

Internet

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 throughout The Netherlands," KPN said in a statement.
 "This makes The Netherlands the first country in the world to have a nationwide LoRa network for Internet of Things (IoT) application."
 In the initial phase, the network was rolled out in Rotterdam and The Hague in November. But it was stepped up across the country due to "substantial customer interest", said KPN.
 The LoRa network is complementary to KPN's networks for the 2G, 3G and 4G phones.
 KPN has already reached deals to connect some 1.5 million objects, a number which should steadily grow now that the LoRa network is available across the country.
 Tests are being carried out at the Schiphol airport in Amsterdam -- one of Europe's busiest air hubs -- for baggage handling.
 Meanwhile in the Utrecht rail station an experiment is under way to allow LoRa to monitor rail switches.
 At the port of Rotterdam depth sounders have been fitted with devices to connect them to the Internet of Things network.

Malaria piles

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 not ship seasonal fruits and other crops they produced due to higher transport cost caused by poor communication system.
 Meanwhile, the stock of hill potatoes, a good source of food, had also depleted as the locals depended more on potatoes due to the food crisis, the statement said.
 There was a food scheme in the upazila run by the World Food Programme but the organisation stopped the project in 2014.
 Traditionally, the hill people used to cut bamboos from parts of Sangu Reserve Forest, but the government has recently banned it.
 "There is sufficient concern for the children there. Prolonged food crisis is affecting their health," the statement said, adding that children are forced to work.
 The government has recently started rice distribution there, but it requires national ID card to get the supply. Many of them do not have NIDs as they live in remote areas, said Gawher.
 Brac has recently started a programme for 1,000 families in the upazila. Under the programme, each family would get Tk 2,000, which will help them buy medicines, daily essentials and food.
 "Such programmes may work for a short-term, but for a long-term solution, a long-term programme is required," said Kazi Abu Mohammad Morshed, director for advocacy and social change of Brac.
 He sought the government's intervention so that the hill people could restart jhum cultivation and find alternative means.
 Morshed also suggested issuing NIDs for Thanchi people so that they could collect the government supply without difficulties.
 Among other things suggested by Brac officials are fixing a schedule for rice distribution and announcing the date earlier, and relaxing the ban temporarily on collecting wood from Sangu forest.

Indian boy reunites

FROM PAGE 1
 Musa then communicated the matter to the authorities on this side, travelled to India and contacted the boy's parents.
 For his efforts to save the boy, Indian and Bangladeshi media dubbed Musa "Bajrangi Bhaijaan" after a Bollywood blockbuster of the same name.
 In the movie, the protagonist tries to take a mute six-year-old Pakistani girl back to her homeland to reunite her with her family. Bajrangi (Salman Khan) eventually completes his mission with the help of a Pakistani journalist, though after many ordeals.
 Upon learning about Musa's efforts, Indian Minister for External Affairs Sushma Swaraj intervened to ensure the repatriation of Sonu.
 Swaraj tweeted on Tuesday that the boy's DNA matched that of his mother.
 Sonu was abducted in 2010 by a woman who rented a room at his parents' house. After he went missing, an FIR was registered with the local police.
 But police could not help much since his family failed to provide details of the tenant.
 On May 18 this year, Mehbub got a call from Musa. "I couldn't believe when I heard Musa say 'I have found your son'. He will forever be an angel to me," Mehbub said.
 According to Sonu's aunt Puja,

Mehbub and Madhuri have been living in E Block of New Seemapuri, a sprawling lower-class colony, for over a decade. Mehbub, a motor mechanic, often supplemented his income by renting out one of the two rooms in his house.
 "The woman, who kidnapped Sonu, had, however, approached Mehbub posing as a widow and had been given the room for free," she added.
 One morning in August 2010, Madhuri could not find her son. The tenant was missing too.
 The police could not trace him or his abductor as no documents had been exchanged between Mehbub and the woman at the time he rented out the room, said a family member.
 Ironically, Sonu's alleged kidnappers -- Rahima Begum and Aklima Begum of Geramardan village under Betagi upazila in Barguna -- filed five cases against Musa accusing him of abducting the boy, whom they claimed was their relative.
 Asked about the future of the cases since the DNA test proved that Sonu is a son Mehbub and Madhuri, Barguna Superintendent of Police Bijoy Bashak said the matter was under trial and so he would not comment.
 Replying to a query, he said police were not going to take any action against Sonu's alleged captors.

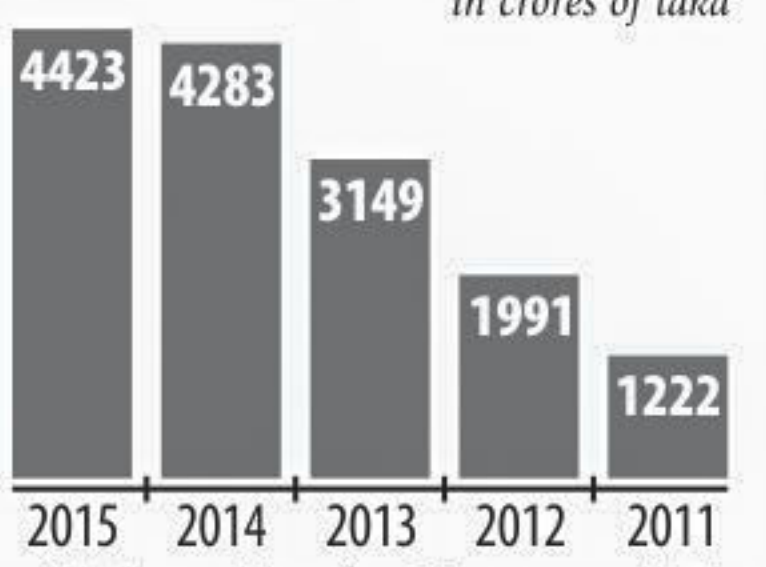
US puts AQIS on terror list

STAR REPORT
 The United States added Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, a regional branch of the global extremist network, to its terror blacklist yesterday, reports AFP.
 The State Department designated AQIS a "foreign terrorist organisation" and its leader, Indian-born Asim Umar, a "specially designated global terrorist."
 Al-Qaeda, the jihadist movement founded by the late Osama bin Laden, has long been a banned group, but yesterday's order singles out a relatively new offshoot.
 Bin Laden's successor, Egyptian Islamist ideologue Ayman al-Zawahiri, announced the formation of AQIS in September 2014 to carry the group's fight to India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.
 Since then, the group has claimed responsibility for a number of deadly and sometimes spectacular attacks, which may explain the US decision to list it separately.

'79 killed in crossfires in 6 months'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 A total of 79 people were killed either in 'cross-fires' with or while in the custody of law enforcement agencies over the first six months of 2016, rights organization Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) said yesterday.
 ASK published a report based on reports compiled from news published in the major national dailies of the country during this time.
 Out of them, 30 people were killed during cross-fire situations with police, 24 with Rab and seven during cross-fires involving the Detective Branch (DB) Police.
 One man was killed during an alleged firefight involving a joint team of police and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), six were killed during 'interrogation' by police and BGB and six during firings involving DB and police, the report said.

DEPOSITS HELD BY BANGLADESHIS AT SWISS BANKS



Deposits of Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 1
 Zahid Hussain, lead economist at the World Bank's Dhaka office, said although the deposit growth came down, the total amount was going up. "It proves that money laundering has not stopped," he told The Daily Star.
 He said many have deposits with various Swiss banks as they do not feel safe keeping their illegally earned money in the country.
 "These people [depositors] don't get much return on their deposits. They put the money there because they don't have to face questions."
 Zahid said lack of proper investment atmosphere in the country also prompts many to keep their money in such banks.
 "Legally earned money also goes out of the country through legal channels," he said, adding that deposits and savings certificates are the two major investment tools.
 Overall, the money held in Swiss banks by their foreign clients from across the world rose to 1.5 trillion Swiss franc in 2014 from 1.32 trillion franc in 2013.
 Switzerland is not the only country that has received Bangladeshi funds, as names of Canada, Malaysia and the UAE are also on the list.
 Experts blame chaotic politics and lack of security for the rise in flows of money to Swiss banks.
 The government would have to rise over partisan politics and take punitive measures for stalling illegal flow of money. The law and order, and governance must also be improved, they said.
 The funds, described by the SNB as "liabilities" of Swiss banks or "amounts due to" their clients, are the official figures disclosed by the Swiss authorities.
 These numbers, however, don't shed light on the alleged black money held by Bangladeshis.
 The SNB figures also don't include the money that Bangladeshis or others might have deposited with Swiss banks in the names of entities from various countries.
 For several decades, Switzerland has

provided wealthy families around the world a convenient and safe place to stash their money.
 The country's political neutrality, stability and tradition of bank secrecy have kept their fortunes beyond the reach of national governments and the most determined tax collectors.
 Offshore accounts are not illegal, but many people use them to hide cash from the tax authorities, say experts.
 Switzerland is now facing growing pressure from many countries to share details of foreign clients of its banks.
 Swiss banks have also come under global pressure as countries, including India, are stepping up efforts to crack down on the black money menace. A Europe-led clampdown has also been launched on tax evasion and corruption.
 Meanwhile, Zahid said data from the Global Financial Integrity (GFI), a Washington-based research organisation, gives a comprehensive picture about money laundered out of a country.
 Illegal capital flight from Bangladesh surged 33.78 percent year-on-year to \$9.66 billion in 2013 through trade misinvoicing and other channels, according to the GFI.
 The highest in a decade, the amount was more than six percent of the country's GDP and one-third of the export receipts in 2013. It is three times the size of average foreign aid Bangladesh received in recent times.
 The organisation had ranked Bangladesh 26th in the list of the countries that lost most money to illicit money outflows.

HC pulls

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 office of the Inspector General of Police (IGP), requesting security for himself and his family members. However, the office of the IGP did not respond to his request, Komol's lawyer said.
 Aside from the ruling to the government, the HC on Wednesday asked the IGP to explain as to why the inaction of his office to dispose of the application of Komol should not be declared illegal.
 In addition, the bench directed the police administration to ensure security and protection to Komol and his family members.
 Shamsul Arifin said witnesses in criminal cases become reluctant in appearing before courts in the absence of adequate security. This situation adversely affects trial proceedings of criminal cases and as a result justice seekers are deprived of justice, he noted adding that Bangladesh, with the exception of protection to witnesses in the War Crimes Trial, does not provide security or protection to witnesses in criminal cases.

Shady trade over mobile SIM

FROM PAGE 1
 Kohinur is just one of the many victims of this clandestine and unlawful practice.
 Rifat Ara Shova, a lecturer at a private university in the capital, recently came to know that at least one more Airtel SIM had been registered with duplicate copies of her fingerprints and NID card without her knowledge. She had applied for biometric registration of only one Airtel SIM.
 "Someone duplicated my fingerprints for registering an Airtel SIM. That is in addition to my personal SIM. Now, I am scared," she said.
 Against every finger impression, the retailer is supposed to register only one new SIM, say industry insiders.
 A dishonest retailer can surreptitiously register a new SIM against every fingerprint of a customer by showing that the attempt to complete biometric registration has failed.
 If Kohinur, for example, swiped her finger five times on the registration device, it means four new SIMs could be registered against her name in addition to her personal SIM.
 The 10 new connections registered with her duplicate fingerprints and NID card are active numbers: 01993256465-74.
 Contacted, Banglalink, the country's second largest mobile phone operator, confirmed that the SIMs appear registered on its system.
 This correspondent recently bought two SIMs -- one of Grameenphone and the other of Banglalink -- from a shop near Dhaka Stock Exchange building in Motijheel area for Tk 200 each and found both the numbers active.
 The Grameenphone SIM bearing the number 01743173903 had a balance of Tk 58.
 The correspondent made calls to Grameenphone's senior executives, seeking clarifications.
 According to Grameenphone, following the completion of the biometric registration process, all the SIMs that are now active had already been registered.
 Grameenphone doesn't supply pre-activated SIMs to distributors or retailers, said Syed Talat Kamal, the company's deputy director of communications.
 "If active SIMs are being sold in the market, it means retailers have somehow registered it through illegal methods. Grameenphone does not condone such activities. It takes action against errant retailers whenever identified," said Kamal.
 The Banglalink SIM bought by this correspondent bears the number 01993256466 and had a balance of Tk 26.
 Banglalink told this correspondent that it found various fraudulent activities and would cancel distributorship if retailers or distributors are found guilty.
 "The good thing is this type of malpractice [sale of pre-activated SIMs] can be easily detected now as the retailers can be identified through biometric devices [fingerprint scanners]," said Taimur Rahman, chief corporate and regulatory affairs officer at Banglalink.
 In line with a directive of the telecom regulator, Banglalink has made sure that connections are verified biometrically, he said.
 Seeking anonymity, a Banglalink official said the operator had severed business relations with 70 retailers.
 Banglalink has recently taken an initiative to inform its clients about their registered SIMs. Any Banglalink user can dial *1600# to know how many SIMs were registered against his or her NID card.
 The issue of illegally registered SIMs came to the fore after 21 people, including three staff of Airtel, were arrested on Tuesday in connection with sale of several

thousand pre-activated Airtel SIMs.
 Following the arrests, many users voiced concern about the security of their personal data and information, and made calls to cell phone operators to convey their worries.
 Under the biometric re-registration process, 11.7 crore SIMs were registered by May 31, but sector leaders said seven to eight crore SIM users are active.
 Tarana Halim, state minister for telecommunications, said she was aware of the customers' concern, and that they had already gathered necessary information to trace the illegally registered SIMs.
 She also said they were taking an initiative to send the customers via SMS the numbers of SIMs re-registered against their NID cards.
 This SMS service would start next week.
 The Telecom Division would launch a special drive next week to trace illegally registered SIMs, said Tarana.
 "Operators will be fined \$50 for each illegal SIM card."
 "Sometimes people were a bit careless while getting their SIMs re-registered, and dishonest retailers took advantage of it," she said yesterday.
 "Within a short time, we will start a process of informing mobile users about their SIMs and NID status. A customer then can easily find out how many SIMs have been registered against his or her NID card. And the user will be able to immediately deactivate the unwanted SIMs."
 The minister said she held a meeting with mobile phone operators yesterday and asked them to take immediate steps to deal with the situation.
 Earlier, several media outlets ran reports that people in Magura town could easily buy as many biometrically re-registered SIMs as they want for only Tk 200-300 each.
 On the issue, Abu Saeed Khan, senior policy fellow of Colombo-based think tank LIRNEasia, said it reflected total inefficiency of mobile phone operators.
 "Operators are fully responsible for this. It happened because of their carelessness. The government should immediately include a provision in the telecom law for handing down punishment to the culprits," said Saeed, also former general secretary of the Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh.
 He said there is no data or information protection act in the country. It means if anyone's data is stolen, he or she cannot do anything about it.
 "Both the government and the private sector are exploiting this situation," added Saeed.
ARRESTEES TO BE QUIZZED
 A Dhaka court yesterday permitted the investigators to interrogate at jail gate eight persons, including three Airtel staffs, arrested on charge of selling pre-activated and illegally registered Airtel SIM cards.
 The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Khurshid Alam passed the order after turning down the police plea for placing the arrestees on seven days remand, said court sources.
 The eight are Momin Mia, Shafiqul Islam, Wahid, Nurul Amin, Al Amin, Nayeem, Safayet and Al Amin. A case was filed against them under Bangladesh Telecommunication Act 2001 with Adabor Police Station yesterday.
 On Tuesday, law enforcers arrested 21 people, including the eight, from the capital's Adabor and Mohammapur areas.
 Of the arrestees, 13 were released as their involvement in the crime was not found initially, said Sheikh Shahinur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Adabor Police Station.

Halt campaign against vitamin

FROM PAGE 2
 This letter is part of a pro-GM campaign that was initiated by English biochemist and molecular biologist Sir Richard John Roberts, who was awarded Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1993 with Phillip Allen Sharp for the discovery of genetic sequences known as introns and the mechanism of gene-splicing.
 Since scientists infused daffodil gene, responsible for vitamin A producing beta carotene, into rice at the end of the last century, the Golden Rice has been a topic of debate throughout the world with the largest anti-GM group Greenpeace opposing its development from the forefront. Time magazine placed the Golden Rice on its cover in 2000.
 In subsequent years scientists infused a gene from maize, which also produces beta carotene, into rice and trials are underway for the commercial release of the grain

within the next couple of years. The Golden Rice was designed as a solution to vitamin A deficiency (VAD). Some 250 million people worldwide suffer from VAD, including 40 percent of children under the age of five in the developing world, according to World Health Organization statistics cited by the scientists.
 The Philippines is now conducting multi-location-confined field trials on the Golden Rice while Bangladesh has done confined field trials at one location and planning to go for multi-location trials as well, prior to conducting open field trials within a couple of years. Indonesia and India are at greenhouse-level testing stage of developing the grain.
 According to the pro-GM scientists' campaign website, www.supportprecisionagriculture.org, the letter is signed by as many as 109 Nobel laureates including 90-

year old Paul Berg, a 1980 Nobel winner in Chemistry and a pathfinder in genetic engineering.
 The signatories of the joint letter include, among others, Zhores I. Alferov (Nobel in Physics in 2000), Sidney Altman (Chemistry - 1989), Hiroshi Amano (Physics - 2014), Werner Arber (Medicine - 1978), Richard Axel (Medicine - 2004) and David Baltimore (Medicine - 1975).
 Greenpeace is critical of the Golden Rice as the organization claims the grain to be environmentally irresponsible, poses risks to human health, and could compromise food, nutrition and financial security. Greenpeace fears that if released, the grain would contaminate the non-GM rice.
 The Nobel laureates, on the other hand, ponder, "How many poor people in the world must die before we consider this a 'crime against humanity'?"

"We urge Greenpeace and its supporters to re-examine the experience of farmers and consumers worldwide with crops and foods improved through biotechnology, recognize the findings of authoritative scientific bodies and regulatory agencies, and abandon their campaign against 'GMOs' in general and Golden Rice in particular," reads their letter.
 The scientists said Greenpeace has spearheaded a negative campaign against the Golden Rice, which has the potential to reduce or eliminate much of the death and disease caused by VAD, which has the greatest impact on the poorest people in Africa and Southeast Asia. "VAD itself is the leading cause of childhood blindness globally affecting 250,000 - 500,000 children each year. Half of them die within 12 months of losing their eyesight," the letter noted.

Dhaka lower court judge suspended

FROM PAGE 20
 Filing of a departmental case against the judge was under process.
 Talking to The Daily Star, SC Registrar General Syed Aminul Islam said two probes were conducted by Dhaka's District and Sessions Judge Kuddus Zaman and Gazipur's Woman and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal Judge Syed Zahed Mansur into alleged corruption of Juel Rana. The probe reports have been placed before the GA committee, led by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha.
 The committee had asked the law ministry to launch departmental proceedings against Juel Rana and to attach him to the ministry, he

added.
 Rana recently sent a letter to the president through the district and sessions judge of Dhaka and the SC registrar general's office, alleging that the "chief justice influenced" the four-member GA committee against him.
 Three other members of the GA committee are Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husainul, Justice Zinat Ara and Justice Obaidul Hassan of the High Court, said Aminul.
 Contacted, Rana told this correspondent that the two judges submitted "false reports" against him.

Istanbul attackers

FROM PAGE 20
 Also yesterday, authorities detained 22 people in connection with the attack, according to a Turkish official.
 Thirteen people were taken into custody in Istanbul and nine in the coastal city of Izmir, the official said. Three of those detained were foreign nationals, state media reported.
 The terrorists stormed the airport Tuesday night, opening fire and detonating explosives -- two of them at the international terminal building, and the third in a parking lot, according to

officials.
 The state news agency Anadolu, citing Turkish Interior Minister Efkara Ala, reported yesterday that the death toll from the attacks had risen to 43.
 The attack echoed the dual suicide bombings at the main airport in Brussels in March. Like the attack in Brussels, the terrorists took a taxi to the airport.
 After the terror attack, police interviewed the taxi driver who drove the Istanbul terrorists to the airport and released him, Turkish state news agency Anadolu reported.



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Ref.: DACPM/164/2016/1108 Date: 30 June 2016

Notice of Request for Proposal (RFP) for Dry Lease of two 737-800 Aircraft

Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd. invites Proposal/Offer for dry lease of 02 (two) 737-800 aircraft for a period of 60 (sixty) months. Airlines, Operators, Owners of Aircraft, Manufacturers and/or Leasing Companies having aircraft of their own or legally authorized by the owner may participate in the RFP meeting the terms & conditions of the RFP schedule. Basic requirements are mentioned below:

a.	Name of the Lessor and Owner	Lessor: To be provided by the Bidder. Owner: To be provided by the Bidder.
b.	Number and Type of Aircraft	02 (two) 737-800 aircraft. Preferably sister-ships from the same Lessor.
c.	Seat Configuration	Two class configuration with 162 (12J+150Y) seats at the time of delivery. All seats shall have to be in good condition.
d.	Age of Aircraft	Must not be more than 10 years on the closing date of RFP.
e.	Nature and period of Lease	Dry Lease for a period of 60 (sixty) months.
f.	Commencement of Lease	October 2016-March 2017. Preferably October-December 2016.
g.	Representation & Authorization	If the Bidder/Lessor is not the owner of the aircraft, owner's authorization/mandate for leasing the aircraft must be submitted before/during evaluation of offer.
2.	Detailed information is available in the RFP schedule. RFP notice and schedule may be viewed at Biman's website: www.biman-airlines.com .	
3.	The Proposal/Offer may be submitted to the General Manager (Corporate Planning) at Email: dacpm164@bdbiman.com by 1000 hours LT (0400 hours UTC) on 25 July 2016. Proposal/Offer may also be submitted through Courier Service or dropped in the Box placed in the Office of the General Manager (Corporate Planning), Biman Head Office, Balaka, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229 within the stipulated time. The Proposal(s)/Offer(s) will be opened immediately after the closing time in presence of the Bidder(s), if any. No Proposal/Offer would be accepted after the closing time. Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd. will not be responsible for late receipt of Proposal/Offer due to any reason, whatsoever.	
4.	For further information or query, General Manager (Corporate Planning) may be contacted at Telephone: +880-2-8901600/Extension-2415, +880-2-8901697 (Direct), E-mail: gmp@bdbiman.com during the office hours.	
5.	Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd. reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the Proposals/Offers at any time and/or stage without assigning any reason, whatsoever, and no claim will be entertained in this regard.	

Mohd. Abdur Rahman Faruky
 General Manager Corporate Planning (Acting)

GD-1393