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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

## Star Showbiz



### STAR CONVERSATION

Emerging playwright Rubayet Ahmed says people and nature inspire him to write

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### BIN LADEN DOCUMENTS

The Global terror leader had 'warned jihadists not to form ISIS'

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## Pressure on Myanmar

### US wants citizenship for Rohingyas; EU calls for end to persecution; '200 Bengali' boatpeople rescued; Washington readies air patrol

AGENCIES

Myanmar's navy has brought ashore 200 "Bengali boatpeople" found off its coast, after its military chief said some of the thousands of migrants that have landed in Malaysia and Indonesia this month are pretending to be Rohingya Muslims to get UN aid.

In response, a senior US official said yesterday that the majority of the more than 3,000 migrants that have come ashore are Rohingyas fleeing desperate conditions in Rakhine State in western Myanmar.

The diplomat also urged Myanmar to extend "citizenship" to the oppressed Rohingya minority to address an ongoing migrant crisis that has hit Southeast Asia, leaving thousands stranded at sea.

Myanmar, where many of the migrants start their journey, has faced increasing international pressure to stem the exodus from its shores and deliver urgent humanitarian relief to thousands still trapped at sea.

The widespread persecution of the impoverished Muslim community in Myanmar's western Rakhine state is one of the primary causes for the current crisis, alongside growing numbers trying to escape poverty in neighbouring Bangladesh.

MORE STORIES ON PAGE 2

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Rohingya men sit in lines on Thursday in a newly set up confinement area situated amid a palm oil plantation at Bayeun after more than 400 Rohingyas and Bangladeshis were rescued by Indonesian fishermen off the coast of Aceh on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## On the trail of traffickers

As the trade in human beings becomes more and more profitable, the BBC's South East Asia correspondent Jonathan Head discovers that entire communities in Thailand are helping the traffickers. Following is his findings in his words:

Earlier this month, I accompanied a group of Thai volunteers through the steamy mangrove forest of an island on the Andaman coast. They were following up hazy reports of unmarked graves on the island; it was known to have been used by traffickers to hold large groups of migrants while they waited for transport south towards the Malaysian border.

They dug down deep into the waterlogged soil, before the first fragments of bone appeared. Then they pulled at a soggy wet cloth. It was a dress. Inside were the yellowing bones of a woman. Who she was, or how she died, we still do not know. But it is almost certain she was one of the migrants.

She must have endured a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



## Bush more hated than Stalin

### Says study on heroes, villains of history

MAIL ONLINE

George W Bush has gone down in history as one of the world's most evil people, just behind Adolf Hitler and Osama bin Laden.

The former president beat Stalin, Mao and Lenin

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## Rare suicide blast at Saudi mosque

### Up to 22 killed, dozens injured; incident risks Shia-Sunni tensions; IS claims responsibility

AGENCIES

A suicide attacker detonated a bomb at a Shiite mosque in Sunni-ruled Saudi Arabia yesterday, killing and wounding several people in an assault that threatens to fan sectarian tensions.

The interior ministry said a suicide bomber detonated a bomb at the mosque in Kudeih, in the Shia-majority city of Qatif, the official SPA news agency reported.

"An individual detonated a bomb he was wearing under his clothes during Friday prayers at Ali Ibn Abi Taleb mosque in Kudeih in Qatif," the ministry spokesman said in a statement.

He did not give a specific casualty toll, only that several people were killed and wounded.

A hospital official told Reuters by telephone that "around 20 people" were killed in the attack and more than 50 were under treatment at the hospital, some of them suffering from serious injuries. He said that a number of other people had been treated and sent home.

Shia activists and witnesses gave conflicting tolls, with one saying four worshippers were killed and others speaking of 22 dead.

The Islamic State (IS) militants claimed responsibility for the bombing, BBC reported. This is the first bomb attack to target Shia Muslims in Saudi Arabia since November when gunmen killed at least eight people in an attack on a Shia religious anniversary celebration.

News websites in eastern Saudi Arabia

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## Gang rape in microbus

### Indigenous woman turns to police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An indigenous woman was gang-raped inside a running microbus in the capital's Kuril area Thursday night. The incident happened at a time when the whole country is still reeling from the shock of sexual assault on women during Pahela Baishakh celebrations.

The 21-year-old Garo woman was forcibly bundled into the microbus by five men from Kuril Bus Stand area, where she was waiting to catch a bus for returning to her

SS PAGE 2 COL 2

## MURDER OF BLOGGERS

## Ensure justice, stop the crime

### World's top 150 writers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 150 writers from around the world, including Margaret Atwood, Salman Rushdie, Yann Martel and Colm Toibin, have called on the Bangladesh government to bring the killers of bloggers Ananta, Oyasiqur and Avijit to justice.

In an open letter run yesterday by the British daily The Guardian, they condemned the three murders.

"We, the undersigned writers, and PEN members, come together to condemn the horrific deaths of our colleagues Ananta Bijoy Das, Oyasiqur Rahman Babu and Avijit Roy, three secular bloggers who have been brutally murdered on the streets of Bangladesh in the last three months," the letter said.

The writers urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her government to do all in their power to ensure that such tragic events are not repeated and the perpetrators are brought to justice.

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SEE ONLINE FOR THE LIST OF UNDERSIGNED WRITERS



## TOP QUOTE

"Extremists are very strong in terms of using new technology. Banning them will not be enough; the government must arrest them."

AWAMI LEAGUE LAWMAKER SURANJIT SENGUPTA AT A DISCUSSION IN THE CAPITAL

## DHAKA MAYORS DO YOU SEE IT?



Large skips are placed on the busy Rokeya Sarani in the capital's Taltala area, obstructing traffic and spreading a stench in the area. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

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