

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

STAR
WEEKEND

INDO-CHINA TIES

Can the two Asian giants find a new template for their relations?

PAGE 15

THE KOREAN SUMMIT

Kim to cross border for talks with his counterpart in the South

PAGE 9

Global concern high, aid low

WFP receives only 18pc of fund required to feed Rohingyas till December

"Beyond December, it may be very difficult to raise so much money from the international community. Because of the many other crises in the world the funding is also limited. We still have the Middle East, Syria, we have Yemen."

CHRISTA RADER, COUNTRY DIRECTOR OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME, BANGLADESH

PORIMOL PALMA

The World Food Programme has so far received donations of \$45 million, only 18 percent of \$243 million required mainly to provide food for one million Rohingyas and 200,000 locals in Cox's Bazar until next December.

This is part of the UN appeal, launched in March in Geneva, for \$951 million under the second phase of a joint response plan.

Mia Seppo, UN resident coordinator in Bangladesh, said her office was gathering information from aid agencies on the received fund.

"At the moment, we can say we are

underfunded," she told The Daily Star at her office yesterday ahead of the first ever visit by the 15-member delegation of the UN Security Council (UNSC) to Bangladesh.

Led by its president, the UNSC team will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow afternoon. The delegation is expected to visit the refugee camps in Kutupalong and interact with the Rohingyas to learn about the atrocities they faced in Rakhine.

Christa Rader, WFP country director in Bangladesh, yesterday said, "There is a big gap [between required fund and fund received]...it is a risky situation."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

EU EXTENDS MYANMAR ARMS EMBARGO -- PAGE 2



Ripon and his daughter Reshmi -- both intellectually challenged -- find it difficult to walk on the newly-built special footpaths in the capital due to various obstacles, including small concrete pillars and various goods kept illegally by shopkeepers, on them. On one occasion recently, Reshmi hurt her leg after it got stuck between two such pillars set up to stop bikes on a pavement. The photo was taken on Kazi Nazrul Avenue in Farmgate area recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Tarique no longer citizen

Law minister, AG say; passport dept boss has different view

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law minister and the attorney general have said BNP acting chairperson Tarique Rahman is not a citizen of Bangladesh any more as he has surrendered his passport to the British Home Office to seek political asylum in the UK.

However, Maj Gen Md Masud Rezwan, director general of Department of Immigration and Passports (DIP), said the issue of someone's citizenship is not related to his passport.

Talking to reporters at the secretariat, Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said, "So far I know Tarique Rahman has surrendered his Bangladeshi passport and sought political asylum there [in the UK]. It means he has voluntarily said that he does

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Tk 10cr, some puzzles

Rab seizes the money from top businessman's home, sues him over 'funding subversive acts'; office says he went abroad; guard says 'no one' home; friend says he's picked up a week back

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rab has claimed to have recovered Tk 10 crore from the house of a businessman with a Commercially Important Person (CIP) status early hours of Wednesday, in a night-time raid that has raised a series of questions.

Mystery also shrouds over the whereabouts of Mosharaf Hossain. His staffers said he went abroad a week ago while his family remained tight-lipped about it yesterday.

One of his friends in the business circle claimed that Mosharaf, known as a BNP supporter, was picked up by a security agency about a week ago.

Different media outlets reported last night that he was admitted to the United Hospital in the capital.

The Rab claimed to have recovered the money from his house in the capital's Eskaton Garden Road, saying he was "on the run".

According to sources in the business circle, Mosharaf owns three spinning mills, one dyeing

and woven factory and other businesses.

He has an investment of over Tk 1,000 crore in the textile sector and got gold status as a CIP at least twice for export earnings.

He was elected chairman of Rampal Union in Munshiganj thrice as a BNP-backed candidate. But he lost the 2016 election.

Following the raid that began around 2:00am, Inspector Ruhul Kuddus of Rab -2 filed a case with Ramna Police Station under the Anti-Terrorism Act, accusing Mosharrarf of accumulating the money to carry out subversive activities.

According to the case statement, when the Rab team went to the apartment based on intelligence and asked Mosharaf's wife whether there was any money in the house, she initially denied it. But later she admitted it and brought out four trolley bags stuffed with cash.

The Rab entered the flat with the help of the security in-charge of the apartment and opened the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

Gagged, mugged, pushed off bus

Boy falls prey to mugger gang

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

A gang of muggers posing as passengers and bus staffers mugged a boy and shoved him off the moving vehicle in Sitakunda upazila in the wee hours of yesterday.

Victim Elias Hossain Emon got into a Kumira-bound bus from the port city's Olongkar intersection around 12:00am. He was going to his relative's house at Kumira in Sitakunda. In the bus, there were eight other people, including a helper and a driver, said highway police, quoting Elias.

The suspects have been arrested. The bus started moving and after a short while, seven except the driver came to him and gagged him with a traditional towel. They then took away his belongings, including cash and mobile phones, and pushed him off near Tobacco gate on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Sitakunda.

Sixteen-year-old Emon, who was injured in the incident,

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



Elias Hossain

Mayhem in Satkania

15 hurt as CNG drivers, cops clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

At least 15 people, including three police constables, were injured after police opened fire during a clash between a group of CNG-run auto rickshaw drivers and highway police at Dohazari area under Satkania upazila in Chittagong yesterday noon.

The clash began when the drivers surrounded the Dohazari Highway Police Station in protest of the seizure of two CNG-run auto rickshaws, said police and local sources.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Md Farhad of Highway Police

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

SUNDARBANS CENSUS

Dolphins declining

PINAKI ROY, back from Sundarbans

The dolphin census going on in the Sundarbans area is indicating that the number of the mammals in the mangrove forest rivers is dropping and the experts are blaming climate change and withdrawal of fresh water from upstream.

Experts think rise of salinity in the coastal rivers, poor flow of fresh water in the Ganges river system and growing commercial activities in and around the Sundarbans are threatening the iconic animal.

"We have not completed the census yet, but still we can say that the number of dolphins is decreasing, comparing it with the number of the last census in 2006," said Monirul H Khan, eminent wildlife expert who is leading the census team.

His two-member team has completed their work in most areas of the Sundarbans.

The department of forest

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



One of four pink Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins spotted in a river inside the Sundarbans recently. This is believed to be the first time a dolphin census team spotted the rare species in Bangladesh.

PHOTO COURTESY:
MONIRUL H KHAN

Tragedy strikes on a day of anticipation

Woman in labour, two others die as ambulance hits parked truck

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

As Monira Begum started experiencing labour pains at her home in Dinajpur yesterday morning, her husband Mofazzal Hossain was overwhelmed with a feeling of joy tinged with nervousness at the thought of becoming a father for the first time.

Living far away in Dhaka because of work, Mofazzal immediately sent Monira, 23, to a local hospital with the help of their other family members.

As the doctors preferred a C-section for her, the family members, with Mofazzal's consent, decided to have it at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) instead.

What was to be a joyous day for the family, however, turned out to be a tragic one as the ambulance, which was taking the expectant mother and her relatives to the hospital, rammed into a parked lorry in Paglapir area on Rangpur-Dinajpur highway.

Monira was killed on the spot. Her aunt Opia Begum, 55, and the ambulance driver's helper Tusher Mia, 27, died of their injuries later.

The baby could not be saved as well.

Monira's mother Sabura Begum, 60, her brother Jewel-ur-Rahman, 35, and ambulance driver Altam Hossain, 40, were severely injured in the accident that took place around noon yesterday. They were being treated at RMCH, said police.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2