



Hungarian police escort migrants back to a collection point in the village of Roszke yesterday. Hungary has closed its M5 highway after groups of migrants broke through a police cordon at Roszke on the border with Serbia and set off on foot towards the motorway. PHOTO: REUTERS

EU unveils bold refugee plan

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yelling "No camp!" as they scattered in all directions.
With Greece, Hungary and Italy struggling to cope, Juncker urged Europe to look to its history and not be afraid of his "bold" proposals for compulsory quotas for a surge in mainly Syrian refugees fleeing conflict.
"Now is not the time to take fright, it is time for bold, determined action for the European Union," Juncker said in his first EU State of the Union speech to the European Parliament in Strasbourg.
He also warned member states against making religious distinctions when deciding to admit refugees.
Merkel -- whose country expects 800,000 asylum claims this year and has said it could take half a million annually over several years -- said Europe needed a binding long-term deal for the "fair" sharing of the burden.
"We need a binding agreement on the binding distribution of refugees according to fair criteria between member states," Merkel told the Bundestag. "We cannot just fix a ceiling and say I don't care about anything

above that."
Prime Minister David Cameron yesterday defended Britain's decision not to participate in the binding European system of quotas to resettle refugees.
"If all the focus is on redistributing quotas of refugees around Europe, that won't solve the problem and it actually sends a message to people that actually it's a good idea to get on a boat and make that perilous journey," Cameron told MPs in parliament.
"Europe has to reach its own answers, for those countries that are part of Schengen, Britain, which has its own borders, has the ability to make sovereign decisions."
Britain is exempt from EU asylum and migration policy and Cameron had already made it clear that the country will not be involved in any quota system.
The migrants' plight has touched hearts around the world, spurred especially by pictures last week of three-year-old Syrian Aylan Kurdi, whose lifeless body washed up on a Turkish beach.
In response to appeals for help from an increasingly-strained Europe, Australia said it would take an addi-

tional 12,000 refugees from the Syria and Iraq conflicts and several South American countries also agreed to help.
But in Europe, mandatory quotas have faced stiff opposition, especially from eastern EU states such as Hungary, which have seen a huge surge in migrants travelling via the Western Balkans to get to Germany.
As Merkel and Juncker were speaking, hundreds of migrants broke through police lines on the Hungary-Serbia border.
Some ran towards a nearby motorway heading to Budapest which police then closed in the latest confrontation with thousands of migrants pouring across the frontier.
"We don't want to live any longer in the camps in Hungary or elsewhere, the conditions are horrible. It's too cold and everything is dirty, and it smells bad," said a young man from Damascus.
A Hungarian TV camerawoman was fired Tuesday after footage appeared to show her kicking and tripping up migrants, including children, as they ran away from a police line during distur-

bances at Roszke.
Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has said the country does not want more Muslim migrants.
Austrian officials said 6,000 migrants coming from Hungary passed through Vienna's Westbahnhof train station in the 24 hours, with almost all travelling on to Germany.
Juncker urged EU interior ministers -- who are meeting next Monday -- to back his new plan for the relocation of 120,000 refugees from Hungary, Greece, and Italy, and a plan first floated in May to relocate 40,000 others in Italy and Greece.
"It is 160,000 that Europe has to take into their arms, this has to be done in a compulsory way," said Juncker.
He also announced the setting up of a 1.8 billion-euro (\$2.0 billion) fund to help desperately poor sub-Saharan countries, the source of many migrants.
Berlin said meanwhile it was open to a special EU refugee summit after the ministers' meeting and ahead of the next scheduled EU summit on October 14.
Under the Commission plan, Germany would take more than 31,000 migrants, France 24,000 and Spain

School of hope

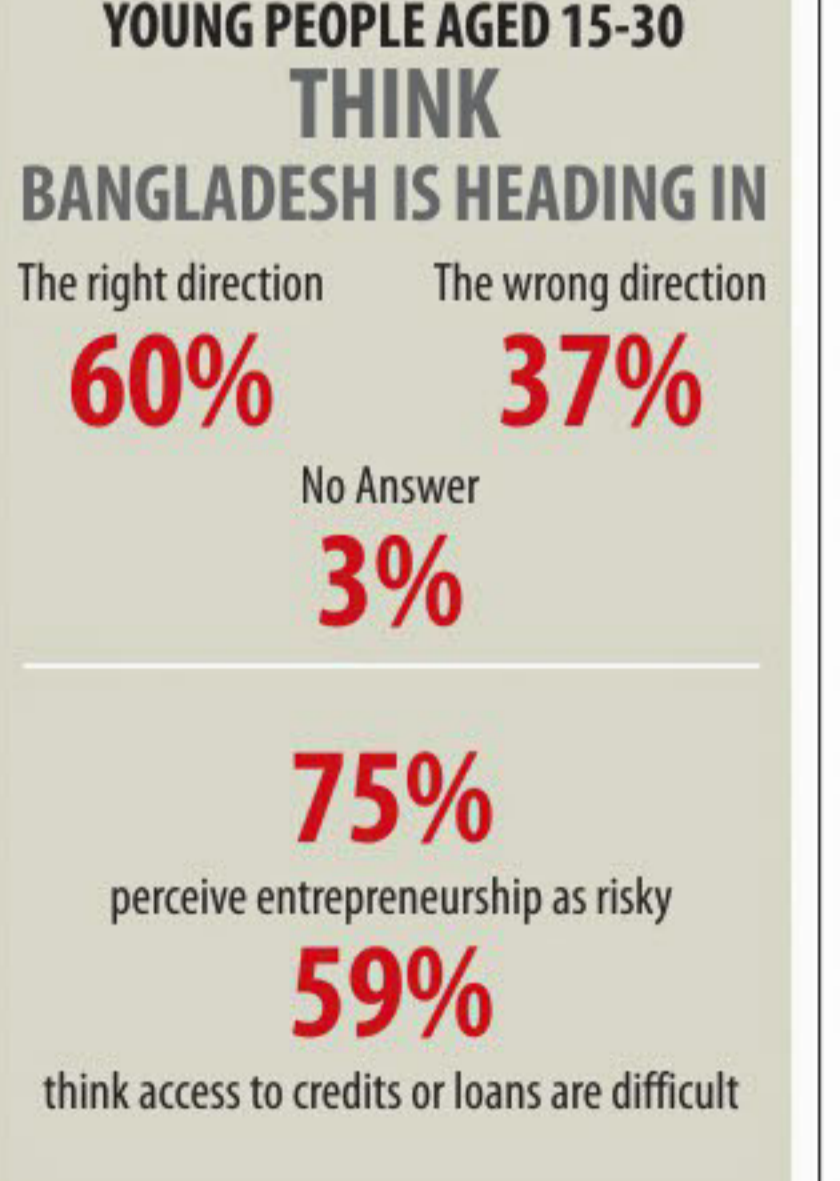
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a TV journalist," she says. "As a journalist I can search the country until I find my mother."
Among Rajshahi's most deprived children big dreams are common. Rocky, about the same age, wants to be a judge. His father was murdered in 2013, in the days of countrywide political violence. He wants to try his father's killers.
Rima, meanwhile, hopes to be a doctor. "As a doctor I could serve the poorest people for free," says the ambitious seven-year-old.
The world is not made for children like Shimu, Rocky and Rima. It is not made for their dreams. Street children like them, usually, have no chance to achieve lofty life goals.
But in Rajshahi there is a bunch of youths, older and at greater advantage, who are pursuing a dream of their own: to educate the city's underprivileged children.
We meet the children beside the railway line near Kashiadanga Bypass in the city's outskirts. Nearby is a bamboo hut, unremarkable were it not for the classroom of the Heartbeat School, now in its third year. In this humble environment the three children study, taking the first basic steps towards achieving accomplished adult lives.
"Our goal is to spread the light of education among street children," says Shahrar Rahman. He is studying in the third year of his business administration degree. Together with other 23 like-minded, all pursuing tertiary education in subjects ranging from engineering to medicine, he established the Heartbeat Foundation on 5 December, 2012.
"We want to stand beside the downtrodden," he says of the foundation's goals. "We will engage with our fellow citizens."
Interestingly, it's not friendship that the foundation members share as much as their willingness to work towards the society's betterment. Their effort becomes all the more commendable as it has been initiated by young people yet to embark upon their own careers.
"We want our students to fulfil their dreams," says Arna Jaman, chief executive officer of the Heartbeat Foundation about the school, "We expect them to get good jobs in the country and abroad."
Currently, the school, situated on a donated site of railway land organised by Md Halim, has 35 students studying in classes 1 to 3. It is the only registered school for street children in North Bengal of Bangladesh.

Books and stationery are provided for free by foundation members, who also dig into their pockets to pay a monthly 'subscription fee' of Tk 100 to cover basic running costs.
"We have managed school uniforms and shoes for fifteen students so far," says Sadman Soumik, the Heartbeat Foundation general secretary. "We are trying to manage the same for the rest as soon as possible."
Classes run five days a week, with students studying Bangla, English, mathematics and general knowledge in the morning, and receiving religious instruction from local Imam, Ashraf Ali, including Arabic language classes, in the evening.
In addition, the foundation has been able to enlist the assistance of Millat Rahman, an American entrepreneur of Bangladeshi origin and Mahmud Khairul, a telecommunications student of Malay university in Malaysia. Twice a week these two conduct classes for the school online, which the youngsters find particularly exciting.
"We do face problems with internet speed and connectivity," says Rahman, "which is why online classes feature only twice a week. Another challenge is that some of the students have taken jobs in shops or restaurants to help their families. We have to work harder to encourage parents to keep them in school."
The future goals of the Heartbeat Foundation are not meagre. "We want to launch five online schools in Rajshahi by 2021 so that all the city's street children have the opportunity for education. But how it will be implemented we are not sure."
"We have sought cooperation from different corners to run our school smoothly," says Heartbeat Foundation president Elias Bin Kashem, "and we conduct other activities like blood donation, providing meals for street children twice a year and youth leadership training."
At being home to young people prepared to take a lead in the betterment of society, such as those involved with the Heartbeat Foundation, Rajshahi is undoubtedly blessed. Through projects like the Heartbeat School which can unlock the otherwise lost potentials in a coming generation, it's a city with a future that's brighter still.
Back at the classroom, young Sumon dreams of becoming a police officer. "I will punish people who do bad deeds," he says. Hakim, Utsho and Parvez meanwhile hope to be politicians. They want to shape a better nation.

Young people

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their country was not going in the right direction.
The research conducted by the Nielsen Company (Bangladesh) surveyed 5,000 youths between August 2014 and April 2015. It was also based on 15 in-depth interviews and 18 focus group discussions held in different districts.
Among the respondents were equal number of men and women. Seventy-six percent of them came from rural, 20 percent from urban and the rest from semi-urban settings.
The survey was a "follow-on" of the 2010 report published by the British Council on the status, aspirations and attitudes of the country's youth. This year's report looked into governance, law and order, education and employability, environment and health affecting young people's lives.
According to the study, the major problems faced by Bangladeshi youths are political instability (54 percent), poor transport system (41 percent), electricity crisis (39 percent), inflation (33 percent), increasing corruption (32 percent) and lack of job opportunities (32 percent).
Youths also identified unemployment (69 percent), poverty (54 percent), demand for more money (30 percent), pressure from friends (29 percent) and political beliefs (22 percent) as the top five reasons for the young people to get involved in violent incidents.
The report said 48 percent youths aged between 25 and 30 did not have any income between April 2014 and April 2015.
Sixteen and 28 percent of the urban and rural youths said they were affected by environmental changes.
Mentioning that 87 percent of the youths want to vote in the next general election, Tomas said democracy still has a huge influence on young people.
The study also found that 98 percent youths considered an honest and responsive government as important. Security was considered as a key important issue by 96 percent and finding employment by 95 percent.
A discussion was held after the presentation of the report. Among the three youth panelists of the discussion was Musabber Ali Chisty, member of Active Citizens, a youth programme of the British Council. He stressed the need for ensuring proper education, qualification and opportunities for youth development.
"The report launched today [Wednesday] provides a snapshot of the mood of the nation's youth," said Mark Clayton, deputy British high commissioner to Bangladesh.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Biren Sikder said there should be uniformity between various education systems to make sure that the same level of standard is maintained in all the systems.
The full report will be made available by the end of this month, said Barbara Wickham, country director of the British Council, Bangladesh.
Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh; and Imran Rahman, vice-chancellor of UIAB, also spoke.



- Those who have business face challenges like:**
- 21%** UNSETTLED MARKET
 - 19%** LACK OF SKILLED STAFF
 - 14%** HIGH IMPORT COST
 - 11%** LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE
 - 11%** LACK OF SECURITY

35 hurt as students, cops clash over VAT

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"The students were coming back after I had talked to them. It was then that police opened fire. It's a very unfortunate incident," he told The Daily Star over the phone.
Several hundred students took to the streets at Aftabnagar near Rampura Bridge around 1:30pm, demanding withdrawal of a 7.5 percent VAT on tuition fees.
They blocked Badda-Rampura road for about half an hour, causing huge tailbacks on adjacent roads. At one point, they blocked the Rampura Bridge, said witnesses.
Abhishek Rahman, a student of the university who was hurt, said they were chanting slogans around 2:00pm when the police charged truncheons and opened fire.
The injured were rushed to nearby Farazi Hospital, he added.
Deputy Registrar Mashfiqur was later shifted to United Hospital for better treatment, students said.
Palash, in-charge of X-ray department at Farazi Hospital, said they examined 22 injured and found that some of them suffered rubber bullet wounds in different parts of their bodies.
Mostaq Ahmed, assistant commissioner (Gulshan zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said police charged truncheons as the students were obstructing the road and became



Police charge truncheons to break up a demonstration by the students of East West University at Aftabnagar in the city's Rampura yesterday. Some 35 people were hurt in the incident that also saw the law enforcers fire rubber bullets.

rowdy.
He claimed that police fired blank shots to bring the situation under control.
Badda Police Station's Officer-in-Charge MA Jalil was injured when students hurled brick chunks at them, he added.
Several hundred students returned to the spot in the evening again and

continued demonstration till 9:15pm. They announced a fresh programme for 9:00am today at the same place.
Meanwhile, a number of students from North South University, American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), University of Information Technology and Sciences (UIITS), United International University (UIU), Brac University and

Stamford University expressed solidarity with the agitation.
In the budget for fiscal 2015-16, the government has imposed the 7.5 percent VAT on tuition fees of private universities. The decision has provoked outrage from students and guardians, and students of several private universities have been demonstrating against it.

Khaleda, Jamaat behind losing GSP facility

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System of Preferences, saying the USA has to remember that they also have around \$2 billion investment in Bangladesh.
Hasina said some local evil forces, not any superpower, were responsible for the cancellation of the GSP facilities.
"The BNP and Jamaat appointed lobbyists to destroy the image of Bangladesh and cancel the GSP facilities. Besides, anti-liberation force and the collaborator of Pakistani occupation force Jamaat-e-Islami appointed lobbyists to conduct negative propaganda against Bangladesh," Hasina said while replying to lawmakers' queries.
She said, "It was very regretful that a person who was a prime minister and an opposition leader, but now a leader of a party, had sent a letter to the American government seeking cancellation of the GSP facilities for Bangladesh." She also published an article in a US newspaper tarnishing the country's

image, the PM added.
On the USA's investment in Bangladesh, Hasina said, "The USA has to remember that before the tenure of the Awami League government in 1996, their investment in Bangladesh was only US\$ 25 million. During our tenure, their investment rose to around \$1.2 billion ... It happened due to the Awami League government."
"We had created that opportunity for them and currently the USA has investment of around \$2 billion in Bangladesh, and they should remember this."
Hasina, also leader of the House, said the USA wanted to play with the people of Bangladesh. They had sent the Seventh Fleet during the Liberation War to help the Pakistani occupation forces.
"But Bangladesh achieved its liberation and they couldn't stop us from achieving victory," she added.
Without mentioning any name, Hasina said another person, who lost his

position as the managing director of a bank after losing a legal battle, became very angry and "got engaged in spreading negative propaganda against the government."
"The BNP-Jamaat along with the bank's MD tried to tarnish the image of the country but could not stop the country's progress. They tried to stop the construction of the Padma Bridge without any reason."
"But they could not prevent the construction of the bridge. We are constructing it on our own," she said.
Hasina said 90 percent of the total export to the USA is RMG and apparel items, which are not under the GSP. For exporting RMG and apparel items, she said, Bangladesh pays \$850 million per year as duty.
The items covered by the GSP were insignificant, Hasina said, adding, "We had availed of \$25 million advantage only."
But she admitted that the cancellation

of the GSP was harmful for Bangladesh's image.
Hasina also lambasted Khaleda for observing her "fake" birthday on August 15 amid festivity. She said the people of the country could understand this and they had also denounced such act.
The PM said it was the duty of all to uphold the ideology of Bangabandhu. "It's our duty and we're discharging it properly."
Hasina also said it was her firm belief that no one could stop the march of Bangladesh towards socioeconomic development.
WAR CRIMES TRIAL TO CONTINUE
Hasina expressed her firm determination to hold the trial of war criminals and culprits of August 15 bloodbath.
"We've tried some of the culprits of 1971 and 1975. The trial is going on and it'll continue no matter what obstacles come [in the way]."
Hasina said she never cared for her life. "I'm doing politics on the soil of the