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None aware of Rangabali

Star first to reach an island mauled by Cyclone Mahasen

PINAKI ROY and SOHRAB HOSSAIN from Patuakhali

A group of people came forward, eagerness written across their faces, to see the visitors as our boat reached Baro-Baishdia ghat by the Rabanabad river.

For these people, it was the first boat carrying strangers that had come to their shore after Cyclone Mahasen had left their lives in a state of confusion. Baro-Baishdia union, in case you have not heard, is an island under Rangabali upazila and one of the worst hit areas in Patuakhali district.

"Maybe we are the most affected due to Cyclone Mahasen," said Mizanur Rahman, who teaches at Baro-Baishdia junior high girls school. He was among those who welcomed us on Friday afternoon.

The reason for the effusiveness was soon made clear. No one from either government or non-government organisations had visited the place. The journey from Khepupara to Baro-Baishdia, after all, takes around six hours by engine boat through the Andharmanik river and Rabanabad channel, Mizanur Rahman noted. You get the feeling that the teacher is perhaps trying to explain away the absence of those who matter.

And, of course, Mizanur Rahman has his own tale to relate. He has been teaching at the junior girls school where around 200 girls have been studying for the last five years 'without any salary'. And now Mahasen has badly damaged the corrugated tin-roofed school house.

"Let's go, you should see the condition of the school house," he said.

"There is no way the students can come to school if the government does not do something immediately," said

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



People crammed on a launch deck sleep early yesterday with almost no room for more left. Launch services resumed on Friday after three days of suspension due to cyclone Mahasen. The photo was taken when the launch was heading towards the capital from Barisal around 3:00am.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

53 BNP men freed, held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday rearrested 53 mid-level leaders and activists of BNP and its different wings in front of two jails at Kashimpur in Gazipur, soon after they walked out of the jails on bail.

"These 53 people were arrested at Kashimpur and taken to the headquarters of Detective Branch of police on Minto Road in the capital at around 5:00pm," said Jahangir Alam, deputy commissioner (DC) of the DB (South). "Charges against the detainees are being scrutinised."

Those found not suspicious would be freed, he said, adding that all the 53 people had secured bail on Thursday in several cases.

Jail officials said 35 of them were freed

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

AL leader, aide shot dead

STAR REPORT

Unidentified assailants yesterday shot and killed a Union Parishad (UP) chairman and the rider of the motorcycle he was travelling on in Rupsha upazila of Khulna.

The dead were Khan Zahid Hossain, 53, chairman of Fakirhat Sadar UP in Bagerhat district, and also acting general secretary of Fakirhat upazila unit Awami League, and Munna, 28, rider of the motorbike.

Quoting locals, Officer-in-charge of Rupsha Police Station Ashraf Hossain said five criminals intercepted Zahid and the motorcyclist while they reached near Amdabad Government Primary School around 9:45am and opened fire on them. The two died on the spot, reported our Khulna correspondent.

Zahid was going to his UP office on the rented motorcycle from his Khulna city home, the police officer added.

On information, police recovered the bodies and sent those to Khulna Medical College morgue for autopsies.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Saudi woman conquers Everest

BBC ONLINE

A Saudi woman has made history by reaching the summit of the world's highest mountain.

Raha Moharrak, 25, not only became the first Saudi woman to attempt the climb but also the youngest Arab to make it to the top of Everest.

She is part of a four-person expedition that also includes the first Qatari man and the first Palestinian man attempting to reach the summit.

They are trying to raise \$1m (£660,000) for education projects in Nepal.

Originally from Jeddah, Moharrak is a university graduate currently based in Dubai.

Coming from Saudi Arabia - a conservative Muslim country where

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

Moon rocked

CLARA MOSKOWITZ | SPACE.COM

The moon has a new hole on its surface thanks to a boulder that slammed into it in March, creating the biggest explosion scientists have seen on the moon since they started monitoring it.

The meteorite crashed on March 17, slamming into the lunar surface at a mind-boggling 56,000 mph (90,000 kph) and creating a new crater 65 feet wide (20 meters). The crash sparked a bright flash of light that would have been visible to anyone looking at the moon at the time with the naked eye, NASA scientists say.

"On March 17, 2013, an object about the size of a small boulder hit the lunar surface in Mare Imbrium," Bill Cooke of NASA's Meteoroid

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The Daily Star



Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think it is justified for the ruling Awami League to keep urging the main opposition BNP to sit for dialogue but not to formally invite it to talks?

Yes (16%)
No (84%)

TOTAL VOTES: 229

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think BNP is joining the Jatiya Sansad session just to save their membership?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT
facebook.com/dailystarnews

PRAYER TIMING May 19

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

A man looking at the list of Rana Plaza disaster victims being treated at the Pangu Hospital in the capital yesterday. Dual amputee Rebecca, inset, crying on her hospital bed.

Looking down the barrel

Injured in Rana Plaza collapse struggles to cope with changed reality with pain, tears

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rana Plaza survivor Rebecca wailed in pain from her amputated leg and foot as she asked for her mother.

Among the seven from her extended family working in the fac-

tory, only the 22-year old working on the fifth floor was rescued from the collapsed building and taken to the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation in Savar. Rebecca's cousin Rezaul's legless and decapitated body was

recovered, while the rest remained missing including her mother Chan Banu.

Rebecca underwent three surgeries on her left leg and two on her right foot to prevent gangrene infections.

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