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Human rights under attack everywhere

Says UN chief as General Assembly debate begins

AFP, United Nations

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon yesterday warned that human rights were "under attack" throughout the world as he opened the General Assembly debate.

"From barrel bombs to beheadings, from the deliberate starvation of civilians to the assault on hospitals, UN shelters and aid convoys, human rights and the rule of law are under attack," the UN chief told the 193-nation Assembly.

Ban cited the "new depths of barbarity" carried out by jihadists in Syria and Iraq and drew up a long list of world crises: the war in Gaza, fighting in Ukraine, South Sudan and Central African Republic.

"It has been a terrible year for the principles enshrined in the United Nations charter" that puts peace and security at the center of its mission, said Ban.

The number of refugees, displaced people and asylum seekers has reached its highest level since World War II and the United Nations is struggling to respond to a record number of appeals for food aid.

"This year, the horizon of hope is darkened."

Ban alluded to East-West tensions over the fighting in Ukraine and the turmoil in Libya and elsewhere in the Arab world as setbacks in building world peace.

"Cold War ghosts have returned to haunt our times. We have seen so much of the Arab Spring go violently wrong," he said.

"The world's 'fasten seat belt' light is illuminated. Turbulence is testing the multilateral system, national



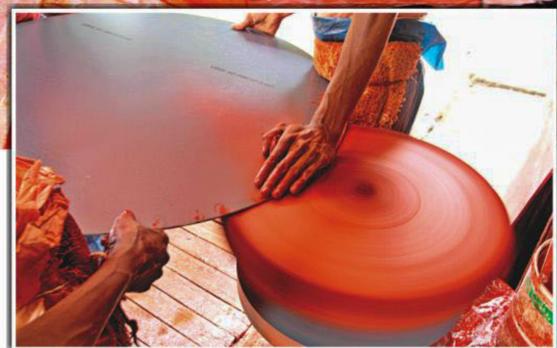
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NONE CARES FOR THEIR SAFETY

Three men working at a glass-finishing factory in the capital's Banani. The factory owner provided them with no safety gear, not even to protect their eyes. All they have for protection are sheets of plastic and pieces of rags, which they devised themselves. They get around Tk 6,000-7,000 a month for their risky jobs.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



India's first spacecraft put into Mars orbit

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday created history by successfully placing its spacecraft into the orbit around Mars on its maiden attempt.

With this, India became the first Asian country and the fourth in the world to put its spacecraft into the

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Sramik Dal faces factional feud

Faction announces new committee challenging Khaleda-approved leadership

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Announcement of a counter committee of the Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal has put the BNP in fresh trouble ahead of its planned anti-government movement after Eid-ul-Azha demanding a fresh election under a non-party administration.

Abul Khayar Khaza, a leader of a faction of the Sramik Dal, yesterday announced a full-fledged 201-member committee declaring Nazim Uddin and himself as president and general secretary at a press conference in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Nazim, however, denied his involvement with the counter committee.

"I am not involved with this committee in any way," he said.

Terming the recently announced labour wing of the BNP invalid, Khayar alleged that a few leaders of the party formed it to serve

their own interests. He, however, could not provide any detail of their dubious role.

In mid-May, Khaleda Zia approved a 201-member Sramik Dal committee with Anwar Hossain and Nurul Islam as president and general secretary. It was announced through a media release undersigned by BNP vice-chairman Abdullah Al Noman.

According to the country's labour law, there is no need for the main party's approval to announce a committee of any political party's labour wing, said Khayar at the briefing.

He also said a list of his committee has been sent to the labor directorate for approval.

The Khaleda-approved committee triggered controversy as many in BNP circles consider Anwar and Nurul "incapable and unworthy" of leading the Sramik Dal.

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Cheated in Sudan

32 returnees allege they were paid much less than manpower agencies promised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cheated by manpower recruiters, some 32 Sudan-returnees yesterday demanded compensation from two recruiting firms and cancellation of their licences.

The victims made the demand when they formed a human chain in front of the expatriates welfare and overseas employment ministry in the capital.

They complained that recruiting agencies Al-Purbasha Enterprise and Golam Rabbi International took Tk 2.5 lakh from each of the jobseekers on average for placing them with a textile factory in Sudan

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Youth jailed for 7 years

Cyber Tribunal convicted him for producing satirical song on Bangabandhu, Hasina

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A youth was sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 10,000, in default to suffer another six months, yesterday for producing a satirical song on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Judge KM Shamsul Alam of the Cyber Tribunal of Dhaka passed the verdict after cross-examination of 10 prosecution witnesses.

Prosecutors say 25-year-old Tonmoy Mollick, a computer operator at a shop in Atabhuya of Chalna municipality at Dakop upazila of Khulna, composed and gave music to the song and sold and distributed the recording on October 26, 2013.

Sub-inspector Joynul Abedin Sarkar arrested Tonmoy from his shop, seized a computer and hard disk. A case was filed with Dakop Police Station under the information

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A man prepares nonailish (salted hilsa) and piles them up at Fish Landing Station on Port Road in Barisal yesterday. With fishermen getting good catches this season, he is preparing nonailish so that those could be shipped to far reaches of the country where transporting the national fish fresh is difficult.

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN

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Downpour continues

Many streets in city go under water

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Incessant rain for more than an hour wreaked havoc on the city life yesterday.

The rain that began yesterday afternoon inundated many of the city streets, lanes and by-lanes in knee-deep water, exposing the poor drainage system in the capital.

The Met office recorded 16 millimetres (mm) of rainfall in Dhaka in one hour yesterday.

Roads and lanes in Rajabazar, Shahidbagh, Green Road, Testuri Bazar, Azimpur, and Mirpur areas went under ankle-deep to knee-deep water, causing immense sufferings to the dwellers.

"It was knee-deep water in front of my house around 5:30pm. I crossed the waterlogged road by a rickshaw to buy medicines for my brother," said Jubayer Ahmed, a resident

Snowden, Asma win 'alternative Nobel prize'



Edward Snowden



Asma Jahanger

AFP, Stockholm

Fugitive US intelligence agent Edward Snowden and Pakistani human rights lawyer Asma Jahanger were jointly awarded a Swedish human rights award yesterday.

"The 2014 Right Livelihood Honorary Award goes to Edward Snowden for his courage and skill in revealing the unprecedented extent of state surveillance violating basic democratic processes and constitutional rights," the Stockholm-based Right Livelihood Award Foundation said in a statement.

The prize is awarded annually "to honour and support those offering practical and exemplary answers to the most urgent challenges facing us today," according to the foundation. The Right Livelihood Award Foundation often calls its distinction the "alternative Nobel prize".

As an honorary award winner, the whistleblower -- who has lived in exile in Russia since 2013 -- would not receive

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think it was justified for the launch owners to demand allowing their vessels to carry more passengers than the government-set limit during the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha?

Yes (10%)

No (90%)

TOTAL VOTES: 190

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia that the government has restored Sangsad's power to remove judges to control the judiciary?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING September 25

	Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	6-00	6-05
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation