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# DCs seek more power to try offenders

Discuss fighting militancy as DC conference begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deputy commissioners demanded more power to punish offenders and authority to swear affidavits like judicial magistrates at the inaugural meeting with the prime minister of the four-day conference beginning yesterday.

However, the issue of militancy dominated the meeting, which surfaced following the terror attacks at a Gulshan café and at Sholakia in Kishoreganj this month.

Against the backdrop of fear for further attacks, PM Sheikh Hasina asked the executive magistrates to apply their highest strength, talents and skills to tackle terrorism.

The DCs insisted on amending the Mobile Court Act 2009 to empower them to punish an alleged wrongdoer even if he doesn't confess to the offence he has committed. In this regard, photographs and audio-video clips should be allowed as pieces of evidence, they said.

According to the existing provision of the 2009 act, the executive magistrates can punish an offender only after he admits his misdeed. The DCs also demanded that the maximum punishment of an offender be increased by two years to four years' imprisonment.

Sources at the meeting said the DCs also wanted power to swear affidavits, which judicial magistrates are empowered to do now.

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Some flood-hit Indian citizens have taken shelter at the bordering Chawratari village in Lalmonirhat upazila. They crossed into Bangladesh on Sunday night after the rising water of several rivers inundated their villages. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

# Flood-affected Indians take shelter in Bangladesh

STAR REPORT

Around 4,000 flood-affected people from India have taken shelter in villages along the Lalmonirhat border in the last three days as flood situation worsened in the northern districts of the Indian state of West Bengal.

Incessant rain and rising water levels in the Dharla, Kaljani, Teesta and Torsa rivers forced about 10,000 people of Cooch Behar, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling districts of West Bengal to leave their houses, reports our Kolkata correspondent.

Marooned by flood water, many took refuge in the houses of villagers of neighbouring Bangladesh, which prompted the West Bengal government to express their gratitude to the Bangladesh government.

According to Rabindra Nath Ghosh, minister for North Bengal development

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# Missing businessman Hassan found dead

Body recovered from Buriganga bank; no clue to the murder motive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hassan Khaled, president of Dutch-Bangla Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DBCCI), was found dead in Keraniganj yesterday, four days after he had gone missing from Dhanmondi in the capital.

Around 12:00noon, police recovered the decomposed body of Hassan from Signboard area. It was floating near the bank of the Buriganga river, said Ferdous Hasan, officer-in-charge of Keraniganj Model Police Station.

Nazrul Islam Chowdhury Didar, an administrative officer of the DBCCI, along with Hassan Murad, deceased's younger brother, rushed to the spot and identified the victim.

Didar was contacted through a visiting card found in Hassan's pocket, added the OC.

Police said the body was "abnormally swollen" but they did not see any injury or torture marks anywhere on it.

Talking to The Daily Star, Didar said, "We also did not notice any injury or torture mark on the body."



Hassan Khaled

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# Darul Ihsan University ordered shut

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has ordered shutdown of privately run Darul Ihsan University which has been divided into several groups.

Besides, all private universities have been asked to shut down illegal branch campuses.

The education ministry on Monday issued the order in line with a High Court verdict, said an official handout yesterday.

Sources say Darul Ihsan University has been ordered to shut down in line with a High Court order issued on April 13 that declared illegal its academic activities.

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# 'IS men' kill priest at French church

2 attackers shot dead

AGENCIES

A priest in his mid-80s was killed with a knife and another hostage seriously wounded yesterday in an attack on a church in northern France carried out by assailants linked to Islamic State.

Both attackers were shot dead by French police. Five people in all had been taken hostage. A police source said it appeared that the priest had had his throat slit.

President Francois Hollande said the two men who stormed the church before killing the elderly Catholic priest had claimed allegiance to the Islamic State group.

Shortly afterwards the IS-linked Amaq news agency, citing a "security source", said the perpetrators were "soldiers of the Islamic State who carried out the attack in response to calls to target countries of the Crusader coalition".

The two attackers stormed the church during morning mass, taking the five people inside hostage, including the priest, interior ministry spokesman Pierre Henry Brandet said.

He said the church was surrounded by police from the elite BRI unit, which specialises in kidnappings, and that "the two assailants came out and were killed by police".

Bomb squad officers aided by sniffer dogs scoured the church for any possible explosives, reports Reuters.

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# Solar plane circles globe for first time



BBC ONLINE

The first round-the-world solar powered flight has been completed, after the Solar Impulse aircraft touched down in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

Bertrand Picard piloted the plane for a final time, steering it safely from the Egyptian capital Cairo to the UAE.

He has been taking turns at the controls with Swiss compatriot Andre Borschberg, with the

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People trying to stop flood water entering their homes in Nabinagar area of Sunamganj yesterday. Bottom, a flood-hit area in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha. Incessant rain and onrush of water from upstream have worsened the overall flood situation in the two districts.

PHOTO: STAR

# Berlin Shooting Patient kills doctor, then himself

AFP, Berlin

A patient shot and killed a doctor before turning the gun on himself at a Berlin hospital yesterday, police said, adding there was no sign the incident was a terrorist attack.

A police spokeswoman told AFP that several shots were fired at a university hospital in the well-heeled southwestern Steglitz neighbourhood of the German capital.

"According to preliminary information, a patient at the hospital shot a doctor and then killed himself," she said.

"The doctor is in intensive

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# 19 knifed to death at Japan care home

Ex-employee goes on late night rampage against disabled people, surrenders to police; 25 wounded

AFP, Sagamihara

A man who had threatened attacks on disabled people went on a knife rampage yesterday at the care centre where he previously worked, leaving 19 people dead in Japan's worst mass killing for decades.

The 26-year-old had been hospitalised earlier this year after delivering a letter to

parliament in which he threatened to kill hundreds of the disabled.

He turned himself in at a police station, carrying bloodied knives and admitting to officers: "I did it."

"The disabled should all disappear," he reportedly said.

Authorities identified the attacker as

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**M Anis Ud Dowla**  
Re-elected as Chairman of Pioneer Insurance Company Limited

Mr. M Anis Ud Dowla has been re-elected as the Chairman of Pioneer Insurance Company Limited which is the second largest Non Life Insurance Company in its sector in Bangladesh. The Board of Directors of the Company in its 192nd meeting held on 24 July 2016 unanimously re-elected him for the year 2016-2017.

Mr. Dowla is the Chairman of ACI Group. He served as President of MCCI, Dhaka and Bangladesh Employers' Federation in several terms. He is the President of Bangladesh Seed Association and a member of the Trustee Board of Independent University of Bangladesh.

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**PRAYER TIMING JULY 27**

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN	4-20	12-45	5-00	6-50	8-15
JAMAAT	4-55	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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