

INTRODUCING **DOUBLE CHARGE** Porcelain Tiles

**AKU CERAMICS**  
Promise of Perfection

Contact: 01713998704

# The Daily Star

www.thedailystar.net

REGD. No. DA 781 | Vol. XXIX No. 218 | BHADRA 13, 1426 BS | Your Right to Know | ZILHAJ 26, 1440 HIJI | 20 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00

ধুলো ময়লার স্মৃতিস্মরণ

**BERGER**  
Weather Coat  
**ANTIDIRT**  
SUPREME



**"An official announcement regarding the commission will hopefully be made soon... and its activities will only be limited to identifying the conspirators of August 15."**  
LAW MINISTER ANISUL HUQ (PAGE 3)



**"Now, we have reached a position where we are trying to push a particular group of people [minority communities] in the country into a status of denial, constitutionally and by all means."**  
RIGHT ACTIVISTS SULTANA KAMAL (PAGE 16)



**"Take the first step... Without this step, this lock will not be unlocked."**  
PRESIDENT HASSAN ROUHANI REFUSES TALKS WITH US WITHOUT LIFTING OF SANCTIONS (PAGE 8)

## 11 LARGE BORROWERS BB paves way for fresh rescheduling

*Goes back on its policy*

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

In a reversal of its stance, Bangladesh Bank yesterday paved the way for 11 large business groups to reschedule their loans even though they restructured their loans four years ago on condition of regular repayments.

The decision came at a meeting of the central bank's Board of Directors. Earlier on July 8, Sonali Bank wrote to the BB, requesting a loan of Beximco Ltd be rescheduled.

Yesterday's meeting approved in principle the rescheduling of the restructured loans.

Under a special package, the 11 businesses committed to meet a number of conditions in 2015 to restructure their loans amounting to Tk 15,180 crore.

One of the conditions was that the borrowers would be marked defaulters if they failed to pay two consecutive instalments. If that happened, the benefit would be cancelled and they would be barred from any loan rescheduling benefit in future.

The central bank had said banks could sue borrowers under the Bankruptcy Act 1997 if they failed to pay back.

At yesterday's meeting, Beximco was allowed to reschedule its loan of Tk 430.05 crore. It had six years to repay the loan but now it has 12 years to do so.

Since the precedence has already been set, the 10 other business groups could now seek to reschedule their loans.

"This time the rescheduling benefit will be given on a case-by-case basis with prior approval from the central bank," a top BB official told The Daily Star.

A source in the central bank board, wishing not to be named, said it might not consider approving the rescheduling of loans of groups that were not performing well at all.

However, a central bank official said since the precedence has been set through the case of Beximco, the other 10 were most likely to get it eventually.

Of the 11 business groups, five -- AnonTex, SA Group, MR Group, Rising Steel, and Keya Group -- have become defaulters again. Most of the 11 groups had repeatedly been defaulting on loans.

Ratanpur Group failed to pay 29 instalments but it got the loan defaulter tag off by securing an order from the High Court.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



**New settlements are being set up for Rohingya refugees at a field adjacent to the Camp-4 extension in Kutupalong of Cox's Bazar yesterday. A man, who was looking after the construction work, said the new houses were being built to give the refugees better living conditions. Only three days ago, thousands of Rohingyas staged a rally at this field, demanding justice for the atrocities the Myanmar military committed against them.**

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

## Horror is all they can recount

*110 women migrants return from Saudi Arabia*

WASIM BIN HABIB and MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

When Dalia Amin left her Gendaria house in the capital for Saudi Arabia on July 10 last year, her eyes were on a better, secure life for her two-year-old son, her husband as well as for herself.

A little over a year later, she returned home with a broken back and leg as well as harrowing tales of physical and mental torture.

"The torture was so extreme that I shudder even at the thought of it. They [her employers] beat me with sticks and hangers. If I protested, the intensity would only increase," Dalia, 22, told The Daily Star by phone yesterday.

She is just one of the many victims of such torture.

Like her, 109 other Bangladeshi female migrants returned from a safe home in Riyadh on Monday in two Emirates flights. The Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh arranged their repatriation. Another 310 female migrants are now waiting to come back from the same safe home.

But not everyone came back alive. One of the two flights carried the body of Moina, who died by suicide, according to her death certificate.

Between January and July this year, at least 800 female migrant workers have returned from Saudi Arabia after being tortured, according to the Brac Migration Programme.

Besides, dead bodies of 87 women migrant workers arrived from the Middle East in the last eight months. Between 2016 and June this year, bodies of 311 women migrants were sent from the Middle East, mostly from Saudi Arabia, Brac data show.

All the returnees had left their homes and loved ones for a distant land, determined to earn money for their families back home. Instead, they were tortured and abused, and then came back with shocking tales.

As for Dalia, she was not only tortured, she was also "sold" several times.

Desperate to support her husband, who works at a workshop, Dalia flew to the Gulf

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Banned sweetener found in sugar

*BARC tests 16 samples, finds harmful sodium cyclamate in all of them*

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The presence of contraband sodium cyclamate, popularly known as Ghono Chini, has been found in packed and loose sugar varieties available in the market, finds a government report.

Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council initiated a test on the presence of the artificial sweetener on 12 packed sugar and four loose sugar samples collected from various points in Dhaka, including kitchen markets and super shops.

The samples were then sent to the internationally accredited Pacific Lab in Singapore for testing on May 27. The report that came back earlier this month found presence of the harmful substance in all the samples.

The presence of Ghono Chini was below 1 ppm (parts per million) in 15 samples and around 10 ppm in one sample, said the report.

"Sodium cyclamate is the cheapest artificial sweetener. We found presence of Ghono Chini in branded and non-branded sugar samples. It is a serious threat to public health," Monirul Islam, director at BARC's nutrition unit, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He, however, could not say the source of sodium cyclamate as maybe it was already in the sugar that was

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

HELPING THE ROHINGYAS

## Dhaka did its part, now it's up to the world

*Says UN resident coordinator*

**"Impunity cannot be acceptable for the serious human rights violations that are alleged to have occurred."**

MIA SEPPO, UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR IN BANGLADESH ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST ROHINGYAS

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has done its part and now it is up to the world to help the Rohingyas, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Mia Seppo said yesterday.

"Bangladesh has certainly done its part when it comes to the Rohingya crisis, responding with empathy to a group of people who fell victim to hatred. Now it is up to the world to help keep it that way by making sure that Bangladesh does not shoulder this burden alone," she said.

The top UN diplomat in the country was speaking at an event titled "The Rohingya Refugee Crisis: Towards Sustainable Solutions -- A Book Launch and Policy Colloquium" at

the capital's Brac Centre Inn.

The programme was jointly organised by ActionAid Bangladesh, the Centre for Peace and Justice and the Centre for Genocide Studies. The book is a compilation of the papers presented at an international conference on the Rohingya crisis in Dhaka in April last year.

Yesterday's event was held two days after the second anniversary of the Rohingya influx. The Rohingyas fled a brutal military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine and took shelter in Bangladesh.

After August 25, 2017, over 743,000 Rohingyas arrived in the country. With them, Bangladesh now hosts some 1.1 million Rohingyas.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



1 10:15am



2 11:00am



3 11:30am



6 2:45pm



5 12:22pm



4 11:45am

## Six hours at Suhrawardy

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Five hours and 15 minutes.

That is how long it took Mohammad Alauddin, a mason from Mirpur's Kazipara, to get a bed at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in the capital. Even then, it took the intervention of the hospital's director to get him admitted.

The Daily Star correspondents, during a six-hour visit, followed Alauddin for the entire time, except for when he was being consulted by doctors.

Suffering from fever, headaches and stomach cramps, Alauddin's ordeal began when he reached the hospital at 9:30am and had to stand in queue for about one hour just to get an outdoor ticket.

Alauddin, 26, had been suffering from high fever for over a week.

He had visited the hospital on Thursday, but tested negative for dengue. As his situation deteriorated, he went to a private hospital on Monday for further tests, which confirmed that his platelet count had dropped to 35,000. Any count below 150,000 instantly alerts doctors of something wrong.

Seeing the results, a tensed Alauddin went to the Suhrawardy hospital.

After an hour's wait, he finally got the ticket. But there was another queue to see the doctor. Standing in another line in Block 4, Alauddin began to feel worse. A few fans whirred lazily above him, but it did nothing to make the overcrowded

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## A PATIENT'S STRUGGLE

**Clockwise from top left: 1. Suffering from fever, Mohammad Alauddin (in white panjabi) waits in a queue in front of the ticket counter for outdoor patients at the city's Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital yesterday. 2. He cannot stand any longer as he queues up again outside the chamber of a doctor. 3. He deposits money for admission to ward-1. 4. Being referred to a doctor at the emergency ward, Alauddin visits the physician. 5. He gives blood for tests. 6. Alauddin is administered saline in ward-1.**