



Rohingya refugee children collect water as they help dig a well at Balukhali camp in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## UN for tripartite repatriation deal

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"UNHCR and other mandated UN agencies as well as interested international partners would be invited to take part, as appropriate, in various stages of return and resettlement, and to assist returnees to carry on life and livelihood as members of Myanmar society," reads the document.

Adrian Edwards said initial discussions between the UNHCR and the Bangladeshi authorities over anticipated arrangements have yet to happen, but currently they are working towards this.

Based on the text of the agreement, the spokesperson said, "We are encouraged that the two governments have agreed to work for a 'comprehensive and durable' solution, to refrain from conceiving and implementing any discriminatory policy that violates universally agreed principles of human rights, and that Myanmar is confirming its commitments to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine

State."

These include social-economic development, citizenship, freedom of movement, communal participation and representation, inter-communal cohesion and security of all communities, Edwards added.

"Their implementation will be critical not only to create an environment conducive to returns in safety and in dignity, but also to ensuring sustainability."

Restoring peace and stability, ensuring full humanitarian access as well as addressing of the root causes of displacement are important pre-conditions to ensuring that returns are aligned with international standards, said the spokesperson.

Some 20,000 Rohingyas crossed over from Myanmar to Bangladesh in November, and at least 270 so far in December, bringing the total since violence erupted on August 25 to 646,000, according to the UNHCR and International Organisation of Migration (IOM).

Edwards said many Rohingya refu-

gees who fled to Bangladesh before and after August 25 have suffered severe violence and trauma.

Some have lost family members, relatives and friends while homes and villages of many have been torched and destroyed.

The official observed that deep divisions between communities remain unaddressed and humanitarian access is inadequate. "It is critical that the returns are not rushed or premature," he said.

Refugees will need accurate information about the conditions in the areas of origin. Ultimately, their decision about their future must be their own well-informed choice.

"We will continue our discussions on the details of the Arrangement with both governments in the coming weeks and months. These discussions should also bring clarity on UNHCR's role in the voluntary returns process and address the most pressing challenges to the arrangement, including its scope, timeframe, and eligibility criteria," Edwards said.

## US isolated at the UN

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to a spiral of violence among the Palestinians and others angered by what Trump has done.

Indeed, clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces yesterday left one person dead after calls for a "day of rage" from the Islamist movement Hamas.

The British ambassador to the UN, Matthew Rycroft, said flat out that Britain disagrees with Trump's move on Jerusalem and the embassy location.

"These decisions are unhelpful for the prospects for peace in the region," Rycroft said.

He urged Trump to now come up with detailed proposals for an Israel-Palestinian peace accord, a goal which has eluded the US and the international community for decades.

The status of Jerusalem is one of the most hotly contested issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Israel seized control of the east of the city in 1967 and later annexed it in moves never recognized by the international community.

Israel considers the city its undivided capital, but Palestinians believe the east is illegally occupied and see it as the capital of their future state.

At Friday's meeting, US ambassador Nikki Haley defended Trump as remaining committed to the peace process and a two state solution if the Israelis and Palestinians choose this.

Haley said that in his reversal of US foreign policy, Trump was simply recognising reality, since the Israeli government and parliament are located in Jerusalem.

And she recalled that Trump insists his decision has no impact on whatever Israelis and Palestinians ultimately decide on boundaries and borders of the city, which is holy to Muslims, Christians and Jews.

"I understand the concerns that members have in calling this session," Haley said. "Change is hard."

**'DAY OF RAGE'** Thousands of Palestinians demonstrated, scores were hurt and at least one killed in clashes with Israeli troops

on a "day of rage" yesterday against Trump's decision.

Across the Arab and Muslim worlds, tens of thousands demonstrators took to the streets expressing solidarity with the Palestinians and outrage at Trump's reversal of decades of US policy.

Trump's announcement on Wednesday prompted an almost universal diplomatic backlash, including warnings from Turkey, the European Union and Russia over the risks of fresh violence in the Middle East.

Diplomatic fallout from the deeply controversial declaration also continued, with suggestions Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas could refuse to meet US Vice President Mike Pence on his visit to the region later this month.

The Israeli army said hundreds of Palestinians were rolling burning tyres and throwing rocks at soldiers across the border.

"During the riots IDF soldiers fired selectively towards two main instigators and hits were confirmed," it said.

More than 80 Palestinians were wounded in the occupied West Bank and Gaza by Israeli live fire and rubber bullets, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent ambulance service. Dozens more suffered from tear gas inhalation. Thirty-one were wounded on Thursday.

Police said more than 50 people were arrested in the West Bank.

As Friday prayers ended at the Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, worshippers made their way toward the walled Old City gates, chanting "Jerusalem is ours, Jerusalem is our capital," and "We don't need empty words, we need stones and Kalashnikovs". Some scuffles broke out between protesters and police.

In Hebron, Bethlehem and Nablus, dozens of Palestinians threw stones at Israeli soldiers who fired back with tear gas.

In Gaza, controlled by the Islamist group Hamas, calls for worshippers to protest sounded over mosque loudspeakers. Hamas has called for a new Palestinian uprising like the "intifadas" of 1987-1993 and 2000-2005 that together saw thousands of Palestinians

and more than 1,000 Israelis killed.

"Whoever moves his embassy to occupied Jerusalem will become an enemy of the Palestinians and a target of Palestinian factions," said Hamas leader Fathy Hammad as protesters in Gaza burnt posters of Trump. "We declare an intifada until the liberation of Jerusalem and all of Palestine."

Israel considers all of Jerusalem to be its capital. Palestinians want the eastern part of the city as the capital of a future independent state of their own. Most countries consider East Jerusalem, which Israel annexed after capturing it in the 1967 Middle East War, to be occupied territory, including the Old City, home to sites considered holy to Muslims, Jews and Christians alike.

For decades, Washington, like most of the rest of the international community, held back from recognising Jerusalem as Israel's capital, saying its status should be determined as part of the Palestinian-Israeli peace process. No other country has its embassy there.

The Trump administration argues that the peace process has become moribund, and outdated policies need to be jettisoned for the sides in the conflict to make progress. Administration officials say all serious peace plans call for Israel to have its capital in Jerusalem, whatever the outcome of other issues.

**14 peacekeepers**

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deliberate attacks against UN peacekeepers are unacceptable and constitute a war crime," Guterres said in a statement.

"I call on the DRC authorities to investigate this incident and swiftly bring the perpetrators to justice. There must be no impunity for such assaults, here or anywhere else."

Guterres said at least five Congolese soldiers were also killed in Thursday's attack.

The medical evacuation of casualties is ongoing, while military reinforcements have arrived on the scene.

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Palaeozoic era between 541-251 million years ago.

Scientists discovered the species, called Schmidtiellus reetae, had a primitive form of compound eye, an optical organ consisting of tiny visual cells called ommatidia.

"This exceptional fossil shows us how early animals saw the world around them hundreds of millions of years ago," said Professor Euan Clarkson, of the University of Edinburgh's School of GeoSciences who was part of the research team.

"Remarkably, it also reveals that the

structure and function of compound eyes has barely changed in half a billion years."

An examination of the fossil revealed the species likely had poor vision compared to many modern animals, but it could still identify approaching predators, researchers said.

Its eye consists of approximately 100 ommatidia, which are situated relatively far apart compared to contemporary compound eyes, they added.

The fossil's eye does not have a lens, unlike modern compound eyes, because the species lacked parts of the shell needed to form one.

The team also revealed that only a few million years later, improved compound eyes with higher resolution developed in another trilobite species from the present-day Baltic region.

"This may be the earliest example of an eye that it is possible to find," said Professor Brigitte Schoenemann, of the University of Cologne, which conducted the study along with the Tallinn University of Technology in Estonia.

"Older specimens in sediment layers below this fossil contain only traces of the original animals, which were too soft to be fossilised and have disintegrated over time."

## Macron wins Charlemagne Prize

AFP, Berlin

French President Emmanuel Macron will be awarded next year's Charlemagne Prize for his vision to rebuild Europe at a time when the bloc is battling instability, organisers of the award said yesterday.

The selection committee of the German award said it picked Macron "in recognition of his vision of a new Europe and of the re-establishment of the European project, of a new European sovereignty and a close, restructured cooperation between peoples and nations."

"His passion for and commitment to Europe, his advocacy of cohesion and commonality, and his decisive stance against all forms of nationalism and isolationism set the right example, show the right way forward, and promote the right kind of contagious enthusiasm needed to overcome the European crisis," it said.

Macron, 39, was elected on a pro-European ticket, soundly beating his opponent, the eurosceptic far-right candidate Marine Le Pen.

Since taking office, he has championed an ambitious plan to reform the bloc including pushing a "protective Europe" agenda to make it a shield against globalisation for the EU's 500 million citizens.

He also wants greater integration through the creation of a common eurozone finance minister and budget.

## Criminals

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said Shahjahan Shoyeb, emergency medical officer of Pabna Medical College Hospital.

Abdur Razzak, officer-in-charge of Pabna Sadar Police Station, said both Hasan and Nahid went into hiding after the incident.

A case was filed against the duo with the police station.

Police are trying to arrest them, the OC said.

Meanwhile, teachers and students of the college demanded punishment of the attackers. They also threatened to launch an agitation today if the criminals were not arrested.

Contacted, Prof Shafikul Islam, principal of the college, said the criminals used to demand money from Rob as he is a new resident of Dilalpur.

Rob, from the district's Bhangura upazila, built a house at Dilalpur, but the criminals were demanding money from him. As he refused to comply, the criminals beat him up, said the principal.

The issue has come to light as the EC prepares to hold the election for mayor after the sudden demise of Annisul Huq.

Officials in the EC secretariat admitted that an election for mayor of DNCC may lead to legal complications. Meanwhile, Election Commissioner Rafiqul Islam said, "We are yet to receive any gazette declaring the mayoral post vacant. We have to see the gazette first. We have to see the legal aspects and then we will be able to decide."

The picture of Dhaka South City Corporation is different. It has the required number of representatives elected in 2015.

After the annexation, the number of general wards in DSCC rose to 75 from 57 while women's reserved seats rose to 25 from 19.

Tofail said the EC should hold polls in all the 36 wards alongside the election for mayor.

## DNCC election

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requirement. But, it has only 48 councillors, including 12 in women's reserved seats. They were elected in April 2015.

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## One held

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Detained Rubel Ahmed, 22, son of Fakrul Islam was arrested yesterday at around 11:00am from Moulvibazar town. Police suspect him as one of the killers.

Suhel Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Moulvibazar Police Station confirmed Rubel being one of the attackers who hacked the students over political rivalry.

No case was been filed till Friday 5.30pm but police are on the hunt for all the murderers, the OC said.

The two deceased have been buried after police handed their bodies to their families on completion of autopsy at Moulvibazar Hospital.

Shahbal was a student of Moulvibazar Government College and Mahi an SSC candidate of the same school. Both were involved in student politics of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

Police said an altercation broke out between supporters of two BCL factions on the school ground around 7:00pm on the night of the incident. At one stage, Shahbal and Mahi were hacked by rival Chhatra League men with sharp weapons.

Locals rushed the two injured to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital where doctors pronounced them dead.

At one stage, some of his sheep fell ill. It compelled him to seek out the local livestock officials for medicine and guidance. His sheep quickly regained health and officials began visiting him regularly to assist.

His ovine family slowly started to grow and he soon had to hire two people to help. He pays them about Tk 5,000 a month, along with a meal daily.

Ayesha Begum, his wife, said the fate of her family has changed since her husband began rearing sheep. He re-built the house, expanded the farm, and bore the education costs of their

two children. The family is self-reliant now.

Initially, Furkan took his sheep to the local market and sold them for Tk 3,000-Tk 5,000 each, depending on the size. But he has now built such a rapport that wholesalers come to his doorstep to buy his cattle.

Mizanur Rahman, who sells sheep at Sunamganj bazar, said people prefer to buy sheep as it is tastier and more nutritious, and costs Tk 200 a kilogram, which is cheaper than beef.

Belal Hosain, district livestock officer in Sunamganj, said sheep rearing is relatively risk-free. "We have given Furkan necessary training to nurture the animals."

Furkan also sells sheep's wool, which has to be cut every two-three months, for Tk 200 a kg.

"Selling wool is a promising business, but I need to expand my farm to grow it."

There is a seasonal demand for wool which picks up ahead of winter, he added.

"I will be able to increase the production of wool as soon I get bank loans to expand the farm and employ more people."

Officials said the effect of the ovine population on the economy will be perceptible when the production of wool would be sufficient to meet the demand of local industries.

## 3 dead in samurai sword attack at Tokyo shrine

AFP, Tokyo

deep cuts to his shoulder, arm, and chest, police said.