

'Drug peddler'

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Keshabpur village around 2:15am. On information, police went to the spot. Sensing their presence, the criminals opened fire on police, forcing them to retaliate. At one point of the "gunfight", the criminals managed to flee the scene, he added. Police found Kalu with bullet injuries on the spot and rushed him to Bagha Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead, the SP further added. Police also claimed to have recovered a pistol with two rounds of bullets and 53 bottles of smuggled Phensedyl from the spot.

Abandoned

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build a new building. He added that they built a tin-roofed structure on the school ground and were teaching students somehow. Many students were not attending classes in fear of building collapse. As a result, student attendance was declining. During a recent visit to Chitli Government Girls' Primary School in the same upazila, this correspondent found that the school building was in a dilapidated condition. Teachers said there had been many cases of plasters falling off the ceiling. Parents did not want to send their children to the school after seeing the building condition. The rich guardians enrolled their children in private schools or other ones. They said a tin-roofed structure had been erected to teach students. But now it would be impossible to teach them there because of scorching heat and as storm may strike anytime. They said the authorities were informed about the school condition, but they had not yet taken any steps in this regard. A guardian of a student at Matibhanga Government Primary School said they were always in fear of plasters of the building falling on their children. He sought the prime minister's intervention in constructing a new building there urgently.

The school buildings of Rupchand and Fatayian government primary schools in Morrelganj upazila are in a similar state. Contacted, Kabir Uddin, district primary education officer, said schools were being provided with alternative structures through local management where the main buildings were at risk. He added that they would soon take steps to build new buildings.

Germany

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(6.2 miles) of the autobahn on Tuesday, according to the German government. It's the first such test on a public road in Germany. Developed by Siemens (SIEGY), the system allows big rigs with special equipment mounted on their roofs to connect to electrified lines while travelling at speeds of up to 90 kilometres per hour (56 miles per hour). The trucks run on electric motors when connected to the overhead lines, and a hybrid system when they return to a traditional road. Sensors detect when the overhead wires are available. Siemens says its eHighway system combines the efficiency of electric rail with the flexibility of trucking. Another benefit is a sharp reduction in emissions of CO2 and nitrogen oxides. Siemens argues that the system can be integrated with existing road infrastructure, making it a practical way to reduce emissions and energy consumption in places where railways aren't feasible. The section of road opened Tuesday is part of a crucial link between Frankfurt airport, a global freight hub, and a nearby industrial park. Two more stretches of highway with the system will open soon. The German government spent €70 million (\$77 million) to develop trucks that can use the system. Siemens said that a truck owner could save €20,000 (\$22,370) on fuel over 100,000 kilometres (62,137 miles). Truck transportation is the world's fastest growing source of oil demand, according to the International Transport Forum, which is part of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Man sets

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"Later, he came out of his house and indiscriminately hacked his neighbours, leaving five people, including Sattarani, critically injured," said Jasim Uddin, officer-in-charge of Kattoli Police Station. Locals rushed the injured to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where doctors declared Sattarani dead, the OC said. The other injured were undergoing treatment at the hospital, said Alauddin Talukdar, assistant sub-inspector of CMCH police outpost. Locals caught Sattajit, beat him up and handed him over to police, he said. Sattajit was also admitted to CMCH, the ASI added. A murder case would be filed in connection with the incident, said police.



Joydev picks watermelons at his field in Khulna's Dacope upazila. The farmer said he sold watermelons for Tk 50 each on average to wholesale traders and incurred a huge loss this season as his crop was badly damaged due to recent rains and Cyclone Fani. The photo was taken in Kaminibashia village last week.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Russia may have dirt on Trump: Comey

CNN ONLINE

Former FBI Director James Comey said Thursday that it is possible the Russians have leverage over President Donald Trump.

CNN's Anderson Cooper asked Comey at a town hall in Washington, "Do you think the Russians have leverage over President Trump?"

"I don't know the answer to that," Comey responded.

"Think it's possible?" Cooper asked. "Yes," Comey responded, without hesitation.

Comey was speaking at a town hall two years after Trump had fired him, citing Comey's handling of the probe into Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server.

The former FBI director's comments come amid a looming constitutional battle between Trump and congressional Democrats over

special counsel Robert Mueller's report into Russian interference in the 2016 election. Mueller's report found that no member of the Trump campaign had criminally conspired with the Russian government to interfere in the 2016 election.

However, the special counsel did detail multiple contacts between Trump campaign officials and Russians, and Mueller wrote that the campaign did expect to benefit from Russia's actions surrounding the 2016 presidential election. But no campaign officials took criminal steps to help, Mueller wrote.

In an interview last year, Comey said there was one specific incident he had discussed with the President regarding a videotape of Trump in Russia that was part of a dossier of information circulated before the 2016 election.

"Honestly, I never thought these words would come out of my mouth, but I don't know whether the current President of the United States was with prostitutes peeing on each other in Moscow in 2013," Comey said to ABC News. "It's possible, but I don't know."

Mueller wrote in his report that he could not clear Trump of obstruction of justice. His report cites numerous cases where the President had asked his aides to take actions that would have obstructed his probe, but the aides refused Trump's orders.

The FBI's justification in opening the obstruction of justice case went beyond Trump's firing of Comey, CNN previously reported, and included the President's conversation with Comey in the Oval Office asking him to drop the investigation into his former national security adviser Michael Flynn.

Bezos unveils lunar lander project 'Blue Moon'

AFP, Washington

Jeff Bezos, who heads both Amazon and space company Blue Origin, unveiled a lunar lander Thursday that he said would be used to transport equipment, and possibly human beings, to the south pole of the Moon by 2024.

"This is Blue Moon," the world's richest man said at a presentation in Washington, as curtains lifted to show a mock-up of a huge vessel weighing many tons and able to carry four self-driving rovers.

"It's an incredible vehicle, and it will go to the Moon," he declared.

Bezos didn't announce a specific date for the project's first launch, but said the lander would be ready in time to make President Donald Trump's announced timeline to return people to the Moon by 2024.

Kim orders boosting strike capability

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forth important tasks for further increasing the strike ability."

The test of two short-range missiles on Thursday and the firing of a series of projectiles on Saturday were the first missile launches by the North since an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) in November 2017.

Kim later declared the building of its nuclear force was complete and went on to hold three summit meetings with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and two with Trump.

Both Trump and Moon said the latest missile tests were not helpful but suggested they would not scupper dialogue.

"I know they want to negotiate, they're talking about negotiating. But I don't think they're ready to negotiate," Trump told reporters.

"They were smaller missiles, they were short-range missiles," he said. "Nobody's happy about it but we're

taking a good look and we'll see."

South Korea's Moon said on Thursday the tests were likely a reaction to the failed second summit with Trump in Hanoi in February, but he thought North Korea remained hopeful of continuing negotiations.

ILLICIT SHIPMENT

The latest tests were swiftly followed by US test-launches of the intercontinental ballistic missile Minuteman III over the Pacific and the Trident II submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) off Florida.

They also coincided with a visit to the South by US special envoy for North Korea Stephen Biegun, who met his South Korean counterpart and was scheduled to hold talks with presidential Blue House and Unification Ministry officials.

During his meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha yesterday, Biegun said "the door is still open for North Korea to return

to the negotiating table," and that it is very important for South Korea and the United States to continue communication and cooperation, the ministry said in a statement.

Thursday's missiles were fired from Kusong, northwest of the capital Pyongyang. One missile flew 420 km (260 miles) and the other 270 km (168 miles), both reaching an altitude of about 50 km (30 miles) before falling into the sea, South Korea's military said.

North Korean state media did not give details of the missiles.

South Korean and US military analysts will try to determine if the Russian-development Iskander short-range ballistic missile system was used, Ahn Gyu-baek, the defence committee chairman in South Korea's parliament, told reporters.

Japan, which is also in striking distance of North Korean missiles and saw them fly over its territory before

Kim's self-declared moratorium on long-range missile launches in April 2018, said yesterday the latest missile tests violated UN resolutions.

China, the North's main diplomatic backer, said it had no firm information on the tests. State Councillor and senior diplomat Wang Yi said Korean peninsula issues should be resolved through dialogue with the goal of denuclearisation.

Analysts said the multiple tests signalled that North Korea is serious about deploying an operational fleet of the missiles, which could be used in the opening hours of any war with the United States and South Korea.

Washington has given no sign it will budge on the North's demand to lift some sanctions as it announced on Thursday the seizure of a North Korean cargo vessel that it said was involved in the illicit shipping of coal.

Grant access

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temporarily detained in a village school, killing six and wounding eight.

According to the Tatmadaw, soldiers opened fire when the group tried to seize their guns, but other sources dispute this account.

They say the Tatmadaw opened fire indiscriminately after one of the detainees tried to escape. The army says it has launched an investigation into the incident.

After the shooting, the bodies of the six men were reportedly laid out in full view of the village which, as of yesterday, remained surrounded by military and was said to be running out of food.

The men and boys are believed to have been detained following attacks by an armed group, the Arakan Army, on two Tatmadaw bases on April 9.

According to information received by the UN Human Rights Office, the Tatmadaw surrounded Kyauk Tan village on April 30, and called on all males over 15 years of age to report to the local school.

Those over the age of 60 were released, while the others were reportedly mistreated and detained, including sleep deprivation and the denial of food.

Since May 2, most of the boys and men have been released in groups, apparently after being interrogated.

However, up to 50 remain in incommunicado detention without access to lawyers, doctors or any other form of protection. They are reliant on family members for food.

Colville said the imposition of severe restrictions on access by media, and many international actors, to conflict areas in Rakhine makes independent verification extremely challenging. He said reports suggest that six men, who confessed to having links with the Arakan Army, were blindfolded and taken to a navy vessel on Tuesday night.

"This is not an isolated incident. On April 22, three ethnic Rakhine men who were among 27 arrested in Mrauk-U, also following the April 9 Arakan Army attack, were shot dead in detention," he said.

The authorities have refuted allegations that they were shot but the bodies were cremated shortly after their deaths and before their families were notified, said Colville.

Trapped

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As police failed to rescue him, two units of fire service went to the spot.

Motaleb Jamader, a fire service official of Hajiganj Fire Service Station, said at one point, Khokon got exhausted due to the scorching heat.

"We drilled a hole through the wall of one of the buildings and supplied him water," the fire service official said, adding that a rechargeable fan was also put so that he did not feel suffocated.

"Later, we rescued him by cutting the wall of a building," he added.

Khokon is currently receiving treatment at Shahrasti Upazila Health Complex under police watch, said Shah Alam, officer-in-charge of Shahrasti Police Station.

He would be produced before the court when his condition improves, the OC added.



Output likely to fall

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of the major mango producing districts.

However, the cyclone did not have much impact on mango yield in the northern regions, including Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi.

Anwarul Hoque, a mango producer of Rajshahi, said most buds fell off during the rains in late February and hailstorms early April. Again, when the remaining fruits began to grow, Fani hit.

According to estimates by DAE, which carries out field surveys and field tests of crops, there will be a 10 percent fall in mango production this year from last year.

"The hailstorms and rain that hit during the budding period in February will pull down mango production," said Mehedi Masood, director of a project under DAE on nutrition through year-round fruit production.

According to DAE, there are around 85 lakh mango trees across the country.

Trees of the main three varieties -- Gopalbhog, Langra and Fazli -- bear fruit every other year. As these trees bore fruit last year, there will be a drop in overall mango production this year, said DAE officials.

Talking about production trend of mango, Masood said, "The area of mango cultivation has increased every year, so does the production."

Against this backdrop, scientists and agriculture officials are encouraging farmers to grow high yielding varieties like Amrapali, Himsagar and Haribhanga, which are small in size but high in production.



PHOTO: STAR

According to agriculture officials, although there are 152 varieties of mango in Bangladesh, 31 are mostly grown.

Bangladesh has seen a rise in mango production over the last 18 years, according to a report in 2017 by Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Around 2.4 million tonnes of mangoes were harvested in 2017-18, according to DAE officials.

The Himsagar, Gopalbhog, Langra, Fazli from Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj used to be the main varieties.

But the emergence of Amrapali a decade ago has led to widespread production across the country. Currently, it accounts for 30 percent of the country's mango harvest, mostly from the south and south-western parts of Bangladesh.

M Shamsul Haque, deputy director of DAE, said the mangoes witnessed several calamities this year. "We hope the calamities will not affect production much."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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e-Re-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works given below.

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender closing date & time
01.	317062	lax-Police officers mess-01-2018-2019(R1)	Interior decoration from Ground floor to 2nd floor for police officers mess dormitory in Lakshmpur district (Civil and Internal Electrification Work)	20-May-2019 14:00

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Mohammad Ferdous-Uz-Zaman
Executive Engineer
Lakshmpur PWD Division, Lakshmpur

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