

2 women surrender after 39 hours

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Rab had then claimed that they were members of the banned Islamist outfit's female unit. It said they were spreading extremist ideologies among women in the name of teaching Arabic and that their objective was to strengthen the female unit and collect funds for militant activities.

Officials of the CTTC said about six to seven months ago the three got out of jail on bail but fled their homes and got involved in militancy again.

Based on intelligence that some "neo-JMB" suspects gathered in two hideouts in Shaikerchar and Gangpar areas to attend the wedding of a female "militant", law enforcers cordoned off the hideouts around 10:00pm Monday.

Police said on Monday night Israt was supposed to get married over the internet to a man living abroad.

Since Tuesday afternoon, the CTTC unit members had been asking the suspects in the Shaikerchar den to surrender. They eventually stormed the den during which Abdullah and Aklima were killed.

Meanwhile, as six hours of negotiations with the two female militant suspects at the Gangpar den failed to yield results on Tuesday, the law enforcers kept the building cordoned off for the night.

Around 11:00am yesterday police again started negotiations with the help of a hostage negotiations expert. At one stage, Khadija's husband appeared at the scene and he too tried to persuade them to surrender.

Around noon, the suspects responded.

Initially, they refused to surrender saying that if they did, they would be killed.

"Finally, there was a breakthrough at 1:30pm when the two females stepped out of the den with their hands raised," Rahmatullah Chowdhury, additional deputy commissioner of the CTTC's bomb disposal unit, told The Daily Star.

"It is a big success. We have managed to bring them out without hurting anyone or any collateral damage," he said, adding that the women had four bombs with them which could have caused serious damage and injuries.



Abdullah

Terming the surrenders rare, Monirul said the suspects blasted bombs in the morning but agreed to surrender around noon.

Law enforcers found wedding dresses and kitchen utensils inside the two-room flat they rented on October 5.

ABDULLAH AND AKLIMA

Police yesterday named Abdullah and Aklima as those killed during their Tuesday's operation.

Abdullah was known as Golam

Mostofa in his Bejpara village of Kaliganj in Jhenidah. His wife Aklima hails from Gazipur, reports our Jhenidah correspondent.

Family members and locals said Abdullah was a third-year student of Jessore MM College. He used to work for an internet service provider in Jashore and lived in a students' mess there.

He became religious all on a sudden and married Aklima five months ago. Aklima used to stay at her father's home in Gazipur.

On October 1, Abdullah went to his in-law's and returned to Jashore on October 3 with Aklima.

His cousin Masum Billah said on October 3, Abdullah asked for a 12-day leave from the ISP. As the firm refused, he quit his job and left with his wife the following day.

Since then, the couple did not stay in touch, said family members and locals.



Aklima

UPDF man

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police said when Shanto was having his bath with tube well water in Bihari Para village of Rangamati Sadar upazila around 7:00pm, some criminals opened fire on him, leaving him dead on the spot.

Abdul Latif, officer-in-charge of Naniarchar Police Station, said police recovered the body from the spot.

Tojim Chakma, member of UPDF (Democratic faction) central committee, blamed the United Peoples Democratic Front for the killing of Shanto. He also demanded immediate arrest of his killers.

But the UPDF denied the allegation.

At least 40 members of four groups were shot dead in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region in the last 11 months.

Robot talks

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humans: to sense, make, and drive value from technology," the robot said.

She was asked about a few more completely unscripted matters before panelists moved on to discuss ethics and social injustice.

Pepper listened and twirled her head a few times.

Comparisons to the premier's propensity to dance in a robotic manner and speak with methodic precision -- traits that earned her the nickname "Maybot" -- quickly appeared on Twitter.

"That's fantastic....but can it do the Maybot," asked someone named Hugh Duffy.

"Theresa May is looking almost human these days," Benedict Smyth offered.

And even the popular Politics Home website chipped in with: "NEW: A witness gave a robotic performance in front of a Commons committee... but it wasn't Theresa May."

The British leader has turned into a subject of periodic jokes on social networks as she struggles for pull her country out of the European Union without causing too much damage.

She has particularly taken to dancing -- something she did twice during an August trade mission to Africa and then at a Tory party conference this month.

Her moves did not earn high marks from bemused Britons. They also spawned an entire family of Maybot Twitter accounts pretending to speak in the prime minister's name.

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No one

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warm and cordial environment and the king accepted her invitation to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time.

Hasina met the king at his Royal Palace in Riyadh yesterday.

Highlighting her government's steps for ensuring the welfare of Bangladeshi expatriates, the PM said the government would build hajj offices in Makkah and Madinah if land was available there.

She also expressed gratitude to the expatriate Bangladeshis for their role in the country's development.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Golam Mosih also spoke on the occasion.

PM's Private Sector Development Affairs Adviser Salman F Rahman and Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque were present, among others.

Earlier, the premier opened the chancery complex, built at a cost of Tk 51.47 crore, by unveiling its plaque in the Saudi capital last afternoon.

The PM during her visit to Saudi Arabia in 2016 had laid the foundation stone of the complex and the construction began on August 25 that year.

Oikyafont

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that we will hold a rally in Chattogram on October 27 and Rajshahi on October 30," BNP standing committee member Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain told reporters after the meeting.

They also decided to form a liaison committee, members of which would be decided in a couple of days, he said.

At its launching programme on Saturday, the Oikyafont unveiled an 11-point goal and promised sweeping reforms in governance if voted to power.

The alliance also declared a seven-point demand, including holding the national election under a non-partisan government, dissolution of parliament before election schedule announcement and reconstitution of the Election Commission.

The BNP and four other political parties formally formed the alliance, excluding Bikalpadhara Bangladesh led by former president Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, just months before the national polls.

Four other parties are -- Gonoforum led by Dr Kamal Hossain, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal led by ASM Abdur Rab, Nagorik Oikya and Forward Party.

SA Group MD held

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Talking to this correspondent, a counsel for another private lender, National Bank, said the bank has so far filed 29 cases with different courts to recover Tk 421 crore non-performing loans given to Shahabuddin.

The SA Group MD also faces 45 cases filed by Prime Bank over various charges, including non-payment of loans and illegal transfer of mortgaged assets, an official of the private bank said seeking anonymity.

Besides, SA Oil Refinery and Samannaz Super Oil -- both owned by Shahabuddin -- owe Tk 84 crore to the bank.

Another private lender -- Pubali Bank -- also filed a case against him and his wife over dishonour of a cheque. He owes Tk 275 crore to the bank.

According to the documents of several cases, he transferred his assets illegally -- mostly those mortgaged to different lenders -- to his son, daughter and relatives.

He is also trying to flee the country, mentioned one of the case documents.

Talking to this newspaper, Pubali Bank Managing Director MA Halim Chowdhury said, "We recently applied to Bangladesh Bank for cancelling Shahabuddin's directorship at Mercantile Bank."

As per the law, a loan defaulter cannot be a director of a bank, but Shahabuddin still remains in the Mercantile Bank board due to a court's stay order.

He got restructured Tk 1,153-crore loans from seven banks under a special policy offered by the BB in 2015.

As of March this year, the figure stood at Tk 1,441 crore as he paid only Tk 27

NAME OF LENDERS	DEFAULTED LOANS <i>in crore of taka</i>
First Security Islami Bank	481
Islami Bank Bangladesh	423
National Bank	421
Bank Asia	373
Pubali Bank	275
Dhaka Bank	260
Janata Bank	200
Rupali Bank	164
Agrani Bank	115
Bangladesh Krishi Bank	100
Prime Bank	84
Mutual Trust Bank	53
Uttara Bank	52
Prime Leasing	36
Al-Arafah Islami Bank	14
TOTAL: TK 3,051 CRORE	
CASES FILED BY DIFFERENT BANKS	
Prime Bank	45
National Bank	29
Dhaka Bank	14
Bank Asia	12

crore to the lenders.

Shahabuddin, who started his business career in 1988, has a number of oil refineries, dairy farms, drinking water processing units, and vegetable oil mills.

Dhaka, Riyadh

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"strengthened" in recent years due to the "farsighted" leadership of the prime minister.

"It is now multidimensional... and the relations are now expanding to the defence level in addition to the religious, political, economic, and cultural relations," he added.

Earlier, diplomatic sources said both the countries agreed to ink the defence deal to give the ongoing military to military relations a permanent and structured base.

Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia have increased their defence cooperation in the last few years, especially since Bangladesh joined the Saudi-led 41-nation Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC) in December 2015. Bangladesh is one of the founder members of the alliance.

An 18-member Bangladesh Armed Forces delegation took part in the month-long joint military exercise "Gulf Shield - 1" in April. It was the first time that Bangladesh Armed Forces participated in such an exercise, in which 22 other countries took part. The Bangladesh PM attended the concluding ceremony of the joint exercise.

Diplomatic sources said Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia had both shown interest in developing defence ties, although Dhaka had no intention to engage in any war.

Bangladesh would not engage in any war and the same principle was followed in the Bangladesh-Kuwait defence pact, which was signed in 1997, according to the sources.

They said the Bangladesh PM, during her past visits, had assured the Saudi King of considering sending troops to the Kingdom with the UN Security Council's approval.

However, foreign ministry officials said Dhaka assured Riyadh that it would show a "strong response" in case the Two Holy Mosques faced threats.

FIVE AGREEMENTS SIGNED

Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia yesterday signed five MoUs to enhance cooperation in chemical, steel and solar power sectors between the two countries, reports UNB.

Those were inked after the PM met with members of the Saudi business community, including leaders of the Council of Saudi Chamber and Riyadh Chamber of Commerce, at King Saud Palace.

The deals are: an MoU on Concerning

Principles of Cooperation between Bangladesh Chemical Industries and Engineering Dimension of Saudi Arabia; an MoU on Construction Cooperation between Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation and Hanwah Engineering of Saudi Arabia; an MoU between Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation (BSEC) and Engineering Dimension of Saudi Arabia; an MoU between Industries Ministry of Bangladesh and Alfanar Company of Saudi Arabia on development of solar power project in Bangladesh; and an MoU between Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEPZA) and Al Bawany Co Ltd of Saudi Arabia.

PMO Secretary Sajjadul Hassan signed all the agreements on behalf of the government.

SAUDI KING LAUDS BANGLADESH'S DEVELOPMENT

Appreciating Bangladesh's tremendous development achieved under Sheikh Hasina's leadership, Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud yesterday hoped she would continue in power in future, reports UNB, quoting the foreign secretary.

The king expressed the hope when Hasina met him, Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque told reporters after the meeting.

"The Saudi king repeatedly said Bangladesh has achieved huge development and its continuity needs to be maintained," he said.

Salman, also the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, said Bangladesh-Saudi Arabia relations would be strengthened further if there was continuity of the government, the foreign secretary added.

The king came out to the gate of the Royal Palace to receive the PM, he told journalists.

Salman stressed the need for exploiting opportunities on the bilateral cooperation in different sectors, including economic and cultural ones.

He also praised Bangladesh for its stance on the establishment of the Palestine people's rights.

Hasina thanked the Saudi king for his hospitality.

When the PM drew his attention to the problems of Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia, the king said it was his duty to resolve those as Bangladeshi expatriates contribute to the socio-economic development of his country.

Probe focus on Saudi prince's

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Wednesday. The consul general, Mohammad al-Otaibi, left the country on Tuesday, Turkish state news agency Anadolu reported.

Turkish authorities believe that 15 Saudi men who arrived in Istanbul on October 2 were connected to Khashoggi's possible death. At least some of them appear to have high-level connections in the Saudi government.

The high-ranking officer who was close to the Crown Prince's inner circle and led the group of men to Istanbul came from the General Intelligence Presidency, the main Saudi intelligence service, three sources familiar with the case told CNN.

Turkish police officers gather outside the Saudi consul general's residence in Istanbul Wednesday.

One source said the officer assembled and sent his own team to interrogate Khashoggi.

One of the men under investigation by Turkish authorities is Maher Abdulaziz Mutreb, a Saudi diplomat and intelligence officer.

Mutreb is closely connected to bin Salman, a Saudi source told CNN. "He was seconded to an elite protection brigade within the Royal Guard to serve as the personal security force of [the Crown Prince]," the source told

CNN.

Photographs have emerged of Mutreb with bin Salman during the Crown Prince's tour of the United States earlier this year.

Mutreb was the first secretary at the Saudi embassy in London, according to a 2007 UK government list of foreign diplomats and a Saudi source in London who knew him and described him as a colonel in Saudi intelligence.

Turkish officials also provided CNN with passport scans of seven other men they suspect to have been part of the Saudi team. The passport scans were taken on the day of Khashoggi's disappearance.

One of the scans appears to belong to Salah Muhammad al-Tubaiqi, listed as the head of forensic medicine at the Saudi Ministry of Interior. Another member of the group identified by Turkish official media is Muhammad Saad al-Zahrani, who has appeared on Saudi state TV alongside the Crown Prince.

If that group is to be characterized by Saudi Arabia as part of a rogue operation intended to bring Khashoggi back to the kingdom alive, questions could arise about al-Tubaiqi.

If the autopsy specialist left Saudi Arabia for Istanbul before Khashoggi entered the consulate, as Turkish

sources have asserted, it might be hard to square with the explanation that any killing was the result of a botched interrogation, and not premeditated.

Several US officials have told CNN that any such operation could not have happened without the Crown Prince's direct knowledge.

The New York Times reported Wednesday, without naming its source, that at least nine of the 15 Saudis identified by Turkish authorities as suspects in the Khashoggi case worked for the Saudi security services, military or other government ministries.

17-year-old

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a graveyard at Purbapara of Dhonia Kata where six to seven persons allegedly raped her. Hearing her screams, locals rushed to the spot and rescued the teenager, after which they informed the police.

A police team led by SI Ashikur arrested Ali Hossain following the girl's statement.

Police said Tarek and Siddique were detained when they tried to prevent police from picking up Ali.

Officer-in-Charge of the station Zakir Hossain Bhuiyan said the girl had been taken to Cox's Bazar district hospital for a medical check-up.

Rifts emerge in NAP, NDP

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Elsewhere, Mokaddim Hossain, senior presidium member of National Democratic Party (NDP), expelled party Chairman Gulam Murtaza and became the acting chairman, citing breach of party discipline as the cause for the expulsion.

In a similar turn of events, Murtaza also expelled Mokaddim yesterday.

"He [Mokaddim] cannot expel me as per the party charter. Rather, the party empowers me to expel him and that's what I have done," Murtaza said.

The expulsion and counter expulsion appear to put both parties in an embarrassing situation.

NATIONALAWAMI PARTY

The party started its journey in 1957 under the leadership of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, according to the party leaders.

After Bhashani's death, the party split into two.

Moshiur Rahman, popularly

known as Jadu Mia, took charge of one of the factions and named it Bangladesh NAP.

The parties' activities were suspended after Jadu Mia joined BNP in the late 70s.

In December 2006, Jadu Mia's son Shafiqul Ghani Swapan revived the party and it registered with the Election Commission (EC) in 2008.

After Swapan's death in 2009, Jebel was made the chairman of the party.

In 2012, Bangladesh NAP joined the BNP-led 20-party alliance and boycotted the January 5 election held in 2014.

The party currently has 71 central committee members and it has full committees in 38 districts, party leaders said.

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

NDP was formed in 1989 under the leadership of Anwar Zahid, the former information minister and a journalist, said the party leaders.

At the time, Gulam Murtaza was the

senior vice chairman of the party and executed war criminal Salauddin Quader Chowdhury was the general secretary.

In 1990, Zahid left the party and joined the BNP, leaving no time for Murtaza to become the acting chairman of the party.

In 1991, Salahuddin became a lawmaker under NDP.

NDP participated in the February 15, 1996 election which Salauddin Quader boycotted.

When another election was held in June, 1996, Salauddin joined the BNP and became a lawmaker. Murtaza had remained in the party since then.

In 2012, NDP joined the BNP-led 20-party alliance.

The party has 51 central committee members and 30 committees across the country but most of those are inactive, said Murtaza, adding that they applied to the EC to get the registration but had not gotten it yet.

Just for pets

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to help intern veterinary doctors become competent graduates through the use of this hospital.

"It would be a modern hospital with all kinds of facilities, including digital X-ray, ultra-sonogram, anaesthesia and operation theatres for pets

"Initially, alongside outdoor treatment facilities, five beds would be in the hospital, while three lecturers, two veterinary surgeons, three dressers and intern veterinary doctors would provide treatment to patients of the hospital."

Asked, why this hospital was being established in Dhaka instead of Chattogram or any other city, the VC said the location for the hospital was

selected in the capital due to the presence of a huge number of pet owners in the city.

"A significant number of Dhaka residents have pets in their houses, including diplomats and a number of foreigners who reside in Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara areas. They have been facing trouble regarding the medical treatment and healthcare facilities of pets due to the absence of a hospital," said Goutam.

He added that besides interns of CVASU, interns from veterinary faculties of other universities and colleges would have equal opportunities to pursue their internship in this hospital.