

# The Daily Star

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## UBER DRIVER

Rare job for hard-up French suburban youth

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## NIKKI'S THREAT

'Back US or we'll take names,' warns America's new UN envoy

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## SERENA PREVAILS

Beats sister to achieve a record 23 Grand Slam singles win

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# 'We don't want them here'

Trump suspends refugee arrivals vowing to weed out Islamic radicals, imposes tough controls on travellers from 7 Muslim nations; UN condemns move; Google recalls staff

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump unleashed a wave of alarm yesterday with his order to temporarily halt all refugee arrivals and impose tough controls on travellers from seven Muslim countries, including war-ravaged Syria, to give preference to religious minorities.

Making good on one of his most controversial campaign promises, and to the horror of human rights groups, Trump said the goal is to screen out "radical Islamic terrorists" and that priority for admission would be given to Christians.

"This is big stuff," he declared at the Pentagon, after signing an executive order on Friday entitled "Protection of the nation from foreign terrorist entry into the United States".

The countries impacted are Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Yemen and Somalia, according to a White House official.

"I hereby proclaim that the entry of nationals of Syria as refugees is detrimental to the interests of the United States and thus suspend any such entry," the order signed by Trump reads.

The total number of refugees admitted into the United States would also be capped during the 2017 fiscal year at 50,000, down more than half from

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Students attending a class in a flood shelter shed on the premises of Gono Unnayan Academy High School in a remote char area of Gaibandha yesterday. Criminals torched the school early Friday, reducing seven classrooms and the office room to ashes. With the motive still unclear, firefighters said they had smelt flammable liquid like petrol after reaching the spot. Bank Asia has said it would repair and rebuild the school building.

PHOTO: KM REZAUL HOQUE

## IN SEARCH OF EC Turn in 5 names

Panel asks 31 political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly formed search committee in its first meeting yesterday requested 31 political parties to recommend five names each to the additional secretary of the Cabinet Division by 11:00am on Tuesday for the appointment of the chief election commissioner and other commissioners.

"The committee will sit with 12 eminent personalities of the country at the Supreme Court Judges Lounge at 4:00pm on Monday," Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiq Alam told journalists after the meeting at the Judges Lounge.

President Abdul Hamid formed the six-member search committee, headed by Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, on January 25 after holding a series of talks with 31 political parties to constitute the next Election Commission.

The tenure of the incumbent commission expires next month.

According to the gazette notification, the search committee will recommend two names each for the posts of the EC chief and four election commissioners.

The panel will present its recommendations to the president in 10 working days, it said. Later, the president, on the prime minister's advice, will appoint the EC chief and other commissioners.

Beginning at 11:00am yesterday, the search committee's meeting lasted for around an hour and forty-five minutes.

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## New trouble on anti-terror front

Counterterrorism watch lacks info about radicalised foreign nationals of Bangladesh origin

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Radicalised Bangladeshis with dual citizenship have become a major challenge for counterterrorism surveillance by law enforcers.

Talking to officials dealing with militancy, The Daily Star has learnt that law enforcers have little information about Bangladesh-origin foreign nationals who secretly went to Iraq or Syria from abroad and joined Islamic State (IS).

With IS gradually losing battles in Iraq and Syria, its members are being driven out of their territories and forced to look for shelters in other countries.

Bangladesh-origin IS recruits, who have dual citizenship, might now want to come here for shelter as they would face arrest if they return to the countries they fled to join the terror group.

"We have already started communicating

with different countries to collect information about Bangladeshis with dual citizenship who left the countries to fight for IS," Monirul Islam, chief of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of DMP, told The Daily Star recently.

He admitted that they don't have details about such IS men.

Investigators added that they suspect the number of Bangladesh-origin IS militants with dual citizenship would not be very small. They could not provide a figure.

"Such IS operatives have every chance of getting arrested if they return to the countries where they lived before leaving for IS territories as the authorities have detailed information about them," said a top official of CTTC unit.

"So, having dual citizenship, they will try to enter Bangladesh. With no information about their conducts, the authorities here

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## 3 YEARS OF PARLIAMENT 'Friendly' JS in the doldrums

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The current parliament has made no deviation from the constitutional provision of going into sessions regularly in the last three years. But its effectiveness still remains in question due mainly to the curious case of the main opposition Jatiya Party that has yet to emerge as real opposition bench.

Unlike the parliamentary session, almost all the 39 parliamentary standing committees on the same number of ministries did not sit regularly, paying no heed to the rules of procedure of Jatiya Sangsad. Most of them failed to perform their overseeing functions effectively.

According to section 248 of the rules of procedure, every parliamentary standing committee on the ministries shall hold at least one meeting every month to investigate or inquire into the activities of the ministries. The constitution also assigns them with the job.

Effectiveness of a parliament depends largely on the functioning of its committee system. The poor functioning of the committees tells the "effectiveness" of the current parliament.

Amid such a situation, the 10th parliament, formed through the January 2014 election held amid a boycott by the BNP-led alliance, steps into four years today.

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TOP! QUOTE

"Now [appointment of] APP means a panel list made by the ruling party, whoever in power, none from outside is appointed."

CHIEF JUSTICE SURENTRA KUMAR SINHA SAID AT A PROGRAMME IN THE CAPITAL YESTERDAY.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### TORTURE

## Is the police above law?

SHAKHAWAT LITON

It seems that the Supreme Court's (SC) immensely significant opinion on the anti-torture law did not go down well with the police.

The SC wants proper enforcement of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013 that prohibits both mental and physical torture in any situation and death in custody of law enforcement agencies.

But police seeks cancellation of this Act as the force claims the law has curbed their "rights".

The police last Monday even claimed the law enforcers will lose their dedication to work if this law remained in force which might hamper security of the state and the people.

To get the law scrapped, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's intervention was sought as she attended the Police Welfare Parade at Rajarbagh Police Lines on the day.

The significance of the law is immense in order to establish the rule of law.

"By this law, the safeguards of human dignity, personal liberty, undue harassment and torture of a detainee at the

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Workers hammering solidified sacks of fertiliser at Baghabari port in Sirajganj a couple of days ago. Later, the fertiliser grounds are distributed among farmers. The fertiliser turned solid as the sacks were kept in the open for months after import.

PHOTO: AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

## Urea left in the open

The fertiliser loses quality; excessive import, dearth of warehouses to blame

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, back from Baghabari, Sirajganj

Thousands of bags full of urea fertilizer have weathered under the sun and in rains over the last two years at extended courtyards of two northern river ports.

In the process, fertilizer, which is otherwise in granular form, has absorbed moisture and turned rocky.

Dozens of workers now hammer the hardened fertilizer to get it back to its original form and then sun-dry it for repackaging so that dealers take deliveries and sell it to farmers of 16 northern districts during the peak Boro season when urea is mostly applied to paddy fields.

At least two lakh tonnes of urea is piled up at Baghabari and Nagarbari ports, awaiting transportation to the north, fertilizer dealers and port officials confirmed to The Daily Star.

Excess fertilizer was imported, which Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) warehouses in the northern districts could not accommodate due to lack of space, resulting in leaving it out in the open.

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