



Accompanied by senior party leaders, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday places floral wreath on the grave of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman in the capital on his 81st birth anniversary. PHOTO: COURTESY OF BNP

Unite

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status of a developed country, he said, hoping that if the trend of development continues, the country will be there on the list of developed nations well before 2041.

Not only in Bangladesh, he said, innocent people are also being killed in many countries of Asia, Europe, Africa and North America in the name of religion, caste and ethnicity, forcing millions of people to migrate and be homeless.

Hamid said no religion supports the killing of people, terrorism and destruction while the key message of all religions is welfare of the people and society.

"We must conserve and help flourish our thousand-year-old non-communal spirit and values. We must implement the ideology of our Liberation War," he said.

Urging the young generation to wake up to establish a secular state and make the country free from fundamentalism and terrorism, he said patriotism is not abstract since loving a country means loving its people and nature.

About the war crimes trial, he said the trial of war criminals started just after the country's independence, but it was stopped after the killings of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his associates in 1975.

The president said Sheikh Hasina's government resumed the war crimes trial in 2009, and it continued.

Justice Golam Rabbani and Prof Muntasir Mamun, among others, spoke at the function.

Tiny moth

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Evolutionary biologist Dr Vazrick Nazari said the new insect, which is a type of twirler moth, bore an uncanny resemblance to Trump because of the yellowish-white scales on its head.

It also has 'unique genitalia' which has never before been seen in a male of a similar species. Its genital 'valvae are strongly curved' with an 'acute tip,' according to the study.

Revealing the flying insect in the latest edition of the journal Zookeys, he said the tuft reminded him of the incoming president's hairstyle.

It had been discovered hidden in the collections of the Bohart Museum of Entomology at the University of California. It is native to southern California and Baja Mexico.

Dr Nazari said: "The discovery of this distinct micro-moth in the densely populated and otherwise zoologically well-studied southern California underscores the importance of conservation of the fragile habitats that still contain undescribed and threatened species, and highlights the paucity of interest in species-level taxonomy of smaller faunal elements in North America."

"By naming this species after the 45th President of the United States, I hope to bring some public attention to, and interest in, the importance of alpha-taxonomy in better understanding the neglected micro-fauna component of the North American biodiversity."

The bug is not the first moth that has been compared to Trump. In the Peruvian Amazon, a flannel moth caterpillar called megalopyge opercularis has been nicknamed 'Trumpapillar' as it sports fluffy tufts that resemble the president's hair.

Last month, a species of basslet, a type of fish, was named after predecessor President Barack Obama. To date, nine creatures have been named after Obama.

A calmer Simrail

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the area all the time," said Sharafat Ullah, officer-in-charge of Siddhirganj Police Station.

He said four kilograms of marijuana and 52 Yaba tablets were seized yesterday from three young men in Gudnail area, a neighbourhood in which Nur used to live.

Faruk Hossain, additional superintendent of police in Narayanganj, said trucks used to pay as much as Tk 250 to park in the Simrail Truck Stand. But now they are paying only Tk 30, which seems reasonable.

"What's most significant is that we now have the courage to stand up to the extortionists and criminals. People have just gained trust on the rule of law and we are feeling more confident than ever," said Abdus Salam, brother of slain panel mayor Nazrul Islam.

The law enforcers and the administration can now completely wipe out drug peddling and extortion from Narayanganj, he added.

A resident of Nimai Kashari area in Siddhirganj said, "People of different professions, from auto-rickshaw drivers to shop owners to businessmen, had to frequently pay the extortionists. But now we would not let anyone skim off money just like that."

N'ganj teacher

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squat holding his ears on instructions of local Jatiya Party lawmaker AKM Salim Osman, a reliable source said.

The probe report was submitted to the High Court through the attorney general's office yesterday as per the court's earlier order.

On August 10 last year, the HC rejected a police inquiry report as law enforcers failed to identify those who compelled Shyamal to squat in public and ordered the CMM to conduct a judicial inquiry into the incident.

Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Sazu, who received the probe report from the CMM office and would place it before the HC, refused to disclose what was written in the report, saying it was a sub-judice matter.

The HC will hold the hearing on the issue next Sunday, he said.

CMM of Dhaka Sheikh Hafizur Rahman told The Daily Star he had recorded statements of 27 witnesses while investigating the matter. His office handed over the 65-page report to the attorney general's office as per an earlier order of the court.

The CMM, however, refused to disclose the findings, saying that the report was yet to be placed before the HC yet.

In the second week of May last year, a video clip went viral on the social media, showing the headmaster of Piyar Sattar Latif High School in Narayanganj was humiliated and forced to squat holding his ears in presence of Salim Osman.

Shyamal was also forced to resign based on an unproven allegation that he had hurt religious sentiments of the Muslims.

During the hearing on a suo moto rule, the HC in August last year said the report submitted by police was "incomplete", "inconclusive", "highly deplorable" and "per-functionary" as the investigation officer had failed to identify the perpetrators behind the public humiliation of Shyamal.

The IO made the report without implicating the masterminds in the degrading treatment of the headmaster, it said, adding that there was no logic behind this.

People across the country saw the humiliation of the teacher through the electronic and print media. The judges cannot remain oblivious to such an incident, the HC bench said.

Tofayel, a garment wastage trader, said a group of men belonging to a gang led by one of Nur Hossain's nephews attempted to take over his business in Sanarpar area yesterday afternoon.

"But we protested and they had to retreat. It would have been different a week ago," he said.

Nur's men, led by his relatives, still hold considerable clout in the city's transport stands, said locals and political leaders requesting anonymity.

Awami League leaders of Simrail area said Nur's nephews conduct drug peddling and commit other crimes in the area. His family members were arrested on multiple occasions, they said.

On April 27, 2014, the then panel mayor of Narayanganj Nazrul Islam and his three aides and driver were kidnapped. Senior lawyer Chandan Sarker and his driver Ibrahim were also picked up around the same time, as they had witnessed the abduction of Nazrul and his men.

Later, all the seven bodies were found floating in the Shitalakkhya.

A total of 26 accused, including Nur, were sentenced to death on Monday.

Moklesur Rahman, sub-inspector of Bandar Police Station in Narayanganj, submitted the investigation report to the HC on August 7 last year saying that people connected to the high school, including victim Shyamal, had not brought any allegation against anybody.

No one made any statement against anybody and so, no legal step was taken against anybody, the IO said.

In the report, SI Moklesur quoted Shyamal as saying that his humiliation was an "unexpected situation" caused by a rumour and that both he and MP Salim Osman were victims of the situation.

On May 29 last year, the education ministry submitted a probe report to the HC, saying the school's managing committee had forced Shyamal to resign based on an unproven allegation against him of hurting religious sentiments.

Relevant rules were not followed when the authority suspended him, the ministry said, recommending that he should be reinstated.

Later, Shyamal was reinstated as the headmaster of the school.

An unusual

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and taken to the police station.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority Secretary Showkat Ali said usually luxury sport utility vehicles get number plates that start with Gha-11.

He could not say to whom the vehicle belonged but said the vehicle could be four to five years old.

Usually, these types of vehicles are bought by different government projects or by high-profile businessmen, Showkat said.

Badal Sarkar, one of the farmers who were fishing yesterday, said some villagers had encircled a portion of the river and left tree branches so that the fish could take shelter. The last time they caught fish there was around six months ago but nothing unusual was there, he told The Daily Star.

Yesterday they started fishing around noon.

"We suddenly found the jeep in the water. Instantly, we informed the local peoples' representative and police of the matter," Badal said.

The farmers believe the vehicle might have drifted to the spot.

Highrise

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"like a horror movie".

"At least 20 firefighters who were trapped under rubble have died," Mayor Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said. "They are martyrs. They lost their lives when trying to help people."

But Tehran Fire Department spokesman Jalal Maleki told the broadcaster: "I cannot confirm the death of around 20 firefighters ... but some of them have been killed. The rescue operation continues."

Tehran's Governor Hossein Hashemi told state TV rescue workers were opening three separate routes to access those trapped.

"One of those trapped in the building sent a text message saying five of them are alive," judiciary website Mizan reported.

State TV said at least 88 people, including 45 firefighters, were injured. Most were taken to hospital and many quickly discharged, it said.

The semi-official Tasnim news agency said troops had been sent to help dig through the ruins. It said one of the first firefighters to be reached had asked to be let back inside to save his colleagues.

The agency quoted an official in the Tehran governor's office as saying an electrical short-circuit had caused the fire, but there was no immediate confirmation of this.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani sent condolences to the families of those killed. Rouhani ordered an investigation and compensation for those affected, state TV reported.

SAFETY FEARS
Occupants of the building had been evacuated as firefighters tackled the blaze. State TV said the tenants included garment manufacturers, and it broadcast footage of business owners trying to re-enter the wreckage.

"I have lost everything. What am I going to do now. What should I tell my family?" owner of one of the 400 business units in the building, Mohsen Ghamisi, told Reuters by telephone.

Tasnim news agency reported that the business units and shops inside the building were not insured because of a lack of required safety measures.

Sniffer dogs searched for survivors buried under giant slabs of concrete and heaps of twisted metal. The rescue operation could last more than two days, state TV said.

The Plasco building, Iran's first private high-rise, was built more than 50 years ago by an Iranian-Jewish businessman who was arrested and sentenced to death for ties to Israel after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Maleki said: "We had repeatedly warned the building managers about the lack of safety."

The owner of a nearby grocery store, forced by police to leave the area, told Reuters by telephone: "It was like a horror movie. The building collapsed in front of me."

The semi-official Fars news agency said police had cordoned off the nearby British, German and Turkish embassies.

"The embassies are being protected by diplomatic police forces... All the security and safety measures have been taken," TV quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi as saying.

End ban

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In Jazan he found conditions "that I think would shock Saudi citizens." Most of those people in "extraordinarily poor conditions" there are Yemenis who arrived 50 years ago and -- like other foreigners -- do not have Saudi citizenship.

"There needs to be a plan to more systematically address their situation," Alston said, but most people he met in Saudi Arabia did not acknowledge that poverty exists in the world's biggest oil exporter.

He added that, although the government was very cooperative with his visit, he was given no data on the number of people considered poor.

"That is either an act of concealing the information that is available, or it's a serious indictment of the system."

Alston also called on the government to "liberalise" its approach to social media, after he received reports of "instances in which it has cracked down on certain people" communicating over the internet.

"I think the kingdom has long had an ambivalent relationship to human rights," but Vision 2030 is a chance for rights to be "a key part" of the progress which Saudi Arabia has embraced in so many areas, he said.

As part of its economic reforms the kingdom is reducing fuel and electricity subsidies, supplemented by compensation for the needy.

But Alston said in a written statement that there is no "coherent or comprehensive plan to achieve social protection for all those in need."

Starting gun fired in race to succeed S Africa's Zuma

AFP, Johannesburg

South Africa's ruling ANC party, which has dominated the country's politics since the end of apartheid, has begun its search for a new leader to succeed President Jacob Zuma.

Dwindling popular support, corruption scandals and rampant infighting mean that the contest looks set to be a bitter battle exposing divisions at the heart of the party.

The contenders will face each other at the African National Congress' (ANC) 54th national elective conference in December when Zuma is expected to stand down as party chief.

The likely frontrunners are outgoing African Union chairwoman Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, who is Zuma's former wife, and Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The victor will then be the party's candidate for president in 2019's general election.

The ANC's powerful women's league opened the campaign for the party's top job when earlier this month it called for a female leader -- a clear endorsement of Dlamini-Zuma.

Dlamini-Zuma, who has four children with President Zuma, is the head of the African Union Commission.

She is not seeking a second mandate for the role, fuelling speculation that she hopes to succeed her ex-husband at the ANC's helm -- though she has yet to declare her candidacy.

The succession battle is seen as crucial for Zuma's future because if a political adversary is chosen it could mean that he is forced to step aside before the end of his term, according to political analyst Ralph Matheka.

Zuma is also facing a slew of corruption allegations and it will largely fall to his successor as president -- which is likely to be whoever is chosen as ANC party leader -- to

determine the vigour with which he is pursued once out of office.

"He is trying to have his wife run for ANC president, first of all as she is highly unlikely to go after him on some of the corruption charges," said Matheka.

Zuma appeared to throw his weight behind 67-year-old Dlamini-Zuma -- who has held a string of ministerial posts including the foreign and home affairs portfolios -- earlier this month when he told public radio that the ANC "is ready" to elect a woman as its leader.

But independent analyst Daniel Silke warned that "getting a stamp of approval by Jacob Zuma" may not "offer Mrs Zuma a great advantage".

"She remains a mystery candidate when it comes to her vision for a future South Africa," he added.

Cyril Ramaphosa, 64, is also expected to run for the party's top job.

A former trade unionist who helped negotiate the end of white-minority rule in 1994 and then became a wealthy businessman, Ramaphosa told Power FM radio last month that he is "available to stand", though he stopped short of a formal declaration.

Analysts say he may face an uphill struggle after Zuma pointedly said that the vice president should not automatically become party leader.

"Ramaphosa is fighting almost as an outsider in the sense that he doesn't have so much support from the leagues, and that is the support that usually guarantees victory," said Matheka, referring to influential branches of the ANC.

The contest has already exposed fault lines between Zuma loyalists who back Dlamini-Zuma and reformers who favour Ramaphosa.

In an effort to heal the party, the ANC could even turn to compromise candidates like Kgalema Motlanthe, who served as interim president for several months before Zuma came to power in 2009.

Hasina defends Rampal

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Hasina said her government took all measures to protect the environment. "As I'm the prime minister of the country, nobody is more concerned than I am over any issue.... I won't allow implementation of any project where there is a possibility of any damage."

The Rampal power plant is being set up around 14km away from the outer boundary of the Sundarbans while it is about 70km off the world heritage site, she pointed out.

"We've taken all kinds of measures to protect the environment of the Sundarbans and the surrounding areas as well as to protect the habitat and biodiversity of that region," the premier added.

Hasina said coal would be transported to the power plant site from deep sea in covered barges having low-sound engines and therefore "there is no possibility of environment pollution".

Referring to the construction of Barapukuria coal-fired power plant in Dinajpur, she said her government started setting up the plant in 2000.

There was no negative impact on the densely populated and green area of Barapukuria although two sub-critical plants were constructed there. The land in the area has become more fertile and more rice is being produced there, she told the WEF meeting.

The PM mentioned that construction of the 3rd coal-based plant in Barapukuria was underway.

"Barapukuria is a sub-critical power plant. There's a gulf of difference between a sub-critical and an ultra-supercritical power plant. Supercritical plants emit 40 percent less carbon, sulphur and nitrogen gas compared to sub-critical ones. It's possible to bring the level of pollution to zero in an ultra-supercritical plant."

About her government's steps for afforestation in the country, she said the forest coverage of the country was only 7 percent in 1996 when she first took office and the forest coverage is now 17 percent. "The next target is to further raise it to 25 percent," she said.

Asked how she would tackle the situation if the sea level continues to rise and submerges vast areas of the country, Hasina said her government took various measures to face such adverse impacts of climate change like creating green belts in the coastal areas through afforestation in the newly emerged chars, creating a Climate Change Trust Fund with local funding of \$400 million apart from implementing various adaptation and mitigation programmes.

The problem is not created by countries like Bangladesh, rather by the developed ones as carbon emission is causing global warming and thus leading to rise in sea level, she told the programme.

"The rich and the developed countries have their due responsibility to assist these climate vulnerable countries like Bangladesh as well as island nations," the PM added.

Bangladeshi student

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"The clerk [Mizanur Rahman] was cooperating when the man shot him," Aguilar said. The gunman then reached over the counter and grabbed the entire cash drawer and ran, she said.

The suspect fled in a light-coloured car. The wounded man was able to call 911 and was rushed to hospital where he died from his injuries.

The filling station remained closed for much of the day Tuesday as detectives and crime scene technicians combed the scene for clues. Forensic experts were also preparing to examine video from 32 surveillance cameras around the venue.

Retired school teacher Abdur Rafiq, father of Mizanur, said his son's dream was to get a US degree, return home in December this year and live a good life. "I cannot believe he is no more..." he told The Daily Star in tears over phone.

All through his school and college life, Mizanur has showed excellence. He won government scholarships in

class-V and -VIII and scored GPA-5 in SSC and HSC exams.

After completing his BBA from the East West University in Dhaka, he went to the US with a scholarship in 2014 for his MBA.

Co-workers said Mizanur worked night shifts to earn a livelihood and put himself through graduate school, LATimes reported.

"It is shocking," said Benoit Hecquet, who lives near the Chevron filling station.

"He was always polite, talkative. He even asked about how my son was doing," said Hecquet, who said he would sometimes buy cigarettes at the station.

"I am heartbroken," Mizanur's co-worker Carlos Francisco said.

"He was a dreamer. He worked by night and studied by day to make himself better."

Abdur Rafiq, who also has a daughter, said Mizanur's mother has not yet been told about the incident.