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# The night of sorrows over

Says PM, assures ex-enclave dwellers of overall welfare

UNB, Kurigram

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday assured the inhabitants of former Indian enclaves that her government would do whatever necessary for their overall welfare.



"The night of sorrows is over, and you [ex-enclave dwellers] have marched towards the path enlightened with new sunlight. Your march forward will continue," she told a civic gathering at the erstwhile Indian enclave Dashiarchhara in the district's Fulbari upazila.

It was the PM's first visit to a former enclave as head of the government after the historic enclave swap on the midnight of August 31 this year.

Before making her address, Hasina inaugurated 643 power connections to households in Dashiarchhara and also in erstwhile enclaves in Nilphamari and Panchagarh. She distributed five solar home systems among the residents of Dashiarchhara.

Highlighting various steps of her government for the betterment of the former enclave dwellers, she said: "You had to pass a long time in deprivation and pains, but those days are gone as you're now one of us and our dear ones."

The PM alleged that after the assassination of the Father of the Nation in 1975, military rulers Ziaur Rahman and

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A BRTC double-decker picks passengers at Hotel Sonargaon intersection in the capital, right near a notice that prohibits buses to stop there. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

# Myanmar inks truce deal with rebels

REUTERS, Naypyitaw

Myanmar's government and eight armed ethnic groups signed a ceasefire agreement yesterday, the culmination of more than two years of negotiations aimed at bringing an end to the majority of the country's long-running conflicts.

The deal fell short of its nationwide billing, with seven of the 15 armed groups invited declining to sign due to disagreements over who the process should include and ongoing distrust of Myanmar's semi-civilian government and its still-powerful military.

President Thein Sein, a former general, made the nationwide ceasefire a key platform for his reformist agenda after taking power in 2011 and ending nearly 50 years of military rule.

While the absentees were a blow to the president, who pushed for the deal to be signed ahead of a November 8 general election, he described the deal yesterday as historic.

"The nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA) is a historic gift from us to our generations of the future," Thein Sein said at a signing ceremony attended by hundreds of diplomats, officials and rebel group

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# Rab arrests 3 'arms traders'

Seizes 3 AK-47 rifles

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered five firearms, including three AK-47 rifles, and detained three alleged arms traders in Bandarban Sadar upazila yesterday.

The three -- Lal Pial Thung, 48, Bashu Bawm, 45, and Ching Thoai Chak, 44 -- had been running arms trade in the area for long, said Lt Col Miftha Uddin Ahmed, commanding officer of Rab-7.

A team of Rab-7 in the guise of customers called the trio to buy firearms from them.

Responding to the call, the three went to Marma Bazar of the district town to sell their firearms, and were caught red-handed around 12:00 noon, he added.

Of the five arms, there were two foreign pistols.

Sources said, among the trio, Lal Pial is an assistant secretary of Ruma upazila unit Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity.

No case was filed in this connection, and the Rab did not hand over the

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Sacks of sand piled up on the shore of the Bay at St Martin's Island to protect it from tidal surge.



PHOTO: STAR

# Biodiversity of St Martin's under threat

MOHAMMAD ALI ZINNAT, Cox's Bazar, with PINAKI ROY

The biodiversity of Bangladesh's lone coral island St Martin's is being destroyed by businesses related to tourism, thousands of tourists pouring in every day, and illegal infrastructure, experts say.

Unplanned infrastructure has mushroomed in the island to meet the onrush of tourists, they said.

Researchers and environmentalists said high population density, huge illegal infrastructure built in an unplanned manner, destruction of mangrove plants and bushes, collection of sea

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# Man dies in police torture

Two Bogra cops suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Two police members allegedly beat a man to death in Bogra's Gabtoli upazila yesterday.

The victim is Mokhlesur Rahman, 45, of Daripara village in the upazila.

Two cops were suspended in this connection. They are Assistant Sub-inspector Abdus Sabur and Constable Abdur Rahman of Gabtoli Model Police Station.

Following his death, locals and family members confined Sabur and Rahman, who allegedly beat Mokhlesur to death. The two had to be rescued by additional police force.

Police sources said victim's younger brother filed an allegation against him over some family feud on Wednesday.

Following this, the two cops in question went to investigate the allegation and they beat and kicked Mokhlesur after they caught him. He died instantly, family alleged.

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# Huge disparity in urban healthcare

Study finds 94pc health facilities belong to private sector, meant for the affluent

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If you are not rich and live in Dhaka city then you are out of luck when sick. More than 94 percent of the healthcare facilities in the city are private and mostly located in affluent areas of the city, a new study finds.

This picture of the huge inequity in healthcare for the poor and the disadvantaged comes from a study by the Centre for

Equity and Health Systems at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Control, Bangladesh (icddr,b).

The study report was launched yesterday at its auditorium in Dhaka.

Only one percent of the 12,809 healthcare facilities in the capital are in the public sector and five percent to NGOs, according to the study.

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# PRAYER TIMING

OCTOBER 16

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-45 12-30 4-15 5-45 7-15

JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-50 7-45

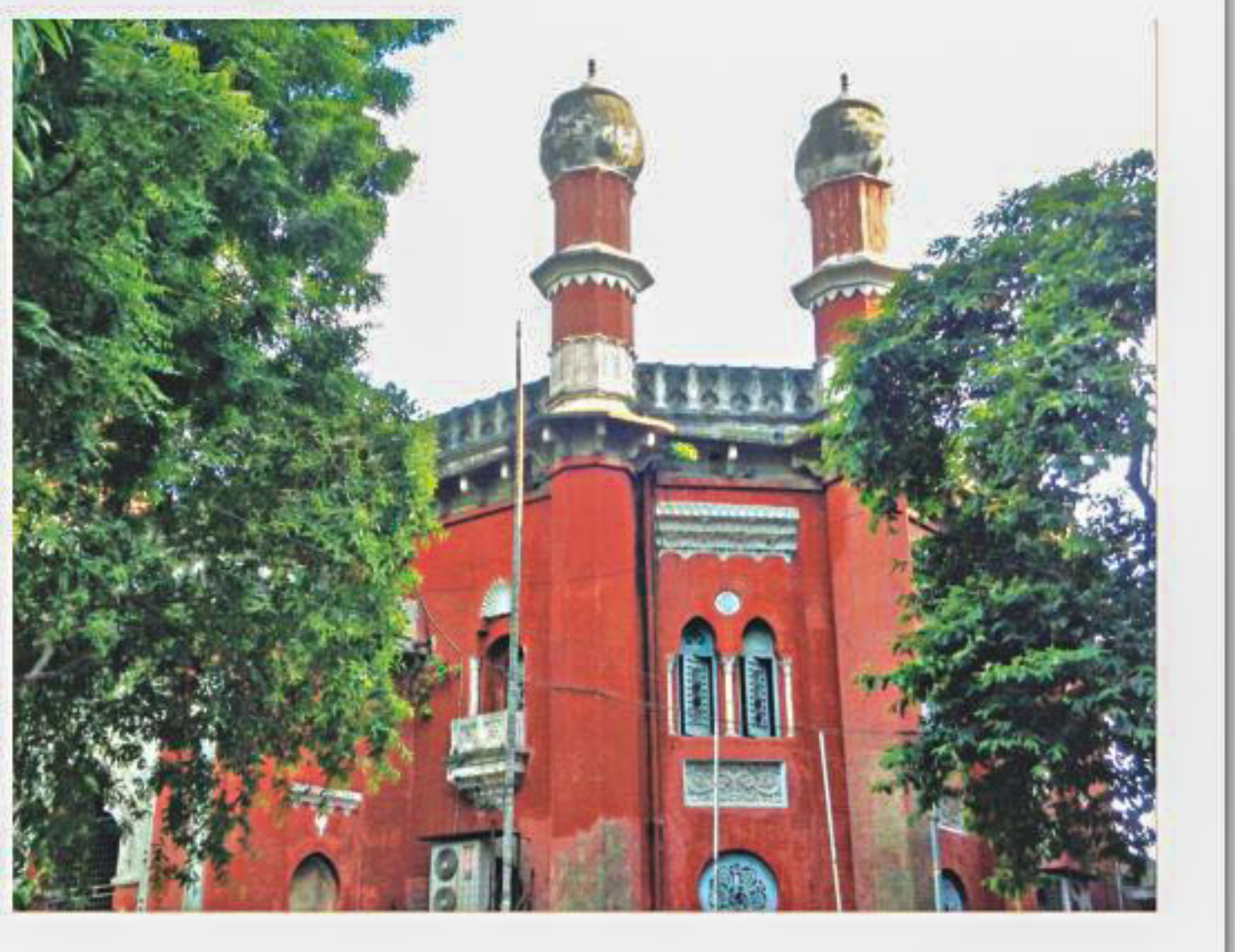
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# Rare books in ruins

ANANTA YUSUF

When I took out Sir Lepel Griffin's Rulers of India from a shelf of the Northbrook Hall, I was shocked to see the condition of this valuable hundred-year-old book. The binding was peeling off, some pages were torn off and worms seemed to have made it their abode. This is the reality of the Northbrook Hall Library, where most books lie in tatters, their value dissolved by

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