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NEW RISK INDICATOR OF US Bangladesh among 35 nations

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US Department of State has introduced a new risk indicator for 35 countries, including Bangladesh, to communicate more clearly to American citizens the “risk of kidnapping and hostage taking” by criminal and terrorist actors around the world.

“The new “K” indicator is part of our ongoing commitment to provide clear and comprehensive travel safety information to US citizens so they can make informed travel decisions,” it said in a statement issued from Washington on April 9.

In response to an email from The Daily Star about the statement, a US embassy spokesperson in Dhaka yesterday said, “The travel advisory for Bangladesh has not changed. The update to the travel advisory on April 9 introduced a new format for presenting information on the risk of kidnapping.

“The travel advisory for Bangladesh had already mentioned this risk, and the updated format does not reflect a change in our assessment.”

Contacted, Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahrial Alam said, “It is an internal affair of the United States to introduce any indicator or advisories for its citizens.

“But we are mindful of the safety and security of all in our country ... We also take support from our friendly countries and cooperate with them on security issues.”

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WINGS OF CAMOUFLAGE

An Indian pond heron, locally known as kana bok, flashes its bright white wings as it prepares to take flight near a water body in Kurmitola Golf Club in the capital. Its white wings are kept covered by brown or olive plumage, allowing the bird to camouflage itself. The deception works so well that the birds do not bother escaping until a threat comes too close, thus earning itself a reputation for being short-sighted.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



4 'criminals' killed in 'gunfights'

STAR REPORT

Four alleged criminals were killed in separate “gunfights” with law enforcers and drug peddlers in Dhaka, Chattogram, Meherpur and Cox’s Bazar yesterday.

In Dhaka, a suspected drug peddler was killed in a “shootout” with Rab around 5:15am yesterday.

The dead is Nabi Hossain, 47, of Teknaf in Cox’s Bazar.

Mohiuddin Faruque, company commander of Rab-2, claimed Nabi was accused in at least 10 cases. He used to sell yaba in the city.

A team of Rab took position near Dhaka Udyan on information that Nabi was carrying yaba from Teknaf, Mohiuddin claimed.

Nabi opened fire on the Rab men when they intercepted a CNG-run auto-rickshaw in the area that was carrying him, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate, he added.

During the “gunfight”, Nabi sustained bullet injuries. Later, he was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, the Rab official further said.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

Sudan's Bashir ousted in coup

Placed under arrest; defence minister says military council to run country; protesters reject minister's plan

REUTERS, Khartoum

President Omar al-Bashir, who ruled Sudan in autocratic style for 30 years, was yesterday overthrown and arrested in a coup by the armed forces.

In an address on state television, Defence Minister Awad Mohamed Ahmed Ibn Auf, announced a two-year period of military rule to be followed by presidential elections.

He said Bashir, 75, was being held in a “safe place” and a military council would now run the country. He did not say who would head it.

Seated on a gold-upholstered armchair, Auf announced a state of emergency, a nationwide ceasefire and the suspension of the constitution. Sudan’s airspace would be closed for 24 hours and border crossings shut until further notice.

The main organiser of protests against Bashir, the Sudanese Professionals Association, rejected the minister’s plans. It called on protesters to maintain a sit-in outside the defence ministry that started on Saturday, a source with the group said.

Sudanese sources told Reuters that Bashir was at the presidential residence under “heavy guard”. A son of Sadiq al-Mahdi, the head of the country’s main



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THAKURGAON FIRING Complaints against BGB men dismissed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A Thakurgaon court yesterday dismissed the complaints lodged by family members of the three villagers killed in a BGB firing in Haripur upazila’s Baharampur village in the district on February 12.

Magistrate Arifur Rahman of the Judicial Magistrate Court-1 passed the dismissal order under section 203 of the criminal code, which empowers a magistrate to dismiss a complaint if in their judgment they do not see sufficient ground for proceeding.

The dismissal comes after Haripur police submitted a report before the court saying the BGB had filed two separate cases on the same incident with Haripur Police Station

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Dig finds new early human species

AFP, Tokyo

The human family tree has acquired a new branch with the unearthing of a previously unknown species of human that lived on an island in today’s Philippines some 50,000 years ago.

The species, dubbed Homo luzonensis after the island of Luzon where its remains were found, is not a direct ancestor of modern day humans, but rather a distant ancient relative.

But the discovery, published in the journal Nature yesterday, adds to a growing body of evidence that human evolution is not as linear as was once thought.

It also raises questions, including how the species arrived on the island and who its ancestors were.

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Hondurans defy Trump to head north

AFP, Honduras

A new migrant caravan of around a thousand Hondurans hit out for the United States border on Wednesday in defiance of threats from US President Donald Trump.

According to the Red Cross “more than 800, almost a thousand,” migrants converged late Tuesday on the town of San Pedro Sula before heading north through Guatemala towards Mexico and the US border.

The caravan, which



PRAYER TIMING APRIL 12

	Fazr Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-35	12-30	4-45	6-24 7-45
JAMAAT	5-10	1-15	5-00	6-28 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

FALL OF CEILING PLASTER 5 pry students, 2 teachers hurt in classrooms

STAR REPORT

At least five students and two teachers were injured in primary school classrooms in Brahmanbaria and Narayanganj yesterday as chunks of ceiling plasters fell on them.

In Brahmanbaria’s Nabinagar, four students and two teachers of Fatehpur Uttar Government Primary School received minor injuries around 10:30am.

Due to room shortage, classes of grade I and II were being held at the same room when the incident took place, said Head Teacher Rashida Akhter.

A similar incident took place at the school on April 28 last year. But no one was injured then.

Teachers of the school alleged that they have repeatedly urged the higher authorities to renovate the school building to no avail.

On Saturday, a nine-year-old girl died in her classroom in Barguna’s

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Workers at an orchard in Chapainawabganj’s Shibganj upazila spray pesticide on mango trees yesterday as the harvest season nears. The High Court on Tuesday directed the government to deploy police at the mango orchards in Rajshahi region to prevent spraying of toxic chemicals on mangoes.

PHOTO: RABIUL HOSSAIN

AVIJIT MURDER Charges against six accepted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday accepted charges against six members of banned militant outfit Ansar-Al-Islam in a case filed over writer-blogger Avijit Roy murder on February 26, 2015.

After scrutinising the case dockets and other relevant documents, Judge Majibur Rahman of the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal accepted the charges.

The six accused are Mozammel Hossain alias Saymon, Abu Siddiq Soheli alias Sakib alias Sajid, Arafat Rahman Siam alias Sajjad, Akram Hossain Abir alias Adnan, Shafiur Rahman Farabi and Maj (sacked) Syed Mohammad Ziaul Haque.

The tribunal also issued arrest warrants for Maj Ziaul, a suspected coordinator of the militant outfit, and Akram.

The court asked the officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station to submit by April 30 the report on execution of the arrest warrants.

Fifteen other accused, including Sadek Ali alias Mithu, were relieved as the investigation officer of the case had appealed to the court to drop the charges against them.

On March 25, a Dhaka court transferred the Avijit murder case to the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal for its quick disposal.

On March 14, Monirul Islam, an inspector of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit, and also investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet against the six to the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate’s Court.

The investigation officer appealed for discharging Sadek and 14 others as the charges brought against them were not proved.

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