

# FIGHTING TERROR IN S ASIA, BEYOND Police chiefs for common strategy

Agree to establish tech-based network to share information

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police chiefs and representatives of 14 South Asia and neighbouring nations yesterday agreed to establish a technology-based network to share information for curbing violent extremism and transnational crimes.

They also vowed to work together to identify crimes that pose immense threats to this region and the world and develop a common strategy to combat transnational crimes and violent extremism.

The agreements are part of a 17-point joint declaration signed by the police representatives of participating countries and organisations. It was signed yesterday following a three-day international conference aimed at boosting cooperation among law enforcers.

Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque announced the declaration after the conference.

He said the declaration would largely be implemented after they sign memorandums of understanding (MoUs) for sharing information and cooperation in curbing terrorism, transnational crimes and human trafficking. Many of the participating countries agreed to ink the MoUs.

He said the MoUs would be signed subject to government approval. The participating states and organisations also agreed to build one-to-one communication through NCB (national central bureau) of Interpol member states and form a common forum under the banner of Interpol to enhance cooperation among chiefs of police of the region.

The participants also vowed to cooperate in enhancing capabilities against money laundering, cybercrime and financial crime and help in the study and analysis of terrorism activities and policies.

The conference titled "Chiefs of Police Conference on Regional Cooperation in Curbing Violent Extremism and Transnational Crime" was jointly organised by Interpol and Bangladesh Police.

Police chiefs or senior police representatives of 14 countries, including India, China, South Korea, Myanmar, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan,

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PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim (L) and coach Chandika Hathurusingha inspect the pitch at Colombo ahead of their landmark 100th Test starting from today.

## Govt to launch TV stations in 6 major cities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to set up six fully fledged TV stations at six divisional headquarters to promote local talents and project various awareness-building programmes, including campaigns against militancy.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) yesterday approved Tk 1,391 crore for the project with 71 percent of it being financed by China.

The six TV stations would be set up in Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Mymensingh, Sylhet and Barisal and would go on air by December next year.

A high official of the information ministry said the fully fledged stations would be both terrestrial and satellite-based so that

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## Strange tomb found in China



MAIL ONLINE

Archaeologists have unearthed a pyramid-shaped tomb under a construction site in central China.

Residents are amazed after the unusual ancient burial site was discovered in Zhengzhou, Henan Province, with one calling it "magical".

Further analysis is yet to be carried out to identify how old the tomb is, who the owner was and why it was built in this particular shape.

Chinese media has dubbed the tomb the "pyramid of Zhengzhou", though the structure is much small in size compared to the real pyramids in Egypt.

The tomb was found near a motorway situated

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## Explain failure to make law

HC asks govt over protecting farmland

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of the government failure to formulate a specific law to protect the agricultural land in the country.

In response to a writ petition, it issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain in six weeks why the failure to formulate a specific law to protect the farmland should not be declared unconstitutional and against public interest.

The HC order came at a time when the government's own policy paper on agriculture fears loss of nearly one percent of farmland each year and a draft law on protection of farmland has been on hold for several years.

The court asked the authorities to show cause as to why their failure to protect the agricultural land of Shailat, Gazipur and Nayapara villages of Gazipur union under Sreepur upazila in Gazipur district from conversion should not be declared illegal

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## BCL men go rowdy at DU dormitory

Forcibly put supporters in rooms that are not allotted to them, vandalise provost's office

DU CORRESPONDENT

Chhatra League leaders and activists at Dhaka University's Bijoy Ekattar Hall early yesterday tried to force residents to accommodate their men who had been living in a common room.

Following complaints, resident teachers and the hall provost went there around midnight and tried to stop them, witnesses told The Daily Star.

Soon, an altercation ensued between hall residents and some 70-80 BCL men, led by BCL hall unit President Fakir Rassel Ahmed and General Secretary HM Nayan Howladar.

The activists brought out a procession chanting slogans and shouting expletives, chased teachers and shattered windows of the room of Provost AJM Shafiul Alam Bhuiyan, who was inside, and beat up a journalist, added the witnesses.

Normalcy returned around 4:00am after Proctor M Amzad Ali and DU BCL President Abid Al Hasan went there and held talks with the leaders of the pro-Awami League student organisation.

A student of Padma block said: "We were preparing to go to bed around midnight. Suddenly, we heard loud noises and saw some Chhatra League men outside our room."

"They tried to force us to take two activists in and two others in the next room," said the student wishing anonymity.

The campus reporter of the United News of Bangladesh, Imran Hossain, passed out and was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital after being

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## ARREST OF BINOY Jessore journo boycott home boss' function

STAR REPORT

Journalists in Jessore have decided to boycott Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan's programme on March 16 in protest against the arrest of former Jessore Press Club vice-president and rights activist Bino Krishna Mallik.

The decision was made at a meeting of the journalists at Jessore Press Club yesterday afternoon.

Bino, executive director of Rights Jessore, an NGO working for the victims of human trafficking, was picked up allegedly by plainclothes policemen from his house on Monday, hours after he raised an allegation of corruption and misuse of power by Superintendent of Police Anisur Rahman.

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## MIGRATION ANOMALIES Minister bins TIB report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Without giving an explanation, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam yesterday rejected the findings of a Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) report on irregularities and corruption in the migration sector.

He also termed the report "baseless" and said they would protest it formally by sending a letter to TIB soon.

"It is a conspiracy

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Fishermen mending their nets in Firingibazar of Chittagong yesterday as they are getting ready to go to the sea. They could not fish in the last few days due to bad weather and a rough sea. Inset, a fisherman arranges baskets in his fishing boat.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## Last hurdle for Brexit cleared

UK PM says bill will be turned into law 'in days' after MPs approve her plan

AFP, London

Prime Minister Theresa May yesterday said she would be given the power to start Brexit talks within days but declined to name a date for a process already disrupted by Scotland's independence bid.

After speculation in Brussels and at home that she would start the withdrawal process this week, May told the House of Commons that she would fulfil her promise to do it by the end of March.

Parliament late Monday approved a bill empowering the government to trigger Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty, starting a two-year countdown to Britain's departure.

May said the bill would receive formal assent from Queen Elizabeth II "in the coming days" -- leaving the prime minister free to start Brexit at any time.

"I will return to this House before the end of this month to notify when I have formally triggered Article 50 and begun the process through which the United Kingdom will leave the European Union," she said.

This would put Britain on course to become the first country to leave the 28-member bloc by March 2019.

"I don't know the date when the letter will arrive, but what I know is that we are ready," European Commission spokesman Alexander Winterstein said.

May appeared to be caught off guard Monday when Scotland's nationalist government said it would next week seek authorisation for a second referendum on leaving

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