

Hariri was warned of death plot

Western intelligence agencies warned former Lebanese prime minister Saad al-Hariri of an assassination plot against him, the Saudi-owned pan-Arab newspaper Asharq al-Awsat reported yesterday.

It cited unnamed sources close to Hariri.

However, al-Mayadin, a Lebanese news channel, reported that Major General Abbas Ibrahim, head of Lebanon's General Security, told it that he was not aware of any information about an assassination plot against political figures in Lebanon.

Asharq al-Awsat reported that the sources "revealed that he had received Western warnings of an assassination attempt that was prepared against him". It did not give further details of the alleged plot.

Pilot, airport

unable to open the door as the director of the airport would come from Singapore and disembark via gate-4," he added.

The flight to Kuala Lumpur was scheduled for 7:15pm.

The pilot further said after disembarkation of all passengers of BG 085 coming from Singapore, the security personnel opened the gate, in front of which they were waiting for about 20-25 minutes.

Group Captain Kazi Iqbal Karim, director of the airport, refuted the allegation yesterday and said he was neither a VIP nor a VVIP and that a flight could not be delayed for his security.

He added that arriving and departing passengers in no way could be mixed up as per international rules. "Since the arriving passengers of gate-4 and departing passengers of gate-5 take the same corridor, the entry door of outbound passengers and crew was locked," he added.

He blamed the pilot for the delay. "The pilot with his entire crew was late. The captain with crew and two to three passengers were late when the flight from Singapore with 160 passengers landed," he said.

"So, the arriving passengers were allowed to disembark first and the entry gate was closed so that arriving and departing passengers could not get mixed up," he added.

He further said he received the pilot's letter where he gave "false reason". A Biman pilot wishing anonymity said there should be separate passage to aircraft for crew members.

Warm weather

Aziz Uddin, a mandarin trader from Sukuanchhera, has been wholesaling the fruits from the foothills of this region for last 25 years.

Mandarin farming is usually more profitable than many other crops. The nutritious snack food is popular with consumers at both home and abroad since these are easy to peel, he added. "I sold mandarins for Tk 12-15 a piece last year. But this year, I sold a piece for only Tk 7-9 for the poor quality."

Increased rainfall also had a part to play in the disorder, as the trees have become more prone to insect attacks.

According to agriculture officials, the upazila has 415 mandarin orchards across its six unions, occupying about 93 hectares of hilly landscape. Total production in the upazila rose from 145 tonnes in 2014-15 to 300 tonnes in 2015-16.

However, the yield might drop this year, they added.

Mahfuz Shakil from Kulara has recently bought two dozens of mandarins from local plantation. At first, he was excited to see the growers collect the mandarins in baskets and placing them in cases, ready for transportation. But later he could not consume the immature, bitter fruits even after two weeks.

Debol Sarkar, agricultural officer in Juri upazila, said mandarins blossom well in the shade and the plantations are suffering for high temperatures. "The fruits seem to be shrivelling up for direct sunlight."

Dr Md Sharaf Uddin, chairman of agro forestry and environmental science department of Sylhet Agricultural University, said the reason behind apathy among the farmers towards mandarin cultivation is unfavourable weather condition.

20 killed in Texas

or took his own life, according to Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office spokesman Robert Murphy.

Officials were yet to identify the shooter.

US President Donald Trump — who is on a 13-day trip though Asia — tweeted about the Texas church shooting.

"May God be w/ the people of Sutherland Springs, Texas. The FBI & law enforcement are on the scene. I am monitoring the situation from Japan," he tweeted.

'No dictator' should

Trump touched down under clear blue Tokyo skies and stepped out with his wife Melania in bright sunshine to greet the crowds.

Speaking to reporters on the plane, he announced he would likely be meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin during the tour, as the international community scrambles for a solution to the North Korean crisis.

"I think it's expected we'll meet with Putin, yeah. We want Putin's help on North Korea, and we'll be meeting with a lot of different leaders," said Trump.

He added that North Korea was a "big problem for our country and for the world, and we want to get it solved" but had kind words for its people.

"I think they're great people. They're industrious. They're warm, much warmer than the world really knows or understands. They're great people. And I hope it all works out for everybody," he said.

The next stop was a golfing date with his "friend" Shinzo Abe, prime minister of Japan, with whom he enjoys a close personal relationship.

Trump joked with reporters on Air Force One that they should not believe him if he claims to outwit Hideki Matsuyama, one of the world's best players who joined the leaders on the course.

Abe also appeared to have enjoyed his nine holes, tweeting: "A round of golf with a marvellous friend (President Donald J. Trump), full of spirited conversation."

A senior administration official said they chatted about trade and North Korea on the course but was diplomatically coy over the key question of who won, saying only: "I am told the three of them did not keep score."

The Japanese leader has emerged strengthened from a crushing victory in a snap election and has firmly supported Trump in his policy of exerting maximum pressure on Kim, backed up with the threat of military force.

"I want to further cement the bond of the Japan-US alliance, based on our relations of trust and friendship with President Trump," Abe said as Trump arrived.

Trump for his part described Japan

as a "treasured partner and crucial ally of the US".

The pair later dined at a swanky restaurant in upmarket Ginza, with Trump telling reporters: "I don't think we've ever been closer to Japan than we are right now."

"Our relationship is really extraordinary."

APPEASEMENT
After Japan, Trump travels to Seoul, where his relationship with President Moon Jae-In is noticeably cooler.

Trump labelled Moon's dovish approach to North Korea as "appeasement" on Twitter, a comment that did not go down well in Seoul's presidential Blue House.

Trump will speak to South Korean MPs but not follow the well-trodden path to the Demilitarized Zone dividing the Korean peninsula -- a visit derided in Washington as a bit of a "cliche".

From Seoul, Trump travels to China to meet his counterpart Xi Jinping who, like Abe, has solidified his grip on power after being handed a second term.

He then travels to a Pacific Rim summit in Vietnam before heading to a gathering of Southeast Asian leaders in the Philippines.

ANTI-TRUMP PROTESTS
Thousands of South Koreans protested yesterday against an upcoming visit by Trump.

"We oppose war! Negotiate peace!" the protesters chanted in central Seoul, waving banners and balloons emblazoned "Peace, not war" and "We want peace".

Many slammed both Trump and Kim for heightening the risk of conflict.

"Trump and Kim... are using the current military standoff for their own political gain, while we South Koreans are trembling with fear of war!" one activist said on stage.

One mother whose son is serving the South's mandatory two-year army conscription accused the US leader of putting her son's life at risk.

"My heart stirs at every single word Trump says about North Korea," she said.

Force Myanmar to take

fulfill the goal, we've framed Vision 2021 and now are implementing the same devising specific plans."

The PM said Bangladesh has been in a journey through the roads of peace, democracy, development and prosperity. "We've already been elevated to a lower middle-income country. We expect that Bangladesh will emerge as a country of middle income on the golden jubilee of our Independence in 2021 and as a developed one by 2041."

"Thoughtless acts of a section of people are claiming innocent lives. Militancy is not a problem of a particular country, rather it became a global phenomenon," she said.

The PM mentioned that a few days back, eight precious lives were lost on a New York road. "We've to be united to get rid of this menace."

Talking about the climate change and its impact, she said Bangladesh is the worst victim of the climate change.

"This year, we experienced excessive precipitation and recurrence of flooding that washed away our vast

localities and damaged standing crops. We expect immediate implementation of the promises made at different times to offset the adverse impacts of climate change," she said.

In Bangladesh, Hasina said people are striving hard to build a poverty- and hunger-free democratic society.

She also said independent and strong mass media are the vigilant watchdog of democracy.

In the past few years, Bangladesh witnessed a huge expansion of mass media. "The freedom of mass media and people's right to information has been ensured," Hasina added.

CPA President and Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Secretary-General Akbar Khan, CPA treasurer Vicki Dunn, and Commonwealth youth representative Aiman Sadique spoke on the occasion.

Shirin Sharmin read out the message of the patron of CPA Queen Elizabeth (2nd) and video message of Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland was screened at the programme.

11 Saudi Arabia princes detained

Saudi-owned Al Arabiya television reported that 11 princes, four current ministers and dozens of ex-ministers were arrested as the commission launched a probe into old cases such as floods that devastated the Red Sea city of Jeddah in 2009.

The government official gave AFP a list of 14 of the most high-profile names including Prince Al-Waleed. "The suspects are being granted the same rights and treatment as any other Saudi citizen," attorney general Sheikh Saud al-Mojeb said in a statement, adding that a number of investigations had been initiated.

"A suspect's position or status does not influence the firm and fair application of justice."

A NEW ERA
Shares in Kingdom Holding, 95 percent of which is owned by Prince Al-Waleed, dived 9.9 percent as the Saudi stock exchange opened yesterday after reports of his arrest. The share price later recovered some of its losses to end the day down 7.6 percent.

The prince's office was not reachable for comment.

"With this (crackdown), the kingdom heralds a new era and policy of transparency, clarity and accountability," Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed al-Jadaan was quoted as saying by SPA.

"The decisive decisions will preserve the investment environment and boost trust in the rule of law."

The kingdom's top council of

clerics also lauded the anti-corruption efforts as "important", essentially giving religious backing to the crackdown.

An aviation source told AFP that security forces had grounded private jets at airports, possibly to prevent high-profile figures from leaving the country.

"The breadth and scale of the arrests appears to be unprecedented in modern Saudi history," said Kristian Ulrichsen, a fellow at the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University.

"The reported detention of Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal, if true, would send shock waves through the domestic and international business community," Ulrichsen told AFP.

The purge comes less than two weeks after Prince Mohammed welcomed thousands of global business leaders to Riyadh for an investment summit, showcasing his reform drive that has shaken up the kingdom.

METEORIC RISE
It follows a wave of arrests of influential clerics and activists in September as the 32-year-old prince, often known as MBS, cements his grip on power.

Analysts said many of those detained were resistant to Prince Mohammed's aggressive foreign policy that includes the boycott of Gulf neighbour Qatar as well as some of his bold policy reforms, including privatising state assets and cutting subsidies.

HC orders

Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice Mohammad Ullah came up with the orders, responding to a petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).

The inspector general of police, deputy inspector general (highway), joint commissioner (traffic) of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, and the BRTC Chairman have to comply with the HC directives, said Manzill Murshid, lawyer of the petitioner.

The court fixed December 13 for the next hearing on the matter.

On October 8, the HC directed vehicle owners and drivers all over the country to handover pneumatic horns to the police stations concerned within 15 days.

It also asked the police to destroy the pneumatic horns soon after receiving them.

The HRPB had submitted the petition challenging the legality of the use of pneumatic horns and seeking necessary orders to stop sound pollution in Dhaka city.

Manzill Murshid at the time told the court that trucks and buses had been using such horns and other devices creating alarming noise and polluting environment. Even, people in residential areas like Dhanmondi, Motijheel, Gulshan and Banani cannot sleep at night due to tremendous sounds of the horns.

As per the Motor Vehicles Rules 1940, every transport vehicle shall be fitted with a bulb horn, he added.

4 held

on Friday morning, the police officer said.

The victim told the incident to her husband and filed a case against the rapists.

Inspector Mobarak Hossain said that in primary interrogations the arrestees confessed to raping the woman. The victim was sent to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College for medical tests.

The victim used to work in a readymade garment unit in Mouchak, Gazipur and her husband is a van puller.

Losing her job, she went to consult with her sister living at Chandana Chowrasta about new jobs, on the day she was raped.

Google CEO

the bottom of the burger. But that is done by some chains, including In-N-Out in the US, and is a useful way of catching the liquid from above and stop it soaking through the bottom half of the bun.

Fuchs went on to point out that there are actually a range of problems with Google's drawings of food. Some are so glaring as to suggest that the people making the emoji might not actually have seen the thing they were drawing.

There are bizarre holes in Google's cheese, for instance, which suggests that they're not actually holes but a con.

It's so egregious that Google CEO Sundar Pichai took notice and promised to "drop everything" and address today if folks can agree on what the correct ordering should be.

While the type and name of each emoji is decided by the Unicode Consortium — a range of different companies working together — each of them decides how to draw the actual character themselves. So while each company will have a beer, for instance, they can all draw that beer separately.

3 out of 4 complaints

The report on the effectiveness of ACC's mass hearings was disclosed during a press conference at TIB's Dhanmondi office in the capital.

The graft watchdog conducted the study between December, 2016 and August, 2017.

The researchers interviewed 195 complainants who participated in the hearings but 181 of them had valid complaints. It also spoke to 51 officials of the institutions concerned and deputy commissioners, additional deputy commissioners, and upazila nirbahi officers.

Forty-three percent of the complainants, who sought services after the hearings, faced even more difficulties. The authorities misbehaved, showed non-cooperation and demanded bribes. Some even said they were threatened by police.

Complaints at hearings prompted institutions like upazila land offices, Palli Bidyut Samity offices, Rajuk, settlement offices, and sub-register's offices to improve their services. But some officials still lack professionalism, said the report.

Over 130 complaints were made against land-related service providers. The complaints included demanding bribes, harassing service seekers, neglecting duty, misbehaving with service seekers and fraudulent activities.

Some of the complaints were about land grabbing through muscle power and fraudulence, it added.

Although 78 percent of the complainants were assured of solutions at the hearings, only 14 percent of them

later said the processes for solving their problems were underway.

However, several positive steps were taken by the public service institutions after the mass hearings, the report added.

For example, while 54 percent of the institutions had visible information boards before the hearings, 77 percent had them after the hearings.

Some other improvements included archiving documents (from 60 percent to 77 percent institutions) and receiving complaints over phone (from 40 percent to 58 percent institutions).

The report also pointed out some challenges in arranging mass hearings. They include influential quarters like politically-linked individuals and brokers threatening the participants, lack of awareness about the hearings, and lengthy speeches by designated guests.

The watchdog recommended authorities to take steps to ensure that the process of addressing a complaint does not hamper when an official is suddenly transferred.

It also recommended that the ACC spread awareness about mass hearings, incorporate local non-government organisations, and ensure presence of officials concerned at the hearings.

Speaking at the press conference, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said successful mass hearings can generate people's trust.

He also said institutions providing public service have to take steps if they want to reduce people's distrust.

A year on, yet no sign

Thomas, a plaintiff of the case, added. Bodhni Hadza, 65, of Madarpur village, said rubber bullets hit her head.

"I am still sick and I didn't get any compensation from the government," she said, adding that they actually do not want any compensation and help from the government, they just want their forefathers' land back.

Fulmoni Murmu, 63, of Joypur Para village, said during the November 6 incident, she was shot in her right hand and abdomen.

Dizen Tudu, a 42-year-old Santal man of the village, lost his eyesight as a rubber bullet hit his left eye. "My wife has to travel a long distance to go to work for earning enough to feed our family as I am not able to do work."

Another Santal man, Bimal Kisku, 35, of the village, was wounded severely as bullets hit his both legs.

"I am the only breadwinner of my family, but I cannot walk anymore. So, my children have to go hungry most of the time," he said.

Hopna Murmu, a 55-year-old Santal man of Joypur Para village, was also hit by bullets in the left chest and

left hand. Though he recovered from his injuries, his left arm became partially paralysed, he said.

"I can't move my left arm; therefore, I have to work with one hand," he told this correspondent.

The Santals alleged that many locals were not interested in employing them after the November 6 incident.

Following the incident, the evicted Santals moved to nearby Jaipur Para and Madarpur villages and started living in shanties.

About their rehabilitation, Gobindaganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shilabrata Karmakar said initiatives were going on to rehabilitate 300 Santal families in Fulhar village.

The earth filling work had already been completed, and houses would be handed over to them within two months, he hoped.

The Police Bureau of Investigation has been tasked with probing the cases filed in connection with the November 6 incident while the district police are investigating the cases lodged before and after the incident, said Mashruque Rahman Khaled, superintendent of Gaibandha police.

Mugabe threatens to sack VP

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe openly pilloried his deputy and possible successor Saturday, saying he might sack him, in a combative speech at a rally where his wife Grace was booed by some in the crowd.

The 93-year-old leader's remarks exposed tensions in the ruling ZANU-PF party over who stands to take power after him, an event only expected when Mugabe dies but a generational change likely to prompt bitter battles.

Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa, nicknamed "the Crocodile", is one of the top candidates.

But Grace Mugabe — 41 years younger than her husband — has become increasingly active in public life in what many say is a political grooming process to help her eventually take the top job.

Mnangagwa has been accused by Mugabe loyalists of undermining the president and of fanning factionalism in ZANU-PF which has already named the incumbent as its candidate for next year's presidential election.

Mnangagwa, 75, was appointed vice-president in 2014 and has been widely touted as the obvious successor to Mugabe, who has led the country for 37 years.

But a visibly incensed Mugabe unleashed wrath at his vice-president, sitting nearby, when speaking in Shona in the opposition stronghold city of Bulawayo.

"We are denigrated and insulted in the name of Mnangagwa. Did I make a mistake in appointing him as my deputy?" Mugabe asked.

"If I made a mistake by appointing Mnangagwa... tell me. I will drop him as early as tomorrow. We are not afraid of anyone. We can decide even here," he said.

"If it has come to this, it is time we make a final decision," he added, telling Mnangagwa and his supporters they were free to leave ZANU-PF.

"You can go ahead and form your party because we honestly cannot have this. We cannot be insulted on a daily basis."

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7	Date	19/10/17	
8	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM)	
9	Budget and Source of Funds	BJMC Fund	
10	Tender Publication Date	19.10.17	
11	Tender Last Selling Date	29/11/2017	12:00 Noon
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