



CAPITAL SHORTFALL

Tk 10,000cr sought for state banks for next 2 fiscal years

PAGE B1

GOODBYE GHALI

The ex-UN chief, who led the world body through global turmoil, dies at 93

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ALBUM OF THE YEAR

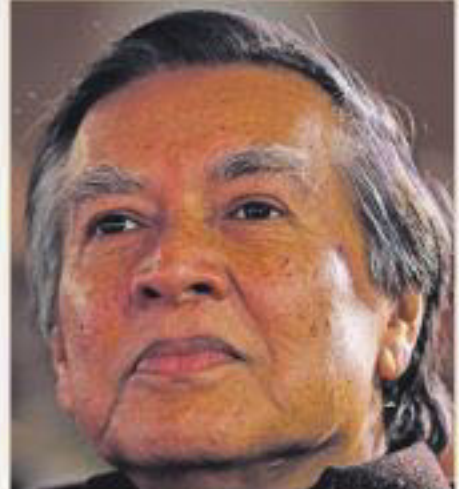
Taylor Swift bags the much coveted award at the Grammys for her '1989'

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Court orders arrest of Star editor

Order contrary to CrPC provision; 18 more cases filed

55 CASES SO FAR
Sedition **12** Defamation **43**
TOTAL DEFACTION CLAIM
Tk 71,831.5 CRORE



"I have talked to the law officers in Narayanganj. I am saying this with responsibility that it won't be an arrest warrant, it would be a summons."

LAW MINISTER ANISUL HUQ TOLD THE DAILY STAR LAST NIGHT ABOUT A NARAYANGANJ COURT'S ARREST WARRANT

STAR REPORT

A Narayanganj court ordered the arrest of Mahfuz Anam on a defamation charge in one of 18 more cases filed against The Daily Star editor and publisher in 15 districts yesterday.

The arrest warrant was issued after the joint secretary of Narayanganj district lawyers' association, who introduced himself as an Awami League activist, brought a libel charge for "reports against Sheikh Hasina" published during the 2007-2008 tenure of the last caretaker government.

In its order, the court stated that the charge primarily appeared evident while examining statement, petition and documents submitted to it.

The allegation was taken into cognisance under 500/501/502 provision of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

The Jatiya Sangsad, however, scrapped five years back the

SEE ARREST WARRANT ONLINE

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Warrant vexes journalist leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalist leaders yesterday were taken aback by the issuance of an arrest warrant against an editor in a defamation case, as the country's parliament scrapped this provision in the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) five years ago.

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Life has not been any easy for them. They earn their living by pulling rickshaws in Sylhet city almost all day, before coming to Sylhet Railway Station area to sleep at night. But for these poverty-stricken men, there is one big fear: their rickshaws might get stolen. As a deterrent, some take the chains off. The photo was taken in front of the railway station around 7:00am yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

IFJ worried at cases against Star editor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has expressed serious concerns over a barrage of cases filed against Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

"The IFJ is seriously concerned by the legal harassment of Mahfuz Anam as [a] result of reporting in the public interest at a time of political crisis," it said in a statement on its website yesterday.

"The high number of cases and the filing of these across the country indicate an aggressive politically-motivated effort to harass a senior editor and a key newspaper in Bangladesh."

The IFJ said the "attempts to pursue

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WORKER RECRUITMENT IN MALAYSIA

Private recruiters against monopoly

Baira writes to PM to intervene and ensure local agencies' involvement in hiring labour

PORIMOL PALMA

Private recruiting agencies yesterday wrote to the prime minister seeking her intervention in halting possible monopoly by a "syndicate led by a Malaysian company" in hiring Bangladeshi workers there.

They made the plea as Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur is set to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Dhaka tomorrow over recruiting 1.5 million workers -- both male and female -- in the next three years.

Bangladesh cabinet on February 8 approved the draft MoU despite a series of controversies since Malaysia last year announced that it would hire Bangladeshi workers through private sector.

"We have learned from reliable sources that in the draft agreement, Malaysian private company Synerflux Sdn. Bhd has been awarded the main job in recruiting Bangladeshi workers, including collecting job demand letters from the employers," said the letter.

Mohammed Abul Basher, president of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira), signed the letter.

"They [the company] want to control the business [recruitment] through the syndicate. Thus, the foreign company through its syndicate members would have scopes to make profits unilaterally, and deceit [workers]."

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DMP sets up counter terror unit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The much-sought-after "Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime" unit under Dhaka Metropolitan Police started functioning yesterday headed by newly appointed Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Monirul Islam.

The 600-men police unit specialising in technology has been formed to enhance police capability in combating militancy and terrorism.

The unit started its journey at a time when the country has witnessed a sharp rise in deadly attacks on bloggers, publishers, different Muslim sects, foreigners, and people of other religion.

The DMP formed the

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BID TO SNATCH GOLD

Banani SI, 2 others held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangshal police arrested a sub-inspector of Banani Police Station and his source for allegedly trying to rob a "gold trader" at Fulbaria in the city Monday night.

A Dhaka court yesterday placed the suspended sub-inspector and his source on a three-day remands each, and the trader the duo were allegedly trying to rob on a five-day remand.

SI Ashrafur Islam of Banani Police Station and his source Abdur Razzak were beaten up by a mob when they tried to snatch 900 grams of gold from one Rezaul Kabir.

Ashrafur and Razzak forced Rezaul to get down from a bus at Fulbaria around 9:00pm and tried to get him into a CNG-run auto-rickshaw.

Rezaul raised a hue and cry and locals came forward to help.

The mob caught the two and a patrol team of Bangshal Police Station detained them and the trader and took the three to the police station.

SI Helal Uddin of Bangshal told The Daily Star that when he detained them, he found a small packet tucked behind trader Rezaul's belt which had five gold bars

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'CONTROVERSIAL' BOOK Publisher, printer taken on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

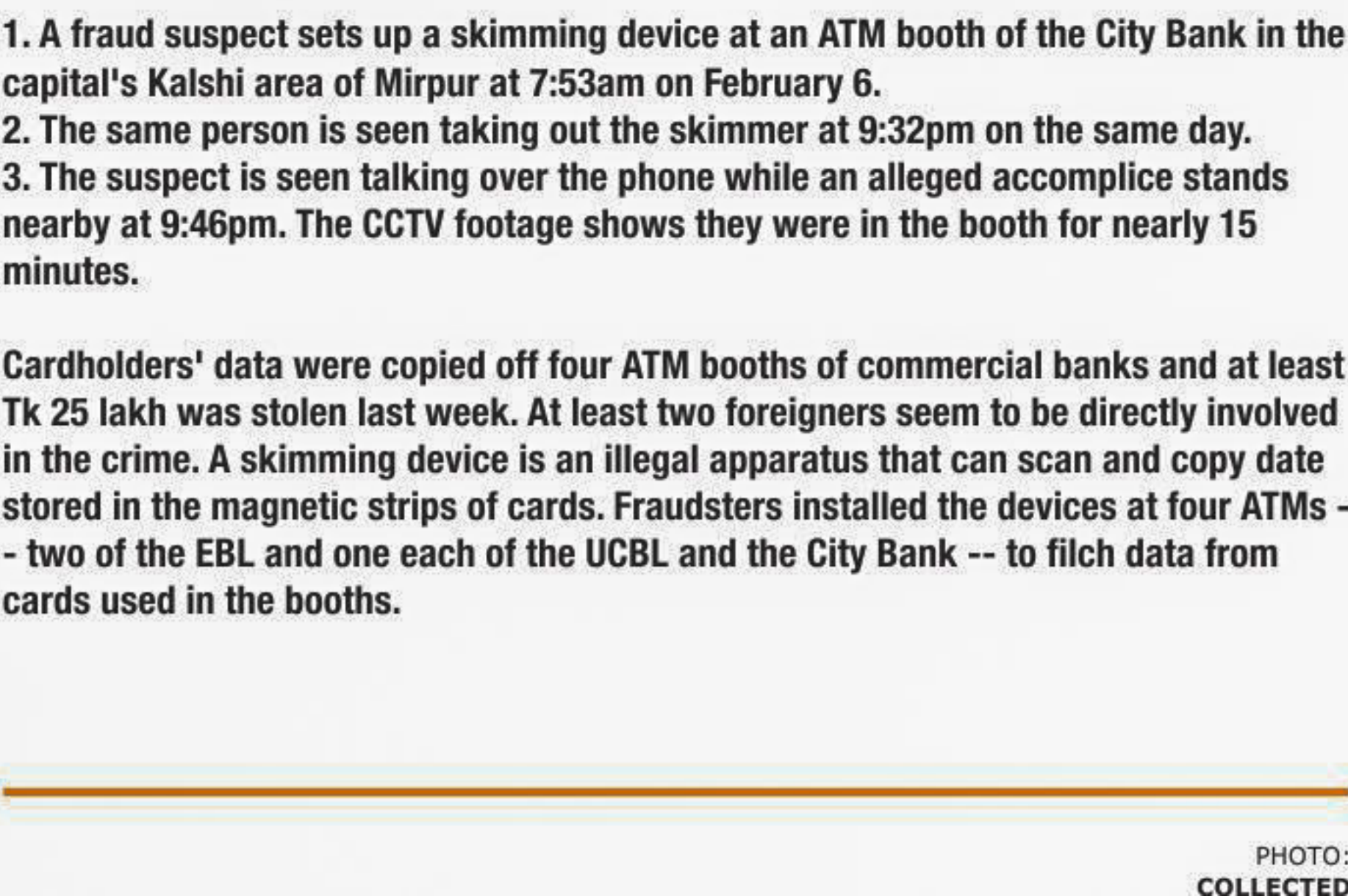
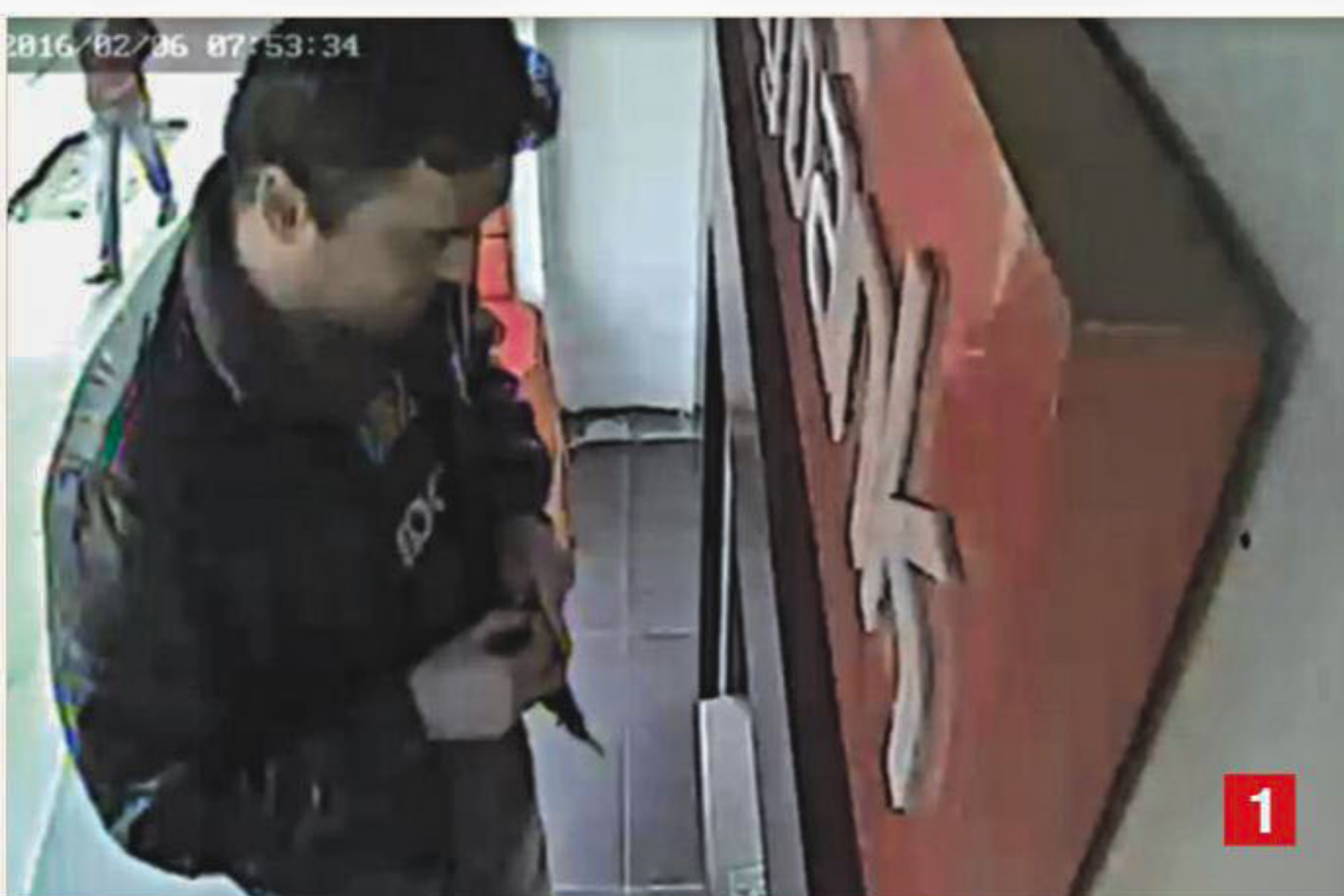
Police have arrested three people including the publisher of a book allegedly containing elements that could hurt religious sentiments.

The arrestees are Shamsujjoha Manik, publisher and editor of the book titled Islam Bitarka (debate on Islam), its distributor and Manik's brother Shamsul Alam and printer Fakir Taslimuddin Kajol.

A Dhaka court yesterday placed the trio on remand. Manik was remanded for five days, Shamsul for a day and Taslimuddin, owner of Shobdokoli Printers, for two days.

Earlier on Monday, the authorities of Amar Ekushey

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1. A fraud suspect sets up a skimming device at an ATM booth of the City Bank in the capital's Kalshi area of Mirpur at 7:53am on February 6.
2. The same person is seen taking out the skimmer at 9:32pm on the same day.
3. The suspect is seen talking over the phone while an alleged accomplice stands nearby at 9:46pm. The CCTV footage shows they were in the booth for nearly 15 minutes.

Cardholders' data were copied off four ATM booths of commercial banks and at least Tk 25 lakh was stolen last week. At least two foreigners seem to be directly involved in the crime. A skimming device is an illegal apparatus that can scan and copy data stored in the magnetic strips of cards. Fraudsters installed the devices at four ATMs -- two of the EBL and one each of the UCBL and the City Bank -- to filch data from cards used in the booths.

Probe on to find ATM frauds

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Various government agencies have started investigating the recently ATM frauds in Dhaka, in which cardholders lost about Tk 25 lakh, according to police and bankers.

The Rapid Action Battalion, the Detective Branch of police, the Bangladesh Bank, and the police stations concerned were probing the incident.

Rab has already taken CCTV footage from two of the four ATMs where the crime was committed, according to the banks' officials. One ATM was of City Bank and the other was of United Commercial Bank.

Even though the DB had taken the footage from two ATMs of Eastern Bank, Rab is yet to take a copy of it, according to an official of the bank.

"The case has already been handed over to the DB," Rafiqul Islam, assistant commissioner of police (Gulshan), told The Daily Star yesterday.

The DB has formally started the probe, according to a police officer of Gulshan zone.

Even though ATM fraud is a menace in the global stage, this kind of crime is very new in Bangladesh.

The fraudsters used skimming devices at the ATMs and cloned cards using the copied data to steal money from the cardholders.

Last week, four ATMs of three banks -- two of Eastern Bank and one each of the United Commercial Bank and the City Bank -- were hit by the criminals.

The fraudsters put skimming devices to read data from the debit cards used in the booths.

They waited to get card details after which they removed the skimming devices and the camera from the ATMs.

They then loaded the details on cloned cards to make unauthorised transactions.

The Daily Star got some pictures that depict two fraudsters installing skimming devices at an ATM of City Bank in Kalshi of Mirpur.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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