

Talks on track for Rohingya deal

Suu Kyi expects MoU this week after 2-day negotiations; Mahmood Ali optimistic

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and Naypyitaw are in negotiation for reaching a bilateral agreement in a couple of days on repatriation of over six lakh Myanmar nationals who have taken shelter in Bangladesh to escape persecution in Rakhine State.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, now in Naypyitaw to attend a conference, will hold bilateral talks today and tomorrow to form a joint working group to facilitate the repatriation.

He yesterday expressed optimism about striking a deal with Myanmar over Rohingya repatriation. "Chances look good. Let's see,"



he said.

According to diplomatic sources, Bangladesh and Myanmar have agreed in principle to sign an agreement on repatriation of the Rohingyas, but are yet to disclose the details of the plan, terms and conditions or criteria.

Officials from both countries began discussions last month on how to process documents of the Rohingyas willing to return to Myanmar.

Last week, Myanmar army chief said that it was "not possible" to accept the number of refugees proposed by Dhaka.

Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu

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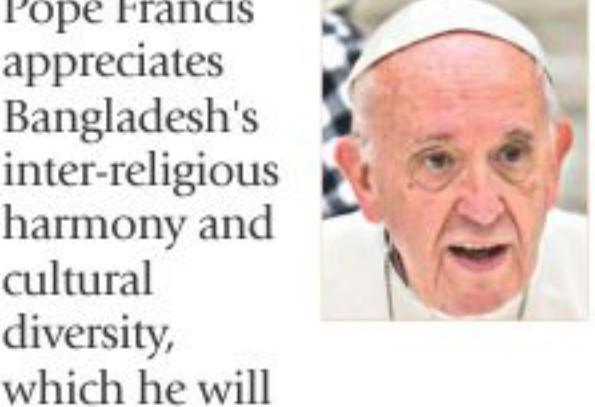
The construction work of a new girder bridge along the existing Dhaleshwari-2 bridge is underway on the Dhaka-Mawa road in Kuchiamara of Munshiganj. The development work, being carried out under the supervision of the Bangladesh Army, is part of upgrading of the two-lane highway into a six-lane express highway. It will connect the link roads of the under-construction Padma Bridge. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Pope praises Bangladesh for harmony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Pope Francis appreciates Bangladesh's inter-religious harmony and cultural diversity, which he will celebrate during his visit here next week, Catholic Church officials said yesterday.

"People of various faiths and ethnicity are living here peacefully. This is our tradition and culture," said Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario during a view exchange with

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ENGLISH VERSION: PRIMARY TERMINAL QUESTION PAPERS

Mistakes reign

WASIM BIN HABIB and BISHAKHA DEVNATH

"Why did the intellectuals kill?"

Confused! Well, this is one of the multiple choice questions fifth graders had to answer in their Bangladesh and Global Studies English-version examination yesterday.

However, the abovementioned question was not the only one that perplexed students across the country during their primary terminal exams.

Three sets of question papers that The Daily Star went through were riddled with mistakes in all sections -- MCQs and questions for short and elaborate answers.

For instance, it is certainly puzzling

(4) What is happened in the people of this country as a result of 'divide and rule' policy of British?
(a) Racial discrimination (b) Social discrimination
(c) Cultural discrimination (d) Financial discrimination

to think what answers the students had come up with to the question, "What is happen to disobey law?"

And how did they answer the main cause of "breaking the bank of rivers"?

The unfortunate pupils were probably confused as to whether they were to answer why the authority destroys the rivers' banks or why the erosion of the bank of a river occurs.

And then arrived questions such as

"What is freedom fight?", "What does the right to move freely include?" and "Why did Sonargaon make the capital of ancient Bengal?"

The answers might have been funnier than the questions.

Even in the multiple-choice question category, it seemed like the examiners were not only testing the student's on how much they knew but

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Why spend time on trivial matters?
Says PM about courts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday raised questions over the courts' spending time on "trivial matters" instead of disposing of thousands of pending cases.

"Why do courts spend time on trivial issues?

Several lakh important cases have been pending with the courts. Besides, a number of criminals, including members of Jama'atul Mujahidin Bangladesh, have been

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Mugabe quits
Ends four decades of rule; his former deputy likely to be sworn in

AGENCIES

Robert Mugabe resigned as Zimbabwe's president yesterday, a week after the army and his former political allies moved to end four decades of rule by a man once feted as an independence hero who became feared as a despot.

His former vice president, Emmerson Mnangagwa, whose sacking this month prompted the military takeover that forced Mugabe out, will be sworn in as president today or a day later, Patrick Chinamasa, legal secretary of the ruling ZANU-PF party, told Reuters.

The 93-year-old Mugabe had clung on for a week after an



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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presents gifts to a family member of a gallantry award recipient freedom fighter at a reception at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday. The programme was organised marking the Armed Forces Day 2017. Story on page 2

PHOTO: BSS

Smart NID for all voters by Dec 2018

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

As part of its plan to complete providing smart NID cards to all voters by December next year, the Election Commission will go for a massive scale-distribution in 32 districts in the first week of next month.

The EC, which is already distributing the NIDs in some city corporation areas, would also hand over laminated cards to new voters for a temporary period as the identification has become essential for any sort of documentation.

The commission has also taken an initiative to purchase 2,000 sets of finger print machines and 2,000 more Image Recognition Intelligence Software (IRIS) scanners. Once those machines are received, the cards would be distributed across the country in a smoother way.

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ATTACK ON KHALEDA'S MOTORCADE
AL leader accuses MP Nizam Hazari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the ruling Awami League and its archrival BNP trading blame over the attack on Khaleda Zia's motorcade in Feni, a district AL leader yesterday accused local lawmaker Nizam Uddin Hazari of playing a key role in the October 28 incident.

Terming the attack pre-planned, Feni AL member Azharul Haque Arzu at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club said the lawmaker did this to "take revenge against media outlets" for running reports against him.

He raised the allegation days after the BNP claimed to have identified some of attackers by analysing video footage of the incident.

However, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader had claimed the attack was "staged by the BNP itself".

The BNP chairperson's convoy came under attack at Mohammad Ali Bazar near Feni town when she was heading for Cox's Bazar to visit Rohingya refugee camps. At least 45 people were injured and some 30 vehicles damaged in the incident.

Arzu yesterday organised the press conference protesting "repression on him by Nizam Hazari", also the general secretary of Feni AL.

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Heartiest Congratulations
Envoy Textiles Limited

National Board of Revenue (NBR) honored Envoy Textiles Ltd. (ETL) as one of the highest Income tax payers in the Textile & Spinning sector in Bangladesh.



Mr. Kutubuddin Ahmed, Chairman & Mr. Tanvir Ahmed, Director received the Award on behalf of ETL.

Envoy Textiles is world's first LEED™ Platinum Certified denim textiles manufacturing mill

Best Wishes From

