



"The causes of the current Rohingya situ-



"Beyond being a physical attack,



"I look at Mr Modi [prime minister of India] and when he abuses me, I

PM calls for national unity

In address to the nation, she vows to wipe out corruption

UNB, Dhaka



Stressing the need for national unity to take the country forward, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government would root out corruption through strict enforcement of laws.

"Now, we need national unity; we've to move forward together forgetting our differences. The basis of our unity will be the spirit of the Liberation War, non-communalism, democratic values, equality, justice, development and advance-

ment," she said in her first address to the nation after forming her new government earlier this month.

The PM said the government would work for all. It would take initiatives to uphold the rule of law in every sphere of national life and establish good governance, accountability and transparency in public services.

Hasina took office for a third consecutive term following the Awami League's victory in the December 30 national election. The

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BASIS OF NAT'L UNITY

- » Spirit of Liberation War
- » Non-communalism
- » Democratic values
- » Equality
- » Justice
- » Development

PRIORITIES

- » Working for all
- » Upholding the rule of law
- » Eliminating corruption
- » Establishing good governance
- » Creating 1.5cr jobs in five years

For them, past is not past at all

Still in shock, family of slain Teknaf councillor looks for answers



Akramul Haque

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT, from Teknaf

Nahiyah often springs up from bed at midnight and starts looking for her father Akramul Haque, the slain ward councillor of Teknaf municipality. The 12-year-old scurries to her father's bed and breaks down.

Seeing her younger sister in tears, Tahiyat also begins to cry.

Nine months have passed since Akram was killed in a so-called gunfight with the Rab on May 26 last year, but both the sisters still call his number every day only to find it switched off.

"On the 26th of every month, both the girls pass the day crying. They won't eat anything on this day," said Ayesha Begum, widow of Akram.

"In fact, they call on their father's cell phone at least once a day with the belief that someone will talk to them. But that doesn't happen."

Tahiyat and Nahiyah, student of class-IX and class-VII at Teknaf BGB Public School, won't allow their mother to

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Trump wishes Hasina success in third term

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US President Donald Trump has wished Sheikh Hasina a successful third term as Bangladesh's prime minister.

In a letter, he also said, "On behalf of the American people, I commend tens of millions of Bangladeshis who voted, demonstrating their democratic aspirations for the country."

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the letter issued on January 18. A highly-placed diplomatic source has verified its authenticity.

The letter quoted the US president as saying, "I hope that you [Hasina] will focus on expanding Bangladesh's economic growth -- including by taking steps to promote fair

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Truck kills 13 workers in their sleep

The coal-laden vehicle slams into makeshift shed at brick kiln in Cumilla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

At least 13 workers were killed when a coal-laden truck flipped over on a makeshift shed at a brick kiln in Cumilla when the workers were still sleeping in early morning yesterday.

The incident happened as the driver lost control over the wheels, said Abdullah Al Mamun, additional superintendent of police in Cumilla (south).

The trucker fled the scene after the incident, he added, but would not disclose his name or any other details.

All the victims are from two neighbouring villages under Jaldhaka upazila of Nilphamari district.

Nine of them were students at different schools. They went to Cumilla for part-time work at the brick field so they could support their families, family members said.

The accident, which also left two workers

injured, happened inside K and Co Brick Field at Narayanganj in Chaudhogram around 5:30am, said police and witnesses.

The kiln has been running on a rental basis, said its Manager Kamrul Islam.

Family members of the victims were in deep shock. Their heart-wrenching sobbing touched everyone who visited them in their homes, reports our correspondent there.

The truck, which came from Majhirhat in Chittagong, was overloaded, said Abdul Bari, inspector of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority in Cumilla.

It was in reverse gear and moving backward for parking and unloading the coal.

The vehicle overturned when one side of the truck climbed onto a six-feet high pile of coal there, the official added.

Eighteen workers were sleeping inside the shed at the time, said Hossain, one of the five survivors.

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ROAD CRASHES

7,221 killed last year

Says report by passenger welfare body; reckless driving, unskilled drivers among main causes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 7,221 people were killed and 15,466 others injured in 5,514 road crashes across the country last year, said a passengers' welfare body yesterday.

On an average, almost 20 people got killed every day last year.

Reckless driving, risky overtaking, faulty roads, unfit vehicles, unskilled drivers and a general lack of awareness

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VICTIMS (DEATH/INJURY OF ACCIDENT	IDENTITY	
	NUMBER	TRANSPORT WORKERS
Students	880	1,252
Women	787	
Children	487	

ROHINGYAS IN RAKHINE

Myanmar still forcing them to flee homes

UN special rapporteur says Naypyidaw not working for their return, urges Dhaka to make long-term plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rather than creating conditions for the return of the Rohingyas, Myanmar is engaging in a sustained campaign of violence, intimidation and harassment of the ethnic minority, the UN special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar said yesterday.

"I spoke to one woman who arrived in Cox's Bazar a matter of days ago after her father was stabbed to death by Myanmar security forces. A man I spoke to told me that he and his entire family fled recently after his mother and sister were abducted and raped," Yanghee Lee said.

"During my visit, I received videos of houses burning in Maungdaw township, the second such incident to occur in Maungdaw in 2019 alone."

Lee made the remarks at a press conference at Hotel Le Meridien Dhaka at the end of her visit to Bangladesh. She had visited Cox's Bazar and Bhasanchar and spoke to the Rohingya refugees, officials of the government, UN and aid agencies.

Earlier this week, Lee, who has been denied access to Myanmar, visited Thailand to learn of the latest situation in Myanmar. According to information gathered by her team, houses were burned by Myanmar security forces working in concert with Rakhine extremists.

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Traders keep sand, wood and bamboo while laundry owners dry clothes on a makeshift bamboo structure after encroaching upon the Buriganga in Keraniganj of Dhaka. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN