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## REPORTED VIOLENCE Govt steps up vigilance in Hatia

STAR REPORT

The home ministry has directed the law enforcement agencies to intensify vigilance in the remote chars (shoals) of Hatia island in Noakhali following some reports on killing of char people in the hands of bandits.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder said though there is no specific information of killings in the area, "We have asked the law enforcers to intensify their activities in the region."

Contacted, Noakhali Superintendent of Police Harunur Rashid Hazari said a person named Nizamuddin yesterday filed a case alleging abduction and killing of seven people in Hatia's Noler Char area.

"The seven missing persons are: Ibrahim Sardar, Kamaluddin, Rafiquddin, Afsaruddin, Dulaluddin, Belal Majhi and Md Khaleq," said the SP.

"Despite a combined drive conducted by police, Rab and Coastguard, so far, we have not found any trace of killing taking place there," he said last night.

Earlier in the day, home secretary confirmed that officials from a Coastguard base in Hatia have received no information of killing.

Residents of Janata Bazaar, Noler Char, Caring Char, Bhumihin Bazar also could not mention of any killing

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CUP OF JOY: Members of the Bangladesh cricket team wed in glory with the Micromax Cup that they lifted in a most empathic fashion, defeating New Zealand by three runs in fifth and final one-day international at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Kiwis Tiger-washed

Bangladesh cricket moves one notch up on world ranking

MOHAMMAD ISAM

Rubel Hossain's searing yorker uprooted New Zealand's long-standing bastion over the

Tigers and, like his raised fist, took his team into new heights in world cricket. The incredibly tight three-run win yesterday completed the much-coveted 4-0 whitewash of a major

Test-playing nation, an exceptional highlight for Bangladesh.

The series win, especially the result, took Bangladesh on a par with West Indies in the

International Cricket Council ODI rankings with 67 points, putting the Tigers within the top-eight for the first time in their 24-year

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Bangladesh betters on hunger challenge

Moves to 6th place from 16th on the index

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has ranked sixth in combating hunger among 28 vulnerable countries this year, an ActionAid International study said.

The country -- this year's most successful in reducing hunger rate among the south Asian countries -- was in the 13th spot last year. Brazil, China, Vietnam, Malawi and Ghana are the top rankers in this year's scorecard for tackling hunger.

The study, however, said that Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of underweight children and does not have sufficient food to feed almost half its population.

Marking the World Food Day, ActionAid International published the scorecard in its UK

based research titled "Who is Really Fighting Hunger". The ranking is decided on criteria such as hunger trends, legal framework, small-holder agriculture, social safety and gender equity.

Scoring 44 points, three points more than the last year, Bangladesh stands high above its neighbours Nepal (14th), India (21st) and Pakistan (25th) in the global scorecard.

"Bangladesh's rank reflects the progress it has made in reducing hunger from 36 percent to 26 percent since 1990," said the research.

The study, however, warned that Bangladesh has chances to lose the trend of hunger reduction, the primary Millennium Development Goal (MDG), due to the impact of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Hindus bid farewell to Durga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Durga Puja, the greatest religious festival of the Hindus, ended yesterday with the immersion of the idols of goddess Durga and her children on the fifth day of celebration of it across the country.

Bijoya Dashami processions were brought out on the day. Devotees with tearful eyes joined the processions carrying the idols to bid farewell to Durga and her children Lakshmi, Saraswati, Kartik and Ganesh while wishing their return next year.

Over 27,000 puja mandaps were set up in the country with 191 in the capital, said Nilmol

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## Thorny border ties thaw

Dhaka, Delhi agree to construct road, bridge in some areas within 150 yards of zero line

REZAUL KARIM

In line with a major policy decision taken a few months back, Bangladesh and India both have begun construction of structures within 150 yards of the zero line along the international border at designated areas.

While this is a deviation from the Indo-Bangladesh Boundary Agreement 1974, on the parts of both countries, it is essentially addressing the needs of both too. The agreement restricts any construction within 150 yards of the zero line.

Bangladesh allowed India to erect fences at a dozen places having important establishments including religious installations that could not be dismantled due

to the sensitive nature of those. Terrains at some of those places are also difficult for erecting fences beyond the 150 yard zone. India recently began construction of the fences.

India also allowed Bangladesh to construct structures within 150 yards of the zero line at 11 points of the country.

The arrangement came following a proposal from India early last year. India had been seeking to erect such fences within 150 yards of the zero line at 46 places since the last BNP regime.

Talking to The Daily Star, Director General of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Maj Gen Rafiqul Islam said yesterday, "As we have agreed to the Indian proposal, India is also reciprocating by allowing

Bangladesh to construct a bridge in Laxmipur, expansion of a wall in Hilli, construction of approach roads in Moulvibazar and Bhomra, and several other initiatives."

"Our mutual agreement has created a very positive environment. Both countries are now willing to resolve long standing minor issues," he said, "This will help boost border trade on both sides."

Following last year's Indian proposal, BDR inspected various border points the same year, and submitted clearance to the Bangladesh home ministry about 12 out of the 46 points. India and Bangladesh conducted combined surveys of these areas as well, the BDR DG said.

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Durga Visarjan, immersion of the idol of Goddess Durga, at Patenga in Chittagong yesterday on the occasion of Vijaya Dashami, the end of Durga Puja.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

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