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3 Myanmar soldiers take refuge in Bandarban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Three members of Myanmar military took refuge in Bangladesh last morning, fleeing the ongoing conflict in Rakhine State between junta forces and rebel Arakan Army.

On information, Border Guard Bangladesh members disarmed them and sheltered them in a safe place in Naikhongchhari upazila of Bandarban, according to the local administration.

The Myanmar army personnel fled through Tumburu Konapara border under Ghumdhum union of Naikhongchhari upazila in Bandarban early yesterday.

Confirming the matter, Naikhongchhari Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohammad Zakaria said the Myanmar army personnel are now under the custody of BGB.

Shafiqul Islam, member of Ward 1 of Ghumdhum Union Parishad, said, fighting between the Myanmar junta and Arakan Army continued across the

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



Traders occupy almost the entire road in Dhaka's Karwan Bazar area, leaving little room for vehicles to pass. Occupation of this road leads to traffic snarl-ups in and around the area, causing suffering to city dwellers. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BSF shoots one Bangladeshi dead, injures another

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A Bangladeshi national was shot dead by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) near the Burirhat border in Lalmonirhat's Kaliganj upazila early yesterday.

Kaliganj police recovered the bullet-hit body of Murali Chandra Barman, 41, of Uttar Balapara village under the upazila's Chandrapur union, said Kaliganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Imtiaz Kabir.

Another Bangladeshi national was also injured in the shooting incident that took place near border pillar number 913 and was undergoing treatment at a clinic in Rangpur city, the OC said.

His identity could not be ascertained immediately.

The bullet-hit body has been sent to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Confirming the matter, Lalmonirhat 15 BGB Battalion's Commanding Officer Lt Col Mofazzal Hossain Akhand said a letter was sent to the BSF protesting the

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 31



Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:35	12:45	4:45	6:18	7:45
JAMAAT 4:45	1:15	5:00	6:28	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	MARCH	SEHRI	IFTAR
20	31		6:18
21	Apr 1	4:29	6:18
22	Apr 2	4:28	6:19

Test train reaches Jashore from Bhanga in an hour

Commercial operation within four months

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Laying of the main railway line from Bhanga to Jashore has already been completed and the authorities are carrying out different tests on this section with an aim to open the entire Dhaka-Jashore line for commercial operation within four months.

Once the 169km Dhaka-Jashore route is fully operational, it will halve the travel time from the capital to Jashore. It now takes more than eight hours to travel the distance on rail.

As part of tests, the authorities of the Padma Bridge Rail Link Project yesterday operated passenger and freight trains on the 87km section - Bhanga to Rupdia of Jashore.

The Dhaka-Bhanga section via



the Padma Bridge was opened in October last year. Several intercity trains now use the route.

"We are hopeful that the Bhanga-Jashore section would be ready for train operation by June," Project Director Afzal Hossain told The Daily Star yesterday.

The government is implementing a Tk 39,246.80 crore project, the biggest infrastructure project of Bangladesh Railway, to link Dhaka

with Jashore via the Padma Bridge.

The rail line will reduce the Dhaka-Jashore travel distance by more than 185km, and Dhaka-Khulna by 212km, shows a project document.

Besides, opening of the line will reduce the pressure on Joydebpur-Ishwardi section via the Bangabandhu Bridge. There are speed and load restrictions on Bangabandhu Bridge.

Currently, trains from Dhaka to different western districts use the Joydebpur-Ishwardi section, a single line route, going beyond its capacity. This causes longer travel times.

Besides, BR cannot operate freight trains from its western zone to Dhaka due to load restrictions on

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

Shamsher Mobin contradicts Major Hafiz

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Trinamool BNP Chairperson Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury yesterday sent his reaction to a statement of BNP Vice-Chairman Major (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed that was published in The Daily Star.

The report titled "Criticism is now a punishable offence" was published by this newspaper on March 30, 2024, based on an interview of Major Hafiz.

Talking about split in BNP, Major Hafiz told The Daily Star that leaders like Shahjahan

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6

Hefazat seeks to spread its network down to village

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Hefazat-e Islam will form committees in every village, union, upazila and district to protect Islamic values.

Hefazat is calling the committees "non-madrassa committees" and the process of forming them would begin after Eid.

Senior leaders of Hefazat decided these during a meeting on Friday at Jamia Madania Baridhara madrasa. Hefazat Senior Naib-E-Amir Mufti Khalil Ahmad Qasemi, also chief Mufti of the Darul Uloom Hathazari, chaired the meeting.

At the moment, Hefazat has committees in Qawmi madrasas, and according to the then education minister, there were 19,199 Qawmi madrasas in 2022.

At the meeting, Hefazat leaders discussed the issue of having its arrested leaders and activists released. Meeting participants said that the government assured them of releasing the arrestees time and again but did not keep its word.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6

INDOMITABLE MARCH

Indira pledges support for Bangladesh

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

On March 31, 1971, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi moved a resolution in parliament strongly criticising the military action in Bangladesh.

She demanded an immediate end to the violence "which amounts to genocide". She also promised "whole-hearted sympathy and support" for the people of "East Bengal".

Earlier, Indian Foreign Minister Swaran Singh's tepid tone as to India's response to the events in Bangladesh was criticised in parliament. There was growing pressure, both inside and outside the parliament, on the government to do something. The demand for recognising Bangladesh as an independent state was also quite strong. But Indira's government took a cautious approach. Indira insisted on following "proper international

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Dozens of casualties in new Gaza aid chaos

Gunfire, stampede at aid distribution site kill 5, injure dozens; 82 more killed in heavy bombardment across the enclave



A protester holds a shroud reading "Children of Gaza" as pro-Palestinian activists and supporters gather for a protest in central London yesterday, calling for a ceasefire in Gaza.

PHOTO: AFP

AGENCIES

Heavy clashes and explosions shook Gaza, witnesses said yesterday, as the Red Crescent reported several people killed during the latest chaotic aid distribution in the territory's north, where famine looms.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu approved a new round of talks on a Gaza truce between Israel and Hamas militants, after a binding UN Security Council resolution last Monday demanded an "immediate ceasefire".

Meanwhile, ships carrying 332 tons of food for Gaza left Cyprus's Larnaca port yesterday in a convoy which will reach the besieged enclave early next

week, authorities said.

It is the second shipment this month after Israel eased a 17-year naval blockade on the Gaza Strip to allow aid in from Cyprus, sourced by US charity World Central Kitchen (WCK) for starving Palestinians.

The aid will be taken to Gaza on a cargo ship and a barge towed by a salvage vessel, along with a tugboat carrying a support team in a journey which will take about 60 hours, a Cypriot official told Reuters.

The Palestine Red Crescent said five people were killed and dozens injured by gunfire and a stampede during an aid delivery in Gaza's north.

MORE ON PAGE 7

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

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Eid-ul-Fitr 2024 Special Magazine From
The Daily Star

Today is the 53rd Death Anniversary of
S N H Rizvi



We request all relatives, friends and well-wishers to remember him in their prayers and to pray for eternal peace of his soul