



RECALLING THE REBEL

Eminent personalities reflect on the life and works of the national poet

PAGE 9

JAILED FOR FRAUD

Ex-Israeli PM Ehud Olmert gets eight months in prison, pending appeal

PAGE 8

139 graves, 28 torture camps

After shocking discovery, Malaysian PM calls for global support over migrant crisis

AGENCIES

Malaysian police said yesterday they had found 139 grave sites and 28 abandoned detention camps used by people-smugglers and capable of housing hundreds, laying bare the grim extent of the region's migrant crisis.

National police chief Khalid Abu Bakar said it remained unclear how many bodies were buried in the inaccessible area of mountainous jungle along the Thai border.

This is the first time Malaysia unearthed such graves.

"It's a very sad scene... To us even one is serious and we have found 139," Malaysia's Inspector General of Police, Khalid Abu Bakar, told reporters in the northern state of Perlis. "We are working closely with our counterparts in Thailand. We will find the people who did this," he added.

The grisly find follows the discovery of similar shallow graves on the Thai side of the border earlier this month, which helped trigger a regional crisis. After a crackdown on the camps by Thai authorities, traffickers abandoned thousands of migrants in rickety boats in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea.

"We were shocked by the cruelty," said Khalid, describing conditions at the 28 abandoned camps, scattered along a 50 km (30 mile) stretch of the Thai border, around which the graves were found in an operation that began on May 11.

Past Reuters investigations have shown ransoms demands ranging from \$1,200 to \$1,800, a fortune for impoverished migrants used to living on a MORE ON PAGE 2

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



A Malaysian policeman carries human skeletal remains inside plastic bags exhumed from graves following the discovery of numerous mass grave sites and detention camps near the Malaysia-Thailand border in Wang Kelian yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Deportation within days

Rakhine CM says about 'rescued Bangladeshis' despite Dhaka's request not to take step before verification

STAR REPORT

While a Bangladeshi delegation is still working to verify the nationality of the 208 trafficking victims rescued by Myanmar on Thursday, the chief minister of Rakhine state has said the "Bangladeshi migrants" would be repatriated within days.

Myanmar officials maintain that all the 208 boat people are "Bangladeshis". But Reuters news agency found at least eight of them are Rohingya Muslims, after interviewing a group of victims at Kyauk Taw in Rakhine state where they have been kept.

A six-member delegation -- three each from the Bangladesh embassy in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

UP AGAINST arsenic menace

Grandfather's death prompted him to work for saving lives

SUMAN SAHA

As a Bangladeshi-American entrepreneur, Minhaj Chowdhury has always been aware of arsenic contamination of subterranean water in South Asian countries, especially in India and Bangladesh. After all, it took the life of his grandfather.

The thought of solving the problem always sat at the back of his mind, and is the reason why he chose to major in public health at the Johns Hopkins University in the US.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



BANGABANDHU'S FAMILY Home draws up safety plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has taken a number of steps to ensure foolproof security for the family members of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Besides, they will get overseas treatment and utility services with government expenditure, according to a gazette notification, signed by Senior Home Secretary Mozammel Haq Khan, published yesterday.

Family members of Bangabandhu are now getting protection of Special Security Force (SSF). They also enjoy housing facilities as per a law called "Father of the Nation's Family Members' Security" promulgated in 2009.

The gazette notification will be effective

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Cops capture two IS men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday claimed to have arrested two members of Islamic State (Isis) from the capital's Uttara and Mohammadpur.

The two had been recruited- Aminul Islam Sakib

ing operatives for the militant outfit, police said. Arrested Aminul Islam Beg, 38, a graduate in Computer Science and Engineering from a Malaysian University, is the head of the IT department of a multinational company. His accomplice Sakib bin Kamal, 30, is a former teacher of an English medium school in Dhaka.

Previously, Aminul was a regional co-coordinator of the banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and he accepted the Isis ideologies after going through its publications online, said Monirul Islam, joint commissioner of detective branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

He had been trying to send operatives to Iraq and Syria from Bangladesh, he added.

"Aminul has so far selected 20 people from among the JMB operatives across the country, many of whom are ready to leave the country to join IS in Iraq and Syria," Monirul told a press briefing at the DMP media centre.

Sakib was one of the 20 operatives, said the DB official, adding that Aminul himself was supposed to join the militant group in Syria after sending a good number of operatives there.

The two were paraded before the media.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Pakistani caught in Gazipur

Police say he is ISI agent

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Pakistani citizen Khalid Mehmud, a suspected ISI agent who was arrested in Gazipur on Sunday, will be tried under Bangladesh law, police say.

Arrested under section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code, Mehmud was produced before the Gazipur Judicial Magistrate Court yesterday.

Law enforcers sought a 10-day remand for him in a case filed with Joydebpur Police Station for illegally staying in the country and for creating an unstable situation in the garment factory where he worked, said Khandaker Rezaul Hossain Reza, officer-in-

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Ansarullah outfit banned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry yesterday banned Islamist outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) for its militant and anti-state activities.

The ban, however, will have little impact unless its operatives are arrested and their activities checked.

The group has been banned under the Anti-Terrorist Act, 2013, said a home ministry circular.

Earlier on May 12, the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



A locally-made three-wheeler overloaded with iron rods tootles down the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway in Patia yesterday. Vehicles of this kind are illegal in Bangladesh. These slow-moving vehicles run on highways where heavy vehicles ply at high speed. Yet, nobody seems to care about the dangers they involve.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Act fast with care

HC spurs govt on dealing with rape cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has ordered the government to make sure police accept rape complaints instantly and provide necessary services to complainants without discrimination.

The order came yesterday with reference to delay in recording a case over the gangrape of a Garo woman in the capital.

The court asked the authorities

concerned to order all police stations to record any rape complaint without delay and ensure that services are provided without discrimination on the basis of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.

The home secretary, the inspector general of police, and the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police have been directed to issue a circular in this regard to police stations across the country within a week.

On May 21, a Garo woman was forced into a microbus near Jamuna Future Park and was gangraped at Kuril. The 21-year-old was then dropped off at Jasimuddin Road in Uttara.

According to media reports, police wasted time in recording her complaint and sending her to a victim-support centre.

In response to a writ petition, the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Bangladesh and China recently signed three MoUs, two cooperation agreements and one exchange of notes in the fields of education, media and trade to further boost bilateral ties between the two countries in public and private sectors. The Signing Ceremony was held at Ganobhaban on 24th May 2015 with the gracious presence of Honorable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina and Vice Premier of People's Republic of China H.E. Ms. Liu Yandong.

As a part of this, Southeast University, Bangladesh and Wuhan Textile University, China signed a cooperation agreement in joint program. Vice Chancellor of Southeast University Professor Anwar Hossain and President of Wuhan Textile University Professor Wei Yiliang signed the agreement on behalf of their respective universities.

Congratulations to Southeast University for this outstanding achievement!



Southeast University



TOP QUOTE

"Policemen are on the streets, at every intersection, and patrol the roads, but they failed to protect the girl... the entire nation is ashamed."

SENIOR AWAMI LEAGUE LEADER SURANJIT SENGUPTA AT A DISCUSSION IN THE AUDITORIUM TALKING ABOUT THE RAPE OF A GARO GIRL IN A MICROBUS IN UTTARA