



Police produce Javed Iqbal, first from right, and Shahadat Ali, two suspected operatives of banned militant outfit Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), before a Chittagong court yesterday. The court jailed the two for 14 years each in two cases filed in connection with hurling bombs at judges in courtrooms in the port city around 12 years ago. PHOTO: STAR

## Trump ignores

FROM PAGE 16  
From the demilitarized zone dividing the Korean peninsula — asked if US ally to take the heat out of the situation.  
Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha visited Washington to warn it was imperative to “prevent further escalation or tensions or any kind of accidental military clashes which can quickly go out of control.”  
Similarly, China, the North's neighbor and only major ally, yesterday warned that any conflict would have “no winners.”

Foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said rhetorical sparring “will only increase the risk of confrontation and reduce the room for policy maneuver.”  
US Defense Secretary James Mattis visited Seoul to tout US “Rocket Man” wants a diplomatic solution to the North Korean crisis.  
“We maintain the capability to deter,” also to back up our diplomats in a manner that keeps this as long as possible in the diplomatic realm,” he said in New Delhi after talks with his Indian counterpart.

Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un traded barbs in the wake of the North's nuclear bomb and multiple missile tests.  
Pyongyang says it needs the weapons to defend itself against the threat of a US invasion.

Alarm over Pyongyang's nuclear and ballistic missile programs dominated the gathering of world leaders at the United Nations Security Council. The rhetoric could accidentally trigger a war.  
In his UN address last week, Trump delivered the blunt thrust to “totally denuclearize” North Korea if provoked, deriding leader Kim Jong-un as “Rocket Man.” Kim hit back with a personal attack of his own, branding Trump “mentally unstable” and a “dotard” and warning he would “punish” the US.

The North's Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho on Monday called a press conference to hit back at a US bomber mission near the North's coastline and a slew of bombastic warnings from the American president.  
Taking umbrage at Trump's weekend tweet that North Korea's leadership “won't be around much longer” if it keeps up its threats, Ri told reporters the international community hoped that a “war of words” would “not turn into real action.”

“However, last weekend, Trump claimed our leadership would not be around much longer,” said Ri, who attacked the US president's “insane” Assembly session. “He declared a war on our country.”

The White House said Ri's interpretation of Trump's saber-rattling as “absurd.”  
Fears of a dash were sharpened after US bombers flew off the coast of North Korea on Sunday. The US said it had demilitarized zone than any US aircraft has flown this century.

“Since the United States declared war on our country, we will have every right to take counter-measures including the right to shoot down US strategic bombers even when they are not yet inside the airspace border of our country,” Ri said.  
“The question of who won't be around much longer will be answered there.”

A Pentagon spokesman stressed the bombers flew in international airspace and had every right to do so.  
South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NIS) said that while Pyongyang did not appear to have picked up the presence of the US warplanes over the weekend, it had since bolstered its coastal defenses.

“North Korea relocated its warplanes and strengthened defenses along the east coast,” said Lee Jae-ho, the chief of the National Assembly's intelligence committee.

## 'Boma Mizan', 2 other JMB

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MIZAN, an explosive expert of the JMB, went into hiding since armed JMB members ambushed a prison van and snatched him along with two other militants from Mymensingh's Trishal on February 23, 2014.  
Humayun said the court also fined the three JMB operatives Tk 5,000 each. In default, they would have to suffer six months more in jail.  
The three JMB men were awarded seven years of imprisonment in each of the two cases. The sentences will run concurrently, he added.

According to court sources and case statements, JMB operatives carried out bomb attacks in courtrooms of Metropolitan Magistrate Akram Hossain and Justice Md. Akbarul Haque and Sessions Judge Syed Dilidar Hossain in Chittagong on October 3, 2005.  
Keeping bombs inside two hollow

books, they threw those at the two judges in their courtrooms, but luckily the bombs did not explode.

Lawyers and police caught Shahadat at that time.  
On the same day, two cases were filed with Kotwali Police Station against six JMB men in connection with the attacks.

Of the six accused, JMB chief Shakhaykhan Abdul Rahman and his younger brother and JMB leader Anwar Rahman Sumar were executed. Another militant Abdul Malik Lahu died.

After the investigation, police submitted a charge sheet against Javed, Shahadat and Mizan, and a court framed charges against them on July 25, 2007.

The recording of depositions in the two cases began on January 27 in 2010 and ended last year. Some 40 witnesses testified before the court in the cases, court sources added.

## Savagery in cold blood

FROM PAGE 1  
gruesome murder of teenage boy Samiul Islam Rajon in 2015, happened on Monday morning, later in the day, Sagor's body was dumped into the bushes near the hatchery. Police recovered it around 11:00am yesterday.

A witness, wishing not to be named, said he saw Sagor, who used to collect scrap, being assaulted by Qatium, an employee at the hatchery, on Akkas' instructions near the hatchery around 6:00am on Monday.

At one point, Sagor climbed up to the ground. At this, the men untied his hands and left the place with him in a CNG-run auto-rickshaw. They said they were taking him to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, said the witness.

However, the victim, son of Shipon Mia, a hawker from Natokhara Lane Railway Colony in Mymensingh town, was never taken to the hospital. Instead, his body was dumped into the bushes some time later.

Quoting locals, Delwar Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Gauripur Police Station, said the employees of Gauchia Hatchery caught Sagor while he was allegedly trying to steal a water pump at the hatchery around 10:00am on Monday.

On information, Akkas Ali went to the spot and asked his men to tie Sagor to the pole. Later, they beat him up mercilessly.  
The victim was fainting time and again, but they did not stop the torture, he said.

Sagor died of his injuries and the torturers threw his body in the bushes. Later, the culprits went into hiding, said the OC, adding that the law enforcers were raiding several places to arrest the killers.

## AL activist killed

FROM PAGE 1  
Monday night from Charpara village in under Daulatpur upazila.

There are no houses within half a kilometre radius of the area.  
But police claimed Mirza, a key accused in the murder of AL activist Sahabuddin Shaheen, died during a gun battle when they raided the area to arrest him.

Shahidul Haque Sarker, chairman of local Doukhakola Union Parishad, said he informed police about the dead body after one of the villagers discovered it around 10:00am yesterday.

Quoting locals, the chairman also accused Akkas and his men of killing the boy and dumping the body into the bushes.

In talking to this correspondent, Sagor's mother Shipon Mia said he had been living along with his family at Natokhara Lane Railway Colony for years.

His said Sagor, his second child, went out of their home around 4:00am on Monday. He took his van with him, saying he was going to collect scraps. He never returned.

Shipon said his son was innocent and demanded justice. “My son is a scrap collector. He was not a thief.”

Sagor's elder sister Fatema Akhter said, “We want immediate and exemplary punishment to the culprits. We don't want anything else.”

The body was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.  
Shipon filed a murder case against 12 people, including Akkas, with Gauripur Police Station.

On July 8 in 2015, thirteen-year-old Rajon was beaten to death by some brutes in Kumargang Bus Stand area of Sryal in an orphanage.

His “crime”, they claimed, was trying to steal a rickshaw van. One of culprits filmed the murder incident on a mobile phone and shared it on social media. The sickening torture video shook the nation to its core and stirred emotions in the social network and the mainstream media.

A close relative said he knew that Mirza had already been in police custody, but police wanted him against revealing this information.  
Family members said Mirza was very close to AL leader Kamrul, something the AL leader did not deny.  
Mirza got involved in various crimes because of this AL leader, said a relative, asking not to be named.  
But Kamrul dismissed the allegation, saying Mirza was already accused in different cases for robberies and extortions.  
“I took him as he loved Awami League politics,” he added.  
Records in Beramara and Daulatpur police stations show Mirza was accused in 11 cases, including two for murder.

## Dhaka keeps

FROM PAGE 2  
dialogue with Bangladesh to resolve the crisis.

His adviser also expressed his respect for Myanmar's willingness to send a senior minister from the State Counsellor's Office to initiate the dialogue with Bangladesh.

Dhaka instantly welcomed it, said a highly placed source.  
“We have kept our doors open for resolving the Rohingya problems both through bilateral and international means,” a high official of the foreign ministry said.

During the meeting with the foreign minister in New York, Bangladesh also handed over a four-page document to Myanmar's minister. It contained a detailed plan on how Myanmar can start repatriation of its displaced nationals now living in Bangladesh.

Dhaka in its official note asked Myanmar to begin the repatriation within the next one month. It also suggested starting the repatriation with the registered refugees, who are already verified by the UNCHR.

Myanmar and Bangladesh are staying at Nayapara and Kutupalong camps under the 1993 agreement.  
There has been mounting international outcry over the influx of the Rohingyas, prompting the UN Security Council this month to call for an end to the violence.

The UNSC will meet tomorrow to discuss the violence in Myanmar and hear a briefing from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the crisis.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, a senior diplomat said Bangladesh was “not in a hurry to take any decision through a UNSC resolution to resolve the crisis as forcibly displaced people from Myanmar continue flooding Bangladesh.”

He said seriously working behind the scene. There are positive signs and we want to keep up the present diplomatic momentum so that a binding resolution comes out from the Security Council on the Rohingya crisis, he said.

In another development, two ministers from the UK and Japan's parliament will arrive in Dhaka this afternoon to discuss the Rohingya crisis.

They will hold meeting with high government officials about finding a peaceful and lasting solution.

Talking to The Daily Star, a diplomat in Dhaka said the visit of Japanese Vice Minister Iwao Horii is a follow-up to the bilateral meeting of Mahmood Ali and Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo on September 18.

Iwao Horii, who visited Myanmar on September 21-23, will hold a breakfast meeting with high officials of the foreign ministry today.

## It's crimes

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The International Criminal Court defines crimes against humanity as acts including murder, torture, rape and deportation “when committed as part of widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack.”

Human Rights Watch said its research, supported by satellite imagery and other evidence, shows that forced population transfers, murder and rape.

The UN Security Council and concerned countries should impose targeted sanctions and an arms embargo, it said.  
Government spokesman Wav Htay said no Myanmar government had ever been as committed to the promotion of widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack.”

“Accusations without any strong evidence are dangerous,” he told Reuters. “It makes it difficult for the government to handle things.”  
He said the refugees have still not been stabilized,” Adrian Edwards, a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said in Geneva.

“UNHCR is calling for a redoubling of efforts to help humanitarian assistance in Bangladesh.”

## Saudi Arabia

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Press Agency.  
It stipulated that the move must “apply and adhere to the necessary Shariah standards,” without provoking any sectarian tensions, said the council's senior Religious Scholars had approved its permissibility.

Saudi Arabia has been widely criticised for being the only country to ban women from driving, despite ambitious government targets to increase their public role, especially in the workforce.

## Big yes' vote expected

FROM PAGE 16  
long-cherished dream of statehood.

In the regional capital Arbil, a night of fireworks, flag-waving and dancing in the streets followed the vote.  
“We made a Kurdish state today,” Arbil resident Ahmad told AFP during the celebrations.

“We are Kurds people, we're not Arab, we're not Persian, we're not one else... We're Kurds and we'll remain Kurds forever.”  
The referendum took place peacefully, but has increased tensions between the Iraqi Kurds and their neighbours, raising fears of potential unrest.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared before the vote that he would take “necessary measures” to protect the country's unity and he was due to address parliament today.

Iraqi lawmakers voted yesterday to send troops to disputed areas where the referendum took place but there have been no signs of a deployment so far.

ETHNIC WAR  
Iraqi leader Baghdad is deeply concerned by the vote but unlikely to seek a confrontation with the Kurds for now, especially as Iraqi forces continue to battle the Islamic State group in its final bastions.

Turkey concerned the vote will stoke the separatist ambitions of its own sizeable Kurdish population, repeatedly condemned the vote as wrong-headed and dangerous.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned that the Iraq Kurds and their long-time leader Massud Barzani risked sparking an ethnic war.

“If Barzani and the Kurdistan Regional Government do not go back on this mistake as soon as possible, they will be liable to suffer the same shame of having dragged the region into an ethnic and sectarian war,” Erdogan said in a televised speech.

Erdogan warned on polling day that Turkey would shut its border with Iraq Kurds and threaten to cut off its exports that flow from the region through Turkish territory.

He even suggested the possibility of a cross-border incursion similar to the one Turkish forces have carried out against IS and Kurdish fighters in Syria.

The vote took place in across the three northern provinces of autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan -- Arbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk -- as well as in disputed border zones such as the oil-rich province of Kirkuk.

“A curfew was lifted early yesterday on parts of the city of Kirkuk, where it had been imposed on the city centre and non-Kurdish neighbourhoods due to fears of unrest connected with the vote.”

An AFP journalist saw heavy traffic

## 'VIPs' at it still

communications and an officer of the public administration ministry were arrested.

On Monday, the driver of Secretary Mafurha Sultana of the Rural Development and Co-Operatives Division was fined for the second consecutive day for travelling against traffic on the highway.

On other occasions, on Hare Road on Sunday and near Bangla Motu the next day, Driver Babul Mollah was later “suspended” and the ministry issued a show-cause notice on him.

“We will go on, as the action has got government endorsement and public support.”

He said nearly 350 vehicles are fined every day for driving on the wrong-side of the streets.

According to traffic police records, police fined 1,16,028 vehicles in the last five years for travelling against traffic.

Some of the vehicles are owned by high-ranking civil and military officials, ruling party leaders and journalists going against traffic while other people stuck in traffic jams have become a common phenomenon in Dhaka.

“We have over the years been blamed for not doing anything meaningful to stop this. Rather, they have been blamed for facilitating the so-called VIPs flow traffic rules.”

They had installed retractable spike strips on Hare Road in 2012 to prevent people driving on the wrong side of the road but removed them after a few days.

Police officials and a rights activists yesterday said the people who were supposed to set examples were the so-called VIPs, who drive on the road as if they were above the law.

Sultana Kamal, chairperson of Transparency International Bangladesh and former adviser to a caretaker government, said such behaviour undermines a sense of being privileged and due to a kind of superiority complex.

“... Everybody loves to think that ‘privilege is mine,’” she said, adding, “There is nothing called governance, support, discipline and accountability in our collective culture.”

About the sudden police action, she said it would not leave any far-reaching impact as these offenders would not feel embarrassed or be ashamed of their actions.

## Zila parishad

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the other accused are the seven municipal employees named in the Shariatul Mujahid Rahman Bachel, Shariatul Alam Ulta, Ahmad Ali Khan, Rafiqul Islam and Telowat Hossain -- and the then acting secretary of the municipality, Matiar Rahman.

Matiar Rahman died during the trial proceedings. Sohrab has been on the run. The rest were sent to jail following the pronouncement of the judgment.