

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 branch head yesterday saying the number of Bangladeshi migrants in Ankara, Siddiki said and getting released from detention centres were trying to enter Europe through sea and many of them were embracing death during such risky attempts.

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

Recently, a Bangladesh national died in Istanbul, "the ambassador was quoted in the handout. He also expressed that illegal entry to Europe was risky.

Some Bangladeshi nationals in Turkey were getting involved in criminal activities through various organised groups, he added.

He said they 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 Turkey and Bangladesh, Siddiki said it is impossible and meaningless to try to enter Turkey and Europe illegally.

He called upon the Bangladeshis 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 yaba, especially yaba tablets, into Bangladesh from Myanmar.

U Thung 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 cooperation, he said the two neighbours were sharing information through official channels.

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

He said the prime minister of Myanmar, Aung Myin San, and PMO Secretary Sayra Begum were present, among others, at the meeting.

Zimbabwe

FROM PAGE 16
cattle, as well as those belonging to some of his supporters.

He said he did not show his resolve for making the AU self-supporting the tricky questioning of financing tops the agenda.

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 source of wealth," said Mugabe, who has led Zimbabwe since 1980.

An AU official said Mugabe had initially offered the cows themselves, but decided to auction them off when the AU was unable to support the request for making the AU self-supporting the tricky questioning of financing tops the agenda.

Chinese-built headquarters in Addis Ababa.

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A dream too far

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

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

An independent judiciary is essential for the rule of law, good governance, rule of law and the sought-after goal of separation of powers of the state organs.

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

Separation of the judiciary is one of the fundamental principles of the state. The 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 22, clearly says, "The State shall 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 martial 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 35 years to do the job. And it was done by a non-partisan caretaker government.

The SC's effectiveness as the power of the judiciary has not been possible. It is because of the changes in the original provisions of the constitution regarding the apex court's 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 appointed in the judicial service, and magistrates' exercising judicial functions.

The SC had also a major role to play regarding appointments to the lower judiciary. The article 116 of the 1972 constitution stipulated that district judges would be appointed by the president on recommendation of the SC.

All other civil judges and magistrates would 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.

But the fourth amendment to the constitution, passed in 1975, brought about drastic changes to the articles.

The 1975 amendment gave 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 martial law regime led by General Ziaur Rahman in 1978 amended article 116 through a martial law regulation, making the provision that the president could be controlled by the president to exercise the power to control and discipline the lower courts.

The provision introduced by the 1978 amendment to the constitution's 15th amendment in the president.

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

In exercise 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, futilely, the government to restore the provisions of the original constitution of 1972 for an effective separation 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 positions.

We can recall what Sir Gerard Brennan, former Chief Justice of Australia, said: "Judicial independence does not exist to serve the judiciary; nor to serve the interests of the other two branches of the government. It exists to serve and protect not the governors but the governed."

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

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

North Korea

FROM PAGE 16
missile was overseen by leader Kim Jong-Un in an emotional female announcer said on state Korean television.

The broadcaster showed his handprints onto the road, and pictures of him grinning in celebration, clenching his fist.

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

In a statement the North's Agency of Defence Science, which developed the missile, said it reached an altitude of 2,802 kilometres and flew 93 kilometres, calling it the "final gate to rounding the state nuclear force."

There are still doubts whether the test was a success. The missile was said to be insufficiently to fit into a missile nose cone, which it has managed to escape, and the test was said to be the "final gate to rounding the state nuclear force."

But the country has made great progress in its missile development. The country's nuclear power, Kim, who has overseen three nuclear tests and multiple rocket launches.

The United Nations has imposed multiple sets of sanctions on Pyongyang, which reports that it is determined to defend itself against the threat of invasion.

Following the test, China and Russia jointly called for a halt to nuclear testing in North Korea and nuclear tests in exchange for an end to annual South Korea-US military exercises. The UN Security Council has also imposed sanctions on North Korea.

The US Pacific Command confirmed the test and said it was "a significant development in the range missile that the Sea for 37 minutes before splashing down in the flow of Japan, adding the launch did not pose a military threat to the United States."

Moscow's defence ministry called it medium-range in a statement to Russian news agency.

But Tokyo - in whose economic zone it came down - estimated its maximum range was 1,500 km, and it was "a significant development in the range missile that the Sea for 37 minutes before splashing down in the flow of Japan, adding the launch did not pose a military threat to the United States."

South Korea's President Moon Jae-in, who was in the middle of a summit with the US president, said he would bring it to the negotiating table and sanctions, and met Trump for a summit in Washington at the end of the month.

"I hope North Korea will not cross the threshold of nuclear war," he said.

Washington, South Korea's security guarantee, said it was "a significant development in the range missile that the Sea for 37 minutes before splashing down in the flow of Japan, adding the launch did not pose a military threat to the United States."

Trump has been pinning his hopes on China to bring North Korea back to the negotiating table to bring pressure to bear on Pyongyang.

Last week he declared that Beijing's efforts had failed, but returned to the UN Security Council following the launch: "Perhaps China will put a heavy nose on North Korea and end this nuclear crisis once and for all."

One killed in Cox's Bazar landslide

STAR REPORT
A man in Cox's Bazar's Moheishkhal was killed in a landslide yesterday.

The victim, a resident of Ranganati and Bandanbar, is living in fear of further calamity as incessant rain continued there for the last couple of days.

Landslides claimed around 150 lives in Cox's Bazar and Bandanbar, last month.

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

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

Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Moheishkhal 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 Ranganati, heavy rain that started a day earlier continued yesterday, forcing people in fear of further landslides.

A landslide on Ranganati-Chittagong highway happened in Shalban area around 12:00noon, halting vehicular movement. Traffic on the road was disrupted at 10:00am after employees of the Roads and Highways Department cleared the road, reports our Ranganati correspondent.

Shahidul Nabi, 34, a resident of Shimulohi in Ranganati municipality, said he was passing each day in fear of landslide as his house is near a hill.

Mohammad Khalil, 40, of Notun Para Bhedvadi area, said although there is no announcement from the local administration, urging them to go to shelter, he was still staying at home because of his domestic animals.

Touhidul Islam, secretary of Bandanbar municipality, said they visited the District Town Hall area in Cox's Bazar to check the risk of collapse due to unplanned hill cutting, reports our Bandanbar correspondent.

Abdul Aziz, executive engineer of CHITB in Bandanbar unit, said the Chittagong Hill Tract Development Board (CHITB) spent around Tk six crore for building the hill.

"We completed the work of the building in 2016 and handed it over to Bandanbar Hill District Council, which is now in the hands of the local administration, urging them to go to shelter, he was still staying at home because of his domestic animals."

In Khagrachhari, a small part of a hill collapsed in Athorponbar area in the night 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.

Six killed

FROM PAGE 5
bicycle in Khansama upazila.

The deceased, Ashan Habib Leon, 23, of Khansama Upazila, was killed in a fatal accident on the road.

Police of University of Bangladesh in the capital.

Family members said that the trio were injured in the accident on Monday evening. Locals rushed them to Khansama Upazila Health Complex. Later, Leon died on the way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital around 1:00am yesterday.

In Rajbari Sadar, a nine-year-old boy was killed as a three-wheeler ran him over in Rampur village.

The deceased is Mostofa Sheikh, son of Mostofa Shamsuddin, who was injured in the accident on Monday evening. Locals rushed them to Khansama Upazila Health Complex. Later, Leon died on the way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital around 1:00am yesterday.

Victim's grandfather said his grandson went to the road beside their house and was injured after the vehicle ran him over. He was declared dead after he was taken to Rajbari General Hospital.

In Brahmanbaria, a woman was killed as a bus ran her over while she was crossing the Dhaka-Sylhet highway near the village.

The deceased is Kolpona Rani Sarker, 65, of Horoshpur village under Bijoynagar upazila. She died on the spot.

By mobile courts

FROM PAGE 16
The apex court bench adjourned the appeal on the leave to appeal petitions for two weeks.

Delivering a verdict on three writ petitions on May 11, the HC declared unconstitutional the rules under the 1972 Land Acquisition Act.

On May 14, the government filed the three separate provisional leave to appeal petitions with the SC, seeking a stay on the judgments.

The SC bench presided by Justice Md. Fazlul Haque on May 21 extended the stay order till July 2 and asked the government to submit three separate leave to appeal petitions with this court against the HC verdict.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam moved the leave to appeal petitions before the apex court while barrister Hassan M Azim was present for the writ petitioners yesterday.

Adieu

FROM PAGE 3
and several hundred people including freedom fighters, ministers, political leaders, and cultural activists paid homage to the freedom fighter.

Shahidul, chairman of the Sector Commanders' Forum, said Shahidul had led a group of freedom fighters battling against the enemies inside the country and showed outstanding courage against the enemy.

He also played a significant role by producing important evidence before the International Crimes Tribunal during the ongoing war crimes trial.

Shahidul was a prosecution witness in the war crimes case against the ex-Isami leader and executed war criminal Abdul Quader Mollah.

Eminent journalist and cultural figure Kamal Lohani said Shahidul fought against the intruding forces both physically and mentally that will remain alive forever and people, especially the young generation, will remember him.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof. AAMS Arefin Siddique said Shahidul was a brave and patriotic leader, irreparable loss for the country. Although he had been living in Sweden, he had come to the country several times and took part in the movement to expedite the war crimes trial.

Shahidul's son Syed Khalid Bin Shahidul said.

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A riot of colours

FROM PAGE 16
Around 100 stalls are showcasing thousands of varieties of young trees. A number of stalls are also showcasing the fair open on early June, the extravaganza goes on. From the fair has fetched nearly Tk. 3.5 crores in revenue, with nurseries selling nearly a million saplings.

The National Tree End 2017, which was set to draw to an end yesterday, has now been extended for 15 more days due to high enthusiasm shown from both sides - plant sellers and buyers.

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Haque thanked the government and others who paid tributes to his father. Family members were present at that time.

Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mollah, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, and Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Mujahidul Islam Selim, among others, paid tributes.

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