

Block supply of arms, money to terrorists

Hasina calls upon world leaders at Arab Islamic American Summit

BSS, Riyadh

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for a concerted global initiative to block supply of weapons and money to terrorists to ensure the effectiveness of anti-militancy campaigns.

"We must stop the source of supply of arms to the terrorists and we have to stop the flow of financing to the terrorists and their outfits," she said in a written statement to the Arab Islamic American Summit at the King Abdulaziz International Conference Centre in Riyadh Sunday.

The PM urged the Muslim nations to shun divisions within the Islamic Ummah and pursue the principle of peaceful settlement of international disputes through dialogues.

Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, US President Donald Trump and presidents and premiers of some other Arab and Islamic countries also spoke at the programme.

Hasina said terrorism and violent extremism posed a major threat not only to global peace and development,

but also to human civilisation.

She said Bangladesh maintains "zero tolerance" policy to all forms of violent extremism.

"Terrorists do not have any religion, belief or racial identity," she said, calling upon the world leaders not to use the term Islam to refer to terrorists.

Being a religion of peace, Hasina said, Islam never supports violence or killing.

The war-ravaged countries like Iraq and Syria became centres of recruitment and operation for terrorist outfits, she added.

The PM called for launching a reconstruction and development plan for such Middle Eastern countries following the instances of the US-sponsored post-Second World War Marshall Plan.

Hasina, however, feared that the global refugee crisis could largely contribute to the rise of terrorism and violent extremism as "refugees could be a potential breeding ground of terrorists and extremists".

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A woman places a towel over the baby's head under an umbrella while heading to her destination in Kamrangirchar on the outskirts of the capital yesterday noon. The mild heat wave sweeping the country is likely to continue for a few more days, weathermen say. The mercury hit 36.8 degrees Celsius in the city yesterday while the highest in the country was 37.8 in Jessore.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

'MATARBARI GRAFT' Ex-DC of Cox's Bazar sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A court yesterday sent former deputy commissioner Md Ruhul Amin to jail in connection with corruption in Matarbari coal-based power plant in Maheshkhali.

Earlier in the day, Ruhul Amin surrendered before the Court of Senior Judicial Magistrate, Cox's Bazar and prayed for bail. But Judge Md Toufiq Aziz rejected his bail prayer and sent him to jail.

Currently, Amin is posted at the Economic Relations Division (ERD) as a deputy secretary.

Mahubur Rahman, the then land acquisition officer, filed 20 cases with Cox's Bazar Sadar model police in 2014 when allegations of corruption in the power plant were raised.

The police later sent the cases to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) for investigation. The commission merged the 20 cases into one and pressed charges against 36 people on completion of investigation.

The former deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar was the 25th accused in the case.

ACC lawyer advocate Abdur Rahim said Ruhul Amin had obtained four weeks' anticipatory bail from the High Court that expired on May 21, following which he had to surrender before the court yesterday.

The lawyer further said the ACC had earlier arrested former additional deputy commissioner (revenue) of Cox's Bazar Zafar Alam in Dhaka. He has been an officer on special duty at the public administration ministry since then.

The ACC also arrested Abul Kashem Majumder, chief assistant of the land acquisition officer, former surveyor Fakhru Islam and advocate Noor Mohammad Sikder of the district judge's court.

Majumder and Noor Mohammad are now out on bail.

KILLING OF KUSHTIA DOCTOR Four JMB members charged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police pressed charges against four members of outlawed militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in connection with the killing of secular homeopath Mir Sanwar Hossain last year.

The Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate accepted the charge sheet submitted on May 20, sources said.

Sanwar was killed in an attack on May 20 last year.

Saifuzzaman, 42, assistant professor of Bangla at Islamic University, was also injured in the attack.

He later said four assailants intercepted their motorcycle at Shishirmath near Kushtia town around 10:30am and hacked Sanwar indiscriminately, leaving him dead on the spot.

Two cases were filled with Kushtia model police -- one filed by the police and the other by Amir Hossain, elder brother of the slain homeopath.

Sub-Inspector Azizur Rahman, also investigation officer of the case, submitted

the charge sheet against the four JMB men -- Azizul, Joynal, Sajiuddin and Saiful -- who are now in Kushtia jail.

The police arrested them three days after the killing. During interrogation they had admitted to having involvement in JMB and the killing as well.

They claimed they had killed the homeopath for being an "atheist" and "spreading" atheism in the area, according to the charge sheet.

They added Tulu Mollah, 33, of Khajanagar village in Sadar upazila, had masterminded the operation.

Tulu was killed in a gunfight with Rapid Action Battalion at Khajanagar village on October 31 last year.

The JMB men took shelter at Tulu's house in Khajanagar after the killing. According to the charge sheet, they left two grenades in the area. School student Naimul Islam Naim, 12, of Koburhat Sardarpara area died in a blast after he had taken the grenades thinking those as toys.

Seven doctors

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Police Station hours after Afa Jahan Chaity, 20, a first year student of zoology department, died at the hospital on May 18.

The accused are Central Hospital Director Dr MA Kashem, Consultant Lt Col (ret'd) Dr ASM Matlabur Rahman, Prof ABM Abdullah, Dr Murtaza, Dr Jahanara Begum, Dr Maksud Pervin, Dr Masuda Pervin, Dr Tapan Kumer Bairagi and Rashed Yusuf.

Kashem was granted bail on May 19 after he was produced before another Dhaka court.

The student from Chapaina wabganj was admitted to the hospital on Green Road on May 17 after doctors there diagnosed her with "acute myeloblastic leukaemia", a type of blood cancer, reads her medical files.

Just before she died around 5:30pm, doctors confirmed that she actually had dengue fever, claimed students.

The death triggered a protest and demands for punishing the doctors. Around 200-300 students vandalised several rooms and other things on the hospital's first floor.

BANANI RAPE No major negligence in handling complaint

Says police probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police investigation did not find any major fault of law enforcers in dealing with the complaint over the Banani double rape incident, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia yesterday said.

"However, we have found minor deviation from discharging duties," he told reporters at his office.

Against the backdrop of allegations that police delayed registering the case and treated the rape victims improperly, DMP on Thursday formed a three-member committee headed by Additional Commissioner (Crime) Mizanur Rahman to probe the matter.

The committee handed its report to the commissioner yesterday.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mizanur said investigators recommended taking departmental action against Officer-in-Charge BM Farman Ali and Inspector Abdul Matin of Banani Police station for delay in registering the First Information Report.

The committee also recommends taking similar action against Additional Deputy Commissioner of Gulshan Division Manosh Kumar Poddar for not supervising the investigation into the rape case properly.

Regarding the alleged delay of two days in taking the case, the DMP commissioner said police had to carry out a primary investigation as per law before filing the case.

One of the victims filed a case with Banani police against five men, including two alleged rapists --

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Unexpected death

FROM PAGE 1

that night got bail later, while others were bailed yesterday.

To protest all these, Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), meanwhile, decided to abstain from private practices across the country today.

It also announced that all doctors would wear black badges from 8:00am to 2:30pm till Thursday and hold human chain at noon on Thursday.

BMA will announce more programmes in protesting the vandalism and false case against doctors after an executive meeting on May 28.

It seems the association is oblivious to the sufferings an hour of human chain and a day's abstention from work would inflict on countless patients.

On the other hand, vandalism in a healthcare facility and the arrest of doctors before the allegation of negligence is proven are totally unacceptable.

What was the negligence and who would prove it?

Prof ABM Abdullah, who was in charge of Chaity's treatment, said Chaity went to the hospital with fever and weakness and was first administered a symptom-based treatment including rehydration, Paracetamol and some other drugs.

She was then prescribed some tests which found that the 20-year-old student had Acute Myeloblastic Leukaemia, a type of blood cancer.

"Her situation was so serious that she was rushed to the ICU," the doctor said, adding that ninety nine percent of her blood cells were affected.

At the same time, her skin turned pale and she lost consciousness, the professor told The Daily Star.

To start the treatment of a cancer patient, doctors need to consider a number of things including her fitness, blood pressure, sugar level and diabetes. In Chaity's case, doctors didn't have time for these considerations, he added.

DU students, however, told reporters that doctors, just before Chaity's death at 5:30pm, said it was dengue that killed her.

Prof Anwarul Islam, chairman of DU's zoology department where the girl studied, also told journalists that

he came to know that his student was given wrong treatment.

The doctors have one version of the story while students have another. But, who is to verify this? Without any doubt, an independent medical expert team could help.

Patients or their relatives could lodge complaints with the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC), the licensing and regulatory authority of the physicians.

The BMDC, after investigation, could cancel registration of the doctors concerned if negligence or wrong treatment was proven. The relatives of patients could even appeal to the court for compensation.

In this case, relatives or fellow students didn't lodge any complaint with the BMDC. It was only assumed that she was given wrong treatment. Based on the assumption, DU authorities went to police who arrested a doctor.

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University's School of Medicine found that medical errors accounted for over 9.5 percent of all fatalities in the US. No such data is available in Bangladesh.

A culture has grown where patients or their relatives engage in direct confrontation with the healthcare providers instead of going to the proper authority. It has been harming the doctor-patient relationship.

However, that doesn't mean doctors can hold patients hostage by halting their services and patients or their people can attack healthcare facilities.

Trump says yes

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travel to Tajikistan by this year," Shahidul said.

Tajikistan considers Bangladesh as a potential partner for boosting trade, he added.

The Bangladesh premier also held a meeting with her Malaysian counterpart Najib Razak. The two leaders discussed various issues of bilateral interest, the foreign secretary told journalists.

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim and Deputy Press Secretary Nazrul Islam were present at the press briefing.

Bad news

FROM PAGE 1

that production may be only half of that of last year.

At least 23,227 metric tonnes of litchi was produced on 4,100 hectares of land last year, according to the department.

"There was fog, massive fluctuations in day and night temperature and rains...these are the key things which affected litchi production," said Imrul.

Madrazi, Bombai, Bedana and China-3 are the varieties widely produced in Dinajpur, he said.

The Daily Star correspondent found Madrazi litchis, though not completely ripe, arriving on Sunday, selling at Tk 250 to Tk 350 per hundred in retail shops depending on the size and taste.

Traders said other varieties may take another 15 days to arrive.

"The price remains high initially...it will start dropping later," said a local, Zahidul Islam.

The price is a little bit high this year and many will not be able to afford it, said one Kurban Ali, a trader who came from Barisal for the fruit, adding that it was Tk 30 to 50 lesser in wholesale markets.

Traders said low supply against a high demand was pushing prices up.

Buyers from districts including Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet and Barisal have already gathered in Dinajpur to ensure supply of the best litchis to their respective districts.

Besides, rural women are passing busy days sorting harvests. "We can earn some extra money with the start of the litchi season," said Jarina Begum of Mashimpur village in sadar upazila.

There are some 3,000 litchi orchards all over Dinajpur. One trader, Aftab Uddin, however, opined that the tastiest ones can be found in Biral upazila and Mashimpur of sadar upazila.

The business centring litchi in Dinajpur lasts for around two months, involving around Tk 1,000 crore. Of the profits, 30 percent goes to growers, 10 to 15 percent to traders and the rest to labourers, truckers and middlemen, said farmers.

Growers and traders say they suffer losses every year for a shortage of preservation centres of this fruit, which perishes fast. They say a post-harvest management centre needs to be set up in Dinajpur as early as possible.

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