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India to move fences closer to zero line

Delhi yet to formally inform Dhaka of its decision

STAR REPORT

India has decided to shift the fencing along the Bangladesh border towards the zero line to enhance security and mitigate the problems of Indian villages situated between the fence and the border.

The decision was made at a meeting at the home ministry in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Yesterday, the Indian home ministry issued a statement which said, "In order to mitigate the problem of Indian villages located between fence & border and to enhance security along IBB [Indo-Bangla Border], it was decided that fence will be shifted towards the zero line to bring Indian villages within the fence."

It said the governments of the states concerned were asked to expedite land acquisition for border infrastructure work, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Bangladesh shares its border with five Indian states -- Assam, West Bengal, Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram.

Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told The Daily Star yesterday evening that he was not aware of any such move by India.

Asked, Senior Secretary to Bangladesh home ministry Mozammel Haque Khan said the Indian side was yet to formally inform Bangladesh about such a decision.

"We will address the issue once they inform us formally," he said.

As per the international law, no establishments can be set up within 150 yards of the zero line, he said. "If they make a move to build anything violating

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This car was left abandoned at a garbage dumping spot along Jurain Medical Road in the capital two months ago. People now dump waste on the vehicle. Neither the authorities concerned nor law enforcers took any steps to remove it. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Businesses condemn terror attacks

Hail govt measures during hostage crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Country's top business chambers and associations yesterday jointly condemned the terrorist attacks at the Holy Artisan Bakery in Dhaka and near Sholakia Eidgah in Kishoreganj which were carried out within a week.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) also thanked the government for taking brave steps to bring an end to the hostage crisis at the restaurant in Gulshan.

"The business community believes that the main culprits behind the heinous crime would be identified and brought to justice," it said in a statement.

Half a dozen attackers carrying firearms and explosives took over the Holy Artisan Bakery on

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Trapped in abusive jobs in Oman

Bangladeshis among the victim female migrant domestic workers, says HRW report

STAR REPORT

Many migrant domestic workers, including Bangladeshis, are trapped in abusive employment in Oman with their plight hidden behind closed doors, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a report yesterday.

The 68-page report titled "I Was Sold: Abuse and Exploitation of Migrant Domestic Workers in Oman" documents how Oman's visa sponsorship system for workers -- known as kafala -- and lack of labour protection laws leave migrant domestic workers exposed to abuse and exploitation by employers, whose consent they need to change jobs.

Those who flee abuse including beatings, sexual abuse, unpaid wages, and excessive working hours have little avenue for redress and can face legal penalties for "absconding," it mentioned.

HRW interviewed 59 female domestic workers in Oman. In some cases, workers described abuses that amounted to forced labour or trafficking often across Oman's porous border with the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"Migrant domestic workers in Oman are bound to their employers and left to their mercy," said Rothna Begum, Middle East women's rights researcher at HRW.

"Employers can force domestic workers to work without rest, pay, or food, knowing they can be punished if they escape, while the employers rarely face penalties for abuse," she said.

At least 1,30,000 female migrant domestic workers, and possibly many more, work in the sultanate. Most are from the Philippines, Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Ethiopia, the report said.

Some 50,000 female and over 5,00,000 male Bangladeshis are now

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ANTI-TERROR CAMPAIGN

20-party to hold national convention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 20-party alliance will hold an anti-militancy national convention in the capital soon. However, the date is yet to be set.

The decision was made at a meeting of the chiefs of the alliance at BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office last night, sources said.

In the convention, the alliance wants to invite leaders of all political parties, including those from the ruling Awami League.

After the meeting, Khaleda sat with her party policymakers to discuss the plan further.

It comes in the wake of the deadliest terrorist attack in the country on a Gulshan cafe on July 1 when the attackers killed 20 hostages and two police officers. Barely a week later, suspected militants killed two policemen near Sholakia Eid congregation in Kishoreganj.

Attacks by suspected militants have seen a spectacular rise in the past three years, with terror group Islamic State claiming

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I do love Larry!

Cameron laughs off claims that he is a cat hater

MAIL ONLINE



David Cameron has laughed off claims he does not get on with Larry the Downing Street cat as he made his last PMQs appearance.

Cameron, who resigned yesterday as British prime minister, had MPs in stitches as he held up a photo of him cuddling the 'chief mouser' during his Commons swansong.

It was confirmed yesterday that the brown and white tabby will be staying on at Number 10 after the Camerons leave today and Theresa May takes over.

But Cameron said it was not because he did not 'love' Larry.

"The rumour that somehow I don't love Larry, I do... I have photographic evidence to prove it."

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MIGRATED MINORITIES

India offers more facilities

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian government yesterday approved a number of facilities for members of minority communities from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan who are living in India on Long Term Visa (LTV) which include opening of bank account and permission to purchase properties.

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SIBL
Social Islami Bank Limited
Prayer Timing July 14
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 8-17
JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Buddhist monk hacked over 'land dispute'

Another monk suspected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A Buddhist monk was hacked allegedly by another monk following a dispute over the land of a Buddhist monastery in Cox's Bazar town early yesterday, said police quoting locals.

The victim is Upendita Mohather, 77, a monk of Woi Ma Tara Buddha Bihar, said Bakhtiar Uddin Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station.

Around 5:00am, a "local monk" went to the room of Upendita inside the Buddhist monastery in Boillapara area. Seconds later, the man hacked Upendita with a sharp weapon and fled, said the OC, quoting a witness.

Quoting locals, Prof Ketin Ong, principal of Cox's Bazar City College and also director of Rakhine Development Foundation, claimed that

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It is hard to believe that this is part of a canal in the city's Rampura. Bushes have grown up there as the authorities remain oblivious to its sorry state. This would ultimately worsen waterlogging in the city if it is not cleaned up.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Scrap Rampal power deal

Green activists, left political parties urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Green activists and left political parties demanded that the government scrap the agreement of installing a power plant in Rampal as it is likely to destroy the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest.

The Rampal coal power plant agreement, which was signed on Tuesday, would be remembered in the history of Bangladesh as a "milestone for the destruction" of the Sundarbans, said Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman.

Asking the government to ditch the project, advocate Sultana Kamal said whenever the question of environmental hazard came up, the government "blackmailed people emotionally" saying they were pro-liberation forces and would not do anything harmful for the country.

"But they have yet to give any proper answer as to how the coal power plant won't do any harm to the Sundarbans," she said, wondering how a pro-liberation government could cause such "huge destruction" of the country.

They were addressing a press conference protesting against "the Agreement on Setting up of Coal-Based Power Plant in Rampal adjacent to the Sundarbans." The briefing was organised by the National Committee for Saving the Sundarbans (NCSS) at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Earlier on Tuesday, a Bangladesh-India joint venture company -- Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Ltd -- signed the agreement with India's state-run Bharat

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