

Japan sought

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told Hasina that "Japan will continue its ODA [Official Development Assistance] for Bangladesh to carry on the spirit of the victims."

During the 20-minute meeting between Abe and Hasina, the Japanese prime minister apprised this Bangladeshi counterpart that Japan has started a review at the Council on Safety Measures for International Cooperation Projects led by Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Fumio Kishida.

"I request the kind cooperation of Prime Minister Hasina in these efforts," Abe said, according to the Japanese foreign ministry's website.

Earlier, the Japanese premier said terrorism cannot be justified for any reason, and Japan strongly condemns this attack. "I extend my condolences again for the Bangladeshi people who lost their lives and would like to express strong solidarity with Bangladesh."

"I have already instructed law enforcement agencies and military forces directly under my control to take all possible measures to ensure the safety of Japanese people and other foreigners," said Hasina in response to Abe's remarks.

She said Bangladesh is responding not only through law enforcement agencies, but also with the cooperation of the people of Bangladesh as a whole.

Although the perpetrators of the terrorist attack were killed, Hasina said, "Bangladesh is conducting an investigation into the underlying causes, including benefactors, funding, arms supply, and training, and plans to share all of the information it possesses on terrorism with Japan."

She also assured that Bangladesh will cooperate fully with Japan to combat terrorism and ensure the safety of the Japanese people.

Hasina expressed her respect for Prime Minister Abe's bold decision immediately after this incident for Japan to continue ODA activities.

She said the Japanese victims were working to promote Bangladesh's development and advancement, and Bangladesh is greatly saddened by this loss. "Terrorists remain terrorists regardless of their country or religion."

'Woman

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Details about the woman could not be known.

Imam said a team of law enforcers from Dhaka came to Narsingdi and picked her up. "We were neither given any information nor contacted by anyone regarding this."

Cow census

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will conduct the census in two phases before and after the Eid which falls on mid-September. This would help the committee find out how many cows went missing during the period.

However, the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal has announced it would resist the move politically.

Speaking at a rally in Kolkata on Wednesday, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed fear that the initiative could lead to a communal riot between Hindus and Muslims in the state.

Subrata Gupta, president of Committee for Saving Cows, said every year several thousand cows are smuggled to Bangladesh to be slaughtered during Eid and it need to be stopped.

"After Eid, we will go door to door to see whether the cows already counted were still there. If we find that any cow was missing, we would check necessary papers to ascertain the reason for the sale of the cow. If we don't have satisfactory answers, we would lodge an FIR with the police station concerned about the missing cow," he added.

He said workers will keep strict vigilance at every entry and exit points along the border to prevent smuggling of cows.

About the slaughtering of cows, he said although it is not banned in West Bengal, it must be ensured that it is done in line with specific rules.

Explaining the rules, Gupta said a cow can be slaughtered if it is 14 years old, free from any diseases and not pregnant. A veterinary doctor needs to look into these issues.

In most of the cases, cows are sold at the age of four and smuggled out, he added.

According to the committee chief, Mamata Banerjee recently directed the local administrations of every bordering district to prevent smuggling of cows.

"As citizens of India, it is our duty to prevent smuggling of cows," he said, adding he was surprised by the opposition from the chief minister.

West Bengal BJP President Dilip Ghosh argued that if an organisation can conduct a tiger census, others should have the right to carry out one on cows.

'Missing' but not missing

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This newspaper yesterday spoke with 10 such returnees, most of them victims of doping gangs and muggers.

They alleged that law enforcers and intelligence agencies were harassing them and their families just because their names came up on the list.

Some said they were even being humiliated by their families, colleagues and friends.

Talking to The Daily Star, lawyers and former police officials said both the families and law enforcers were to blame for the mix-up, as each of them had a responsibility in this.

Muhammad Nurul Huda, a former inspector general of police, said complainants should report to the police after the return of their loved ones.

"On the other hand, police should update their records with the latest information to avoid such things," he added.

Kazi Mohibul Islam, a lawyer in Dhaka, fell victim to a doping gang on his way to Feni on March 25. He returned to his family after around 24 hours, by which time his family filed a general diary with Feni Police Station.

The family later verbally informed the police about his return, but police did not update their record.

"Now, my family and I are being harassed in various ways by law enforcement and intelligence agencies and even by journalists because the list features my name," he told The Daily Star by phone.

"The situation has turned so bad that my father is now asking me whether I really practise law in Dhaka," he said, sounding frustrated.

At least six others share his frustration.

One DMP official, who investigated two cases of missing, said the families informed them in writing after their relatives returned home.

"When Rab officials asked me recently about their status, I told them that they returned home. I don't know why their names are on the list," he

MISSING PEOPLE

THOSE WHO RETURNED

- JHENIDAH**
Ashikur Rahman, Mamun Raihan, Mazedul Haq, Abu Sayeed, Rezaul Islam, Shohag, Abjal Malita
- CHITTAGONG**
Nurul Huda, Azizur Rahman, Faridul Huq, Mojaffar Hossain alias Babu
- MYMENSINGH**
Farhad Miah
- CHAPAINAWABGANJ**
Mostofa Kamal
- DINAJPUR**
Sifat Ahmed
- NOAKHALI**
Main Uddin
- NATORE**
Jamil Hossain, Jamil Sohel Rana, Mannan Hossain (contacted their families)

ACCORDING TO REPORTS BY OUR DISTRICT CORRESPONDENTS.

said, asking not to be named.

Contacted, Mufti Mahmud Khan, director of Rab's legal and media wing, said they prepared the list based on information from police stations across the country.

"If the returnees report to the respective police stations, we will update the list," he said.

Earlier on Wednesday, he told the BBC that there may be various reasons as to why these people had gone missing.

"So it is not possible to say that they all are directly involved in militancy. We are not telling so either," Mahmud added.

Meanwhile in Chittagong, Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday said they were verifying the list. Only after case by case analysis they would be able to say how many of them have militant links.

He said the Rab list was not a final one and that police would publish a final list after verification.

Freedom fighter

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National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) at 1:30am yesterday. She left behind her husband, two daughters, a son, daughter-in law and a host of friends and relatives to mourn her death.

She also left a legacy of bravery and commitment to the struggle for equality and social justice.

FIGHTER IN DISGUISE
Shirin Banu, daughter of Selina Banu, MP of the Jukta Front in 1954, was a second-year student of Bangla at Pabna Edward College and a leader of the Chhatra Union when the war broke out.

As youths and men were gearing up for the war following Bangabandhu's historic speech on March 7, she was figuring out how she could participate in the fight against the occupation forces.

One of her cousins said she could wear a shirt and pant like Pritilata Wadler, an anti-colonial revolutionary woman during the British period.

"I liked the idea of being disguised as a boy. My aunt was my guardian. I went to her wearing my cousin's clothes. She said, 'Come and stand in front of me'. As I did, she looked at me and said, 'You can go. You don't look like a girl,'" she told The Daily Star in an interview last year.

The Pakistan Army went to Pabna from Rajshahi on March 25, set up camps, declared curfew and arrested people indiscriminately in the next few days as independence was declared by Bangabandhu. As the army entered the Pabna DC office and other establishments, local people retaliated.

"I was at the forefront of the battle at Pabna Telephone Bhaban," she said, adding that freedom fighters didn't have many arms and ammunition then, and so fought with koch (a fishing tool), kitchen knives, sticks and spears.

In a fight on March 28, 36 Pakistani soldiers were killed. Shirin Banu was in charge of the control room of freedom fighters in a fight at Nagarbari on April 9.

"Besides, I arranged lodging and food for freedom fighters and took the wounded freedom fighters to hospital," she said during the interview.

From March 30 till April 9, there was no Pakistan army in Pabna. As the Pakistani military entered Pabna on April 10, Shirin Banu along with other freedom fighters crossed the border to Kolkata.

There she had training at Gobra female camp. She mobilised public opinion in favour of the Liberation War. Returning home, Shirin Banu joined the war in sector-9 under the command of Maj Jalil, said her cousin Taslim Hasan Suman.

After the country's independence, Shirin Banu went to Russia. Following her return in 1980, she joined Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development in Comilla, moved to Dhaka in 1986 and worked on women's rights, said her son Tahsinur Rahman.

She was a member of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971 and Sector Commanders Forum (SCF), he added.

"Shirin is the pride of the nation. People in Pabna know her role in the Liberation War. She requires state honour as freedom fighter," said Rabiul Islam Rabi, former president of the Chhatra Union and her associate in the battle field.

A GREAT SOUL
Recalling Shirin's memory, her daughter-in-law Sabrina Sohani said she was a kind-hearted human being.

"After the whole day at office, she would directly go to the kitchen, prepare food and call out to us for snacks.

"She gave her children a lot of space so that they would become open-minded," Sabrina told The Daily Star.

On Wednesday, the family had dinner at a restaurant. Returning to their Indira Road residence around 10:45pm, she fell sick. She was immediately rushed to the NICVD.

However, treatment did not work. Doctors declared her dead around 1:30am.

Her body will be taken to the Central Shaheed Minar and kept for an hour from 10:00am today for people to pay tribute, said Sabrina. Shirin Banu will be buried at her in-law's family graveyard at Katabil in Comilla sadar after Asr prayers today.

The CPB, SCF, Forum for Secular Bangladesh, Bangladesh Students' Union and Bangladesh Farmers' Association offered condolences to the bereaved family.

Minister Mosharraf

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lower court in connection with a corruption case filed by the Commission, an ACC lawyer said.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Amir Hossain also rejected a petition filed by the Awami League leader in August 2008, challenging legality of the initiation and proceedings of the case.

The judges passed the order after Mosharraf's lawyer Abdul Matin Khasru told the HC that his client would not proceed with the petition in the hope that the ACC might submit a final report to the trial court.

Matin Khasru told The Daily Star that the case against Mosharraf is at the investigation stage.

Mosharraf gave his wealth statement properly to the ACC and he pays all relevant taxes to the government and that he did not obtain any property through illegal means, he said, adding that the ACC might give a final report exonerating Mosharraf of the case.

Matin Khasru said the HC asked the trial court to consider a bail petition of Mosharraf in accordance with the law, as he did not misuse the bail earlier granted by the HC.

The ACC filed the case with Ramna Police Station on November 25, 2007, against Mosharraf on charges of amassing Tk 3 crore wealth and concealing information about it, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

Following the petition of Mosharraf, the HC in August 2008 stayed the case proceedings, issued a rule asking the ACC and the government to explain why the proceedings of the case should not be scrapped, and granted bail to Mosharraf in the case, he said.

The HC yesterday vacated the order of stay and bail, he said, adding that the ACC can now resume investigation into the case.

Replying to a question, Khurshid Alam said the HC is now waiting for

rehearing 26 appeals of around 30 people, mostly politicians and their family members, against their convictions and sentences given by trial courts in separate corruption cases.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court at different times in the last few years has overturned the HC's acquittal of them and ordered it [the HC] to hold further hearing on their appeals.

The convicted accused whose acquittals were scrapped by the SC include Relief and Disaster Management Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, former BNP minister Nazmul Huda and his wife Sigma Huda, former BNP state ministers Iqbal Hasan Mahmood Tuku and Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin Nasir's son Mir Helal Uddin, independent lawmaker and AL leader Haji Mohammad Selim, former BNP state minister Amanullah Aman and his wife Sabera Aman, former AL MP Joynal Abedin Hazari, former BNP legislator Hafiz Ibrahim and his wife Mafuza Sultana, former AL MP Mockbul Hossain and his wife Fatema Tahera Khanam, former commissioner of customs Jahurul Haque and his wife Afia Haque, former BNP MP Rashiduzzaman Millat, former MP of Islamic Oikya Jote Mufti Shahidul Islam, and engineer Monjurul Ahsan Munshi.

They were sentenced to various terms ranging from three to 10 years in prison by lower courts in different graft cases filed by the ACC. The cases were mainly over amassing illegal wealth and concealing wealth information.

The SC cancelled their acquittals considering the HC verdicts wrong, as the HC did not properly examine relevant evidence and corruption allegations against the accused, the lawyer said.

The HC bench led by Md Ruhul Quddus has recently started rehearing the appeal of engineer Monjurul Ahsan Munshi, he added.

Emergency declared

FROM PAGE 20

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FIGHTER IN DISGUISE
Shirin Banu, daughter of Selina Banu, MP of the Jukta declared Turkey's first state of emergency since 2002, the year before he first came to power as prime minister.

It came into force yesterday, almost a week after the rebel soldiers surged into the streets with tanks, bombing parliament and shooting protesters on a bloody night of turmoil that left 265 people dead.

Erdogan said it would allow Turkey to be cleared of "terrorists" linked to US-based Muslim preacher Fethullah Gulen, whom he accuses of orchestrating the failed coup from his leafy compound in Pennsylvania.

But Erdogan insisted democracy would "not be compromised" and lashed out at critics of the sweeping purge that has raised deep concerns about democracy and human rights in the key Nato member.

The extra powers, to restrict freedom of movement and other rights, were needed "to remove swiftly all the elements of the terrorist organisation involved in the coup attempt," Erdogan said.

Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said the special measures may only last up to 45 days, insisting that "we want to end the state of emergency as soon as possible".

Asked about whether the government may impose curfews, Kurtulmus said: "very clearly no. This is not a declaration of martial law."

But he also said Turkey will suspend the European Convention on Human Rights, saying France had done the same after being targeted by a string of jihadist attacks.

"The road to arbitrary rule, unlaw-

ful behaviour, feeding on violence, has been chosen," complained the opposition Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP).

"Society has been forced to choose between a coup or an undemocratic government."

Erdogan, warning that his opponents may launch new provocations has urged his supporters to remain in squares across the country in what he calls a "vigil" for democracy.

He spoke by video link at midnight to the flag-waving and jubilant crowds of supporters still filling squares nationwide.

Meanwhile, mobile phone users across Turkey received text messages sent by "RT Erdogan" urging people to stay in the streets to resist "the terrorists".

"The owners of the squares are not the tanks. The owners are the nation," said the message.

Kurtulmus said the coup had claimed a total of 265 lives, including 24 plotters and 241 citizens and members of he security forces who opposed them. Previously, the military had said over 100 coup plotters were killed.

Erdogan suggested there would be further detentions in the crackdown, which has already netted several widely known figures.

Late Wednesday, a court remanded in custody Ali Yazici, the president's aide-de-camp who looked after military protocol on state occasions and was regularly seen by Erdogan's side, on charges of supporting the coup.

Courts have remanded in custody 109 out of 125 generals and admirals detained so far. Some been seen bruised and wounded in images published by state media.

"Of course that does not mean we have come to the end of it," Erdogan told Al-Jazeera.

The Turkish leader has fired back at critics of the government actions, telling France's Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault -- who had warned Erdogan not to use the failed coup as a carte blanche to silence his opponents -- to "mind his own business".

NRB in Australia

FROM PAGE 1

persons in the wake of the July 1 Gulshan café siege. He is also on the Rapid Action Battalion's list of 262 missing persons.

Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of DMP, told this newspaper last night that police have long been looking for Kausar.

Tahera said Kausar, who to her knowledge is an IT professional in Australia, did not regularly contact her in the last couple of years. However, when he called her during the first week of Ramadan (June), she asked him if he could send her some money.

"That's when he abruptly hung up the line and never called me again," she said, adding she could not identify from where the call came from.

Before moving to Australia, he graduated in computer science from a private university in Dhaka, said his mother.

She added the last time her son visited her was in 2013.

She also informed that Kausar married an Australian woman who converted to Islam before the marriage. The couple had a son and a daughter.

A report by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) published on Wednesday said the whereabouts of Kausar were unknown.

The report added that a spokesperson of Australian Federal Police, when contacted regarding Kausar, refused to "comment on intelligence matters."

Meanwhile, a New York Times report on Tuesday quoted a Bangladeshi senior intelligence official saying that Kausar was suspected to have served as one of the contact points between militants inside Bangladesh and organisers outside the country.

The report added that two to three dozen fighters had returned from Syria and were serving as operatives in Bangladesh. The intelligence official was further quoted as saying that they had returned after receiving training in Turkey, and a third group may be training within Bangladesh's borders.

According to a Daily Mail report on July 19, Additional Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Monirul Islam said last year that Kausar and two others were suspected recruiters for IS and they were being sought after by law enforcers.

The bloody siege at Holey Artisan Bakery, an upscale eatery at Gulshan, left 20 hostages -- nine Italian, seven Japanese, two Bangladeshis, one Indian and one Bangladesh-born US citizen -- dead.

The armed attackers also bombed and killed two police officers who tried to end the siege soon after it began around 8:40pm on July 1.

According to The New York Times report that The Daily Star could not independently verify, two other suspects with IS links were Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury, who is thought to have returned to Bangladesh from

Canada in 2013, and Mohammad Saifullah Ojaki, a professor of business administration at a university in Japan.

Ojaki, who lived in Japan for many years, was born into a modest Hindu family in Bangladesh. He earned a scholarship and eventually taught business administration at a university in Kyoto, said the report.

"While living there, he underwent a transformation, changing his name and converting to Islam, said his father, Janardan Debnath. Mr Debnath said the family was staggered by the news of his conversion," read the report.

Meanwhile, Tamim according to the report was believed by some analysts to act as a coordinator of the Islamic State's activities in Bangladesh and parts of northeast India.

He left Windsor, Ontario, Canada for Bangladesh in 2013 or some time after. Before he left Canada he complained to acquaintances of harassment from law enforcers, and his radical beliefs were criticised by leaders in his mosque.

Acquaintances described Tamim as "a nerdy kid who no one would have ever thought to take on a leadership role of any kind", said the report quoting Amarnath Amarasingam, a fellow at George Washington University's Programme on Extremism, who tracks jihadist fighters from the West.

Public transport

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ent community-based organisations. A top police official said they made the decision as they believe unauthorised rickshaws might pose a security threat in the area.

POLICE RUBBISH RUMOURS
The Police Headquarters yesterday urged people not to get confused by "rumours" over probable militant attacks at different establishments.

In a press statement, it said rumours have surfaced on different social media, including Facebook, YouTube and Twitter, that militant attacks would be carried out at shopping malls, important government and non-government installations, educational institutions and large public gatherings.

These are mere rumours. The police will take appropriate measures including alerting people if there were any security threats, added the statement.

It warned that law enforcers will take legal action against those involved in spreading rumours.

Meanwhile, DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia said a vested quarter was behind spreading rumours to create panic among people.

"We are scrutinising websites, Facebook pages and mobile phones to identify those spreading rumours," he added.

The city police chief said they were assessing the current security measures and stepping up security to avert any untoward incident.

Russian team

FROM PAGE 20

the Olympic movement since the US and Soviet boycotts of the 1980s, and would be a grave blow to a nation that prides itself on its status as a sporting superpower.

"CAS rejects the claims/appeal of the Russian Olympic Committee and 68 Russian athletes," CAS said in a statement that backed the right the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) to suspend the Russian athletics federation.

Russia is one of the world's foremost sporting powers which won the third biggest overall medal haul at the last summer Olympics in 2012 -- though some of those results are now in question because of doping suspicions.

Double Olympic champion pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva called the decision "the funeral of athletics".