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**FLASHBACK 2015**

**A year of attacks, rise of militancy**

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Last year was one of the worst in a decade in terms of suspected militant attacks in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh saw frequent attacks and a lack of commitment on the government's part to wage a proper war on militancy, security analysts said.

The frequent attacks and busting of militants' dens with stockpiles of explosives in Mirpur and Chittagong tell how the militants have reorganised. Sophisticated firearms have been discovered in the dens where they also made improvised grenades.

Suspected militants hacked to death at least five bloggers and publishers and eight others were killed in attacks on religious sects in 2015. Alleged militants also killed eight people during a bank robbery last year.

What's worst, the militants have even launched a suicide attack on an Ahmadiyya mosque.

Bangladesh was also stunned by the killing of two foreign nationals.

Police claim that one of the murders was done by Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh.

The operatives of the banned militant outfit also allegedly killed two policemen at checkpoints. There were also attacks on Christian priests and those who revered shrines.

After each attack, law enforcers make a handful of arrests but the attacks continue.

When countries around the world using state-of-the-art technologies were struggling to combat militants, Bangladesh over the years seemed reluctant to develop a specialised force equipped with modern technology to combat this menace.

Its actions were limited to rhetoric and largely on-paper, giving the militants the opportunity to spread their network.

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Despite repeated drives, sand traders still occupy a large portion of the Turag river foreshore at Sinnirtek in the capital's Mirpur. Such illegal activities are usually aimed at paving the way for permanent land grabbing. The BIWTA, Dhaka district administration, local police, and the Department of Environment, among others, are tasked with stopping such encroachment but they visibly have failed. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: MD KAWSAR

**WAR CRIMES TRIAL**

**Changes likely in prosecution, probe teams**

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government may bring a change in the prosecution and investigation teams dealing with war crimes as suggested by the Supreme Court after it found neglect and incompetence in handling the case against Delwar Hossain Sayedee.

"I have just got the 614-page copy of the Supreme Court judgement on Delwar Hossain Sayedee. I will read it and take necessary actions for complying with the apex court verdict regarding the prosecution and investigation teams," Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star on yesterday.

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**INDIAN AIR FORCE BASE**

**Two more insurgents killed in fresh gunfight**

AGENCIES

Two suspected Islamic insurgents were killed yesterday when fighting flared up again at an Indian air force base, a senior police officer said, a day after the initial bloody raid on the base close to Pakistan.

Seven soldiers and four attackers were earlier confirmed killed during the assault on the Pathankot base in the northern state of Punjab, which triggered a 14-hour gunbattle Saturday.

The attack -- a rare targeting of an Indian military installation outside disputed Kashmir -- threatens to undermine improv-

ing relations with Pakistan.

It came just about a week after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a surprise visit to Pakistan, the first by an Indian premier in 11 years.

Security officials suspect the gunmen belong to the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed, the group that staged the 2001 attack on the Indian parliament which brought the two countries to the brink of war.

Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh Saturday tweeted "all five terrorists" have been killed but security officials at the site had found only four bodies.

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**JCD man killed in 'shootout'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was killed in an alleged gunfight with the Rapid Action Battalion at Rupnagar in the capital early yesterday.

The elite force claimed the dead, Al Amin alias Kala Johnny, 32, was facing at least 15 charges of rape, murder, robbery and other crimes.

Amin's family, however, alleged he was aspiring for the post of the general secretary of Rupnagar unit Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and was accused in several

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**What's in President Obama's lunchbox?**



MAIL ONLINE

As President of the United States, Barack Obama has access to pretty much any food he wants.

But it seems the commander-in-chief has but a few dishes he likes to eat while he is on the go - and none of them must contain mayonnaise or M&Ms.

Reggie Love, who was at Obama's side during his 2007 campaign, revealed that the President is a big fan of ranch dressing, but otherwise tries to eat a nutritional dinner.

But despite his wife Michelle being a campaigner for healthy food, Obama said he eats nachos until he has 'guacamole coming out of his eyeballs'.

In Love's memoir, Power Forward: My Presidential Education, he revealed that some of his worst moments as the then-senator's assistant were when he got his food order wrong.

Love spoke of Obama's fury when he forgot to save the candidate a meal while he was on the campaign trail.

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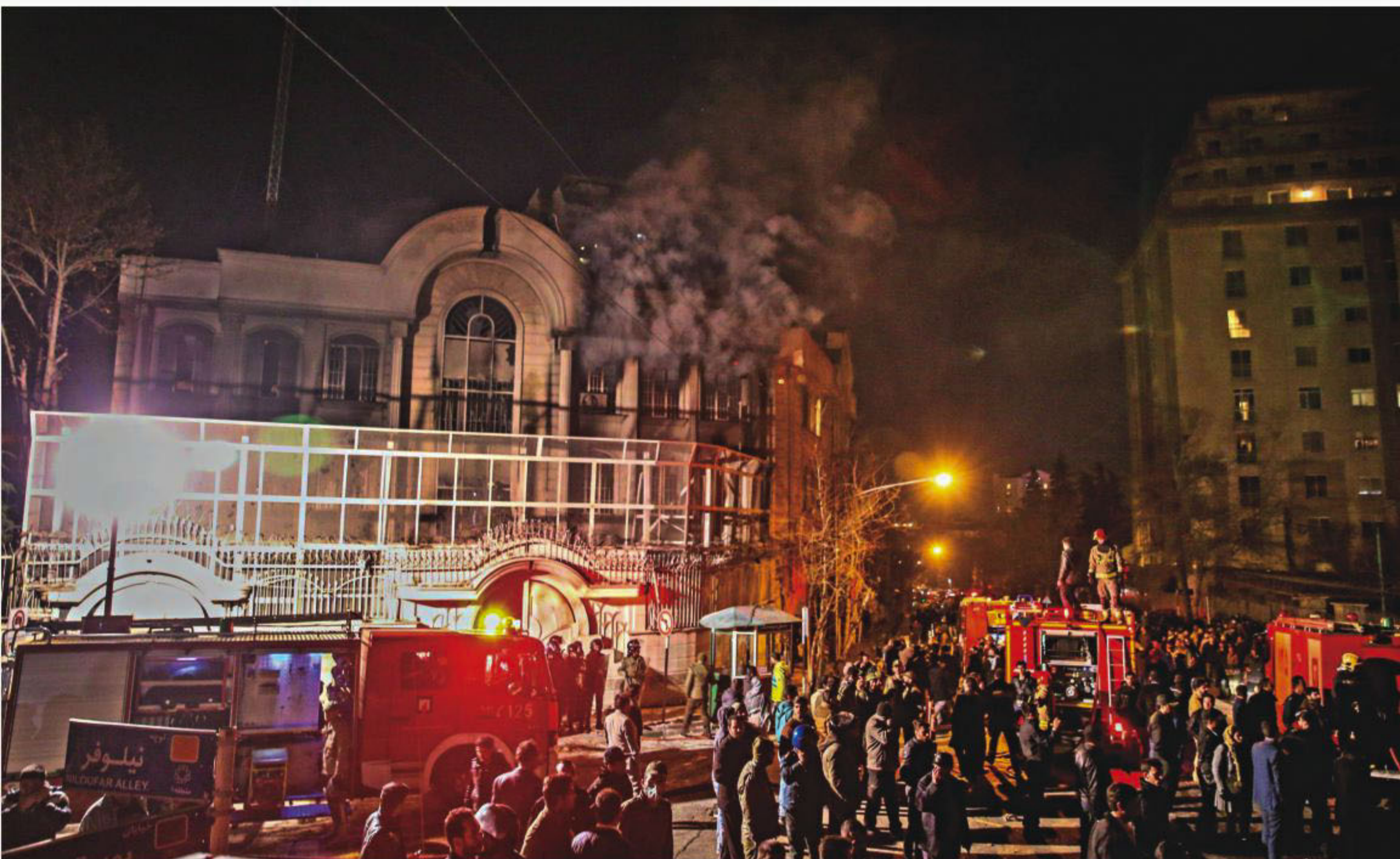
**Businessman shot, Tk 28 lakh looted**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Muggers snatched away Tk 28 lakh from a businessman after shooting him in his neck in Savar, on the outskirts of the capital, yesterday.

Critically injured Mithun Chakraborty, 30, of Nama Bazaar area, was admitted to local Enam

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Iranian protesters set fire to the Saudi embassy in Tehran yesterday during a demonstration against the execution of Shia Muslim cleric Nimr al-Nimr by the Saudi authorities.

PHOTO: AFP

**PROTEST IN TEHRAN OVER EXECUTION OF SHIA CLERIC**

**Saudi embassy set on fire**

AGENCIES

Iranian protesters stormed the Saudi Embassy in Tehran early yesterday and Shia Muslim Iran's top leader predicted "divine vengeance" for Saudi Arabia's execution of a prominent Shia cleric.

Demonstrators protesting against cleric Nimr al-Nimr's execution broke into the embassy building, smashed furniture and started fires before being ejected by police.

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani condemned the execution as "inhuman", but also called for prosecuting "extremist individuals" for attacking the embassy and the Saudi consulate in the northeastern city of Mashhad, state media reported.

Tehran's police chief said an unspecified number of "unruly elements" were arrested for attacking the embassy with petrol bombs and rocks. A prosecutor said 40 people were held.

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, criticising Saudi Arabia for the second straight day over Nimr's execution, said politicians in the Sunni kingdom would face divine retribution for his death, reports Reuters.

"The unjustly spilled blood of this oppressed martyr will no doubt soon show its effect and divine vengeance will befall Saudi politicians," state TV reported Khamenei as saying.

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**SIBL** Social Islami Bank Limited

**PRAYER TIMING** JANUARY 4

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5-30	12-45	4-00	5-30	7-00
JAMAAT 6-05	1-15	4-15	5-35	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority**

"Authority Bhaban"

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Necessary legal action will be executed soon against the violator of the act/rule. Your cooperation for ensuring use of ionizing radiation is highly appreciated.

With the approval of the authority  
Dr. Md. Mofazzal Haider  
Head, Radiation Control Division  
Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (BAERA)  
Telephone: 8181337, 8181155

GD-30