

NEWS IN brief

US concerned about Suu Kyi's safety

AFP, Washington

The United States voiced concern Wednesday for the safety of Myanmar democracy champion Aung San Suu Kyi after published threats against her, saying the authorities had a duty to protect her.

"We remain concerned about Aung San Suu Kyi's safety and security. This is a fundamental responsibility of Burmese authorities to ensure her safety and that of all Burmese citizens," State Department spokesman Philip Crowley said, referring to Myanmar's former name.

Airport suicide bomber served in Russian marines

AFP, Moscow

A 20-year-old man identified as the suicide bomber behind a blast that killed 36 people in the Moscow airport last month served in the marines in the Russian Far East, a media report said yesterday.

Officials have identified Magomed Yevloyev, a native of the Caucasus region's impoverished Ingushetia, as the bomber in the January 24 explosion at Domodedovo airport that also wounded more than 100 people.

Tanzania arms depot blasts kill 17

AFP, Dar Es Salaam

A series of blasts levelled arms depots at a Tanzanian army base and killed at least 17 people, Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda said yesterday, in the second such incident in two years.

The blasts, which the prime minister said also left at least 145 people wounded, went off inside the Gongo la Mboto army base in Dar es Salaam late Wednesday and destroyed several arms and ammunition depots.

"By this morning, there were 13 bodies at Amana hospital, two at Temeke hospital and two more at Muhimbili national hospital," he told parliament in a session aired live on state radio.

Thai prison riot kills two

AFP, Bangkok

Two prisoners were shot dead and up to 40 injured after the discovery of an apparent escape attempt from the maximum security wing of a Thai jail sparked a riot, an official said yesterday.

Around 50 inmates armed with knives, rocks and bottles attacked guards at the prison in Ratchaburi province, west of Bangkok, after authorities discovered cuts to a security fence, the jail commander told AFP.

Vacancy

Sainsbury's

Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd, one of the UK's leading retailers, are looking for experienced candidates to fill exciting positions in their Sainsbury's Asia direct sourcing division, based in Bangladesh.

Technical Manager - Clothing

Key Responsibilities

- To manage and lead a team of Technologists in various locations to deliver all technical aspects of product development and ongoing technical management of clothing products from Asia.
- Ensure products meet quality, legal & safety requirements and on time delivery.
- Maintain, develop and train team members to ensure core competencies are developed and capable of meeting current and future challenges.
- Maintain effective working relationship with internal stakeholders in Asia and UK.
- Assist Head of Clothing to develop and implement QA/QC Strategies to support the business growth.
- Work closely with merchandising managers to develop and execute strategy for category delivery.
- Handle assigned cross functional projects independently, involving relevant internal and external stakeholders where necessary.

Core Areas of Knowledge, Skills & Experience

- 10 years+ experience in relevant QA/QC discipline gained from sourcing, retail or manufacturing background preferably with UK retail operations.
- Excellent leadership skills and people management with fluent written and spoken English.
- Robust personality able to work under pressure and make balanced decisions.
- Familiar with UK legislation and requirements.

Merchandising Manager - Clothing

Key Responsibilities

- Lead & manage merchandising team to source great product at continuously competitive prices that meet our quality and technical requirements.
- Drive the category forward through proactive sourcing of new products and new suppliers.
- Establish excellent communication channels with key UK stakeholders to identify profit opportunities through direct sourcing and meet their product priorities.
- Source a robust supply base combining regional manufacturing strengths whilst maximizing the potential returns from new & emerging markets.
- Manage team's performance against key targets including cost savings, shipments, operating costs against budget as well as a range of operational metrics (OTD, inspection pass rate, customer returns).

Core Areas of Knowledge, Skills & Experience

- Strong leadership potential in improving performance in your own team and in your supply base.
- Strong attention to details, ability to engage in the details to resolve a challenge or issue.
- High level of commercial acumen, excellent negotiation skills, ability to think on your feet and being a good tactical operator.
- Excellent knowledge of UK market trends, competition, pricing and brands.
- Strong relationship builder, ability to identify & engage key stakeholders in both the UK and in Asia.
- First class knowledge of production processes, techniques, and product components.
- Good project management skills.
- Extensive (7 years+) sourcing and merchandising experience across different product categories across the region.

We offer a 5 day week with excellent benefits, plenty of work variety and a great team atmosphere. Interested candidates please send a full resume, availability, present and expected salary to us within 15 days from today to the following email address, quoting the role you are applying for:

hrbd@sainsburys.com.hk. Or send hard copies to our HR Department at:

Sainsbury's Asia Limited, Level 3, Concord IK Tower, Plot # 2, North Avenue, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh.

'Death', fire in hills

FROM PAGE 20

Rangipara village under Longudu upazila yesterday, a day after a Bangalee settler was killed by unknown criminals.

Nobody was killed or injured in the arson attack, police said.

However, there are conflicting reports about the number of houses burnt down.

While locals said at least 40 houses were set on fire, officer-in-charge of Longudu Police Station said he heard about 12-14 houses being burnt.

Masood-ul-Hassan, superintendent of police of Rangamati, said: "I heard that two to three houses were burnt but I cannot

confirm whose houses were those or who set the fire."

"Bangalee settlers burnt at least 30-40 houses between 4:00pm and 6:00pm," said Atul Chakma, a resident of neighbouring Shanti Nagar village.

Locals said two Bangalee settlers Sagu Sheikh and Saber Ali went to a nearby forest at Gulsakhali to collect firewood Tuesday morning. They did not return home that day.

Next day, Sagu Sheikh came back but there was no sign of Saber. Later on the day, his body was found in the forest.

The settlers blamed the indigenous people for the killing and brought out a procession at Longudu

upazila around 4:00pm yesterday that followed the fire incident.

The Daily Star could not talk to Sagu as to what happened in the woods.

Parbatty Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) condemned the arson attack and termed it a conspiracy by a vested quarter for grabbing land of the indigenous people.

Parbatty Bangalee Chhatra Parishad (PBCP), a student platform of Bangalee settlers, yesterday brought out a procession in the town protesting the killing of their man.

An all-party meeting was called for today to discuss the incident, the SP told this correspondent.

12 killed in Vietnam boat mishap

AFP, Halong Bay

Twelve people, most of them foreigners, drowned yesterday when their tour boat suddenly sank while they slept in Halong Bay, one of Vietnam's top tourist destinations, officials said.

Visitors from the United States, Sweden, Russia, Britain, Japan, France and Switzerland were killed, the government said, describing it as a rare accident.

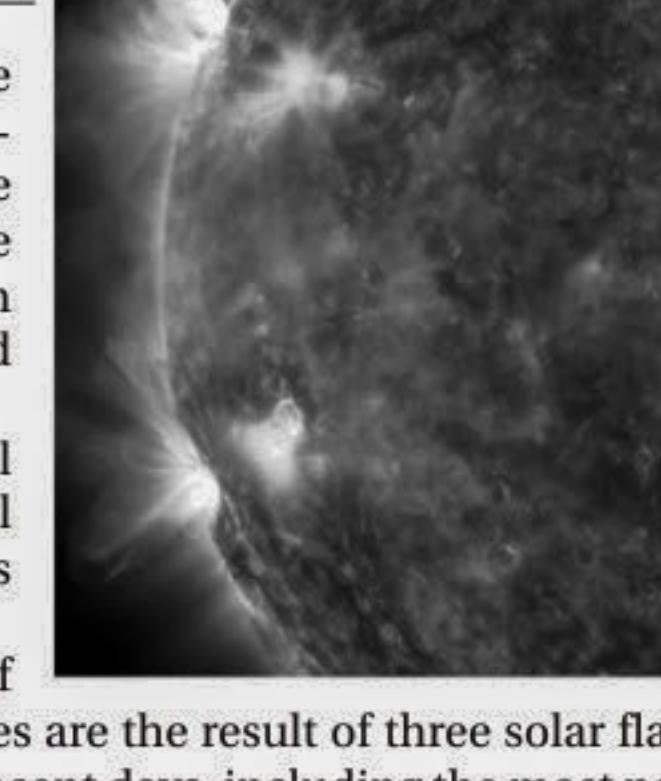
One survivor recounted a frantic attempt to escape from below deck as the vessel went down abruptly before dawn in calm weather on the picturesque bay, renowned for its striking limestone towers and emerald waters.

"Oh my God... The ship is sinking. We need to get off!" George Fosmire, a 23-year-old American, remembered his girlfriend warning after the listing ship tipped her out of bed in their cabin.

Fosmire, his voice breaking, said he feared his girlfriend and another young American sharing their cabin did not escape the rushing waters. The United States embassy in Hanoi later confirmed that two of its nationals were killed.

Solar flare eruptions set to reach Earth

BBC ONLINE



Scientists around the world will be watching closely as three eruptions from the Sun reach the Earth over yesterday and today.

These "coronal mass ejections" will slam into the Earth's magnetic shield.

The waves of charged solar particles are the result of three solar flares directed at Earth in recent days, including the most powerful since 2006.

The biggest flares can disrupt technology, including power grids, communications systems and satellites.

The northern lights (Aurora Borealis) may also be visible further south than is normally the case - including from northern parts of the UK.

"Our current view is that the effect of the solar flare is likely to reach Earth later today, possibly tomorrow morning," said Alan Thomson, head of geomagnetism at the British Geological Survey (BGS).

He told BBC News: "In the scientific community, there's a feeling that it's not as intense as we first thought it might be. But it's possible still that it could be a large enough event for us to see the northern lights in the UK."

However, weather forecasts suggested cloudy conditions could mar views of any aurora.

The US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (Noaa) said that three coronal mass ejections were en route as the result of solar flares on the 13, 14 and 15 February.

"The last of the three seems to be the fastest and may catch both of the forerunners about mid-to-late day tomorrow, February 17," read a statement from Noaa's Space Weather Prediction Centre yesterday.

3 tigers poisoned

FROM PAGE 20

"It took us one and a half months to kill those," Jamal told The Daily Star at Bagerhat forest office after his arrest.

Of the three, two were adult tigers and the other an adult tigress, said Mihir Kumar Doe, divisional forest officer (DFO) of the Sundarbans.

Jamal, son of Sekander Fakir, hails from Uttar Tafalbari village of Sharankhola upazila, reports our Bagerhat correspondent.

THE BRUTALITY
Jamal claimed that he and three others used to fish for living.

"We would not have done it hadn't the men of Julfikar group pressed us for quite some time," Jamal said.

Julfikar is the head of the four major groups operating in Sharankhola and Chandpali ranges that have been killing animals and collecting their hides and skulls for a long time, locals said.

The other gangs are known as Shohagh Bahini (group), Razu Bahini and Motaleb Bahini.

According to Jamal, seven to eight of Julfikar's men, mainly based in Mongla area, hired him and three others to "kill some tigers".

The other three are Khair Mia, Dholu Mollah and Hemaat Hawlader of the same village Jamal comes from. Police are trying to catch them.

However, to "kill some tigers" they needed to kill other animals to use their meat as bait.

"We used to kill some wild pigs first. To attract the tigers, we used to cut the pigs into pieces and scatter those in their territory after mixing poisons and sedatives," he explained. Once the tigers were dead after taking the poisoned meat, they skinned the animals, chopped off the flesh and buried the pieces to clean the bones off the flesh, Jamal added.

THE OPERATION

On a tip-off, forest officials of the East Zone of the Sundarbans decided to contact him in guise of buyers.

"We have been in touch with them for over a month. As we kept bargaining, we were becoming sure that they have been in the illegal trade for quite some time," Mihir, the forest officer, said.

After several days of hard bargaining, Jamal agreed to sell each skull for Tk 1,000, each square feet of skin for Tk 17,000 and each kilogram of bones for Tk 20,000.

"In total, we agreed to pay him Tk 16.70 lakh and fixed Wednesday morning for delivery," Mihir said.

As decided, the forest officials went to meet Jamal at an abandoned house at Bangla Bazar village in Sharankhola on the day.

Meanwhile, the Sharankhola Contingent of the Coast Guard and forest officials laid a siege to the area and caught Jamal.

The skin of the biggest tiger is over 10 feet long. The other two are a little below 10 feet. The 138 pieces of bones weigh 31 kilograms.

They were all taken to Bagerhat forest office.

Our Bagerhat correspondent reported that the forest officials invited police and Rapid Action Battalion members to interrogate Jamal.

They hope to capture some "major players" in the trade following Jamal's arrest.

According to law enforcers, 10-15 major groups of poachers are operating in the Sundarbans scattered over the southern districts from Barguna to Satkhira.

Huge support for Yunus

FROM PAGE 1

As many as 50 charities and public figures, including James Wolfensohn, former World Bank president, Jagdish Sharan Verma, former Chief Justice of India, and Yardeley Smith, a French born American actress, on Wednesday said Yunus and Grameen Bank have fallen victim to a campaign of misinformation, according to a statement of Friends of Grameen.

Grameen Bank denied all the allegations saying the issue had been amicably settled between the bank and the Norwegian government, one of its main donors, over a decade ago.

"We are deeply concerned by the ongoing attacks against Professor Yunus and Grameen Bank, that are politically orchestrated," said Robinson in the statement.

Mary Robinson, also former United Nations high commissioner for human rights, chairs the honorary committee while Maria Nowak, president of pioneering French microfinance institution ADIE, heads the executive committee.

Prof Yunus, who shared

the Nobel Prize with Grameen Bank in 2006, has been targeted with increasingly aggressive attacks by the government as well as his opponents following a Norwegian documentary, released in December last year, accusing him and the bank of malpractice.

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"We are deeply concerned by the ongoing attacks against Professor Yunus and Grameen Bank, that are politically orchestrated," said Robinson in the statement.

She said while some micro lenders have become lucrative commercial enterprises, Yunus and Grameen Bank follow a sustainable model -- with very transparent and reasonable interest rates -- making the borrowers owners of the bank.

Grameen Bank lends its clients at 20 percent interest rate, one of the lowest in Bangladesh, where the industry averages between 20 and 30 percent with some charging as high as 45 percent interest rate.

"Because of the importance of such a role model, our duty is to protect the integrity of Professor Yunus and the independence of Grameen Bank," said Robinson.

The statement comes after Finance Minister AMA Muhith called for Yunus to step aside from his position in the bank until the government's three-month-long probe finishes.

In December last, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina accused the Nobel laureate of treating Grameen Bank as his "personal property" and claimed the group was "sucking blood from the poor".

There are about 1,200 micro lending organisations in Bangladesh, catering to over 3 crore clients, who do not have access to formal banking.

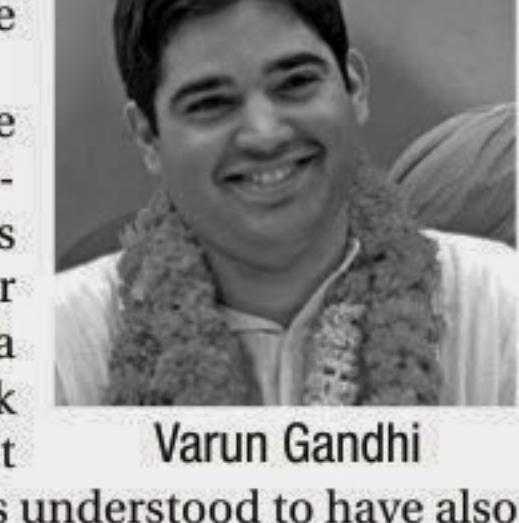
Varun invites Sonia to wedding

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party lawmaker Varun Gandhi on Wednesday met his aunt and ruling Congress party President Sonia Gandhi at her residence here to invite her to his wedding with a Bengali girl here next month.

Varun, son of another BJP lawmaker Maneka Gandhi, daughter-in-law of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, met Sonia for an hour over lunch at her house.

This was Varun's first meeting with Sonia



Varun Gandhi

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

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- Negotiate and secure projects.
- Target focused, hard worker and ability to work independently under pressure.
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