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**CPD for open hearing on BB reserve heist**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) has called for an open hearing on the Bangladesh Bank's reserve heist saying that the theft had not been discussed publicly at the state level.

"The Philippines parliament held an open hearing. Where is our standing committee on finance?" said CPD Distinguished Fellow Debapriya Bhattacharya at the Cirdap auditorium in Dhaka yesterday.

"Our parliamentary standing committee has not called for a meeting! It has not included it in the agenda and discussed," he said, while speaking at a press conference where the think-tank presented its recommendations for the upcoming budget.

Replying to queries, the economist said the reserve heist, the first reserve theft faced by any central bank in the world, prompted debate outside the country but in Bangladesh, despite it being a democracy, the matter was not discussed publicly at the highest level.

"I don't know whether the finance minister included the issue in the agenda for the cabinet meeting and informed the prime minister and other ministers."

The heist, which took place on February 4, came to light after a Filipino media outlet published a report at the end of that month.

"People got to know it from the foreign media. Most information came from the open hearing held at the Philippines Senate," Debapriya said.

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Traffic at a standstill on one side of the street near the Jatiya Press Club in the capital after members of Bangladesh Diploma Bekar (unemployed) Nurses Association and Bangladesh Basic Graduate Nurses Society blocked the busy thoroughfare around yesterday noon, demanding recruitment of nurses on the basis of their merit and seniority. The protesters left the street half an hour later on police request.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

**PLAGIARISM Brihannala loses nat'l film awards**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has cancelled three national film awards bestowed upon the movie *Brihannala* in three categories in 2014, Information Secretary Martuza Ahmed told The Daily Star yesterday.

Allegations surfaced after the awards that the film's story completely matched the short story *Cachta Bolecilo* [The tree had said] of West Bengal's noted writer Syed Mustafa Siraj. Siraj's eldest son Abhijit Siraj raised the claims last year.

*Brihannala* director Murad Parvez had made his debut film *Chandragrahan* based on Siraj's story *Rani Chater Britanto*, with due permission from the writer and giving him credit.

But he had not taken any permission before making *Brihannala*, Abhijit Siraj said. After the film won the national award, the issue of plagiarism took the social

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**JAMALPUR RAILWAY STATION Tickets sold on black market**

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN, back from Jamalpur

Banker Rehan Ahmed rushed to Jamalpur after his grandmother passed away last month. Spending some days there, he went to the local railway station to buy the next day's ticket to the capital. But all he got was disappointed.

Without any rush of passengers on a working day, he was told that all the tickets had been sold out.

Worried, he looked for the ticket on the black market there and eventually

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**KILLING IN CUSTODY 3 Mirpur cops, 2 informers face trial**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against five, including three former policemen of Pallabi Police Station, for their involvement in killing Ishtiaq Ahmed Jonny in police custody in February 2014.

The accused are Sub-inspector Jahidur Rahman Khan, two assistant sub-inspectors Md Kamruzzaman Minto and Rashedul Hassan and two police informers Sumon and Russell.

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**BCL leader dies in police custody**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A Chhatra League leader died in police custody in Munshiganj yesterday. The dead is Asif Hasan, 21, acting president of Kola Union BCL in Sirajdikhan upazila.

He was severely injured in an attack carried out by his "rivals" following a feud over the UP polls held in the area on March 22, said his family members.

Police arrested Asif instead of taking action against the attackers and he died due to their negligence, alleged Habibur Rahman, Asif's father.

Locals said there was a tension between Asif and Kola Union BCL General Secretary Yamin Hossain over the polls.

The victim was a supporter of the newly-elected chairman in the union, Liakat Mir.

Local AL leader Nasiruddin Chowdhury vied for the chairman as a party

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**Worker dies at shipbreaking yard in Ctg**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A worker died and another fell ill inhaling toxic gas while cleaning oil from a scrap ship at a shipbreaking yard in Sitakunda on Friday afternoon.

The deceased is Biplob Haldar, 27, son of Bijon Haldar of Pirojpur, and the injured is Md Jamshid, 25. They were cleaning oil from the ship's tank at Premium Trade Corporation owned by Nurun Nabi Manik at Baraowlia of Sitakunda.

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**30 wild birds, 2 monkeys rescued**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The forest department with the help of Rapid Action Battalion yesterday rescued 30 wild birds and two rhesus monkeys from a weekly bird market, which sits every Sunday, in Tongi of Gazipur.

Trader Golap Hossain was fined Tk 20,000 for keeping those illegally, said Asim Mallick, wildlife inspector of the forest department in Dhaka.

Firoz Ahmed, magistrate of Rab, fined him after taking him to the department of forest office.

The birds include 12 rose-ringed parakeets, one red-breasted parakeet, five eurasian collared doves, three emerald doves, two spotted doves and five tricoloured munias and two turtle doves. Besides, the wildlife team also rescued two rhesus monkeys caged in the market for sale.

"We have kept the birds and animals at our office. We are going to release

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Parakeets, doves, munias and rhesus monkeys kept in cages at the forest department office in the capital after they were rescued from a weekly bird market in Tongi of Gazipur yesterday. The wild birds and animals would be released into the Bhawal National Park today.

PHOTO: FOREST DePARTMENT

**Apple reclaims 1 tonne gold by recycling iPhones**

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Apple has revealed it reclaimed almost one tonne of gold by recycling its own products in 2015. At current prices, that's equivalent to around £28 million worth of gold.

The figure was revealed in Apple's recently-released Environmental Responsibility Report, which details the results of the company's eco-friendly efforts in the last financial year.

As well as the gold, Apple recovered three tonnes of silver (worth around £1.1 million at current prices), and over 1,300 tonnes of copper.

These valuable materials were reclaimed through the Apple Renew scheme, which lets

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**WEST BENGAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS High turnout in second phase**

IANIS, Kolkata

Nearly 80 percent of about 1.22 crore voters exercised their right to franchise across 56 constituencies in the second phase of elections to the West Bengal assembly yesterday, amid allegations of sporadic violence and voter intimidation.

"At 5:00pm, the overall polling percentage was 79.70 percent," an Election Commission official said.

Meanwhile, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday hit out at West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for criticising the Election Commission at an election rally in Krishnanagar, West Bengal.

"They are fighting the Election Commission. All of us should follow the rules," PM Modi said taking a dig at the Trinamool Congress chief.

"Elections will come and go Didi. But, if institutions fall it will be very difficult to rebuild them," he said.

Banerjee had taken on the election commission at a rally

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**Prayer Timing April 18**  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AzAN 4-35 12-45 4-45 6-24 7-45  
JaMAAT 5-10 1-15 5-00 6-28 8-15  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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