



India's PM Narendra Modi and Myanmar's State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi talk to reporters during their joint press conference in the Presidential Palace in Naypyitaw, Myanmar yesterday.

India shares Myanmar's concerns

FROM PAGE 1
With Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi during a visit aimed at expanding commercial ties as part of an "Act East" policy, and pushing back against Chinese influence.

Myanmar has come under international pressure after some 125,000 Rohingya Muslims fled from a surge of violence in Rakhine state, beginning with an Aug 25 attack by Rohingya insurgents on dozens of police posts and an army base.

The rebel attacks triggered a sweep by the Myanmar security forces, in which refugees and right groups say many innocent Rohingyas have been targeted.

Buddhist-majority Myanmar rejects accusations by refugees and rights groups that its armed forces have violated the rights of the mostly Stateless Rohingyas, saying the army and police are fighting "terrorists".

Mostly Hindu India has faced years of attacks by Islamic militants.

Suu Kyi told a joint news conference

at the presidential palace in the capital, Naypyitaw, that Myanmar was grateful for India's stance on the attack on her country and they could work together to face the challenge.

"We would like to thank India particularly for its strong that it has taken with regard to terrorist threat that came to our country a couple of weeks ago," she said in brief remarks.

"We believe that together we can work to make sure that terrorism is not allowed to take root on our soil."

Modi said India and Myanmar had similar security interests in the region.

"We share your concerns about extremist violence in Rakhine state and specially the violence against security forces and the innocent civilians have been affected," he said.

"We hope that all the stakeholders together can find a way out in which the unity and territorial integrity of Myanmar is respected and at the same time there can be peace, justice dignity and democratic values for all."

Modi's government has taken a

Acting DV VC

FROM PAGE 1
parliamentary election.

They said it was not possible to have a ceremony this time as the pro-Awami League teachers of the university were severely divided over the appointment of the new VC.

On Monday, President Abdul Hamid, chancellor of the university, appointed Prof Md Akhtuzzaman temporarily.

Days before Prof Siddique's tenure as the VC was to end, a three-member VC panel was formed at a senate meeting on July 29 for appointing a new VC. Prof Siddique was on the panel.

However, a writ petition was filed with the High Court on July 23, challenging the legality of the senate meeting that formed the panel. The HC on July 24 stayed the process of holding the meeting scheduled for July 29 and forwarded the matter to its full bench.

The university authorities appealed against the stay order with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

The SC stayed the functioning of the VC panel but allowed Prof Siddique to continue his duties as the VC until the HC disposed of the petition.

The HC bench would hear the matter on October 3.

In another development, protests of 11 residents of the town of Kishoreganj, who were protesting against the proctorial body of the university tendered resignation to Prof Siddique on Tuesday.

In a single letter, they all mentioned that the appointment of a new VC was in violation of the Dhaka University Order 1973.

In a statement on Tuesday, 33 senate members also expressed support for the appointment of Prof Akhtuzzaman, which they said was a clear violation of Dhaka University Order-1973 and interference into its autonomy.

They said Prof Siddique was supposed to carry on as a chancellor as per an Appellate Division bench rule on the appointment of a new vice-chancellor.

Outcry in India

Congress leader Siddaramaiah termed the killing shocking and said three police teams had been constituted to probe the incident. Instructions had been issued to crack the case and bring the culprits to book at the earliest.

Recently, Gauri had been instrumental in bringing Naxalites into the mainstream and they have surprised him, he said, adding, "It's shocking news for me. No one who has faith in humanity will ever kill anyone. Gauri Lankesh was secular and helped government bring the Naxals back to the mainstream."

He wondered why Gauri had not told him about the threat to her life though she met him many times.

Karnataka Home Minister Ramalinga Reddy drew parallels between the gunning down of Gauri and nationalists Narendra Dabholkar and M M Kalburgi, allegedly by fringe Hindu groups.

Dabholkar was shot dead in August 2013 in Kolhapur, Maharashtra while Kalburgi was gunned down in Karnataka in August 2015.

"Who is behind the incident? Is it the Naxals or any other ideological fringe parties will be known only after investigation," Reddy said.

Siddaramaiah also said he had asked police to get in touch with their Maharashtra counterparts while probing the murder of Dabholkar.

Karnataka police chief R K Dutta said Gauri had not expressed apprehension about any threat to her life during a couple of meetings he had with her.

"I do not know how to react. The assassins should be brought to book. We should be looking for the 'big fish', Gauri's brother Indrajit Lankesh said.

In a statement, RSS Karnataka unit expressed deep sorrow over the 'heinous' murder of Gauri. "RSS appeals to the state government to act soon on the criminals responsible and bring them to book," it said.

Veteran BJP leader K S Eshwarappa rapped the Siddaramaiah government for "failing" to protect the lives of people, including those of noted writers

like Kalburgi and Gauri.

Gauri was last year convicted in a defamation case filed by BJP lawmaker Prahlad Joshi over a report published in her labaid against some leaders of the party.

India's Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Rajyavardhan Rathore took to Twitter to denounce the incident.

"Terrible news from Bengaluru about the heinous murder of Gauri Lankesh. I condemn all acts of violence against journalists," he said.

Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi said, "Truth cannot be silenced". He demanded that the culprits be tracked down and punished.

Gauri Lankesh lives on in our hearts. My condolences and love to her family. The culprits have to be punished," his office said in a twitter post.

BJP National General Secretary P Muralidhar Rao said, "The murder of Gauri Lankesh is a condemnable outrage. Onus is on Sh.Siddaramaiah to ensure proper investigation."

Gauri was a journalist-activist, known for her anti-establishment, pro-poor and pro-Dalit stances.

Among very few women editors in Kannada journalism, she was a fierce activist, who openly expressed her pro-Naxal and Leftist views.

Born in 1962, Gauri was the daughter of noted Kannada journalist and founding editor of Kannada weekly tabloid "Lankesh Patrike".

Shanties sprout as exodus swells

FROM PAGE 1
Muhammad Saiful Islam, who is in charge of Nayapara registered refugee camp in Ukhiya, said the situation there is precarious.

At least 19,000 registered Rohingyas were living at the camp till October last year, but more than 20,000 unregistered Rohingyas took shelter there since then, he mentioned.

He further said the situation was getting beyond control due to the massive influx of Rohingyas.

The Leda unregistered camp in Teknaf had 16,000 Rohingya refugees in 2008. Around 12,000 more made their way into the camp between October last year and yesterday, said camp management secretary Amir Hossain.

"Many are staying under the open sky."

Another 10,000 Rohingyas set up makeshift structures in Musoni and Leda. Allalihi areas of Teknaf since August 25, he added.

The newly arrived Rohingyas were desperate to find shelter. Many of them cut hills or cleared forestland to put up tents or makeshift shelters.

Forest guards asked him not to camp there. But they went away when he told them that he needed a shelter for his children.

Not only Salimullah, many other Rohingyas build makeshift structures on hill slopes.

These respondents found thousands of makeshift structures on hill slopes and roadsides in Gnumdhun and Jalpaitai in Naikhanghahang of Bandarban, and also in Tingkhali, Balukhali, Dhala, Hakimpura, Television Relay Hill, Kutupalong and Kutupalong Paschim.

Abu Moshed said the government should do it as soon as possible, otherwise the flow of the new arrivals, might move to other parts of the district, making it difficult for the authorities to

Hindupara of Ukhiya in Cox's Bazar.

Besides, new arrivals also set up camps in Roikhang, Putibunia, Jadimuhar, Alkhalik, Musoni, Nayapara, Jelethar and British Para of Teknaf, said NGOs and government officials.

An official at Kutupalong camp said different NGOs are providing food and healthcare facilities to the Rohingyas. But these activities need to be coordinated.

The official feared that there could be a major health crisis soon as the Rohingyas are living in unhygienic conditions without sanitation facilities.

Abu Moshed Chowdhury Khoka, president of citizens' platform Cox's Bazar Civil Society, said it's good that Bangladesh is dealing with the Rohingya issue from a humanitarian angle.

"There would be serious problems if the Rohingyas remain scattered and are allowed to move freely."

It would be wise if the government moves to document all the newly arrived Rohingyas and keep them in a designated area alongside the Ukhiya or Teknaf border under strict supervision, he mentioned.

R Rohingyas have already cut hills and cleared forests in various parts of Ukhiya and Teknaf. If this continues, it would cause a big environmental problem in the area which is prone to landslides and cyclones, he added.

Contacted, Refugee Repatriation and Rehabilitation Commission, Muhammad Abdul Kamal admitted that the situation was "serious".

"It is almost uncontrollable. But we are trying hard to bring the situation under control," he said.

According to a government decision, the newly arrived Rohingyas would soon be shifted to a new camp in Balukhali area of Ukhiya.

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Pressure alone

FROM PAGE 16
Moon, who took office this year advocating a policy of pursuing engagement with North Korea, has come under increasing pressure to take a harder line.

He has asked the United Nations to consider tough new sanctions after North Korea's latest nuclear test.

Secretary of State John Kerry said the UN Security Council could consider banning North Korean textile exports, barring its airline or stopping supplies of oil to the government and military.

Other measures could include pressuring the Chinese to work on a blacklist aimed at imposing asset freezes and travel bans.

"I ask Russia to actively cooperate as Russia is the only country with North Korea's oil supply should be cut at the least," Moon told Putin, according to a readout from a South Korean official.

Putin said North Korea would not give up its nuclear program no matter how much pressure it faced.

"We too, are against North Korea developing its nuclear capabilities and condemn it, but it is worrying cutting the oil pipeline will harm the people of North Korea," he said, according to a readout from the South Korean presidential office.

Russia's exports of crude oil to North Korea were tiny at about 40,000 tonnes a year, Putin said. By contrast, China provides it with about 520,000 tonnes of crude a year, according to industry sources.

Life once existed

FROM PAGE 16
"Borates are one possible bridge from simple organic molecules to RNA. Without RNA, you have no life."

The presence of boron tells us that, if organisms were present on Mars, these chemical reactions could have occurred."

The paper was published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*.

The boron found on Mars was discovered in calcium sulfate mineral veins, by Curiosity, meaning the boron was likely to be associated with water, provides another indication that some of the groundwater in Gale Crater, where the rover currently is, was habitable, ranging between 0-60 degrees Celsius (32-140 degrees Fahrenheit) and with neutral-to-alkaline pH.

The boron was identified by the rover's laser-shooting ChemCam (Chemistry and Camera) instrument, which was developed at Los Alamos National Laboratory in conjunction with the French space agency.

"We detected borates in a crater on Mars that's 3.8 billion years old, younger than the likely formation of life on Earth," said Casda.

Essentially, this tells us that the conditions from which life could have potentially grown may have existed on ancient Mars, independent from Earth.

Curiosity is climbing a layered

Martian mountain and finding chemical evidence of how ancient lakes wet underground environments changed, billions of years ago, in ways that affected their potential favorability for microbial life.

As the rover has progressed uphill, compositions trend toward more clay and iron-rich minerals.

These and other chemical variations can tell us about conditions under which sediments were initially deposited and about how later groundwater moving through the accumulated layers altered and transported dissolved elements, including boron.

Whether Martian life has ever existed is still unknown. No compelling evidence for it has been found.

When Curiosity landed in Mars' Gale Crater in 2012 the mission's main goal was to determine whether the area ever offered a habitable environment, which has since been confirmed.

The Mars 2020 rover will be equipped with an instrument called 'SuperCam', developed by Los Alamos and an instrument called SHERLOC, which was developed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory with significant participation by Los Alamos.

Both of these will search for signs of past life on the planet.

Nightmare on ferries

FROM PAGE 16
the ferry amid people pushing and shoving," said Nasir's wife Laiju Begum.

They were lucky to have made it to the other side of the river while thousands others from 21 districts in the country's south and south-western parts and several hundreds vehicles were stuck waiting at Kathalia Ferry Chao to return to Dhaka.

Only five ferries were operating on the river carrying lightweight vehicles and passengers in place of 21 different types of ferries that regularly ply across the river. As a result, passengers had to wait for long and travel on launches and speedboats.

Some buses used Daulatdia-Patulia route as alternative, creating tailbacks on the Daulatdia side where ferry transportation was also hampered by strong current of the Padma river.

Khondkar Shah Nawaz Khalid, assistant general manager of Shimulia-Kathalia Ferry Ghat, told our Munshiganj correspondent that disruption to ferry transportation on Shimulia-Kathalia route began on August 31 due to silt accumulation. The ferry services were suspended the next day.

Except for the five light ones, services of other ferries remained suspended since Sunday Khalid added.

"We started dredging the channel on September 2," said Sultan Ahmed Khan, executive engineer (dredging) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), adding that ferry transportation might become normal from Saturday.

Meanwhile, the BIWTA issued a press release, saying it could not continue dredging properly due to strong current. It urged people to use alternative routes instead of Shimulia-Kathalia route.

Our Manikganj correspondent reported that buses carrying passengers to Dhaka waited three to four hours to get on a ferry because of huge traffic.

Around 200 private cars and microbuses, 300 buses and more than 350 trucks were lined up on a stretch of seven to eight kilometers at Daulatdia forries at around 5:00pm yesterday.

Twenty-one out of 22 ferries were operating on the route.

Shafiqul Islam, a manager at Daulatdia office of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation, said the flow of vehicles was increasing at Daulatdia ferry terminal as ferries took twice the time required for each trip due to strong current.

Selina Begum, passenger of a bus waiting since morning, said "We have to suffer like this at the same place every year. The authorities care little about it."

Minister

FROM PAGE 15
The state minister said they had to send the price-hike proposal due to the higher petroleum price that public sector plants had to pay.

He however, said had been public sector power plants being allowed to get similar facilities like those in the private sector in importing petroleum fuel for power plants, it might have been difficult to adjust the power tariff.

Official sources said the private sector power plants were now getting 9 percent concession on the import of petroleum directly from the international market for their power plants.

But the public sector entities do not have the facilities as they have to buy petroleum fuel from the government-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.

"If we get similar facilities, it will be a great relief for the power sector, and we don't need to go for electricity price adjustment," Narayan said.

Last time, the power tariff was raised by 2.9 percent on an average in September 2015.

The state minister said the government planned to provide electricity to all homes by December 2018.

To achieve the goal, about 3,000MW power will be added to the national grid in the next year.

He added that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would inaugurate two power plants on September 10 and another on September 11.

Of them, one is the 450MW plant in Ashugani, and the other is the 108MW plant in Keraniganj.

Charges framed against

FROM PAGE 16
The court rejected two petitions saying there was no legal provision for exonerating him from the case and launching a reinvestigation," said Tangail Public Prosecutor S Akbar Khan.

The judge, however, accepted the third petition and granted the MP some time to prepare his defence.

Accused Anisul and Mohammad Ali had given confessional statements to the court under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). A total of 23 prosecution witnesses would testify before the court, Akbar added.

Anisul had surrendered to the court on September 18 last year after remaining absconding for about 22 months since the filing of the case. The court rejected his bail prayer and sent him to jail.

The bullet-hit body of Tangail AL leader Faruk, 60, was found near his home in the incident on the night of January 18, 2013, hours after he was shot dead.

Three days later, his wife Nahar Ahmed filed the murder case with Tangail Model Police Station against unidentified people.

Earlier, the hearing for framing charges against the case was deferred eight times as the lawmaker was not produced before the court due to "illnesses".

The Supreme Court on August 23 this year asked the authorities concerned to produce the lawmaker before the trial court on September 6.

On May 8, the SC stayed for four months a High Court order that granted bail to Rana in the murder case. The apex court also asked the trial court to complete the trial of the case in six months.

According to the charge sheet of the case, Faruk in 2012 had expressed willingness to contest for the post of Tangail AL general secretary.

But Rana and his family members opposed his candidature as the lawmaker's younger brother Shahidur Rahman Khan Mukti was taking part in the race to run for the same post.

Rana tried in vain to persuade Faruk to quit the race. The MP and his brothers then ordered their accomplices to kill the AL leader, read the charges.

Police had started probing the case before the Tangail BD was tasked with the job.

Law enforcers arrested Anisul and Mohammad Ali in August 2014. During interrogation on remand, they cited the involvement of the MP and his three brothers in the murder.

On February 3 this year, Investigating Officer Maficceur Rehman Ghulam, then officer-in-charge of Tangail BD, pressed charges against the 14 accused in the court.