

Cops monitoring those trying to join TTP: IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcement agencies are monitoring individuals attempting to join the banned militant group Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam said yesterday.

At a press conference at the Police Headquarters in the capital, the IGP cited several recent cases, including the arrest of a man in Savar three months ago who had allegedly tried to join the TTP.

"The DMP's Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit is investigating whether anyone else is involved," he said in response to a query.

The IGP added, "The arrestee, however, claimed that after performing Umrah, he travelled to Pakistan, where a friend asked him to join the outfit. He said he refused and returned to the country."

According to an earlier The Daily Star report, Md Foysal, 33, was arrested in Savar by the police's Anti-Terrorism Unit on July 2 for alleged links to the TTP. On July 14, Shamin Mahfuz, 48, was arrested by the Rapid Action Battalion in Narayanganj on similar charges.

Baharul also confirmed that police had received information about two other Bangladeshis killed in Pakistan while allegedly operating for the TTP. One was identified as Faisal Hossain from Madaripur.

He said the other individual allegedly operated drones for the TTP. "We have learned that he is a Bangladeshi, but we have not yet been able to confirm his identity," he added.

Faisal, from Kalikapur Union of Madaripur Sadar upazila, left the country for Dubai in March 2024. His brother, Arman Morol, told The Daily Star that the family believed he was working there and was unaware he had travelled to Pakistan until Madaripur police informed them two months ago.

"A journalist sent me a photo of Faisal's body on WhatsApp on September 27. That was the first time we learned about his passing," Arman said.

Md Naimul Hasan, superintendent of police in Madaripur, said an investigation is underway to determine how Faisal ended up in Pakistan and uncover the circumstances of his death.



UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Filippo Grandi calls on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at his hotel in New York yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

US HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORT

Bangladesh stuck in Tier 2 for 6yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has retained its position on Tier 2 of the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report for the sixth year in a row.

It means the country continues to make significant efforts to eliminate human trafficking, but has failed to fully meet the minimum standards required for the top tier.

However, compared with the previous reporting period, the government demonstrated overall increasing efforts, said the 2025 report released on Monday.

Among the progresses acknowledged by the report include increasing training for frontline officials on victim identification and trauma-informed care, as well as the formal adoption of a National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

Authorities identified and referred more victims to services compared to the previous year.

Yet, the report stresses that the government fell short in several critical areas, such as internal trafficking – including sex trafficking and forced child labour – which remained pervasive.

The number of traffickers who faced investigation, prosecution, and conviction

RECOMMENDATIONS	
➤	Adopt fully resourced National Action Plan
➤	Expand tribunals; probe Rohingya exploitation
➤	Eliminate recruitment fees for migrants

dropped.

Labour inspectors remained severely under-resourced, particularly in monitoring the informal sector. Victim protection and reintegration services continued to be inadequate, especially for Rohingya refugees and returning migrant workers.

The TIP report criticised the government for continuing to allow high recruitment fees that left many Bangladeshi migrant workers indebted and vulnerable to trafficking.

It said that courts often imposed fines

instead of prison sentences, weakening deterrence and undercutting the government's overall efforts.

Corruption and official complicity inhibiting law enforcement efforts also remained significant concerns, with no convictions of complicit officials reported.

The US State Department has issued a set of prioritised recommendations, including expanding Anti-Trafficking Tribunals, strengthening labour inspector capacity, improving services for all categories of victims, eliminating recruitment fees, investigating credible allegations of Rohingya exploitation, and adopting a fully resourced National Action Plan.

The TIP report places countries in four categories based on compliance with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA).

Among Bangladesh's South Asian neighbours, India, Pakistan and Bhutan have also remained on Tier 2.

Nepal and the Maldives continue to be on the Tier 2 Watch List – the third category, while Afghanistan has again been placed in Tier 3, the lowest ranking reserved for governments that make little effort to meet the minimum standards.

Yunus lays out 7-point plan at UN conference

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funding next year are grim.

"Unless further resources are forthcoming, we will be forced to make more cuts, while striving to minimise the risk of losing lives – children dying of malnutrition, or people dying at sea as more refugees embark on dangerous boat journeys."

UN Special Envoy on Myanmar Julie Bishop said fighting between Myanmar's army and separatists is proving an "insurmountable barrier" to the return of displaced Rohingyas.

She cautioned that elections planned for December could worsen tensions. "Under current conditions, there is significant risk of increased resistance, protest and violence, further undermining the fragile state."

Bishop added that an inclusive Myanmar is only possible if it guarantees safety, justice and opportunities for all communities,

most critically the Rohingya; and addresses the root causes of conflict, discrimination, and disenfranchisement.

Meanwhile, Bangladeshi officials warn of growing challenges in the camps, including domestic violence, trafficking, and extremist ideologies. Refugees may increasingly spill outside the camps as conditions worsen.

The rebel Arakan Army now controls about 90 percent of Rakhine. Its clashes with Myanmar's military have killed scores of Rohingyas and displaced thousands.

7-POINT PLAN, US PLEDGE

Yunus laid out seven key actions for the international community.

He called for a roadmap for safe and dignified repatriation, pressure on Myanmar and the Arakan Army to end violence, and prioritise the return of those who recently arrived in Bangladesh and those internally

displaced.

He also urged support for stabilising Rakhine, international monitoring, and confidence-building measures so that the Rohingyas integrate into Rakhine society. Yunus further called for fully funding the Joint Response Plan, pursuing accountability and restorative justice, dismantling the narco-economy, and tackling transboundary crimes.

"The world cannot keep the Rohingyas waiting any longer. Today, let us pledge to act together to resolve the crisis once and for all. Bangladesh stands ready to extend its full cooperation to this end."

As funding declines, he argued, repatriation remains the only sustainable option. "This will entail far fewer resources than continuing their international protection."

Saying Bangladesh was a victim of the crisis, Yunus added. "We are forced to bear huge financial, social

and environmental costs. Criminal activities, including narco-flows into Bangladesh through Rakhine, threaten our social fabric."

Meanwhile, the US announced more than \$60 million in assistance for the Rohingyas in Bangladesh. It pressed Dhaka for policy changes, allowing refugees' livelihoods.

US Special Envoy for Best Future Generations Charles Harder urged other governments and actors to step forward. "All nations, organisations, and private donors must share the burden by increasing their contributions."

The conference included an opening session, a plenary for member states, UNGA observers and civil society, and a closing segment. The president of the UN General Assembly will prepare a concise, action-oriented summary of the discussions.

Shefali Marma, standing in front of the DC, voiced her anger: "We are not beggars. My two shops were burned down. My house was burned down. Who will take responsibility for this?... Everything has been destroyed ... We want everything restored to the way it was."

BLOCKADE SUSPENDED

The Jumma Chhatra Janata, through a Facebook post around 9:00pm yesterday, suspended its road blockade in Khagrachhari.

"Following the assurances and initiatives of the local administration and showing respect to Durga Puja, we have suspended the blockade from 11:00pm today until October 5," it said.

"However, if the administration fails to fulfil the eight-point demand presented, the organisation will launch a tougher programme."

Shot dead weeks before fatherhood

Tayiching's death shatters his family in Ramesu

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

Just weeks before becoming a father, 21-year-old Tayiching Marma was shot dead at Ramesu Bazar in Khagrachhari's Guimara upazila, leaving behind a pregnant wife, grieving parents, and a community in shock.

His wife, 20-year-old Tuni Marma, is nine months pregnant. Doctors had given an expected date for the birth of her child on October 9.

The young couple used to live with his parents in Bottola, a small hillside community about a kilometre and a half from Ramesu Bazar. Tayiching, who drove a "Chander Gari" (an open people carrier), was well loved in his neighbourhood. His sudden death has plunged the community into grief.

His body was cremated Monday night in the presence of army and police personnel. When this correspondent visited the family home yesterday morning, his mother, Danu Marma, sat in silence, surrounded by mourners.

"My son was never involved in politics. He studied at BGB's Mushfiq School as a child. Since 2018, he had been driving our family jeep [Chander Gari]. Our family relied on his income," said Danu.

His father, Holachai Marma, recounted the last time he saw his son. "He was at home until 11 in the morning. Later, I saw a Facebook live showing an argument between locals and the army, but no shots had been fired then. Around noon, he went to Ramesu Bazar to buy fuel. Soon after, we heard gunshots and chaos.

"I tried calling him again and again but got no answer. In the evening, a police officer picked up his phone and told me it was in their custody. At that moment, I knew everything was over," he said, breaking down.

Tuni remembered her husband's last meal. "He had sat down to eat before leaving. Who knew that would be his last?"

Danu added, "Our happy little home, our dreams – everything has been shattered."

Asked whether he would file a case, Holachai replied, "Against whom? For what? We just want to live in peace. I only ask the government to give my daughter-in-law a job. How will she survive without her husband?"



Jamaat, five parties

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roundtable discussions, and seminars. The programmes also include rallies in Dhaka and all divisional cities on October 10, and the submission of memorandums to deputy commissioners on October 12.

Apart from Jamaat and Islami Andolan, the other parties joining this phase are Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan, Jatiya Ganatantrik Party (Jagpa), and Nizam-e-Islam Party.

Like in previous phases, the parties' demands remain nearly identical and scheduled for the same dates. While some have outlined five points and others seven, the core demands are the same.

These include: holding the election based on the July Charter; introducing a proportional representation system in the national election for parliament (some propose only for the upper house); ensuring a level playing field for all parties and candidates; justice for oppression, killings, and corruption committed by the previous "fascist" regime; and banning the activities of the Jatiya Party and the 14-party alliance for supporting autocracy.

At a press conference at Al-Falah Auditorium in Dhaka's Moghbazar yesterday afternoon, Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar announced his party's programmes.

"We want to declare unequivocally that our five-point public demands have already become rational and acceptable to the people. The people have extended massive support and joined the street movement for these demands.

"The current government must immediately accept the people's five demands and hold the 13th parliamentary election in February based on the July National Charter. If the government ignores these legitimate demands and fails to resolve the ongoing crisis, the people

will be forced to intensify their movement."

The BNP has maintained that reforms requiring constitutional amendment under the July Charter should be left to the next elected parliament.

Jamaat, on the other hand, wants constitutional amendments implemented before the election, either through an interim constitutional order or a referendum. It demands full implementation of the July Charter ahead of the polls.

In the morning, Islami Andolan Bangladesh Secretary General Maulana Yunus Ahmad announced a 12-day programme at a press conference at the party's central office in the capital's Paltan area.

Accusing the government of ignoring people's demands despite a series of programmes and dialogues, he said, "If a government formed by the people's blood continues to disregard their demands, it will lose its moral and legal legitimacy."

Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, in a press release signed by party Ameer Mamunul Haque and Secretary General Jalaluddin Ahmad, announced an 11-day programme, including a mass rally in Dhaka, to press home its demands, including legal recognition of the July Charter.

The statement warned of tougher programmes if their demands are not met.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan said it would also join the second phase with a seven-point demand.

Jagpa Vice President and spokesperson Rashed Proddhan announced the party's programmes at a press conference at its Paltan office.

Nizam-e-Islam Party's Publicity Secretary Abdullah Al Masud Khan issued a press release outlining their programmes.

Killings carried out at 438

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and the Al Jazeera, which showed the atrocities against the protesters.

In his testimony, Alamgir said, "In my investigation, I found that the then government carried out enforced disappearances, killings, abductions, and acts of torture during the uprising, mainly to cling to power."

"For over 15 years, the then government resorted to killings, staged militant dramas, carried out abductions and enforced disappearances, rigged elections, and used every other possible means to

stay in power. As a result, people from all walks of life joined the movement in 2024."

The IO said his probe also found that the then government deliberately shut down the internet and took control over the media with the intention to suppress the uprising.

On July 10, the ICT-1 framed charges against the trio. The charges include murder, attempted murder, command responsibility, torture, and the use of lethal weapons and other crimes against humanity.

Pressure mounts

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said the military would stay in most of Gaza, and also that he did not agree to a Palestinian state during his talks in Washington.

"We will recover all our hostages, alive and well, while the [Israeli military] will remain in most of the Gaza Strip," he said.

Still, Israel's far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, a member of Netanyahu's coalition government, blasted the plan as a "resounding

diplomatic failure".

"In my estimation, it will also end in tears. Our children will be forced to fight in Gaza again," he said.

Trump's plan includes deployment of a "temporary international stabilisation force" – and the creation of a transitional authority headed by Trump himself and including former British premier Tony Blair.

During his press conference with Trump, Netanyahu cast doubt on whether the Palestinian Authority,

which nominally runs Palestinian population centres in the occupied West Bank, would be allowed a role in Gaza's governance.

Trump noted that during their meeting Netanyahu had strongly opposed any Palestinian statehood – something that the US plan leaves room for.

"I support your plan to end the war in Gaza which achieves our war aims," Netanyahu said.

"If Hamas rejects your plan, Mr

President, or if they supposedly accept it and then basically do everything to counter it, then Israel will finish the job by itself."

Trump said that Israel would have his "full backing" to do so if Hamas did not accept the deal.

Reaction was global, and swift. Key Arab and Muslim nations, including mediators Egypt and Qatar, hailed the agreement's "sincere efforts" in the wake of their own talks with Trump last week.