

Around 2,000

FROM PAGE 1
The number of Bangladeshi nationals from Middle Eastern countries, especially from Iran, Lebanon and Jordan, has been on the rise in Turkey with many hoping that they will be able to enter Europe illegally, said a PID handset yesterday quoting the Bangladeshi embassy in Ankara.

Siddiki said those staying in Turkey illegally and getting released from detention centres were trying to make a living in the sea and many of them were embracing death during such risky attempts.

He said many of the stranded Bangladeshi were losing everything being allowed by human traffickers in Turkey.

"Recently, a Bangladeshi national died in Istanbul," the ambassador was quoted in the handset. He also mentioned that illegal entry to Europe is very risky.

He said many of the stranded Bangladeshi nationals in Turkey were getting involved in criminal activities through various organised groups, he added.

The envoy said Turkey never provides employment for illegal migrants. As a result, they get involved in low-paid risky jobs.

Referring to the existing deal between the European Union and Turkey, Siddiki said it is impossible and meaningless to try to enter Turkey and Europe illegally.

He called upon the Bangladeshi nationals to be aware of the ground reality.

We'll solve

FROM PAGE 16
He said the premier drew attention of the Myanmar national security adviser to the smuggling of drug, especially saba tablets, into Bangladesh from Myanmar.

U Thaung Tun assured Hasina of all kinds of cooperation in this regard.

He said his country was focusing to restore internal peace alongside expediting development.

About the Rohingya refugee problem, he said: "We need to address the root cause."

He told the premier that Myanmar wanted peace and development in both the countries as it was keen to maintain good relations with its neighbours.

About the military-to-military contacts, he said the two neighbours were sharing information on security matters.

Regarding sale of gas from Myanmar to Bangladesh, U Thaung Tun said the matter could be discussed.

PM's Principal Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury and PMO Secretary Surya Begum were present among others, at the meeting.

Zimbabwe

FROM PAGE 16
The two sides as those belonging to some of its supporters.

The gift was made by the AU self-supporting as the tricky question of financing tops the agenda.

"As an African and a farmer, the donation of cattle came naturally to me given that our continent is rich in cattle and cattle are held as a store of wealth," said Mugabe, who has led Zimbabwe to independence from white minority rule in 1980.

An AU official said Mugabe had initially offered the cows themselves, but decided to auction them off when the union replied that there was no space for them at the AU's shiny Chinese-built headquarters in Addis Ababa.

The AU is trying to wean itself from the union, which has a majority of its budget and has called on member states to impose a 0.2 percent levy on certain imports to cover its costs.

Funds from the import levy are supposed to cover 100 percent of the AU's operational costs, 75 percent of its program costs and 25 percent of its peacekeeping budget.

But so far, only a handful of the union's 114 members have taken steps to implement the union.

"Unless and until we can fund our own programs, the African Union will not be truly our own," Mugabe said.

Despite nagging questions about Mugabe's health, his ruling party claims that at 93, he is still as strong as an ox.

He is drumming up support ahead of elections next year when he plans to seek office again, instead of his plan to rule until the cows come home.

Amir's family

FROM PAGE 13
younger sister Afansa Mim Pulon.

Hearing the news of his death, Pawel's mother Pushpa Begum and elder sister Afraza Begum were repeatedly losing their consciousness.

Villagers were trying to console the grieve the family members.

"He was talented. We arranged his higher education as he was so determined to uplift the family from poverty. But his tragic death has dashed our hope. What will happen to our elderly mother?" said Afraza Begum.

Pawel's mother Pushpa Begum, who kept the body of her son seemed inconsolable despite neighbours' attempt to keep her normal.

Afroza said that their relatives in Dhaka have identified the body of her brother and they are making preparations for his burial.

A dream too far

FROM PAGE 1
The Supreme Court's latest verdict scrapping the 16th constitutional amendment proves that the judiciary is independent but does not tell the whole truth.

Bangladesh ranked 103 out of 113 countries in the rule of law index of 2016 released by the World Justice Project.

The poor ranking is indicative of the deficiency in the independence of judiciary as well as the sorry state of the rule of law in our country.

An independent judiciary is regarded as the hallmark of good governance, rule of law and the sound effect of separation of powers of the state governments.

The framers of our constitution had envisioned an independent judiciary free from the control of the executive branch of the government.

Separation of the judiciary is one of the fundamental principles of the state policy and independence of the judiciary is one of the basic tenets of the constitution enacted in 1972.

Considered a result of the Liberation War, the constitution, in article 14, clearly states that "it will ensure the separation of the judiciary from the executive organs of the State."

The SC had been empowered to have full control over all courts and tribunals subordinate to it.

But things went in the opposite direction. Independence of the judiciary has been undermined on several occasions since 1975 through constitutional amendments. During the two main law regimes, independence of the judiciary has been compromised even more.

The judiciary has officially been separated from the executive branch of the government only in 2007 following a SC verdict. It took 33 years to do the job. And it was done by a non-partisan caretaker government.

Yet, an effective separation of the judiciary has not been possible. It is because of the changes in the original constitution regarding the power of the apex court controlling power over the lower courts.

The original article 116 had empowered the SC to control the lower judiciary by controlling postings, promotions and granting of leave, and disciplining persons employed in the judicial service, and magistrates' exercising judicial functions.

The SC had also a major role to play regarding appointments to the lower judiciary. Under the original 1972 constitution stipulated that district judges would be appointed by the president on recommendation of the SC.

All other civil judges and magistrates exercising judicial functions were supposed to be appointed by the president in accordance with the rules made by himself or herself in consultation with the Public Service Commission and the SC, according to the original article 115.

The president's amendment to the constitution passed in 1975 brought about drastic changes to the articles.

The amendment vested the power of control over the lower judiciary in the president, who was also empowered to make the appointments, in effect allowing the executive branch to control the lower judiciary.

Subsequently, the marital law regime led by General Ziaur Rahman in 1978 amended article 116 through a marital law regulation, making the provision that the SC would be consulted by the president to exercise the power to control and discipline the lower courts.

The provision introduced by the marital law regime was retained in the constitution's 5th amendment in 2011.

But the powers vested in the president are, however, exercised by the prime minister, though indirectly. The reason behind it is simple. Since the restoration of parliamentary democracy in 1991, the president has had to carry out his functions on the advice of the prime minister, the exception being appointing the prime minister and the chief justice.

This situation allows the government to retain powers to control the lower courts despite an official separation of judiciary from executive branch around 10 years ago.

In practice of the above powers, the government has delayed issuing a

gazette notification finalising the rules outlining the job disciplines for lower court judges.

The SC on several occasions urged, the government to restore the provisions of the original constitution of 1972 to restore the independence of the judiciary from the executive.

The Supreme Court thinks, independence of the judiciary, which is one of the basic features of the constitution, will not be fully achieved unless articles 115 and 116 are restored to their original position.

We can recall what Sir Gerard Brennan, former chief justice of Australia, said: "Judicial independence does not exist to serve the judiciary; it serves to serve the people of the other two branches of the government. It exists to serve and protect not the government but the governed."

An independent judiciary makes the rule of law meaningful and effective. Rule of law reduces corruption, combats poverty and disease, and protects people from injustices large and small.

So judicial independence is needed for the people, not for judiciary alone.

North Korea

FROM PAGE 16
was issued by a person known as Kim Jong-Un, an enigmatic female announcer said to be state Korean Central Television.

The broadcaster showed his handwritten note to carry out the launch, and pictures of him in a white suit and a cap.

The rocket was "a very powerful" ICBM that can strike any place in the world, the announcer said, "and a major breakthrough in the history of our republic."

In a statement the North's Academy of Defence Science, which developed the missile, said it reached a altitude of 2,802 kilometers and flew 933 kilometers, calling it the "final game" of the missile.

These are still doubts whether the North can minimise a nuclear weapon sufficient to fit it onto a missile nose cone, or if it has mastered the technology to penetrate the difficult atmosphere.

But the country has made great progress in its missile capabilities since the ascent to power of Kim, who has overseen three nuclear tests in the last three years.

In response to the launch but before the announcement, Trump urged on Twitter: "Does it work? Who can buy anything better to do with it?"

The United Nations has imposed multiple sets of sanctions on Pyongyang, which return it to missile nuclear arms to defend itself against the US.

Following the test, China and Russia jointly called for a moratorium on further North Korea missile and nuclear tests in exchange for an end to US and South Korea's military exercises – a former Washington and Seoul correspondents.

Abdul Aziz, executive engineer of CTIDB in Bandarban unit, said the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTB) spent around Tk 80 crore for building the hall.

"We completed the work of the building in 2016 and handed it over to Bandarban Hill District Council, but it is yet to be inaugurated," he said, adding that a retaining wall would be built to protect the hall from landslides.

In Khagchhari, a small part of a hill collapsed in Athar Porirbar area in Sardar Upazila yesterday due to incessant rain. Fearing fresh landslides, the local administration forced 10 families of the area to go to a shelter, reports our correspondent there.

One killed in Cox's Bazar landslide

STAR REPORT

A man in Cox's Bazar's Moheshkhali was killed in a landslide yesterday, while people of Rangamati and Bandarban are living in fear of further calamity as incessant rain continues there for the last couple of days.

Landslides claimed around 150 lives in five districts, including Rangamati, Cox's Bazar and Bandarban, last week.

In Cox's Bazar, the man who lost his life is Monar Alam, 38, of Mohokhata village, reports our district correspondent.

Locals said Monar was going to the toilet when the landslide happened.

Padmik Kumar Das, office-in-charge of Moheshkhali Police Station, said a large portion of mud fell on Monar around 7:00am. He was taken to the local health complex where he died.

The OC added that Monar's house is at the foot of a hill.

In Rangamati, heavy rains that started a day ago continued yesterday, leaving people in fear of further landslides.

Chitwan highway happened in Shalhong area around 12:00noon, halting vehicular movement. Traffic resumed on the road around 1:00pm after employees of the Roads and Highways Department cleared the road, reports our Rangamati correspondent.

Nur Nabi, 34, a resident of Shimuloli in Rangamati municipality, said he was passing each day in fear of landslides as his house is near a hill.

Mohammed Khalil, 40, of Notun Para Bhedwedi area, said although there was an announcement from the local administration, urging them to go to shelter, he was still staying at home because of his domestic animals.

Thoughiful Islam, secretary of Bandarban municipality, said they visited the district Town Hall area recently and found that the hall was at risk of collapse due to unclaimed hill cuttings, reports our Bandarban correspondent.

Abdul Aziz, executive engineer of CTIDB in Bandarban unit, said the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTB) spent around Tk 80 crore for building the hall.

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Six killed

FROM PAGE 5
bicycle in Khansama upazila.

The deceased, Abas Habib Leon, 23, of Dangapara village under the upazila was a final-year student of Peoples University of Bangladesh in the capital.

Family members said that the trio was on their way to the university when they came across a vehicle that had run over a person.

David Wright, of the Union of Concerned Scientists, wrote on the organisation's website that "a single accident" figures implied that 150 people in a million have roughly 70,000 on a standard trajectory."

That range would not be enough to reach the lower 40 states or the large islands of Alaska, but would allow it to reach all of Alaska," he said.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters this morning clearly that that the two sides had reached an agreement.

The US, Japan and South Korea will hold a summit on the issue on the sidelines of this week's G20 summit in Germany. "All I want is a summit," said South Korea's military spokesman, Lt General Kim Sung-hwan, who is due to take part in the negotiations.

The weekend, the North will cross the "red line" of not crossing the demarcation line.

"The North Korea will not cross the bridge of now," he said.

NOT'WISE

Washington, South Korea's security guardian, has told the US that 20,000 troops in the peninsula are to be withdrawn to the Demilitarized Zone after the US and South Korea's joint military exercise.

South Korea's President Moon Jae-in, who has been pushing for a peace deal with the North, has agreed to meet US President Donald Trump in the White House on Friday.

The two sides are to meet in the US capital on Friday.

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