

# Two DB men hurt in attack by criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two members of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police were hurt in an attack by criminals at Kamalapur Railway Station last night when the law enforcers were carrying out a special drive to nab drugged peddlers. Injured Assistant Sub-Inspector Belal Hossain was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and Sub-Inspector Pran Krishna to Central Police Hospital in Rajarbagh. Bachchu Miah, sub-inspector of the police outpost at the DMCH, said a team of the DMP's serious crime investigation unit was conducting the drive. At one stage, some criminals attacked the police team around 8:00pm, leaving the two injured. Belal was stabbed in the abdomen, he said. Police later launched another drive in Kamalapur area to arrest the attackers.

# Still trickling

FROM PAGE 2 Migration (IOM) Spokesperson Olivia Headon from Cox' Bazar said the Rohingyas who arrived recently said the burning of houses has not stopped yet. They could not say who were burning the houses because they left their homes in fear for life, she said. Hasina, a Rohingya woman, who waited for a large group of people from their neighbourhood in Rakhine State to leave with before embarking on the journey, told IOM staff she thought there might be safety in numbers. "We were too scared to leave our house," she said, according to a statement of IOM issued yesterday. "Most walked for eight to 10 days to reach the border with little food and water. They then waited for three or four days on mud embankments between paddy fields before they could cross. Sleeping in the open, the family suffered under the burning sun and monsoon rain," it said. Nur, a mother of eight, described how her family had walked through areas scattered with dead bodies to reach Bangladesh. Speaking to IOM staff, she said they even spent one night sleeping among human remains. UN Under-Secretary General Pramilla Patten while meeting Health Minister Mohammed Nasim at the health ministry yesterday said, "It is important to collect data on the Rohingyas women who were raped so that they can get justice." The UN's special representative on sexual violence in conflict also thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for sheltering the Rohingya refugees and providing life-saving support, according to a press release. Meanwhile, the Social Services Division has identified and registered 22,484 unaccompanied and separated children as of October 28, according to the Inter-Sector Coordination Group. As of November 4, the Bangladesh Immigration and Passports Department registered 405,700 Rohingyas using biometric registration.

**26 DETAINED** Last night, police in a drive detained at least 26 people, including five foreigners, from Kutupalong Rohingya camp in Ukhia upazila for staying there without permission, reports UNB. On secret information that some foreigners and local NGO men were staying illegally at the camp, a team of police, led by additional district magistrate Khaled Mahmud, conducted a drive there, said Mohammad Ali, deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar. During the drive, they detained 26 people, he said, adding that the foreigners were released later after they gave an undertaking.

# SC clears

FROM PAGE 16 cross-examine nine prosecution witnesses of the case and a stay on its trial proceedings. On August 20 this year, the HC disposed of with some observations a petition filed by Khaleda for transferring the case from the court of Special Judge-5 Md Akhtaruzzaman to another court. She recently filed a leave to appeal petition with the SC, challenging the HC order and seeking a stay on its trial proceedings. On July 3, 2008, the ACC filed the case with Ramna Police Station accusing Khaleda, her elder son Tarique Rahman and four others for misappropriating over Tk 2.10 crore that was received as grants for orphans via a foreign bank. Of the six accused, Khaleda, former BNP lawmaker Salimul Haq Kamal and businessman Sharfuddin Ahmed are on bail, while the others, including Tarique, are absconding. On August 6 this year, the BNP chief filed a revision petition with the HC for transferring the case from the court of Special Judge-5 Md Akhtaruzzaman to another court, apprehending that she will not get justice from Judge Md Akhtaruzzaman, as his court in July verbally ordered to arrest his lawyer barrister AM Mahub Uddin Khokon when her lawyers prayed for adjournment of its hearing. Advocate AJ Mohammad Ali, advocate Zainul Abedin, barrister Bodruddoza Badal and barrister AM Mahub Uddin Khokon appeared for the BNP chief.

# N Korean suspects named in Kim Jong-Nam murder trial

AFP, Shah Alam

Four men suspected of plotting with two women to murder the North Korean leader's half-brother were yesterday named by police as North Koreans who fled Malaysia after the assassination. They were identified at the trial of Indonesian Siti Aisyah and Vietnamese Doan Thi Huong, the women accused of killing Kim Jong-Nam on February 13 with nerve agent VX at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in a hit that stunned the world. The pair, who were arrested days after the assassination and face death by hanging if convicted, pleaded not guilty to murdering the estranged half-brother of Kim Jong-Un when the trial began on October 2. They say they were tricked into believing they were taking part in a prank for a reality TV show and their lawyers have

blamed North Korean agents. The charge sheet says four other individuals still at large are suspected of murdering Kim along with the women, but does not identify them. Yesterday, Wan Azizul Nizam Che Wan Aziz, the main investigating officer, testified to the Shah Alam High Court outside Kuala Lumpur that the four were North Korean men who fled Malaysia after the murder. They were known to the women by pseudonyms, he said. Hong Song Hac, 34, was known as Mr. Chang; Ri Ji Hyon, 33, was known as Mr. Y; Ri Jae Nam, 57, was called Hanamori; and O Jong Gil was known as James. An Interpol "red notice" was issued for the men after the murder at Malaysia's request. This alerts police in Interpol member countries to share information on the suspects with a view to potentially arresting and extraditing them to face justice.

# Yemen hostage crisis ends with 35 dead

AFP, Aden

Yemeni forces ended a hostage crisis yesterday with 29 police and six civilians dead, a day after the attack claimed by the Islamic State group began with suicide bombings, official sources said. Assaults on Sunday stormed the criminal investigations unit in Aden, the Yemeni government's de facto capital, setting it alight and taking hostages after killing two police-women execution-style. The attack began on Sunday, when two suicide bombers blew themselves

up at the entrances to the criminal investigations unit and the city's security headquarters. Overnight, the security forces tried three times to seize back the unit, but each time a suicide bomber blew himself up, stopping them from entering, a security official said. A fourth suicide bombing occurred yesterday morning, before the security forces finally brought an end to the standoff in the southern port city. A total of 29 members of the security forces were killed during the attack and hostage crisis, the official said.

# Saudi purge 'widens'

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The front page of leading Saudi newspaper Okaz challenged businessmen yesterday to reveal the sources of their assets, asking: "Where did you get this?" in bright red text.



Crown Prince Salman who heads the anti-graft body

Another headline from Saudi-owned al-Hayat warned: "After the launch (of the anti-corruption drive), the noose tightens, whom-ever you are!" A no-fly list has been drawn up and security forces in some Saudi airports were barring owners of private jets from taking off without a permit, pan-Arab daily Al-Asharq Al-Awsat reported.

Gause, a Gulf expert at Texas A&M University. "If your goal really is anti-corruption, then you bring some cases. You don't just arrest a bunch of really high-ranking people and emphasise that the rule of law is not really what guides your actions. It just runs so counter to what he seems to have staked quite a lot of his whole plan to."

Among those detained are 11 princes, four ministers and tens of former ministers, according to Saudi officials. The allegations against the men include money laundering, bribery, extorting officials and taking advantage of public office for personal gain, a Saudi official told Reuters. Those accusations could not be independently verified and family members of those detained could not be reached. A royal decree on Saturday said the crackdown came in response to "exploitation by some of the weak souls who have put their own interests above the public interest, in order to, illicitly, accrue money".

Over the past year, Prince Mohammed has become the ultimate decision-maker for the kingdom's military, foreign, economic and social policies, championing his "Vision 2030" plan which includes subsidy cuts, tax rises, sales of state assets, a government efficiency drive and efforts to spur foreign investment. The reforms have been well-received by much of Saudi's overwhelmingly young population, but caused resentment among some of the more conservative old guard, including parts of the Al Saud dynasty frustrated by Prince Mohammed's meteoric rise. "It's overkill - and overkill in a way that makes it harder to achieve his long-term objectives," said Gause.

The new anti-corruption committee has the power to seize assets at home and abroad before the results of its investigations are known. Investors worry that the crackdown could ultimately result in forced sales of equities, but the extent of the authorities' intentions was not immediately clear.

**LONG-AWAITED** The line between public funds and royal money is not always clear in Saudi Arabia, an absolute monarchy ruled by an Islamic system in which most law is not systematically codified and no elected parliament exists. WikiLeaks cables have detailed the huge monthly stipends that every Saudi royal receives as well as various money-making schemes some have used to finance lavish lifestyles.

**OVERKILL** Analysts said the arrests were also a pre-emptive measure by the 32-year-old crown prince to remove powerful figures as he seeks to reshape the economy and society of the world's leading oil exporter.

Many ordinary Saudis have praised the round-up of princes and ministers as long-awaited and necessary to modernise the economy. In September, King Salman announced that a ban on women driving would be lifted, while Prince Mohammed is trying to break decades of conservative tradition by promoting public entertainment and visits by foreign tourists.

Prince Miteb bin Abdullah was detained and replaced as minister of the powerful National Guard, a pivotal power base rooted in the kingdom's tribes. That recalled a palace coup in June which ousted his elder cousin, Mohammed bin Nayef, as heir to the throne and interior minister. The moves consolidate Prince Mohammed's control of the kingdom's internal security and military institutions, which had long been headed by separate powerful branches of the ruling family. Yet many analysts were puzzled by the targeting of technocrats like ousted Economy Minister Adel Faqieh and prominent businessmen on whom the kingdom is counting to boost the private sector and wean the economy off oil.

He has also slashed state spending in some areas and plans a \$300 billion sale of state assets, including floating part of state oil giant Saudi Aramco on international markets. But the prince has also led Saudi Arabia into a two-year-old war in Yemen, where the government says it is fighting Iran-aligned militants, and into a dispute with Qatar, which it accuses of backing terrorists, a charge Doha denies. Detractors of the crown prince say both moves are dangerous adventurism.

"It seems to run so counter to the long-term goal of foreign investment and more domestic investment and a strengthened private sector," said Greg

The Saudi-led military coalition said yesterday it would temporarily close all air, land and sea ports to Yemen to stem the flow of arms from Iran to Houthi rebels after a missile fired towards Riyadh was intercepted over the weekend.

# Lebanon seeks 'stability' after shock PM resignation

AFP, Beirut

Lebanon's president met with top national security officials yesterday, saying the country's political leadership was keen to maintain stability in the wake of Prime Minister Saad Hariri's shock resignation. Hariri announced he was leaving his post in a television broadcast on Saturday from Saudi Arabia, citing fears for his life and sparking concerns of a political fallout. Lebanese President Michel Aoun has sought to allay those fears. "The political leadership's responsiveness to calls for calm strengthens stability and preserves national unity," Aoun said yesterday. He spoke after meeting senior national security officials, including army chief General Joseph Aoun, Defence Minister Yaacoub Sarraf, and Justice Minister Salim Jreissati.

"President Aoun will not take any unilateral decisions before meeting with PM Hariri," Jreissati said after the meeting, according to the presidency's office. It was unclear when Hariri would return to Lebanon from Saudi Arabia, where he met King Salman yesterday. Hariri is a two-time premier whose father Rafik held the same position for years and was assassinated in 2005. In his televised resignation on Saturday, he accused Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah of taking over his country and destabilising the broader region.

# NBR

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Transcom Group Chairman Latifur Rahman's family. The others on the list include Shajahan Khan, shipping minister; Nurul Islam, expatriates' welfare and overseas employment minister; Mirza Azam, state minister for textiles and jute; Samuel S Chowdhury, chairman of Square Group; Alihussain Akberali, chairman of BSRM Group; Abdul Matlub Ahmad, chairman of Nitol-Niloy Group; and Kutubuddin Ahmed, and Abdus Salam Murshedy, chairman and managing director of Envoy Group. Besides, 141 top taxpayers from various sectors and professions would also be honoured.

# UN council

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the summit, to be attended by US President Donald Trump, who will dispatch US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to Myanmar later this month. On Friday, Human Rights Watch urged the council to ask the International Criminal Court to open war crimes investigations in Myanmar, describing the torching of villages, killing, rape and looting as crimes against humanity. Such a move however is unlikely to win the support of China.

# Cabinet okays

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the Prime Minister's Office, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. "The power plants will be set up in Paira Port area of Pataukhali," Cabinet Secretary M Shafiu Alam told reporters at the secretariat. He said the cabinet also gave the go-ahead to the related Memorandum of Association and Article of Association of the joint venture company. The company would have an authorised capital of Tk 40 crore and the value of its ordinary share would be Tk 100 each while its paid up capital would be Tk 20 crore, Shafiu added. The operational procedure of the power plants will be ascertained in line with Bangladesh's laws and any arbitration issues will be resolved through the Rules of Singapore Arbitration Centre. The cabinet also gave the final approval to the draft of the Wage Earners Board Act, 2017 which would replace the existing Wage Earners Welfare Rules, 2002 for conducting the activities of the Wage Earners Welfare Board. "The new [draft] law clearly defined the term 'migrant' and 'migrant worker' saying all migrants and migrant workers will be considered as expatriate nationals," the secretary informed reporters. He said a 16-member committee, headed by the secretary of the expatriate welfare ministry, would comprise the Wage Earners Board for a three-year term. The board will have 12 responsibilities, including taking up and implementing projects for ensuring wage earners' welfare, bringing home the bodies of the expatriates in the event of any death abroad and conducting their last rituals. Shafiu said the board would have a special task of opening a help desk particularly to extend assistance to any female worker in danger abroad.

# Victim's ready

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Metropolitan Police told The Daily Star. When she filed a case with Chandgaon Police Station on November 3, police asked her to call the men and nicely tell them to meet her in Bahaddarhat area. Police arrested the duo, bus driver Rashedul Islam Sumon, 20, and his assistant, Imtiaj Uddin, 18, when they showed up. The woman, a readymade garment worker, told police and reporters that she kept the incident to herself for a week and did not have the "strength" to go to police earlier. She said the incident on the bus took place on a weekend when she and four women went to Patenga beach around 4:00pm. They later boarded a bus heading to Bahaddarhat around 7:00pm. When everyone else got down the assistant started to drive the bus and the driver closed all the windows and door of the bus.

Sensing danger, the victim asked them to stop the bus. But the driver Rashedul, wielding a knife, snatched her phone and gagged her with her scarf and raped her. The woman alleged that Imtiaj then let Rashedul drive the bus and raped her. Both the accused gave their confessional statements before a Chittagong court on Saturday. The accused men drove the bus through empty streets as they raped her to avoid being detected, said Abdul Warish, a deputy commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police. A medical test was done on the victim at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), but the report is not released yet, said police officers. Abdul Warish, a Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, said, "The victim broke down after the incident and stayed in her house for a week." Mobassher Hossen said Police was trying to seize the bus.

# BBA student

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Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead. Nasim suffered four knife wounds on his chest and stomach around 9:00am on a narrow alley near his home, police and family members said, adding that the assailants were not identified. His wife Shamima Zaman said Sunday's altercation took place 8:30pm after he asked some people of their neighbourhood not to bet near their house. About half-an-hour after Nasim returned home on Sunday, a CNG-run three-wheeler driver Ramzan, his wife and some locals went to Nasim's first floor flat in their three-storey building on Post Office Goli, the grieving family members said. "They demanded Nasim's punishment for beating up Ramzan," said his mother Parvin Begum. "I and Nasim's father apologised, but they were not satisfied and kept saying that they wanted justice. They had killed my son." The bereaved mother added that she told them that the matter would be resolved in the presence of other residents of the area on Monday evening. His wife Shamima said Nasim received a call around 11:30pm on Sunday. "Without identifying himself, the caller said, 'We will slit your throat when you come out of your home tomorrow,'" Shamima told The Daily

Star. Nasim, son of Ahmed Saifuddin, married Shamima seven months ago. Kazi Wazed Ali, officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station said a case was filed and they were investigating into the incident. At least six people have been killed in the capital and its outskirts since Thursday. Of them, a girl and her father were killed in Badda while a mother and her son were killed in Kakrail. A teenager was stabbed to death in Keraniganj on Sunday night. Killing over betting is not new in the country. On May 6, Santos Chandra, 33, was killed over IPL betting. The news was covered in the international media. Just over a month into that incident, a young man died by suicide in Jamalpur after losing a wager while betting on the India-Pakistan match of the ICC Champions Trophy. In 2014 and 2015, three people reportedly lost their lives over betting related incidents in Chandpur, Munshiganj and Rajshahi. **TEENAGER KILLED IN KERANIGANJ** Unknown criminals stabbed a teenager to death at Jingira in Keraniganj on Sunday night. Omar Faruk, 16, died at Mitford hospital around 11:30pm. His family members took him there around two hours after he was stabbed on his leg.

# Keep parliaments

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separation of power where they [countries] have an independent judiciary, independent legislature and the executive doesn't control these two institutions?" she questioned. A representative from Malta said freedom is not only sought when a country gets independence. Rather, it is the value which must be sought every day. "A good democracy has a better distribution of parliament. You can still have a democracy, but at the same time you can have people who are not free in the democracy, free to speak, free to access to have justice. So freedom should be sought every day and from every point of view," he said. He stressed the need for setting up strong institutions to deliver better governance and practice democracy in everyday life. Bangladeshis lawmakers Md Ali Ashraf, Md Shahiduzzaman Sarker, Dipu Moni and Moinuddin Khan Badal were the lead discussants at the workshop, moderated by Tanvir Imam MP. The meeting recommended that parliamentarians should proactively play a role in translating the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into legislation and policies for achieving country-specific goals. It suggested that parliaments should be transparent and have a separation of power to be easily accessible to the public. It also stressed the need for parliaments to reflect the social diversity of the population in terms of gender, geography, language, religion, ethnicity and any other politically significant characteristics. **EYES ON UNIFORM VISA SYSTEM** Lawmakers from Commonwealth countries yesterday agreed on recommendations to introduce uniform visa and trade systems and easing tariff restrictions among the Commonwealth states like in the European Union. They also acknowledged that a youth quota should be introduced in parliaments. The recommendations came at different workshops of the 63rd CPC. The CPC general assembly will finalise the Dhaka Declaration today after considering recommendations from parliamentarians. The suggestions on visa, trade and tariff came at a workshop titled "The role of parliamentarians in building stronger ties within the Commonwealth: Including new trade issues, travel restrictions, non-tariff restrictions". At another workshop on "Giving

voice to the youth: Mechanism for ensuring effective participation of youth in the governance process," the MPs agreed on introducing youth quotas in parliaments and at the party levels in case of picking "candidates". The lawmakers also agreed that parliaments must ensure participation of youths in the parliamentary bodies at the national, regional and international levels. They said parliaments needed to give voice to youths by making sure that the policies close to their hearts were actively considered. The workshop recommended that parliaments and lawmakers should ceaselessly endeavor to ensure mainstreaming of the youths in governance and nation building to equip and empower them to shape the destinies of democracies worldwide. Youth delegates from Commonwealth countries also attended the workshop. At another workshop titled "The climate change debate: Challenges for the Commonwealth", lawmakers unanimously agreed on two recommendations, including ensuring a framework to combat climate change. The MPs pledged to find means to give legal protection to people displaced by climate change and to support a UN General Assembly resolution in this regard. At another discussion titled "CPA benchmarks for democratic legislatures: Progress in the past 10 years," lawmakers adopted a resolution that says "relevant citizens, civil society and academia should be consulted when parliaments conduct self-assessments with the CPA benchmarks to promote transparency and accountability". The Bangladesh delegation, led by Deputy Speaker Fazle Rabbi Mia, voted against the resolution. Lawmakers from 15 countries, including Australia, Canada and Malaysia, participated in the workshop. Talking to The Daily Star last night, the deputy speaker said, "As Bangladesh's parliament is supreme and sovereign, it does not require consulting civil society members in running the House."

Earlier, the deputy speaker told journalists at the workshop venue that the CPA general assembly might issue a statement on the Rohingya issue, calling upon Myanmar to stop atrocities and forced displacement of Rohingyas and ensure their return to their homeland and Rakhine immediately. Several other workshops were held yesterday on issues focusing on democracy, SDGs and the rise of nationalism.