Action against NGOs if found involved in antistate activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will monitor activities of non-government organiations and take "drastic actions" if any NGO is found involved in anti-government activities, State Minister for Social Welfare Nuruzzaman Ahmed told parliament yesterday.

Replying to lawmakers' queries, he said his ministry will scrap registration of NGOs if they carry out antistate activities.

"I have taken the charge of the ministry one month ago. I am not fully aware of the entire activities of my ministry. I am telling you [MPs] that the ministry will carry out proper investigation and will cancel registration if any NGO is found involved in anti-state activities," said the state minister.

Earlier during the question-answer session, Awami League MP Sagufta Yasmin Emily said some NGO's are involved in anti-state activities and wanted to know the government's actions in this regard.

Patient kills

FROM PAGE 16 care," the spokeswoman said, adding

there was "no indication this was a terror attack". Berlin police later tweeted that the doctor had died of his wounds. The shooting came with Germany already

on edge after four brutal attacks in the south of the country. A Syrian asylum seeker blew himself up outside a music festival and wounded 15 other people in Ansbach on Sunday, six days after four passengers on a train and a passer-by were

asylum seeker in Wuerzburg. The Islamic State group claimed both attacks.

wounded in an axe attack by another

On Friday, nine people were killed in a shopping centre shooting spree in Munich by a German-Iranian teenager with a history of psychological problems but no apparent links to jihadists.

And a Syrian refugee killed a 45year-old Polish woman with a large kebab knife Sunday at a snack bar in

the southwestern city of Reutlingen. Police concluded that the incident, in which three others were injured,

was likely a "crime of passion". 'IS men' kill

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The archbishop of the nearby city of Rouen, Dominique Lebrun, named him as 84-year-old Jacques Hamel, although the website of the archdiocese states he was born in 1930.

Three of the hostages were freed unharmed, and another was fighting for their life, said Brandet.

HOLLANDE URGES UNITY France remains on high alert after Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, a Tunisian national, ploughed a truck into a crowd of people celebrating Bastille Day in Nice on July 14, kill-

Hollande appealed for "unity" in France, where political blame-trading has poisoned the aftermath of the truck attack, the third major strike in

ing 84 people and injuring over 300.

the country in 18 months. "The threat remains very high," said Hollande. "We are confronted with a group, Daesh, which has

declared war on us," Hollande said, using an alternative name for IS. "We have to wage war by every

means, (but through) upholding the law, which is because we are a democracy."

The Paris prosecutor's office said the case was being handled by antiterrorism prosecutors, reports AFP. Pope Francis voiced his "pain and

horror" at the "barbaric killing" of the priest.

France has been a prime target of IS, which regularly calls for supporters to launch attacks against the country, a member of the international coalition carrying out air strikes against the

jihadist group in Iraq and Syria. Attacks in Belgium in March, and in Germany this week, have also increased jitters across Europe.

After Nice, France extended a state

of emergency giving police extra powers to carry out searches and place people under house arrest for another six months until January. FEARS OVER CHURCH ATTACKS Valls had warned earlier this week that France will face more attacks as it struggles to handle extremists returning from jihad in the Middle East and

those radicalised at home by devouring propaganda on the internet. France has been concerned about the threat against churches ever since Sid Ahmed Ghlam, a 24-year-old Algerian IT student, was arrested in Paris in April last year on suspicion of

killing a woman who was found shot dead in her car, and of planning an attack on a church. Prosecutors say they found docu-

ments about al-Qaeda and IS at his home. As part of beefed up security operations in France, some 700 schools and Jewish synagogues and 1,000

mosques are under military protection. However with some 45,000 Catholic churches, and thousands more Protestant and evangelical churches, protecting all places of worship is a

massive headache for security services.

8 'militants' held in 2 more drives

STAR REPORT

Joint forces in separate drives in isolated char (shoal) areas of Manikganj and Pabna yesterday detained eight suspected militants, a listed robber and seized several sharp weapons and jihadist propaganda materials.

The joint forces comprising police, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Armed Police Battalion (APBn) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) have been raiding many of such chars -- isolated from the local populace and accessible only by boat -- on suspicion that these areas are being used by militants as their hideouts and training facilities.

In Manikganj, nearly 200 law enforcement personnel combed through all the chars on the Jamuna River under Baghutia, Char Katari, Bachamara and Jionpur unions of Daulatpur upazila and apprehended five suspects, reports our Manikganj correspondent.

Four of them are militant suspects --Abul Bashar, 60, acting principal of Baghutia Alim Madrasa; Ishak Ali, 40, assistant teacher of Jafarganj Kazi Shafiuddin Dakhil Madrasa; Shah Alam, 45, a businessman from Baghutia; and Nazrul Islam, 40, from Amtoli village while the fifth one Tendul Sheikh, 50, of Jionpur village in the upazila -- is a listed robber on the loose, Manikganj Police Superintendent (SP) Mahfuzur Rahman told The Daily Star.

All the suspects have been placed under police custody for interrogation, said the SP.

The sharp weapons seized during the raid include 4 machetes, 1 sword and 1 knife while the jihadist propaganda materials include 12 books, 5 posters and 3 leaflets.

Manikgani SP Mahfuzur and Unu Mong, assistant SP of Rab, jointly led the operation that started at around 10:30am and concluded at around 4:30pm.

Meanwhile, in Pabna, the joint forces during their drives on Char Safullah, Char Nagdah, Char Shrekonthodiar and Char Kollanpur on the Jamuna River under Bera upazila yesterday apprehended four militant suspects.

The drive was launched at around 10:00 am and lasted till 4:00pm, reports our Pabna correspondent.

The detained suspects are Alam

Hossain, 32, Md Sharif, 20, Manik Hossain, 38, of Haturia village and Alauddin, 20, of Char Nagdah, said Masud Rana, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Bera Police Station.

The detained individuals were being interrogated on suspicion of militancy, said Zakir Hossain, assistant superintendent of Police, Bera Circle.

ASP Zakir, who led the drive, said, "Suspected criminals might use the remote shoal areas as their hideouts as these areas are highly inaccessible. Despite this fact, our drives will go on

19 knifed to death

FROM PAGE 16

Satoshi Uematsu and said he had worked at the care centre for mentally disabled people in Sagamihara, a city of more than 700,000 people west of Tokyo, until February.

They said the attack began in the early hours of the morning when Uematsu broke a first-floor window to get in. Public broadcaster NHK reported that he tied up one caregiver before starting to stab the residents.

A doctor at one of the hospitals where victims were taken said some had deep wounds to the neck.

"The patients are very shocked mentally and they cannot speak now,' the doctor told NHK.

'SHOCKING INCIDENT'

A fleet of ambulances, police cars and fire trucks converged on the Tsukui Yamayuri-en centre, a lowrise complex nestled against forested hills, which was cordoned off and draped with yellow "Keep Out" tape.

Japan has one of the lowest rates of violent crime in the developed world and the mass killing is believed to be the nation's worst since 1938, when a man armed with an axe, sword and rifle went on a rampage that left 30 people dead.

"This is a very tragic, shocking incident in which many innocent people became victims," top government spokesman Yoshihide Suga told a press conference.

Japanese media said that in February Uematsu had delivered a letter to the speaker of Japan's parliamentary lower house, threatening to attack two care centres including Tsukui Yamayuri-en and kill 470 residents.

He said it would launch a "revolu-

tion" that would "stimulate the economy and prevent World War III".

In the letter he also presented his vision of a society in which the seriously handicapped could be euthanised with the approval of family members since "handicapped people only create unhappiness".

The ramblings brought him to the attention of Tokyo police, who informed Sagamihara authorities that he was a potential threat, a city official told AFP.

Private broadcaster NTV reported that Uematsu told police he had been fired from his job, though officials said only that he left the position.

'NORMAL, NICE BOY'

Uematsu was hospitalised on February 19, reportedly the same day he left his job, but was discharged 12 days later when a doctor deemed he was not a threat, the Sagamihara city official said.

While hospitalised Uematsu was diagnosed as suffering from paranoia as well as being dependent on cannabis, he added.

"I feel pain as it's said there was no problem, but that was the decision at that time," said Eiji Yagi, another Sagamihara official in charge of the city's mental health welfare section.

Police said they received a call from the centre around 2:30 am -- about 20 minutes after the assault began reporting that a man armed with knives had entered the facility. They said he turned himself in half an hour later.

Fire department spokesmen told AFP that the dead were nine men and 10 women aged from 18 to 70, and another 25 people were wounded, 20 of them seriously.

Solar plane

FROM PAGE 16

mission aiming to promote renewable energy.

It brings to an end a voyage that

began in Abu Dhabi on 9 March last year. "The future is clean. The future is

you. The future is now. Let's take it further," Piccard said, arriving into Abu Dhabi to cheers and applause.

The 17-stage journey covered some 42,000km, taking in four continents, three seas and two oceans.

The longest leg, an 8,924km (5,545mile) flight from Nagoya in Japan to Hawaii, US, lasted nearly 118 hours and saw Borschberg break the absolute world record for longest (time duration) uninterrupted solo flight.

It was just one of 19 official aviation records set during the global adventure. Piccard and Borschberg have been working on the Solar Impulse project for more than a decade.

The pair had hoped to complete the challenge last year but progress was not quite swift enough to get the best of the weather in the Northern Hemisphere's summer.

And when battery damage was sustained on that epic five-day, five-night passage over the western Pacific in June/July 2015, the decision was taken to

ground the effort for 10 months. Solar Impulse is no heavier than a car, but has the wingspan of a Boeing

747. It is powered by 17,000 solar cells. Its experimental design presents a number of technical difficulties, with the airplane being very sensitive to weather conditions. Indeed, the passage from Cairo was

very bumpy for Piccard as he battled severe turbulence above the hot Saudi

The cockpit is about the size of a

desert.

public telephone box, with the pilots having to wear oxygen tanks to breathe at high altitude and permitted to only sleep for 20 minutes at a time.

Darul Ihsan

FROM PAGE 16

After hearing 13 writ petitions filed by a group of people and students claiming ownership of DIU at different times, the HC in April also said the DIU authorities cannot run it as an academic institution for not complying with the laws. The copy of the HC order reached

the education ministry on Monday, said a source, adding, soon after getting the copy, the ministry ordered the shutdown. Earlier in October 2010, the govern-

ment launched a judicial investigation headed by Justice Kazi Ebadul Haque to investigate allegations of "certificate trade", ownership dispute and other irregularities. The investigation committee sub-

mitted the report to the education ministry in March 2013 and recommended shutdown of the university. In September 2014, the University Grants Commission (UGC) alerted

students and guardians about admission into DIU and 48 outer campuses of 12 other private universities. But the university continued aca-

demic activities by getting an HC order staying the government action. Now the ministry has announced

closure of the university after the HC issued the verdict in favour of the government, an official of the ministry

Currently, there are 95 private universities in Bangladesh. Of them, 85 are running academic activities and have more than 4.63 lakh students.

DCs seek FROM PAGE 16

Hasina asked the DCs to play their due role in forming anti-terrorism and anti-militancy committees at

ward, union, upazila and district levels and to build resistance to mili tancy and terrorism by uniting people's representatives, civil society members and common people. During a meeting with Home

Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal at the secretariat, the minister asked the civil bureaucrats to cooperate with law enforcers to combat militancy and terrorism. Asaduzzaman also asked them to monitor the activities of anti-

militancy committees in districts, thanas and unions, and to include common people in anti-militancy Emerging from the meeting, the minister told reporters that the DCs

were given directives to root out militancy from the country. At the inaugural ceremony, the PM placed a 19-point directive to tackle

terrorism and militancy. She at the same time asked the

executive magistrates to be cautious while discharging their duties. The bureaucrats have to maintain peace, order and stability and strictly

ensure that innocent people don't fall

victim to harassment when they receive government services, Hasina The PM also asked the DCs to work against woman and child repression and trafficking, misuse of

drugs, dowry, eve-teasing and early marriage. They were also asked to be more attentive to alleviate poverty, to raise awareness about protecting environment, to make effective village courts to provide justice to common people and to ensure education, sports,

entertainment and creative cultural

Flood-affected

activities of children.

FROM PAGE 16

under the government of West Bengal, around 4,000 flood victim Indians have taken shelter in Mogolhat union in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

"If these people did not take shelter in Bangladesh, they would have been washed away [by flood water]," Rabindra told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday. He said two villages Jari Dharla

and Daribas of Dinhata subdivision in Cooch Behar stood like islands in the Namsai river as water of the river increased sharply. "It takes only 10 minutes to go to

Bangladesh's Mogolhat from these two villages," said Rabindra, explaining why almost all the villagers of the two Indian villages took shelter in Mogolhat when flood water entered their houses. Our Lalmonirhat correspondent

adds, Ansar Ali, 44, a flood affected of India's Jari Dharla village under Dinhata Police Station, said he along with three members of his family took shelter in a Bangladesh's border village as their home was flooded.

Ansar opined that around 1,500-1,600 people from four Indian villages --- Jari Dharla, Daribas, Nagortari and Badarkuti under Dinhata Police Station --- took refuge in some villages under Mogolhat and Durgapur unions in Lalmonirhat on Sunday night.

But some were sent back to India by the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) on Monday noon, he said, adding that, "We will return to our houses after flood water recedes from our homes."

"We are living in a house of Bangladeshi people in Chawratari village in Mogolhat union. We are also getting food from the house," said Ansar Ali's wife Dulali Begum.

Another flood victim from India's Nagotari village, Alamgir Hossain, 48, said, "We have talked to our panchayat [member] and pradhan [chairman] over mobile phone, and they assured us that they would send dry food to us, but we didn't get any food as of today [yesterday] noon.

Abu Sufian, 48, a local in Chawratari in Mogolhat union, said thousands of flood affected people from four Indian villages have taken shelter in Chawratari, Karnapur, Badaitari and Kumar Para villages under Mogolhat union and Dighaltari, Choupathi and Durgapur villages under Durgapur union of Aditmari upazila. "We helped the Indian flood

affected people to go to safe places by boats on Sunday night," he added. Lt Col Ahmed Bazlur Rahman Hayati, commanding officer of 15 BGB

Battalion in Lalmonirhat, said BGB men already sent back many Indian flood-affected people to their houses in the national security interest. He added that many flood victims were given shelter by the

Bangladeshis along the border on humanitarian grounds. Rezaul Alam Sarker, acting deputy commissioner of Lalmonirhat, said he was unaware of the issue.

GULSHAN ATTACK

Jhenidah mess owner, mosque imam arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

The Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested the owner of the Jhenidah mess where Nibras Islam, one of the Gulshan attackers, lived and the imam of a nearby mosque in Sonalipara village.

Later, the two were handed over to the local police station.

The arrestees are mess owner former army sergeant Kawsar Ali and imam Md Rokonuzzaman, said Rab-6 commander Maj Munir Hossain.

He said they arrested the duo around 7:30pm on information that they had recently returned to their home.

that law enforcers in plainclothes had picked up her husband and their two sons Binchar Ali and Benjir Ali a few days after the Gulshan attack.

Kawsar's wife Bilkis Nahar alleged

Binchar and Benjir are still traceless, she said.

Rokonuzzaman had also reportedly gone missing.

Jhenidah Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Harendranath Sarkar said Kawsar and Rokonuzzaman were handed over to them by the Rab.

He, however, could not immediate say what were the charges against them.

Missing businessman the DBCCI, established in November

FROM PAGE 16

a murder.

Hassan's mobile phones, however, were missing.

Police suspect that the top businessman died some three to four days ago. After the recovery, the body was sent

Medical College for autopsy. A case was filed with Dhanmondi Police Station over the incident.

to the morgue of Sir Salimullah

Dhanmondi police said they were investigating to find out whether it was

Asked whether they have any suspect, Didar declined to comment. On Monday, Hassan Murad, the

victim's brother, said he could not

specifically suspect anyone as Hassan

had no enemies. Yesterday afternoon, the leaders and members of the DBCCI held an emergency meeting to mourn the

death of the body's president, Hassan. Matlub Ahmad, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), said, "We are shocked.

"I urge all businessmen, chamber and trade body leaders to remain safe and stay alert to avoid any untoward incident," he said, adding that the FBCCI would hold a commemorative meeting Thursday to remember Hassan.

In a statement yesterday, the apex business body also expressed its concern over the incident. Hassan, 55, also the chief executive

officer of New Era Trading, went missing after he had left his Dhanmondi home around 9:00am on Saturday to buy medicines from a nearby shop. The family members could not reach him by phone, as it was found switched

off. They looked for him in different

areas of the capital. Failing to trace him,

his brother-in-law Shariful Alam filed a general diary (GD) with Dhanmondi police around 1:00am Sunday.

Hassan was one of the founders of

1999, and he has been involved in advocating bilateral trade between Bangladesh and the Netherlands. He had been residing on the third floor of the six-storey building in

Dhanmondi over the last three years with his wife and daughter. A licensee of the Singapore-based retail company Crocodile

International in Bangladesh, Hassan opened a showroom of Crocodile products at Bashundhara Shopping Mall in the capital in April. He used to manufacture Crocodile products like T-shirts, trousers, polo

shirts and jeans in different factories in Bangladesh. He was not involved with any other chamber before becoming the presi-

dent of the DBCCI. Hassan was also one of the shareholders in the recently closed Chemico Bangladesh Ltd, a factory which used to produce polythene products and

Israel destroys 11 Palestinian homes

AFP, Qalandiya

Israeli authorities early yesterday destroyed 11 Palestinian homes in an area on the outskirts of Jerusalem divided from the city by Israel's separation wall, residents and an NGO said. A convoy of Israeli security vehicles

and bulldozers carried out the overnight demolitions in Qalandiya, presumably because authorities allege the owners did not have building permits.

Israeli authorities did not respond to requests for information on the demolitions.

Two of the homes are considered part of the occupied West Bank and nine part of annexed east Jerusalem, Israeli NGO Ir Amim said. Two of the east Jerusalem homes were inhabited, it said.

'Storm 26'

FROM PAGE 1 during a block raid in the area in the

wee hours of yesterday. "It is one of the most successful operations. We could eliminate an entire group of militants," Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia told a press briefing

at the Media Centre of DMP. He said militants suddenly started hurling grenades from the fourth floor of the building, prompting law enforc-

ers to retaliate with gunfire. Being confirmed about the presence of militants, police cordoned off the building and waited for several hours to determine the next step.

The police team requested deployment of additional force and stayed in later arrested.

the area till members of specialised SWAT and the DMP's counter terrorism unit reached there around 2:30am. Police then decided to launch the

operation around 5:50am. "We took cognisance of the location of the building and its entry and exit points before starting the operation," said the DMP chief.

Law enforcers said raiding the building was not easy as its staircase was narrow. Local residents cooperated with policemen during the operation.

The DMP chief said two suspected militants tried to escape the scene before the operation was launched. One of them managed to flee while the other was shot by law enforcers and

had appointed administrators, mostly top AL district leaders, to 61 zila parishads (district councils). According to the constitution, a zila

said. Speaking at the meeting, several

lawmakers lauded the PM's timebefitting leadership. DC CONFERENCE

duties more cautiously and strictly to maintain peace, discipline and stability.

questions for one or two incidents, we will be able to overcome this situation as there will be no place for terrorists and militants in the country," she added.

Artisan Bakery in the city's Gulshan, the PM said it was possible to save 13 lives, including two foreigners, due to the joint operation by army, navy and air forces, police, Rab, BGB and other forces.

and grenade and bomb attacks on her, Hasina said the recent terrorist attacks were not new as such attempts were made repeatedly after 1975.

She asked the DCs to tackle such

symptoms by any means like they did before and after the January 5 national polls in 2014 and then again for three months from January-March in 2015. The premier took a swipe at the BNP-

ists and militants during their "misrule". She directed the DCs to make lists of homeless people, find khas land and

enable them earn their livelihood. sary expenditure of state fund. She instructed the DCs to monitor the

Begum Zeenat Ara and Sunamganj DC Sheikh Rafiqul Islam also spoke on the

Combat militancy

any time frame for the polls. The previous AL government in 2011

parishad should be run by an elected public representative. But successive governments did not hold polls to zila parishads, local government experts

Hasina asked the DCs to discharge their

Recalling the militant and terror attacks like bombing in 500 places across the country in 2005, killings of former finance minister Shah AMS

Kibria and ex-MP Ahsanullah Master

Jamaat clique for "patronising" terror-

build homes for them there and arrange necessary loan and training for them to She asked the authorities concerned "Although we will have to face to make sure that there is no unneces-

> Public Administration Minister Syed Administration Ismat Ara Sadique, Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Helal Uddin Ahmed, Chittagong DC Mohammad Mesbahuddin, Rajbari DC

implementation of development projects properly. Referring to the July 1 attack at Holey Ashraful Islam, State Minister for Public occasion.