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# Mandarins bring hope to farmers

MINTU DESHWARA with ANDREW EAGLE

Sweet, sweet mandarins, locally called "komola" are proving a hit among Moulvibazar farmers. With a strong harvest and particular good taste, the size and number of mandarin orchards is increasing, especially in Juri upazila which has a long association with the citrus fruit's cultivation.

"I have made handsome profits from growing the fruit over the last few years," says mandarin grower Javed Miah, 29, of Juri's Hayacherra village. "Good demand and reasonable prices bring us hope; and last year I expanded my orchard as a result."

Fellow growers Muktar Mia, 27, and his wife Husna Begum, 23, from the same village have also achieved a good return, earning over Tk 3 lakh from mandarins this year. "We started growing mandarins two years ago," says Husna. "Before that my husband was unemployed and I worked in somebody else's garden."

"At first we weren't sure if we were growing it properly," she recalls, "but later a relative gave us useful advice and nowadays mandarins have made us financially self-reliant."

That relative, Ibrahim Ali, has grown mandarins for the last nine years. "Many farmers take advice from me," he says, "and a good number of them used to be unemployed. But good prices have encouraged them to grow mandarins."

Ibrahim believes proper training, financial and technical

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A mandarin grower at his orchard in Moulvibazar's Juri upazila. Cultivation of this sweet citrus fruit, locally called "komola", has become a boon for farmers of the district.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

## Bangladesh 22nd in global terror index

It ranked 25th last year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh experienced more terrorist attacks last year compared to those in the previous two years, according to a report by the Institute of Economics and Peace.

The country ranked 22nd among 130 nations in the Global Terrorism Index 2016. It was 25th in the 2015 index and 23rd in the 2014 index.

According to the report released yesterday by the Australia-based non-profit think tank, nearly half of all terrorist attacks across the world occurred in four countries -- Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

Four percent of the global terrorist attacks took place in Bangladesh in 2015.

Iraq topped the 2016 index with 20 percent of the total terrorist attacks taking place in the country. Afghanistan ranked second, accounting for 14 percent of such attacks. With eight percent of attacks, Pakistan was fourth, and India, with

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## AL TICKET FOR NCC MAYOR Ivy wants Hasina to intervene

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Narayanganj City Corporation Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy will seek Awami League President Sheikh

Hasina's intervention in getting party ticket for the upcoming mayoral polls, as the city AL has excluded her from the list of prospective candidates.

At an extended meeting on Monday, the city AL picked its President Anwar Hossain and two other party leaders as candidates for the mayoral election to be held on partisan lines on December 22.

The city unit has already sent the list of its nominees to the party central committee, said AL sources.

Anwar, who was known as a critic of influential AL lawmaker Shamim Osman, worked as Ivy's chief election coordinator in the 2011 mayoral election.

But he gradually distanced himself from Ivy. And in the last couple of years, he got close to Shamim with whom Ivy has long-standing rivalry, said party insiders.

This time, Shamim has thrown his weight behind Anwar to help him get party nomination, they added.

Contacted, Ivy said she would seek the



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## Think twice before you marry a cousin

Children endure horrifying disease as parents are relatives

PORIMOL PALMA

Imagine a preteen girl or boy not being allowed to go outdoors to play with friends or visit relatives or even go to school.

You probably cannot imagine that or you would seriously judge the parents.

But 12-year-old Sraboni Jaman and eight-year-old Monimuzzaman have to stay indoors almost all day. The siblings know how it feels to face such realities as they suffer from Xeroderma Pigmentosum (XP), which has developed when they were below two years of age.

Dermatologists say XP is a rare genetic disorder that prevents the body's ability to repair damage caused by ultraviolet (UV) light from sunlight. It can cause severe sunburn, ulcers and skin cancer and blindness and premature death if not diagnosed early and prevented from UV.

Dermatology professor Yakub Ali of BSMMU said XP is a genetic disease that occurs mostly to the children of those who marry close cousins.

There is no study on the number of XP patients in Bangladesh. The number might be small, but they suffer immensely from huge physical, social and financial consequences, like that of Sraboni and Monimuzzaman, who mostly remain indoors to protect themselves from UV.

"I can rarely play with friends outside," said Sraboni, a fourth-grader, who goes to school only when it is cloudy or overcast.

"I watch TV in a closed room ... it always feel bad."

Monimuzzaman too does the same. He is even lonelier as he doesn't like to watch TV.

"I play alone in the room ... can't go outside because I can't keep my eyes open ... they [eyes] hurt if I go out of the room," he said.

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## Second attack on a Hindu house in Nasirnagar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Hindu house came under an arson attack for the second time last evening at Nasirnagar upazila of Brahmanbaria amid a heavy presence of police and members of the Border Guard Bangladesh and Rapid Action Battalion.

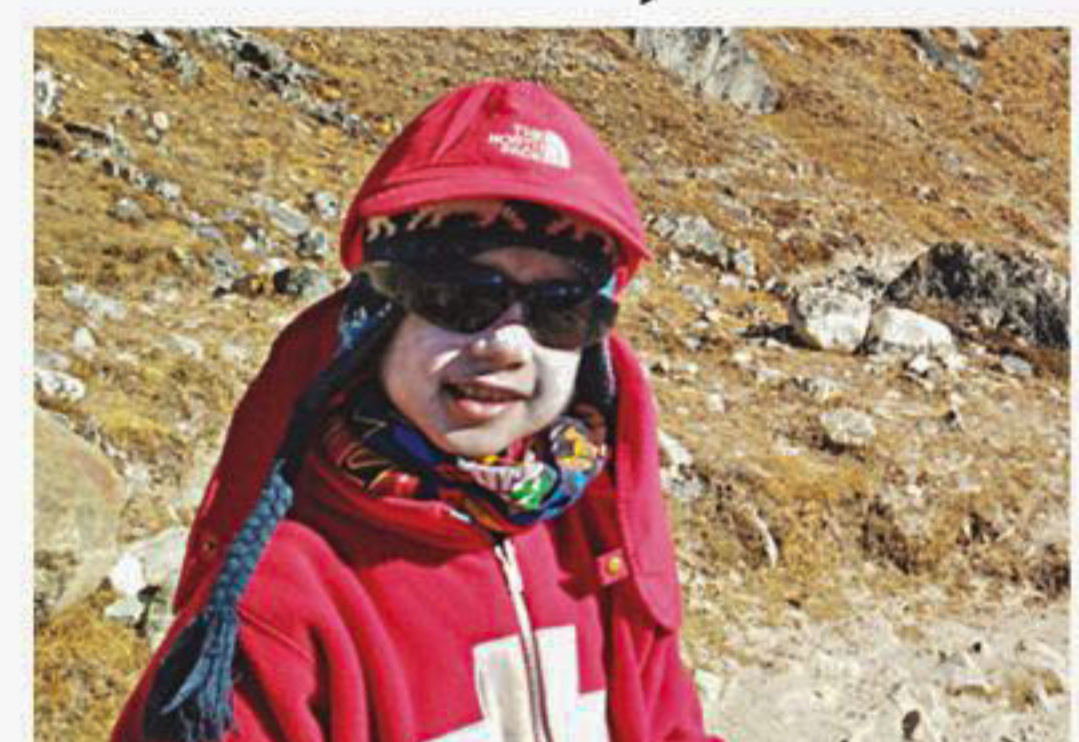
Unidentified people set fire to the cowshed at the house of Anjan Dev at Datta Para of the sadar union around 6:00pm, said Superintendent of Brahmanbaria Police Mizanur Rahman.

Earlier on November 5, the residence of Anjan, vice-chairman of Nasirnagar sadar upazila, was attacked.

The fresh incident happened against the backdrop of a prevailing outcry over October 30 attacks on Hindu houses and temples, which were carried out in

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## 6-year-old treks to Everest base camp



TNN, Pune

A class 1 student from the Indian state of Maharashtra has set a record by becoming the youngest mountaineer from the state to scale the base camp to Mount Everest, the highest peak in the world. Six-year-old Advait Bhartiya is also the youngest Indian to have reached the spot in the winter.

Advait's mother Payal, who is also an avid trekker, said, "Initially, I had planned to go to the base camp alone but Advait insisted on joining me. I told him that he could join if he managed to train and prepare for it. For the next month, his training included climbing 100 floors daily."

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## Trump's team mulls 'Muslim registration'

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Donald Trump's policy advisors are discussing plans to establish a registry for Muslim immigrants in the US, a man believed to be a key member of the President-elect's transition team has revealed.

Kris Kobach, the secretary of state for Kansas, said the President-elect's advisors were looking at how to

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 17

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-05 12-45 3-45 5-21 7-00  
JAMAA 5-40 1-15 4-00 5-24 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



## YOUNG FISH NOT SPARED

Catching of very young fish with illegal current nets and small nets goes unabated in the hoars of Sylhet. In the absence of proper monitoring by fisheries department officials, hundreds of locals, with whatever fishing nets they have, catch different species of sweet water fish, leading to a depletion of the fish varieties and stock. The photos were taken at Jainta on Sylhet-Tamabil road, Pagla on Sylhet-Sunamganj road and at Putmara haor on Tuesday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR



## Rajshahi dist BNP leader found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A senior BNP leader of Rajshahi was found with multiple gunshot wounds at his home in the city. He was declared dead on arrival at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) yesterday afternoon.

The dead, Khondokar Mainul Islam, 56, was a contractor and vice-president of Rajshahi district unit BNP.

He was former president of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and former general secretary of the District Sports Association.

Mainul was a right-handed man and a bullet pierced through his head from the left, said Enamul Haque, lecturer of forensic medicine department at Rajshahi Medical College after performing the autopsy.

"We found two bullet injuries just over his ears. The

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Mainul Islam



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