



Iraqi people flee the Islamic State stronghold in the town of Bartella, east of Mosul, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## JMB's attack

FROM PAGE 16

The "Neo JMB," a faction of the outlawed JMB that follows the ideologies of terror organisation IS, was responsible for the worst-ever militant attack in Bangladesh at a Gulshan café on July 1.

A CT official asking not to be named claimed that the JMB's Rajshahi region leaders Zia, Hayder and Sahidullah were the key planners of the attack that was to be carried out during New Year's celebrations.

"We suspect the three names are organisational but hope to get more information from the five arrestees after interrogating them," added the official.

During the briefing at DMP's media centre, Monirul also said they had learned about the five arrestees from another gang arrested in the capital with money and gold ornaments they had robbed.

He said the leader of the robbers was one Reaz alias Zinia alias Rakib, who had recently visited India and met Salauddin alias Salehin, chief of the "Old JMB". Rakib started organising the group in Bangladesh with instruction from Salehin, he added.

The CT chief also said many "Old JMB" members were joining the "Neo JMB".

Referring to Shakira, who killed herself detonating her suicide vest in Ashkona, Monirul said her husband, "Old JMB" member Rashedur Rahman alias Sumon, was arrested on October 17 in the city with six other "Old JMB's" gang of robbers.q

## No doubt

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accused Maharaj of spending a huge amount of money to convince voters to vote in his favour.

The opposition BNP said the concept of district council elections contradicts the constitution and is not fit for democracy, which was why the party didn't participate.

The constitution speaks of people's direct voting in local government elections but Zila Parishad elections see voting by elected representatives, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the party, told journalists.

## Results

FROM PAGE 16

Minister Sheikh Hasina around 10:30am at the Gono Bhaban.

Later, the results will be announced at a press briefing.

Around 22.50 lakh candidates sat for the exams that began on November 1 and continued till November 17.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Mustafizur Rahman Fizar will then hand over the copies of results of PEC and its equivalent Ebteyayee examinations to the premier.

Mustafizur will later announce the results at a press briefing.

Along with the respective educational institutions, the PEC results will also be available at [www.dpe.gov.bd](http://www.dpe.gov.bd) and [dpe.teletalk.com.bd](http://dpe.teletalk.com.bd)

The PEC and Ebteyayee exams began on November 20 and ended on November 27 with the participation of over 29 lakh students.

The exams were held at 7,194 centres across the country and 11 centres abroad.

## He covered his tracks

FROM PAGE 1

Major (retd) Jahid, who was killed in an anti-militancy drive in Mirpur on September 2, and Musa used to live in the same apartment building in Uttara. They had both left their homes almost at the same time.

However, police found and recovered some information about Musa from the documents and computers police seized from the school in mid September.

The evidence allowed law enforcers to track Musa to the Ashkona den on Saturday. Musa managed to evade arrest that day during the counter terrorism unit-led operation codenamed "Ripple-24".

During the drive, a female militant suspect, Shakira, killed herself by detonating a suicide vest while 14-year-old Afif Kaderi, son of slain militant Tavar Kaderi, was killed in the shootout with police.

Before that, two female militants, Musa's wife Trisha Moni; and Maj (retd) Jahid's widow Jebunnahar Shila, surrendered to police. Musa was then texting them to commit suicide. **MUSA LIED TO ALL**

Days before going into hiding, Musa told his mother that he would go to Bahrain to work with one Bahrain expatriate Faisal.

After the death of his father Abul Kalam Azad in December last year, he went to his Buzrukkola village home to take Tk 3 lakh.

However, he told Nisha that the Life School was sending him to Saudi Arabia.

"The school has similar institution in Saudi Arabia and he would be provided with a job there. We are in a hurry as the school authority gave us the offer but we have to collect certain amount of money within a given time," Nisha quoted Musa as saying.

Mizanur Rahman, principal of the school, told The Daily Star yesterday that

they had no branches in or outside the country.

"We, eight people, have set up the school in 2014 investing our savings," he added.

Talking to The Daily Star another former colleague of Musa said Musa resigned from school in March saying he would run a coaching centre.

Musa told another former colleague that he would return to his village and do something there.

Preferring anonymity, the former colleague said once a good teacher, Musa became very absent minded and irregular in classes around two to three months prior to his resignation.

"He used to often take leaves for several days, sometimes without notice," the teacher said, adding that the school authorities warned him about this.

Another teacher said Musa sometimes discussed news on militant attacks across the world but never spoke in favour of the militants.

"We could not imagine him being involved in militancy," said another teacher.

Musa's mother Sufia wants her son to surrender.

He was preparing to sit for BCS exam but suddenly he started talking about going abroad, she said.

The family thought he had gone abroad.

"I feel ashamed. I hate him so much and sometimes I think it would be better if he dies," said Sufia.

"Yet, I want him to surrender," she told The Daily Star correspondent when he visited her home.

His sister Kamrun Nahar said, "I hate to introduce him as my brother. It is better he surrenders ... the law will decide his fate."

Kamrun Nahar had given Musa Tk 10,000 selling her ornaments so that Musa could "collect his passport".

## Mushy blow for Tigers

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today's second ODI against New Zealand at the Saxton Oval in Nelson.

His hamstring injury during the first ODI against New Zealand in Christchurch on Monday however could not come at a worse time when Bangladesh were desperately looking to secure their first-ever win against the Black Caps in their own den -- especially because it is in the shorter format of the game where they have been doing very well for the last couple of years.

At the moment it looks like he will miss the next two ODIs as well as the three T20Is provided that he requires the mandatory two weeks to recover. But if his injury status is upgraded from Grade 1 to 2 after the scan, then there is a possibility of him missing part of the two-Test series.

That will lead the Bangladesh think-tank to a completely different scenario and for the team in general to live without one of their fantastic five -- Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Mushfiqur, Mahmudullah Riyad, Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal. These five players have formed the nucleus of the team and were responsible for Bangladesh's rise in international cricket over the years. Shakib has missed an entire series in 2013 and Tamim also missed a few games. But those were on home turf.

Mushfiqur's absence in trying conditions down under is definitely a shattering blow for the Tigers.

"He has been one of our form batters and wicketkeeper across three formats. It's quite a blow but it is part and parcel of the game. We have another wicketkeeper, [Nurul Hasan] Sohan is coming into the next game," said Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusingha yesterday.

He also admitted that Mushfiqur's injury has upset the balance of the team.

"If Mushfiqur was fit we could have

thought differently with the selection of the team. Yes, Sohan is coming, who is good with the bat. I'm not saying he is as good as Mushfiqur with the bat and he has not played that much of international cricket," said the coach, adding that he was hoping for the best in the next few days.

"It's early to say at this stage. We think that it's two weeks but he is recovering well. I saw him in the pool today and you know Mushfiqur is very thorough and he will do the same thing with his injury. And he will be ready sooner than we think," said an optimistic Hathurusingha.

He can be optimistic in the context that the Tigers have overcome one barrier after another against all odds over the last two years. But this is the first time Bangladesh will be without one of their senior statesmen in foreign conditions, which is certainly cause for concern.

"Although Mushfiqur is a big part of our team, the strange thing is that we have just had a meeting and they were more confident then the way they started," the coach quipped, referring to his side's newfound ability to revel in extreme adversity.

## Mob beats 2

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Three of the gang members, however, were caught and beaten up at Agdhalla.

Being informed, a team of Mirzapur police went to the spot, recovered the injured robbers and took them to Kumudini Hospital.

Two of them died of their injuries at the hospital around 11:30am, said Mohammad Main Uddin, officer-in-charge of Mirzapur Police Station.

The condition of the other injured -- Nek Mahmud, 40, of Chawhali in Sirajganj -- was critical, he said.

## Noab worried

FROM PAGE 1

The issue was discussed at Noab's annual general meeting on December 10.

Noab also called for scrutinising and evaluating the implementation of the Eighth Wage Board Award, saying it learnt that many organisations are yet to implement the Seventh Wage Board Award.

Newspapers have many unresolved issues, including structural ones, which need to be solved through discussion.

Besides, the newspaper industry is facing a big crisis. It has to invest also in online media. In addition to that, there are problems relating to tax and VAT, the statement reads.

Noab said it always supports formation of wage board every five years through discussion. Forming an wage board for journalists now is not justifiable.

At the December 10 meeting, Noab President Matiuur Rahman mentioned its last year's activities that include holding roundtables on industrial policy, meeting with leaders of advertising agencies, daylong workshop on VAT training, and two meetings with Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu.

Matiur also talked about registration of online news portals.

The meeting was attended also by Noab Vice President AK Azad, executive members Tasmima Hossain, Reazuddin Ahmed, Mahfuz Anam, AHM Moazzem Hossain and Mozammel Huq, and general members ASM Shahidullah Khan Badal, Tarik Sujat, AMM Bahauddin, Altamash Kabir, Naem Nizam, Kazi Anis Ahmed, Dewan Hanif Mahmud and Shamsur Rahman.

## Migrant

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percent of Bangladeshi migrants are working," she said while talking about the reason for the fall in remittance inflow.

Referring to a recent World Bank report on remittance-earning countries, she said, Bangladesh was at the seventh spot but it might have slipped to the 10th position by now.

Prof Tasneem said this year the highest amount of remittance came from Saudi Arabia followed by the United Arab Emirates, the United States and Malaysia.

The highest number of Bangladeshis -- over 1.82 lakh -- was hired by Oman followed by Saudi Arabia with 1.26 lakh, Qatar 1.16 lakh, Bahrain around 69,000 and Singapore with around 53,000 Bangladeshis.

The markets in the UAE and Malaysia were frustrating as they were not recruiting any Bangladeshis, she said.

"Middlemen, both in Bangladesh and in Malaysia, are exploiting the migrant jobseekers by alluring them with false job recruitment notices."

Quoting the RMMRU report, Prof Tasneem said Bangladeshi female workers' migration has also increased compared to last year's figures.

But only 43 percent of the Bangladeshis migrated as skilled workers while only 17 percent as semi-skilled and over 40 percent as unskilled workers, RMMRU said.

There is no government data on the migrants who returned home. The RMMRU claimed that about 27 percent Bangladeshis might have returned.

Eminent jurist Dr Shahdeen Malik, among others, also spoke at the programme yesterday.

# A costly fun

## Youth seriously injured as co-worker pumped air into his rectum; culprit arrested

A CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A youth was critically injured after one of his co-workers allegedly pumped air into his body through the rectum at a spinning mill in Narayanganj yesterday.

The victim, Al Amin, 20, son of Hasan Ali of Brahmadi village in Araihaaz upazila, was rushed to Bhulta General Hospital. He works at Sobed Ali Spinning Mill in the upazila.

His co-worker, Rimon Mia, 21, who allegedly pumped air through Al Amin's rectum, was arrested yesterday.

The incident happened around 1:30am when the two were using an air hose to remove cotton stuck to their

bodies. At one point, Rimon, out of fun, pumped air into Al Amin's rectum through the hose, said Sakhawat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Araihaaz Police Station.

Al Amin was first taken to Bhulta General Hospital. As his condition worsened, he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, he said.

This is the third such incident in six months in Narayanganj.

In December, 15-year-old Yamin died after one of his co-workers pumped air into his rectum in Sonargaon upazila.

In July, 10-year-old Sagar Barman died in an identical manner in Rupganj upazila.

# Images of homeless people living in graves shock Iran

AFP, Tehran

Images of homeless drug addicts living in empty graves just outside the Iranian capital have deeply shocked the public and prompted reactions even from President Hassan Rouhani.

Shahrvand newspaper on Tuesday published the images in a report on the homeless people -- about 50 men and women -- who dwell in a cemetery in the town of Shahriar, 30 kilometres (18 miles) west of Tehran.

The story and the haunting images of the homeless staring into the camera from inside the unused grave slots spread quickly on social media, where users and celebrities reacted with expressions of alarm and sadness.

Oscar-winning Iranian director Asghar Farhadi aired his frustration in a letter to Rouhani.

"I read the report... and now my

entire being is filled with shame and sorrow," he wrote.

"With this letter, I intend to share my shame with you and all those who have had any responsibility in this country" in the past few decades, he added.

The president responded to Farhadi's "painful" letter yesterday.

"Who can see human beings hurt from social issues who take shelter in graves... and not feel ashamed?" Rouhani said in a speech about government supervision.

"I have heard about people in western countries who sleep on cardboard under bridges out of poverty, or those who sleep in metro stations, but not in graves," he said.

"To solve these issues we must all unite and leave aside partisan issues and differences and address the basic problems of the country."

## 2-state solution

FROM PAGE 16

the Arab world if it does not reach an accord based on Israelis and Palestinians living in their own states.

Kerry was speaking against the backdrop of a diplomatic firestorm that was triggered last week when, on Obama's instruction, US diplomats failed to veto a UN Security Council resolution criticising Israel.

The resolution, backed unanimously by the rest of the 15 powers on the council, effectively declared Israel's settlements on areas of east Jerusalem and the West Bank beyond its 1967 border illegal.

Netanyahu, whose right-wing coalition is backed by the settler movement and who has insisted the home building is no threat to peace, was furious and accused Obama and Kerry of orchestrating the vote.

But Kerry said it had been obliged to stand up for something important. He said the "settlement agenda is defining the future of Israel".

Insisting that a two-state solution is the only way to achieve peace in Middle East, Kerry said Israel would never secure a lasting deal with Arab countries, if it opted for the one-state option.

"If the choice is one state, Israel can either be Jewish or Democratic," he said, speaking at the State Department in Washington. "It cannot be both."

Kerry accused Netanyahu's government of allowing Israel to slide towards a "perpetual occupation."

"Despite our best efforts over the years, the two-state solution is now in serious jeopardy," Kerry said at the State Department. "We cannot, in good conscience, do nothing, and say nothing, when we see the hope of peace slipping away."

Kerry also condemned Palestinian violence which he said included "hundreds of terrorist attacks in the past year."

His parting words are unlikely to change anything on the ground between Israel and the Palestinians or salvage the Obama administration's record of failed Middle East peace efforts.

In a statement, Netanyahu said Kerry "obsessively dealt with settlements" and barely touched on "the root of the conflict - Palestinian opposition to a Jewish state in any boundaries."

The Israelis are looking past Obama and expect they will receive more favorable treatment from Trump, who takes office on Jan 20. The Republican used his Twitter account yesterday to denounce the Obama administration, including its UN vote and the nuclear accord it reached with Iran last year.

"We cannot continue to let Israel be treated with such total disdain and disrespect. They used to have a great

friend in the US, but not anymore," Trump said in a series of tweets. "Stay strong Israel, January 20th is fast approaching!"

Trump had openly lobbied against the UN resolution and would be expected to veto any further ones deemed anti-Israel.

He has vowed to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and has appointed as ambassador a lawyer who raised money for a major Jewish settlement, has cast doubt on the idea of a two-state solution and even advocated for Israel's annexation of the West Bank, a notion even further to the right than Netanyahu's own stance.

Kerry vigorously defended the UN resolution and rejected criticism "that this vote abandons Israel."

"It is not this resolution that is isolating Israel. It is the permanent policy of settlement construction that risks making peace impossible."

"The vote in the UN was about preserving the two-state solution," he declared.

In a pointed reply to Netanyahu who said last week that "Friends don't take friends to the Security Council," and who has insisted the Obama administration had orchestrated the resolution, Kerry hit back, saying: "Friends need to tell each other the hard truths, and friendships require mutual respect."

Kerry defended Obama's commitment to Israel's security and US support for Israel in international platforms. Earlier this year, the United States and Israel agreed a \$38 billion in military assistance over the next decade.

Kerry warned the "settler agenda" was leading Israeli policy and imperiling prospects for peace.

"Trends indicate a comprehensive effort to take West Bank land for Israel and prevent any Palestinian development there."

And Kerry added: "The settler agenda is defining the future of Israel. And their stated purpose is clear: They believe in one state: greater Israel."

Some observers questioned the speech's "curious" timing.

"A speech of this gravity really should have been delivered before such a permanent move as the Security Council resolution, rather than after," scholar Jonathan Schanzer told AFP.

Ilan Goldenberg of the Center for a New American Security was more supportive of Kerry's goals in the speech, but he also noted: "It would have been better two years ago."

Kerry, he suggested, was attempting to lay down the framework for a peace process that might bear fruit before Trump arrives in office and radically changes the US position.