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Trump finally backs 'One China' policy

Talks to Xi Jinping over phone; Taiwan says it aims to keep strong ties with US, China

REUTERS, Beijing/Washington

US President Donald Trump changed tack and agreed to honour the "one China" policy during a phone call with China's leader Xi Jinping, a major diplomatic boost for Beijing which brooks no criticism of its claim to self-ruled Taiwan.

Trump angered Beijing in December by talking to the president of Taiwan and saying the United States did not have to stick to the policy, under which Washington acknowledges the Chinese position that there is only one China and Taiwan is part of it.

A White House statement said Trump and Chinese President Xi had a lengthy phone conversation on Thursday night, Washington time.

"President Trump agreed, at the request of President Xi, to honour our 'one China' policy," the statement said.

A spokesman for Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen said in a statement it was in Taiwan's interest to maintain good relations with the United States and China.

The US and Chinese leaders had not spoken by telephone since Trump took office on Jan 20. Diplomatic sources in Beijing say China had been nervous about Xi being left humiliated in the event a call with Trump went wrong and the details were leaked to the media.

Last week, US ties with staunch ally Australia became strained after the Washington Post published details about

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The pit in Bisnakandi where three workers died after being buried under the soil while extracting stone by digging earth early yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Challenged girl rescued from burning shanty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Her parents briefly left the house in the capital's Tejgaon Rail Colony area yesterday morning, leaving her inside and alone when a fire broke out there.

The 13-year-old physically-challenged girl, who remains confined to a wheelchair all the time and cannot speak properly, only uttered "ma" as the fire was raging in the shanty.

The girl, Batashi, cannot move her arms

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Community worker turns writer

PORIMOL PALMA

Since her childhood, Monjuara Parvin always had an empathy with the people of her community and determination to help them overcome their sufferings. However, she was yet to discover her writing skills.

"I had to write reports for my office and read them to my daughter Ahnaf Tahmeeda. One day, she told me those sounded like stories," said Monjuara, who is from arsenic-hit Samta village in Jessor's Sharsha upazila.

Inspired, she started writing with more passion, going into details about the pain of her villagers caused by arsenic, an issue that caught global attention after scientists found naturally occurring arsenic in the groundwater across huge swaths of rural Bangladesh in 1995.

Monjuara was working for a Japanese aid group, Asia Arsenic Network (AAN), which began its arsenic mitigation project in 1997. As a community motivator, she had to write office reports after visiting many villages, including Samta.

She also used to advise the villagers how to avoid being affected by arsenic, which still affects some 19 million people in the country.

During those visits, she learnt about the sufferings of those affected by arsenicosis. She also deeply felt the agonies of those who had lost their near and dear ones to cancer and gangrene caused by over-exposure to arsenic.



Monjuara Parvin

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UK envoy 'horrified' by stories of Rohingyas

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

British High Commissioner in Dhaka Alison Blake was horrified and moved by the stories she heard from the Rohingyas who fled Myanmar in the face of persecution.

"They described terrible violence and crimes like those recorded in the recent report from the UN OHCHR," she said after her visit to the Rohingya refugee camp and makeshift settlements at Kutupalong of Cox's Bazar on February 8-9.

The UK envoy met people who suffered terribly and bore physical and psychological scars.

Canadian High

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STONE EXTRACTION SITE Three workers die in Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Three workers were killed while working at a stone quarry on the bank of the Bisnakandi river in Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila early yesterday.

The dead are Bakir Ali, 20, and Tula Mia, 25, of Gulergaon in Sunamganj and Porimol Sarkar, 28, of Netrakona's Khalijaria upazila.

The three died around 2:30am when they were digging a pit near Badepasha Kheya Ghat to extract stone, said Delwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Gowainghat Police Station.

"They might have been buried under a pile of earth," added the OC.

Locals said Basid Mia, the lessee of the stone quarry, tried to cover up the incident. He fled following the workers' death.

According to police, the lease holder sent the victims' bodies to their village homes without reporting the incident to law enforcers.

Acting on a tip off, police yesterday morning seized the bodies of Bakir and Tula from their village homes in Sunamganj and sent those to Sunamganj Sadar Hospital for autopsies, said the OC.

Muhammin Milton, 45, of Hadarpur village near the Bisnakandi river expressed fear that extraction of stone in

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BNP doubts new CEC's neutrality

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The new chief election commissioner is even more loyal to the Awami League than his predecessor Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, the BNP has alleged.

"The people of the country have no confidence in him [new CEC KM Nurul Huda] that he would be able to hold the next general election in a free, fair and credible manner. His statements after getting appointed as the chief election commission has made it clear that he is a committed Awami Leaguer," said BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed.

Addressing a press conference at BNP's Nayapaltan central office yesterday, the BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed.

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Children at the Suhrawardy Udyan reading the books they just bought at the Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday. The book fair authorities declared part of the day as "Shishu Prahar". The hours from 11:00am to 1:00pm were dedicated to kids. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Yanghee Lee to arrive in Dhaka Feb 19

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Yanghee Lee is expected to arrive in Dhaka on February 19 to see the plight of Rohingya population in Bangladesh, who fled Myanmar in face of persecution.

Yanghee Lee, who undertook her fifth information-gathering visit to Myanmar from January 9 to 20, will visit the official Rohingya refugee camp and makeshift settlements in Cox's Bazar.

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 11

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-25 12-45 4-30 5-57 7-15

JAMAAT 6-00 1-15 4-45 6-01 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Prof. A.H.M. Ahsan Ullah
28th February 1937-11th February 2014

It only takes a little space
To write about how much we miss you,
But it will take the rest of our lives
To forget the day we lost you.

Too dearly loved ever to be forgotten.

Prof. Fukhrun Nisa
Kamal-Doly
Abrar-Ayman
Dr. Sonia-Ishtiaque
Anisha-Ayana