



Card readers and writers and other equipment a gang used for stealing money from holders of international credit cards. The photo was taken at the Rab media centre in the capital's Karwan Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF RAB

Making money thru' forgery

FROM PAGE 16
Sohel's foreign cohorts supplied him with the magnetic strip data of international cards.
"Sohel wrote the track number in blank cards using MSR (Magnetic Stripe Reader) machine and made it ready for use," claimed Mufti.
MSR allows the reading and writing of data from a credit/debit card's magnetic strip, the press release said.
The gang took some dishonest shop owners in Bangladesh onboard. The shop owners helped them charge the cards and realise the money.
Rab claimed that Nur e Alam, 45, a trade license department official of Dhaka North City Corporation, used to be the middle man between the fraudsters and the colluding shops.
Based on the arrestees' information, Rab detained five shopkeepers who were identified as Johirul Islam, 37, Lutfar Rahman Sujon, 42, Abdul Ali,

40, Jahangir Hossain, 45, and Jalal Hossain Sumon, 27.
Sumon was said to be the patron of the gang and the person who supplied the gang with all sorts of equipment.
The other detainees are: Parvez, 23, Wahed, 20, and Kamruzzaman Sumon, 30.
During the drives, Rab recovered computers, laptops, printers, MSR machine, 200 cards of various banks, 1,000 blank cards and six Swap machines and other equipment for making clone cards.
Asked, how the gang got hold of blank cards, Mufti said they might have brought them in from abroad.
They chose shops for the transactions since ATM booths have surveillance systems installed, Mufti said.
Rab claimed that around Tk 50 to 60 lakh were stolen every month by the gang and that Tk 5 to 6 crore had been stolen over the last five years.

In February last year, Rab held eight members of such a gang.
A week ago, 30 people, including six Bangladeshis, had been arrested at Queens, New York and charged for credit card and identity theft. Several business owners were among those indicted.
Abul Kashem Mohammad Shirin, managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank, said there is no scope for cloning EMV or chip-based cards as the fraud would be detectable. He said most of the banks in Bangladesh have already introduced EMV cards, but some banks were yet to do it.
"Still many countries in the world use magnetic strip cards, which is vulnerable to frauds," said Shirin.
If fraudsters use a cloned card for buying goods and services or cash withdrawal, mobile message would be sent to the original owner. But foreigners without a roaming phone would not get the message, he added.
The detainees are Ishaq Ali, 55, a "pir" of Dakkhin Pathardubi village under Bhurungamari upazila of Kurigram, Saidur Rahman, 45, the khadem of Kaderia Mohammadi Khanka Sharif shrine, and Samer Ali, a follower of Farhad.
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Kurigram police said Farhad was a follower of Ishaq and often visited Ishaq.
The Detective Branch of police in Dinajpur was interrogating the detainees.
On Monday night, Farhad and his female attendant Rupali Begum, 19, were stabbed and shot dead at his shrine.
Police on Tuesday detained Sumi Begum, 36, a disciple of Farhad and sister of Saidur, suspecting her involvement in the incident, but freed her yesterday afternoon.
Farhad's daughter Fatema Farhana Emi filed a murder case against some unknown people with Bochaganj Police Station.
Talking to The Daily Star on Tuesday morning, khadem Saidur claimed that Ishaq and Farhad had different religious views.
Amirul Islam Chowdhury, uncle of slain Farhad, said his nephew might have been killed over the dispute between two "pirs". But he did not name anyone.

HC clears way Suicide blasts kill 32

FROM PAGE 16
Haque on charges of amassing wealth worth Tk97.37 lakh through illegal means and concealing asset information from the ACC.
ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that there is no legal bar for the trial court to continue trial proceedings of the corruption case against Justice Fazlul Haque following the HC order.
Fazlul Haque's lawyer Advocate Helal Uddin Mollah told this correspondent that his client will move an appeal before the Appellate Division seeking stay on the HC order and the trial proceedings of the case.
Justice Fazlul Haque is now on bail, he added.

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condition of anonymity. "It was a bloodyscene."
State television broadcast scenes from the building showing blood smeared on the floor of the lobby but also splattered across its ceiling.
It interviewed a man receiving treatment with a bandage over his eye who said the attacker was wearing a military jacket.
"He had his hands up and screamed 'God is greatest' and then the blast happened," he told state television.
"I fell to the ground and blood came out of my eye."
AFP correspondents in Damascus said the streets emptied after the two blasts, with several roads also blocked by security forces.
Damascus was already reeling from Saturday's bombings, which mainly killed Iraqi pilgrims in the city to visit Shia shrines.
That attack was claimed by former al-Qaeda affiliate Fateh al-Sham Front, part of a rebel alliance that controls large parts of the northwestern Idlib province.
The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor yesterday said at least 14 children were among 20 people killed in an air strike in Idlib province at dawn.
Rebel forces suffered a series of reversals during the sixth year of the war, including being forced from their onetime stronghold of east Aleppo in December.
The loss was an especially difficult blow to rebels who had imagined marching on Damascus in the early days of the civil war.
The conflict began in 2011 with peaceful demonstrations inspired by similar movements during the so-called "Arab Spring", calling on Assad to implement reforms.
They started on March 15 after the arrest and torture of a group of students from the southern province of Daraa accused of writing anti-Assad graffiti.
The protests were put down violently, prompting demonstrators to pick up weapons and causing the

uprising to spiral into an increasingly complex and brutal civil war that has also drawn in regional and international players.
Rebel forces captured large parts of the country and several key cities. The Islamic State jihadist group emerged from the chaos to seize control of significant territory in Syria and neighbouring Iraq.
But a key turning point came in September 2015 when Russia began a military intervention in support of Assad's government, which has since regained much of the ground it lost.
Under pressure from air strikes by a US-led coalition, IS has also retreated to bastions like its de facto Syrian capital Raqqa.
The conflict has killed more than 320,000 people, with over the half the country's population displaced either within Syria or becoming refugees.
The war has also ravaged the country's infrastructure and set the economy back decades.
"When we began to demonstrate, I never thought it would come to this. We thought it would end in two, three months, a year at most," Abdallah al-Husseini, a 32-year-old footballer from the town of Saraqeb in Idlib province, told AFP.
"Whether this war is ended with weapons or peacefully doesn't matter. People want to live in peace."
The brutality of the war has provoked international outcry, with the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein this week describing the country as "a torture chamber, a place of savage horror and absolute injustice."
But the international community has remained divided between a pro-regime bloc led by Russia and Iran, and a pro-opposition bloc led by the United States, Turkey and Gulf nations, along with European countries.
In recent months the opposition's backers have dialled back their support, with Turkey now working with former rival Russia on peace talks and US President Donald Trump's administration showing little interest in the conflict or negotiations to end it.

Trump paid

FROM PAGE 16
pay no more tax than legally required."
Presidents and major candidates for the White House have routinely released their income tax returns.
Trump says he has not released his tax returns because they are under audit by the Internal Revenue Service. Experts say an IRS audit does not bar someone from releasing the documents.
During a September presidential debate, Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton criticised Trump, a Republican, for paying no federal income taxes.
"That makes me smart," he responded.
Trump has feuded with the media since his inauguration, often accusing it of promoting "fake news" intended to undermine his presidency.
"The dishonest media can continue to make this part of their agenda, while the President will focus on his, which includes tax reform that will benefit all Americans," the White House said on Tuesday.

FROM PAGE 2
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The prime minister's sudden anti-RAW stance was part of a joke and people had no doubt about it, he observed.
Indicating RAW, Rizvi said the intelligence agency of the neighbouring country, which is also the "source" of the Awami League government's power, is working to keep the government in power.
Asked about Hasina's speech at a rally in Lakshimpur on Tuesday when she called upon people to keep faith in her party and re-elect them in the next elections to serve the country again, Rizvi said such acts went against the electoral code of conduct.
"She [the prime minister] delivered the speech to influence the voters of Comilla City Corporation," he alleged.
The election to Comilla City Corporation is scheduled to be held on March 30.

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information. He, however, refused to disclose the information.
"We didn't ask her to come here. She came here voluntarily," the IO added.
Mitu was hacked and shot dead in Chittagong city on June 5 last year.
According to police, Akram died of accident injuries at Jhenidah Sadar Hospital on January 13, 2015, 16 days after he was critically injured in a road accident in Jhenidah's Shailakupa upazila.

Defence pact

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Israel closes Palestinian map bureau, arrests head

AFP, Jerusalem
Israeli police on Tuesday closed a Palestinian research centre in Jerusalem and briefly arrested its director, a prominent cartographer, accusing him of working for the Palestinian security services.
The office of cartography in occupied east Jerusalem was shut down for six months, a police statement said.
Israeli officials accused its head Khalil Tafakji of working with the Palestinian Authority to monitor the sale of land by Palestinians to Israeli Jews in east Jerusalem.
Israel seized east Jerusalem in the

FROM PAGE 2
According to Mercer, knowing which issues are lowering a city's quality of living and which ones succeed in raising it can provide a competitive advantage. Selecting a city for investment considering those standards can yield enormous economic advantages.
Companies are eager to identify emerging businesses and talent hubs as they set up operations in new markets. But to stand out and attract these investments, city leaders need to understand the specific factors that contribute to a city's quality of living.
The general concerns are whether the city is connected regionally and globally with transportation networks, whether it is competitive economically, socially, culturally, and environmentally, whether it is attractive to tourists, mobile talents and multinational companies for capital investment.

Don't you worry

FROM PAGE 16
But she stopped hearing a baby cry somewhere very close. As she approached the waste bin, the cry became clearer.
She lifted the bag and found the baby in it. Lipy, herself a young mother, then called the police who took her to the DMCH.
The Daily Star ran a story on the girl along with her photo. The story was shared over 8,000 times online, with many readers wishing her good luck.
As of yesterday, more than 20 families filed requests with the DMCH authorities to take her home and raise her, Khawaja Abdul Gafur, deputy director of the hospital, told this correspondent.
Under the law, however, it requires a court order and the interested couples were advised to file their request to courts, he added.
Several couples also contacted the Mirpur police and The Daily Star reporter, saying they would like to adopt the kid, who has no name yet.
She is now recovering from jaundice, dehydration and breathing problem at the neonatal ICU, doctors said.
The baby had been breastfed until Tuesday when doctors decided to start giving her milk solutions, said the DMCH deputy director.
"The baby is now in a stable condition but still not fully out of danger as she is a bit underweight," Gafur said.

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Police detained three people, including a "pir" and a khadem (caretaker) of two shrines in Dinajpur and Kurigram, for their alleged involvement in the killings of "pir" Farhad Hossain Chowdhury, 65, and his female attendant at Kaderia Mohammadi Khanka Sharif shrine in Doula village.
The detainees are Ishaq Ali, 55, a "pir" of Dakkhin Pathardubi village under Bhurungamari upazila of Kurigram, Saidur Rahman, 45, the khadem of Kaderia Mohammadi Khanka Sharif shrine, and Samer Ali, a follower of Farhad.
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Killings of Mitu

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Dhaka ranked

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Indonesia vows action after UK ship ruins coral reef

AFP, Sorong
Indonesia yesterday vowed to take action after a British-owned cruise ship smashed into pristine coral reefs and caused extensive damage, as residents of the popular tourist site lamented "paradise" had been ruined.
The foreign ministry in Jakarta said the damage caused by Caledonian Sky could amount to a criminal act, and that authorities may try to seek the extradition of the ship's captain to Indonesia.
Raja Ampat in eastern Indonesia is one of the most biodiverse marine habitats on Earth, and attracts intrepid travellers and divers to its palm-fringed islands surrounded by coral and fish.
The accident happened this month when the 4,200-ton ship smashed into the reefs at low tide around Kri, one of hundreds of small islands in Raja Ampat, after taking tourists on a bird-watching expedition.
The boat, which was carrying 102 passengers and 79 crew, became grounded on the reefs and only refloated later on a high tide. Numerous attempts to free it using a tug boat failed, and only caused further damage to the corals.
Residents of Raja Ampat, located in the remote eastern region of Papua, have expressed anger at the impact on tourism and livelihoods of fishermen, while the government has reacted with fury.
"This will not be tolerated," Indonesian foreign ministry spokes-

man Arrmanatha Nasir said.
"The government is very concerned and very worried about this incident and certainly all steps will be taken to ensure accountability."
He added one step the government could take was to seek the extradition of the ship's captain back to Indonesia. Authorities say destruction of coral reef is against the law, and someone found guilty of deliberately carrying out such an act could be jailed for up to 10 years.
After Indonesia, the vessel sailed on to the Philippines and officials have expressed anger the captain did not stay in the country while the damage was still being assessed.
Martin Makusi, a local tourist guide and owner of a homestay in Raja Ampat, said he was "devastated" by the destruction of the reefs.
"This incident makes me sad, disappointed and angry because the coral reefs in Raja Ampat are like paradise for us," he told AFP.
Ricardo Tapilatu, a marine researcher from the University of Papua who headed a team assessing the impact, has said the March 4 accident damaged an estimated 13,500 square metres (145,000 square feet) of coral reef which could cost up to \$16.2 million to restore.
Noble Caledonia, the British-based company that operates the Caledonian Sky, said in a statement they were "very upset" by the damage to the coral reef and were working to reach a settlement with the government.

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Talking to The Daily Star last night, Shafiqul Islam, deputy inspector general of Chittagong range, said they found the Premtala hideout based on information of the two arrested militants.
He said police tried to enter the building but the militants hurled handmade grenades and fired several shots at them, leaving Inspector (investigation) Mojammel Hoque of Sitakunda police station wounded.
They managed to contact over the phone the owner of the building who was still trapped in one of the three apartments there, said the DIG.
Quoting the building's owner, he said two men and a woman rented one of the apartments on March 1.
Shafiqul told The Daily Star over the phone that they would carry out an operation today with the help of members of Special Weapon and Tactic Team from Dhaka and Chittagong.
Police and Rab members cordoned off the building, "Chhayaneer".
Speaking at a press briefing last night, Nure Alam Mina, superintendent of police in Chittagong, said both the hideouts were used by "Neo JMB" members.
He said that acting on information from two detained militant suspects, they raided a militant hideout in Patiya upazila last week but found it empty.
On March 7, police arrested two suspected militants -- Mahmud Hasan and Ahmed Azwad Intiaz Talukder alias Omi -- who told interrogators that "Neo JMB" had at least three more dens in Chittagong, and had chosen the district as its base, finding it difficult to operate in the capital.
Additional SP (north) Mosiudowla Reza said the two militant suspects arrested yesterday were highly trained and that the woman was wearing a suicide vest.
The bomb disposal unit of

Chittagong Metropolitan Police defused the suicide vest and three grenades around 8:30pm, he said.
DIG Shafiqul told this correspondent that they came to know about the Amirabad hideout from a truck driver, who had taken goods and luggage of suspected militants from Patiya to Sitakunda early this month.
However, additional SP Reza, who led yesterday's raid on the Amirabad den, gave a different version.
He said they busted the den after getting information from the house owner around 2:30pm.
The police official said when he reached the place, he saw a woman holding a baby in one hand and pushing another woman with the other hand.
The woman with the baby then tried to set off the suicide vest she was wearing. Reza then caught her and took away the baby with the help of other policemen, he said.
House owner Subhas Chandra Das said he became suspicious of the couple -- Jasim and Arjina -- over the last few days.
"Our suspicion grew as the couple used to keep all the doors and windows shut. We became more alert after watching the news of busting of a militant den in Mirsarai a few days back," said Subhas.
Out of curiosity, Subhas went to the couple's flat on Monday evening. The couple opened the door but kept standing at the entrance.
From outside, Subhas noticed that two men inside the flat were trying to hide something. He then forcibly entered the flat and saw a huge quantity of circuits and wires.
"I collected several circuits from Jasim, and this morning, took those to an electrician who identified those as timers," Subhas said.
He said that they informed the police in the afternoon.

Militant dens busted

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People expect progress

FROM PAGE 1
The Teesta issue has been hanging fire since September, 2011 due to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's stiff opposition to the treaty. India maintains it is trying to work out a consensus with the West Bengal government on the issue.
"There is no scope for any misunderstanding between Bangladesh and India on any issue. If we can meet people's expectations and needs, it will strengthen bilateral ties," he said.
The minister said Hasina would be accompanied by a strong business delegation from Bangladesh during her visit starting on April 7 and that she would address Indian chambers of commerce and industries, seeking investments in Bangladesh.
Replying to a question, he said the PM's son Sajib Wazed Joy and sister Sheikh Rehana might also accompany her.
Nasim was in New Delhi to attend a two-day international conference on tuberculosis convened by the World Health Organization.
"Our government stands committed to ending TB in the country. We will work jointly with the WHO and partners to achieve the ambitious End TB targets," he said adding, "We understand that by reaching End TB targets, we will save 1.2 million precious lives and prevent about 5 million TB cases."
Ministers, officials and health

activists from Bangladesh, Bhutan, South Korea, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal and Timor Leste besides representatives from World Health Organization participated in the meeting. The meeting will come out with an action plan tomorrow.
Meanwhile, Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud yesterday said Bangladesh and India sincerely want a solution to the Teesta issue during Hasina's visit.
Bangladesh certainly wants to settle the pending Teesta water sharing agreement and the government is working on it for saving the rivers and agriculture of the country, he said while talking to the media following a workshop at Cirdap auditorium in the capital.
INDIAN CABINET OKAYS MOU WITH BANGLADESH
The Indian Cabinet yesterday approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Aids to Navigation (AtoNs) with Bangladesh during the visit of Hasina.
The MoU, approved at a meeting of the Cabinet presided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will be signed between the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships under the Indian Ministry of Shipping and the Department of Shipping of Bangladesh, an official statement said.