

DMP wants

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Telecommunication Regulatory Commission as we found some people through these pages were trying to disturb religious harmony and promote militancy," a DMP official said seeking anonymity.

On Thursday, DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia said police identified some websites and social media pages which have been spreading religious fanaticism and misguiding youths.

Steps have been taken to block those web pages, he added.

DMP officials said militant outfits propagate their ideology and spread anti-government propaganda through the social media websites.

Investigators found that many of the outfits target youths, establish contact with them over the social media and finally recruit them as operatives.

Earlier, a police investigation revealed that sermons of at least three local Islamic preachers were uploaded on video-sharing website YouTube which encouraged some youths to get involved in militancy.

On the basis of the findings, the home ministry asked the BTRC to block the video links.

An official of the DMP's counter-terrorism unit said the web page administrators, mostly from abroad, open new pages soon after the closure of older ones to resume their activities.

The law enforcers keep a close eye on such online activities round the year and ask the telecom regulator to block those pages, he added.

BTRC Chairman Shahjahan Mahmood said they already requested the Facebook authorities to remove the 27 pages.

The Facebook authorities verify complaints and take action on the basis of their findings, he told The Daily Star.

The social media platform so far granted around 60 percent requests from the BTRC, added Shahjahan.

Magura miracle

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to wish them with gifts, cakes and flowers.

"I was waiting for Suraiya's birthday," said Safiur Rahman, a surgeon at Magura Sadar Hospital, adding, "I still shiver in amazement thinking of the risk I took while conducting the operation."

Safiur is happy that both Suraiya and her mother are healthy and well now.

"This would not have been possible without the grace of the Almighty," he said.

The injury however cost Suraiya her right eye.

"One of her eyes was totally damaged and the other also requires continuous treatment in Dhaka. But we cannot go to Dhaka regularly due to financial constraints," said Nazma.

But she expressed her gratitude to the doctors in Magura and Dhaka who provided her and her daughter free medical treatment.

"I am a tea seller. It is very difficult for me to run a family of five members. Under such a circumstance, it is not possible for me to spend a lot for my daughter's birthday," said Bachchu Bhuiyan, Suraiya's father.

Bachchu lamented that although many bigshots had promised to take care of Suraiya's treatment and upbringing expenditure while she was in Dhaka, none kept their words.

"Though almost all the accused of the case [filed after the incident] were arrested most of them came out in bail," he said expressing his doubts of getting justice.

Additional District Police Super Tariqul Islam, who came to wish Suraiya with new clothes and flowers, said the district police had been providing all kinds of assistance to Suraiya's family since the incident.

"Suraiya and her mother were sent to Dhaka on personal initiative of the superintendent of police. Besides, we have submitted the charge sheet of the case very quickly and all except one accused were sent to jail," he said.

Suraiya's pregnant mother was shot when one pro-ruling party activist and his followers attacked Suraiya's uncle Kamrul Bhuiyan, another pro-ruling party activist, and his relatives.

Kamrul's uncle Momin Bhuiyan, 65, who received injury from gunshots and bomb splinters, succumbed to his injuries, while a supporter of Kamrul was hacked during the attack.

A case filed by Momin's son accused 16 people including the district Bangladesh Chhatra League vice-president for involvement in the attack.

UN backs plan to rid Libya of chemical weapons

AFP, United Nations
The UN Security Council on Friday endorsed plans to rid Libya of its chemical weapons and prevent them from falling into the hands of extremists like the Islamic State group.

Libya this week asked the OPCW chemical watchdog to draw up a plan for the destruction of the toxic agents that until recently were stored at the Ruwagha depot in southeastern Libya.

Libyan authorities moved the stockpile to another location in recent days and now want the OPCW -- the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons -- to help remove them from the country and destroy them outside Libya.

Jamaat link found

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Anowar was arrested on the basis of information gleaned from arrested Shafiu, one of the suspected Sholakia attackers.

Shafiu told the Rab that he had been staying at Anowar's house since March paying a monthly rent of Tk 1,000, said Kayser Alam, a commander of Rab-13.

A woman and a "big brother" also used to stay with Shafiu, but Anowar could not say anything about the duo, said officials from the elite force, adding that they were looking for them.

"Shafiu did not pay his last month's rent and left the house a month before the Sholakia attack, saying he would return soon," said Kayser.

The arrest came days after the arrests of two flat owners in the capita's Paschim Shewrapara and Bashundhara Residential areas.

They allegedly rented out their flats to the suspected Gulshan café attackers and withheld details of their tenants from police.

Mohammad Atiq, commanding officer of Rab-13, told The Daily Star that Shafiu had also participated in several "killing missions" in the northern part of the country while staying at Anowar's house.

Shafiu, son of Abdul Hye who is a radio and TV mechanic at Dakshhin

Vibrant campus

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Earlier on July 17, the home and education ministries held a meeting with the teachers and students of the private universities against the backdrop of some students' involvement in militancy.

"The universities used to be the main centres of cultural activities and sports but those decreased after 1975," said Rajshahi University VC Prof Muhammad Mizanuddin. "The practices came down drastically in recent times."

He said, "We all need to do some soul-searching. Have we created the role models before students? Have we been able to instil leadership qualities into students?"

When teachers should work together to spread the spirit of Liberation War among the students, they are pulling legs of one other, he alleged.

Prof Mizan said teachers and non-partisan students do not want to get in touch with student organisations that commit "extortions".

Echoing his view, Jahangirnagar University VC Prof Farzana Islam said existing unhealthy student politics on the campus is not helpful for nation building.

She also said teachers would not be able to guide students in the right direction as long as they remain "corrupt" and busy earning money by teaching outside.

National University VC Prof Harun-or-Rashid said the VCs have responsibilities to cooperate with the government in every possible way. "Otherwise, they should step down."

He said the UGC should play a more pro-active role rather than just visiting an institution and taking steps after an incident.

Kamrul Hasan Khan, vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, said the university authorities themselves will have to take steps to introduce more cultural and extracurricular activities to keep students busy in positive work in their leisure time.

It is high time the VCs worked together without being divided over political and personal gains, he said.

Computer changes

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The young boy first learnt MS word and how to use the internet; he then acquired skills in various other programs including Photoshop, Power Point and graphics design software.

Anis was soon able to install software as well. He could scan and print and edit videos. And still the boy's enthusiasm for computers was not dimmed.

At the end of 2014 Joynal rented a part of Rasha Computer & Variety Store in Kurigram town's Paura Bazar, and set up a computer, printer, scanner and internet access. From January 2015, Anis started to work there after class, generating income for his guardian as contribution to his own school expenses.

"I have class from 9:00am to 2:00pm," says Anis, "Then after lunch from about 3:00pm. I sit in the shop until early evening. But I don't work when I have to study for school exams."

According to Anis, while his school has taught the students to use a multimedia projector, they have no class dedicated to computer skills. "But our Bangla teacher Babar Ali," says Anis, "knows I have IT skills. He knows I want to study computer science."

Earning between Tk 200 and Tk 500 per day, Anis completes various internet and Word composition activities for local offices and individuals. "I give the money to Abbu," he says, referring to Joynal, "because he pays all my school costs including for my private tuition."

Senior sub-assistant engineer of the local government engineering department, Nazrul Islam, says he has found Anis to be helpful and efficient in completing any official task he has given him. "Anis is a computer expert," says Nazrul, "I am convinced that in future he will do really well if he has the chance to study computers at a higher level."

"Anis has an enduring interest in computers," says Joynal. "That's why I am providing him with all the support he needs including equipment and private tuition. My hope is that eventually his skills can help him and his father to meet the costs of his higher education."

KSA slaps

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signed an agreement to employ domestic workers under 12 categories.

In April last year, Saudi started hiring females from Bangladesh as domestic worker. More than 60,000 Bangladeshi females found jobs until July 20, according to the statistics of the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training.

Following the announcement, the Saudi government didn't allow Bangladeshi males to work in all sectors. Rather, it declared that males would get domestic jobs.

Sunamganj

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Tahirpur upazila in the Jadukata river basin, said more than 100 houses were inundated in the area. Villagers took shelter on roads.

Floodwaters affected at least 50,000 people in Sunamganj, said Dipok Kumar Das, deputy divisional engineer of the WDB, Sunamganj.

Five unions, including Laxmipur, Banglabazar, and Narsinghpur, were cut off from Doarabazar upazila by floods, said Doarabazar upazila Chairman M Idris Ali.

Golam Rabbi Jahan, primary education officer of Tahirpur upazila, said eight schools in the upazila were affected by the onrush of hilly water.

Of them, Shemgaon Government Primary School is now under three feet water. Balichera dyke has already broken, allowing floodwaters into six villages.

As the Surma river swells, the embankment along the river is facing the risk of damage at 18 points. Most of the families living beside the river are in fear of losing their cropland and homesteads.

Upazila education officers have been asked to submit reports on affected schools as early as possible, said Hazrat Ali, the district primary education officer.

Six burnt

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Partha Shankar Paul, resident surgeon of the DMCH burn unit, said the condition of the injured was critical. Five of them were taking treatment at the burn unit's High Dependency Unit.

Fire Service and Civil Defence officials said the fire broke out around 3:50am. On information, a firefighting unit reached the spot around 4:10am. Locals, however, managed to douse the flames by the time the team reached there.

The officials suspected that the fire might have been originated from electric short circuit at the tin-roofed one-storey factory named Brishti Fashion.

Locals said the factory has been running business on a small scale at Alipara under Kamrangirchar Police Station for the last few years.

Eighteen workers were employed there but after Eid-ul-Fitr, eight workers joined work, said one staff.

Six of them, including siblings Ashiqur and Sajid, regularly sleep inside the factory.

Ashiqur, who suffered 27 percent burns, told this correspondent at the DMCH that he woke up after he heard a loud bang in the middle of the night.

"I saw bright flames on the roof. There was smoke all around. I tried to get out of the factory through the front door but failed. Then I rushed to the back door and somehow managed to escape," he said.

Asked why he was sleeping there, Ashiqur said there was a shortage of space at his single-room house.

His father Nurul Islam, who lives near the factory, said he heard screams of locals and rushed to the spot immediately.

Locals with the help of police rescued the injured and rushed them to the hospital, he added.

Sheikh Mohsin, officer-in-charge of Kamrangirchar Police Station, said the injured were sleeping inside the factory consisting of two rooms.

Schoolboys

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When the four boys turned up in school skirts on Thursday, head teacher Kate Williams said they could "wear any part of the agreed school uniform".

The mother of 14-year-old Michael Parker, who was one of the group, said three of the boys were initially told to remove the skirts, but all four of them kept them on.

Angela Parker said they wore them to school again earlier, and were joined by a further 10 boys.

The PE shorts worn by the boys on Tuesday were an official part of the uniform, bearing the school logo.

Pupils who changed out of the shorts and back into trousers were not disciplined.

In a statement on Tuesday, Ms Williams told The Argus: "Students have access to water in order to keep themselves hydrated. We have made reasonable steps to ensure that classrooms are as comfortable as possible."

"I have high standards regarding uniform, and today, in the warm weather conditions, these high standards have been challenged by approximately two percent of parents/students."

Another of the pupils, Kodi Ayling, said he put his trousers back on as he did not want to be excluded from school, but when he wore the skirt, Ms Williams "okayed it and said it was alright".

His father, Wesley Allen, said he hoped the protest would persuade the school to reconsider its school uniform policy.

Longhill High School has now broken up for the summer holidays.

He laughed

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with three women among the dead according to Munich police.

Prosecutor Thomas Steinkraus-Koch said Sonboly had suffered depression, while media reports said he had undergone psychiatric treatment.

The teenager had 300 rounds of ammunition in a rucksack when he targeted the busy Olympia shopping mall, just minutes away from the flat he shared with his family, according to authorities.

Officials suggested he may have posed as a girl on Facebook and posted information about a fake McDonald's promotion to lure people to the fast-food restaurant where he first opened fire.

Grieving Munich residents laid roses and lit candles in memory of the victims, with one placard bearing the simple plea: "Why?"

Sixteen people were wounded in the attack, three of them critically.

Merkel was to convene her security council yesterday.

The attack sent Germany's third largest city into lockdown as police launched a massive operation to track down what had initially been thought to be up to three assailants.

Neighbours said Sonboly was born to Iranian parents, a taxi driver father and a mother who worked at a department store.

They lived in the well-heeled Maxvorstadt neighbourhood in a tidy social housing block popular with immigrant families.

A police source cited by DPA news agency said Sonboly loved playing violent video games and was an admirer of the 17-year-old German who shot dead 15 people at his school near Stuttgart in 2009.

Neighbour Delfe Dalbi, 40, described him as a helpful young man who was "never bitter or angry", though others remembered a quiet loner.

"He laughed like a normal person," said Dalbi.

But a video posted on social media

Twin blasts kill 80

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was carried out by three suicide bombers... The third attacker was gunned down by security forces."

The wounded overwhelmed city hospitals, officials said, with reports emerging of blood shortages and urgent appeals for donors circulating on social media.

The Taliban, who are in the middle of their annual summer offensive and are more powerful than IS, strongly denied any involvement in the attack.

IS claimed the bombings in a statement carried by its affiliated Amaq news agency, calling it an attack on Shias.

"Two fighters of the Islamic State detonated their explosive belts in a gathering of Shias in... Kabul," Amaq said.

The attack represents a major escalation for the IS group, which so far has largely been confined to the eastern province of Nangarhar.

The National Directorate of Security, Afghanistan's main intelligence agency, said the attack was masterminded by Abu Ali, an IS commander in Nangarhar's volatile Achin district.

The attack came as thousands of demonstrators gathered to demand that a multi-million-dollar power line pass through their electricity-starved province of Bamiyan, one of the most deprived areas of Afghanistan with a large Hazara population.

"The horrific attack on a group of peaceful protesters in Kabul demonstrates the utter disregard that armed groups have for human life," Amnesty International said in a statement.

"Such attacks are a reminder that the conflict in Afghanistan is not winding down, as some believe, but escalat-

Clinton picks Tim Kaine

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been friends with the Clintons for decades and is originally from another key battleground state, Pennsylvania; and Labor Secretary Thomas Perez, a Latino seen as a true liberal.

Clinton put out a series of tweets heaping praise on the senator.

She described him as "a relentless optimist who believes no problem is unsolvable if you put in the work to solve it" saying his guiding principle was "the belief that you can make a difference through public service."

Clinton's VP announcement comes two days after Trump's number two -- Indiana Governor Mike Pence -- accepted the nomination at a tumultuous party convention in Cleveland.

The New York billionaire painted a dystopian dark picture of an America mired in poverty and violence as he accepted his party's nomination Thursday night, promising to restore security, clamp down on immigration and put America first.

Trump's choice of running mate, a conservative evangelical Christian and former congressman, could serve to reassure voters alarmed by his rhetoric.

"I heard about Donald Trump's dark and divisive vision," Clinton told a rally in Florida Friday.

"Last night's speech took it to a whole new level. He offered a lot of fear and anger and resentment, but no

appeared to cast Sonboly in a different light, showing a man dressed in black walking away from the McDonald's restaurant while firing repeatedly on people as they fled.

Survivors described terrifying scenes as shoppers rushed from the area, some carrying children in their arms.

Another video posted online appeared to show Sonboly on the top floor of a multi-storey car park exchanging a tirade of insults with nearby bystanders.

At one point the gunman appears to mention being a victim of bullying though his words cannot be heard clearly.

"I'm German, I was born here," the assailant is heard to reply after one man reeled off a volley of swear words including an offensive term for foreigners.

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Europe has been on high alert for terrorism after a string of attacks in neighbouring France and Belgium claimed by IS.

The attack came just four days after a 17-year-old asylum seeker went on a rampage with an axe and a knife on a train in Bavaria, injuring five people.

Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere had said that assailant was believed to be a "lone wolf" who appeared to have been "inspired" by IS but was not a member of the jihadist network.

Friday's massacre spurred many in Munich to think the unthinkable.

"It has reached us. People in Munich have long had a queasy feeling. Fears grew with every attack in Paris, Istanbul or Brussels," said the Abendzeitung newspaper's editor-in-chief Michael Schilling.

"Since Friday it is clear that there can be no security anywhere, not even in the safest German city."

Clinton picks Tim Kaine

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solutions about anything that he even talked about".

Nationwide polls suggest the New York mogul is almost neck and neck with Clinton, the former secretary of state who is mired in an ongoing email scandal.

While Republicans are split over support for Trump, their collective hatred of Clinton proved a potent unifier this week in Cleveland, where delegates clamored to demand her imprisonment, painting her as above the law.

In his acceptance speech, Trump characterised Clinton as corrupt, incompetent and hopelessly out of touch, saying she left a legacy of "death, destruction, terrorism and weakness."

Republican Party chief Reince Priebus dismissed Clinton's choice of running mate in a scornful tweet, saying "Hillary Clinton's choice of Tim Kaine does nothing to unify a fractured Democrat base repelled by her dishonesty & cronyism."

But he stopped short of attacking Kaine himself -- a sign, perhaps, of his strength as a consensus candidate, as reflected in the response of another Republican, Arizona Senator Jeff Flake.

"Trying to count the ways I hate @timkaine. Drawing a blank. Congrats to a good man and a good friend," he tweeted.