

Trump, Duterte bond at Asia summit

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(Islamic State), illegal drugs, and trade," said White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders. "Human rights briefly came up in the context of the Philippines' fight against illegal drugs."

Duterte's spokesman, Harry Roque, told a news conference the Philippine president had explained his antidrug policy at length to Trump, who "seemed to be appreciative of his efforts."

"There was no mention of human rights, no mention of extralegal killings," he said.

A joint statement released later by the White House listed human rights as the third of 14 topics discussed.

"The two sides underscored that human rights and the dignity of human life are essential, and agreed to continue mainstreaming the human rights agenda in their national programs to promote the welfare of all sectors, including the most vulnerable groups," the statement said.

They discussed the Philippine campaign against crime, including illegal drugs, it said, and "committed to share best practices in the areas of prevention; enforcement, including capacity-building and transparency in investigations; and rehabilitation."

More than 3,900 people have been killed in a war on drugs that Duterte declared when he took office last year. His government says the police act in self-defense, but critics say executions are taking place with no accountability.

"We are your ally. We are an important ally," Duterte told Trump at the beginning of their talks, according to reporters allowed in to the meeting room.

Trump replied: "We've had a great relationship. This has been very suc-



cessful. And the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) conference has been handled beautifully by the president in the Philippines."

Duterte, who has been called the "Trump of the East" for his brash style and provocative language, said last week he would tell the US president to "lay off" if he were to raise accusations of rights violations.

In May, Trump was criticised for praising Duterte during a phone call for the "great job" he was doing to counter illegal narcotics.

The United States and the Philippines, a former US colony, have been strategic allies since World War II. But their relations have been strained by anti-US outbursts from Duterte and his enthusiasm for better ties with Russia and China.

However, Duterte clearly appears to be getting on better with Trump than he did with the American president's predecessor, Barack Obama.

Trump and Duterte seem to have warmed to each other after meeting for

the first time on Saturday at an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group meeting in Vietnam.

On Sunday, Duterte crooned hit Filipino love song "Ikaw" (You) at a gala dinner for summit leaders in Manila, saying it was on "the orders" of Trump.

One of the song's verses, translated from Filipino, begins: "You are the light in my world, a half of this heart of mine".

"Ladies and gentlemen, I sang uninvited, upon the orders of the commander in chief of the United States," Duterte said later, according to the ABS-CBN news channel.

Roque described the relationship between Trump and Duterte as "warm, friendly and candid."

"It's very apparent that both of them have a person who they consider as not a best friend," he added.

"They have similar feelings towards former US President Barack Obama."

Duterte's anger was unleashed last year when Obama raised concern about possible human rights abuses in the war on drugs.

Rules bent to favour errant contractor

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by the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), violating rules and its contract, according to documents The Daily Star obtained.

The company was supposed to get the chemical factory in Sitakunda going again by June 2014 and the government has been losing Tk 5.65 crore a month since then.

The BCIC recently amended its contract with the company to release 75 percent of its security deposit worth around Tk 8.62 crore. The WASTCL had stopped working in May to press the government to release the money.

Upon directives from the BCIC and the ministry of industries, the CCC, a subsidiary of the BCIC, directed National Bank Ltd (NBL) to release 75 percent of the Chinese company's bank guarantee, according to documents obtained by this paper.

Md Khairul Kabir Menon, deputy secretary (BCIC) of the industries

ministry who signed the BCIC proposal to amend the contract with the Chinese company, told The Daily Star recently that it was the BCIC that had made the decision to amend its contract with WASTCL.

"We have only done formalities," he said.

Lutfur Rahman, director (planning and development) of the BCIC who is in charge of the CCC project, said they have given permission to release the bank guarantee upon approval from higher authorities.

Official sources said the BCIC ignored its audit department's opinion in releasing the bank guarantee. The audit department had said the money could not be released as per the law, they said.

The Daily Star tried to talk to BCIC Chairman Shah Md Aminul Haq, who had initiated the contract amendment, but could not reach him. The Daily Star repeatedly called him and sent several

text messages for comments and an appointment but he did not respond.

Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said such situation might arise for two specific reasons.

First, those who are involved in dealing with the Chinese company are indifferent to the tax payer's money and second, there is corruption and certain people are receiving perks, he said.

He urged the government to investigate the matter thoroughly.

WASTCL was given the job in April 2013 to restart the CCC.

The CCC authorities warned the company of taking legal steps in May and demanded compensation of Tk 82 crore.

Interestingly, the authorities did not take any steps against the company due to what some officials on condition of anonymity said the company's "understanding" with the top officials of the BCIC and the industries ministry.

Deadly quake kills over 400

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second night as authorities scrambled to provide them with aid.

Some had spent Sunday night outdoors after fleeing their homes in the mountainous cross-border region, huddling around fires at dawn as the authorities sent in help.

"People's immediate needs are firstly tents, water and food," said the head of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards, Maj Gen Mohammad Ali Jafari.

"Newly constructed buildings... held up well, but the old houses built with earth were totally destroyed," he told state television during a visit to the affected region.

Hundreds of ambulances and dozens of army helicopters reportedly joined the rescue effort after Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei ordered the government and armed forces to mobilise "all their means".

Like other foreign media organisations, AFP had not received authorisation to visit the scene of the disaster yesterday.

Officials said they were setting up relief camps for the displaced.

Iran's emergency services chief Pir Hossein Koolivand said landslides had cut off roads to affected villages, impeding the access of rescue workers.

But by late afternoon, officials said all the roads in Kermanshah province had been re-opened, although the worst-affected town of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab remained without electricity, said state television.

The official IRNA news agency said 30 Red Crescent teams had been sent to the quake zone.

After initially pinning the quake's epicentre inside Iraq, the USGS then placed it across the border in Iran on Monday morning.

Iran's Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, home to some 85,000 people close to the border, was the worst hit with at least 236 dead.

At dawn, buildings in the town stood disfigured, their former facades now rubble on crumpled vehicles.

In an open space away from wrecked housing blocks, men and women, some wrapped in blankets, huddled around a campfire.

Iranian media reported that a woman and her baby were pulled alive

from the rubble.

The towns of Esfahabad and Qasr-e Shirin were also affected, while the tremor shook several western Iranian cities including Tabriz.

Some 259,000 people live in the region, according to the most recent census.

State television showed tents, blankets and food being distributed in areas struck by the tremor.

In neighbouring Dalahoo County, several villages were totally destroyed, an official told Tasnim agency.

In Iraq, the health ministry said the quake had killed seven people in the northern province of Sulaimaniyah and one in Diyala province to its south.

More than 500 people were injured in both provinces and the nearby province of Kirkuk.

Footage posted on Twitter showed panicked people fleeing a building in Sulaimaniyah as windows shattered at the moment the quake struck. Images from the nearby town of Darbandikhan showed walls and concrete structures that had collapsed.

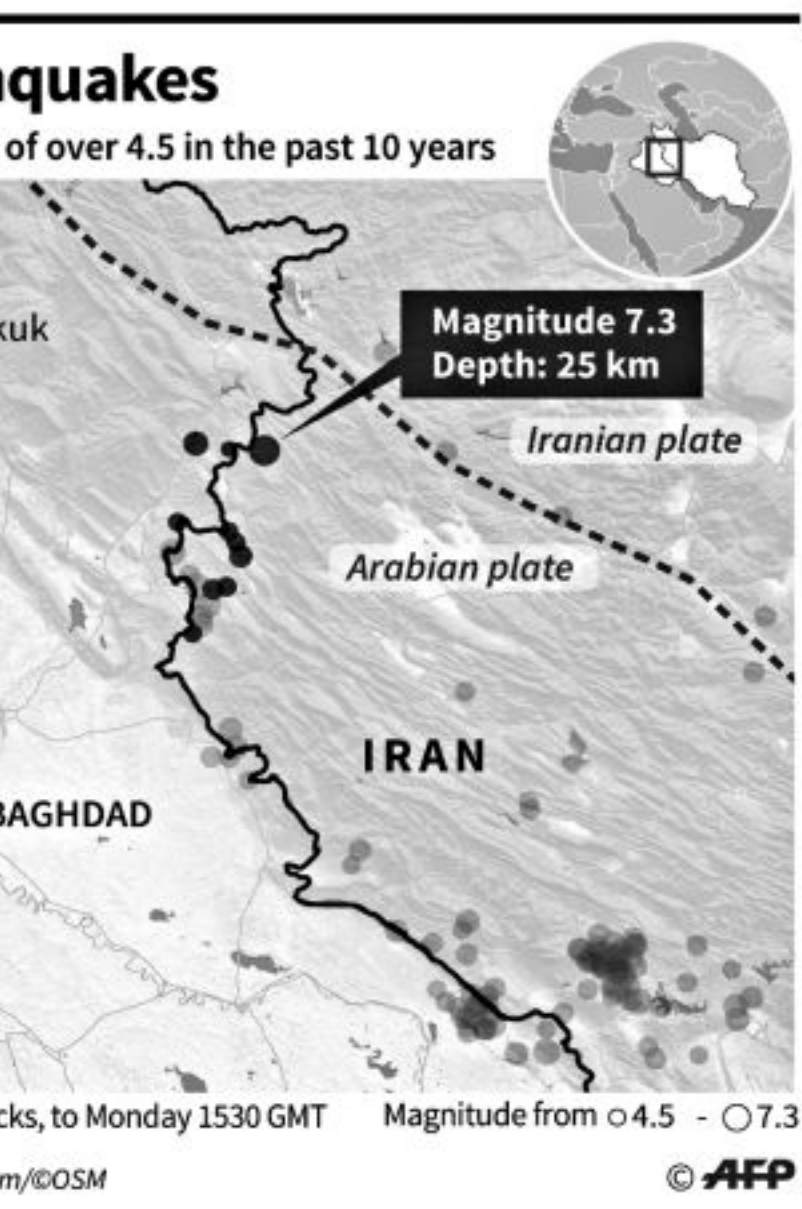
Britain, France, Germany, Russia and Syria offered their condolences, while Pope Francis called the quake a "tragedy" and expressed his "prayerful solidarity" with victims.

The quake struck along a 1,500-kilometre fault line between the Arabian and Eurasian tectonic plates, which extends through western Iran and northeastern Iraq.

The area sees frequent seismic activity.

In 1990, a 7.4-magnitude quake in northern Iran killed 40,000 people, injured 300,000 and left half a million homeless, reducing dozens of towns and nearly 2,000 villages to rubble in just seconds.

Thirteen years later, a catastrophic quake flattened swathes of the ancient



southeastern Iranian city of Bam, killing at least 31,000.

Iran has experienced at least two major quake disasters since, one in 2005 that killed more than 600 and another in 2012 that left some 300 dead.

EC favours

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will be engaged. The decision will be taken by the EC, he added.

"We, including the chief election commissioner, feel that the army should be deployed. Time will say how the army will be mobilised," he said.

"Right at this moment, we may [have not] taken a decision but the decision will come in the course of time. Because time will say which decision is necessary," he said.

Queried whether BNP's demands have played a role in that, he said they did not think so as their demand was giving magistracy power to the army and not army deployment in itself.

About Electronic Voting Machines or EVMs, the election commissioner said the old ones have been out of operation, for which they have been said to be abandoned.

"But we have to include EVM in election process in the future," he said.

However, there is doubt about using EVM in the next general election as the commission don't have and preparation necessary to use EVM, he said.

Many Hindu

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police camp was set up at the village for the protection of the Hindus.

Police have so far arrested 108 people in connection with the attack but that apparently has failed to bring a sense of security in the village.

Mizanur Rahman, superintendent of police in Rangpur, claimed that police already identified the people who organised the propaganda campaign against the Hindus over a Facebook post.

He, however, did not disclose their names.

The investigation is still on and the cybercrime unit is working on the matter, said the SP.

Avijit Chakraborty, Indian assistant high commissioner, visited Thakurpara yesterday and talked to the affected people. He also met Waheduzzaman, DC of Rangpur, and requested him to set up a permanent police post at the village.

The propaganda campaign against the Hindus of the village began on November 4. Loudspeakers, banners and leaflets were used every day to spread hatred. The people running the campaign used the local mosques and madrasa students and teachers. They used a Facebook post allegedly made by a Hindu person as the centre piece of their campaign claiming that it hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims.

On Friday afternoon, hundreds of people attacked the village. They torched 10 houses, vandalised 10 more and looted their valuables, including 25 cattle.

A large number of the attackers came from Taraganj and Badarbanj upazilas of Rangpur, and Jaldhaka of Nilphamari, sources claimed.

Change of guard

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Senators in Washington are pressing to pass legislation imposing economic and travel sanctions targeting the military and its business interests.

The government in mostly-Buddhist Myanmar regards the Rohingyas as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

Maung Maung Soe's transfer was ordered on Friday and Brig Gen Soe Tint Naing, formerly a director in logistics, had been appointed as the new head of Western Command.

Made up of three divisions, Western Command is overseen by the Bureau of Special Operations, which reports to the office of the Commander in Chief of the military, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

A senior UN official has described the army's actions in Rakhine as a textbook example of ethnic cleansing. Myanmar says the clearance operation was necessary for national security after Rohingya militants attacked 30 security posts and an army base in the state on August 25.

'Fake' FFs

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as freedom fighters during the BNP-Jamaat rule, he said. Since the list was not based on facts, many non-free-dom fighters were named there.

He admitted that a list prepared during the Awami League rule in 1996 was also flawed.

4 cubs

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rescued the cubs, the police official told our Benapole correspondent.

The law enforcers also detained two people, Rana Bhuiyan, 27, of Narsingdi and Kamruzzaman Babu, 30, of Bogra, in this connection, he said, adding that they are being interrogated for further information.

They were taking those four cubs to a house in the bordering Sharsha upazila in Jessore. The cubs were kept inside a wooden box in the vehicle.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) Jessore office sources said they primarily came to know that the vehicle is owned by one Md Khwaja Moinuddin, an official of M/S. Star Gold International in Banani.

After seeing the photographs, Dr Reza Khan, head of Dubai zoo, also confirmed that two of those four cubs were lions and the others were leopards.

"Definitely those were smuggled into our country. There is no such cub in [our] zoos," Dr Reza Khan said.

The cubs were kept at the police lines till filing of this report in the evening.

Modinatul Ahsan, divisional forest officer, Khulna, reached Jessore yesterday afternoon. He told journalists that these were not any local species. The forest department will investigate how these four cubs were brought in the country.

They will be sent to Bangabandhu Safari Park in Gazipur if court orders them to be handed over to Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division, he added.

World's 1st 'floating nation'

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The radical plans, bankrolled by PayPal founder Peter Thiel, could see the creation of an independent nation that will float in international waters and operate within its own laws.

In a new interview, Joe Quirk, president of the Seasteading Institute, said he wants to see "thousands" of rogue floating cities by 2050, each of them "offering different ways of governance".

"Governments just don't get better," Quirk told the New York Times.

"They're stuck in previous centuries. That's because land incentives a violent monopoly to control it."

The first island is being funded by a coin offering, a new concept gaining popularity in Silicon Valley in which money is "crowd sourced" by creating and selling a virtual currency.

The non-profit organisation hopes to raise around \$60 million by 2020 to build a dozen buildings.

The structures will feature "green roofs" covered with vegetation and construction will use local bamboo, coconut fibre, wood and recycled metal and plastic.

First revealed in January, the plans have been approved by the French Polynesian government, which is now creating a special economic zone so the floating nation can operate under its own trade laws.

The tiny nation, a collection of 118 islands in the southern Pacific with a population just over 200,000, has granted the Seasteading Institute 100 acres of beachfront to operate from.

French Polynesia is interested in the project as the area is at risk from rising sea levels.

It may seem like an ambitious plan, but the group believes semi-independent cities would be the perfect place to try new modes of government and agricultural methods.

Quirk and his team have now started a new company, Blue Frontiers, which will build and operate the floating islands in French Polynesia.

Floating islands would feature aquaculture farms, healthcare, medical research facilities, and sustainable energy powerhouses.

The first city would be built on a network of 11 rectangular and five-sided platforms so it could be rearranged according to its inhabitants' needs like a floating jigsaw, Quirk said.

A feasibility report by Dutch engineering firm Deltasync said the square and pentagon platforms would measure 164ft in length and they would have 164 ft-tall sides to protect buildings and residents.

The platforms will be made from reinforced concrete and support three-storey buildings such as apartments, terraces, offices and hotels for up to 100 years, according to the plans.

It's envisaged that between 250 and 300 people will call the first floating city home.

The plan is that the city will float just off-shore of a host nation, but have a substantial degree of political independence.

The original proposal was to look to

international waters to establish new nations, but the Institute realised locating its city off the coast would enable the inhabitants to go onshore and acquire goods, give it more shelter from storms and better legal protection.

It believes its floating city would create an environment that encourages innovation and start-up governments, rather than what it calls the "monopolies" of today.

The Institute claims it will "give people the freedom to choose the government they want instead of being stuck with the government they get".

If inhabitants disagree with the city's government, they could paddle their colony to another city, forcing governments to work to attract citizens.

The feasibility report supported the idea that the project is economically feasible, with each platform costing less than \$15 million which works out at a similar price as land in London or New York.

Overall, the first floating city is predicted to cost \$167 million.

Traces of major palm oil spill still linger in Hong Kong

AFP, Hong Kong

Traces of palm oil are still fouling a remote part of Hong Kong's shoreline three months after a major spill caused by a ship collision, environmentalists say.

One thousand tonnes of the solidified oil leaked from a cargo ship which collided with another vessel near the Pearl River estuary in early August.

More than 200 tonnes reached Hong Kong's shores, forcing beaches to close and killing some fish.

Government clean-up crews helped by volunteers staged a major clean-up.

But a team from WWF Hong Kong last week found remnants of palm oil mixed with litter on two beaches of the Soko Islands, the site for a proposed marine park and near the habitat of the Chinese white dolphin and finless porpoise.

"Its distribution is actually much further than we thought," said Samantha Lee, manager for ocean conservation at WWF Hong Kong.

Hong Kong comprises more than 200 islands but there are increasing concerns about pollution and rubbish blighting their shores.


Lee urged the government to clean up coastal areas that are less frequented but of high ecological value.

Teenage girl

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Police arrested Nannu Miah, president of Purbo Jaflong unit of Jubo League, in connection with illegal stone extraction and the incident that resulted in the death of Shompa.

| “দেশ হাসিনার উদ্যোগ-ঘরে ঘরে বিদ্যুৎ” | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| স্মারক নং-২৭.১২.৬১৫২.১১৮.০৭.০১১.২০১৭.২৩১৩ | | | তারিখ:০৮-১১-২০১৭ খ্রিঃ |
| ১ | মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ | : | বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানী ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়/বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ |
| ২ | সংস্থার নাম | : | বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড |
| ৩ | বাস্তবায়নকারী দপ্তর | : | তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী দপ্তর, ময়মনসিংহ জোন, বাপবিবো, ময়মনসিংহ। |
| ৪ | নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, বাপবিবো, জামালপুর-এর অফিসের জন্য জামালপুর শহরে ০১ (এক) টি পাকা বাড়ী ইজারা গ্রহণ করা হইবে। | | |
| ৫ | বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস | : | জিওবি/বাপবিবো। |
| ৬ | চুক্তির মেয়াদ | : | ০১/১২/২০১৭ খ্রিঃ হইতে ৩০/১১/২০১৯ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত ২ (দুই) বৎসর। |
| ৭ | দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের সময়কাল | : | ১৩/১১/২০১৭ খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে। |
| ৮ | দরপত্র সজ্ঞহের স্থান, তারিখ ও সময় | : | ২৬/১১/২০১৭ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বিকাল ৫ঃ০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ জোন বাপবিবো, ১৭০, কালীবাড়ী রোড, ময়মনসিংহ। |
| ৯ | দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান | : | তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ জোন বাপবিবো, ১৭০, কালীবাড়ী রোড, ময়মনসিংহ। |
| ১০ | দরপত্র দলিল জমা গ্রহণের সর্বশেষ তারিখ | : | ২৭/১১/২০১৭ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২ঃ০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। |
| ১১ | দরপত্র দলিল খোলা তারিখ ও সময় | : | আবেদনকারীদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি উপস্থিত থাকেন) ২৭/১১/২০১৭ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২ঃ৩০ ঘটিকা। |
| ১২ | দরপত্র খোলার স্থান | : | তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ জোন বাপবিবো, ১৭০, কালীবাড়ী রোড, ময়মনসিংহ। |
| ১৩ | অন্যান্য বিষয়াবলী | : | - |
| (ক) | প্রত্যাপিত বাড়ীটি ১/২ ফ্লোর বিশিষ্ট ১৩০০ বর্গফুট হইতে ১৮৫০ বর্গফুট এর মধ্যে ফ্লোর এরিয়া থাকিতে হইবে। এপ্রোচ রোড, লোহার গেট, পাকা প্রাচীর ও ০১টি পাকা গ্যারেজসহ পানি, বিদ্যুৎ ও গ্যাস সংযোগ এর সুবিধা থাকিতে হইবে। | | |
| (খ) | অগ্রহীণী ও প্রকৃত বাড়ীর মালিকগণকে বাড়ীর মালিকানা, ফ্লোর প্ল্যানের নক্সা ও এরিয়া সংক্রান্ত কাগজপত্রাদি সহ প্রত্যাপিত মাসিক মূল ভাড়া (৫% উৎস কর এবং ১৫% ভ্যাটসহ) উল্লেখ পূর্বক দরপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে। | | |
| (গ) | দরপত্র গ্রহণ/খোলার দিন যদি ছুটি ঘোষিত হয় তবে পরবর্তী অফিস খোলার দিন নির্ধারিত সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ/খোলা হইবে। | | |
| (ঘ) | কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারন দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিলের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন। | | |



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বাপবিবো/জন() ২০১৭-২০১৮

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