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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



RAUSHAN'S CALL

The conundrum of an opposition party in parliament

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ANOTHER BLOW

Top Trump aide Hope Hicks to leave White House

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Pull back right now

Bangladesh asks Myanmar as its troops gather near zero line; tension heightens

STAR REPORT

Myanmar yesterday deployed a huge contingent of its army with heavy weapons along the Tombru border with Bangladesh, creating panic among the Rohingyas on the adjacent no-man's land.

Frightened, some of the refugees entered the Bangladesh territory.

Terming the army deployment a violation of border norms, Border Guard Bangladesh also increased its strength along the border at Bandarban's Naikhyangchhari to "face any circumstances".

Myanmar made the move 10 days after it had agreed to take back the Rohingyas from the no-man's land.

Dhaka yesterday afternoon summoned Myanmar Ambassador Lwin Oo and asked for immediate withdrawal of the troops.

Some 6,500 Rohingyas had been living on the no-man's land near the Bangladeshi village of Konapara since they fled their homes fearing persecution in Rakhine.

Roughly half of the people staying in makeshift camps on the border line moved to camps inside Bangladesh after the two countries met to discuss possible repatriation on February 20, Reuters reported yesterday.

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Myanmar army personnel keeping watch as Myanmar workers build a fence along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, as seen from Tombru in Bandarban on Tuesday. Hundreds of Rohingyas living in the no man's land have left their makeshift camp and crossed into Bangladesh after soldiers from Myanmar used loud hailers to threaten them, community leaders said.

PHOTO: AFP

Govt aims at ensuring food security

Says PM, calls for extensive agricultural research

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government has been striving to ensure food security through boosting production.

Silos are being built to preserve food grain for a couple of years to meet the local demand as well as use it as backup to tackle any unwanted situation caused by natural calamities, she said.

Hasina was addressing a programme in the city's Osmani Memorial Auditorium marking the distribution of Bangabandhu Jatiya Krishi Purashkar (Bangabandhu National Agriculture Award) for Bengali year 1423.

Stressing the need for carrying out extensive research on agriculture, the PM said success in this sector would not be possible without research.

She mentioned that Bangladeshi researchers

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MARCH 2, 1971

First flag flies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

March 2, 1971 -- a historic day when Bangladesh announced its imminent arrival to the world by waving its flag for the very first time, sending a very bold message by the then people of East Pakistan of their aspirations of independence.

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GREEN GARMENT FACTORIES

Bangladesh leads the way

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has more green garment factories than any other country in the world.

At least 67 garment factories have received the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certificate from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC).

After Bangladesh, Indonesia has 50 LEED certified garment factories, followed by India with five.

Another 280 garment factories in Bangladesh would get the LEED certification soon, said Gopalakrishnan P,

managing director of USGBC for Asia Pacific and Middle East Markets, at a programme in Dhaka yesterday.

Entrepreneurs' investment in eco-friendly production to comply with global standards is being attributed to the achievement.

"In every consideration, Bangladesh has the highest number of green garment factories in the world," he told The Daily Star on the sidelines of an award-giving ceremony for the green platinum-rated garment factories at the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

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ORPHANAGE CASE Dockets could be sent to HC Wednesday

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Special Judge Court-5 of Dhaka is likely to send the records of Zia Orphanage Trust graft case to the High Court next week.

"We are in the process of sending the case dockets containing over 2000 pages to the High Court on Wednesday," Mokarram Hossain, bench assistant of the special judge court, said.

The HC on February 22 accepted an appeal filed by Khaleida Zia and asked the trial court to forward in 15 days the records of Zia

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She forgot it all

Two Nobel Peace laureates express how they are disappointed in Suu Kyi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In their final meeting with journalists in the capital yesterday, Nobel Peace laureates Shirin Ebadi and Mairead Maguire urged Aung San Suu Kyi to remember the times they stood by her during the years of her house-arrest.

Their fellow Nobel Peace Prize Recipient Tawakkol Karman, who accompanied them on this trip to Bangladesh, was absent, having already left the country.

"When she called for Burma, we responded. We thought she meant all Burmese, but now we know she does not acknowledge the Rohingya," Maguire said at the event held in Dhaka Club.

Ebadi added how they had all staged

protests when Suu Kyi was placed under house arrest. "She appears to have forgotten how she suffered under house arrest--the Rohingyas are suffering ten times more," Ebadi said.

"Nobel laureates have tried to go to Myanmar but have not been granted visas," claimed Maguire. "Myanmar is not letting [those] people who speak out about the Rohingya crisis [to] enter the country."

Ebadi described how she wrote several open letters to Suu Kyi but received no response.

The duo also called out countries for not taking a stronger stance in tackling the Rohingya crisis.

"The British Foreign Secretary Boris

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A gateman at Kadamtali rail crossing in Chittagong looks on helplessly as a van puller frantically tries to get his vehicle off the lines with a train approaching fast. Inset, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw and two bikes crossing the rail line with the train only a few inches past them at the level crossing. Although there was no mishap, chances of accidents remain high in the area.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

HAJJ OPERATORS 52 fined Tk 9 crore for irregularities

RASHIDUL HASAN

The religious affairs ministry has fined 52 hajj agents over Tk 9 crore and cancelled and suspended licences of 76 after finding irregularities in their operations last year.

The ministry also took other actions, including forfeiting deposits and issuing warnings, against 14 hajj operators, according to a document of the ministry.

The irregularities include failure to send

pilgrims to Saudi Arabia despite getting their visas, inability to provide accommodation, food and other facilities in Saudi Arabia as promised and realising additional money from them.

The hajj agencies fined have to pay within March 7 and inform the ministry.

Some 635 private hajj tour operators were allowed to send around 1.27 lakh pilgrims to Saudi Arabia last year.

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Hajj tour operators:	635
Found involved in irregularities:	142
Licence scrapped:	59
Licence suspended:	17
Deposit forfeited:	4
Warned:	10



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