

Terror attack near British parliament

FROM PAGE 1
 "We have declared this as a terrorist incident and the counter-terrorism command are carrying out a full-scale investigation into the attacks," he said.

Parliament was swiftly put on lockdown, with lawmakers and staff ordered to remain inside. Hundreds of people were later evacuated from the building.
 Police cordoned off a large area in Westminster and tourists on the London Eye, a popular tourist attraction, were stuck 135 metres in the air during the incident.

Prime Minister Theresa May, who was in parliament at the time, was ushered away by car and was preparing to chair a meeting of the government's COBRA emergency committee.
 A police spokesman said extra officers would be patrolling the city and urged the public to be vigilant.

Rowley said a "massive operation" was now under way but declined to go into further details.
 Television pictures showed a red air ambulance landing on the grass square opposite the parliament building and other emergency vehicles swarming nearby roads.

Westminster Bridge and the nearby Westminster Underground station were closed off.
 Home Secretary Amber Rudd said in a video statement: "The government's top priority is the security of its people and I urge everyone to remain calm."

Very little was known about the attacker. Witness reports described a middle-aged man of South Asian appearance who was carrying a large knife.

A picture published in British media showed a bearded man wearing a dark top, said to be the assailant, on a stretcher being treated by medics.
 "We currently believe there was only one attacker," Rowley said.

Prime Minister May spoke to US President Donald Trump about the attack, the White House said.
 US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson condemned what he described as "horrific acts of violence".

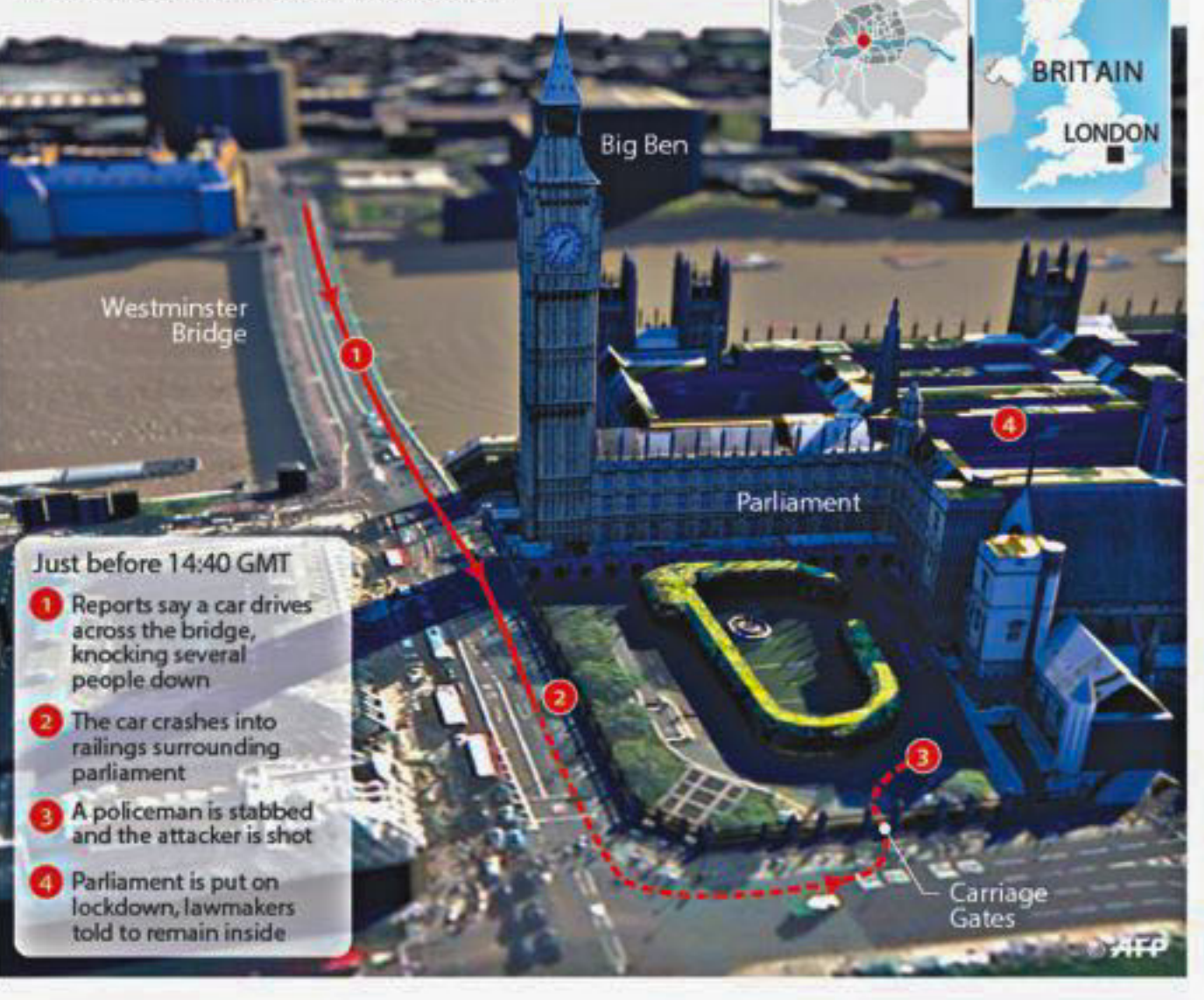
Polish former foreign minister Radoslaw Sikorski, who witnessed the attack from a taxi as he crossed the bridge, said he saw five victims and made a video of the scene.

"I heard something that sounded like a small car crash. Then I looked out of the window and saw that there was one person lying on the asphalt," he told Reuters.
 "I did not see the face of the person lying on the asphalt, but the person was not moving, it was not showing any signs of life. One of the men I saw, his head was bleeding very badly. But the person I filmed - no, that person was not showing any signs of life."

London's transport system was hit by four co-ordinated suicide bomb attacks in July 2005 that left 52 people dead, carried out by British attackers inspired by Al-Qaeda terror network. There was an attempted second wave of attacks two weeks later.

The latest incident comes with Europe on high alert after a series of deadly jihadist attacks, including the Brussels bombings exactly a year ago on March 22, 2016.

British parliament attacked



Tours of Titanic

FROM PAGE 16
 and his team discovered the remains of RMS Titanic almost 32 years ago.
 However, this could well be one of the last opportunities to visit.

A 2016 study claimed that a recently discovered "extremophile bacteria" could eat away what's left of the famous shipwreck inside 15 or 20 years.

\$105,129 PER PERSON
 Blue Marble Private's eight-day journey sets off from Newfoundland, Canada, and will transport visitors in a purpose-built, titanium-and-carbon-fiber submersible to the mighty vessel's final resting place, more than two miles below the surface of the Atlantic.

The first voyage is already fully booked, despite the experience costing \$105,129 per person.

Blue Marble Private declares in its press release that this is the equivalent (after inflation) to a first class passage \$4,350 on RMS Titanic's inaugural - and only - voyage from Southampton, England, to New York.

Which makes for a nice irony, but is almost twice as much as the \$59,000 Deep Ocean Expeditions charged when it last brought tourists to the site in 2012.

MISSION SPECIALISTS
 So what do you get for your dollars? A fancy title: Clients are known as Mission Specialists and will learn to assist the expedition team in the submersible and aboard the expedition yacht.

Three potential days of diving, with dives lasting three hours.

The opportunity to spot weird and wonderful bioluminescent critters during the 90-minute descent.

Three hours exploring the remains of the 269-meter-long ship, taking in the deck, the bow, the bridge and the cavern where the grand staircase was once located.

AL man elected

FROM PAGE 2
 Jahan Smrity demanded that the killers be handed down exemplary punishment.

Liton was killed after unknown assailants opened fire on him inside his home in Sundarganj upazila on December 31. The Election Commission announced the polls schedule on February 5.

Teesta deal

FROM PAGE 16
 expecting that the Awami League government would ensure the due share of water of the Teesta and other common rivers through signing deals with India.

He also claimed that the AL government could not properly hold negotiations with India over the Teesta deal as it was giving priority to the protection of the neighbouring country's interests, sacrificing Bangladesh's ones.

Referring to the PM's recent remarks that the BNP had come to power in 2001 with the help of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), India's intelligence agency, Fakhrul said, "It is totally baseless, untrue and a fabricated statement."

"Is the prime minister trying to prove by her comment that Bangladesh's election is held with the help of India's

UK follows

FROM PAGE 16
 to maintain the safety of the travelling public and we will work closely with our international partners to minimise any disruption these new measures may cause."

The change affects six British airlines, including British Airways and EasyJet, and eight foreign carriers, including Turkish Airlines.

Senior US officials told reporters that nine airlines from eight countries had been given 96 hours to ban devices bigger than a mobile phone from the cabin.

The British ban includes phones which are more than 16 centimetres long, 9.3cm wide and 1.5cm deep.

Britain's ban will be introduced "in the coming days", a Downing Street spokesman said yesterday.

The government told the domestic Press Association news agency that it had immediately informed the 14 airlines impacted by the new measure, but that it would be introduced "in the coming days".

"We are working with the airlines," a Downing Street spokesman confirmed to AFP, adding that "passengers should contact their airlines to find out if it applied to them".

However, no mention was made as to when the new measure would come into effect.

Govt urged to relocate

FROM PAGE 16
 Arpangachhia beside the Buriswar river don't go towards the mangrove forest. Besides, the river is wider and gets fresh water discharged from the Meghna river.

"As a result, there will be no thermal pollution," Prof Aziz said.

Coals can be carried through the Buriswar river to Arpangachhia since it is flowing outside the Sundarbans, said Prof Badrul Imam, of the geology department of DU.

An environmental impact assessment can be done to learn about the potential of the river as a route for carrying coals, he added.

The National Committee to Save Sundarbans held the discussion to mark World Water Day.

Speakers there urged the government not to go ahead with the proposed Rampal power plant to save the Passur river that is the lifeline of the Sundarbans.

Green activists have been critical of the coal-fired plant, a Bangladesh-India joint venture, at Rampal, saying it

will destroy the ecological system of the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest and a UNESCO declared World Heritage Site.

Sultana Kamal, convener of the national committee, at yesterday's event said the government stuck to its decision about the project without even obtaining any scientific assessment.

"It is our moral duty to save the Sundarbans."

Prof Aziz, who presented a keynote paper, said the Arpangachhia site is close to the coast and so the travel distance of coal-carrying vessels would be shorter in that case and water pollutants would be quickly washed away to the sea.

But if the government wants to continue with its present plan, it can set up a solar power plant at Rampal instead of a coal-fired one, said Prof Imam who also presented a keynote paper.

Abdul Matin, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon and member secretary of the national committee, columnist Syed Abul Maksud, and noted economist Prof MM Akash also spoke at the event.

Villagers unite to create a 'dream village'

FROM PAGE 16
 "We started talking to local youths," Saidur explains. "We held village meetings and discovered unanimous support. We decided to create a group which we called 'Our Village,' but later we settled on 'Dream Village' as the name, for that is what we aim to become."

By last August around 200 local youths had pledged support.
 "We made lists of drug addicts, gamblers and stalkers," recalls Saidur, now president of the group's management committee. "We approached them, one by one, to motivate change. We met village elders. We visited schools to generate awareness of problems among teachers and students. We started dialogue with our union chairman and council, seeking help."

"We haven't been able to remove all the social ills thus far," Saidur continues, "but we hope to succeed very soon."

"The Dream Village team has set a great example," acknowledges local headmaster Mohammad Farhad Hossain. "In just six months they established discipline. You can't see students playing carom in school hours anymore or wasting evenings in the bazaar. Nobody takes drugs openly now. Truly, our dream village is close at hand."

The group visited the upazila-level administration to request technical assistance for farmers and fishers. They discussed suitable entrepreneurial ideas. They talked about health care.

To encourage education, Dream Village gave awards to meritorious students and when winter arrived they distributed warm clothes to the vulnerable. They sought to help orphan girls become established, at times by finding a suitable groom. And local patients can now avail some financial support from the group. Dream Village has also worked on the state of the roads.

"We have earth-laden trolley-vehicles belonging to influential outsiders plying our dirt roads," says freedom fighter Abdus Samad Shikder from Pachasaratia. "They leave the roads in almost unusable condition." It's a particular hazard for patients trying to reach hospital.

"Dream Village repaired a one-kilometre stretch of the flood-damaged Chowbaria - Salpokutia road," notes Monirul Islam, an assistant high school teacher.

That initiative came to the attention of the Japanese foreign aid agency JICA, which provided Tk 2.5 lakhs for extra roadwork and a further Tk 1 lakh to develop the area's Eidgah prayer field.

And last November when the state minister for post and telecommunica-

tion Tarana Halim, also a local, tried to visit the area but was forced back due to road conditions, Dream Village secured her assurance that she would indeed visit the area very soon, after the construction of a concrete roadway.

Then there is the electricity problem. "We are knocking on the doors of upazila administrators and public representatives hoping for electricity," says Sweet, now the general secretary of the group's committee. "Electricity is the light of development. It will facilitate entrepreneurship."

"Although our members have modest incomes," reflects Saidur, "we have a savings fund for income-generating projects. We plan vegetable gardens and orchards in every household yard and on school land. We will plant trees for beautification and have lampposts in front of every home. We have 400 freedom fighters in the union too, and as far as I know they've never had a reception to express our gratitude. We will give them one."

Saidur notes with regret that the area is yet to produce its first government officer. "Our vision is a community of honest human beings," he says. "People will live poverty-free, without social vice. Our youths will be well-educated and contribute." With the enthusiasm of Dream Village at work, it's hard to imagine they won't succeed. The future is indeed, in their hands.

Hannan to seek

FROM PAGE 1
 Hannan while the verdict was read out.

About meeting relatives, Mizanur said they did not receive any request from his family in this regard.

Meanwhile, Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal issued death warrants for Hannan and two other militants yesterday, a day after the Supreme Court released the full text of its verdict upholding their death penalties.

Sagor Mia, senior jail superintendent of Sylhet Central Jail, said they received the warrants from Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal around 6:15pm.

"We forwarded the copies of the warrants to Kashimpur jail as two convicts, including Hannan, were there," he said.

The copy was read out to Ripon, one of the condemned, and he wished to talk to his lawyers and meet his family members, the jail superintendent added.

At a programme yesterday in front

of old Dhaka Central Jail on Nazimuddin Road, Inspector General of Prisons Brig Gen Syed Iftekhar Uddin told reporters that the jail authorities had already taken necessary preparations for executing Hannan.

He said jail officials would take necessary actions as per jail code once they receive the warrant of execution.

On Tuesday, the SC released its full verdict that upheld its order confirming the death penalties of Hannan and two other militants in the case filed for the 2004 grenade attack on then UK high commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Chowdhury.

The release of the text of the apex court verdict that dismissed the review petitions of the three death row convicts cleared the way for the jail authorities to start the process for executing them.

The jail authorities could execute their death sentences after 21 days and before 28 days from Tuesday, under Provision 991 (VI) of the Jail Code.

In 2004, then UK envoy Anwar Chowdhury, who was born in Bangladesh, and 70 others were injured in the attack at the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) in Sylhet. Three people, including a police official, were killed.

On December 23, 2008, the Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal sentenced Mufti Hannan, Bipul and Ripon to death. Two other members of the banned militant outfit were sentenced to life in jail. They are Muhibullah alias Muhibur Rahman alias Ovi and Mufti Main Uddin alias Abu Zandal.

On February 11 last year, the HC confirmed the capital punishment for the three and upheld the life sentences of Ovi and Abu Zandal. On December 7 last year, the SC upheld the death penalties of Hannan, Bipul and Ripon. The trio filed petitions for reviews on February 23 this year.

Our Gazipur and Sylhet correspondents contributed to the report.

N Korea behind BB reserve heist

FROM PAGE 16
 Washington forum.

Speaking at an Aspen Institute roundtable, Ledgett pointed out that private sector researchers had linked the digital break-in in Bangladesh to the 2014 hack on Sony Pictures, which the US government attributed to Pyongyang.

"If that linkage from the Sony actors to the Bangladeshi bank actors is accurate -- that means that a nation state is robbing banks," Ledgett said. "That's a big deal."

The moderator of the event, former Assistant Attorney General for National Security John Carlin, quickly followed up: "Do you believe that there are nation states now robbing banks?"

Ledgett offered a simple answer: "I do." While the NSA, America's premier

spy agency, has far greater insight into North Korean cyber operations than private security firms, Ledgett's remarks studiously avoided any reference to what evidence the agency has collected on the Bangladeshi heist. They stopped short of an official US government statement that North Korea was behind the attack.

But Ledgett, a 30-year veteran of the agency due to retire later this year, would be unlikely to lend his credibility to reports that do not match his agency's findings. "I think the public case was well-made," Ledgett told Foreign Policy. The NSA declined to comment beyond Ledgett's public remarks.

The alleged attempt by North Korean hackers to break into a bank and attempt to steal just short of \$1 billion alarmed many in the cyber security

world and marked a significant escalation of its behaviour in cyberspace. Computer security experts described the heist as technically sophisticated and one that cemented Pyongyang as one of the world's most capable -- and daring -- actors in cyberspace.

Ledgett's comments come as the hermit kingdom is increasingly starved for cash. The United Nations has stepped up sanctions against Pyongyang and is examining North Korean front companies in China that allow it to secure much-needed foreign currency.

By attacking a bank and making off with large sums of money, North Korea can evade sanctions and obtain foreign currency, but so far, that effort has not delivered serious dividends for Pyongyang.

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Sl.	Name of Project as per Tender Document	Period of sale		Last time and date of submission
		from	to	
1.	Interior Decoration and Furniture Works of 1 st Floor, Munshi Market, Ramgarh, Khagrachari.	23.03.2017	13.04.2017	13.04.2017 (3:00 pm)

Eligibility and other conditions:

- Interested bidders may collect tender document for the said work on submission of a request letter addressing the undersigned as well as documentary evidence of the followings:
 - Should have minimum experience of 5 years in Interior Decoration and Furniture work of any Bank's Branch or Head Office.
 - Must have experience of executing work of Tk.35.00 Lac or above in a single tender.
 - Should have valid Registration, ownership document, VAT & TIN certificate, up-to-date Trade License and Bank Solvency Certificate.
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- No tender schedule will be sold after last date of sale as mentioned above.
- The interested bidders shall have to attend a pre-bid meeting at the office of the undersigned at **3:00 pm on 09.04.2017**.
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- Submission of tender after the specified time shall not be acceptable under any circumstances.
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