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# Malaysia cracks down on illegal workers

38 Bangladeshis among 51 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Malaysia's immigration police yesterday detained 51 people, including 38 Bangladeshis, in a crackdown on irregular foreign workers.

Raiding two places known for housing migrants in Kuala Lumpur, police detained the 51, including five Nepalese and four Indonesians, online news portal Free Malaysia Today reported yesterday.

The police crackdown begins after the country's rehiring programme, launched two years ago to legalise undocumented workers, ended on June 30.

Talking to The Daily Star over phone yesterday evening, a Bangladeshi living in the Malaysian capital said law enforcers also raided Kota Raya, an area frequented by foreign workers, and detained many more migrants, including Bangladeshis.

The raid began in the early hours, amid widespread fears of arrests and deportations among thousands of irregular migrants in the Southeast Asian country. Many of them had paid agents hefty sums for legalisation under the rehiring programme, but were fooled instead.

The previous Malaysian government had given licences to three companies through which undocumented foreign workers could be registered for regularisation. As per regulations, the employers were supposed to renew the work permit of their workers. However, rights activists in Malaysia on several occasions said the employers were not doing so.

Rather, they passed the burden of levy money, as well as

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Two foreign nationals paying tribute to the victims of the Holey Artisan café on the second anniversary of the 2016 militant attack. Inset, a woman, also a foreigner, covers her face as she sobs uncontrollably. The photos were taken on the restaurant compound yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## GULSHAN CAFÉ ATTACK Two years on, wounds still fresh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wreaths of flowers in hand, she walked into the old premises of the Holey Artisan Bakery yesterday. Tears were streaming down her cheeks as she stood at the site of the deadliest terror attack in the country's history.

Her friend, a Japanese national, was among the 22 lives lost in the militant attack on July 1, two years ago. She stood still for a minute with her head bowed down in respect.

The agony she felt for her friend was clearly visible on her face as she failed an attempt to hide her eyes, tearful, with a handkerchief. She was also from Japan, but refused to speak. And so, she silently left the place with her name unknown.

Like her, mourners, including both locals and foreigners, placed flowers there as the once upscale restaurant was open to public for four hours from around 10:00am to mark the second anniversary of the horrifying attack that left a scar deep into the nation's psyche.

On the night of July 1 in 2016, five armed militants stormed the café in Gulshan diplomatic zone and held diners hostage at gunpoint. They then brutally murdered nine Italians, seven Japanese, one Indian and three Bangladeshis.

Two police officers also lost their lives as groups of

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## ZIA ORPHANAGE TRUST CASE BNP chief's appeal hearing tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will tomorrow start hearing four appeals in connection with the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case in which BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has been sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

Of the four pleas, one was filed by Khaleda seeking her acquittal of the charges, a revision petition was filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission seeking an increase in Khaleda's jail term and two other appeals were filed by convicts -- Qazi Saleemul Huq alias Qazi Kamal and Sharfuddin Ahmed -- seeking their acquittal of the charges.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman yesterday fixed the date as the appeals

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## UNOs under scanner

Cops asked to check their 'political affiliation'

PARTHAPRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

A government move to collect personal information of Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs) has sparked anger and frustration within the local administration.

District police have been asked to collect a host of information about the UNOs, including their political affiliations during their student years as well as if any of their family members or close relatives are involved in politics.

Although police officials were asked to submit their findings to the Special Branch (SB) of police by July 1 (yesterday), many of them could not do so, sources said.

The political wing of the SB sent letters to the district police in mid-June in this regard. The Daily Star has a copy of the order.

The move comes just about six months before the general election, expected in December. During elections, UNOs serve as assistant returning officers, a crucial role.

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## Two pilots die as BAF plane crashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladesh Air Force pilots were killed when their training aircraft crashed in a water body in Jessore Sadar last night.

The victims are: squadron leaders Md Serajul Islam and Enayet Kabir Polash.

The aircraft, a K-8W, took off from BAF airbase BS Matiur Rahman on night training mission and crashed at Bukbhora Baor, read a text message sent by Lt Col Alamgir Kabir, director of Inter Services Public Relation Directorate.

"Rescue mission is underway and a high-level committee has been formed for inquiry," it read.

Alamgir Pathan, a manager at Jessore Airport, told a correspondent in Jessore that the aircraft crashed at Bukbhora Baor of Faridpur village shortly after taking off around 9:20pm.

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## Cambodia's scarf sets record

AFP, Phnom Penh

Cambodia won a place in the Guinness book of World Records yesterday for a 1,100-metre (3,600-foot) long version of the country's popular krama scarf.

Supported by a youth movement with links to the nation's ruling party, more than 23,000 people took part in the six-month weaving marathon outside Phnom Penh's Royal Palace.

Thousands of young people then rolled out the

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Black smoke plumes out of a construction machine on the Dolpara Govt Primary School ground in Dimla upazila of Nilphamari. The mixing machine, set up just a few metres away from the classrooms, has been hampering academic activities for about two months.

PHOTO: STAR

## Smoked out of school

Students of Dolapara primary school miss classes for over a week as smoke from road construction envelop it

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Students of Dolapara Government Primary School in Dimla upazila have not been able to attend classes for over a week, due to polluted environment inside school premises caused by road construction work.

The assigned road construction contractor has been melting pitch in a melting machine inside the school

campus using waste materials. The dense smoke that is discharged throughout the day has been causing immense air pollution.

Golam Mostofa Azad, the school's headmaster, said the contractor set up the hazardous machine and piled stones on school campus around one and half months ago to start the road construction work.

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## 11 of a family found dead in Delhi house

REUTERS, Mumbai

Eleven members of a family were found dead in India's capital yesterday, most of them hanging from the ceiling of their home, blindfolded, gagged and with hands tied behind the back, with police unable to offer any concrete explanation about what happened.

A police statement said some handwritten notes were found in the house "which point towards observance of some definite spiritual/mystical practices by the whole family".

"These notes have strong similarity with the manner in which the mouths, eyes etc of the deceased were tied and taped."

This angle was being investigated and a case of murder registered, the statement said.

The home of those who died is above a grocery store the family owned in the Burari district in a northern part of Delhi.

It is near to where three people were killed and several injured in a shootout between two gangs just two weeks ago, but police said there was no apparent link.

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