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LIFE IN BHASAN CHAR

A year on, now it's all settled

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA, from Bhasan Char

For Abdul Jalil, life in Bhasan Char is way better than it was in a cramped Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar.

After a year of being on the island in the Bay of Bengal, he is now able to earn a living.

The 40-year-old grows spinach and radish in one bigha of land, and sells his harvest at a kitchen market. Over the last one week, he earned around Tk 500 everyday.

"I am expecting to sell vegetables worth Tk 30,000 this year," Jalil told The Daily Star yesterday.

He hopes that things will be even better when the United Nations begins humanitarian operations in Bhasan Char.

On December 3 last year, Jalil arrived on the remote island in the first batch of Rohingyas from the crowded camps in Ukhia and Teknaf, the world's largest refugee settlement. The government relocated them to provide them with a better life and livelihood. Another reason behind the relocation was to reduce the pressure on the Rohingya camps.

The government has so far relocated around 19,000 Rohingyas in multiple phases. Initially, the UN was not involved with the humanitarian support programme in Bhasan Char. But the UN recently signed a MoU with the government to extend support.

Bangladesh Navy developed the island under a Tk 3,100-crore housing project.

Ali Akbar, another Rohingya man, said, "Everything is almost settled now. Since the UN is coming here, we will

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A group of children enjoying themselves on a large swing at a playground in Bhasan Char. There are small recreational spaces for the young residents of the island, which has been the home for around 19,000 Rohingya refugees since it opened one year ago. The photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Tigers hope to bounce back

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will take on Pakistan today in the second Test of the two-match Test series, hoping to bounce back following an eight-wicket defeat in the first Test in Chattogram.

The game, set to get underway at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium at 10:00am, is also Bangladesh's second match in the latest cycle of the World Test Championship (WTC).

The Tigers' bid to improve their Test character in the new journey will be buoyed by the return of ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who missed the T20 series and the first Test against Pakistan due to a hamstring injury.

Even though the Tigers suffered a defeat in the first Test, there were a few positives to take. Liton Das and Mushfiqur Rahim found runs with the bat that instilled some confidence in the dressing room while Taijul Islam made a mark with a seven-

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Send Khaleda abroad for treatment

Speakers urge govt at Gonoforum council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties have urged the government to send BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia -- currently at the CCU of Evercare Hospital Dhaka in a critical state -- abroad for better treatment.

They also underscored the need for forging unity to protest repression, restore democracy and ensure rule of law in the country.

They were speaking at the inaugural session of the sixth national council of Gonoforum yesterday.

Leaders of Gonoforum, BNP, Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh (RWSB), Nagorik Oikya, Krishak Samik Janata League (KSJL) and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rob) addressed the session organised at the capital's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

"I request my sister Sheikh Hasina to allow Khaleda Zia to go abroad. You've shown generosity, show it a bit more," said KSJL President Abdul Kader Siddique.

He said he supported what Hasina said at a recent press conference. "She

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

My aim is to make Pakistan armed forces surrender: Lt Gen Aurora

DECEMBER 4, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

ON THE WAR FRONT

The Mitro Bahini (India-Bangladesh Joint Command) swung into action against Pakistan today. The air force of the Joint Command bombed Dhaka, Chittagong, Narayanganj, Chandpur, Jessore, Syedpur and Lalmonirhat. The Indian Air Force strafed and bombed eight West Pakistani airfields including Sargoda, and two near Rawalpindi and Lahore.

The navy of Mitro Bahini pounded Chittagong and Cox's Bazar and destroyed two ships. Two ships were captured on the sea.

An air and sea blockade had been set up to prevent the Pakistani troops in East Pakistan from being resupplied or reinforced from West Pakistan.

The rail link at Akhaura was cut. Several towns in East Pakistan fell to Mitro Bahini's hands. Fighting was continuing near Jessore, Sathkira and elsewhere. In the Western sector of India, there was fierce fighting in Husseinwalla.

Earlier this morning, Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora, general officer commanding in chief of the Indian and Bangladesh forces in the Eastern Theatre, said at a briefing for newsmen: "My aim is to make the Pakistan armed forces surrender ... to get Bangladesh to have their own type of government."

"The only limitation" the government had placed on the

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Dinajpur girl fights for life after rape

Parents say they rescued her while she was hanging

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A seven-year-old girl has been fighting for life after she got raped and hanged from the ceiling of her home in a village in Birol, Dinajpur, said her family members and police.

She is being treated at the ICU of a hospital in the district.

The girl was at home alone on Thursday afternoon. Her parents returned home around 5:00pm, about two hours after they left, and found her hanging from the ceiling with a rope tied to her neck, her father told The Daily Star yesterday.

The family members rescued her and rushed her to Birol Upazila Health Complex from where she was referred to a more advanced hospital.

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Post-conquest Aztec altar found in Mexico City



CNN ONLINE

Sometime after Hernan Cortes conquered the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan in modern-day Mexico City in 1521, an indigenous household that survived the bloody Spanish invasion arranged an altar including incense and a pot with human ashes.

The remains of that elaborate display have been unearthed by archaeologists near what is today Garibaldi Plaza, famed for its revelry and mariachi music, Mexico's culture ministry said on Tuesday.

In the wake of the fall of Tenochtitlan, likely within the years of 1521 and 1610, the offering from the family of the Mexica people was made "to bear witness to the ending of a cycle of their

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AL again picks Ivy for N'ganj mayor

UNB, Dhaka

The Awami League has once more chosen Selina Hayat Ivy as its mayoral candidate to contest the Narayanganj City Corporation election slated for January 16 next year.

The ruling party also picked Khan Ahmed Shuvo as its MP candidate for Tangail-7 parliamentary by-polls scheduled to be held on the same date.

The names of AL aspirants were finalised at a meeting of the party parliamentary and local government nomination boards, held yesterday afternoon with AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair at the Gono Bhaban.

Since the formation of the NCC, incumbent Mayor Ivy won the first two elections in 2011 and 2016. Earlier, she was the

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Depression in Bay turns into cyclone 'Jawad'

UNB, Dhaka

The deep depression over west-central Bay and adjoining area moved northwards further intensifying into a cyclonic storm 'Jawad' around noon yesterday, the Met Office said in a weather bulletin.

"It is likely to intensify further and move in a north-westerly direction," the forecast said.

Maritime ports in Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla, and Payra have been advised to hoist distant warning signal no 2 lowering distant cautionary signal no 1, said Met office bulletin.

Sea will remain very rough near the cyclone centre as maximum

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 4

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
5-15	12-45	3-45	5-19	7-00
5-50	1-15	4-00	5-22	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Two private vehicles idling in close proximity to a speeding train at the FDC level crossing in the capital on Thursday. The barriers that keep vehicles at a safe distance are lowered on both sides of the tracks, but some drivers risk their and their passengers' lives by going beyond the barriers at the last minute.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Star HEALTHLINE

HEALTHY PRACTICES during winter

STAR HEALTH DESK

As the saying goes: prevention is better than cure. As winter approaches, we can all adopt some habits and precautions to stay healthy during the colder and shorter days.

Fresh winter vegetables are one of the perks of the season. Keeping vegetables like lettuce, spinach, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli etc. in your diet is a must for a healthy lifestyle. They are packed with vitamins, minerals and antioxidants but low in calories.



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