



## ATM SURVEILLANCE

Banks rush to install anti-skimming devices at their automated teller machines

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## 'DEMOCRACY OF CRISIS'

An analysis of people's natural preference for negative news and its impact on ruling system

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## VERY SUSPICIOUS!

Over \$1b transferred to Malaysian PM's accounts, reveals Wall Street Journal

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## ANTI-TERROR INITIATIVE

# Imams' role vital, but left untapped

Only five of 185 classes casually discuss militancy in 45-day annual training programme; imams with radical mindset not considered for the course

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Imams, who provide religious guidance to local communities, are worldwide considered a key element in the fight against religious extremism. But Bangladesh is not getting the most out of them mainly due to flawed policies, experts say.

Every year, the government is picking some 3,500 imams from across the country for a 45-day training programme. Ideally, this should have been a perfect platform for launching a campaign to check radicalism. But the fact is, though imams are given lessons on a wide range of topics, the issue of extremism gets little focus in the training.

Of the 185 classes, just four to five classes discuss militancy. As a result, the training fails to create any serious impact and to involve imams in the counter-militancy campaign, said some imams and officials

**"It (militancy) came up in the middle of**

**SAID AN IMAM, FAILING TO RECALL HARDLY ANYTHING ABOUT MILITANCY IN THE TRAINING COURSE**

of the Islamic Foundation, which organises the training.

Moreover, imams having radical mindsets are allegedly not considered for the programme although, experts say, such imams should be chosen on a priority basis. If these imams with wrong perceptions of Islam are not deradicalised, they will keep misguiding the youths, making the fight against fundamentalism even more difficult.

An Islamic Foundation official who trains imams, said, "In every batch, some misguided or radical imams sneak through the selection process. To them, even watching television or listening to radio is sin, and they forbid their families to watch TV or listen to radio. We can hardly change them with our limited efforts."

Shamim Mohammad Afzal, director general of the Foundation, said some radical imams might

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A bus crosses the squeaking and rattling Bhakurta Steel Bridge over the Turag yesterday even though a large sign on it forbids heavy vehicles from using the bridge. Even trucks use the bridge every day. Contacted, authorities concerned could not say anything about the condition of the bridge or who put the sign there. About 30,000 residents of 27 villages in Bhakurta union of Savar use the bridge.

## Tigers take on Pakistan with eye on final

SAKEB SUBHAN

When Bangladesh and Pakistan lock horns in their Asia Cup T20 tie at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today, both will be looking to take a step further towards the March 6 final. A win for Bangladesh will cement their spot final, while a loss for Pakistan will mean elimination.

Bangladesh have won against Sri Lanka and the UAE but lost to India, who raced into the final with a X-wicket win over Sri Lanka last night. Meanwhile Pakistan have beaten the UAE and lost to India. The Tigers will be weakened in the bowling department by the absence of an injured

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### SCORES IN BRIEF

**SRI LANKA:** 138 for 9 in 20 overs (Kapugedera 30, Siriwardana 22; Pandya 2-26)  
**INDIA:** 142 for 5 in 19.2 overs (Raina 25, Kohli 56 not out, Yuvraj 35; Kulasekara 2-21)  
**Result:** India won by 5 wickets.

## Two Banasree siblings might've been killed

Say doctors after autopsies on the kids

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The autopsies of the two siblings, found dead at their flat in the capital's Banasree on Monday, suggest that "they might have been murdered".

"There were bruises on different parts of their bodies," said Assistant Prof Sohel Mahmud of forensic medicine department of Dhaka Medical College (DMC).

"Scratch marks, bruises and finger marks were found in the throats of both the kids.

"Their tongues were bitten," he told journalists after the autopsies yesterday, without specifying how the children could have been killed.

A DMC morgue source, however, said these signs are found only in case of stran-



Aroni and Alvi on Alvi's last birthday.

gulation.

Some of the marks on the children's bodies were caused by a scuffle before their death, the source added.

Nusrat Aman Aroni, 14, and her six-year-old brother Alvi Aman were found unconscious at their apartment on the fourth floor of a seven-storey building around 5:00pm, according to Mohammad Amanullah, father of the victims.

They were initially believed to have died from food poisoning.

Asked about that, Sohel Mahmud said they had collected viscera samples of the

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PHOTO ON PAGE 2

BODY OF MISSING CHILD FOUND, BABY GIRL POISONED TO DEATH BY 'FATHER' -- PAGE 10

## Star editor gets bail in Rangpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rangpur court yesterday granted bail to The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam in a Tk 100-crore defamation case.

It fixed May 26 for the next hearing on the case, filed by Mottahar Hossain Moula, organising secretary of the ruling Awami League's Rangpur district unit.

The case is one of the 79 the Star editor faces since February 9, days after he made an introspective comment about a lapse in his editorial judgment in publishing without independent verification some reports based on information given by the Task Force Interrogation Cell sources during the 2007-08 caretaker government rule.

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## Arrestees name 50 card 'fraudsters'

Says top DMP official; efforts on to trace them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The German citizen and three City Bank officials arrested in connection with the recent ATM scam have disclosed to police the names of about 40-50 businesses and individuals involved in the gang.

The police started interrogating those people and identified three to four potential suspects, Additional Police Commissioner Monirul Islam told reporters at a briefing at Dhaka Metropolitan Police Media Centre yesterday.

"We will verify the [involvement of the persons] named ones by looking into their transactions with banks concerned," he said.

According to Monirul, the businesses and individuals concerned were from various fields, from hotel owners to musicians.

The four arrestees are: German citizen Thomas alias Piotr Szczepan Mazurek, and three City Bank officials Moksed Maksud, Rezaul Karim Shahin, and Refaz Ahmed Rony.

Of them, Thomas has given most of the information to police in remand, said Monirul.

On February 12, Eastern Bank detected 21 suspicious card transactions.

A fraudster with a fake EBL card used one of the ATM booths of United Commercial Bank Ltd, triggering the alarm of the UCBL's system. This

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Captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (L) and coach Chandika Hathurusingha, the architects of Bangladesh's new-found ability to challenge and overcome even the best in the world, were having a good look at the Mirpur wicket yesterday, ahead of their crucial Asia Cup T20 tie against Pakistan today.

## The Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London Officially Opens ACCA's New Offices at the Adelphi, London



From right Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London Mr. Kenneth Olisa Esq OBE FBCS FRSA, ACCA's President Datuk Alexandra Chin and ACCA's Chief Executive Helen Brand OBE

ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) has moved into its new cutting-edge London offices, at The Adelphi, 1-11 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6AU. Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, Mr. Kenneth Olisa Esq OBE FBCS FRSA, officially opened ACCA's (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) new global head office at The Adelphi on 9 February, 2016.

The Lord-Lieutenant made special mention of ACCA's commitment to ethics and professionalism, explaining how an ethical

approach is much needed in the global and interconnected business world. Mr. Olisa said: 'Accountancy is the language of business. It helps us talk to one another around the world using the same terminology, and the same standards.'

Echoing the Lord-Lieutenant's views on social mobility, Helen Brand OBE, Chief Executive of ACCA, said at the event: 'All at ACCA believe there should be no artificial barriers to anyone of ability pursuing this illustrious profession, regardless of where they

are from or what education they have had. And, since the earliest days of ACCA, we have taken this philosophy across the world.'

ACCA's President, Datuk Alexandra Chin, concluded the event by looking ahead, saying: 'This celebration marks a new chapter for ACCA.' Country Manager of ACCA Bangladesh, Mohua Rashid highly appreciated this move.

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PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED