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## ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS US sets plan for sweeping crackdown

AFP, Washington

The Department of Homeland Security issued tough new orders yesterday to begin a sweeping crackdown on illegal immigrants, putting nearly all of the country's 11 million undocumented foreigners in their cross-hairs.

Two memos issued by DHS Secretary John Kelly order border patrol and immigration officers to deport as quickly as possible any illegal immigrants they find, with only a few exceptions, principally children.

The priority for deportation will remain on undocumented immigrants convicted of crimes, but will also include anyone who has been charged or potentially faces criminal charges.

However, categories of illegal immigrants deemed as low priority by the previous Barack Obama administration -- generally anyone not tied to a crime -- are no longer protected.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Indigenous students attending a class on Marma language at Kolackong Govt Primary School in Bandarban on Monday. Teachers voluntarily teach students the language as it is not included in the syllabus. Locals said there would be no dropouts in schools if the students were taught in their mother language.

PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

LEARNING IN ETHNIC LANGUAGES

## Book supply falls short of demand

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA, Bandarban

Mother language is one of the most important gifts any person might have and 11-year-old May Hla Sing from the Marma community in Bandarban is no exception.

A fifth grader at Kolackong Government Primary School in the remote area of the hilly district, she wishes to learn her class lessons in her own mother language every day.

But she is not sure if her dream would ever come true as she has no books in her own language.

"Every day I walk two hours to get to my school. I would have done better if I could read books in my own language," she told this correspondent.

The government for the first time has distributed pre-primary textbooks in five ethnic languages to facilitate their learning, but there is no visible initiative yet to print textbooks for students of class-I and above in those languages.

The National Curriculum and Textbook Board has printed 24,600 copies of textbooks in Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Sadri and Garo languages for the students across the country.

However, many students and teachers of different schools in Bandarban complained that they did not get the books.

Only 744 copies of pre-primary textbooks have been distributed among the students of Chakma and Marma communities in Bandarban, although the local authorities had earlier said 5,121 copies would be needed for students of Tripura, Marma and Chakma communities.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## UN envoy visits Rohingya slum

The refugees tell her horrific stories of torture, killing, rape and arson by Myanmar troops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The UN's rights envoy for Myanmar Yanghee Lee yesterday visited the newly built Rohingya slum at Paschim Balukhali in Ukhiya upazila of Cox's Bazar.

Lee, the UN's special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, spoke to the Rohingyas who recently entered Bangladesh from Myanmar's Rakhine state following an army crackdown against them.

During her three-hour stay at the slum, Lee wanted to know from some Rohingya men and women what type of torture and repression they had to endure in Myanmar and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## 12-yr-old boy tortured over trivial matter

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

A 12-year-old boy working as a bus helper suffered torture and degrading treatment for several hours in Rajshahi's Puthia upazila early yesterday at the hands of other staff who accused him of damaging wires of an onboard CD player.

Despite voicing his innocence, Nazmul Haque of Baroipara village was beaten, tufts of his hair cut and face smeared in burned engine oil, all the while tied to a truck, said police and witnesses.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

USE OF FAKE INFO IN PASSPORTS

## Lax verification helps criminals escape

RAFIUL ISLAM and SHARIFUL ISLAM

Militants and criminals are still obtaining passports on fake information with the help of some unscrupulous policemen and officials of the passport department.

Negligence and dishonesty of a section of field-level policemen, tasked with police verification for passport, and some officials of the Department of Immigration and Passports (DIP) help criminals get passports and flee the country, said police.

Police and passport department officials said under a current provision, the passport department is bound to issue a passport to

an applicant if the police verification report is not available within a stipulated time. This gives criminals an opportunity to obtain a passport on false information.

Issuance of fake passports had been rampant in the past, but the number has come down significantly following the introduction of machine readable passports (MRP), said Monirul Islam, chief of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

"We cannot say that issuance of fake passports has stopped completely," he told The Daily Star last night.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

## Special invitation from Dutch king



AFP, The Hague

Is your birthday on April 27? Do you celebrate a special birthday this year? Do you live in The Netherlands? If so, His Majesty King Willem-Alexander would like to invite you to dinner.

The royal palace announced on Monday that to celebrate his 50th birthday this year, the popular king will invite 150 people to dine with him and his wife, Queen Maxima, at their palace in Amsterdam.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Beginning tomorrow, The Daily Star's five-part 232-page special supplement series titled **BUILDING BLOCKS OF TOMORROW** will be published. The segments are:

- DRIVERS OF ECONOMY
- LIVING AND LIFESTYLE
- FROM EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT
- ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION
- TOWARDS A JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

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A "transport worker" cutting the hair of 12-year-old Nazmul Haque with his right arm tied. Another person films the torture on the child. He was being tortured allegedly for damaging the cable of a CD player of a bus parked in front of Khan Filling Station in Rajshahi's Puthia yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## 7 killed in suicide bomb attack at Pakistan court

15 wounded; Taliban claim responsibility

AFP, Tangi

At least seven people were killed when multiple Taliban suicide bombers attacked a court complex in northern Pakistan yesterday, the latest in a series of assaults which have raised fears militants are regrouping.

One bomber was briefly on the loose inside the busy complex in the Tangi area of Charsadda district but was killed by police some 20 minutes after the attack began, officials said.

A second bomber was shot dead by security forces and a third died when he detonated his vest outside the main gates of the facility in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, according to police.

The attack was claimed by the Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA) faction of the Pakistani Taliban, which carried out a series of apparently coordinated assaults last week including a powerful bomb blast in Lahore which killed 14 people.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

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**PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 22**  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
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JAMAAT 5-55 1-15 4-45 6-07 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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২০৩, শহীদ সৈয়দ নজরুল ইসলাম সরণী, (পুরাতন চ-৬, বিজয়নগর), ঢাকা-১০০০  
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২০৩, শহীদ সৈয়দ নজরুল ইসলাম সরণী  
(পুরাতন চ-৬, বিজয় নগর), ঢাকা-১০০০

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