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Trump backs down in rare reversal

Signs executive order to end family separations at border

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday backed down and abandoned his policy of separating immigrant children from their parents on the US-Mexico border, after images of youngsters in cages sparked outrage at home and abroad.

Trump signed an executive order requiring immigrant families be detained together when they are caught entering the country illegally for as long as their criminal proceedings take.

While that may end a policy that drew a rebuke from Pope Francis and everyone else from human rights advocates to business leaders, it may also mean immigrant children remain in custody indefinitely.

The Trump administration still faces legal challenges because of a court order that put a 20-day cap on how long immigration authorities may detain minors, and trigger fresh criticism of Trump's hardline immigration policies, which were central to his 2016 election campaign and now his presidency.

Administration officials were unable to clarify whether family separations would end immediately or when and



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A family leaving Shahid Colony slum along with its belongings as police continued their drive against narcotics and occupation of railway land in Chittagong city's Akbar Shah area for the second day yesterday. Story on page 5.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Man dies in police custody after arrest in Ctg EPZ area

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man died in police custody in Chittagong Medical College Hospital yesterday, around an hour after he was arrested in the city's EPZ area.

Police have formed a three-member probe committee to probe the death of Bachchu Sheikh, 40, of Bagerhat's Morrelganj upazila.

Sayed Abu Sayem, deputy commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (port zone), said Bachchu was the manager at Abdullah Paribahan's EPZ ticket counter.

He was arrested at work around 12:45pm in connection with a fraud case filed with EPZ Police Station and taken to the police station, the CMP official told The Daily Star.

As the arrestee complained of chest pains, he was taken to the hospital of Chittagong Port Authority. Later, he was shifted to

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PADMA BRIDGE Cost rises again

Ecneec approves additional Tk 1,400 crore as the project needs acquisition of more land

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cost of the Padma Bridge project has gone up by Tk 1,400 crore to Tk 30,193 crore as the government has to acquire more land.

This is the third time the project cost has increased.

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved the additional fund for the project.

As per the planning ministry's last revision in January last year, the total cost stood at Tk 28,793 crore.

Emerging from the Ecneec meeting, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal told reporters that more land is needed to dump earth collected from excavation of the river bed for river training.

In reply to a query, the minister said the cost of the bridge project would not go up further.

As per documents prepared by the Bridges Division last year, the government was to acquire 1,530 hectares of land at a cost of Tk 1,299 crore for the bridge project.

But now a total of 2,693 hectares of land need to be acquired for the project for Tk 2,699 crore, said

ESTIMATED COST	
10,162 crore	2007
20,507 crore	2011
30,193 crore	2018

the planning ministry's latest proposal.

The project, when approved in 2007, was supposed to cost Tk 10,162 crore, but in 2011 it was revised upwards to Tk 20,507 crore.

The project is expected to be completed by this year.

Sources at the Bridges Division said 53 percent work of the project was completed till March.

Construction of the main bridge, and river training are two major components of the project. So far, 59 percent work of the main bridge and 36.5 percent of river training have been completed.

Yesterday, the Ecneec also approved the project "Introduction of E-Passport and Automatic Border Control System in Bangladesh" at a cost of Tk 4,636 crore.

It will be implemented by the Department of Immigration and Passports between July this year and June 2028.

The planning minister told reporters that Machine-Readable Passport (MRP) will remain valid, but e-passports will also be issued at the same time.

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No arrest, no seizure

3 days on, police still 'verifying' who was driving the SUV when it knocked man dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have neither arrested the driver of the vehicle involved in the hit and run at Mohakhali on Tuesday that left one dead nor seized the car of MP Ekramul's family.

Even though eyewitnesses have claimed that only one person was in the car, the driver, which they later learnt was ruling Awami League lawmaker Mohammad Ekramul Karim Chowdhury's son Shabab Chowdhury, the police are saying they are collecting and scrutinising CCTV footage to identify the driver.

"We are trying to identify the man who was on the driving seat during the accident by scrutinising the footage," said Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (Media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Ekramul's family, however, refuted the claims of witnesses and said the professional driver they had employed for the Audi sport utility vehicle was at the wheels.

Syed Mamun Mostafa, assistant commissioner (Mirpur zone) of Dhaka

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Pay workers using pedal-power

Dutch govt to companies



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The Dutch government is encouraging companies to pay people to cycle to work as part of a national initiative to fight worsening congestion on the roads.

"Let's get out of our cars and onto our bikes", Dutch deputy infrastructure minister Stientje van Veldhoven said this week as she announced new measures to encourage cycling.

She has proposed a compensation scheme for working adults in which they receive 19 cents (17p) for each kilometre they cycle as part of their commute.

According to AFP, Van Veldhoven is to discuss

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TONU KILLING CID to get suspects' DNA reports next week

UNB, Comilla

The DNA test reports of some suspected killers of college student Sohagi Jahan Tonu, who was murdered 27 months back, would be available next week, police said.

Jalal Uddin Ahmed, investigation officer of the Tonu murder case, said

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 22

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

4-05 12-30 5-00 6-52 8-17

JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



NATURE QUEST

BRONZE BEAUTY

A bronze-winged jacana in flight inside Jahangirnagar University recently. Birdwatchers visit the campus frequently to have a sight of such beautiful birds.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Indigenous girl 'gang-raped' in Khagrachhari

Police detain four, launch hunt for some others

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A tenth grade student from the Tripura community was allegedly gang-raped by Bangali settlers at Zilla Parishad Park, near Khagrachhari town at around 1:30pm, local police said.

The girl, along with three friends -- two boys and a girl --, had gone to the park to spend the evening.

At one point, a group of youths surrounded the victim and one of her male friends and drove the boy away.

They then allegedly raped the girl.

Her friends immediately informed local social workers who then called the police.

On receiving information, members of the police and army surrounded the park, picked up 20 people from the spot and took them to the Khagrachhari Police Station.

Later, the victim identified four among them as the perpetrators and said there were three to four more.

The four arrested -- Babu, Mozammel, Anwar and Hridoy alias Rubel -- are all between 18-20 years old.

All four of them are also residents of the nearby South Gonjopara in the city.

Additional Superintendent of Police in Khagrachhari M Salaudin said the victim had been sent to the doctor for tests at Khagrachhari Sadar Hospital after which a case would be filed based upon her complaint.

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