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 Saudi Arabia allegedly has barred Yemeni president from returning home
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Aman output likely to fall

Farmers worked hard to recoup flood losses, yet Aman yield projected to be 3.5 lakh tonnes less than last year's

Aman cultivated on **58 lakh** hectares this year
1.3cr tonnes of Aman output expected
 Overall rice shortfall will be **14 lakh** tonnes

REAZ AHMAD
 Bangladesh is bracing itself for another less productive rice season as the United States Department of Agriculture predicts decline in acreage and yield of Aman.
 Aman is the most important rice season in the country after Boro.
 A USDA field report has forecasted 1.3 crore tonnes of Aman production this year. It is 3.5 lakh tonnes less than last year's yield.
 The recent report has also noted fall in Aman acreage from last year's 59 lakh hectares to 58 lakh this year.
 Overall, the USDA has projected 3.31 crore tonnes of rice output in the country this fiscal year, down by 14 lakh tonnes from last year's.
 Officials at the agriculture ministry, however, preferred not making any projections right away.
 Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Agriculture Minister Matia Choudhury said, "Only six percent Aman has so far been harvested. I don't like to make a projection at this stage. A lot depends on the weather."
 She expressed optimism that the rice output would be moderately good as farmers tried hard to recoup flood losses during the very early stage of Aman transplantation.
 Thanks to the rain last month and subsequent cooler weather, the pest
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Rohingya refugee children stumble in a melee to get food at the distribution centre in Palongkhali refugee camp in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

School shut for 'militant links'

Lakehead branches sealed; all activities suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The district administration of Dhaka yesterday sealed both the Dhamondi and Gathari branches of Lakehead Grammar School, shutting all its activities on allegations of patronising militancy, inspiring extremist views and helping form militant outfits.
 Two teams led by two executive magistrates conducted raids at the campuses of the English medium school in the evenings as ordered by the deputy commissioner, said Sharif Rayhan Kabir, ADC (education and ICT) of Dhaka.
 Elias Mehed, one of the magistrates, said the officials sealed the branches after driving out all the staff.
 Later, the school property was handed over to the Lakehead's admin officer, who gave an undertaking that all activities of the school will remain suspended for an indefinite period, Elias told The Daily Star.
 Asif Ishtiaq, head of the school administration, said the management will sit today to decide about filing a writ petition against the closure of the school and how it can resume activities.
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Act now to solve Rohingya crisis

MPs from C'wealth countries urge int'l community; no resolution adopted for constitutional limitations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Lawmakers from Commonwealth countries have called upon the international community to take urgent action to resolve the Rohingya crisis.
 The call was made at the 63rd general assembly of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in the capital yesterday.
 In a statement, the CPA condemned the atrocities, ethnic cleansing, displacement and all gross violations of human rights in the Rakhine State of Myanmar.
 It asked the Myanmar government to stop violence and ethnic cleansing in Rakhine immediately and unconditionally.
 The CPA, a platform of 52 countries, however, could not adopt any resolution on the Rohingya issue despite a strong demand from most of its member states.
 Talking to journalists at her office at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, CPA Chairperson Shirin Shamrin Chaudhury, also Speaker of the JS, said no resolution on the issue could be adopted due to the CPA's constitutional limitations.
 According to the CPA constitution, in order to adopt a resolution on any issue, a notice has to be sent to the CPA Secretariat in London 60 days before the annual conference.
 Earlier at a briefing session on November 5, CPA delegates criticised Myanmar for persecution of the Rohingyas and demanded that the association adopt a resolution on the issue.
 At the session, the CPA chairperson and its Secretary General Akbar Khan had assured them that the demand would be considered seriously.
 The eight-day annual conference of the CPA began on November 1 with more than 550 delegates from 144 national and provincial
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Myanmar needs to engage with UN, Bangladesh

UNSC says on Rohingya repatriation, calls for end to violence in Rakhine

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
 The UN Security Council has called upon Myanmar and Bangladesh to invite the UN refugee agency and other relevant international organisations to participate fully in a joint working group to allow voluntary return of all the Rohingya refugees to their homes in Myanmar.
 In a statement issued on Monday, the UNSC urged the Myanmar government to end the excessive military force and intercommunal violence that had devastated the Rakhine community in Rakhine State.
 It also called for implementing the agreed-upon mechanisms to assist return of those who have fled Rakhine and to ensure access for humanitarian aid.
 The Security Council remains determined to continue to closely follow the situation in Myanmar and requests the Secretary-General to brief the Security Council on developments on the situation in Rakhine after 30 days from this
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SPECIAL ON
FINANCIAL INCLUSION
 Financial inclusion means that individuals and businesses have access to useful and affordable financial products and services that meet their needs - transactions, payments, savings, credit and insurance - delivered in a responsible and sustainable way. Access to a transaction account is a first step toward broader financial inclusion since it allows people to store money, and send and receive. The Daily Star brings out four special pages on financial inclusion today along with
BUSINESS

Murder trial of MP Rana to go on

HC rejects his petition filed against charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The High Court yesterday cleared the way for the lower court concerned to run the trial proceedings against Bangladeshi Awami League lawmaker Amanur Rahman Khan Rana in freedom fighter Faruk Ahmed murder case.
 The HC bench of Justice Md Shawkat Hossain and Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder rejected a petition filed by Rana, now in jail, challenging the lower court order that framed charges against him in the case.
 In the petition, he also prayed to the HC seeking a stay order on the trial proceedings of the case.
 The HC passed the order after Rana's lawyer Advocate Hedayet Kabir Khan prayed to the court to reject the petition considering that it was not properly submitted before this court.
 There is no legal bar for the trial court to continue
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Police and fire service men, along with locals, search for missing stone quarry workers in the Lovachhara river in Sylhet's Kanaighat upazila around 1:00pm yesterday, hours after a part of the river bank collapsed, killing six workers, including five children. Inset, rescuers place a victim's body on a boat.

PHOTO: SHEKH NASHIR

Death trap in stone quarry

Father saves son but dies with 5 others in Sylhet; illegal stone extraction continues

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
 When quarry labourer Sundar Ali heard yesterday morning that some children including his son had gone to collect stones in the Lovachhara river, he knew how dangerous this could be.
 He rushed to the place to get the children out. When Sundar reached the spot, his son, seeing his father, realised that he was in trouble and ran away.
 Sundar then started yelling at the other children to get out of the river. The children started climbing up to the steep cliff when a large chunk of earth subsided and fell into the river taking the six teenagers and Sundar with it, locals said.
 Five of the children and Sundar were killed.
 Locals rescued one injured student from the spot. All of the victims were from the Bangla Tila area in Kanaighat of Sylhet.
 Koyesur Rahman, member of Laksimpriashad Purbo Union, said the annual jalsha (religious gathering) of a local madrasa was scheduled for last night and the children had gone to collect stones thinking they would earn some extra selling those on jalsha night.
 The deceased were: lakir, 16, Nahid, 13, his brother Shakil, 12, Maruf, 13, and Abdul Kadir, 13.
 Three of the children were students of the madrasa, locals said.
 Abdul Ahad, officer-in-charge of Kanaighat Police Station, said police with the help of locals recovered the bodies.
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