

## BNP to boycott

FROM PAGE 16  
Khaleda was convicted in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.  
On Thursday, the Special Court-5 in Dhaka fixed February 8 to deliver the verdict in the case against Khaleda and five others.  
On July 3, 2008, the ACC filed the graft case with Ramna Police Station, accusing Khaleda, her elder son Tarique Rahman, now in the UK, and four others for misappropriating over 2.10 crore that came as grants for orphans from Kuwait through a foreign bank.  
Meeting sources said some standing committee members opined for showing a strong reaction if Khaleda was convicted in the case. The BNP leaders were asked to remain alert across the country centring the verdict.  
The standing committee meeting was adjourned until Monday. Khaleda will sit with top leaders of the BNP-led 20-party alliance this evening, party insiders said.  
An hour after the standing committee meeting, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir at a press conference said the date for declaring verdict in the graft case had been fixed hastily as part of a government's plot and urged the people to be vocal about it.  
"The entire nation has become worried and aggrieved over the fixing of date to pronounce the verdict hurriedly. We think it is part of a conspiracy to destroy democracy and foil an inclusive national election," he was briefing journalists at Khaleda's Gulshan office.  
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## Sunrisers take

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with Rajasthan Royals came ahead of Indian batsmen Lokesh Rahul (11 crore) and Manish Pandey (11 crore) and Australians Chris Lynn (9.6 crore), Mitchell Starc (9.4 crore) and Glenn Maxwell (9 crore) in the top prices paid.  
But England captain Joe Root and wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow, and star batsmen Chris Gayle of West Indies and Hashim Amla of South Africa failed to attract bids. Veteran Sri Lanka paceman Lasith Malinga also went unsold but the franchises have the option of getting them back on the auction table Sunday.

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## Sparkling

FROM PAGE 16  
Shakil Gold Antique Jewellery since 2017. "I'm really grateful that one of my neighbours taught me how to make necklaces, bangles, earrings and nose-rings."

As an artisan, she works nine-to-five for a base income of Tk 700 per week, which brings in around Tk 4,000 each month with overtime included. "It helps my husband to run the family," says Parveen. "My income ensures we can afford schooling for our children."

"This locality has become renowned for jewellery," says Shakil Gold's owner, Md Shafiqul Islam Shakil. "Jewellery-making has transformed the lives of many village women." It's a transformation Shakil supports. He hires women as a matter of priority. "I want to see them achieve self-reliance," he says.

Shakil currently has two factories employing over 35 artisans, with 70 percent of them being women. But when he started the business in 2012 he employed around 100 people. "Many of the artisans went on to start their own home-based businesses after learning the jewellery-making trade," he explains.

Across the village there are over 100 jewellery workshops and around 80 showrooms. Still other villagers trade in the required raw materials. The finished ornaments are sold nationwide, including in Dhaka's mega-malls, sometimes with colours and other finishing touches added.

According to Shakil, the jewellery industry was first established in Baropur Dakkhinpara in 2008, when a few Dhaka-based artisans returned to their home village with the idea of making jewellery there. The price of gold at the time was increasing, which meant added demand for handcrafted pieces in other metals.

"Since then," says Shakil, "the jewellery industry in our village has never looked back."

## 1 dead, 2 hurt in Amsterdam shooting

AFP, The Hague

A shooting in downtown Amsterdam on Friday night left one person dead and two injured, Dutch police said.

"One person has died and two wounded, a man and a young woman, were taken to hospital after a shooting on Grote Wittenburgerstraat, in the city centre," Amsterdam police spokesman Leo Dortland told AFP.

While police refused to name the victim, Dutch media reported that he was a 17-year-old boy of Moroccan origin.



Gobinda Bhattacharya fell to his death while trying to escape through a vent on the fourth floor of this building in Natun Bazar of Magura town yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Indian trader

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to Bangladesh for business purpose on Tuesday.

Police said local trader Sarfaraz Newaz Jonny, of Nanduali village in Magura Sadar, and Gobinda used to stock garment products.

Gobinda went to visit Sarfaraz on Wednesday, and Sarfaraz confined him to a flat on the fourth floor of Kazi Tower in Magura town.

Gupta Biswas, a resident in Natun Bazar area where Kazi Tower is located, said around 7:00am, he heard a sound of something falling on the rooftop of a one-storey building beside the Kazi Tower.

He rushed to the spot and found Gobinda lying on the rooftop in a pool of blood and he died within a few minutes.

On information, police recovered the body and arrested Sarfaraz at the flat of Kazi Tower.

Quoting Sarfaraz, police said

Sarfaraz and his friend Samir Hossain rented the flat on Wednesday, and Sarfaraz and Gobinda had been staying there since then.

Ilias Hossain, officer-in-charge of Magura Sadar Police Station, said Sarfaraz claimed that Gobinda owed Tk 8 lakh to Sarfaraz. So, he confined him and was putting pressure on him to bring the money from India and pay his debt off.

Gobinda was trying to escape from the building in the morning and fell. Sarfaraz had some other associates with him. Police were trying to arrest them, the police official added.

Sarfaraz was being interrogated. The body of Gobinda was sent to Magura Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Shamim Hossain, owner of Kazi Tower, said Sarfaraz and his friend Samir rented the flat on Wednesday.

Our Jhenidah correspondent contributed to this story.

## Blast kills 95 in Kabul

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where several high-profile organisations, including the European Union, have offices. Members of the EU delegation in Kabul were in their "safe room" and there were no casualties, an official told AFP.

The force of the explosion shook windows of buildings at least two kilometres away and caused some low-rise structures in the immediate vicinity to collapse.

The suicide bomber passed through at least one checkpoint in the ambulance, saying he was taking a patient to Jamuriate hospital, an interior ministry spokesman told AFP.

"At the second checkpoint he was recognised and blew his explosive-laden car," Nasrat Rahimi said. Rahimi told a news conference that most of the victims were civilians. He said the Taliban-affiliated Haqqani Network was responsible and four suspects had been arrested.

Twenty minutes before the blast an AFP reporter saw police checking ambulances several hundred metres from the scene of the explosion, as the drivers and patients stood on the street. Ambulances are rarely checked in the city.

The International Committee of the Red Cross in Afghanistan condemned the use of an ambulance in the bombing, saying on Twitter it was "unacceptable and unjustifiable".

The Taliban used social media to claim responsibility for the attack, which comes exactly a week after its insurgents stormed Kabul's landmark Intercontinental hotel, killing at least 25 people, the majority foreigners.

Photos shared on social media purportedly of the blast -- the deadliest in Kabul since a truck bomb ripped through the city's diplomatic quarter on May 31, killing 150 people and wounding hundreds -- showed a huge plume of smoke rising into the sky.

Near the blast site civilians walked through debris-covered streets carrying wounded on their backs as others loaded several bodies at a time into ambulances and private cars to take them to medical facilities around the city.

The Italian NGO Emergency said 131 wounded had been taken to its hospital, with its coordinator Dejan Panic tweeting that it had been a "massacre".

A photo posted on Emergency's Twitter account showed hospital staff treating injured people in an outdoor walkway next to a garden.

A man told Ariana TV he had taken his wounded brother to Jamuriate and Emergency hospitals but had been turned away.

"They are asking people with non-life threatening wounds to go to other hospitals," he said.

Aminullah, whose stationery shop is just metres from where the explosion happened, said the force of the

explosion shook the foundations of his building.

"The building shook. All our windows broke. The people are in shock in our market," he told AFP.

A man told Tolo News he was passing the area when the explosion happened.

"I heard a big bang and I fainted," he said, outside the Emergency hospital.

"There were dozens of people who were killed and wounded. There were pools of blood."

The attack was condemned by the presidential palace as a "crime against humanity". There was international outcry too, with NATO, the US embassy in Kabul and British foreign minister Boris Johnson among those expressing horror at the latest attack.

The offices of the High Peace Council, charged with negotiating with the Taliban which has been waging a more than 16-year insurgency in the war-torn country, are also near the blast site.

"It targeted our checkpoint. It was really huge -- all our windows are broken," Hassina Safi, a member of High Peace Council, told AFP.

"So far we don't have any reports if any of our members are wounded or killed."

A security alert issued yesterday morning had warned that the Islamic State group was planning "to conduct aggressive attacks" on supermarkets, shops and hotels frequented by foreigners.

## N'ganj

FROM PAGE 1  
think about arresting Nizaul," he said.

About a general diary filed in connection with attempting to kill Narayanganj City Corporation Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy, in which Niazul and several others close to Shamim were mentioned, the MP said the city would be "on fire if any of them were touched, let alone arrested".

He called upon Ivy to withdraw the general diary.

Asked, acting officer-in-charge Abdur Razzaq of Narayanganj Sadar Police Station said they did not know if Niazul was sick. "He is on the run; we are trying to arrest him."

Police on Friday recovered the pistol of Niazul "which he lost" on January 16 when supporters of Shamim attacked Ivy and her supporters in the city's Chashara area over eviction of hawkers on Bangabandhu Road. Around 50 people were injured that day.

Apart from Niazul, Shah Nizam, another close aide to Shamim, also flaunted a gun that day.

Nizaul's brother Ripon Khan filed a general diary with Narayanganj Sadar Police Station on January 17, claiming that his brother lost the gun during the clash.

## Police need

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had improved during his tenure as the police chief. "People now have a positive view towards the police," claimed the IGP who hails from Shariatpur.

About complaints against some police members of getting involved in corruption, the IGP said in a large organisation comprised of over two lakh members, such things would happen. There could be good and bad people in a large organisation.

But, if anyone committed any crime they take departmental actions, file criminal cases and arrest the accused, he said. "We do not show any tolerance."

"We recruit those who are good, but later some may become bad," he added.

Asked how they were ensuring accountability of police personnel, the IGP said police members were accountable at every tier.

"We even punish our members for trivial crimes like misbehaving with someone," he said, adding that they impart training and motivate police members to keep the number of embarrassing incidents low.

He said police are part of the society. But many things like politics, businesses, powerful people try to influence police officials.

The outgoing IGP said he always tried to upgrade the capacity of police, develop the skills of its members and use those for the people.

He said through community police he wanted to bridge the gap between police and the people for whom police work.

"I believe in pro-people, service-oriented and democratic policing," he added.

Lauding the police for combating militancy, Shahidul said they have successfully combated militancy in the last one and a half years. Bangladesh is now a role model in the world in tackling militancy.

He said the police and detectives found the militants' dens and then launched drives, which was rare in the world. "The successes of Bangladesh police are getting international recognition," he added.

He further said Interpol now wants two police officers from Bangladesh who would share their expertise and experience on combating militancy.

Showing statistics, Shahidul said not only tackling militancy, all sorts of crimes like robberies, killings have decreased all over the country in the last three years. Besides, cases relating to recovery of narcotics, arms and explosives have increased.

Replying to a query on failing to control drug peddling and its abuse, the IGP said controlling drug abuse was a tough job. Police alone cannot do it. Police have to do it with the people.

## Bangla Academy

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The award was introduced in 1960 with six categories: poetry, novels, short stories, essays, juvenile literature and translation. Two more awards were introduced in 1985 to recognise the overall contributions to Bengali language and literature.

## Biggest crypto

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the breach was from Japan or another country.

After the exchange suspended deposits and withdrawals, NEM plunged more than 16 percent in a 24-hour period, according to CoinMarketCap.com.

Major virtual currencies had rebounded slightly by late Friday but were still down, with Bitcoin dropping 2.13 percent to \$10,987.70, ripple sliding more than six percent and etherium flat.

Coincheck said it had discovered the breach at 11.25 am and announced it had suspended trading for all cryptocurrencies apart from bitcoin in a series of tweets.

According to its website, which proclaims it is "the leading bitcoin and cryptocurrency exchange in Asia", Tokyo-based Coincheck was founded in 2012 and had 71 employees as of July last year.

In 2014 major Tokyo-based bitcoin exchange MtGox collapsed after admitting that 850,000 coins -- worth around \$480 million at the time -- had disappeared from its vaults.

Bitcoin is recognised as legal tender in Japan and nearly one third of global bitcoin transactions in December were denominated in yen, according to specialist website jpbitcoin.com.

The virtual currency is well down from record highs approaching \$20,000 in late December, having rocketed 25-fold last year, before being hit by concerns about a bubble and worries about crackdowns on trading it.

Billionaire investor George Soros, known for his legendarily successful currency trading, has dismissed bitcoin as a "typical bubble".

But speaking Thursday at the Davos summit, he said the cryptocurrency would likely avoid a full crash because authoritarians would still use it to make secret investments abroad.

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trophies by virtue of being the better side; they executed the game-plan set out by their master tactician to demolish the high-flying hosts for the second consecutive match.

It was unsurprising that former Bangladesh coach Hathurusingha did not jump for joy after his new charges' phenomenal success in his first assignment, instead opting to celebrate the victory with a curious smile on his face. But the man in charge deserves kudos for the way he inspired his troops following a dismal start to the tournament.

While Chandika's charged seemed to comply with his plan and his gamble on pace debutant Shehan Madushanka was rewarded with a hat-trick, Bangladesh's batting lay in ruins in chase of a 222-run target before ultimately being bundled out for 142 runs. That too despite the fact that pacers Mustafizur Rahman and Rubel Hossain snatched the initiative from the Lankans and created the opportunity for the batsmen to make history by winning a trophy in any tri-series or tournament.

The change in body language from the Islanders served as a reminder of how the Tigers looked when they had begun their journey under Hathurusingha's tutelage.

On the other hand, Bangladesh were nowhere near their promise of playing a fearless brand of cricket in the last two games against Sri Lanka; rather it looked like they were gripped by panic the moment Shakib Al Hasan sustained an injury to his finger which not only ruled him out of the batting line-up, but also for the first Test against the same opposition, starting in Chittagong from January 31.

Why did Tamim Iqbal play that pull shot after such a typically cautious approach to get a top-edge to mid-wicket? Why was Mushfiqur Rahim so desperate to play sweep shots when he needed to rotate the strike with Mahmudullah Riyad to get closer to the target after their partnership staged an impressive recovery from 22 for three? Why did Sabbir Rahman, coming into number three in absence of

## Conning people

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and Hayat with Biman Bandar Police Station on November 14 last year. Around Tk 7 lakh was taken from them.

Like Ziaul and Hayat, there are many other victims of the gang. Take the example of Mamunur Rashid Mamun.

Talking to journalists at the CID office yesterday, he said he used to work for a footwear factory which was closed down in January last year.

"Being jobless, I was desperate to make a fortune abroad. After seeing an advertisement in a Bangla daily, I contacted Tanvir. He told me to go to Jamuna Future Park in the capital's Bashundhara area," Mamun said.

Tanvir told Mamun that they had a bakery and a business partnership with a five-star hotel in Hong Kong. They needed staff for those businesses. He assured Mamun of a job there with a monthly salary of Tk 60,000.

The jobseeker trusted him. "They took Tk 20,000 for visa processing and another Tk 20,000 for an air ticket. Later, they told me that as they were facing problems in managing a Hong Kong visa in Bangladesh, I needed to fly to Nepal to get the visa," Mamun said.

On September 14, Tanvir asked him to pay another Tk 4 lakh to endorse US dollars with his passport. Mamun gave him the money.

Three days later, they bought an US-Bangla Airlines ticket to Nepal for Mamun.

The victim alleged that Tahir was wasting time to buy US dollars saying that the US dollar exchange rate was "not good" at that time and they would exchange the Bangladeshi

Shakib, follow the path of Tamim?

These are the questions the Bangladesh team management needs to answer in the aftermath of the debacle, apart from looking into the two mindless run-outs of Mohammad Mithun and Mohammad Saifuddin, who had looked composed enough to facilitate Riyad's potential heroic deeds.

With the pitch responding, Suranga Lakmal and Dushantha Chameera, ran through the top order and the Sri Lankans' animated and energetic fielding created more panic for the home team. Yet, Riyad stood tall and attempted to turn the tables and all he lacked was a partner to make history with him. In the end however, his 92 ball 76 will be remembered as nothing more than a good innings from a good batsman in a losing cause.

Akila Dananjaya spun through the middle overs and took two wickets and debutant Madushanka ended the run with a hat-trick by final wicket of Riyad, who was the only batsman that looked comfortable against the Sri Lankan attack.

The same attack had seemed incapable of menace in the first two matches of the series with Chandika's bouncer ploy, but the coach kept his faith in the boys and brought out their best.

Earlier, man of the match Upul Tharanga's 56 and some brief contributions from Kusal Mendis (28), Dickwella (42) and Dinesh Chandimal (45) helped Sri Lanka put up a fighting total of 221 on the board.

Bangladesh had bowled well throughout the innings, but they saved their best for the late overs from Mustafizur and Rubel. However, all that effort went in vain following the dismal batting, when it appeared that the batsmen simply forgot how to cope up with their own conditions.

Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was a bit disappointed by the nature of the pitch but one could not blame the Mirpur surface for such a poor batting show. It's better to accept that they lost against a well disciplined and energetic side.

currency notes for US dollars at the airport on the day of the journey.

At that stage, Mamun sensed that he might be cheated. He then repeatedly pressed Tanvir over the phone to return his money.

Tanvir's mobile phone was found switched off since 12:30pm on September 16.

"I filed a general diary with Biman Bandar Police Station that day," said a frustrated Mamun.

CID Special Superintendent Molla Nazrul said Tanvir joined Bangladesh Army's engineering corps in 2000 and was later relieved from the force as he tore a ligament during training. "He started cheating people around five years ago. So far he has cheated many people."

The CID has traced a hefty amount of money in Tanvir's bank accounts.

According to the police official, Tanvir's aide Nazmul was arrested earlier for the same offence, but he came out of jail on bail and started committing the same crime again.

The CID in a press release yesterday said they were probing the case.

It said the law enforcers seized four mobile phones, eight SIMs, \$2,500, four passports and three cheque books of as many banks from the procession of the two arrestees, now on two-day remand each.

Molla Nazrul said newspapers should carefully scrutinise advertisements before publishing those so that criminals cannot take any undue advantage to defraud innocent people.

The jobseekers should also verify any related information from the prospective employers before entering any agreement with an organisation or an individual, he added.

## Indonesian president

FROM PAGE 2  
support of the Indonesian people to Bangladesh's independence in 1971.

He also remembered the personal acquaintance between Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and founding Father of Indonesia Dr Sukarno.

Termining the existing relations between the two countries excellent, Hamid said the relations would be strengthened further following the visit of Indonesian president, said President's Press Secretary Joyal Abedin, quoting Hamid.

He also sought cooperation from Widodo in removing tariff and non-tariff barriers as well as concessional market access for Bangladeshi selected products to Indonesian markets.

The Indonesian president expressed his hope that the bilateral agreements, which were signed between Bangladesh and Myanmar for return of Rohingya, would be fruitful and also expected that the displaced Rohingyas would go back to Rakhine with dignity and safely.

He also praised the socioeconomic development of Bangladesh in the meeting.

Foreign Minister Abul Hassan

Mahmood Ali, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam and secretaries concerned to President Hamid were present during the meeting.

Meanwhile, Indonesian First lady Iriana Widodo also maid a courtesy call on President Hamid's wife Rashida at the Bangabhaban.

During the meeting, they talked about mutual interest of the two countries, said President's Press Secretary Joyal.

After the meeting, the Indonesian president and his entourage attended the state dinner hosted by Hamid and also enjoyed a cultural programme.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, who is performing the functions of the chief justice, and several Cabinet members also took part in the dinner.

The Indonesian president will visit Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar today. He will leave for Afghanistan tomorrow.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood yesterday evening met President Widodo and discussed issues of mutual interest.