



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE
STAR WEEKEND

KINGDOM GRIEVES

Thailand still mourns the death of King Bhumibol. Why?

SEE WIDE ANGEL

ROAD TO FREEDOM

Scotland publishes independence referendum bill

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Mosul raises humanitarian alarm in war

Anti-IS forces retake town east of the city; Iraqis flee for Syria

AGENCIES

At a refugee camp in Syria's Al-Hawl, 11-year-old Jawaher limps from a wound she sustained in an Islamic State group mortar attack while she and family were fleeing Iraq's Mosul.

Her family are among the thousands who fled the city just before the October 17 start of an offensive by the Iraqi army and the US-led anti-IS coalition to retake the city from jihadists.

She was crossing from Iraq into Syria, seeking refuge in the war-torn country, when she came under fire.

"I was sitting with my friends, I just saw a shell land between us and I passed out," she whispers, her head covered in a pink veil.

"My foot still hurts from the shrapnel, but I'm feeling a bit better now."

Around her, white tents are lined up in the desert, battered by dust. Men and women wander around the makeshift camp, some carrying a child, or boxes of supplies, others hauling stuffed backpacks or heavy luggage.

Al-Hawl lies in Syria's northeastern Hasakeh province, much of which was held by IS, though Kurdish and Arab forces backed by the US-led coalition have taken large swathes of territory back from the jihadist group.

Some 5,000 Iraqi civilians have arrived in Syria in the last 10 days alone, according to Save the Children.

CONSTANT FEAR

To cope with the influx, bulldozers are busy expanding the camp at



A displaced woman and children who are fleeing from clashes sit in a military vehicle in Qayyarah during an operation against Islamic State (IS) militants in Mosul, Iraq.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Enjoy freedom, but be more responsible
PM tells journos

BSS, Dhaka

Highlighting her government's various steps for the welfare of the mass media and journalists, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon all concerned to be more responsible while discharging their duties.

"You would enjoy the facilities, but won't perform your responsibility -- it's not proper ... everybody has responsibility towards the country and the society," she said.



Improvised, new look 3-wheelers in the making

The environment-friendly, cost-effective vehicles show promising future

REAZ AHMAD

A battery-run rickshaw consumes over 960Wh electricity every time it is charged.

And when homegrown low-cost vehicle manufacturer Beevatech Limited pioneered battery operated rickshaws a few years back, the streets in Dhaka were literally swarming with the tricycles, most of which fed on illegal power connections.

Soon, they gained much popularity among the pullers for their new-found speed and elimination of pedalling which requires physical strength.

But as the rickshaws and their brakes were not good enough to main-



tain the speed (up to 40kmph), the vehicles became accident-prone. So, the government made sure they are off the street.

Five years later, a Brac University initiative, partnering with the same Beevatech, rekindled hope that an array of battery-run three-wheelers can actually hit the roads of Bangladesh and beyond.

With the World Bank finance through the Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), Brac University's Control and Applications Research Centre (Car) has developed prototypes of environment-friendly and cost-effective solar assisted electric tri-wheelers by integrating the innovative torque sensor technology for the first time into the vehicle.

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Ten days in a container

Victim ended up in Visakhapatnam from Chittagong; Bangladesh mission in touch with Indian authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man, reportedly from Bangladesh, was recovered from a locked, empty container at Visakhapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh of India on Wednesday.

The victim, Md Roman Hossain, was found in dehydrated condition as he was without food and water for about 10 days, Venkat Rao, an official at One Town Police Station at Visakhapatnam, told our Chittagong correspondent by phone.

He was undergoing treatment at a local hospital where his condition was improving, said the official, adding that they would take steps to send him back home once he got well.

Quoting Hossain, 25, police said he was from Munshiganj, where he had no home or work. About 10 days ago, he first travelled to Dhaka and then to Chittagong Port looking for a job. There, when he saw an empty container,

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Govt should repeal new NGO law
Says HRW

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh parliament should repeal a new law aimed at regulating civil society organisations that accept foreign funds, Human Rights Watch (HRW) has said.

In a statement on Wednesday, the global human rights body said, "The new law subjects non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to comprehensive and arbitrary government control over their activities, stifling freedom of expression and other rights. Bangladesh's international donors, who provide critical development assistance, should publicly call for the repeal of the law."

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MG!

"I would like to promise and pledge to all of my voters and supporters and to all of the people of the United States that I will totally accept the results of this great and historic presidential election ... if I win."

DONALD TRUMP
ON ACCEPTING THE NOVEMBER 8 ELECTION RESULTS



MEHEDI'S MIRACLE: Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha had said that his side would need a miracle to win a Test against England and perhaps he got the first sight of that in the form of 18-year-old Mehedi Hasan Miraz, who scalped five wickets on debut to peg the visitors back to 258 for seven at stumps on the first day of the Chittagong Test yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Mehedi rules action-packed opening day

SAKEB SUBHAN from Chittagong

Bangladesh may have finally settled upon the conditions and personnel to be genuinely competitive in Test matches at home, judging by yesterday's first day's play of the first Test against England at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong. At stumps, considering they lost the toss, the home team can look back on a rare day of Test cricket that they have won, thanks mainly to debutant off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz's five for 64. England, however, will take some solace from battling a skilled spin attack and a difficult wicket to recover somewhat from three for 21 and four from 83 to 258 for seven.

England all-rounder Moeen Ali, who hit a review-laden 68 off 170 balls, was the main bulwark between England and disaster in a day characterised by attacking fields throughout, in itself a rare sight for Bangladesh. There was only one real partnership of note for England and that was the sixth wicket 88-run stand between Jonny Bairstow and Ali. Half an hour after the tea break, England looked to be regaining some control, but Miraz came back and performed his second act after taking three wickets in the first two sessions. In the last ball of the 68th over, he ripped one across Ali, and the resultant edge was taken very smartly by keeper and captain Mushfiqur Rahim.



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