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KILLING OF A BANGLADESHI Two Malaysian immigration officials to die

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Malaysian High Court on Friday sentenced two immigration officers to death for the murder of a Bangladeshi detainee three years ago.

Judicial Commissioner Abu Bakar Katar handed down the sentence to Aminuddin Mohd Yasin and Zuhairul Effendey Zulkafli, both aged 35, after finding them guilty, reports Malay Mail Online, a Malaysian online newspaper.

The two immigration officers of Malaysia's Perlis state were charged with murdering undocumented Bangladeshi worker Abu Bakar Siddique, 45, in the pantry of the immigration office at the home ministry complex on October 29, 2014.

Bangladesh High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur Shahidul Islam confirmed the report of the court verdict yesterday.

"We came to know about the verdict but didn't get any official document in this regard yet," he told The Daily Star yesterday evening over the phone.

Malay Mail Online adds that Judicial Commissioner Abu Bakar awards the death sentence upon conviction on the charge under section 302 of the Penal code.

The judgment said the court found that the defence had failed to raise reasonable doubts against the prosecution's case.

The court had examined all the essence in the prosecution's case and considered the defence in-depth, it added.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



A footbridge decorated with raw jute near Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, ahead of the National Jute Day to be celebrated tomorrow.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



The plight of Aleya

The Faridpur woman returned home last month empty-handed from Saudi Arabia; alleges of torture, abuse



BELAL HOSSAIN BIPLOB

Aleya Begum was happy to get a job as a domestic help at a police official's house in Saudi Arabia.

The poor woman from Faridpur wanted desperately to support her four-member family and start treatment for her son, who is physically challenged, as her rickshaw-puller husband could barely make ends meet with his meagre income.

"My husband's income is very poor. So I had to make a tough decision to go abroad to support our family and for a better future of our children," Aleya said while talking to this correspondent in Dhaka on February 28.

And when she finally got the job in the gulf state, she started dreaming of better days.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

STATE DEPT REPORT Extrajudicial killing a major rights problem

US also sees IS, al-Qaeda trail in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The most significant human rights problems in Bangladesh were extrajudicial killings, arbitrary or unlawful detentions, and forced disappearances by government security forces, according to a US State Department human rights report for 2016.

"Authorities infringed on citizens' privacy rights. Some nongovernmental organisations faced continued legal and informal restrictions on their activities," says the report uploaded on the department's website on Friday.

"There were reports of widespread impunity for security force abuses.

"The government took limited measures to investigate and prosecute cases of abuse and killing by security forces, including through the Internal Enquiry Cell of the Rapid Action Battalion [RAB]."

The 41st annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016 also says, "Public distrust of police and security

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

World's nuclear arsenal



DATALEADS, New Delhi

Nine countries in the world possess a total of 14,900 nuclear weapons and 93 percent of them are in the US and Russia, according to data from the Federation of American Scientists.

The US, Russia, UK, France, China, North Korea, India, Pakistan, and Israel have the nuclear weapons. The US and Russian arsenals are greatly reduced from their Cold War days, but still each of them retain thousands of weapons.

The US, Russia, China, France and UK are NPT-designated nuclear powers. Israel has not officially acknowledged its programme, but the Israeli arsenal is widely understood to consist of about 80 weapons.

However other estimates suggest that the number of nuclear weapons in world could be higher.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Patients suffer in 3 districts as interns strike

STAR REPORT

Medical services were hampered as interns at some hospitals in Bogra, Sylhet and Barisal abstained from work yesterday in protest of penalising four of their colleagues for "assaulting" a patient's relative.

The interns at Shaheer Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogra continued their work abstinence for the third straight day. This led to a crisis of doctors and it was the patients who ultimately

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

SIBL Social Islamic Bank Limited
Prayer Timing March 5

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5-15	12-45	4-30	6-05	7-30
JAMAAT 5-50	1-15	4-45	6-10	8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

No classroom for two years

Jhalakathi primary school kids taking lessons on verandah as the building poses risk

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Jhalakathi

Students of Jagodishpur Primary School in Jhalakathi sadar have been attending classes on the school verandah since 2015 because of the dilapidated condition of the infrastructure.

The school building that has three rooms is at risk of collapse, which is why the authorities arrange all the six classes on the verandah in two shifts between 9:00am and 4:00pm every day.

Established in 1938, the school has at present 110 students from pre-school to class-V, said Shompotti Mondal, an assistant teacher.

Most of the students don't attend classes regularly because their parents fear the building may collapse any time, said Kanok Lata, another teacher.

The staff is even scared of working at the office room of the building built in 1994 as the ceiling has several cracks.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



A teacher giving lessons to students on the verandah of dilapidated Jagodishpur Primary School building in Jhalakathi sadar recently. Many parents do not send their children to the school fearing it might collapse on them.

PHOTO: STAR

Obama wire tapped Trump Tower: Trump

The ex-president's spokesman says Trump's claim 'simply false'

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump yesterday accused Barack Obama of "tapping" his phone during last year's White House campaign, without providing evidence of the explosive charge, in his most virulent attack yet on his predecessor.

"I'd bet a good lawyer could make a great case out of the fact that President Obama was tapping my phones in October, just prior to Election!" Trump wrote on Twitter.

"How low has President Obama gone to tapp (sic) my phones during the very sacred election process. This is Nixon/Watergate. Bad (or sick) guy!" he wrote in another tweet, referring to the political scandal that toppled president Richard Nixon in 1974.

An Obama spokesman forcefully pushed back against the accusation. "A cardinal rule of the Obama Administration was that no White House official ever interfered with any independent investigation led by the Department of Justice," said Kevin Lewis, an Obama spokesman. "As part of that practice, neither President Obama nor any White House official ever ordered surveillance on any US citizen. Any suggestion otherwise is simply false."

Top Obama advisor Ben Rhodes issued a searing response on Twitter.

"No President can order a wiretap. Those restrictions were put in place to protect citizens from people like you," Rhodes wrote.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

LINEASE HITS WHITE HOUSE, AGENCIES - PAGE 8