

MPs denounce

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resolve the Rohingya problem.
The meeting also discussed the Rohingya issue and suggested more efforts so that Myanmar takes back its nationals, including the new arrivals.
Earlier, the government stepped up its measures to effectively deal with the Rohingya issue by gradually relocating both documented and undocumented Rohingya refugees, who entered the country illegally, to Noakhali's Hatiya Island making it liveable.
Over 70,000 Myanmar nationals from its Rakhine state recently entered Bangladesh.
They are currently living in different camps -- Nayapara, Leda and Kutupalang in Teknaf and Ukhiya of Cox's Bazar -- apart from other parts of the country.

Principals

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Secondary and Higher Education arranged a conference and workshop in the educational institute compound where 327 college principals from all over the country attended at 9:00am.
The students sat for "Bangladesh o Biswa Porichoy" (Bangladesh studies and introduction to world) test at the venue starting at 10:00am.
On invitation, reporters, including The Daily Star correspondent, entered the venue to cover the programme when the exam ended around 1:00pm.
Asked why the programme was being held here during the SSC exams, Prof SM Wahiduzzaman, director general of the directorate, said, "All the cars entered the venue before the exam started. No one of us went near the halls so that the students do not face any hassle."
Answering to another query on the choice of location, he said as they have a shortage of big auditoriums, they arranged the event there.

Suu Kyi breaks silence on killing of top lawyer

AFP, Yangon
Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi has broken a month long silence on the daylight assassination of her advisor, calling his killing a "great loss" for the country's democracy struggle.
Ko Ni, a prominent Muslim lawyer and critic of Myanmar's powerful military, was shot dead on 29 January outside Yangon airport in a murder that sent shockwaves through the country's young civilian government.

Trump to skip White House demand

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He ripped the New York Times on Sunday for a television ad that the newspaper will air during the Oscars ceremony stating "The truth is more important now than ever."
"For first time the failing @nytimes will take an ad (a bad one) to help save its failing reputation. Try reporting accurately & fairly!" Trump tweeted.
Over the years the dinner organized by the White House Correspondents' Association has evolved -- or devolved, depending on one's point of view -- into the self-described "Nerd Prom" packed with Hollywood celebrities.
The WHCA said it will proceed with this year's dinner, set for April 29.
The event "has been and will continue to be a celebration of the First Amendment (on freedom of the press) and the important role played by an independent news media in a healthy republic," WHCA president Jeff Mason tweeted.
Some news groups have already pulled out of events related to the dinner. Conde Nast, publisher of The New Yorker, Vanity Fair have all cancelled their exclusive before-and-after-parties, and Bloomberg is reportedly pulling out as a party co-sponsor.
The New York Times has skipped the dinner itself for years to avoid charges that its reporters are too close to the White House.
The dinner normally features a big-name comedian to rib the president, but this year a funny person has yet to be booked.
Comedian Samantha Bee earlier announced a "Not the White House Correspondents' Dinner" on the same night at a nearby hotel to raise money for the Committee to Protect Journalists.
Trump's cancellation comes after the White House denied access Friday to an off-camera briefing to several major US media outlets, including CNN and The New York Times.
Smaller outlets that have provided favorable coverage however were allowed to attend the briefing by spokesman Sean Spicer.
The WHCA said it was "protesting strongly" against the decision to selectively deny media access.
The New York Times said the decision was "an unmistakable insult to democratic ideals," CNN called it "an unacceptable development," and The Los Angeles Times warned the incident had "ratcheted up the White House's war on the free press" to a new level.
It is not uncommon for Republican and Democratic administrations to brief a limited number of reporters on specific themes.
However the Friday event was billed as a regular briefing open to credentialed media before it became a closed event in Spicer's office for a chosen group.
Several outlets that regularly cover the White House, including newswires

HC rule on legality

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judicial power and could discipline the judicial service staff, when necessary.
Over the years, this article has been amended several times, curtailing the apex court's powers.
Currently, the powers to control and discipline subordinate courts are vested in the president, who exercises these powers in consultation with the SC.
However, under article 48 (3) of the constitution, the president acts on the advice of the prime minister. This gives the government ample scope to exercise power over the judiciary.
Legal experts view the present system as "dual rule" in the judiciary.
Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha has himself said such a "dual rule" was hampering the judicial work and was also increasing justice-seekers' sufferings.
"The Supreme Court alone cannot take steps regarding lower court judges' promotion and transfer or any disciplinary actions against them due to the [present] article 116. Judges cannot be appointed to fill many vacant posts at district courts on time due to the dual rule," he said in a message on October 31 last year, the ninth anniversary of the separation of the judiciary from the executive.
The lower judiciary was separated from the executive branch on November 1, 2007, following the Supreme Court directives in Masdar Hossain case, popularly known as the separation of judiciary case.
Yesterday, the HC in its ruling asked the respondents to explain why they should not be ordered to take necessary steps to amend the relevant articles of the constitution so that the president need not take the PM's advice for appointing any judge.
The respondents are the Speaker, the SC registrar general and the secretaries to the cabinet division and the law ministry.
The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice Mohammad Ullah came up with the ruling, following a petition filed by SC lawyer Eunos Ali Akond.
In his November 3 petition, Eunos challenged the legality of articles 95(2)(b), 98, 115, 116 and 116(a).
Article 115 says, "Appointments of persons to offices in the judicial service or as magistrates exercising judicial functions shall be made by the presi-

Industries, export

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against the interests of the manufacturer, consumers and the public alike."
EAB President Abdus Salam Mursheedy said the increase would have direct negative impacts on exporters of fish, frozen food, plastic, leather and garment, and also erode their competitiveness on the global market.
Gas prices have been raised at a time when garment exporters are already under pressure for meeting compliance following the Rana Plaza disaster, he said.
According to a survey of Bangladesh University and the State University of San Francisco, remediation cost at a garment factory is Tk 4.9 crore on average.
Sheikh Fazlur Rahman Bakul, president of Bangladesh Steel Mills Owner Association, said the industries don't get adequate gas supply even though they pay the bills regularly.
"There are days when we don't get any gas, and there are days when the pressure in gas supply is low."
Zahid Hussain, lead economist of the World Bank in Dhaka, said gas prices in Bangladesh are low compared to those on the international market.
He said Petrobangla would get more surplus money due to the price increase. But this money has to be used for the development of the gas sector.
With the country's gas reserves depleting fast, initiatives must be taken to improve infrastructure in the sector and explore new gas sources instead of keeping thousands of crores of taka in banks as idle money, he told this correspondent.
The economist noted that consumers would not complain much about paying additional prices if they are convinced that gas supply would increase and new gas connections would be given soon.
"At the moment, only the cost is going up, and there is no good news on increase in supply."
Zahid suggested bringing reforms to the pricing mechanism and making it market-based.

Hitler's phone is 'fake'

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He highlights 'oddities' in the phone's construction and quality.
The actual telephone was manufactured by Siemens & Halske, but the handset comes from an English telephone,' he noted. 'Such phones were never produced this way. It must have been assembled later in England.'
The auction house where the phone came under the hammer, Alexander Historical Auctions in the Chesapeake City, Maryland, said a subsidiary of Siemens in the UK worked closely with the firm's German headquarters until the outbreak of war and had designed the receiver.
But Gnegel said: 'Why should a company in Great Britain construct an earpiece for Hitler before the war? Siemens would certainly have built a new telephone for Hitler.'
The phone was originally a black Bakelite phone that was later painted crimson and engraved with Hitler's name.
The peeling red paint is another clue that it is a forgery, he said: 'Siemens would have built a proper example from dyed plastic, instead of unprofessionally painting over a black telephone. Everything to do with Hitler was produced in a high-quality fashion; why should an engraving be simply be painted over?'
The phone's rotary dial is also suspect, he said, stating that the Fuehrer would have been connected to whoever he wanted to speak with via a battery of telephone operators: manual dialing would have been beneath the great dictator.
Gnegel is curator of one of the most important collections of telephone history in Europe. But he is not alone in suspecting the authenticity of the Hitler phone.
The Telephone Museum, an American non-profit organisation, raised several pointed questions for the auction house on Facebook which were unanswered.
Dutch telephone restorer and blogger Arwin Schaddelee also raised question about the quality of the phone, stating: 'The engraving of the name is unevenly done, with the D particularly deformed. Certainly not the quality you would expect for the Fuehrer.'
According to the auction house, the phone was plucked from the ruins of the Reich Chancellery in Berlin, where Hitler ended his life on April 30 1945, by conquering Red Army troops.
It was later handed over to Brigadier Sir Ralph Rayner, a British officer, when he visited the bunker days after the fall of Berlin, the auction house said.
The Siemens-made rotary telephone, embossed with a swastika and eagle symbol of the Third Reich, was said to be presented to Hitler by officers of the Wehrmacht, Nazi Germany's armed forces, in 1943.
The handset of the phone must be rotated almost 60 degrees before it can be lifted out of its cradle.
This feature kept the handset from shaking loose while being transported. The phone was used in vehicles and trains as well as the bunker and Hitler's field headquarters.
Hitler to demand the deaths of

1 demand

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all killings, not only Avijit's murder."
In the two years, the court fixed 22 dates for the investigation officer to submit the probe report, but police failed to complete the probe. The next deadline for submitting the report is March 27.
"I have been assured that the probe report of the murder would be submitted to the court very soon. I hope they will keep their words," said the grieving father, addressing yesterday's event organised by a faction of Gonojagoron Mancha in front of the National Museum.
Suspected militants hacked to death Avijit, founder of Mukto-Mona blog, near the Teacher-Student Centre on the Dhaka University campus. His wife Rafida Ahmed Bonya was also injured in the attack.
Ajoy, a professor of physics, also slammed the government for "bringing changes to school textbooks prescribed by Hefajat-e Islam, which has taken up the task of turning Bangladesh into a Pakistan-like state".
Lawyer Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad, also expressed dismay. He said, "We are shocked to see the state being submissive to the Hefajat."
Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University AAM Siddique said, "History testifies that the extremists always bow down when progressives stand united. Sometimes we face challenges and hurdles but we have always won."
On a similar note, Nazim Uddin, father of another slain blogger Ahmed Rajib Haider, said, "I have lost my son. But I know the youths of Gonojagoron Mancha would resist all attempts to turn Bangladesh into a communal state. Countless Rajibs would give up their lives to resist those doing politics using religion."
Imran H Sarkar, spokesperson of a faction of Gonojagoron Mancha, said, "The government is engaged in a cat-and-mouse game [with the militants]. A game that strengthens its [the government's] power while our comrades are being killed."
PROBE DELAY
Police said the investigation of the sensational murder was being delayed as law enforcers were yet to arrest the six suspects who were present during the murder.
Abdul Baten, joint commissioner of Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), told reporters on Saturday that police would submit the charge sheet as soon as they arrest the six.
Their involvement with the banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) has been confirmed, he added. He, however, did not disclose the name of the suspects.
Police so far arrested eight people in connection with the murder.
Seven of the suspects -- Shafiqur Rahman Farabi, Sadekur Rahman Mithu, Alimul Mallik, Towhidur Rahman, Julhaj Biswas and Jafran -- are now behind bars.
Suspect Abul Bashar, brother of ABT's spiritual leader Jashim Uddin Rahmani, died while undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The jail authorities had taken him to DMCH when he fell ill.

The bridge

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who works at a garment factory in nearby Chairmanbari area, said when asked why she had taken the risk.
"I have to catch my class. It begins in less than half an hour," said Rifat Hasan, a school-going teen.
Similar scenarios were seen at the place throughout the day. Those crossing the street that way gave similar excuses.
This dangerous practice is nothing new in the city. On many occasions, people were killed after being hit by vehicles while jaywalking. Some 40 percent of road accidents in the capital between 2010 and 2015 involved jaywalkers, according to reports published in this newspaper.
Assistant Sub-Inspector Nuruzzaman, who was making frantic efforts to control traffic on the street near Sainik Club, said the practice not only puts pedestrians' lives at peril but also poses risks for those driving or travelling in the vehicles.
Asked, he said, "I am not sure whether penalising them by mobile courts would yield any good results".
Jaywalking was also seen at the busy intersection near Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. At that place, the Dhaka North City Corporation in August last year had opened the country's second foot-bridge with escalators.
DNCC mayor Anisul Huq told The Daily Star that they were going to make two such footbridges --- one at Khilkhet and the other near hotel Radisson Blu.
Imported from Malaysia, the Tk 1.5-crore Banani escalator was installed at the footbridge under a World Bank-sponsored scheme, Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE), for first time on a pilot basis to encourage people to use overpass and prevent unsafe road crossing.
Shehab Ullah, one of the project directors, said that 23 footbridges have been built under the project across the city.
Dhaka South City Corporation has also taken a scheme to build around a dozen more footbridges with escalators, he added.

23 ethnic people

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The data was collected from the related reports published in different local and national newspapers and local ethnic organisations, which in turn were verified by Kapaeng's staff, he mentioned.
Last year, at least 17 women were allegedly raped and six were killed after rape, claimed the report, adding that five incidents of kidnapping were also reported.
Besides, at least 53 cases of violence against the indigenous women were reported. Twenty eight of them were from the CHT and 25 from other places. However, human rights violation against the ethnic women and girls in the last year dropped slightly in comparison to 2015, the report said.
Last year, the number of cases on human rights violation against indigenous women was 69, while the number stood at 85 in 2015, it mentioned.
At least 96 members of ethnic communities were physically tortured and harassed, and 297 houses were ransacked allegedly by law enforcement agencies last year.
"Around 1,200 indigenous families in Gobindaganj were forced to run for their life as their houses were completely burnt to ashes. The incident of Gobindaganj is a glaring example of the extent of helplessness that indigenous peoples are thrust in," the report added.
Speaking at the programme, Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, said the ethnic minorities were now passing the toughest time as their human rights are being violated seriously.
Prof Mizanur Rahman, former chairman of National Human Rights Commission, said if human rights situation is not improved, the government's claim of economic progress would not bring any change to the lives of the ethnic people.
Requesting the government to give importance on this report, rights activist Khushi Kabir said it is the government's responsibility to protect rights of the ethnic communities and take steps so that their rights will not be violated in future.
Kapaeng Foundation Chairperson Rabinranath Soren chaired the programme.

New CEC

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regarding the next parliamentary election."
Senior BNP leaders, including party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, were present.

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