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ROHINGYA INFLUX, SETTLEMENTS

Forests, hills in peril: UN

REJAUL KARIM BYRON *and* TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Rohingya influx has put a critical impact on the forest land in Cox's Bazar as thousands of hectares have been destroyed for making makeshift camps and collecting firewood.

Apart from threatening the biodiversity, the use of the forest resources may also lead to a rise in the social conflict between the host communities and the Rohingyas, says a UNDP report.

A total of 1,485 hectares of forest land under Ukhia, Whykong and Teknaf ranges has been encroached, and more land will be degraded if the collection of firewood continues, says the report titled Rapid Environment Impact Assessment.

The influx of the people from the persecuted minority of Myanmar since August 25 last year also put a "critical impact" on the ground water, soil, terrain and wildlife in Cox's Bazar, where the Rohingyas have taken shelter.

"The establishment of makeshift camps in Ukhia and Teknaf sub-districts [upazilas], close to several unique environmental sensitive areas,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

UNDP ASSESSMENT ON ENVIRONMENT

- **1,485 hectares** of forest land encroached
- **26,000 hectares** at risk of degradation
- Trees destructed for collection of firewood
- Destruction of hills increases landslide risk
- Wildlife, biodiversity severely threatened
- Adverse impact on groundwater, soil

The 99-run second-wicket stand between Shakib Al Hasan (67) and Tamim Iqbal (84) laid the foundation for a massive total for Bangladesh, who eventually beat Sri Lanka by a record margin of 163 runs during their tri-series fixture at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Tigers reach new peak in SL demolition

MAZHAR UDDIN

The Bangladesh cricketers may not speak openly about their excitement and eagerness to perform in the post-Chandika Hathurusingha era, especially against the team now led by their former coach, but the approach and attitude was evident on the field as they romped to their largest ODI win when they beat Sri Lanka by 163 runs at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Bangladesh's previous largest victory margin, in terms of runs, was against West Indies in 2012, when they won by 160 runs in Khulna. To add the cherry on top, yesterday's win took the hosts to the final of the tri-series with 10 points and two games to spare courtesy of the bonus points earned after their comprehensive wins against Sri Lanka yesterday and Zimbabwe on January 15.

There was a notion that Hathurusingha's game plan, tailored to his knowledge of Bangladesh, would be used against his former charges in his first assignment as the Sri Lanka coach since resigning as Bangladesh head coach in October last year.

But it seemed like the Tigers were one step ahead throughout the match; be it while counterattacking the opposition or dealing with the bouncer strategy used by the Sri Lankan bowlers when the hosts batted after winning the toss.

Riding on three fifties from the most senior members of the side in Tamim Iqbal, Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim, the Bangladesh innings never really

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

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MAN OF THE MATCH
Shakib Al Hasan

Ivy 'stable'

The N'ganj mayor suffered brain haemorrhage: doctor

STAR REPORT

Narayanganj City Corporation Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy suffered a brain haemorrhage and is now having difficulties in recalling many past events, one of the physicians treating her at the capital's Labaid Hospital said yesterday.

Ivy and 50 others were injured as supporters of local Awami League lawmaker Shamim Osman attacked the mayor and her followers over eviction of street hawkers, leading to a fierce clash in Narayanganj's Chashara area on Tuesday. Ivy suffered injuries in her leg that got swollen. But her wounds are healing fast.

"However, a CT scan conducted on Mayor Ivy on Thursday found that she had suffered brain haemorrhage... This is kind of a stroke. But, her condition is stable now,"

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

Rohingya leaders draw up demands for repatriation

List includes citizenship, return of land, justice as more continue to flee military ops in Rakhine

REUTERS, *Kutupalong*

Rohingya leaders in a Bangladesh refugee camp have drawn up a list of demands they want Myanmar to meet before authorities begin sending back hundreds of thousands in a repatriation process expected to begin next week and last for two years.

The petition is the latest indication of the challenges ahead for Bangladesh and Myanmar as they try to engineer the return of refugees who fear continued military operations in Rakhine State and are dismayed about the prospect of a prolonged stay in "temporary camps" in Myanmar when they go back.

A half-dozen Rohingya elders, saying they represented 40 villages from Rakhine, showed the list of demands to a Reuters reporter at the Kutupalong refugee camp, where most of the 655,500 Rohingya refugees are staying.

The petition, handwritten in Burmese, said none of the Muslim Rohingya would return to mainly

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

A part of the road along the Suvadda canal caved in within a few months of its construction last year. Locals blamed poor construction and corruption for the collapse. The photo was taken near the Kadamtali bridge in Keraniganj recently. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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