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CHIRKUTT TO PERFORM IN US

The band has been invited to take part in 'South by Southwest Festival' in Austin, Texas

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LULA DETAINED

The ex-Brazilian president is brought in for grilling as part of fraud enquiry into Petrobras

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Probe finds more ATM fraud cases

Names of 4 banks came up so far; over Tk 1cr might have been stolen from ATM booths of various banks, investigators say

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Fraudsters might actually have stolen over Tk 1 crore -- four times the amount initially thought -- from ATM booths of several banks using cloned cards last month, the central bank and investigators say.

Only three banks were previously said to have been hit by the fraudulence between February 6 and 12. They are City Bank, Eastern Bank (EBL) and United Commercial Bank (UCB). But it is now understood that more banks have been affected.

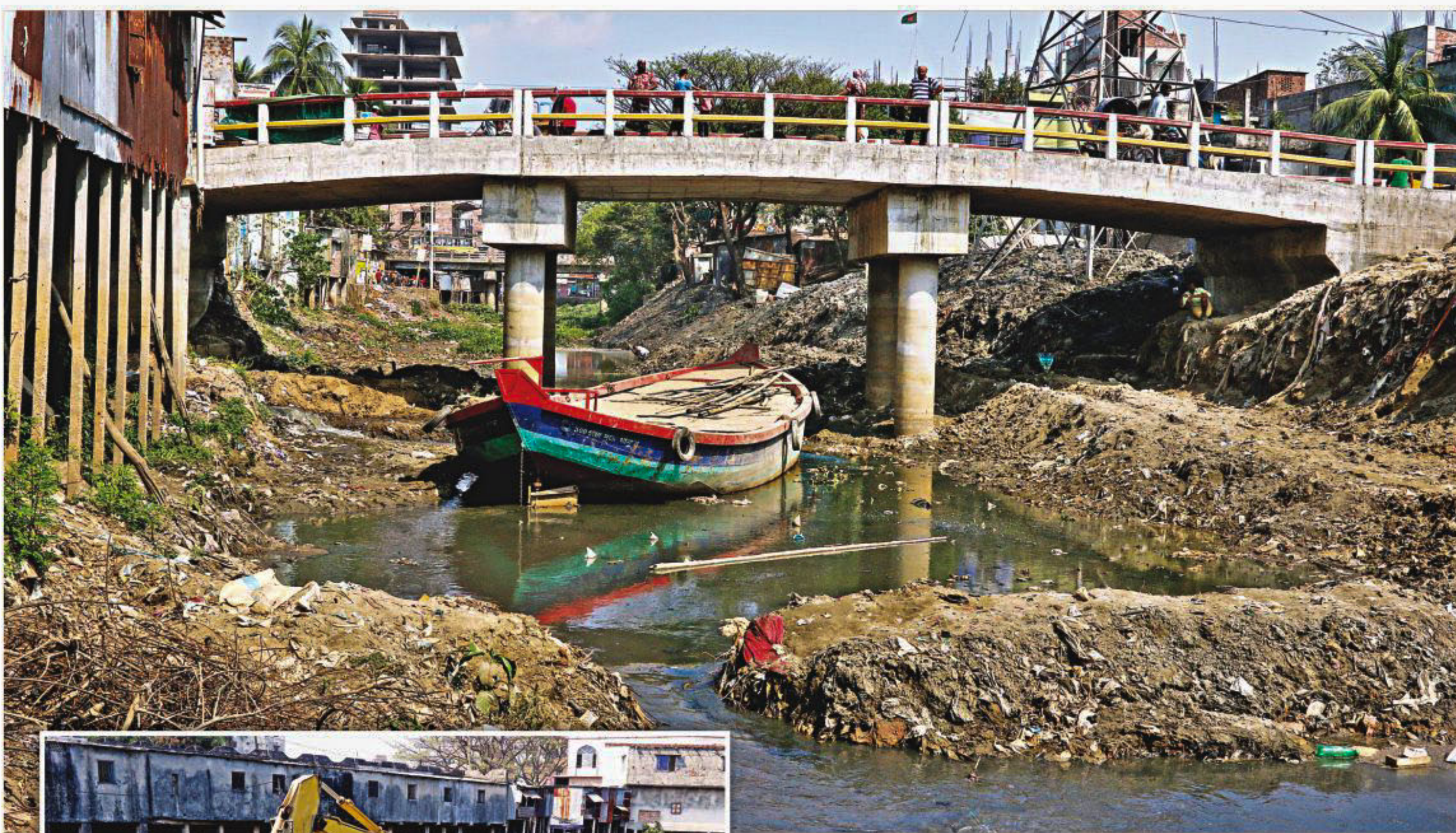
The latest addition to the list is Premier Bank, from where a gang pocketed Tk 40 lakh by cloning credit cards issued by Al Rajhi Bank of Saudi Arabia, sources said.

"There are more banks that have fallen victim to the recent card frauds," Shubhankar Saha, executive director and spokesman for Bangladesh Bank, told The Daily Star on Thursday.

He declined to give the number or names of the affected banks, citing the ongoing investigation by the central bank.

Police have so far arrested four people in this connection -- one Ukraine-born German national and three officials of

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Dredging and bank restoration of ages-old Shuvadda Khal in Keraniganj continue under a project funded by Bangladesh Climate Change Trust and the environment and forest ministry. Once an important waterway, the canal on the outskirts of the capital loses navigability in dry season due to siltation and dumping of solid waste. The work being done by the Bangladesh Water Development Board might restore its year-round usage. The photos were taken in Golam Bazar area yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BNP worried over 'plot' to spoil council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday expressed concern that the government might be plotting to foil its March 19 council.

"If the government or anyone else tries to create obstacles to our council, we will resist them. The party activists are ready to face any obstacles," BNP standing committee member ASM Hannan Shah told reporters after visiting the council venue -- the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB).

The party will use the latest technology to ensure security at the venue, he said adding that mobile security teams of the party will be deployed in and around the IEB.

Hannan said they will seek cooperation from the government for sending a bomb disposal unit to the venue.

Expressing fear that the government might have a plan to foil the council, another BNP standing committee member Goyeswar Chandra Roy said, "When

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TOP QUOTE

"Our growth and development stories should be complimentary. We should grow together and we should work together ... India will give all sorts of support to Bangladesh"

BJP NATIONAL SECY GEN
RAM MADHAV
OVER BANGLADESH-INDIA TIES AT A SEMINAR IN DHAKA YESTERDAY

Tigers keep cards close to chest

BISHWAJIT ROY

"Ha! Tickets? I doubt whether even I'll be able to get in or not!" a leading cricketer spoke into his phone yesterday, one would assume jokingly, after being asked to provide tickets for tomorrow's Asia Cup T20 final while he was relaxing after training at the Mirpur Indoor.

Even officials of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) fear receiving phone calls so that they can avoid the heartfelt requests from their nearest and dearest and the cricketers were no exception. Tickets have become as elusive as quicksilver. Everyone was crying for it as everyone wants to be a part of tomorrow's festivities -- and maybe even history -- as Bangladesh and India vie for regional glory.

The excitement was boiling over as fans have been hoping for a momentous Sunday after the home side, under the leadership of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, romped into the final by beating Pakistan in a format where they have long been considered novices.

However, there is no scope for the Tigers to be driven by emotions; rather they need to chalk out the best plan with their available resources to put another glorious feather on their already illustrious cap by beating India, a team that is without doubt strong enough in all three departments.

The whole nation will be waiting to see what surprise their beloved Tigers spring on Sunday evening. Put aside the result, the question was there whether the Tigers' think-tank has been planning anything different for the team combina

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MURDER OF 2 KIDS Mother taken on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Mahfuza Malek Jasmine on a five-day remand in a case filed over the killing of her two kids in the capital's Banasree area on Monday.

Metropolitan Magistrate Snigdha Rani Chakraborty passed the order after police produced Mahfuza with a 10-day remand prayer, rejecting a bail petition by the defence lawyer.

Inspector (Operations) of Rampura Police Station Mustafizur Rahman, also the investigation officer of the case, in his remand prayer said the accused, in primary interrogation, admitted that she killed the kids being worried about their study. She, however, kept mum when she was asked how did she actually strangle them and why.

The primary confession of the accused is not enough to know who the beneficiaries of the murders are, read the statement. The accused needs to be intensively interrogated to find out who else were involved, it added.

Nusrat Aman Aroni, 14, and her brother Alvi Aman, 6, were found unconscious at their apartment and declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Monday.

Three days later, Rapid Action Battalion

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Good news for mango lovers

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Wouldn't it be great if you could have a mango in deep winter? Why not any time of the year? What if it was just as yellow and luscious and fragrant as one from peak season?

Well, your waiting days are almost over. In about a couple of years you could have your favourite fruit even in winter, in fact, you could have it almost all year round as scientists at the Regional Horticulture Research Station in Chapainawabganj claim to have

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A mango for almost all seasons. Soft and juicy with thin skin and pit, this new variety will be available year round, say scientists at the Regional Horticulture Research Station in Chapainawabganj. Researchers there hope to release this variety for commercial cultivation in two years.

PHOTO: STAR

Two held over Gazipur ATM booth robbery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police have detained two persons in connection with robbing a fast-track ATM booth of Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd at Harinhat in Gazipur's Kaliakoir upazila.

The detainees are Naimul and Mintoo. Mintoo confessed that he was involved in the robbery, police claimed.

The two were caught in separate drives from Rakhalia of Kaliakoir and Board Bazar of Tongi early yesterday.

Abdul Motaleb Mia, officer-in-charge of Kaliakoir Police Station, said Syed Afzalul Abedin, chief operator of security company Money Plant, filed a case in connection with Thursday's robbery.

In the case statement, the company mentioned that Tk 1.83 crore was looted by the robbers, the OC said.

"We suspect security guards and two officials of

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LUXURY POOL VILLA / 3000 SFT (actual image)

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