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ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN UAE No scope for amnesty after tomorrow

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOLO

As the amnesty declared by the UAE for illegal migrants ends tomorrow, the Bangladesh embassy in Abu Dhabi has directed its illegal expatriates to avail themselves of the opportunity.

The two-month amnesty programme began on December 4 last year to allow the overstaying foreigners to either leave the country without penalty or regularise their visas.

"We have directed the overstaying Bangladeshis to return home or regularise their visas under the amnesty," said Mohammad Nazmul Quanine, Bangladesh ambassador to the UAE.

In November last year, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) government declared the general amnesty, the fourth in its history.

This time around, the total number of Bangladeshi amnesty-seekers may not cross 25,000, though the figure was around 40,500 in 2007, Nazmul told the Gulf News.

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A pedestrian tries to help an elderly person across the road divider on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway near Tongi Bus Stand after he got stuck there. The senior citizen had to cross the road like this as there were no facilities there for pedestrians to cross the busy highway.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



Malala up for Nobel Peace Prize

AFP, Oslo

Malala Yousafzai, the shot Pakistani schoolgirl-turned-icon of Taliban resistance, is among those known to be nominated for this year's Nobel Peace Prize, as the deadline

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PADMA BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION Expert wary of costly alternatives

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Mobilising external resources should be the central element of any Padma bridge financing plan to ensure its implementation without compromising macroeconomic stability, experts said yesterday.

The issue of alternative financing sources for the \$2.9 billion bridge has come to the fore following the government's announcement that it would no longer pursue the \$1.2 billion loan of the World Bank.

Considering alternative sources for funding the country's single largest infrastructure project is nothing new, as many within the government have been airing the idea since the World Bank cancelled its

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funding in June last year.

Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh (PRI), said the first step should be to seek assistance from an important official bilateral source or borrowing from a consortium of official donors.

He thought fund could come from other development partners such as Malaysia and China -- the two countries who showed interest in the project.

The government could borrow some money from the Bangladesh Bank's forex reserves of over \$12 billion.

"But it would not be wise to finance the whole project from the reserves only. A small portion of the fund could come

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Rape victim kills herself

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A rape victim who tried to commit suicide following the sexual assault ultimately lost her battle for life at Rangpur Medical College Hospital early morning yesterday.

The 18-year old girl sustained severe burn injuries after she set herself on fire ten days ago on January 22 -- two days after she was raped by a neighbour.

Relatives brought the girl -- from Pashchim Parul village of Parul union under Pargachha upazila in Rangpur district -- to the hospital the same day.

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Rights situation worsened in 2012

HRW report on Bangladesh cites 'flawed trial', continued impunity, pressure on NGOs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The overall human rights situation in Bangladesh worsened in 2012, said Human Rights Watch (HRW) in a report released yesterday.

The New York-based rights group, in its "2013 World Report", said the government had sought to narrow political and civil society space, continued to shield security forces from prosecution for abuses, failed to investigate disappearances and killings, and announced stringent rules to monitor non-governmental organisations.

In the 665-page report, the HRW assessed progress on human rights during the past year in more than 90 countries, including an analysis of aftermath of the Arab spring.

The report raised questions about the trial process of

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Man kills daughter, himself

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man, apparently unable to bear abject poverty, committed suicide after killing his minor daughter at Dakkhin Khan in the capital yesterday.

Bazlur Rashid, 45, an employee of a clearing and forwarding agency, allegedly killed his daughter Fatema Rashid Barnali, 8, a student of class-III when his wife Nadia Akhter Rina and their elder daughter was out of their home in Ashkona yesterday morning.

Neighbour Nasima Begum told The Daily Star

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Dhaka Gladiators players celebrate the fall of Duronto Rajshahi opener Tamim Iqbal's (L) wicket that propelled them to victory during their BPL match at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

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CLASHES DURING HARTAL 2,400 Jamaat, Shibir men sued in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police filed two cases accusing 2,400 Jamaat-Shibir men in connection with Thursday's clashes between the law enforcers and activists during hartal hours in Bogra.

The cases were filed with Bogra Sadar Police Station on Thursday night for assaulting police, said Riaz Ahmed, inspector (investigation), yesterday.

One of the cases were filed accusing 1,400 activists, mentioning names of 25, in connection with the clash at the town's Shatmatha, said SI Monjurul Islam Monju.

The other case was filed against 1,000 activists, mentioning names of 37, in connection with the clash at Jamil Nagar, he said.

Police had arrested 25 Jamaat-Shibir men till

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TRAIN ROBBERY, KILLING 7 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Government Railway Police (GRP) of Akhaura yesterday picked up seven people for interrogation in connection with the killing and robbery at Titash Commuter Train.

Three passengers were killed and another was injured when a gang of muggers pushed them off the Dhaka-bound running train in Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila early Thursday.

Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge of Akhaura GRP Thana, yesterday said they picked up most of the suspects from Brahmanbaria district.

He, however, declined to divulge their identities for the sake of investigation.

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Blast hits US embassy in Turkey; 2 killed

REUTERS, Ankara

A Turkish security guard was killed and several other people wounded yesterday in a suicide bombing outside the highly-fortified US embassy in Ankara, officials said.

The force of the blast damaged nearby buildings in the upmarket Cankaya neighbourhood where many other state institutions and embassies are also located.

Ankara Governor Alaaddin Yuksel said the attacker was inside US property when

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the explosives were detonated. The blast sent masonry spewing out of the wall of the side entrance, but there did not appear to be any more significant structural damage.

The bomber was also killed.

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone emerged through the main gate of the building, which is surrounded by high walls, shortly after the explosion to address reporters, flanked by a security detail as a Turkish police helicopter hovered overhead.

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's allegation that the agitating non-government teachers are keeping contact with the opposition to pressure home their demands?

Yes (12%)
No (86%)
No Comments (2%)

TOTAL VOTES: 330

TODAY'S POLL
Do you agree with Human Rights Watch that human rights situation worsened in Bangladesh in 2012?

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www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT
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PRAYER TIMING February 2

	Asan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-52	5-56
Esha	7-15	7-45

Sources: Islamic Foundation