



"The BNP delegation went there [to the UN] to present the country's real situation, not to make any complaint."

MOUDUD AHMED ABOUT BNP'S MEETING WITH THE UN CHIEF. (PAGE 3)



"The BNP will lobby the US govt by appointing lobbyists to put pressure on us [Awami League] and the govt.... we will not bow down to anyone's pressure."

AL GENERAL SECRETARY OBAIDUL QUADER. (PAGE 3)



"First, in denial about the abuse the Burmese military placed on the Rohingya, now justifying the imprisonment of the two Reuters reporters.... Unbelievable."

NIKKI HALEY SLAMS SUU KYI. (PAGE 8)

## Living in fear, uncertainty

Amid crackdown, Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia face tough times

PORIMOL PALMA, from Kuala Lumpur

It was around 9:00pm on September 11.

After a day's hard work, some of the 10 workers living in a makeshift house next to a large construction site in Malaysia's Cyberjaya were preparing food while others were either having meals or chatting before going to bed.

Suddenly, they heard the sound of four to five motorbikes approaching. They got panicked as they were not expecting visitors at that hour.

"Everyone ran frantically. I was cooking... I ran with others and got hurt as I fell down hitting an iron bar in the dark," said 24-year-old Shanto, a Bangladeshi migrant who works at the site around 35 kilometres from Kuala Lumpur.

Their attempts to hide themselves went on for some 20 minutes until they learnt that the motorbikes were not of the immigration police, but of some Indonesian migrants.

"We are under constant fear of arrest. It's horrible..." said Shanto, as he described the incident, sitting in front of a shabby labour camp locally known as "kongsi" next to the site where some 250 Bangladeshis -- some 200 of them undocumented -- work.

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A number of undocumented Bangladeshi workers have been living in such makeshift shacks built in the woods, some 35km off Kuala Lumpur, since the Malaysian authorities began a crackdown on July 1.

PHOTO COURTESY: ELROI YEE

PADMA EROSION  
256sq miles of land lost since 1967

UNB, Dhaka

Over 66,000 hectares (256 square miles) of land have been lost -- roughly the area of Chicago, one of the biggest cities in the US -- to erosion caused by the Padma river since 1967.

That is according to an August 2018 report published by the Nasa Earth Observatory, the arm of the US space agency that focuses on the planet we live in.

Numerous farms, houses, and lives have been lost or displaced in recent decades because of riverbank erosion that can swallow large chunks of the shore. Every year, hundreds (sometimes thousands) of hectares of land erode and fall into the river, the report says.

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## BNP 'finalises' 100 party candidates

Ready to offer up to 100 seats to prospective alliance partners

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

late December.

The BNP high-command has given "green signal" to at least 100 candidates to contest the upcoming parliamentary polls, party leaders said.

Among the candidates are party standing committee members, vice chairmen, advisers to the BNP chief, joint secretaries, organising secretaries and national executive committee members.

The decision has been communicated to the candidates who have already started working in their respective constituencies for contesting the polls, likely to be held in

HUMAN DEV INDEX  
Bangladesh 3 notches up

Still behind Sri Lanka, Maldives, India, Bhutan

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has moved three notches up to the 136th place among 189 countries in the Global Human Development Index (HDI) 2017, according to the Human Development Report (HDR) of the United Nations Development Programme.

Bangladesh had also moved up three spots and ranked 139th in HDI 2015 due to the remarkable progress it made in many socio-economic areas, including life expectancy and per capita income.

India also climbed one spot to 130th position among the countries in the latest

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## No Ducsu polls in 27 years

Students deprived of their right to have union but made to pay fees for it every year

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

The Dhaka University authorities have been collecting hefty fees from the students in the name of central students' union and hall unions although these unions have no existence for the last 27 years.

The last elections to the Dhaka University Central Students Union (Ducsu) and hall unions were held in 1990.

The authorities even raised the fees to Tk 120 from Tk 40 in the 1990s, although there have been no activities of the Ducsu or hall unions since 1992. However, no one could say exactly when the hike took effect.

The authorities do not maintain a separate account for the fees. So, the accounts section and the treasurer's office could not say how much money they realised in the last three decades.

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ASIA CUP CRICKET  
Two kinds of heat for Tigers

SAKEB SUBHAN from Dubai

When Bangladesh take on Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup opener in Dubai today, they will deal with the familiar and the unfamiliar in a quest to progress to the second round of a tournament that has been structured in a brand new format.

The match will get

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A journey towards Eternity

Purbachal 'Rawdatul Jannah' (PRJ), the largest private graveyard project, is a spiritual initiative by M.I.S Holdings Ltd. The project has a land area of 200 bighas with a capacity of 80,000 graves, is located North-East of Purbachal (sector 30) under Panjora mouza of Kaligonj, Gazipur. Project is 25 minutes drive from Kuril flyover.

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