

# EU will make Brexit painful for UK

Says Slovak PM

AFP, London

The European Union will make Brexit "very painful" for Britain, Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico said in an interview published yesterday, adding that London was "bluffing" over its pre-Brexit negotiating power. "The EU will take this opportunity to show the public: 'Listen guys, now you will see why it is important to stay in the EU'. This will be the position," Fico, whose country currently holds the rotating EU presidency, told the Financial Times. Prime Minister Theresa May has repeatedly insisted that Britain will "make a success of Brexit", but has yet to set out whether she will be pushing for continued access to the EU single market, or the extent of controls on immigration.

# DMP's counter

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According to the second condition, during an operation in any metropolitan area or at any place of a district, the CTC chief or the operation commander will have to inform the metropolitan or the district police chiefs of the matter.

The unit has to follow all rules and laws of the land, the third condition reads. DMP Additional Commissioner Monirul Islam, also chief of the CTC unit, said the directives would speed up the activities of the unit.

The 600-men police unit specialising in technology was formed in February under the DMP to enhance police capability in combating militancy and terrorism.

With militant groups recruiting tech-savvy operatives, the police had been pressing for a special unit.

The DMP formed the unit as a police proposal for forming "Police Bureau of Counter-Terrorism" had been put on hold for years.

Members from the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), the bomb disposal unit and the dog squad have been included in the unit.

# Halving road

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The four-day conference under the theme "From Research to Implementation" mainly aims to exchange information and experience for reducing injuries and violence which are considered as major challenges to achieve the targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Around 1,200 delegates are participating in the conference organised by the Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare and co-sponsored by WHO.

Bangladesh is among the few low-and-middle income countries where traffic crashes are frequent. Although WHO has not revealed any latest data, its report last year claimed that 21,000 people die in Bangladesh annually, while the government puts the average figure at 2,700.

Talking to The Daily Star, several WHO experts said enforcing laws, checking reckless driving, implementing vehicle and safety equipment standards, building public awareness and improving emergency trauma care are the prime pre-requisites to minimise traffic injuries and deaths in Bangladesh.

However, no official of the road transport and bridges ministry of Bangladesh joined the programme, but there are two officials from the Directorate General of Health Services.

In his speech, Dr Etienne Krug, director of the WHO Department for the Management of Non-communicable Diseases, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention, said, "We need to step up action to avoid this unnecessary suffering of millions of families every year."

"The conference provides an opportunity for the world's leading violence and injury prevention researchers, practitioners and advocates to discuss and share successful strategies which if scaled up across countries could do much to prevent violence and injuries and save lives," he said.

Talking to journalists, he cited that reckless driving, poor quality of road and poor emergency care mainly contribute to road crashes that is very dominant in low-and-middle income countries.

Talking to The Daily Star, Dr Anne Lounamaa, head of the Welfare and Health Promotion Unit of Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare, said, "Our main purpose of the conference is to develop new ideas, new ways to address injury and violence and to change the situation globally."

Melekdzedeck Khayesi, technical officer of WHO, said of the total traffic crashes victims, 22 percent are pedestrians; so special attention should be given to ensure pedestrians' safety.

# AL plans to bring

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for the council. The number of members in the AL central working committee, the apex decision-making forum, will be increased to 81, which in turn will expand the size of the now 166-member National Executive Committee. The existing working committee has 73 members.

No major reshuffle will be done at the top. Party President Sheikh Hasina, who has been at the helm of the party since 1980 and led it to power thrice, will retain her position unchallenged.

Her second-in-command Syed Ashrafur Islam, elected the party's general secretary through the 18th council in 2009, may get the responsibility for the third consecutive time.

The party might create four more presidium member posts, two joint secretary posts, one organising secre-

tary post for Mymensingh division and two secretariat posts including a "training secretary".

A number of new faces might be given divisional organising secretary posts while some incumbent leaders might be removed, considering their performances.

The central working committee is now comprised of president, general secretary, 13 presidium members, 19 secretaries, two deputy secretaries, three joint general secretaries, seven organising secretaries, one treasurer and 26 members.

Two posts of presidium members fell vacant following the death of Zohra Tajuddin and expulsion of Latif Siddique from the party. The other post has remained vacant since the 2012 council.

The party this time will fill the vacant posts of the presidium members who make the highest policy-making body of the party.

# PM calls for protection

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UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, who convened the first-ever Summit on Refugees and Migrants, spoke at the programme, among others. Peter Thompson, president of the 71st UNGA, and Mogens Lykketof, past UNGA president, were present.

The UN adopted the New York Declaration -- a pledge to protect refugees and migrants. The declaration contains "bold commitments to address current issues and prepare the world for future challenges".

The organisation hopes to begin negotiations to hold an international conference related to refugees and migrants. It also aims to adopt a "global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in 2018".

Speaking at the plenary meeting, Hasina said migration and mobility need to be placed in a new positive narrative.

"Bangladesh has, therefore, proposed a Global Compact on Migration addressing some of the longstanding gaps in migration governance. The Compact must build on the 2030 Agenda, and capture elements and

modalities that are ambitious and enforceable, yet balanced and flexible."

She said the promotion of tolerance and understanding is crucial for accommodating migrants and refugees. "We must all rise above a solely identity-based discourse," she added.

Describing climate change and the resultant displacement of millions of people as a reality, the premier said the Compact will have to take into account the protection need of millions of climate-displaced people. The World Humanitarian Summit adopted the Partnership for Protection and Development. The global Compact should build on such innovative initiatives.

"Bangladesh, as the current chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, will be happy to contribute to the development of the Compact," Hasina told the meeting.

Earlier, the premier had a meeting with Myanmar State Counsellor and Foreign Minister Aung San Suu Kyi at the UN headquarters.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland also met the PM.

# Boy jailed

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officer of Sakhipur, passed the order on Saturday, a day after police detained the boy following the filing of a general diary by Anupam Shajahan Joy, lawmaker of Tangail-8 (Basail-Sakhipur) constituency.

Sabbir Shikder, a student of Protima Bonki Public High School in the apazila, was sent to Tangail district jail yesterday.

Magistrate Rafiqul claimed the boy was 19 years old.

He also claimed that ninth-grader Sabbir wrote "abusive and humiliating words" in his message to the lawmaker's personal Facebook ID on Friday.

Prof Mizanur Rahman, former National Human Rights Commission chairman, said law enforcers could have followed proper procedure and investigated further instead of producing Sabbir before a mobile court.

"Executive power has been misused here," he told The Daily Star over the phone.

Mohammad Maksudul Alam, officer-in-charge of Sakhipur Police Station, said the lawmaker filed a GD with the police station in this regard on Friday.

A line of the post reads: "Your time is going to end", the OC said, referring to the GD.

Police picked up Sabbir and quizzed him. As he admitted sending the text, police produced him before the mobile court of Rafiqul Islam Saturday night, claimed the OC.

Rafiqul passed the order on the same night against Sabbir, son of Shahinoor Alam of Protima Bonki village.

The executive magistrate said the schoolboy was sentenced under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act. He, however, could not mention the section of the act.

# Lost arm

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Doctors had no option but to amputate his right arm from below the shoulder to save his life.

But the youth does not want to give up pursuing his dream of becoming a BCS cadre.

"I'll not give up on my dreams. I want to face the BCS viva," he told The Daily Star at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

His family rushed him to the burn unit of DMCH. He is undergoing treatment at the intensive care unit (ICU) of the burn unit.

Minar's relatives and friends said he had been supporting his five-member family since his father, Mohammad Salam, died several years ago.

He is second among three brothers. His elder brother works as an apprentice at a pharmacy in his village home.

His younger brother and only sister are studying at local schools and he is bearing their educational expenses, said relatives.

Minar's mother Rina Aktar, who was attending her son at the DMCH, was seen crying inconsolably.

She said her son struggled throughout his life to support the family.

"I don't know where we will go if something bad happens to my son," she said.

Minar's friend and classmate Manjurul Islam said, "Minar will succeed if he gets an opportunity. We'll always support him."

Partha Sankar Paul, resident surgeon of the burn unit of DMCH, said Minar's condition has improved and he could be discharged from the hospital within eight to 10 days.

Minar has 20 percent of his body burnt, said the doctor.

# Somali border claims 'absurd, hurtful'

Kenya tells top UN court

AFP, The Hague

Kenya yesterday rebuked Somalia for dragging it before the UN's top court to defend a maritime border dispute that could decide the fate of potentially-lucrative Indian Ocean oil and gas reserves. In a hearing at the UN's International Court of Justice, Kenya described as "absurd and hurtful" Somalia's claims it had sought to steal crucial oil and gas reserves in a case which began in 2014.

Mogadishu's case against Nairobi at the UN's top court is an attempt to redraw the sea border in a move which would affect at least three of Kenya's 20 offshore oil blocks.

Somalia says that talks have failed to find a solution to the increasingly bitter dispute, which could significantly impact a new source of revenue for either of the east African neighbours.

Somalia's accusations of bad faith "are absurd as they are hurtful," Kenya's Attorney General Githu Muigai told judges at the ICJ, which was set up in 1946 to rule in disputes between countries.

"Somalia would have the court believe that during all these years, Kenya has been scheming to take advantage of its neighbour to steal its sea and oil," he said.

# Quader takes responsibility

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13. The death toll was 31 in the three-day eid holidays when 74 others were injured.

Last year, at least 30 people were killed and 54 others injured during the three-day holidays and in 2014 at least 26 people were killed in road accidents across the country during Eid-ul-Azha.

The death toll was 10 in 2013, 40 in 2012 and 46 in 2011, according to The Daily Star reports.

The number of casualties was prepared on the basis of reports published in this newspaper. However, the actual number might be higher as many accidents usually go unreported.

Quader said deaths in the first eight months in 2016 were almost half compared to last year's, but the trend was not maintained during the Eid-ul-Azha holidays.

"These accidents were mostly caused by drivers who drive their vehicles at an excessively higher speed to avail as many trips as possible," he alleged.

"The general people can be made to abide by the traffic rules. But it is very tough to bring the politicians and influential people inside the rule of law," the minister observed.

He said he is still working on it to establish disciplines on the highways.

Dividers and service roads (a separate road alongside the highway to be used by local transports) would be constructed on the Dhaka-Chittagong

and Dhaka-Mymensingh highways in order to reduce road accidents, Quader said.

He added they would upgrade different highways including Gazipur to Elenga, Elenga to Rangpur, Rangpur to Panchagarh, and Panchagarh to Burimari to four lanes with service roads.

He said they have identified 142 black spots on the highways where accidents occur frequently and they are working to address it by next December.

Quader also said they have already turned the black spots to intersections at 11 points on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway where the number of accidents has reduced significantly.

Suggesting clearing the footpath and removing rickshaws from the city, the minister said no initiatives like constructing metro-rails and flyovers would work properly unless the footpaths are cleared for pedestrians and illegal rickshaws are withdrawn.

"Though there is only 50,000 legal rickshaws in the city around 15 lakh such three-wheelers ply on the city roads," he observed.

Responding to a question, Quader said the next general elections would be held under the existing system and he is sure BNP would contest.

DRU President Jamal Uddin presided the programme moderated by General Secretary Razu Ahmed.

# Suspect held after shootout

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His reported arrest came around four hours after the FBI released a mugshot of the brown-haired and bearded Rahami, calling him "armed and dangerous," in text message alerts sent to millions of people in the New York area.

FBI officers also overnight found and defused a nest of bombs planted at the train station in Elizabeth.

Bombings in New York and New Jersey over the weekend -- as well as the discovery of several unexploded devices -- have led authorities to believe there may be a terror cell at work in those two states, law enforcement officials told CNN yesterday.

"They might have been a common linkage or a common person behind all the bombs," New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we do find a foreign connection to the act," he said, after saying Sunday that investigators had not yet found a link to the Islamic State group or any other foreign organization.

LONE-WOLF THREAT

The release of Rahami's name is the first major breakthrough in the investigation since the Chelsea bomb detonated, damaging buildings, shattering glass and sending shrapnel flying across the street.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Obama had been "updated through the night" and yesterday by his national security team.

"Our investigators are continuing to do really good work to get to the bottom of what exactly happened here. The president's fully supporting them. He's the one that's in the loop being updated on this regularly," he told CNN.

Fifteen years after the September 11, 2001 attacks, officials stress that lone-wolf attacks perpetrated by individuals who may be inspired by IS or al-Qaeda propaganda are the greatest terror threat to the homeland.

What was still unclear yesterday was whether an individual or a wider group was responsible for the bomb attacks and planted explosives. Seaside

Park is around 69 miles from Elizabeth, and 90 miles from Manhattan.

"We do not know yet if it is only one individual, more than one individual or if it is an organized group or not," New York Mayor Bill de Blasio told CNN.

"We know a lot more than we did just 24 hours ago. It's certainly leaning more in the direction that this was a specific act of terror," de Blasio told ABC.

New York police have beefed up massively in the city, fanning out reinforcements to bus terminals, subway stations and airports.

TRUMP WARNS OF MORE ATTACKS

"We need the people's help. Anyone with information about the situation, we need it now," de Blasio told ABC.

Although there has been no claim of responsibility for the Chelsea bombing or any of the bombs in New Jersey, a jihadist-linked news agency, Amaq, claimed that an IS "soldier" carried out the Minnesota stabbings.

A 22-year-old Somali-American injured nine people in a shopping mall in St Cloud on Saturday before being shot dead by an off-duty police officer.

Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, whose lead over Donald Trump in the polls has dipped, said yesterday that the United States needed to invest "more time and more resources" in confronting the lone-wolf threat.

"The recruitment and radicalization that goes on online has to be much more vigorously intercepted and prevented. I have been saying this for quite some time," she said in White Plains, New York.

Her Republican opponent predicted that there could be more attacks, slamming what he called America's "weak" policies in opening the doors to "tens of thousands" of foreign immigrants.

"We're going to have to be very tough," he told Fox. "I think this is something that maybe... will happen perhaps more and more all over the country," he said.

# Cambodia PM vows to 'eliminate' opponents

AFP, Phnom Penh

Cambodia's strongman premier vowed yesterday to "eliminate" his opponents if they push ahead with plans for nationwide protests against an ongoing government crackdown that has sparked international alarm.

The latest rhetoric, some of Prime Minister Hun Sen's strongest in recent months, ratchets up worsening political tensions in the kingdom, which will hold national elections in 2018.

Rights groups have accused long-ruling Prime Minister Hun Sen's administration of arresting scores of critics and tying up other opponents in legal cases.

The main opposition party's deputy leader Kem Sokha has been holed up for weeks in his office, sleeping on a makeshift bed.

He was handed a jail sentence earlier this month for refusing to appear in court over an alleged sex scandal prosecution that the opposition say is politically motivated.

His party has threatened to hold nationwide demonstrations if moves are made to arrest him or if the crackdown continues.

"Don't threaten (me) with demonstrations in exchange for talks. No way,

youngest brother!," Hun Sen said at a university graduation ceremony yesterday, in a characteristically lengthy speech.

"This is not just a warning, it is more serious than a warning because it is an order to eliminate those who destroy security and social order," he said, adding that foreign countries had no right to criticise his administration.

Last week a group of 36 states -- including the European Union and the United States -- issued a joint statement saying they were "deeply concerned" about escalating political tensions in Cambodia.

Hun Sen, a former army commander who defected from the Khmer Rouge, has dominated Cambodian politics for the past 31 years.

His administration claims it has brought much needed peace and stability to a nation ravaged by civil war. But opposition groups have gained ground in recent years amid growing disillusionment with endemic corruption, rights abuses and political repression.

The opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) accuses Hun Sen of denying it a majority by rigging the 2013 election in his favour, a charge the premier denies.

# China ship owners pay up for Australia reef disaster

AFP, Sydney

The owners of a Chinese ship that ran aground on the Great Barrier Reef in 2010 agreed to pay Australia Aus\$39.3 million (US\$29.6 million) yesterday, in a settlement dismissed by conservationists as "woefully inadequate".

The fully-laden coal carrier Shen Neng 1 hit a shoal in April 2010, leaking tonnes of heavy fuel oil and threatening an ecological disaster.

While a catastrophe was avoided, the huge ship gouged a three-kilometre (1.8-mile) scar in the coral and was stranded for nine days before salvage workers refloated it.

The ship's owner, Shenzhen Energy Transport Co Ltd, and its insurer refused for six years to accept responsibility to make restitution before striking yesterday's out-of-court settlement.

"Our ongoing actions to pursue funds to clean up the pollution sends

Meanwhile, Major Naing Maung Zaw from Myanmar's Border Guard Forces (BGF), said several of their troops had been hit by landmines planted by rebels.

"Four soldiers from the Myanmar Tatmadaw and our (border guard forces) were killed and some 40 injured by the fighting in the past few days," he told AFP.

"Many soldiers from our side were killed and injured in the beginning because we gave time for villagers to flee from the area before we started fighting back."

Distrust of the Tatmadaw, as the army is known, runs deep among ethnic groups after decades of oppression under the former military junta.

On Friday seven Myanmar soldiers were jailed for killing villagers in Shan State, a rare punishment for abuses by the army.

The DKBA are a small Buddhist group, estimated to number in the hundreds, who split from the mainly Christian Karen National Union in the early 1990s.

The much larger KNU, which has signed a ceasefire with the government, warned the fresh fighting threatened to derail fragile peace talks in the region.

"We protest military activities by the government Tatmadaw and BGF forces... and demand stopping of the ongoing conflict," the group said in statement in English.

an unambiguous signal that damage to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is unacceptable," said Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg.

He added that the settlement showed Australia would "use every available means to pursue ship owners who are negligent in causing damage to the reef".

But Greenpeace Australia slammed the deal, calling it "woefully inadequate".

"The government has said the full clean-up will cost more than Aus\$140m so to settle for such a small figure is disappointing," said Greenpeace's Pacific reef campaigner Shani Tager.

"While we welcome the end of this six-year saga, it has to serve as a reminder that accidents happen. It's clear that coal and the reef don't mix and the government needs to do more to protect this precious place."