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HINDUS DISPLACED FROM RAKHINE

No puja for them this time

WASIM BIN HABIB from Cox's Bazar

Rashmati Sharma had celebrated Durga Puja with her family and neighbours in Myanmar with due religious fervour last year. Her husband had bought her a new saree and clothes for the children ahead of their biggest festival.

But this year, Rashmati, a resident of Chikonchari village of Maungdaw township in Myanmar, is in no position to celebrate the festival as she is going through the most difficult time of her life in another country.

How can we celebrate Puja when we have no home and money and live off relief efforts and donations?" she asked.

Rashmati fled persecution in Myanmar with her three children and came to Bangladesh last month.

My husband is still there and I don't know what happened to him," she told this correspondent.

While the Hindu community in Bangladesh yesterday celebrated Maha Shashthi, around 160 Hindu families at a temporary shelter in a Hindu dominated hamlet at Kutupalong in Ukhiya passed the day collecting relief goods for basic needs.

It is not possible for us to celebrate Puja when we are worrying about the next meal," said Niranjan Rudra, a priest from Rashmati's village in Myanmar.

He said he had been administering Pujas for the last 15 years in his village.

We fled with only the clothes we had on. We could bring nothing more with us," he said.

A bulk of the Hindu refugees has taken shelter in an empty chicken farm in Kutupalong area, a couple of miles from the camp where most of the Muslim refugees are.

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People jaywalk in the capital's Bangla Motor intersection yesterday even though there is a footbridge above their heads. Fatalities and injuries are not too rare there. Attempts to stop this by fining jaywalkers had little impact.

PHOTO:
AMRAN HOSSAIN

PM undergoes gallbladder surgery in US

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is now in the USA, under the pretext of undergoing gallbladder surgery in Washington on Monday night (Washington time).

She underwent a successful gallbladder surgery at a Washington hospital at 8:00pm on September 25," PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim told BSS over the phone yesterday.

He said the PM was taken to the hospital as she suddenly felt pain in her abdomen. After conducting medical check-up upon her, doctors decided to perform the surgery.

"She is now completely well after the successful operation.... She sought 'do'a' from the countrymen," Ihsanul said, adding that the premier was taking rest after the surgery.

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SHEIKH HASINA'S BIRTHDAY
TODAY PAGE 5

Different scene on Hare Road

4 days' drive almost stops driving on wrong side

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The strict enforcement of traffic rules for three consecutive days has brought some discipline on the city's Hare Road yesterday, as most vehicles used the correct side of the street.

Only five bikers were penalised for taking the wrong side of the road during yesterday's two-hour traffic police drive that started around 5:00pm.

Some flag-carrying vehicles, many SUVs of government officials, vehicles of law enforcement and media outlets were also seen on the correct side of the street, stuck in traffic jams.

Cars carrying ministers, lawmakers, officials, ranking party leaders and police officers, ruling party bodies and journalists going against traffic while others were stuck in tailbacks had become a common phenomenon on Hare Road.

Police started a special drive by penalising all traffic rule violators on Sunday, an initiative hugely appreciated on social media.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Russia, US plan lunar orbit station

MAIL ONLINE

Russia and the US are creating a lunar orbital station called Deep Space Gateway which could allow humans to reach out further into the universe than ever before.

The habitat will orbit around the moon and will open up opportunities to explore deep space, as well as a return to the moon and missions to Mars.

The first modules of the station will be completed as soon as 2024 with construction starting in 2022.

Similar to the International Space Station, this new space station will be open to astronauts and cosmonauts globally.

"We agreed that we will jointly participate in the project to create a new international lunar orbital station," said NASA Administrator Charles Bolden.

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98,379 sacks of rice, wheat seized in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

A mobile court yesterday seized 98,379 sacks of rice and wheat from two warehouses at Sitakunda and fined their owner Tk 20,000 on charge of hoarding of food grains.

Mid Kamruzzaman, assistant commissioner (land) of Sitakunda, led the mobile court drive in Kumira area in the morning.

Earlier on Tuesday night, two warehouses just behind the International Islamic University Chittagong (IIUC) building were sealed off by Sitakunda's Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Nazmul Islam Bhuiyan.

The warehouses belonged to one Hazi Abul Kalam where 77,920 sacks of rice and 20,459 sacks of wheat were hoarded illegally, said AC (land) Mid Kamruzzaman.

"As per law imported rice and wheat cannot be stocked for more than one month. But the rice and wheat were stocked at the warehouses on July 14," he added.

He further said the rice was imported by BSM Syndicate and the wheat by Noapara Group.

As owner Abul Kalam admitted his guilt, he was fined Tk 20,000 and all the rice and wheat were seized," he added.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

A decisive 'yes'

93pc Iraqi Kurds for independence; PM asked to send troops to retake Kirkuk oil fields; flights suspended



REUTERS, Baghdad/Erbil

Baghdad pulled pressure on Iraq's Kurds yesterday, demanding they cancel their overwhelming vote for independence while parliament urged the Iraqi central government to send troops to take control of vital oil fields held by Kurdish forces.

Stepping up efforts to isolate autonomous Kurdistan-held northern Iraq, which backed secession in a referendum on Monday that angered neighbouring countries, Baghdad demanded that foreign governments close their diplomatic missions in the Kurdish capital, Erbil.

Final results released yesterday showed nearly 93 percent in favour of independence, and 7.3 percent against.

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Premier Cement

Mushfiqur Rahim

Mushfiqur Rahim is arguably Bangladesh's best Test batsman, and unarguably the country's most successful captain in the longer version. Perhaps even more than that, he is the player most able and willing to tailor his game to the team's needs.

The right-hander possesses the classic technique and stoic temperament to outlast the fielding team's resolve. That is what earned him the honour of being Bangladesh's first Test double-century, against Sri Lanka at Galle in 2013. He now boasts four Test centuries abroad, the highest among Bangladesh batsmen.

Further proving Mushfiqur's sheer mastery over the bat is that he is quite a different player in limited-over cricket. His trademark skill sweep that deposits the ball into the crowd behind mid-wicket belies his right-handed frame.

His wicketkeeping is a less remarked upon aspect. Often criticised for occasional slips, especially in the more punishing five-day game, his commitment to hard work has seen his glove work improve dramatically.

The one area where criticism may still be warranted is his captaincy as he is prone to go on the defensive too soon. But even those who doubt his captaincy will not be against him evolving into the perfect man for the job, as that is what Bangladesh cricket's ultimate team man has been doing for a decade now.

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কল্পা বিলিমা
গবিত অংশীদার

আমরা প্রমাণে বিশ্বাসি

Indian army conducts ops on Myanmar front

Inflicts heavy casualties on Naga rebels

TNN, New Delhi

The Indian Army said yesterday that it inflicted heavy casualties on the insurgent group National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) (K) in an operation earlier in the day on the India-Myanmar border.

The Army's Eastern Command made clear it didn't cross the international border.

The Army further said a firefight was triggered after a column of the Indian Army was attacked by insurgents.

"Own troops reacted swiftly and brought down heavy retaliatory fire on the insurgents," said an Army statement.

The Army said yesterday's small operation was nothing like the Special Forces' cross border raid to destroy two Naga insurgent camps inside Myanmar in June 2015. It

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