



Mugabe 'ousted' in coup d'état

Army takes power, says president 'safe', under house arrest; world urges calm

REUTERS, Harare

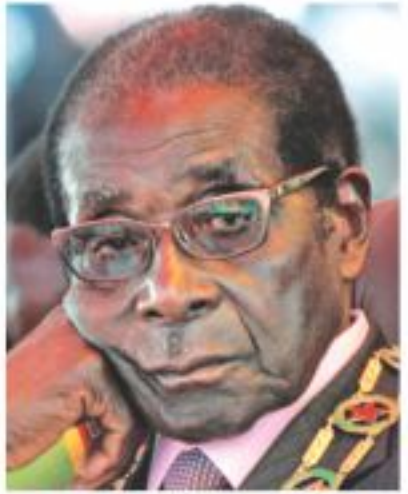
Zimbabwe's military seized power yesterday saying it was holding President Robert Mugabe and his family safe while targeting "criminals" in the entourage of the only ruler the country has known in its 37 years of independence.

Soldiers seized the state broadcaster and a general appeared on television to announce the takeover. Armoured vehicles blocked roads to the main government offices, parliament and the courts in central Harare, while taxis ferried commuters to work nearby. The atmosphere in the capital remained calm.

In his first contact with the outside world since the takeover, Mugabe spoke by telephone to the president of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, and told him he was confined to his home but fine, the South African presidency said in a statement.

It was not clear whether the apparent military coup would bring a formal end to the 93-year-old Mugabe's rule; the main goal of the generals appeared to be preventing Mugabe's wife Grace, 41 years his junior, from succeeding him.

But whether or not he remains in office, it is likely to mark the end of the total dominance of the country by Mugabe, the last of Africa's generation of anti-colonial state founders still in power and one of the continent's most polarising figures.



An armoured personnel carrier stations at an intersection as Zimbabwean soldiers regulate traffic in Harare yesterday. Zimbabwe's military appeared to be in control of the country as generals denied staging a coup but used state television to vow to target "criminals" close to President Mugabe.

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Purbokone editor passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Editor of Chittagong-based the Dainik Purbokone Taslim Uddin Chowdhury passed away at a hospital in the capital yesterday. He was 59.

Taslim was a member of the Editors' Council, an organisation of professional editors of almost all the top-circulated newspapers in the country.

He left behind his wife, daughter, two sons and a number of well-wishers.

Around 6:45am, the journalist breathed his last at Dhanmondi Renaissance Hospital where he was undergoing treatment, said

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RANGPUR MAYHEM Titu placed on remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A Rangpur court yesterday granted four-day remand for Titu Chandra Roy in connection with a case over demeaning Islam through a Facebook post.

The Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court passed the order after police had produced the 40-year-old before it, seeking 10-day remand, said ABM Zakir Hossain, additional SP of the Special Branch in the district.

No lawyer appeared for Titu, said Rangpur Court

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Planet found nearby could support life

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have found a close, "comfy" planet that's one of our closest neighbours – and could support life.

The new exoplanet, known as Ross 128 b, is the size of our own Earth and has a surface temperature that might be close to our own. That and the qualities

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Man killed for trying to stop a stalker

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A man was killed and his son injured on Tuesday for trying to stop a stalker who was hounding a housewife over phone in Faridpur's Bhanga, police said yesterday.

The victims are Abdur Rob Mollah, a 52-year-old farmer, and his son Sohel Mollah, 18, of Bilvora village.

Police and locals said Rakib Mridha, 22, son of Babu Mridha of the same village, had been stalking a 35-year-old mother of two daughters and a son over phone for a couple of months. He somehow collected the number of the woman while working as a carpenter at her house in the same village.

As Sohel, a neighbour of the woman, came to know about the incident on Monday, he went straight to Rakib and asked him to stop teasing her, leading to an altercation. At one point, Sohel slapped Rakib and left.

After this incident Sohel's father Abdur Rob visited Rakib's house and apologised for what his son did. He also requested Rakib to stop teasing the woman.

However, Rakib and his seven to eight cohorts swooped on Sohel with sticks and beat him indiscriminately when he was coming to his home after Magrib prayers

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BANANI MURDER

Business rivalry likely behind it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators primarily suspect a rivalry over manpower recruitment business led to the killing of the owner of a recruiting agency in the capital's Banani on Tuesday night.

"We are primarily suspecting that the killing took place over a business rivalry. However, we are also analysing family and local conflicts involving the victim," Shaikh Nazmul Alam, deputy commissioner of the DMP's Detective Branch, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Four criminals, aged between 25 and 30, entered the office of Munshi Overseas on the ground floor of a four-storey building on Road-4 of Banani around 7:50pm Tuesday.

They shot Siddik Hossen Munshi, 50, the owner of the agency, and his staff members Mostak Hossain, 39, Mokhlesur Rahman Muslehuddin, 35, and Miraz Parvez, 30, before leaving the office.

The injured were rushed to United Hospital, where doctors pronounced Siddik dead.

A top police official, requesting anonymity, said they learnt that the victim had a conflict with another manpower businessman in the capital's Paltan. The businessman reportedly had demanded Tk 20 lakh from the victim. "We are now analysing the clue," he said.

The businessman also threatened to kill Siddik and a general diary was filed with Uttara East Police Station over the incident just one and a half months back, the official added.

Meanwhile, victim's wife Josna Begum filed a murder case with Banani Police Station yesterday, accusing four unidentified people, said Abdul



Siddik Hossen Munshi

SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

Second time unlucky

Man fakes papers to land job, gets caught embezzling Tk 9 crore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A small crime may become a gateway for bigger ones. The case of Siddikur Rahman illustrates this possibility.

On January 1, 2009, Siddikur applied for the data processing post at the National Credit and Commerce Bank (NCC) in 2009.

His credentials were impressive. Attested copies of his educational documents

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 16
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:00 12:45 3:45 5:22 7:00
JAMAAT 5:35 1:15 4:00 5:25 7:30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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নং-১৬.০০.০০০০.০০৩.০০.০০৭.১৭-১৫০৯ তারিখঃ ০৯/১১/২০১৭খ্রিঃ

২০১৮ সনে সম্মানিত হজেগমনেচ্ছু ব্যক্তিবর্গের জন্য জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০১৮ সনের সম্মানিত হজেগমনেচ্ছু ব্যক্তিবর্গকে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সরকারি ব্যবস্থাপনায় হজের প্রাক-নিবন্ধন কার্যক্রম চলছে যা আগামী ৩১ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৭খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত বহাল থাকবে। শুধুমাত্র সরকারি ব্যবস্থাপনায় ২০১৮ সনের হজের প্রাক-নিবন্ধন করার সুযোগ রয়েছে। বেসরকারি এজেন্সীর মাধ্যমে প্রাক-নিবন্ধনের কোটা ইতোমধ্যেই পূর্ণ হয়েছে।

০২। সরকারি ব্যবস্থাপনায় সম্মানিত, হজযাত্রীদের নিম্নরূপ সুবিধা প্রদান করা হয়ে থাকেঃ

- (ক) যথাসময়ে ভিসা এবং বিমান টিকেট প্রাপ্তির নিশ্চয়তা;
- (খ) নির্ধারিত সময়ে বাংলাদেশ থেকে সৌদি আরবে গমন, সৌদি আরব থেকে বাংলাদেশে প্রত্যাবর্তন এবং মদিনা শরিফে ৪০ (চল্লিশ) ওয়াক্ত নামাজ আদায়ের ব্যবস্থাসহ যথাসময়ে মদিনা আল মোনাওয়ারা গমন;
- (গ) মিনায় জামারার (পাথর নিক্ষেপের স্থান) নিকটবর্তী স্থান এবং আরাফায় মসজিদে নামিয়ার অতি নিকটবর্তী স্থানে তাঁবুতে অবস্থান;
- (ঘ) মেট্রোরেল/উন্নতমানের বাসে মিনা, আরাফা, মুজদালিফায় যাতায়াতসহ প্রশিক্ষিত গাইডের অধীনে হজ পালনে সহায়তা প্রদান;
- (ঙ) এ-প্যাকেজের সম্মানিত হাজীদের হারাম শরীফ হতে ৫০০ থেকে ১০০০ মিটারের মধ্যে, বি-প্যাকেজের হাজীদের ১০০০ থেকে ২০০০ মিটারের মধ্যে এবং মদিনা শরীফে মসজিদে নববীর নিকটবর্তী উন্নতমানের হোটেল/বাড়িতে অবস্থানের ব্যবস্থা;
- (চ) মক্কা আল মোকাররমা এবং মদিনা আল মোনাওয়ারায় একই হোটেল/বাড়িতে অবস্থানের সুযোগ;
- (ছ) অভিজ্ঞ ডাক্তার, নার্স, ফার্মাসিস্ট এবং এ্যাম্বুলেন্স সুবিধা সম্বলিত সার্বক্ষণিক স্বাস্থ্যকেন্দ্রের মাধ্যমে মক্কা, মদিনা, জেদ্দায় চিকিৎসা সেবা প্রদান;
- (জ) হজের পুষ্টিকা, গাইড, নির্দেশিকা, লিফলেট ও অন্যান্য সামগ্রী বিনামূল্যে বিতরণ।

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Chairman, Labib Group

Mrs. Sultana Jahan
Vice-Chairman, Labib Group

In recognition of a special contribution to the Export and Trade Sector of Bangladesh, **Mr. Salahuddin Alamgir**, Chairman, Labib Group and **Mrs. Sultana Jahan**, Vice-Chairman, Labib Group have been awarded with 'Commercially Important Person (CIP)' statuses again by the Government of Bangladesh. We are elated and proud for it. At the same time, we convey our heartiest felicitations to **Mr. Salahuddin Alamgir & Mrs. Sultana Jahan**.

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