



Workers take the topsoil in Kotarkuna area of Moulvibazar's Kulaura yesterday to make bricks. Many brick kilns in the country use the highly fertile topsoil from farmlands for brick making.

PHOTO:  
MINTU DESHWARA

## Biman staffer arrested with 12 gold bars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs intelligence officials yesterday arrested two people, including an employee of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, with 12 gold bars at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital.

The arrestees were identified as Omar Faruk, a ground traffic supervisor of Biman, and Kazi Qamrul Islam, a passenger of a Biman flight coming from Kuala Lumpur.

Moinul Khan, director general of Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate, told The Daily Star that acting on a tip off, the officials took position in boarding bridge area around 4:30am.

They kept a close eye on Qamrul after the flight had landed at 4:50am, he said, adding, the passenger was seen handing over two packets to Faruk.

The officials challenged them and found the gold bars weighing 1.2 kilograms inside the packet, he added. The duo would be handed over to airport police.

Earlier on March 6, detectives pressed charges against 18 people including eight Biman employees in connection with a case filed over the country's biggest ever haul of smuggled gold in 2013.

The customs officials seized 1,064 gold bars weighing around 124 kg that had been left abandoned in the luggage chamber of a Biman flight on July 24 that year.

## Iran behind cyber attack on British lawmakers: report

REUTERS, London

Iran carried out a cyber attack on British lawmakers earlier this year, The Times newspaper reported yesterday, citing an intelligence assessment of the incident.

The report came the day after Britain joined other European countries in warning the United States against harming a nuclear deal with Iran.

Britain's parliament was hit by a "sustained and determined" cyber attack in June, designed to identify weak email passwords, just over a month after a ransomware worm crippled parts of the country's health service.

## At least 6 killed in Kenya school raid

AFP, Nairobi

Six people, including five students, were killed in an attack by suspected South Sudanese raiders on a boarding school in Lokichogio, in Kenya's far north, early yesterday, authorities said.

"Six people were killed in the attack, including students, and we have others injured," said Seif Matata, Turkana county's commissioner. Matata said the incident occurred at around 03:00 am (00:00 GMT) while students at Lokichogio Mixed Secondary School were asleep in their dormitories.

Members of the Toposa tribal militia from South Sudan, 200 kilometres (124 miles) to the north, are believed to be responsible for the attack with Matata alleging that a suspended student participated in the raid.

## Food relief to continue

FROM PAGE 1

As individual efforts are being exhausted, WFP's commitment appears to be a gleam of hope for refugees.

"We have an ongoing commitment to provide food for the Rohingya refugees beyond next February," Michael Dunford, WFP emergency coordinator in Bangladesh, told The Daily Star.

Mohammad Abul Kalam, relief and refugee repatriation commissioner (RRRC) of the disaster management ministry, said, "We had a meeting with WFP. They primarily committed to provide food for Rohingya people."

Dunford said WFP has been providing diversified food baskets of rice, pulse and oil.

"WFP is pairing with NGOs to provide other non-cereal commodities as well."

Meanwhile, Rohingyas are still entering the country through different points of the border making it really difficult to ensure an even distribution of relief goods.

"We will be able to complete their biometric registration once the influx stops. We will also issue e-voucher to all the Rohingyas," Kalam said.

E-vouchers are cards that mention the amount of relief goods a family would receive a month. The govern-

ment has been distributing the cards in the registered Rohingya camps.

Dunford said WFP will hopefully support 100,000 refugees with e-vouchers by the end of the year.

At Balukhali camp, The Daily Star found that refugees were not receiving equal amounts of relief goods.

"We got relief, but we do not know how far we will be able to sustain. We got rice. So I had to buy other necessities. I have no cash right now," Abul Fayed, who lives in Thyangkhal camp of Teknaf, said.

Rohingya women and children sit on the ground by the side of the road between Shah Parir Dwp to Ukhia.

Aid workers and locals said they were sent by their husbands or parents for begging.

The refugees receive relief goods at 26 designated points. But they beg for money to be able to buy other things.

Many refugees said the things they receive from aid workers include rice, lentil, potatoes, sugar, water, oil, salt, blanket, milk, puffed rice and flour, kitchen utensils, umbrella, mosquito net, snacks, polythene sheets, water pot and some other daily necessities.

## Dhaka among 10

FROM PAGE 16

and third and still separated by mere tenths of a point.

Dhaka ranked the 58th with an overall point of 47.37.

"This is a reflection of a number of factors, but the main reason is that among the cities in the index, it experiences by far the most frequent and most severe terrorist attacks.

"Jakarta, which ranked last in 2015, is 57th this year, pulled from the bottom by the addition of Karachi and other cities like Yangon and Dhaka," as observed in the study.

On digital security, the study points out that Dhaka along with other low-income cities -- Ho Chi Minh City, Yangon and Manila -- often lack technology skills, and competing challenges such as tackling infectious diseases and poverty can push cyber security lower on the list of priorities.

Three of the top ten in this category are in Asia -- Tokyo, Singapore and Hong Kong -- and six -- Chicago, Toronto, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York and Dallas -- in North America.

On health security, Dhaka's position is second from the last. Among the poorer cities, it is struggling to deliver

adequate health services. Of the bottom ten cities in this category, nine are either low-income cities -- Mumbai, Yangon, Dhaka and Karachi -- or low-middle income cities -- Johannesburg, Quito, Caracas, Jakarta and Cairo. Of the top ten performing cities in the health security category, only two -- Tokyo and Zurich -- are high-income cities. Some high-income cities perform poorly such as Doha that was ranked 45th.

On infrastructure security, Dhaka is placed at the bottom ten along with cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Manila, Yangon and Karachi.

All the cities in the top ten in this category -- Singapore, Madrid, Barcelona, Stockholm, Wellington, Amsterdam, Hong Kong, Melbourne, Sydney and Zurich -- are either high or upper-middle income cities.

And finally, on personal security category Dhaka ranked 43rd and Karachi got the last place among the bottom 10 countries.

The top ten cities in this category are Singapore, Wellington, Osaka, Tokyo, Toronto, Taipei, Hong Kong, Melbourne, Stockholm and Amsterdam.

## Magic mushrooms

FROM PAGE 16

the first time clear changes in brain activity in depressed people treated with psilocybin after failing to respond to conventional treatments.

"Several of our patients described feeling 'reset' after the treatment and often used computer analogies. For example, one said he felt like his brain had been 'defragged' like a computer hard drive, and another said he felt 'rebooted'.

"Psilocybin may be giving these individuals the temporary 'kick start' they need to break out of their depressive states and these imaging results do tentatively support a 'reset' analogy. Similar brain effects to these have been seen with electroconvulsive therapy."

Prof Mitul Mehta, from the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London, said: "What is impressive about these preliminary findings is that brain changes occurred in the networks we know are involved in depression, after just a single dose of psilocybin.

"This provides a clear rationale to now look at the longer-term mechanisms in controlled studies."

## Wrongly convicted US man freed after 23 yrs in prison

AFP, Chicago

Surrounded by news cameras and supporters, Lamonte McIntyre hugged his mother Friday for the first time as a free man in 23 years.

The 41-year-old Kansas native was wrongly convicted of a double murder and finally set free after spending more than half of his life behind bars. He was serving two life sentences.

The group Injustice Watch said McIntyre's first words were: "It's nice outside."

McIntyre was originally convicted at the age of 17 on the testimony of witnesses who later recanted. Prosecutors presented no physical evidence or motive to tie him to the 1994 murders.

A judge was reconsidering the case in court hearings that were scheduled to last into next week, when the new prosecutor in the case said Friday in a news release that new information cast doubt on witness identification of McIntyre as the killer, and that a jury might have not convicted him.

"In light of information learned by my office since I began in January," Wyandotte County District Attorney Mark Dupree said, "my office is requesting the Court find that manifest injustice exists."

The original investigators of the daytime shooting never issued search warrants nor discovered a link between McIntyre and the victims, according to The Washington Post. He was arrested after less than 20 minutes of interviews.

"The investigation was hasty and superficial," said the Midwest Innocence Project, which helped free McIntyre.

McIntyre has always maintained his innocence.

His mother Rose McIntyre, who was present when he was arrested decades ago, on Friday thanked "everybody who never gave up on my son," according to the Kansas City Star, which reported that there were many tears in the courtroom when the man was finally freed.

"He (the judge) said, 'You're free.' I almost hit the floor," The Star quoted Rose McIntyre as saying.

"I want him to feel the sunlight."

## Khaleda

FROM PAGE 16

this week," the BNP leader said while talking to reporters at the party's Nayapaltan central office.

Khaleda on July 15 went to London for receiving treatment and spending time with her family members there.

The BNP chief on August 8 underwent a successful eye surgery at a hospital in London. She also celebrated Eid-ul-Azha with her family members there.

## Prison guard

FROM PAGE 16

guard Md Mojnu. They went to the residence of jail guard Rakib Hossain inside the jail and had yaba there and sold the drugs.

A team of the jail then raided the house and arrested Palash but the other managed to flee.

Palash was handed over to Joydevpur police yesterday afternoon.

## Get Rohingyas back home

FROM PAGE 1

as of civil society, were present at the meeting.

Rohingya crisis would become a "long-term festering problem" unless the international community works together to stabilise the situation based on the Advisory Commission's report on Rakhine State.

"It was clear that everyone agrees on what needs to be done in the short-term: stopping the violence; getting humanitarian aid to those in need, and helping with the dignified and voluntary return for those [refugees] in Bangladesh," Annan said.

This particular point "is not going to be easy," he said, stressing that the refugees would only go back if they had a sense of security and confidence that their lives would be better.

"They should not be returned to camps...they need assistance to get their homes back," Annan said.

Meanwhile, the European Union has said the conditions for the safe, voluntary and dignified return of those who have fled their homeland must be put in place.

"The authorities in Myanmar need to take forward swiftly full implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission, including citizenship for the Rohingya population," said Head of the EU Delegation to the United Nations Ambassador Joao Vale de Almeida in New York.

More than 5,36 lakh Rohingya people have crossed into Bangladesh over the last one and a half months, fleeing a security crackdown that allegedly killed 3,000 and burned 284 villages where majority were from the Muslim minority.

The UN said the brutal attacks on Rohingyas had been well-organised, coordinated and systematic, with the intent to not only drive the population out of Myanmar but also to prevent them from returning to their homes.

The UN termed the crackdown a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing", while rights bodies defined the attacks as crimes against humanity and genocide against the Rohingyas, who have been denied citizenship and other basic services in Rakhine State despite their roots for generations in Myanmar.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina raised the issue at the UN General Assembly. In late September, a Security Council meeting failed to take any resolution on Myanmar because of opposition from China and Russia.

Britain, France and the US demanded an end to the violence, while China's ambassador called for patience. Russia's envoy warned that "excessive pressure" could only worsen the problems.

At the request of France and Britain, the Security Council again held a meeting on Friday to hear from Kofi Annan.

Annan told reporters the refugees must be allowed to go back to their villages and helped to rebuild and reconstruct their lives, but the key question of citizenship and verification was "a real problem for the Muslim community."

Annan pointed out that State

Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi had accepted the recommendations of his report and had agreed to set up an implementation committee.

Friday's meeting was "particularly useful and helpful to build consensus" on two goals: supporting the recommendations of Annan's commission and denouncing "the totally unacceptable status quo," said French Ambassador Francois Delattre, who co-chaired the session with British envoy Matthew Rycroft.

Asked whether sanctions or another resolution could ensue, Rycroft said he hoped to "carry on working in a spirit of bringing everyone together."

"And we will explore whether there is the appetite to do more," he added.

The Chinese and Russian UN missions didn't respond to AP requests for comments.

**SUU KYI SETS OUT AID PLAN**  
Aung San Suu Kyi has set out plans for a new humanitarian project to enable Myanmar's Rakhine State to emerge as a peaceful and developed region, which, a close adviser said, showed her determination to fix the country's refugee crisis.

Suu Kyi said in a televised address on Thursday evening that she would invite aid organisations, business leaders and civil society to take part in the initiative aimed at defusing the violence in Rakhine, reports Reuters.

"What she's interested in is how to fix this, how to... give the civilian government, as opposed to the military, the power to deliver aid, reconciliation and rebuilding," said the adviser, who briefed reporters, by telephone, on condition of anonymity.

In her speech, Suu Kyi said that although the government may not be strong, she hoped the strength and generosity of the people would turn the initiative, to be launched on Sunday, into a "milestone" in Myanmar's history.

"She [Suu Kyi] is appalled by what she has seen. She does care deeply about this. I know that does not always come across. But she really does," Suu Kyi's adviser told reporters.

But she had to tread carefully in order not to inflame things further, he said, saying Myanmar's transition to democracy was in a "perilous position".

**PLEDGING CONFERENCE ON FUND MOBILISATION**

The UN Office of Coordination on Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) in a statement said yesterday UNOCHA UN refugee and migration agencies in cooperation with European Union and the Kuwait government will hold a ministerial-level pledging conference in Geneva on October 23.

"The conference aims to raise the necessary resources to enable the humanitarian community to meet the most urgent needs of Rohingya refugees who sought shelter and safety in Bangladesh."

Early October, the UN sought US\$434 million as emergency aid for the Rohingyas over the next six months.

## Can the Tigers

FROM PAGE 1

World Cup, Bangladesh have failed to cross 200 and were beaten by seven wickets both times.

On a pitch that has seen just two scores of 300 or more in the 12 ODIs here, but one which South Africa leg-spinner Imran Tahir had said on Thursday was a flat track, the batsmen will need to cash in. And that is the difficulty for Bangladesh. On the four matches on tour so far, including the two practice games, there have been 10 scores of fifty from Bangladesh, but none higher than the 77 scored by Mominul Haque in the first Test.

According to Mashrafe, the change from the Test series has to be mental as there is not enough time to transform skills. In that sense, it will be interesting to see whether Bangladesh can get over their hurdle of gifting away starts with the bat. South Africa skipper Faf du Plessis said that which team uses the 30kmph-plus winds to their advantage will also be crucial -- and that means batsmen targeting hitting with the wind on a large ground and the captain using spinners from the right end. These are things that Bangladesh, and Mashrafe in particular, will have to be mindful of when they take the field today.

They then have to contend with the return of batting maestro AB de Villiers, and without Mustafizur that will become tougher. In the left-hand pacer's absence, it may open the door for a Mohammad Saifuddin debut or mean that both Taskin Ahmed and Rubel Hossain will play. The pitch is unlikely to spin much and that may work against Mehedi Hasan Miraz playing, instead making way for Nasir Hossain, who may form a part-time set with Mahmudullah Riyad, with Shakib Al Hasan being the main spinner.

On the batting side, Tamim's likely return will push out Liton Das from the top order that played the practice match on Thursday, and Imrul Kayes's fast start in that match will probably win him a place over Mominul Haque.

The odds are still stacked against Bangladesh, but with the returns of Mashrafe, Shakib and possibly Tamim the whole team will be a bit more positive, and as long as they can be smart about it, it promises to be a good game.