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Making money thru' credit card forgery

11 held; shop owners and forgers partners in crime

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Working with foreign fraudsters, a gang here in Bangladesh has been stealing Tk 50-60 lakh a month from holders of international credit cards by cloning cards.

The gang has been charging the cloned cards at dodgy shops and the shops paid them back the money taking about 20-25 percent cut.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) detained 11 members of such a gang for their alleged involvement in the forgery, said Mufti Mahmud Khan, director of Rab's legal and media wing, at a press briefing held yesterday at its media centre in Karwan Bazar.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-10 conducted drives in different areas of the capital over the last two days and detained the 11.

The gang has an international contact, who provide them with technical data, claimed Rab.

Mufti said prime accused Shah Aziz Sohel, 36, was trained in card cloning when he used to live in Dubai. There Sohel had met US citizen and fraudster Erin Limo, the Rab official said.

Sohel continued with card cloning after returning to Bangladesh. He has been involved in this criminal activity for the last 10 years, said a Rab press release.

Staying in touch with Erin and taking in Rana, 24, Sohel started card forgery and identity theft in Bangladesh. The gang cloned foreigner's international cards to reduce the risk of capture.



Sohel

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With masks on, a guardian takes a child home from school on a rickshaw near Rajarbagh Police Lines in the capital. Construction of the Moghbazar-Malibagh flyover results in the entire area being covered by dust almost every day.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Don't you worry, little one!

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The little one may have been abandoned by her parent(s) soon after she saw the first lights of the world, but it seems she won't grow up parentless.

Many couples, mostly childless ones, have already been rushing to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where she is being treated, with requests to adopt her.

This adorable girl was rescued from a dustbin on Ashulia-Mirpur Beribadh road in the capital's Shah Ali area on March 11. She was left in a shopping bag.

It was perhaps by sheer luck that Lipy Begum, wife of a grocer in the area, was passing by the dustbin around 2:00pm. It was drizzling and Lipy, 30, was in a hurry.

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Terrorism threat to persist despite crackdown success

International security expert Prof Gunaratna says about Bangladesh, in an interview with The Daily Star

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Prof Rohan Gunaratna, an international security expert, fears the terrorism and militancy threat to Bangladesh would linger although many militants have been arrested and killed during drives by law enforcement agencies.

"The threat is now at the growth level... It has not declined," he told The Daily Star in an interview on Monday.

To fight the scourge of militancy and terrorism effectively, he suggested that Bangladesh continues the fight "day and night and 365 days in the year both in the physical and cyber spaces".

At a regional conference in Dhaka on Sunday, Prof Gunaratna said Islamic State has presence in Bangladesh and that it carried out the Gulshan attack last year.

On Monday, AKM Shahidul Hoque, inspector general of police, reiterated the government's claim that there is no presence of IS in the country and that the attack was carried out by homegrown militants.

Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Gunaratna, head



of International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research in Singapore, gave two reasons for his belief that the terrorism threat to Bangladesh would persist for a long time.

With IS gradually losing battles in Iraq and Syria, its members are being driven out of their captured territories and forced to take shelter in other countries.

"So, in the next five to 10 years, we are going to see a global expansion of IS -- particularly in Africa, the Middle-East and Asia. Especially, the Muslim countries will be affected," he said, adding that Bangladesh was one of the targets.

Secondly, the Bangladeshis who joined the global terror outfit going directly to Iraq and Syria or from the Bangladeshi diaspora are recruiting fellow Bangladeshis online.

Those Bangladeshis are raising funds, building up networks and motivating each other to carry out attacks. "And of course, the networks active in Bangladesh are also communicating with each other."

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HC clears way for graft trial of ex-judge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for the lower court concerned to continue the trial proceedings of a corruption case filed against former adviser of the caretaker government Justice Fazlul Haque.

The court summarily rejected a petition filed by Fazlul Haque, also a retired judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, for scrapping the trial proceedings of the case.

The bench of Justice Md Shawkat Hossain and Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder passed the order after holding hearing on the petition.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on April 13, 2008 filed the case with Ramna Police Station against Fazlul

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'Sea sparkle' lights up Tasmania beach



ABC NEWS

Beachgoers in Tasmania have been sharing incredible images of a bioluminescence event at Preservation Bay on the state's north-west coast.

The bright blue glow is caused by billions of single-celled algae or plant plankton called Noctiluca scintillans, and more commonly known as sea sparkle.

When disturbed by waves or currents, the tiny cells flash causing an illumination in the water around them.

Gustaaf Hallegraeff, a professor in aquatic botany at the University of Tasmania, said scientists believe the flashing mechanism is deployed to scare off predators.

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A worker of Salma Tannery in the capital's Hazaribagh dismantles heavy equipment at the factory yesterday for its move to Savar Tannery Industrial Estate after the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court recently rejected the tanners' plea for a time extension for the move.

Trump paid \$38m in taxes in 2005

Says White House after leaked report

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump paid \$38 million in taxes on more than \$150 million in income in 2005, the White House said on Tuesday, responding to an MSNBC report that the network had obtained two pages of the returns.

MSNBC host Rachel Maddow said she received the documents from journalist David Cay Johnston, who said on her show that he received them in the mail.

The returns, which MSNBC posted on its website, showed Trump paid an effective federal tax rate of 25 percent in 2005 after writing off \$100 million in losses.

The White House said in a statement that Trump took into account "large scale depreciation for construction."

Trump has repeatedly refused to release his tax returns, drawing criticism throughout his campaign last year and speculation from his political rivals he was hiding something.

A New York Times report in October said Trump, a New York real estate developer, declared a \$916 million loss on his 1995 income tax returns. The newspaper said the large tax deduction could have allowed him to avoid paying federal income taxes for up to 18 years.

But the returns posted by MSNBC on Tuesday showed that he did pay taxes in 2005. The returns do not indicate whether he paid taxes in other years or how much he might have paid. The Washington Post reported last year that Trump paid no federal income taxes for at least two years in the late 1970s.

The White House said in a statement on Tuesday that Trump, as head of the Trump Organisation, had a responsibility "to



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

DISPUTE OVER POLLS Jubo League man hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A Jubo League leader of Jhenidah's Kaliganj upazila was hacked to death while his companion, who is also an activist, severely wounded in Monohorpur village around midnight on Tuesday.

Deceased Bipul Mondol, 22, is the son of Fazlu Mondol and the organising secretary of Jubo League's ward 8 unit in Shimla-Rokonpur union.

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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 16

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-00 12-45 4-30 6-14 7-45
JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-45 6-18 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION