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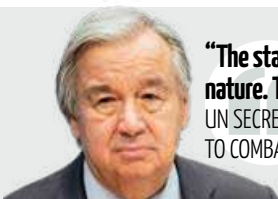
AGRAHAYAN 19, 1427 BS

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"Through opposing the construction of sculpture of Bangabandhu, they are also opposing the country's constitution and acting against the spirit of the Liberation War."
WORKERS PARTY PRESIDENT RASHED KHAN MENON



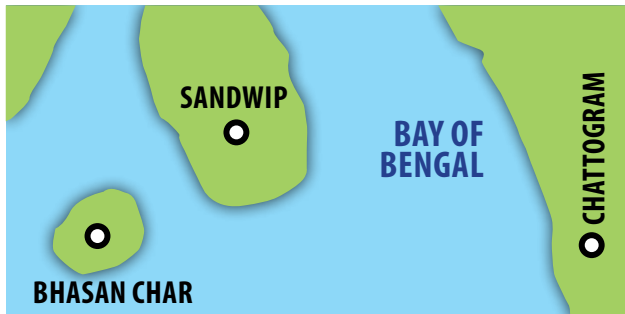
"The state of the planet is broken. Humanity is waging war on nature. This is suicidal. ...There is no vaccine for the planet."
UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTONIO GUTERRES SLAMS FAILURE TO COMBAT GLOBAL WARMING



"I want to play with him for sure, next year we have to do it."
BRAZILIAN FOOTBALLER NEYMAR REVEALS HIS DESIRE TO REUNITE WITH LIONEL MESSI NEXT SEASON

ROHINGYA RELOCATION

First batch off to Bhasan Char



PORIMOL PALMA and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

The government yesterday began transferring Rohingyas to Bhasan Char from the congested camps in Ukhtia and Teknaf where about a million of them have been living.

The process has begun as the UN and rights groups allege that they have limited information about what has been going on and that the government has yet to allow a technical team to assess the feasibility of the housing project in Bhasan Char, an island around 37 miles off the coast of Bay of Bengal under Hatiya upazila of Noakhali.

Officials and Rohingya leaders said around 600 families from the camps in Kutupalong and Teknaf were taken by buses to Ukhtia Degree College, some 2 km away from the Kutupalong camp, on Wednesday night, under tight security by the Armed Police Battalion.

"We were provided breakfast and then lunch at the transit camp [Ukhtia Degree College]. Then, about 40 Rohingyas got into each of the buses for Bhasan Char," Mizanur Rahman, a Rohingya community leader, told The Star.

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A Rohingya refugee looks ahead from a bus that is taking them to Bhasan Char from a refugee camp in Cox's Bazar yesterday. Around 2,500 Rohingyas would be taken to the island in the Bay of Bengal from camps in Cox's Bazar.

PHOTO: AFP

Rights groups call for halting resettlement

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Human rights groups have called for halting the relocation of Rohingyas to Bhasan Char and ensuring full and meaningful participation of the refugees in the process.

The call came as the government yesterday began relocating around 2,500 Rohingyas to the island, where Bangladesh Navy has prepared accommodation for one lakh Rohingyas under a housing project.

Government officials said nearly 1,000 Rohingyas left the camps in Cox's Bazar for the island in Noakhali's Hatiya in 20 buses.

The Tk 3,100-crore housing project was taken up in 2017, after about 750,000 Rohingyas fled a military campaign in Myanmar's Rakhine state and took shelter in heavily-congested camps in Ukhtia and Teknaf.

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Atrocities of 1971 cannot be forgotten and forgiven

Hasina tells Pakistan high commissioner

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh cannot forget and forgive atrocities committed by Pakistan in 1971, according to a press release of the Press Wing of the Prime Minister's Office. "Incidents of 1971 cannot be forgotten or forgiven," she said while Pakistan High Commissioner in Dhaka Imran Ahmed Siddiqui



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More stimulus to offset Covid shock

ADB working on to lend \$1b for Bangladesh's economic recovery; slow disbursement of funds from govt-announced stimulus packages

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government and the development partners plan to inject more money into the economy for its recovery amid the pandemic while the progress in implementing the stimulus packages for employment creation and revitalisation of the rural economy remains slow.

The Asian Development Bank is likely to give Bangladesh \$1 billion for economic recovery and tackling the Covid fallout. Another Tk 3,000 crore may be allocated for expanding the scheme for credit guarantee on small loans. The fund will be provided by the government and the World Bank.

Fresh funds are in the pipeline for Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) and Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Foundation

for providing loans to small and cottage industries, top government officials and representatives of development partners said at a discussion in the capital yesterday.

The Finance Division organised the discussion titled "Employment Creation and Revitalising Rural Economy" to evaluate the progress of the schemes taken up since the pandemic hit the country.

Speaking at the discussion, Manmohan Parkash, ADB country director in Bangladesh, said they are working on a new programme involving \$1 billion for Bangladesh for tackling the economic fallout from the pandemic.

Of the amount, \$500 million will be for resource mobilisation and SME financing and the rest for health and social protection, he said.

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KEY POINTS

Additional Tk 3,000 crore for credit guarantee for small loan

New fund in pipeline for BSCIC

Less than half the amount of previous stimulus packages disbursed so far

Some banks' non-cooperation' blamed for slow progress of stimulus packages

Charges pressed against eight

All of them former BCL men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police yesterday pressed charges against eight persons in the case filed over the gang-rape of a woman at Murari Chand (MC) College hostel in Sylhet on September 25.

The case's investigation officer Sub-inspector Indranil Bhattacharya submitted the charge sheet to Sylhet Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Abul Kashem's court.

In the charge sheet, six are charged with raping the woman while two are accused of assisting them.

The rape accused are Saifur Rahman, 28, Shah Mahbubur Rahman Rony, 25, Tarekul Islam, 28, Arjun Laskar, 26, Mohammad Ainuddin alias Ainul, 26, and Misbaul Islam Rajon, 27.

Other accused are Rabiul Hasan alias Islam, 25 and Mahfuzur Rahman Masum, 25. All eight are arrested and in jail.

Police arranged a press conference at the office of deputy commissioner (south) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP) in the afternoon where they updated about the progress of the case.

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THE THIRD VIEW



MAHFUZZ ANAM

'HOW DEMOCRACIES DIE' There is much to learn from this book

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SAFETY HARD TO AFFORD

A small room made with corrugated iron sheets, for pigeon rearing, rests on a tree near the first floor of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute's gymnasium building in Tejgaon. For years, families of nearly two dozen low-paid employees of the institute have been living in the dilapidated building as they can't afford to live anywhere else. Some of them rear and sell pigeons to make some extra money. Top right, a family inside a common kitchen in the three-story building with no gas connection. Bottom right, inside the pigeon coop.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Israel behind killing of Iran's top scientist

Says senior US official

CNN ONLINE

A senior US administration official said Israel was behind the assassination of Iran's top nuclear scientist but declined to give details about whether the Trump administration knew about the attack before it was carried out or provided support.

The official said that in the past, Israelis have shared information with the US about their targets and covert operations before carrying them out but would not say if they did so in this instance. The Iranian nuclear scientist, Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh, who was killed last Friday, had been a target for the Israelis for a long time, the official added.

Iran has blamed Israel for the attack and said the operation bore the hallmarks of Israel's foreign intelligence agency, the Mossad. While Iran has provided no evidence of Israeli involvement, Israel has neither denied nor claimed responsibility for Fakhri-zadeh's death.

The New York Times first reported that a US official said Israel was behind the attack over the weekend.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Israel less than two weeks before the attack was carried out, part of a regional trip that included the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, all places where he discussed Iran with his counterparts.

President Donald Trump has given Pompeo carte blanche to continue carrying out the administration's "maximum pressure" campaign over the next two months, the official said, adding that there will be more US sanctions on Iran this week and next.

The threat level to Americans in the region has not increased since the attack, particularly because Iran is

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