

## Mexican authorities intercept over 1,000 migrants

REUTERS, Mexico City

Mexican authorities on Thursday said they intercepted more than 1,000 migrants in the last 24 hours as the government tried to curb entry of undocumented travellers seeking to make their way to the United States.

The National Migration Institute (INM) said the migrants were located in operations carried out in 22 states of the country, with about 10% of them minors and many of them traveling alone.

## Colonial-era

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Parjatan Corporation by paying taxes at regular rates or simply import them. The remaining 60 per cent alcohol can be collected from local sources.

Bars and liquor stores must close at 10:30pm. But those with a special licence can operate until 1:30am.

"This will flourish tourism as alcohol will be available at tourist spots. It will generate revenue and alcohol will be easily accessible to permit holders," said Manjurul.

All application forms for licence and permits are included in the new rules available for download at [www.dpp.gov.bd](http://www.dpp.gov.bd).

## Know your

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Ashwagandha may work to keep the heart healthy and prevent heart diseases to some extent.

However, the usages mentioned above are not backed by science. The use of this herb also cannot replace medical treatment. Too much consumption of ashwagandha is not recommended.

## SHIMLA DIALOGUE

# Dhaka reiterates commitment to ensuring regional peace

UNB, Dhaka

Highlighting the growing friendship between Bangladesh and India, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam yesterday reiterated the unwavering commitment of the Bangladesh government to ensure peace and stability in the region and beyond.

"Guided by the principles of Bangabandhu, Bangladesh believes in peace and stability, so that every country may devote its resources and energies to the pressing task of advancing the welfare of its own people," he said.

The State Minister said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman laid a strong foundation of Bangladesh-India relationship based on respect for each other's

independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and democratic norms and values.

The state minister made the remarks while speaking at the inaugural session of 10th round of the Bangladesh-India Friendship Dialogue, titled "Reliving Bangabandhu's Vision for India" organised by the India Foundation and the Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies in Shimla, India. The dialogue will conclude today.

Reflecting on Bangladesh's impressive economic growth, the state minister said it created new opportunities for the partners of Bangladesh.

With regard to people-to-people contact, he highlighted the role of policymakers, media and civil society to create positive narratives.

The Bangladesh-India

Friendship Dialogue is a forum to bring together key stakeholders including think tanks and civil society from both the countries to discuss issues of relevance.

The ninth round of the dialogue was organised in Cox's Bazar in 2019.

The inaugural session was also attended by Jai Ram Thakur, chief minister of Himachal; Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, minister of state for external affairs of India; and Ram Madhav, member of Governing Council of India Foundation.

Presidium Member of Awami League Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Deputy Minister for Education Barrister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury, MP, Mirza Azam, MP, Ashim Kumar Ukil, MP, Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Muhammad Imran are also attending the dialogue.

## Memory's door

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movement and the other to counter it. The latter was to be held in Beltola, but ultimately, they did not succeed in holding the meeting.

We reached a decision that we would observe a Flag Day on February 11. A session at the Provincial Assembly was called on February 11. So, we decided to march towards the assembly and to press for the inclusion of Bangla as a state language. At a meeting on February 11, general students appealed to the All-Party Central Language Action Committee to carry out the action plan on

February 21.

At the All-Party meeting on February 20, nearly 14 organisations issued a proposal that Section 144 should not be broken. On that night, 11 of us sat in a meeting at the pond ghat between Dhaka Hall (Shahidullah Hall) and Fazlul Huq Hall. We planned about how to bring out the procession the next day and how we would break Section 144.

We entered the university before 9:00am the next day and found the whole area surrounded by police carrying all types of weapons. Then the students gathered at Amtola and the meeting

started at 11:00am. Gaziul Haq chaired the meeting as we had decided.

At the meeting, most students were in favour of violating Section 144. After that, one procession after another broke Section 144 and started to go out on the street. Police arrested many students who were violating Section 144.

Mohammed Sultan was the first person to hoist a black flag on top of the Dhaka University campus on February 22, 1952.

Source: This is an excerpt of an interview printed in "Mohammad Sultan Kayekti Rekhay" published by Kamal Lohani, 1986.

## Fire kills child in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Gazipur

A child was burnt to death at his residence at Pagar Jhinu Market area of Gazipur's Tongi yesterday.

The dead is Abdur Rahman, 8, son of Joynal Abedin, who hailed from Mymensingh and used to live in Tongi.

The fire was originated from electric short circuit, said Iqbal Hossain, an official of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Gazipur.

## Israel fires on new drone from Lebanon

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel's military said its air defences fired at an unmanned aerial vehicle that had crossed into its airspace from Lebanon yesterday, the second such incident in as many days.

Air raid sirens were sounded, sending residents into bomb shelters after "a radio-controlled aircraft crossed into Israeli airspace from Lebanon", the military said in a statement.

"As a result... aerial defence systems were activated" and "after a few minutes, radar contact was lost with the aircraft," it added, indicating that the drone was not intercepted.

The Israeli Air Force said in a tweet that "Iron Dome interceptors were launched" and that fighter jets were scrambled to patrol the area.

The army had announced on Thursday it had shot down a drone that it said was launched into Israeli airspace by Hezbollah, a Lebanese Shia movement backed by Israel's nemesis Iran.

That came a day after

## A canal chokes

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chains calling on the project authorities to spare the canal, but to no avail.

Beza sources said the canal is in the master plan of BSMSN. A sluice gate has been installed on it to control water flow. Also, a bridge has been built over the canal to connect its two sides.

"The canal was included in the master plan of the economic zone [BSMSN]. But Beza has illegally filled up the canal. We have asked Beza to restore the canal to its former condition," said Sheikh Yusuf Harun, executive chairman of Beza.

Nahiduzzaman Khan,

executive engineer of Water Development Board, Chattogram Division-2, said they formed a committee last year tasked with restoring the canal. The committee already sent a report to the Prime Minister's Office with their recommendations.

The report, seen by The Daily Star, asked Bepza to re-excavate the canal.

Contacted, Hafizur Rahman, project director of Bepza economic zone, said they would restore the canal.

Asked why they filled up the canal in the first place, he said they had no other choice but to fill up the canal to develop the land

for the economic zone.

DoE officials said they were unaware of Bepza's destructive work until recently due to manpower shortages.

"We have a deputy director, an assistant director and three inspectors in the Chittagong district office. It is not realistically possible to keep an eye on the entire district with such a small workforce. We often act upon getting complaints from the members of the public like we did in the case of the Daborkhali canal," said Mufidul Alam, director of the DoE Chattogram region.

## Attack on Ethiopia refugee camp kills five: UN

AFP, Addis Ababa

Fighting in northern Ethiopia's Afar region has "engulfed" a camp housing refugees from neighbouring Eritrea, the UN said yesterday, killing five people and forcing thousands to flee.

The attack earlier this month is the latest blow to the more than 100,000 Eritrean refugees living in Ethiopia, whose camps have been repeatedly caught up in a grinding 15-month war.

It also underscores the growing toll of fighting in Afar, which has emerged in recent weeks as the most active front in the conflict pitting Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government against the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) rebel group.

Survivors of the Bahrale camp attack in Afar reported that "at least five refugees were killed and several women were kidnapped" after armed

men entered on February 3, the UN refugee agency said in a statement.

"Family members lost one another in the chaos of fleeing the camp," the statement said.

The Barahle camp is situated near the border between Afar and Tigray.

The TPLF controls most of Tigray and in January announced it had expanded operations into Afar, claiming it had been provoked by attacks on its positions by pro-government forces.

Yesterday's UN statement did not specify which forces survivors accused of targeting the camp.

However, AFP interviewed several survivors this week in the Afar capital Semera who said they believed the TPLF was responsible.

"I had never seen anything like that," refugee Mahamooda Ahmed said, recalling what he described as an assault on civilians,

with no pro-government combatants in the area.

"I had never seen soldiers open fire on civilians. There were no soldiers for them to fight. It was civilians, including women and children. And they were using very heavy weapons."

He said two of his seven children -- a six-year-old boy and a four-year-old girl -- are unaccounted for, along with one of his two wives.

Afar regional government officials as well as the national Refugees and Returnees Service also said the TPLF was to blame.

The camp remains inaccessible and these claims could not be independently verified.

TPLF leaders could not immediately be reached for comment yesterday.

Ethiopia's war broke out in November 2020 when Abiy sent troops into Tigray to topple the TPLF, a move he said came in response to TPLF attacks on army camps.

শিল্পের উৎকর্ষ সাধন, সকলের জন্য শিল্প সংস্কৃতি এবং আন্তর্জাতিক ক্ষেত্রে তা সম্প্রসারণের লক্ষ্যে ৪৮ বছর যাবৎ কাজ করে চলেছে জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান প্রতিষ্ঠিত বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি

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