

## May survives

*UK PM narrowly avoids humiliating defeat aimed at bringing down her govt amid Brexit chaos*

AGENCIES

British Prime Minister Theresa May yesterday survived a no-confidence vote sparked by the crushing defeat of her Brexit deal just weeks before the UK leaves the European Union.

A stunning 24-hour span saw May on Tuesday dealt the heaviest drubbing by parliament in modern British political history -- 432 votes to 202 -- over the divorce terms she reached with Brussels.

She emerged victorious in parliament's first no-confidence vote in a British government in 26 years yesterday by a 325-306 margin, a majority of 19.

But it may have only been a pyrrhic victory for the hobbled but determined premier as she tries to steer the world's fifth-biggest economy through its biggest crisis in a generation.

The opposition Labour Party could try to oust her government again in the hope of triggering snap elections before Britain's scheduled March 29 Brexit date.

And May herself is working on the tightest-possible deadline as Britain prepares to leave the bloc that for half a century defined its economic and

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Theresa May



People react as they watch the results being announced from the MPs vote on the government's motion on the Brexit Withdrawal Bill in the House of Commons on a big screen in Parliament Square in central London on Tuesday. British lawmakers voted overwhelmingly to reject the EU divorce deal struck between London and Brussels, in a historic vote that leaves Brexit hanging in the balance.

## Experts wary of Brexit impact

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The impasse on Brexit deal might negatively affect exports of Bangladeshi goods to the UK as there is a possibility of higher inflationary pressure on Britons, stemming from higher cost of living.

A no-deal Brexit would see the UK leave without a withdrawal agreement and start trading with the EU on the basis of World Trade Organisation rules, according to the BBC.

As a result, the UK will lose some of the trade privileges it now enjoys among the EU nations.

Currently, the UK is the third largest export destination for Bangladesh after Germany and the US. So any kind of financial uncertainty in the UK will hit Bangladesh

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## CEC blasts TIB polls findings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda yesterday rejected the Transparency International Bangladesh report on irregularities in the 11th parliamentary polls, terming the report "baseless".

Besides the CEC, two ministers criticised the report.

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, called the TIB report a "fairy tale".

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud said the TIB report was a "deliberate falsehood" and it echoed the speech of opposition alliance -- Jatiya Oikyafront -- regarding the

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## 25 workers held over RMG unrest

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday arrested 25 garment workers from Ashulia and Savar industrial zones for their alleged involvement in vandalism, looting goods from factories, and torching vehicles during the weeklong labour unrest that ended on Tuesday.

So far, 10 separate cases have been filed with Ashulia and Savar police

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## HC clears way for DNCC by-election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is no longer any bar to holding by-election to the mayoral post of Dhaka North City Corporation as the High Court yesterday cleared the way for it.

The court lifted its earlier orders that stayed the process of holding the by-polls scheduled for February 26 last year.

Hours after the HC order, Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda said they will announce a fresh schedule for the polls upon discussions with other commissioners.

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## ROHINGYA EXODUS 1,300 arrived from India since Jan 3

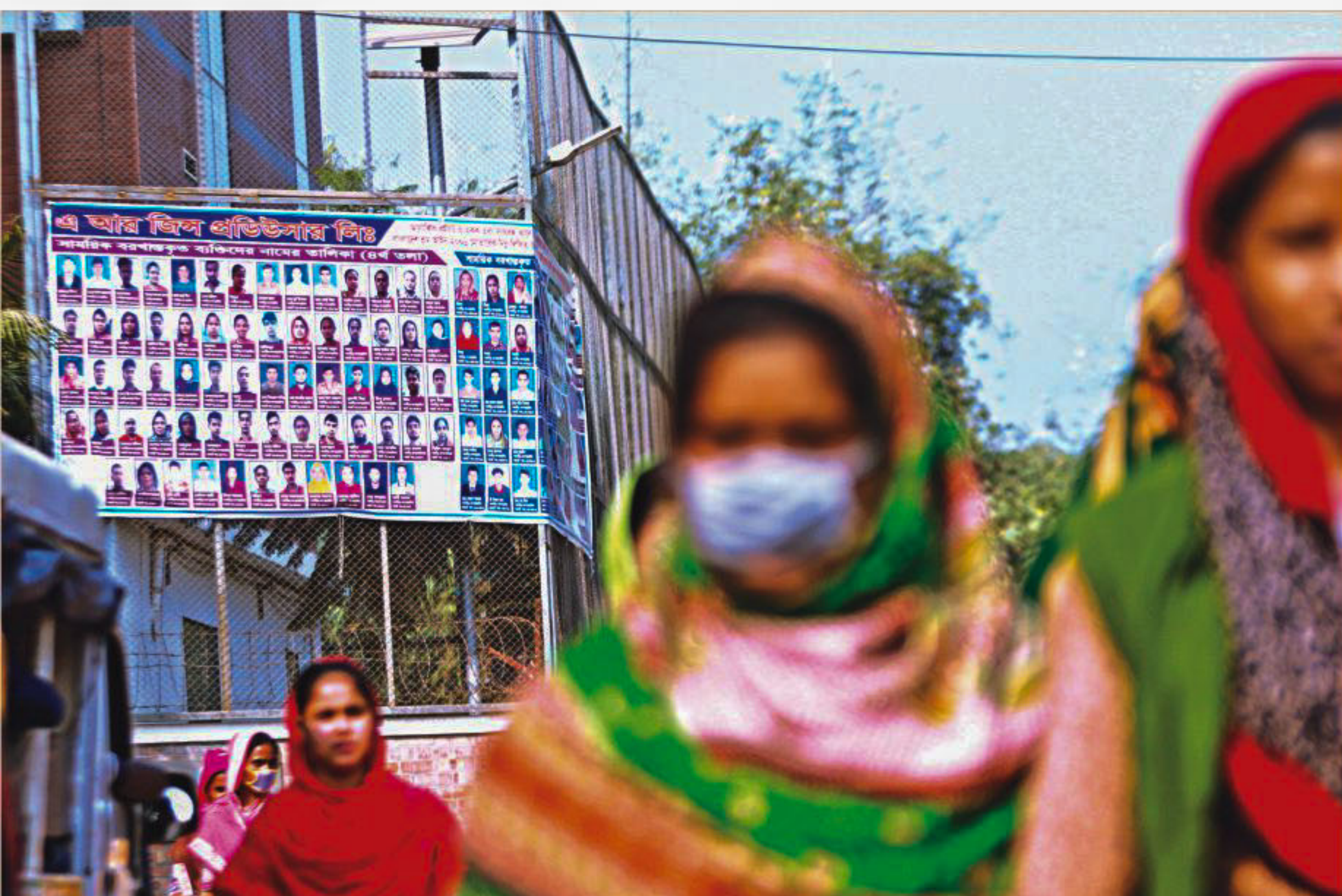
AFP, Cox's Bazar

At least 1,300 Rohingya Muslims have crossed into Bangladesh from India since the start of the year, an official said yesterday, as fears of deportation to Myanmar spark an exodus.

New Delhi has faced sharp criticism for turning members of the persecuted minority over to Myanmar in recent weeks, despite the army there being accused of atrocities against the Rohingya.

The United Nations and rights groups accused India of disregarding international law and returning the Rohingya to possible danger in Buddhist-majority Myanmar.

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Readymade garment workers walk past a poster containing pictures of workers suspended by AR Jeans Producer Ltd, a factory in Kathgora area of Ashulia, yesterday. Following widespread workers' protests against disparity in the new wage structure, the factory management has sued many of the suspended workers.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Sixers' fireworks light up Sylhet

SPORTS REPORTER

There was a lot of talk that the Sylhet phase of the sixth edition of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) would see some exciting cricket with big scores. While the first day on Tuesday had disappointed spectators, the match between Sylhet Sixers and Rangpur Riders provided a treat for the Sylhet crowd as the home side won by 27 runs at the Sylhet International Stadium yesterday.

After being bundled out for the franchise's lowest ever total (68 all out in

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XULHAZ-TONTOY MURDER

## Another ABT man arrested

*He took part in the double murder, say CTTC officials*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Counterterrorism police have arrested an alleged operative of banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team for "directly taking part" in the murders of LGBT magazine editor Xulhaz Mannan and his friend in 2016.

Asadullah alias Fakrul alias Faisal, 25, was one of the two ABT men who stabbed and obstructed the security guard of Xulhaz's home in the capital's Kalabagan for letting the three others to hack the duo to death in a flat, police said.

Monirul Islam, chief of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit, said a CTTC team picked up Asadullah from a house in Gazipur's Tongi area around 6:15pm on Tuesday.

The arrestee is one of the 13 ABT men involved in the double murder, orchestrated by ABT operation commander Maj (sacked) Syed Ziaul Haq, Monirul said at a press

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Xulhaz



Tonto

KAMALAPUR FIRE

## Trains run 1 to 2 hrs late

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Train schedules across the country fell into disarray after a fire broke out at Bangladesh Railway's traffic control room at Kamalapur station yesterday evening.

All trains were delayed by at least an hour or two because of the fire, said NC Saha, station master at Kamalapur.

The fire damaged automatic signalling system, forcing the railway staffers to signal manually, Saha explained. But he could not say when the situation would be normal.

Yasin Faruk, officer-in-charge of Dhaka Railway Police Station, said the fire broke out at the signal control room around 6:30pm.

The railway staffers and

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দক্ষ ও দূরদর্শী নেতৃত্বগুণে চতুর্থবার গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের প্রধানমন্ত্রী নির্বাচিত হওয়ায়- হাজার বছরের শ্রেষ্ঠ বাঙালী জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান এর সুযোগ্য কন্যা, বিশ্ব মানবতার জননী, দেশরত্ন, জননেত্রী, মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী- **শেখ হাসিনা-কে**

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