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2 Bangladeshis freed in Libya

They were taken hostage by militants 18 days ago

STAR REPORT

Two Bangladeshi migrant workers, abducted by unknown militants from a Libyan oil field on March 6, were freed yesterday.

Citing a press release of the foreign ministry, UNB reported that Bangladesh Embassy in Libya confirmed the release of Helal Uddin, 40, and Mohammad Anwar Hossain, 38, both employees of Vienna-based oil company VAOS.

They were staying at Sirte hospital, about 700 km from Tripoli, and their physical condition was normal.

The two are expected to be brought to their employer's Tripoli office today, added UNB.

Helal is from Madarganj upazila in Jamalpur and Anwar from Goyeshpur village in Noakhali.

Quoting the press release, UNB said the two Bangladeshis were released following prompt initiatives and constant efforts of the foreign ministry and the Bangladesh Embassy in Libya.

Unknown militants abducted Helal and Anwar along with seven other foreigners -- four Filipinos, an Austrian, a Czech and a Ghana national -- from the Al-Ghani oil field in Libya on March 6.

In a press statement on March 9, Bangladesh foreign ministry had said terrorist group ISIS had abducted them. But State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam later



Anwar Hossain Helal Uddin

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EUPHORIA AND DESPAIR IN ONE FRAME: New Zealand batsman Grant Elliott (R) celebrates with teammate Daniel Vettori after hitting the winning runs, a six over long-on, off the second last ball of a nail-biting World Cup semifinal against South Africa while the bowler in question Dale Steyn goes down on his knees inconsolable at Eden Park in Auckland yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Kiwi dream lives on

Elliott six takes co-hosts into final first time

AFP, Auckland

South Africa-born Grant Elliott's brilliant 84 not out, capped with a stunning six off the penultimate ball, saw New Zealand to a four-wicket win over the Proteas in a cliffhanger World Cup semifinal at Auckland's Eden Park on Tuesday.

Elliott's winning six, off injured South Africa fast bowler Dale Steyn, took New Zealand into the World Cup final for the first time and they will

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play the winner of Thursday's second semi, between Australia and India in Sydney, in Sunday's showpiece match in Melbourne.

New Zealand faced a revised target of 298 under the Duckworth-Lewis method after South Africa made 281 for five in 43 overs, which included a near two-hour rain stoppage.

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THE BLACK NIGHT

BSS, Dhaka

The nation recalls today the Black Night of March 25. On this fateful night in 1971, the Pakistani military junta launched the "Operation Searchlight" and mercilessly killed the Bangalee

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German plane crash kills 150

'No survivor' in the crash in French Alps; black box found

AFP, Seyne

A plane operated by Germanwings, a budget carrier of Germany's Lufthansa, crashed in a remote area of the French Alps yesterday, killing all 150 people on board in the worst aviation disaster in France in decades.

With the cause of the accident a complete mystery, authorities recovered a black box from the Airbus A320 at the crash site, where rescue efforts were being hampered by the mountainous terrain.

Local MP Christophe Castaner, who flew over the crash site, said on Twitter: "Horrendous images in this mountain scenery."

"Nothing is left but debris and bodies. Flying over the crash site with the interior minister -- a horror -- the plane is totally destroyed."

Video images from a government helicopter flying near the area showed a desolate snow-flecked moonscape, with steep ravines covered in scree.

Budget airline Germanwings said the Airbus plunged for eight minutes but French aviation officials said the plane had made no distress call before crashing near the ski resort of Barcelonnette.

"A black box was found and will be delivered to investigators," Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said.

Weather did not appear to be a factor in the crash, with conditions "calm" at the time.

"There was no cloud at the plane's cruising altitude", winds were "light to moderate" and there was no turbulence that could have contributed to the crash, French weather officials said.

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Bangladesh awarded for closing gender gap

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday received the prestigious Women in Parliaments Global Forum award, known as WIP award, for its outstanding success in closing gender gap in the political sphere.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam received the award,

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Why cops shouldn't be punished?

HC asks govt, police over torture of journo; lower court denies him bail again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the government and the police to show cause in two weeks as to why the law enforcers responsible for torturing Prothom Alo's Baufal correspondent ABM Mizanur Rahman should not be punished.

The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice Razik-



Mizanur Rahman

Al-Jalil also asked the authorities to explain why they should not be directed to compensate Mizanur from the salaries of those law enforcers.

In its ruling, which came following a writ petition by Mizanur's father Abdus Salam, the HC ordered the government and the police to explain why inhuman physical and mental

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TOP QUOTE

"It is no consolation to have participated in one of the most memorable of games. It doesn't make me feel better at all. It hurts quite a bit. I'm gutted."

SOUTH AFRICA CAPTAIN AB DE VILLIERS AFTER LOSING TO NEW ZEALAND IN THE WORLD CUP SEMI-FINAL

WAR CRIMES TRIBUNALS

Five years, 17 verdicts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The trial of war criminals passed yet another year with two special war crimes tribunals having delivered eight verdicts so far to the satisfaction of the justice seekers.

But delay in initiating trial against Jamaat-e-Islami as an organisation for its alleged crimes committed during the Liberation War frustrates many. Besides, no verdict of the tribunals was executed in the last one year due to legal proceedings at the Supreme Court, further extending people's long wait.

The Awami League-led government formed an International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) on March 25, 2010 in line with the party's electoral pledge to try the war criminals. A second tribunal was

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CONVICTED WAR CRIMINALS

EXECUTED	DIED IN JAIL	SERVING TERMS	REVIEW PENDING	FUGITIVE CONVICTS
 ABDUL QUADER MOLLAH Jamaat Assistant Secretary General DEATH	 GHULAM AZAM Former chief of Jamaat-e-Islami 90-YEAR JAIL	 ABDUL ALIM Former BNP minister JAIL UNTIL DEATH	 DELAWAR HOSSAIN SAYEDEE Nayebe-e-Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami	 MUHAMMAD KAMARUZZAMAN Jamaat Assistant Secretary General
 ABUL KALAM AZAD Expelled Jamaat-e-Islami member DEATH	 CHOWDHURY MUEEN UDDIN Islami Chhatra Sangha leader in 1971 DEATH	 ASHRAFUZZAMAN N KHAN Islami Chhatra Sangha leader in 1971 DEATH	 MA ZAHID HOSSAIN KHOKON Faridpur BNP leader	 ABDUL JABBAR Former Jatiya Party lawmaker JAIL UNTIL
APPEAL PENDING				
 MOTIUR RAHMAN NIZAMI Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami	 ALI AHSAN MOHAMMAD MOJAHEED Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami	 SALAUDDIN QUADER CHOWDHURY BNP National Standing Committee member	 ABDUS SUBHAN Nayebe-e-Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami DEATH	 ATM AZHARUL ISLAM Jamaat Assistant Secretary General DEATH
 MIR QUASEM ALI Jamaat Central Executive Committee member DEATH	 SYED MOHAMMAD QAISAR Former Jatiya Party minister	 MOBARAK HOSSAIN Expelled Awami League leader DEATH		

JAMAAT'S TRIAL Amendment to law waits for months

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The process to try Jamaat-e-Islami for its alleged crimes committed during the Liberation War in 1971 remains halted for months as the government has yet to take steps to amend the war crimes law.

Investigation into the anti-Liberation organisation's role in 1971 completed a year ago and the law minister, on several occasions, said the government would amend the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973 to pave the way to try Jamaat.

Trial of an organisation is not possible under the existing law, which does not specify punishment in case the organisation is found

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TRIAL AT A GLANCE

	NUMBER OF CASES	NUMBER OF PERSONS
VERDICT	17	18
UNDER TRIAL	5	9
PROBE COMPLETED	2	JAMAAT-E-ISLAMI AND EIGHT INDIVIDUALS
UNDER INVESTIGATION	20	32