



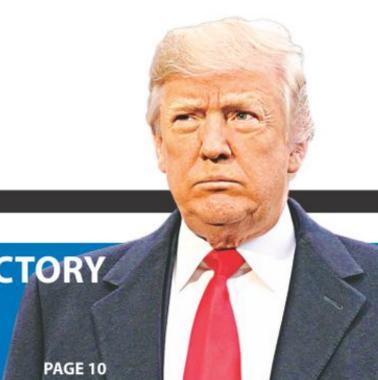
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FRESH BLOW TO UBER

EU's top court rules that it's a transport firm, not an app

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TRUMP NEARS TAX VICTORY

US Senate narrowly approves a sweeping tax overhaul

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DENGUE VACCINE

Relief turns into worry

Drug regulator approves it, sits on WHO alert

BISHAKHA DEVNATH

The world's first ever vaccine to prevent dengue fever works just fine on those who had contracted the disease before, but brings trouble to the people who were never infected by the virus.

Despite global concerns, including from the WHO, the country's drug regulators gave the green light a couple of months ago to Sanofi, manufacturer of the product, for bringing in the vaccine to Bangladesh.

However, Sanofi Bangladesh said it would proceed with caution before the dengue vaccine, Dengvaxia, is imported.

Late last month, Sanofi Pasteur, the vaccine division of the multinational pharmaceutical company, said new analysis on long-term safety and efficacy showed that recipients of the vaccine without prior infection might suffer from severe forms of the disease. The analysis was done based on six year's clinical data.

But the World Health Organisation gave this warning in July 2016.

The global health body said that it supported the use of Dengvaxia in "highly endemic areas" and on "seropositive individuals" (those who had been infected by the dengue virus before).

Noting that there was an elevated risk of dengue in vaccinated "seronegative individuals," (those who never contracted the disease) the WHO said on its website that research into this was a "high priority".

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



A BNP activist rushes in to help a police woman who tripped over near the High Court yesterday afternoon when BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was returning home after appearing before a Dhaka court for a hearing on Zia Orphanage Trust case.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



'GRAFT' COMMENT

Khaleda sends legal notice to Hasina

AL warns of legal action against BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday served a legal notice on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, seeking an apology from the PM for making "malicious and defamatory" remarks about her alleged assets abroad.

In the notice, Khaleda demanded that Hasina apologise "unconditionally" and publicise it within 30 days of receiving the notice.

"Or else, the BNP chairperson will take measures to file a defamation suit against the prime minister, demanding compensation for damaging her reputation and image," it said.

PAGE 2 COL 4

'Abduction' for money?

Utpal's captors called his family 13 days after his kidnap to demand ransom; never said how and where they wanted the money



"Give us money, you have a lot," Utpal quoted his kidnapers as telling him, adding that the abductors never said how much they want.

STAR REPORT

The captors of journalist Utpal Das had demanded ransom from him and his family several times, but it seems they never really wanted the money.

During the 71 days of his captivity, the kidnapers repeatedly asked Utpal to pay money for his release. His father too got phone calls from Utpal's phone twice after his abduction from the capital's Dhanmondi area, but the caller did not say how and when they want the money to be sent.

The senior reporter of Purbopashchimbd.com, an online news portal, was found in Narayanganj on Tuesday night.

A black microbus dropped him off blindfolded in front of Shahjalal filling station in

Aduria of Bhulta. Police briefly took him to Bhulta outpost before handing him over to the family members who reached there around 2:30am yesterday.

His return home comes amid a series of cases of disappearance of a number of prominent figures, including former ambassador to Vietnam Maroof Zaman and North South University teacher Mubashar Hasan, in recent months.

Since August 22, at least 12 people had gone missing from the capital alone. Four of them, including Utpal, have since returned home while police later said to have arrested three others. The fate of five others, including Maroof and Mubashar, is not yet clear.

THE ABDUCTION

Utpal, 27, received a call from a relative

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Myanmar bars UN rights envoy's visit

Puzzled, disappointed by decision, says Yanghee Lee

AFP, Geneva

The UN's rights envoy for Myanmar said yesterday the government had banned her from the country, adding her exclusion suggests something "awful" is happening in Rakhine state.

UN Special Rapporteur Yanghee Lee had been due to visit Myanmar in January to assess the state of human rights across the country including in Rakhine, which was plunged into crisis by a military crackdown on the Rohingya minority Muslim community in late August.

Some 655,000 of them have fled for Bangladesh since then, with accounts of arson, murder and rape at the hands of soldiers and vigilante mobs in the mainly Buddhist country.

The UN has accused troops of ethnic cleansing and possible "elements of genocide" against the Rohingya - charges the government vigorously denies as it faces intense global outrage.

"I am puzzled and disappointed by this decision by the Myanmar government," said Lee, who is required to go to the country twice a year in order to report to the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly.

"This declaration of non-cooperation with my mandate can only be viewed as a strong indication that there must be something terribly awful happening in Rakhine, as well as in the rest of the country," she added.

The South Korean academic said she was told the decision was based on a statement she made after her last visit to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Ensure safe return of Rohingyas

Turkish PM urges int'l community to work jointly

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim yesterday called upon the international community to work jointly to ensure safe return of Rohingyas to their homeland, with all facilities in place.

Terming Myanmar's brutal crackdown on its Rohingya minority "ethnic cleansing", he said it has become urgent for the international community to put in joint efforts for their safe return to Myanmar.

The Turkish premier arrived at Cox's Bazar airport by a special flight at around 11:00am.

After reaching Balukhali Rohingya camp around 11:54am, he inaugurated two field hospitals financed by the Turkish government and handed over two modern ambulances to the hospitals.

Yildirim talked to Rohingyas and listened to their horrific experiences of torture.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

All eyes on Rangpur

Huda-led EC holds its first major election today



MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and KONGKON KARMAKER from Rangpur

All eyes are on Rangpur today as Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party are set to fight the battle of ballots to win the mayoral race.

The Rangpur city polls have attracted people's attention as the three major political parties are trying to ensure win for their mayoral candidates.

Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantu, Kawsar Zaman Babla and Mostafizur Rahman Mostafa have been contesting the polls from the AL, BNP and Jatiya Party respectively. Peaceful electioneering by them raised hopes among local people for a good election.

Tight security measures have been put in place by the administration to ensure a peaceful atmosphere for the elections. The mayoral polls are being held on partisan line.

"We have completed all the preparations for holding the polls in Rangpur. Our observation is that the situation is in our favour till now. A free, fair and acceptable election will be held," Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda

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শুভ উদ্বোধন.....

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প্রতিদিন সকাল ১০টা থেকে রাত ৯টা

২১ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৭ ইং সকাল ১১ টায়

শুভ উদ্বোধন

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