



# The Daily Star

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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

SHOUT

## LOOKING FOR A HERO?

Kadar's refusal to buckle under pressure from cops certainly makes him one

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## ISIS TAKES PALMYRA

Experts say two thousand-year-old sites and artefacts are at stake

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# No more pushback

### Amid int'l pressure, Malaysia, Indonesia agree to give temporary shelter to migrants drifting at sea; 433 more rescued off Indonesia

AGENCIES

Amid growing pressure from the international community, Malaysia and Indonesia have finally decided to give temporary shelter to around 7,000 people drifting in the sea.

The decision came hours after at least 433 starving Rohingya and Bangladeshi boatpeople were rescued off Indonesia early yesterday.

Meanwhile, Myanmar for the first time has offered to help ease a regional migrant crisis blamed in part on its treatment of the ethnic Rohingya minority, and said it would join the meeting on "irregular migration" in Bangkok on May 29.

The developments follow urgent appeals from UN Chief Ban Ki-moon, global rights bodies and the US last week to rescue and give shelter to Rohingya and Bangladeshi

boatpeople.

Nearly 3,000 Rohingyas and Bangladeshis were either rescued or they swam to the shores of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand in recent weeks.

However, many boats crammed with people were turned away, drawing huge criticism from the international community.

The boats, destined for Thailand and Malaysia, were abandoned by the human traffickers following Thailand's crackdown on them since early this month.

The country launched the crackdown after mass graves were discovered in its coastal jungles where traffickers held many migrants hostage for ransom.

**YESTERDAY'S RESCUES**

The first batch of 102 migrants was brought to shore in East Aceh of Indonesia around

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Rohingya migrants on a boat off the coast near the city of Geulumpang in Indonesia's Aceh province before being rescued yesterday. Hundreds of starving people were rescued off Indonesia as Myanmar for the first time offered to help ease a regional migrant crisis blamed in part on its treatment of the Rohingya.

PHOTO: AFP

## Rescue comes after 4-month ordeal at sea

AFP, Geulumpang, Indonesia

Fisherman Muchtar Ali broke down in tears when he set eyes on the overcrowded boat carrying desperate, starving Rohingyas off the coast of Indonesia before going to the rescue of a vessel that has become emblematic of Asia's human-trafficking crisis.

"I was speechless," Ali told AFP, recalling the moment he saw the boatload of more than 400 Muslim migrants who are

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# Land filling a major hurdle

### \$1b needed to fill low-lying land at Maheshkhali energy hub to make it ready for setting up power plants

SHARIER KHAN

The government's bid to turn Maheshkhali into the top energy hub may fail to take off in time as policymakers have overlooked how the island's low-lying land will be filled before machines for power plants are installed.

Project developers may need to fill up eight to 10 metres of land across vast areas of the island, said officials of the Power Development Board (PDB) and Electricity

Generation Company of Bangladesh (EGCB). The PDB and EGCB have taken initiatives to install several power plants there with 1,300 megawatt capacity.

The PDB has acquired 5,500 acres of land while the EGCB is seeking to acquire 1,560 acres.

"We will not need to fill up all the land. But we will need to fill up enough to set up the power units. Setting up our power plant there is not going to be easy," said a high official of the EGCB.

And there is no easy-to-get source of dirt around the island for filling land, except for sand from the Bay of Bengal.

"But we have not yet thought of turning to the Bay of Bengal for this," the EGCB official pointed out.

Right now the country's only mega coal power project to have secured financing is the \$4.5 billion 1,200MW Matarbari power project. It is close to Maheshkhali.

The Japan International Cooperation

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# India coming in full strength

STAR SPORTS DESK

Bangladesh cricket is set to brace itself for yet another exciting home challenge after India announced full strength sides for the one-off Test and three ODIs against the Tigers on Wednesday.

Virat Kohli will lead the Indian Test side in the lone game that starts at Fatullah on June 10. Mahendra Singh Dhoni will captain the one-day side, burying speculations that some key members of the India team who have been on the

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MS Dhoni Virat Kohli

## IO faces music

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War crimes convicts Mahidur Rahman and Afsar Hossain Chutu had served lifetime imprisonment under the Collaborators Act-1972 for killing four people in Chapainawabganj during the Liberation War.

But Investigation Officer ZM Altafur Rahman brought the same charge against Mahidur and Afsar in a case filed under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act-1973, concealing the information of the earlier punishment. This was revealed during the trial, irking the International Crimes

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Mahidur Rahman getting into a prison van after the International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday sentenced him to jail until death for the crimes against humanity he had committed during the Liberation War.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# WAR CRIMES 1971 Mahidur, Afsar jailed till death

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

When the night had faded into the pale light of dawn on October 6, 1971, Mahidur Rahman and Ashraf Hossain Chutu with hundreds of armed Razakars and Pakistani army launched an extensive hunt in four remote villages under Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj against pro-liberation people.

They dragged 17 civilians out of their homes into a field of Binodpur High School in Shibganj. Around 9:30am, Mahidur and Ashraf gunned 12 of them with their own rifles. Only five managed to escape with bullet wounds.

They did not stop there. Capturing 22 more innocent men from Chandshikari village of Shibganj, they tortured them throughout the whole night to extract information about freedom fighters.

The following day, the duo along with other Razakars queued 15 of them up and shot 12 of them dead in an open

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TOP QUOTE

"The attitude of political parties needs to change for political empowerment of women."

SPEAKER SHIRIN SHARM CHAUDHURY AT THE 26TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR IN THE CITY

## WHAT'S EID WITHOUT COLOURS?

What makes Eid such a vibrant and colourful festival? You do, of course! How you look plays an integral role in defining Eid. To make sure you don't miss out on making the most of this Eid, look out for your copy of Star Eid Fashion Magazine, the most comprehensive guide to all things fashionable. Also, don't miss this opportunity to show how your brand celebrates Eid in style by showcasing your products in the **Star Eid Fashion Magazine**

Participants nationwide are requested to send their selected outfits and accessories for the album.

Attention: Designers & Boutiques



## The Daily Star

### Criteria for Participation:

1. Materials used should be produced locally.
2. All submissions must be accompanied by, name of designer, address, contact no, price and a short description of the product. (either in English or Bangla)
3. Designs should be original and suitable for the weather conditions.
4. The attires and accessories sent for the album will be returned.
5. Entry fee per submission is Tk. 500 (minimum 6 entries for each participating house)

Last Date of Submission 25 May, 2015

Contact: For submission of products and advertisement Sayeed Ahmed Chowdhury: 01711623905 Kamal Hossain: 01681014920