turkey purge widens

Charges laid against 99 generals and admirals as post-coup crackdown nets 50,000; academics banned from foreign travel; 24 radio, TV licenses revoked

AGENCIES

Turkey has now fired or suspended about 50,000 people after a failed coup over the weekend as it intensifies its vast purge -- battering the country's security forces and many of its democratic institutions.

Teachers, journalists, police and judges alike have been caught in a net authorities are casting wider by the day, in what is increasingly looking like a witch-hunt to suppress dissent, reports CNN.

It yesterday formally charged 99 generals and admirals in connection with the weekend's coup attempt - just under a third of the country's 356 top military officers.

Western leaders have urged President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his government to respect democratic principles and act within the law as authorities talk of reviving the death penalty and heavy-handed punishments over the coup, which left at least 232 people dead.

Turkey is a major Western ally in the war against Islamic State.

Human rights group Amnesty International has warned the purges are being extended to censor media outlets and journalists, including those critical of government policy.

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