



Rescuers stand next to the dead body of a migrant that washed ashore yesterday at the coast of Tajoura, east of Tripoli in Libya.

# Morshed Khan

FROM PAGE 1  
Shamim Ahmed Chowdhury, M Fazlur Rahman, and current MD of the bank Moshiur Rahman Chowdhury.

The remaining accused in the case are officials of the bank.

According to the case statement, AB Bank unlawfully guaranteed loans of Tk 348.5 crore given to PBTIL by eight other banks and non-bank financial institutions. The board and other top officials of AB Bank approved the move without taking any collateral from PBTIL, in violation of the rules and regulations of Bangladesh Bank.

As the guarantor, AB Bank was bound to pay off the loans with the interest - over Tk 383 crore - after the borrower failed to repay the money in a year.

Of Tk 348.5 crore loan money, PBTIL took Tk 50 crore from HFC Bank, Tk 10 crore from Bangladesh Commerce Bank, Tk 23 crore from Saudi Bangladesh Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company, Tk 30 crore from Pubali Bank, Tk 47 crore from Phoenix Finance and Investment, Tk 50 crore from NCB Bank, Tk 38.5 crore from City Bank and Tk 100 crore from Dhaka Bank.

Most of these loans were taken between 2012 and 2013, according to the ACC investigation.

Melbourn on behalf of PBTIL had applied to AB Bank's Mohabbati branch so that the bank became the guarantor. The branch then sent the proposal to the bank's headquarters without examining the application properly. Later, the top brass of the bank approved the application without any assessment and ignoring the rules and regulations of the central bank, missing the graft watchdog.

Alleging the guarantee, PBTIL in a planned way took away Tk 348.5 crore from the eight banks and institutions, reads the ACC case statement.

When PBTIL failed to repay the loan within a year, the lenders asked AB Bank to give them the pay and eventually, the bank paid the money by 2015.

In its investigation ACC found that Morshed, his wife Nasrin, Asghar, and his son, M. M. Hossain, who collaboratively gained financial benefits from the transactions, denied the statement.

Contacted, M Wahidul Haque, who has been the chairman of AB Bank since December 12, 2007, defended the bank's position on the matter.

"We [board] approved the [application for the] guarantee based on the recommendations from the [bank] management," he told The Daily Star over phone.

Wahidul also denied the ACC allegation that the bank was not given any collateral. He claimed the bank had got Tk 350 crore as the collateral.

This newspaper tried to contact many of the accused but none of them was ready to respond to queries.

# Raushan happy

FROM PAGE 2  
"When a natural disaster strikes, army personnel are engaged in rescue and rehabilitation of the victims. I'm making a call for engaging the army and its drivers to stop food adulteration," she said, taking part in the budget discussion.

Mentioning that many students waste time on mobile phones at night, she urged the government to develop mobile apps like WhatsApp and Viber late at night.

Raushan also urged the government to shut coaching centres and not to allow printing of guidebooks in order to improve the standard of education.

# Road crashes claim

FROM PAGE 16  
The three were identified as Hossain Hannan, 20, his brother Abdul Mannan, 24, and driver Md Nur, 28. All of them hailed from Peka of Cox's Bazar.

Police said their CNG fell on a roadside canal as the roadside slope became slippery in the rain around 12:30am. When they tried to pull the vehicle, they came in contact with a snapped electric cable, said Sub-Inspector Basu Dev of Patiya police.

The three came from Cox's Bazar to buy a bull for the funeral of the brothers' father, who died a week ago, the police added.

Besides, three persons were killed and several others were injured in separate road accidents on June 26-28.

In Baranbar, four people including three children were killed and 10 others injured in a road accident in Lama on Monday.

The deceased were identified as Jahidul Islam, 10, Sarwar, 12, Asad, 13, of the districts Alwarupazila, and Manzulur Alam, 42, of Chakoria upazila of Cox's Bazar, police said.

The accident took place as a Chandler Car, locally assembled motorised car, hit a tree after it had skidded off the road in Mirinja tourist area, said Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Lama police Md Anwar Hossain.

Doctors declared the children dead after they were rushed to Chakoria Health Complex, while Manzulur died on way to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), said the OC. The injured were referred to CMCH.

All of them were visiting different tourist spots to celebrate the Eid-ul-Fitr, the police officer added.

In Khagrachari, three persons including a child were killed and 10 others injured in a bus accident at Kalapani in Guimara upazila around 9:30am yesterday.

The dead are Tarequl Islam, 20, Ripon, 24 and Janatul Ferdous, 4. All were residents of Guimara, police said. The injured were sent to Manikchhari Upazila Health Complex.

Safiqul Islam, OC of Guimara police, said the accident occurred as a Chittagong-bound bus hit a roadside tree after its driver had lost control over the steering.

In Sirajganj, three motorcyclists were killed as Dhaka-bound Pabna Express hit their bike at Talgasi Bazar on Dhaka-Pabna Highway in Shahajpur upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Anwar Hossain, 30, Shariful Islam, 28, and Nurul Islam, 37, who hailed from Bolshahri village of Ullapara upazila, police said.

OC of Shahajpur police Khaza Golam Kibria said the bus driver hit the motorcycle as he lost control over the steering when he was trying to overtake at the junction.

The police seized the bus but could not arrest the driver, he added.

In Mymensingh, two people were killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway at Kazirhima in Trishal upazila on Tuesday.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Sobhan, 65, and his granddaughter Sumi Akhter, 11, of Sakta village in Trishal.

Jakir Rahman, OC of Trishal police, said the accident occurred around 10:00am when a pick-up van hit the duo while they were crossing the road, leaving them dead on the spot.

Outraged by the accident, locals put a barricade on the highway, disrupting traffic for about an hour, the police said. Several vehicles were also ransacked during the barricade.

Besides, five other people were killed in separate road accidents in Gaibandha, Dinajpur, Panchagarh and Thakurgaon.

# BNP says

FROM PAGE 16  
favourable for fair and participatory polls," said BNP Senior Joint Secretary General, Ruhul Kabir Rizvi.

Speaking at a press conference at the BNP's Nayapalata central office, he said the AL leader's comment had "upset people."

On Tuesday, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader told reporters in Comilla that the next general election would be held under the Election Commission. "Sheikh Hasina will only play the role of a supportive government during the election as per the constitution."

Mentioning that people "couldn't cast their votes" in the previous polls held under Hasina, Rizvi said people no longer wanted to see any election under the incumbent premier.

He said there was no use of showing the constitutional rules and obligations as excuses since the charter can be amended for people's welfare.

Inclusion of an election-time supportive-government system in the constitution is a demand of all people and political parties, said the BNP leader.

Rizvi also warned that people would resist any plot of the government to hold a unilateral election.

"The next general election will not be held under Sheikh Hasina. People will give a befitting reply this time if the government tries to carry out any blueprint for the polls."

The BNP leader urged the government to take steps for holding a fair and inclusive election.

In Dhaka, a Biman Bangladesh Airlines office was killed in the capital's Khilkhet on Airport Road yesterday morning after the driver of a microbus carrying him lost control and hit a road island.

The deceased was identified as Moinuddin Bhuiyan, 55, commercial officer of the national airlines.

A Biman press release says the driver lost control over the wheels when a rear wheel of the vehicle burst around 9:00am. He was going to join his duty in the airport area from Mirpur.

In Panchagarh, an elderly person was killed in a road accident on Panchagarh-Bangladesh Highway in Tentulia upazila on Wednesday afternoon.

The victim was Mokim Uddin, 60, son of Masir Uddin of Dimagchah village under the same upazila.

Besides, at least 16 people died in last four days while taking treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital after sustaining injuries on different dates and in different areas.

Most of the accident victims were from outside Dhaka, hospital sources said.

# Child marriage

FROM PAGE 16  
"Ending this practice is not only the morally right thing to do but also the economically smart thing to do," added Wodon, who co-authored the report - the first to look at the economic impact of child marriage.

One of the biggest economic benefits of ending child marriage would derive from a reduction in population growth, according to the study co-authored by the International Center for Research on Women.

Girls who marry young have more children on average than those who delay marriage.

Ending child marriage would reduce fertility rates by 11 percent on average in 15 of the worst affected countries analysed in the study.

Global gains from lower population growth could exceed \$500 billion annually by 2030, with cumulative gains topping \$4 trillion, the study said.

Although world leaders have pledged to end child marriage by 2030 under the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals agreed in 2015, investments to end the practice remain limited.

The authors said this was likely partly due to the fact child marriage was seen as a social issue and the economic case had not been made forcefully enough.

Each year of secondary education reduces the risk of child marriage by five percentage points or more, the report said.

Child brides are more likely to drop out of school than their peers who marry later, which in turn impacts their ability to earn a living.

Early marriage reduces women's earnings in adulthood by 9 percent, the study said, while the children of child mothers tend to suffer poorer development and health.

The economic benefits of lower rates of under-five mortality and stunting - that can lead to irreversible damage to health - which would result from ending child marriage could reach more than \$90 billion annually by 2030, the bank estimated.

# Sudhin Das

FROM PAGE 16  
Nazrul's songs gained popularity on radio around 1954-55, many singers started singing it without a care for the original tunes. Sudhin Das, who had grown up listening to Nazrul's songs on old gramophone records, undertook the mammoth task of collecting the old records that were made in Nazrul's lifetime and documenting the original swaripati (musical notations) of the songs. He published 33 volumes of authentic Nazrul songs against the objections of the help of Nazrul Academy and Nazrul Institute. It was due to his efforts that the original tunes of Nazrul were preserved. Sudhin Das was also a revered teacher of Nazrul songs and many of the country's top Nazrul Sangket artists are his direct students. Apart from Nazrul songs, Sudhin Das also wrote swaripati for Lalon's songs.

Sudhin Das was honored with numerous awards and recognitions in his lifetime, including the Shaheed Alif Mahmood Memorial Gold Medal (1985), the Ekushey Padak (1988), Nazrul Padak (1999), Churni Nazul Academy's Nazrul Award and many others. He was a teacher at Nazrul Institute and Nazrul Academy, and served on the jury for many musical and cultural boards.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed their grief at the survivor's demise in separate messages.

Sudhin Das is survived by his wife Nilima Das and daughter Suporna Das. His only son, guitarist-songwriter Niloy Das, passed away in 2006.

Nazrul enthusiasts can pay homage to the singer at 10am at Nazrul Institute today, where his body will be taken this morning. Later, people from all walks of life will pay their last tributes to him at Central Shaheed Minar from 11am to 12:30pm. His cremation will take place at Postogola.

# Crow attacks

FROM PAGE 16  
A bird believed to be the very same crow gained notoriety in 2016 for stealing a knife from a crime scene.

It has also been spotted riding the city's metro and earlier this month got into a flap with a McDonald's diner while trying to steal her breakfast.



PHOTO: REUTERS

# Major cyber attack

FROM PAGE 16  
Ukraine, the epicentre of the cyber strike has repeatedly accused Russia of orchestrating attacks on its computer systems and critical power infrastructure since its powerful neighbour annexed the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea in 2014.

The Kremlin, which has consistently rejected the accusations, said on Wednesday it had no information about the origin of the global cyber attack, which also struck Russian companies such as oil giant Rosneft and a steelmaker.

ESIT, a Slovakian company that sells products to shield its computers from viruses, said 80 percent of the infections detected among its global customer base were in Ukraine, with Italy second hardest hit with about 10 percent.

The aim of the latest attack appears to be disruption rather than ransom, said Brian Lord, former deputy director of intelligence and cyber operations at Britain's GCHQ and now managing director at private security firm PCI Cyber.

"My sense is this starts to look like a state operation through a proxy... as a kind of experiment to see what happens," Lord told Reuters yesterday.

While the malware seemed to be a variant of past campaigns, derived from code known as Eternal Blue, believed to have been developed by the US National Security Agency (NSA), experts said it was not as virulent as last month's WannaCry attack.

They said Tuesday's virus could leap from computer to computer once unleashed within an organisation, but unlike WannaCry, it could not randomly crawl the internet for its next victims, limiting its scope to infect.

The introduction of security patches in the wake of the May attack that crippled hundreds of thousands of computers also helped curb the latest malware, though its rapid spread underlined concerns that some businesses have still failed to secure their networks from increasingly aggressive hackers.

After WannaCry, governments, security firms and industrial groups

advised businesses and consumers to make sure all their computers were updated with Microsoft security patches.

Ukraine's government-backed Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) said "a small number" of international firms appeared to be affected, with tens of thousands of computers taken down.

A number of international firms have operations in Ukraine and the virus is believed to have spread within global corporate networks after gaining traction within the country.

Shipping giant AP Moller-Maersk, which handles one in seven containers shipped worldwide, has a logistics unit in Ukraine.

Other large firms affected, such as French construction materials company Saint Gobain and Mondelez International, which owns chocolate brand Cadbury, also have operations in the country.

Maersk was one of the first global firms to be taken down by the cyber attack and its operations at major ports such as Mumbai in India, Rotterdam in the Netherlands and Los Angeles on the US west coast were disrupted.

The company said on Wednesday it was unable to process new orders and its 76 terminals around the world were becoming increasingly congested.

Other companies to succumb included BNP Paribas Real Estate, a part of the French bank that provides property and investment management services.

The international cyber attack hit our own bank subsidiary, Real Estate. The necessary measures have been taken to rapidly contain the attack," the bank said on Wednesday.

Production at the Cadbury factory on the Australian island state of Tasmania was also disrupted late on Tuesday after computer systems went down.

Russia's Rosneft, one of the world's biggest crude producers by volume, said on Tuesday its systems had been hit by "serious cyberattacks" but oil production had not been affected because it switched to backup systems.

# Efforts on probe, trial

FROM PAGE 1  
The countries on the tier 2 watch list are making significant efforts, but the number of trafficking cases, forms of trafficking from these countries, is very significant and they are failing to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking.

Bangladesh was on the tier 2 watch list also in 2010 and 2011.

The government has continued to put in some efforts to prevent trafficking. But its failure to address the issue of high recruitment fees that migrant workers pay for jobs overseas has an impact on the trafficking situation.

The Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies has been allowed to set recruitment fees sufficiently high to render many migrant workers indebted and vulnerable to trafficking.

The report gives an example of Saudi Arabia's recruiting male workers, lifting a seven-year ban last year. According to the report, the maximum recruitment cost should not exceed Tk 165,000, but the actual cost was three to four times the amount set.

The State Department suggested that Bangladesh take steps so that migrant workers are exempted from paying recruitment fees. The employer instead should pay the fees, it said.

"Over the years, Bangladesh has framed good policies and enacted laws, but the implementation is very poor. The big fishes of the trafficking networks are not being brought to book," said Salma Ali, executive director of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association.

Bangladesh needs to focus on allocating adequate money to implement the laws to combat human trafficking. Otherwise, it may see its position further down, and the US may consider imposing sanctions, Salma told The Daily Star.

Bangladesh finalised the rules of the 2012 Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act in January 2017 and drafted an implementation roadmap for the 2015-2017 national action plan.

However, complexity of government officials in trafficking offences remained a serious problem, according to the report.

It also noted that bribes and sexual favours to ignore potential trafficking at brothels.

Observers also accused district employment officials of facilitating trafficking and border guards of ignoring potential trafficking crimes at

# No rice crisis

FROM PAGE 1  
There was 54 lakh tonnes of rice in the government-approved stocks, 1.88 lakh tonnes in government silos and 50.3 lakh tonnes in private farmers' and 50.3 lakh tonnes in unapproved stocks in the DM added.

About the modernisation of Qawmi madrasa curriculum, Hasina said, "Madrasa students are also our children... We don't know what they are like. There is no need to criticise and get angry. They are not respected in society. So we have taken steps to modernise the Qawmi madrasa education."

QUESTION-ANSWER SESSION  
Replying to an inmate's queries, the leader of the House of Representatives and military were big barriers to the country's development and security.

In a scripted answer, she said Bangladesh was a country of religious freedom, but some investment and improve communism and military.

"After returning to power, the Awami League government took a zero-tolerance policy against militancy. There is no need to criticise and get angry. They are not respected in society. So we have taken steps to modernise the Qawmi madrasa education."

Elaborating on various steps of her government and their implementation, she said militancy was now under control.

There is no need to criticise and get angry at all levels of the society."

Responding to another query from a lawmaker, Hasina said the government planned to start the development work of 10 economic zones in the next fiscal year, but investment and improve investment climate in the country.

The government planned to set up 100 economic zones and 22 of them were given permission. Besides, sites have been set for 53 economic zones, the premier told the latva Sangsad.

# July 1 attack

FROM PAGE 16  
were killed by militants at Holy Artisan Bakery in the capital's Gulshan on July 1 last year.

The following day, five attackers and one suspected associate of them were killed during a commando operation at the cafe.