

# Dhaka, Delhi

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Following the exchange, Bangladesh will get 10,048 acres, but its population might increase up to 50,000 if the Indian citizens agree to change their nationalities under the plan.

The matter has its roots in pre-partition period (before 1947). Historians say these territories were part of high stake card or chess games between the kings of Cooch Behar and Rangpur and handed over to each other in payment for the gambling debts.

In 1974, Bangladesh ratified the Mujib-Indira Land Boundary Agreement to resolve the problems, but India has yet to ratify the agreement.

Sources in New Delhi told The Daily Star that the Indian government will soon approach the Cabinet Committee on Security to get clearance for the implementation of the treaty.

They said officials concerned of both sides are working hard to complete the procedures necessary for the exchange ahead of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's trip to Bangladesh in the next few months.

During the visit, Bangladesh hopes to sign several deals including the one on exchange of enclaves.

Diplomatic sources said the exchange will work as a major confidence building measure between Dhaka and New Delhi, remove suffering of the residents, and more importantly, it will de-escalate border conflict.

In Dhaka, home ministry

sources told The Daily Star that the recent meetings of the Joint Boundary Working Group made significant progress in solving the outstanding issues of 6.5km undemarcated border, 162 enclaves and 6,500 acres of adversely possessed land in each other's territories.

As there is not that much complexity in swap of enclaves, they said, the two sides agreed to settle it first and continue talks on undemarcated border and adversely possessed lands.

Officials of foreign affairs ministry said they along with officials from the other ministries concerned will soon visit the enclaves in India and representatives from India will visit the enclaves in Bangladesh.

Besides, the two countries will soon launch a joint survey of enclave population. Bangladesh has already formed 10 committees, now awaiting Indian response, to launch the headcount, the first since 1971.

According to unofficial estimates, the population of the 111 Indian enclaves is over one lakh while the 51 Bangladeshi enclaves inside India have around 44,000 people.

The residents of the enclaves on both sides of the border will be given the option to decide which country they want to live in. Sources said most of the residents of the enclaves had earlier agreed to change their nationalities under the exchange plans. They will be given further chance to opt for migration once the exchanges are made.

## Make Bangla an official language

Nahid urges UN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid urged the United Nations to include Bangla as one of its official languages.

Amar Ekushey is now observed worldwide as the International Mother Language Day after getting UNESCO recognition. Bangla ranks as one of the leading languages in terms of the number of its speakers living in different countries, the minister argued.

He made the comments while addressing a discussion on the International Mother Language Day as the chief guest at Government Teachers' Training College in the capital.

Referring to Bangladeshi expatriates in Canada who paved the way for the UNESCO recognition, Nahid said they acted just like language martyrs Salam, Jabbar and Barkat.

According to the United Nations website, the official languages used at the UN are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Talking at the discussion, the education minister said the government has set up the International Mother Language Institute where an exhibition on all languages would be held. "We will try to save the near extinct languages," the minister said.

He added all the languages in the country including the indigenous ones would be exercised at the International Mother Language Institute.

On the Education Policy, the minister said it has been accepted by different sections, adding, the policy would be made available at the ongoing book fair soon.

Earlier, Nahid inaugurated the newly built Shaheed Miner on the TT College premises.

Paying tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in all previous movements, lawmaker Fazle Noor Taposh in his speech as the special guest said teachers can make a perception.

Chaired by Prof Md Shafiqur Rahman, principal of the college, the discussion was addressed, among others, by Education Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury and Director General of Secondary and Higher Education Directorate Prof Md Noman-ur-rashid.

## Boy succumbs

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join a crowd celebrating the WC.

Two youths came to Polish house to inform the members that he was stamped and was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital at about 11:30pm, Shamim added.

After fighting for life for 12 hours, he succumbed to his injury yesterday at about 11:30am.

**SUB-INSPECTOR** Nasiruddin of Mirpur Police Station confirmed the incident and said family members received the body without any autopsy.

## 4 robbers

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The injured alleged robbers are: Mohammad Harun, 23, Nabidur Rahman, 26, Md Harun, 30, and Sujon Prakash Mamun, 35. They were admitted to Noakhali General Hospital in police custody.

Havildar Md Ali and constable Monju Mia were injured during the "gunfight" and were admitted to Basurhat Upazila Health Complex.

Officer-in-Charge AKM Monjurul Haque Akhanda of Companiganj Police Station said following a tip-off, a team of Rab-11 raided Chhotodhali where the gang was allegedly preparing for a robbery.

Sensing the presence of Rab, the bandits opened fire on them forcing the elite force to return fire. The two Rab personnel were injured then.

However, the gang managed to flee the scene leaving behind their injured cohorts, police said.

Rab recovered three guns and four sharp weapons from the scene.

Three separate cases were filed with Companiganj Police Station in this connection.

# Tropical forests

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forests - it will influence a lot of ecosystem services and processes," explained co-author Brian Enquist from the University of Arizona.

"For example, we need to know how much carbon tropical forests are storing, and will store in the future. We also need to know how much CO2 they are taking out of the air."

Professor Enquist and his team examined how an area of forest had changed between 1976 and 1996.

"We were fortunate that between the two dates, there was a series of quite impressive droughts - those droughts have been increasing in severity over the longer term," he told BBC News.

He said that there had been a "tremendous reduction" in the total number of trees in the forest.

"Most of that reduction was in the smallest trees - such as the saplings and the smaller trees in the understorey," Professor Enquist observed.

"That was the first change that we immediately noticed, but then we began to look very closely and asked what was causing those trees to die."

"What we found was that there was a very distinctive signal in the types of trees that tended to survive and the types of trees that died - it came down to basic differ-

ences on how these trees functioned and worked.

"We found that those species that tended to require more moist conditions were the ones that dropped out very quickly, and those that were able to handle more drought-like conditions persisted."

Professor Enquist said the species that favoured such conditions were deciduous, canopy trees, and if the trend of drier conditions continued into the future then it would change the characteristics of tropical forests.

"The ecosystem implication is that those types of forests (dominated by deciduous, canopy species) tend to store less carbon and hold less biomass, which would then have a detrimental impact in terms of the entire biosphere's ability to help regulate or mitigate the effects of global climate change."

He said the study's findings, when combined with other results from other similar projects, created a picture of tropical forests that were changing "rather quickly".

Professor Enquist added that these forests appeared to be quite susceptible to changes in rainfall, and that future projections of changes in rainfall patterns were likely to have "immediate or very quick consequences".

# Gaddafi faces

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New York-based Human Rights Watch said the killings on Friday took to 84 its estimate for the death toll over three days of protests -- most of its focused in the restive region around Benghazi.

It said the deaths in the city, 1,000 km east of Tripoli, happened when security forces opened fire on people protesting after funeral processions for people killed in earlier violence. There has been no official word on the number of dead.

"We put out a call to all the doctors in Benghazi to come to the hospital and for everyone to give blood because I've never seen anything like this before," the group quoted a senior hospital official as saying.

"Special forces who have a very strong allegiance to Gaddafi are still fighting desperately gain to control, to gain ground and the people are fighting them street by street," said a resident of Benghazi identified as Mohammed by the BBC.

In Bahrain, a key US ally and home to the US Middle East fleet, the main Shia opposition bloc has rejected a dialogue call from the king after this week's unrest in the island, an ex-lawmaker said yesterday.

"We don't feel there is a serious will for dialogue because the military is in the streets," Ibrahim Mattar, a member of the Wefaq bloc which quit parliament on Thursday, told Reuters.

Mattar said the authorities would have to "accept the concept of constitutional monarchy" and pull troops off the streets before any dialogue could begin.

"Then we can go for a temporary government of new faces that would not

## S Asia

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democracy. So a common approach is needed to protect human rights of this region, the NHRC chairman said.

Dr Rahman made the remark while inaugurating the fifth general forum of the Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacy, a network of civil society organisation, at BRAC in Savar, said a press release.

Referring to the killing of Felani, a 15-year old girl, by Border Security Force of India recently on Anantapur border under Fulbari upazila of Kurigram district, he also emphasised the need for close diplomatic ties among the countries of this region to protect human rights.

He informed that NHRC will soon launch a nationwide campaign on human rights and requested human rights defenders and NGOs to cooperate.

include the current interior or defence ministers," he said.

Bahrain's king offered a national dialogue with all parties on Friday to try to end the unrest which has cost six lives and hundreds of other casualties since Monday.

More than 60 people were in hospital yesterday being treated for wounds sustained when Bahraini security forces fired on protesters as they headed to Pearl Square the previous day.

US President Barack Obama spoke with the king on Friday evening, condemning the violence and urging the government to show restraint. Obama said the stability of Bahrain, next to Saudi Arabia, depended upon respect for the rights of its people, according to the White House.

The government is led by the Sunni Muslim Al Khalifa dynasty, but the majority Shia population has long complained about what it sees as discrimination in access to state jobs, housing and healthcare, a charge the government denies.

The United States and top oil producer Saudi Arabia see Bahrain as a Sunni bulwark against neighbouring Shia regional power Iran.

The spreading contagion of unrest -- particularly worries about its possible effects on the world No 1 oil producer, Saudi Arabia, helped drive Brent crude prices higher this week before other factors caused them to slip on Friday.

It was also a factor in gold prices posting their best weekly performance since December.

## Manmohan

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leadership, led by its Chairman Aravinda Rajkhowa, in New Delhi "had a very good beginning and its future will also be good."

On being told about today's threat to the Congress party by Ulfa's anti-talk Pares Barua faction, the prime minister said those who are "now issuing such threats are away from India and are not aware of the ground realities."

"If they have given threats, necessary steps and precautions will be taken by the agencies concerned but I don't think they will carry it out," he said.

The premier said that the Ulfa chairman had assured him that there would be no such incidents or disturbances during coming assembly elections in Assam.

"Both the government and Ulfa are committed to taking the peace process forward and the process is on to bring other underground outfits of the North East to the negotiating table", he said.



People checking out little magazines at a stall in Amar Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Little magazines in big demand

RAKIB AHAMMED

Huge variety of magazines in the "Little Magazine Chattar" at Amar Ekushey Boi Mela was witnessing a good sale after succeeding to grab attention of readers of all ages.

Bangla Academy authorities have allocated space to set up 30 stalls for displaying the little magazines available in the country.

Stalls displayed little magazines appearing weekly, fortnightly, monthly and quarterly carrying various types of write-ups including poems, stories, novels and articles.

"Several hundred are available in fair out of a total of 500 little magazines in Bangladesh," said Sudipta Sayeed, executive editor of Lok.

Mainly people who are lovers of literature and involved in academic activities or research are the main buyers of the little

magazines, though people of all ages read the magazines.

Mobassher Ali, employee of a private firm, excitedly said he would be buying a large number of little magazines, as he had been a great fan of little magazines since his student years.

Several editors demanded more space for displaying the magazines in the fair premises as they are having space constraints.

Alim, an editor, said the people who are involved in the publication of little magazines consider it a movement.

Some visitors, however, accused the little magazine stalls of selling other books as such trend is ruining the atmosphere of the corner.

Meanwhile, the premises saw a small crowd as the opening match of World Cup Cricket 2011 took off in Mirpur Stadium yesterday afternoon.

## Rahat Fateh Ali charged in India

AFP, New Delhi

India charged a well-known Pakistani singer Rahat Fateh Ali Khan currency violations yesterday after he and his entourage were allegedly caught with \$124,000 in undeclared cash at New Delhi's airport, reports said.

Rahat, a nephew of late Pakistani singing great Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, and his group were boarding a plane to Lahore via Dubai last Sunday when authorities alleged they found the \$124,000 cash in their bags.

Thirty-seven-year-old Khan is accused of carrying undeclared foreign currency in violation of India's Foreign Exchange Management Act and customs rules, the Press Trust of India and other media reported.

Khan's manager Maroof, who goes by one name, faces similar charges, the reports said.

The singer was stopped at the airport and his passport confiscated after performing astring of concerts in India.

According to Indian customs rules, visitors are allowed to carry only \$5,000 in cash in and out of the country.

## Education steps

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many students in qualifying tests, marriage in cases of girls and many being forced by families to get jobs are the major reasons behind students' quitting at the secondary level, observe academicians.

"It's time for the government to identify the causes why so many students drop out," said Rasheda K Choudhury, former education adviser to caretaker government.

Noting that poverty is not the sole cause, she also suggested the government incorporate some education-related questions in the upcoming population and household census.

Rasheda, also the executive director of Campaign for Popular Education, emphasised the importance of classroom learning in rural areas and addressing the security and communication issues for the female students.

# CJ discusses

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its judges and lawyers over dealing with cases.

The meeting decided to suspend Assistant Judge of Barisal Md Ilias Rahman following recommendations by general administration committee of the Supreme Court, meeting sources said.

Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque stressed on amending the rules for smooth and effective functioning of judicial and other related units of the court, added sources.

A five-member body of HC judges, headed by Justice MA Wahhab Miah, prepared the amendments which awaits approval from the next full court meeting.

Different committees of HC judges carried out studies on the rules for over five years for updating the 1973 version.

According to amendment proposals, the CJ will direct judges and lawyers time-to-time as required.

Steps would be taken to install adequate security devices at appropriate places including entry points of HC building.

Any person entering the court premises must switch off mobile phone and has to pass through security checks.

The proposed rules also suggested banning all kinds of processions, slogans and demonstrations in court premises.

Nobody would be allowed to take photograph or make audio records of court's proceedings. However, a judge or staff would be entitled to use voice recording gadget with prior permission.

The rules accommodate publishing daily cause list in the SC website. The bench officers of HC will deliver the following day's list to the bench section before 5:00pm everyday.

All lawyers, staff and any other person present in court must behave in such a manner that the proceedings continue unaffected, proposed the amendments.

Laptop or similar device will be allowed for rendering assistance to the proceedings. Carrying any bag,

umbrella, stick or weapon to the courtroom will be banned.

Smoking, drinking, eating, gossiping and using sound generating device except microphone would be prohibited. A judge would permit any person to take water or medicine considering urgency.

The rules recommended that the office hours of the court staff will be from 9:00am to 5:00pm, which is now from 9:45am to 5:00pm.

Held at the SC's conference room, the meeting started at 10:30pm and continued till 2:00pm.

The CJ asked the judges to note their opinions on the proposed amendments by the end of this week.

Sources said most of the provisions are now followed as tradition which will be included in the rules for giving those a legal shape.

## Body found

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Abu Sayeed of Kishoreganj, around 12:30pm inside the factory. His hands and legs were tied with ropes and was wrapped in a blanket.

Police picked up Mohammad Sayem Miah, owner of Bristi Watch and Company at Champatoli Lane of Chawkbazar, for interrogation.

Sub-Inspector Ekram Hossain of Chawkbazar Police Station said Sayem claimed that he left the factory around 8:00pm Thursday night finishing the day's work and leaving Shah Alam in the factory.

Shah Alam, who had been working at the factory for last two years, used to sleep inside the factory, the SI said.

Sayem told police that he did not go to the factory on Friday as it was the weekend and when he went yesterday morning he found the door of the factory locked from outside.

He later found the body inside the factory breaking the door open with the help of locals.

Police suspected that Shah Alam was strangled to death. They sent the body to Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy.