



## DEATH IN RAB CUSTODY Family says it was murder

### Victim's wife sues Rab official, his team, 8 locals in Naogaon; Rab claims he was an arms dealer

ANWAR ALI, back from Naogaon

Expatriate Majharul Islam returned home from Malaysia seven years back to look after his parents and their properties.

An outspoken person, he began to emerge as a community leader and protest anything unfair in his village in Kaibartapara of Manda upazila, Naogaon. It apparently angered many. A murder plot was hatched and he was



Majharul

brutally killed on September 8, said his family after suing a Rab company commander, 20/25 unnamed personnel of his team and eight locals.

Majharul's wife Shamima Akter Swapna in a case filed with a Naogaon court yesterday morning accused Sayeed Abdullah Al Murad, company commander of Rab-5 camp of Joypurhat.

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## PM attends meeting on UN reforms

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday joined a high-level meeting on UN reforms hosted by Donald Trump when the US president urged the United Nations to improve the way it operates.

Heads of states and governments of 193

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Sheikh Hasina talks to Donald Trump on the sidelines of a UN meeting in New York yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

## BASIC BANK LOAN SCAM 50 ghost firms traced

### Seven borrowers still unidentified, three years into formation of new board

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BASIC Bank has finally been able to trace 50 firms which took loans from the bank showing fake documents with the help of its former chairman Abdul Hye Bachchu.

Seven borrowers, however, are still to be identified although three years have passed since the government constituted a new bank board following Bachchu's resignation, says the parliamentary committee on estimates.

Quoting BASIC Bank MD Khondoker Md Iqbal, AKM Zahangir Hossain, a member of the committee, said the new management took one and a half years to identify the companies.



"Many of the borrowers [who took loans during Bachchu's tenure] were politically and socially influential. They are influential people from my party as well as other parties," said the ruling Awami League lawmaker.

On Sunday, a committee meeting discussed several issues of the scam-hit BASIC Bank and Sonali Bank. Both the banks submitted respective reports on their overall situation as well as on the defaulted loans.

In its report, state-owned BASIC Bank gave the committee a list of 628 defaulting firms which owed Tk 6,538 crore to the bank till June 30.

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## REPRESSION OF ROHINGYA Int'l People's Tribunal starts hearing in KL

IANS, Kuala Lumpur

As thousands of Rohingya Muslims flee persecution in their country, an international people's tribunal on alleged atrocities and state crimes against the Rohingyas, Kachins and other ethnic minority groups in Myanmar began its hearing from Monday in Malaysia.



Suu Kyi

The convener of the opinion tribunal is the Rome-based Permanent People's Tribunal (PPT), an international public opinion tribunal that operates independently of state authorities.

The purpose of the tribunal is to "expose" the alleged inhuman treatment of Rohingyas and push to stop the crimes. It will hear victims from the Myanmar ethnic communities and record their testimonies on their experiences in a court-like setting.

The process will be similar to a hearing, with the Myanmar ethnic groups testifying before a seven-jury member in Kuala Lumpur from September 18-22 at Universiti Malaya's

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4,12,000 AND COUNTING

The two Rohingya men carrying their mother walked three days at a stretch after they left their village in Myanmar. They arrived in Teknaf yesterday. The elderly woman has not been able to walk after she was beaten up by Myanmar army. *Inset*, undernourished sisters waited in vain for food in Balukhali area of Ukhia yesterday as the supply ran out.



PHOTO: PINAKI ROY, MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

## Exodus exposes 'abject failure' of world leaders

### Says Amnesty Int'l; HRW urges UNSC to slap sanctions, arms embargo on Myanmar; terrified Rohingyas seek safe passage

STAR REPORT

The Amnesty International has said Myanmar Rohingya exodus exposes abject failure of world leaders to deliver solution to the refugee crisis.

"As almost 400,000 refugees flee ethnic cleansing in Myanmar, world leaders meeting at the UN General Assembly should hang their heads in shame that they have not only failed to make good on their promises to take in more refugees, but have actively dismantled refugee rights in many parts of the world," the rights watchdog said yesterday.

A year on from the Leaders' Summit on Refugees in New York, where leaders pledged to take in more refugees and help vulnerable people forced to flee their countries, global refugee numbers are increasing year on year as conflicts spiral out of control, according to an AI statement.

"The horrific situation in Myanmar is exactly

why we need more than just a sticking-plaster approach to helping those fleeing war and persecution. After being subjected to horrific violence, including killings and having their villages burned to the ground, these Rohingya refugees are now facing a humanitarian crisis as Bangladesh struggles to support them," said Salil Shetty, secretary general of Amnesty.

The latest evidence published by Amnesty International points to a mass-scale scorched-earth campaign across northern Rakhine State, where Myanmar security forces and vigilante mobs are burning down entire Rohingya villages and shooting people at random as they try to flee.

"In legal terms, these are crimes against humanity -- systematic attacks and forcible deportation of civilians," said the rights body.

As a consequence, in the space of less than three

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## Orphaned, in extreme shock



PINAKI ROY and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT, from Cox's Bazar

The two sisters can remember quite distinctly how it happened.

Hearing that their village would be attacked, they crouched in a paddy field behind their house. As their hungry toddler brother started crying, the mother attempted to go back to the house with the baby for the food she had a while ago.

But the lynch mob came out of nowhere

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## Govt plans OMS for grassroots

### 3 ministers meet rice millers, traders today to discuss price spiral; Tk 10 a kg rice programme for ultra poor put on hold

REAZ AHMAD

With no let-up in the spiraling rice price, the government has planned to expand Open Market Sale of subsidised foodgrains to the upazilas across the country.

The sale of rice at Tk 30 per kg was launched on Sunday at divisional and district headquarters to ease the sufferings of hard-pressed consumers when

the rice price continued to go up in the retail markets.

With its food stock depleted significantly, the government has decided to postpone the distribution of Tk 10 a kg rice among 50 lakh ultra-poor, scheduled for launching today, and divert more rice into the OMS operation.

Meanwhile, three government ministers will hold a meeting with rice millers and traders in the capital today

to understand the situation around the rice market amid a countrywide vigilance against suspected hoarding of rice.

In its desperate move to replenish the public food stock, the food ministry reached a primary price agreement with Myanmar for importing one lakh tonnes of rice.

The prices of coarse rice varieties have remained static at its record

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## PRABARANA PURNIMA Buddhists to shun festivity in protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Mathews

The country's Buddhist community will refrain from flying Fanush (colourful paper lanterns) in Prabarana Purnima this year in protest at the persecution of Rohingyas in Myanmar.

Leaders from the community said the celebration of the festival likely to be on October 5 this year would be less flamboyant and that the money collected from the festival would be distributed to the Rohingya refugees.

The announcement  
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