

# Criminals rule

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out in the locality," said a forest official who recently visited the Sundarbans to do research on tigers.

"If we cannot save the tiger and deer the entire Sundarbans will be at risk of destruction," he said requesting not to be named.

Foresters and researchers say the resources of the Sundarbans including 53 species of trees, 248 species of birds, 58 species of mammals and 55 species of reptiles would be at stake if the government does not take proper steps.

The researcher during his visit to the Sundarbans had met Razu's gang on the Aar Pangashia river. The gang stopped his boat and asked him to step on to theirs.

He said he found them well equipped. They had batteries, mobile phone chargers and rechargeable lights on their boat. They were cooking venison and offered him soft drinks and apples, he said.

He said they did not take anything from him. They admitted that they eat venison every day and also send it to different influential people in the city through fishermen as gift.

Besides taking toll from fishermen, they also use them to transport batteries and other items they need.

The robbers are out of control now, as they know there are no firearms in the beat offices, the researcher said. Even the foresters do not stay at many beat offices, which were severely damaged by cyclones Sidr and Aila.

The robbers and poachers are killing deer at an alarming rate, he said.

The situation is so bad now that venison is readily available in Banshtola in Kalirchar for only Tk 150 per kilogram, newspapers reported.

It has also been reported that brick kiln owners are nowadays using Sundari wood to bake bricks in Zianagar, Bhandaria, Shawrupkathi upazila in Pirojpur and Barisal.

The researcher said during his visit he heard that the robbers had killed three tigers.

He said he had asked the

# Woman dies

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to fulfill his demand for dowry.

Seema's brother Anisul Huq told The Daily Star that her labourer husband Delwar Hossain with the help of his mother and maternal uncles poured diesel on her body and set her alight.

"Delwar married my sister with a demand of Tk 50,000 as dowry and we already paid him Tk 30,000. Delwar and his mother had been torturing my sister since their marriage two years back, as we could not pay the rest amount," said Anisul.

Immediately after the incident, Seema was admitted to a local clinic. As her condition deteriorated, she was later rushed to the DMCH.

Seema's maternal uncle Abdus Salam filed a case with the Badarganj Police Station accusing Delwar, his mother and three maternal uncles of attempted murder.

Tobarak Ali Sarkar, officer-in-charge of the police station, told The Daily Star the police during the preliminary investigation found evidence that Seema was set on fire by Delwar and his family members.

They have already arrested Delwar's mother in this connection but could not arrest Delwar as he is on the run, the OC added.

# Bid to grab

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Schoolteachers and locals rushed to the spot hearing the news. They asked them to show legal documents in favour for their claim.

Officer-in-Charge of Motijheel Police Station Tofazzel Hossain told The Daily Star that the locals informed them about the matter.

He said the police arrested them because they failed to show any documents backing their claim.

Headmaster of the school Syed Hafizul Islam filed a case in this connection with Motijheel Police Station, Tofazzel added.

# BNP

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anarchy only to tarnish the image of the government, he added.

District BNP President Abdul Hai and General Secretary Ali Asgor Mallik called upon all the activists to make the hartal successful.

# Germany okays 750b euro rescue plan

**BBC NEWS**

Germany's parliament has approved the country's contribution to a 750bn euro (\$938bn, €651bn) rescue deal for the eurozone.

The German contribution is key to the plan, and would amount to up to 148bn euros.

Chancellor Angela Merkel has faced widespread domestic opposition to her support for measures to help Greece and other struggling EU economies.

But she has warned that the euro would be "in danger" without strong action.

'Clear sign'

The Bundestag, or German lower house, voted by 319 votes to 73 in favour of Germany's participation in the bail-out, with 195 abstentions.

Two opposition parties - the Social Democrats and the Greens - abstained, while the Left Party voted against. The upper house then gave its approval.

Mrs Merkel hailed the vote as a clear signal that the German government backed a stable eurozone.

"It is a very important day for the German parliament today... and I am happy that we managed to get a package for stabilising the euro," she said at a joint news conference with the visiting British Prime Minister, David Cameron.

"It is very important that the factions of the government show a very clear sign what to do with regard to stabilisation," Mrs Merkel said.

But the BBC's Steve Rosenberg in Berlin says it was hardly a convincing victory for Mrs Merkel, who has come under attack at home and abroad for her handling of the financial crisis.

Without cross-party support the German leader will struggle to secure public backing for bailing out Germany's neighbours, he says.

Bail-out plans for Greece are already thought to have contributed to a defeat for her centre-right coalition in a key state election in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) earlier this month.

Markets fall  
The vote on the package, which is designed to shore up the finances of struggling eurozone countries, comes as an EU task force of finance ministers meets in Brussels later to discuss ways to prevent a repeat of the economic crisis in Greece.

The ministers are expected to propose changes to EU budget rules to tighten up financial regulation.

European markets fell after opening on Friday amid fears that the region's debt crisis could spread.

In Berlin German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle told members of parliament that the vote was about "whether you think that Europe should stand or whether it should fall".

# Local admin

**FROM PAGE 16**  
us, we will not stop their activities, but if they are found to be guilty of the charges, they will not be allowed to run their activities anymore, no matter whether they are local, national or international," he added.

The NGOs were asked to involve respective local administrations in project implementation as well, so the latter may have inputs in the process, said Muhammad Ibrahim.

The bureau also asked district and upazila administrations to have monthly and bi-monthly meetings with local NGOs in an effort to boost monitoring and bilateral communication.

NGOs working at upazila levels from now on must submit monthly reports to UNOs about their activities, and district level NGO units must submit bi-monthly reports to respective DCs.

DCs and UNOs already got orders from the government to report deviant NGOs to the bureau.

The NGOs will also have to submit quarterly reports to the bureau from now on, earlier yearly reports would suffice.

Director of the NGO Federation Tajul Islam told The Daily Star on Thursday that the federation welcomes the government move.

There are 2,129 national and 211 international NGOs currently working in the country on 1,500 projects which are getting about Tk 3,403 crore in foreign funds, according to the bureau.

# Dhaka, Moscow

**FROM PAGE 1**  
will visit Bangladesh soon to take forward next steps in implementing the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Project.

Both the ministers of Bangladesh spoke about the determination of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government to build nuclear power plants in meeting the rising power demand.

The Bangladesh delegation also had an official meeting with Rosatom on May 19.

Yeafesh Osman emphasised the need for nuclear power option in meeting increasing power shortage and the election pledge of the present government on the nuclear power project.

Both the foreign ministers expressed satisfaction over the signing of the framework agreement.

Dr SM Saiful Hoque, Bangladesh ambassador to the Russian Federation, Md Abdur Rob Howlader, secretary of the Ministry of Science and ICT, Dr Farid Uddin Ahmed, Member, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Dr Mohammad Shawkat Akbar, Project Director of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Project, among others, were present at the signing ceremony.

# CHOGM

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Commonwealth, Australia is delighted to be hosting CHOGM for a third time.

Earlier, Australia hosted CHOGM at Melbourne in 1981 and Coolool in 2002.

It said Commonwealth members share a strong commitment to the fundamental principles of democracy and development, good governance, the rule of law, and the protection of human rights.

CHOGM is a unique opportunity for Commonwealth leaders to work together to address significant global challenges.

The prime minister noted that "Australia and in particular Western Australia, looks forward to welcoming Commonwealth leaders and delegates to Perth for what I am confident will be a successful summit."

The principal venue for the meeting will be the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Secretary General Sharma observed that CHOGM brings together leaders representing around one-quarter of the world's countries, and one-third of the world's population.

"It is the opportunity for Commonwealth leaders to discuss the national and global challenges of our times, to exchange views and best practice, to find paths to peace and prosperity for all, and to deliberate on how this exceptional organisation can serve the world better," he said.

"The Commonwealth is all about governments and people who share the same values and principles, and the will to support each other.

"CHOGM therefore brings together our political leaders but also civil society, young people, the business community, and many others who share the vision of this global summit in Perth being a Commonwealth meeting for a Commonwealth of its times," Sharma added.

The agenda for the meeting will be set nearer the time. Leaders will focus on a wide array of issues of collective interest to the 54 member nations of the Commonwealth.

# Third seaport

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proposed site for the port.

State Minister for Water Resources Ministry Mahbubur Rahman Talukder and Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Shipping Ministry Noor-e-Alam Chowdhury accompanied him.

The minister said a team of experts would be sent there to conduct necessary survey. Based on their derivation the parliamentary committee will hold discussions and take it to the next level.

Since it is positioned at the centre of the coast, a seaport here, would make movement of goods more convenient than through the ports at Chittagong and Mongla, the minister said.

"Moreover, we are planning to construct more roads, bridges and culverts to enhance communication between the beach at Kuakata and the rest of the country in order to develop it into a full-fledged tourist spot", he added.

Earlier, Talukder, also lawmaker for Patuakhali-4 (Kalapara), proposed to set up a seaport in the area to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The shipping minister made the visit following the PM's nod.

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we will continue to work as fast and efficiently as now," Kiriyeiko said during the signing ceremony.

Meanwhile, Dipu Moni held talks with her Russian counterpart Lavrov and both the foreign ministers agreed to intensifying traditional cooperation in the areas of education and defence.

Lavrov expressed his government's full support for establishing nuclear power plants in Bangladesh.

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# Peace restored

**FROM PAGE 16**  
overran a Red Shirt encampment Wednesday after a week of street fighting. The crackdown climaxed two months of violence in which 83 people died and more than 1,800 were injured.

Abhisit acknowledged the "huge challenges" in overcoming the divisions, which he said can be achieved through a five-point reconciliation plan that he had announced earlier.

"That plan is based on the principle of participation, democracy and justice," he said. It includes economic and media reforms and aims to reduce social and economic divisions in Thai society, which the protesters, mostly the rural and urban poor, had rallied against.

They say Abhisit came to power illegitimately and is oblivious to their plight. The Red Shirt street protests began in mid-March to demand his resignation, the dissolution of Parliament and immediate elections.

But earlier Friday, Finance Minister Korn Chatikavanij said Abhisit's earlier offer to hold Nov. 14 elections was on hold until political passions have subsided and the security situation has stabilized.

"We need to make sure that emotions have cooled to the extent that candidates from all parties can feel safe in campaigning anywhere in the country. Frankly we would not feel safe doing that today," he told participants at a conference in Tokyo.

Abhisit said the government will allow due process of law and parliamentary democracy to resolve the country's problems.

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An army crackdown to remove the Red Shirts from their first encampment on April 10 left 25 people dead. Another 15 were killed Wednesday when the army overran their second, heavily barricaded encampment in Rajprasong, one of Bangkok's most fashionable neighborhoods. Clashes the week before the crackdown claimed 39 lives, and four people died in other related violence.

Wednesday's crackdown also triggered widespread arson in central Bangkok on landmark buildings including the stock exchange, banks and major shopping malls.

On Friday, security forces swept 10 high rises including two luxury hotels for explosives and weapons, possibly left behind by fleeing protesters. Soldiers also led a search of the elevated Skytrain tracks as the service remained closed for the seventh day.

Sirijan Ngathong, a deputy spokeswoman for the army, said various explosive devices had been found in buildings and cars near the demonstration site.

In Chinatown, which had been shuttered during the violence, many of the gold and food shops reopened and the streets were teeming with life and traffic.

Several roads in the center of the city remained closed by checkpoints. Municipal workers cleared mountains of garbage that had accumulated. Using high-pressure water hoses, they cleaned the sidewalks and the entrance to the landmark Lumpini Park, which had been caked with grime.

Scattered arson and looting was reported late Thursday and early yesterday.

Meanwhile, anger among Red Shirts was simmering. The detained leaders of the movement had threatened

more fight. A criminal court Friday refused to grant bail to 114 Red Shirt leaders and supporters who have been detained since Wednesday.

Somyot Pruksakasemsuk, a second-tier Red Shirt leader, distributed a statement by the group Friday calling for Abhisit and his deputy to step down to pave the way for reconciliation. He announced plans for new mass meetings. However, a report on The Nation website said he was arrested later in the day.

"I think this is a new beginning for the Red Shirts," said Kevin Hewison, a Thailand expert at the University of North Carolina. "It will be a darker and grimmer time of struggle