

Vietnam

FROM PAGE 2
between Bangladesh and Vietnam was increasing.

Bangladesh and Vietnam are enjoying economic cooperation, with trade reaching \$609 million in 2016 from only 93 million in 2009.

Bangladesh exports pharmaceuticals, raw materials for garments and machinery to Vietnam, while Vietnam's major exports to Bangladesh include iron, steel, fibre, textiles, plastics, rubber and electronics.

Dhaka is eager to connect itself with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, whose members are Vietnam, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines. It will seek support from Hanoi for its regional integration.

Diplomatic circle in Dhaka considers the upcoming visit significant as it will be able to avail the opportunity to seek support from Vietnam for a durable solution to the Rohingya crisis.

The two countries are likely to sign about half a dozen agreements and memorandums of understanding for promotion of trade, investment, connectivity and cooperation during the visit.

Quang will visit Dhaka at the invitation of his Bangladeshi counterpart Abdul Hamid. He will fly in Dhaka from New Delhi after a three-day visit to India.

President Hamid visited Vietnam in August 2015, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in November 2015 and Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in July 2017.

Ahead of Quang's visit, diplomatic sources said both the sides reached a consensus that Bangladesh and Vietnam should intensify experience sharing, help each other in gender equality and poverty reduction, and cooperate in the fields of defence, aquaculture, education-training, culture and tourism.

Some 100 business representatives from top Vietnam companies will accompany the Vietnamese president and interact with their Bangladesh counterparts and explore trade and investment potentials in Bangladesh.

A business forum will be held at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on March 6.

Bangladesh and Vietnam established diplomatic relations on February 17, 1973. Since then, the friendship and cooperation between the two states have been enhanced in a wide range of areas, especially economy and trade.

1 killed

FROM PAGE 16
The clash went on until around 3:00am yesterday, said Bashir Uddin, upazila vice-chairman.

"Though the situation is under control now, another clash could erupt anytime," he said.

Officials of the district visited the villages and allotted emergency support to the families in distress, Mourin Karim, upazila nirbahi officer of Jaintiapur told The Daily Star.

The police along with the administration took the situation under control that night, said Abul Hasnat Khan, additional superintendent of Sylhet police said.

A probe body, led by Shahidul Islam Chowdhury, additional deputy commissioner (general) of Sylhet, has been formed to investigate the incident. The probe body is to file the report within seven days, Shahidul said.

Tk 50,000 and 10 squats for 'raping' widow!

Village arbitration causes outcry in social media; 2 accused, 1 arbitrator held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Police arrested two alleged rapists and an arbitrator after news of a village arbitration led to an outcry on social media.

The arbitration had led to the two being punished with a fine of Tk 50,000 each and 10 squats while holding their ears.

The incident happened in Chhatrapaiya area in Senbagh upazila of Noakhali district.

According to the victim, a 38-year old widow, she was allegedly raped in front of her minor son, who was held at knife-point at the time.

When the locals were informed of the matter, they organised the arbitration. punishment. A rickshaw puller, who was an accomplice, was fined Tk30,000.

Senbagh police arrested the accused, Md Rubel and Md Nur Nabi, and also the arbitrator Abul Kashem alias Macch Kashem on Monday afternoon.

The victim, who works in a garments factory in Chittagong, said she, along with her 12-year old son, left for her parent's home in Senbagh upazila under Senbagh thana from Chittagong on the afternoon of February 20.

They reached Chhatrapaiya Bazar at around 11:00 pm from where she hired the rickshaw of one Selim to go to her home at Filadi village under Chhatrapaiya union.

After the rickshaw had gone some distance, the rickshaw puller stopped the vehicle. He then began making phone calls. After a while, Nur Nabi and Rubel appeared at the scene. They then forcibly took the woman near the banks of a canal nearby and gang-raped her.

As her son cried out, the perpetrators scared him by brandishing a knife.

Four days after the incident, on February 24, local arbiter Abul Kashem and Md Hanif arranged the arbitration at Chhatrapaiya Bazar, the victim said. About 50 people of different ages, including children, juveniles and youths were present.

When the matter of arbitration spread via social media, it came to the attention of law enforcers.

A team of police took the victim to the local police station for filing a case. Another police team picked up Nur Nabi, Rubel and Abul Kashem.

Officer-in-Charge of the police station Harun-ur-Rashid Chowdhury confirmed that they had arrested the two accused and the arbitrator. He said police have been trying to arrest others involved in the incident.

The OC added that the victim has filed a case with the police station.

The arrested were produced before a court Tuesday morning which sent them to jail custody.

Fresh violence

FROM PAGE 16
by Russia was marred by fresh violence that saw at least two civilians killed by regime rocket fire.

The United Nations said ongoing combat had made it impossible to bring in aid or rescue the wounded, reported Reuters.

"We have reports this morning there is continuous fighting in eastern Ghouta," UN humanitarian spokesman Jens Laerke said. "Clearly the situation on the ground is not such that convoys can go in or medical evacuations can go out."

Moscow's plan falls short of a broader 30-day ceasefire which was voted by the United Nations but has yet to take effect, and has inspired little trust from among the 400,000 residents of the besieged enclave.

The regime deployed buses at the Al-Wafideen checkpoint to transport residents wanting to use a humanitarian corridor to flee what UN chief Antonio Guterres last called "hell on earth".

But no civilians ventured towards the regime forces guarding the checkpoint, where large portraits of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Russian President Vladimir Putin could be seen side-by-side.

State news agency SANA accused armed groups in Eastern Ghouta of firing several rockets on the path of the corridor declared by Russia to allow for the evacuation of civilians.

Russia yesterday said the future of ceasefire in the enclave near Damascus will depend on the rebels holed up there, as the Russian military accused the fighters of violating a "humanitarian pause" called by Moscow.

TRUCE A FARCE
It singled out the former al-Qaeda affiliate present in some parts of the enclave, accusing it of trying to prevent civilians from leaving "to use them as human shields".

Some residents left the basements they had been covering in for days to check on their property and buy food despite skyrocketing prices in the enclave, besieged since 2013.

But many in the enclave, which lies on the eastern outskirts of the Syria capital, appeared distrustful of the "pause" announced by Damascus's main ally.

"This Russian truce is a farce. Russia is killing us and bombing us every day," said Samer al-Buaidhani, a 25-year-old resident of Douma, which is the main town in Eastern Ghouta.

"I don't believe it's safe for me or my family to leave by this system," he told AFP.

More than 550 civilians, almost a quarter of them children, have been killed since February 18 in the Syrian and Russian bombardment of Eastern Ghouta, making it one of the bloodiest episodes of the country's seven-year-old conflict.

Violence levels were significantly lower yesterday as the "humanitarian pause" kicked in but two civilians were killed by rocket fire on the town of Jisreen, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group.

Another 16 people were wounded across Eastern Ghouta, the Britain-based group said.

In Hammuriyeh, another town in the sprawling semi-rural enclave, Mohammed Abdullah said the pause left civilians with a choice between two evils.

ALEPPO SCENARIO
"The truce is not in the people's interest, we have two options: death or displacement," said the 30-year-old.

"The campaign we were targeted with was an extermination campaign, not a simple bombardment. What we want is a full and permanent ceasefire for all of Ghouta," he said.

That sentiment was echoed by the dominant rebel groups in Eastern Ghouta, who sent a letter to the United Nations stating their willingness to expel jihadists as soon as a full ceasefire takes effect.

The Russian-backed daily five-hour "pause" falls short of a broader month-long ceasefire voted by the UN Security Council on Saturday.

The main rebel groups in Eastern Ghouta - Jaish al-Islam, Faylaq al-Rahman and Ahrar al-Sham - declared their "complete commitment to deport" jihadist fighters.

Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, a group made up mostly of fighters from al-Qaeda's ex-affiliate Al-Nusra Front, is present in some parts of the enclave.

The letter said such an evacuation, which has been discussed previously but never yielded any result, would take 15 days and start when a UN truce takes effect.

The Syrian government lost control of Eastern Ghouta in 2012 and has besieged it almost ever since.

The main rebel groups have so far rejected Russian-brokered offers to evacuate civilians of any fighters of their own.

The scenario put in place by the regime and its Russian ally was reminiscent of the deal that saw civilians bused out of the northern city of Aleppo in late 2016.

Few civilians initially used the Aleppo corridors unilaterally announced by Russia.

Some started fleeing after renewed bombardment and the rest eventually evacuated when a multilateral deal was reached with Turkey.

BNP leaders

FROM PAGE 16
read it and give legal advice to them [lawyers]," Dr Kamal, also president of Gono Forum, told The Daily Star.

When asked whether he would move to the court to fight the legal battle, the jurist said, "I am yet to read the judgment. I will read it first and then give opinion and legal advice."

Gono Forum leader Subrata Chowdhury was present in the meeting.

Contacted, he said, "Sir [Dr Kamal] told the BNP delegation that he does not deal with criminal cases and he is not regular in court."

Talking to this correspondent, Fakhrul said, "We met Dr Kamal Hossain as a legal consultant at his Motijheel office and handed him over a copy of the judgment."

"He would give us legal advice after going through the verdict."

Senior lawyers of the BNP and some other eminent lawyers are fighting the legal battle for Khaleda in court.

Khaleda, who landed in prison on February 8 after being convicted in the graft case, has to wait for a few more days to know the fate of her bail petition.

The High Court did not pass any order after concluding hearing on her petition. The HC said it will deliver an order on her bail prayer after getting the case records from the lower court that sentenced her to five years' imprisonment in the corruption case.

The former prime minister on February 22 filed an appeal with the HC and also sought bail, challenging the special court's verdict.

The same day, the HC accepted the appeal and stayed the special court's verdict that fined her in addition to the jail term. It also ordered the court to send the case documents to it within 15 working days.

German village

FROM PAGE 16
"Hitler bell" since a former church organist complained about the inscription.

Some church-goers were dismayed to find out that they had got married, baptised their children or joined other religious ceremonies and events under the Hitler bell.

Last year the former town mayor, Roland Becker, resigned over comments that appeared to defend not just the bell but the Nazi era.

Amid the controversy, the bell was silenced last September and a second one used, pending the municipal decision in the southwestern village near the university city of Heidelberg.

At Monday evening's meeting, village mayor Georg Welker said that "the community needs clarity which way we should go", national news agency DPA reported.

He presented an expert's opinion that judged the bell had heritage value and should either stay in place or be taken to a museum.

Disposing of it would represent "an evasion of a reasonable and enlightened culture of remembrance", the expert's opinion found.

The decision by the council to keep the bell was greeted with applause from many community members, DPA reported.

Saudi reshuffles

FROM PAGE 16
He forced out another cousin, Prince Miteb bin Abdullah, as head of the National Guard last November and detained him for two months in an anti-corruption crackdown in which scores of the kingdom's economic and political elite were held.

The latest personnel changes were decreed by King Salman and published in state media. No reason for the changes was given.

The overhaul, analysts said, was not directly linked to Saudi Arabia's three-year-old military campaign in Yemen against the Iran-aligned armed Huthi movement. But the war has largely stalled and international criticism is growing over a humanitarian crisis and air strikes that have killed civilians.

The new military chief of staff was named as First Lieutenant Fayyad bin Hamed al-Ruwayli.

The decrees included adopting a new strategy to restructure the defence ministry for improved organisation and governance, but provided few details.

Defence contracts with US and European companies have long been a source of corruption and Prince Mohammed has said in a television interview that it is "unacceptable" that high military spending has not translated into better performance.

A source familiar with the defence ministry restructuring plan told Reuters it was aimed at reducing inefficiency and corruption but could still face resistance.

Khalid Biyari, appointed aide to the defence minister, left his post as chief executive of Saudi Telecom, a possible sign that the crown prince is tapping the private sector to implement reforms.

The decrees also included the appointment of three deputy governors from among the descendants of Princes Ahmed, Talal and Muqrin - brothers of King Salman, some of whom may have felt sidelined by changes since his accession to the throne in 2015.

One of them, new deputy governor of Asir province, Prince Turki bin Talal, is the brother of billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, who was detained in the government's anti-corruption campaign and released only last month.

YOUNG BLOOD
The overhaul was a nod to a younger generation, analysts said, in what has become a hallmark of the crown prince's approach to ruling youthful Saudi Arabia, where patriarchal traditions have long made power the preserve of the old.

If he succeeds his father, Prince Mohammed would become the first grandson of the kingdom's founder Ibn Saud to be king after decades of rule by six of his sons.

The appointment of a woman at the

labour ministry is part of efforts to modernise and promote a more moderate form of Islam. Prince Mohammed has loosened social restrictions, scaling back the role of religious police and permitting public concerts.

The government has announced plans to allow women to drive this year, and said women no longer need the consent of a male relative to open their own businesses, a step away from the kingdom's guardianship system.

A senior Saudi cleric said last month that women need not wear the abaya - the loose-fitting, full-length robe symbolic of religious faith - and another prominent sheikh said that celebrating Valentine's Day did not contradict Islamic teachings, defying the religious police's hardline position.

Greg Gause, a Gulf expert at Texas A&M University, said the injection of more junior officials could help the crown prince cultivate a bloc within the royal family that is supportive of him at younger levels.

"But, and this is a big 'but', he is not appointing them to positions in the central government, at least not yet," said Gause. "He is keeping power in the cabinet centralised in his hands."

PM must

FROM PAGE 16
He also said such a "unilateral" campaign was a major barrier to holding a free and fair election in the country.

On several occasions, BNP leaders, including its chairperson Khaleda Zia, accused the PM of carrying out polls campaign for her party with public money and using state facilities.

Contacted, Helaluddin Ahmed, acting secretary to the EC, said they were yet to get any such letter. "The commission will make a decision once we get the letter."

SC clears

FROM PAGE 1
the HC halted the trial against all 78 accused following the petition filed by a single accused.

The case was filed on February 3, 2015 with Chaudhagram police in Comilla after the seven people had died in a petrol bomb attack on the bus.

Law enforcers pressed charges in the case against Khaleda and the others of the BNP-led 20 party alliance on March 2 last year.

The HC on October 25 stayed the trial proceedings following the petition filed by BNP leader Rizvi Ahmed and issued a rule asking the government to explain why the trial should not be scrapped.

The government has recently filed the leave to appeal petition with the SC challenging the HC order.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Department of Telecommunications (DOT)

Office of the Director General

423-428, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208

Website: www.telecomdept.gov.bd

Memo No: 14.30.0000.213.26.030.17 Date: 25-02-2018

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for "Purchase of two microbus for DOT Office".

Sl No.	Package No.	Package description	Tender ID	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time
1	PKGGD-5/micro/17-18	"Purchase of two microbus for DOT Office".	167690	20-03-2018 16:00	21-03-2018 11:30

This is an online tender, where e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit the tender, registration in the e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any e-GP registered bank's branches up to date & time mentioned in respective tender. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md Abdul Wahab
Deputy Director (Admin)
e-mail: dd.admin@telecomdept.gov.bd
Telephone: 9830933

GD-551

JP now

FROM PAGE 1
The JP became the main opposition party in parliament after the BNP-led 20-party alliance had boycotted the polls.

Political analysts and different organisations, including Transparency International Bangladesh, have been criticising the JP for sharing ministries with the Awami League and calling itself the opposition party at the same time.

During Raushan's speech, some treasury bench lawmakers without using microphones said the PM already directed the JP ministers to step down.

Reacting to the remark, the opposition leader said, "No... you [prime minister] did not ask them to resign."

"Still there is almost a year left. Please consider the matter."

Raushan said she felt embarrassed when reporters asked her whether the JP was in opposition or in the government. "I do not give any interview to journalists due to this matter."

The opposition leader said, "When you go abroad, can you [prime minister] say which is the opposition party in Bangladesh?"

At that time, some of the treasury bench lawmakers advised her to drop the matter.

Raushan in reply said, "Why won't I raise the issue now? This is important."

She also advised the premier to roam the country in disguise to get a first-hand experience about the people's sufferings and environmental pollution. "Please, listen to what people say and see how they are living."

"You [prime minister] always travel different areas with motorcades. So, you don't understand the sufferings of the people," she added.

UN wants

FROM PAGE 2
community to support those who have fled to Bangladesh.

The UN chief also said he told the Human Rights Council that, in his experience, Rohingyas are one of the most discriminated against populations in the world -- and that was even before the crisis of the past year.

GD-562

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Custom House, Benapole, Jessore

Invitation for Tender of Chemical Laboratory Equipment

Tender No. 05/2017-2018

1. Ministry/division	Internal Resources Division, Ministry of Finance.		
2. Agency	Custom House, Benapole, Jessore.		
3. Procuring entity name	Commissioner of Customs, Custom House, Benapole, Jessore.		
4. Procuring entity district	Jessore		
5. Invitation for	Supply of HPLC, IR Spectro Photometer, Microbiological Trinocular Microscope, Digital Flash Point Apparatus, Kjeldahl Flask Set, Digital Density Meter, Digital PH Meter, Digital Polary Meter, Digital Calorimeter and other Chemical Laboratory Equipments with all standard accessories and related services as per Specifications/Tender Schedule.		
6. Invitation Ref No.	File No. 1(15)2/G.L/saj-sonorjam/2000/Part-1		
7. Date	26/02/2018		
8. Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).		
9. Budget and source of fund	Revenue Budget of GOB.		
10. Tender package name	Supply, Installation, Commissioning of HPLC, IR Spectro Photometer, Microbiological Trinocular Microscope, Digital Flash Point Apparatus, Kjeldahl Flask Set, Digital Density Meter, Digital PH Meter, Digital Polary Meter, Digital Calorimeter and other Chemical Laboratory Equipments with all standard accessories and related services as per Specifications/Tender Schedule.		
11. Tender publication date	28.02.2018		
12. Schedule selling last date	18/03/2018 (During office hour).		
13. Tender closing date and time	19/03/2018 at 12.00 noon.		
14. Tender opening date and time	19/03/2018 at 12.30pm.		
15. Name & address of the office	Custom House, Benapole, Jessore.		
-Selling tender document	Custom House, Benapole, Jessore.		
-Receiving tender document	Custom House, Benapole, Jessore.		
-Opening tender document	Custom House, Benapole, Jessore.		
16. Eligibility of tenderer	Tenderer must have legal, financial, professional and technical capacity to meet the requirements of this tender and must fulfill the obligations of all tax requirements. Other requirements are stated in the tender document.		
17. Brief description of goods	Tenderer will Supply, Installation, Commissioning of HPLC, IR Spectro Photometer, Microbiological Trinocular Microscope, Digital Flash Point Apparatus, Kjeldahl Flask Set, Digital Density Meter, Digital PH Meter, Digital Polary Meter, Digital Calorimeter and other Chemical Laboratory Equipments with all standard accessories and related services to Custom House, Benapole, Jessore as per specifications and terms & conditions of tender documents/schedule.		
18. Brief description of related services	As mentioned in the tender document/schedule.		
19. Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk. 2,000/- (two thousand) in Treasury Chalan with an official letter addressing Commissioner, Custom House, Benapole, Jessore (non-refundable).		
20. Identification of goods	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in days
Supply, Installation, Commissioning of HPLC, IR Spectro Photometer, Microbiological Trinocular Microscope, Digital Flash Point Apparatus, Kjeldahl Flask Set, Digital Density Meter, Digital PH Meter, Digital Polary Meter, Digital Calorimeter and other Chemical Laboratory Equipments with all standard accessories and related services for Custom House, Benapole, Jessore	Custom House, Benapole, Jessore	Tk. 15,00,000.00 (fifteen lac only)	50 (fifty) days from the date of issuing purchase order
21. Name, designation and address of official inviting tender	Commissioner of Customs, Custom House, Benapole, Jessore.		
22. Contact details of official inviting tender	Ph: 0422875333	Fax: 0422875118	E-mail: benapolecustoms@gmail.com
23. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.			

Syed Ahmed Rubel
Deputy Commissioner of Customs
For Commissioner of Customs

GD-562