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# Bangalees face abuse, threats in Meghalaya

## Fear, outrage grow over Assam citizen list

STAR REPORT

As fear and anger run deep over Assam's citizenship issue, many of those left off the final draft of National Registration of Citizens (NRC) complain of being harassed at different places of neighbouring state of Meghalaya.

"Centring the NRC, Bangalees are being tortured. Khasi people are intercepting them on different roads in Meghalaya," local daily Jugasankha reported yesterday.

It said activists under the banner of Khasi Students' Union (KSU) were forcing people to get down from vehicles to check their nationalities.

According to The Northeast Today, KSU has set up checkpoints in three districts and detected more than 1,000 "immigrants".

More than 200 "immigrants" were detected at the checkpoint at Pahammawlein, 20 Mile, in Ri Bhoi and were sent

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A picture published in The Shillong Times shows Khasi Students' Union activists checking tourist vehicles at Pahammawlein in Ri Bhoi in India.

## No worries over Assam NRC draft

Says Indian envoy in Dhaka; it won't affect Dhaka-Delhi ties

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Amid concern over the controversial citizenship verification process which put a question mark on the status of over 4 million people living in Assam, India has said Bangladesh has nothing to worry about and it will have no impact on relations between the two countries.

"This is entirely an internal matter of India and the Supreme Court of India is monitoring the process. The National Register of Citizens [NRC] exercise is being carried out in a totally objective, transparent and meticulous manner," said

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## Editor Moazzem Hossain passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AHM Moazzem Hossain, editor of The Financial Express, passed away at a city hospital last evening.

The veteran journalist, aged 73, had been undergoing treatment for various health problems at Square Hospitals for the last few days.

Moazzem left behind his wife, a son, a daughter and a host of relatives, friends

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## OVERSTAYED FOREIGN WORKERS UAE govt offers 3-month amnesty

STAR REPORT

In a landmark move, the United Arab Emirates yesterday launched a three-month visa amnesty programme, hoping to resolve a "Catch-22" for foreign workers who are fined daily for overstaying their permits but prevented from leaving until they pay the penalties.

The government isn't releasing specific numbers, but said it expects "thousands" of people, primarily labourers from countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal and the Philippines, to take advantage of the amnesty through the end of October, reports AP.

Talking to The Daily Star by phone yesterday, Arman Ullah Chowdhury, counsellor at Bangladesh embassy in Abu Dhabi, said this was a huge opportunity for the Bangladeshis who had been undocumented for months or years and could not return home or regularise their immigration status.

There are around 7 lakh Bangladeshis working in the UAE. And, about 5,000 of them may be undocumented, he said.

"Those who want to go home can do it without paying any fines. The embassy will issue them outpasses [travel passes] at a discount rate. Generally, we charge 60 dirham [1 dirham= Tk 23] for issuing an outpass, but now we have brought it down to 20 dirham," Arman said.

The amnesty will continue for three months until October 30. Besides,

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## Woman found dead at home Police suspect murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

A woman was found murdered at her residence in Chittagong city's Farider Para area yesterday evening.

The deceased was identified as Rahima Bibi, 25, wife of Ehteshamul Haque Jewel, a lawyer at Chittagong Court, said Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abul Bashar of Chandgaon Police Station.

Quoting the husband, the OC said Rahima was five months' pregnant. The couple also has a two-and-a-half-year-old daughter.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) of Panchlaish Zone Debdut Mazumdar of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) said the lawyer discovered his wife's body on the bed when he returned home from court around 3:00pm. He then informed police.

Police suspect that she was strangled to death by miscreants, the AC said, adding that injury marks were found on the victim's body.

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## Vietnam's Golden Bridge goes viral

REUTERS, Da Nang

In the mountains of central Vietnam, a colossal pair of hands lifts a golden thread of walkway high above the clifftops, as if the mountain itself has sprouted limbs.

"I feel like I'm walking on clouds," said Vuong Thuy Linh, a tourist from Hanoi. "It's so unique".

Cau Vang or the "Golden Bridge" in Vietnam's Ba Na Hills has attracted scores of tourists since it opened in June, eager to see a novel piece of architecture famed for its unusual design.

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## 'Gunfights' again; two more killed

Rab says they were drug peddlers

STAR REPORT

Two alleged drug peddlers were killed in separate "gun-fights" with Rab in Natore and Rajshahi on Tuesday.

With them, at least 207 suspected drug peddlers have been killed since the nationwide anti-narcotics drive began on May 4. Most of the incidents involved police and Rab.

Kabil Sheikh, 45, was killed in a so-called shootout with Rapid Action Battalion in Baraigram upazila of Natore, reports our correspondent in the district.

According to Maj Shibli Mostafa of Rab-5, one of

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Water of the Baleshwar river gushes through a breach of an embankment of the Water Development Board at Southkhali union of Bagerhat yesterday morning. Three villages were affected by the flash flood. PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Bagerhat WDB embankment in danger

200m stretch washed away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A 200-metre stretch of an embankment of the Water Development Board (WDB) was washed away in Southkhali union of Sarankhola upazila yesterday.

Moreover, huge cracks have developed in at least 10 points within one and a half kilometres of the embankment from Bogi Bazar to Gabtala Bazar area.

During high tide, water enters through the breaches on the embankment built under the Coastal Embankment Improvement Project (CEIP) funded by the World Bank.

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## Pigeon Escobar!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Pigeons have now too turned towards illicit drugs, unfazed by the ongoing anti-narcotics drive, something jail officials in Faridpur were surprised to discover.

While in the past homing pigeons were used for sending messages over long distances, their new profession is proving to be a headache for law enforcers

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## Probe should end now

Trump calls on AG Sessions to stop probe into alleged Russian meddling in US polls

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday called on Attorney General Jeff Sessions to end a federal investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election and whether there was any cooperation by his campaign with Moscow.

The Republican president, who has long complained about the criminal probe into his White House victory, said the idea that his campaign worked with Moscow was a

"TOTAL HOAX" in a series of tweets aimed at undermining the integrity of Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation.

In what appeared to be his most direct call for shutting down the probe, Trump wrote on Twitter: "This is a terrible situation and Attorney General Jeff Sessions should stop this Rigged Witch Hunt right now, before it continues to stain our country any further."

"Bob Mueller is totally conflicted," Trump continued. He provided no evidence

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 2

Fazr Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4-20	12-45	5-00	6-47
8-15			
JAMAAT	4-55	1-15	5-15
	6-50	8-45	

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION