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Golfer on six under-par going into day three of the Panasonic Open in Delhi

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Suu Kyi eyes historic win in tomorrow's election as campaign ends

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Human traffickers find new route

Amid crackdown on trafficking thru' sea routes, people smugglers use land, air routes to Turkey for pushing victims into Europe, ME, Latin America

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOB

When Mamun-ur-Rashid landed in Istanbul in an early May afternoon, he thought his dream of a better life in Europe was just steps away.

"My heart thudded for a minute there," he says.

But all his excitement soon dissipated when he was taken from the airport to a private confinement where he found more than 70 Bangladeshis. All of them were told that they would be sent to developed countries. Most of them had already spent weeks like this.

Mamun realised he was actually being trafficked and that too with an official passport of the Bangladesh government that people smugglers obtained using forged papers.

They all were at the mercy of an organised syndicate that uses Turkey as a new hub of

- Syndicate smuggles fortune seekers using forged passports
- Many of them assured jobs in Italy, other European countries, but are forced to stay in Turkey illegally

human trafficking. Such syndicates, according to some victims and government officials, have agents in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Turkey, Libya and some other countries. Exploiting the desperation of the low-income people, these traffickers smuggle them into different European, Latin American and Middle-Eastern countries.

Following massive crackdowns on human trafficking from Bangladesh through sea recently, they now first take the victims to neighbouring India or Nepal through land routes and then fly them to Turkey. From there, they are sent to different destinations through illegal and often hazardous ways, officials said.

Born in a low-income family in Parbatipur of Dinajpur, Mamun was working as a salesman at a private company back

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Liquid industrial waste flows into a canal at Shimrail of Siddhirganj, Naryanganj. The waste dumping is also polluting the Shitalakkhya as the canal is connected to the river. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Taiwanese couple attacked

Tk 6 lakh looted from their Uttara house; one held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Taiwanese couple was attacked in their home in the capital's Uttara allegedly by three of their former employees early yesterday during a "burglary gone wrong".

Wang Ming Chee, 54, and his wife Lily Hawa, 50, were under treatment at the Apollo Hospitals. While Hawa was stated out of danger, the husband was under observation, police said, quoting doctors.

The attack on the couple came less than six weeks after the killings of Italian aid worker Cesare Tavella in Gulshan and Japanese national Kunio Hoshi in Rangpur.

Police, however, claimed

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District judge to face music

Departmental action on cards over phone conversations with murder accused

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The law ministry has moved to take disciplinary action against the Chandpur district and sessions judge after a judicial probe found the allegation of misconduct against him to be true.

The ministry has already completed the process of issuing a government order for filing a departmental case against Judge Md Mafizul Islam, who exempted two accused from a murder case after being allegedly contacted by one of them over his cell phone, said an official of the ministry.

The order is likely to be issued within this week, said the official seeking anonymity.

In July, the Supreme Court authorities asked the law ministry to initiate the process of filing a departmental case against Mafizul upon receiving the report of the judicial enquiry by Administrative Tribunal Member AR Masud.

The SC asked the ministry to appoint Chittagong District Judge Nurul Huda as the investigation officer, SC Registrar General Syed Aminul Islam told this correspondent yesterday.

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Hosts take on Zimbabwe in 1st ODI today

SPORTS REPORTER

As Bangladesh kick off another series against Zimbabwe in Mirpur today, the hosts may not get too many plaudits for a home success like they had received following triumphs over Pakistan, India and South Africa. Instead, anything other than a win against their struggling opponents could be judged as a disappointing outcome.

However, Zimbabwe's arrival here following the postponement of Australia's scheduled tour last month due to security concerns has brought a wave of relief among the cricket fans, who will be excited to see the Tigers further widen the gap against their once-nearest rivals.

The visitors head into the match fresh from an impressive win in the warm-up match in Fatullah on Thursday and, with batsmen who can challenge the home side's potent bowling attack, they know a win would help them put aside their recent failure against Afghanistan at home. But the Mashrafe Bin Mortaza-led side have all

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Ctg reels from gas shortage

Supply falls to 280-290mmcf per day against the demand for 400mmcf

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

Many residents of Chittagong metropolis are forced to buy food or use alternative means to cook as they have been experiencing severe gas crisis for the last one week.

The Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited (KGDCL) was getting gas around 50 million metric standard cubic feet per day (MMCFD), less than the volume it usually gets from the national grid.

To address the crisis in the residential areas, the KGDCL has stopped gas supply to a power plant and started rationing gas to another plant and a fertiliser factory, but the situation has not improved.

Thousands of people throng the KGDCL office with complaints every day for a remedy in vain.

"I filed a complaint about our miseries three days ago and the officials assured me of improvement, but still there is no change," said Habibur Rahman, a resident of Bakalia Rahattar Pool area.

"Gas supply goes off from early morning and is hardly on before the afternoon," said Habibur, adding, "My children cannot have breakfast before going to school."

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Do not pass foreign donation bill

UN official urges JS

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, Maina Kiai, yesterday urged the Bangladesh parliament not to adopt a bill which could severely restrict civil society organisations' access to funding and hinder their activities.

The draft Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act is expected to be debated in the next parliament session starting November 8, 2015.

"This Bill is deeply worrying. Civil society is a crucial component for the promotion and protection of human rights, good governance and the rule of law, and for contributing to the provision of humanitarian assistance," said Kiai, according to a UN press release sent from Geneva yesterday.

"Unduly restricting civil society organizations' access to resources therefore not only has a detrimental impact on freedom of association, but also deeply undermines the

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Where babies safe without mothers

TAMANNA KHAN

Entering HR Textile Mills Limited in Savar, one would be surprised to see babies playing and mumbling in a 3,500-square-foot area designated for childcare.

The facility has everything necessary -- indoor playing area, sleeping and breastfeeding corners, a toilet, a pantry and a kitchen -- to ensure the babies left there by female employees get everything they need during work hours.

While day-care centres for children are still a rare thing at workplaces in Bangladesh, some corporate companies, garment factories, and some government organisations as well, are setting examples for others to follow.

The crèche in HR Textile was set up in 2008 with the help of non-government organisation Phulki that focuses on care and development of children up to six years in workplaces and communities.

The money spent for running the facility is far less than the advantages it offers, said M M Emran-Al-Hasan, assistant manager of human resources and compliance, HR Textile.

For facilitating care for as many as 20 children that the crèche can accommodate, the company has to spend Tk 80,000 per month, including the cost of food for babies aged between six months and two years.

"Our employees, 60 percent of whom are female, can work without worrying about their babies. Besides, they do not have to go home to check on their babies during work hours," Emran said.

During a visit to the garment unit, The Daily Star correspondent met Shikha who came to the centre during lunch break to see her one-and-a-half-year-old daughter.

A caregiver was feeding the child then. The mother looked happy seeing her cheerful baby.

Shikha has been working at the finishing section of the factory for five years. Owing to some complications she used up most of her six-month maternity leave before the birth of her daughter Riamoni and

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Babies playing at the day-care centre of Finery Limited, a garment factory. Crèches are still a rare thing at workplaces in Bangladesh. But a handful of corporate companies, garment factories and government organisations have opened this facility at their offices for their employees.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ