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# Fifty Khasi families in uncertainty

Set to lose their homesteads, land for betel leaf cultivation after exchange of adversely possessed land with India

MINTU DESHWARA

Welsi Amse has always dreamt that her children would become doctors one day. She has been squeezing every penny possible from the meagre earnings from a betel leaf garden at Pallathal Punji in Moulvibazar for the last few years.

But all her dreams have started to fade away after she came to know that her betel leaf garden, her only source of income, would soon be taken away. Now, the 35-year-old woman is worried sick over how she and her five-member family would survive if their land is taken.

Around 50 Khasi families living in Pallathal Punji (indigenous neighbourhood) in Moulvibazar's Baralekha upazila would lose their homestead once the exchange of the adversely possessed land, following the signing of the land boundary agreement, start happening.

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A Khasi woman teaching her children at her house at Pallathal Punji in Baralekha upazila of Moulvibazar. Some 50 Khasi families of the indigenous neighbourhood have been in fear of losing their homestead to India once the implementation of Land Boundary Agreement begins in their area. Locals said India would be in possession of about 300 acres of land where Khasis cultivate betel leaf. *Top right*, a youth working at the betel leaf garden. *Bottom right*, a placard demanding that the entrance to the gardens remain open to them.



PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA



**MG!**

"I mean a lot of them... we have a serious, serious problem of hate. There is tremendous hate"

US REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE DONALD TRUMP REPLIES TO A QUESTION IF HE REALLY BELIEVES 'ALL OF ISLAM' HATES AMERICA

## Saarc Youth Action Plan finalised

March 17 meeting to recognise youths' role in development of the region

REZAUL KARIM

Recognising the important role youths can play in the region, the South Asian countries have decided to finalise a SAARC Youth Charter and Action Plan in the upcoming Council of Ministers meeting in Nepal.

Foreign ministry sources said the foreign ministers of the eight SAARC countries will ink the "Youth Charter and Action Plan" to guide regional cooperation in this area, covering a comprehensive range of issues related to youths.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Council of Ministers is scheduled to sit in the Nepalese city of Pokhara on March 17.

Ahead of the 37th session of the council, the cabinet of Bangladesh is going to give its nod at Monday's meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali would lead a Bangladesh delegation at the inter-summit, also known as SAARC Council of Ministers, which is comprised of the foreign ministers of the member states.

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## Ministry informs PMO about airport security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The civil aviation ministry yesterday sent a letter to the Prime Minister's Office, detailing the measures taken so far to improve security at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

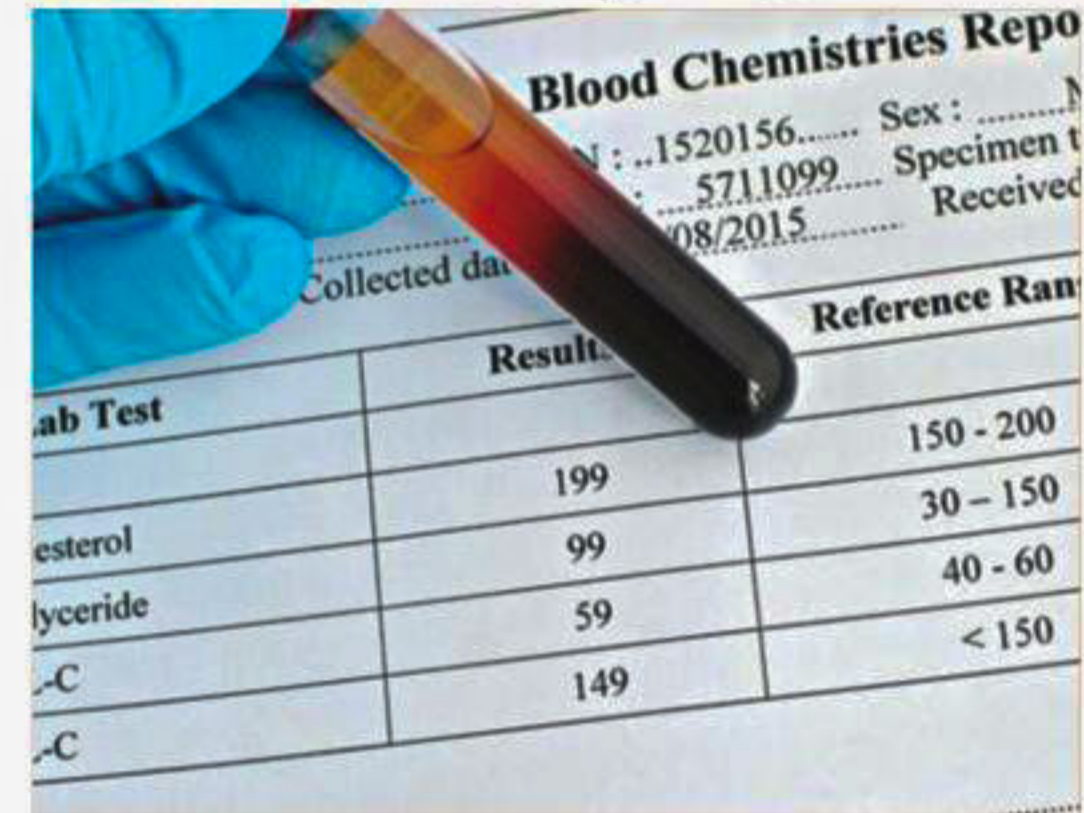
On the basis of the letter, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to write back to her British counterpart David Cameron, requesting him to withdraw the ban on direct air cargo from Dhaka to London.

"We sent a draft to the Prime Minister's Office yesterday [Thursday], mentioning what we have done so far against their [UK aviation security team's] requirement," Civil Aviation Minister Rashed Khan Menon told The Daily Star last night.

The UK on Wednesday imposed the ban, saying Hazrat Shahjalal International

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## Good cholesterol 'not always good'



BBC ONLINE

Some people with high levels of supposedly "good" cholesterol are at much greater risk of heart disease, a study suggests.

A bloodstream tussle takes place between "bad" cholesterol dumping fatty material in the arteries and good cholesterol taking it away.

But a Cambridge University study in the journal Science showed more good cholesterol was not always better. It is thought the findings may help find new ways to protect the heart.

Eating olive oil, fish and nuts raises levels of high-density lipoprotein (HDL) - which is more commonly known as good cholesterol. It is one of the things doctors test for when predicting your risk of a heart attack.

However, repeated trials that raise HDL with drugs have flopped, leading doctors to think something else is going on. Some insight has come from studying rare mutations that leave people with high levels of good cholesterol.

Trials showed people with a mutation in a gene called SCARB1, which affects one-in-1,700 people, had very high levels of good cholesterol.

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## KIDNAP IN RANGAMATI Tortured boy rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Lying on a hospital bed, Bijoy Marma looked absolutely helpless. Several parts of his feeble body had bruises and his eyes could tell you that he was still haunted by fear.

The seven-year-old was beaten mercilessly after his abduction from Rajasthali upazila of Rangamati on Thursday morning. Luckily he was rescued and his "abductors" were arrested yesterday, said police.

The victim, a class-II student at Islampur Government Primary School in the upazila, was undergoing treatment at Bandarban Sadar hospital.

The arrestees -- Monowar

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**PRAYER TIMING MARCH 12**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-05 12-45 4-30 6-12 7-30

JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-45 6-15 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Seized hilsa fries on display at Gozaria Launch Terminal in Munshiganj yesterday. A team of Bangladesh Coast Guard seized the consignment of 2.5 tonnes of hilsa fries from the Dhaka-bound MV Prince of Russell Plus and arrested two launch staff.

PHOTO: STAR

# IS files 'probably genuine'

Germany thinks leaked lists of IS recruits to help fight the militants

BBC ONLINE

Germany's interior minister yesterday said stolen files detailing hundreds of recruits to the Islamic State militant group can be assumed to be genuine.

Thomas de Maiziere said the information could help with prosecutions of IS fighters, and help prevent future recruitment to the militant group.

Files obtained by German, UK and Syrian opposition media are

said to identify IS recruits from at least 40 countries. Some 22,000 names appear to be listed but most may be duplicates.

Names, addresses, phone numbers and skill sets are listed on official-looking forms.

One file refers to a German recruit who used to be "in sales" and now "wants to be a suicide bomber", while another would-be suicide bomber (nationality not given) formerly worked as a "tobacconist in a restaurant".

Another mentions an Australian who was willing to "martyr" himself, but the document expressed concerns over his night vision, and inability to drive a car with manual gear change, CNN reports.

Counter-terrorism police in Germany are studying the documents.

"The German Federal Bureau of Investigation acts on the assumption that the documents are authentic," de Maiziere said.

"We can also improve our under-

standing of the structures of this terror organisation," he added. "And possibly, it will discourage young, radicalised people, who believe they are doing something good if they become a member of a criminal organisation."

His counterpart in the UK, Home Secretary Theresa May, said she could not comment on "specific national security matters".

IS "poses a severe threat... it is important for us to work together to

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## POWER STRUGGLE 33 hurt in clash in Bagerhat village

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

At least 33 people were injured, including eight by bullets, in a clash between the supporters of two UP members in Mollahat upazila yesterday.

ANM Khairul Anam, officer-in-charge of Mollahat Police Station, said there had been a longstanding dispute between the two members of Udaypur Union -- Azizur

Rahman Muku and Kamrul Mollah -- over establishing supremacy in the area.

Kamrul is the member of Udaypur Uttarkandi ward while Muku of Astail ward.

Locals said supporters of Muku beat up Kamrul's brother Roisul Mollah on Thursday night. Later on that night, Kamrul's men beat up Muku and some of his followers.

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