

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

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SHAH CEMENT

Want justice, not relief

Say affected indigenous families of Rangamati, refuse government aid

MINHAJ UDDIN and ANVIL CHAKMA, Longadu, Rangamati

Indigenous people who lost everything in Friday's arson attack in Rangamati's Longadu have refused to take relief from the government, saying they need justice not help.

"We don't need any relief. We just want to see the culprits get punished," said Punyadhan Chakma, one of those who had fled after three villages of the upazila were attacked.

Ruhul Amin, Chittagong divisional commissioner, and ASM Moniruzzaman, deputy inspector general of police (Chittagong range), visited the affected areas yesterday and assured the victims that the culprits would be arrested.

Meanwhile, speaking in parliament, Rangamati lawmaker Ushatan Talukder demanded that the government forms a judicial and parliamentary probe body to investigate the matter.

Speaking at a protest rally in Shahbagh on Sunday, the independent MP had termed the attack "pre-planned", alleging that it was carried out with kerosene and petrol in presence of law enforcers.

Following the death of a local Jubo League man, several hundred people from different Bangalee-dominated unions brought out a procession carrying the body and attacked indigenous community houses in the three villages of Longadu on Friday morning. Some 200 homes and shops were burnt and damaged.

During a visit yesterday, these correspondents saw that the villages still had a deserted look. Some of the indigenous men, who had fled with their families in to a deep jungle near Kalapahar area, came to see the remains of their homes.

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An empty room of the Longadu Girls High School in Tintila village of Rangamati. The school is one of two temporary shelters the district administration has set up for about 200 indigenous families affected by Friday's attack. No families went there as of 3:30pm yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Oishee's sentence commuted to life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday commuted the death sentence of Oishee Rahman to life imprisonment in the much-talked-about sensational case filed over killing her parents in 2013.

The court also fined her Tk 5,000 and said she would have to serve in jail for six more months if she failed to pay the sum.

The HC, however, did not specifically say how long she would have to serve in custody.

Oishee's lawyer Advocate Sujit Chatterjee told The Daily Star that his client would have to serve in jail for 30 years from the date of her landing in it (since 2013) under the relevant provision of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

He added Oishee would appeal before the Appellate Division against the verdict for reducing her life imprisonment.

Deputy Attorney General Zahirul Haque told this

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Lost temple found after 1,000 years



MAIL ONLINE

Almost 1,000 years after it was lost, archaeologists have discovered a temple hidden in downtown Chengdu, China.

The Fugan temple was once a prestigious place of worship, but it suffered damage during wars, and all traces of it disappeared during the Song dynasty.

The researchers hope that its discovery could give clues to how Buddhism spread through China in the third century.

Researchers from the Chengdu Cultural Relic Research Institute discovered the temple's foundation, ruins of surrounding buildings, wells, roads and ditches, in downtown Chengdu.

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Duty on solar panels to hurt green initiatives

SOHEL PARVEZ and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The country's solar energy initiatives will face a setback as the government has proposed import duty on solar panels in the budget for fiscal 2017-18.

Imports of solar panel, the main component of a solar power system, will be subject to 10 percent customs duty, VAT and other taxes, totaling an additional cost of 37.5 percent in the next fiscal year, whereas the sector has been enjoying zero duty.

The move will escalate costs and affect solar energy ventures, which have already been planned and are being set up, such as expansion of solar power plants connected to the national grid, plants being installed for irrigation and solar rooftop systems, stakeholders said yesterday.

"The whole sector will be affected. It is like penalising the whole nation," said Dipal Barua, president of the Bangladesh Solar and Renewable Energy Association.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith has proposed imposition of duty on imports of solar panels amid demands for protection of local solar panel assemblers who have to compete with cheap imported products, particularly from China. Imported panels



are nearly 10 percent cheaper than those locally assembled, with zero import duty in place.

Import duty on solar cells has been kept zero for the next fiscal year as well.

Those who install solar power systems argue that nearly half of the country's nine assemblers are out of production and the rest can meet only 10 percent of the annual requirement for solar panels of 100 MW.

And the demand is growing due to rising interest of the private sector in establishing solar power plants, generating electricity from rooftop solar systems and shifting to solar-based irrigation and mini-grids.

The government has also been encouraging other uses of solar power such as solar pumps and solar home systems in the areas that have remained off the power grid so that the dependency on fossil-fuel-based electricity can be reduced, according to sources in the energy sector.

Over the last two decades, Bangladesh has made huge progress in making popular the use of solar home systems in the areas having no electricity connection, thus ensuring that 45 lakh homes get solar power.

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LAW AND ORDER Punishment for disruption to be harsher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved in principle the draft of "The Law and Order Disruption (Speedy Trial) (Amendment) Act-2017" increasing the punishment up to seven-year jail sentence for law and order disruption-related crimes.

According to the law, disruption to vehicular movement, blocking of roads, tender manipulation, issuing threats, extortion, mugging, terrorising people and vandalism of public properties will be treated as offences.

Anybody committing any of those crimes would be sentenced to minimum two years and maximum seven years of rigorous imprisonment along with fine, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiqul Alam told reporters.

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London attackers named in probe

AFP, London

Police identified two of the London attackers yesterday after Britain's third terror assault in less than three months, as Prime Minister Theresa May came under mounting pressure over security just days ahead of elections.

National counter-terrorism police chief Mark Rowley named two of the three slain assailants as Khuram Butt and Rachid Redouane, revealing that Butt had been known to security services.

The aftermath of Saturday night's rampage, which left seven dead and dozens wounded, dominated the campaign trail ahead of Thursday's general election.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said he would support calls for May to quit, as she had overseen a sharp reduction in police numbers in her post as interior minister.

The attack, claimed by the Islamic State group, saw three men wearing fake suicide vests use a white van to mow down people on London Bridge and then slash and stab revellers enjoying a Saturday night in the bustling Borough Market area.

Armed police reacted swiftly, killing the attackers within eight minutes with 50 shots.

Butt was 27 and a British citizen born in Pakistan.

He appeared in a Channel 4 documentary entitled "The



Khuram

Rachid

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Dark low clouds hang over Agargaon in the capital as the city experiences light shower in the afternoon.

HANDCUFFED IN HOSPITAL Police apologise before HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four policemen, including the officer-in-charge (OC) of Ashulia Police Station, yesterday offered unconditional apology to the High Court for keeping a Jahangirnagar University (JU) student handcuffed during treatment at a Savar hospital.

The four are OC Mohsinul Quader, Sub-inspector Nahid and constables Sentu and Halim.

Appearing before the HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque, they also prayed for exemption from having to appear in person at future hearings.

The court accepted their prayer. It also fixed July 9 for hearing a suomoto (on its own motion) rule it issued on May 29 after hearing on a report placed before it by SM Rezaul Karim.

The report of The Daily Star, bearing the headline "Handcuffed to hospital bed", said the student, Nazmul Hossain, fell sick on May 27 while protesting the death of two JU students in a road accident in Savar.

On May 29, police showed 42 JU students, including Nazmul, arrested in a vandalism case. During treatment at Enam Medical College & Hospital, one of Nazmul's hands was handcuffed to the hospital bed.

When he requested removal of the handcuffs so he could eat, police refused to do so, witnesses and his fellows alleged. Narrating the ordeal, Nazmul on May 31 told The Daily Star that a constable even threatened to shoot him and tie his legs if he spoke further.

Rezaul Karim, a lawyer of Bangladesh Legal Aid and

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SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan	June	Sehri	Iftar
10	6	3-38	6-47
11	7	3-38	6-48
12	8	3-38	6-48

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 6

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 3-44 12-45 5-00 6-47 8-15
JAMAAT 3-54 1-15 5-15 6-57 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION