



## 'BHAAR' IS OUT

Finally, the debut album of AvoidRafa is released

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## A DEATH, 18 YEARS BACK

Article on Rubel whose killing led to filing of a crucial writ petition

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## AFTER THE DEFEAT

Sonia Gandhi asks party to stick to principles as "no failure is permanent"

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## Could've been worse if not for swift actions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thanks to better planning and preparedness, the government managed to keep casualties low after Cyclone Roanu hit the country yesterday afternoon.

To avoid heavy loss of lives and damage to properties, the disaster management and relief ministry conducted a massive evacuation campaign and mobilised medical aids and succour. Weekly holidays were cancelled for all government officials in 18 coastal districts to keep them ready for rescue operations.

All arrangements were in place to evacuate up to 21.50 lakh people, if needed, from 13 most vulnerable coastal districts, including Chittagong,

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The tug boat, which was at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port, lost its anchor and drifted on to the Patenga Beach after Cyclone Roanu made landfall yesterday. Shopkeepers in Patenga try to save their goods as waves wash away their business, top right. Storm surges break a dam and sea water rushes in, bottom right, at Nalchiraghat of Hatiya in Noakhali.



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS / FACEBOOK GROUP TILOTTOMAHATIYA



## Shab-e-Barat tonight

BSS, Dhaka

The holy Shab-e-Barat, known as the night of fortune, will be observed tonight across the country with due religious fervour.

Muslim devotees would spend the night at mosques and homes offering prayers, reciting from the holy Quran to seek blessings of Almighty Allah.

Muslims consider Shab-e-Barat as one of three most... SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

## HOLIDAY

The Daily Star office will remain closed today on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow. However, we will continue to serve the readers through our online edition and SMS service.

# Roanu takes 23 lives

13 more missing; around 100 injured; properties damaged; storm crosses Bangladesh

STAR REPORT

At least 23 people were killed and 13 others were missing after Cyclone Roanu made landfall yesterday afternoon on Chittagong-Noakhali coast.

The storm knocked down homes and toppled trees, causing the casualties in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Bhola, Noakhali, Patuakhali and Laxmipur. The death toll may rise as many are missing and critically injured.

Tens of thousands of people left their homes in the coastal areas for safety ahead of the storm and afterwards amid high tides, wind gusts and incessant rain.

As Roanu weakened, turned into a

low and headed towards India last night, all maritime ports were asked to lower their cautionary signals to "3".

"Now it is over Feni, Khagrachhari, Sitakunda [of Chittagong] and the Indian state of Tripura," Muhammad Mohiuddin, an observer at the Dhaka Met Office, told The Daily Star around 7:45pm.

Mesbahuddin, deputy commissioner of Chittagong, at a press conference yesterday evening confirmed the reports of deaths of two people in the port city, two more in Sitakunda and seven in Banskhali, the worst-hit upazila in terms of casualties.

One person was missing in the city and three more in Banskhali, the DC said.

In Sitakunda, mother and son died when their house came crashing down on them, said the Agrabad Fire Service and Civil Defence office.

The DC said two lakh homes were damaged and crops worth Tk 15 crore and fish, poultry and cattle worth another Tk 100 crore were destroyed by the storm.

At least 15,000 cattle were washed away in Sandwip alone, he claimed.

In other districts, people died due to houses or trees collapsing on them in the storm or by waves sweeping them away.

At least three people killed in Cox's Bazar, three in Noakhali, three in

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# GASTRIC? Get his gastrometer

Passion, tragedy drive a man from Magura to invent device for diagnosing gastric problems easily

PORIMOL PALMA with ANDREW EAGLE

Gastric maladies like dyspepsia, heat-burn, acidity and abdominal pain can be difficult to accurately diagnose and effectively treat. In developed countries there is equipment to measure acidity in the oesophagus which facilitates accurate analysis; but such equipment is expensive and rare in Bangladesh.

Locally, doctors more often rely on patients describing symptoms such as gastric history, abdominal pain and loss of appetite for diagnosis, a process which leads to generalised treatment that is somewhat

hit-and-miss, and can lead to complications and even death. It's a situation that might be about to change.

Medical practitioner and inventor Siddhartha Sankar Biswas, 42, of Gobindapur village in Magura's Sreepur upazila has invented a saliva-testing instrument with the potential to offer more accurate and inexpensive diagnoses of stomach conditions.

"My electric gastrometer uses two electrodes of different metals," Siddhartha explains, "and when saliva is placed on the tool's receiver current is

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Siddhartha with his invention that promises a more accurate and affordable test of stomach conditions.

PHOTO: STAR

## UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS IN MALAYSIA

# Huge rush to get registered

Brokers show up outside the high commission to make quick buck

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOLOB

Hundreds of Bangladeshi migrants, most of them undocumented, in Malaysia are thronging Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur every day for obtaining their passports, birth certificates and other necessary documents to become legal in the Southeast Asian country.

The mission is facing sudden influx of the migrants after the Malaysian government announced that from February 15, 2016, the undocumented foreign workers would be

registered with the country's immigration department.

"Every day, around 1,500 to 2,000 Bangladeshis crowd the high commission for different purposes, including giving fingerprint for passport," Sayedul Islam, labour counsellor at the high commission, told The Daily Star over the phone recently.

Usually, the mission serves 200 to 300 people a day, but the figure has rapidly increased as the legalisation of the undocumented foreign workers began, he said, adding that the process would continue until June 30.

Taking advantage of the huge rush of the migrants at the high commission, some brokers are now making a quick buck in the name of processing their birth certificates or national identity cards or applications for passports, sources in Malaysia told this correspondent.

The brokers have set up makeshift tents outside the mission building, but the mission officials don't take any step to stop it, they alleged.

Asked about the issue, Sayedul said they don't have anything to do

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## Islamic State threatens 'attacks in India'

REUTERS, New Delhi

In a rare appeal to India's Muslim minority, Islamic State says "it is planning to avenge the deaths of Muslims killed in riots in Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat and elsewhere".

India, a Hindu-majority country, is home to more than 160 million Muslims, but only a handful of them have joined the Middle Eastern group. Indian leaders and members of the community say this testifies to the strength of the country's secular democracy.

In a video monitored by the US intelligence group SITE, Islamic State mocked Muslims living in harmony with Hindus who worship cows, trees and the sun, and urged them to travel to IS-held territories in the "Caliphate".

"In this land you get to have hatred for the kuffar.

In this land you get to perform jihad," said an Indian fighter who is identified as Abu Salman al-Hindi operating in the Syrian province of Homs.

"In this land your religion is safe. In this land Allah's Law is the highest. In this land you have nothing that stops you from doing good deeds, from doing da'wah, from preaching Islam. In this land your life, your honour, your property is protected."

Another fighter then says

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## IS 'claims' credit for Kushtia killing

Says it murdered the homeopath for 'promoting Christianity'; locals say he'd no links to missionary work

STAR REPORT

A day into the killing of homeopath Sanaur Rahman in Kushtia, global terror outfit Islamic State yesterday claimed responsibility for the attack, saying that he was killed for "calling to Christianity".

The US-based Site Intelligence Group posted the claim on its website, referring to Amaq News Agency, the media wing of the IS.

"IS fighters in Bangladesh killed a doctor who 'called to Christianity' in the western district of Kushtia," says the post.

However, the claim was dismissed by Sanaur's neighbours. Luis Biswas, organiser of a Christian missionary in Kushtia, said he knew Sanaur to be a homeopath for the poor, but he was never involved in promoting Christianity.

"Sanaur had no relation with missionary activities," he added.

Abu Selim, who received treatment from the 60-year-old for a couple of years, said he never heard of the homeopath

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Migrant workers crowd the Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia to get ID cards, passports renewed and other documents so that they could become a regular worker in the Southeast Asian country. Taking advantage of the huge pressure on the mission, some people have pitched up tents, inset, and are offering to get things done in exchange for "fees". The photos were taken recently. PHOTO: COLLECTED



"Teachers never become retired persons; their job of imparting knowledge never ends. This power of imparting knowledge rather increases through practice over time."

EDUCATION MINISTER NURUL ISLAM NAHID AT A PROGRAMME IN THE CITY YESTERDAY.