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DRAW ON CARDS

Rain played spoilsport as third day of Mirpur Test between Tigers and Proteas was called off

PAGE 14

A NEW HIGH

Trade deficit crosses \$10 billion in fiscal 2014-15

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ALL'S WELL FOR HILLARY

The Democratic White House frontrunner is healthy and "fit to serve" as US president, affirms her doctor

PAGE 8

Target jobs

School signboards spring up to get govt funds

ABDUL WAHED, Kurigram

Now that they have a country to belong to after nearly a seven-decade wait, a new struggle begins for the people of Dashiarchhara, a former Indian enclave in Kurigram. They now have to find jobs. Hoping that Bangladesh government would allocate funds for the development of the newly acquired areas, people of Dashiarchhara have started putting up signboards of educational institutions all around.

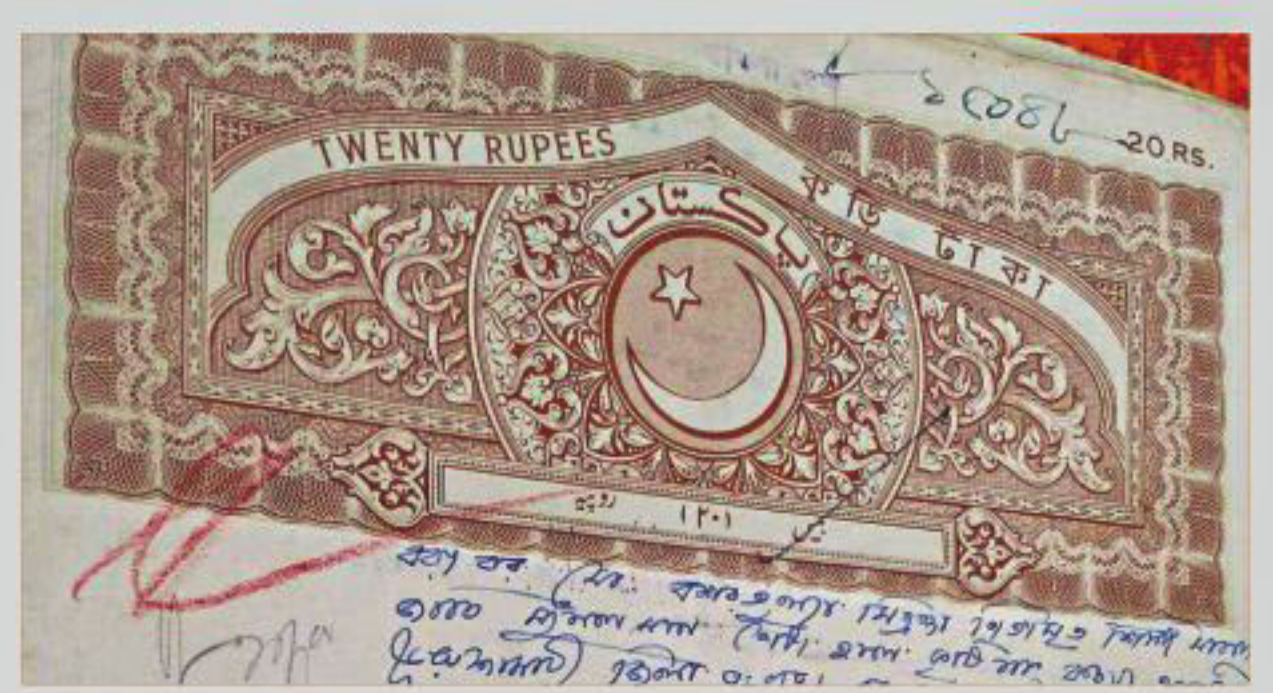
The area, which became part of Bangladesh only at 12:00am yesterday, already had at least 16 such signboards for primary, junior secondary and high schools, and madrasas by the afternoon.

They hope the institutions, on getting government funding, will generate employment.

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HEARTBURN for land



The image of a land deed of a dweller in erstwhile Kachua-5 enclave inside India.

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kolkata

Most residents of the 162 erstwhile enclaves inside Bangladesh and India finally have citizenship after 68 years, but those left out of the 2011 census might find it hard to get citizenship and establish their ownership of land.

Disputes might arise over the ownership of around 1,000 acres of land in the former Bangladeshi enclaves inside India, said leaders of Bangladesh-India Enclave Exchange Coordination Committee and senior journalists in Cooch Behar, West Bengal.

Centenarian Bashratullah Miah of Kachua-5, previously a Bangladeshi enclave in India, has 31 members in his extended family. Each of them owns land, which produces three crops a year.

Talking to The Daily Star, Bashratullah's eldest son Liton Rahman said enumerators came to his house in 2011, but did not count any of his family members.

A Bangladesh-India joint team last month conducted a survey on the enclave people to implement the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA). The team put the names of enclave residents on a list, but left out those who were not counted in the 2011 census.

Bashratullah and his family members had no access to

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Cheers!

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Ratan Miah and his neighbours in Banskata had good reasons to be happy yesterday. They not only became citizens of Bangladesh, after the

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Residents of Dashiarchhara in Kurigram have put up signboards at many places in the erstwhile enclave, now a part of Bangladesh, hoping to get government funds for their proposed schools.

PHOTO: STAR



Record rainfall already

Four killed in Bandarban landslide, one in Savar wall collapse

STAR REPORT

After two consecutive dry monsoons, the country this year experiences 25 percent more rainfall than usual, hampering daily life and livelihoods of people, the Met office said.

Following heavy rainfall yesterday, Bandarban town and many districts in the coastal region including Cox's Bazar, Noakhali, Feni, Khulna, Barisal, Bagerhat, Patuakhali, Barguna and Satkhira were freshly inundated.

The Chittagong division is experiencing the heaviest rainfall that has triggered flash floods in many places and repeated landslides, killing at least 10 people in Bandarban and Cox's Bazar in the last few days.

A depression, leftover of cyclone Komen, has caused countrywide heavy rain and the rain is likely to continue today, the Met office has forecast.

At least six people, including five of a family, were killed and four injured in a landslide in Lama of Bandarban early yesterday. In another incident, an elderly person died in Savar on the



outskirts of the capital as a wall collapsed on him.

The dead were Md Bashir, 55; his daughter Rozina Akhter, 30, and son Sagor, 18; Rozina's daughter Fatema Begum, 8, and her son Sazzad Hossain, 5; and their neighbour Amena Begum, 32, our Bandarban correspondent reports.

The elderly person in Savar was Md

Toyab Ali Dewan, 65, said SM Kamruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Savar Model Police Station.

Quoting locals, the OC said the wall of Toyab's earthen house collapsed on sleeping Toyab. The wall collapse was caused by heavy downpour and waterlogging. The man died on the spot.

The landslide in Bandarban took place when huge swathes of earth of a hill fell on five houses in Lama Hospital area around 1:30am yesterday.

A team of firefighters rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies and the injured. The injured were taken to nearby hospitals, said Md Amir Hossain, Lama mayor.

After the incident, the district administration asked all living on the slopes of hills to move to safer places for a few days.

In 2012, 35 people were killed in a landslide in the same area. In a warning issued last month, the Met office said torrential rain may cause more landslides in the hilly region

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

It's guava time

SOHRAB HOSSAIN with ANDREW EAGLE

When the sky is grey and heavy rains have reached the south, villagers take to small boats, not merely for transport but to harvest guava. It's a busy time.

In Barisal Division, the monsoon means bounty, a fleeting abundance of the popular subtropical fruit.

As guavas fall naturally from their stalks when ripe and because rotting sets in rapidly, the highly perishable crop grown on 30,000 hectares of land across the division must be harvested daily.

"My habit is to leave home for the guava garden by boat at 5:00am, says orchardist Haripod Hawlader, 52, of Madra village in Pirojpur.

"Every tree has to be checked and picked by hand. It takes most of my time but it's such a pleasure when the harvest is favourable like this year."

Haripod has already earned more than Tk 1 lakh this season from his plantation, the main source of income to maintain his family of six. He now hopes for at least Tk 50,000 more.

By the afternoon, the guava growers routinely reach local markets, including the floating bazars where their crop is sold.

"We have to sell locally because road communication with the rest of the country is poor at this time of the year," said Haripod.

Guavas which he sells for Tk 250 per maund regularly fetch as much as Tk 25 per kg in the capital and other cities, where the tasty fruit rich in vitamin C enjoys high demand.

But the difficulty of transporting guava to city dwellers has relegated the task to middlemen who arrive from across the country to purchase the crop.

Together with a lack of local storage facilities, transport is a limiting factor to growers' profits. It is being felt more acutely this year thanks to the bumper harvest.

Grower Vabendra Nath Howlader of Bhimruly village in Jhalakathi

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High yield yet little joy for growers

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Jhalakathi

As the only floating guava market in Jhalakathi, Vimruli attracts orchardists keen to sell their daily harvest from across the district.

Buyers from all over the country are similarly drawn to the market with a view to transporting the fruit to cities and towns. Every day 15 large trawlers arrive to load guavas. But these days prices offered to growers are a pittance.

"Guavas are the main income source for my family," said orchardist Sudhir Mistry.

"At current prices I cannot even recover capital expenses. It costs at least Tk 150 a maund to produce guavas but the current selling rate is only Tk 25," he said.

A similarly disappointed Ripon Mistry said, "My family depends on this ... Now I only see a bleak future."

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TOP QUOTE

"The BNP would cease to exist if it doesn't contest the next election."

AWAMI LEAGUE GENERAL SECRETARY
SYED ASHRAFUL ISLAM
To journalists in Tungipara, referring to BNP's boycott of last year's parliamentary election

NEWS ANALYSIS

Representatives unfit for local governance?

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The LGRD Minister Khandker Mosharruf Hossain deserves thanks as he has at least said a few words about something seemingly long forgotten—holding election to the zila parishads.

Mosharruf, who was given the portfolio around three weeks ago, said on Wednesday holding election to zila parishad was under active consideration of the government.

The quizzical part being his government's following the same old way to use the DCs for running the district administration.

That election has been due for more than four decades—since recognition of the district as a unit of government administration in Bangladesh's constitution enacted in 1972.

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Cleaner beaten to death for 'stealing bike'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A cleaner was beaten to death allegedly by his employers inside a food factory for "stealing a bicycle" in Shalgaria of Pabna yesterday afternoon.

Angered by this, sweepers of Pabna Sweeper Colony in the evening vandalised the factory, which also serves as the ancestral home of the factory owner.

Victim Tulshi Kumar Das, 27, a resident of the colony, was working as a cleaner in Niom Food Ltd.

According to sources in the colony, Tulshi was beaten inside the factory. In a critical condition, he was taken to Pabna Medical

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A floating guava market at Vimruli in Jhalakathi. There's been a bumper yield of guava in Barisal, Jhalakathi and Pirojpur this year. Farmers from adjacent areas bring boatloads of guavas to the market, inset. Wholesalers buy the luscious fruits from there and transport them to different places of the country.

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN