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MISSING SAUDI JOURNO Turkey to search Saudi consulate

King Salman denies knowing fate of Khashoggi; Trump sends Pompeo to Riyadh for talks with Salman

AFP, Istanbul

Turkish investigators were set to search the Saudi consulate in Istanbul for the first time yesterday since journalist Jamal Khashoggi disappeared, as King Salman denied any knowledge of his fate in talks with Donald Trump.

Khashoggi, a Saudi national and US resident who became increasingly critical of powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has not been seen since he walked into the Istanbul consulate to sort out marriage paperwork on October 2.

Turkish officials have said they believe he was killed -- a claim Saudi Arabia has denied -- with the controversy dealing a huge blow to the kingdom's image and efforts by its youthful crown prince to showcase a reform drive.

After speaking by phone with Salman, Trump said the king denied having any knowledge of what happened, with the US president suggesting "rogue killers" could be to blame and dispatching Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to the kingdom.

Until now, Riyadh has not allowed investigators to search the consulate -- officially Saudi territory -- with reports both sides were at odds over the conditions.

But a Turkish diplomatic source said the search, a joint



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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits the Puja Mandap at Dhakeshwari temple in the capital yesterday on the occasion of the beginning of Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindus.

PHOTO: BSS

GD against Zafrullah for remarks on army chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A general diary has been filed against Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury over his recent remarks on Army Chief Gen Aziz Ahmed at a TV programme.

Describing the comments as "motivated, malicious and conspiratorial" and the act as tantamount to sedition, Maj M Rakibul Alam of the Army Headquarters filed the GD with Cantonment Police Station on Friday.

Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the Detective Branch of police has already been tasked with the investigation upon approval from the court and the ministry concerned.

According to the GD, Zafrullah at the TV discussion a day before the delivery of the verdicts in the August 21 grenade attack cases irrelevantly made

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ROHINGYA REPATRIATION Verification of 8,000 completed

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh wants to make sure that the Rohingyas, who are expected to return to Myanmar in the first batch, have houses to live in and other facilities in their own villages.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali said this as Bangladesh and Myanmar are set to sit later this month to discuss the Rohingya repatriation.

"We've completed the village-wise verification of 8,000 Rohingyas to know who came from which village. We want to make sure they can start living in houses in their own villages," he told a press conference here yesterday.

Ali also mentioned that India had built 250 houses while China was building 1,000 more in Myanmar.

"The returnees will first stay at reception centres in Myanmar and then go to their villages."

The minister said they would discuss the issue with the Myanmar side of the

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ADMISSION TEST DU withholds Gha unit results

Decision comes amid allegations of question leak; authorities to wait for probe report

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University authorities yesterday postponed the "Gha" unit admission test results following allegations of question paper leak.

"The probe body formed over the incident is yet to submit the report. We will take further decisions regarding the admission test after receiving the report from the committee," DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman told The Daily Star yesterday.

Earlier in the day, the authorities issued a press release saying that the exam results would be published today. But hours later, another press release was issued stating: "The previous press release was sent because of wrong information given by the assignment officer of the vice chancellor office...."

It added that activities (mentioned) in the release had been postponed as per the directive of the VC and apologised for the earlier press release.

The admission tests for "Gha" unit were held Friday amid allegations of question paper leak. The university authorities formed a three-member probe body the next day and asked it to submit a report within 48 hours.

Law enforcers have found evidence that hand-written question papers of DU "Gha" unit admission test were leaked 43 minutes prior to the exam and circulated by two admission information centres in Bogura.

Six people, including an admission seeker and his father, were arrested on Saturday in connection with the incident. Each of them were taken on a two-day remand on Sunday.

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'SHOOTOUTS' 'Drug dealer', PBCP leader shot dead

STAR REPORT

Two suspected criminals, including an alleged drug dealer, were killed in separate "gunfights" with law enforcers in Mymensingh and Tangail early yesterday.

In Mymensingh's incident, the dead was identified as Sabbir Hossain Payel, 26, who was an accused in 11 cases, mostly for drugs, police sources said.

Shah Kamal Akanda, officer-in-charge (OC) of the detective branch of police (DB) in Mymensingh, said the shootout took place when a police team, upon receiving information of an on-going drug trade, raided Purahtipara area in Mymensingh town around 1:15am.

As police arrived in the area, the drug dealers

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Prince Harry, Meghan expecting first baby



AFP, London

Forget Brexit. Prince Harry and his wife Meghan announced yesterday they were expecting their first baby, sparking a media frenzy, debates over the royal name, and expressions of delight from the queen.

Kensington Palace said Queen Elizabeth II's 34-year-old grandson and the 37-year-old US actress, who had just arrived in Sydney ahead of a 16-day tour of the Pacific, would be having a child in the spring.

"The Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Sussex are very pleased to announce that the Duchess of Sussex is expecting a baby in the spring of 2019," their Kensington Palace residence said in a statement.

"Their Royal Highnesses have appreciated all of the support they have received from people around the world since their wedding in May and are

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Malaysian man held at airport with 7kg gold

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Chinese origin Malaysian national was held with seven gold bars, weighing around 7kg, at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital on Sunday night.

Chan Gee Keong, 47, arrived at the airport in a Malindo Air flight from Malaysia around 10:00pm, Othello Chowdhury, deputy

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 16

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN	4-50	12-45	4-00	5-38	7-15
JAMAAT	5-25	1-15	4-15	5-41	7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

#METOO ALLEGATIONS Indian minister sues journalist for defamation

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
New Delhi

India's junior minister for external affairs M J Akbar yesterday filed a criminal defamation case against his former journalist colleague Priya Ramani, who along with over 10 other women accused him of sexual harassment in the wake of the #MeToo movement in India.

Akbar filed the legal suit through his advocates Karanjawala and Co in the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court here, a day after he broke his silence on the issue of alleged charges of sexual harassment against him.

He has accused Ramani of "wilfully, deliberately, intentionally and maliciously" defaming him and has sought the issuance of notice to Ramani under section 499 (defamation)

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Onlookers gather near a car that fell in a roadside ditch in the capital's Moghbazar Wireless Gate area yesterday. Witnesses said that as the driver was talking over phone, the vehicle slipped into the ditch being dug by Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa). No one was injured in the incident.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BAVARIA POLLS DEBACLE Merkel's fragile coalition shaken

AFP, Berlin

German Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday vowed to "win back trust" from voters after squabbling within her three-party coalition was blamed for severe election losses in the state of Bavaria.

Looking back at a turbulent year since 2017 general elections, which saw painful coalition talks followed by harsh infighting on immigration, she conceded that "a lot of trust has been lost".

Her lesson from Sunday's Bavaria polls, where her governing partners the CSU and the SPD suffered heavy losses, was that "I as the chancellor must do more to ensure that this trust is there".

Her own Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian sister party the CSU "can be expected to act in a united way," she said, pointing to her deep rift with the CSU's hardline Interior Minister Horst Seehofer.

The governing parties were in shell-shock after Sunday's regional election, where the CSU took a 10-point dive to 37 percent, losing its absolute majority in the Alpine state it has ruled since the 1960s.

Merkel's other national coalition partner, the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD), dropped to 9.7 percent, halving their support in their worst-ever result in any state poll.

'BRUTAL LOSSES'

The biggest winners Sunday were the opposition Greens, who surged to become Bavaria's second strongest party with 17.5 percent, drawing support especially in big cities like Munich.

The far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD), which has rallied against Merkel's 2015 decision to keep open German

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