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Your Right to Know

PAKISTAN 'GLORIFIES KILLERS'

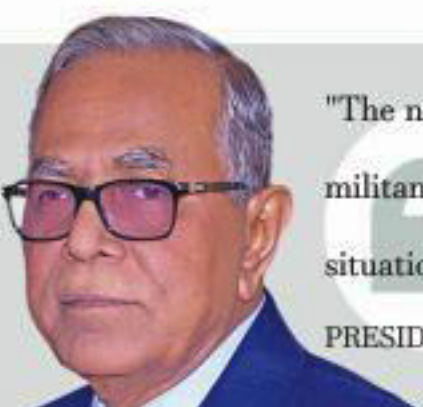
Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj slams Islamabad at UN PAGE 8



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"Bangladesh will face destruction while democracy will be exiled forever if the elections see engineering and mockery."
JUKTAFONT CHAIRMAN AQM BADRUDDOZA CHOWDHURY AT A PROGRAMME IN DHAKA (PAGE 3)



"The nation is witnessing negative activities such as intolerance, extremism, militancy and fundamentalism ... I think this situation has emerged due to lack of free thinking ..."
PRESIDENT ABDUL HAMID AT THE 10TH CONVOCATION OF RU (PAGE 5)



"Without a free press, you cannot have democracy because you don't know how to judge what your government's doing."
HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER AMAL CLOONEY AT A PRESS FREEDOM EVENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS (PAGE 8)

QUAKE, TSUNAMI IN INDONESIA

Hundreds killed

At least 384 dead as 7.5 tremor causes devastation; toll could be 'thousands'

REUTERS, Palu

At least 384 people were killed, many swept away as giant waves crashed onto beaches, when a major earthquake and tsunami hit the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, authorities said yesterday.

Hundreds had gathered for a festival on the beach in the city of Palu on Friday when waves as high as six metres (18 feet) smashed onshore at dusk, sweeping many to their death and destroying anything in their path, following a 7.5 magnitude earthquake.

"When the (tsunami) threat arose yesterday, people were still doing their activities on the beach and did not immediately run and they became victims," Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, the spokesman for Indonesia's disaster mitigation agency BNPB said in a briefing in Jakarta.

"The tsunami didn't come by itself, it dragged cars, logs, houses, it hit everything on land," Nugroho said, adding that the tsunami had travelled across the open sea at speeds of 800 kph (497 mph) before striking the shoreline.

Some people climbed six metre trees to escape the tsunami and survived, he said.

Amateur footage shown by local TV stations showed waves crashing into houses along Palu's shoreline, scattering shipping containers and flooding into a mosque in the city.

Around 16,700 people were evacuating to 24 centres in Palu.

Aftershocks rocked the coastal city until yesterday afternoon following the massive earthquake on Friday, which triggered the tsunami. The series of earthquakes were felt in an area with 2.4 million people.

Nugroho described the damage as "extensive" and said thousands of houses, hospitals, shopping malls and hotels had collapsed. A bridge washed away and the main highway to Palu was cut off due to a landslide.

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Members of a medical team help patients outside a hospital yesterday after an earthquake and a tsunami hit Palu on Indonesian island Sulawesi. *Inset*, residents salvage belongings and move to higher ground fearing aftershocks and more tsunamis.

PHOTO: AFP

Atrocities on Rohingyas genocide

Newly-introduced US legislation says

STAR REPORT

US Congressman Steve Chabot, Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel on Thursday introduced a bipartisan measure to declare the Myanmar military's atrocities against the Rohingya genocide, according to a statement issued by the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

"The Burmese military is engaging in horrific violence against Rohingya men, women and children. Their actions amount to genocide," said Edward R Royce in the statement issued on Friday.

This is a straightforward resolution to put the US Congress on record.

Earlier this week, Royce said, "Confronting genocide of the Rohingya is a moral issue. And a national security issue."

Also this week, the US

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A worthy work in progress

SAKEB SUBHAN from Dubai

The morning of September 29 must have broken with some harsh light for the Bangladesh cricketers in Dubai and their loyal fans back home. It was much the same on March 23, 2012, when the Asia Cup final against Pakistan was lost in the final ball in Mirpur the night before. But as time wore on in 2012, the pain of defeat gave way to a feeling of accomplishment born from the feeling that Bangladesh cricket had finally broken through and had defeated all but one of their more celebrated neighbours before falling at the final hurdle.

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BNP gets rally nod on 22 conditions

Set to unveil demands at Suhrawardy Udyan rally today; police say party must arrange own security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With about three months before the national election, the BNP will come up with some specific demands, including polls under a nonpartisan administration, from its rally at Suhrawardy Udyan today.

The party believes the process for a "greater national unity" will move forward based on these demands, which also include release of Khaleda Zia and dissolution of parliament ahead of the election.

"We will place our charter of demands before the people and announce our next course of action," Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the party, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police gave permission for the rally on 22 conditions, including the party's own arrangement of security, when two BNP representatives met DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia around 11:30am yesterday.

The BNP will have to install high-resolution CCTV cameras inside and outside the venue, set up archways and use metal detectors at all entry points, scan rally-bound vehicles with own scanners and arrange fire extinguishers in the venue, police said.

The DMP also banned all activities that can hamper public safety; carrying sticks; speech hurting religious sentiments, and arriving at the venue in processions.

Police asked the party leaders to end the rally by 5:00pm.

The BNP has been planning a massive gathering for today's rally. The party has asked its units at eight districts adjacent to Dhaka to bring people to send the government a message that they have the strength for both waging movement and contesting election.

The last time the party held a meeting at the historic Suhrawardy Udyan was in November last year when Khaleda Zia was present.

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14-party blasts Dr Kamal, B Chy for unity move

Says it's a plot against govt; 4 rallies in Oct

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To counter the BNP and Oikya Prokriya's programmes in October, the Awami League-led 14-party alliance would hold rallies in Dhaka and three other districts.

The alliance leaders also termed the greater unity a conspiracy against the government.

The alliance Convener Mohammed Nasim yesterday said the rallies would start from October 9 to warm-up the voters ahead of the national polls likely in December.

"We have heard that they [BNP, Jatiya Oikya Prokriya and Juktofront] will take to the streets in October. But that October will never come," he told a meeting of activists of the AL-led alliance in the capital's Mohanagar Natya Mancha.

The health minister also said a "grand rally" would be held in the capital in October and its date would be announced later.

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Free speech will cease to exist

Warn legal experts over Digital Security Act; term it draconian

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming the Digital Security Bill draconian, some legal experts yesterday said freedom of expression would no longer exist in the country if the law was enacted.

"There might be freedom of expression if we are speaking through loudspeakers but what will be the consequences if the media exercises it using a computer, internet and the like?" said eminent jurist Dr Shahdeen Malik at a discussion at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

The Committee for the Protection of Fundamental Rights, a citizen's platform, organised the discussion.

It said many sections in the bill contained vague wordings, leaving room for misuse or misinterpretation, which would ultimately curb people's liberty and rights.

Citing various negative aspects of the bill, Dr Mahbubur Rahman, a law teacher at Dhaka University, said, "Where India and Pakistan give punishment of two to three years for an offence, Bangladesh gives life-term [sentences] for the same offence."

Pointing to the arrest of eminent photographer Shahidul Alam, Supreme Court lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua said, "What crimes did he commit by speaking on live videos that he had to be behind bars for 60 days?"

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Digital Security Act not against journo: PM

'Govt for EVM use in polls'

AGENCIES, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the spread of cybercrime as a global phenomenon warranted the enactment of Digital Security Act 2018 and that it is "not against the journalists," reports BSS.

"You [journalists] are only seeing one side of the law fearing it could gag you. In fact, there is nothing to muzzle the journalists," she said replying to a query at a press conference in New York late Friday.

The PM said the cyber security issue also featured

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The wreckage of a motorbike under a bus at Jahangir Gate intersection in the capital yesterday. The bus after hitting an autorickshaw tried to flee the scene of the accident and ended up ramming the motorbike. Out of control, the bus pushed the bike on to the central reservation.

PHOTO: STAR

Biker killed by a bus fleeing accident scene

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An employee of Ekattor TV was killed when a bus crushed his motorcycle near Jahangir Gate in the capital yesterday.

Anwar Hossain, 32, was a marketing executive of the television channel, Habib Rahman, a staff correspondent of Ekattor TV told The Daily Star.

Quoting witnesses, Habib said Anwar was on his way to work in Baridhara from his Jhigatola home when an Uttara-bound bus rammed his bike around 9:45am.

The bus first hit an auto-rickshaw near the Jahangir Gate intersection on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue and tried to flee the scene of the accident. It then rammed Anwar's bike and pushed him up the road at least 25 feet before running him over, Habib added.

Pedestrians stopped the bus and traffic police pulled him out from under the bus, he added.

Anwar was taken to Kurmitola General Hospital in a critical condition. Doctors declared him dead around 12:45pm, he said.

After an autopsy, Anwar's body was taken to Ekattor TV's Baridhara office for a namaj-e-janaza, Habib said.

His body will be taken to his village home at Kalai upazila of Joypurhat for burial.

Police the detained bus driver Mohammad Sujon, 22, and seized the bus, Abul Kalam Azad, a sub-inspector of Kafrul Police Station, said.

Police are now interrogating him, Kamal Hossain, additional deputy commissioner (Mirpur zone) of DMP, said.

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