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# Govt to bring Bangladeshi citizens home

50 ready for voluntary repatriation; fighting rages on in and around Tripoli

PORIMOL PALMA

The government has planned to bring home the Bangladeshis facing high level of vulnerabilities in and around Tripoli, as fighting continues between the UN-backed Libyan government and Libyan National Army. "Fifty Bangladeshis have agreed for voluntary repatriation. We will charter a plane as soon as the number reaches 150. IOM assists us in the repatriation process," ASM Ashraful Islam, counsellor (labour) of Bangladesh embassy in Tripoli, told The Daily Star by phone yesterday. He said around 300 Bangladeshi workers had been relocated to the labour accommodations in safe zones of Tripoli since early April when the Libyan National Army led by Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar launched assault on Tripoli.

Last week, air strikes hit the Libyan capital as forces loyal to Khalifa Haftar pursued a three-week campaign to take over Tripoli and also confirmed for the first time that they had dispatched a warship to an oil port.

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Guardians help a child cross railway tracks near the capital's Malibagh recently. To save time, hundreds of city dwellers cross these railway lines on foot every day, putting their lives in danger.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## 3 of a family electrocuted in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Three members of family, including a seven-year-old girl, died from electrocution as they came in contact apparently with an electrified wire in Rangpur city yesterday, police said.

The dead are Tajmahal Begum, 61, her daughter Tania Wafsi, 30, and Tania's daughter Tazmia. Of them, Tania was a teacher of Hajirhat Government Primary School in the district.

Zamir Uddin, assistant superintendent of police (ASP) in Rangpur (Kotwali Zone) told The Daily Star that the family lived in a rented house in Baniapara area.

Tania and her daughter went to the rooftop of the building to collect clothes around noon after it started to rain, the ASP said, quoting Rubel Islam, husband of Tania.

The two were electrocuted as soon as

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## 'GUNFIGHTS' 2 'drug dealers' shot dead

Over 2 lakh yaba pills seized in 3 districts

STAR REPORT

Two suspected drug dealers were killed in separate "gunfights" in Cumilla and Jhenidah early yesterday.

Besides, law enforcers recovered more than 2,00,000 yaba pills from Cox's Bazar and Chandpur.

In Cumilla, a suspected drug dealer was killed in a "gunfight" with members of Border Guard Bangladesh around 4:00am yesterday.

The dead is Abdullah Al Payel, of Cumilla's Satora Champoknagar area.

A BGB team, led by Habildar Shah Alam, conducted an anti-narcotic drive in the district's Golabari village on information that a group of drug dealers was gathering there, Lt Col Abu Mohammad Mohiuddin, commander of

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## Cold case cracked

DB claims to have solved murder case that left them baffled for 2 years

SHARIFUL ISLAM

In late March, 2017, police recovered the decapitated body of a woman in a secluded area near Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. They had no clue about the identity of the victim or who killed her in such a brutal way.

Finding no other option, they ran her fingerprints through the National Identity Card database and a week later they got a match.

The victim was garment worker Kulsum Akhter, 25, of Elias Mollah slum in Pallabi and a mother of two.

She had been missing since March 22, 2017, when she left home for work.

Her family members, who had been desperately looking for her, was devastated.

Kulsum's mother said, "I've lost my child but the loss Kulsum's children suffered cannot be explained with words."

Her body was handed over to the family following a DNA match with her mother.

The family mourned but could not get justice as the police were clueless as to who committed the brutal murder.

But two years later, detectives got their men yesterday.

As Airport Police Station failed to make any headway in the case for a

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## SSC results on Monday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent examinations will be published simultaneously across the country on Monday.

Confirming the date, Dhaka education board chairman Prof Ziaul Haque said chairmen of all 10 boards will hand over the results to Education Minister Dipu Moni at International Mother Language Institute at 10:00am.

After that the minister will officially announce the results from there, he said.

Usually all 10 education board chairmen along with the education minister present a summary of the results to Prime Minister

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## Mandela prison drawing sells for \$1.12 lakh



AFP, New York

A drawing by late South African president Nelson Mandela of the door of his prison cell on Robben Island -- where he was held for 18 years -- sold on Thursday in New York for \$112,575.

"The Cell Door, Robben Island" -- completed in 2002 by the Nobel peace laureate -- exceeded the top end of the estimated range provided

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## Sri Lanka vows to hunt down extremists

Fears more attacks

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka yesterday bolstered security with fears of attacks against bridges in the capital as the prime minister vowed to hunt down any remaining Islamic State extremists behind the deadly Easter bombings.

Sri Lanka's minority Muslims, meanwhile, held Friday prayers under tight security, condemning the jihadist attacks that killed 257 people on April 21.

Islamist extremists were believed to be planning further attacks, authorities said, this time against several bridges and flyovers in the city as well as police stations.

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Farmers hurriedly harvest paddy in Kowadighi haor area of Moulvibazar's Rajnagar upazila on Thursday. They fear crop damage by cyclone Fani which made landfall in India yesterday and is expected to strike Bangladesh today.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

## Stand-off drags on in Venezuela

Guaido calls for protests at military bases as Maduro exhorts armed forces to fight 'any coup plotter'

AFP, Caracas

Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido on Thursday called for peaceful demonstrations at army bases, days after a military uprising in support of his bid to oust President Nicolas Maduro fizzled out.

The latest appeal came after Maduro called on the armed forces of the crisis-racked nation to oppose "any coup plotter", as the embattled leader dug in his heels in the face of ongoing protests and international pressure, especially from the United States.

In a tweet, Guaido asked supporters to gather for peaceful demonstrations at military bases today in a bid to get soldiers to "support the constitution."

Guaido -- recognised by more than 50 countries as Venezuela's

interim president -- had on Tuesday called on the military to rise up against Maduro, and a small group heeded his call.

But that movement fizzled out, and sparked two days of protests against the government during which four people were killed.

The military leadership has reiterated its support for the government, and Maduro is standing his ground.

"Yes, we are in combat -- keep morale high in this fight to disarm any traitor, any coup plotter," he said at a televised event with the military high command, at which he was surrounded by soldiers.

"No one can be afraid -- it is the hour to defend our right to peace," he said at the ceremony, which was attended by 4,500 military personnel,

according to the government.

And Defense Minister General Vladimir Padrino said: "We've come to ratify our loyalty... to the supreme commander of the armed forces, who is our only president, President Nicolas Maduro."

**'BRUTAL REPRESSION'** Meanwhile, Venezuela's Supreme Court ordered the re-arrest of influential opposition figure Leopoldo Lopez -- who made a dramatic appearance alongside Guaido on Tuesday after he was freed from house arrest.

Lopez has since taken refuge at the Spanish embassy. Madrid has said it would not hand over Lopez to Venezuelan authorities, nor would it ask him to leave.

The 48-year-old was a prominent

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## 2 critically burned housewives die

STAR REPORT

A housewife, who sustained severe burn injuries, died early yesterday at Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar, on the outskirts of Dhaka.

The deceased, Nasima Begum, 35, had been undergoing treatment at the intensive care unit of the hospital since she sustained burn injuries at her in-laws' residence in

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 4

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AMAZAN	4-15	12-45	4-45	6-31	8-00
JAMAAT	4-50	1-15	5-00	6-35	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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