



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

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Your Right to Know

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TOP QUOTE

"I couldn't even sleep properly for five minutes on Friday night. My body was wincing with pain."

IMRUL KAYES

WHILE DESCRIBING HOW HE HAD TO BATTLE MUSCLE CRAMPS EN ROUTE TO HIS 150 YESTERDAY

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**LET JOURNALISM THRIVE!** Press Freedom Day focuses on gender equality and media safety in digital age **PAGE 6**

**LENIN'S 'TRUE LOVE'** The face of the woman the communist leader loved most is revealed **PAGE 8**

**GOODBYE KING** R&B legend Ben E King, best known for classic "Stand by Me", dies at 76 **PAGE 9**

## Mass grave in Thai jungle

### Bangladeshi among two rescued trafficking victims; 26 bodies exhumed from the site described as 'abandoned prison camp'

**STAR REPORT**

Authorities in Thailand have found 32 graves suspected to be of trafficked migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh in an abandoned jungle camp.

The discovery made in Sadao district of Songkhla province comes as Thailand's junta cracks down on human trafficking

following accusations that officials have been complicit in the illegal trade.

The area bordering Malaysia is notorious for its network of secret camps where smuggled migrants are held, usually against their will, until relatives pay up hefty ransoms.

"There are 32 graves," Sathit Thamsuwan, a rescue worker, who was at the scene soon

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## 23 rescued in Ctg from traffickers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday rescued 23 fortune seekers who were about to be trafficked to Malaysia from the port city and Banshkhalia upazila.

Three alleged members of a human trafficking gang were also arrested.

Acting on a tip-off, a Chittagong Metropolitan Police team raided the city's Badurtala area around 2:30am and rescued 11 Malaysia-bound people from a building.

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What you read about human trafficking from Bangladesh to Malaysia by transnational syndicates is just the tip of the iceberg. Star, after an investigation of over three months, will shed light on a crime that beats the horror



Bags containing skeletons dug out from shallow graves lay on the ground at an abandoned jungle camp of human traffickers in Sadao of Thailand's Songkhla province bordering Malaysia yesterday. The badly decayed remains, inset, of at least three more migrants thought to be from Myanmar or Bangladesh.

PHOTO: AFP

## Free after nine months in hell

PHUKET WAN, Thailand

Anuzar, a Bangladeshi survivor of a camp for human trafficking victims in the jungle of southern Thailand, had been kidnapped from Cox's Bazar and held captive for nine months.

The 28-year-old, in his hospital bed in the southern town of Pedang Besar, on Friday said he had no money to pay the ransom.

"I want my mother and brother to know I am alive," he said. "I was never able to contact them and ask them to pay my ransom."

Thai authorities on Friday raided the large camp, hidden in a dense jungle in Songkhla

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## Hasina 'dispels' Ban's worry

### BNP wants fresh city polls; US for free probe into irregularities

**STAR REPORT**

Irregularities in last week's city corporation polls and BNP's decision to boycott the election halfway into the voting featured prominently in the telephone conversation between UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Both the issues also came up in the series of meetings held between visiting US diplomats and top Bangladeshi politicians over the last two days.

The UN chief during the telephone call to the prime minister on Friday said BNP's participation in the recently held Dhaka and Chittagong city polls was relieving, but expressed concern over the party's withdrawal from the election midway through the polls, report news agencies.

Sheikh Hasina told the UN secretary general that on an average over 44 percent voter exercised their franchise and the number of votes cast in the polls was not abnormal. There was no scope to raise any question over the credibility of voting, she added.

The prime minister mentioned that the Election Commission announced the results discarding five percent of the votes on which there were some allegations. "There

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## NEWS ANALYSIS EC is not a postbox

**SHAKHAWAT LITON**

As the chief election commissioner, Justice MA Aziz had once compared the Election Commission's task with that of a "postbox."

The returning officers send copies of consolidated results to the EC which then publishes those in the official gazette. So, "The Election Commission acts just like a 'postbox,'" Aziz had argued in April 2006.

If we agree with Aziz's "postbox" analogy then we can say the present EC led by Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad is a postbox.

The returning officers of the three city polls sent the consolidated results to the EC and it published them in the official gazette.

In so doing, the EC has buried all complaints about ballot stuffing and ousting of polling agents of rival candidates by Awami League men.

So is that all the EC can do, just publish the results sent by returning officers in the official gazette or is there anything it can do if the polls are not held in a free and fair manner?

The truth is the EC has ample powers to ensure a free and fair election. The Constitution provides it with the powers.

Constitution expert and former attorney general

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**KEEP ON ROLLIN':** Tamim Iqbal launched seven sixes on his way to 206, the highest Test score by a Bangladeshi, and also set a record partnership with Imrul Kayes for the opening stand as the Tigers drew a Test against Pakistan for the first time ever, at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## AS SWEET AS WIN

### Tamim, Kayes topple cricket records as Bangladesh hold Pakistan to a fabulous draw

AL-AMIN from Khulna

If you are a Bangladesh cricket fan, keep on dreaming with a posse of Tigers for whom nothing is impossible. They now are the bad boys turned dancehall cutpurses, captivating the world audience with their new brand of cricket.

This is also a set of Tigers that hardly chose to sit on the laurels of an immediate past success, but looked deter-

mined to break one barrier after another.

On Saturday, they floored a few records associated with world's best batsmen and teams as well to register their maiden draw in Test against Pakistan after eight defeats. And those, who were in attendance at the Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium in Khulna for five dramatic days, will cherish the second of the two double-centuries -- an imperious

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