

'Graffiti village'

FROM PAGE 16
moved to the city, leaving elderly residents listless and lonely.
But paintings have started to bring young visitors -- always keen for a selfie in a photo-friendly location -- back.
"These drawings attracted many tourists to come and visit. The old people who were left here are no longer so bored. This was my biggest gain," he beams.
Wu is not alone in this adopting this strategy.
There are now some half a dozen so-called "graffiti villages" in Taiwan that have been festooned with artwork in a bid to inject some life into rural places that have been emptied of its young.
Like many industrialised places, Taiwan's remarkable economic transformation over the past few decades has upended rural communities and unleashed huge demographic changes.

Sinha seeks

FROM PAGE 16
"I am the enemy of the country, the persona non grata."
In the interview, Sinha claimed that he was harassed by Bangladeshi intelligence agents, who had allegedly forced him to take sick leave.
Mizanur Rahman, Bangladesh's High Commissioner to Canada, refuted Sinha's accusations, said The Star report.
"All I can tell you is since he left Bangladesh, he has been making these inaccurate statements about the government," Mizanur told the news portal over phone.
"He is absolutely under no threat to return to the country. He is making these statements just to strengthen his refugee claim," the high commissioner added.
On July 10, Bangladesh's Anti-Corruption Commission filed a case against the former chief justice and 10 others over corruption, money laundering and abuse of power.
Sinha has denied the charges brought against him.
The Canadian news portal said the ACC didn't respond to its enquiry about the charges.

Four accused

FROM PAGE 1
According to police database, Mohaiminul faces two cases filed with Barguna Sadar Police Station in 2017 and Musa four cases filed with the same police station between 2017 to 2019. Interestingly, the two had never been arrested earlier.
Sources said Musa was locally known as a snatcher and druggie. Mohaiminul also used to snatch cell phones from people.
However, Rakibul and Rayhan were facing no cases.
Humayun Kabir, inspector (investigation) of Barguna Sadar Police Station and also the investigation officer of the case, said they were conducting drives to arrest the four suspects.
"We have almost completed our investigation and are hopeful about submitting the charge sheet soon," he told The Daily Star on Thursday.
Police already collected enough evidence to complete the probe, the OC added.
Asked about the masterminds of the murder, Humayun said they already arrested the major suspects in the case.
"Only after completing the investigation, we will be able to say it clearly if anyone other than the accused were behind the murder," he said.

RIFAT'S FATHER RAISES ALLEGATIONS

Meanwhile, Rifat's father Abdul Halim Dulal Sharif yesterday alleged that his son was framed by three policemen for carrying narcotics and he had been behind bars for 17 days in the case around one and a half months before being killed.
Speaking at the press conference at Barguna Press Club, he alleged that Minni's parents were involved in the murder as they hid information about her "previous marriage with Nayan", the prime accused in the case.
Dulal claimed that Minni's parents were trying to divert the investigation by demanding transfer of the murder case to the Police Bureau of Investigation and the Criminal Investigation Department.
He demanded law enforcers interrogate Minni's parents and arrest them.
Denying the allegation, Minni's father Mozammel Hossain said they didn't believe that their daughter was married to Nayan.
"We are requesting the transfer of the case as the investigation is not going on properly," he told this newspaper.

DOCTORS EXAMINE MINNI

DOCTORS yesterday said Minni, now in Barguna jail, had no major health issues.
Dr Habibur Rahman, medical officer at Barguna Civil Surgeon's Office, went to the jail with a female doctor around 11:00am and came out from there around half an hour later after examining her.
"Minni has been suffering from headache. She is also having difficulty in sleeping at night," said the physician.
Primary medication has been prescribed for Minni and she would be re-examined in three days, said Habibur, adding that they asked the jail authorities to put her on bed rest until she recovered fully.



With the Eid-ul-Azha about two weeks away, Indian cattle are being smuggled into Sharsha upazila of Jashore. Local traders say about 200-500 cattle are brought in every day through this border point as demand for the animals rise during the Eid season. The photo was taken in the bordering Rudrapur village on Wednesday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Nine held in Myanmar

from page 16
troops across Rakhine to try and crush the AA, which claims to be fighting for more autonomy for the state's ethnic Rakhine Buddhists.
Scores have died -- including civilians -- in shootings, ambushes and military strikes, although the conflict area is under strict lockdown making independent reporting impossible.
On July 10, Singaporean authorities said they had detained "several" Myanmar nationals -- including one with a "direct relationship with a key AA leader" -- for coordinating the "AA's fundraising efforts" among the Rakhine expatriate community.
Tens of thousands of Myanmar migrants work in the city-state, mainly in construction.

whereabouts.
"We worry about injustices happening," Kyaw Maung said from the Rakhine capital Sittwe. "The authorities should let us know."
The AA could not be reached for comment yesterday.
Violence between the military and the rebel group has forced more than 30,000 people from their homes in recent months.
The rebellion, which has simmered since the group's formation in 2009, has widespread support from ethnic Rakhine Buddhists, who have felt marginalised for decades in one of the country's poorest states.

Yesterday, Yangon deputy district judge Min Thant said the nine were being investigated by police under the Counterterrorism Law.
"We have issued an order to remand them from today to August 9 in police custody," Min Thant told reporters.
The nine are being investigated for financing terrorism, and three -- Aung Myat Kyaw, Tun Aye and Hein Zaw -- over an extra charge of involvement with the AA.
If charged and found guilty, the maximum sentence is seven years in prison.
Min Thant did not clarify if they were all detained in Singapore, and declined to say where the group was being held in Yangon.

The father of the only female suspect Aye Myat Mon, who works as an engineer in Singapore, told AFP he was worried about the lack of information over his daughter's whereabouts.
"What this latest incident has done is to bring urgency to the efforts that the secret service is making," he said in a tweet.
The "government is making contacts in the hope that the captors will see reason to not visit hardship or even harm to these innocent individuals."

Wrongful detentions

FROM PAGE 2
A group from India's National Human Rights Commission that visited that centre last year said illegal immigrant detainees there were in some ways "deprived even of the rights of convicted prisoners".
Ajoy Rai, a local activist who worked with police to secure Mandal's release, said there may be many more wrongly detained people in the state.
"Most people are not literate and don't understand what the documents they have even mean," he said. "When there are floods or a fire, people lose the documents too."
Rights activists and lawyers say Assam's system of 'foreigners tribunals', detention centres and its 'border police' -- a unit in charge of checking illegal immigration -- is biased against the poor and against Bengali speakers, who are deemed to be from Bangladesh.
A review of orders issued in recent years by Assam's tribunals - quasi-judicial bodies set up for illegal immigration cases - shows many people of Bengali descent have been declared foreigners because of discrepancies in their names and other details on identity documents.
The tribunal judges' performance itself, which is evaluated by the government, appears to be at least partly based on the percentage of the people they declare as foreigners, according to their appraisal sheets. Reuters reviewed copies of the appraisal sheets of judges in 79 of Assam's roughly 100 tribunals.
The documents, which evaluate the judges' performance over two years until April 30, 2017, show that

a majority of judges who declared less than 10 percent of all the people they examined as foreigners got a rating of "may be terminated."
Despite criticism of the process, Assam is working on setting up some 200 more foreigner tribunals by September 1, growing to around 1,000 eventually, as it scrambles to prepare for the aftermath of the publication of the final register on August 31. Around 245,000 cases are pending at the tribunals, and scores more are likely to be added after the final list is published.

CREATE ONE WHOLE TOWN
Assam is far from ready to deal with the situation if hundreds of thousands of residents are declared illegal.
The six detention centres there are already overcrowded, said Bharali. They held 1,133 illegal immigrants as of May 25, 2019, the government said earlier this month.
Local activists say the fear of being declared an illegal immigrant has driven at least 25 people to suicide since a draft citizenship list was drawn up in July 2018.
In the case of Madhumala Das, she was first declared a foreigner by a tribunal in 1988, and a fresh order was passed in June 2016 that led to Mandal's arrest.
Police said the mistake occurred as there were three women with similar names in Mandal's village.
"They had to follow the tribunal's orders and find the person," said a senior officer at the police station near Mandal's home.
Madhumala Das had died more than a decade earlier. The border police did not know.

NGO demands release of Nigeria aid workers kidnapped by jihadists

AFP, Kano

Charity group Action Against Hunger on Thursday demanded the release of six aid workers kidnapped in northeast Nigeria and held by jihadists aligned to the Islamic State group.
The Paris-based charity said a staff member, two drivers and three health workers for one of its projects were in a hostage video released by the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) group.
The video showed the female staff member, dressed in a bright blue hijab, sitting on the floor and addressing the camera in English, with her five male colleagues behind her.
The six were seized during an ambush on their convoy close to the border with Niger last Thursday in an attack that left another driver dead.
Garba Shehu, a spokesman for Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, said the authorities were in contact with the captors who were known from previous similar incidents.

Japan police raid arson attack suspect's residence

AFP, Tokyo

Japanese police yesterday raided the home of the main suspect in a deadly arson attack that killed 34 people at an anime firm in Kyoto, media reports said.
The suspect, identified publicly by police in a rare move as Shinji Aoba, reportedly remains in hospital in serious condition with burns from the blaze he is alleged to have started.
The horrifying inferno on July 18 killed 34 people, most of them believed to be in their 20s and 30s, and police have said the case is being treated as arson and murder.

Key accused

FROM PAGE 16
On February 8 last year, Khaleda was sent to jail as she was convicted in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.
Later, she was convicted in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case. She has been undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University since April 1 this year.
About Khaleda's health, Fakhru said she was now in a serious condition as she could not move.
"Two people help her leave bed and go to washroom in a wheelchair. It's inhuman to keep her in jail in such a condition."
He added that it could not be an acceptable attitude of the government to a former prime minister who had fought for a long time for democracy.
The BNP leader alleged that Khaleda was not being given proper food and

The school of dream

FROM PAGE 16
start this school was driven by our conscience and desire to make a change."
The other founders are Toufiq Raian, Joana Hossen Miki, Ritu Paul, Mirajul Islam, Shuvo Islam and Hujjatul Islam of Galachipa Government Degree College, and Sukhi Akhter of Galachipa Women College.
They began giving lessons under a banyan tree in the old launch terminal area in Galachipa in March 2017 with 28 students. Currently, there are 85 students, 47 of whom are girls.
They conduct the classes from 3:00pm to 5:00pm so that the children can complete their work in the morning with their families and then join.
Alongside academic lessons, the students take part in cultural activities like singing, dancing, poetry recital, and acting.
At the end of their lessons, the students are given some snacks like biscuits.
"These children have dreams of becoming teachers, police officers and doctors when they grow up," Sakib told The Daily Star over phone last month.
The children are taught basic

mathematics, Bangla and English from school textbooks of first and second grades. After completing education here, they move to primary schools.
Impressed by the initiative, many people in the area have come forward with helping hands.
"I want to be a part of such a philanthropic act. That's why I provide free treatment and medical services to the children by visiting the school once a month, or when necessary," said Md Golam Mostafa Sikder, a medical officer at Galachipa Upazila Health Office.
The funding of the school mainly comes from the founders, while many people have supported their initiative. They use the money to buy books, stationeries, and snacks for the children.
Many a time, it becomes a burden for these college students to find time to impart lessons and maintain expenses. They urge the government to give support to the school.
Talking to The Daily Star, Galachipa Upazila Primary Education Officer Mir Rezaul Islam said he heard about the school, but none requested for any support yet. "If someone asks, I'll try to help."

Missile launch

FROM PAGE 16
tactical guided weapon" that sent a "solemn warning to the South Korean warmongers" over their insistence on holding the joint drills "in defiance of repeated warnings".
There are close to 30,000 US troops stationed in South Korea and their annual manoeuvres with South Korean soldiers have always infuriated Pyongyang.
South Korean military monitors said the two short-range missiles fired on Thursday flew nearly 450 kilometres and 700 kilometres respectively, before splashing down in the sea between the Korean peninsula and Japan.
That range would allow them to hit any target in South Korea.
Japan's defence minister called the launches "extremely regrettable" while Seoul's National Security Office expressed "strong concern" and the US called for an end to such "provocations".
DOUBLE-DEALING BEHAVIOUR
According to state-run KCNA, Kim said the new "state-of-the-art" missiles were capable of low-altitude flight that made them difficult to intercept and cautioned Seoul against "ignoring the warning" implicit in their development.

BNP demands

fruit that were necessary for her now.
Fakhru said Khaleda also needed dental treatment.
He also said Khaleda's sugar level was not coming under control even after taking insulin and other medicines. "Her sugar level is over 20 and it's very alarming."
Besides, the party chief's condition is deteriorating for arthritis and frozen shoulder, the BNP leader said.
He said they were seriously worried "as they think the government is trying to push Khaleda towards death, keeping her in jail".
BNP standing committee members Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain, Moudud Ahmed, Abdul Moyeen Khan, Selima Rahman and Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku, among others, were present at the press conference.

We'll scrap all

FROM PAGE 16
\$180 million in monthly tax revenues until the full amount is transferred, leaving Abbas's PA in financial crisis.
Israel also on Monday demolished 12 Palestinian apartment buildings, many of which were still under construction, in the Sur Baher area which straddles the West Bank and Jerusalem.
Israel said they were built too close to its separation barrier that cuts off the West Bank, but the demolitions were condemned by Palestinian leaders, as well as the European Union and UN officials.
UN humanitarian agency OCHA said a preliminary assessment showed 24 people, including 14 children, were displaced.
More than 300 people were affected by the demolitions, it said.
"(The destruction of Palestinian homes) can only be classified as ethnic cleansing and a crime against humanity that cannot be tolerated," Abbas said Thursday.
Residents fear another 100 buildings in the area in a similar situation could be at risk in the near future.
Israel occupied the West Bank and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Six-Day War. It later annexed east Jerusalem in a move never recognised by the international community.
It began construction of the separation barrier during the bloody second Palestinian intifada or uprising, in the early 2000s and says it is necessary to protect against attacks.
Palestinians see it as an "apartheid wall" and a potent symbol of the Israeli occupation.