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UK foils 'plot to kill May'

Raid uncovers terror plan; 2 British men of Bangladeshi, Pakistani origin arrested

British Security officials believe they have thwarted an alleged plot to assassinate Theresa May by terrorists who would first bomb their way into Downing Street and then kill the prime minister, it has emerged.

Two men were arrested last week following a joint operation by MI5, the UK's counter-terrorism security service. One of the arrestees, Naa'imur Zakariyah Rahman, identified himself as "Bangladeshi British" and the other -- Mohammad Aqib Imran -- is a "Pakistani British".

Security officials believe the alleged Islamist plot is the ninth to have been thwarted since March this year.

The alleged details of the latest plot emerged as an official report into the terrorist attacks Britain suffered from March and June was released, showing that MI5 had intelligence that could have stopped the Manchester terror attack in May but, with the benefit of hindsight, did not correctly interpret it.

Two men, aged 20 and 21, were detained on 28 November following an operation involving MI5 investigators and counter-terrorism police officers from Scotland Yard and the West Midlands.

They made their first appearance yesterday at Westminster magistrates court in central London. They were charged with plotting to assassinate May in a bomb and knife attack, reported AFP.

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An injured student is being taken to an ambulance on Institute of Health Technology campus in Rajshahi yesterday. At least five female students were assaulted by Chhatra League leaders of the institute.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

BCL men assault 5 female students

Rajshahi IHT closed after violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Institute of Health Technology in Rajshahi has been closed for an indefinite period after Chhatra League leaders assaulted female students leaving at least five of them injured yesterday.

Of the victims, three were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. But they left the hospital in a hurry fearing further attacks, said a number of students, requesting not to be named.

At least five women were pushed to the ground, dragged and assaulted in front of police and Principal Sirajul Islam, they added.

A group of BCL men led by Jahidul Islam, president of the institute unit of the pro-Awami League student body, attacked the women when they were going to their dorm accompanied by the principal around

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CULTURAL HERITAGE

Shital Pati on Unesco list

UNB, Dhaka

Traditional art of Shital Pati weaving of Sylhet has been included in the Unesco's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity.

The recognition came on Wednesday at the twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the ICH from December 4-9 at Jeju in South Korea.

This is the fourth ICH from Bangladesh recognised by the Unesco. Except it, Mangal Shobhajatra on Pabela Baishakh was recognised as the ICH last year, while Baul songs and traditional art of Jamdani

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End disparities

Majority of people must get rightful share of national achievements, experts tell conference on SDGs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A citizen's platform yesterday called for an end to discrimination and ensuring equal access of all to economic and social spheres as the majority of the population were not being able to get the rightful share of national achievements.

The call was made at the first ever meet of the Citizen's Conference on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) where more than 1,000 participants from civil society, NGOs, and businesses took part. Citizen's Platform for SDGs Bangladesh organised the event at the Krishibid Institute for mass awareness to help the nation achieve the UN-set 17 global development targets by 2030.

The discussants said everyone has equal rights to participate in development and demanded laws, policies and work plans to bring the marginalised and the vulnerable to the mainstream development process.

"Due to the existing economic, social and environmental disparities, the ambition of attaining inclusive growth in Bangladesh is facing enormous challenges," said a declaration of the daylong symposium.

It said the government had taken a number of initiatives towards the overall development of the country ... "Nonetheless, absence of appropriate laws, inadequate implementation of existing laws, corruption, and above all, various social stigma and negative mind-sets, have inhibited access to equal opportunities by all citizens of the country."

It said vulnerabilities of the marginalised and the deprived were on the rise.

"A close examination reveals that vulnerabilities of the people get aggravated due to the lack of education and skills, inadequate health services, religious and ethnic differences, adverse geographical locations, economic

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Police sue 122 BNP men over Tuesday's clash, vandalism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday filed five cases against 122 BNP leaders and activists on charges of vandalising around 70 vehicles and torching a police motorbike in the city's High Court and Bangabazar areas on Tuesday.

Of the cases, four were filed with Shahbagh Police Station while the other with Ramna Police Station, Maruf Hossain Sarder, deputy commissioner of police (Ramna division), told The Daily Star.

He said they arrested 30 BNP men, including the party's Sports Affairs Secretary Aminul Islam, on the spot.

The law enforcers later placed the arrestees before a Dhaka court and sought a 10 day-remand for each. The court, however, sent

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Bacteria found on space station



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The International Space Station (ISS) has a "diverse" collection of Bacteria despite being miles from the Earth, according to new research.

The community of micro-organisms living on board the space lab is remarkably like that in people's homes, the research also found.

Those are the discoveries of a major new project that analysed bacteria found in 15 different places on the ISS.

Scientists hope that the new findings could guide future space exploration, as well as helping learn about buildings on Earth. "Learning more about the microbial inhabitants of the 'buildings' in which we travel through space will take on increasing importance, as plans for human exploration continue,

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Doctor jailed by Laxmipur mobile court acquitted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Former acting civil surgeon Salah Uddin Sharif, who was given three months' jail sentence by a mobile court on Monday, has been acquitted of his charge.

M Iqbal Hossain, the additional district magistrate of Laxmipur, passed the order yesterday after hearing a petition by Sharif

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 7

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00

JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Muggers in guise of DB men snatch Tk 40 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several men, identifying themselves as police's Detective Branch officials, snatched Tk 40 lakh from employees of a garment factory in the capital's Uttara yesterday.

They looted the money from the accountant of Tokio Mode on Road 12 of Sector 1 in the afternoon, Rasel Howlader, a factory official, told The Daily Star.

Accountant Sayeed Mahmud Al-Firoz withdrew the money from a bank and was in a microbus of the factory around 12:45pm when four men carrying firearms, walkie-talkies and handcuffs intercepted the vehicle, Rasel added.

The men forcibly got inside the vehicle, tied and blindfolded Sayeed and the driver and drove the microbus to Kuril Biswa Road area where they left the duo and the vehicle.

Rasel, quoting a witness, said the men fled on another white microbus.



This ferry that runs across the Kacha river on Barisal-Pirojpur-Khulna Road in Pirojpur collided with a sand-laden vessel mid river early yesterday. The collision cracked its hull when it was carrying nine vehicles. Before the ferry pilot could beach the vessel, one side of it submerged causing two trucks and a bus to fall into the river. None was hurt as they managed to get down from their vehicles and move to the other end of the ferry. Cattle, on a truck that sunk, was also saved. The accident snapped communication on the route for 12 hours. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Govt to buy 1.5 lakh tonnes of rice from India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government in a desperate move to boost stock is going to import another 1.5 lakh tonnes of rice from India after an initiative to bring in the staple from Cambodia has recently failed.

The cabinet committee on purchase yesterday approved a proposal to import the rice from India through state-to-state arrangement at \$440 per tonne.

Earlier in October, the same committee approved a proposal to import 1 lakh tonnes of rice from India at \$455 per tonne.

This time the government is going to get at \$15 less per tonne. The rice will arrive in two months from opening of Letter of Credit (LC).

The cabinet committee has so far approved proposals to import about 15.5 lakh tonnes of rice through state-to-state and open tender in last six months. The volume is 50,000 tonnes more than the government's rice import target in current fiscal year.

Food ministry officials said the committee in August approved a proposal to import 2.5 lakh tonnes of rice from Cambodia through state-to-state arrangement, but Bangladesh later cancelled the deal due to shipment delay.

The officials added the government has decided to import more rice from India to make a recovery.

The government is desperately trying to replenish its depleted stock through import after production was hit by flash floods and fungal attacks. It has taken initiatives to import rice in various ways including even import of 2 lakh tonnes through local traders.

Despite deals with several rice exporting countries including India, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam,

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