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Myanmar 'unleashed violence'

Troops opened fire on Rohingyas, committed rape, says HRW

AFP, Bangkok

Myanmar security forces opened fire on Rohingya Muslims, committed rape and stood by as rival mobs attacked each other during a recent wave of sectarian violence, a rights watchdog said yesterday.

The authorities failed to protect both Muslims and Buddhists and then "unleashed a campaign of violence and mass roundups against the Rohingya", New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a report.

The violence which erupted in June in Rakhine state between Buddhists and Rohingya has left about 80 people dead from both sides, based on official figures -- an estimate that HRW said appeared "grossly underestimated".

Hundreds of Rohingya men and boys have been rounded up and remain incommunicado in the western region of the country formerly known as Burma, it said.

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US swimming legend Michael Phelps powers his way to winning the 4x200m freestyle relay gold, a record 19th individual medal in Olympic history, at the Aquatics Centre on Tuesday night.

Phelps rewrites history

AFP, London

Michael Phelps became the most decorated Olympian of all time on Tuesday, winning a record 19th medal in the pool.

Phelps anchored the US team to a resounding victory in the 4x200m freestyle relay to secure gold and beat the record of 18 medals amassed by Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina between 1956 and 1964.

The American had earlier had his bid for a 200m butterfly Olympic treble thwarted by Chad Clos of South Africa, but the silver allowed him to match the record medal haul before the relay

PHOTO: AFP

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Mollah involved in massacre

360-370 people killed at Pallabi in Dhaka in a single day, witness tells war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War crimes accused Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah directly took part in the killing of 360-370 Bangladeshis at Alubdi village in Pallabi of Dhaka on April 24, 1971, an eyewitness told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday.

Shafiuddin Mollah, who lost his uncle in the killing spree, gave his deposition before the tribunal as the sixth prosecution witness in the war crimes case against the Jamaat leader.

The 60-year-old witness said he was hiding beneath a bush from where he saw Quader Mollah firing on the people at Alubdi.

The Jamaat leader is facing six charges of crimes against humanity at the tribunal. The fifth charge relates to the atrocities at Alubdi village. He was produced at the dock yesterday.

During his 33-minute testimony, Shafiuddin said at the time of Fajr prayers

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GAZIPUR-4 BY-POLLS JP ready to contest alone

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

The ruling Awami League-led grand alliance's key component, the Jatiya Party, has taken the Gazipur-4 by-election as an "acid test" to assess its popularity as it prepares to contest the next parliamentary elections independently.

The decision came at a meeting of the JP presidium on Monday night at its Banani office with party chief HM Ershad in the chair.

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'INDIGENOUS' STATUS CHT people vexed at govt stance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has been asking Adivasis in the country not to observe the International Indigenous Day, raising questions about its will to implement the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord.

A letter issued by the Local Government and Rural Development ministry on March 11 directed all district administrations not to cooperate in celebrations of the indigenous day and disseminated a message to the effect that there were no indigenous people in the country.

The world's indigenous communities and rights activists have been observing the day on August 9 every year since 1994 following a decision

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you support prime minister's suggestion of forming a small cabinet including the opposition ahead of the next parliamentary polls?

Yes (24.2%)
No (70.7%)
No Comments (5.1%)

TOTAL VOTES: 451

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the next general elections can be held in a neutral manner if the incumbent prime minister heads the proposed interim government?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

JCD COMMITTEE Khaleda to take Tarique's advice

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The next committee of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) will be formed soon in consultation with BNP's senior vice-chairman Tarique Rahman, who is now in London.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on Monday night said, "I myself will make an outline of the committee soon. But before announcing the committee, I will talk to Tarique though he is sick and not involved in active politics."

She was addressing the JCD leaders in a closed-door meeting at her Gulshan office in the capital.

Khaleda has started talks with the JCD men from July

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'Dead man' back after 23 years

STAR REPORT

For 23 years, his family in Bangladesh thought he was dead. But then an anonymous caller informed a local official in May that he was alive and in jail in Pakistan.

On Tuesday, 52-year-old Moslemuddin Sarkar, who had been missing since 1989, returned home to Bishnupur village under Rangamatia union in Phulbaria upazila, Mymensingh.

Pakistani officials freed him from prison in Karachi on Monday night and immediately deported him, reports AP.

Sarkar, bearded and sharp-eyed but ravaged by fatigue, walked out of the concourse in Dhaka's

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In a much unexpected occurrence, the elderly mother gets her young son back, though as an aged man.

PHOTO: STAR



This fire on Road 7 at Block-A in the capital's Mirpur-10 rages on because of leakages in the underground gas pipeline. The photo was taken yesterday.

PRAYER TIMING August 2

Fajr 4:06 4:11
Zohr 12:45 1:15
Asr 5:00 5:15
Maghrib 6:44 6:54
Esha 8:15 8:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

MR. NOODLES

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

| RAMADAN | DATE | SEHRI | IFTAR |
|---------|-------|---------|---------|
| 13 | 2 Aug | | 6.44 pm |
| 14 | 3 Aug | 4.02 am | 6.44 pm |

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