

Jordan police find suicide belts after deadly attack

AFF, Amman

Jordanian police said yesterday they found suicide belts and other explosives in the hideout of suspected Islamic State group jihadists behind an attack that killed 10 people, including a Canadian tourist.

Another 34 people were wounded in Sunday's shooting spree, including a second Canadian. Four gunmen were shot dead by police during the course of a siege lasting several hours.

The attack took place in Karak, a tourist destination known for one of the region's biggest Crusader castles, around 120 kilometres south of the

capital Amman.

Police said they suspected IS jihadists were behind the attack.

"The four dead militants are Jordanian members of a terrorist cell suspected of belonging to IS," a security source told AFP.

It was unclear whether any militants were still at large.

Prime Minister Hani al-Malki, who was addressing parliament at the time of the shootings, had spoken of as many as 10 gunmen.

Jordan is a leading member of the US-led coalition fighting IS jihadists in neighbouring Iraq and Syria.

It has carried out air strikes targeting IS, and also hosts coalition troops on its territory.

Maaz al-Kassasbeh, a Jordanian fighter pilot, was captured by the jihadists when his plane went down in Syria in December 2014, and he was later burned alive in a cage.

Karak is Kassasbeh's hometown. In June, a suicide bombing claimed by IS killed seven border guards near the Syrian frontier.

According to sources close to Islamists, almost 4,000 Jordanians have joined jihadist groups in Iraq and Syria, and an estimated 420 have been killed since 2011.

Updated drug policy okayed

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to them, the second largest in terms of export.

Bangladesh exports pharmaceutical products of nearly Tk 2,500 crore a year while the local market value is around Tk 15,000 crore, according to the manufacturers.

Briefing reporters on the policy, the cabinet secretary said Bangladeshi medicines are now being exported to some 122 countries and so it is very crucial to ensure standards of the drugs.

The policy also provides for availability of effective, safe and standard drugs, rational and safe use of drugs, registration of drugs, registration for importing drugs as well as manufacturing drugs and its raw materials.

There are proposals as well for the formation of a national drug regulatory authority, advertisement control, publicity of drugs and joint initiatives for research and development.

The revised policy makes storage or

display of drugs with the expiry dates changed or distorted a punishable offence. Legal steps would be taken against people for charging customers additional prices.

Considering public interests, Cabinet Secretary Shafiul Alam said, pricing rules of medicines would regularly be updated while the price list would be updated once a year and made available online.

The policy incorporates guidelines of the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Alam said, adding that many local drug manufacturing companies had already received the GMP certification.

He added that the new policy addressed the demands of the WHO, Food and Drug Administration of the USA and the UK as some companies like Beximco, Square, and Incepta had received certificates from the WHO already.

"It is a very good initiative of the government. It will help discipline

fake and adulterated drug manufacturers. Had it been done earlier, it would have been better for this growing sector," said Ahmed Kamrul Alam, general manager [marketing] of Square Pharmaceutical Company.

The policy will overall have a positive impact on drug manufacturers, he added.

Hailing the policy, Mizanur Rahman Sinha, managing director of Acme Laboratories Ltd, said both the local and international markets of pharmaceutical products have been expanding every year. The policy will ensure compliance with international standards, thus facilitating export of Bangladesh medicines to key international markets like the United States that only Beximco had so far penetrated.

Once the revised policy is implementation, there will be little scope for sub-standard and adulterated drug manufacturers, he added.

Russian envoy shot dead

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dressed in a dark suit, white shirt and tie -- brandishes his gun at terrified onlookers.

The man shouts "Allahu Akbar" ("God is greatest") and then talks about pledging allegiance to jihad in Arabic, the images showed.

Switching to Turkish, he then says: "Don't forget about Syria, don't forget about Aleppo. All those who participate in this tyranny will be held accountable".

The state-run Anadolu news agency said the gunman had been "neutralised" in a police operation inside the hall after 15 minutes of clashes.

Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soyul identified the attacker as Mevlut Mert Altintas, 22, who had worked in the Ankara anti-riot police for the last two-and-a-half years.

"Today in Ankara as a result of an attack the Russian ambassador to Turkey Andrei Karlov received wounds that he died from," Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in televised comments.

"We qualify what happened as a terrorist act," she added. "The murderers will be punished."

"Today this issue will be raised at the UN Security Council. Terrorism will not win out."

'BAYING FOR BLOOD'

The incident came after days of protests in Turkey over Russia's role in Syria, although Moscow and Ankara are now working closely together to evacuate citizens from the battered city of Aleppo.

The United States condemned the attack, while British ambassador Richard Moore paid tribute to a "quietly spoken, hospitable professional."

Erdogan phoned Putin to brief him about the attack, presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said.

James Nixey, head of the Russia and Eurasia programme at Chatham House think tank in London, said Moscow will use the attack to step up

actions in what the Kremlin sees as a "war on terror".

"My sense is that the Russians won't blame the Turks for this but will seek to capitalise on it for wider gains," he said.

"Clearly the Russian military will be baying for blood, they'll want revenge."

Turkey vowed it would not allow the assassination to damage relations with Moscow, which have dramatically improved in recent months.

"We will not allow this attack to cast a shadow on Turkey-Russia relations," said the Turkish foreign ministry in a statement.

Interior minister Soyul said the killing was "a terror attack on relations between Russia and Turkey".

The shooting took place at the Cagdas Sanatlar Merkezi, a major art exhibition hall in the Cankaya district of Ankara where most foreign embassies are located, including Russia's mission.

"When the ambassador was delivering a speech, a tall man wearing a suit, fired into the air first and then took aim at the ambassador," Hurriyet correspondent Hasim Kilic, who was at the scene, told AFP.

"He said something about Aleppo and 'revenge'. He ordered the civilians to leave the room. When people were fleeing, he fired again."

'CRUCIAL MEETING'

Protesters in Turkey have held Moscow responsible for human rights violations in Aleppo with thousands turning out for protests outside the Russian consulate in Istanbul.

Turkey and Russia saw relations plunge to their worst levels since the Cold War last year when a Turkish jet shot down a Russian war plane over Syria.

They stand on opposite sides of the Syria conflict with Ankara backing rebels trying to topple Moscow's ally President Bashar al-Assad.

But the rhetoric has warmed considerably since a reconciliation deal was signed earlier this year and a Russian and Turkish-brokered accord has

helped the evacuation of citizens from Aleppo in the last days.

The attack came a day before the Turkish, Russian and Iranian foreign ministers were to hold unprecedented three-way talks on the Syria conflict in Moscow.

The Syrian foreign ministry in Damascus denounced the murder as a "despicable crime", state news agency SANA said.

Cavusoglu learned of the news while on the plane to Moscow and the meeting would go ahead as planned, Turkish officials said.

Born in 1954 in Moscow, Karlov was a career diplomat who had began his career under the USSR in 1976. He was Russian ambassador to North Korea from 2001-2006.

Progress slow

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The report recommends that the national definition of literacy be revisited with an aim of making literacy skills the foundation of life-long learning as envisioned in SDG 4.

It further says quality of school education must improve to ensure that early primary grades produce students with an initial level of literacy. Besides, by the end of primary education, they should achieve a self-sustaining level of literacy and numeracy.

In her welcome address, CAMPE Executive Director Rasheda K Choudhury said they had maintained a democratic process while preparing the report.

Speaking as the chief guest, Primary and Mass Education Minister Advocate Mostafizur Rahman said the government was working to eradicate illiteracy from the country.

Mario Ronconi, head of Cooperation Unit of European Union to Bangladesh, Sun Lei, education programme specialist of Unesco Bangladesh, CAMPE Chairperson Kazi Rafiqul Alam and Vice-chair Manzoor Ahmed, among others, spoke at the event.

said he was on the run.

Emma Rushton, a tourist visiting Berlin, told CNN the truck seemed to be travelling at about 40mph (65kmh).

Asked how many were injured, she said that as she walked back to her hotel, she saw at least 10.

Julian Reichelt, editor-in-chief of Bild Berlin, said that there was currently a massive security operation underway.

"The scene certainly looks like a reminder of what we have seen in Nice," Reichelt said.

northeast of Moscow and beyond the Arctic Circle, the Sakha authorities said.

The plane was found 30 kilometres from the aerodrome at around 08:00 Moscow time, the Sakha authorities said.

The preliminary cause of the plane's emergency landing was "a strong sidewind with gusts," the authorities said.

The defence ministry said it had sent a specially equipped plane to evacuate those whose condition allowed them to travel to hospitals in Moscow and Saint Petersburg.

Remove

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The Union has since denied ever issuing this advice, saying it would be 'totally counterproductive'.

Gay rights campaigner Peter Tatchell supported the University's stance on gender specific titles.

He told MailOnline: "A person's name is usually sufficient to identify their gender if an identification is required for some good, practical reason.

"It is a positive thing to not always emphasise gender. We are all human. Why does our gender matter so much and why should it be constantly highlighted by titles?

"In an age when more people are defining themselves as transgender or gender-fluid, using gender-based titles ignores the new reality and could cause needless offence."

The University of Oxford Transgender Guidance report was published in June 2013 and remains online.

It reads: "The Equality and Diversity Unit suggests that departments and colleges remove all gender-specific titles from websites and print information, retaining only academic titles such as Dr, Prof.

"In the meantime individuals should be given the option of appearing without a title."

The Equality and Diversity Unit's website states that the guidance is currently being revised.

An Oxford University spokesman told Mail Online he had nothing to add to the advice already published.

Earlier this year, Jordan Peterson, a professor in Canada, uploaded a video on YouTube discussing his refusal to use gender neutral pronouns.

He said he was heckled and his office door was glued shut.

"UK universities should resist this. Whole disciplines have become irretrievable from these doctrines," he told The Sunday Times.

57 journalists

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information black holes where impunity reigns".

Nine bloggers and eight media workers have also been killed this year.

Reporters Without Borders said the fall in deaths was also the result of the "terror" imposed by what it called "press freedom predators" who close media outlets arbitrarily and gag journalists.

In countries such as Mexico, this led to journalists self-censoring to avoid being murdered, the group said in its annual report.

In Afghanistan, all of the 10 journalists killed were deliberately targeted because of their profession.

Seven, including three women, were killed in a suicide attack in January on a minibus used by privately-owned Tolo TV. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

Yemen, where more than 7,000 people have been killed since 2015 in a war pitting Saudi-backed regime forces against Huthi rebels, was another a black spot for journalists with five killed.

"The violence against journalists is more and more deliberate," RSF secretary-general Christophe Deloire said.

"They are clearly being targeted and murdered because they are journalists.

"This alarming situation reflects the glaring failure of the international initiatives aimed at protecting them, and is a death warrant for independent reporting in those areas where all possible means are used to impose censorship and propaganda, especially by fundamentalist groups in the Middle East."

The group called for incoming UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to appoint a special representative for the protection of journalists.

Man dies

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pronounced him dead.

Sohel's mother Jyotsna, who claimed to be present at the house when Sohel was arrested, said, "They [police] rummaged through everything in the house but didn't find any drugs."

A doctor at the health complex told The Daily Star that Sohel did not have any heartbeat when he was brought in.

Jamalpur Executive Magistrate Imranul Haque, who conducted the inquest, said he found no injury marks on the body and thought it was a natural death.

Sohel's brother Zakir, however, contradicted this saying he and his father saw injury marks on Sohel's neck after his death.

The executive magistrate added that an autopsy was done yesterday as Sohel died in police custody.

He said Sohel was brought dead at Jamalpur General Hospital around 8:45pm and the inquest was performed in less than an hour at the hospital morgue.

Asked about the allegation, OC Mazharul said Sohel was arrested with 25 yaba tablets and five grammes of heroin. "Drug addicts are physically weak anyway," he added.

Zakir admitted that Sohel used to take drugs. "But he had been clean for the last couple of months."

Christine Lagarde



IMF chief found guilty

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Lagarde over her handling of a dispute between the state and flamboyant businessman Bernard Tapie, which ended in a 404-million-euro (\$422 million) award for Tapie.

In a blow to her otherwise stellar career, the court rapped Lagarde for failing to contest the massive payment.

Crucially, however, the Paris court said exempted her from any penalty.

It was not clear what impact the finding will have on her position at the International Monetary Fund, which has so far given Lagarde its full backing.

The IMF board was to meet in Washington in the wake of the court's decision.

The 60-year-old former corporate lawyer, who was the first ever female finance minister of a Group of Eight country before becoming IMF chief in 2011, was not in court for the ruling.

Her lawyer Patrick Maisonneuve told reporters she was in Washington.

Maisonneuve welcomed the absence of a punishment but said he "would have preferred that she be simply cleared".

Lagarde was put on trial over her 2007 decision to allow the dispute over Tapie's sale of the Adidas sports brand to the state-owned Credit Lyonnais bank to be resolved by a private arbitration panel, and then failing to challenge the result.

The court cleared her of negligence over her decision to refer the matter to arbitration but upheld the charge over her failure to contest the award.

Lagarde told the court last week she had acted in good faith and that her sole aim had been "to defend the general interest".

The Court of Justice of the Republic, which is staffed by judges and members of parliament, hears cases against

ministers accused of wrongdoing in office.

The punishment for negligence theoretically carries a one-year prison sentence and a 15,000-euro fine.

STRAIN ON FAMILY

Lagarde's voice cracked with emotion on Friday as she said the trial had put her family -- she is the mother of two sons -- through a "testing" time.

Prosecutor Jean-Claude Marin had said he believed the evidence was "very weak" and was opposed to convicting Lagarde.

The payout to Tapie raised eyebrows, given his vocal support for Lagarde's then boss, ex-president Nicolas Sarkozy.

It was subsequently cancelled by the courts.

Tapie sold Adidas to Credit Lyonnais for the equivalent of 315.5 million euros in 1993. The bank sold it on the following year for 701 million euros, prompting claims from Tapie that he had been cheated.

Lagarde told her trial she had trusted the advice of her subordinates in the process.

Another of her lawyers, Bernard Grelon, said her fault was "not one of negligence. It is having taken a decision which turned out badly".

As IMF chief, Lagarde has been a key player in bailout negotiations for Greece and has also worked to reform the US- and Europe-dominated institution to reflect China's growing global leverage.

Lagarde succeeded her disgraced compatriot Dominique Strauss-Kahn as IMF managing director after he resigned to fight sexual assault charges.

Another former IMF head, Rodrigo Rato of Spain, is currently standing trial on charges of misusing funds when he was head of Spanish lender Bankia.

JP backs Ivy

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are backing the Awami League nominee," said JP presidium member SM Faisal Chisty.

The JP high command issued directives to party men to work for Ivy, he told journalists, reports a correspondent in Narayanganj.

Meanwhile, JP lawmaker from Narayanganj-5 Selim Osman at another press conference in Fatullah on the outskirts of the city also announced his support for Ivy.

Rashed Ferdous, Bangladesh Kalyan Party's mayoral candidate, at a press meeting yesterday said he would stay away from Thursday's polls. He extended support to BNP candidate Shakhawat Hossain Khan.

On Saturday, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) candidate Kamal Proddhan declared that he would work for Shakhawat.

However, the two cannot officially quit the electoral race as the deadline for withdrawal of nominations already expired.

Both the parties are components of the BNP-led 20-party alliance. Rashed and Kamal were expelled from their respective parties for failing to comply with party decisions on withdrawal of nominations.

LAST-MINUTE CAMPAIGN ON Ivy yesterday said she firmly believed that AL lawmaker Shamim Osman was working for her.

"I want a fair election. There would be no problem if the Election Commission and the law enforcement agencies play their due role," she said during electioneering in the city's Khanpur area.

BNP candidate Shakhawat once again pressed for deployment of army in the city to maintain law and order.

"I don't think law and order has improved.... I am not satisfied with the deployment of BGP. I still demand that the Election Commission deploy army," he said in the city's Chashara area.

The over two-week electioneering will come to an end at midnight tonight. Electoral laws prohibit people from conducting campaigns, rallies and bringing out processions in the electoral area after the end of campaigning. The ban comes into force 32 hours prior to the start of polling.

According to an EC circular, there would be a ban on plying of motorcycles in the electoral area from 12:01am Tuesday to 12:01am Friday.

Besides, motorised vehicles will be barred from plying the city streets from 12:01am Thursday to 12:01am Friday.

Returning Officer of the city polls Nuruzzaman Talukder said 22 platoons of Border Guard Bangladesh were deployed in the city yesterday afternoon. Each platoon comprises of around 25 to 30 members.

The BGB will work along with other law enforcement agencies till December 23, he added.

The district administration imposed an embargo on outsiders' stay in the electoral area from 12:01am today. The district administration announced this over loudspeakers in different areas of the city yesterday.

Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz yesterday warned of taking stern action against those who would be responsible for occurrence of any untoward incident during Thursday's election.

The commission has taken all necessary preparations to hold the polls in a free manner, he told reporters at the EC secretariat.

VOTE FOR SHAKHAWAT: KHALEDA

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon voters of Narayanganj city to cast their votes for the BNP candidate in a show of protest at the government's "misdeeds and misrule".

"I hope you [Narayanganj city dwellers] will create a silent revolution in the December 22 polls," she said in a press statement.

The former prime minister also asked the 20-party alliance men to play a courageous role to make Shakhawat victorious.

Rohingya

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At the dead of night, they along with two others crossed the river by a boat and entered Bangladesh through Damdamia point of Teknaf's Hnila.

They later took shelter at the shanty of her sister Romita Begum, 35, who has been living in the Leda unregistered Rohingya camp for eight years, said Fatema.

Amir Hossain, general secretary of the camp management committee, said Alam came to the camp in a very critical condition yesterday morning and he died there later.

Sheikh Ashrafuzzaman, inspector (investigation) of Teknaf Police Station, said police recovered the body and sent it to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

9 killed, 50 injured

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The incident evoked memories of an attack in France in July when Tunisian-born man drove a 19-tonne truck along the beach front, mowing down people who had gathered to watch the fireworks on Bastille Day, killing 86 people. The attack was claimed by Islamic State.

The truck careered into the Berlin market at what would have been one of the most crowded times for the Christmas market, when adults and children would be gathering in the traditional cluster of wooden huts that

sell food and Christmas goods.

Berlin police said nine people were killed.

"I heard a big noise and then I moved on the Christmas market and saw much chaos ... many injured people," Jan Holtziter, deputy editor-in-chief of Berliner Morgenpost, told CNN. "It was really traumatic."

Police cars and ambulances converged quickly on the scene as a huge security operation unfolded. The fate of the driver of the truck was not immediately clear, but Bild newspaper

16 Russian soldiers hurt in plane crash

AFP, Moscow

A plane carrying Russian soldiers crashed in Siberia yesterday, seriously injuring 16, the defence ministry said, quoted by Russian news agencies.

The Ilyushin-18 plane carrying 32 passengers and seven crew made an emergency landing around 4:45 am Moscow time (01:45 GMT) in the eastern Siberian region of Sakha, RIA Novosti news agency reported.

Everyone survived but 16 suffered serious

injuries, with three in a very serious condition, and were airlifted to the nearest hospital, Sakha's regional authorities said in a statement, citing the emergency ministry.

In conflicting reports, the Sakha authorities said there were 32 people on board including eight crew.

The passengers were officers from the eastern Siberian region of Krasnoyarsk, a source in the emergency ministry told Interfax news agency.</