

'Provocative, hostile'

Pakistan condemns statements from New Delhi on Myanmar op, passes resolution amid Indian defence minister's more 'chest-thumping'

AGENCIES

Pakistan yesterday unanimously passed a resolution, condemning the "provocative and hostile" statements which it said reflected the Indian "hegemonic mindset".

The resolution said the Upper House of the Parliament wishes to emphasise that Pakistan will never allow its territory to be violated by India under any pretext.

It comes a day after Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Indian state minister for information and broadcasting, said India's military action in Myanmar to hit back at rebels who killed 18 soldiers in Manipur was a message to other countries.

Rathore's comments were interpreted as a warning to Pakistan.

Pakistan has been sharply critical of India with its leaders slamming Modi's recent remarks in Bangladesh that Pakistan was creating disturbance and instigating terrorism in India.

MORE ON PAGE 9 SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accompanied by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, handing over the Bangladesh Liberation War Honour to the family members of former Indian prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in New Delhi yesterday.

LIBERATION WAR Modi hands over crest to family of Vajpayee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday handed over the Bangladesh Liberation War Honour crest to the family members of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Modi, who had received the crest on behalf of Vajpayee from Bangladesh President Abdul Hamid during the former's Dhaka visit on June 6-7, went to Vajpayee's residence in New Delhi and handed it over to Vajpayee's foster daughter Namita Bhattacharya and her husband Ranjan Bhattacharya.

Vajpayee suffered a stroke in 2009. He is not known to have attended any public event in recent years. He rarely steps out of the house, except for medical checkups.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

19 YEARS INTO KALPANA'S DISAPPEARANCE Crime that still haunts hills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nineteen years into the abduction of Kalpana Chakma, an indigenous leader, investigators are yet to make any visible progress in cracking the case.

This unresolved case of Kalpana's abduction on June 12, 1996 -- allegedly by members of security forces -- has become a symbol of the state's persistent failure to put an end to the culture of impunity.

Rights activists all over the country, who are vocal against enforced disappearance and impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators, continue to demand justice for Kalpana.

"Her abduction has become symbolic of the condition of the rule of law in the country," said Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB). "It also symbolises that people who are involved in the crime can enjoy impunity which encourages more crimes."

He also said such incidents erode people's confidence in the rule of law and the institutions that are responsible for establishing law and order.

Photographer and activist, Shahidul Alam, said, "Whenever the state commits a crime, its first response seems to be one of denial. This is often followed by elaborate spin that tries to deflect public opinion. This is exactly how it has been in Kalpana's case."

Drik is organising an exhibition titled "Kalpana's Warriors" on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of Kalpana's disappearance. The six-day exhibition will begin today at Drik Gallery at 6:00 pm in the capital's Dhanmondi area.

Ilira Dewan, a former comrade of Kalpana, said, "It is true that a lot of incidents of torture, abduction, rape and murder took place before signing of the Peace Treaty in 1997 and even after that, but Kalpana's abduction carries a special significance."

"During that time, law enforcers and security forces had a strong

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2 PROBE TIMELINE ON PAGE 17

SHOOTING BY MP'S SON Hunt on for three others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are now after three persons who were with Bakhtiar Alam Rony, son of a ruling party lawmaker, when he shot dead an auto rickshaw driver and a rickshawpuller on April 14, investigators say.

Police are trying to find whether they had any link with the shooting, which took place at the capital's New Eskaton in the early hours that day, they added.

Bakhtiar, son of Awami League lawmaker Pinu Khan, fired four to five rounds from his licensed pistol, leaving two innocent men dead, according to Sub-Inspector Dipak Kumar of Detective Branch (DB) of Police.

"We are trying to know whether he committed any other crime with the firearm," said Dipak, also investigation officer of the murder case, filed with Ramna Police Station in this connection.

Now in DB custody, Bakhtiar told investigators that he was drunk at the time of the incident as he had gone to a local bar in the evening and a DJ party at Sonargaon Hotel later that night.

After leaving Sonargaon around 1:30am, he was feeling suffocated inside his SUV. That's why, lowering the car window, he started shooting randomly, DB officials quoted him as saying.

Of the victims, Yakub Ali, a driver of Bangla daily Dainik Janakantha, was on duty while Abdul Hakim was returning home at nearby Modhubagh with his rickshaw.

"The two were just innocent victims. I

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5



Thai general suspended for 'trafficking role'

STAR REPORT

Thai authorities have suspended top human trafficking suspect Lt-General Manas Khongpaen from military service and seized four million baht and other assets from him.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

PM leaves for UK today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka this morning on a six-day visit to the United Kingdom.

This is her personal visit and she has hardly any official engagement with the British government there, diplomatic sources in Dhaka and London told The Daily Star.

According to the sources, she may have a medical checkup and undergo eye treatment in the UK.

Hasina is also expected to meet her niece Tulip Siddiq, who has recently been elected a British MP.

A VVIP flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying the prime minister and her entourage is scheduled to take off from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 9:45am.

The flight is expected to reach Heathrow International Airport at 3:30pm (local time).

On June 14, Hasina would be accorded a reception in London on behalf of expatriate Bangladeshis for her outstanding achievements in different

SEE PAGE 17 COL 3



PHOTO: SHIMANTO DIPU



Pallas's Fish Eagle: The King of Tanguar Haor!

SHIMANTO DIPU

A question often comes to my mind when I think about the diverse ecosystem of the Tanguar Haor: "Who is actually the king of this scenic wetland?"

Whenever I have visited this beautiful and unique wetland, the prevalence of a certain eagle species has always caught my attention. Once you are in the haor, you will enjoy the sight of an eagle chasing a flock of ducks.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Kidnapped boy found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day search for a six-year-old boy kidnapped for ransom from the capital's Lalbagh area ended in a shock yesterday, when a neighbour admitted to have killed the kid.

Based on the confession of Arifur Rahman Jewel, 27, Rab members recovered the body of Habibur Rahman Rifat from the Buriganga river in Barishurghat area of Keraniganj.

Dumped in a sack, they boy's hands and legs were tied with ropes.

The victim's father Md Rafiq had been waiting for his son's safe return.

He said the abductor assured him by phone that his son would be returned if the ransom was paid, but he was shocked when his neighbour Jewel emerged as the abductor and killer.

Rifat had gone missing

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

ISIS's deadliest atrocity unearthed in Iraq

600 bodies exhumed after the massacre by jihadists; up to 1,700 feared killed

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Mohammed al-Bayati gave the latest update on a body count that is expected to continue to rise -- possibly even double.

The bodies are all those of young air cadets, massacred after the fall of the northern city of Tikrit to Isis almost exactly one year ago.

Tikrit, famous for being the home town

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

Nasa reveals the loneliest galaxy

MAIL ONLINE

Astronomers have captured a spectacular image of a 'lonely' galaxy stranded on the edge of an abyss.

The galaxy is located next to a 150 million light year-wide patch of interstellar emptiness called the Local Void.

Perched on its cusp, NGC 6503 - also known as the 'Lost in Space Galaxy' - is thought to be around

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5



PRAYER TIMING
JUNE 12

Fajr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-05 12-30 5-00 6-50 8-15

JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION