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Won't take any more Rohingyas

Bangladesh tells UNSC

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh cannot accept any more refugees from Myanmar, Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque told a UN Security Council meeting.

He also urged the UNSC to take a decisive action to create a conducive atmosphere in Rakhine for Rohingya repatriation.

"I regret to inform the council that Bangladesh would no longer be in a position to accommodate more people from Myanmar," he said.

The UNSC meeting on the situation in Myanmar was held at the UN Headquarters in New York on Thursday.

The secretary accused the Myanmar government of being obstructionist about bringing back more than one million Rohingyas who have fled violence amid brutal military crackdown in Rakhine in August 2017.

The UN says conditions in Myanmar are not yet right for the return of Rohingyas. Western powers at the council on Thursday lamented the lack of action from the Myanmar government.

Christine Schraner Burgener, UN secretary-general's special envoy on Myanmar, told the Security Council that the UN access was currently "insufficient". She also reported slow progress in efforts to help hundreds of thousands of Rohingyas return home and warned that Myanmar's elections next year could worsen the crisis.

"While Bangladesh and host communities have been

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Rohingya refugees, who landed on an isolated northern shore near the Malaysia-Thai border, huddle in a group in Kangar yesterday, following their detention by Malaysian immigration authorities. Thirty-four Rohingyas landed on an isolated beach in Malaysia yesterday, police said.

PHOTO: AFP

34 Rohingyas found on beach in Malaysia

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Thirty-four Rohingya were found on a beach in Malaysia yesterday, police said, the first of the Muslim minority group thought to have arrived in the country by sea for almost a year.

About 740,000 Rohingyas fled Myanmar for Bangladesh after a military clampdown in August 2017, joining huge numbers already confined to camps.

Local police officer Nahar Jalaluddin told AFP the Rohingyas were discovered on an isolated stretch of coast in the northern state of Perlis.

"They were tired, weak and hungry," he said. "The refugees, who included men, women and children, are now in the custody of the immigration authorities."

The official said he suspected they had been ferried into Malaysian waters from neighbouring Thailand by people smugglers under cover of darkness, and dumped close to the shore.

The New Straits Times newspaper reported that

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Bangladesh not a 'one-party state'

PM's adviser Rizvi tells Al Jazeera

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi has told Al Jazeera that Bangladesh is not a "one-party state".

"Just because a party has been elected three times, it is not a one-party state," Rizvi said during an episode of Al Jazeera's "Head to Head".

He made the comment on the state of the country's democracy and whether it is heading towards authoritarianism.

"A total of 39 political parties participated in the election which was held in a free and fair manner," he said.

The episode has already been released on Al Jazeera website and social media.

Al Jazeera's host Mehedi Hasan asked Rizvi about the arrest of renowned



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Five more killed in 'gunfights'

They were drug peddlers, robbers, claim BGB, police; one lakh yaba pills recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two alleged drug peddlers and three suspected robbers were killed in three separate "gunfights" with members of Border Guard Bangladesh and police in Cox's Bazar and Munshiganj yesterday.

According to BGB Battalion-2 Commanding Officer Lt Col Asadul Zaman Chowdhury, two alleged drug peddlers -- Abdul Shukkur, 50, and Mohammad Ilias, 25, of Teknaf -- engaged in a "gunfight" with BGB men in Teknaf's Sabrang area.

The incident happened around 3:30am after BGB men took position in the area on information that a large consignment of yaba pills were about to be smuggled via Sabrang, he claimed.

Sensing presence of the BGB men, the criminals attacked them, forcing them to retaliate, the Lt Col added.

Shukkur and Ilias sustained bullet injuries during the "gunfight". Later, doctors declared them dead after they were taken to Teknaf Upazila Health Complex, the BGB official added.

BGB also claimed to have recovered 100,000 pieces of yaba pills and a firearm from the spot.

A BGB man was also injured during the "gunfight", the official added.

With the two alleged drug peddlers, at least 307 people have been killed, mostly in "gunfights" with members of Rab and police, since the

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

North Korea, US offer more talks

China calls on UN to discuss Pyongyang's sanctions relief

AGENCIES

The United States and North Korea yesterday promised further negotiations despite a spectacular failure to strike a nuclear deal at their Hanoi summit.

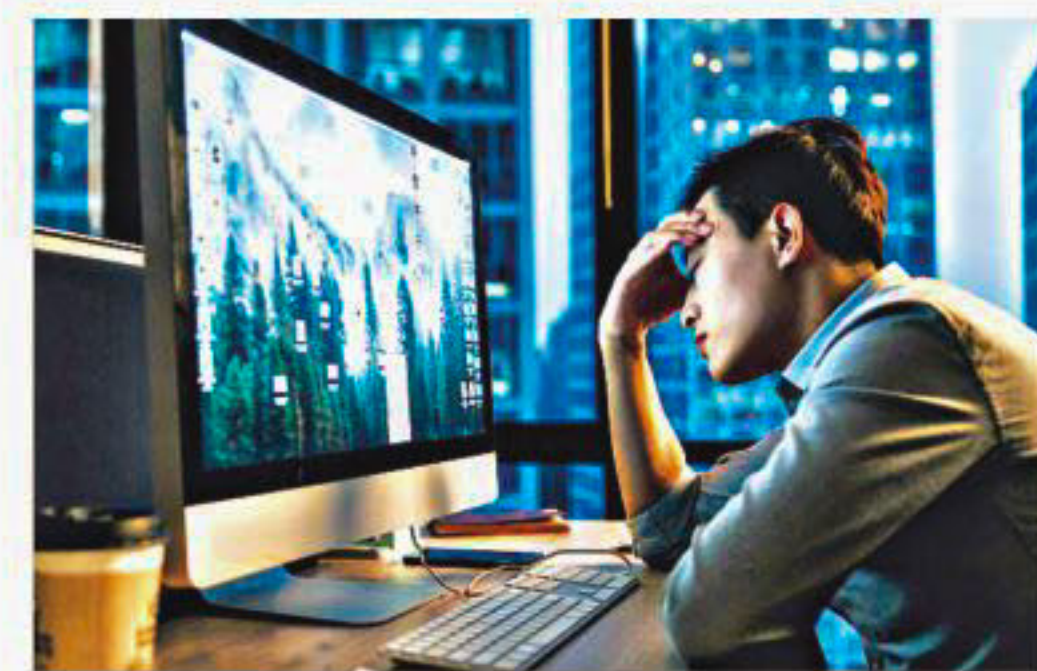
The high-stakes second meeting between the North's leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump broke up in disarray Thursday, without even a joint statement.

In the aftermath, each sought to blame the other's intransigence for the deadlock.

Trump insisted Pyongyang wanted all sanctions imposed on it over its banned weapons

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

Chinese firm allows bad mood leave



MAIL ONLINE

A company in China has allowed its employees to take leave when they are "in a bad mood".

Staff at the theme park in eastern China don't need to give elaborate excuses to stay at home for the day; they simply need to tell their boss "I feel low".

Each worker is entitled to one paid holiday per month to relax and feel better.

The company in Changzhou, called China Dinosaurs Park, has been issuing "bad mood leave" for three years, and the policy aims to help employees work more happily and efficiently, according to the company's spokesperson Chen Qingcheng.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 6

Biman flight lands at HSIA with flat tyre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines made an "emergency precaution landing" in Dhaka's Shahjalal International Airport yesterday as one of the aircraft's tyres burst.

The Bombardier Dash-8 plane, took off from Sylhet's Osmani International Airport at 2:59pm with 69 passengers and landed in Dhaka at 4:00pm safely, said Abdullah Al Farooq, director of Shahjalal International Airport.

The pilot of the flight BG-402 informed Dhaka airport authorities after noticing the burst tyre and landed.

Fire service team and ambulances were ready on the tarmac of Dhaka airport as preparation, Farooq said, adding that no casualties were reported during the emergency landing.

A LIGHT IS OUT



Polan Sarker, who was affectionately called the vendor of light, passed away yesterday at the age of 98.

For decades, he walked mile after mile in Rajshahi's Bagha upazila and knocked on people's doors to lend them his own books.

The Ekushey Padak winner's life-long endeavour was to educate people.

STORY ON PAGE 3



PRAYER TIMING MARCH 2

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-15 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Although child labour is prohibited, many brick kilns in Cumilla's Chaudagram upazila employ underage workers. Pabitra Roy, left, a ninth grader from Nilphamari's Jaldhaka, works at brick kilns for six months a year to support his family. He has been working since he was in class-VI. The photo was taken at Miraz Bricks in Chaudagram recently.

PHOTO: STAR

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