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Massacre lost from pages of history

50 killed by Pak army in a Pabna village; families await recognition



Nasiman Bewa

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPI, Pabna

It was during breakfast time when Nasiman Bewa, a resident of Dogachhi village in Pabna sadar upazila, heard the sound of gunfire invading the usual tranquillity in the air. The year was 1971 and gunshots meant only one thing. Nasiman began to run for safety. "I, along with others, started running before a bullet pierced my back. I survived but my neighbour Urmila died in front of me," recalled the 80-year-old.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina launches "Nagad", Bangladesh Post Office's digital financial service, at the Gono Bhaban yesterday. It is aimed at providing the digital financial service to common people, particularly to those deprived of banking services. Story on Star Business.

PHOTO: PID

HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX Bangladesh stuck at 97th position

Singapore, Japan, South Korea share the top spot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's passport continues to be amongst the weakest in the world, with its position remaining unchanged in the latest edition of the Henley Passport Index, the pioneer ranking of all the world's travel documents.

Out of a total of 104 spots on the index, Bangladesh came in at 97, sharing the spot with Iran and South Sudan.

A decade ago, Bangladeshi passport holders could travel to 39 destinations, out of a possible 227, without needing to get prior visas. Now, they can travel to 41 destinations, an improvement of just 2 since 2009 and no improvement since last year.

In contrast, the Indian passport holders can now visit 23 more countries visa-free or with visa-on-arrival

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EU MPs back copyright reforms

Move seen as a blow to tech giants

REUTERS, Strasbourg

EU lawmakers have endorsed an overhaul of the bloc's two-decade old copyright rules, which will force Google and Facebook Inc to pay publishers for use of news snippets and make them filter out protected content.

The European Parliament backed the reforms by 348 votes to 274 yesterday after a debate that has pitted Europe's creative industry against tech companies, internet activists and consumer groups concerned that the new rules may be too costly and block too much content.

The European Commission began reviewing the rules two years ago in a bid to protect an industry that is worth 915 billion euros (\$1.03 trillion) a year.

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FLIGHTS FROM BANGLADESH

Another foreign airline bows out

Singapore-based Scoot to operate last flight from Dhaka on April 29

RASHIDUL HASAN

Yet another foreign airline is going to shut its operation in Bangladesh. The Singapore-based budget airline Scoot is scheduled to operate its last flight on Dhaka-Singapore route from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on April 29, said a top official of Novo Air, general sales agent of Scoot in Bangladesh.

He said the airline authorities took the decision as they had been finding it difficult to compete in the route.

In 2018, UAE-based Fly Dubai and Etihad Airways stopped their operations in Bangladesh.

Earlier on different occasions, Oman Air, British Airways, Korean Air, RAK Airways, Air India Express, Bangkok Airways, Sri Lanka-based Mihin Lanka, Bahrain-based Gulf Airways and Netherland-based KLM stopped their activities in Bangladesh on various grounds, including commercial non-viability.

Aviation experts said such a frequent pull-out of foreign airlines will have an adverse impact on the country's aviation industry.

"Dhaka Airport could be a wonderful aviation hub in the region and a connector between the East and West. But the authorities concerned put little effort into making it happen," Dr Abdul Momen, former managing director and chief executive officer of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, told this newspaper.

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Road crashes claim 4 lives

2 schoolgirls among them

STAR REPORT

Four people, including two schoolgirls, were killed and seven others injured in road crashes in Cumilla, Dinajpur and Jhalakathi yesterday.

Accidents claimed the lives of schoolgirls in Chandina and Sadar Dakkhin upazilas of Cumilla. Students staged demonstrations, protesting the deaths.

In Chandina upazila, a ninth grader was killed as a tractor-trailer carrying a large iron pipe ran over her at Kutumbopur around 9:00am.

Mahmuda Akter Yasmin, 14, was the daughter of Monir Hossain in Nazirpur area.

Abu Faisal, officer-in-charge of Chandina Police Station, said the accident took place in front of her school on a connecting road of the Dhaka-Chattogram highway when she was returning home after attending a programme marking the Independence Day from her school.

The vehicle was carrying the pipe to install gas pipeline of Gas Transmission Company Limited in Kutumbopur.

Monir Hossain, a teacher of the school, who witnessed the incident, said the accident happened as the driver lost control

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Bangladeshi man's stare goes viral



THE STAR ONLINE, Petaling Jaya

A portrait of a Bangladeshi construction worker in Malaysia has captivated social media users worldwide.

The photo shows the construction worker with silver coloured eyes with chiselled looks staring intently into the camera.

The photo which has gone viral obtained 24,500 retweets and 68,700 likes since it was posted by AbedenMung on Twitter last Thursday (March 21).

AbedenMung said in his tweet that the photograph was taken at a MRT construction site near Jalan Ipoh.

"First I met him when I was doing a vlog. (I) didn't had the chance to snap because I was filming but today, this morning, he was there again.

"So, I quickly pull out the Pixel 2 XL instead of

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Bullet-hit body of Rohingya found at camp

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police recovered the bullet-hit body of a suspected Rohingya robber from a refugee camp in Cox's Bazar's Teknaf upazila early yesterday.

The day before, the body of a Rohingya woman was recovered from another refugee camp in Ukhiya upazila around 10:00pm.

In Teknaf, the bullet-hit body of Mohammad Abu Sayed Prokash, 35, known as "Dakat Sadek", was found

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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 27
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-45 6-20 7-45
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 5-00 6-25 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Thai factions jostle to lead next govt

Polls 'not free and fair': monitor group

AFP, Bangkok

Rival political camps jostled for position yesterday, hoping to form a government after Thailand's first election since a coup -- a poll clouded by allegations of a bungled counting process that left voters perplexed about the outcome.

The junta is in pole position to return to power as a civilian administration after preliminary results from Sunday's poll showed its proxy party had secured an unexpected majority of the popular vote.

Around 7.6 million votes went to Phalang Pracharat with 94 percent of ballots tallied, the Election Commission has said.

That gives it -- and its prime ministerial candidate, junta chief Prayut Chan-O-Cha -- a strong claim to legitimacy from a poll held under new junta-scripted rules.

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Palestinians walking through the rubble of a building in Gaza City yesterday, after Israeli air strikes hit dozens of sites across the Strip overnight in response to rocket fire from the Palestinian enclave.

PHOTO: AFP

'Ceasefire' eases Gaza tensions

Israel keeps troops, tanks at border as Netanyahu vows 'a lot more'

REUTERS, Gaza/Jerusalem

Cross-border fighting between Israel and Hamas abated yesterday after a day of Palestinian rocket attacks and Israeli air strikes but Israel said it reserved the right to strike again and kept its troops and tanks massed at the Gaza frontier.

The biggest Israeli-Palestinian escalation in months, which began on Monday with the longest-range Palestinian rocket attack to cause casualties in Israel for five years, appeared to have been curbed overnight by Egyptian mediation.

But even if brought to an end, the crisis could have an impact on an Israeli election in two weeks in which right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says he must stay in power to keep Israelis safe.

Israel responded to Monday's rocket attack with a wave of strikes on targets belonging to the Hamas militant group that controls the Palestinian enclave of Gaza.

Seven Israelis were injured in the initial rocket attack and five Palestinians were wounded by the retaliatory Israeli strikes.

Netanyahu, who cut short a visit to the United States to fly home and deal with the crisis, said Israel may take further action in Gaza.

"We are prepared to do a lot more. We will do what is necessary to defend our people and to defend our state," he said in a satellite address delivered from Tel Aviv to the pro-Israel US lobby group AIPAC in Washington.

The border fell quiet yesterday morning after Hamas and the Islamic Jihad militant group, which also took part in the fighting, said Egypt had brokered a truce.

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