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TO MALAYSIA BY BOAT 37 desperados held by Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday detained 37 people including eight Rohingyas at a hotel in Cox's Bazar when they were about to start for Malaysia illegally "on a motor-boat".

Three middlemen involved in the planning of the journey -- Md Kamal, Abdul Gaffar and hotel manager Nurul Alam -- have also been held, said Rab-7 Camp Leader Major Sarwar-e-Alam.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab team raided hotel Mohammadia Resort in Kolatoli area in the city around 1:00am and held them there, said the major.

The detainees had been staying in three rooms at the hotel since mid-January, the major said.

They are all job seekers from Bogra, Satkhira, Jessore, Kushtia, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar.

Ataur Rahman, one of the victims from Bogra, said he was contacted by a local broker named Hashem, who promised him a well-paid job in Malaysia in exchange for Tk 2.2 lakh.

The victims were waiting for a call from a person known only as Alam. He was supposed to call and let them know the boat was ready, said the major.

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Shamsunnahar, a Smart Export Garments worker who jumped off the factory building after a fire broke out on Saturday, is attended by her sister as she lies on the floor of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. PHOTO: FERAZ AHMED

In depths of despair

Star talks with survivors, dear-ones of Smart Garment fire victims

SHAHEEN MOLLAH, SUMAN SAHA and SUSHMITA S PREETHA

A visibly tense Sumi Akter was sitting by her elder sister on the floor at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. She does not know what will happen to her sister.

Her condition is not well. That is all she knows.

The elder sister Shamsunnahar Sharmin, 16, became senseless after she jumped out of a window of Smart Export Garments factory to save her life from Saturday's fire, as the collapsible gates were locked.

She is one of the victims of the fire that left at least seven female workers dead at the factory in the capital's Mohammadpur.

Sharmin and her younger brother Sujon had been working for Smart Export for the last six months. Sujon has narrowly escaped

WAR TRIAL Sayeede's arguments end today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The defence counsels of war crimes accused Delwar Hossain Sayeede placed their closing arguments for a sixth day at the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday.

Though the Tribunal-1 earlier fixed three days to complete the argument,

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Extradition treaty to have refusal clause

Signing after Indian home minister arrives today

M RAHMAN

Bangladesh and India are expected to ink two crucial deals including an extradition treaty during a home ministerial meeting in the capital today.

Indian Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde, who is set to arrive this morning by a special flight on a two-day visit,

would sit for a meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir at 2:30pm.

The two ministers would sit for talks after a meeting of the Bangladesh cabinet approves the draft of the extradition treaty. The Indian cabinet on Thursday approved the treaty on its part.

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Acid attacker jailed by mobile court

Another court hails police for quick arrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday sentenced Monir Uddin, who has been arrested on charge of throwing acid on Anghi of Eden College, to two years' imprisonment for making fake medicines and cosmetic items.

Executive Magistrate Mamtaz Begum passed the order after a mobile court and Detective Branch (DB) of police conducted a raid at Monir's Mohammadpur residence around 6:00pm.

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Monir

ROBBERS IN BAY 11 fishermen hurt, 7 missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least seven fishermen have gone missing while 11 were injured in an attack by a band of robbers in the Bay of Bengal on Saturday morning.

Eighteen fishermen were returning to the shores from the deep sea around 10:00am on their fishing boat Senowara-2 when robbers swooped on them and shot rubber bullets indiscriminately.

The fishermen jumped into the sea to save

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LEARN IT FROM LARA: West Indies batting legend and the brand ambassador of Chittagong Kings Brian Lara shows the team's players how to go on the front foot during a training session at the MA Aziz Stadium in the port city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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BNP council in March

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP will hold its sixth national council in March to bring dynamism in the party.

BNP coordinator Tariqul Islam made the announcement after a meeting of the party's

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Steered by stars

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

The humble dung beetle is the first insect known to navigate by the stars. Like sailors of old and Saharan nomads, it can orientate itself by watching the sky.

On clear nights, a myriad of stars shine over the deserts and savannahs of Africa where the dung beetle, or scarab, makes its home. While the beetle's compound eyes are probably too weak to see individual stars, it uses the light of the Milky Way to keep it on a straight course, scientists have found.

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Learning too comes along

SHAHNOOR RABBANI

The Daily Star Spelling Bee took a different approach to educating students about spelling and encouraging them besides visiting schools

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Teacher axed for 'abusing' student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shaheed Bir Uttam Lt Anwar Girls' College dismissed an assistant teacher after it had found him guilty of sexually

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain that the political standoff over the caretaker government issue can be resolved in 30 minutes if political parties are sincerely willing?

Yes (80%)
No (19%)
No Comments (1%)

TOTAL VOTES: 397

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think it was justified for the main opposition BNP to boycott the New Year session of the Jatiya Sangsad?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

PRAYER TIMING January 28

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-35	6-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-46	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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