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# Outrage over humiliation of freedom fighter

## Netizens, organisations demand punishment to perpetrators

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

The assault and humiliation of a freedom fighter, around whose neck a garland of shoes was placed, have sparked outrage across the country. The incident took place in Cumilla's Chauddagram on Sunday. Netizens and different organisations strongly protested the incident and demanded immediate arrest of those responsible. Akhteruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Chauddagram Police Station, around 8:00pm yesterday, said, "We're conducting raids to arrest the culprits. But none could be detained till now."



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Celebrated Pakistani artiste Rahat Fateh Ali Khan performs at the BPL Music Fest at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. A seven-hour-long musical show, also featuring local musicians and bands such as Xefeer, Avoid Rafa and Miles, kicked off the first event of the music fest as part of Festival of Youth 2025.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# Brokers prowling Myanmar border

## Charging Rohingyas up to Tk 30,000 each to help enter Bangladesh illegally

MOKAMMEL SHUVO and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Amid the ongoing conflicts in Myanmar, Rohingyas are crossing into Bangladesh at different points of the 270km border between the two countries. According to Rohingya leaders, brokers are allegedly facilitating these crossings in exchange for money, helping the refugees avoid detection by law enforcement and local authorities. At the Bangladesh border, brokers charge Rohingyas between Tk 20,000 and Tk 30,000 each, while the Arakan Army (AA) demands Tk 40,000 to Tk 50,000 at the Myanmar side of the border. Mohammad Zubair, chairman of the Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights (ARSPH), a refugee camp-based organisation advocating for Rohingya rights, told The Daily Star, "The Arakan Army demands 15 lakh to 25 lakh kyat from each Rohingya to allow passage to the border." Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hossain, speaking to reporters in Dhaka on Sunday, noted the widespread corruption at the border, which aids the Rohingya's entry into Bangladesh. "They are not entering through a single route; they are using multiple routes, making it very difficult for law enforcers to stop them," he said.

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# SHYAM BENEGAL (1934-2024)

## Adieu, doyen of parallel cinema

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Filmmaker Shyam Benegal, a giant of Indian cinema and one of the guiding lights of the Parallel Cinema movement, passed away due to kidney-related ailments in Mumbai on December 23. He was 90.

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# Gaza truce talks make headway

Say Israeli, Palestinian officials; 20 killed in Israeli strikes

REUTERS, Cairo

Gaps between Israel and Hamas over a possible Gaza ceasefire have narrowed, according to Israeli and Palestinian officials' remarks yesterday, though crucial differences have yet to be resolved. A fresh bid by mediators Egypt, Qatar and the United States to end the fighting and release Israeli and foreign hostages has gained momentum this month, though no breakthrough has yet been reported. Meanwhile, at least 20 Palestinians were killed in Israeli strikes at a tent camp in the so-called "humanitarian zone" of

al-Mawasi yesterday, medics said. A Palestinian official familiar with the truce talks said while some sticking points had been resolved, the identity of some of the Palestinian prisoners to be released by Israel in return for hostages had yet to be agreed, along with the precise deployment of Israeli troops in Gaza. His remarks corresponded with comments by the Israeli diaspora minister, Amichai Chikli, who said both issues were still being negotiated. Nonetheless, he said, the sides were far closer to reaching agreement than they

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# ROOPPUR POWER PLANT

## Tulip quizzed in UK over graft allegations


STAR REPORT

UK Treasury's Economic Secretary Tulip Siddiq has been questioned by a Cabinet Office team on graft accusations brought by Bangladesh authorities. Tulip, niece of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, agreed to attend a meeting with a representative of the propriety and ethics team (PET), reports the Sunday Times.



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Today is the 51<sup>st</sup> Death Anniversary of  
Begum Firdaus Rizvi



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



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