



A Rohingya girl holding a child waits in queue for relief aid at Nayapara refugee camp in Teknaf yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Tigers try

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Tigers will also be without their best pacer Mustafizur Rahman, who will fly home tomorrow with ODI skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

South Africa are on a mission to blank Bangladesh but, with the series won, will also be looking to blood some new players and that might be the only chance for the Tigers to stage an upset. There is one certain change as Hashim Amla will be rested and promising Test debutant Aiden Markram may be given an ODI debut. Misfiring pace rookie Dane Paterson may also be given a break.

For Bangladesh, there will not be a wealth of options. Pacer Shafiqul Islam has been brought back to South Africa but the main question will be whether batsman Soumya Sarkar or off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz replaces Tamim. JP Duminy said yesterday that the pitch here is usually lower and slower than most in South Africa, and that will favour Mehedi. Mashrafe however seemed to think that it will be a batting wicket like all the others. Even so, given the shelling they received in the last match after going in with one bowler short, the smart money would be on Mehedi. That of course assumes that Bangladesh will make the smart choice.

Bangladesh had previously only played a Test here, on their first tour of the country in October 2002, and while they lost by an innings and 107 runs they also achieved their highest score of 252, which stood till they scored 320 in Potchefstroom in the first match of this tour. But like many other stats for Bangladesh on this tour, that may be a silver lining to thin to count.

Bangladeshis

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"We are waiting for the report from the engineer to know the exact cause of the incident," she said, adding that the council had issued an order to stop the project work.

Penang Fire and Rescue Department Director Saadon Moktar said the rescue operations involved three zones on an area of 15 square metres, and it was expected to take time as all the victims were buried deep under the clay soil, and there was possibility of another landslide.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak expressed his grief over the landslide. "(I feel) Sad about the landslide in Tanjung Bungah. Hopefully, the search and rescue mission runs smoothly, let us pray together," Najib said in a note on his official Twitter account.

POLICE NABS 39 BANGLADESHIS IN MALAYSIA

Meanwhile, immigration police last Monday nabbed 113 foreign workers -- 39 Bangladeshis, 40 Nepalese, 27 Pakistanis, two Indians and five Vietnamese -- for not having proper travel documents, reports The Star, an English newspaper in Malaysia.

The police raided a warehouse at Klang, a town of Selangor state, and conducted a check on 150 foreigners working at the warehouse that belonged to a major supermarket chain of the country.

Immigration Director-general Datuk Seri Mustafar Ali said 113 of those checked did not have proper travel documents.

The Immigration Department has so far deported 42,985 illegal foreigners this year, Mustafa said, urging the public not to harbour any undocumented foreigners.

Militants kill

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has long denied involvement in the attacks on the authorities.

Morsi was elected as Egypt's first civilian president in 2012, but the army overthrew him a year later following mass protests against the Islamist's divisive rule.

Since then, an extensive crackdown on the group has left it in disarray with competing wings that have disagreed on whether to resort to violence, after police bloodily suppressed their protests.

TSC off limits after 8

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other hall unions remained suspended for 27 years, students have been using TSC for social and cultural activities.

"Where do they go after this decision? It will curtail their activities. This is an unjust decision," said the veteran educationist.

SM Arif Shovon, president of Dhaka University Film Society, one of the TSC-based organisations, said as all of their members are current students, they usually start their work in the evening after classes and other engagements.

"In many cases, especially before programmes, we have to work till midnight. So, such a decision will curtail our activities as well as the quality of our works," Shovon said.

"This decision has been imposed on us...the authority could have talked with us before taking the decision," he said, adding that representatives of all the organisations are discussing their next course of action.

"This decision will give patronage to the fundamentalists because they want to confine women and don't want any cultural activities to take place," Umme Habiba Benozir, President of Bangladesh Student's Federation DU Unit, said.

Terming the security issue as "fraudulent" and "subterfuge", Habiba, a Masters student, said, "This decision will restrict the cultural activities of the students that help them become proper human beings."

Such decision will one day become an unofficial curfew on cultural activities on campus, she said, adding, "Because of having no student representation [in decision making of the university], the authority could impose such autocratic decision on them."

"Perpetrators do not only harass women at night; they also do it in broad day light if they can. Sexual abuse on Pohela Boishakh was the proof," she said.

Contacted, TSC director AMM Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury Moyna said cultural activities at TSC will continue as it is and the main gate of TSC will remain open till 9:00pm.

But he said there needed to be a timeframe for the organisations, especially those taking place mainly on the first floor of TSC, where current students -- both male and female -- are involved.

The dormitories for female students of DU remain open till 9:30pm.

Pressed about why the decision was taken, his first response did not adhere to the reason shown in the notice. "We have taken the decision so that the students' involved in cultural activities don't hamper their studies," Mohiuzzaman told The Daily Star last night.

When asked about the "security concern" as mentioned, Mohiuzzaman claimed the issue rose over the presence of "outsiders, mainly ragpickers". Queried as to what threat the ragpickers posed, he said they would litter and would use the toilets there.

DU dismisses

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each for using an electronic device during the one-hour exam that began at 10:00am.

A number of students alleged that some admission seekers received e-mails containing questions of the English part of the test around eight hours prior to the exam.

Copies of the answers to these questions were sent to the phones of some admission seekers around 9:30am, many said.

The Daily Star obtained a copy of the e-mail, containing 24 MCQ questions, which was sent at 3:19am on Friday. Each of the questions in the e-mail matched those of the actual question paper.

VC Akhtaruzzaman, when asked about the e-mails, said an IT expert was consulted who assured them that this type of screenshots or e-mails could be manipulated.

Speaking about the timeframe, he said it had always been there. "There was a timeframe and a timeframe is still there. We occasionally inform [them] by issuing letters," he said.

Asked about the previous timeframe, he said, "I don't know that. Alamgir bhai, who was the former director before I joined, would know."

About the criticism over the "restriction" Mohiuzzaman said, "I don't think this is a restriction. If they [organisations] have programmes, they will be able to work till 11:00pm [after] taking special permission from the authority."

Samina Lutfa, an associate professor of Dhaka University's Sociology Department, however differed with his views. She said it was a restriction on a public space, in the name of security, and is a "wrong decision" which will curb the "practice of free thinking and freedom of expression."

"If there is a security concern, the authority should beef up security, not impose restrictions," Samina, also a prominent cultural activist, told this newspaper.

DU Vice-chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman said he was not 'personally' aware of the notice.

However, the VC told The Daily Star last night that he, following an untoward incident when members of an organisation were working at midnight at TSC few days ago, had directed the TSC authority to implement the guidelines for proper management and avoid such circumstances.

"This [the notice] may be a follow up of my advice," said Akhtaruzzaman, a professor of Islamic History and Culture department, who was made vice-chancellor of Dhaka University last month.

Asked about the alleged restriction, the VC said "there is no question of imposing restriction [on cultural activities]. Rather, we will encourage this [cultural activities]."

Asked about the 8:00pm deadline, he said he did not know whether this was in TSC guideline. "If required, an amendment could be made [in the guideline]. Because, we have to encourage curricular and cultural activities," he said.

Since news of the notice broke, it has resulted in huge criticism across social media.

Put more

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According to a press released issued last night, Guterres during the call wholeheartedly supported the steps Bangladesh had taken for the Rohingyas.

The press secretary said Hasina thanked the UN secretary-general for the call and sought his support and continued engagement with the issue until a durable solution to the crisis could be found out.

She said Bangladesh had already engaged with Myanmar bilaterally to find a workable arrangement for the return of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas.

Prof Sadeka Halim, acting dean of Social Science faculty, yesterday sent a rejoinder protesting reports published on different newspapers.

The question papers are prepared and printed in such a confidential manner that there is no scope for leaking the question the night before the test, she claimed.

Meanwhile, DU Somajtantrik Chhatra Front unit would demonstrate on campus today demanding cancellation of the admission tests and exemplary punishment of those involved.

Additional Special Superintendent Minhazul Islam of the CID told The Daily Star that there was a large network, not a group of one or two, behind the crime.

He added that they were trying to catch everyone involved and the arrestees already mentioned a few names.

Duterte says he will shoot criminals

AFP, Manila

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has offered to shoot criminals himself, while warning he may bring police back to the frontlines of his deadly war on drugs.

Duterte made the comments late Friday following his announcement on October 11 to withdraw the police from his anti-drug war after they were accused of rights abuses in killing thousands of people while following his orders to eradicate illegal drugs in society.

He replaced them with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), which has about 2,000 officers compared with 165,000 for the police force.

Duterte has repeatedly insisted he has not ordered or incited police to murder drug addicts or suspects, while at other times he has said he would be happy to slaughter them or have tens of thousands killed.

On Friday he said he would be prepared to kill criminals himself, as he raised doubts about the PDEA being able to contain illegal drugs.

"Those who rape children, who rape women, those sons of... if you don't want the police, I am here now. I will shoot them. That's true! If nobody would dare it, I will pull the trigger," he said.

Duterte said he was already considering bringing the police back to run the drug war.

"Okay, let us see, six months from now. If things get worse again, I will say to these apes: 'Go back to this job. You solve this problem of ours'," he said, referring to the police.

Duterte was elected to office last year after vowing during the campaign that 100,000 people would die as he eradicated illegal drugs in society.

A friend

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War in 1971, giving shelter to and taking care of injured freedom fighters. He spent the whole of the liberation war in Bangladesh, earning him the title of a freedom fighter.

In recognition of his contributions, the Bangladeshi government gave him honorary citizenship in 2009.

In 2012, he was conferred "Friends of Liberation War Honour" for his outstanding support and contribution, which helped the country emerge as an independent nation 41 years back.

On Friday evening, the lights in the sky seemed to have dimmed as Father Rigon, breathed his last in Italy's Vicenza. He was 92 years old.

Father Rigon had been under intensive care since 2014. A Bangladeshi cultural activist in Paris, Ravisamkar Maitree, confirmed the death in a Facebook status.

Ravisamkar, who chronicled Father Rigon's journey in a documentary titled Father Marino Rigon: Venice to Sundarban, said that Father Rigon considered the liberation war as a most significant incident in his life.

Father Rigon was born on January 5, 1925 at Villaverla in Italy. He came to Bangladesh in 1953 to spread the message of Christianity. Soon, his warmth and affection endeared him to all people irrespective of religion, caste and creed.

He stayed at Haldibunia village of Mongla for a long time.

When the freedom fighter began suffering from heart disease in 2001, his family members took him to Italy for better treatment.

Father Rigon's love for Bangladesh was so deep that he requested he be buried in Bangladesh. His relatives accepted the condition.

Apart from his social works, Father Rigon was also heavily involved with the culture of Bangladesh.

He translated a number of Bangla literary works, including Rabindranath Tagore's Geetanjali, a few of Lalon Shah's songs and Jasim Uddin's Nakshikanthar Math, in Italian. Many of his translated Bengali books were later re-translated to French, Spanish and Portuguese.

Father Rigon also established a Rabindra Study Centre in Italy in 1990.

He also popularised Bangladesh's traditional nakshikantha, a type of embroidered quilt, in Italy. Nakshikantha exhibitions in his Shelabunia Sewing Centre were held in numerous Italian cities.

Seventeen educational institutions were also established in Southern Bangladesh under his supervision. In addition, Father Rigon created opportunities for hundreds of underprivileged children to continue their studies.

A Bangladeshi theatre group staged the musical drama Nakshikanthar Math in Italy with his help in 1986.

State Minister for Public Administration, Ismat Ara Sadique, in a message of condolence, expressed profound shock at Father Rigon's death and recalled his contribution to the liberation war.

Sushma flies in today

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cooperation and cultural affairs issues.

The Indian minister will meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban at 6:00pm today.

She will open the new Chancery Complex at the Indian High Commission in Dhaka at 9:30am tomorrow. She will inaugurate 15 development projects and address a programme on the occasion. Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali will be present.

Meanwhile, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will have a meeting with the Indian minister during her stay here, said some senior BNP leaders.

A source in New Delhi yesterday told The Daily Star that Sushma was supposed to be back home by tomorrow night as US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson would tour India on Tuesday.

The JCC meeting will review the progress in implementing decisions taken during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Dhaka visit in June 2015 and Hasina's tour of India in April this year.

About the Teesta River Water Sharing agreement, a senior Bangladesh foreign ministry official said, "Sharing river water is a sensitive issue and it will be raised during Sushma's visit to Dhaka."

The Teesta is the fourth largest transboundary river shared by the two neighbouring countries. The deal was expected to be signed during former Indian PM Manmohan Singh's visit to Dhaka in September 2011. But it fell through after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee objected to the deal.

Counterterrorism is going to be high on Sushma's agenda. The cooperation in energy, trade and sub-regional connectivity is also likely to come up for discussion.

According to an Indian diplomat in New Delhi, India views Bangladesh as an important component of its policy to forge closer links between South and Southeast Asia, given the country's strategic geographical position.

Both the countries are member of the BIMSTEC which India views as an alternative to the largely dysfunctional

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc). However, Dhaka does not want to make the Saarc an ineffective body.

For India, the Indian diplomat said, Bangladesh and Myanmar are both important neighbours as it shares long borders with them.

India has viewed with concern increasing Chinese aid and infrastructure assistance to both the countries, fearing a heightening of Beijing's profile and a waning of its own influence in its periphery.

Our New Delhi correspondent adds: The Rohingya refugee crisis and India's development partnership with Bangladesh will dominate Sushma's visit to Dhaka.

On the Rohingya issue, Hasina expected to impress on the Indian minister that her country will play a more active and bigger role in prodding Myanmar to take back more than a million refugees sheltered in Bangladesh and to solve once and for all the citizenship issue of Rohingyas so that the problem doesn't rear its head time and again.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque has already done the spade work for India's political intervention to nudge Myanmar to solve the Rohingya issue when he visited New Delhi earlier this month and met his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

Since the latest Rohingya refugee crisis began in August, India had backed the Myanmar security forces' operations against Rohingya militants in Rakhine, causing disquiet in Dhaka.

However, as the Hasina government worked on India, it recalibrated its stance by making a nuanced shift, and along with the European Union, called upon Myanmar to facilitate repatriation of Rohingya refugees. India further said the report of the Kofi Annan-led commission could serve as a good basis for a solution.

India has also sent humanitarian assistance to Bangladesh to deal with the refugee crisis and emerged as the biggest donor of aid for this.

Interference doesn't work

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the attacks in Rakhine and understands and supports Myanmar's efforts to protect peace and stability there.

China and Myanmar have a deep, long-standing friendship, and China believes Myanmar can handle its problems on its own, he added.

Asked why China's approach to the Rohingya crisis was different from Western nations, Guo said that China's principle was not to interfere in the internal affairs of another country.

"Based on experience, you can see recently the consequences when one country interferes in another. We won't do it," he said, without offering any examples of when interventions go wrong.

China does not want instability in Myanmar as it inevitably will be affected as they share a long land border, Guo said.

"We condemn violent and terrorist acts," he added.

Journey of an artefact

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bought the antiquity more than 45 years ago from an Italian aristocratic family, who lived on the shores of Lake Nemi.

"It was found in the waters of the lake in the 19th century," Fioratti said in a phone interview, although she said she didn't know who originally discovered it.

By the time the couple came to purchase the object in the 1960s she said they had no reason to question the ownership. "They thought they owned it. We thought they owned it. Everyone thought they owned it."

But the Italian military police's Art Recovery Unit, which is responsible for recovering looted artifacts, says the antiquity made of porphyry cobbles configured in a colorful geometric pattern dates back to Caligula's reign, 37-41 AD, and is believed to have been part of the flooring of one of the notorious emperor's two pleasure ships.

Described as "floating palaces" by the Museum of Roman Ships, which houses the remnants of the vessels, they were famous for their opulence and are believed to have been the site of wild parties that lasted for days.

At over 230 feet in length and 65 feet in width, the ships would have struggled to manoeuvre in the volcanic waters of Lake Nemi, outside Rome, where they eventually sank, according to the museum's website.

Most of the marble flooring was only found during excavations of the shipwreck between 1928 and 1932, under the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini. The fascist government then built the museum for the ships and the Italian authorities believe the flooring was looted from that site following World War II.

But Fioratti said her purchase was "completely innocent" and was arranged by an Italian policeman. Fioratti could not remember how much she and her husband paid for it, but said that it cost thousands of dollars.

She said it was arranged for the approximately four-foot-square antiq-

Guo's department has been at the forefront of building relations with Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who visited China in 2015 at the Communist Party's invitation, rather than the Chinese government's.

Department head Song Tao also visited Myanmar in August and met Suu Kyi.

Rohingyas have fled Myanmar in large numbers since late August when Rohingya insurgent attacks sparked a ferocious military response, with the fleeing people accusing security forces of arson, killings and rape.

The European Union and the United States have been considering targeted sanctions against Myanmar's military leadership.

Punitive measures aimed specifically at top generals are among a range of options that have been discussed, but they are wary of action that could hurt the wider economy or destabilize already tense ties between Suu Kyi and

uity to be shipped to New York where the couple mounted it on a stand and used it as a coffee table.

While the art dealer said she didn't know how the Italian police became aware of the artefact she wondered if they had seen it in a magazine shoot of their apartment.

"We had our apartment featured a long time ago in Architectural Digest and I'm sure there was a photograph of the table in front of the sofa," she said.

The mosaic was seized by the Manhattan district attorney's office based on evidence provided by the Italian military police and experts in the field.

The rare antiquity is part of a wider collection of stolen-Italian artefacts found in the US between March and May of this year, which was formally handed back to the Italians in a repatriation ceremony in New York on Thursday.

Among other finds was an Apulian red figure krater dated to around 360-350 B.C. which was found at the Metropolitan Museum of New York. An investigation by the Italian authorities found that the krater -- an ancient vessel used for mixing wine and water -- had been illegally exported by a well-known Italian international artefacts trafficker.

The trove of treasurers also included ancient coins, antique books and manuscripts, and bronze prehistoric statuettes, the Italians authorities said.

The Manhattan district attorney's office said no criminal charges have been filed against Fioratti.

She said she does not intend to fight the repatriation of the object in court because her lawyer said it could take up to 20 years to fight. "I'm A, too old and B, too poor," she said.

But the widow said she was saddened to lose the piece.

"I don't know if anyone is going to see it as much as they did in my place. I had people who were interested in antiquities admiring it in my home all the time. Now it will be in a museum with a lot of other things," she said.