

# Make it more

FROM PAGE 16  
around 550 jeeps every day making the operation more expensive.

He suggested to build local capacity to cut cost and invest more on the Rohingya and the host community.

According to the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), 10 UN agencies and 68 international NGOs are involved in the refugee response. A total of 136 organisations are involved in the work..

Abu Morshed Chowdhury, another co-chair of CCNF, said the host community had largely been sidelined through the JRP talks.

"As per the JRP 2018, 25 percent of the total fund was supposed to be spent on the host community but there is no clue on how much financial assistance has been given to them," he said.

The lack of coordination among local NGOs, local administration and international NGOs should be addressed properly, he added. "All the stakeholders need to have a clear understanding of what is happening and how the problems can be addressed effectively. This requires regular interactions among themselves," Morshed said.

The JRP of 2018 appealed for \$951 million financial assistance for the Rohingyas and host community. However, \$682 million, which is 72 percent of the expected amount, was received.

Addressing the dialogue as chief guest, Refugee Rehabilitation and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) Abul Kalam said Rohingyas need to be protected until their repatriation but the resources for it are limited. He suggested that the aid agencies to have an institutional mechanism to train locals for human resources improvement.

Anita Kattakuzhy of Oxfam International said there was limited understanding on the Grand Bargain among UN agencies and international NGOs including Red Cross and the governments.

"This lacking needs to be addressed," she said.

She also suggested that the ISCG, UN and INGOs to sit together and see how they can meet the demands of the Grand Bargain.

Annika Saudlund, senior coordinator of ISCG, said there was a lot of improvements in the Rohingya situation since the beginning.

Rohingya children's vaccination coverage went up to 89 percent from 30 percent. The refugees have better shelters and healthcare services now, she added.

Annika assured the JRP 2019 will incorporate the suggestions made by the local NGOs and civil society groups regarding capacity building of locals and cost effectiveness.

Around 750,000 Rohingyas fled military campaign in Myanmar's Rakhine State since August last year, joining 300,000 more who had fled earlier.

The refugees are now sheltered at camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas of Cox's Bazar, having massive environmental, social and economic impacts in the area.

# Chinese pupil

FROM PAGE 16  
tall. That's already considerably taller than the average Chinese sixth-grade girl (4ft 6in or 1.38m).

But forget about other 11-year-olds, at her tender age, Zhang is already three inches taller than the average NBA player, and two inches taller than her idol, LeBron James, who stands at "just" 6ft 8in (2.03 metres).

She has already been dubbed the "female Yao Ming", after the legendary Chinese basketball player who spent most of his professional career playing for the Houston Rockets. He stands at a whopping 2.29m, but if Zhang's growth rate remains constant, it's not unlikely that she will one day surpass him too.

"She was 1.6 metres (3ft 3in) in our first years. We've been growing for six years but still aren't as tall as she was in grade one," a boy at Zhang's school said in a Pear video.

"She's younger than I am by a few months, but she has to bend down to talk to me," another student said.

Like her parents, Zhang Ziyu is reportedly a very talented basketball player. Her mother said that when she first took Zhang to a basketball court to see her father train, she asked to get on the court to play.

When her father tried to shoot the ball at the basket, Zhang instinctively raised her arms and adopted the same defensive posture that professional players do, despite knowing nothing about the game. That's when her mother knew Zhang was a natural, and signed her up for basketball training.

The current Guinness Record for tallest girl in the world is currently held by Sophie Hollins, a 12-year-old girl from Southampton, England, who at 6ft 2in (1.88m) is several inches shorter than Zhang. It's unclear if the Chinese girl's family plans to make a bid for the title.

# Many picked

FROM PAGE 1  
controversial comments. **SHAMIM OSMAN, NARAYANGANJ-4** Shamim Osman is another controversial pick for the upcoming polls. While an MP in 1996 and 2001, he controlled Narayanganj and became known as the godfather of local criminals. He made headlines on many occasions for his controversial activities, such as those against his rivals Sarah Begum Kabori, a former MP from Narayanganj, and Narayanganj City Corporation Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy.

In January this year, his supporters attacked Ivy and her followers, although he later denied allegations of his involvement in the matter. **NIZAM HAZARI, FENI-2** Nizam has been accused, by a group of local AL leaders in Feni, of playing a key role in the attack on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's motorcade in November 2017. He denied the allegations.

He was widely believed to have had a hand in the murder of Phulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul Haq in May, 2014. He denied his involvement in the matter and was not charged.

**DABIRUL ISLAM, THAKURGAON-2** Dabirul Islam and his son were allegedly involved in grabbing land of the Hindus in Baliadangi upazila.

The National Citizen Coordination Cell to Implement the Vested Property Return Act found that a group of people led by the Dabirul's son Mazharul Islam attacked the community to grab their land.

"Dabirul was directly involved in the incident," the probe committee said in a press conference on January 8, 2016. Dabirul, however, refuted the allegations.

**SHAFIQUEL ISLAM SHIMUL, NATORE-2**

In August 2015, Shimul allegedly snatched "a criminal" from Rab custody in Natore town immediately after arrest. He, however, denied his involvement, although several AL leaders and journalists witnessed the incident.

He violated the election code of conduct in the 2015 mayoral election and 2016 district council election. He apologised to the Election Commission for the 2015 incident.

At an event in December 2016, he disclosed how he had manipulated the upazila election on February 17, 2014, to ensure victory for the party-blessed chairmen and vice-chairmen candidates.

**SAIMUM SARWAR KOMOL, COX'S BAZAR-3**

In 2012, the Anti-Corruption Commission interrogated Komol, a director of Sonali Bank's board, over his alleged involvement in the Hall-Mark loan scam.

In September 2016, Komol led his men in the snatching of various goods seized by a mobile court from illegal occupants at Himchhari in Ramu upazila. He and his men also berated a forest official for carrying out the mobile court drive.

In January this year, Komol made headlines for humiliating a teacher. **ABDUR RAHMAN BODI, DROPPED FROM COX'S BAZAR-4** Although Abdur Rahman Bodi failed to secure the party ticket, his wife Shahina

Akhter Chowdhury managed to get it.

Multiple intelligence reports have mentioned Abdur Rahman Bodi as the "yaba godfather" and patron of drug traders, while several of his relatives and associates are also listed in the reports as yaba peddlers.

He had also made headlines several times for assaulting school teachers, forest and bank officials, an engineer of the Department of Roads and Highways, a freedom fighter, and a lawyer.

In November 16, a Dhaka court sentenced Bodi to three years in prison for "concealing" and "deliberately providing false" wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission in March, 2014. Bodi, however, on different occasions, denied the allegations against him. **AMANUR RAHMAN KHAN RANA, DROPPED FROM TANGAIL-3** Rana is currently in jail and facing a trial in a case filed for allegedly killing Faruk Ahmed, a freedom fighter and party colleague.

Although he was dropped, his father Ataur Rahman Khan received the party ticket.

In September this year, Rana and 20 others were charged in a case filed for attempting to murder a Bangladesh Chhatra League leader in Ghatil in 2016.

In May this year, Rana was shown arrested in a case filed for killing two Jubo League activists in 2012.

**AKMA AWAL, DROPPED FROM PIROJPU-1**

In August 2015, Bangladesh Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad, at a press conference, accused Awal of grabbing the land of minority communities.

He made headlines for allegedly giving top posts of the party and its associate bodies in the district to members of his family.

**ARIF KHAN JOY, DROPPED FROM NETRAKONA-2**

Deputy Minister for Sports Arif Khan Joy drew criticism for his "continuous misbehaviour" with his ministry officials.

In November 2015, he allegedly ransacked the room of a joint secretary of his ministry as Joy's name was not on the banner of a national youth day programme.

There is also an allegation that during the 65th congress of FIFA at Zurich in Switzerland in May 2015, he illegally left one of the five delegates behind.

Joy denied the allegations.

A recent newspaper report of a top Bangla daily said that Joy collected money from several job seekers and cheated them.

**MOHAMMAD MIZANUR RAHMAN, DROPPED FROM KHULNA-2**

In April this year, the Anti-Corruption Commission quizzed Mizanur Rahman for about five hours in connection with allegations of amassing illegal wealth.

Mizanur, however, said the allegations were baseless.

According to a confidential list prepared by the Prime Minister's Office in February, Mizan, who is also the general secretary of Khulna city AL, is among 28 people listed as patronisers of drug dealers in the city.

# Four hurt

FROM PAGE 2  
upazila unit AL president and Zilla Parishad Chairman Maidul Islam, in the afternoon.

Pankaj has got the AL ticket, which was also sought by Maidul.

Both groups used sharp and lethal weapons and chased and counter-chased each other creating panic in the area. Two shops were vandalised during the clash.

Md Masud Khan, officer-in-charge (OC) of Mehendiganj police, said the BCL leaders are cousins but have old rivalry over different issues. No-one was arrested and no case was filed as of 8:45 last night.

In Mymensingh, hundreds of supporters of AL central leader Abdus Sattar put up a barricade on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj Highway seeking nomination for him in Mymensingh-8 constituency.

"We have been seeking his nomination for several months as he is a popular leader and was elected as MP twice in the past. If he is not nominated, BNP will win the race here," said Abdul Hekim, general secretary of Ishwarganj upazila unit AL, who was leading the agitation.

It could not be confirmed immediately who got the nomination in the constituency as of 8:45pm, reports our Mymensingh Correspondent.

Ahmed Kabir Hossain, OC of Ishwarganj police, said the blockade was put up around 12:00pm and lifted around 4:15pm.

# Girl raped

FROM PAGE 16  
went to her uncle's place for watching a television programme on Thursday noon when nobody else was there.

Returning home, the girl explained the whole incident to her mother.

The victim's parents kept the incident secret until Saturday night fearing the social stigma and were getting her treated by a village doctor as such. However, they admitted their daughter to Bajra Upazila Health Complex around 11:00pm on Saturday as her condition deteriorated.

Later, she was transferred to Noakhali 250-bed General Hospital around 10:00am yesterday.

Resident Physician of Noakhali General Hospital Dr Syed Mohi Uddin Azim said they had examined the victim and was giving her necessary treatment.

The perpetrator, who runs a small business in Dhaka's Kamrangirchar area, fled the scene soon after the incident.

Sonaimuri Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Abdul Majid said he heard about the incident and would take legal actions after investigation.

A case will be filed in this connection after the girl is released from the hospital, said the victim's family.

# 2 'criminals'

FROM PAGE 16  
Islamic missionary movement.

Nuru alleged some plainclothes men identifying themselves as police picked him up from a mosque in Gopalganj's Tungipara on Friday. He was missing since then.

At least 15 alleged drug traders have been killed in Teknaf since OC Pradip was posted in the upazila.

In Kushtia, police claimed that alleged robber Khokon Ali alias Hatkata Thandu, 46, an accused in at least eight cases, was killed in a "gunfight" between two groups of robbers at Sadar upazila.

Nasir Uddin, OC of Kushtia Sadar police, said they found Khokon's body beside a road as they rushed to Mollahteghoria area around 3:00am upon hearing gunshots.

The police claimed to have recovered a firearm, two bombs and one bullet from the spot, our local correspondent reports.

Deceased's father Subarek Ali told reporters that his son Khokon had gone missing several days ago.

"I heard that my son was killed in a gunfight this [yesterday] morning," he said.

# Accident

FROM PAGE 16  
It was the story of Bahar Uddin Raihan, a second-year student of Chittagong University, that inspired him. Rabbi got in touch with him soon afterwards.

"Rabbi is an enthusiastic and brave child. All he needs is proper support. I always try to prop him up mentally. That is the biggest challenge," said Bahar, who speaks to Rabbi from time to time.

Within a year, Rabbi went back to school, determined to take the largest public examination in the country.

"I want to complete my studies and apply for a government job in future," Rabbi told The Daily Star just before the Bangladesh and Global Studies exam on Sunday at Bhatiari Hazi TAC High School.

His little cousin was seen turning the pages for him later during the exam.

"In our country, it would be normal for a physically challenged child of a day labourer to start begging on the streets after such an incident. But this kid was not born for that," said the headmaster.

# Scams, failures

FROM PAGE 16  
was reduced from 6.5 percent to 5.5 percent bi-weekly and from 6 percent to 5 percent daily in April this year at the directive of the ministry.

It was also the finance ministry that decided that government organisations would double their deposits with private banks.

"Monetary policy is arguably the only remaining realm of the central bank's autonomy in Bangladesh. Yet in recent months, monetary policy has also succumbed to regulatory capture," said the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in its "State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY2017-18" report released in June this year.

There are growing concerns regarding the lack of transparency in the conduct of monetary policy, the think-tank said.

"The central bank should be allowed the freedom to function properly without surrendering to the demands of lobbyists or being overshadowed by the MoF [ministry of finance]," the report added.

"It is true that Bangladesh Bank has contribution behind the microeconomic stability in the last 10 years," said Mustafizur Rahman, a Distinguished Fellow of the CPD.

At the same time, the banking sector is going through a lot of problems which should have been included in the report, he added.

High defaulted loan, the lack of governance in the board, and the reserve heist eroded people's confidence in the banking sector, said Mustafizur.

A strong role was expected from the BB to establish governance in the financial sector in the last 10 years, he noted.

The report gave only a partial picture, which reflects political motivation, said Salehuddin Ahmed, a former BB governor.

A report should cover all sides, including success, weakness, challenges and measures to be taken, he said.

It is very rare for a central bank to publish this kind of reports ahead of an election, added the former BB chief.

About financial sector reform, the report said that the central bank took up strategic plans for five years to develop technology in the sector.

The BB has been implementing the financial sector support project financed by the International Development Association (IDA) for infrastructural development in the financial sector.

The report, however, did not mention a number of amendments to the Banking Companies Act that have weakened governance in the financial sector.

For example, it was strictly forbidden for more than two members of a family to sit on a bank's board to avoid unethical collusion in sanctioning loans or in any other decision-making process. However, this provision has been amended to allow up to four family members to sit on the board.

The tenure of directors has also been increased to nine years from six years.

The amendment drew criticisms from various quarters as it will encourage family grip over a bank.

Giving licences to new banks is another example of how an autonomous body gave in to the government's political wish.

According to the Bank Company (Amendment) Act 2013, the central bank will grant licences to new banks after assessing the need and the overall state of the economy. Ironically, this principle is not being followed.

Compared to the size of the economy, the number of banks is already higher than required.

In the last 10 years, 11 banks were given licences on political consideration taking the total number to 58. On

# Sad' EU

FROM PAGE 16  
MPs of all parties -- including her own Conservatives -- say they will oppose it, with many holding out hope of a better alternative.

It will certainly not be renegotiated and there will be no further room for manoeuvre," said Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency.

May herself repeated this, telling reporters in Brussels: "This is the best possible deal, it's the only possible deal."

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said the 27 leaders had made a "conscious decision" not to discuss what might happen if MPs reject the deal.

"There is no plan B," said Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, adding: "This is the max that we can all do."

He was among several EU leaders to express their sadness that Britain was now a step closer to leaving the bloc.

"This is a historic summit and also historic day that evokes ambivalent feelings," said German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

"It is tragic that Great Britain is leaving the EU after 45 years."

Asked if she was also sad, May -- who joined the other 27 for closed-door talks after they approved the deal -- replied: "No, but I recognise that others do."

more than one occasion, Finance Minister AMA Muhith himself said there was no need for new banks.

"These [licences for new banks] are given on political grounds" Muhith told reporters on November 1 at his secretariat office.

But why? "More than economic justification, political pressure works for the issuance of bank licenses. And over time, licence for opening a new commercial bank has, in fact, become a tool for misappropriation of public money," said the CPD report.

High loan default reflects the weak supervision of the banking sector. The defaulted loan stood at 40.41 percent in June this year. The rate was 9.21 percent in 2009 when the Awam League came to power.

"The general trend of NPL (non-performing loan) has been consistently high for the last few years," the report said.

Financial frauds, the lack of due diligence during loan sanctioning, political influence in loan disbursement, and the failure to undertake strong measures against loan defaulters and wrong-doers have contributed to high NPLs in the banks, according to the CPD.

A cross-country comparison of NPLs shows that five South Asian countries -- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, and Pakistan -- had NPLs exceeding 8 percent of total loans in 2017. On the other hand, eight South-East Asian countries -- Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam -- all had NPLs below 4 percent of total loans in 2017.

The high loan default is the result of loan scams worth around Tk 18,000 crore over the last 10 years.

Two schedule banks, namely BASIC Bank and Farmers Bank, collapsed over serious loan corruption which eroded client's confidence in both banks.

The Farmers bank loan scam sparked serious deposit crisis in the market this year leading to a cash crunch in the whole banking system.

The heist of \$81 million from the central bank's account at the New York Federal Reserve in February 2016 was the most discussed issue even in the global financial market.

But the BB did not mention even this incident in its 10-year review report.

The largest cyber heist made it clear how vulnerable the IT system of country's banking sector is.

BB Governor Fazle Kabir yesterday declined to comment on the report.

# HC rejects

FROM PAGE 16  
rejected the petition on the grounds that the petition could not be considered a public interest litigation as it was filed by "political men".

He said they would decide to move an appeal before the Supreme Court's Appellate Division against the HC order after receiving its copy.

During yesterday's hearing, the attorney general opposed the writ petition, saying that if the cases were filed against innocent people, they would be cleared of the charges through investigations and would be granted bail by the courts concerned.

The petition is not acceptable, as the petitioners cannot be aggrieved by all the criminal cases lodged across the country, he said.

On November 20, Khandker Mahbub told the HC that several lakh BNP men were made accused in "arbitrary and fictitious cases" filed across the country.

He said they filed the petition with the HC as a public interest litigation, challenging the cases, as it was not possible for all the accused to move before the HC for remedy.

The three lawyers, who stand accused in such cases, filed the petition, seeking the HC's directives on the government to form a probe body to investigate the legitimacy of around 4,000 "fictitious" cases.

Except Khandker Mahbub, two other lawyers are Nitai Roy Chowdhury and Sanaullah Mia.

The lawyers submitted the petition on September 23, saying that 4,000 fictitious cases had been filed across the country in September against the leaders and activists of BNP and other political parties to create panic ahead of the upcoming parliamentary election.

On October 9, a two-judge HC bench delivered a split order on the same petition.

Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury, senior judge of the bench, directed the inspector general of police to monitor and inquire into the alleged fictitious cases filed in Dhaka and submit a report before this court within 60 days.

The judge also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain why filing of such cases should not be declared illegal.

He also fixed December 17 for passing further order on this issue.

On the other hand, Justice Md Ashraful Kamal, junior member of the bench, summarily dismissed the petition, saying that the petition was not acceptable as the petitioners had no right or ability to move such a petition before the court.