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'I hope you can let this go'

NYT report says Trump asked FBI chief to end probe on Flynn-Russia ties

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump asked then-FBI Director James Comey to end the agency's investigation into ties between former White House national security adviser Michael Flynn and Russia, according to a source who has seen a memo written by Comey.

The explosive new development on Tuesday followed a week of tumult at the White House after Trump fired Comey and then discussed sensitive national security information about Islamic State with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

The Comey memo, first reported by the New York Times, caused alarm on Capitol Hill and raised

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2 TRUMP DIDN'T PASS SECRETS: PUTIN



It's illegal

Says Rajuk as Raintree hotel doing business at residential building



TAWFIQUE ALI

Business of The Raintree Dhaka hotel is going on at a residential building in Banani with a High Court order staying the authorities concerned from taking action against it.

"Running hotel business at residential buildings is absolutely illegal," said Rokon-Ud-Doula, law director of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk).

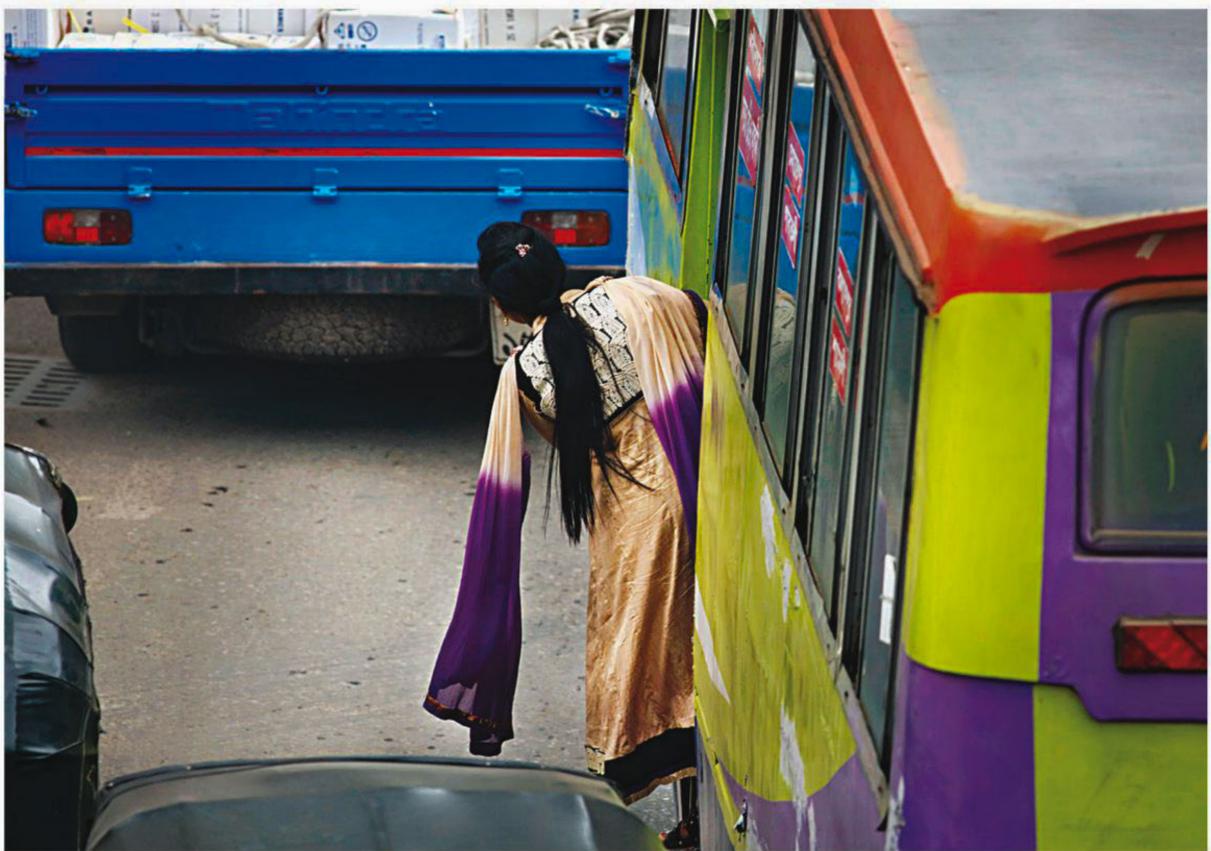
They had been doing the business after obtaining a stay order from the HC, barring Rajuk from carrying out an eviction drive, he observed.

The nine-storey building has approval for seven floors above ground, meaning its top floor is illegal, said Rajuk Authorised Officer Adiluzzaman.

The building has no occupancy certificate either, a legally mandatory clearance document required prior to opening a new building for use, he added.

Earlier in mid-February, Rajuk in association with a mobile court carried out an eviction drive at Raintree, cut off

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A woman tries to get down from a moving bus on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near Paribagh in the capital yesterday. There are hardly any bus bays in Dhaka, and buses often stop in the middle of the street to drop off and pick up passengers. Passengers on the other hand are often careless about their own safety and get off moving buses in the middle of streets.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

23 get death for killing 4

AL, BCL activists were brutally murdered in N'ganj 15 years ago

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Twenty three people, including a former president of a BNP union unit in Arahazar of Narayanganj, have been sentenced to death for killing four activists of Awami League and Chhatra League in 2002.

Narayanganj Second Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court delivered the verdict yesterday, some 15 years after what victims' family members said "a gruesome political killing".

Among the 23 condemned, four are on the run while the others, including Abul Bashar Kashu, the then president of Sadasadi union (now defunct) unit of BNP, were present in the dock yesterday, Additional Public Prosecutor Jasmine Ahmed said.

According to the prosecution, Kashu and his people picked up Berek, his cousin Badal, Faruk, and Kabir on March 12, 2002 and tortured them to death.

All of the victims were from Delakandi area of the upazila. Berek and Badal were involved in Bangladesh Chhatra League, a pro-Awami League student body, while Faruk and Kabir were Awami League activists.

Rafiqul Islam, brother of Berek and the president of

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BNP worried over recent infighting

Insiders blame long unresolved feud, absence of district committees, unilateral decisions from centre

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Recent incidents of intra-party conflicts centring the BNP's initiative of revamping the grassroots leaders and activists have concerned the party's high command, say insiders.

The party has recently designated 51 central leaders to visit its 78 organisational districts to inject enthusiasm among party activists ahead of the next parliamentary elections. But in a number of districts, some party faithfuls were involved in clashes among themselves.

Longstanding intra-party conflict, absence of district committees and announcement of new committees from the centre are said to be the reasons behind such infightings, according to party leaders and activists.

In some cases, the situation reached such a level that party Chairperson Khaleda Zia had to intervene in resolving the problem, and a few leaders had been expelled from the party for violating party discipline.

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According to BNP office, the central leaders have visited 54 organisational districts out of 78 so far, and they saw violence in at least a dozen districts during meetings.

An official of the party's Nayapaltan headquarters alleged that police also foiled the party's meetings in four districts -- Madaripur, Narail, Pirojpur and Kushtia.

He also said the party was yet to get police permission in 18 organisational districts to hold meetings.

Seeking anonymity, a senior BNP leader said, "In many districts, full committee was not announced and in some districts, experienced leaders were ignored. So, the deprived leaders have taken the central leaders visits to the grassroots as an opportunity to express their frustration and anger."

"We have given a very good impression through the Vision 2030 and at this moment, infighting is a reason to be worried about, and the party should take stern action about this."

Princess gives up crown for love



MAIL ONLINE

A Japanese princess will give up her royal status when she marries a beach tourism worker she met in a restaurant.

Princess Mako, the granddaughter of Japan's emperor, is getting married to ocean lover Kei Komuro who can ski, play the violin and cook, it has been claimed.

The man who won the princess' heart, was a fellow student at International Christian University in Tokyo, where Princess Mako, 25, also graduated.

Once they say 'I do', she will lose her status - despite being Emperor Akihito's granddaughter -

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Journos to be monitored while abroad

Says foreign ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The foreign ministry has directed all its missions to monitor the activities of the Bangladeshi journalists travelling abroad and find out whether they are involved in any anti-state activities.

In a letter issued to the foreign missions yesterday, the ministry said if any journalist is found involved in any activities against "the

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 18
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-36 8-00
JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 6-40 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

IS suicide bombers attack Afghan TV station

10 people, including four militants, killed as gunfights, explosions rock RTA building with journos trapped inside; 17 others injured

AFP, Jalalabad

Suicide bombers stormed the national television station in Afghanistan's Jalalabad city yesterday, killing six people as gunfights and explosions rocked the building with journalists trapped inside, officials and eyewitnesses said.

At least 17 others were left wounded in the four-hour assault on Radio Television Afghanistan, which marks the latest in a string of attacks on media workers in the conflict-torn country.

Islamic State jihadists have claimed responsibility for the raid in eastern Nangarhar province, where the US military dropped its largest non-nuclear bomb last month in an unprecedented strike.

"There were four attackers -- one blew himself up

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Afghan security forces take position at the site of suicide bombing in Jalalabad yesterday. Suicide bombers stormed the national television station in the eastern Afghan city, triggering gunfights and explosions as journalists remained trapped inside the building, officials and eyewitnesses said.

PHOTO: AFP

RMG worker 'gang-raped' in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A female garment worker has allegedly been gang-raped by her ex-boyfriend and three other youths in Hemayetpur area of Savar on the outskirts of the capital.

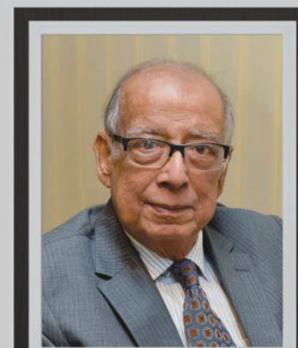
Rahim Mia, 25, of Tatuljhara, and the victim, aged around 22, had a relationship but they broke up a few months ago. Still, the girl was in contact with him. Lately, she had been going through a financial crisis.

On Tuesday afternoon, the girl called Rahim over phone and asked him to lend her some money. In reply, he told her to come and meet him in a house in Tatuljhara area, said police, quoting her.

Around 7:00pm, Rahim took her to that house where the three other youths were hiding. At one point, the four accused forced her into a room, tied her hands and mouth with rope and then raped her throughout the night, said police.

The next morning the girl somehow managed to

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We deeply mourn the sad demise of our Chairman, Mr. Faruq A. Choudhury

Mr. Faruq A. Choudhury passed away on 17 May, 2017 at the age of 83.

We recall with immense gratitude the invaluable services rendered by him, as the Chairman of Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DBH). His outstanding leadership was characterized by unqualified commitment and support to the growth of the Company. Nominated by BRAC, Mr. Choudhury was a Board member of DBH since 1996.

Mr. Choudhury had a long and illustrious career in the Foreign Service, and was a former Ambassador, High Commissioner and Foreign Secretary of the Government of Bangladesh. He was former Advisor, Governing Body Member of BRAC, and Member of the Board of Trustees of BRAC University. Mr. Choudhury was also a noted columnist.

We pray to the Almighty Allah for the eternal peace of his departed soul and extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. May the Almighty grant them the strength and fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

Members of the Board of Directors & Employees of Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation Limited.



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