

### 3 bullet-riddled bodies recovered in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Police yesterday recovered the bullet-riddled bodies of three people from Rowangchhari upazila in Bandarban.

The deceased are Lal Lian Bawm, 32, son of Lian Thon Bawm, Simlian Thang Bawm, 30, son of Non Dao Bawm, and Nemthang Bawm, 43, son of Doukhar Bawm, of Ronin Para area of Rowangchhari upazila, said Bandarban's Superintendent of Police Tariqul Islam.

Saiful Islam, sub-inspector at Rowangchhari Police Station, said the bullet hit bodies were recovered from the Paikhongpara area around 12:00pm.

The SP said infighting among hill terrorists might have killed the three. All three deceased were from the Bawm community.

Police beefed up security in the area, he said, adding they are trying to identify the culprits behind the incident. A probe has been launched to know the motive behind the killings, he added.

A case will be filed by the police if the victims' families fail to file one, he said.

On April 7, police recovered the bullet-riddled bodies of eight individuals from Khamtangpara of the same upazila.

The bodies were sent to Bandarban Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

### RIOT-HIT NORTHEAST Indians return home from camps

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian security personnel are escorting back to their homes thousands of people who fled to temporary camps after rioting and ethnic clashes in the northeast that killed about 70 people last week, officials said yesterday.

Fierce fighting broke out in the state of Manipur bordering Myanmar when members of about 30 tribal groups clashed with a non-tribal group, the ethnic majority Meitei, over the economic benefits and reservation status extended to some tribes.

"We are trying to ensure villagers return to their homes as leaders from opposing sides have started holding peace talks today," said Lorho S. Ploze, a member of parliament from the state.

"The situation is extremely tense and victims are scared to return to their villages as they fear clashes could erupt again."

## Escape from Khartoum

FROM PAGE 1

cut off amid heavy bombing near her building, and Kamal Hossain was a victim of robbing and mugging that took place amid the conflict.

Fortunately, they too were able to come back home on Sunday.

Welcoming the returnees at the HSIA, Asad Alam Siam, additional secretary of the foreign ministry, said those who are still in Sudan will hopefully be evacuated and repatriated home safely soon.

Different ministries, the IOM, Biman, and Bangladesh missions in Saudi Arabia and Sudan have been doing their best to this end, he added.

Speaking to journalists at the airport, Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad said his ministry, through the Wage Earners' Welfare Board, has

## Petrobangla drafts new negotiation guidelines

FROM PAGE 1

capacity to find out the true cost," he said, citing the case of Australian oil and gas exploration company Santos.

Santos was operating the Sangu-II well in the Bay of Bengal.

In October 2013, the company ended production from the shallow water field and left Bangladesh.

"Santos/Shell which operated the offshore Sangu gas field left the country after getting 80 percent of the total revenue generated thanks to the provision of cost recovery," Imam said, adding that there are much fewer bureaucratic tangles under the revenue sharing model.

He went on to seek a higher share of revenue for Petrobangla in the PSC.

In the new PSC, Petrobangla's income will initially be lower but it will gradually pick up, said one of the Petrobangla officials.

The move to draft a new PSC comes as the government is gearing up to resume offshore gas exploration after a pause of ten years.

Petrobangla was supposed to float a tender based on the 2019 PSC in 2020 but the global coronavirus version disrupted the plan.



An elderly woman stands outside a burning house after shelling in the town of Chasiv Yar, Donetsk region, on Sunday, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

## Tiger numbers expected to rise

Camera traps in Sundarbans find big cats in places not seen before

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The number of tigers in the Sundarbans is expected to rise due to successful conservation efforts in the world's largest mangrove forest, said officials concerned.

The forest department officials involved in the ongoing tiger census said they have found evidence of tigers using camera traps in areas where a previous survey failed to find any.

According to the preliminary data obtained from the cameras installed inside the forest, the number of tigers in the Khulna and Satkhira ranges has increased, they said.

However, they could not provide specific numbers.

The result of the census is expected to be published in 2024.

Surveys conducted in 2015 and 2018 did not find any tigers in parts of the Khulna range. But the camera traps this time captured adult tigers with cubs. Locals and forest rangers also reported frequent tiger sightings. There has also been a flurry of incidents in which tourists saw tigers in the Sundarbans.

On March 12, four tigers were spotted in a tourist area in the Mongla end of the

Sundarbans.

Besides, tiger attacks on fishermen have also increased, according to officials.

Under the current tiger census, camera traps had been set up in Khulna and Satkhira ranges between January 1 and



April 30.

The traps will be installed in the Chandpai and Sharankhola ranges between November 1 and February 29, 2024.

In total, 665 cameras will be installed.

Abu Naser Mohsin Hossain, divisional forest officer of Khulna, told The Daily Star that the information obtained from the traps has not been verified yet.

"It is not possible to say how many tigers are present in the two ranges. After

collecting and analysing all the data from all ranges surveyed, the tiger census result will be published in 2024," said the DFO, also the director of Sundarbans Tiger Conservation Project.

Like the fingerprints of humans, the stripes on tigers are unique, said the forest official. The number of tigers will be determined by analysing their stripes, he added.

He said the expected increase in the number of tigers might be attributed to the forest department's increased vigilance against poachers and locals' change of attitude towards the big cat.

"Besides, deer and wild boar numbers have also increased in the forest, providing enough food for tigers," he said.

He said the government's decision to compensate families of tiger victims has also helped change locals' attitudes towards the tigers.

The government's "Sundarbans Tiger Conservation Project" is expected to be completed by March 2025. However, the tiger census programme will end in 2024.

In the first tiger census conducted in 1982, at least 453 tigers were found in the Sundarbans. Only 106 tigers were found in 2013 and 114 in 2018.

## Biman 787 suffers glitch on return flight

FROM PAGE 1

unreliable, both WXR systems test shows "WXR fail drv [drive]" with "WXR SYS [system]" advisory message and unusual sound from WXR antenna".

The log also includes notes about what rectification measures had to be taken after landing.

"Antenna drive unit replaced," it said.

The thorough security check that all VVIP flights are subject to prior to flying did not pick up the impending motor failure.

The checks, which is conducted by Biman engineers in the presence of every single intelligence agency, and the Special Security Force, can last up to three days.

The radar system detects weather up to 50 nautical miles ahead of the aircraft, based on which pilots can make directional decisions.

"An aircraft can operate without a weather radar system. The pilot can communicate with the ground and get weather updates. There was a time when planes did not have weather radars," said Air Commodore Md Moazzem Hossain, director of engineering and material management at Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

However, over the last 50 years at

least, all commercial aircraft come equipped with weather radar systems because ground radar systems can only give weather updates within their range, not for the whole flight, said Biman insiders.

An aircraft being forced to fly without a functioning weather radar system is said to be flying on a "minimum equipment list".

On April 19, a Riyadh-bound Biman flight was forced to return to Dhaka airport as the aircraft's weather radar system was not working. The plane was in the air for two and a half hours on a "minimum equipment list".

However, a VVIP flight cannot operate on a "minimum equipment list", according to the "red book", a rulebook on the security protocol for the prime minister.

Air Commodore Hossain called it a "small problem" that did not "pose a safety hazard".

According to the VVIP flight handling manual by CAAB, the aircraft selected for flying the PM must be grounded for checks and inspections for at least 22 hours before departure, in the case of models like the Boeing 787.

The manual states that the engineers used for checking the aircraft must be pre-selected by the head of the engineering department

and handed over to the government's security agencies 48 hours before the departure.

The engineers' names, the specific duties of each, and which part of the plane they will be looking into are listed.

"All equipment taken in/out of the cordoned-off area must be checked at piece level. Any part needed to be replaced must be endorsed in the register mentioning the name of the part with proper specification/part number, the individual carrying the part along with his or her signature," says the manual.

A 10-member committee, led by the general manager of central control, oversees the planning and execution of the flight.

"The plane is inspected by our engineers and taken for two ground runs before taking to the air," said Air Commodore Hossain.

He denied the prospect of any negligence. "Even if this problem had happened while the prime minister was in the air, this would not have been negligence. This is an equipment, and anything can happen anytime."

Captain Siddiquir Rahman, Biman's director of flight operations, also denied any possibility of negligence.

## People will vote for AL in next polls

FROM PAGE 1

The event was held at the London Marriott Hotel on Sunday (local time).

Hasina said her party will win the next parliamentary polls as it always stands by the people.

She hoped that the people will not depend on the BNP Jamaat.

"They [BNP] laundered money abroad and thus destroyed the country. How will the people depend on them?"

The people have already known that the BNP and Jamaat are "thieves, corrupts, killers, grenade attackers,

looters and patrons of killers", the PM added.

Hasina said that Tarique Rahman, acting chairman of the BNP, has been sentenced for corruption and the government has been able to bring back about Tk 40 crore that was siphoned off by Khaleda Zia's younger son Arafat Rahman Coco.

The premier, also the AL president, said the country will be a Smart Bangladesh by 2041 "We have formulated Delta Plan 2100. We have to take the country forward."

She said that there will be no homeless and landless people in the

country.

Hasina said the AL didn't come to power through vote-rigging like the BNP Jamaat did.

"Awami League always fights for the rights of the people. It comes to power after being elected by the people. It never grabbed power."

The premier said people are aware enough of their right to vote. "We have made the people aware of it."

The PM also briefly mentioned about various development programmes implemented by her successive governments in the last 14 years.