

Militant leader, his wife arrested in the capital

Explosives recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of police arrested Shamin Mahfuj, founder of militant outfit Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya, and his wife from the capital's Demra last night.

It also recovered a huge cache of explosives from the couple, said Md Asaduzzaman, chief of the CTTC.

Leaders of three militant outfits formed Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya in 2019.

Shamin, a former leader of outlawed militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh, had been a key figure in the outfit since its formation, the CTTC official said.

West Bank risks 'spiralling out of control'

Warns UN rights chief

AFP, Geneva



Volker Turk

The new outbreak of violence in the occupied West Bank could spiral out of control, the UN human rights chief warned yesterday.

This week, at least 18 people have been killed in the territory -- in incursions by the Israeli military or attacks by Palestinians or Jewish settlers.

"These latest killings and the violence, along with the inflammatory rhetoric, serve only to drive Israelis and Palestinians deeper into an abyss," Volker Turk said in a statement.

So far this year, more than 200 people have died in violence linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the vast majority of them Palestinians.

Deadly violence has flared in recent days in the northern West Bank, a stronghold of Palestinian armed groups where Israel has stepped up military operations.

Turk said this week's violence was being fuelled by strident political rhetoric and an escalation in the use of advanced military weaponry by Israel.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said the sharp deterioration was having a terrible impact on both Palestinians and Israelis, and called for an immediate end to the violence.

Biden, Modi urge Pakistan to act against extremist attacks

REUTERS, Washington

US President Joe Biden and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have called on Pakistan to act to ensure that its territory is not used to launch extremist attacks, the White House said in a joint statement on Thursday.

"They strongly condemned cross-border terrorism, the use of terrorist proxies and called on Pakistan to take immediate action to ensure that no territory under its control is used for launching terrorist attacks," the White House said.

Relations between nuclear-armed neighbors India and Pakistan have been fraught for years. Since British colonial rule in the Indian subcontinent ended in 1947, India and Pakistan have fought three wars, two of them over the Muslim-majority Himalayan region of Kashmir, which they both claim in full but rule in part.

India has for years accused Pakistan of helping Islamist militants who have battled Indian security forces in its part of Kashmir since the late 1980s. Pakistan denies the accusation and says it only provides diplomatic and moral support for Kashmiris seeking self-determination.

The special status given to the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir was revoked



in 2019 when New Delhi split it into two federally controlled territories. Pakistan calls the moves illegal and wants them rolled back.

India's decision led the two countries to downgrade their diplomatic ties.

"President Biden and Prime Minister Modi reiterated the call for concerted action against all UN-listed terrorist groups including Al-Qaeda, ISIS/Daesh, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen," the joint statement said.

Hafiz Saeed, founder of the Islamist militant Lashkar-e-Taiba group, is blamed for the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which killed over 160 people over three days, beginning the evening of Nov. 26.

"They (Biden and Modi) called for the perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai

and Pathankot attacks to be brought to justice," their joint statement said.

In the 2016 attack on India's Pathankot air base, seven Indian security personnel were killed.

Modi was set to meet US and Indian business leaders in Washington later yesterday, the final day of a state visit marked by pledges of deeper US-India cooperation on areas including space, artificial intelligence and quantum computing.

The CEOs of top American companies, including FedEx, FDAX, MasterCard, MA.N and Adobe ADBE.O, and representatives of Indian companies such as Tech Mahindra TEMPLS and Mastek MAST.NS are expected to be among the 1,200 participants.

Modi, who touted "a new chapter" in the countries' "strategic partnership" at the White House on Thursday, is seeking to position India, the world's most populous country at 1.4 billion and its fifth-largest economy, as a manufacturing and diplomatic powerhouse.

Washington wants Delhi to be a strategic counterweight to China, and deals announced this week included several investments from US firms aimed at spurring semiconductor manufacturing in India and lowering its dependence on China for electronics.



European diplomats stand inside a destroyed building during a visit by a diplomatic delegation to the village of Turmus Ayya near the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah yesterday, in the aftermath of an attack there by Israeli settlers.

PHOTO: AFP

2 die inhaling toxic gas inside septic tank

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two construction workers died in Rangpur yesterday after inhaling toxic gas while cleaning a septic tank of an under-construction building in the city's Kellaband area.

Humayun Ahmed, 32, and Liton Mia, 24, built the tank around 25 days ago, said locals.

Yesterday morning, they entered the tank to clean it and fell unconscious after some time, they added.

On information, firefighters arrived at the spot and recovered their bodies around 12:30pm.

Later, the police sent the bodies to Rangpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Hajirhat Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Rajib Basunia said, "They died while working inside the septic tank. The bodies will be handed over to their relatives after autopsy."

Police did not get any complaints from the victims' families till the report was filed yesterday afternoon.

UP chairman suspended for negligence of duty

UNB, Ctg

Ruhullah Chowdhury, chairman of Charati union in Chattogram's Satkania upazila was suspended for negligence of duty.

Jasmine Pradhan, senior secretary of the local government department, issued a notification in this regard, Deputy Commissioner Abul Bashar Mohammad Fakhruzzaman confirmed yesterday.

Ruhullah was suspended temporarily as he was found to be negligent in performing his duties, as per the notification.

Besides, his activities went against the public interest including the union parishad, it added.

Earlier, a five-member investigation committee submitted a report accusing Ruhullah of theft of sand and excavator from the union.

The report was submitted to UNO Fatema Tuz Zohra who then sent it to the deputy commissioner with recommendations to take action against him.

Four hurt in clash over setting up cattle market

UNB, Sylhet

Four people were injured in a clash between two groups over setting up a cattle market in Machimpur area of Sylhet city yesterday.

The injured were admitted to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital. Among them, Harun Rashid Khasru, 55, is in critical condition.

According to locals, the clash broke out between the supporters of reserved ward no. 8 councillor Sharmin Akter Rumi and ward no. 23 councillor Mostak Ahmed over setting up the cattle market in Machimpur.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Sumon Kumar Chowdhury, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Kotwali Model Police Station, said "Police have been deployed at the spot. The situation is now under control."

Undersea oil pipeline to save Tk 800cr a yr Opposition parties unite

FROM PAGE 1

36 inches in diameter. Between the floating mooring point and the storage terminal, 9km of pipes are already been laid under the seabed and 7km on the seabed.

The Maheshkhali terminal has six storage tanks -- three each for diesel and crude oil. About 1.15 lakh tonnes of crude oil and 75,000 tonnes of diesel can be stored there.

The pipes from the storage facility to the Eastern Refinery are 18 inches in diameter. About 65km of these are under the sea, he added.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Power

Development Board officials said the government is also working on a 250km Chattogram-Dhaka Fuel (diesel) Supply Pipeline project at a cost of Tk 3,171.85 crore and a pipeline from Pitalganj (Purbachal) in Dhaka to Kurmitola Aviation Depot to save transportation costs and stop waste of fuel.

Contacted, Col Jahangir Hossain, project director of Chattogram-Dhaka Fuel Supply Pipeline Project, said 230km of the pipeline has already been set up.

Terminal construction work in Narayanganj's Godanail is pending, he said, adding that 60 percent work of the project has been completed.

Jahangir said around 27-30 lakh tonnes of fuel can be transported annually through the 16-inch diameter pipeline.

Under this project, a new depot will be built in Cumilla's Barura, he said, adding that a proposal for extending the project deadline to December 2024 has been sent to the ministry concerned. The initial deadline was in December 2022.

BPC has formed Pipeline Company Ltd for maintenance and management of the pipelines.

On either side by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad.

Kharge announced that the next opposition meeting will be held in Shimla "to prepare an agenda on how to move ahead together while working in our respective states to fight BJP in 2024."

This was the first meeting of the opposition parties and was seen as a take-off point for them to come together to take on the Narendra Modi-led BJP.

Rahul Gandhi said a united opposition is going to defeat the BJP in the 2024 general elections and claimed a battle was on between his party's "Bharat Jodo" ideology and the BJP's "Bharat Todo" thinking".

West Bengal Chief Minister

Development Board officials said the government is also working on a 250km Chattogram-Dhaka Fuel (diesel) Supply Pipeline project at a cost of Tk 3,171.85 crore and a pipeline from Pitalganj (Purbachal) in Dhaka to Kurmitola Aviation Depot to save transportation costs and stop waste of fuel.

Contacted, Col Jahangir Hossain, project director of Chattogram-Dhaka Fuel Supply Pipeline Project, said 230km of the pipeline has already been set up.

Terminal construction work in Narayanganj's Godanail is pending, he said, adding that 60 percent work of the project has been completed.

Jahangir said around 27-30 lakh tonnes of fuel can be transported annually through the 16-inch diameter pipeline.

Under this project, a new depot will be built in Cumilla's Barura, he said, adding that a proposal for extending the project deadline to December 2024 has been sent to the ministry concerned. The initial deadline was in December 2022.

BPC has formed Pipeline Company Ltd for maintenance and management of the pipelines.

On either side by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad.

Kharge announced that the next opposition meeting will be held in Shimla "to prepare an agenda on how to move ahead together while working in our respective states to fight BJP in 2024."

This was the first meeting of the opposition parties and was seen as a take-off point for them to come together to take on the Narendra Modi-led BJP.

Rahul Gandhi said a united opposition is going to defeat the BJP in the 2024 general elections and claimed a battle was on between his party's "Bharat Jodo" ideology and the BJP's "Bharat Todo" thinking".

West Bengal Chief Minister

Development Board officials said the government is also working on a 250km Chattogram-Dhaka Fuel (diesel) Supply Pipeline project at a cost of Tk 3,171.85 crore and a pipeline from Pitalganj (Purbachal) in Dhaka to Kurmitola Aviation Depot to save transportation costs and stop waste of fuel.

Contacted, Col Jahangir Hossain, project director of Chattogram-Dhaka Fuel Supply Pipeline Project, said 230km of the pipeline has already been set up.

Terminal construction work in Narayanganj's Godanail is pending, he said, adding that 60 percent work of the project has been completed.

Jahangir said around 27-30 lakh tonnes of fuel can be transported annually through the 16-inch diameter pipeline.

Under this project, a new depot will be built in Cumilla's Barura, he said, adding that a proposal for extending the project deadline to December 2024 has been sent to the ministry concerned. The initial deadline was in December 2022.

BPC has formed Pipeline Company Ltd for maintenance and management of the pipelines.

On either side by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad.

Kharge announced that the next opposition meeting will be held in Shimla "to prepare an agenda on how to move ahead together while working in our respective states to fight BJP in 2024."

This was the first meeting of the opposition parties and was seen as a take-off point for them to come together to take on the Narendra Modi-led BJP.

Rahul Gandhi said a united opposition is going to defeat the BJP in the 2024 general elections and claimed a battle was on between his party's "Bharat Jodo" ideology and the BJP's "Bharat Todo" thinking".

West Bengal Chief Minister

Development Board officials said the government is also working on a 250km Chattogram-Dhaka Fuel (diesel) Supply Pipeline project at a cost of Tk 3,171.85 crore and a pipeline from Pitalganj (Purbachal) in Dhaka to Kurmitola Aviation Depot to save transportation costs and stop waste of fuel.

Contacted, Col Jahangir Hossain, project director of Chattogram-Dhaka Fuel Supply Pipeline Project, said 230km of the pipeline has already been set up.

Terminal construction work in Narayanganj's Godanail is pending, he said, adding that 60 percent work of the project has been completed.

Jahangir said around 27-30 lakh tonnes of fuel can be transported annually through the 16-inch diameter pipeline.

Under this project, a new depot will be built in Cumilla's Barura, he said, adding that a proposal for extending the project deadline to December 2024 has been sent to the ministry concerned. The initial deadline was in December 2022.

BPC has formed Pipeline Company Ltd for maintenance and management of the pipelines.

On either side by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad.

Kharge announced that the next opposition meeting will be held in Shimla "to prepare an agenda on how to move ahead together while working in our respective states to fight BJP in 2024."

This was the first meeting of the opposition parties and was seen as a take-off point for them to come together to take on the Narendra Modi-led BJP.

Rahul Gandhi said a united opposition is going to defeat the BJP in the 2024 general elections and claimed a battle was on between his party's "Bharat Jodo" ideology and the BJP's "Bharat Todo" thinking".

West Bengal Chief Minister

Development Board officials said the government is also working on a 250km Chattogram-Dhaka Fuel (diesel) Supply Pipeline project at a cost of Tk 3,171.85 crore and a pipeline from Pitalganj (Purbachal) in Dhaka to Kurmitola Aviation Depot to save transportation costs and stop waste of fuel.

Contacted, Col Jahangir Hossain, project director of Chattogram-Dhaka Fuel Supply Pipeline Project, said 230km of the pipeline has already been set up.

Terminal construction work in Narayanganj's Godanail is pending, he said, adding that 60 percent work of the project has been completed.

Jahangir said around 27-30 lakh tonnes of fuel can be transported annually through the 16-inch diameter pipeline.

Under this project, a new depot will be built in Cumilla's Barura, he said, adding that a proposal for extending the project deadline to December 2024 has been sent to the ministry concerned. The initial deadline was in December 2022.

BPC has formed Pipeline Company Ltd for maintenance and management of the pipelines.

On either side by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad.

Kharge announced that the next opposition meeting will be held in Shimla "to prepare an agenda on how to move ahead together while working in our respective states to fight BJP in 2024."

This was the first meeting of the opposition parties and was seen as a take-off point for them to come together to take on the Narendra Modi-led BJP.

Rahul Gandhi said a united opposition is going to defeat the BJP in the 2024 general elections and claimed a battle was on between his party's "Bharat Jodo" ideology and the BJP's "Bharat Todo" thinking".

West Bengal Chief Minister

BNP, Jamaat to destroy country

FROM PAGE 1

She said her government has ensured food for the people, provided electricity to every house, illuminated every house with the light of education, reached healthcare service to their doorsteps up to grassroots, improved the communication system through infrastructural development and ensured socio-economic advancement.

The AL chief said, "Bangladesh has become known as a role model for development throughout the world today through the construction of the Padma Bridge with its own financing. Today, Bangladesh has gained the status of a developing country."

The PM vowed to establish the country as a happy, prosperous Sonar Bangla following the ideology of Bangabandhu.

The AL was founded on June 23 in 1949.

The chief of the AL along with party General Secretary Obaidul Quader inaugurated the day's programme by hoisting the national and party flags and releasing pigeons and balloons.

PM ATTENDS DISCUSSION

Speaking at a discussion on the occasion of the AL's 74th founding anniversary, Hasina yesterday said the fate of the country's people would improve further if the party stayed in power.

"We have made a massive change... This change would never have happened if the Awami League did not come to power," she said.

The PM chaired the event, organised

by the ruling party, at the city's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Hasina said people witnessed the change after they voted for "boat", the AL's electoral symbol.

She said the AL was founded by the people and for the people and that's why serving the people is its job.

Noting that her government has moved a long way towards implementing the dream of Bangabandhu, the premier said Bangladesh will attain the status of a developing country in 2026.

About the people's suffering due to commodity price hikes, Hasina said people are now going through a tough time. "We are eagerly trying to ease the suffering of the people."

She urged the affluent people of the society to stand by the poor during this tough time.

The PM reiterated her pledge to improve the people's lives further.

"No man will live unhealthily. We will provide everyone with a beautiful home and a beautiful life. This will be the promise of the Awami League on its foundation anniversary day."

The AL chief said her party started making a planned development of Bangladesh after assuming power in 2009.

She drew a comparison between the fall of the BNP rule in 2006 and the AL's current rule.

Hasina said the size of the national budget has increased to Tk 761,785 crore in FY2023-24, up from only Tk 61,000

Development Board officials said the government is also working on a 250km Chattogram-Dhaka Fuel (diesel) Supply Pipeline project at a cost of Tk 3,171.85 crore and a pipeline from Pitalganj (Purbachal) in Dhaka to Kurmitola Aviation Depot to save transportation costs and stop waste of fuel.

Contacted, Col Jahangir Hossain, project director of Chattogram-Dhaka Fuel Supply Pipeline Project, said 230km of the pipeline has already been set up.

Terminal construction work in Narayanganj's Godanail is pending, he said, adding that 60 percent work of the project has been completed.

Jahangir said around 27-30 lakh tonnes of fuel can be transported annually through the 16-inch diameter pipeline.

Under this project, a new depot will be built in Cumilla's Barura, he said, adding that a proposal for extending the project deadline to December 2024 has been sent to the ministry concerned. The initial deadline was in December 2022.

BPC has formed Pipeline Company Ltd for maintenance and management of the pipelines.

On either side by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad.

Kharge announced that the next opposition meeting will be held in Shimla "to prepare an agenda on how to move ahead together while working in our respective states to fight BJP in 2024."

This was the first meeting of the opposition parties and was seen as a take-off point for them to come together to take on the Narendra Modi-led BJP.

Rahul Gandhi said a united opposition is going to defeat the BJP in the 2024 general elections and claimed a battle was on between his party's "Bharat Jodo" ideology and the BJP's "Bharat Todo" thinking".

West Bengal Chief Minister

Development Board officials said the government is also working on a 250km Chattogram-Dhaka Fuel (diesel) Supply Pipeline project at a cost of Tk 3,171.85 crore and a pipeline from Pitalganj (Purbachal) in Dhaka to Kurmitola Aviation Depot to save transportation costs and stop waste of fuel.

Contacted, Col Jahangir Hossain, project director of Chattogram-Dhaka Fuel Supply Pipeline Project, said 230km of the pipeline has already been set up.

Terminal construction work in Narayanganj's Godanail is pending, he said, adding that 60 percent work of the project has been completed.

Jahangir said around 27-30 lakh tonnes of fuel can be transported annually through the 16-inch diameter pipeline.

Under this project, a new depot will be built in Cumilla's Barura, he said, adding that a proposal for extending the project deadline to December 2024 has been sent to the ministry concerned. The initial deadline was in December 2022.

BPC has formed Pipeline Company Ltd for maintenance and management of the pipelines.

On either side by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad.

Kharge announced that the next opposition meeting will be held in Shimla "to prepare an agenda on how to move ahead together while working in our respective states to fight BJP in 2024."

This was the first meeting of the opposition parties and was seen as a take-off point for them to come together to take on the Narendra Modi-led BJP.

Rahul Gandhi said a united opposition is going to defeat the BJP in the 2024 general elections and claimed a battle was on between his party's "Bharat Jodo" ideology and the BJP's "Bharat Todo" thinking".

West Bengal Chief Minister

Development Board officials said the government is also working on a 250km Chattogram-Dhaka Fuel (diesel) Supply Pipeline project at a cost of Tk 3,171.85 crore and a pipeline from Pitalganj (Purbachal) in Dhaka to Kurmitola Aviation Depot to save transportation costs and stop waste of fuel.

Contacted, Col Jahangir Hossain, project director of Chattogram-Dhaka Fuel Supply Pipeline Project, said 230km of the pipeline has already been set up.

Terminal construction work in Narayanganj's Godanail is pending, he said, adding that 60 percent work of the project has been completed.

Jahangir said around 27-30 lakh tonnes of fuel can be transported annually through the 16-inch diameter pipeline.

Under this project, a new depot will be built in Cumilla's Barura, he said, adding that a proposal for extending the project deadline to December 2024 has been sent to the ministry concerned. The initial deadline was in December 2022.

BPC has formed Pipeline Company Ltd for maintenance and management of the pipelines.

On either side by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad.

Kharge announced that the next opposition meeting will be held in Shimla "to prepare an agenda on how to move ahead together while working in our respective states to fight BJP in 2024."

This was the first meeting of the opposition parties and was seen as a take-off point for them to come together to take on the Narendra Modi-led BJP.

Rahul Gandhi said a united opposition is going to defeat the BJP in the 2024 general elections and claimed a battle was on between his party's "Bharat Jodo" ideology and the BJP's "Bharat Todo" thinking".

West Bengal Chief Minister

Development Board officials said the government is also working on a 250km Chattogram-Dhaka Fuel (diesel) Supply Pipeline project at a cost of Tk 3,171.85 crore and a pipeline from Pitalganj (Purbachal) in Dhaka to Kurmitola Aviation Depot to save transportation costs and stop waste of fuel.

Contacted, Col Jahangir Hossain, project director of Chattogram-Dhaka Fuel Supply Pipeline Project, said 230km of the pipeline has