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# MEDITERRANEAN REFUGEE CRISIS

## 6,000 rescued in just one day

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

At least 6,000 refugees have been rescued in 24 hours after trying to reach Europe from Libya in about 40 boats.

The Italian coastguard said a total of 6,055 migrants had been rescued from the water, and nine bodies were recovered.

The rescue operation, which was coordinated by Italian authorities Monday, was one of the largest seen in a single day.

It is thought Libyan traffickers took advantage of the first day of calm seas after several days of high waves to launch boats overloaded with people paying to reach Europe.

Most of the vessels were inflatable dinghies, along with two converted fishing boats.

One coast guard ship rescued as many as 725 migrants from a single inflatable boat.

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said the dead included a 23-year-old pregnant woman.

According to rescuers around 200 children were saved from just one boat. Most were unaccompanied by adults, and nine of them were under five years old.

The vast rescue operation, just 30 miles off the Libyan coast, saw Italian coast guard boats along with navy ships conducting rescues, as well as vessels from the EU's Frontex patrols work to bring the refugees to safety.

Several humanitarian organisations also participated.

Two people, including a pregnant woman, required emergency medical care and were taken by helicopter to a hospital on the Sicilian Island of Lampedusa.

Bel Trew, a reporter for The Times, was with one of the rescue crews and said many of the refugees were injured and several in a critical condition were air evacuated.

The mass rescue comes three years to the day after 366 people drowned off the coast of Lampedusa. The sinking of the vessel in 2013 alerted the international community to the migrant Mediterranean crisis.

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Migrants wait to be rescued as they drift in the Mediterranean Sea some 20 nautical miles north off the coast of Libya on Monday. Inset, a migrant is rescued from the sea by a member of Proactiva Open Arms NGO. Italy coordinated the rescue of around 6,000 migrants off Libya, three years to the day after 366 people died in a sinking that first alerted the world to the Mediterranean migrant crisis.

PHOTO: AFP

## 10 countries host half the world's refugees

Says Amnesty International

AFP, London

Ten countries accounting for 2.5 percent of world GDP are hosting more than half the world's refugees, Amnesty International said yesterday as it slammed what it called the selfishness of wealthy nations.

In a report on the plight faced by the world's 21 million refugees, the London-based human rights body lamented that countries immediately neighbouring crisis zones bear the brunt of the global refugee problem.

Fifty-six percent of refugees are being sheltered in 10 countries, according to the report, in which Amnesty proposed a solution whereby the world's countries find a home for 10 percent of the planet's refugees every year.

"A small number of countries have been left to do far too much just because they are neighbours to a crisis," said Amnesty secretary general Salil Shetty, presenting the report entitled

## JIHAD'S DEATH IN WELL

### Five railway men indicted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

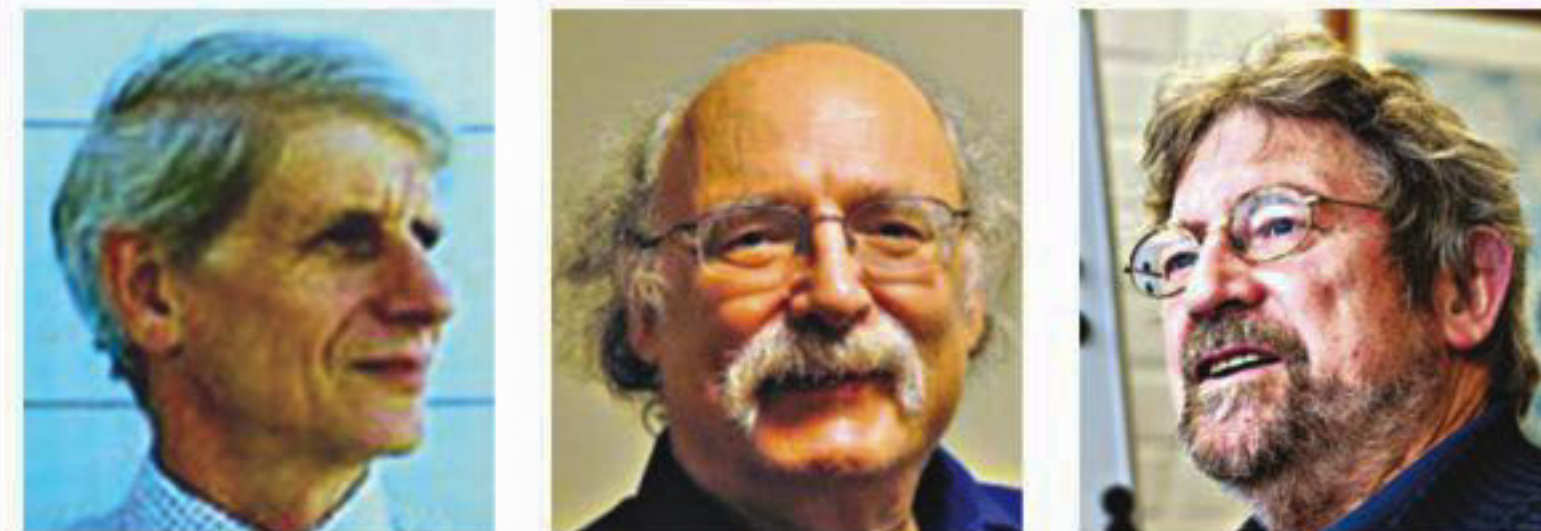
A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against six people including five engineers of Bangladesh Railway for the death of four-year-old boy Jihad, who died after falling into a deep well in Dhaka's Shahjahanpur area in 2014.

The accused are M/S SR Housing's owner Md Shafiqul Islam alias Abdus Salam, Bangladesh Railway's Senior Sub-Assistant Engineer (tube-well inspection) Md Jahangir Alam, Kamalapur Railway Station's Assistant Engineer Md Nasir Uddin, Electric Engineer Abu Ahmed Shaki, Assistant Engineer Deepak Kumar Bhoumik and Assistant Engineer-2 Md Saiful Islam.

Judge Md Akhtaruzzaman of the Special Judge's Court-5 passed the order after

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## Three Britons win Nobel in physics



David J. Thouless F. Duncan M. Haldane J. Michael Kosterlitz

AFP, Stockholm

The study of "strange states" of matter, which may one day yield superfast and small computers, earned British scientists David Thouless, Duncan Haldane and Michael Kosterlitz the Nobel Physics Prize yesterday.

The trio, all based in the US working in the highly-specialised mathematics field of "topology", studied unusual phases or states of matter.

"This year's laureates opened the door on an unknown world where matter can assume strange states," the Nobel jury said.

"Thanks to their pioneering work, the hunt is now on for new and exotic phases of matter."

The jury said there were hopes that their discoveries would have future uses in the fields of materials science and electronics, especially at the super-small quantum scale.

For now, the scientists' discoveries remain in the realm of research.

Thouless won half of the eight million Swedish kronor (around

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## Bangladeshi in US charged with helping IS

PTI, Washington

A 24-year-old Bangladeshi national in the US has been charged with providing material support to ISIS in connection with a plot to kill American service members.

Nelash Mohamed Das is currently resident of Hyattsville in Maryland. Upon conviction, he faces 20 years in prison.

"Nelash Mohamed Das is alleged to have plotted to kill a US service member on behalf of ISIS," said Assistant Attorney General John P. Carlin.

"Individuals intent on carrying out violence in the name of foreign terrorist organizations pose one of the most concerning threats that law enforcement faces today and stopping these offenders before they are able to act is our highest priority," Carlin said in a statement.

Das, who has permanent residency status, had an initial appearance at a US District Court in Maryland.

The court has ordered Das to be detained pending a detention hearing, which is scheduled for October 6.

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## Wasabi terrorism!!!

AFP, Tokyo

A Japanese sushi chain is being accused of 'wasabi terrorism' after it admitted to heaping excess dollops of the pungent root into foreign customers' food.

Osaka-based Ichibazushi issued an apology on its website Sunday, owning up to the charges but denying discrimination was at play.

It insisted that the wasabi-laced sushi was a response to many foreign-born patrons ordering extra portions of the fiery green paste used a condiment for the raw fish dish.

The chain did, however, acknowledge that some of its chefs had slipped copious amounts of wasabi -- reportedly sometimes twice as much as usual -- into unsuspecting customers' food.

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## 4 'activists' of Hizb-ut Tawhid detained

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Detectives arrested four suspected Hizb-ut Tawhid activists including two women from a rented house in Nagra area of Netrakona town early yesterday.

The arrestees are M o h a m m a d Moniruzzaman, 33, and his wife Sumaiya Akhtar, 23, from Sherpur sadar; Parul Akhtar, 30, from Nalitabari upazila in Sherpur; and Sujon Hawlader, 28, from Shariatpur district, police said.

Parul's husband AKM Abdul Hye managed to flee the scene, added police.

Abul Akanda, officer-in-charge of Netrakona detective branch (DB), said, a team led by Sub-inspector Anwar Hossain made the arrests during a raid at the house.

The DB is also looking for

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## Arrests of terrorists help to get info on their network

Visiting US envoy says

UNB, Dhaka

Emphasising the importance of learning from each other, the United States has said it favours perpetrators' arrest or detention, whenever possible, in case of terrorist attacks as it is the best way to get information about other members of terrorist network.

"Speaking on behalf of the US, whenever possible,

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Not going anywhere under the mid-day sun, commuters and vehicles bake in a huge traffic snarl-up at the city's Science Laboratory intersection yesterday. Students of the College of Home Economics occupied the nearby Nilkhet roundabout for hours. They demand turning their college into an institute of Dhaka University.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Morning commute turns nightmare

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of city dwellers suffered long delays yesterday as they had to endure gridlocks on different city streets during the morning rush hour.

There was no public event in the capital. Moreover, yesterday was the weekly holiday for shops, shopping arcades and other commercial establishments in Karwan Bazar, Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur, New Market and Nilkhet areas.

Yet, the streets in the areas had remained crammed with vehicles for hours since morning.

Restless commuters fidgeted inside cars, buses and auto-rickshaws, and the sweltering heat made things worse. School-goers of Dhanmondi residential area were the worst sufferers.

Students of Home Economics College blocked the Nilkhet intersection for nearly six hours starting from 10:30am, which caused huge traffic congestion on the Mirpur Road and the nearby areas, including Azimpur and Dhaka University. The traffic congestion spilled over to nearby streets and allies.

Police diverted vehicles at Science Laboratory intersection due to the demonstration that ended at 5:00pm.

Besides, major thoroughfares such as Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Hatirjheel and Panthapath intersection also saw gridlocks yesterday morning.

"I started from my Kalyanpur home around 11:00pm to go to Shahbagh. I thought traffic would be light. But the 30-minute journey took two hours," said Raisul Islam, a trader.

Jahedul Islam lives on Dhanmondi-28. He left home around 9:15am to go to the Board Office at Bakshibazar.

"I got on a bus from Sukrabad at 9:30am. When I reached Labaid Hospital, it was already 11:30am," he said.

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**SIBL**  
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**PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 5**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-15 5-53 7-30

JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-56 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION