

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE
STAR WEEKEND



DOWN BUT NOT OUT
 Tigresses lose to England by 36 runs, but qualification still a possibility
 PAGE 18

SYRIA CONFLICT
 Putin says Russia can make a comeback within hours
 PAGE 9



Plastic money not so safe

About 10m debit-credit card holders left at mercy of hackers

INAM AHMED and SAJJADUR RAHMAN

About 10 million bank clients are potentially easy victims of fraudulent charges to their debit and credit accounts because they are using the vulnerable magnetic stripe cards. Customers can lose their personal data and money because their banks have not bothered to adopt chip-embedded cards despite several warnings from the Bangladesh Bank.

Shahreen Haq was put through one such stressful event recently. She has a debit card from a reputed foreign bank and last week she got two text messages within 20 minutes notifying that her card was used to make purchases worth over Tk 62,000. She was at home at the time and had not used the card. A shocked Shahreen instantly got in touch with the bank and the police and managed to block the payment. Others were not so lucky.

Making fraudulent transactions like these are easy for criminals because most banks are still issuing magnetic stripe cards that are too easy to copy. The magnetic stripe on the back of the cards store the cardholder account information and can easily be copied with an inexpensive card reader.

According to banks, most such fraudulent charges originate at different shops where buyers have used their cards at some point of time.

One foreign bank recently received 40 reports of fraudulent charges made in one boutique shop in Gulshan. As the cards were swiped at the cash registers, customer data were secretly copied and stored to be used later to make fraudulent purchases.

City Bank alone had to reimburse its clients around Tk 3 crore for similar unauthorised charges at some POS terminals in Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara and Uttara.



SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



She was shaking with fear as tears welled up in her eyes while talking to police at Mohammadpur Geneva Camp in the capital around 2:00pm yesterday. Nafia, only six and a half years old, managed to tell cops that she was abducted, and requested them to take her home at Rayerbazar. Holding her ears, she also complained that her abductor, who she says went away leaving her at the camp, had snatched her earrings. Inset, Nafia talking to her mother from a cop's cell phone.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

'Take me to my parents'

Little girl reunited with family thanks to her ready wits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

She may have been briefly separated from her parents for her poor judgement of a child, but then it was her ready wits that soon reunited her with them.

As soon as she was abandoned by her captor, Samia Akhter Nafia, six and a half, frantically strode to a group of policemen, who just contained a clash between two groups at the capital's Mohammadpur Geneva Camp.

"Please take me to my parents," she told the cops amid all the chaos and confusion because of the clash there.

As a police officer asked what happened to her, she said, "A woman brought me here promising chocolates and dolls. But she left me here and snatched my gold earrings."

Nafia then gave the police the phone number of her mother and told them where she lived. It later transpired that her mother

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2
 GENEVA CAMP CLASH -- PAGE 3

'IT expert' Zoha goes missing

Picked up by unknown persons, alleges family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified persons allegedly picked up IT expert Tanveer Hassan Zoha from the capital's Dhaka Cantonment area early yesterday, a couple of days after the ICT Division dismissed reports of his affiliation with it.

The 32-year-old information technology expert was returning to his Kalabagan house with his friend Yamin Ahmed by a CNG-run auto-rickshaw around 1:00am, said his family members.

When the three-wheeler

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

20m pesos loaded into RCBC manager's car

Witness tells senate hearing in Philippines about money stolen from BB account

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty million pesos believed to be part of the \$81million funds stolen from Bangladesh Bank was allegedly loaded onto the vehicle of the branch manager of Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation, a witness told a Senate hearing in the Philippines yesterday.

Romualdo Agarrado, former customer service head of the RCBC branch on Jupiter Street in Makati City, made the disclosure when he testified at the closed-door Senate Blue Ribbon Committee hearing on the alleged money-laundering scheme that slipped through the Philippine financial system, reported the Philippine Daily Inquirer, which broke the news on February 29.

Maia Santos-Deguito, branch manager of the RCBC branch on Jupiter Street in Makati



Deguito

City, has been at the centre of the money-laundering scheme since the incident was revealed.

Meanwhile, Bloomberg reports that at least two other senior executives of RCBC may have been involved in the transfer of \$81 million stolen from Bangladesh's foreign reserves, according to the Philippine senator investigating the case.

Senator Teofisto Guingona made the allegation after the closed-door hearing with Maia Santos Deguito. Deguito's testimony indicated that more prominent bank officials may have participated, Guingona told reporters after the hearing yesterday.

It appears Deguito acted in error "but there are bigger persons behind this whole thing," Guingona said. "Things are slowly unfolding and there are new names coming

Filipino firm to return \$2.3 lakh to BB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Money transfer firm PhilRem Service Corporation will issue Bangladesh Bank a check of 10.47 million peso (\$2.3lakh) -- the amount it profited from transactions linked to the central bank fund heist.

"We will return 10,474,654 peso to the Bangladeshis not just as a sign of apology, but as a symbol of a Filipino company willing to find justice," PhilRem President Salud Bautista said during the Senate blue ribbon committee hearing yesterday, reported Filipino news website rappler.com.

"As soon as the Bangladesh Bank would confirm who the payee

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

BNP may amend charter to denounce extremism

At tomorrow's council, it may also propose expanding sr vice-chairman's responsibilities, forming think-tank

RASHIDUL HASAN and PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

The BNP is likely to amend its declaration and charter to clear its stance on religious extremism, amid criticisms at home and abroad for its alleged leniency towards militancy and radicalism.


It also wants to expand responsibilities of the senior vice chairman. Tarique Rahman, son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, has been holding the post since it was introduced in the party's last council in 2009.

To strengthen the organisational structure, the BNP may include a provision in its constitution to ensure that one person cannot hold more than one post at any level of the party.

These changes will be proposed for approval at the party's sixth triennial council, to be held at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital tomorrow, according to sources in the committee that finalised the draft of the amendments.

They said a number of new faces are likely to be introduced

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5



TOP QUOTE

"When you're holding a responsible position, you must speak responsibly. You must mean it, you must take the responsibility. It's not a matter of fun, it's public money."

AL LEADER
SURANJIT SENGUPTA
 REFERRING TO THE FINANCE MINISTER



After a harrowing experience in Kolkata, the Bangladesh cricket team will hope for better times in Bangalore, where they arrived yesterday to play against Australia in their second ICC World Twenty20 match on Monday.

PHOTO: BCB



Dilshan guides SL to win

AFP, Kolkata

Opener Tillakaratne Dilshan smacked an unbeaten 83 off 56 balls to steer defending champions Sri Lanka to a six-wicket win over a spirited Afghanistan in the World Twenty20 on Thursday.

Dilshan, 39, hit three sixes and eight fours as Sri Lanka overpowered Afghanistan's 153-7 with seven balls to spare in their opening group match at the Eden Gardens stadium in Kolkata.

Afghanistan, the only non-Test team left in the fray, paid the price for some sloppy fielding after an impressive effort with

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

OBITUARY



Imam Hassan Khan hailing from an aristocratic family, passed away on the 15th of March 2016 due to heart failure. He was a Senior Banker of erstwhile Bank of Credit and Commerce International. He was a loving husband, an affectionate father and one of the finest persons in the world. He is survived by his wife, his four children, five grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends. He has been buried in Banani Graveyard.