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Myanmar govt asked to stop HR violation

HR Watch urges Bangladesh to let int'l bodies help refugees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Condemning the recent sectarian violence targeting Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE), a regional civil society network, yesterday called upon the Myanmar government to end "this heinous human rights violation" immediately.

Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch (HRW), an internationally acclaimed rights body, urged the Bangladesh government to withdraw its restrictions on some international organisations providing aid to more than 200,000 Muslim Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar and the adjacent areas.

In a press statement,

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Myanmar probing violence

Envoy tells Hasina

BSS, Dhaka

The Myanmar government has constituted a high-powered investigation commission to probe into the recent sectarian clash in Rakhine state, its ambassador in Dhaka told Prime Minister Sheikh

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



There are several small -- in places deep -- canals at Cox's Bazar beach. They have a strong current during high tide and when it rains. Tourists could drown if they fall in the deeper parts, the way a 13-year-old boy died on Wednesday. The photo was taken from the Laboni point of the beach yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Govt action curtails GB owners' rights

Women leaders slate amendment to ordinance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-six women leaders and professionals yesterday expressed shock over the amendment to the Grameen Bank Ordinance that gave almost absolute powers to the government-appointed chairman to pick a managing director for the Nobel-winning organisation.

"This represents a de facto imposition of government control of the bank; in other words, the poor women, who own 97 percent of the bank, are being deprived of their right to manage their own bank and are being made powerless. This must be stopped at the earliest time," reads the joint statement.

They said the representatives of the 8.4 million women borrowers are on

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

EC sits on redrawing JS seats of Dhaka

Rising city population creates disparity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A proposal to reduce the number of parliamentary constituencies in the capital from 15 to 10 to protect interests of rural areas has been pending as the Election Commission still remains undecided about it.

The past EC led by ATM Shamsul Huda proposed it to prevent the rural areas from

losing parliamentary seats. If boundaries of constituencies are redrawn on the basis of population, the capital will get two or three more seats as its population size is growing fast, the EC had argued.

Before the last delimitation of boundaries in 2008, the number of parliamentary constituencies in the capital was

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

CARETAKER GOVT ISSUE

BNP keeps door open for talks

Fresh agitation likely next month

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The BNP-led opposition alliance is likely to announce fresh agitation programmes, including a few hartals, in mid-September but leave room for talks with the govern-

ment on the issue of the reinstatement of the caretaker government system.

The BNP will be executing the agitation programmes to mount pressure on the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Gazipur-4 by-polls on Sept 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

By-elections to Gazipur-4 parliamentary constituency will be held on September 30, the Election Commission announced yesterday.

Declaring the schedule at a press briefing at the EC Secretariat, Chief

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



This image released by Nasa shows tracks made by Curiosity's tires during its first test drive as seen by Navcam on board Mars rover Curiosity on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Mars rover makes first test drive

AFP, Los Angeles

Nasa's Mars rover Curiosity on Wednesday made its first test drive, leaving wheel tracks near its landing spot -- now dubbed "Bradbury Landing" in honour of late science fiction author Ray Bradbury.

"Curiosity today had its first successful drive on Mars. We have a fully functioning mobility system on our rover," said Matt Haverly, the lead rover planner at Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California.

The \$2.5 billion craft -- which landed in Gale Crater on the Red Planet on August 6 -- drove about four meters (yards) forward, before turning right at a 90 degree angle and moving backwards a few meters.

"This placed the rover roughly 20 feet (6 meters) from the spot

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

COALGATE SCAM

Indian parliament chaos continues

Sonia talks tough on PM's resignation; all-party meeting on Monday

STAR REPORT

Indian parliament was disrupted for the third day yesterday as the opposition insisted on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's resignation over the CAG report on alleged faulty allocation of coal blocks, even as an all-party meeting called on Monday held out hope of the ending the logjam.

As the ruling Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) stuck to their positions, back channel talks were on to end the stand off, government sources said.

The sources said there was hope of the all party meeting called by Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar on Monday ending the impasse and a solution being worked out.

In the morning, Meira Kumar had held an informal meeting in her chamber. The BJP did not attend.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Hamid Ansari too called a meeting in his chamber to try and end the impasse in the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Dhaka among 9 cities at serious flood risk: Study

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka is the second most vulnerable to coastal flooding among nine major such risky cities of the world, according to a recent study.

Among the nine cities, Shanghai is the most vulnerable to destruction from serious flooding. Dhaka is also highly vulnerable because it is frequently hit by tropical cyclones and floods, yet it has few defences in place, the study says.

Osaka is the least vulnerable city out of the nine.

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TEESTA ISSUE

Indian FM to talk to Mamata

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India's External Affairs Minister SM Krishna is expected to meet West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and other leaders of the ruling Trinamool Congress in Kolkata to discuss the proposed Teesta water

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ETHNIC CLASHES OVER LAND USE

52 Kenyans hacked, burned to death

AFP, Nairobi

At least 52 Kenyans were hacked or burnt to death in ethnic clashes between two rival groups, the worst single attack since deadly post-election violence four years ago, police said Wednesday.

Police revised an earlier death toll of 48 after several people died of injuries sustained during the attack.

"Four more people have died, in addition

tion to the 48 who died on the spot," said regional deputy police chief Joseph Kitur.

Speaking earlier, Kitur said of the attack, which took place late Tuesday between the Pokomo and Orma peoples in the rural Tana River district: "It is a very bad incident.... They include 31 women, 11 children and six men."

"34 were hacked to death and 14 others

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Inna Lillahe Wa Inna Ilahe Raziun

The family of Late M A Rouf Chowdhury humbly requests all well wishers to attend a Dua (Qulkhani) for his departed soul.

Date : Friday, 24 August

Time : 5 P.M.

Address : House 11, Road 75
Gulshan 2, Dhaka.



Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think it is possible to complete the war crimes trial within this government's tenure?

Yes

No

No Comments

(14%)

(80%)

(6%)

TOTAL VOTES: 178

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Transparency International Bangladesh that the prime minister should take initiatives to ensure security to Limon and his family and exemplary punishment to the perpetrators and compensation to Limon and his family?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT

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PRAYER TIMING			August 24
	Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4:30	5:05	
Juna	12:30	1:15	
Asr	4:45	5:00	
Maghrib	6:33	6:36	
Esha	8:00	8:30	
Source: Islamic Foundation			