



CRICKETAINMENT BEGINS

Sylhet Sixers take on holders Dhaka Dynamites in BPL opener today

PAGE 14



GREAT LEADERS REMEMBERED

Tributes poured in as the nation observed Jail Killing Day yesterday

PAGE 5

PUIGDEMONT IN TROUBLE

Spanish judge issues arrest warrant for the ousted Catalan leader

PAGE 8

In recent years, the country's northwestern border in Chapainawabganj has emerged as a major route for smuggling in arms. It has of late become militants' most preferred point for collecting illegal firearms and explosives. This is the route through which terror outfit "Neo JMB" smuggled in the guns and bombs used in last year's Gulshan café attack. With such chilling information surfacing, SHARIFUL ISLAM visits the zero line area of Indo-Bangla border in the district to investigate how the illicit trade goes on there so easily.

ARMS SMUGGLING

Just so easy

Criminals, terrorists rely on supplies from India through Chapainawabganj border



It's just a piece of cake for him. An inhabitant of a remote village in Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj, he has been involved in smuggling for one and a half decades.

Born and brought up in the village, Karim (not his real name) had frequented India since his boyhood without any valid documents until the border with Malda of West Bengal was fenced some 10 years back. His home is within one kilometre of the zero line.

The barbed-wire fence could not stop smuggling. In October last year, police raided a house in Chapainawabganj town and recovered 22

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Rohingya refugees make their way to a refugee camp after crossing the Bangladesh-Myanmar border in Palongkhali of Cox's Bazar yesterday. Inset, a Rohingya woman in labour is brought to a medical centre on a stretcher. An estimated 623,000 Rohingyas have arrived in Bangladesh since a military crackdown in Myanmar in late August triggered an exodus.

PHOTO: REUTERS

DC's SIM cloned for extortion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Fraudsters cloned the SIM card of a deputy commissioner and tried to use it for extorting money.

Yesterday, Deputy Director of Manikganj Family Planning Department Dr Ranjit Kumar Mandal received a call from the official mobile number of the DC in the district Md Nazmus Sadat Selim.

The caller asked him to send Tk 20,000 through bKash, a mobile money transfer service, in order to get a project from the ministry.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

GENDER GAP INDEX Bangladesh stays top in S Asia

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh has topped the South Asian countries in gender equality for the third consecutive year, ranking 47th among 144 nations.

It has also moved 25 notches up in the Global Gender Gap Report 2017 published by the World Economic Forum (WEF) on Thursday.

The country was at the 72nd position among the same number of countries in last year's index. It was ranked 64th among 145 nations in 2015.

Iceland has topped the index for the ninth straight term, followed by Norway, Finland, Rwanda and Sweden. Yemen is at the bottom.

The Maldives comes 2nd after Bangladesh among the South Asian

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Unblock citizenship issue : No end in sight

UN refugee chief says on the return of Rohingyas; Myanmar sees 'bad consequences' as US sanctions loom

STAR REPORT

Myanmar must grant citizenship to the Rohingyas to allow hundreds of thousands of people from the minority to return to Rakhine State from where they were driven by an army campaign, the UN refugee chief said.

"These people cannot remain stateless because this statelessness exposes them to discrimination and abuse, as has been the case in the past," said Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Thursday.

An estimated 623,000 Rohingyas have fled Rakhine State since August 25 during military operations that has included reports of burnt villages and widespread killings. The United Nations has denounced it as a classic example of ethnic cleansing.

"For people to go back and for this return to be sustainable, you need to address the very complex issue of citizenship."

FILIPPO GRANDI

"For people to go back and for this return to be sustainable, you need to address the very complex issue of citizenship," Grandi told reporters after addressing the Security Council, reports AFP.

"No return will be sustainable... if that issue is not unblocked."

Filippo Grandi stressed that Rohingyas are not just refugees but stateless refugees. He added there must be reconciliation,

investment and development in Rakhine, which is one of Myanmar's poorest states.

In another development, just a year after the United States lifted its sanctions against the government of Myanmar as the latter returned to democracy, Washington is considering re-imposing targeted sanctions and travel restrictions on Myanmar military officials over the treatment of Rohingyas.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Influx on as 3,000 newly arrived Rohingyas moved to Balukhali; malnutrition soars among children

STAR REPORT

About 3,000 Rohingyas who entered Bangladesh through the Anzumanpara border point in Ukchia on Wednesday night were shifted to Balukhali temporary shelter over the last two days.

The BGB members handed over some 1,700 Rohingyas on Thursday and about 1,300 yesterday to the Relief and Refugee Repatriation Commission who moved the refugees to Balukhali, said Maj Iqbal Ahmed, additional director of BGB 34 Battalion in Cox's Bazar.

On the other hand, around 500 Rohingyas entered Bangladesh through Shah Porir Dwip on Thursday night, Nur Hossain, chairman of Sabrang union in Teknaf, told The Daily Star yesterday.

After passing the night there, they came to Teknaf by boat. They were listed by law enforcers and given necessary treatment and relief before being sent to Balukhali where tens of thousands of Rohingyas have been sheltered in makeshift tents.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

BANGLADESH TO RAISE ROHINGYA ISSUE AT CPA CONFCE -- PAGE 3



Kaiplem Mro taking care of her cows at Mrolongpara under Sadar upazila of Bandarban. Thanks to cattle farming, the 53-year-old woman doesn't need to look back. She has fought against poverty and set an example for others in her community.

PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

CATTLE FARMING IN HILLS Mro community makes a shift

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA, Bandarban

If you take a look at Kaiplem Mro, you can feel the confidence she exudes. The 53-year-old indigenous woman from the remote Mrolongpara under Sadar upazila of Bandarban is in charge of her own future.

Coming from extreme conditions in the hilly Bandarban regions of the under provisioned south east regions of Bangladesh, her community has always relied on traditional forms of livelihoods up until recently.

It was early 2013 when she bought a cow for Tk 12,800 and sold it later that year for Tk 55,000. This was her point of no return.

She has reared cattle ever since and owns eight cows at the moment. With experience, she even sold a single cow for Tk 100,000 recently.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Ex-president Biswas passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former president Rahman Biswas passed away at a city hospital last night. He was 91.

He breathed his last at United Hospital around 7:30pm, his son Mahmudur Rahman Biswas told The Daily Star.

The politician had been suffering from old-age complications. He was taken to the hospital earlier in the

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4

Advertisement for Bull and Metal machinery, featuring a yellow excavator and contact information for The Metal (Pvt.) Limited.