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SHAH CEMENT

Fake detectives on the prowl

Law enforcers arrest 16 members of two gangs in last two days in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People may confuse them with real detectives as they wear vests similar to those used by law enforcers, use walkie-talkies and have firearms.

They target people coming out of banks or financial institutions with large amounts. People getting robbed by such gangs of fake detectives have become all too common.

In separate drives in the last two days, the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested 16 people of two such gangs.

Nine of them were captured in the city's Banasree area around 1:10am yesterday when they were preparing to rob people. Seven others were arrested at a road near Sheraton intersection around 6:25pm Friday, DB Joint Commissioner Abdul Baten told a press briefing at the DMP



Media Centre yesterday.

The arrestees are: Jewel Rana, Yasin, Badal, Momen Ali, Shahidul Islam, Firoz, Syed Moniruzzaman, Mohammad Ali, Sabuj, Liton Khan, Bablu Miah alias Akash, Monir Hossain (1), Saidur Rahman, Monir Hossain (2), Mahmudul Hasan alias

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with senior ministers at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport before leaving for Riyadh yesterday on a four-day official visit to attend the Arab Islamic American Summit.

PHOTO: PID

PM off to Saudi Arabia

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina left Dhaka for Riyadh last night on a four-day official visit to Saudi Arabia to attend the Arab Islamic American Summit.

The summit, to be attended by US President Donald Trump and leaders of the member countries of the 41-nation Islamic Military Alliance to Fight Terrorism (IMAFIT), is expected to cover issues of counter-terrorism and violent extremism.

A VIP flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying the PM and her entourage took off from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 8:10pm.

The flight was scheduled to touch down at King Khalid International Airport in the Saudi capital at 11:15pm (local time).

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China taps gas from 'ice'

THE STRAITS TIMES, Beijing/Hong Kong

China has successfully extracted gas from an ice-like substance mined from the South China Sea, in a development that will help secure the country's energy security, said the Minister of Land and Resources.

Engineers extracted the gas from the so-called

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Brutal torture on suspicion of theft

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Jhalakathi

When Sagor Howlader, 10, was riding his bicycle near his house last Sunday afternoon, he had not imagined how a normal day was about to take a turn for the worse. A student of class IV, Sagor was about to become

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

New leaks haunt Trump

Gets royal welcome in S Arabia as Russia scandals swirl at home; bags \$110b arms deal

AGENCIES

The White House announced a huge arms deal with Saudi Arabia yesterday as President Donald Trump took his first steps on the world stage, looking to leave mounting troubles behind at home.

The \$110 billion deal for Saudi purchases of US defence equipment and services came



at the start of an eight-day foreign tour that will also take Trump to Jerusalem, the Vatican and meetings with leaders in Europe.

The US president was given a warm welcome in the oil-rich kingdom -- a mood in sharp contrast to Washington where pressure is building after fresh claims over his team's

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



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PRAYER TIMING MAY 21

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

Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef crowns winner



Left From L-R Shampa Rahman, Nazma Huda, Tarik Anam, Daniel Gomes, Mim and Ayesha Siddiqui, Right Winner Ayesha Siddiqui



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

OSAMA RAHMAN

As the dust finally settled on one of the most heated kitchen competitions in the country today, one chef stood tall. Ayesha Siddiqui Pinky, hailing from Dhaka and having grown up in far flung corners of the world, had used her collective wealth of culinary knowledge to win the top prize. She was declared to be 2017's Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef. But it had come down right to the wire. Two votes separated the winner from the runner's up.

"I am very sad that I could not be the Super Chef. But it was very wonderful to be here," Shampa Rahman, the runner's up, said. Her journey so far had indeed been a rewarding one. Having amassed three badges along with the first immunity pin which sealed her as the best among the rest, that Shampa would go very far into the competition was never in doubt. However, even the best

fall down sometime and perhaps that is what happened on the final day of the competition.

Ayesha Siddiqui Pinky, on the other hand, was another top favourite owing to the five pins proving her victory in five different aspects of the competition. The world-traveller, Aysha used her diverse culinary experience to remain in pole position, regardless of what was thrown at her. Her innovation also made her quite the threat for other participants but it was her confidence that helped her to secure the title of Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef. "Pre-planning in such a competition is very hard because you never know what is coming. You have to trust your instinct," she said. She lived up to her words, always trusting her instinct and was always rewarded for the risks that she took.

Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef is considered to be one of

Bangladesh's biggest culinary competitions. This year around, the fourth edition of the competition spanned all over the country, holding 17 regional rounds. Over 2000 participants took part in the competition with a choice few making the cut for the competition proper after the culmination of the auditions rounds. Those that made the cut were put through grueling tests that were designed to push their culinary knowledge and their endurance to the limit. Participants constantly found themselves in various pressure-cooker situations, with mistakes proving costly enough to merit elimination.

For the Grand Finale of Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef, the pressure

was turned on from the start. As the saying goes, the tension was thick enough to cut with a knife, but unless one could wield it with style, there would be no point in this competition.

That's how much every aspect of cooking matters in this tournament. Ayesha Siddiqui and Shampa Rahman were first invited to the front and given two options; Set A and Set B. Each set contained a number of ingredients that would have to be used to prepare a four course meal. Set A was revealed to them while Set B was not. The idea was that if one chose Set A, they would go and use it to prepare their meal but if they wanted they could see Set B. However, seeing Set B was akin to choosing Set B and there would be no turning back.

Both the participants opted for Set A which consisted of two main ingredients, shrimp and duck. The shrimp would be used to make one important side dish and the duck would be used to make the main dish. Apart from these, there would be an appetiser and a dessert item. The participants were given 40 minutes for the appetiser, 35 minutes for the shrimp, 50 minutes for the main course and 40 minutes for the dessert. The two then finished each course and presented them to the judges who voted each dish separately. With each dish, the voting process became more unpredictable. In the end, it came down to a mere difference of two votes with 9 votes for Pinky and 7 for Shampa. And with that, Pinky realised that she had done it and in the process had become a part of Super Chef history.

Ayesha Siddiqui's victory meant she received the Super Chef crest along with

the prize money of Tk 10 lac. Shampa Rahman, the first runner's up, received a crest and the prize money of Tk 5 lac whilst Maymuna Akter, who came third, was eliminated in the last round, received a crest and prize money to Tk 3 lac. "We did four consecutive seasons and for that I am very happy. Sustaining a show in the long run was our objective and every year we see a major difference," Faisal Mahmud, Marketing Manager of Bangladesh Edible Oil Limited said. "Participants now approach the show differently and more professionally. The improvement is remarkable. Plus, this year we brought in a huge number of diverse professionals from the chef of Manhattan Fish Market to a caterer, increasing the show's diversity," he said.

While this year's competition left a huge mark on the audience, the next edition of the competition can be expected to be bigger and better.