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'EXTRACTING' RESPECT

There are some new lessons we must learn now

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RETURN TO NATURE

Group art exhibition highlights works of five talented artists

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THE CIA LINK

Mandela's arrest in 1962 came as "a result of a US agent's tip-off"

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SWIFT is responsible

Head of govt probe body on \$81m BB fund heist describes how SWIFT made the payment system vulnerable to cyber attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A government committee probing the Bangladesh Bank heist has held SWIFT responsible for weakening the payment system which allowed cyber thieves to steal \$81 million from the central bank's account with the New York Fed.

"Primarily, SWIFT is responsible for the incident," Mohammed Farashuddin, the head of the three-member panel, told reporters at the BB yesterday at his first media briefing on the heist.

Since unknown hackers pulled off the history's biggest cyber heist on February 4, the Brussels-based SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) has repeatedly maintained that its core message system with the BB was not compromised.

But Farashuddin said SWIFT linked its platform to the real-time gross settlement system or RTGS by removing antivirus software on its own system which left the entire network vulnerable to cyber attacks. Secondly, SWIFT did not put in place a hardware security module, a computing device that safeguards and manages digital keys for strong authentication and provides crypto-processing.

The system's initial design included a backup, but there has been no such backup in place as of yet, according to Farashuddin.

Last week, SWIFT rejected allegations by officials in Bangladesh that technicians with the global messaging system made the BB more vulnerable to hacking.

Farashuddin said, "SWIFT said all the responsibilities lie with

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WHAT FARASHUDDIN SAID

SWIFT platform was compromised

SWIFT was connected with RTGS without due diligence

Hardware security module was not installed as agreed

BB officials were not informed about the changes introduced by SWIFT

BB officials were unskilled, negligent and careless about the issue



With thick and dark clouds over their heads, boat makers work on a vessel on the bank of Jadukata river near Binnakali Bazar in Tahirpur upazila of Sunamganj. Boat makers are passing busy days ahead of the rainy season when people's lives in such haor areas are unimaginable without this watercraft. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR



TOP QUOTE
"The delay in identifying the perpetrators of Tonu murder has raised doubts in public mind as to whether the real culprits would be brought to justice."

NHRC CHAIRMAN
PROF MIZANUR RAHMAN
IN THE CAPITAL YESTERDAY.

MASS PROMOTION IN BUREAUCRACY More burden on state coffer

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The government will have to spend more money from the public exchequer on the salaries and perks of the 222 public servants who got promotion over the last three days, but who will continue to do their same old job.

Three days into the promotion of 85 deputy secretaries to joint secretaries, the government yesterday promoted 73 deputy secretaries to the rank of joint secretary and 64 senior assistant secretaries to the rank of deputy secretary. Most of these officials were denied promotion in the last several years for various reasons.

All the officials have been attached to the public administration ministry after making them Officer on Special Duty (OSD). But most of them will remain as in-situ officers as there is no vacancy in the three upper tiers of the bureaucracy, according to sources in the cabinet division and several ministries.

This means they will draw higher salaries and enjoy more perks, but will do what they used to do before their promotion, which is already a common scenario in the top-heavy civil administration.

Taxpayers will have to count an additional Tk 30 lakh per month for the hiked salaries and other perks of the 222 officials promoted.

After the latest promotions, there are now 452 additional secretaries against some 120 posts, 870 joint secretaries against 350 posts and 1,234 deputy secretaries against 830 posts.

Even so, Public Administration Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam, in an official order, asked the ministry officials to keep scopes for promotion of those

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XULHAZ KILLING Suspect held in Kushtia

Cops say he supplied arms to killers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested a man in Kushtia who according to the law enforcers had given a firearm to the killers of USAID staff Xulhaz Mannan and his friend Tonoy.

Arrestee Shariful Islam Shihab, 37, is an operative of Ansarullah Bangla Team and he supplied the homemade gun, one of the two firearms left behind by the killers in a bag while fleeing the scene, claimed Additional Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Monirul Islam.

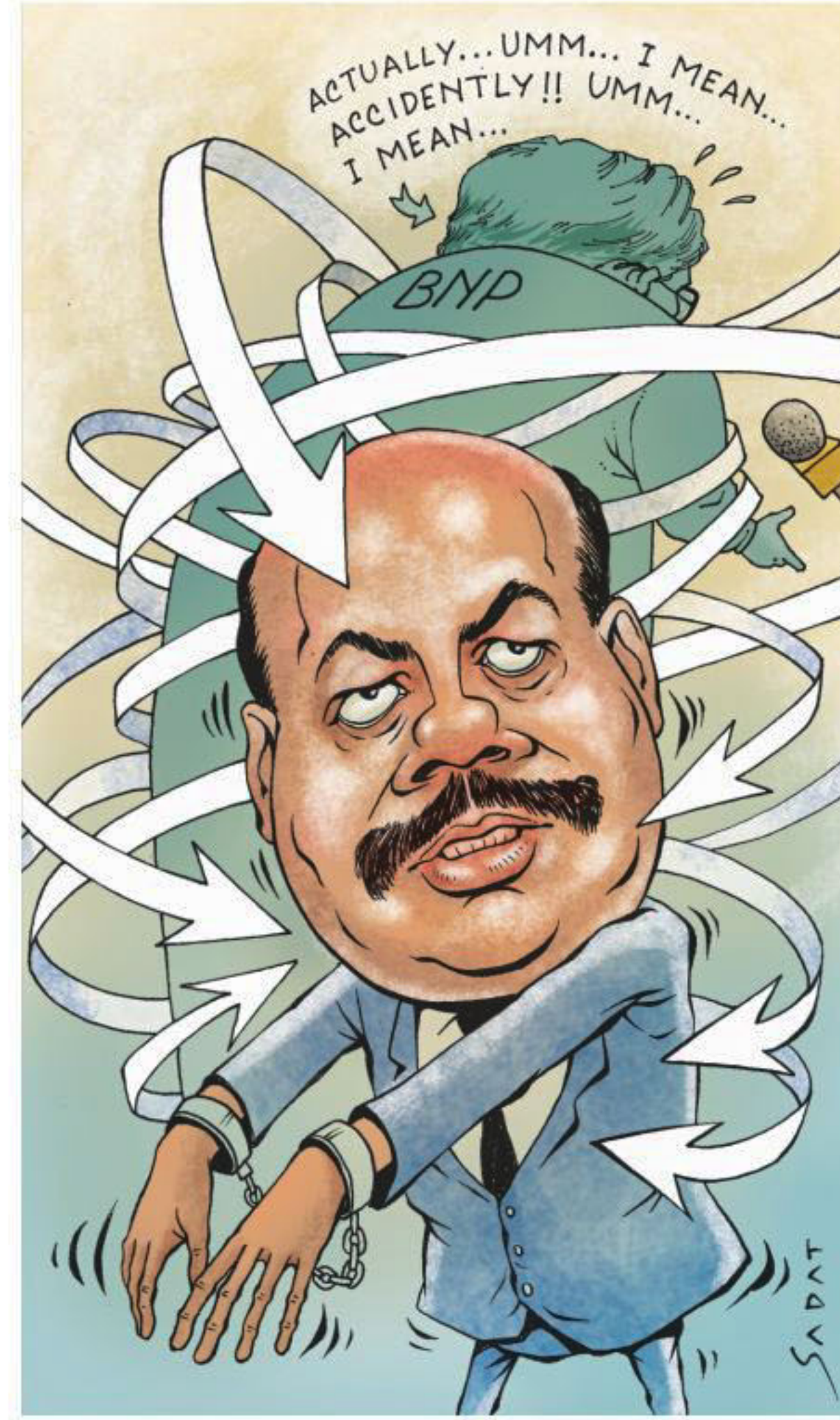
Counter Terrorism Unit of the DMP arrested Shihab at Choy Rastar Mor in Kushtia sadar Saturday night with the help of Kushtia police.

Primarily, he did not admit to being any of the five people who directly took part in the killing on April 25, said Monirul, also the chief of DMP's Counter



Shihab

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ISRAEL LINK CONTROVERSY BNP's Aslam arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader Aslam Chowdhury, who had drawn controversy after meeting an Israeli political leader in India early this month, was arrested by detectives in the capital yesterday.

Maruf Hossain Sarder, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said members of Detective Branch (Dhaka North) arrested Aslam in Khilkhet area around 6:00pm.

At the time, the BNP joint secretary general was going to Narayanganj, the official said, adding that detectives also detained his driver and one of his accomplices.

Talking to The Daily Star, Maruf said he was not aware of the reasons behind the arrest. Police sources could only say that preparations were underway for filing a case against him.

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MAJOR KILLINGS SINCE 2015

DATE	DEATH	DATE	DEATH	DATE	DEATH
ON FEBRUARY 26, 2015	Writer and blogger Avijit Roy was hacked to death on Dhaka University campus	MARCH 30, 2015	Blogger and online activist Oyasiquir Rahman Babu was hacked to death in capital's Tejgaon Industrial area	MAY 12, 2015	Blogger Ananta Bijoy Das was hacked to death at Subit Bazar in Sylhet city
SEPTEMBER 4, 2015	A 'pir', Rahamat Ullah, and his assistant, Khadem Abdul Kader, were murdered inside his shrine in Chittagong city	SEPTEMBER 28, 2015	Italian national Cesare Tavella was shot dead in the capital's Gulshan diplomatic zone	OCTOBER 3, 2015	Japanese national Hoshi Kunio was shot dead at Alutari in Kaunia upazila in Rangpur
OCTOBER 22, 2015	ASI Ibrahim Mollah was stabbed to death at a checkpoint at the capital's Gabtoli	OCTOBER 31, 2015	Faisal Arefin Dipan, publisher of writer-blogger Avijit Roy, was hacked to death at his office in the capital's Shahbagh	NOVEMBER 4, 2015	Police constable Mukul Hossain was hacked to death at a checkpoint on Dhaka-Tangail highway in Ashulia
MARCH 14, 2016	Abdur Razzak, a Shia homeopathy doctor, was hacked to death in Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah	MARCH 22, 2016	Hossain Ali, a Christian convert, was hacked to death at Garijpara in Kurigram town	APRIL 6, 2016	Secular activist Nazimuddin Samad was hacked to death on the capital's Hrishikesh Das Lane
APRIL 25, 2016	LGBT rights activist Xulhaz Mannan and his friend Mahub Tonoy were hacked to death inside Xulhaz's house at Kalabagan in Dhaka	APRIL 30, 2016	Nikhil Joardar, a Hindu tailor, hacked to death inside his shop in Dubai area under Gopalpur upazila in Tangail	MAY 6, 2016	Shahidullah, a 'pir', was brutally murdered in Tanore upazila of Rajshahi
				MAY 14, 2016	Buddhist monk U Damma Daing Cha Bhikkhu was found dead with throat slit at a temple in Bandarban

City Bank's data hack claim untrue

The recent news in media about City Bank's one million customers' data being hacked has been proven untrue.

Firstly, the so-called 'hacked data' file received by us contained only about one lac names and not one million. Secondly, out of those one lac, about 99.5% did not match with those of the bank's customer database. Thirdly, details under those names are found to be publicly available marketing data, such as father's name, mother's name, email etc., which did not contain any 'banking' information of any sort. We believe, had it been a case of 'hacking', 100% of the data would have matched with bank's data file, not just 0.5%.

All of the above leads us to conclude that the so-called 'hacked data' are nothing but a mixture of different 'marketing data' obtained from websites of various agencies.

City Bank is one of the most advanced banks in terms of technological robustness and innovation. At the moment, we are the only bank in the country that enjoys full 'PCI DSS' certification, which is the latest and the ultimate global standard in bank-card safety & security.



SEE FOLLOW-UP STORY ON MONK MURDER ON PAGE 2