

Right-wing militias

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out to the male-only militia group by saying they should “stand back and stand by,” and that the real problem is “far-left” extremists.

“My message to the Proud Boys and every other white supremacist group is: cease and desist,” Biden said. “This is not who we are as Americans.”

Trump, in an apparent attempt to tamp down outrage over his comments, called on the group to “stand down.”

“I don’t know who Proud Boys are but whoever they are they have to stand down,” Trump told reporters. “Stand down, let law enforcement do their work.”

‘CORRECT’ COMMENTS

Trump’s backpedaling came after multiple Republicans distanced themselves from the president’s debate remark, with Senator Tim Scott, the only black Republican in the US Senate, saying Trump “needs to correct” his comments.

Several other Republicans reportedly offered similar reaction, including powerful Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Biden, who leads in election polling, knocked Trump for failing to speak directly to the US public about their plight during the Covid-19 crisis, which has killed more than 206,000 Americans.

And during a train stop in Pittsburgh he assailed the president for “planting seeds of doubt” about US election integrity by saying mail-in voting will be riddled with “fraud like you’ve never seen.”

But Biden gnawed at the white supremacy issue throughout the day. At a stop in Greensburg, Pennsylvania -- where hundreds of people gathered in what was one of Biden’s biggest crowds since the pandemic hit -- he pointed to how the Proud Boys were already treating Trump’s words as a boost to their cause.

“They got a new emblem now, literally, it says ‘Stand down and stand by,’ implying that if he loses the election something may have to be done,” Biden, 77, said, misquoting

Trump’s debate comment.

“I promise you, that won’t happen,” he added. “Nobody is going to get in the way of our democratic process going forward.”

Biden was also pushing his blue-collar roots, as he accepted the endorsement from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, with 550,000 members.

“Donald Trump sees things from Park Avenue. I see them from where I grew up in Scranton,” Biden said.

‘MELTDOWN’

Snap polls on the debate performances of the presidential candidates leaned towards Biden, who withstood a barrage of barbs from the 74-year-old Trump while delivering some of his own.

An estimated 73.1 million people in the US watched the two candidates go toe-to-toe on TV, according to data firm Nielsen.

The Cleveland debate was scheduled to be the first of three before the election but the acrimonious debacle led to calls by some commentators for the two others to be cancelled.

In an interview with CNN, Biden’s running mate Senator Kamala Harris suggested it was unlikely that the Democratic nominee would bow out of the next debates.

“Joe Biden’s never going to refuse to talk to the American people,” Harris said.

The next debate is scheduled for October 15 in Miami.

Trump meanwhile flew to Duluth, Minnesota, a Midwestern state narrowly won by Hillary Clinton in 2016, for an outdoor rally with his faithful.

Ally Eid, 29, among several supporters standing in an early Wednesday drizzle awaiting the president, said she was not offended at Trump’s brash debate outbursts.

“He speaks his mind and gets his points across and that’s why so many people support him,” Eid told AFP.

“He stands up for what everyone wants to say but they won’t say it on national television.”

EU launches legal action

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Johnson’s government has described this bill as a “safety net” in case post-Brexit trade talks fail and the EU tries to impose a customs border between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

But EU capitals -- including Dublin -- see these provisions as key to preventing a return of a hard border with Ireland and preserving the good relations underpinned by the Good Friday peace deal in Northern Ireland.

“As you know, we had invited our British friends to remove the problematic parts of their draft internal market bill by the end of September,” von der Leyen said.

“This draft bill is, by its very nature a breach of the obligation of good faith laid down in the withdrawal agreement.”

“Moreover, if adopted as is, it will be in full contradiction to the protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland.”

‘AN ADMINISTRATIVE STEP’

The EU said the bill would breach Article 5 of the Withdrawal Agreement, which states that both sides must “cooperate in good faith” to implement the deal.

If Britain does not back down, the infringement procedure could go all the way to the European Court of Justice, which would be able to impose large fines.

But the case is a fairly standard EU procedure. Many member states face dozens of legal challenges under EU law and, for example, this is the 94th active action against the UK.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte told reporters the development was merely “a necessary administrative step”.

“We will respond to the letter in due course,” a British government spokesman told reporters, playing down the significance of the announcement.

“We need to create a legal safety net to protect the integrity of the UK’s internal market, ensure ministers can always deliver on their obligations to Northern Ireland and protect the gains from the peace process.”

Johnson has pushed on with the legislation -- despite concerns in his own party and a warning from Washington that it puts Irish peace at risk. The legislation is now being debated by the House of Lords.

In parallel to the battle over the bill, EU and UK negotiators Michel Barnier and David Frost are meeting in Brussels this week for their final planned round of talks on a post-Brexit trade deal.

Diplomats say these talks will not be torpedoed by the legal action but London’s stance has cast a cloud over negotiations ahead of a planned EU summit on October 15.

“The discussions are carrying on today and I think they have been conducted in a constructive spirit,” a Number 10 spokesman said.

ECONOMIC SHOCK

If there is no deal by the end of October, European officials warn it is hard to see how one could be ratified by the end of the year, meaning the UK would leave the single market with no trade agreement.

This would exacerbate what is already expected to be the economic shock of Brexit, with a more severe disruption to cross-Channel trade, renewed tariffs and the prospect of a dispute over fishing rights.

European leaders, meanwhile were arriving in Brussels for a two day summit on foreign policy and the EU budget.

Diplomats said they would not allow Brexit to divert them from their agenda, but that Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin would lay out Dublin’s concerns today.

Wait for flights to KSA keeps

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Kingdom via stopovers in their respective countries, said sources at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

The airlines are Kuwait Airways, Etihad Airways, Emirates, Air Arabia and Gulf Air.

Recently, expatriate Bangladeshis rushed to sales offices of Biman and Saudi Arabian Airlines, also known as Saudia, in the capital to collect tickets following the Kingdom’s announcement of the resumption of its international flights to and from different countries, including Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh government has also given the green light to operate regular Biman and Saudia flights.

Talking to reporters at the state guesthouse Padma, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen on Wednesday said about 5,500 to 6,000 expatriates were able to book their flights to Saudi Arabia in the past few days.

Mokabbir Hossain, managing director and chief executive officer of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, yesterday told The Daily Star that since March 16 around 25,000 Bangladeshi expatriate workers have had return tickets with them to go to Saudi Arabia by the

national flag carrier.

Preferring anonymity, an official of Saudia yesterday said they have statistics with them that about 30,000 workers have been waiting to return to Saudi Arabia from Bangladesh.

Tarek Gazi, a migrant worker waiting to return to Saudi Arabia’s Riyadh, yesterday said he came to Bangladesh on January 5 this year and was supposed to return on March 22.

He said his return ticket with Biman Bangladesh Airlines was cancelled because of flight suspension amid the pandemic.

Tarek, who is from Chandpur district, said some of the expatriates known to him have already returned to Saudi Arabia after the flight resumption, while their visas and work permits have also remained valid.

“On the other hand, I could not fly because my exit and re-entry visa had expired, while my work permit had also become invalid,” he told this newspaper over phone.

Home to more than 22 lakh Bangladeshis, Saudi Arabia is also the prime destination of Bangladeshi migrant workers and the biggest remittance-generating country for Bangladesh.

Myanmar putting kind of pressure on us

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and Japan have invited Bangladesh to join their side.

Myanmar is creating a kind of pressure on the border from the thought that some kind of pressure may come on to them. Western countries are forging alliance on the Rohingya issue. There might pressure Myanmar through safe zone or a no-fly zone or any other way.

TDS: Like Bangladesh, Myanmar also knows the context you have mentioned. Knowing this, Myanmar is apprehending many things. Is that the reason Myanmar is deploying troops or creating tension at the border?

MSH: Myanmar is putting a kind of pressure on Bangladesh. The cantonment we have in Ramu is very close to the Myanmar border. Very close. The BGB is working all over the border of the country, there is the army in Chattogram Hill Tracts, and there is the cantonment which is very close to the Rakhine state. Our army is already there, whether for internal reasons or because of location. For these reasons, Myanmar may have deployed the troops to create pressure.

Another reason may be that the soldiers who were on duty earlier were being replaced. When this change occurs, they take some action for strategic reasons. I think Myanmar is doing this because of such reasons. TDS: It is said that Myanmar is in a more advantageous position than Bangladesh regarding St Martin’s Island. Is the small island always a source of concern for us strategically? MSH: Our navy is there since 1992. I don’t think there is any reason that Myanmar will come and occupy this

island. Doing so would be a complete declaration of war.

TDS: China is also active there. Myanmar is even involved in the Russian game.

MSH: China will not allow Myanmar to do that. Because, if that happens, the whole thing will go against China. China has not yet finished their work in the South Bay of Bengal which is called CMEC (China-Myanmar Economic Corridor). Work is underway of the \$7 billion project.

TDS: What is Bangladesh’s situation in terms of naval, air, and land presence on Myanmar border? How is the balance of military power? Can it be perceived or analysed?

MSH: I will not give a qualified statement about how strong Bangladesh is. And, it is never understood who is the strongest from numbers.

Myanmar is ahead of Bangladesh in terms of the number of ground force. With the addition of two submarines, Bangladesh is ahead on the naval side. I have doubts about the air force, but Myanmar may be ahead. Their number is much bigger. Another thing to keep in mind here is that Myanmar soldiers are experienced in jungle war. Its military has been fighting for nearly 70 years.

Another big thing is the geographical location of Bangladesh. Suppose a war with Myanmar started. If our air force has to go inside Myanmar, it has to go a long way. But our refinery, industry and the biggest port are in Chittagong. It is very close to Myanmar. So, geographical advantages and disadvantages are very important factors.

PMO to review plans and costs

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line between Joydebpur and Ishwardi; and construction of dual-gauge double line between Joydebpur and Mymensingh and Jamalpur are the projects in question.

Of the three, Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) has approved the first two projects and Chinese companies have been selected and contract costs have also been negotiated.

However, final loan and commercial deals have not been signed.

The third project has not been approved by Ecneec yet. However, a Chinese company has already been selected and a tentative contract cost has been negotiated.

The Ecneec in April last year had approved the project to convert the metre-gauge railway line into dual-gauge from Akhaura to Sylhet for over Tk 16,104 crore.

The contract cost negotiated with China Railway Construction Bridge Engineering Bureau Group Co Ltd is Tk 12,079 crore.

But many questioned the “huge cost” while others asked as to why the government would convert the

metre-gauge into dual gauge, the official said.

The committee would also review whether conversion of the existing metre-gauge line on Joydebpur-Mymensingh-Jamalpur section into dual-gauge would be enough or a dual-gauge double line was needed, he said.

The officials were asked to submit a report within seven to 10 days.

The fourth project, Padma Bridge Rail Link Project, was not discussed much during Wednesday’s meeting, a BR official said.

Bangladesh Railway is implementing Padma Bridge Rail Link Project to connect the capital with Jashore with a 169km rail line for Tk 39,246 crore.

China Railway Group Ltd is the contractor and Exim Bank of China is providing Tk 21,036.70 as loan for the project. BR Director General Md Shamsuzzaman declined to make any comments on the issue while railways ministry Secretary Salim Reza could not be reached over the phone despite repeated attempts.

Let UN visit Bhashan Char

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fully informed,” said the New York-based global rights watchdog.

A government committee formed late September to manage the relocation of refugees to Bhashan Char appears to be the latest effort to push through a relocation process in contravention of basic rights protections and despite repeated concerns raised by the UN and humanitarian experts, it said.

The statement comes weeks after a group of Rohingyas, including community leaders, were taken on a visit to the island where the government has built 120 cluster villages on the 40sqkm island under a Tk 2,312-crore housing project for one lakh out of the nearly 10 lakh Rohingyas sheltered in cramped camps in Cox’s Bazar.

The purpose of the “go and see”

visit arranged by the government was to allow the Rohingyas to see for themselves the facilities. Officials say the houses have been built four feet above the ground with concrete blocks and are protected by a 13 km-long flood embankment.

Also, there are 120 cyclone shelters planned to be used as schools, medical centres and community centres. The officials say Rohingyas also could be involved in productive activities.

Some 300 Rohingyas who were rescued from the sea early this year were sheltered at Bhashan Char. HRW said Bangladesh authorities beat refugees protesting their “detention” on Bhashan Char in retribution for their hunger strike beginning on September 21, 2020 to demand reunification with their families in the Cox’s Bazar refugee camps.

It said the arbitrary detention of

However, now the war is not three but four-dimensional. Due to that, India has now gone after Rafale [French jetfighter], leaving everything out. Lately, they have been looking to buy F-35s from the US.

If we think from the side of Bangladesh and Myanmar, we have some advantages as well as some disadvantages. We need to address the geopolitical and strategic shortfalls as soon as possible.

TDS: Is the mobilisation of Myanmar troops on the border just about putting pressure on Bangladesh? Or Myanmar can really take it a little bit further?

MSH: Myanmar will not dare do that at the moment. The biggest reason is economic. Not only China, they are now trying to attract Western countries for investments. The city of Yangon in Myanmar is being rebuilt after the capital had been moved. Chinese companies took part in the bid. However, a Swedish company probably got the job. Among the big investors in Myanmar, Japan is far ahead. South Korea is also going to invest in Myanmar. Myanmar is not in a position to do anything that could adversely affect the foreign investments.

At the UN, our prime minister said that a safe zone must be created for the Rohingyas. If that is done, Myanmar will face a huge problem in the Rakhine region. I don’t think Myanmar will get into a war with Bangladesh. And China will not let that happen.

Log on to www.thedailystar.net to read the full interview.

Tk 5.64cr gold

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“The total weight of recovered gold bars was 9.512 kg and the market price of the recovered gold bars was estimated as Tk 5.64 crore,” she said, adding that Enamul frequently travelled to Dubai and he was handed over to Patenga Police Station in the city for further legal action.

The seized gold bars would be deposited to the Bangladesh Bank exchequer while a departmental case would be lodged under customs act, she added.

TIB report

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on the implementation of SDGs and objectives was not yet satisfactory, it said.

The graft watchdog came up with the observation unveiling its report “Parliament Watch” through a virtual press conference on Wednesday.

TIB Executive Director Ifekharuzzaman said parliamentary activities were not effective in formulating budgets and laws.

Quader, also the Awami League general secretary, yesterday said although the number of lawmakers from opposition parties is low, they were being given enough time and that they were taking part in all parliament activities.

He said it was not the responsibility of parliament if the opposition parties fail to increase parliamentary seats with people’s votes.

The AL general secretary said some of the MPs are lawyers, doctors and some are involved in business. They have come to parliament winning the trust and support of the people and they are taking part in various development activities, which is not a crime, he added.

Quader said it is their regular allegation that the BNP candidates are being intimidated in the by-elections.

Welcoming the BNP’s announcement that it would stay in the electoral field till the end of the by-elections, the minister said people do not believe that they would be in the field till the end.

He directed the authorities concerned to complete the work of the project within the stipulated time.

India-Bangladesh

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abroad for treatment, gave orders to the effect that families of officials stranded in Pakistan will be given a monthly allowance of Tk 100 to Tk 400 by the government of Bangladesh.

INDIA-BANGLADESH EDUCATION CONFERENCE

A meeting between the education ministers of Bangladesh and India held today agrees in principle to cooperate on holding joint seminars, arranging study tours on educational reforms and cooperation between educationists of the countries. The meeting calls for creation of joint committees on higher education, exchange in cultural fields, sports, scientific studies, research in atomic energy and space for peaceful use, social welfare and setting up of Kaviguru Museum at Shelaidah and Shahjadpur with Indian assistance.

PM CONDOLES DEATH OF WIFE OF NE WIN

Bangabandhu today expresses heartfelt condolence to General Ne Win, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Burma, on the death of his wife.

CABINET MEETS

The cabinet meets at the Gono Bhaban today with the prime minister in the chair. The meeting continues for more than an hour.

SOURCES: October 3, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Release 370 returnees

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the Code of Criminal Procedure, which allows for arrest on the basis of having “reasonable suspicion” that a person may have been involved in a criminal offence outside Bangladesh.

On July 5, 2020, 219 Bangladeshi workers, who had returned from Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain, were arrested and detained.

According to the police application to a Dhaka court, the returnees were in jails in those countries for committing “various offences” and all of them were deported to Bangladesh after their sentences were commuted.

The court has granted a police request to detain the 219 for as long as an investigation continued to determine their offence.

On July 21, 36 migrants workers who returned from Qatar were arrested and on September 1, another 81 workers who returned from Vietnam and two who returned from Qatar were arrested, after being exploited by traffickers.

“The arbitrary detention of the workers violates the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Bangladesh is a

state party,” said David Griffiths, director of the Office of the Amnesty International Secretary General.

“Not only have the Bangladeshi authorities failed to present any credible evidence of these workers’ supposed crimes, they have failed to specify any criminal charges. These men and women are being arbitrarily detained in clear violation of Bangladesh’s human rights obligations,” he said.

The rights body said with many now held in detention for several months, there is no time for further delay. The Bangladeshi authorities must either bring charges for internationally recognised criminal offences or release them immediately.

“The Bangladeshi police have effectively been given court permission to keep these workers in detention for as long as they like. There is no telling how long an investigation into hundreds of cases involving multiple countries may take. To keep people imprisoned without charge for such an indeterminate length of time is completely unacceptable,” said Griffiths.

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Barishal Sadar, Barishal
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.0694.000.07.028.20-583 Date: 28.09.2020

Invitation for Tender (NOTM)

Tender Notice No. 01/2020-21 (Off Line)

Sealed tenders are hereby invited as per Public Procurement Regulations 2008 from eligible manufacturer/suppliers/contractor as defined in the tender documents for following package of as per terms and conditions stated below:

Package No.	Name of works	Tender security (Tk)	Price of tender documents (Tk)	Time for completion (days)
INF-2018-19-100651-01	Supply & Distribution of Bench (High & Low) Different School Under Barishal Sadar Upazila.	1,00,000.00	1000.00	120 days
1	Name of Ministry	Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperative (Local Government Division)		
02	Procuring entity	Upazila Engineer, LGED, Barishal Sadar, Barishal.		
03	Invitation for	Goods.		
04	Invitation Ref. No. and date	46.600.002.00.00.035.2019-2103 Date: 26.04.2020		
05	Procurement method	National Open Tendering Method (NOTM)		
06	Name of project	Upazila Governance and Development Project (UGDP)		
07	Source of fund	GOB & JICA.		
08	Date, time and place of pre-tender meeting	11.10.2020, 11.00am, office of the undersigned.		
09	Last date, time, places of selling tender documents	28.10.2020, 5.00pm. a) The Executive Engineer, LGED, Barishal. b) The Upazila Engineer, LGED, Babugong, Barishal. c) Office of the undersigned.		
10	Last date, time, places of receiving tender	29.10.2020, 01.00pm, office of the undersigned.		
11	Last date, time, places of opening tender	29.10.2020, 02.00pm, office of the undersigned.		
12	Tender shall be valid for a period of 120 days after tender opening and must be accompanied by the tender security specified above. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject all the tenders without assigning and reason whatsoever. Interested tenderers may obtain further information from the undersigned and purchase the tender documents in Cash/Treasury Chalan/Bank Draft from the places mentioned above. The tenderer or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend the opening of tenders. Tender security must be submitted in favour of Upazila Engineer, LGED, Barishal Sadar, Barishal. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.			

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GD-1573