

Turkey detains 115 alleged IS members

AFP, Istanbul

Some 115 alleged members of the Islamic State group suspected of planning attacks during the end of year holidays have been arrested in Turkey, Istanbul's prosecutor general said yesterday.

"Following intelligence indicating that the IS terrorist organisation was planning attacks during Christmas and New Year celebrations," the prosecutor's office ordered the detention of 137 people, 115 of whom have been arrested, the Istanbul prosecutor general's office said in a statement.

Turkey shares a 900-kilometre (559-mile) border with Syria, where jihadist groups are still active and where the IS was accused of an attack in mid-December that killed two US soldiers and one civilian.

Washington recently blamed a lone IS gunman for an attack in Palmyra, Syria, on December 13 in which two US soldiers and an American civilian died.

This week, Turkey's intelligence agency also conducted an operation on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border area, capturing a Turkish national who it said held a senior role in the IS group.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visits the construction site of an 8,700-tonne nuclear-powered submarine said to be capable of launching surface-to-air missiles, in this photo released yesterday by the country's official Korean Central News Agency. PHOTO: AFP

KSA urges Yemen separatists to cede seized territory

AFP, RIYADH

Saudi Arabia, the main backer of Yemen's internationally recognised government, said yesterday that Yemeni separatists should return territory seized recently, adding that it seeks to deescalate tensions within the government camp.

The separatist Southern Transitional Council is part of Yemen's internationally recognised government, a patchwork of groups held together by their opposition to the Iran-backed Houthis, which rule much of the country's north.

This month, the UAE-backed STC, which seeks to revive the formerly independent state of South Yemen, swept through swathes of the country, expelling other government forces and their allies in a move that sparked fears of secession and further instability.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia points out that the military movements in the governorates of (Hadamawt and Al-Mahra), recently conducted by the Southern Transitional Council, were carried out unilaterally, and without the approval of the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) nor in coordination with the Coalition's leadership," the Saudi foreign ministry said in a statement.

"These movements resulted in an unjustified escalation that harmed the interests of the Yemeni people with all of its segments," it added.

‘NCP leaning towards seat-sharing deal with Jamaat’

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Repeated attempts to reach NCP Convener Nahid Islam and Chief Coordinator Songskar Jote intact. Nasiruddin Patwary by phone and message were unsuccessful.

NCP Joint Convener Sarwar Tushar told The Daily Star that no final decision had been made. "Nothing has been finalised for an official announcement. Details will be shared once discussions are over," he said.

Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar confirmed to BBC Bangla that discussions on seat-sharing between Jamaat and the NCP were under way.

When The Daily Star tried to contact Porwar by phone, his aide Foyez Uddin received the call and said the Jamaat leader was busy.

Two senior NCP leaders, requesting anonymity, said the proposed arrangement with Jamaat would not be a formal alliance but a seat-sharing deal, allowing the party to contest the election under its own symbol.

Jamaat has also agreed to a seat compromise while keeping the Gonotantrik Songskar Jote intact. "Overall, the talks are moving in a positive direction," one NCP leader said.

The issue entered the public domain yesterday morning after Abdul Kader, former coordinator of the anti-discrimination student movement and convener of the defunct Dhaka University Democratic Student Union, raised concerns in a Facebook post.

Hewrote that the NCP was "finally forming an alliance with Jamaat," calling it a "suicidal decision" driven by the interests of a few leaders.

Kader claimed the NCP had initially demanded 50 seats from Jamaat but eventually settled for 30, under conditions that would prevent the party from fielding candidates in the remaining 270 constituencies.

He also claimed NCP's Patwary and Jamaat leader Abdullah Mohammad Taher would oversee the

finalisation of candidates for those seats. Taher did not receive phone calls for comments.

Sources said talks between the BNP and NCP had been ongoing since the start of election preparations, with both sides initially exploring an alliance rooted in the legacy of the July mass uprising.

The NCP had sought 20 seats, and most of its leaders supported the move.

However, disagreements over seat distribution, the July charter and reform issues gradually widened, becoming public with the signing of the charter.

In early November, Nahid had announced his decision to contest separately. On December 7, the Gonotantrik Songskar Jote was launched, followed by the NCP's announcement of candidates for 125 seats on December 10.

As negotiations with the BNP stalled, NCP leaders said the party shifted its focus toward Jamaat-e-Islami to preserve its political relevance and

organisational footing.

A senior NCP leader, speaking anonymously, said the BNP's stance had changed as its position strengthened. "During difficult times, the BNP needed us. Now they have taken a dismissive, almost despotic attitude," he said.

"They are offering only three seats, with the condition that we dissolve the party and our alliances to merge with them. Under these terms, the prospects of an alliance or seat-sharing with the BNP are extremely low," he added, noting that a final decision would follow talks with Tarique.

A BNP leader with knowledge of seat-sharing talks with other parties said it had held discussions with the NCP a long time ago. "There was no talks with the NCP recently," the leader added, requesting anonymity.

MIXED REACTIONS AMONG ALLIES
The developments have drawn mixed reactions within the Gonotantrik

Songskar Jote. The Amar Bangladesh Party (AB Party) has responded pragmatically, while the Rastro Songskar Andolon has voiced sharp criticism.

"We will speak with our alliance partners soon. We want to move forward together," said a senior NCP leader.

An AB Party leader, requesting anonymity, said, "Without an agreement with a major party, our post-election existence would be uncertain. Since the BNP is unwilling to compromise, Jamaat has become our last option."

In contrast, Rastro Songskar Andolon Chairman Hasnat Kaiyum said the NCP's engagement with Jamaat undermined the alliance's principles.

"Jamaat is an undemocratic party. By negotiating simultaneously with the BNP and Jamaat, the NCP has violated the core democratic conditions of the alliance. As a result, this alliance has effectively collapsed and no longer exists," he said.

Russia makes ‘proposal’ to France over jailed researcher

AFP, Moscow

Moscow has made an offer to Paris regarding jailed French researcher Laurent Vinatier, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, including AFP.

Peskov did not provide details. "The ball is now in France's court," he added.

Vinatier's family have rejected the accusations against him, saying he is a victim of tensions between Moscow and Paris over the war in Ukraine.

Western countries have long accused Russia of arresting their citizens on baseless charges, seeking to use them as bargaining chips to secure the release of alleged Russian spies and cyber criminals jailed in Europe and the United States.

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Putin said last week he would look into Vinatier's case after a French journalist asked him about it during an end-of-year televised press conference.

"I don't know anything about this case. This is the first I've heard of it," Putin said.

"But I promise you I'll definitely find out what it is. And if there's even the slightest chance of resolving this matter favourably, if Russian law allows it, we'll make every effort," Putin said.

Asked by AFP about the Kremlin statement, the French foreign ministry declined to comment.

The Kremlin said at weekend that Putin was "ready" to engage in dialogue with Macron.

Focus on ‘quarantine’

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in the Caribbean Sea, where long-forgotten theft of other people's property, namely piracy, and banditry, are being revived," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said of the situation.

"We consistently advocate for a de-escalation," Zakharova said. "We hope that the pragmatism and rationality of US President Trump will allow solutions to be found that are mutually acceptable to the parties within the framework of

international legal norms."

"We confirm our support for the efforts of the government of Nicolas Maduro aimed at protecting sovereignty and national interests, and maintaining the stable and secure development of his country," she said.

Grieving father returns home

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off the site, and silence hung heavy -- a stark echo of the blast.

Witnesses recounted the terror of the moment. Jakir Siddiq, who identified himself as a media director, said he frequents the area with colleagues for tea. "The explosion was so deafening that it left me

numb for several minutes," he said.

Kalam Mia, whose tea stall is just 10 feet from the spot, described the aftermath. "I looked and saw a young man lying there, his head shattered. I've worked here for years, but I've never seen such cruelty," he said.

Akbar has filed a murder

case with Hatirjheel Police Station against unidentified individuals under Sections 302 and 34 of the Penal Code, along with Section 3 of the Explosive Substances Act.

Officer-in-Charge Golam Mortuza said police were analysing CCTV footage to identify those responsible.

Pacific archipelago Palau agrees to take migrants from US

AFP, Sydney

The tiny Pacific island nation of Palau has agreed to accept up to 75 non-American migrants from the United States under a deal worth \$7.5 million, the two countries have said.

President Donald Trump, who campaigned on a promise to expel undocumented migrants,

has accelerated deportations and cracked down on border crossings since returning to power this year.

Under a new memorandum of understanding, Palau will let up to 75 third-country nationals from the United States live and work on the sparsely populated archipelago, officials said Wednesday.

Law and order

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particularly the police.

They said those expectations were not met.

"He needed to resign due to his failure to perform at the expected level and shortcomings in crisis management," said another senior government official. "He was a former IGP, and there were expectations that he would play a strong and decisive role."

Khuda Baksh, a former inspector general of police who was overseeing the Ministry of Home Affairs, stepped down on Wednesday

amid mounting concerns over public safety following a series of incidents in recent months.

These incidents include the killing of Sharif Osman Hadi, spokesperson of an Inqilab Moncho and an aspirant from the Dhaka-8 constituency. Following his death, attacks were also carried out on the offices of national dailies The Daily Star and Prothom Alo, as well as on two prominent cultural organisations -- Chhayanaut and Udichi.

Officials told this

newspaper that unease was growing within the administration over his performance, particularly after the shooting of Hadi, one of the organisers of the July uprising, and the subsequent fallout.

"Realising this unease, he himself submitted the resignation. The government did not ask him to resign," said a top government official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Attempts to reach Khuda Baksh for comment were unsuccessful.

One killed

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According to locals, Samrat had formed a criminal gang and had long been involved in extortion and other criminal activities. After remaining in hiding in India for a long time, he recently returned home and allegedly demanded extortion money from a resident of the village.

On Wednesday night, Samrat and members of his group went to the villager's house to collect the money. When the occupants raised an alarm shouting "robbers", locals rushed to the spot and beat Samrat.

His other associates managed to flee, while Selim was caught with weapons, said police.

6 more held

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Dipu, 27, a garment worker, was beaten to death by a mob in Bhaluka on December 18 over allegations of "hurting religious sentiments".

The victim's brother Apu Chandra Das filed a case with Bhaluka Police Station accusing 140-150 unnamed persons the next day.

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
High Court Division
Statutory Original Jurisdiction
Company Matter No. 2193 of 2025
IN THE MATTER OF:
An Application under Section 81(2) and 85(3) Read with section 396 of the Companies act, 1994.
And IN The Matter of:
Nawreen Iqbal, shareholder & Managing Director of **Premier Hotels and Resorts Limited****Petitioner**
-Versus-
The Register of Joint Stock Companies and Firms and Others
.....**Respondents**

Notice is here be given that an application under section 81(2), 85(3) read with section 396 of the companies act 1994, was moved in petition to condonation of delay in holding the Annual General Meeting of the company named and style as **Premier Hotels and Resorts Limited** and another in the following years 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. Hon'ble Company judge **Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel** has Admitted the said Application on 07.12.2025 if any person interested in the said application may appear on the date of hearing either himself or through his Advocate, A copy of said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of prescribed fees.
H.M Masum
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh Hall Room No. 01 (Main Building), Supreme Court Bar Building, Dhaka. Mobile: 01770346615.