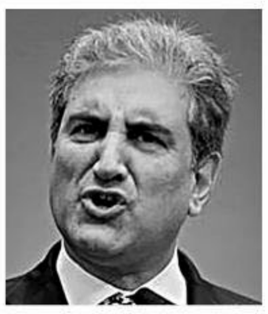
Aid cut was money owed

New Pak FM downplays significance of Washington cancelling $300m in security assistance to Islamabad

ALJAZEERA ONLINE

The significance of United States cancelling $300m in security assistance to the Pakistan has been downplayed by the country's foreign minister who said the amount was a reimbursement and not assistance.

Relations between the US and Pakistan have been increasingly frayed since January, when US President Donald Trump suspended more than $1.1bn in security assistance to the country over allegations that it was not acting against armed groups such as the Afghan Taliban.



Pakistan denies the charge, saying it has conducted indiscriminate military operations against all armed groups operating on its soil.

On Sunday, Pentagon spokesperson Lt-Col Kone Faulkner confirmed that the US would be finally cancelling $300m in Coalition Support Funds (CSF), which was part of the $1.1bn suspended in January, reassigning the funds to other projects, "due to a lack of Pakistani decisive actions in support of the South Asia Strategy".

"This $300m was neither any aid nor assistance," said Pakistan's new Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Sunday evening.

"It is our share in CSF. This is the money which Pakistan has already spent through its own resources and [the US] was to reimburse it to us."

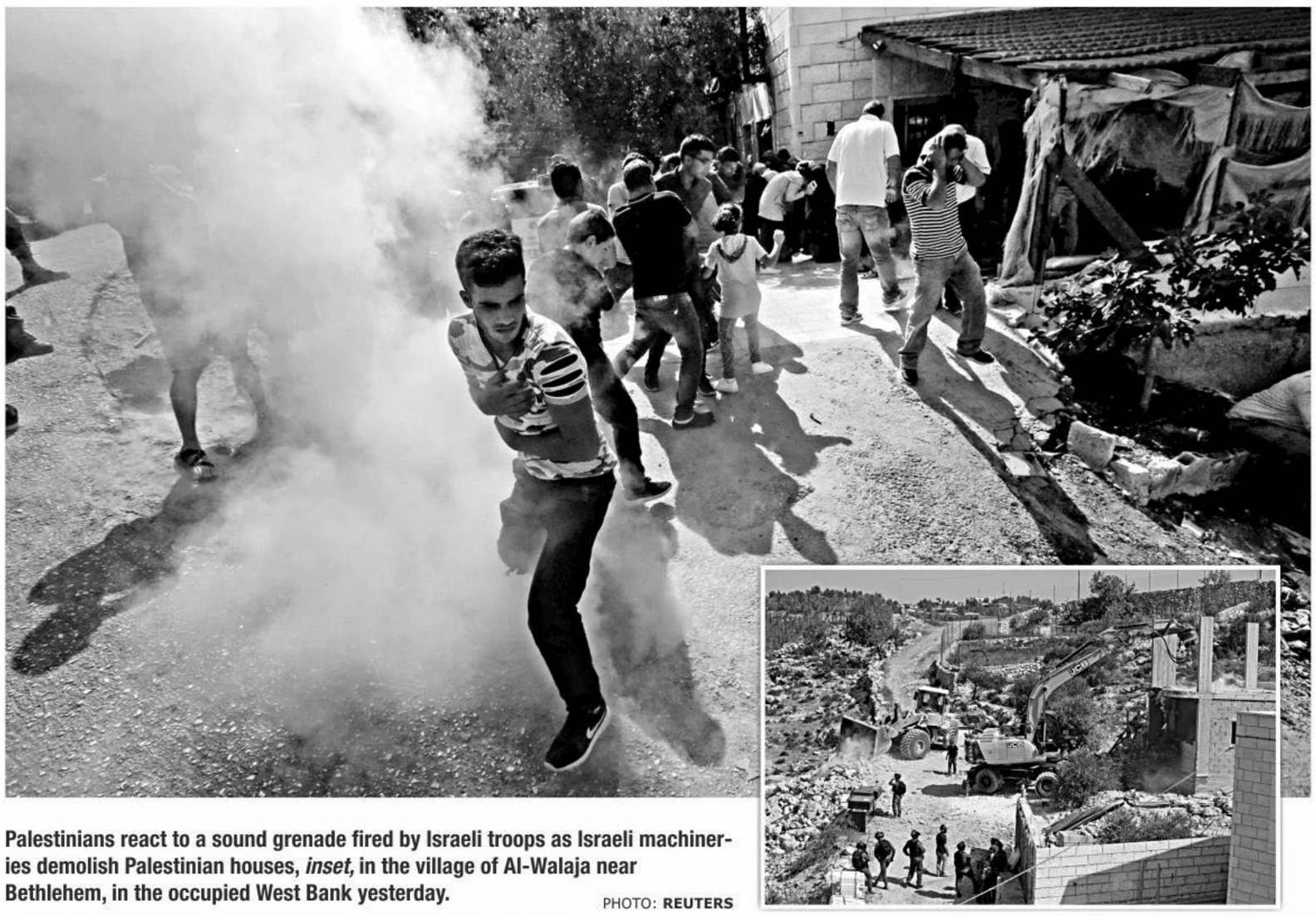
US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, accompanied by US military chief General Joseph Dunford, is due for a visit to Islamabad on Wednesday.

Qureshi said that ties between Pakistan and the US are currently "almost non-existent", but he hoped this would change after Pompeo's visit.

"With the visit of the US Secretary of State we have an opening and a beginning can be made, and we will try to build a consensus in areas of mutual interest," he said.

"It is our shared objective to cleanse the region and the world of terrorism.

"We will listen to their point of view, and we will present our position to them," he said. "Our objective is that we move our relationship forward based on trust, respect and understanding."



Palestinians react to a sound grenade fired by Israeli troops as Israeli machineries demolish Palestinian houses, *inset*, in the village of Al-Walaja near Bethlehem, in the occupied West Bank yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

No human tissue in 'body' bags

Say Kolkata doctors

HINDUSTAN TIMES ONLINE

The packets found from a south Kolkata locality contained medical waste and not 'decomposed remains of 14 babies and foetuses' as alleged, doctors who examined them have said.

Panic prevailed in the city after it was alleged that workers cleaning a plot of land found remains of 14 bodies of newborns.

Kolkata mayor Sovan Chatterjee, who visited the spot, had said that the 14 bodies, wrapped separately in plastic, were in two bags.

Suspecting illegal abortion ring, Kolkata police commissioner Rajeev Kumar rushed to the spot.

However, the police did not open the packets and sent them straight to M R Bangur hospital for post-mortem.

'I am sorry'

Duterte apologises for cursing Obama

AFP, *Jerusalem*

Philippine leader Rodrigo Duterte has apologised to former US president Barack Obama for calling him a "son of a whore" in 2016, which sparked a new low in their nations' long alliance.

Duterte lobbed the insult in response to steady criticism from the United States over his violent drug crackdown, which has been a target for international condemnation.

However, the Philippine president said his nation's relationship with America has since improved under President Donald Trump, who he described as a "good friend" who "speaks my language".

"It would be appropriate also to say at this time to Mr. Obama that you are now a civilian and I am sorry for uttering those words," Duterte said Sunday in a speech before Filipinos in Israel.

Duterte landed in Israel on Sunday for a four-day stay as the Philippines seeks to develop new sources of military hardware and nail down protections for its overseas workers.

"If it is (in) your heart to forgive, you forgive. I have forgiven you, just like my girlfriends when I was still a bachelor... I have forgiven them also," the Philippine leader said in the same speech.

After his election in mid-2016, Duterte quickly earned a reputation for using vulgar language against critics which his aides have tried to minimise or explain away.

He branded Pope Francis and the then US ambassador to Manila "sons of whores". He also fired expletives at the United Nations and during a speech in the Philippines raised his middle finger in defiance to the European parliament.

Duterte often rails at critics of his campaign to rid the Philippines of narcotics, which police say has killed 4,410 alleged drug dealers or users.

Rights groups say the actual number of dead is triple that and could amount to crimes against humanity.

Duterte cursed Obama ahead of a regional summit in Laos two years ago prompting the US to cancel a meeting between the two leaders there.

EU MIGRANT CRISIS

Med crossings 'deadlier than ever': UN

AFP, *Geneva*

Even as the number of migrants and refugees crossing the Mediterranean to Europe has fallen sharply, the likelihood of dying during the dangerous voyage has risen significantly, the UN said yesterday.

Between January and July, more than 58,000 asylum seekers and migrants reached Europe's shores after crossing the Mediterranean Sea -- 41 percent fewer than during the same period in 2017, the UN refugee agency said.

The number of people taking the particularly dangerous central Mediterranean route to Italy fell to just 18,500, down from over 95,000 during the first seven months of last year, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in a fresh report.

But the agency warned that Mediterranean crossings were now "deadlier than ever", with the rate of deaths at sea rising sharply.

During the first seven months of the year, nearly 1,600 people perished trying to make the treacherous journey.

Around 1,200 of those deaths occurred along the central Mediterranean route -- around half the number seen last year when there were five times as many arrivals in Italy.

That means that one person died for every 18 who attempted to make the journey along that route, compared with one in 42 who crossed in 2017.

Suu Kyi's image in shreds

Diplomats criticise Nobel laureate after she fails to come to defence of journos or speak up for Rohingya minority

AFP, *Yangon*

The jailing of two Reuters journalists shreds what remains of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's reputation as a rights champion, critics say, after she failed to come to their defence or speak up for the persecuted Rohingya minority.

Suu Kyi was once a staunch advocate for the free press and a darling of the foreign media.

During her long years of house arrest under the former junta -- which choked the media inside Myanmar -- it was foreign correspondents who carried her message of peaceful defiance to the outside world.

Glowing profiles burnished her image, with comparisons made to the Dalai Lama, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King.

Suu Kyi remains adored inside Myanmar. Supporters of her democracy battle say she has limited control over the military, which ceded full control in 2015 after almost 50 years in power.

But her response to the Rohingya crisis has sent her international reputation into a tailspin.

Former friends and supporters have looked on aghast at her lack of criticism of last year's military campaign against the Rohingya.

UN investigators last week said that campaign was pursued with "genocidal intent".

Yesterday's conviction of two Reuters journalists, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, and their seven-year sentence has sent a chill through Myanmar's already embattled press community.

Yet throughout the trial Suu Kyi has been unmoved by calls to intervene, or even criticise the court case.

Bill Richardson, a US diplomat and until recently a Suu Kyi confidante, alleges that she denounced the two journalists when he tried to raise their plight in person.

"Suu Kyi's response was filled with anger, referring to the journalists as traitors," the former New Mexico governor told AFP.

Shortly after the set-to in January, Richardson quit his position on an international advisory body into the Rakhine crisis, labelling it a whitewash.

Another person at the same meeting said there was shouting and a "charged atmosphere".

"In that heated exchange I wouldn't dismiss that the word was used," said retired Thai lawmaker and ambassador Kobsak Chutikul, who was secretary for the panel and who also later resigned.

"It would have fitted the emotions and sentiments at the time," he added.

Since sweeping to power three years ago, Suu Kyi's relationship with the press has been fraught.

Prosecutions of journalists and media intimidation more redolent of the junta years have been common.

Suu Kyi's response was filled with anger, referring to the journos as traitors: US diplomat

Around 20 journalists were prosecuted in 2017, many under a controversial online defamation law.

At the same time Suu Kyi has been accused of backing misinformation and distorted reports about the Rakhine crisis.

State media published by the Suu Kyi-controlled Ministry of Information has continuously echoed the military line, rejecting allegations of atrocities against the Rohingya as "fake news".

That has put her at odds with a mountain of evidence and an international community calling for justice.

"To say that Aung San Suu Kyi's star has faded is a massive understatement," said Matthew Burgher from free speech advocacy group Article 19.

Suu Kyi's defenders say her hands are tied by an army that still controls all security matters as well as 25 percent of parliamentary seats.

The stateless Rohingya are also a deeply unpopular cause among the Buddhist-majority public in Myanmar, where

People trapped as clashes rage in Tripoli

AFP, *Tripoli*

Clashes raged on the outskirts of Libya's capital Tripoli yesterday trapping residents indoors and hampering rescue efforts, emergency services said, after more than a week of deadly fighting.

Clashes since August 27 between rival militias in the southern suburbs has killed at least 47 people and wounded 129 others, most of them civilians, according to an updated toll put out by the health ministry Sunday night.

Yesterday, armed groups had cut roads leading to their positions, "blocking access to aid and relief" and trapping families in the area, emergency services spokesman Osama Ali said.

Explosions could be heard from the Tripoli's centre and witnesses reported heavy fighting, particularly along the perimeter of the Wadi al-Rabii suburb in the southeast of the capital.

On Sunday, some 400 detainees managed to escape after rioting at a prison in Ain Zara, also in the capital's southern suburbs, as the fighting raged.

Most detainees at the prison have been convicted of common crimes or were supporters of former dictator Moamer Gaddafi, found guilty of killings during the uprising that toppled his regime in 2011.

A justice ministry official told AFP yesterday that the prisoners escaped from Wing A, reserved for those convicted of common crimes.

Supporters of Gaddafi's regime are being held in another wing where "no trouble has been recorded", the official said on condition of anonymity.

Reactions to verdict on Reuters' journos

A Myanmar judge yesterday found two Reuters journalists guilty of breaching a law on state secrets and jailed them for seven years, in a landmark case seen as a test of progress towards democracy in the Southeast Asian country. Here are some reactions to the news.

US AMBASSADOR TO MYANMAR

"I'm sad for Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo and their families, but also for Myanmar. It's deeply troubling for everybody who has struggled so hard here for media freedom. I think one has to ask will this process increase or decrease the confidence the people of Myanmar have in their justice system," said Scot Marciel.

BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO MYANMAR

"Speaking on behalf of the British government, but also on behalf of European Union member states, we are extremely disappointed by this verdict. Freedom of expression and rule of law are fundamental in a democracy, and this case has passed a long shadow over both today," said Dan Chugg.

MEDIA ADVISER TO BANGLADESH PM

"This has once again proved the Myanmar government has been pursuing the suppression of the freedom of expression and freedom of media. It is now an open secret that any media or any person who wants to reveal the

atrocities of the Myanmar army and administration against the Rohingya people will face persecution by the Myanmar government," said Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, REUTERS

"Today is a sad day for Myanmar, Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, and the press everywhere. These two admirable reporters have already spent nearly nine months in prison on false charges designed to silence their reporting and intimidate the press."

TIRANA HASSAN, AMNESTY INTL'S DIRECTOR

"These convictions must be quashed, and both men immediately and unconditionally released. This politically motivated decision has significant ramifications for press freedom in Myanmar. It sends a stark warning to other journalists of the severe consequences that await should they look too closely at military abuses. This amounts to censorship through fear."

BRAD ADAMS, ASIA DIRECTOR, HRW

"The outrageous convictions of the Reuters journalists show Myanmar courts' willingness to muzzle those reporting on military atrocities. These sentences mark a new low for press freedom and further backsliding on rights under Aung San Suu Kyi's government."

SOURCE: REUTERS

Stand up to hate

Merkel urges Germans amid anti-migrant tension

AFP, *Chemnitz*

Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday urged Germans to stand up against the far right's message of hate and division, after the eastern city of Chemnitz was rocked by xenophobic protests.

Scenes of far-right protesters chasing down foreign-looking people in violent demonstrations last week against the fatal stabbing of a man, allegedly by an Iraqi, shocked Germany.

Amid the highly charged atmosphere in Chemnitz, a failed asylum applicant was sentenced to eight and a half years in jail for another fatal stabbing -- in another case also seized on by the far right's anti-immigrant campaign.

Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert said it was understandable that such crimes would provoke sadness and concern among the population.

But the marches by "violence-prone right-wing extremists and neo-Nazis have nothing in the least to do with sadness for a person or with concern for a city's cohesion", he said.

"These people who march and are prone to violence -- some have also shamelessly shown their closeness to Nazism -- they stand neither for Chemnitz nor for Saxony overall, neither are they 'the people'," said Seibert, referring to a popular "We are the people" chant used by far-right protesters.

"We must make that clear to them," be it through political or legal means, he said.

"Every citizen can also raise his or her voice to clearly show them their attitude against hate, against the attempt to divide this country."

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়

বন্যপ্রাণী ব্যবস্থাপনা ও প্রকৃতি সংরক্ষণ বিভাগ

ষোলশহর, চট্টগ্রাম

পুনঃ ইজারা দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-২০-২২/বন্যপ্রাণী অব ২০১৮-১৯ তারিখঃ ৩০/০৮/১৮

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, অত্র বন বিভাগের অধীন ২০১৮-১৯ আর্থিক সালের জন্য বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব সাফারী পার্কের প্রবেশদ্বার, গাড়ি পার্কিং ও ক্যাম্পিং/পিকনিক গ্রাউন্ড, ১টি ক্যান্টিং ও ২টি টয়লেট এর ফি আদায়ের ইজারার নিমিত্তে যে কোন সরকারি/আধাসরকারি/স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকাদার/ইজারাদার প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে নির্ধারিত ছকে সীলমোহরকৃত বন্ধ খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্রসমূহ নিম্নবর্ণিত তফসিল অনুযায়ী নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে এবং উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (উত্তর) চট্টগ্রাম মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, চান্দগাঁও, চট্টগ্রাম রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাক্সে দাখিল করিতে হইবে। দরপত্র দাখিলের পদ্ধতি ও বিস্তারিত তথ্যাদি সম্বলিত দরপত্র সিডিউল তফসিলে বর্ণিত সময় পর্যন্ত নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর হইতে নির্ধারিত মূল্যে (অফেরতযোগ্য) ক্রয় করা যাইবে।

তফসিল

ক্রমিক নং	বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-ও তাং	কাজের বিবরণ	ইজারা দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ	ইজারা দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ইজারা দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	সিডিউলের মূল্য	ইজারা দরপত্র জামানতের টাকার পরিমাণ	ভ্যাট ও আইটিসহ সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত ফি	
								শ্রেণি	নির্ধারিত ফি
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								খ) স্কুল ছাত্র/ছাত্রী (১৫ বছরের নীচে)	২০/-
								গ) শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে আগত শিক্ষার্থী গ্রুপ (৩০-১০০ জন)	৫০০/-
								ঘ) শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে আগত শিক্ষার্থী গ্রুপ (১০১-২৫০ জন)	৮০০/-
								ঙ) বিদেশী পর্যটক	৫ (পাঁচ) ইউএস ডলার এর সমমূল্য টাকা
২।	২১/বণ্য প্রাণী অব ২০১৮-১৯ তারিখঃ ৩০/০৮/১৮	২০১৮-১৯ আর্থিক সালের জন্য সাফারী পার্কের গাড়ি পার্কিং এর ফি আদায়ের ইজারা।	০৫/০৯/১৮ হইতে ১৯/০৯/১৮ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	২০/০৯/১৮ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	২০/০৯/১৮ইং তারিখ বেলা ১.০০ ঘটিকায়।	৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র।	উদ্ধৃত দরের ২০%	ক) বাস প্রতিটি	২০০/-
								খ) কার/মাইক্রোবাস প্রতিটি	১০০/-
৩।	২২/বন্যপ্রাণী অব ২০১৮-১৯ তারিখঃ ৩০/০৮/১৮	২০১৮-১৯ আর্থিক সালের জন্য সাফারী পার্কের ক্যাম্পিং/পিকনিক গ্রাউন্ড, ১টি ক্যান্টিং ও ২টি টয়লেট এর ফি আদায়ের ইজারা।	০৫/০৯/১৮ হইতে ১৯/০৯/১৮ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	২০/০৯/১৮ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	২০/০৯/১৮ইং তারিখ বেলা ১.০০ ঘটিকায়।	৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র।	উদ্ধৃত দরের ২০%	ক) ক্যাম্পিং/পিকনিক গ্রাউন্ড (প্রতিটি দৈনিক ভাড়া)	২০০০/-
								খ) টয়লেট (প্রতিজন)	৫/-

সংগ্রহকারী সত্তা কোন কারণ না দর্শাইয়া যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল/স্থগিত করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। কোন কারণে যদি দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রি বা গ্রহণের দিন সরকার কর্তৃক ছুটি ঘোষিত হয় অথবা অনিবার্য কারণে, সেইক্ষেত্রে পরবর্তী অফিস খোলার দিন দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রি ও গ্রহণ করা হইবে। দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী ও দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য যে কোন বিষয়ে অত্র দপ্তর/রেঞ্জ/পার্ক হইতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণের পূর্বদিন পর্যন্ত দেখিতে ও জানিতে পারা যাইবে।

এস এম গোলাম মওলা
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা
বন্যপ্রাণী ব্যবস্থাপনা ও প্রকৃতি সংরক্ষণ বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম

জিডি-২০৬৯