

No IS presence in Bangladesh

Says home boss after video release of Gulshan terrorists

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday reiterated that releasing the video of global militant outfit Islamic State (IS) in Bangladesh is absolutely a propaganda and also part of a deep-rooted conspiracy.

"There is no existence of IS militants in Bangladesh... and releasing the video of IS on Holy Artisan cafe attack is absolutely a propaganda and part of conspiracy," he said while replying to a query of journalists at Uttara in the capital.

He said the people of this country do not like IS or any other militant forces as they (militants) are destroying the image of Islam in many ways.

The minister claimed that the people responded to the prime minister's call for combating militancy and terrorism in the country, and extended their whole-hearted cooperation to the members of law enforcement agencies in this connection.

BNP slams govt for its 'rigidity' over Rampal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday said the nation has got stunned because of the government's "rigid stance" over Rampal power plant despite Unesco's advice to relocate it to a safer place.

"The Unesco has recommended shifting the power plant project... as the Sundarbans will be badly affected if it is set up at Rampal... the nation got astonished and shocked as the government is showing its rigid stance over it ignoring public interest and risk," said senior leader Shamsuzzaman Dudu.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

WHEN DEVELOPMENT WORK HURTS



(Left) A man and his family carefully sidestep a felled tree as the workers continue working, while vehicles wait patiently to cross just a few yards away. The Dhaka North City Corporation a week back started randomly digging up the entire Road 9 of Sector 3 in the capital's Uttara, dismantling sidewalks, surface drains and felling trees even during rush hours with people and vehicles moving along the ravaged road (top right). This blatant disregard of safety is not only making public movement a nightmare, but also forcing some school going children to cross the dug up portions in front of their houses through a flimsy bamboo platform, putting their lives at risk (bottom right). The road has been dug up as part of a development work in different sectors of Uttara residential town, according to DNCC Executive Engineer Md Nazrul Islam Chowdhury. He said they are trying to minimise the residents' sufferings and hoped the situation will improve within a week, which according to the locals remain a long shot.

PHOTOS: PRABIR DAS, COLLECTED

DB arrests four impersonators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday claimed to have arrested four persons who impersonated their personnel to mug people in the capital and elsewhere.

The four were detained at Mogbazar area on Saturday around 5:40pm along with uniforms, a walkie-talkie, a toy pistol, a pair of handcuffs and a baton, said Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Joint Commissioner (DB) Abdul Baten.

Shafiqul Islam Rana, 38, a sacked army man, led Mohammad Apple, 29, Ibrahim, 28, and Imran, 30, said police.

Addressing a briefing at the DMP media centre, Baten said the gang used to track bank clients withdrawing cash and inform accomplices waiting outside over cellphone.

The associates, impersonating DB men, later bundled victims into a vehicle from secluded places and took the money before dropping them off, he said.

If the cash did not meet their expectations, they detained them and demanded ransom from families, threatening of legal

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Govt bars overnight stay at secretariat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday restricted staying night at the secretariat on security ground, according to a home ministry circular.

The circular signed by home joint secretary Shahed Ali reads that without prior permission no officials except law enforcers are allowed to stay there at night.

The ministry sought from all the ministries the lists of employees who stay at the secretariat after the working hours. "If it is urgent for anyone to stay beyond the working hours, the home ministry must be informed of it..." it added.

Talks on to bring Noor back

Anisul Huq says about the Bangabandhu killer staying in Canada

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said Bangladesh was holding talks with Canada as there was a way to bring back Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's self-confessed killer Noor Chowdhury.

The "way" cannot be disclosed at this moment and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who talked to the Canadian government on Noor's deportation during her visit, would disclose details upon her

return, he said.

Anisul was talking to journalists on attending as chief guest the inauguration of a training course for 45 joint district judges at Judicial Administration Training Institute in the capital.

Replying to a question, he said a Canadian law barred sending convicts back to countries to face death sentences. Anisul urged lower court judges to work with sincerity and honesty to establish the rule of law and justice.

On Saturday, he said recent media reports, claiming that Noor's asylum plea had been cancelled while his deportation ordered, were false.

Among the killers of Bangabandhu and most of his family members, five were hanged on January 28, 2010.

Six death-row convicts -- Abdur Rashid, Shariful Haque Dalim, Noor, Moslemuddin, Rashed Chowdhury and Abdul Mazed -- are now hiding abroad. Their cohort Abdul Aziz Pasha died in Zimbabwe in 2001.

SPECIAL GUERRILLA 'FREEDOM FIGHTERS' Stay on HC order for recognition sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking stay on a High Court verdict directing it to recognise 2,367 members of a special guerrilla force, who participated in the 1971 Liberation War, as freedom fighters.

The liberation war affairs ministry in the petition submitted on Saturday said the members of the force had been given recognition as freedom fighters by National Awami Party (NAP) and Communist Party though freedom fighters are given recognition following their individual applications under the Muktijoddha Command Council Act-2002.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus and his fellow Sustainable Development Goals Advocates with outgoing UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in a meeting at the UN headquarters on Friday.

PHOTO: YUNUS CENTRE

Yunus, other SDG advocates meet outgoing UN boss

CITY DESK

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus along with fellow Sustainable Development Goals Advocates held a meeting with outgoing UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in the chair at the UN headquarters Friday.

The SDG Advocates consist of 17 eminent persons assisting the UN secretary general in the campaign to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

They are working towards promoting the universal sustainable development agenda, raising awareness on the integrated nature of the SDGs, and fostering the engagement

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Maize to see production boom if popularised

Workshop told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Low price, lack of drying and storage facilities, and less human consumption are the main challenges that should be addressed to see a boom in maize production, speakers said at a workshop yesterday.

The workshop was organised by Oxfam in Bangladesh at Brac Centre in the capital.

"We cultivate maize by working very hard but when we want to sell it we do not get a good price because of a lack of buyers," said Anjuara Begum, a maize farmer of Nilphamari, adding, "It would be better if we can sell our corns to companies."

"Due to a lack of storage facilities our corns get damaged easily which inflicts a great loss", said Saidur Rahman, a corn trader of Jamalpur.

Oxfam's Livelihood and Private Sector Coordinator Anisur Rahman Choudhury said approximately 90 percent of the produced corns are being used for feeding livestock and fishes while the rest is consumed by human. "We need to promote the use of

corn as it contains high nutrition," he said.

Some food manufacturers use corn flour to produce wheat flour, but they do not mention it on the packets. It should be mentioned to promote the use of corn, he highlighted.

Sudhir Chandra Nath, programme head of Brac Seed and Agro Enterprise, said "We need to cultivate different varieties of maize and change our food habit as well." The government should initiate exporting corn to benefit the farmers, he added.

Another challenge for corn cultivation is the seeds as they are mostly being imported said Hamidur Rahman, director general of the Department of Agricultural Extension

Bangladesh is a perfect place to cultivate maize as the production has reached to 27.5 lakh metric tonne which is 2.5 lakh metric tonne more than last year, he added.

Puran Chandra Barman, project director of REE-CALL, said loans with low interest rates can encourage maize farmers.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Dipan killing, Gulshan accused on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Six-day remands were granted yesterday separately for an alleged Ansarullah Bangla Team member in the publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan killing case and for an alleged "Neo JMB" militant operative, caught in the July 26 Kalyanpur raid, in the July 1 Gulshan café attack case.

The 43-year-old Jagriti Prokashani owner was hacked to death inside his office on the second floor of Aziz Cooperative Super Market in Shahbagh on October 31, 2015. A synchronised attack left Shuddhoswar's Ahmedur Rashid Tutul critically injured.

The case's investigation officer (IO), Fazlur Rahman, had sought 10 days from Metropolitan Magistrate Nurunnahar Yeasmin for Abdus Sabur alias Samad alias Raju, arrested at the Tongi railway station area in Gazipur on September 3.

Sabur was earlier taken on a six-day remand in the attempted murder case. The co-accused, Moinul Hasan Shamim alias Sifat alias Samir alias Imran, was arrested by detectives near Cherag Ali Market in Tongi on August 23.

Sifat, a 24-year-old from Sunamganj, is one of six militants for whom police announced a bounty of Tk 18 lakh on May 19.

The 20-year-old "Neo JMB" operative, Rakibul Hasan Rigan, was caught with injuries and shown arrested on September 21 in the Gulshan attack case with law enforcers saying his involvement had been found.

The case's IO, Humayun Kabir, sought 10 days from Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Nobi, saying vital clues needed to be found as Rigan was involved in the planning and assisted the attackers. No lawyer came forward to defend Rigan.

Rigan, in his confessional statement before Metropolitan Magistrate Sadbir Yasir Ahsan Chowdhury on September 18, said he became radicalised in just seven months and had left his Bogra home for going to war-torn Syria and joining "the war against America and its allies".

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

SSC, HSC Exams Ctg students protest rise in creative questions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Several hundred students of different schools and colleges kept a Chittagong city road blocked for nearly one and a half hours, protesting a government decision to increase the number of creative questions in SSC and HSC examinations.

They also vandalised a three-wheel human hauler at the Jamal Khan intersection while protesting between 12:00 noon and 1.30pm.

The students said previously they had to answer six creative questions. But now they will have to answer seven creative questions in two and a half hours' time.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



Hundreds of students from different schools and colleges demonstrating in front of Press Club near Jamalkhan intersection in the port yesterday, protesting a government decision to increase the number of creative questions in SSC and HSC examinations.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS