

RUPCHANDA- The Daily Star Super Chef

CHAITRA 10, 1424 BS

RAJAB 5, 1439 HIJRI

Your Right to Know

16 PAGES PLUS SHOWBIZ PRICE: TK 12.00

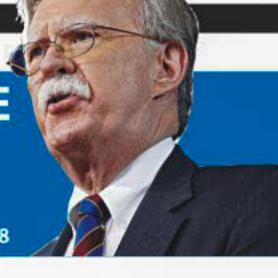
# WITH TODAY'S ISSUE Shar

#### **MAPPING OUT A STRATEGY**

Bangladesh should prepare before getting out of the LDC bloc, say CPD researchers

#### **'HAWK'S HAWK' IN WHITE HOUSE**

John Bolton becomes Trump's new national security adviser



# New scams hit Farmers Bank

BB probe finds Tk 500cr sanctioned flouting banking rules, procedures; Tk 367cr of the amount already becomes defaulted

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Bangladesh Bank has unearthed another string of scams at the Farmers Bank involving loans of around Tk 500 crore that were sanctioned to 11 companies in violation of banking norms and procedures.

Of the amount, loans of more than Tk 367 crore that the bank's Motijheel branch gave to 10 of the companies from November 2013 to November last year have become defaulted. Some of the firms are either obscure or little-known.

The central bank has held the private bank's former chairman Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir and ex-chairman of its executive committee Mahabubul Haque Chisty largely responsible for the scams.

The irregularities are gross -- some of those outright fraud -- ranging from sanctioning loans without any application to taking loans and not using any of that for

the purposes those were meant for.

The new findings came up in a BB probe in December last year, a couple of years after the central bank detected scams involving Tk 400 crore at the Farmers Bank's three branches in the capital's Gulshan, Motijheel and Shyampur.

The latest BB investigation found at least 11 counts of irregularities in disbursing the loans to the 11 companies. They are NAR Sweaters Ltd, Advanced Development Technologies, Abeda Memorial Hospital, Index Housing, Al-Faruque Bags, Nahar Farmers Group, Apollo Trade International, Mollik Aquaculture Farm, Messers Premjoy, Mac Trading and Bangladesh Development Company.

Except for NAR Sweaters Ltd, all these companies have become defaulters with the bank.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



A numb Tamjid Sultan Mahi offers prayers for his mother at the Banani military graveyard yesterday. Only three days ago he buried his father Captain Abid Sultan, pilot of US-Bangla plane BS 211, at the same graveyard.

PHOTO: **PALASH KHAN** 

#### Last light out too

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tamjid Sultan Mahi has become numb. At the tender age of around 16, he lost both his parents in the span of 10 days.

As he walked out of Banani military graveyard around 7:00pm yesterday, tears streamed down his cheeks, but his face betrayed no emotion.

He just buried his mother there. Only three days ago, he buried his father Captain Abid Sultan, who was killed in the US-Bangla plane crash in Nepal, in the same graveyard.

There were people all around, relatives and wellwishers; but you could tell from the emptiness on his face that nothing mattered.

Afsana Khanam died around 9:30am yesterday at the National Institute of Neuroscience and Hospital in the capital. She was under treatment there since March

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Cop murder suspect killed in 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man suspected of shooting dead a detective on Tuesday was killed in what police say was a gunfight between gang members and law enforcers in the capital's Mirpur early yesterday.

Hasan Ali, 26, who died in the "gunfight" around 2:30am in Bhanga Bridge area, was the prime accused in a case filed over the killing of DB inspector Jalal Uddin.

The incident took place when a police team, acting on a tip off that the suspected killers of the officer had gathered in the area, carried out a raid there, said Mohammed Mokhlesur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Detective Branch (west) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Sensing law enforcers' presence, the gang members opened fire, forcing the officers to retaliate, he said, adding that the "gunfight lasted a few moments". After the gunfight, police found Hasan lying on the

ground. Doctors pronounced him dead after he was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The other gang members fled the scene, he said.

On Tuesday night, several detectives including inspector lalal carried out a raid in Pirerbag area to trace two firearms SEE PAGE 12 COL 1



## Face-off and

# firing

From morning to night without any rest, Bangabandhu Sheikh to give speeches for the many processions that

"We don't want any more discussions; now we want an announcement,"

If there is no solution by tomorrow, he says, Bangladeshis will find it themselves. No conspiracy can hold them back and



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mujibur Rahman continues arrive at his doorstep.

says the leader.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

### A WAR FOR OIL 3

Saddam was a great ally of the US and the West as well. His grabbing power was with the help of the CIA. He got all the support during its war with Iran. But then why did he fall apart?

## When the friend turns a foe

INAM AHMED and SHAKHAWAT LITON

Saddam Hussein, the man that America projected before the Iraq invasion as the most dangerous man to be dislodged at any cost, was held in close

embrace by the US administration during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s. Saddam's story of becoming a foe from a friend is interesting and yet another eye-opener on how the US treats regimes not on value judgment but on the basis of who serves US hegemony and oil interest best in the

Middle East. Saddam was picked by the CIA in 1959 to assassinate then Iraqi prime minister Abd el-Karim Qasim, a nationalist leader who promised to renegotiate oil production terms with the US oil companies.

Qasim had overthrown the Iraqi monarchy of King Faisal in 1958. He actually was originally regarded as a close ally by the US in the cold war game who joined the anti-Soviet Baghdad Pact in the mid-1959s. But Qasim also maintained a close tie with leftwing Arab leader Egypt's president Gamal Abdel Nasser. The US made its displeasure at this two timing clear by sending 14,000 soldiers to Lebanon. Qasim got the message and cut off his tie with Nasser but then dug his own grave when he inexplicably pulled out of the Baghdad Pact and became close to the Soviets, making Iraq "...the most dangerous spot in the world..." in the eye of the CIA director Allen Dulles.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Iraqi president Saddam Hussein greets Donald Rumsfeld, then special envoy of US president Ronald Reagan, in Baghdad on December 20, 1983.

#### Caught in the act

Govt official filmed taking money from service seekers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Footage of a government official taking cash from what appears to be service seekers while signing papers went viral on social media since Thursday.

Esahaq Ali Mondal, acting sub-registrar in Narayanganj's Araihazar, was filmed taking stash of notes from people in his In what appears to be a

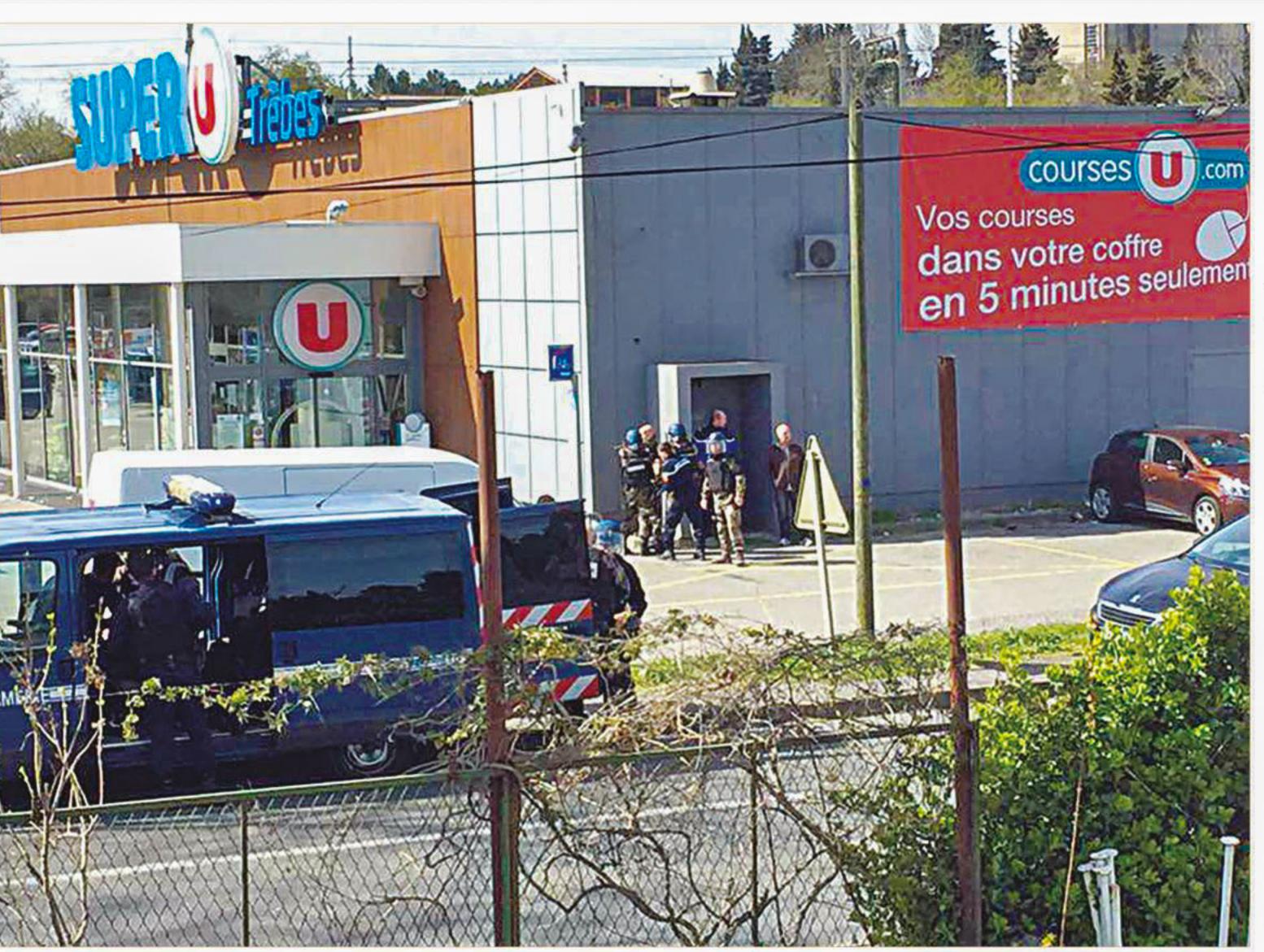
video shot with a phone camera, someone is seen trying to put notes in a drawer next to Esahaq's chair.

Esahaq returns the money, saying, "Give something bigger. Be quick."

The man puts some other notes in the drawer within moments. And Esahaq seems to approve of the amount.

A few moments later, the official takes the money from the drawer and puts it in his pocket with his left hand while he keeps signing the papers in front of him with his right.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1



Police are seen at the scene of a hostage situation in a supermarket in Trebes, Aude, France yesterday in this picture obtained from a social media video.

## 3 killed in French 'terror attack'

Sole gunman killed after hostage drama at supermarket, shooting; IS group claims responsibility

AGENCIES

REUTERS

At least three people were killed yesterday in a shooting spree and hostage siege in southern France by a man claiming allegiance to the Islamic State group, security sources told

Security forces killed the gunman -- believed to be a Moroccan who was on a watchlist of suspected Islamic extremists -- after he carried out three separate attacks in the

medieval town of Carcassonne and nearby Trebes. The man first hijacked a car in Carcassonne, killing a passenger and injuring the driver, before shooting a policeman who was out jogging with his colleagues nearby.

He then drove to a Super U supermarket in the sleepy town of Trebes and holed up there for more than three hours with hostages, killing at least two people, according to sources. Three people were also wounded in the attack.

A witness reported that the assailant was armed with knives, a gun and grenades and shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is greatest) before going into the supermarket.

"A man shouted and started firing several times," one shopper at the supermarket told FranceInfo radio station.

"I saw an open door for a refrigerated area and I told

people to come to shelter there," she said. "We were 10 people and we got out by the emergency exit

at the back." After letting his hostages go, the gunman remained in the store with just one policeman, who along with another officer was shot and injured when anti-terror forces

swooped on the building. The killing spree came with France still on high alert after a string of jihadist attacks since 2015.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5