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ROHINGYA CRISIS

Dhaka pins hope on Guterres visit

The UN chief due in city today



Antonio Guterres

Jim Yong Kim

SHAKHAWAT LITON

When Antonio Guterres visited Kutupalong refugee camp in Cox's Bazar in 2008, it housed only 10,800 Rohingyas. The total number of Rohingya population living in the district was around 27,000. They had arrived there in previous years and were not repatriated to Myanmar like many others.

Ten years down the line, during his visit to the same camp tomorrow, Guterres will see the camp sheltering more than six lakh Rohingyas. Most of them fled to Bangladesh to escape atrocities perpetrated by the Myanmar army in Rakhine State in August last year. Now there are over one million Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar.

The abnormal rise in the number of refugees is indicative of the gravity of the present Rohingya crisis. The crisis has

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Bangladesh Chhatra League activists of Dhaka University beating up a student who had been demonstrating demanding reforms in the quota system for civil service near the university library yesterday. Inset, another demonstrator being beaten up with sandals.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Jubo League leader killed in 'gunfight'

The victim was in police custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A Jubo League leader was killed in a "gunfight" with police at Kaemkola Bagmara Beel in Jhikorgachha upazila of Jessore early morning Friday.

The deceased, Zahid Hasan Tokon, 32, son of Ali Aslam of Krishnanagar village under the upazila, was the joint convener of Jhikorgachha upazila Jubo League.

Victim's father has alleged that police picked up his son Tokon from their rented house at Chachra area in Jessore town around 9:30pm on Friday.

Ali claimed that Tokon was killed in the night and police later left the body at Jessore General Hospital morgue.

Meanwhile, police said the deceased Zahid is a miscreant and an accused in 27 cases of murder, arms, robbery and narcotics.

Jhikorgachha Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Masud Karim said after his arrest Tokon confessed to possessing arms and bullets.

Around 3:00am police took him to Kaemkola Bagmara Beel to confront his accomplices. Sensing police presence, Tokon's accomplices fired at the law enforcers and police retaliated by firing seven bullets. The gang members all fled the scene and police recovered the injured Tokon who had been shot in the head during fire exchange.

Police took Tokon to Jessore General Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival, the OC said.

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Hepatitis E cases rising in port city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

There has been a sharp rise in the number of patients with Hepatitis E Virus (HEV) in Halishahar and parts of Agrabad areas of the port city.

The number was 369 on Thursday and it became 624 the next day, Azizur Rahman Siddique, civil surgeon of Chittagong, said, based on information from different hospitals.

Talking to The Daily Star, several locals, however, said the number of people infected by HEV, that spreads through water and food, would be higher.

Azizur said he asked all public and private hospitals, and pathological centres in Chittagong, to send information on suspected Hepatitis E patients they treated since May 1 to the civil surgeon office.

Meanwhile, 26 people have been infected by HEV in a seven-storey building in Madhyam Halishahar area, said sources at the civil service office.

Locals say the virus could be spreading through the water supplied by Wasa. However, AKM Fazlullah, managing

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HOLEY ATRISAN ATTACK

Police to press charges against 8

It's unclear if Hasnat Karim will be charged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police found the involvement of 21 militants in the Gulshan café attack and will press charges against eight of them as the rest are dead.

"Two of the eight, who will be named in the charge sheet, are still on the run," said Monirul Islam, chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of the DMP.

Five of the 21 militants were killed inside the upscale bakery in a commando operation while eight others, including the mastermind, were killed later in different anti-militancy drives, he told reporters at his office in the city yesterday.

Six of the suspects are in jail and they are "Neo JMB" leaders, he said.

Asked whether former private university teacher Hasnat Reza Karim, who is also in jail, would be charge sheeted, the police officer said it would not be "legally right" to disclose the names of the accused as police were yet to submit the charge sheet.

He, however, named the two absconding suspects. They are Shariful Islam Khalid and Mamunur Rashid Ripon.

Monirul also did not specify the date when the charge sheet would be filed. However on Thursday, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia said it might be submitted in 10 days.

Counterterrorism officials have never said anything officially about Hasnat since his arrest on August 3, 2016. However, speaking on condition of anonymity, two officials, involved with the investigation, said Hasnat's

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BRINDABAN COLLEGE

Ten hurt in BCL infighting

UNB, Habiganj

At least 10 students were injured in a clash between two factions of Chhatra League over establishing supremacy at Brindaban Government College in the district town yesterday.

Witnesses said two groups of BCL men attacked each other with sticks and stones on the college campus around 1:30pm.

Police later reached the spot and brought the situation under control. The injured were sent to Habiganj Sadar Modern Hospital.

Principal Ilias Hossain of the college said he was unaware of the reason why the clash occurred.

A sense of fear was prevailing among teachers and students on the campus following the incident, he said.

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Trump gets prank call on Air Force One



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

An American comedian claims that he successfully prank called the White House, and received a call back from President Donald Trump himself.

John Melendez published a podcast that features a recording of him speaking by phone with a man who sounds like the president while pretending to be Senator Bob Menendez, a Democrat from New Jersey.

"Hi, Bob. How are you? Congratulations on everything, we're proud of you," the voice that is said to have been Trump's says, in apparent reference to the senator's recently closed five-year corruption investigation.

"You went through a tough, tough situation, and I don't think a very fair situation, but congratulations," the voice continues.

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Dhaka-Ctg-Sylhet rail link snapped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Rail communications on the Dhaka-Chittagong-Sylhet route snapped as an oil-laden train derailed in Brahmanbaria town last night.

Nine wagons of Dhaka-bound container train from Chittagong got derailed in Shimraikandi area near Brahmanbaria Railway Station around 10:30pm yesterday, Station Master Kamrul Islam told The Daily Star.

Though no casualties or injuries were reported, the oil spilled and spread on the ground and in the adjacent canal.

Besides, the slippers and clips of the rail line were broken.

On information, two fire engines of Brahmanbaria and Akhaura reached to the spot and started the rescue work. A relief train from Akhaura Railway Junction Loco-Shed also left for the scene, said railway authorities.

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A mahout stops a truck on Gazipur-Pubail road and collects money from the trucker. Elephants are often used for collecting illegal toll from motorists and locals in cities, towns, and on highways. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

N Korea 'trying to deceive US'

US intelligence agencies believe it has ramped up nuke fuel production despite talks

REUTERS, Washington

US intelligence agencies believe North Korea has increased production of fuel for nuclear weapons at multiple secret sites in recent months and may try to hide these while seeking concessions in nuclear talks with the United States, NBC News quoted US officials as saying.

In a report on Friday, the network said what it described as the latest US intelligence assessment appeared to go counter to sentiments expressed by President Donald Trump, who tweeted after an unprecedented June 12 summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un that "there is no longer a nuclear threat from North Korea."

NBC quoted five unidentified US officials as saying that in recent months North Korea had stepped up production of enriched uranium for nuclear weapons, even as it engaged in diplomacy with the United States.

The network cited US officials as saying that the intelligence assessment concludes that North Korea has more than one secret nuclear site in addition to its known nuclear fuel production facility at Yongbyon.

"There is absolutely unequivocal evidence that they are trying to deceive the US," NBC quoted one official as saying.

The CIA declined to comment on the NBC report. The State Department said it could not confirm it and did not comment on matters of intelligence. The White House did not respond to a request for comment.

The NBC report raises further questions about North Korea's readiness to enter serious negotiations about giving

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