

# China offers help to rebuild homes for Rohingyas

STAR REPORT

A delegation from the Chinese government has offered a hand to rebuild homes of the Rohingyas in Myanmar's Rakhine State if the refugees return there from the camps in Cox's Bazar.

Quoting Rohingya community leaders and a Bangladeshi official, BenarNews reported that China's special envoy for Asian Affairs Sun Gouxiang and some other officials met 15 Rohingya men and 14 women at the Kutupalong camp on March 3.

Seeking anonymity, a Bangladeshi official said the Chinese delegation had also offered up to \$6,000 to each refugee if they return to their homes.

Echoing the statement, Secretary General of Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights (ARSPH) Syed Ullah said, "They asked us whether we would go back if they gave us five thousand to six thousand [US] dollars."

"We rejected their proposal and asserted that we will in no way return if we are not given citizenship with Rohingya identity and our other demands are not met," he added.

The Chinese embassy in Dhaka, however, did not respond to a BenarNews email that sought comment on the issue.

Muhib Ullah, another ARSPH official, said, "We told them that we would go if they accept our demands. Otherwise, we will not."

"If Myanmar grants citizenship, we will return jumping," Muhib said.

The Chinese envoy left Dhaka on Tuesday. Before arriving to Bangladesh, Sun Gouxiang visited several villages in the Rakhine State and met with Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi in Naypyidaw on Feb 27, according to the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar.

According to the United Nations, some 740,000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh following a brutal crackdown by the Myanmar military in response to attacks by Rohingya insurgents on security posts in August 2017. Myanmar faced huge global criticism for the atrocities and the call for referring Myanmar to the International Criminal Court got louder, but the UN Security Council could not act due to opposition from China and Russia.

# School attended by Donald Trump says it concealed his grades

AFP, Washington

A military academy that Donald Trump attended as a teenager concealed his academic records in 2011 in response to pressure from Trump allies, The Washington Post reported Tuesday.

The New York Military Academy came under such pressure after Trump challenged then president Barack Obama to release his own academic records, with Trump saying he was surprised such a "terrible student" got into Ivy League schools.

Evan Jones, the headmaster of the military academy at the time, told the Post that the superintendent of the private school "came to me in a panic because he had been accosted by prominent, wealthy alumni of the school who were Mr. Trump's friends" and wanted to keep his academic records secret.

Trump has consistently boasted he was a superb student throughout his youth.

The school's superintendent, or director, at the time, Jeffrey Coverdale, told the paper that he rejected a request from members of the school's board of trustees to hand over Trump's records to them.

"I moved them elsewhere on campus where they could not be released. It's the only time I ever moved an alumnus's records," Coverdale told the Post.

Trump spent five years at the military academy starting in the fall of 1959. He has said his parents concluded he needed more discipline.

Last week Trump's former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, testified to a congressional committee last week that one of his jobs was to threaten lawsuits against the schools that Trump attended so they would never release his grades.

Jones said he did not know if the original request to obtain Trump's records at the military academy came from Cohen.

Jones said he found the records in a filing cabinet in the basement of a building on the campus, which is about an hour's drive north of New York City.

"I don't know if we should be doing this," Jones recalled telling his boss.

"He told me that several wealthy alumni, including a close friend of Mr. Trump, were putting a lot of pressure on the administration to put the record in their custody for safekeeping."

# Hero Alam held

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of Bogura Sadar Police Station, however, said he was not aware of the complaint said to have been filed by Alam.

Alam contested the December 30 national poll as an independent candidate from Bogura-4 and boycotted the elections midway alleging voting irregularities.

# Cat that can't catch rats

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in which he was in jail instead of the real accused, Abu Salek.

During yesterday's hearing, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan placed a report before the HC bench, saying that the commission had placed charge sheets in 26 cases against Alam before the trial courts on the basis of the documents supplied by 18 banks, including Bangladesh Bank and Sonali Bank.

Khurshid said the further investigation reports of the loan scam cases had also been submitted to the trial courts.

The ACC has also submitted petitions to the courts concerned for withdrawing charges against Alam, he said.

The witnesses of the cases, including the bank officials, had identified Jaha Alam as Abu Salek, but it was clear from the further investigation that the real accused is Salek who is from Thakurgaon, while Alam is from Tangail, the lawyer added.

Then the HC said when Alam was produced before the trial courts, he had claimed that he is Jaha Alam, not Abu Salek.

But the public prosecutors and the ACC had not taken any step for his bail, the court said, adding that the commission would have to take the responsibility for this.

It also asked the ACC lawyer as to how many bank officials had been implicated in the charge sheets as 18 banks, including Bangladesh Bank and Sonali Bank, were involved in the cases. Police arrested Alam in 2016.

On January 28 this year, the HC summoned the ACC officials concerned to appear before it on February 4 to give their explanations about Alam's case.

# Jashore rape

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body was sent to the hospital's morgue for autopsy.

Ahmed Tarek Shams, a doctor at Jashore General Hospital, said Shamim had died before he was brought to the hospital.

Police claimed to have recovered a pistol, one bullet and 50 yaba pills from the spot.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify the police claims.

Elsewhere in Durgapur village of the district's Abhaynagar upazila, a ninth-grader was allegedly raped by a man yesterday.

The accused is Abdul Aziz Sarder, 45, of the same village.

The girl's mother, a labourer of Akij Jute Mills Ltd, filed a case with Abhaynagar Police Station.

According to the mother, Aziz and his cohort entered the house of the girl around 1:00am when the mother was at work in night shift. Aziz raped the girl and his cohort guarded them.

At one point, locals rushed to the house hearing her scream, she added.

Aziz fled the scene along with his cohort but threatened the girl with death if she had shared the rape incident with anyone, the mother alleged.

Md Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Abhaynagar Police Station, said the girl was sent to Jashore General Hospital for medical tests.

She will record her statement under section 22 before a magistrate tomorrow [today], the OC said, adding that the law enforcers were trying hard to arrest the accused.

# More holes found

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MISSED THE TARGET?

Jeffrey Lewis, director of the East Asia Nonproliferation Project at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, who has 15 years' experience in analysing satellite images of weapons sites and systems, confirmed that the high-resolution satellite picture showed the structures in question.

"The high-resolution images don't show any evidence of bomb damage," he said. Lewis viewed three other high-resolution Planet Labs pictures of the site taken within hours of the image provided to Reuters.

The Indian government has not publicly disclosed what weapons were used in the strike.

Government sources told Reuters last week that 12 Mirage 2000 jets carrying 1,000 kg (2,200 lbs) bombs carried out the attack. On Tuesday, a defence official said the aircraft used the 2,000-lb Israeli-made SPICE 2000 glide bomb in the strike.

A warhead of that size is meant to destroy hardened targets such as concrete shelters.

Lewis and Dave Schmerler, a senior research associate at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation studies who also analyses satellite images, said weapons that large would have caused obvious damage to the structures visible in the picture.

"If the strike had been successful, given the information we have about what kind of munitions were used, I would expect to see signs that the buildings had been damaged," Lewis added. "I just don't see that here."

Pakistan has disputed India's

The court passed the order on a suo moto move after Bangla daily Prothom Alo on that day published a report headlined "Wrong accused in jail in 33 cases: Sir, I am Jaha Alam, not Salek."

It also issued a rule asking the authorities to explain why Alam should not be acquitted of the cases in which he was not an accused.

After the media reported that Alam was wrongly accused, the ACC launched an investigation.

The anti-graft body found Alam's claim to be true.

# China denies Tibet support for Dalai Lama

AFP, Beijing

There is no widespread support for the Dalai Lama in Tibet and ordinary people are grateful to the Communist Party for "bringing them a happy life", Chinese officials insisted yesterday.

This week marks the 60th anniversary of a failed uprising which led to Tibet's Buddhist spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, fleeing into exile in India.

Beijing -- which claims it "peacefully liberated" the Himalayan area -- stands accused of political and religious repression in the region.

But China insists that Tibetans enjoy extensive freedoms and argues it has brought economic growth.

# 11 of the dead

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around two more weeks, Rumana told The Daily Star yesterday.

The 11 identified victims are Fatematz Zohra, Nasrin Jahan, Saleh Ahmed, Mohammad Ibrahim, Enamul Haque, Tanzil Hasan, Mohammad Shaheen Ahmed, Ahsan Ullah, Dulal Karmakar, Nuruzzaman Hawlader and Nurul Haque.

The bodies of Ibrahim, Dulal and Nurul would be given to their families today as they would travel to the capital from other districts, said Chawkbazar police.

Rumana said they sent a report to the investigation officer of the case, which was filed in connection with the fire incident.

The chemical-fed fire had spread through five buildings in Chawkbazar, claiming 71 lives.

Firefighters said they recovered 67 bodies from the spot. The four others died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital while undergoing treatment.

In 2010, a similar fire in Old Dhaka's Nimtoli had claimed 124 lives, raising serious concerns about the safety measures in the heavily crowded old town. Chemical warehouses have been set up in many residential buildings there.

The government has been conducting a drive against illegal businesses in Old Dhaka.

Meanwhile, a mobile court of Rapid Action Battalion yesterday snapped the power supply to 16 establishments in Old Dhaka's Sowari Ghat area for illegally storing flammable chemicals and fined Tk 10 lakh in total.

Rab Executive Magistrate Sarwoer Alam, who led the drive, said they also seized 110 tonnes of illegal materials that were stored in the warehouses for manufacturing polythene.

account, saying the operation was a failure that saw Indian jets, under pressure from Pakistani planes, drop their bombs on a largely empty hillside.

"There has been no damage to any infrastructure or human life as a result of Indian incursion," Major General Asif Ghafoor, the director general of the Pakistan military's press wing, in a statement to Reuters.

"This has been vindicated by both domestic and international media after visiting the site."

**BOMB CRATERS**  
In two visits to the Balakot area in Pakistan by Reuters reporters last Tuesday and Thursday, and extensive interviews with people in the surrounding area, there was no evidence found of a destroyed camp or of anyone being killed.

Villagers said there had been a series of huge explosions but the bombs appeared to have landed among trees.

On the wooded slopes above Jaba, they pointed to four craters and some splintered pine trees, but noted little other impact from the blasts that jolted them awake about 3:00 am on February 26.

"It shook everything," said Abdur Rasheed, a van driver who works in the area.

He said there weren't any human casualties: "No one died. Only some pine trees died, they were cut down. A crowd also died."

Mohammad Saddique from Jaba Basic Health Unit and Zia Ul Haq, senior medical officer at Teshil Headquarters Hospital in Balakot said they had seen no casualties.

# MUGGING ATTEMPT Woman run over by covered van, killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A woman was killed during an attempted mugging, when a covered van ran over her after she fell from a CNG run auto-rickshaw on Tuesday night in Manikganj.

She fell on the road while trying to save her bag from being mugged.

Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Shivalaya Police Station said the dead was identified as Bedena Begum, 45, of Dakarkhana area in Shivalaya upazila. She was the wife of Sayed Ali, a tea-stall owner, with whom she had three children.

Sayed said that he and his wife were on their way back from his father-in-law's home on a CNG-run auto-rickshaw that had no door on either side. Around 8:00pm, when they were on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway, a private car came close to their vehicle and snatched Bedena's bag.

As Bedena tightly held on to her bag to keep it from being snatched, she fell on the road and the covered van ran over her, he said. She died on the spot.

The muggers quickly turned around and lost control of the car which fell into a ditch. Both of the hijackers were injured. Highway police first rescued them and took them to hospital. Bedena's bag and the private car were seized, said OC Mizanur.

The muggers are Masudur Rahman, 40, from Netrokona, and Nur Islam, 24, from Faridpur, said police.

Sayed Ali filed a case against the two on charges of killing and mugging with Shivalaya Police Station, said OC Mizanur, adding that Masudur and Nur were arrested.

The body of the victim was sent to hospital for autopsy, the OC said.

# UPAZILA POLLS Vote rigging to happen in daylight Says Menon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Vote rigging would not take place at night in the upcoming upazila election, it would be done in broad daylight, said Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, whose party is a component of the ruling Awami League-led grand alliance.

"Many chairman candidates are now winning the election without any vote. Such an election will not bring any good result for the country," he said while addressing a reception at Barishal city's Rajanigandha Community Centre yesterday.

About the last general election, Menon said his party candidate for Barishal-3 was nominated by alliance leader and AL President Sheikh Hasina.

But AL supporters did not vote for the Workers Party candidate who contested the polls with the AL's electoral symbol "boat", Menon added.

He said his party would take part in the upazila election and asked its activists to guard polling centres.

Barishal district Workers Party organised the reception for Menon and his wife Lutfunnessa Beauty on becoming lawmakers.

The party's district unit President Nazrul Haque Nilu presided over the programme.

# PM

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As an individual, one can be involved with any party or organisation and there can be difference of opinion, she said.

"It's natural in the democratic system, but sometimes it was seen that there had been evil attempts to eliminate the opponents."

Hasina then mentioned the assassination of the Father of the Nation along with other family members in 1975. She also referred to the assassination attempts made on her on multiple occasions.

While responding to another question from ruling party MP M Shahiduzzaman Sarker (Naogaon-2), Hasina said the anti-adulteration drive would continue until the standard of food comes to a desired level.

To ensure safe food, she said, the anti-adulteration drive is being intensified while the executive magistrates are conducting the mobile court regularly.

Replying to another question from M Rustam Ali Farazi (Pirojpur-3), Hasina said steps will be taken to provide facilities of modern city in every village through constructing developed roads, communications, supplying drinking water, modern healthcare, quality education, developed sanitation and waste management, increasing the power and fuel supply, high-speed internet and expanding the market of consumer items.

# Historic 7th March today

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pyjama with the characteristic black overcoat, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman stepped up to the dais at around 3:15pm. The confluence of people welcomed him with the "Joy Bangla" slogan.

Each carefully thought out word was used to sketch Mujib's guidelines for his people to follow in the developing confrontation with the civil-military-political combine of West Pakistan.

"You know and understand everything. We tried with our lives. But the painful matter is that today, in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Rangpur, the streets are dyed red with the blood of our brethren.

"Today, the people of Bangla want freedom, the people of Bangla want to live, the people of Bangla want their rights.

"With great sadness in my heart, I look back on the past twenty three years of our history and see nothing but a history of the shedding of the blood of the Bangalee people. Ours has been a history of continual sadness, repeated bloodshed and innocent tears."

In his own imitable and iconic oration, Mujib told a tale of exploitation as million-strong crowd hung on every word.

It was a symphony of a struggle and Bangabandhu was the conductor.

At the mammoth rally at the Race Course ground on March 7, 1971, Mujib called on the freedom-loving Bangalees to fight back against the oppressive Pakistani regime.

And so was signalled the twilight of the struggle for national self-expression and eventual liberation from colonial rule.

In this historic speech, Bangabandhu mentioned the four conditions under which he and the Awami League would attend the National Assembly meeting to be held on March 25 -- the immediate lifting of martial law, the immediate withdrawal of all military personnel to their barracks, the immediate transfer of power to elected representatives of the peo-

# Target \$20b investment

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Aminul said the funds would come from Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF), a \$250 billion fund headed by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman.

The Saudi government was keen to invest in Bangladesh as part of its Look East investment policy due to the economic growth in the East compared to the West, he told journalists.

"The Saudi companies will not only sell their products here, but also set a target to export goods to the neighbouring countries."

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and Saudi ARAMCO might sign a deal to set up an oil refinery, petrochemical complex and storage, said the BIDA chief. According to the project proposal, it will cost around \$7b to \$15b.

He said a team of ARAMCO has already visited Bangladesh and talked to BPC officials about the implementation of the project.

Aminul told The Daily Star that the government would propose to invest in high-speed railway link from Dhaka to Cox's Bazar and to all divisional cities in phases.

Bangladesh would also propose setting up an aircraft repair and maintenance facility in Lalmonirhat and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had special interest in the project, he said.

The PM wanted to implement this type of project as all Biman aircraft were needed to send abroad for repair or servicing, the BIDA chief said.

According to the project proposal, it will cost around \$1b.

Saudi Arabia's lone aircraft repair and maintenance company, Al Salam Aerospace, is jointly owned by its government and the Boeing. The country has already expressed its interest in developing the facility in Lalmonirhat.

A delegation from the company recently visited Bangladesh and explored the potentials and skills of Bangladeshi workers in the sector.

On the other hand, another team led by Bangladesh Air Force chief Air

# BCL faces

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As many as 21 candidates are running for the VP post while 14 candidates for GS.

ARM Asifur Rahman is an independent candidate for VP. He was elected president of the Dhaka University Journalists' Association (DUJA) twice.

Other VP candidates include Arani Semanti Khan, Abdullah Al Labib, Abdullah Ziyad, ADM Abbas-al-Qureshi, SM Ata-e-Rabbi, Omar Faruque, Noquibul Hasan, Fahmida Majid, Abdul Aleem, Golam Rasel, Tito Mollah, Naeem Hasan, Rakibul Islam, Russel Sheikh, Shofiqul Islam, Shihab Shahriar and Shofiq Sarker.

Other GS contenders include Jalal Ahmed, Mamun Fokir, Khondokar Mahmudul Hasan, Rashedul Islam, Shafika Rahman Shoily, Shafi Abdullah, Shahriar Rahman and Sanam Siddique.

ple, and a proper inquiry into the loss of life during the conflict.

He also gave several directives for a civil disobedience movement -- people should not pay taxes; government servants should take orders only from him; the secretariat, government and semi-government offices and courts in East Pakistan should observe strikes; with necessary exemptions announced from time to time, only local and inter-district telephone lines should function; railways and ports could continue to function, but their workers should not co-operate if they were used to repress the people of East Pakistan.

The speech, now included in Unesco's Memory of the World Register as a "documentary heritage" encompassed the history of Pakistan preceding the last 23 years.

Bangabandhu spoke in vivid detail about the many ways in which the people had been denied their political and economic rights by successive Pakistan governments.

Each word was kissed by fiery passion of a people who had been denied for far too long. Mujib's words pierced the skin of everyone in the audience, exacerbating the scars while simultaneously uplifting a passion so rampant.

"If a single bullet is fired upon us henceforth, if the murder of my people does not cease, I call upon you to turn every home into a fortress against their onslaught. Use whatever you can put your hands on to confront this enemy. And for the sake of life, even if I am not around to guide or direct you, continue your movement in a ceaseless manner."

At this point, the crowd had reached fever pitch. The excitement in the air was palpable, pricking the hairs on the hands of those presenting. Could it be? Had the time come? Would Mujib say the words the nation had longed to hear?

And so it came, without hesitation and an infectious conviction.

"The struggle this time is for emancipation. The struggle this time is for independence.

"Joy Bangla!"

And so it began.

Chief Marshal Masihuzzaman Serniabat also visited Al Salam's facilities in the KSA.

The facility in Lalmonirhat would be developed by the air forces of the two countries, sources said.

The Bangladesh government will also seek Saudi investment for Teletall as its strategic partner for developing the services of the state-owned telecom operator.

According to the project proposal, around \$1.2b will be needed to upgrade the company.

Besides, the two countries will discuss setting up a diammonium phosphate (DAP) and urea fertiliser plant abroad.

The factory will be built either in Saudi Arabia or Morocco as raw materials are easily available there. The estimated cost of the project is \$700m to \$900m, according to the project proposal.

State-run Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation and Saudi-Korean company Hanwah would form a joint venture company to set up the plant, it added.

Another factory will be set up in the northwest of Bangladesh for producing urea-ammonia at a cost of \$2b to \$3b.

The government will also propose building a hydropower plant in Nepal under a joint venture platform for exporting cheap electricity to Bangladesh which will cost \$3.5b.

Golam Moshi, Bangladesh ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and Mohamamd Abul Hassan, counsellor (economic) at the Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh, were present at the briefing.

# Alert public

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issue a public health alert whenever the AQI will reach 300," he said, adding that the issuance of such a warning suggests people not to come out of their houses if not an emergency.

If any educational institutions want, they will be able to temporarily close their institutions during the time of a public health alert, Saber, also former chief of Inter-Parliamentary Union, said.

The parliamentary watchdog yesterday in its meeting also asked the environment ministry to hold an inter-ministerial meeting on an emergency basis which will include housing and public works ministry, roads, bridges and transport ministry, and the home ministry along with city mayors to enforce environment related laws.

The Jatiya Sangsad committee's recommendation came at a time when Bangladesh has ranked the most polluted air in the world and Dhaka is the second most polluted capital city, according to a new study.

"At a country level, weighted by population, Bangladesh emerges as the most polluted country," said the 2018 World Air Quality Report released on Tuesday.

Greenpeace and AirVisual, who monitor global air quality, prepared the report based on last year's data collected from public monitoring sources.