

HOMEGROWN TERRORISTS US holds same views with Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

The United States has said the recent acts of terrorism in various countries "have been homegrown" and they have the same views with Bangladesh government over the recent attacks here.

"So, I don't think we've a difference in the way we view your government's view of what's happening here. I think our views are very similar," said US Ambassador Marcia Bernicat yesterday.

She made the remark after her meeting with Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sayeed Khokon when she was asked how Bangladesh and the USA will work together with the difference on IS issue as Bangladesh government termed the attackers homegrown.

Bernicat said they all are trying to figure out who is influencing especially youths to commit these acts and how to stop them from doing that.

"Every act of terrorism that has taken place in the United States as here by people who were born and raised in the United States or emigrated... The same is true here," she said.

"I lived here now for over a year and a half and I understand this is not Bangladeshi culture, this is not Bangladeshi politics, this is not Bangladeshi religion especially not the way Islam is practiced here," Bernicat said.

"This is a global problem...any country that stands apart or trying to work on the problem alone is going to have a very hard time in succeeding because the terrorists themselves enjoy a global network."

"We are stronger if we work together," she stressed.

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Teachers, students and employees of Dhaka University (DU) at a human chain, organised by the university on the campus yesterday, urging a concerted effort to stamp out militancy and terrorism in the country.

DU for united efforts to stamp out terrorism

Students, teachers form anti-terror human chain

DU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers, students and employees of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday formed a human chain on the university campus, urging for a concerted effort to stamp out militancy and terrorism in the country.

They formed the human chain under the banner "Priyo Bangladesh, Jongibad o Sontrash Er Biruddhe Rukhe Darao" (Dear Bangladesh, stand against militancy and terrorism).

The one-hour protest programme from around 11:00am covered all the entry points and key intersections on the campus and in contiguous areas including Nilkhet, Shahbagh and Chankarpul.

All academic and administrative activities remained halted during the protest.

While addressing the human chain, DU Vice

PHOTO: STAR

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4 Hizb ut-Tahrir men held in Ctg

Leaflets, jihadi books seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested four activists of banned militant outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir after raiding different areas at Bakalia and Panchlaish in the port city yesterday.

The arrestees are: Faisal Aziz alias Ador, 24, a 3rd year student, Sultan Mahmud Bidyut, a BBA 4th year student, and Fakhrul Abedin, a masters student of statistics at Chittagong University, and Ariful Islam, a 4th year student of history department at Chittagong College, said Abul Mansur, officer-in-charge of Bakalia police.

Police also recovered a huge number of leaflets, jihadi books and membership forms of Hizb ut-Tahrir from them, added the OC.

On information, police raided Kalpolok residential area in Bakalia and arrested Faisal around 12:30am. Gleaning information from him, they raided Jane Alam Mansion at Hamzarbagh in Panhlaish and arrested the others, mentioned Mansur.

Rajuk shuts hotel, four restaurants

Starts drive to remove illegal structures in residential areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) shut down one hotel and four restaurants for their illegal operations in residential areas at the capital's Uttara yesterday.

The mobile court led by Executive Magistrate Khandakar Jakir Hossain conducted drive on road no.7 at Uttara sector no. 4 and sealed off Platinum Residence, which had illegally been operating in a 10-storey residential building.

Utility services of these hotels and restaurants were also cut off, said Engr Ashraf Islam, a Rajuk official.

Rajuk planned to launch its drives on Sunday, but to no avail

because of a lack of support from police.

Yesterday, a team of police joined the eviction drive.

The Rajuk teams planned to start with Dhanmondi and Uttara yesterday.

Rajuk Member (development control) Md Asmaul Hossain earlier told The Daily Star that three Rajuk teams would demolish and close illegal structures, including guesthouses, restaurants, hotels and bars.

The drive will also be against illegal structures in car parks, ramps on footpaths and even those running structures on plots not authorised as commercial ones, he said, adding that they were yet to finalise the number of commercial structures present.

PALLABI BLAST CASE

Arrest warrants issued for Rizvi, seven others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed and seven others in a case filed for exploding bombs in the capital's Pallabi area last year.

After accepting the charges against 17 accused including the eight, Judge (in-charge) Ruhul Amin of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order.

BNP leaders including Habibun-un-Nabi Sohel, Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas, Maruf Kamal Khan Sohel, Azizul Bari Helal, Syeda Asifa Ashrafi Papi are among the accused in the case. The court asked

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DECLARING PART OF MADHUPUR AS RESERVE FOREST

Rights activists want scrapping of decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should scrap its declaration to consider over 9,100 acres of lands as reserved forest in Madhupur upazila of Tangail because it will result in eviction of the ethnic minority people of the area, said rights activists yesterday.

Around 15,000 people of ethnic minority communities will be evicted from their ancestral lands, if the government acquires the land, they said at a press conference in the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity.

The environment and forests ministry on February 15 issued a circular announcing the area as a reserved forest. The circular also said that all claims regarding ownership of the lands in the area have been disposed in legal way.

"Why such a vast area has been declared a reserve forest without having any dialogue with the local people," asked rights activist Harendra Nath Sing while reading out a written statement.

The ethnic minority people will protect their lands at the cost of their lives, if necessary, he said.

In its electoral manifesto, the government pledged to protect land, cultural and traditional rights of people of all communities, so they should scrap its decision, he added.

Eminent columnist Syed Abul Maksud said the government's decision will violate people's constitutional rights because they will be evicted from their lands.

The ethnic minority people can be evicted when they are provided with lands in other areas, he said.

Maksud also demanded taking effective steps to evict those who have constructed recreational or picnic spots, resorts and other establishments destroying forests.

Veteran left politician Pankaj Bhattacharya said some bureaucrats initiate

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Happiness has no limits and can come in every imaginable way, including after succeeding in plucking burflowers, also known as kadam, a gift of nature appearing only during the monsoon. The photo was taken in Sreemangal recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

9 'members' of kidnapping gang arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested nine alleged members, including three females, of a kidnapping gang in the capital's Rampura area early yesterday.

They also seized 15 mobile phone sets, 22 SIM cards, a laptop, a camera, four national ID cards, two press cards, seven cheque-books and Tk 46,000 from their possession.

The arrestees are: Jahangir alias Ershad, 45, Sharif alias Delwar Hossain, 35, Mintu Mia, 46, Bachchu Mia, 45, Tomiz Uddin, 48, Hosne Ara Begum, 45, Asma Begum, 20, Sharmin Akter, 18, and Akash Chowdhury Rony, 32.

Earlier, on Thursday, a team of Rab-3 arrested two

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WAR CRIME TRIALS

Two Shariatpur men linked to killings

Mymensingh suspect shown arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday gave a testimony linking, as had most of the six others before him, two alleged Shariatpur Razakars to killings of scores of people and rape of women during the 1971 Liberation War.

Facing four charges, Sulaiman Mollah is now in jail and pleads not guilty while Edris Ali Sarder is on the run.

Anil Chandra Das, 61, told International Crimes Tribunal-1 that Sulaiman, Edris and other Razakars and the Pakistani occupation army men killed around 200 people attacking Kashabhog and Madyapara villages under Palang Police Station on May 22.

He came to know about it from fleeing villagers taking shelter in his home village of Dhanuka, he said.

The next day, Razakars including Sulaiman and Edris and the Pakistani army men attacked Malopara village and took 30 to 35 people including women to a Pakistani army camp set up at AR Hawlader Jute Mill in Madaripur, he said.

He said to have gone to the village a few days later and heard from some of the victims and their relatives that the women were released after being raped for three days and the men killed. In mid-June, Sulaiman and Edris along with

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International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday granted a petition from prosecutors to show an alleged Razakar Bahini member of Mymensingh arrested in a case accusing him of being involved in crimes during the 1971 Liberation War.

It granted a second allowing prosecutors time till October 9, when they would have to submit an investigation report, if there were any, in a similar case against another alleged Razakar of Satkhira.

Khalilur Rahman Meer, 61, may go into hiding getting released from a Mymensingh jail on bail in

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Embankment long-term solution to waterlogging

Ctg Mayor Nasir tells citizens' rally

ARUN BIKASH DEY WITH SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

Celebrating one year in office, Chittagong City Corporation Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin yesterday said waterlogging did not occur in some areas of the city this year due to cleaning of drains and canals.

He also said there would be a long-term solution to the waterlogging problem once the planned embankment road was built from Madunaghat to Patenga Naval Academy.

Addressing a citizens' rally at the Institution of Engineers Bangladesh, he hoped that the embankment project would be approved by the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecnec) this year.

Meanwhile, assessing his performance, experts and civil society members said Nasir was successful in removing illegal billboards and partially improved the waste management system. But he is yet to take initiatives against occupiers of the city canals, they said, talking to The Daily Star.

Nasir's decision to remove waste from dustbins at night is appreciable, said Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, former first vice-president of BGMEA. He said waterlogging was the city's main problem, and Nasir's one of the electoral pledges was to solve it permanently.

Town planner Subhash Barua said, "It is not possible for the mayor alone to solve the waterlogging problem permanently because it needs a huge investment."

When contacted, BNP's Chittagong city unit President Ameer Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury refused to evaluate performance of Mayor Nasir, also an Awami League leader.

Talking to The Daily Star, Nasir said he would dredge all 26 canals, and set up a sluice gate and a pump house in each of them. "We will also excavate three new canals."

The mayor said, "Waste will be collected from door to door from August 1 initially in seven wards. Gradually all of the city canals, they said, talking to The Daily Star.

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