



## 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

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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 Babur 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 Deshibai 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 at Tengonmari College in the upazila as his brother-in-law is the principal of the college, sources said.

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

## 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 Pattanacharoen 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 Hafiz 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 11.4 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-metre-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.

## 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 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.

## Mixed bag

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