

One killed in AL factional clash in Mathbaria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A man was killed and four others were injured in a factional clash of the ruling Awami League in Mathbaria upazila town yesterday.

The dead, Liton Pandit, 30, was a Jubo League activist. Locals said some supporters of Mathbaria Upazila Parishad Chairman Ashrafur Rahman beat up Nazmul Ahsan alias Tuku, 50 in the morning. Nazmul is a follower of Rafiuddin Ahmed Ferdous, Mathbaria municipality mayor and also the upazila unit AL president.

After the incident, supporters of Ferdous hacked Ashrafur's man Al Amin.

Around 5:10pm, the two groups, equipped with sharp weapons, attacked each other. They also exchanged bullets.

At one stage, Liton was hit by bullets. Four people of both the groups were also wounded during the clash. Liton, who was a supporter of Ashrafur, was rushed to Mathbaria Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead.

Three of the injured were sent to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital as their condition was critical.

Additional police have been deployed in Mathbaria upazila town to fend off further trouble, said Walid Hossain, superintendent of police in Pirojpur.

This correspondent could not contact Ashrafur and Ferdous for their comments as they did not receive calls.

On 2 July, a clash occurred between the two groups of Chhatra League activists, who are followers of Ashrafur and Ferdous, over establishing supremacy in the upazila, locals said.

They said this led to yesterday's clash.

Inu apologises

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"The media ran a story today [yesterday] where the information minister said half of the money of TR and Kabikha programmes goes to the pockets of MPs. He [Inu] also said sustainable development is not possible with beggars," said Hasnat.

He also said it is essential to conduct an investigation to know what development happened under the TR and Kabikha programmes in the constituency of the information minister.

During his speech, all the MPs were seen chanting "shame", "shame" (on the information minister).

Jatiya Party lawmaker Kazi Firoz Rashid said, "It seems we all 350 MPs have become thieves with the information minister's remarks... There's only one saint here and that's our information minister."

He said, "The information minister has said 150 tonnes [wheat or rice] out of 300 tonnes of Kabikha go to the pockets of MPs and we [MPs] also grab the rest 150 tonnes by giving the shares to chairmen and members."

"What message is he giving to the people when the country is going through a difficult time? It's unforgivable. There's no alternative to rendering unconditional apology," the Jatiya Party president member said.

Independent MP Rustum Ali Faraji said the information minister undermined all the MPs and tarnished the image of both the MPs and the government. "I strongly protest it. He must withdraw his remarks and render unconditional apology."

At this stage, the information minister took the floor and said, "I'm sincerely sorry as the MPs have got offended following a misunderstanding created over my speech delivered at a discussion on sustainable development."

Inu said he had sent a statement to the media in this regard on Sunday night.

As he claimed that he cited the example depicting the scenario of mismanagement and corruption of the previous government in TR and Kabikha programmes, all the MPs shouted saying, "no...no", rejecting this claim.

Inu also claimed that some parts of his speech came in the media while some did not. "Being an MP, I always respect MPs and public representatives...I sincerely express sorry to the honourable MPs and the public representatives and withdraw my speech published in the media."

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, who was presiding over the session, wanted to stop the issue, but failed as MPs kept on pressing their demand for unconditional apology from Inu.

Later, the information minister stood again and said, "I think the remark about the MPs and public representatives which was published in the media quoting me was unexpected...I say sorry and offer an apology."

Sources of attackers'

FROM PAGE 1

In another development, law enforcers last night picked up a person from Comilla on suspicion of his involvement in the gruesome Gulshan café attack.

Meanwhile, the Rapid Action Battalion yesterday published an updated list of 68 "missing" people, aged between 15 and 40. Previously, the list showed names of 261 "missing" people.

Gunmen stormed Holey Artisan Bakery in the capital's Gulshan diplomatic zone on July 1 and killed 20 hostages, mostly foreign nationals. Two police officials were also killed during the 12-hour hostage standoff.

In Kishoreganj, four people, including a suspected attacker, were killed in a militant attack near the Sholakia Eid congregation ground on July 7, the Eid day.

The IGP yesterday said they were preparing a list of suspected "missing" militants.

"Currently we are verifying the list. We would disclose it to the media in due time," he mentioned, adding the Police Headquarters sent instructions to the police stations across the country over the matter.

Shahidul reiterated the need for waging a social movement against militancy. He said law enforcers identified some kingpins of militant groups in the country.

Police kept educational institutions, especially private universities, under special watch as names of some of their students surfaced as suspected militants, he added.

Investigators earlier had said the Gulshan café attackers were armed with three AK-22 semi-automatic rifles, among other weapons.

Last year, Rab members recovered eight AK-22s from two alleged dens of militant outfit Shaheed Hamja Brigade at Banskhalhi of Chittagong. In the capital's Sadarghat, police recovered two more of them, allegedly left behind by a group of JMB men after a mugging attempt on September 23.

RAB REVISES LIST
In a Facebook post yesterday, the Rab requested people to contact its nearby offices if they have information about any of the 68 "missing" people.

The elite crime-buster said it revised the previous list after some of the "missing" people returned home.

"Updating the list is a continuous process. If anyone among the missing people returns home or anyone missing is left out of the list, people should ring on 01777720075," the post read.

'GULSHAN SUSPECT' HELD IN COMILLA

Shah Abid Hossain, superintendent of police of Comilla, said police picked up a man on suspicion of his involvement in the Gulshan restaurant attack.

"We've not formally got any information. We heard that a team of law enforcers from Dhaka has detained a person," he told The Daily Star.

The police official, however, could not say from where and when the person was detained. He could neither give the identity of the detainee.

Mizanur Rahman, office-in-charge of Muradnagar Police Station, said a team of the Detective Branch of police from Dhaka detained a man named Mithu from Muradnagar.

"But we don't know the reason behind it," he said.

Contacted, Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said he did not know anything about this.

Four-day

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Talking to reporters at his office on Sunday, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiqul Alam said the issue of terrorism could dominate the conference against the backdrop of two back-to-back terror attacks in Dhaka and Kishoreganj.

On July 1, Bangladesh witnessed an unprecedented hostage carnage as militants, during a 12-hour siege at a café in the upscale area of Gulshan in Dhaka, killed 20 hostages -- 17 of them foreigners and two police officers.

Within a week's time, 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 check post near the Sholakia Eidgah in Kishoreganj where the country's largest Eid congregation was being held.

Divisional commissioners and the DCs are expected to make 336 suggestions along with their recommendations on 39 ministries at the conference, according to conference documents.

Other issues on the agenda of the conference include strengthening local government institutions; gearing up disaster management, relief and rehabilitation activities; use of ICT and e-governance; and improvement of the quality of education, healthcare and family welfare.

Gunfire erupts

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fatally shot, "at least 14-16" more sustained minor to life-threatening wounds during the episode, which occurred at approximately 12:30 am in the club's parking lot.

A nearby home and vehicles were also shot at, resulting in one minor injury, police said in a statement.

Television images of the scene showed one of the wounded being loaded into an ambulance while police with flashlights scoured the parking lot for evidence, marking where shell casings fell.

The area has been deemed safe, but multiple streets were closed.

ACTIVE SCENE
A police statement said "the scene is still very active as investigators and crime scene personnel attempt to determine what had occurred."

Officers are "actively canvassing the area looking for other persons who may be involved in this incident."

An attack on a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida on June 12 left 49 dead in the worst mass shooting in US history.

Police killed the gunman, Omar

Mateen, a 29-year-old US citizen of Afghan origin, after a three-hour standoff.

The Islamic State jihadist group claimed responsibility for that attack, calling Mateen "one of the soldiers of the caliphate." US authorities have said he was apparently radicalised after watching jihadist propaganda online.

That rampage and other recent shootings have revived the fraught debate about gun laws in the United States.

President Barack Obama, a Democrat, has repeatedly called for Republicans in Congress to confront the cost of their opposition to gun control and spending on mental health and drug treatment.

"We refuse to fund drug treatment and mental health programs. We flood communities with so many guns that it is easier for a teenager to buy a Glock than get his hands on a computer or even a book," he said at a recent memorial service for five police officers shot in Dallas.

After the Orlando massacre, the White House denounced the "cowardice" of US lawmakers who failed to pass gun control legislation.

Singapore warns

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Just last week, the Ministry of Communications and Information banned Al Fatihin, a hardline newspaper published by Furat Media, a media agency linked to ISIS.

The ban makes it an offence to distribute the newspaper, largely in Bahasa Indonesia, by any means.

There are an estimated 160,000 Bangladeshi nationals here, mostly work permit holders doing manual jobs at construction sites and shipyards.

When reporters spoke to a dozen Bangladeshi workers in Little India on Sunday, none was aware of radical literature being distributed.

"I haven't seen or heard copies of objectionable books being distributed in this area in recent weeks," said Abu Taher, a worker in his 30s at Hirajheel Restaurant near Mustafa Centre. He has been working in Singapore for over a year. "This open activity is quite impossible after the crackdown on suspected Bangladeshi militants," he added.

A large number of Bangladeshi migrant workers living in various places in Singapore gather in the area every Sunday to meet and chat.

Workers Mohammad Uzzal and Khakon Chandra, both in their 40s, said

some of their countrymen used to meet in groups and talk in hushed tones in the area on Sundays, but they have not seen anything like that recently.

When asked about the reports of radical material and books being distributed, several workers reacted angrily. They said that even if the report was true, it would be damaging for Bangladeshi workers in Singapore who are already in the spotlight because of the recent arrests of their radicalised countrymen.

Several Bangladeshi workers whom The Straits Times interviewed after the earlier arrests felt that their companies and dormitories were already keeping a lookout for radical behaviour.

The discovery and detention of the radicalised workers has also led many in their circles to avoid talking about the issue for fear that they might lose their jobs.

Abdul Khaeer Mohammed Mohsin, editor of local Bangla newspaper Banglar Kantha, said the latest development showed that Singapore remains a target for the likes of ISIS to recruit supporters.

"Singapore is a peaceful place and we have to remain vigilant," said the permanent resident of Singapore.

24 children

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Children of poor families from different parts of the country had been recruited in the factory for only Tk 1,500-1,600 a month, locals said. The children used to work in the manufacturing and maintenance of air pumping machines.

Both Sagar and his father Ratan Barman used to work at Jobeda Textile at Jatramura in Ruppangj.

Ratan, in the case statement, said staff and officers of the factory used to beat workers for mistakes.

"My son used to protest the beatings, which made them [staffs and officers] angry. That's why they killed my son," he said.

Ratan and his son Sagor lived in a rented house in Dighi Borabo area of Ruppangj upazila. Sagor was the youngest among two brothers and one sister.

FACTORY MANAGEMENT SUED
Ratan filed the murder case last night with Ruppangj Police Station accusing some management officials, said Jashim Uddin, an inspector of the police station.

The other accused are the factory's Production Manager Harun-ar-Rashid, 48; Senior Production Officer Azhar Imam alias Sohel, 36, and Assistant Production Manager Rashedul Islam, 40.

Additional Superintendent of Police Mohammad Zakaria said three factories owned by the same person had been set up inside a complex. Those are Zobeda Textile, Azharul Spinning Mills Ltd and Ekhlash Spinning Mills Ltd.

As many as 4,500 labourers, including 1,200 children, work in these factories, local people said.

Meanwhile, the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court in Narayananj granted police seven-day remand of the arrestee, Nazmul.

Worsening

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LALMONIRHAT Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shafiqul Islam said the flood situation got worse yesterday as water level of two main rivers -- Teesta and Dharla -- increased sharply due to the onrushing water from the upstream across the border yesterday.

In Kurigram, about three lakh people of over 5,000 villages under nine upazilas were marooned by flood water, district flood control room sources said.

In Bogra, sources at the upazila administrations said with the increase of Jamuna water, at least 50,000 people were affected in 14 villages under three upazilas.

At least 72 primary schools and some high schools have been closed as those went under water.

In Sunamganj, water of the Surma, Cholti, Patli and Jadukata rivers was flowing over the danger mark, affecting around one lakh people in Doarabazaar, Tahirpur, Dharampasa, Bishawnath, Bishwambarpur and Jamalganj upazilas.

Our correspondents from Kurigram, Bogra, Lalmonirhat and Moulvibazar contributed to this story.

Yahoo's core

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with a 15 percent stake in Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba Group Holding Ltd (BABA.N) and a 35.5 percent interest in Yahoo Japan Corp (4689.T).

"The sale of our operating business, which effectively separates our Asian asset equity stakes, is an important step in our plan to unlock shareholder value for Yahoo," Yahoo Chief Executive Marissa Mayer said in a statement yesterday.

Yahoo will continue as an independent company until the deal receives shareholder and regulatory approval, the companies said.

In a Tumblr blog post, Mayer said she planned to stay at Yahoo, but Verizon's Marni Walden, who will head the combined company, told CNBC the new leadership team has yet to be determined.

The sale does not include Yahoo's cash, its shares in Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd (BABA.N), shares in Yahoo Japan, Yahoo's convertible notes, certain minority investments or Yahoo's non-core patents.

The Alibaba and Yahoo Japan investments are worth about \$40 billion, while Yahoo had a market value of about \$37.4 billion as of Friday's close.

Verizon prevailed over rival bidders for Yahoo, including AT&T Inc (T.N); a group led by Quicken Loans founder Dan Gilbert and backed by billionaire Warren Buffett; private equity firm TPG Capital LP; and a consortium of buyout firms Vector Capital and Sycamore Partners.

Under pressure from activist investor Starboard Value LP, Yahoo launched an auction of its core business in February after shelving plans to spin off its stake in Alibaba.

In premarket trading, shares of Verizon were up slightly at \$56.30, while shares of Yahoo were down 1.5 percent at \$38.80.

Turkey clamps down

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Istanbul anti-terror prosecutors issued arrest warrants for the journalists as part of the investigation into the failed coup, the state-run Anadolu news agency said.

Among those targeted by the warrants were prominent journalist Nazli Ilıcak who was fired from the pro-government Sabah daily in 2013 for criticising ministers caught up in a corruption scandal, it added.

The government blamed the 2013 corruption scandal on Gulen, with some officials at the time calling it a coup bid aimed at ousting the president. Police were searching for Ilıcak in the holiday resort of Bodrum.

Erdogan's government had been under fire even before the failed putsch for restricting press freedoms in Turkey, accusations the authorities strongly deny.

Meanwhile, human rights group Amnesty International in a statement from London on Sunday said it had "credible evidence" of the abuse and torture of people detained in sweeping arrests since Turkey's July 15 failed coup.

The London-based group claimed some of those being held were being "subjected to beatings and torture, including rape, in official and unofficial detention centres in the country."

However, a senior official in Turkey denied Amnesty's claims and vowed that Turkey would uphold human rights.

"We categorically deny the allegations and encourage advocacy groups to provide an unbiased account of the legal steps that are being taken against people who murdered nearly 250 civilians in cold blood," the official said.

'MILITARY ACADEMY RAIDED'
In new raids yesterday, police detained some 40 suspects at the army's military academy on the European side of Istanbul.

Besides, 31 academics, including professors, were detained in an operation centred on Istanbul over alleged links to Gulen, Dogan said.

Turkey has undergone a seismic shift since the night of violence when renegade soldiers sought to topple Erdogan but were stopped by crowds of civilians and loyalist security forces. At least 270 people were killed on both

Missing youth

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to Dhaka from Jessore three years ago and had a job at a decorator's shop. Later, he joined a plastic factory at Islambagh.

The four others in the police's list are Fazle Rabbi, 21, son of Kazi Habibullah of Kishmat Nawapara in Jessore; Mehedi Hasan Jim, 19, son of Awrangajeb of Shyamlagachhi in Sharsha upazila; Raihan, 21, son of Abdus Salam of Dhanmatala in Jessore; and GM Nazim Uddin, 42, son of late Hasan Ali Gazi of Durgapur village in Monirampur upazila.

Jessore Police Superintendent Anisur Rahman said they were investigating into the matter and verifying Tuhin's claims.

Bhaskar Saha, ASP of Jessore, said the youth was in their custody.

"Investigations were looking into where and with whom Tuhin had been staying over the years. Police would take legal action if he is found involved in militancy. Otherwise we would hand him over to his father," the ASP added.

Tuhin's father Sobhan, a tea stall owner near his Shankarpur home, said his son had never been involved in militancy.

Terror attack

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responsibility for the attack, according to Amaq, a news agency that supports Islamic State, reports AFP.

It quoted an "insider source" as saying Sunday's attacker in the southern city of Ansbach who wounded 15 people "was a soldier of the Islamic State" who had acted "in response to calls to target nations in the coalition fighting" IS.

The attack, outside a music festival in Ansbach, a town of 40,000 people southwest of Nuremberg that has a US Army base, was the fourth act of violence by men of Middle Eastern or Asian origin against German civilians in a week, reports Reuters.

"The government is shocked by the events at the weekend," deputy government spokeswoman Ulrike Demmers said.

All three assaults were in Bavaria, a gateway for tens of thousands of refugees under Chancellor Angela Merkel's liberal asylum policy.

Police said the man intended to target the open-air festival but was turned away as he did not have a ticket, and detonated the device outside a nearby cafe.

The perpetrator was killed in the blast, police said in a statement, and a spokeswoman said 15 people were wounded, four of them seriously. Bavarian Interior Minister Joachim Herrmann warned that due to the heightened security fears, it was likely that "the right to asylum would be undermined" by the events of the past week.

Sunday's explosion happened in the centre of the city of Ansbach, not

sides.

The authorities have announced they will disband the 2,500-strong Presidential Guard, almost 300 of whose members have been detained.

The length of time suspects can be held in custody without charge has been extended from four days to one month under a state of emergency that has caused alarm in the EU.

The government says the stringent measures are needed to clear out the influence of Gulen from Turkey's institutions, claiming that he has created a "parallel state" inside Turkey.

Gulen, 75, who lives in a compound in rural Pennsylvania and whose foundation runs a global network of schools, charities and media interests, has strongly denied the accusations.

'NO TO COUP!'
Erdogan, whose Justice and Development Party (AKP) holds the majority in parliament, was to host the leader of the Republican People's Party (CHP) Kemal Kilicdaroglu and Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) chief Devlet Bahçeli from 1100 GMT.

The talks at his presidential palace -- the first such meeting during his term in office -- come after thousands of Turks of different political stripes massed in Istanbul on Sunday to denounce the coup in a rare show of unity.

However, in a sign that the harmony is not complete, the head of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Selahattin Demirtas has not been invited.

AMNESTY'S WORRIES
Amnesty said it had received reports that police in the capital Ankara and Istanbul were holding detainees in "stress positions" for up to 48 hours.

It claimed detainees were also being denied food, water and medical treatment while being verbally abused and threatened.

Two lawyers in Ankara working on behalf of detainees had told Amnesty that detainees had told them they saw senior military officers being raped.

SC defers

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Attorney General Mahbubey Alam opposed the time prayer of Quasem Ali, saying the chamber judge of the SC had earlier given more than one month's time to the defence for taking preparations.

Quasem submitted the petition to the apex court through his lawyers on June 19, seeking a review of its verdict that had upheld his death penalty for the crimes he committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

In the petition, the Jamaat-e-Islami leader prayed to the SC to acquit him of all seven charges on which he was found guilty.

The International Crimes Tribunal on June 6 issued a death warrant against Quasem hours after the SC had released the full text of its verdict upholding his death sentence.

On November 2, 2014, the ICT-2 handed down capital punishment on the 63-year-old Jamaat leader, who was the chief of anti-liberation force Al-Badr in Chittagong, for committing crimes against humanity.

On March 8 this year, the Appellate Division upheld the ICT-2 verdict.

Quasem is considered by many as the main financier of the anti-liberation party. He allegedly paid \$25 million to an American lobbyist firm to carry out a smear campaign to make the war crimes trial controversial, the then law minister Shafiqe Ahmed told parliament on April 28, 2013.

The death row war criminal was shifted to the Dhaka Central Jail from Kashimpur prison in Gazipur on June 20

far from where more than 2,500 people had gathered for the concert, at around 10 pm.

ATTACKER KNOWN TO POLICE
Police were searching a local refugee home, but a spokesman declined to say whether it was where the assailant had lived.

Ansbach deputy police chief Roman Fertinger said there were "indications" pieces of metal had been added to the explosive device.

Herrmann said the attacker, who came to Germany two years ago but had his asylum claim rejected after a year, had tried to kill himself twice in the past and had spent time in a psychiatric clinic.

The assailant, who lived in Ansbach, was already known to police, in particular for an offence linked to drugs, Herrmann also told news agency DPA.

However a social worker who knew him, Reinhold Eschenbacher, described him as "friendly, inconspicuous and nice" when he came to his office pick up his welfare benefits.

Stephan Mayer, a deputy from Merkel's conservative bloc, insisted that it was "completely wrong to blame Angela Merkel and her refugee policy" for the rash of violence.

ANTI-MIGRANT BACKLASH
Germany yesterday warned of a potential backlash against migrants after the Syrian asylum seeker blew himself up outside a music festival.

Spokeswoman Demmer warned against branding all refugees a security threat.