

MYANMAR CONFLICT

# Boats on Naf spark fear of fresh influx

Home boss warns against entry with firearms

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

Amid continuous fighting between Myanmar troops and the armed group called Arakan Army, many residents of Rakhine State have taken shelter on small boats on the Naf river along the border.

Lt Tahsin Rahman, spokesperson of the coast guard in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar, said it was not known how many Myanmar nationals were living on the river that flows between the two countries.

"We are determined not to let anyone travel across the Naf and enter Bangladesh," he said, adding that around 200 Myanmar nationals were turned away at the border in recent days.

Mohammad Zubair, chairman of Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights, told The Daily Star that between 400 and 500 Rohingya people were on the boats after fleeing their homes

in Lalbunnya area of Myanmar.

Many of these Rohingya people are contacting their relatives in Cox's Bazar camps as they are getting cellular signals from Bangladesh, he said.

He added that fierce fighting was now going on in Maungdaw township of northern Rakhine where many Rohingya people live.

Meanwhile, gunshots and shelling were heard yesterday from Teknaf town, Shahporir Dwip, Sabrang, and St Martin's Island.

Teknaf Upazila Nirbahi Officer Adnan Chowdhury said, "I heard gunshots from my residence. People living near the border are living in fear."

He added that law enforcement agencies were on high alert on the border.

Earlier this month, countless bullets and mortar shells crossed the border,

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A fisherman casts his net on the Shitalakkhya while a stream of dark water from different factories pollutes the river in the Kanchpur area on the outskirts of the capital, where many garment dyeing factories are located. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Stop arms race, focus on climate financing

PM Hasina urges int'l community



UNB, Munich

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged world leaders yesterday to end the arms race and instead use the money to combat climate change.

"Senseless arms race must be stopped and resources need to be diverted instead to mobilise the much-needed fund for fighting climate change," she said, adding, "Let's keep in mind, when the existence of humanity is at a stake, pursuing narrow interests would come to nothing."

The prime minister's impassioned call featured in a six-point suggestion she placed at the panel discussion titled "From Pocket to Planet: Scaling Up Climate Finance" at the Munich Security Conference 2024 here in Germany.

"We must find solutions to unlocking climate

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### DIVISION-WISE DEATHS FROM COLD (2005-2019)

Barishal	214
Chattogram	53
Dhaka	156
Khulna	342
Mymensingh	103
Rajshahi	444
Rangpur	1,082
Sylhet	74

## Cold wave kills 281 on average every winter

20-year study data show

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

There are at least 281 "cold wave induced" deaths on average annually in Bangladesh, according to a recent study.

The month of January sees the highest number of such deaths, followed by December, says the study titled "Cold wave induced mortalities in Bangladesh: Spatiotemporal analysis of 20 years' data, 2000-2019".

There were 81 cold wave events in the 20 years and the study found a slightly

increasing trend in cold wave frequency over the period.

"Cold wave mortality varied from district to district; northwestern districts were more prone to cold waves and reported a higher mortality rate," said the study published earlier this month in the "Natural Hazards Research" journal.

There is no formal database about cold wave-related mortality. The researchers developed a cold wave mortality dataset using content analysis of cold wave related

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## Road crash claims 7 lives in Mymensingh

Victims include 3 of a family on way to namaz-e-janaza of a relative

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A tragic accident on the Mymensingh Sherpur Highway yesterday claimed the lives of a family of three, including a couple and their eight-year-old son, who were on their way to a relative's funeral.

The CNG-run autorickshaw that collided head-on with a bus around 11:30am was carrying seven people in total, all of whom died on the spot.

Five of the victims were identified till the writing of this report last night.

They are Nuruzzaman Bablu, 45, his wife Shila Akter,

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Indigenous girls perform a traditional dance on Mukta Mancha at Suhrawardy Udyan where an eight-day cultural festival is being organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation. Yesterday was the first day of the event.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

### REMEMBRANCE

5<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary

Prayers & forgiveness of his departed soul to almighty Allah. May Allah grant and blessed him for Jannatul Ferdaous Ameen.



Those who touch our lives stay in our hearts forever. You will always remain in our thoughts & prayers.

(30<sup>th</sup> January 1991 - 17<sup>th</sup> February 2019)

"Repent for all your sins and ask for forgiveness. Allah almighty is the most merciful, the greatest and the mightiest."  
By Ekram

We remember with respect to his 5<sup>th</sup> death anniversary  
**Mr. Ekram Uddin Mollah**  
Honorable Director, Osman Group of Industries  
We will always cherish your immense love

Osman Group of Industries Family

## UN worried by issues related to Prof Yunus

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations has expressed concerns over the recent incidents relating to Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus.

"We are very concerned about the reports that we have seen coming out of Bangladesh on issues related to him," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric at a briefing in New York on Thursday.

Dujarric was asked if the UN Secretary-General was aware that Prof Yunus yesterday told reporters that his Grameen offices were seized, and that the government filed new charges against him.

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## Luna Shamsuddoha

1954-2021

Luna, it has been three years since your untimely passing and every moment we have continued to feel your extraordinary presence.

Your unconditional love, strength and encouragement for your family, friends and professional network is larger than life, as your legacy lives on in your absence. Luna, we remember your profound influence and service for the betterment of women, our nation and beyond.

May Allah keep you in the highest of Heaven

THE FAMILY OF LUNA SHAMSUDDOHA  
17 FEBRUARY 2024