

**"I have always been against the manpower syndicate. It's the Malaysian government that controls the syndicate, not us."**  
EXPATRIATES' WELFARE AND OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT MINISTER NURUL ISLAM ON MONOPOLY OF A SYNDICATE OF TEN RECRUITING AGENTS

**"We know the media is being controlled from behind the scene, but people are watching everything."**  
BNP SECRETARY GENERAL MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE CITY

**"There is little evidence of any attempt by parties to the conflict to minimise civilian casualties."**  
UN POINTS TO POSSIBLE WAR CRIMES IN YEMEN CONFLICT

## OUTSTANDING LOANS IN BANKING SECTOR

# Big chunk held by bank owners

*Pvt bank directors take loans from other banks 'thru mutual understanding'*

➤ Total state-owned and private banks	57	➤ Loans rescheduled in last 5 years	Tk 84,050cr
➤ Total outstanding loans	Tk 810,011cr	➤ Nonperforming loans	Tk 88,589cr
➤ Loans to other banks' directors	Tk 107,695cr	➤ Loans written-off	Tk 37,518cr

FIGURES AS OF MAR 2018

**SAJJADUR RAHMAN and AKM ZAMIR UDDIN**

In Bangladesh, industrialists and businesspeople become shareholders and directors of banks, and borrow money from each other's banks.

And not only that, up to four members of a family can now be in the board of directors of a bank, up from two previously, after the relevant rules were amended last year following Finance Minister AMA Muhith's recommendation.

But the picture is completely different in neighbouring India.

No industrialist or businessperson there can become a director of any bank as this creates a conflict of interest between the

custodians and the borrowers of the institution.

India's Banking Regulation Act, 1949, clearly states that shareholders and directors of banks have two completely different roles, and the law prevents them from mixing the roles.

The shareholders own the shares of a company while the directors, who would predominantly be professionals, manage the institution. A director doesn't need to be a shareholder and a shareholder has no right to be a director, it mentions.

This reasoning is the basis of banking acts in the developed world as well.

But Bangladesh is an exception to this, SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



**A man along with his minor daughter and other family members crosses the road at Shanir Akhra of Narayanganj through a gap in the median strip yesterday. Although a footbridge, not in picture, is just a few metres away, many pedestrians jaywalk here, putting themselves in harm's way.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## UN PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

# Guterres asks all to take heed

*China says pressure won't help*

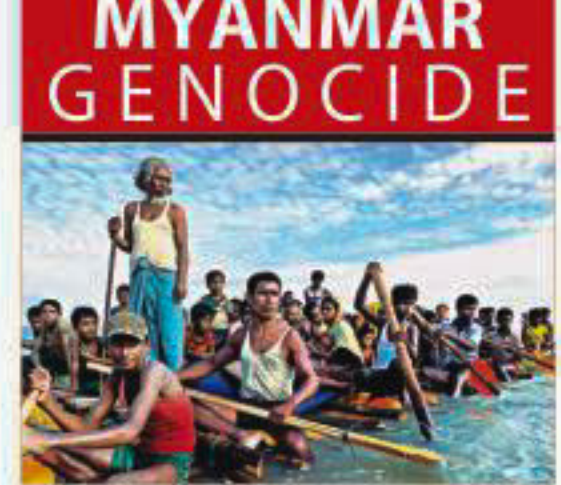
**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has urged all UN bodies and the global community to seriously consider the recommendations of the fact-finding mission that accused the Myanmar military of carrying out "gravest crimes" against the Rohingyas under the international law.

The UN mission in a report published on Monday said Myanmar's top military generals, including Commander-in-Chief Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing, must be prosecuted for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes over their actions against the minority group.

Rejecting the report, Myanmar has termed it one-sided accusation based on one-sided information, while its ally China said exerting pressure was not helpful in resolving the Rohingya issue.

China, backed by Russia, had helped to block a resolution on the crisis at the UN Security Council in the past. IT SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



## EC plans EVMs for 100 seats

*JS polls in last week of Dec, says EC secy*

**RASHIDUL HASAN**

Just about four months before the national polls, the Election Commission is planning to use electronic voting machines (EVMs) in around 100 out of the 300 constituencies.

EC Secretary Helaluddin Ahmed made the disclosure yesterday amid strong opposition from different political parties, including the BNP, regarding the use of EVMs.

"If everything goes well, including legal reforms and the opinions of political parties, the Commission will be able to use electronic voting machines in one-third of the constituencies in the parliamentary polls," he said, adding that the polls would be held in the last week of December.

The EC has already sent a proposal to the planning ministry for its approval to procure 1.5 lakh EVMs for around Tk 3,500 crore, he told reporters at the Nirbachan

Bhaban in the capital's Agargaon.

According to a Planning Commission document obtained by The Daily Star, no feasibility study on the EVM project has been carried out. A project evaluation meeting was supposed to be held on August 19 but was postponed.

Yet Tk 3,515 crore has already been allocated for the procurement of 1.5 lakh EVMs and other necessary equipment, the document said.

At present, around 10 crore voters are registered. So if EVMs are used in 100 constituencies, roughly about 3 crore voters will get to vote electronically.

Currently, there is no provision in the Representation of the People Order (RPO) for using voting machines in national elections.

So, to use EVMs in the December polls, the RPO, which regulates elections, must be

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## MONTH SINCE JULY 29 DEATHS

# Roads not any safer

*Staff Correspondent*

It has been exactly a month since two college students were squashed to death by a bus on the Airport Road that sparked an unprecedented movement by students to demand road safety.

The memories of the tumultuous days have hardly waned and the roads have returned to their old self -- unfit buses still plying, drivers sitting behind steering wheels without licence, and more than 300 road deaths have been added to the total tally in the last one month.

One of the major reasons for the anarchy on the roads is that the drivers run the buses by paying a certain amount to the owners and so they race through the roads to make as many trips as possible, stopping anywhere on the road to pick that extra passengers. This has not changed although the bus owners made a false promise that they would scrap the system and give appointment letters to the drivers and helpers.

Some things have changed though -- the amount of illegal payment for getting fitness certificates for vehicles. A Dhaka car owner who did not want to be named said she had to pay Tk 5,000 this time, instead of the previous year's

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## Road crashes claim eleven more lives

**STAR REPORT**

At least 11 people were killed and several others injured in eight road accidents across the country in 24 hours since Monday night.

The accidents left two people dead each in Manikganj, Comilla and Barguna while one each in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Narayanganj, Gopalganj and Munshiganj, report our district correspondents.

In Manikganj, a bus went on the wrong side of Dhaka-Aricha highway and hit a motorcycle near Dhaulondi Road Divider area of Ghior upazila around 8:00pm on Monday.

Police constable Atab Ali, 21, his wife Shamima Akter, 25, and their five-year-old daughter Fatema Akter, who

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## Female journo killed in Pabna

*Police suspect previous enmity behind murder*

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna**

Unidentified criminals hacked a female journalist to death near her house in Pabna town last night.

Suborna Nodi, 30, daughter of Ayub Ali of Radhanagar village, was the Pabna correspondent of Ananda TV.

Victim's elder sister Chompa Khatun said some four to five criminals attacked and hacked Nodi when she was entering home from her office around 10:00pm, leaving her critically injured.

She was rushed to Pabna Medical College Hospital where she died around 10:30pm, Chompa added.

Obaidul Haque, officer-in-charge of Pabna Sadar Police Station, said previous enmity might be the reason behind the killing.



**The Sugandha river devours Syed Rashida Mosharrar Academy, a high school near Bir Sreshtho Mohiuddin Jahangir Bridge in Barisal's Babuganj upazila yesterday. Erosion of the river bank has taken a serious turn in last two days as over 10 houses and a vast area of farmland have been engulfed.**

PHOTO: STAR

## RECRUITMENT IN MALAYSIA

# Steps against syndicate soon

*Says expatriates' welfare minister*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The expatriates' welfare ministry will issue show cause notices to 10 recruiting agencies whose alleged monopoly in labour recruitment in Malaysia has led to the suspension of SPPA, an online system for recruitment of foreign workers, from September 1.

Suspension of SPPA means Malaysia will not approve any new demand for labour from the employers until a new system is introduced. However, those who have already got visas will be allowed to enter the country.

Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam yesterday said, "We will issue show cause notices. We are collecting data now."

He made the comments after facing a volley of questions from reporters about his ministry's probable actions against the syndicate. He was speaking at a Meet the Press with the Reporters for Bangladeshi Migrants (RBM) at the ministry.

Nurul Islam did not give any date for issuing the notices.

He said selection of 10 Bangladeshi recruiting agents was made by the Malaysian government in 2016, apparently evading his ministry's responsibility in holding the agencies accountable.

"I have always been against the manpower syndicate. It's the Malaysian government that controls the syndicate, not us," he said.

The 10 agents accused of monopoly and charging excessive amounts from the migrants are Unique Eastern Pvt Ltd, Catharsis International, ISMT Human Resources

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