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# Slap sanctions on Myanmar army chief

Senators ask US as UN says probe into rights violations in Rakhine remains absent

AGENCIES

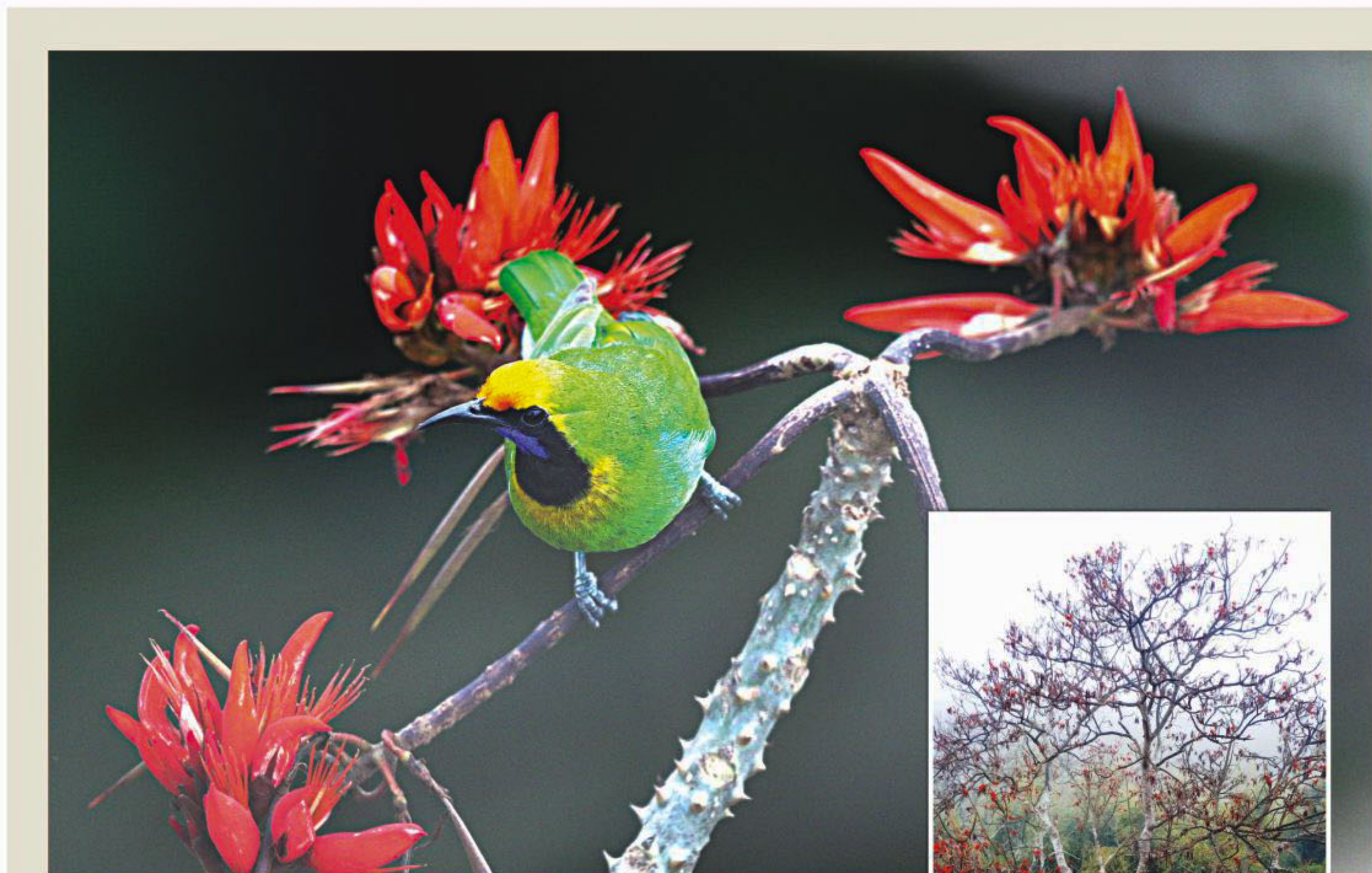
Senators called Wednesday for the United States to slap sanctions on Myanmar's army chief, saying more needed to be done to bring accountability over the campaign against the Rohingya.

In a letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, the four senators said Myanmar has shown "no credible signs of progress" despite widespread international condemnation of the killings and sexual violence against members of the mostly Muslim minority.

Senators including Dick Durbin, the number-two Democrat, said that sanctions against Myanmar's army chief, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, as well as other top officers would demonstrate "US intolerance for behavior that contravenes fundamental human rights."

"The Trump administration has taken no action against these senior officials even though sanctions designations would send a strong message that the United States supports accountability for those perpetrating

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A Pata Bulbuli (golden-fronted chloropsis) is about to enjoy nectar from Mandar flowers in Habiganj's Satchhari National Park. *Inset*, a Mandar tree in full bloom there.

PHOTO: DR REZA KHAN



## Mandar the mother tree

DR REZA KHAN

During the first week of this March there was unexpected weather in the country. Forest was no exception. When I tried to hit the famous watch tower in the Satchhari National Park under the Habiganj district my vision was blurred by tiny droplets of the thick mist. I could see a six-storey tall tree that was of the height of the tower. During the spring of 2015 to present time hundreds of Bangladeshi bird photographers swarmed to the top tier of this watch tower

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## SUBARNACHAR RAPE The man 'who ordered it' gets 1-yr bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has granted a one year bail to former Awami League leader Ruhul Amin who allegedly ordered the rape of a woman in Subarnachar on December 30.

A bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahaman and Justice SM Kuddus Zaman on Monday passed the bail order after hearing Ruhul's bail petition, Deputy Attorney General Biswojit Roy said yesterday.

On December 30 last year, the mother

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## Road crashes kill eight in six dists

STAR REPORT

Eight people, including a woman and her daughter, were killed and six others injured in road accidents in six districts yesterday.

In Narayanganj, a woman and her daughter were killed while the woman's husband was injured as a bus hit their motorcycle at Mallikpara in Sonargaon upazila last night.

The deceased are Parvin Aktar Sanjida, 28, and her daughter Ferdousi Aktar Jannat, 8, of Darikandi area in the upazila.

Sanjida's husband Jasim Uddin was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Mohammad Kaiyum, officer-in-charge of Kanchpur Highway Police Station, said the accident took place on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway when a bus hit the motorcycle from behind around 8:00pm. Jasim along

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## ROHINGYA FUND USE INGO Forum welcomes probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The INGO Forum Bangladesh said it would welcome any investigation into the allegations that NGOs and aid agencies spent only a quarter of the funds they received for the Rohingya crisis.

"We are also ready to provide any information relevant to our operations needed for public scrutiny for the sake of transparency and accountability," said a statement issued by the forum, which represents over 70 international NGOs working in Bangladesh.

It comes in response to Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque's March 13 remarks that the foreign organisations' high expenditure for accommodation was "saddening".

The organisations spent Tk 150 crore in hotel rent and another Tk 8 crore in flat and house rent in the last six months, he said.

Haque, also chairman of Cabinet Committee on Law and Order, said the cabinet committee had expressed

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## WWII shipwreck found in Pacific



CNN ONLINE

Nearly 14,000 feet below the surface of the South Pacific, a remote-controlled research craft has glimpsed the hull of an aircraft carrier, the USS Wasp, that hadn't been seen since 1942.

Word of the sighting comes a month after the Research Vessel Petrel, funded by the late Microsoft founder Paul Allen, discovered another World War II-era shipwreck, the USS Hornet, which sank not far away, off the Solomon Islands. The Petrel in recent years has discovered dozens of wrecks of ships that once flew the flags of the American, British, Japanese and Italian navies.

The Petrel, which sits on the surface, has a crew of 10, who plot the last known locations of old warships and send robots to the depths to rediscover them.

In step with the US Navy's policy of leaving its shipwrecks untouched -- as they are sailors' hallowed graves -- the Wasp's hull will remain in the murky depths. But its rediscovery is giving new life to a heroic story of a bygone era.

For nearly a century and a half, the British had controlled the small island of Malta just south of Italy, using its harbour to dock warships and to

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## Time for US to back Israeli sovereignty over Golan

Says Trump

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump yesterday announced the United States should acknowledge Israeli sovereignty over the hotly contested Golan Heights territory, in a major pre-election gift to his ally Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"After 52 years it is time for the United States to fully recognise Israel's Sovereignty over the Golan Heights," Trump said in a tweet.

Trump called the Golan -- a strategic area seized from

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A truck in flames in Vodraghat area of Sirajganj yesterday. Angry locals set the vehicle on fire after it ran over and killed a college boy in the area.

PHOTO: STAR

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7-MURDER

**Probe body visits spot in Rangamati**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The investigation committee formed over the killing of seven people in Rangamati's Baghaichhari upazila visited the spot yesterday.

After visiting the Noymile area, where the incident took place, the committee members spoke to the injured in Baghaichhari Upazila Health Complex.

Additional Secretary Dipak Chakrabarty, the chief of the committee, told the journalists that

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