



A devotee lights oil lamps at a religious ceremony during the Diwali or Deepavali festival at a Hindu temple in Colombo yesterday.



PHOTO: REUTERS

ASI arrested

FROM PAGE 18

others managed to flee. The travel Himeel Khan, filed a case accusing four, said CG Biswas, officer-in-charge of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

Himeel said he and his cousin Shaifu Khan were going to the airport on August 15, 2016.

Tuesday when the arrestees and two others, riding bikes, stopped their rented car.

The bikers, claiming to be police-constables, started crying and held mobile phones of Himeel and Shaifu, who was supposed to fly to Malaysia later that night.

Himeel and Shaifu became suspicious and started crying for help. Bystanders came forward and held Himeel and Mithu, but two others sped away from the scene on a motorcycle, Himeel said.

Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police later arrested the two and seized an unregistered motorcycle.

Police sources and witnesses said police first tried to cover up the incident through negotiations and didn't record the case, an allegation denied by the officers concerned.

"It took some time to record a case as we were trying to arrest the two who fled and verify the allegations," CG Biswas said, when asked about the allegation.

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1

People travelling from Uttara to downtown Dhaka faced immense sufferings as they had to face delays for hours.

After coming out of the airport, Khaleda headed straight to her Gulshan home. But she too was caught in traffic as it took her around three hours to reach her residence, around eight kilometres off the airport.

On July 15, the former prime minister went to London for treatment and spending time with her family members. Her elder son Tarique Rahman, also the BNP senior vice-chairman, is staying there.

The BNP chief underwent a hospital eye surgery at a London hospital on August 8. She also celebrated the Eid-ul-Azha with her family members in the British capital.

Khaleda is facing six arrest warrants in different cases. A Dhaka court has recently cancelled her bail and issued arrest warrants for her in the Zia Orphanage and the Zia Charitable Trust grant cases.

About the arrest warrants have been served on her in Dhaka in as many cases for allegedly "undermining" the country's map and the national flag and celebrating her "false birthday" on August 15.

The other warrants have been issued against the BNP chief in Comilla in two cases filed over harka violence in February 2015.

BNP secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and others, including Khander Mosharruf Hossain, Moudud Ahmed, Jamunuddin Siraz, Mirza Abubakar, Abdul Moveen Khan, Nazul Islam Khan and Amir Khroos Mahmud Chowdhury, among others, greeted Khaleda at the airport's VIP lounge.

Talking to reporters before Khaleda's arrival, BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed said that police arrested party leaders from standing along the Airport Road.

"Our leaders and supporters have come here to welcome their party chief who is returning to her country. But you see how police are obstructing them. Police stopped public transport so that our leaders can't get here," he said.

Two more arrest warrants against Khaleda, he said those were "politically motivated". "She is not afraid of arrest warrants. Our leader is respectful to law and will secure bail from courts."

AB special hands SA

FROM PAGE 1

Hope as Bangladesh teetered to an inevitable loss by 104 runs as they lost the series with one more game to play in East London on Sunday.

De Villiers's highest score of 176 off 104 balls, which drove South Africa to 353 for six, may have been the long-awaited piece of the pie in their utter dominance, but the hosts will take great succor from the fact that the young and generally unthreatening medium pacer Andile Phehlukwayo was the wrecker in chief with a four-wicket haul as Bangladesh were all out for 249 in 47.4 overs.

Old problems of getting set and getting out that really don't bear repeating anymore persisted, but at least the Tigers can take solace from the fact that a batsman of De Villiers's prowess has done similar damage to teams better than them, and all the batsmen could have done was to get as close to the target as possible and then hope for the best.

The match saw opener Tamim Iqbal returning after a high muscle injury had kept him out of the second Test and first ODI, but Bangladesh's muddled state of mind was encapsulated by the decision of jettisoning a bowler for a returning batsman as Mohammad Saifuddin was left out and not Linn Das, who had opened in Tamim's absence in the first ODI. Saifuddin was very expensive in that match, but he could have been replaced with another bowling all-rounder in Mehedi Hasan Miraz, but clear thought has not been a feature of the team or management this tour.

In the chase, scoreboard pressure would always have proven too much, especially on a terrible Boland Park outfield that was still soggy from the rain of the past few days, and it was more of a disadvantage for Bangladesh as they don't have the big hitters South Africa were blessed with. The pitch, however, was a better and for some time the visitors were abreast of the challenge. Reaching 162 for two in 29 overs before leg-spinner Imrul Tahir had Imrul Keyes was caught on a cut.

The first edge for 68. Before that Tamim proved his fitness with three boundaries in his 23 before he was adjudged leg-before or a decision Pretorius in the eighth over, a decision that would have been overturned had he reviewed. With the score on 69, Tamim was out for a third time, third-while-before three overs later, off Phehlukwayo, and wasted the one review the team had.

Imrul and Musfirah Rahim, who scored his second successive 50-plus score with 60 to follow the century in the first game, put on a 91-run with-while-before three overs later, off Phehlukwayo, and wasted the one review the team had.

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The Bangladesh foreign minister further said Bangladesh would send envoys to any nation if required for its continuous diplomatic efforts to reach a fruitful solution to the crisis.

88pc accused

FROM PAGE 1

104 robbery cases filed across the country. During the period, police submitted charge sheets against 619 accused in 221 cases.

Most of them got bail. Talking to The Daily Star, a former district judge, requesting anonymity, blamed witnesses and victims' non cooperation for mugging accused getting acquitted.

When trials begin, witnesses often fail to show up before court as they have no relations to the victims, he said.

In some cases, witnesses appeared in court but stop coming when the legal process becomes long, he said, adding that this helps the accused get bail.

The former judge said the only solution was to make the entire legal process faster.

Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Abdullah Abu mentioned the lack of witnesses as the prime reason behind 88 per cent mugging accused not getting punished. "It becomes difficult to prove cases when police fail to present witnesses and the complainants in court," he added.

Sahely Ferdous, assistant inspector general of police headquarters, also mentioned the difficulty regarding witnesses and complainants.

Police sources said "mugging" has no legal definition in Bangladesh law. If one to four people forcefully take away valuables from someone using arms, then a case is filed under section 392 of the Penal Code, which is a robbery case.

TALHA MURDER CASE
Wari police arrested Milon and Sabuj at the capital's Kaptan Bazar early yesterday, said DC Farid during a press briefing at his Golapbazar office.

Around 6:45AM on October 8, Talha, just 50 yards away from his home on RK Mission road, noticed Milon and Sabuj taking valuables ambushing a rickshaw passenger.

He immediately started calling for help and tried to stop the muggers, said the Wari DC.

The suspects then pinned Talha to the ground and stabbed him in his leg. Milon was last arrested a year ago and Sabuj this July, he said.

Yesterday afternoon, Milon and Sabuj made confessional statements before a magistrate under the section 164.

No one felled

FROM PAGE 2

committee, said they were investigating the matter giving it the highest importance and will submit the probe report within three working days.

"We are preparing a case and are hopeful of submitting [the report] tonight against the culprits," Razzakul said.

Euro parliament chief says UK Brexit budget offer is 'peanuts'

AFP, London

European Parliament president Antonio Tajani has described Britain's financial offer on Brexit as "peanuts" ahead of a crunch European Union summit this week.

Mayor Annisul

FROM PAGE 18

early last month wrote that he, his husband, who had taken the oath of office as mayor on May 6, 2015, was off ventilator and was breathing on his own. He made eye contacts with doctors and was blinking when they conveyed anything to him.

"Doctors just told me that they are happy with stability, and they are hoping that we should know more about his recovery process by next week," she wrote.

The Dhaka North City Corporation mayor Annisul Islam said he was admitted to a neurology hospital in central London on August 13 before being diagnosed with cerebral vasculitis.A.

Annisul was suffering from occasional spells of dizziness and lack of balance for the last two months. Rubana told The Daily Star in mid August, and the disease was not detected in Dhaka.

Xi heralds 'new era'

FROM PAGE 18

crossed the threshold into a new era," Xi said.

The twice-a-decade event, a weeklong, mostly closed-door convocation, will culminate in the selection of a new Politburo Standing Committee to rule China's 1.4 billion people for the next five years.

Xi has consolidated power and potentially retain power beyond 2022, when the next congress takes place.

The 64-year-old Xi, widely regarded as the most powerful Chinese leader since Mao Zedong, spoke to more than 2,000 delegates in Beijing's cavernous, red-carpeted Great Hall of the People, including 91-year-old former president Jiang Zemin.

Security forces kept tight on a rainy, smoggy day in the capital. As expected, the speech was heavy on aspiration and short on specific plans.

On the economy, Xi said China would relax market access for foreign investment, expand access to its services sector and deepen market-oriented reform of its exchange rate and financial system, while at the same time strengthening state firms.

The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China said it welcomed commitments to open wider the door and treat all companies equally, but said European companies operating in China continued to suffer from "promise fatigue".

In what was probably an indirect reference to US President Donald Trump's America First policy, Xi promised that China would be fully engaged with the world, and reiterated pledges to tackle climate change.

Xi said the delegates, among them Buddhist monks, Olympic medalists, farmers and at least one astronaut, "has overseen a new era for China's development, envisioning it as a "basically" modernised socialist country by 2035, and a modern socialist "strong power" with leading influence in the world stage by 2050.

But he signalled there would be no significant political reforms, calling China's system the broadest, most genuine, and most effective way to safeguard the interests of the people.

Xi has overseen a recent crackdown on civil society, locking up rights lawyers and dissidents and tightening internet controls as he has sought to revitalise the Communist Party and its place in contemporary China.

"We should not just mechanically copy the political systems of other countries," he said. "We must unwaveringly uphold and improve party leadership in the new era."

FIRM ON CRAFT, TAIWAN
Xi praised the party's successes, particularly his high-profile anti-graft campaign, in which more than a million officials have been punished and do-

EU waits for Myanmar

FROM PAGE 18

Asian partners in this regard. This is a very important meeting and we look forward to it to convince Myanmar to do the right thing," Teerink said.

On the next parliamentary election in Bangladesh, she said the EU was interested in sending an election observation team ahead of the polls. The mission will be deployed once Bangladesh sends an invitation to the commission.

EU COMMISSIONER
EU Commissioner for External Relations and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides will arrive here on October 30 to see the Rohingya situation on the ground, the EU ambassadors said.

EU Commissioner Rezaul Karim Lotui and General Secretary Pantho Rahab also spoke on the occasion. Konstantinos Vardakis, minister-counsellor of the EU Embassy in Dhaka, was also present.

Abdur Rahim noticed it and raped the girl again, he said.

Returning home, the girl told her parents of the matter. Her parents took her to Puthia Police Station where a case was filed against the two, said police.

China grows

FROM PAGE 18

Hunan Province. The new type of rice is said to be 1.8 metres tall, with average (54.10m), with the greatest ones reaching 2.2 metres.

Xia Jinjie, a researching involved in the project, expected the yield of the 'giant rice' to surpass 11.5 tonnes per hectare. Xia said the per-hectare yield is 30 per cent higher than the ordinary rice.

Xia added that experts had harvested more than 500 grains from a single 'giant rice' stalk.

The Chinese scientists are said to have used a series of next-generation technologies to cultivate the new rice, including mutation induction and hybridisation between different kinds of wild rice.

The 'giant rice' is due to greatly benefit China which is facing a shortage of farmland and a growing population.

Xia added: "Currently, one hectare for rice production produces only 27 per cent. By 2050, one hectare will have to support 4-5 people."

The EU also intends to send an envoy on arms and equipment to the Asian region since 2006 in different capacities, said Myanmar was an important part of a larger belt and road initiative that China was now devising, which might be a reason why many countries were not so outspoken even when they were accused of ethnic cleansing and human rights abuses.

The EU envoy emphasized the importance of taking China, Russia and India on board in finding a solution, which she said, was a very difficult part of the process.