

# Stay calm, security would be ensured

14-party leaders tell indigenous families affected by arson attacks in Rangamati

MINHAJ UDDIN AND ANVIL CHAKMA, Longadu, Rangamati

A team from the 14-party alliance, led by Health Minister Mohammed Nasim, visited Rangamati's Longadu yesterday and assured that the government would repair and reconstruct the homes that were attacked on Friday.

"Relief is being given. Please take them and tell all to stay calm... the police and the army would ensure everyone's security," he said, calling upon the indigenous people, who fled to jungles and nearby villages after the incident, to return to their homes.

A few days after the attack, the district administration took relief materials to the villages but the indigenous people refused to take them, saying they just need justice or help.

Nasim said those who killed Nurul Islam Nayan, a local Jubo League leader, would be brought to book. He promised the authorities would ensure that his family was compensated and rehabilitated.

He threatened to take action even if anyone in the administration was found guilty.

On Friday morning, Bangladeshi settlers unleashed a series of arson attacks on the indigenous community in three villages - Tintila,

Manikjorchora and Baitappara - of Longadu after the death of Nayan. Over 200 homes and shops were vandalised and burned after they were looted. Later, almost all the indigenous families fled to nearby jungles and villages.

That night, police filed a case against 15 named and 300-400 unnamed accused with Longadu Police Station. At this, all the men from the Bangladeshi families fled the villages fearing arrest.

Yesterday morning, the minister and his team, including Workers' Party leader Fazle Hossain Badsha, visited the affected homes. They also went to Nayan's family and provided it with some financial assistance.

After the leaders arrived in Baitappara, which has the most number of Bangladeshi families, the Bangladeshi men, all of a sudden, returned to the village and met the minister.

However, only a handful of the men from the indigenous families appeared there. Talking to Nasim, they demanded that the culprits be arrested immediately.

Later in a meeting with the members of both the Bangladeshi and indigenous communities at the Upazilla Council auditorium, Nasim said,

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An indigenous man, who lost his home and livelihood in Friday's arson, breaks down in tears seeing Health Minister Mohammed Nasim. Inset, a health camp organised by the Rangamati deputy commissioner in Tintila, Longadu, has no visitor from the indigenous community yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# Man killed in 'gunfight' with police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A man was killed in what police claim was a "gunfight" between them and him and his cohorts in Brahmanbaria's Chandidar area around midnight on Tuesday.

Police also claim that Ibrahim Miah, 35, son of late Shomraz Miah of Latauamora village, died after his associates mistakenly shot him. Three bullets and three sharp weapons were recovered from the scene and police afterwards arrested 15 people at the village. Officer-in-Charge (OC)

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# Export growth dips

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Four major factors affected the country's export growth this year, said Avijit Chowdhury, acting chief executive of the EPB.

They are Brexit and its impacts on exchange rate; political changes and the ongoing recession in the US; price fall of petroleum products in the Middle Eastern countries; and appreciation of Bangladesh currency against the greenback.

In addition, exporters pointed out two other reasons - declining consumption of apparel items in the wake of rising spending for electronic gadgets and unhealthy price competition practised by both buyers and local manufacturers - for the fall

in export growth.

Earned exports to the US, Bangladesh's single largest export destination, fell by 6.8 percent in July-April period while to the UK, the third largest market, fell by 5.91 percent due to Brexit.

Apparel exporters said a silent recession was going on in their main export destinations in Europe in the run up to the general elections in four major economies this year.

France and the Netherlands have already had their elections while the UK goes to polls today and Germany on September 24. During this period, retailers and consumers wait for the new government's policy

decisions, exporters said.

Exports also declined for the imposition of a ban on direct cargo flight from Bangladesh to the UK and Germany last year. Avijit said, Bangladesh's take appreciated nearly by 8 percent against US dollar for which exporters are getting less against exports, he said. "We might not achieve the target this fiscal year, but maybe they will be close."

Cargment shipment, which contributes over 82 percent to the national export, declined further during July-May period and grew only by 2.16 percent to \$25.62 billion.

In July-May period, export of knitwear 4.91 percent, of sport of \$12.50

billion and woven export growth declined by 0.33 percent year-on-year to \$13.11 billion.

The declining trend in apparel export has broken the last 10 years' growth record, said Mahmud Hasan Khan Babu, vice-president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

Babu said although garment export volume rose by nearly 9 percent in July-May period, the earning did not. "That means prices of Bangladesh-made apparel items declined further worldwide," Babu said.

Moreover, consumption of apparel items declined nearly 7 percent in 2016 and nearly 8 percent in 2015 as western consumers are more

interested to spend money for electronic gadgets rather than apparel items, he said.

Babu also blamed the unhealthy price competition by both buyers and local manufacturers. "If such a down trend of prices continues, export growth will fall further in near future."

He said many small and medium factories had been shut down over the last few years as they failed to comply with the inspections by the Accord and Alliance.

Apart from apparels, frozen and live fish export declined by 1.89 percent to \$472.85 million and terry towel by 8.6 percent to \$40.41 million.

# 120 on board

FROM PAGE 1

"We were on our way for medical checkups and to attend school," the colonel in Naypyidaw told AFP, refusing to confirm what rescuers had found and adding the search was ongoing.

There was conflicting information about the number of people on board. Giving an updated figure, the commander in chief's office said those on board included 105 soldiers and their family members and 14 crew members. Several navy ships and air force planes were sent to search for the aircraft, which was flying at an altitude of more than 18,000 feet (5,486 metres).

A monsoon season in Myanmar but there were no reports of bad weather at the time the plane went missing.

THE MILITARY AIR FORCE

The plane was a YF-80F-200 four-engine turboprop, a Chinese-made model still commonly used by Myanmar's military for transporting cargo.

The former military junta bought many of the aircraft from Myanmar's air force in the 1990s. The air force announced a swap deal, hoping to isolate land, but they were squeezed by Western sanctions.

A former executive at the aviation ministry said many of the aircraft in Myanmar's fleet were old and decrepit.

"Myanmar air force has (a) very bad safety performance," he said, asking to remain nameless.

However the army said the missing plane was delivered in March last year and had logged 809 flying hours. Soldiers gathered the military base



at Yangon airport refused to speak to AFP journalists.

Myanmar's military fleet has a chequered recent history of plane crashes.

A five strong crew died when an air force plane burst into flames soon after taking off from the capital Naypyidaw in February last year.

The worst in recent years was also killed in June when a Mi-2 helicopter crashed into a hillside and burst into flames in south-central Bago.

A surge in demand for air travel as Myanmar opens up has stretched the impoverished country's aviation infrastructure, in particular in remote airports.

Commercial jets have also suffered frequent incidents.

Corbyn, a veteran socialist, made an eve-of-voting pitch on the National Health Service (NHS), a beloved institution.

"The Conservatives have spent the last seven years running down our NHS, our proudest national institution. Our NHS cannot afford five more years of underfunding, underfunding and privatisation," he said.

Despite being seen as an unlikely rebel - one who has faced off a rebellion by his own MPs - Corbyn has gained momentum during the election campaign and regularly attracts big crowds to his rallies.

Labour gained a boost following the May 18 release of the Conservatives' manifesto, outlining elderly care costs which the tabloids dubbed the "dementia tax".

The pledge hit the party's core supporters and May was forced to backtrack on capping the costs, prompting further criticism that she was unreliable.

# 'First IS attack' in Iran kills 12

FROM PAGE 1

The raids took place at a particularly charged time after Iran's main regional rival Saudi Arabia and other Sunni powers cut ties with Qatar on Monday, accusing it of backing Tehran and militant groups.

IS released a video of the attackers from inside the building via its Amaq propaganda agency - a rare claim of responsibility while an attack was still going on.

The Sunni jihadists of IS consider Shia Iran to be apostates, and Tehran is deeply involved in fighting the group in both Syria and Iraq.

The assaults began mid-morning when four gunmen burst into the parliament complex in the centre of Tehran, killing a security guard and one other person, according to the ISNA news agency.

An interior ministry official said they were dressed as women and entered through the visitors' entrance. One eventually exploded a suicide vest while the others were killed by security forces.

At roughly the same time, two assailants entered the grounds of the Khomeini mausoleum, killing a gardener and wounding several other people.

One detonated a suicide vest, while the other was shot dead.

It was not clear whether the shrine attackers were women, as earlier reported, or just wearing female clothing.

Iran's emergency services said a total of 12 people were killed in the two attacks and 43 wounded.

Iran's leaders sought to play down the attacks, with neither President Hassan Rouhani nor supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei making a statement by early evening.

Parliament was in session as the violence unfolded and members were keen to show they were undeterred, posting selfies showing themselves as calm and continuing with regular business.

Meanwhile, gunshots continued in the neighbouring offices built with police helping staff to escape from windows and snipers taking position from rooftops.

Speaker Ali Larijani dismissed the attacks, saying they were a "trivial matter" and that security forces were dealing with them.

The intelligence ministry said there had been a third "terrorist" team that was neutralised before the attacks started.

Tehran was on lockdown, with streets blocked and parts of the metro closed. Journalists and onlookers were kept away from the sites by police.

The Fars news agency, which is close to the Guards, blamed Iran's arch foes, the United States and Saudi Arabia, for the attacks. It noted that they took place two weeks after US President Donald Trump visited Riyadh and vowed to isolate Iran, reported Reuters.

## TERROR ATTACKS THIS RAMADAN

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| MAY 30 | 22 killed in 2 bomb attacks in Baghdad            |
| MAY 31 | Over 100 killed in blast in Kabul diplomatic area |
| JUNE 3 | 8 killed in London Bridge attack                  |
| JUNE 3 | 7 killed in blasts at funeral in Kabul            |
| JUNE 5 | 1 killed in Melbourne hostage standoff            |
| JUNE 6 | Man attacks police officer in Paris               |

Iran is locked in a tussle with Saudi Arabia for regional influence which is being played out in the Yemen conflict as well as in Syria and Iraq.

Interior Minister Abdolrahman Ebrahimi said ISNA he has ordered a special meeting of the country's security council.

Messages of support were sent by Russian President Vladimir Putin and from the Syrian foreign ministry.

The three countries are close allies in the fight against rebels and jihadist groups in Syria. Iran has also been

helping to battle IS in Iraq, which also sent its condolences.

This has made Iran, the predominant Shia power, a priority target for IS, which published a rare video in Persian in March warning that it "will conquer Iran and restore it to the Sunni Muslim nation as it was before."

Jihadist groups have clashed frequently with Iranian security forces along the borders with Iraq and Afghanistan, but the country has largely escaped attacks within its urban centres.

The intelligence ministry said in June 2016 that it had foiled an IS plot to carry out multiple bomb attacks in Tehran and around the country.

IS is under increasing pressure, having lost significant territory in the face of offensives now targeting its last two major urban bastions, Raqqa in Syria and Mosul in Iraq.

Militant groups are also known to operate in Iran's southwestern Sistan, Baluchistan province, which borders Pakistan and has a large Sunni community.

Jaish-ul Adl (Army of Justice), which Tehran accuses of links with al-Qaeda, has carried out several armed attacks on Iranian soil in recent years.

Khamenei said on Sunday that attacks by IS in Europe and elsewhere showed that Western policies in the Middle East have backfired.

"This is a fire that (Western powers) themselves ignited and now has backfired on them," he told a gathering of senior officials in Tehran.

people were killed on Saturday when three men aboard a hired van ploughed into pedestrians on London Bridge and went on a stabbing spree before being shot by police.

Their rampage followed a similar attack next to the British parliament in March, in which assailant Khalid Masood was shot after killing five people.

In the most deadly attack, Salman Abedi killed 22 people at a Manchester concert venue on May 22 when he detonated a suicide bomb.

Police forces around Britain have reviewed security arrangements for election day. London's Metropolitan Police said there would be a "specialist and highly flexible operation in place that can deploy and respond as needed."

# UK decides in key polls

FROM PAGE 14

England, Scotland and Wales, stretching from Glasgow to London, in a gruelling last-day campaign marathon.

The prime minister had stunned Britain on April 18 when she announced a snap election, hoping to transform a massive opinion-poll lead into an equally huge majority in the House of Commons where she holds a slim 17-seat advantage in the 650-member legislature.

But the political ground began to shift under her feet, moving from EU to domestic policy and her own record on security, both of them favouring Corbyn.

Opinion polls - hampered by a poor reputation for reliability - predicted a May win. But depending on