



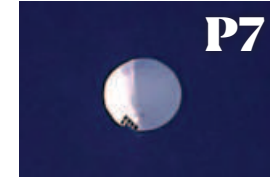
**B1** Migration to villages doubles



**P10** First Bengal Academy of Literature



**P9** A quiet violence in Bangladesh's chars



**P7** Taiwan reports more Chinese balloons over strait



A section of the Shitalakkhya river is being filled at Darikandi of Narayanganj's Rugganj. The pillar on the left of the photo, just behind the pile of dirt, marks the territory of the river. Locals say that the river has significantly shrunk there as traders of sand and other building materials have occupied a large chunk across the river. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## RISING SEA LEVELS 9 lakh in south may be displaced by 2050

### Says new report on climate change impacts in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sea level rise may displace almost nine lakh people from southern Bangladesh by 2050, because their homes and livelihood will be jeopardised.

By the end of the century, the situation will be even worse as between 12 percent and 18 percent of Bangladesh's coastal area is projected to be submerged by rising seas, says a report released yesterday by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD).

This will have devastating consequences for vital food crops, and more people will be forced to leave their homes, adds the report titled Climate Change Impacts in Bangladesh.

Currently, the estimated annual average loss due to cyclones is \$1 billion, which is 0.7 percent of the GDP.

"Due to our country's geographical position, we are witnessing flooding, depletion of water sources, rising sea levels, and the intrusion of salinity. Projections indicate that millions, perhaps 1/7 of the population, might face displacement as per the World Bank's estimations," Saber H Chowdhury, minister for environment, forest and climate change, was quoted as saying in the report.

Sea level rise is projected to lead to a 6-9 percent decline in the country's rice production. Increasingly saline waters are also projected to disrupt fisheries, which will disproportionately affect poor coastal communities, for whom fish is an important source of protein.

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## Ensure important products get GI recognition: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday instructed officials concerned to take steps about the Geographical Indication (GI) certification for the country's important products.



Her instructions came at the regular cabinet meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office in the capital.

"The prime minister asked all to be active and take initiatives about the GI certification for our products," Cabinet Secretary Mahbub Hossain told reporters after the meeting.

Meanwhile, the Department of Patents, Designs and Trademark (DPDT) yesterday asked the 64 deputy commissioners and eight divisional commissioners to take necessary measures on GI products in every district.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun handed over the GI certificates for Tangail sari, Gopalganj's SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## Coalition talks gather pace in Pakistan

### PML-N, PPP 'agree' on cooperation; PTI stages protest, goes to court over 'irregularities'

AGENCIES

Nawaz Sharif-led Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), who got the most seats in recently concluded polls in the country, yesterday held "successful" talks with the Pakistan Peoples Party of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who came third, in an early sign that the country is heading towards a unity government.

The development came as the final results of last Thursday's polls were finally announced yesterday. No party won a simple majority to form the next government.

However, the results put independents, backed by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, in the lead with 93 of 264 seats. In total, independents won 101 seats.

With 75 seats, PML-N lacked a clear majority but came out as the largest single party in parliament as Khan's independents ran as individuals.

Besides Khan and Sharif, the

- ▶ Police clash with PTI supporters at election protests
- ▶ At least 9 independents joining PML-N: reports
- ▶ PTI claims vote count at 18 seats 'falsely changed'

Pakistan Peoples Party leader Bilawal, the son of assassinated premier Benazir Bhutto, remains a major player with at least 54 seats. The Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), a regional party, won 17.

Imran and Sharif have both declared victory in the polls and both parties said they claimed the right to form the next government.

As the final results came out, a flurry of activity was noticed in Lahore, the PML-N headquarters.

It met with the PPP and the

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## Gunfire in Myanmar can still be heard in Naikhongchhari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Sounds of gunshots could still be heard yesterday although the situation of bordering areas of Naikhongchhari in Bandarban, Ukhiya and Teknaf in Cox's Bazar remained relatively calm.

Panic among the locals in the bordering areas is still high: they are anticipating fresh gunfights any time on the Myanmar side of the border.

The situation has been calm since Wednesday but people heard gunshots from far away from the Myanmar side, said AKM Jahangir Aziz, chairman of Ghumdhum union parishad in Teknaf.

A few isolated gunshots also were heard in Lomba Beel, Ulubunia and Unchiprang areas of Whykong union in Teknaf, according to locals.

Some Rohingya armed group members could enter Bangladesh as they are being ousted by the Arakan Army, said Noor Ahmed Anwari, chairman of Whykong union parishad in Teknaf.

He urged the Border Guard Bangladesh to increase surveillance along the border to prevent any kind of infiltration.

Since the fight is going on between the Myanmar troops and the Arakan

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## FORMING JS STANDING COMMITTEES Conflict of interest takes back seat

RASHIDUL HASAN

Many members of 20 parliamentary standing committees own businesses in sectors they are supposed to watch over, which according to experts is a conflict of interest.

The Jatiya Sangsad recently formed 50 standing committees. Thirty-nine of them are tasked with ensuring accountability and transparency at the ministries.

That some of the MPs, who are in the ministry-related committees, have conflicts of interest was found during an analysis of the affidavits the individuals submitted to the Election Commission.

According to the JS Rules of Procedure, a member shall not be appointed to a parliamentary committee if their personal, financial or direct interest is linked with matters that are dealt by the committee.

A parliamentary committee of a ministry is supposed to investigate irregularities and serious complaints against one or more ministries under it. It is also tasked with examining and reviewing bills.

At the recently formed committees, 12 MPs who were ministers and state ministers of the last government are committee chairmen.

Former Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi is the chairman of the JS body on commerce ministry.

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People take selfies while travelling on the roof of a train. Such journeys often end in tragedies. The photo was taken near Tejgaon Station in the capital yesterday afternoon.

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON