



**FIGHTING WAR WITH MUSIC**

Shujeo Shyam reminisces about the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra days in 1971

PAGE 11

**SPECIAL ONE SACKED!**

Chelsea fire Mourinho 7 months after he led them to Premier League title

PAGE 19

HUMAN TRAFFICKING BY SEA

**Dons stay out of law's reach**

250 cases filed, 400 alleged middlemen and local agents caught; victims see little hope as world observes International Migrants Day today

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPLOB

Law enforcers have so far failed to arrest any of the masterminds behind the trafficking of over 3,000 Bangladeshis through the Bay of Bengal this year.

They have been carrying out drives to track down human traffickers and their ring leaders since the trafficking victims were rescued mostly from Thailand and Malaysia in May and June.

In the last six months, law enforcers could only arrest around 400 alleged middlemen and local agents of human-trafficking networks, not any of the ring leaders.

At the same time, the government has also failed to speed up investigation and trial of around 250 cases filed in June and

July against around a thousand alleged human traffickers.

In July, Law Minister Anisul Huq said the cases filed over human trafficking would be tried in special tribunals.

But no such tribunal has been set up yet.

All of this adds to the gloomy picture of Bangladesh's fight against human trafficking, as the country like all other nations around the globe observes International Migrants Day today.

Though Bangladeshi investigators could not identify any of the masterminds behind the trafficking, the Thai government tracked down and arrested some leaders of human-trafficking networks, including a senior Thai army official.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Brick chunks, broken sticks and burning tyres are strewn all over Mirpur Road as Dhaka College students clashed with traders and hawkers over the pricing of clothes. Motorcycles were burnt, *bottom right*, and vehicles vandalised during the violence. *Bottom left*, a lensman rescuing an injured student.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

They're making mark in global workforce

Says ILO about migrants

AGENCIES

Migrants are increasingly participating in a globalised economy, notably in the services sectors, according to a report released Wednesday by the ILO.

The International Labour Organization shed light on new data which quantifies for the first time the extent to which a global migrant workforce estimated at 150.3 million people -- 44 percent of them women -- is carving a professional niche in the countries receiving them.

The ILO report came just two days ahead of the International Migrants Day, held annually on

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

**Efforts to deal with migrant crisis at 'a breaking point'**

Says UN; EU holds summit to debate over new border plan

AGENCIES

Humanitarian organisations attempting to help the soaring numbers of people fleeing conflicts and natural disasters around the world are at "a breaking point," UN refugee chief Antonio Guterres warned on Wednesday.

"In the last few years, we have seen a staggering escalation of displacement caused both by conflict and by natural hazards," Guterres told a conference in Geneva on the root causes of displacement.

"The fact that we are seeing so many new crises breaking out without any of the old ones getting resolved, clearly illustrates the lack of capacity and political will to end conflict, let alone prevent it," Guterres said, pointing out that the number of people forced to flee daily due to conflict and persecution nearly quadrupled between 2010 and 2014.

"The result is an alarming proliferation of unpredictability

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

**Mayhem on Mirpur Road as students, traders clash**

At least 30 hurt, 4 motorcycles burnt, shops vandalised in two-hour violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of Dhaka College yesterday clashed with traders on the stretch of Mirpur Road between New Market and Science Laboratory intersections, paralysing the city's busiest shopping hub for hours.

Traffic on the busy road came to an abrupt halt as the students and shopkeepers of Dhanmondi Hawkers' Market fought pitched battles for about two hours from 3:30pm.

At least 30 people, including pedestrians and shoppers, were injured, over two dozen shops vandalised and "looted", four motorcycles set on fire and a number of vehicles damaged before police managed to bring the situation under control around 5:30pm.

"You cannot even imagine the situation we had to deal with. Brickbats were raining onto the streets," said Jasim Uddin, addi-

tional deputy commissioner (Ramna Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

"We fired rubber bullets, sound grenades and 50 tear gas shells to contain the situation."

Even when this correspondent visited the area at 6:00pm, about 70 yards of both lanes of the road was covered with brick chunks and sticks used during the violence.

All these stemmed from an altercation over the pricing of clothes at a store in the market.

An argument broke out between two students at a sari store -- Sari Mela, said Habibur Rahman, owner of the shop.

"They chose three saris worth about Tk 60,000. But they wanted them for free.

"When we refused to comply, the [students] said, 'We control the Dhaka Metropolitan Area'," he said, adding that the students had a woman and a child with them.

At one stage of the brawl, the students left

**One fatwa for anti-militancy**

Cops, ulema decide to collect signature of imams, muezzins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's alem-ulema yesterday decided to issue a "fatwa" that Islam and its followers have no connection with militancy.

A view-exchange meeting between alem-ulema and police over tackling militancy in Bangladesh came up with the idea that signatures of one lakh alem-ulema would be collected to issue the religious edict.

Bangladesh Jamiatul Ulema Parishad Chairman Maulana Fariduddin Masud will form a committee to work on the plan while police agreed to help launch a campaign for building awareness of militancy.

Bangladesh Police arranged the discussion on "Role of Islam in eradicating militancy: Bangladesh perspective" at the headquarters in the capital.

There are some 3 lakh imams and 6 lakh muezzins across the country and so it will not be impossible to collect 1 lakh signatures, said Fariduddin, a noted Islamist thinker.

He added that the fatwa could also be circulated abroad.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Winter sets in, finally

Met forecasts cold wave for month-end

STAR REPORT

It showed up late but winter has finally arrived.

A mild cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi division and regions of Tangail, Mymensingh, Gopalganj, Sreemangal, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Jessore and Chuadanga, says the met office.

Yesterday, country's lowest temperature was recorded in Sreemangal at 8.4 degrees Celsius.

As the mercury has dropped suddenly, the people in the capital are also feeling a chill in the air.

However, a Dhaka met official says the temperature at night may rise by one or two degrees in a couple of days before a cold wave strikes the country in the last week of this month.

"We have forecast one cold wave for the last week of December and at least two others for January," said meteorologist Arif Hossain, adding that the duration of this winter would be shorter than usual.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1 PHOTO ON PAGE 20



**HAPPINESS IN SHARING**

Tea estate manager's 'little' step lights up lives of many underprivileged children

EMRAN HOSSAIN

Imagine that you are at work, and right through your window you see the sun setting far away, shedding orange light on the world's third highest mountain, Kangchenjunga.

Wouldn't you feel great? When it's a cloudless evening, the sublime scene warms Kabir Akond's heart every single time.

"Well, I have been a real lucky man. Both my personal and professional lives have been extremely happy," he told The Daily Star over phone from his office in



Kabir Akond

Tetulia, country's extreme northern upazila, recently.

A proud father of two, the divisional manager of Kazi and Kazi Tea Estate Limited is blessed with another thing -- his ability to share happiness with others, especially with the underprivileged children in his area.

During the winter in 2010, he opened "Shishuswarga Pathagar", a library for such children, in his Kamala Bagan office room, having around 2,000 children and academic books.

Later, the man from Netrokona's Barhatta area introduced a monthly stipend of Tk 300 and Tk 200 for the two students scoring highest marks in every class of local Darjipara Government Primary School.

The 37-year-old was dubbed by the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



**TOP QUOTE**  
"Everything seems chaotic. I don't understand how the election will be fair. I am worried over this election."

AWAMI LEAGUE MP AND EX-DEPUTY SPEAKER  
**COL (RETD) SHAWKAT ALI**  
After meeting the CEC on violations of code of conduct at Noria municipality in Shariatpur, his constituency

Children at Shishuswarga Pathagar in Panchagarh. Kabir Akond, divisional manager at a tea estate, set up the library where underprivileged children take English classes and borrow books for free. PHOTO: COURTESY BY KABIR AKOND

