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# Bangladesh to see 3rd fastest rise of the rich

NY-based research firm forecasts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will see the third quickest growth in the number of high net-worth individuals in the world in the next five years, according to a new report of New York-based research firm Wealth-X.

The country's high net worth (HNW) population with a net worth of \$1 million to \$30 million will expand by a compound annual rate of 11.4 percent between now and 2023, showed the firm's inaugural High Net Worth Handbook 2019.

The report, published on Wednesday, says Nigeria is set to see its HNW population balloon by a compound annual rate of 16.3 percent, followed by Egypt at 12.5 percent.

In the ranking of the 10 fastest-growing HNW population countries, Bangladesh is ahead of Vietnam, Poland, China, Kenya, India, the Philippines and Ukraine.

The study drew on research from more than 540,000 HNW individuals to forecast its outlook for global wealth growth over the next five years.

Last year, the world's HNW population rose by 1.9 percent to 22.4 million, an increment below the rate of global economic growth. Their combined wealth also grew by 1.8 percent to \$61.3 trillion.

Backed by strong GDP growth and relatively more stable equity markets compared with other regions, Europe, the Middle East and North America saw positive growth in their HNW populations in 2018.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

## ILLEGAL SAND LIFTING AC (land), three others assaulted during drive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Illegal sand lifters allegedly assaulted an assistant commissioner (land) and three others in Rajshahi's Bagha upazila, when they went for an inspection in Harirampur area near the Padma yesterday.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Shahin Reza said the incident occurred around 12:30pm when a team, led by the AC-Land Imrul Qayes, went to the spot after being informed about illegal sand lifting.

"I sent him [Imrul] to enquire about the people who are illegally lifting sand," he said.

When Imrul began questioning the labourers who were lifting sand, a group of workers swooped on him with canes and bamboo sticks.

"The men also kicked and punched him," Shahin said, adding that the attackers forced him and the other officials to leave the area.

Imrul and his driver Polin received primary treatment at Bagha Health Complex. They were later taken to

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## Fraudulent firms operated freely

*Three C&F agents in Ctg got back to business after suspension ended and fines were paid; four others faced no action, say NBR officials*

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Ctg

The Chattogram Custom House (CCH) has evidence that the seven Clearing and Forwarding agents, who have recently been found to be "involved" in a forgery, engaged in counterfeit activities for a total of 299 times between October 2013 and December 2018, NBR sources said.

On Wednesday, Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) officials said the C&F agents had at least 4,000 consignments released from the Chattogram port over the last two years, misusing the identities of two former CCH officials on the customs' server.

One of the two officials was on retirement while the other had been transferred before the crime was committed using their IDs.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, CIID officials said the CCH had suspended the licences of three of the seven agents -- MR Trade International, Chaklader Service, and Mozumder Trade

International Ltd -- for their alleged links to forgery in the past.

However, the suspensions were withdrawn later and the firms were allowed to operate after paying a fine of only Tk 2 lakh each.

The other four -- M&K Trading Company, Laboni Enterprise Ltd, Saranika Shipping Kaizen Ltd and M/S Laila Trading Company -- faced no action at all, the officials said.

The Daily Star contacted several CCH officials, but they refused to comment on the issue.

According to National Board of Revenue (NBR) sources, customs officials found documents that showed Laila Trading Company engaged in forgery as many as 190 times between October 2013 and December 2018.

But the CCH authorities did not take any action against it.

Evidence also shows MR Trade International committed counterfeit activities 40 times,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

## Woman, 8-yr niece burnt to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Jhalakathi

A woman and her eight-year-old niece were killed and her sister was critically injured after unidentified criminals set their bed on fire while they were asleep on Friday night in Bhola's Lalmohan upazila.

Surma Begum, 28, and Khadiza Akbar, 8, died of burn injuries while Angura Begum was critically burnt.

Angura alleged that Surma's husband Rafiqul Islam dug a tunnel under the wall of their earthen hut to get in and then poured petrol on the bed they were sleeping on and then set it on fire.

Lalmohan police said Rafiqul, who is from Borhanuddin upazila, had fled the area.

Rafiqul and Surma used to live in a rented house in Lalmohan town after they

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

## World's loneliest frog Romeo finds his Juliet



NDTV ONLINE

Almost a year after conservationists sent out a plea to help save a species of Bolivian aquatic frog by finding a mate for the last remaining member, Romeo, his very own Juliet has been tracked down deep inside a cloud forest.

Not only did the wildlife conservation team return with a potential mate for Romeo, who had been 10 years a bachelor, but also another four members of the Sehuencas water frog species, boosting hopes to save the tiny amphibians from extinction.

After previous failed expeditions to the same area over the last decade, a joint expedition between Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC) and the Alcide d'Orbigny Natural History museum finally scored a success in the Bolivian wilderness.

And the good news came about after securing

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

## Trump-Kim second summit in late Feb

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump will hold a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in late February but will maintain economic sanctions on Pyongyang, the White House said on Friday after Trump met Pyongyang's top nuclear negotiator.

The announcement came amid a diplomatic flurry in Washington surrounding the visit of Kim Jong Chol, a hardline former spy chief, and marked a sign of movement in a denuclearisation effort that has stalled since a landmark meeting between Trump and the North Korean leader in Singapore on June 12.

"President Donald J Trump met with Kim Jong Chol for an hour and a half to discuss denuclearisation and a second summit, which will take place near the end of February," White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said. She said a location would be announced later.

The summit was announced even though there has been no indication of any narrowing of differences over US

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Locals have built a 10-kilometre earthen road and repaired three bamboo and wooden bridges in Rangamati's Barkal upazila recently. In this photo taken on Thursday, some of the locals are seen walking on one of the bridges.

PHOTO:  
ANVIL CHAKMA