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DEMARCATION OF DHAKA RIVERS

2,000 pillars misplaced

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A third of the 6,000 demarcation pillars on the Buriganga and the Turag were installed inside the rivers and they would be reinstalled in their correct positions after a district administration survey.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), custodian of the country's inland waterways, had the pillars installed in the wrong places over the past few years, causing four major rivers around Dhaka city to lose nearly 2,500 acres to land grabbers.

Yesterday, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, also the head of the national taskforce for monitoring the important rivers, during a spot visit told journalists that after the pillars had been installed in their correct positions, walkways and roads would be built to protect the rivers from land grabbers.

Shajahan was aware of the incorrect placement of pillars all along and there was a huge public outcry, but he did little at that time to correct this error, said officials concerned requesting not to be named.

According to them, land worth an estimated Tk 25,000 crore has been lost to grabbers due to the incorrect placement of the pillars. The damage to the environment was enormous, they added.

During the visit yesterday, Shajahan said they would return the river land to the rivers, no matter how powerful the land grabbers were.

He said they would take action if necessary against the grabbers and punish them.

"During the visit of the taskforce we found many spots

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Grabbers encroach on river land beyond demarcation pillars (see the arrows) in the Turag river in Tongi's Kamarpara Bridge area. The shipping minister says 2,000 out of such 6,000 pillars of the Turag and Buriganga rivers have been installed inside the river land. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Govt eyes big investment from China

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government looks to tap Chinese investment into Bangladesh by awarding them a special economic zone as well as availing loans at cheap rates from Beijing, said Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday.

He made the comment at a discussion on "Bangladesh-China Relation: Achievement and Expectation" organised by the Economic Reporters' Forum (ERF) at the CIRDAP auditorium in Dhaka.

The discussion came days ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's upcoming visit to Dhaka.

"He also visited Bangladesh when he was the vice-president of his country. He is now coming to Bangladesh as the president. This only proves that how deep the relations are between the two nations," the minister observed.

Tofail said many countries have problems with

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IDENTITY OF 'NEO JMB FINANCIER' Detectives hit a dead end

STAR REPORT

Police believe "Neo JMB financier Abdur Rahman", who jumped to his death from a building during a Rab raid on Saturday, was either using a fake passport or had used a fake address in his travel document.

When Satkhira police yesterday went to verify his identity, with information from the passport found in the Ashulia militants' hideout on Saturday, they found that nobody there knows Abdur Rahman.

Officer-in-Charge Firoz Hossain Mollah of Satkhira Sadar Police Station said the names of his father and mother were mentioned as Abdullah and Rizia Khatun in the passport issued on September 10, 2014.

His daughter's name was mentioned as Shahnaz Parveen and his date of birth was June 22, 1986. His permanent address was in Kushkhali of Satkhira Sadar.

"We did not find anyone named Abdur Rahman in that address," the OC told our Satkhira correspondent.

Contacted Rab-4 Commanding Officer Khandaker Lutful Kabir said they had sent the passport number to the Department of Passport for verification.

Abdur Rahman, identified by Rab as Nazmul Haque with Babu and Moynul as aliases, died after he jumped off a five-storey building during a raid by Rapid Action Battalion in Savar's Ashulia.

Also known as Ainul, he was the key financier of "Neo JMB" and provided funds for some recent terror attacks, sources claimed.

The elite force members are now trying to arrest two of

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More trouble for Trump

More lewd comments surface ahead of today's second debate; more Republicans shun the abrasive billionaire

AFP, Washington

White House candidate Donald Trump desperately needs a strong debate performance against Hillary Clinton today, with stakes sky-high following intense scrutiny of his treatment of women and damaging footage of him making lewd remarks.

His unprecedented, outside-the-establishment presidential bid, and the

worst crisis, with his crude comments echoing in voters' ears, day in and day out.

National media have dug up evidence of some of his bad and bizarre behavior, including agreeing with an interviewer that his daughter Ivanka was a "piece of a ***". In a 2002 interview with Howard Stern, Trump also said he preferred leaving women over a certain age.

"What is it at 35? It's called check-out time," he quips.

At 9:00pm (0200 GMT Monday), the real estate magnate will face the former secretary of state in their second presidential debate which will take place at Washington University in St Louis.

The format poses its own difficulties for Trump: half of the questions will be asked by undecided voters.

He will want to build a personal connection with these everyday Americans and show his capacity for empathy, a quality that often has been absent in his large, raucous campaign rallies.

Despite an angry backlash over Trump's remarks boasting about his ability to grope women as he pleases without impunity, he insisted there is "zero chance I'll quit".

Late Saturday, the defiant Republican stepped outside of his Trump Tower skyscraper in New York, brandishing his fist to cheers from dozens of supporters.

embattled Republican Party with it, was thrown into disarray by his misogynistic comments, with growing calls from top Republicans for him to step aside.

Even before the latest fallout, Trump was already in need of a moment of political magic to reverse his slide in the polls barely four weeks from Election Day on November 8.

Now his campaign has been rocked by its

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Proxima b 'likely' to support life



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The discovery of alien life could be a step closer after scientists found a newly discovered planet is "likely" to harbour life forms.

A team at the Marseille Astrophysics Laboratory (CNRS) believes planet Proxima b, which was first spotted in August, has seas and could even be an "ocean planet" with water covering its whole surface.

The presence of water raises the tantalising prospect that Proxima b could be home to alien life.

The Earth-like planet orbits Proxima Centauri, the closest star to our sun. It is estimated to be 1.3 times the mass of Earth and is 4.22 light years away.

Proxima b lies inside the "habitable zone" of the star it orbits, meaning it could have a surface temperature in the range needed to support life.

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A glimmer of hope for Khadiza

Brother says quoting doctors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The condition of Khadiza's brain may gradually improve if she remains stable in the next few days, said her brother, quoting doctors.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Shahin Ahmed, who is a medical student in China, said the doctors are hopeful that his sister would

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ARSON CASES

BNP leader Sohel lands in prison

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Separate courts in Dhaka yesterday sent BNP leader Habib-Un-Nabi Khan Sohel to jail in 41 arson cases, rejecting his bail prayers.

The cases were filed against Sohel, a joint secretary general of BNP and president of Jatiyatabadi Svecchhasebak Dal, with different police stations in the capital, including Paltan, Motijheel, Jatrabari, Khilgaon, Darussalam and Ramna, during the BNP-led 20-party alliance's anti-government movement in 2015, defence lawyer Joynal Abedin Mesbah told The Daily Star.

Metropolitan magistrate's courts passed the order after Sohel surrendered before the courts, seeking bail in the cases.

In a statement, BNP

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Indigenous Jhum farmers harvesting paddy in a remote area of Chimbuk in Bandarban recently. The farmers store the grains to have them throughout the year, and a good yield this season has brought a big smile to their faces.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Insurgents kill nine Myanmar policemen

Bangladesh steps up security along border

AGENCIES

Nine Myanmar police officers were killed in coordinated attacks by insurgents on posts along the border with Bangladesh early yesterday, an official and police said.

No-one has claimed responsibility but a senior local Myanmar official pointed the finger at a militant group from the Muslim Rohingya minority that has been dormant for years.

The assaults hit three border posts around 1:30 am near Maungdaw in the impoverished western state of Rakhine, simmering with tensions between Buddhists and Muslim Rohingyas, who are forced to live in dire conditions.

"Altogether nine police were killed, four others were injured and one is still missing," Tin Maung Swe, a senior official within Rakhine's state government, told AFP.

He added that eight insurgents were also killed in the attacks. Police in the capital Naypyidaw confirmed the attack and said multiple weapons were seized by the assailants.

Tin Maung Swe said the attackers were "RSO insurgents", a reference to a group known as the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation. He did not elaborate on how he knew this.

Meanwhile, additional security measures have been enhanced along Bangladesh's borders with Myanmar after the death of nine police officers, reports our Cox's Bazar correspondent.

Sector Commander of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Col Tanvir Alam Khan said they contacted Myanmar's Border Guard Police (BGP) authorities after hearing

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