13

New species

extended its habitat to Bangladesh, which is very important to the country's natural biodiversity," eminent ornithologist Reza Khan, who scrutinised the pictures taken by birdwatchers, told The Daily Star.

Known as Dicrurus caerulescens, the bird is believed to be a resident of India and Sri Lanka, he said.

No other record of seeing the bird in Bangladesh is known to experts, Reza, also a wildlife specialist of Dubai Zoo, added.

With tall trees, especially Bombax Ceiba or shimul, Shimla Park on the bank of Padma, is a heaven for birdwatchers.

The nectar of bombax and insects of the park attract many migratory and local birds. Four bird-watchers spotted the

drongo on February 9 and took its pictures.

"I knew it had to be a new one as soon as I saw the bird on a branch of shimul," Ali Reza, one of the birdwatchers, said.

"The bird has distinctive white belly and vent."

He alerted his companions, who managed to take a few good pictures before the bird disappeared.

With the pictures, they later started asking experts about the identity of the bird.

Enthusiasts from across the country, overseas, and members of Bangladesh Bird Club confirmed agreed that the bird was a whitebellied drongo, Maroof Rana, another member of the group, said. Considering that drongos have a

highly likely that there are more of them around, Reza Khan said. The Encyclopaedia of Flora and Fauna of Bangladesh has recorded

habit of travelling in groups, it is

some 700 species of birds, said It mentions the possibility of

finding white-bellied drongo in the country since the bird's actual habitat is in the West Bengal and Odisha, he added. An insectivore, the white-bellied

drongo often pursue nectar of flowers as well. Drongos play a role in pollina-

tion and eradication of harmful insects, he observed.

Hamid urges

FROM PAGE 2

Hamid stressed on implementation of Kofi Annan commission's recommendations to end the Rohingya

He mentioned that a joint-working group has already been formed following the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Bangladesh and Myanmar for the repatriation.

He hoped that the Myanmar government would take initiatives to rebuild Rohingyas' houses as well as to give back their properties, including arable land, shops and business centres, immediately after their

return. On different bilateral issues, the president said Bangladesh and Myanmar can work together on different issues, including peace, security

and development. "If a peaceful environment prevails in frontier areas between the two countries, the bilateral trade and commerce will also be expanded in

The Myanmar home minister said his country was ready to start the repatriation of Rohingyas and a

reception camp was set up in this regard. He said their government would

implement the recommendations of the Kofi Annan commission in phases.

Kyaw Swe also lauded the development activities in Bangladesh.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, secretaries of ministries concerned and senior civil and military officials were present.

Kyaw Swe arrived in Dhaka yesterday afternoon on a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

BNP announces

FROM PAGE 20

BNP leaders and activists formed a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club on Monday, staged a sit-in before the Nayapaltan central office on Tuesday and observed token hunger strikes across the country on Wednesday.

Also yesterday, senior BNP leaders held a meeting with the leaders of pro-BNP professionals' bodies at the party chief's Gulshan office.

Acting chairman of BNP Tarique Rahman addressed the meeting over the phone from the UK, said meeting sources.

Some public university teachers, lawyers and journalists at the meeting made suggestions about the BNP's

next course of action.

Traceless after leaving

FROM PAGE 1

government and Rangamati Sadar Hospital to hand over the girls to their father. The petition was filed by the girls' father.

The court also issued a rule asking the authorities to explain why the "confinement" of the girls should not be declared illegal, BM Elias Kachi, lawyer for the girls' father, told The Daily Star.

He also said the HC passed the order on the grounds that the father of the Marma girls was their legal guardian and he deserved their custody.

Meanwhile, a petition was filed with the Supreme Court yesterday seeking a stay on the HC order.

Rights activist Sultana Kamal submitted the petition, where she claimed that the girls wanted to go under the custody of Chakma Circle Chief Raja Debashish Roy, who would ensure their security.

The elder sister has recently sent a letter to the civil surgeon of Rangamati to this end and a writ petition over this issue has been pending with the High Court, Sultana said in the petition. Chamber judge of the Appellate

Division of the SC Justice Hasan Foez Siddique fixed February 18 for hearing the petition.

THE ALTERCATION

The parents of the girls went to the not available immediately. hospital yesterday afternoon.

yers for the girls, however, alleged that they were not allowed in the hospital. "I went to the spot around 2:30pm.

The door of the room where the girls were kept was locked and the police asked us not to enter," she said while talking to this correspondent over phone. Around 3:30pm, a few volunteers,

who had been giving the two sisters company day and night, were forced out of the room. Around the time, Yan Yan, the

queen of the Chakma circle, went live on Facebook from inside the hospital. In that blurry video the two Marma girls and their parents were seen exchanging heated arguments mostly in Marma language. At one point, Yan Yan cried out, "You cannot intimidate and take the girls away like this!" Then a phone rang, and the video ended abruptly.

One of the witnesses translated parts of the conversation to this correspondent. The witness quoted the father as saying, "We have been with them since this incident happened. If you don't come with us, we cannot go home."

It was not clear who the man was cious bite.

US says Nato

FROM PAGE 20

from the Middle East.

Nato defence ministers met late Wednesday with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini to discuss their concerns over duplication after Brussels agreed in December to a new defence pact.

"There is a clear understanding to include in written EU documents that the common defence is a Nato mission and a Nato mission alone," Mattis told a press conference in Brussels.

Mattis said discussions were "very candid" between the 29-nation Nato, which includes European Union

members, and Mogherini. political sharing, the political discussions, to keep the EU effort, for exam-

ple on military mobility," Mattis said. He said the EU can "enhance Nato common defense capabilities and

does not draw from them."

the meeting, he was going to the bank for his personal work. When Latifur reached near the upazila Settlement office around

Latifur was rushed to Lohagora Upazila Health Complex where doc-

out a procession in the town, protesting punishment of his killers.

Lohagora Police Station.

Shafiqul might have been killed "We have sufficient rigour in the over internal party feuds, the OC said.

deployed in different villages of Dighlia Union Parishad to fend off any untoward incident.

Tigers' best not good

FROM PAGE 1 Bangladesh may have complied with their captain's motto of playing fearless cricket without the fear of failure after Mahmudullah decided to bat on a placid track, but there were questions about whether the Tigers fell some valuable runs short, especially after making 100 from the first 10 overs, and the captain himself did not hesitate in accepting that fact at the post-match presentation ceremony.

It was a case of the Sri Lankan batsmen outsmarting the home side's bowling attack as they chased down 194 -- their highest successful chase in T20 cricket -- to take a 1-0 lead in the series. Sri Lanka's previous-best T20 chase of 176 came against Australia. Five Bangladesh bowlers conceded

over 10 runs per over and only one of the four debutants, left-arm spinner Nazmul Islam, was impressive with figures of 2-25. Kusal Mendis (53 off 27 balls) and

Danushka Gunathilaka (30 off 15 balls) showed no nerves after being tasked with the job of a record chase. Instead the two openers, alongside the two unbeaten batsmen Dasun Shanaka (42 off 24 balls) and Thisara Perera (39 off 18 balls), played some smart cricket to put the inexperienced home side bowling to the sword and finished the

chase with a healthy 3.2 overs to spare. Although there had been plenty of talk about the young bloods, the four debutants hardly made a mark in their first international appearance. Instead

with them, Yan Yan told this correspondent from the scene later. "On the previous occasions, they [the parents] were accompanied by

According to the witness, the father

In reply, one of the girls said they

This was the third time the parents

of the girls also said, "We are poor

people. How long can we stay without

did not want to go with them as they

were not sure what would happen to

went to the hospital to take the girls

having any earnings?"

them in future.

people in plainclothes. But this time, they have a court order in their favour," she said. After the parents took the girls with them, the queen of the Chakma circle

was not being traced for some time.

Her family members and well-wishers tried hard but failed to contact her. She was found inside the hospital later around 9:30pm.

Talking to this correspondent, Yan Yan alleged that she was assaulted and hit on the head inside the hospital. "Both of us [the queen and one of

her companions] were beaten, kicked

in the belly and thrown to the ground," she said. Details of the alleged assault were

Asked about the allegation that Susmita Chakma, one of the law-police did not allow many to go inside the hospital yesterday, Siddiki said, "We did not use force against anyone. Whether the girls would leave with their parents was up to them, but there is a court order in this regard."

Ants nurse

FROM PAGE 20

medication, as is known in many animals, but rather through treatment by nestmates which, through intense licking of the wound, are likely able to prevent an infection," said study coauthor Erik Frank. He contributed to the research

when he was at the Julius Maximilian University of Wuerzburg in Germany, and continues his work at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland. Frank had also taken part in a previ-

ous study, published last year, describing the ants' battleground rescue behaviour. The new research focused on what

happens to the injured back in the Matabeles, one of the world's largest

ant species, are fierce warriors and attack even humans with their fero-

Criminals

12:30pm, the criminals attacked him.

tors declared him dead. Lohagora upazila unit AL brought

ing the killing of Latifur and demand-

The body was sent to Narail Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy, said Shafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of

Additional police have been

A case was filed with Lohagora Police Station.

it was experienced campaigners like Mushfigur, Mahmudullah and

Soumya Sarker who made impacts. Soumya and debutant Zakir Hasan made their intentions very clear after plundering 17 runs from the first over off Sri Lankan debutant Shehan Madushanka. And despite wicketkeeper-batsman Zakir being dismissed early, Soumya made a positive statement on his return by smashing a 32-ball 51 that featured four boundaries and two sixes.

But it was the partnership between Mahmudullah (31-ball 43) and Mushfigur (44-ball 66) that was most entertaining. It was nice to see the two batsmen's positive approach despite Jeevan Mendis having turned up the pressure by taking the wickets of Afif Hossain, who scored a duck, and Sabbir Rahman. Mushfiqur's batting display was sub-

lime but Mahmudullah's improvisation was simply outstanding, some examples being the way he got behind the line of the ball and smacked over cover or when he backed away even before the ball was bowled by Madushanka before smacking it over the rope. Their effort helped Bangladesh

surpass their best of 190 for five against Ireland in 2012 but was not enough to stop their misery against the Lankans.

Now they will play their last game against the visitors on February 18 at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium with only the hope of saving face.

The sisters

FROM PAGE 20

after she had carried out a knife attack on a CTTC official at her Kazipara home, he told reporters at his office in the capital's Minto Road.

The CTTC chief termed the two stabbing incidents "lone wolf attacks"

Monirul said such attacks are carried out when the organisational strength of militant outfits like Huji-B, Neo JMB and Ansarullah Bangla Team have been weakened. The "lone wolf" attackers do not need any leader and the self-radicalised militants themselves carry out attacks, he added. He, however, said they didn't have

any information about how Momena came in contact with Najibullah. He also could not confirm the whereabouts of the marine engineer. Son of a former Navy official,

Najibullah went missing in early 2015. In January that year, he informed his younger brother through a Facebook message that he was "going to Iraq to join ISIS". About their involvement in mili-

sisters radicalised themselves "through the internet". Asmaul is now on a five-day remand. A CTTC team went to her home to enquire about Momena. When the team was about to return,

tancy, the CTTC chief said the two

minor injuries in his abdomen. According to a CTTC official, Asmaul following her arrest told cops, "You are disbelievers. The rule of Islam should be established in the country. If necessary, we should do jihad.

The official, wishing anonymity,

said Asmaul tried to go abroad for

she attacked an officer who sustained

study. She managed a scholarship in Malaysia, but failed to go there due to illness. Monirul said Momena went off the right track after her mother had died

in 2015. She started watching and reading radical contents online. The elder sister first got the motivation for radicalism by watching videos on militant activities, including those of al-Qaeda and IS, and then motivated the younger sibling, he told

reporters. Their father Moniruzzaman is the vice-president of an insurance company.

CTTC officials said Asmaul completed SSC from Mirpur Ideal School in 2014. Failing to pass HSC exams, she completed GED from Mentors, an educational institution. She got admitted to a private university last year to study English.

Asked about Momena's links with the arrested or killed former NSU students over militant activities, Monirul said she might have some connections, but the law enforcers were yet to find any proof. She had a plan to carry out an

attack in Australia even before she left Bangladesh for Melbourne on February 1 on a student visa to study English linguistics at La Trobe University. She was granted an excellence scholarship by the university, the CITC chief said quoting information obtained from Australian Federal Police and other sources.

And as part of the plan, she stabbed the sleeping man in the neck in north Melbourne on February 9. The Australian police described the incident as an "Islamic State-inspired' attack.

According to counterterrorism officials, Momena tried to go to Turkey in 2015 on a student visa, but she was denied visa by the Turkish embassy.

Before leaving for Australia, Momena instructed Asmaul to take part in activities in favour of Islam by killing at least one policeman in Bangladesh before being arrested, Monirul said.

Despite repeated attempts, The Daily Star could not reach Moniruzzaman, father of the two girls, as his phone was found switched off.

Visiting their Kazipara home, this correspondent found the main entrance to the flat padlocked. A resident of another flat in the building said the two siblings once

visited her home only after being sure

that there was no man in the apart-

ment.

Asked about taking action against spreading radical content online, Monirul said the whole world had been facing problems over such online activities and the law enforcers in Bangladesh were also trying their level best to stop the menace.

Ex-student kills 17

FROM PAGE 20

Israel said both students and adults had been killed, 12 of whom have now been identified.

Fifteen people were killed at the school itself and 17 were taken to hospital, two of whom died of their wounds, the sheriff's office said. One of those killed was a football coach, and one student injured was a deputy sheriff's son.

"This is a terrible day for Parkland," Israel said, speaking of the city of about 30,000 people, located 50 miles (80 kilometres) north of Miami. A teacher at the school said Cruz had

been identified previously as a potential threat to his classmates. "We were told last year that he wasn't allowed on campus with a backpack on him," math teacher Jim Gard said

in a Miami Herald interview. "There were problems with him last year threatening students, and I guess he was asked to leave campus."

Cruz was also said to have been in the Junior ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) program while at school

A law enforcement source told CBS

News that the gunman pulled a fire alarm before opening fire, but Israel could not confirm that report. **EVERYONE STARTED RUNNING** The shooting, one of nearly 20 at a school since the start of the year, will

once again throw the spotlight on the epidemic of gun violence in the United States, where there are 33,000 gunrelated deaths annually. But when questioned at a press conference late Wednesday, Florida Governor Rick Scott -- who described

the massacre as "just pure evil" --

declined to make a statement on gun control in the aftermath of the shoot-"There's a time to continue to have these conversations about how through law enforcement, how through mental illness funding that we make sure people are safe, and we'll

Republican. At the same briefing, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi said the state will cover the costs of funerals

continue to do that," said Scott, a

and counselling for survivors.

"We will continue to work together as a team, as a family, and love and take care of all of these victims and their

family members," she said. Parkland Mayor Christine Hunschofsky told CNN she had spoken to a number of students after the shooting erupted shortly after 2:00 pm (1900 GMT).

"They were very scared," she said. "And almost in shock when they came

Police officers in helmets, bulletproof vests and armed with automatic weapons could be seen stationed at several points around the sprawling school complex, which serves nearly 3,000 students. The FBI said it was assisting local law

enforcement with the investigation. ERRATIC BEHAVIOUR US President Donald Trump yesterday

urged Americans to report neighbours' "erratic" behaviour as he faced down calls for action after 17 people were shot dead at a Florida school. "So many signs that the Florida

shooter was mentally disturbed, even expelled from school for bad and

Shamim

grounds for the one-eleven wrote against them, he said, adding that

nating the character of lawmakers He said 99 percent of the country's journalists are honest, while the rest is dishonest.

now indirectly trying to create instability in the country, he said while speaking on a point of order. The ruling party lawmaker also

along with others from different MPs was now at the privilege committee and it would make decisions over the

No worries, it's not final FROM PAGE 1

open," he said after a meeting with editors, journalist leaders and representatives of TV channels at Bangladesh Press Institute on Circuit House Road in the capital. Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu presided over the meeting attended

Tarana Halim and Prime Minister's Media Affairs Adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury. Meeting sources said a newspaper editor raised concerns about the draft Digital Security Act, especially its section 32, saying that they were fright-

by state minister for information

ened over the law. Many of the participants supported him.

Obaidul Quader then told them not to be worried as the law had not been finalised. Talking to reporters, Hasanul Haq

Inu said the role of media in strength-

ening democracy had been discussed in the meeting. According to section 32 of the proposed law, a person may face up to 14 years in jail or Tk 20 lakh in fine or both on charges of computer spying or digital spying if he or she illegally enters the offices of government, semi-government, autonomous or statutory bodies and collect or preserve or send any top secret or secret documents through a computer, digital device, computer network, digital

network or any electronic form and help others to do that. He or she will face imprisonment of up to a life sentence or Tk 1 crore in fines or both for committing the crimes

for a second time. On January 29, the cabinet approved the draft, triggering criticisms from journalists and rights defenders, who feared misuse of the law to curb

people's right to expression. The Shampadak Parishad and Newspapers Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) has also been voicing concerns over the inclusion of the controversial Section-57 of the ICT Act and some other strict provisions in the draft Digital Security Act. Terming the draft law a particularly

harsh one, the Parishad, an organisa-

tion of editors of the country's national

the government drop all the controver-

created between the government and

The government wants to solve the issues and bring about a "healthy situation", meeting sources said quoting

relationship with it. Quader, also general secretary of

mentioning that several ruling party leaders were either appearing in courts or in jail for corruption or misdeeds. Citing examples, he said two minis-

A number of editors also spoke about a sudden fall in advertisements in their

papers and other allegations of corrup-

tion in distributing government adver-

tisements, the meeting sources added. The meeting was attended by editors Golam Sarwar (Samakal), Matiur Rahman (Prothom Alo), Mahfuz Anam (The Daily Star), Moazzem Hossain (Financial Express), Imdadul Haq Milon (Kaler Kantho), Shyamal Dutta (Bhorer Kagoj) and Naimul Islam Khan (Amader Arthoniti); BSS Managing Director and Chief Editor Abul Kalam Azad, daily Jugantar's acting editor Saiful Islam, Ekattor TV Chief Editor and Managing Director Mozammel Babu, DBC News Editor-

in-Chief Mohammad Manzurul Islam.

Besides, Independent TV owner among others, present.

Expression of Interest (EOI) Reference No: EOI-BD-2018-001 & EOI-BD-2018-002

United Nations Development Programme(UNDP) Bangladesh seeks Express of Interest (EOI) from interested

A. Lot 1: Publications Design

Lot 3: Printing (Others)

sial sections.

All Interested companies may download the bidding documents (EOI) from below link

firms/companies for the Pre-qualifications of below mentioned items.

Submission of EOI: The deadline for submission of EOI is by no later than 4:30 PM, Thursday, 08 March 2018.

erratic behavior," Trump tweeted.

FROM PAGE 20

those newspapers now started assassi-

The dishonest journalists, who took journalism to serve ill purposes, are

wanted to know about the fate of his notice. In reply, the speaker said his notice

At yesterday's meeting, Quader said some differences of opinion had been media.

Quader. He also told the meeting that he considered media as a friend, not an enemy, and wanted to maintain a good

ruling Awami League, said his party expected "due coverage" in the news. Quader also talked about the government's zero tolerance for corruption,

ters were regularly appearing before the Anti-Corruption Commission while a number of AL MPs were in jail. Besides, some Chhatra League leaders were awarded death penalty in the sensational Biswajit Das murder case.

Salman F Rahman, Daily Samakal publisher AK Azad, Maasranga Television owner Tapan Chowdhury, Channel i Managing Director Faridur Reza Sagor, BFUJ President Majurul Ahsan Bulbul and Secretary General Omar Faruk, Jatiya Press Club President Muhammad Shafiqur Rahman and General Secretary Farida Yasmin, columnist Syed Abul Maksud dailies, on February 6 demanded that and Press Institute of Bangladesh Director General Shah Alamgir were,

DP Empowered lives, Resilient nations.

Lot 2: Printing of visibility / promotional items

B. Office Furniture and Interior Design

http://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_notice.cfm?notice_id=44181

http://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_notice.cfm?notice_id=44179 (Local time) through online e-Tendering system in the following link: https://etendering.partneragencies.org.