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# WILL WE EVER LEARN?

Commuters jaywalking across the city's Airport Road ignoring a footbridge just a few metres away putting their lives in danger. Right, transport workers are out to help police control traffic at the busy intersection. They were also seen attempting to stop people jaywalking. Pedestrians are often seen jaywalking even under footbridges in the capital, opting to save a few seconds and risking their safety and others using the road. The photos were taken on Monday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## MIGRANTS IN EUROPE Dhaka to seek more time for verification

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**

Dhaka yesterday finalised the terms and conditions for the return of irregular migrants from the European Union and agreed to bring back all its irregular nationals through a nationality verification process within a "logical time."

"We have in principle agreed to bring back all Bangladeshi nationals, who became irregulars and have been living in 28 European Union countries. We need to go through strict nationality verification and we will expedite this for their early return," said a high government official, after coming out of an inter-ministerial meeting.

Dhaka will seek more time to complete the nationality verification process as there remains some apprehension about Myanmar's Rohingyas being mistakenly identified as Bangladeshis.

The European Union, in its eighth Joint Commission meeting with Bangladesh in Brussels on July 12, warned Dhaka to conclude negotiations for repatriation of thousands of undocumented Bangladeshi immigrants living in its member countries

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## KALYANPUR RAID: ONE YEAR ON A 'turning point' in fight against terror

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The operation "Storm 26" in the capital's Kalyanpur last year was a turning point for law enforcers as documents seized at a "Neo JMB" den there and information gathered subsequently helped law enforcers fight back against the country's rising terror network, counterterrorism officials said.

If not for the July 26 operation in which nine militants were killed, police could not have prevented some further terror attacks. They also won back public trust that eroded following the Gulshan café attack earlier that month.

"It was the operation through which we fought back against militancy and it was a turning point for us," DMP's Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit chief Monirul Islam said yesterday at a press conference marking one year of "Storm 26".

Following the Holey Artisan Bakery siege in Gulshan on July 1 last year and the murder of 20 hostages including 17 foreigners at the upscale eatery,

there was information that militants would carry out some more massive attacks in three to four places.

Foreign nationals in Dhaka and Narayanganj were mainly on their target list, he said, adding a house was rented in Narayanganj to carry out the attacks.

"The Kalyanpur operation was very important. After the Gulshan attack, the nation got into an embarrassing situation and fear gripped the people and foreigners," Monirul said, adding that through the successful operation, they could prove their capabilities.

The counterterrorism unit, formed in February 2016, gained new experiences from the operation and the confidence of its personnel also rose sharply following the success, the CTTC told The Daily Star.

During a block raid in the neighbourhood, police stumbled across the militant den on the fourth floor of a house named Taj Manzil, locally known as Jahaz Building.

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## Robbers don Trump masks for heists

**REUTERS, Rome**

Italian police said on Monday they had arrested two brothers suspected of robbing dozens of cash machines while wearing masks of US President Donald Trump.

The stunt evokes the 1991 film "Point Break" starring Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze, in which a gang of surfers don masks of ex-US presidents while robbing banks. But in a statement police said the brothers had been inspired by a different film.

"Inspired by the (1997) film 'The Jackal', whose protagonist -- played by Bruce Willis -- changes the colour of his car because police are in pursuit, the two brothers painted their (white) Mercedes black," the police statement said.

The brothers, aged 26 and 30, targeted cash machines near the northern Italian city of Turin.

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## CASE AGAINST UNO Law ministry recommends transfer of magistrate

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The law ministry yesterday sent a proposal to the Supreme Court for transferring Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Barisal Md Ali Hossain who had dealt with the defamation case against Barguna Upazila Nirbahi Officer Tariq Salman.

"The proposal has been sent to the Supreme Court as there are complaints about his [Ali] role in that incident," Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star.

The law ministry recommended transferring Ali to Jamalpur as an additional district and sessions judge, said an SC source.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Sheikh Ashfaqur Rahman, now examination controller of the Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission, has

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A man injured in a gunfight with Rab personnel is being taken away by the law enforcers at Azimpur in the capital yesterday afternoon. Posing as detectives, he along with his gang mugged people, Rab said.

## 2 'muggers' shot by Rab in 'gunfight'

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Two suspected muggers, who allegedly used to pose as detectives and rob people, were shot in a "gunfight" with the Rapid Action Battalion in the capital's Azimpur yesterday afternoon.

Mosharraf, 39, and Monir Hossein, 35, suffered bullet wounds in their right and left thighs.

They were undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Rab said.

The alleged gunfight took place between a group of muggers and a team of Rab-10 after the law enforcers,

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## Ram Nath Kovind takes over as Indian president

**AGENCIES**

Ram Nath Kovind was sworn in as India's 14th president yesterday, becoming just the second leader from the oppressed Dalit community to be elected head of state.

A former lawyer and state governor, Kovind was elected to the largely ceremonial position last week with more than 65 percent of the vote by members of India's parliament and state assemblies.

Kovind, accompanied by his wife, paid respects early yesterday at a memorial dedicated to India's independence hero Mahatma Gandhi in New Delhi.

"I grew up in a mud house, in a small village. My journey has been a long one, and yet this journey is hardly mine alone. It is so telling of our nation and our society also," Kovind said after taking the oath of office in parliament.

"For all its problems, (the nation) follows that basic mantra given to us in the preamble of the constitution -- of ensuring justice, liberty, equality and fraternity, and I will always continue to follow this basic mantra."

The 71-year-old was nominated by the ruling right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party in a move analysts say would help Prime Minister Narendra Modi tighten his grip on power and gain political capital ahead of his re-election bid in 2019, reported AFP.

Kovind has said he will use his position to improve the lot of Dalits, a marginalised 200-million strong community once known as "untouchables" and ranked among India's poorest.

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PRAYER TIMING JULY 26

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-20 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15

JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

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