City

#### Hudhud hammers India's east coast

Andhra Pradesh worst hit; 5 killed despite major evacuation effort

AGENCIES

Cyclone Hudhud blasted India's eastern seaboard on Sunday with gusts of up to 195 kilometres an hour, uprooting trees, damaging buildings and killing at least five people despite a major evacuation effort.

The port city of Visakhapatnam, home to two million people and a major naval base, was hammered as the cyclone made landfall, unleashing the huge destructive force it had sucked up from the warm waters of the Bay of Bengal.

The very severe cyclonic storm made landfall in Visakhapatnam before noon. The gale, accompanied by heavy downpour, resulted in trees being uprooted and roofs of thatched huts and sheds being swept away.

Normal life was thrown completely out of gear as winds with a speed of 170 to 180 kmph battered Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts.

The chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, the state that bore the brunt of Hudhud's onslaught, said the extent of damage would only become known after the storm abates. The low toll reported so far followed an operation to evacuate more than 150,000 people to minimise the risk to life from Hudhud - similar in size and power to cyclone Phailin that struck the area exactly a year ago.

While authorities in Andhra Pradesh evacuated 90,013 people across the four districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhaptnam and East Godavari, about 68,000 people were evacuated from coastal districts of Odisha.

The evacuation effort was comparable to one preceding Cyclone Phailin, credited with minimising fatalities to 53. When a huge storm hit the same area 15 years ago, 10,000 people died.

In Delhi, IMD Director General Laxman Singh Rathore said that "Due to the hilly topography, the cyclone's intensity will reduce in next six hours and further reduce in next 12 hours. However, the area (Vizag) will experience heavy to very heavy rainfall for the next three days."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Waves pound the shore at Patenga in Chittagong yesterday as cyclone Hudhud makes landfall over India's eastern seaboard.

# Election project may lose fund

Foreign assistance being reviewed after one-sided Jan 5 polls

Pankaj Karmakar

International donors plan to reduce financial assistance to the Election Commission following the "one-sided" parliamentary polls on January 5 and the subsequent "controversial" upazila elections.

The assistance comes through the five-year Strengthening Election Management in Bangladesh (SEMB) project administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with financial cooperation from the European Union (EU), the UKaid and the USAID.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

## Woman held at DMCH with sister's baby

Hospital authorities sue her 'for stealing' STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman was detained at Dhaka Medical College Hospital while trying to sneak out of the hospital with her sister's newborn yesterday.

The DMCH authorities filed a case against Sumi, 18, with Shahbagh Police Station under the antihuman trafficking law.

Sumi's sister Asma, 25, was admitted to the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

#### Rohingya refugees trafficked to Thailand

Thai police detain 53 at rubber plantation

AFP, Bangkok

People-smugglers kidnapped dozens of Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh after duping them with fake job offers, and trafficked them to a rubber plantation in southern Thailand, officials said yesterday.

The 53 men -- mostly Rohingya refugees from Myanmar but also including Bangladeshi citizens -- were found on Saturday on the plantation in Takua Pa district in the southern Thai coastal province of Phang Nga.

"Two Thai men have been charged with

human trafficking," Nappadon Thiraprawat of Takua Pa police told AFP.

The group will be treated as victims of trafficking rather than as illegal immigrants, he added, after interviews revealed they had been kidnapped and put on a boat south.

A local official close to the case said most of the men were abducted around a week ago from a Bangladesh coastal area which is home to a large number of Rohingya Muslim refugees from neighbouring Myanmar.

Many thought they were being recruited SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

# Algerian national killed Zubair

Detectives say about 'drowning' in Uttara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Algerian national Abuubaida Kadir, who initially provided law enforcers with the details of Zubair's drowning in an Uttara pond, actually killed the teenager, detectives claimed yesterday.

"He [Kadir] tried to molest Zubair when they were swimming in the pond. As the boy resisted and jostled for escaping, he plunged the teenager into the water," said Shaikh Nazmul Alam, deputy commissioner of Detective Branch (north division), Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Briefing reporters at the DMP media centre, the DB official said the 46-year-old Algerian is "a child molester and SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



A train whizzes through a kitchen market set up illegally on the rail lines in the capital's Jurain yesterday. Four people were killed by a train at a similar makeshift market in Karwan Bazar on September 11. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



## Yes (25%) No (75%) TOTAL VOTES: 241 TODAY'S POLL

Do you think that
Bangladesh is really ready
to face the deadly Ebola
virus in the country?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING October 13

Azan Jamaat
Fazr 4-45 5-20
Zohr 12-45 1-15
Asr 4-15 4-30
Maghrib 4-45 5-50
Esha 7-15 7-45
Source: Islamic Foundation

# Cuba leads fight against Ebola

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

As the official number of Ebola deaths in west Africa's crisis topped 4,000 last week – experts say the actual figure is at least twice as high – the UN issued a stark call to arms.

Even to simply slow down the rate of infection, the international humanitarian effort would have to increase massively, warned UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

"We need a 20-fold resource mobilisation," he said. "We need at least a 20-fold surge in assistance – mobile laboratories, vehicles, helicopters, protective equipment, trained medical personnel, and medevac capacities."

But big hitters such as China or Brazil, or former colonial powers such France and the UK, have not been stepping up to the plate.

Instead, the single biggest medical force on the Ebola frontline has been a small island: Cuba.

That a nation of 11 million people, with a GDP of \$6,051 per capita, is leading the effort says much of the international response.

A brigade of 165 Cuban health workers arrived in Sierra Leone last week, the first batch of a total of 461. In sharp contrast, western governments have appeared more focused on stopping the epidemic at their borders than actually stemming it in west Africa.

It's not the first time Cuba has played an outsized role in a major disaster.

Cuba provided the largest medical contingent after the Haiti earthquake disaster in SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

### Women appreciate art more than men

MAIL ONLINE

The sexes have very different reactions when they look at art, researchers have found.

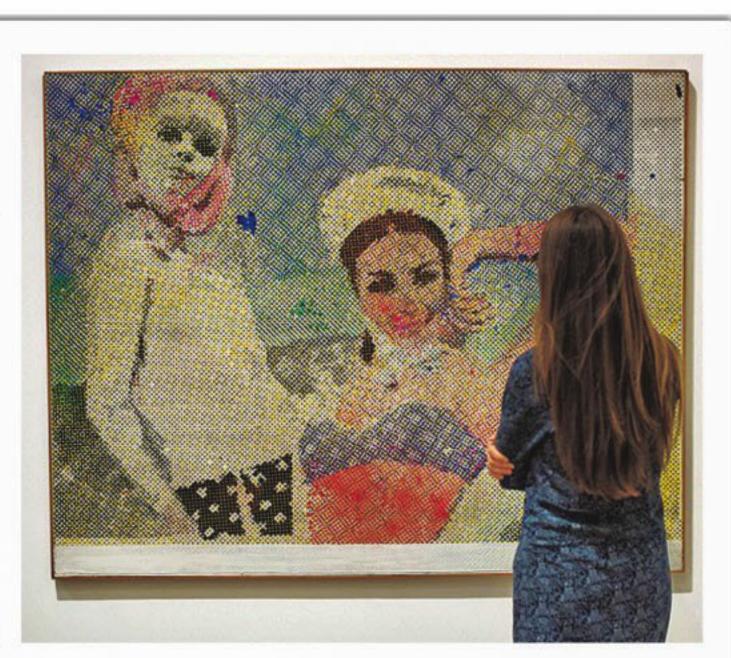
They say that in fact, women appreciate art far more. Men on the other hand, focus more on the artist's background and authenticity.

Researchers made 518 people look at two unfamiliar paintings with made-up biographies of the artist.

Some participants read a bio that characterised the artist as authentic -- in other words, a lifelong painter who creates unique work.

Others read a bio that characterised the artist as an ordinary painter who took up the craft only recently.

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Excellency

Madam Speaker