

ROHINGYAS'S BID TO GET NID

# Ctg UP chairmen giving certificates with fake identities

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Union parishad chairmen in several upazilas of Chattogram have allegedly been issuing citizenship certificates to Rohingyas, paving the way for the refugees to eventually obtain Bangladeshi national identity card or passport.

Many of these refugees have fled from the camps in Cox's Bazar and came to Chattogram where local influential persons are giving them shelter and helping them get included in the voters' list, officials said.

"We came to know that some UP chairmen are issuing certificates to Rohingyas due to their own political interests and a section of local influential persons have given shelter to them in hilly and remote areas of Patiya upazila," Habibul Hasan, upazila nirbahi officer of Patiya, told The Daily Star.

On August 28, he issued letters to the municipality mayor and 16 UP chairmen and members, asking them not to provide shelter to Rohingyas.

The UNO also used loudspeakers, asking locals not to shelter any refugees fleeing the camps.

"I have also sent copies of the letter to the deputy commissioner and deputy director [local government] of Chattogram," the UNO said.

"We have told all the chairmen and mayors about the issue and asked them to be cautious while issuing certificates," said Chattogram DC Eliash Hossain.

A few days ago, administration officials in Patiya had cancelled the birth certificate of a woman, who went by the name of Taslima Akhter, after learning that she was a Rohingya, UNO Habibul said.

The woman was married to one Abdul Kader of Barlia union and had been living there, officials found out.

At Patiya UNO office, several locals told this correspondent that the refugees who managed to flee the camps had been living in the remote

areas of Kelishahar, Haidgaon and Kachua unions.

They added that some of the refugees have been entering Chattogram city by boarding local trains from Chandanaish and Patiya.

The issue had also been discussed in recent meetings of law enforcement agencies.

The focus on the issue has intensified since August 18 when Election Commission officials in the port city detained a Rohingya woman and a man, who went to the EC office to receive the woman's smart NID card. Officials found that she had a fake NID card, but her information was saved in the EC database. The incident is under investigation.

Former expatriates' welfare and overseas employment minister Nurul Islam said, "During my tenure, we found that thousands of Rohingyas holding Bangladeshi passports have already gone to different foreign countries and our workers are facing different problems due to this."

The overseas job market for Bangladeshi people will shrink if Rohingyas keep getting Bangladeshi passports and going abroad.

Besides, Bangladesh has to bear the responsibility if the Rohingyas involve in unlawful conduct overseas, he added.

On July 30, Patiya police sent back 30 Rohingyas to Cox's Bazar from Haidgaon.

Nurul Kader, a resident of Kachua union, said, "The Rohingyas, who came to the area about 15 to 20 years ago, are providing shelter to the ones who entered into Bangladesh in 2017."

On August 28, divisional passport officials detained a suspected Rohingya man, who went by the name of Faisal and claimed that he was from Sitakunda. He also had documents vouching for his origin in the area.

A Rohingya woman was held at the passport office on similar suspicions on August 22.

## Syndicate helps

FROM PAGE 1  
embassy in the capital for visa processing said Mustafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Akbar Shah Police Station.

Also on Thursday night, Bayezid police detained four Rohingya women from the port city's Barma Colony area, some 10km from Kattoli. One of the women carried a Bangladesh NID card.

Mustafizur said the three men used to live in Thaingkhali refugee camp in Ukhia, and used an address of Noakhali to get their passports.

"They got the passports with the help of a syndicate that includes local and Rohingya brokers. They spent Tk 60,000, Tk 90,000 and Tk 1.09 lakh



for their passports," he added.

### HOW DO THEY GET IT?

To get a passport, the Rohingya people first contact Rohingya and Bangladeshi brokers in Cox's Bazar. They then collect documents from union parishads or city corporations to prove their citizenship with the help of the brokers, and submit those to the passport office along with their applications.

Last month, the Chattogram Divisional Passport Office detained two Rohingyas -- a man and a woman -- when they went there to make passports.

At the time, the man identified as Faisal produced documents showing

## Two aid workers killed in 'ambush' in Ethiopia

Afp, Addis Ababa

Two staff members with Action Against Hunger have been shot dead by unidentified "armed individuals" in western Ethiopia, the aid group said.

Action Against Hunger said the aid workers were "ambushed" on Thursday while leaving Nguenyiel Refugee Camp in the Gambella region.

The camp hosts tens of thousands of refugees from neighbouring South Sudan, which has been mired in civil war since 2013.

"Two employees were killed at the scene," Action Against Hunger said late

on Thursday.

"Action Against Hunger has suspended full operations in Gambella, but are maintaining the provision of life-saving assistance."

The international humanitarian group also said it was "coordinating with the authorities who are investigating this attack."

The office of the United Nations resident and humanitarian coordinator in Ethiopia condemned the attack.

"Attacks on aid workers in clearly marked humanitarian vehicles constitute a violation of international humanitarian law," it said in a statement.

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Iron rods occupy a pavement and a portion of Mayor Annisul Huq Road in front of an under-construction building in the city's Tejgaon area yesterday, forcing pedestrians to use the street and risk their lives.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Rashid stars as Afghans take control

FROM PAGE 1

firing with both bat and ball, Afghanistan are set to take a big first-innings lead over the Tigers, who were still trailing by 148 runs with two wickets in hand at stumps and will resume the day on 194 for eight, with Mosaddek Hossain and Taijul Islam in the crease.

At 130 for seven, it seemed that The Tigers may even face the humiliation of following on before Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Mosaddek carried them past the mark of 142 and then Taijul joined the latter to construct a face-saving 48-run ninth-wicket stand.

Bangladesh's batsmen never looked comfortable after coming in to bat just before the lunch break as the pitch seemed to transform from the one on which Afghanistan, riding on a maiden Test fifty from Rashid, scored 342. While his teammates maintained a disciplined line and length, it was Rashid who starred with the ball too, picking up four wickets to put his team in a commanding position.

However, Bangladesh did well at the start of the day picking up the last five Afghan wickets for just 71 runs after the visitors resumed on 271 for 5. Asghar Afghan, who resumed the day on 88, departed on 92 while Afzal Zazai also departed quickly for 41, adding just six runs to his overnight score.

Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam was the most successful bowler for the Tigers with four wickets while Shakib,

who was wicketless on the first day, picked up two.

With four overs to go before lunch, Bangladesh started their dismal show with the bat by losing opener Shadman Islam in the very first over without troubling the scorers.

The left-hander edged a delivery moving away from his off stump, giving a wicket to the only specialist pacer in the game in Yamin Ahmadzai.

Yamin, along with off-spinner Mohammad Nabi, kept things tight as Liton Das -- who came in at number three -- and fellow strokemaker Soumya Sarkar found it difficult to score runs.

A measure of Afghanistan's discipline was that Bangladesh's first boundary -- a six hit by Liton off chinaman bowler Zahir Khan -- came in the 17th over.

But Soumya, pinned to his crease and playing across when he should have been playing forward and straight, was trapped in front by Nabi's straighter delivery for 17 tortuous runs off 66 balls.

Liton, who had started to look

comfortable, paid a heavy price for not

taking time to adjust to Rashid's faster

pace when he played a cross-batted

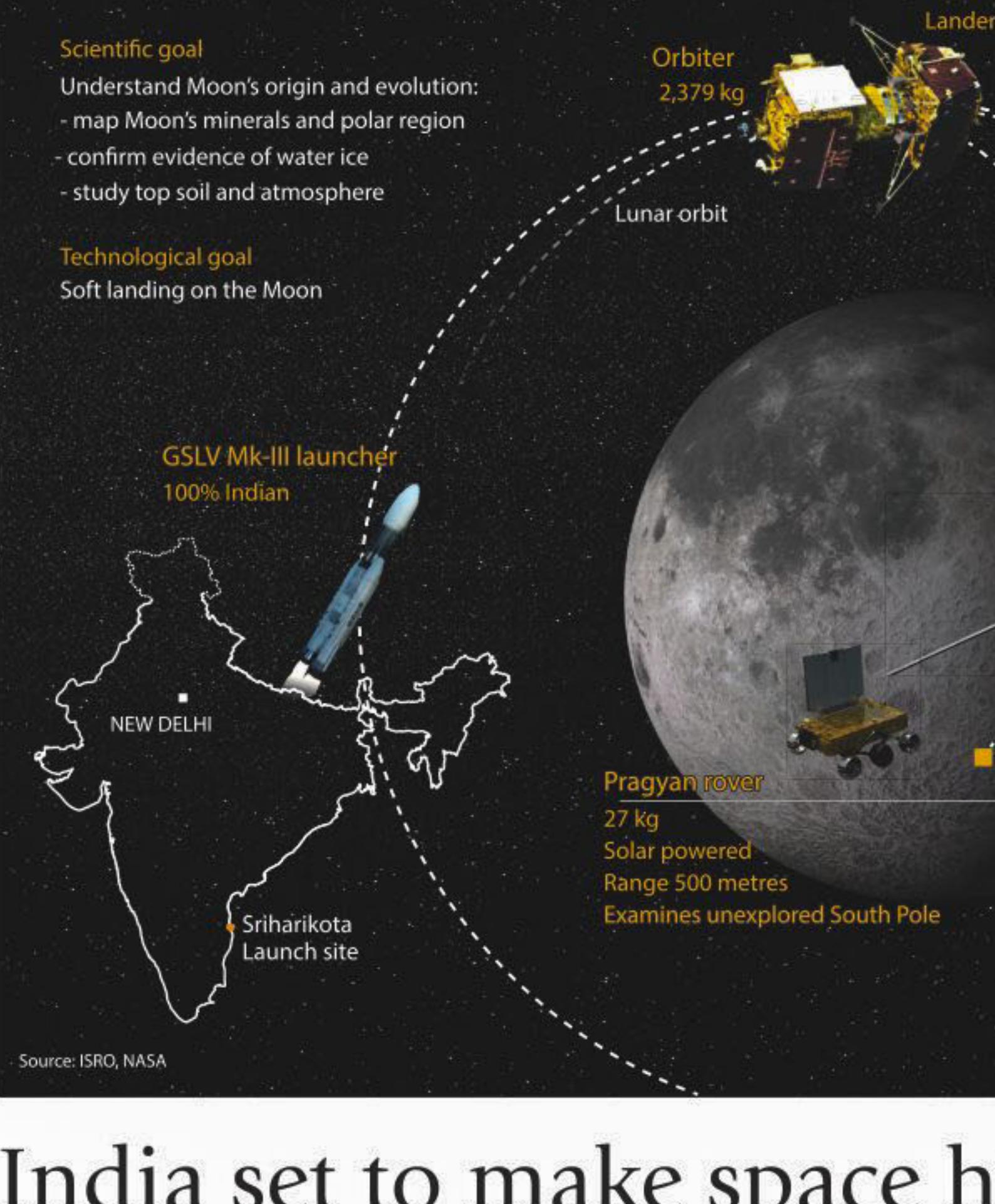
shot against the leg-spinner and was

bowed out for 33.

Rashid delivered a hammer blow to the hosts just before the tea break when he removed Bangladesh's two most experienced batsmen -- skipper Shakib and Mushfiqur Rahim -- in the same over.

Mosaddek was not out on 44 off 74

balls and Taijul was unbeaten on 14 off 55 deliveries.



## India set to make space history

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Vikram, the lander of Chandrayaan 2, is scheduled to touch down between 1:30-2:30 am today Indian time. Around four hours later, the lunar rover should emerge.

But landing is a complex manoeuvre, with Kailasavadivoo Sivan, the head of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), calling it "15 minutes of terror".

"It is like suddenly somebody comes and gives you a newborn baby in your hands. Will you be able to hold without proper support?" Sivan told news channel NDTV.

"The baby will move this way, that

way but we should hold it," he said.

SOUTH POLE

Until now only the United States, Russia and China have successfully landed on the moon, and India will be the first to land in the region of the lunar South Pole.

The rover will then explore craters

there for clues on the origin and evolution of the moon, and also for evidence on how much water the polar region contains.

According to Mathieu Weiss, a representative in India for France's space agency CNES, this is vital to determining whether humans could one day spend extended periods there.

"India is going where probably the

future settlements of humans will be in 20 years, in 50 years, 100 years," Weiss told AFP, calling the Indian mission "exciting".

And if people can survive on the

moon, then this means it could be used as a pitstop on the way to Mars, the next objective of governments and private interests such as Elon Musk's Space X.

"IMMENSELY PROUD"

The Indian mission has won plaudits abroad with the US State Department calling its launch in July "an incredible achievement" while the European Space Agency sent congratulations.

Chandrayaan-2 also stands out because of its low cost of some \$140 million. The United States spent the equivalent of more than \$100 billion on its Apollo missions.

India is also preparing Gaganyaan, its first manned space mission, with the air force announcing that the first level of selection of potential astronauts was complete.

The only police camp in the area is at Gorpara. After serving as the camp-in-charge for around three years, Khairul was transferred. But he managed to come back as the camp in-charge about a year ago.

Asked about the allegation against Khairul, Officer-in-Charge of Sharsha Police Station Mashuri Rahman, who is the supervising officer of the SI, said he never received any allegation against Khairul.

The OC added that Khairul was transferred to the district Detective Branch, from where he returned to the camp last November.

Meanwhile, the victim, a mother

of two, yesterday again demanded

exemplary punishment of the

perpetrators.

"They should be punished so that

no one dares to rape women," she told reporters.