

World's youngest

FROM PAGE 20
Andresen is the daughter of Johan Andresen, a Norwegian investor from Oslo.

Aged 11, Andresens studied at the Forres Sandle Manor boarding school in Fordingbridge for a year before continuing her education in Oslo, according to The Telegraph.

She is also a sponsored dressage rider who dedicates much of her Instagram to her horses. Her equestrian passion takes centre stage in her life and after winning three dressage championships, Andresen is now focusing on her professional riding career and shows no signs of moving towards becoming an active owner of the family company. She told Eurodressage in 2015: "This is what I want to do the rest of my life, ride!"

She is believed to be in a relationship with Joachim Tollefsen, a 24-year-old professional mixed-martial-arts fighter.

Andresen's family were involved in the tobacco industry with their brand Tiedemanns until 2005 before selling their stake to Skandinavisk Tobakkskompagni for almost \$500 million. Now, the Ferd investment company predominantly manages hedge funds.

Andresen's name has entered headlines recently because of her status as the youngest billionaire in the world. However, she lived in relative obscurity until the age of 17, when Norwegian authorities begin publishing annual tax return figures. "I actually save all the time, I have always done," Andresen told Ferd's corporate magazine in 2015.

"I save when I get my weekly allowance, and I save the cash prizes I win in competitions or if I get money as a gift for my birthday. It means I can buy myself things I really want, like a bag or a pair of shoes, without having to ask mum or dad for money."

Charming

FROM PAGE 20
plants flower every year as per the rule of nature.

Tea plants at the man-made tea gardens are not allowed to grow high. This is for the convenience of collecting leaves. But in reality, the tea plants grow a lot higher. The evergreen trees are almost two metres high and look like shrubs or small trees. The leaves may grow up to four to 15cm with slightly uneven edges. The white flowers have winding petals. They are somewhat look like *Nageshhar* (*Mesua nagassarium*).

Tea belongs to *Camellia* family (*Camellia sinensis*). *Camellia* is not common in our country as our temperature is not *Camellia*-friendly. Three varieties of tea are found across the globe.

There are tea gardens in greater Sylhet and Panchagarh district. There are a couple of small gardens in Ramgarh of Khagrachhari. One Robert Bruce discovered tea plants in the elevated Assam valley, which laid the foundation of tea industry in India. Later, the Indians pioneered making tea gardens here.

Boy 'killed'

FROM PAGE 4
canal after hitting him on his head with a stick, said the OC.

Pappu -- who used to work at the same workshop with Shaheen's father -- claimed that after he left his job the employer handed over his two months salary to Emdadul, which he was not giving to Pappu, said the OC.

Khulna doctors

FROM PAGE 3
Wednesday evening.

Gazi Mizanur Rahman, president of Khulna Clinic Owners' Association, Dr Rafiqul Islam, civil surgeon of the district, and Mehedi Newaz, secretary of the unit of BMA, were present at the human chain.

All government and private-run hospitals, clinics, diagnostic centres and private chambers of physicians were seen closed during the strike, forcing patients to go back without receiving treatment.

The doctors demanded an immediate arrest and punishment of the accused AL leader.

Earlier on Sunday, local AL leader Wahiduzzaman along with his followers allegedly assaulted Abdullah Al Mamun, a physician at Terokhada Health Complex.

BINA selected

FROM PAGE 5
varieties of 12 crops, nine chemical fertilisers and other technologies. Of them, several varieties are saline, draught and flood tolerant.

In 2013, BINA won Bangabandhu National Agricultural Award for its outstanding contribution to agriculture.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said BINA won the prestigious IDB prize due to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's sincere efforts and strategies taken for country's agricultural development.

Pakistani jailed for 13 years for Facebook post

AFP, Lahore

A Pakistani man was sentenced to 13 years in prison yesterday for allegedly posting religiously offensive material on his Facebook page, lawyers in the case said.

Rizwan Haider, 25, was convicted in an anti-terrorism court of three charges including promoting sectarian hatred, after he supposedly published a post referring to Prophet Mohammed.

"This case... was registered against Haider, who is a Shiite Muslim by faith, in January for posting objectionable material against the belief of Sunni Muslims," Adeel Chhattah, public prosecutor in the case, told AFP.

He was also fined 250,000 rupees (\$2,500), Chhattah said, adding that he denied the charges and has the right to appeal.

His lawyer dismissed the accusations.

"He only liked it and did not post it on the page," Shameem Zaidi said.

Pakistan tightened its hate crime laws as part of a campaign to combat extremism after a Taliban attack at a school in Peshawar in December 2014 killed 153 people, mostly children.

Authorities have arrested and sentenced several religious clerics, mostly from hardline Sunni sects, for hate speech in recent months.

But Haider's case is one of the few in which a Shiite Muslim has been jailed for such a crime.

A Pakistani anti-terrorism court jailed another Shiite man for 13 years in November 2015 after he also posted what it deemed sectarian hate speech on Facebook. Rights activists condemned the ruling as "extremely concerning".

Pakistan has been gripped by sectarian violence since the 1980s, with thousands killed in clashes triggered by religious tensions.

Most of the violence is committed by Sunni militants against Shiites, who make up roughly 20 percent of Pakistan's 200 million people.

'Shootout with cops'

FROM PAGE 20

"shootout" are Jahirul Islam, 25, and Rakib, 24. They stood accused in the killings of Arif Khandaker and his younger brother Khokon Khandaker.

Criminals shot the two brothers dead at Bhagdi in Narsingdi town on Wednesday evening allegedly for protesting extortion from their relatives.

Later, a case was filed against 14 people, including Jahirul and Rakib, with Narsingdi Model Police Station in connection with the killings.

The injured in the "gunfight" are Hossain, 22, Al Amin, 28, and Monirul, 38. The three have also been accused in the double murder case. They are undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Golam Mostafa, officer-in-charge of Narsingdi Sadar Police Station, said acting on a tip-off, a police team raided Nagriakandi in the district town around 4:00am yesterday to arrest the accused in the murder case.

Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, criminals opened fire on them. The police then returned fire, triggering the gunfight with the criminals.

Jahirul was declared dead after he along with four other wounded was taken to Narsingdi General Hospital, the OC said.

The four were later shifted to the DMCH where one of them, Rakib, died later.

According to police, several criminal cases have been lodged against the five.

Gulf Arab moves against Hezbollah harm Lebanon: Iran

AFP, Tehran

Iran warned yesterday that its Gulf Arab rivals were jeopardising Lebanon's stability by blacklisting the leading force behind its government, Hezbollah, as a terror group.

Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said that the Shia militant group, which is one of Iran's closest allies, was a bulwark against terrorism in the region.

"We are proud of Lebanon's Hezbollah as the vanguard of resistance against the Zionist regime and the champion of the fight against terrorism in the region," Abdollahian told Iran's official IRNA news agency.

"Those who call Hezbollah terrorists, have intentionally or unintentionally harmed the unity and security of Lebanon."

Wednesday's move against Hezbollah by the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council was the latest salvo in an intensifying battle for regional influence between Gulf heavyweight Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Riyadh has been alarmed by the international rehabilitation of Tehran since it reached a deal with major powers last year ending a 13-year standoff over its controversial nuclear programme.

Saudi Arabia has also been angered by the military intervention of Hezbollah in neighbouring Syria since 2013 in support of Iran-backed President Bashar al-Assad against Sunni rebels it has invested heavily in backing.

Hezbollah fighters have been active against the Islamic State group and Al-Qaeda but they have also battled non-jihadist rebel groups supported by the Gulf states and the West.

The intensifying battle for influence between the region's main Sunni and Shia powers has sparked growing concern in Lebanon, which relies heavily on the Gulf states for tourism, investment and as a market for its exports.

In January, Riyadh led several Arab countries in cutting diplomatic ties with Tehran after demonstrators burned its embassy and a consulate in protest at its execution of a prominent Shia cleric.

Nanny who beheaded Russian girl cites revenge for Putin's Syria strikes

REUTERS, Moscow

A woman who brandished the severed head of a four-year-old girl in her care outside a Moscow metro station has said she beheaded the child to avenge Muslims killed in the Kremlin's campaign of air strikes in Syria.

In video posted online yesterday and circulated by several prominent bloggers, 38-year-old Gulchekhra Bobokulova from Muslim-majority Uzbekistan gave her first detailed explanation of an incident that state TV channels chose not to report.

"I took revenge against those who spilled blood," Bobokulova told someone asking her questions off camera. "Putin spilled blood, planes carried out bombings. Why are Muslims being killed? They also want to live."

She also said she had wanted to go to live in Syria but did not have the money to do so. It was not clear when the video was filmed, but Bobokulova wore the same clothes as when she appeared in court on Wednesday.

A Kremlin spokesman said her remarks should be regarded as those of someone who is mentally unwell.

"You need to regard anything that such a deranged woman says accordingly," Dmitry Peskov, the spokesman, told reporters.

The Kremlin launched its campaign of air strikes in Syria on Sept. 30 in support of President Bashar al-Assad, an intervention that altered the course of the conflict there.

Islamic State said it downed a Russian passenger plane above Egypt on Oct 31, killing all 224 people on board, in revenge for Russia's Syria campaign.

Bobokulova, who was working as a nanny for a Moscow family, wandered around a street holding up the girl's head and shouting Islamist slogans.

One witness told Reuters he heard her screaming about the murder of children in Syria.

A police source told the Interfax news agency on Wednesday the details of two men linked to an "international extremist group" had been found among her contacts.

However, publicly, investigators were quick to raise the possibility that Bobokulova was mentally ill and have made no mention of suspecting her of any terrorism-related offence.

Russian investigators played down her words yesterday, suggesting in a statement that she was schizophrenic and that the motive offered by people suffering from the condition often differed from the real reason they had acted.

Enquiry commission on cards

Hanif on 1/11 changeover
UNB, Kusthia

A probe commission will be formed to bring the actors of the 1/11 changeover to justice, said Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbub-ul-Alam Hanif yesterday.

The ruling party leader was replying to a question from reporters during a views-exchange meeting with party men at his PII Road home in Kusthia town.

Hanif said the actors should be tried so that no evil force could grab state power to destroy democracy. "Their collaborators should also be tried so that no one dares to repeat the same."

Asked about the BNP's allegation that the government would not let the upcoming UP polls be held in a free and fair manner even though the Election Commission wants so, he said the EC enjoys all the power to hold the election freely.

The Awami League leader also claimed that the BNP has become isolated due its anti-people stances and repeated incorrect decisions. "For this, the party has been unable to field candidates in the UP polls," he said.

Nationwide power black-out hits Syria

AFP, Damascus

War-torn Syria was hit by a nationwide power cut yesterday, state television reported, but the cause was not immediately known.

"Electricity has been cut across all provinces and teams are trying to determine the reason for this unexpected cut," the station reported, citing a source within the electricity ministry.

Damascus residents said power in the capital had been out since 1:00 pm (1100 GMT) and that mobile Internet connections from some private providers were also not working.

Syria's state mobile provider said its Internet service had been "partially cut due to part of the network unexpectedly malfunctioning".

Since Syria's conflict erupted in March 2011, various areas across the country have experienced intermittent power outages as a result of clashes or air strikes and many regularly rely on generators for power.

Syria's parliament had on Monday called in electricity minister Imad Khamis for a special hearing on the power sector.

Khamis told parliamentarians that the cost of "direct damage" to the country's power stations and the electricity network from 2011 until the end of 2015 was estimated \$3.75 billion.

In statements carried by Syria's state news agency SANA, Khamis said five out of the 13 main power stations in Syria had been "directly damaged" in the war.

Probe if AL

FROM PAGE 5

He said Nizam was supposed to be in jail until September 13, 2010, and he was not legally eligible to run in any parliamentary polls before September 2015.

The petitioner said Nizam could not have been a candidate in the parliamentary election of January 5, 2014, if he had not provided false information to the EC about serving his jail term.

After concluding yesterday's proceedings, the HC bench of Justice Md Emdadul Huq and Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah fixed April 10 for resuming the hearing on the rule, petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star.

Martin Crowe

FROM PAGE 20

1982-95, including four years as captain.

In his retirement, Crowe devised a new ultra-short form of the game called Cricket Max for his new employer Sky Television, which was pitched to British officials and helped lay the foundation for the modern Twenty20 revolution.

No change

FROM PAGE 20

anytime through Thai Visa Application Center (Thai VFS)."

On why issuing visa was taking much longer than before, Padermprach said, "Visa process is case specific meaning that each case is different, therefore, any delay (if any) depends on applicant's background, document submitted, and other factors."

Panic in GOP as 'phony'

FROM PAGE 20

to civil liberty in the United States," it says.

The signatories include Robert Zoellick, a former World Bank president and deputy secretary of state; former US Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff; and Dov Zakheim, a top Pentagon official under President George W Bush, reports Reuters.

They represent both centrist Republican foreign policy circles and neoconservatives who favor a robust US international role and wielded clout during Bush's 2000-2008 tenure.

But in interviews with AFP, several conservatives gathered at an annual convention outside Washington were torn.

"I supported Rubio but now I don't think he can win, so now I'm going to have to hold my nose and vote for Trump," Ron Fodor, mayor of the small town Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania, told AFP at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC).

People are seeing the Republican Party "potentially being torn up. They're nervous as all heck," former senator and two-time presidential candidate Rick Santorum told the crowd.

Before taking the stage, he warned against launching all-out war against Trump.

"My experience with the anti-efforts is that they aren't particularly effective."

But the anti-Trump coalition is not the issue, argued Senator Ben Sasse, who has vocally led the charge to derail the tycoon.

"We have a frontrunner right now who has waged war against almost every core plank of the platform, so it isn't any anti-movement that's causing that problem," he said.

Trump "has the highest negatives of anyone who's ever run for president."

Resignation was setting in for some former Trump critics.

"It is too late," Republican strategist Alex Castellanos, whose earlier call to back an anti-Trump campaign fell flat, told the Washington Post Wednesday.

"There is a fantasy effort to stop

Trump, like a fantasy campaign to stop yesterday but it exists only as the denial stage of grief."

Still, the #NeverTrump movement was making a stand at CPAC. According to the New York Times, some party donors are already trying to raise funds for an anti-Trump effort.

A number of major Republican business leaders held a conference call on Tuesday afternoon to solicit funds for a "super PAC" that's been singularly focused on stopping the rise of the real-estate developer as the Republican nominee.

Several Republican leaders, including House Speaker Paul Ryan and South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham, have spoken out against Donald Trump's controversial policies and positions in recent days.

His latest controversy centres on his failure to disavow David Duke, a leader of the white supremacist Ku Klux Klan, who endorsed him. He later said he had on several occasions in the past disavowed Duke.

Ryan said on Tuesday that nominees "must reject any group or cause that is built on bigotry. This party does not prey on people's prejudices".

Senator and majority leader Mitch McConnell said: "Let me make it perfectly clear, Senate Republicans condemn David Duke and the KKK, and his racism."

Should Trump somehow be blocked from rising to become the nominee, it could be seen as a blatant disregard for Republican voters and democratic principles.

"The Republican Party gave me Trump," whispered Doris, a grandmother from Maryland who asked that her last name not be used, as she walked past Hawkins.

"What we asked for, voted for, what we paid for -- jobs, immigration, health care, balanced budget -- nothing happened," she hissed, criticizing what she said was the party's unprincipled performance in Washington.

Verging on tears, the woman accused the Republican party and President Barack Obama of colluding "to give us Trump."

"And you know what? I think he's going to make it OK."

EC asks law enforcers

FROM PAGE 20

Speaking at the meeting, an SP complained that police in some cases face pressure from AL leaders if any party man is arrested for alleged electoral irregularities.

Another SP called upon the EC to closely cooperate with the returning officers so that they don't give in to any pressure from politicians.

An official of Border Guard Bangladesh feared that incidents of arms smuggling across the border might rise ahead of the polls.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, Rakibuddin sought cooperation from the political parties, candidates and their supporters to hold the UP elections in a fair and peaceful manner.

About filing of nominations by candidates, he said the commission has a plan to introduce an online sys-

tem for it.

Earlier, the BNP repeatedly alleged that its nominees could not submit nominations in many unions as they were obstructed by AL men.

LONE CANDIDATES

At least 60 AL chairman aspirants are set to be elected uncontested in the first phase and at least 13 in the second phase of the UP polls, according to EC statistics.

On the other hand, BNP candidates could not file nominations in 70 UPs in the first phase and 61 UPs in the second phase of the elections.

For the first time in the country's history, elections to UP chairman post are going to be held on partisan lines.

Forty political parties are registered with the EC. Of them, 16 are contesting the polls in the first phase and 15 in the second phase.

Journalists allowed

FROM PAGE 20

Law Minister Anisul Huq had said the public prosecutor had no right to say that journalists were not allowed.

A Supreme Court lawyer on Wednesday served a legal notice seeking withdrawal of the public prosecutor.

During yesterday's proceedings, two benches on the last row of the courtroom were kept reserved for journalists.

Seven people, including Narayanganj city corporation panel mayor Nazrul Islam and senior lawyer Chandan Sarkar, were abducted from the Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road on April 27, 2014. Their bodies were found floating in the Shitalakkhya a few days later.

The District and Sessions Judge's Court of Narayanganj on February 8 framed charges against 35 people, including Nur Hossain and three dismissed Rab officials, in two cases filed in connection with the murders.

Of the 35 accused, 12 are still on the run.

Nazrul's father-in-law Shahidul Islam alleged that the Rab officials abducted and killed Nazrul after taking Tk 6 crore from ward councillor Nur Hossain for the contract killing.

Yesterday, 23 accused, including Nur Hossain and the three fired Rab officials -- Tareque Sayeed, Arif Hossain, and Masud Rana -- were produced before the court amid tight security, reports our Narayanganj correspondent.

After Selina Islam's testimony, defence counsels of 32 accused cross-examined her before adjourning the case proceeding until March 10, when she would be further cross-examined, said Public Prosecutor Wajed Ali Khokon.

Selina told reporters afterwards that she testified before the court on how her husband and other victims were killed after being abducted.

She said Nur Hossain was the "mastermind" of the killings and former Rab officials Tareque, Arif, and Rana carried out Nur's plan.

US hotline for Syria ceasefire lost in translation

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

A 24-hour hotline set up by the US State Department for people in Syria to report alleged violations of a ceasefire agreement, has faced serious language hurdles.

The State Department said on Wednesday that it was working to provide operators who were fluent enough in Arabic to hold proper dialogues with callers to the hotline, which was established on February 27 when the truce came into effect, and accurately log the allegations.

Syrians can also report truce breaches to the State Department through email,

text, and Google Voice. They can also issue complaints to the United Nations.

The international community is trying to monitor a nationwide-ceasefire between Syrian rebel groups and the Russian-backed Damascus government that was agreed upon last week, but opposition groups have accused the other side of breaching it with heavy attacks across the country.

"We are aware that there were some language issues and we're working to correct those, obviously, because it's important that we have Arabic speakers that are able to field incoming calls," Department Spokesman Mark Tonersaid.