

Commemorating the establishment of Universal Postal Union in 1874, World Post Day is observed on October 9. Marking the day, we are running three special stories on the current state, future and manpower of our postal service.

ROAD TO TRANSFORMATION

Postal Dept focuses on e-commerce, financial services, seeks to launch basic banking

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

Shahin Islam, a flood victim in Bogra's Kuripara village, never thought it would be so easy to withdraw money using Bangladesh Post Office's Electronic Money Transfer Service.

All he had to do was go to Sariakandi post office, show the official concerned the pin code he received on his mobile phone and collect Tk 5,000 sent by Bangladesh Red Crescent Society as financial aid.

"This saved my time... I got the money almost on my doorstep. It was almost effortless," said Shahin, a farmer.

Another flood victim, Aslaot Mandal, also collected money the same way. "Initially, I was confused. But when I received the cash, I was surprised," he said.

Like the two, members of 1,750 flood-hit families in the area withdrew money with ease, using the EMTS also known as mobile money order service.

This shows how the EMTS system of the postal department is taking financial services to

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Barely surviving, yet serving

MUHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The post office is in a two-storey building on a busy street in the city's Mohammadpur area. Three post boxes of three colours are on its yard. If it were not for those, people probably would not realise that it was a post office. Over the years the buildings surrounding it have changed but the post office stayed almost the same.

The inside of the post office is dark

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Khorkhori Haat Post Office in Rajshahi now serves more as a variety store than a post office. Inset, a postbox in Pabna remains abandoned as no one dropped a letter here for years.



PHOTO: ANWAR ALI/STAR

Down but not out

PINAKI ROY and MUHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

There must be some word today
From my boyfriend so far away
Please Mister Postman, look and see
Is there a letter, a letter for me
(The Marvelettes)

This song might give many from our older generation a sense of nostalgia for the days when they used to wait for the postman to know if there was "some word" from their loved ones.

Unfortunately, the art of writing personal letters to family and friends is almost forgotten in this age of mobile phone, email service, messaging apps and

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REPATRIATION TALKS Home boss to travel to Myanmar

STAR REPORT

As Bangladesh and Myanmar have agreed to draw up a plan for the return of Rohingyas, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal is expected to visit the neighbouring country this month to discuss the refugee repatriation, among other issues of bilateral interest.

Foreign ministry officials and the Bangladesh mission in Yangon are working with their Myanmar counterparts to finalise the meeting agenda, Kamal said yesterday.

The Rohingya issue will dominate the minister-level meeting, which will also discuss the smuggling of narcotics, including yaba, into Bangladesh, he said.

"The Rohingya issue will be a key topic on the agenda. We'll discuss the problem. We believe we will be able to help Rohingyas return to their homeland through diplomatic efforts."

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ROHINGYA ORPHANS

Still recoiling in horror, pain



MUHAMMAD AL MASUM MOLLA and MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAT, from Cox's Bazar

Four-year-old Nur Khan cringes in fear whenever he sees someone unknown near his shack in Ukhaia of Cox's Bazar. When he comes across anyone holding any object, he shudders. There's a reason for that: five weeks ago, the child witnessed both his parents being brutally murdered.

His younger brother, one-and-a-half-year old Nur Hasan, was lucky as he did not see the barbarity, but his elder brother is scarred for life.

Their father, Shahidul Amin, was a grocer in Bolly Bazar in Mangduaw, Myanmar. The day when he was killed along with his wife, their paternal grandfather asked their maternal grandmother to take the children and flee immediately.

"Leave the country as soon as possible, he said. I left taking them with me," Rafia Begum, their grandmother

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EU, US edge towards punishing army leaders -- page 16

Tigers complete poor show

SAKEB SUBHAN from Bloemfontein

When asked about his plans to prepare for the upcoming series against India and Australia, South Africa fast bowler Kagiso Rabada said at the end of the second day that he is thinking about completing 'this little mini-step' to get to the next step. The mini-step was getting the 10 Bangladesh wickets to win the second Test and the series 2-0 on the third day of the second Test at the Mangaung Oval in Bloemfontein yesterday.

And it proved to be no more than a mini-step as Bangladesh, forced to follow on after being 147 all out in the first innings in response to South Africa's 573 for four, were 172 all out in their second innings yesterday to lose the match by an innings and 254 runs. Rabada had matching five-wicket hauls in each innings, which brought up the

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CJ visits hospital for tests

May leave for Australia soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, who is on one-month leave on health grounds, yesterday went to the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Control, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) in the capital for blood and urine tests.

He returned to his official residence after giving samples, a high official at the Supreme Court told The Daily Star asking not to be identified.

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