



A group of opposition supporters throw a plastic water container into a blazing barricade during post-election violence in Kawangware, outside Nairobi, Kenya. Kenya found itself in a dangerous limbo yesterday as violent protests rocked opposition strongholds a day after a deeply divisive election that has left seven dead.

PHOTO: AFP

Police recover 4,500 yaba pills from pvt car

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered 4,500 yaba tablets from a private car on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway in Chittagong's Lohagara upazila yesterday.

The person who was driving the car was arrested in this connection, said Mohammad Shahjahan, officer-in-charge of Lohagara Police Station.

Acting on a tip-off, police halted the car in Chunati area of the upazila around 10:00am, he said, adding that the car was coming from Cox's Bazar.

The arrestee, Md Reaz, 50, of Bhola's Charfassion upazila, claimed that he recently bought the car. But he failed to show them any documents in favour of his claim, the OC added.

The police official said they were investigating the incident.

Egypt kills 13 militants

AFP, Cairo

Egyptian security forces killed 13 militants during a raid on a farm hideout in the western desert region yesterday, a week after a deadly attack on a police convoy, authorities said.

An Interior Ministry statement gave no details on the militants, but Egyptian forces have been battling several armed Islamist groups, mostly focused on an entrenched Islamic State affiliate that has killed hundreds of police officers and troops in the northern Sinai Peninsula since 2013.

"They took a house in the farm as a temporary hideout faraway from security monitoring to receive newly recruited elements and train them and prepare the explosive devices," the ministry statement said.

The clashes were in an area near the Assuit-Kharga desert highway, around 400 km (248.55 miles) southwest of Cairo, in New Valley province that shares a long border with neighbouring southern Libya. Southern Libya has become a hideout for militant brigades taking advantage of the security vacuum there.

After clashes with the militants, the ministry said 13 bodies were recovered at the farm, some wearing militant uniforms. Security forces also recovered weapons, suicide bomb belts, cash and ammunition.

The statement did not say whether the group was linked to the militants who attacked police last week in a remote area of Giza governorate, 135 km outside Cairo, when sources say they were searching for a militant hideout.

"Security forces dealt a severe blow to the terrorist elements in revenge for the blood of the men who were martyred last week in the oasis," the state news agency MENA said earlier, citing a high-level security source.

Most of Egypt's violence is centred in the northern Sinai, where a local group, Ansar Bait al-Maqdis, pledged allegiance to Islamic State in 2014. It had mostly targeted security forces with ambushes and suicide attacks, but has spread to other areas of Egypt outside the peninsula.

The western desert region has long been for a route for smugglers and arms coming across Libya's porous border. The Egyptian military said on Monday its air force hit eight four-wheel-drive vehicles carrying arms and explosives at the western border with Libya, killing the militants on board.

Late Thai king's remains returned to palace

REUTERS, Bangkok

The ashes and bones of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej were returned to the palace yesterday as part of an elaborate, five-day cremation ceremony that drew hundreds of thousands of black-clad mourners to Bangkok's historic old quarter.

King Bhumibol was the world's longest-reigning monarch when he died a year ago aged 88. His seven-decade rule spanned some of the most tumultuous moments in modern Thai history, including several coups, a deadly crackdown on student protesters, natural disasters and a regional financial crisis.

His son, new King Maha Vajiralongkorn, presided over the burning of his father's remains in a golden crematorium at a late-night ceremony in the Thai capital on Thursday.

Many mourners stayed to watch as smoke rose from the crematorium. Some broke down in tears.

The crowds had diminished yesterday, but thousands of people still lined the streets to glimpse what they could of a ceremony that in total cost \$90 million.

"I can't express my sadness at the loss. It's like a child longing for a parent," said Boonpherm Buatho, 56, a housekeeper.

Shielded from the sun by a large white-and-gold umbrella, King Vajiralongkorn led a religious ceremony to return his father's remains to the palace. He sprinkled the bones with sacred water as classical Thai music played.

The remains were blessed by Thailand's Supreme Patriarch, the head of the order of Buddhist monks. The late king's bones will be taken to the Grand Palace, where he had lain in state since his death last October.

Although Thailand does not conduct polls on the monarchy's popularity - partly because of strict laws that protect the royal family from insult -

the king built up a wide personal following and is often referred to as "father".

The ceremony on Thursday brought Thailand to a standstill as many businesses, including banks, shut to honour the late king.

The late king's nine-spired crematorium, built to honour the ninth king of the Chakri Dynasty, features intricate carvings and staircases with sculptures of naga - a half-human, half-cobra beings - among other mythical creatures.

Pictures of mourners wearing black and holding photographs of the late king flooded social media in Thailand, with many using popular hashtags such as #ram9, #kingofkings, and #thegreatestking.

A religious ceremony for the late king's remains will take place within the palace today.

On Sunday, the bones will be transferred to the palace hall where the relics of past kings are kept. A procession will then take his ashes from the palace to be divided between the temples of Wat Rajabopidh and Wat Bovoravives.

Almost 2,000 children with severe acute malnutrition are being treated right now.

"We have procured ready-to-use therapeutic food to treat severe acute malnutrition, with more supplies coming.

"We are working with health partners to identify and treat diarrhoea and pneumonia -- which worsen malnutrition -- and to vaccinate children, and we are working to support mothers so that they can properly feed their infants and young children. Crucially, we continue our work to make safe water and sanitation accessible for more refugees," Marixie Mercado said.

Doctor sued

FROM PAGE 16

When the newborn's body was handed over to the family, he found a deep cut wound on the right side of the baby's head, he said.

Shaila, an assistant professor of Rajshahi Medical College, refuted the allegation of wrong treatment.

She claimed that she was unaware of the newborn's cut wounds, as she was busy with the baby's mother.

"No doctor wants to cause any harm to patients. An accident took place during the operation," said Masud Ali, superintendent of the hospital.

He said the hospital authorities would bear all medical costs of the mother.

'All for money and love'

FROM PAGE 1

that no one could trace it.

Police said Shamim, also a lathe machine worker, and Sadhin, a welding worker, planned to kill Kalam over money as well as a relationship with a girl.

The killing of Kalam came to light only on Thursday after the Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police picked up Sadhin from the capital's Mirpur and Shamim from Patuakhali. The DB yesterday showed the two arrested in an abduction case, filed by Kalam's family with Rupnagar Police Station.

Police said the victim's elder brother Abu Bashar had filed a general diary with Rupnagar Police Station on April 15 about Kalam's going missing. As Rupnagar police failed to report his brother's whereabouts, Bashar contacted top police officials and the DB was turned into an abduction case.

The case was transferred to the DB around three months ago.

Requesting anonymity, a senior DB official said they found that Shamim had been staying outside the capital since Kalam went missing and he was using the victim's phone set.

"With the lead, we started probing the incident and revealed the mystery," he said.

During primary interrogation, Shamim, 20, and Sadhin, 24, told law enforcers that they were friends of Kalam for last eight years. Sadhin had borrowed Tk 50,000 from Kalam early this year and they were in a dispute over returning the money.

On the other hand, Shamim liked a girl with whom Kalam had a relationship.

For these reasons, both Sadhin and Shamim planned to kill Kalam and hired two attackers for Tk 5,000 each. As part of the plan, the two friends took Kalam to the Botanical Garden and killed him, according to investigators.

"We are conducting drives to arrest the two attackers," Sahadat Hossain, assistant commissioner of the DB, told The Daily Star.

The DB yesterday exhumed the remains of Kalam's body from Shamim's house and sent those to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy and collecting DNA samples.

Law enforcers said they would produce the two arrestees before a Dhaka court today.

Kareem Chehayeb said: "A human-

FROM PAGE 16
provincial capital of Eastern Bengal and Assam in 1905, he noted.

Following the Partition of Bengal, the centre for agricultural extension services was transferred to Dhaka, and the laboratory building was constructed in 1909 to facilitate scientific research on crops, said Taimur.

"There were seven to eight such buildings. They should have been preserved in line with the Unesco convention," he said, adding that this building could be used as a museum.

Abu Sayeed M Ahmed, former president of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh, said, "We don't have many architectural buildings in the city. These structures symbolise the history of a bygone era, and that's why they must be protected."

The building at Khamarbari was constructed in the shape of a bungalow with a long veranda. This pattern was developed especially in Bengal, not in England, he added.

Taimur said they took the issue of the building's demolition to the High Court on Thursday and submitted a copy of a media report along with some photographs.

He further said the court instructed Deputy Attorney General Moniruzzaman to ensure that the authorities concerned suspend the demolition work till October 31.

Contacted over the phone on Thursday, Moniruzzaman said the

A seven-storey building will be built there through the PWD, which awarded a contract to a construction firm for demolishing the old structure.

Asked why they didn't renovate the building instead of demolishing it, he claimed it was beyond repair.

Talking to this correspondent, Rafiqul Islam, chief engineer of the PWD, said the building was not on the list of heritage sites.

Asked whether he got any instruction from the authorities to halt the demolition work, the PWD official replied in the negative.

CIA plotted to kill Castro

FROM PAGE 16
creating a deadly, boobytrapped shell that would catch his attention.

The first saw the CIA attempt to convince an American lawyer who had been negotiating with Castro to give him a gift that would kill him. That was to be a special diving suit that would be infested with deadly bacteria, killing the leader once he put it on.

"It was known that Fidel Castro liked to skin dive," the paper reads. "The CIA plan was to dust the inside of the suit with a fungus producing madera foot, a disabling and chronic skin disease, and also contaminating the suit with tuberculos bacilli in the breathing apparatus."

But Donovan didn't take up the US on the plan. Instead, he did exactly the opposite, giving Castro "an uncontaminated skin diving suit as a gesture of friendship."

Another plot saw spies discuss the possibility of planting a "spectacular seashell" that would catch Castro's attention. But once he swam towards

it, the explosives inside would be set off and kill him, they suggested, but that plan was also abandoned.

"After investigation, it was determined that there was no shell in the Caribbean area large enough to hold a sufficient amount of explosive which was spectacular enough to attract the attention of Castro," one of the documents reads.

Though Cuba hangs over much of the US's response to JFK's assassination, the conclusion appears to be that the Cuban government wouldn't have been the ones to have the president killed. A draft report from the House Select Committee on Assassinations suggests that the risk would just have been too high.

"The Committee does not believe Castro would have assassinated President Kennedy, because such an act, if discovered, would have afforded the United States the excuse to destroy Cuba," it reads. "The risk would not have been worth it."

Catalans declare

FROM PAGE 1
"rebellion" -- punishable by up to 30 years in jail -- against Puigdemont next week.

EU President Donald Tusk insisted Madrid "remains our only interlocutor" in Spain after the independence vote that could test the stability of a key member of the bloc.

Wary of nationalist and secessionist sentiment, particularly after Britain's dramatic decision last year to leave the EU, the bloc has stood firmly behind Madrid in the increasingly vitriolic feud.

Tusk urged Madrid to exercise restraint, tweeting: "I hope the Spanish government favours force of argument, not argument of force."

Puigdemont had also urged calm.

"We will have to maintain the momentum of this country (Catalonia) in the coming hours," he told lawmakers and onlookers in Barcelona, while urging them to do so in the spirit of "peace, civic responsibility and dignity."

The United States, one of Spain's Nato allies, declared backing for Madrid using "constitutional measures to keep Spain strong and united".

Germany, France, and Britain, too, rejected the notion of Catalan independence, while the United Nations urged all concerned "to seek solutions within the framework of the Spanish constitutional and through established political and legal channels."

There are deep concerns over the economic impact of the showdown, with nearly 1,700 companies having recently moved their legal headquarters out of Catalonia, a region with an economic output equivalent to that of Portugal.

Catalan resentment at Madrid's perceived interference has been building for years, culminating in an October 1 independence vote deemed illegal by the central government and the courts.

The 2008 economic crisis compounded the bitterness, with Catalans feeling they contribute more to the central purse than they get back.

But while fiercely protective of their language, culture and autonomy -- restored at the end of the 1939-1975 dictatorship of Francisco Franco -- Catalans are deeply divided on independence.

Catalan authorities said 90 percent voted "Yes" in the unregulated referendum now held up by secessionist leaders as a mandate for independence.

Only about 43 percent of voters turned out, however, with many anti-secessionists staying away and others prevented from casting their ballot by Spanish police in a crackdown that turned violent.

Rajoy yesterday sought to place the blame for Spain's worst political crisis in decades squarely on separatist shoulders.

The government's steps under Article 155 were not aimed against the people of the region, he insisted, but "to prevent abuse of Catalonia" by its own leaders.

Far-left groups had threatened "massive civil disobedience" if Madrid moves to usurp its autonomy.

Ctg police

FROM PAGE 2

classmate Raju."

On Raju's directives in 2014, Isteak contacted two admission seekers but failed to make them pass despite having the technology.

"But next year I succeeded and got two aspirants admitted -- one in B unit and another in D unit of CU -- in exchange of Tk 50,000 each," said the BCL leader. He added he made a deal with the detained aspirant for D unit in exchange of Tk 1.8 lakh.

AC Mobassher said police were trying to arrest the other members of the gang and find out the sources of the devices.

Isteak has been shown arrested in a case filed under the Public Examination Offences Act, 1980 (13) with Bayezid Police Station.

EIGHT MORE HELD IN PABNA

Eight more students were held in connection with the question paper leak in the admission test of Pabna University of Science and Technology yesterday afternoon, reports our correspondent in the district.

Of them, Khalid Hossain, Rakib Hossain and Tarek Hasan Tushar are the students of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University. The five others are the students of different colleges in Pabna.

The eight were produced before a mobile court, led by Executive Magistrate of Pabna Yeasmin Monira. The court jailed Khalid and Rakib for two years, while the rest were sentenced to one month imprisonment each, said Abdur Razzak, officer-in-charge of Pabna Sadar Police Station.

"The arrestees were supplying answers to the examinees during the admission test on Friday afternoon. During a drive, the law enforcers detained them from different examination centres in Pabna with electronic devices," the OC added.