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Local students could make Mars rover

Imagine a rover wandering on the surface of Mars. It should not be too hard. We have plenty of films illustrating what it is like, the recent film *The Martian* pops up. But can you imagine that the rover is designed by Bangladeshi students? It's not like the country is at the forefront of space exploration but there is a chance it could happen.

Three teams of Bangladeshi students are among 30 teams that have reached the field competition level of the world's biggest rover competition -- University Rover Challenge (URC) 2016.

The rovers that are proved the best in the URC finals organised by the Mars Society at the Mars Desert Research Station in southern Utah, USA, on June 2-4 would be able to assist the astronauts going for expeditions in Mars, which may one day become a human habitat.

The Bangladeshi teams are AIUB Robotic Crew of American International University; Interplanetar of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) and IUT Mars Rover of Islamic University of Technology (IUT).

These teams would contest with 27 others -- 11 from the US, four from Canada, one from Egypt, three from India, seven from Poland and one from South Korea.

"We had to first submit a proposal, then design the rover. Later, we had to pass the critical design review stage to reach the field competition," said Sakhawat Hussain Sakib, a member of IUT Mars Rover.

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The rover designed by the members of AIUB Robotic Crew. The AIUB team and two other Bangladeshi teams have reached the field competition level of University Rover Challenge 2016. Top left, members of IUT Mars Rover team with their rover and top right, the rover built by a Buet team named Interplanetar.

Ershad appoints Raushan party's senior co-chair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a dramatic move, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad last night appointed his wife and Leader of the Opposition Raushan Ershad as the party's senior co-chairman, a post that does not exist in the party's charter.

The JP chief made the decision a day after Raushan, also a senior presidium member of the party, met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The announcement regarding Raushan's appointment was made in a press release. It means Raushan will be the party's second powerful person after Ershad.

Meanwhile, Raushan last night in a press release congratulated Ershad for making her JP senior co-chair.

In the release, she expressed hope that Ershad's latest move would make the party grassroots stronger.

On January 17, the JP boss appointed his younger brother GM Quader as the

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PM at Sangsad BB's instant steps helped avert large scale heist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank's prompt actions averted large scale hacking into its account with the New York Fed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said in parliament yesterday.

Speaking for the first time about the BB reserve heist, she said the incident would not have an impact on the economy for long because of measures taken by the government.

There is no concern about the country's monetary policy being affected either, she added.

"A portion" of the \$101 million stolen has already been realised from the Philippines.

"We hope to get back the rest of the money through legal measures," PM said in a scripted answer, adding

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Clinton, Trump pull away from rivals

Clinton wins four primaries in White House race; Trump says 'it's over' after five-state sweep

AFP, Washington

Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump were a giant step closer toward securing their parties' presidential nominations with powerful wins in a string of primary wins in the US Northeast.

Barring a dramatic turn of events, Clinton has now cleared the way to become the Democratic nominee in the November presidential election, which would make her the first woman in US history to reach that milestone.

The former secretary of state won four out of five primaries Tuesday in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland and the night's big prize, the battleground state of Pennsylvania.

She conceded only the small state of Rhode Island to rival Bernie Sanders in a near sweep that gives her an almost insurmountable delegate lead.

Clinton now has 2,168 delegates, including more than 500 "super-delegates," against Sanders's 1,401, with about 1,000 more to be distributed in the 14 remaining nominating races.

"What a great night," Clinton told a thrilled crowd of supporters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The 68-year-old former first lady telegraphed her eagerness to shift toward the general election and a showdown with Republicans.

"Let's go forward, let's win the nomination, and in July let's return as a unified party," she said.

Clinton's strong showing heaps pressure on the well-funded Sanders, a

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Three 'robbers' beaten to death in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three suspected robbers were beaten to death by locals at Uttar Kattali in Chittagong city early yesterday.

Police with the help of locals caught five other alleged robbers while they were fleeing. Law enforcers also recovered two light guns (LGs), four sharp weapons and a hockey stick from the spot.

Two of the deceased were identified as Mohammad Sagar, 30, and Mohammad Russell, 22. The identity of the other deceased could not be known immediately.

The detainees are Monir Islam, of Patuakhali, Mohammad Rubel of Bhola, Mohammad Ala Uddin and Mohammad Rana alias Ismail, of Comilla, and Mohammad Rubel of Barguna.

Of the detainees, aged between 17 and 18, four lived in Sardarghat area and Rubel in Baklia in the port city.

Some 12 to 15 robbers went to Beribandh area of Uttar Kattali to commit a robbery around 3:00am. They tried to enter the house of one Zaker Ali Sawdagar there, said Sadip Das, officer-in-charge of Akbar Shah Police Station.

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TACKLING POWER CRISIS Venezuela imposes 'two-day week'

BBC ONLINE

Venezuela's government has imposed a two-day working week for public sector workers as a temporary measure to help it overcome a serious energy crisis.

Vice-President Aristobulo Isturiz announced that civil servants should turn up for work only on Mondays and Tuesdays until the crisis was over.

Venezuela is facing a major drought, which has dramatically reduced water levels at its main hydroelectric dam. But the opposition has accused the government of mismanaging the crisis.

The measures announced on national television by Isturiz affect two million public sector workers.

"There will be no work in the public sector on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, except for fundamental and necessary tasks," he said.

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'JMB man' arrested with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police arrested a suspected member of Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) at Shajahanpur upazila early yesterday for his alleged involvement in a gun attack on a Shia mosque in Shibganj upazila that left the mosque muezzin dead last year.

The arrestee, Abdul Momin, 25, of Kamarpara village in Shajahanpur upazila, is a second-year

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PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 28

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-20 12-45 4-45 6-29 8-00
JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-00 6-34 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Shafik sent to jail after remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Journalist Shafik Rehman was sent to prison yesterday having been held in remand for 10 days in connection with an alleged plot to abduct and kill Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy.

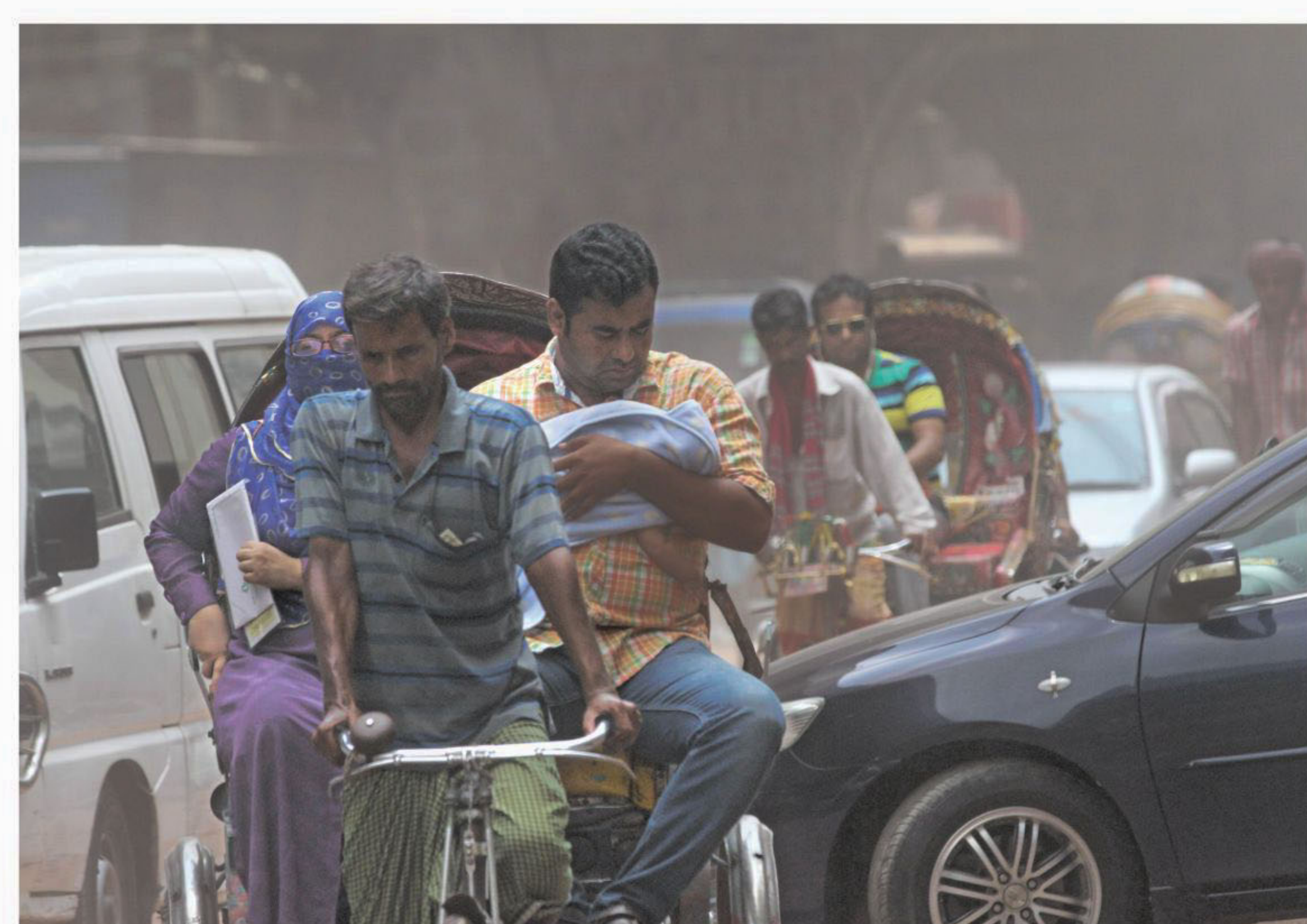
Metropolitan Magistrate SM Masud Jaman passed the order after Hasan Arafat, assistant commissioner of the Detective Branch (DB) of police and investigation officer of the case, produced him before the court.

The court also ordered the jail authorities to provide Shafik with proper treatment and division in jail according to the jail code following petitions filed by the defence.

In a forwarding report submitted yesterday, the IO said Shafik had given important information about the plot.

It will be necessary to take him in remand again if law enforcers get vital clues from Mahmudur

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Rickshaws and other vehicles make their way through dust clouds in front of Wari High School in Old Dhaka. City dwellers have to experience such hazards, as a repair work of the road is underway. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

BANGLADESH-ORIGIN COUPLE IN US Religious hatred ruled out as motive for killing

AGENCIES

Police has ruled out religious hatred as a motivation for the murder of Golam and Shamima Rabbi, a US couple of Bangladesh-origin, after they were found dead inside their California home Sunday by friends who came to check up on them.

"Based on the information we have at this time, we do not believe this incident is a hate crime or that the public is in any immediate danger as a result of the suspect's actions," a San Jose police source told local newspaper Mercury News.

Police believe the murder "was not a random act of violence and the suspect was someone familiar to the family."

Friends said the Rabbi's left Bangladesh decades ago, and since then have cultivated a nice life in the United States.

Golam was an engineer, and his wife was an accountant.

Local residents reacted with shock to the murders and said the Rabbis were "humble, polite and peaceful" people. They leave behind two sons, aged 17 and 23.

"So that's why it's so difficult to reconcile to the tragic, violent end to such simple, gentle souls," Evergreen Islamic Center member Hasan Rahim said.

A group of friends entered their home on Sunday

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