

Arrested workers used to send money to IS
Says Malaysian police chief

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

Bangladeshi workers arrested in Malaysia on charges of involvement in terrorism were sending money to the Islamic State (IS) group in Syria and Bangladesh, Malaysian police chief Khalid Ismail has claimed.

In a televised press conference, Inspector-General of Police Mohd Khalid Ismail said authorities had detained 36 Bangladeshi nationals in several operations since April, all of whom had come to Malaysia to work in factories or in sectors like construction and services.

The network recruited members by targeting other Bangladeshi workers, and used social media and online messaging platforms to spread radical and extremist ideologies,

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Water hyacinths and garbage choke a section of the Gulshan-Banani Lake, tarnishing the natural beauty of the waterbody and highlighting the urgent need for better conservation efforts. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

BHOLA MUNICIPALITY

Key roads lie dilapidated



SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

A significant number of roads within Bhola municipality, including several vital ones, are in a dilapidated state, causing immense suffering to locals.

A visit to different areas across the municipality, including the Bhola District Court area, in front of the DC and SP offices, Muslimpara, Westernpara, and in front of the municipality office, revealed that many roads are now largely impassable. Potholes and persistent waterlogging have made daily commutes extremely difficult, especially during monsoon.

Residents have demanded urgent repairs to the roads to alleviate their suffering. Municipality authorities, however, claimed that some repair works have already been initiated while the tendering process is ongoing for others.

Locals said although certain repair works have recently started, the overall condition of the roads has yet to improve.

"The roads are in such dire condition that I have to spend more on repairing my rickshaw every month than what I earn, due to the damages caused to the vehicle," said Sohel, a rickshaw puller. Several other rickshaw and auto rickshaw drivers echoed him.

According to municipal data, Bhola has a total of 261 kilometres of road network, including 170 kilometres of

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SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

Initiated in 2017, the 8.5-kilometre road and embankment project between Kalurghat Bridge and Chakta Canal in Chattogram remains incomplete after eight years.

The project has undergone two revisions, several deadline extensions, and a significant increase in cost. Its last deadline expired in June this year, and the implementing agency, Chattogram Development Authority (CDA), has requested another one year extension.

The project aims to improve connectivity by building a four-lane alternative road and reduce waterlogging in the area through the embankment. However, as it remains unfinished, traffic congestion and drainage problems continue, causing hardship to residents.

The project includes laying 193,000 square metres of road pavement and 1,470 square metres of rigid pavement, constructing six bus bays, three pedestrian overpasses, 353 metres of connecting roads, 9,165 metres of New Jersey barriers, and 15,057 square metres of walkways.

Additional facilities include seven pump houses, seven electrical sub-stations, 1,084 LED streetlights, and 12 water pumps to support infrastructure and drainage systems.

A recent visit to the site behind Kolpolok Residential Area revealed that 10 out of 12 regulators have been constructed, but a large

portion of the road from Kolpolok to Kalurghat remains under construction. The road is being built by Spectra Engineers Limited.

According to project documents, work began in July 2017 and was initially scheduled for completion by June 2020 at a cost of Tk 2,275.52 crore.

The project was revised twice, increasing the cost to Tk 2,779.39 crore, with the deadline extended

and have been facing challenges, so delays are inevitable."

Rajib Das, project director, said, "Around 82 percent of the work is complete. We hope to open the road for vehicular movement by June next year."

Urban planning experts argue that the delays stem not only from land acquisition issues but also from CDA's poor planning and project management.



three times to June 2025.

Now, CDA is seeking an extension until June 2026, without any further cost increase.

Officials attributed the delay to land acquisition complications.

Kazi Hasan Bin Shams, chief engineer of CDA, said, "To implement the project, we had to acquire around 170 acres of land

"Lack of proper study before taking on the project has caused delay and raised costs. The government should identify those responsible for starting the project without adequate planning and take action," said Md Delwar Hossain Mazumdar, urban planner and executive member of the Forum for Planned Chattogram.

Fayzul finds success in mushroom farming



MASUK HRIDOV, Brahmanbaria

With a quiet determination and a vision rooted in both necessity and inspiration, Fayzul Gani, a young law student from Karuatali village in Brahmanbaria's Akhaura upazila, has carved out an unlikely path to success – through mushrooms.

Burdened by unemployment and the weight of providing for his family, Fayzul sought help from the Akhaura Upazila Agriculture Office in December 2024. He expressed his interest in mushroom farming, a field that few

around him knew much about. His sincerity did not go unnoticed. The officials, recognising his potential, facilitated his enrolment at the Mushroom Development Institute in Savar.

There, Fayzul underwent hands-on training, learning how to prepare PDA media

– Potato Dextrose Agar – a common microbiological growth medium crucial to mushroom cultivation. He was also trained in producing pure and mother cultures, and commercial spawn production.

Returning home, he established a farm – Bari Mushroom Corner. Backed by the agriculture department, which provided essential infrastructure such as a cultivation shed, spawn production room, inoculation chamber, 12 racks, a van, and other tools, Fayzul was ready to begin.

When this correspondent visited the farm recently, a peaceful scene unfolded. Papaya trees

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STORMING AK AZAD'S HOUSE Complaint filed with police station

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A written complaint was filed with Kotwali Police Station yesterday, accusing 16 BNP activists and 25-30 unidentified persons of storming Ha-Meem Group Managing Director AK Azad's residence in Faridpur town's Jheeluti on Thursday.

Md Ahaduzzaman, duty officer of the police station, confirmed receiving the complaint filed by Md Rafizul Khan, 40, land officer of Ha-Meem Group.

Faridpur Metropolitan BNP member-secretary Golam Mostafa was made the prime accused in the complaint.

It said a group of "miscreants" forcibly entered the house premises after threatening to kill the security guard. Once inside, they created chaos and hurled expletives.

At that time, Mostafa and his supporters threatened to set fire to Azad's house.

Superintendent of Police Md MA Jalil said appropriate legal action will be taken following investigation.

Contacted, Golam Mostafa denied the allegations, saying they had gone to the house after learning that the Awami League was holding a "secret meeting" there.

Women fatality high despite

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environmentalists and urban planners. "Despite this, they seem unwilling to relinquish control of the site," he added.

According to Adil, around 50 percent of the park's space has already been lost to the metro rail and elevated expressway projects.

"But the remaining area must be made available to the public as a park," he said.

He said while the city has many areas for commercial activity, what it lacks are parks, open spaces, and playgrounds.

"A park or playground beside a metro rail station is ideal, offering a breathing space in a congested area like Farmgate. The design should reflect this need," he said.

Adil Mohammad Khan, current president of the Bangladesh Institute of Planners, said DMTCL initially planned to build a station plaza on the site but backed off following protests from

Medical College Hospital, highlighted the added vulnerabilities faced by women, especially pregnant women and those with conditions like obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.

Female patients are particularly vulnerable. If they contract dengue during menstruation or pregnancy, they require special medical care. Delayed treatment can lead to dengue shock syndrome, which is often fatal, he said.

Severe symptoms include abdominal pain, breathing difficulties, vomiting, and bleeding from the gums or nose. If these symptoms are not addressed within 24 hours, the risk of developing dengue shock syndrome increases significantly, Dr Ahsan warned.

He also pointed out that gender-based health neglect plays a major role. Patriarchal norms often delay women's access to medical care. In many cases, families take women to the hospital only when it is already too late, he added.

DMTCL to hand over

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playground and park in the DNCC area. One design is already prepared, and we are waiting for another before finalising."

A large portion of Anowara Park has been used to store construction materials and for operational purposes related to DMTCL's metro rail project since construction began at the Farmgate end in late 2018.

The Agargaon-Motijheel section of the country's first metro rail (MRT-6) was opened to the public on November 4, 2023.

Urban planners have urged that the site be preserved as a park, given the city's acute shortage of open spaces, especially in the congested Farmgate area.

"A park or playground beside a metro rail station is ideal, offering a breathing space in a congested area like Farmgate. The design should reflect this need," he said.

Farmgate is where most people in Dhaka will get on and off the metro rail. So, a public breathing space is essential here. City dwellers will not accept anything other than a park at this location," Adil said.

Rahman stressed the need for a detailed study to identify the main causes behind the surge. He said each patient's infection history and occupation should be examined to determine the likely source of exposure. If a housewife is infected, it suggests the vector is present at home. But if a working woman is infected, she may have

বাংলাদেশ অভ্যন্তরীণ নোপরিবহন কর্তৃপক্ষ

১৪১-১৪৩, মতিঝিল বাবিজির এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০।

ঘাট/পয়েন্ট ইজারা/লাইসেন্সের টেক্নার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ অভ্যন্তরীণ নোপরিবহন কর্তৃপক্ষ (বিআইডিআরিউটিএ)-এর ঢাকা নদী বন্দরের নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন নিম্নবর্ণিত ঘাট/পয়েন্ট ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বছরের ১৬-০৭-২০২৫ তারিখ হতে ৩০-০৬-২০২৬ তারিখ পর্যন্ত ৩০ দিনের জন্য ইজারা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে আগামী ১৩-০৭-২০২৫ তারিখ ১ম দফা টেক্নার অনুষ্ঠিত হবে:

নদী বন্দরের নাম ঘাট/পয়েন্টের নাম

ঢাকা কর্পোরেশন-কোজা খাল হয়ে চলাচলকারী নোয়ান সমূহ হতে টোল আবায় এবং নোয়ান পরিবহন কার্যক্রম চার্জ, শুরু আবায় ও লেবার হাফলিং ঘাট/পয়েন্ট

২। টেক্নার স্বতন্ত্র যাবতীয় তথ্যাদিনিয়মাবলী টেক্নার সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে। তাছাড়া বিআইডিআরিউটিএর বন্দর ও পরিবহন বিভাগ, ঢাকা দস্তর এবং ঢাকা নদী বন্দরের বন্দর নিয়ন্ত্রণ কর্মকর্তার দস্তর হতেও তথ্যাদি জানা যাবে।

মোহাম্মদ শাহজাহান সিলজা

বন্দর ও পরিবহন বিভাগ, ঢাকা।

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