BBPL

# Rangpur, Sylhet get first wins

Sports Reporter

While the match between Rangpur Rangers and Chattogram Challengers was a topsy-turvy one with Rangpur gaining momentum at the death and winning the game by six wickets under lights at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram, it was rather a straightforward 80-run victory for Sylhet against Khulna in the day's first game at the same venue yesterday.

It still looked an uphill task for Rangpur to get their first win when Chattogram pacer Mehedi Hasan Rana sent back Shadman Islam in the 12th over to leave Ranpur struggling at 76 for four.

But after that, a magnificent unbeaten 91-run fifth-wicket stand between Fazle Mahmud and Lewis Gregory shifted momentum and Rangpur got over the line with eight

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Citizenship Act in India

# Protesters defy crackdown

*Modi summons ministers to discuss situation as death toll hits 21; more than 1,500 arrested*

Agencies

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday met his council of ministers to discuss security measures as violent protests raged on against a contentious citizenship law seen as anti-Muslim.

Defying crackdown, thousands of people joined fresh rallies against Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) yesterday, as the death toll from this month's unrest hit 21.

The death toll jumped after demonstrations turned violent on Friday in the most populous state Uttar Pradesh, leaving at least 11 dead including an eight-year-old boy, who was trampled.

Another protester died yesterday after clashes in Rampur, also in Uttar Pradesh, as police used tear gas and batons against a stone-pelting crowd, police told AFP.

More than 1,500 protesters have been arrested so far across India in the past 10 days, officials said. Additionally, some 4,000 people have been detained and then released, the officials said.

Disquiet has been growing about the law, which was passed by parliament on December 11 and gives people from persecuted minorities from three neighbouring countries an easier path to citizenship -- but not if they are Muslim.

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People throng a makeshift market near the Bogura Railway Station to buy warm clothes as a cold wave sweeps over the country. *Inset*, a woman shivering in the cold at Kamalapur Railway Station in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED/AMRAN HOSSAIN

# 2 Rohingya men killed in 'gunfight'

Our Correspondent, *Cox's Bazar*

Two Rohingya men, suspected of being drug peddlers, were killed in a "gunfight" with members of Border Guard Bangladesh in Ukhia upazila of Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

The dead are Siddiq, 30, and Shahjahan, 36, inhabitants of Balukhali Rohingya Camp, said BGB.

Lt Col Ali Haider Azad, commanding officer of 34th BGB Battalion, said one of their patrol teams encountered a group of drug peddlers.

Sensing their presence,

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**PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 22**

| | Fazr | Zohr | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AZAN | 5-25 | 12-45 | 3-45 | 5-24 | 7-00 |
| JAMAAT | 6-00 | 1-15 | 4-00 | 5-27 | 7-30 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# *Tallest tree in the Amazon found*

Mail Online

An expedition has uncovered the tallest known tree in the Amazon rainforest – taller than Nelson's Column and nearly as tall as The Statue of Liberty.

The new discovery scales 290.3 feet and was recorded by a team of Brazilian and British researchers on an 11-day expedition in the Amazon.

The tree stands almost 100 feet taller than the previous record holder and is part of a group of trees that may be more than 400 years old.

The trees are growing in a remote region of Northern Brazil, far from human activity, near the Jari river - a northern tributary of the Amazon.

Trees of this size can store as much as 40 tonnes of carbon each, making them a precious resource in the battle against human emissions.

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