



PHOTO: AFP

Yemenis walk amidst the rubble of a house in Yemen's Huthi rebel-held capital Sanaa yesterday, after it was reportedly hit by a Saudi-led coalition air strike. Saudi-led coalition jets pounded Shia rebel positions in and around the Yemeni capital for the third consecutive day as a Saudi woman was killed by shelling from Yemen.

## Mixed bag

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golf course where Siddikur Rahman was making a slow comeback. Having started the day at 56th position, the 31-year-old golfer exchanged four birdies for three bogeys to move up to joint 46th position at the end of the second round. With a one-under (70) in the second round, Siddikur's aggregate score stands at three-over (145).

Siddikur was much more relieved after a good day's work. "It was a much better day compared to yesterday. But even then I struggled a bit during the morning rain," he told Bangladeshi reporters in front of the Olympic Village.

"The course is too long and tricky with a lot of hazards. It is pretty difficult like PGA Tour courses. So I guess if I can stay under-par after a round, that would be satisfying for me," Siddikur added, before going out with his caddie to watch a tennis match.

Sonia said she and the team officials were happy with her timing. She credited the training under Korean coach Park Tae Gun for the improvement.

## Bribe comments

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The LGRD and cooperatives ministry has sought explanation from the mayor over his comment within seven days.

Asked if he had any evidence in favour of his allegation, the mayor said, "I have everything... am I a man of the street?"

"I am a responsible person and belong to a responsible post... I have spoken with responsibility and will speak with responsibility," he added. "I am driven by my conscience," he said, adding, "As a political worker, I will always stand against injustice."

Nasir also responded to questions asked by journalists on the sideline of a programme in the port city yesterday where The Daily Star correspondent was also present.

He said expectations of the people of Chittagong city were very high about him. It was his moral duty and responsibility to meet their expectations, he added.

"The prime minister has entrusted the responsibility of Chittagong city people with me taking me in confidence," said Nasir, adding, "I have to return it and so I will go on with my mission."

"I have gained confidence of the city people by discharging my duty with cent percent transparency, honesty and accountability," he said.

"It is my moral duty to ensure development of the city and I will do it putting my life at stake," he added.

"The more I can do development work in Chittagong, the more the image of the government will brighten," he said, adding, "Development of Chittagong will benefit the country."

Asked about the letter issued from the LGRD ministry for an explanation of his allegations published in the newspapers, Nasir said he had just come from Dhaka yesterday morning.

"I would go to my office the next working day, read the letter and then do everything as per the official procedure," he said.

On the name of the officials concerned and the ministry against whom he brought the allegation, Nasir said he would mention all those things elaborately in his letter to the ministry.

## Ragib Ali

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members of his family crossed the border, he added.

He said before they had received the arrest warrants, Ragib might have crossed the border after getting information about his arrest warrant.

After a thorough investigation, Dilip Kumar Nath, sub-inspector of Police Bureau of Investigation in Sylhet, had submitted a charge sheet to the court, accusing the six.

## Messi will return

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he said on Friday in a statement released by his management company.

His earlier vow to quit had dismayed Argentina's demanding football fans, many of whom held street rallies and posted online messages begging him not to go.

Argentina's new coach was set to announce later whether Messi would rejoin the squad for looming World Cup qualifiers.

National coach Edgardo Bauza met with Messi in Barcelona this week hoping to convince him to rejoin the squad.

Bauza was due to announce his list of players for games against Uruguay on September 1 and Venezuela on September 6. A news conference was scheduled for the announcement at 2100 GMT Friday.

"I sense that Messi wants" to rejoin

the squad, Bauza told reporters on arriving back in Buenos Aires on Friday.

"I have no doubt that he wants to rejoin the national team... I will talk to him today and finish my list."

Bauza took over the job from Gerardo Martino and was tasked with turning things around ahead of the 2018 World Cup, amid a management crisis at the Argentine Football Association.

"There are a lot of issues that need to be resolved in Argentine football, but I prefer to help from within and not to criticize from the outside," Messi's statement said.

"I send my thanks to all of those who want me to continue playing for Argentina. I hope that we'll be able to give them something to cheer about soon."

## Another mastermind

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"We think they were brought to Dhaka to be trained to conduct suicide attacks," he said.

"Atiq is trained in making bombs while the rest are foot soldiers."

"High-level organisers of militants usually do not conduct suicide attacks," the DMP official added.

Officials of the counter-terrorism unit said several other militants, including Nannu, Sajib, Imran and Jinsi -- all organisational names -- managed to flee as the five were being arrested.

Monirul said more than four associates of the five arrestees came to Dhaka and police were trying to arrest them.

During primary interrogation, the arrestees gave some important information that will help the investigation of the cases filed in connection with the Gulshan café attack and Kalyanpur raid and police hope to glean more information after interrogating them in remand.

Later in the day, a Dhaka court placed the five arrestees on six-day remand each after police pleaded to the court to grant them 10-day remand each.

Monirul said police suspect that two alleged masterminds of the attack -- Tamim Chowdhury and sacked army Major Syed Mohamad Ziaul Haq -- are now in Dhaka.

**'MARZAN, IN-CHARGE OF GULSHAN ATTACK'**

Marzan played the role of "overall in-charge" of the Gulshan café attack on July 1 in which 20 hostages and two policemen were killed.

After the attack, important documents and devices containing evidence were found in 10 houses during block raids in the capital, Monirul said.

Analysing the data found on the devices and using techniques of investigation and experience over the last one year, police are sure that there is another mastermind of the Gulshan attack whose organisational name is Marzan.

The additional commissioner added that Marzan was contacting the attackers from somewhere in Kalyanpur area and he is still likely to be in Dhaka.

"We are sure that the five Gulshan attackers went there from an apartment in Bashundhara area. They were divided in two groups and came walking," he said.

Tamim accompanied the attackers to a certain point to give them inspiration. But from there, "another top-level organiser, a mastermind, maintained communication with them during the attack," he added.

Monirul said the attackers were sending pictures and situation reports to Marzan who later sent those to Tamim and others.

The pictures were published from IS's propaganda outlets.

"The attackers sent the pictures to an ID that he [Marzan] opened and sent those to others," the DMP official said.

The five attackers communicated with Marzan only, he said.

"We have been trying to collect information on this person but didn't get any details. We have found a picture and his

name only," Monirul said.

After talking to militants arrested at different times, it seemed to investigators that Marzan was educated and from a well-off family, he informed.

Investigators also showed Marzan's picture to the militants who were caught on different occasions and all of them identified him as Marzan.

The attackers used mobile phones of several hostages, including a Sri Lankan citizen, to communicate with Marzan.

**JMB ACTIVIST ARRESTED**  
Police in Chuadanga yesterday arrested a Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) activist who is an accused in a bomb blast case filed in Meherpur following the August 17 countrywide series bomb blasts.

The arrestee was identified as Sumon Hossain, 27, of Railbazar area in Chuadanga town, reports our Kushtia correspondent.

Tozammel Hossain, officer-in-charge of Chuadanga Sadar Police Station, said Sumon had coordinated blasts in Meherpur on August 17, 2005.

## Cut Trump

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in a possible sign that Trump is seeking help in rescuing his foundering campaign.

"They want to patch up a rift that just keeps unfolding," a source told Politico, speaking about sit-down, which is to be held in Orlando.

"They finally realize they need the RNC (Republican National Committee) for their campaign because, let's face it, there is no campaign," the source said.

## Investigators

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forensic lab to find out their authenticity," Monirul said at a briefing at the DMP media centre.

Experts will also scrutinise the body language of Hasnat, a former private university teacher, and Tahmid, a Canadian university student, seen in the photos to ascertain whether they were hostages or attackers.

They were also working to know about the source of the photographs, he added.

In the photographs, Hasnat and Tahmid are seen standing with an attacker, apparently Rohan Imtiaz, on the rooftop of the Holey Artisan Bakery. Tahmid was apparently holding a firearm.

Rohan was later killed along with the other attackers in a rescue operation by army commandos.

Hours after the newspapers published the photos on Sunday, police started to scrutinise them, said police sources.

Meanwhile, a leading investigator dealing with the Gulshan terror attack said Hasnat and Tahmid might be produced before a Dhaka court today on completion of their eight-day remand.

## 2 children

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two-room attic of a seven-storey building for around eight months, said Laila Noor, a relative.

They all were home yesterday as it was a public holiday.

Mahbubur found the two blood-stained bodies in two rooms after he returned home following evening prayers around 8:30pm.

The killing happened between 6:30pm and 8:30pm, said Sheikh Mohammad Maruf Hasan, an additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

A machete was found in one room, but police are yet to ascertain if it was used in the killing, said Maruf, who visited the house.

The mother is a suspect, he said, adding, "We're investigating it. We can't confirm if the mother took help from anyone else in the killing."

Laila Noor, aunt of the victims, said Tanzin had been mentally unstable for the last few years.

"The mother never used to take good care of the kids...," she said adding that she took Tanzin to a psychiatrist at Green Road a couple of years ago.

## India PM

FROM PAGE 2  
More than 50 civilians have been killed in clashes between protesters and security forces, and thousands more injured in the worst violence to hit the Himalayan region since 2010.

Many of the young men who came out onto the streets in the wake of Wani's death threw stones at security forces, an increasingly common form of protest in India's only Muslim-majority state.

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party, which is part of an uneasy coalition government in Jammu and Kashmir, has come under fire for failing to curb the deadly protests.

Earlier this week, Modi appealed to people in the state to abandon violence while promising jobs to thousands of unemployed youths.

The Kashmir region is divided between India and Pakistan but both claim the territory in full.

## Banker held

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post. On October 1, 2015, new manager of the branch Khan Bablur Rahman filed a case with Bagerhat police against Babu bringing allegations of forgery and misappropriation.

The case was later handed over to the ACC for investigation.

Kazi said he has found involvement of three bank officials including Mujibur and Babu and 12 clients.

Arrested at Nurnagar in Khulna city, Mujibur was later handed over to Sonadanga model police.

## Jamaat men

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anti-government agitation last year and the year before.

The cases were filed with Jaldhaka Police Station.

Police have been looking for the fugitive soon after the verdict in the arson case.

Law enforcers yesterday came to know that Kadim would say his Juma prayers at a mosque in Deshbari Bazar.

Tapon Kumar Roy, sub-inspector of Jaldhaka Police Station, said he along with three constables took position near the mosque around 1:15pm to catch Kadim.

After the prayers, Kadim had a brief conversation with some of his party activists inside the mosque, said the SI.

When Kadim was approaching his motorbike, parked outside the mosque, the policemen caught Kadim who started scuffling with them, Tapon said.

"As I asked my constables to put handcuffs on Kadim during the scuffle, then about 20-25 Jamaat men ran to us in fury," he said.

The Jamaat men then held the policemen, snatched Kadim from them and let him flee the scene, said the SI.

Police seized the motorbike and returned to the police station.

Tapon, however, admitted that the number of policemen who went to arrest the criminal was not adequate.

Kadim was the president of Bogra district unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir, the student body of Jamaat-e-Islami, around four years ago, said sources.

Golam Mostofa, officer-in-charge of Jaldhaka Police Station, said preparation was going on to file a case in this regard.

Some locals said Kadim was seen at some places in the upazila since he was convicted. He even came to visit his home, but police could not arrest him.

Despite being a fugitive, Kadim recently got appointment as a lecturer to Tengenmari College in the upazila as his brother-in-law is the principal of the college, sources said.

## Blasts rock Thailand

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coordinated attack across five provinces does not match common patterns of violence in the turbulent nation which is currently under military rule.

Analysts said Muslim insurgent groups could be responsible, but that the targeting of tourists far from their stronghold would be an unprecedented escalation in a simmering conflict largely contained to the southern border region.

Some observers said that anti-junta forces could be plotting to discredit the regime, which has staked its reputation on bringing stability to the kingdom after a decade of unrest.

"The bombs are an attempt to create chaos and confusion," Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha told reporters as he called for calm.

Britain and Australia reacted by advising their nationals to avoid public places.

**ROYAL RETREAT**

Worst-hit was the upscale resort of Hua Hin which was rocked by two sets of twin bombs in the past 24 hours -- one pair on Thursday night and the second yesterday morning.

Two people were killed and more than 20 wounded, including foreigners.

A further two blasts struck yesterday at Patong beach on the popular tourist island of Phuket while three more were reported further south -- two in the southern town of Surat Thani, killing one, and one more blast in Trang, which also left one person dead.

A Thai police spokesman said a total of 10 foreign tourists were wounded, including two Italians and one Austrian. Embassies in Bangkok said four Dutch and three Germans were also among the wounded.

"It was very shocking. There was a loud noise and police were running everywhere, it was terrible," said Michael Edwards, an Australian tourist staying in a guest house in Hua Hin close to where one of bombs detonated.

"I was just surprised that it happened here... now I'm thinking if it's worth staying," he told AFP.

Hua Hin, which lies about 200 kilometres south of Bangkok, is popular with both local and foreign travellers and was for years the favourite seaside retreat of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest reigning monarch.

The 88-year-old is currently hospitalised in Bangkok for a number of health issues, a source of anxiety for many Thais and a key factor in the kingdom's past decade of political turmoil.

The blasts erupted on the eve of Queen Sirikit's 84th birthday, which is also celebrated as Mother's Day in Thailand.

Thitinan Pongsudhirak, a political expert with Chulalongkorn University, said the attacks were a "blatant challenge to the military", which has ruled over Thailand since ultra-royalist generals seized power in a 2014 coup.

"A military government like this is supposed to be about law and order," he told AFP.

The attacks came less than a week after the junta saw its draft of a new constitution approved in a referendum, giving the generals a fresh claim to popular legitimacy.

## Stranded elephant

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name, said Tapon Kumar Dey who has been leading the team and also chief executive director of Nature Conservation Society.

Earlier on Thursday evening, at Koyra village in Sarishabari upazila of Jamalpur, the tranquilised Bangabhadur regained consciousness and was given a dose of glucose shot along with other food.

A 500-litre glucose saline was administered on her to give her a boost of energy and following that she was being fed with sugarcane and banana plants, Tapon said.

After the glucose dose the shackles on the front legs of the elephant had to be unfastened and tied to trees with thick nylon ropes so that it can stand up and make movements while it eats, he said, adding that it was also necessary as elephants naturally sleep while standing up.

Yesterday morning the untamed wild animal became agitated to see a crowd of onlookers. She tore off the ropes and took a dip in a pond nearby. She later came back to her resting place and the members of the rescue team managed to tie her ropes again.

"We are planning to engage a team of five elephant keepers (mahut) to tame the wild elephant," Tapon said.

Once tamed, the elephant will be loaded onto a truck and transported to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park in Gazipur, he added.

A joint rescue team comprising forest and veterinary officials from Bangladesh and India started the rescue operation on August 4, but they did not succeed as they could not find a suitable place to tranquillise the animal. The three-member rescue team from Assam forest department left Dhaka on August 9.

On Thursday, August 11, veterinary surgeon of the Bangladesh forest

However rights groups criticised the junta's bans on debate and campaigning in the lead up to the poll, calling it far from free or fair.

**'RECORD TOURISM'**

One region that voted down the constitution was the "deep south" -- the three southern border provinces home to a long-running Muslim insurgency against the majority-Buddhist state.

Zachary Abuza, an expert on Southeast Asian militant groups, said that while the southern insurgents had not carried out coordinated attacks for years, it was possible "a small cell" was behind this assault.

"Whoever has perpetrated these wants to do serious damage to the Thai economy. That is where the junta is the most vulnerable."

Thailand's deputy police spokesman Krissana Pattanachareon told AFP the improvised explosives were similar in style to those used in the deep south, but that it was "too early to draw conclusions".

The country's reputation as the "Land of Smiles" has suffered in recent years from political unrest, including small-scale bombings, transportation accidents and a number of high-profile crimes against foreigners.

But tourists continue to flock to its white, sandy beaches. The kingdom is expecting a record 32 million visitors in 2016 -- a bright spot in an otherwise lacklustre economy.

The latest blasts came just days before the first anniversary of the last major attack on tourists in Thailand -- an August 17 bomb that killed 20 people, mostly ethnic Chinese tourists at a crowded Hindu shrine in Bangkok.

Two Uighur men from western China have been accused of the attack and are due to go on trial this month. Both have denied any involvement.

## PM opens

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**4-LANE PADMA LINK ROAD**

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Army will construct the country's first four-lane expressway, connecting the Mayor Hanif Flyover in Dhaka with Bhanga of Faridpur, over the Padma bridge.

It would cost Tk 6,252 crore to build the 55-kilometre-long expressway while the cost of widening of one kilometre of the highway to four lanes would be around Tk 114 crore.

"Construction of the highway will be completed before the inauguration of the Padma bridge," Quader told reporters while visiting Tegharia area on the Dhaka-Mawa highway. He was visiting the place to observe the preparation of the construction work by Bangladesh Army.

There would be 5.5-metre-wide separate service lanes along both sides of the expressway for slow-moving vehicles and a five-meter-wide median for constructing metro-rail in the future. Six flyovers, four railway overpasses, 15 underpasses and three interchanges would be part of the highway project.

This would be the country's first such expressway without any traffic crossover, facilitating uninterrupted vehicular movement.

Quader said the army was awarded the construction work for its capacity of implementing the project swiftly, ensuring high quality.

rescue team Dr Syed tranquilised the elephant.

Bangabhadur got separated from her herd in Assam of India and on June 27 she entered Bangladesh through Chilmari of Kurigram, floating with currents of the Brahmaputra River.

## Death came

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cost much and I need some time to save money for that," said his father Mahbubur Rahman Alo, who runs a grocery shop in Shaheb Bazar area of Rajshahi city.

Siam once told Mahbub, "Baba [Dad], don't worry, all our sorrows would be gone once I get a job after my studies."

"Siam last called me over phone from Bichanakandi on Thursday but I could not hear him properly due to network problem. He told me that he would call me once he came under proper mobile network coverage. But he has now gone out of network for ever," said the father, sobbing uncontrollably.

"I have lost my diamond," he said.

This correspondent visited Siam's house in the city's Sheikhpura area and saw neighbours thronging there to console his family members.

Siam's mother was fainting repeatedly and was not able to say anything. His younger brother, who studies at class IX at a local school, was crying.

Siam's body was taken to Rajshahi around 3.30pm yesterday. Later, he was buried at a graveyard in Hetomkhan area.