

# Saudi princess charged with human trafficking

**AFP, Los Angeles**

A Saudi princess was to be released from US jail on bail Thursday after being charged with enslaving a Kenyan woman, forcing her to work in abusive conditions and withholding her passport.

Meshael Alayban, 42, one of six wives of a grandson of the Saudi King Abdullah, paid a \$5 million bond and surrendered her passport, the Orange County, California district attorney's office said in a statement.

She "is required to wear a GPS tracking device, is prohibited from leaving Orange County without permission from the Court, and is barred from having any contact with the victim," the statement explained.

Alayban, who was arrested Wednesday, is accused of forcing the Kenyan woman to work 16 hour days, seven days a week, for a monthly salary of just \$220.

The unnamed victim, 30, who sought overseas work to pay for her young daughter's medical care, allegedly worked in Alayban's palace in Saudi Arabia and then in her home in Irvine, California, southeast of Los Angeles.

Prosecutors said the victim had signed a contract with an employment agency that promised her a salary of \$1,600 a month for a 40-hour work week.

# Italian cops arrest 38 in mafia crackdown

**AFP, Rome**

A major police operation in Italy yesterday led to the arrest of 38 people, including almost every member of a southern town council, for alleged mafia connections.

Police swooped on addresses across southern Italy as part of the latest crackdown on corruption in local authorities.

Among those held by police were several council members in the town of Scalea, including the mayor.

Pasquale Basile, head of the town of 11,000 residents since 2010, is suspected of being an intermediary between two rival mafia clans and handing out contracts to mafia firms.

Five out of six of the town's councillors were also arrested, and the head of the local traffic police is being investigated for "criminal association".

There were also arrests in the cities of Bari, Matera, Salerno and Terni as part of the same inquiry, which targeted the network of the Valente-Summo clan of the 'Ndrangheta mafia based in the Calabria region.

# Pran passes away

**FROM PAGE 16**

Pran received Dadasaheb Phalke award, Indian government's highest film award, on May 3. Pran, who had been unwell for the last few months, was unable to collect the award in person at the national awards presentation ceremony in New Delhi.

Indian Information Minister Manish Tewari had gone to Mumbai to present him the award.

Pran, who mostly played the role of the villain, has acted in more than 400 films in a career that spanned over six decades. He was famous for his on-screen style and sophistication and was credited with making the role of the villain as important as that of the hero.

He also played many supporting roles most notable the red-haired Pathan Sher Khan in "Zanjeer", the 1973 film that made Amitabh Bachchan a Bollywood superstar.

From 1960s to early 1980s, Pran had appeared in almost every major film made in Bollywood.

Condoling Pran's death, Manish Tewari said Indian cinema has lost an icon.



**A participant reacts on the ground after being gored by a bull during the sixth bull run of the San Fermin Festival in Pamplona, northern Spain, yesterday.**

# Three gored in Spain bull run

**AFP, Pamplona**

Three men were gored by half-tonne bulls as they raced through Spain's northern city of Pamplona, the bloodiest run of this year's celebrated San Fermin festival.

The three runners, a 20-year-old American and two Spaniards aged 31 and 42, were all raced to hospital.

The extent of their injuries, the first gorings of this year's festival, was not immediately known, a Navarra hospital spokesman said.

Another three people, including a 48-year-old American, were taken to hospital with injuries suffered in falls during the sixth bull run of the hugely popular festival.

The run turned dangerous when a half-tonne black bull, part of the galloping herd of six sharp-horned bulls and six steers, separated and began charging into runners.

The lone bull charged one young man and tossed him around the ground in a 30-second tussle, causing the daredevil's pants to come off. The man clung to one of the bull's horns while two runners tried to pull the animal away by the tail.

Two others then grabbed the young man by the feet and pulled him to safety.

An isolated bull is considered a more dangerous beast because it can become disoriented and is more likely to charge runners.

"A lot of people fell along the route, it was really dangerous," said Alan Carpenter, a 38-year-old banker from Chicago after taking part in his third Pamplona bull run.

Hundreds of runners, most dressed in white with red kerchiefs, joined in the 848.6-meter (928-yard) dash through city's winding, cobbled streets from a corral to the bull ring.

The six bulls from the El Pilar ranch in the province of Salamanca completed the course in four minutes and 57 seconds, the slowest bull-run so far this year.

The animals, which weigh between 510 and 575 kilos, will be killed by matadors in an afternoon bull-fight.

The early morning bull runs are the highlight of the San Fermin festival, which was immortalized in Ernest Hemingway's 1926 novel "The Sun Also Rises" and now draws hundreds of thousands of tourists.

Fifteen people have been killed in the bull runs since records started in 1911.

The most recent death took place four years ago when a bull gored a 27-year-old Spaniard in the neck, heart and lungs.

# Microsoft helped NSA

**FROM PAGE 16**

storage service SkyDrive.

Microsoft also helped the Prism programme collect video and audio of conversations conducted via Skype, Microsoft's online chat service, the newspaper added.

Microsoft had previously said it did not provide the NSA direct access to users' information. On Thursday, it repeated that it provides customer data only in response to lawful government requests.

"To be clear, Microsoft does not provide any government with blanket or direct access to SkyDrive, Outlook.com, Skype or any Microsoft product," the company said in a statement on its website.

Facebook Inc, Google Inc and Microsoft had all publicly urged US authorities to allow them to reveal the number and scope of the surveillance requests after documents leaked to the Washington Post and the Guardian suggested they had given the government "direct access" to their computers as part of the NSA's Prism programme.

The disclosures have triggered widespread concern and congressional hearings about the scope and extent of the information-gathering.

# 1,200 sued, 36 arrested

**FROM PAGE 1**

assistant commissioner (Ramna) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

The case was filed with Shahbagh Police Station naming nine Dhaka University students, who were detained on Thursday during clashes with the law enforcers on the campus.

Also yesterday, law enforcers and Chhatra League activists intercepted some protesters when they tried to march towards the Shahbagh intersection from different adjoining areas to stage protests there at 3:00pm as per their earlier announced programme, said witnesses.

Security was beefed up in the area with a heavy deployment of police since morning to avert any trouble.

Around noon, activists of the Buet unit of Chhatra League caught four persons before its main entrance when the four gathered there to stage a demonstration on the campus of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet). The four were handed over to Shahbagh police.

The rest of the detainees were picked up from different areas near Shahbagh.

Around 2:30pm, another group of around 60 protesters gathered in front of the Curzon Hall of DU to go to Shahbagh. But some BCL activists prevented them from marching towards the protest venue.

Meanwhile, Amra Muktiyoddhar Sontan (We are the Offspring of Freedom Fighters) yesterday urged the demonstrating youths not to fall pray to the conspiracies of Islami Chhatra Shibir.

They formed a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club around 11:00am protesting the "conspiracy" against the quota system.

Speaking at the programme, Humayun Kabir, president of the platform, said initially they could not understand the demand of some protesters for reviewing the results of the 34th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations.

"As they [demonstrators]

# Party office at college!

**FROM PAGE 16**

General Secretary of AL Gokunda union unit Khorshed Alam Majnu refuted the allegations claiming that one AL supporter, named Jamil Hossain, had donated 10 decimal of land adjacent to the college playground to build the office.

Asked, Jamil Hossain kept mum about the matter. But The Daily Star investigation found that Jamil did not possess any land in the vicinity of the college. A local resident termed it a drama and said, "Jamil Hossain is a toy of the local AL leaders."

President of Teesta College governing body Abu Sayeed Dulal admitted that the PM did not inaugurate the party office.

"In fact the land belongs to the college but we decided in a meeting to donate it to Awami League," he said.

Principal of the college Abdus Salam Sarker said he had asked the managing committee to take steps for vacating the land.

# Iraq violence toll rises to 51

**AFP, Baghdad**

The toll from a wave of attacks in Iraq mainly targeting security forces and Shias rose yesterday to 51 killed, 26 of them police and soldiers, security officials and doctors said.

Thursday's attacks came amid a surge in violence that has killed more than 2,500 people already this year, including upwards of 250 so far this month.

Analysts point to widespread discontent among Iraq's minority Sunni community, and the Shiite authorities' failure to address their grievances, as the main factors driving the increase in violence.

In Thursday's single deadliest incident, gunmen shot dead 11 police charged with protecting the country's vital oil infrastructure and three soldiers on the road between Haditha and Baiji, northwest of the Iraqi capital.

In another attack, a car bomb ripped through a funeral tent where family members of a Shiite man were receiving condolences in Muqaddiyah, northeast of Baghdad, and a suicide bomber detonated explosives when emergency personnel arrived.

The blasts killed a total of 10 people and wounded 22.

And a car bomb near a Shiite religious hall close to Dujail, north of Baghdad, killed nine people and wounded 21 more.

Many people gather at places of worship at night during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which began earlier this week.

Sunni militants including those linked to Al-Qaeda frequently target members of Iraq's Shiite majority, whom they regard as apostates.

Iraq was plagued by sectarian violence that killed tens of thousands of people in past years, and there are persistent fears that tensions will again boil over into all-out conflict.

Security forces are also frequently targeted in attacks.

# Coast guards rescue 4 fishermen

**ABDUCTION**

**A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat**

Coast guard members yesterday rescued four kidnapped fishermen from a robbers' den in the Sundarbans under Sharankhola range after 10 days of their abduction.

The fishermen are Babul Hossain, 20, Zakir Hossain, 27, Shah Alam, 35, and Jafar Miah, 42. They are from Dacope and Koira upazilas of Khulna district.

Lt Commander Mufti Mahmud Khan of Mongla west zone coast guard said

# Coast guards rescue 4 fishermen

acting on a tip-off, a team of coast guards had conducted a drive in Chaprakhali canal near Dublar Char inside the forest around 3:00am.

Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the members of infamous Rezaul alias "Shirsha Bahini" had opened fire on them, triggering a gunfight that had lasted until 7:00am, Mahmud added.

The robbers then beat a retreat.

The coast guard members rescued the four fishermen from their den. They also recovered 11 firearms, including eight locally made guns, five bullets, and several sharp weapons from the spot.

A source of Mongla west zone coast guard said the robbers had abducted the four fishermen from adjoining areas of Dublar Char for ransom on July 2.

On July 10, two robbers of the gang were killed in a "gunfight" with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members in the Sundarbans.

# Accord, alliance or disunity?

**FROM PAGE 1**

In most respects the North American alliance's promises differ little from those of the European accord. The alliance, brokered by two former senators, George Mitchell and Olympia Snowe, calls for all Bangladeshi factories used by the retailers to be inspected within a year, with the results published and a boycott imposed on any that failed their inspections. The factories' workers will get safety training and a hotline to report any worries. So far the North American retailers have agreed to provide grants of \$42m and \$100m in low-interest loans to upgrade factories.

The European accord is along similar lines, except that it is legally binding, whereas the alliance deal is not. "We don't believe that unenforceable commitments are credible," says Scott Nova of the Workers Rights Consortium, an NGO that helped create the accord. Retailers in the North American alliance insist they are serious about improving worker safety too, but would face a greater risk of costly and frivolous litigation if they signed the legally binding agreement.

"If you have to find \$10m for factory safety and put aside another \$10m for lawyers, you will really start to suck the energy out of this," says Jay Jorgensen, a Walmart executive.

This is debatable, especially given recent court rulings that seem to have watered down the Alien Tort Claims Act, a law that might have put the retailers at risk. Even before this there had been few successful cases: it has been "the dog that didn't bark," says Aron Cramer of Business for Social Responsibility, another NGO.

To underline his concern about Bangladesh's factories, President Obama has suspended the country's trade privileges under America's Generalised System of Preferences. This was largely a symbolic move, since garments are not covered by the scheme. But if the EU were to follow, it would be more serious for Bangladesh, since it sends 60% of its clothing exports to Europe, where they enjoy big trade perks. This week, however, the EU expressed satisfaction at the retailers' accord, and announced a deal of its own to improve workers' safety, with the UN's International Labour Organisation and the Bangladeshi government.

At the launch of the alliance Mr Mitchell, whose previous achievements include brokering peace in Northern Ireland, said he expects that its differences with the accord will become less significant over time. Mr Cramer, however, worries that the differences will provide opportunities for factory owners to wriggle out of complying.

Foreign firms have been promising for around 20 years to do something about Bangladesh's dangerous factories, to little effect. Now, as then, they will make significant progress only if the government, and the factory owners, also undertake serious efforts to bring about change. Lamentably, even after the tragedy at Rana Plaza there has been little sign of this.

# Caab faces severe fund

**FROM PAGE 16**

The dues had been piling up as cash-strapped Biman could not make regular payments over the years. GMG ran into turbulent air after a sharp rise in the aviation fuel price, which eventually caused it to wind up business.

The Caab letters to Biman and United also mentioned that it was facing audit issues due to the non-payment of the bills. The authority's efficiency was also questioned by the parliamentary standing committee on public accounts, which had sought explanation from Caab.

The Caab chairman said he would sit with the airlines authorities to ensure payment of the dues. He said it was really unfortunate that the airlines even do not pay the embarkation fees on tickets. Non-payment of such charges call into question the integrity and standards of the airlines.

Asaduzzaman, Biman's director engineering now in charge of managing director, recently said they would determine how much they owe Caab after holding a meeting with the authorities tomorrow and then make arrangements for payment.

Assistant General Manager Kamrul Islam of United Airways said they had taken an initiative to pay the dues and as part of that initiative they had already paid Tk 1.5 crore.

Shahab Sattar, managing director of GMG, claimed that the principal amount GMG owed was Tk 48 crore and the figure Caab had shown as outstanding was with surcharges and interests.

"We are trying to renew our Air Operation Certificate (AOC) so that we can resume our commercial operation and thus make ourselves capable of paying the dues," he told The Daily Star. He also said they were trying to reach an agreement with Caab in this regard.

# Malala 'would not be silenced'

**FROM PAGE 1**

power and courage was born," she said in a speech given several standing ovations.

Malala, who wore a pink headscarf and a shawl that belonged to assassinated Pakistan leader Benazir Bhutto, insisted she did not want "personal revenge" against the Taliban gunman who shot her on a bus in Pakistan's Swat Valley on October 12 last year.

"I want education for the sons and daughters of the Taliban and all the terrorists and extremists. I do not even hate the Taliban who shot me. Even if there is a gun in my hand and he stands in front of me I would not shoot him."

But Malala said "the extremists were and they are afraid of books and pens, the power of education. The power of education silenced them. They are afraid of women."

"Let us pick up our books and pens. They are our most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world. Education is the only solution," she said.

The passionate advocate for girls education was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman as she rode on a school bus near her home in Pakistan's Swat Valley in October.

She was given life-saving treatment in Britain where she now lives, but the attack has given new life to her campaign for greater educational opportunities for girls.

Malala is now considered a leading contender for the Nobel Peace Prize. The Taliban have made it clear however that she remains a target.

Gordon Brown, the former British prime minister and UN special envoy for education, hailed Malala as "the bravest girl in the world" as he presented her at the UN Youth Assembly.

Brown said it was "a miracle" that Malala had recovered to be present at the meeting.

UN leader Ban Ki-moon and other top officials also hailed her achievements.

The speech in which Malala invoked the legacy of Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and other legendary peace advocates brought quick praise.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said on his twitter account that Malala had delivered a "powerful message".

The United Nations estimates that 57 million children of primary school age do not get an education - half of them in countries at conflict like Syria.

"Students and teachers across our globe are intimidated and harassed, injured, raped, and even killed. Schools are burned, bombed, and destroyed," said Diya Nijhowne, director of the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack.

Nijhowne highlighted a horrific attack in northern Nigeria last week. Gunmen from the Boko Haram Islamist group -- whose name literally means "Western education is a sin" -- broke into a secondary boarding school and killed 41 students and one teacher before setting fire to the building.

According to Ban's annual report on children and conflict, 115 schools were attacked last year in Mali, 321 in the occupied Palestinian territory, 167 in Afghanistan and 165 in Yemen.

Pakistan has an estimated five million children out of school and Nigeria 10 million, according to UN estimates.