

Fresh census

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Thengar Char, an island in the Bay of Bengal.

Collection of preliminary data, including identifying places where the Myanmar nationals took refuge, started on February 25.

Praising the initiative, convener of Rohingya Repatriation Action Committee, Principal Hamidul Haque Chowdhury, urged making public another census BBS carried out last year.

The crackdown began after nine Myanmar police were killed in attacks on border posts.

Government and international organisations assume around 70,000 Rohingyas entered Bangladesh.

A United Nations human rights observer who recently visited

Bangladesh stated of hearing from the refugees how government forces gang-raped women, slit people's throats and threw children into burning houses.

Over 400,000 Rohingyas have already been living for years in squalid camps and slums in the country's biggest tourist resort district.

SpaceX

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announce that SpaceX has been approached to fly two private citizens on a trip around the Moon late next year," said a statement by CEO Elon Musk on Monday.

"This presents an opportunity for humans to return to deep space for the first time in 45 years and they will travel faster and further into the solar system than any before them."

The tourists, who were not named, "have already paid a significant deposit," Musk's statement added.

Health tests and training are to begin this year.

"Other flight teams have also expressed strong interest and we expect more to follow. Additional information will be released about the flight teams, contingent upon their approval and confirmation of the health and fitness test results," Musk said.

The tourists will ride aboard the California-based company's Crew Dragon capsule, which is scheduled for its first unmanned test flight later this year.

It is based on the design currently used to send cargo to the International Space Station, with upgrades to allow for human transport.

The capsule will launch atop SpaceX's Falcon Heavy rocket, which is scheduled for its first test flight this summer.

The rocket "will be the most powerful vehicle to reach orbit after the Saturn V Moon rocket," Musk said.

"At five million pounds of liftoff thrust, Falcon Heavy is two-thirds the thrust of Saturn V and more than double the thrust of the next largest launch vehicle currently flying."

Musk -- who co-founded PayPal and also heads Tesla Motors -- is seen as the emerging leader of the modern commercial space industry, after becoming the first to send a private cargo carrier to the International Space Station in 2010.

The 45-year-old native of South Africa is a long-time space enthusiast, who is also outspoken about his vision to colonize Mars.

Last September he unveiled ambitious plans to establish a colony on the Red Planet by sending 100 humans at a time -- starting in 2024.

Cancel

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the police was posted to Mahalchhari in Khagrachhari in Chittagong Hill Tracts," it said.

Referring to SP's "role" in Gaibandha, the commission in the letter said it has had enough doubt if the SP would carry out his duty with sensitivity, neutrality and sincerity in Chittagong Hill Tracts -- which is considered to be a special area.

The commission also requested the authorities to consider one's commitment to communal harmony as yardstick before posting or transferring them for such sensitive duties, it added.

On February 7, the HC ordered the authorities concerned to immediately withdraw Ashraf for not cooperating properly in an inquiry into the torching of Santal houses during an eviction drive in November last year.

The HC bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice Krishna Debnath had passed the order after holding a brief hearing on the inquiry report prepared by the chief judicial magistrate of Gaibandha.

The chief judicial magistrate in his report said three policemen, one of whom was from the DB, and some locals were directly involved in the torching of houses.

The magistrate said when he had asked the Gaibandha SP for the names and designations of the policemen and the DB official concerned, the police official did not provide those.

The HC had also directed the authorities concerned to withdraw all police personnel who were on duty on November 6 in Changari Beel, where the Santal houses were set on fire.

Govt to use community

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according to the Community Radio Installation, Broadcast and Operation Policy, 2008 that at the same time cautions them against being used as a mouthpiece or publicity vehicle of any party.

A community radio is a resource of that particular community and it is to portray the outlook and attitude, norms and culture, thought and ideology of the people of the community, as said on the website of Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication.

Each station covers an area of 17 km radius from its centre with maximum transmitting power of 100 watts.

Bangladesh formally entered the era of community radio in 2011. At present, 17 stations are broadcasting programmes of 135 hours in total daily in different parts of the country.

AHM Bazlur Rahman, CEO of the radio and communication network, admitted receiving the letter from Bangladesh Betar.

Asked if Bangladesh Betar has the authority to give such an order, he said, "According to the policy, the government can give such a directive. We have obligations to air government's development activities."

Complying with the instruction, some community radios have already begun broadcasting success stories of the government. The rest will join them soon.

Shahjedi Anjuman Ara, addition secretary (broadcast) of the information ministry, told The Daily Star that the directive was issued to make people aware of development activities of the Sheikh Hasina-led government.

The latest move followed the three-day "development fair" organised by the government in January in all upazilas and districts to inform people of its achievement and success.

"This [radio programmes] is part of our preparation for the next parliamentary election," said a mid-ranking Awami League leader wishing not to be named.

The ruling party has also taken measures to resolve intra-party conflicts, conduct a survey to identify hopeful MP candidates and draft the party's election manifesto for the next election.

AL President Sheikh Hasina at her party's 20th triennial council in October last year asked party members to prepare for the election and reiterated the call in almost all party forums.

About the party's election preparation, AL presidium member Con (Retd) Faruk Khan said, "We are working to strengthen the organisation by resolving intra-party disputes. A team led by PM's advisor HT Imam is working to prepare the manifesto."

The party has planned to ensure maximum use of social and electronic media, adding a new dimension to its election campaign. AL's research wing Centre for Research and Information is working on that.

'Militants'

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8:00pm, said police.

"A caller told me that some cops were attacked," said Hifzur Alam Munshi, officer-in-charge of Godagari Police Station.

Another police team rushed to the spot, rescued the two injured and took them to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital around 10:00pm, the OC added.

"Ismail sustained stab wounds to his left shoulder while Salam to his abdomen and chest," said Masudur Rahman Bhuiyan, additional deputy inspector general (Rajshahi range) of police, quoting doctors.

Salam underwent a surgery at the hospital around midnight last night.

Police arrested suspected attacker Aminul Islam from the spot. However, the others managed to flee, the DIG added.

JS body forms

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demotion, cancellation of yearly increment and blacklisting in the police yearly report.

Whereas, light punishment means warning, a member's temporary detention and making him or her on officer special duty (OSD).

In reply to another query, the minister said there was "no existence of extrajudicial killings in Bangladesh".

An AL leader

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information to former Jatiya Party lawmaker Kader about the whereabouts of Liton, confessed Kader during interrogation, said the police official.

Four other arrestees also admitted to police that Chandon was involved in the murder plot of Liton, the police official said, adding that they were trying to arrest him.

Locals said Chandon is now in Kolkata of India, but police are yet to confirm his whereabouts.

Kader was the former JP lawmaker in Gaibandha-1 (Sundarganj) constituency. On Tuesday, he was arrested at his home-slash-clinic in Rahmannagar area of Bogra town for his alleged involvement in the killing.

Police later included Kader's name in the Liton murder case.

An arms case was also lodged against Kader on Saturday after recovering a pistol and ammunition near his

house at Khanpara of Sundarganj upazila. Police were still searching for another illegal pistol of Kader as per his confessional statement, said Atiar Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sundarganj Police Station.

Gaibandha-1 lawmaker Liton was shot dead by unknown assailants inside his home in Gaibandha's Sundarganj upazila on December 31 last year.

Demanding punishment of the killers, people of Sundarganj continued holding protest meetings and demonstrations in different areas.

They also demanded that the speedy trial tribunal deal with the case.

On Saturday, Bashir Ahmed, deputy inspector general of police (Rangpur range), said they would submit a charge sheet in the case within 15 days.

Police were trying hard to submit the charge sheet within the stipulated time, said Rabiul Islam, ASP (circle A).

Rights bodies decry

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Bangladesh (CRACB) in a separate statement also expressed its concern over the special provision.

The bill was passed despite many pleas, petitions and protests by rights groups which "think it is never a good idea to keep any room for marriages prior to one's adulthood in a country where one of the world's highest percentage of child marriages take place".

On Monday, parliament passed the bill with 18 and 21 as minimum marriageable age for women and men respectively.

However, the "special circumstances" provision of the law would permit parents and in the absence of parents, a girl's or boy's guardians, to get a court order and marry their wards off even before they reach the minimum marriageable age in their (the children's) "best interests".

The enactment of the bill with keeping "special circumstances" provision is very unfortunate not only for the women and children, but also for the whole nation, says the SPC statement.

"Samajik Protirodh Committee is deeply concerned. It expresses shock and denounces the government's decision," it reads.

Rights body CRACB demanded the formation of a monitoring cell with the participation of the government, civil society, judiciary and child representatives to monitor how the act is implemented.

Referring to the National Children Policy 2011, the rights body said in the policy, taking opinions from children on any decision that could influence their lives have been made mandatory. There needs to be specific directives in the rule to ensure it.

Though different organisations demanded scrapping of the special provision, the bill was passed, keeping that provision, the rights organisation said.

It thought the provision was risky

for both male and female children, said the statement.

It also placed an eight-point demand for the authority's consideration to prevent "wrong explanation" of the "special circumstances" provision.

Meanwhile, Girls not Brides Bangladesh Jote, an NGO, said the government took many steps for the empowerment of women, but such bill was never expected.

It also expressed frustration as the bill was passed against the longstanding demand of different organisations to scrap the special provision.

SC chamber

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eight rights organisations, the Appellate Division on August 22 last year issued an injunction restraining all activities including selling plots and publishing advertisement of Ashiyan City housing project in Dhaka's Uttara and its adjacent area.

The apex court also stayed a High Court order that on August 16 last year scrapped an earlier verdict declaring the housing project illegal.

Syeda Rezwana Hasan, a lawyer for the rights organisations, told The Daily Star that the Ashiyan City authorities were not allowed to continue activities of their projects at Uttarkhan, Dakkhin Khan, Barua and Butnar mousas in Dhaka following the SC chamber judge's order.

25 injured

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different hospitals.

All of the injured are residents of ward-6, -7 and -8, Shahjahan said.

Abdul Mazid, officer-in-charge of Hatiya Police Station, said he had visited the spot but could not say the number of injured as they had left the place immediately for treatment.

Largest coup trial opens in Turkey with 330 suspects

AFP, Sincan

The biggest trial of suspects accused of involvement in last year's failed July coup opened in Turkey yesterday in a courtroom specially built to hold more than 1,500 people.

Some 330 suspects are being put on trial in Sincan outside the capital Ankara, and if convicted, they face multiple life sentences over their alleged links to the attempted overthrow of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Over 240 of those named in the indictment are in custody, state-run news agency Anadolu reported.

The suspects, many of them from the Polatli artillery and missile school command in Ankara, have been charged with murder or attempted murder.

They also stand accused of attempting to remove the government and parliament of the Turkish republic or trying to prevent those institutions from conducting their work.

The case is being heard at Sincan prison where there was heavy security in place, with a water cannon truck on site and a drone flying overhead as families arrived for the hearing.

The courtroom -- which has space for 1,558 people -- was packed with security forces surrounding the suspects as they testified.

The first suspect, a military cadet called Abdulkadir Kahraman, told the court that on the night of the coup, troops had been informed by their commander that there had been a terror attack and were given ammunition.

Other suspects gave similar statements, including Arif Ozan Demir who told the court the commander told them there had been an attack and that they should "be prepared".

Ankara has blamed the failed putsch on Islamic preacher Fethullah Gulen -- who lives in self-imposed exile in the United States -- and his movement.

Turkey has denounced the movement as a terrorist organisation and the suspects on trial at Sincan are also accused of belonging to an armed terror group.

The hearing is one of several cases that opened across the country this month, with 47 people going on trial in the western city of Mugla on charges of attempting to assassinate Erdogan.

Samsung heir indicted

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makes them almost certain to face trial, casting new uncertainty over South Korea's biggest business group as it seeks to recover from a humiliating recall.

As well as charges of bribery, embezzlement and hiding assets overseas, Lee is accused of perjury, said the spokesman for prosecutors probing a corruption and power abuse scandal that has seen President Park Geun-Hye impeached.

Three of the five men -- but not Lee, the vice-chairman of flagship subsidiary Samsung Electronics -- resigned their positions, the conglomerate said.

The group said it was "dismantling" its Future Strategy Office, the coordinating body that oversees major decisions such as acquisitions or entering new business.

The move, described as a "reform plan", was announced in a brief five-line statement emailed minutes after the indictment.

Under the scheme, each Samsung unit will be allowed to run more independently, a powerful group body handling government lobbying will be disbanded and decisions over donations will be made more transparent, it said.

But Chung Sun-Sup, the head of chaebol.com, a private watchdog forum on conglomerates, said: "It is yet to be seen whether this is another cosmetic measure aimed to divert public criticism."

In the past, he told AFP, "Samsung has dissolved group-controlling organisations when it got caught in breach of laws, only to revive them afterwards under different names".

The Lee family could be "expected to continue wielding power and influence over the whole group" although professionals might get a greater voice in operating each of its subsidiaries, he added.

The tech giant, whose group revenues are equivalent to a fifth of the country's GDP, is struggling to recover from the embarrassing recall crisis over its Galaxy Note 7 smartphone last year.

The PR disaster is partly blamed on the group's top-down management style, in which each Samsung unit simply follows orders from the elite Future Strategy Office without question.

The corruption scandal centres on Choi Soon-Sil, who is accused of using her close ties with President Park to force local firms to "donate" nearly \$70 million to non-profit foundations, money which Choi allegedly used for personal gain.

Samsung was the single biggest donor to the foundations. It is also accused of separately giving millions of euros to Choi to bankroll her

daughter's equestrian training in Germany.

The 48-year-old Lee, the scion of Samsung's founding Lee family, has effectively been at the helm of the conglomerate since his father suffered a heart attack in 2014.

One of the policy favours which Lee allegedly sought from Park was state approval for a controversial merger in 2015 of two Samsung units seen as a key step to ensure a smooth power transfer to him.

The deal was opposed by many shareholders who said it had wilfully undervalued shares of one of the two firms. But it eventually went through after the national pension fund -- a major Samsung shareholder -- approved it.

A former welfare minister who had overseen the pension fund was charged with abuse of power last month for pressuring it to vote in Samsung's favour.

Lee has denied all accusations. Yesterday's indictments came a day before the special prosecutors -- who were appointed in December -- were set to hand back the case to state prosecutors after the government rejected a request to extend their inquiry.

It would be up to the state prosecutors to probe other South Korean conglomerates, including Hyundai Motor and retail giant Lotte Group, the special prosecutors' spokesman said.

Over 12 hurt

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the Gabtoli Road around 7:30pm.

Police said the transport workers threw bricks at them when they tried to prevent the protesters from damaging vehicles.

In response, police fired teargas canisters and used batons to disperse the protesters.

Rab members were called in to prevent further clashes.

Some 200 Chhatra League activists from Govt Bangla College went to the spot and took position on Gabtoli Road around 9:30pm.

They chanted slogans against the transport workers' strike in protest against two court verdicts that sentenced a bus driver to life and a truck driver to death over the deaths of several people in road accidents.

Local lawmaker Aslamul Haque went to the spot to pacify the transport workers around 10:00pm.

But the workers told him they would not sit for discussion until the court verdicts were withdrawn.

Some workers even threw bricks at the lawmaker, forcing him to retreat, witnesses said.



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উন্নুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা "দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬" এবং "দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮" এবং তদীয় সংশোধিত ২০১০-এর বিধি মোতাবেক ২০১৬-১৭ অর্থ বছরের ৪র্থ কোয়ার্টার ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, উত্তরা, ঢাকা এর রেশন সামগ্রী এবং ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশের ত্রাশ ব্যাড দলের জন্য বাদ্যযন্ত্র সরবরাহ, লোহার ফ্রেমযুক্ত কার্টের খাটিয়া ক্রম/সরবরাহের ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের লক্ষে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী অভিজ্ঞ ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারীর নিকট হইতে নিজস্ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে সীলমোহরকৃত, মুখবন্ধ খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	:	শ্রমিক মন্ত্রণালয়, জন-নিরাপত্তা বিভাগ।
২.	সংস্থা	:	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
৩.	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	:	ডাইরেক্টর জেনারেল, ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, সেক্টর-১০, রোড-১০, বাড়ি নং-০২, উত্তরা, ঢাকা।
৪.	দরপত্র সূত্র নং	:	ইজিঃ পুলিশ হেডঃ কোঃ স্মারক নং-৯১৭
৫.	তারিখ	:	২৮/০২/২০১৭খ্রিঃ।
৬.	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	:	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।
৭.	বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত	:	রাজস্ব খাত।
৮.	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	:	০১/০৩/২০১৭খ্রিঃ।
৯.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	:	২০/০৩/২০১৭খ্রিঃ তারিখ অবধি চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত (সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত)।
১০.	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	:	২১/০৩/২০১৭খ্রিঃ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	:	২১/০৩/২০১৭খ্রিঃ ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১২.	অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	:	ডাইরেক্টর জেনারেল, ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, সেক্টর-১০, রোড-১০, বাড়ি নং-০২, উত্তরা, ঢাকা।
	দরপত্র ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারীর অফিস	:	ডাইরেক্টর জেনারেল, ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ, ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, উত্তরা, ঢাকা-এর কার্যালয়।
	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী/অফিস	:	ডাইরেক্টর জেনারেল, ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ, ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, উত্তরা, ঢাকা-এর কার্যালয়।
	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	:	ডাইরেক্টর জেনারেল, ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ, ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, উত্তরা, ঢাকা-এর কার্যালয়।
১৩.	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	:	২৩/০৩/২০১৭খ্রিঃ ১৫.০০ ঘটিকা।
১৪.	দরপত্রাদাতার যোগ্যতা	:	দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয়ের সময় নিম্ন লিখিত মূল্য দলিলপত্র প্রদর্শন করিতে হইবে যাচিৎ-দলিলপত্রের ফটোকপি ১ম শ্রেণীর সরকারি গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত করিয়া দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করিতে হইবে। (১) হোলানাপাদ নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, (২) TIN-নম্বরসহ আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র, (৩) ভাটি রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র, (৪) আর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতার স্বপক্ষে হালসনের ব্যাংক সনদপত্র, (৫) দরপত্রাদাতার স্বামী ও অস্থায়ী ঠিকানা সম্বলিত সনদপত্র ও নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র, (৬) ০২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রঙীন ছবি, (৭) কাগজে তালিকাভুক্ত নহে মর্মে নিজ প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে মূল্যস্কে, (৮) সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র এবং (৯) দরদাতা কর্তৃক উক্ত মূল্য হিসাবে সংশ্লিষ্ট আইটেমের মোট সন্ধ্যা মূল্যের ১০% (Liquid Asset Work Capital) থাকিতে হইবে, ইহা ছাড়া সিডিউলের বর্ণিত সকল শর্তাবলী ঠিকাদার প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক মানিয়া লইতে হইবে।

১৫.	মালামালের বিবরণ	:				
১৬.	লট নং	আইটেমের নাম	পরিমাণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য (টাকায়)	নিরাপত্তা জামানত ফেরতযোগ্য	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়/ম্যোদ
	১.	উন্নতমানের সয়াবিন তৈল (কেটেইনারে ও বিএসটিআই কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত) ক্রয়	চাহিদা অনুযায়ী	৪০০/-	২০,০০০/-	২০১৬-১৭ অর্থ বছরের ৪র্থ কোয়ার্টার (এপ্রিল/২০১৭খ্রিঃ-জুন/২০১৭খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত)
	২.	উন্নতমানের দেশী মস্তর ডাল (চিকন দানা) ক্রয়	চাহিদা অনুযায়ী	৪০০/-	২০,০০০/-	২০১৬-১৭ অর্থ বছরের ৪র্থ কোয়ার্টার (এপ্রিল/২০১৭খ্রিঃ-জুন/২০১৭খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত)
	৩.	খালি চট্টোর/প্রাক্টিকের বস্তা (নিলামে বিক্রয়)	রেশন ষ্টোরে যে অবস্থায় আছে	২০০/-	১০,০০০/-	কার্যাদেশ প্রাক্টিক ০৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে মালামাল বুঝিয়া নিতে হইবে।
	৪.	ত্রাশ ব্র্যান্ড দলের জন্য বাদ্যযন্ত্র (স্পেসিফিকেশন অনুযায়ী)	চাহিদা অনুযায়ী	৪০০/-	২০,০০০/-	৬০ (ষাট