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SHAH CEMENT

ROHINGYA CRISIS

US to work with partners for solution

Says US deputy secy ahead of donors' confce on refugees today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States will urgently work with its partners across the globe for a sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis, apart from providing humanitarian support.

"The US recognises that a long-term refugee population is not an option. We're going to work with equal urgency both to address the humanitarian needs of this population but also to find a lasting resolution," said Stephen Biegun, the US deputy secretary of state.

The statement comes just ahead of a donors' conference being hosted by US, UK, EU and UN Refugee Agency today to mobilise fund. This year less than half of the requested \$1 billion for Rohingyas has been received so far.

Dhaka emphasises that mobilising fund was not enough and seeks Rohingya repatriation at the soonest as Bangladesh has been facing multiple challenges for sheltering nearly a million Rohingyas, including the 750,000 who fled a military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine State in 2017.

No Rohingya returned to Myanmar as of now, while the UN Security Council could not take any concrete actions for opposition from veto powers China and Russia.

China has been seeking bilateral solution to the crisis, but the efforts have not been effective so far.

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The Trading Corporation of Bangladesh has been selling potatoes for Tk 25 per kg in front of the Jatiya Press Club. With the prices of essentials soaring high, the TCB has been selling onions, lentils, potatoes and oil. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Retailers still charge higher than govt-set price of potato

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Potato was sold for Tk 42 to Tk 48 a kg in retail markets in the capital yesterday, a day after the government fixed the retail price at Tk 35.

Both retailers and wholesalers blamed poor supply for the higher prices.

Visiting Jatrabari kitchen market, this correspondent found that potato was being sold for Tk 42 to Tk 48 a kg.

Schoolteacher Sharif Ahmed said, "I saw a TV report last night [Tuesday night]. It said the government has fixed the retail price of potato at Tk 35 a kg. But they [retailers] are asking for Tk 44 or more."

Swapan Mia, a retailer at the kitchen market, said he bought potato from Shyambazar wholesale market for Tk 38 a kg yesterday.

He said he must have to sell the vegetable for Tk 44 a kg to make a profit.

Rabiul, a wholesaler at Karwan Bazar, said he

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Dhaka-Siliguri train service to start next March

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and India are planning to introduce a passenger train service on Dhaka-Siliguri route from March next year as the work for restoration of Chilahati-Haldibari rail link is to be completed by this year.

The prime ministers of both the countries will jointly inaugurate the inter-country rail communication via Chilahati-Haldibari border in December, marking the Victory Day of Bangladesh, said a press release of the railways ministry yesterday.

The release was issued after newly appointed Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami made a courtesy call on Railways Minister Nurul Islam Suhan at the latter's office at Rail Bhavan in the capital.

Bangladesh Railway is implementing a project titled "Construction of Broad Gauge Rail Line between Chilahati and Chilahati Border for Connectivity with India" at a cost of around Tk 80 crore.

The infrastructure works in the Indian side is complete, according to a report of Times of India online run on September 19. Before the 1965 India-Pakistan war, there were eight railways links between Bangladesh and India, of which four are now in operation.

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Tk 785cr transferred by Pakistani industrialists

October 22, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

PLUNDER OF INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES

About Tk 785 crore in plant and machinery, bank balance and cash have been transferred by the West Pakistani industrialists and big industry houses to West Pakistan on the eve of the liberation of Bangladesh, according to a preliminary survey conducted by the government.

The survey shows that the West Pakistani tycoons, who got their industries out of the foreign exchange and loan quota for the then East Pakistan and loans from the local banks under the patronage of the Islamabad Government, had taken out their bank balances and cash out of Bangladesh when they found that the days of West Pakistan's military rulers were numbered in Bangladesh. In many cases the West Pakistani industrialists dismantled whole plants and machinery and transferred them to their sanctuaries in West Pakistan with the connivance and active help of military rulers of Pakistan.

ALPP ACCEPTS 10 AMENDMENTS SO FAR

About 10 amendments to the Constitution Bill proposed by Awami League members of the Constituent Assembly are so far accepted

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



24 more die, 1,545 test positive in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-four people have died from Covid-19 in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday, according to a press release issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

This took the reported death toll to 5,723.

In the same 24 hours, 1,545 people tested positive for coronavirus, taking the total number of officially acknowledged infections to 3,93,131.

Yesterday's positive cases were reported after testing 14,086 samples in 110 laboratories. The positivity rate was 10.97 percent.

The overall positivity rate is now 17.82 percent.

Meanwhile, 1,704 Covid-19 patients recovered and the total number of recoveries from Covid-19 was 3,08,845 as of yesterday. The recovery

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Nasa to grab a piece of asteroid, bring it to Earth



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Nasa is preparing to grab a piece of asteroid and bring it back to Earth.

The dramatic manoeuvre will be the culmination of two years that a Nasa spacecraft has spent orbiting and examining an asteroid known as Benu, hundreds of millions of miles away.

The Osiris-Rex mission will see the spacecraft drop onto the asteroid, scoop up a piece of rubble, and stash it away so that it can be brought back down to Earth.

The drama will unfold on Tuesday as the US has

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'GUNFIGHT' WITH BGB Rohingya 'yaba trader' killed in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A Rohingya yaba trader was killed in a "gunfight" with Border Guard Bangladesh in Naikhyangchhari upazila of the district early yesterday, officers said.

Adham, 23, was a resident of Tambru Konar Para Rohingya camp, said Lt Col Ali Haider Azad Ahmed, commanding officer of BGB battalion-34.

BGB men also found 40,000 yaba pills, a locally-made firearm, and two bullets at Baishfari Makkortila, where the so-called gunfight took place around 3:45am.

According to a press release, the incident happened after BGB officials stopped a group of 10-12 men trespassing into Bangladesh from Myanmar through the hills.

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AL activist 'murdered' in Bogura

Police recover his body from a pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

An Awami League activist and former Union Parishad member was allegedly murdered in Bogura's Shibganj upazila early yesterday.

The dead Mostafizar Rahman, 52, of the Pashchim Jahangirabad village, was a member of the upazila AL unit and an owner of a local brick kiln.

Police recovered his body from near a pond adjacent to his home around 7:30am.

Speaking to The Daily Star, SM Badiuzzaman, officer-in-charge of

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 22

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4:50 12:45 4:00 5:36 7:15

JAMAT 5:25 1:15 4:15 5:39 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



The underpass at Zia Saroni has been damaged for over a year. As the Dhaka North City Corporation has not taken any steps to get it fixed, the place has now become prone to accidents and gridlocks. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Trump warns of 'Biden depression'

Touts economic success in Pennsylvania; Obama to enter campaign for Biden

AGENCIES

Former president Barack Obama was scheduled to hold his first rally in support of US election front runner Joe Biden, while Donald Trump campaigned frantically and accused his opponent, who stayed home in Delaware, of going "into hiding."

Less than two weeks before the polls, the contrast in campaign strategies between Trump, 74, and Biden, 77, has never been more pronounced: the Republican president led another rally in the battleground state of Pennsylvania Tuesday, while Democrat Biden stayed mostly out of sight ahead of a pivotal televised debate later in the week.

At an airport rally in Erie in the northwest corner of the state, Trump said Pennsylvania could put him over the top in the Nov. 3 election and warned that Biden would decimate the state's energy and manufacturing jobs.

He said he needed a second term in the White House to ensure a successful recovery from the novel coronavirus pandemic and its economic fallout.

"This is an election between the Trump super recovery, which is happening right now, and a Biden depression," Trump told cheering supporters, who as at most of his rallies were packed shoulder to shoulder, with many not wearing masks.

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