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The photo is quite shocking. The cache of arms and ammunition seized from a convoy of a lawmaker's supporters is good enough to fight a small battle. Interestingly, all these firearms were found to be licensed. The question that springs to mind is why supporters of a political leader need so many arms in a little district like Feni?

SAME OLD FENI

Silent terror reigns supreme as one Hazari replaces another



A file photo shows 26 youths being paraded before the media after their arrest in Feni on June 6. The weapons, including 15 firearms, seized from them are also on display. The Daily Star printed this photo on June 8.

PHOTO: FILE

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE, back from Feni

Think of Feni of the late 1990s. One name will spring to mind: Joyal Hazari. Back then, the name would strike terror into anyone.

After the Awami League took office in 1996, the then Feni-2 AL lawmaker became the district's "emperor," taking everything under his control with the help of his henchmen. Murder, violence, extortion and tender manipulation became a commonplace. In Joyal Hazari's Feni, at least 120 AL and BNP men were killed between 1996 and 2001.

Things started to change for the better ahead of the 2001 polls. Joyal Hazari fled to India on August 17 in the face of an anti-crime drive by the caretaker government. He returned home only

after the election, which his party lost to BNP. The polls defeat brought his downfall.

Fifteen years have passed since then, but people in Feni still live in fear because even as one Hazari fell, another rose. This new Hazari who has allegedly wrested control of the district's crime world is Nizam Hazari, Feni-2 MP and also general secretary of the district AL.

On June 6, the Feni people once again heard the rattling of firearms like that in the late 90s. The recovery of 15 arms by Rab from three vehicles carrying ruling AL men at Lalpur of Feni offered only a glimpse of the situation in the district where, locals say, nothing happens without Nizam's consent.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Gas reserve to last until 2031

Current reserve 14.16 tcf, parliament told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's gas reserves stand at 14.16 trillion cubic feet (tcf) as of June 2015, parliament was told yesterday.

If the current rate of extraction remains unchanged, the reserve would last until 2031, Nasrul Hamid, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, said in reply to lawmakers' queries.

Initially, it was thought that 27.12 billion cubic feet (bcf) gas could be extracted. Some 12.96 bcf gas was extracted until May, 2015, the minister said.

Hamid told the House that it was not possible to supply gas according to the demand and its demand would

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

SC upholds bail orders for Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld the High Court orders that had granted bail to BNP's Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir in three vandalism and arson cases, paving the way for his release from jail.

A four-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha passed the order after disposing of three petitions that had sought a stay on the June 18 HC orders.

The petitions were filed

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Greek banks to remain shut amid debt crisis

Capital controls will be imposed, PM Tsipras says

BBC ONLINE

Greek banks are to remain closed and capital controls will be imposed, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras says.

After the European Central Bank (ECB) announced it was not increasing emergency funding to Greek banks, Tsipras said Greek deposits were safe.

Greece is due to make a €1.6bn (£1.1bn) payment to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) tomorrow - the same day that its current bailout expires.

Greece risks default and moving closer to a possible exit from the eurozone.

Greeks have been queuing to withdraw money from cash machines over the weekend.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



People line up at an ATM booth outside a National Bank branch in Athens, Greece, yesterday. More on page 8.

PHOTO: REUTERS

COLLEGE ADMISSION

Merit list unveiled, finally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities have finally published the first merit list for admission to class XI, three days late, ending an anxious wait for over 11 lakh students.

The list is available on the website of the education ministry -- (www.xiclassadmission.gov.bd).

At a press briefing at Buet around 12:45am today, Education Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan said they had uploaded the list on the website. He requested all not to overwhelm the site.

"No one will be deprived of admission,"

he said.

The secretary said students on the first merit list would be able to get admission to colleges from today. The admission process would continue till July 2 and the classes would start on July 1, he added.

The first list contains names of over 10 lakh 93 thousand students.

Earlier in the day, Dhaka education board Chairman Prof Abu Bakar Siddique told journalists that classes in the colleges would start on July 2.

The ministry was supposed to publish the list on the website at 11:30pm Thursday

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

13 arrested for 'human trafficking'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested 13 employees of two recruitment agencies in Paltan for allegedly being involved in trafficking women to the Middle East for prostitution.

The agencies are Shikder Overseas and Al-Hasib Overseas, said Rab-3 operation officer Yaseen Arafat.

Deputy Director of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

2 lakh marooned in Cox's Bazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Over two lakh people in Cox's Bazar are marooned in floodwater following incessant rain for the last few days.

Although the heavy rain stopped Saturday night, people of four coastal upazilas -- Pekua, Maheshkhali, Ramu and Chakaria -- have been suffering immensely. Many are now staying at flood shelters.

Many houses, markets and roads remain under knee-deep water. The people are facing an acute shortage of food and other necessary items as the relief activities are yet

to gather pace.

Around 80 percent area of Ramu and Pekua upazilas went under water. Five out of 10 unions in Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila were flooded. Besides, five out of 18 unions in Chakaria upazila were seriously affected.

Traffic on the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway declined sharply in the last four days. There is hardly any tourist in Cox's Bazar, the most popular tourist spot in the country.

The people of Pekua and Ramu are the worst sufferers.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan	June	Sehri	Iftar
11	29		6-53
12	30	3-42	6-53
13	July 1	3-42	6-54

PRAYER TIMING
JUNE 29

AZAN	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
3-41	12-45	5-00	6-53	8-17	
JAMAAT	3-51	1-15	5-15	6-63	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Philo of Alexandria, right, believed that the numeral one was God's number.



PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

What exactly does 'one' mean?

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

What is the meaning of one? It's a question that has occupied the minds of the greatest thinkers such as Philo of Alexandria, who believed that the numeral one was God's number and so the basis of all other numbers.

Two millennia later, in the August surroundings of the Royal Courts of Justice in London, three judges in the Court of Appeal last week also

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Floodwater to recede in a few weeks

Met office predicts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The flood situation all over the country is likely to improve, as the Met officials have forecast no more heavy rainfall in the coming weeks.

The low now persists over Bihar and adjoining West Bengal, according to a Met office bulletin.

The axis of monsoon trough runs through different parts of India, including West Bengal, and thence northeastwards to Assam across central part of Bangladesh.

Normal rainfall will continue at many places in Bangladesh as the monsoon is fairly active over the country and moderate over the North Bay, it said.

Most of the annual rainfall in the country occurs in July due to the monsoon.

However, the met

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



People catch fish with nets on a road in Ramu of Cox's Bazar yesterday as many parts of the district remain under water due to downpours over the last few days.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH