



**SALAHUDDIN'S DILEMMA**

A dead man walking in far away Shillong, will he open his mouth or will he not?

PAGE 14

**THE FILIBUSTER**

US senator Rand Paul delivers 10-hour speech seeking to end mass surveillance

PAGE 9

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**  
**A ray of hope for boatpeople**

AGENCIES

The United States yesterday said it was willing to take in Rohingya refugees as Malaysia ordered search and rescue operations for the "migrant boats" in the sea.

Going even further, some Malaysian restaurant owners wished to employ the boatpeople rescued or those drifting at sea.

Australia and Thailand, however, ruled out accepting the boatpeople.

The developments come as human trafficking or irregular migration via the sea has emerged as a serious problem in the region.

Thailand had discovered mass graves in its jungle camps and started a drive against the human traffickers in early May. Since then, boats crammed with an estimated 6,000-7,000 people have been adrift at sea.

Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia -- where some 3,000 Rohingyas and Bangladeshis were rescued or they had swum to the shores in the last two weeks -- have also been turning the boats away.

However, following huge criticism from the international community, Malaysia and Indonesia agreed to take in the migrants and provide them with temporary shelters.

**US TO RESETTLE ROHINGYAS**

The US is willing to take in Rohingya refugees as part of MORE STORIES ON PAGE 2 SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Rohingya men are being transported on a truck in Langsa, Aceh, after they were rescued by Indonesian fishermen off the eastern coast of Aceh on Wednesday. Another photo on page 2.

**Govt to bring Bangladeshi victims home**

Says home boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said the government would bring back Bangladeshi human trafficking victims coordinating with the countries concerned.

"Our navy and coast guards are ready to bring them as per our capacity," he said at a meet the press programme organised by Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters' Forum (BSRF) at the secretariat's media centre.

"This work [bringing back] must be done with the help of Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. It is not possible to do the job alone as they [the Bangladeshis] have been inside their [the three countries'] maritime boundaries," the minister said.

PHOTO: AFP

**Fake govt staffs being trafficked**

Kamal says many officials involved, vows to act tough

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When all eyes are on human trafficking by sea, a new trick of smuggling people into Europe in the guise of government officials has been exposed.

Official passports, government permissions and orders were arranged for the foreign trips of three Bangladeshis. Everything was managed so well that even the immigration police couldn't detect the forgery.

The fraud was exposed by a letter of the Turkish government to the Bangladesh foreign ministry, said home ministry sources.

The letter named three people for allegedly carrying fake official passports. It also included their passport numbers.

The immigration and passport department probed the matter and found the allegation to be true. Initially, four of its officials and staff were suspended for "verifying" the passports and affixing signatures to them.

The four are Munshi Mueed Ikram, director at the Department of Immigration and Passports (DIP); SM Shahjahan, assistant director; Shahjahan Miah, senior assistant; and M Saiful Islam.

In the suspension letters, the DIP said such an incident has tarnished the country's image abroad. The department also formed an inquiry committee to find out

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

**DHAKA-GUWAHATI BUS LINK**  
**Trial run today**

Hasina, Modi may flag off the service next month

PANKAJ KARMAKAR and M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The direct bus service between Dhaka and Guwahati, expected to start next month, will promote tourism right away and business in future.

For a trial run, a bus with officials of different ministries will leave for Guwahati today through Tamabil of Sylhet and then through Shillong of Meghalaya to reach Guwahati in Assam. Officials will check the overall infrastructure on the over 550km route.

Obaidul Quader, road transport and bridges minister, and Pankaj Saran, Indian high commissioner in Bangladesh, are expected to launch the trial service this afternoon.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi will inaugurate the third bus service between the two countries during Modi's visit to Dhaka early next month, Obaidul Quader told The Daily Star yesterday.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



**Salahuddin's condition worsens; moved to CCU**

Say family members

RASHIDUL HASAN and PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

Senior BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed was admitted to the coronary care unit of a specialised health institute in India's Shillong, as his condition deteriorated due to multiple health complications early yesterday, said his family members.

"He [Salahuddin] is under constant watch of doctors at the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences [NEIGRIHM] as his condition was worsening," BNP Assistant Office

Secretary Abdul Latif Jony told this correspondent yesterday, quoting Salahuddin's wife Hasina Ahmed.

Salahuddin, joint secretary general of the BNP, was shifted to the specialised hospital on Wednesday evening following recommendations of a medical board of Shillong Civil Hospital.

The BNP leader was admitted to the civil hospital on May 11 after police found him loitering in "an unbalanced mental state" in Golf Link area of Shillong, the capital of Indian state of Meghalaya. They arrested

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



**MG!**

"For its own sake, the BNP should dissolve its central committee and remove Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman from the party leadership."

AWAMI LEAGUE PUBLICITY AFFAIRS SECRETARY  
**HASAN MAHMUD**  
AT A DISCUSSION AT JATIYA PRESS CLUB

**PM's PROGRAMME Star invited, then shown the door**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A reporter of The Daily Star was denied entry to a programme organised yesterday to felicitate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for finalising the Land Boundary Agreement with India.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) organised the event at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) and invited the newspaper to cover it. Accordingly, the reporter arrived at the venue at 2:40pm, a good 50 minutes ahead of the programme's scheduled start.

At the first security check point, the reporter learnt that his and his newspaper's names were not included in the extensive media list.

Upon seeing the personalised invitation card from the FBCCI, an official of the Special Branch (SB) let him in.

When the reporter proceeded toward the final check point inside the BICC, a Special Security Force officer first cleared him for entry into the hall. However, she asked the reporter to leave behind his notepad; he would not be allowed in with a diary.

The SSF officer remained firm on her decision and called in an SB officer to

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

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