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BANGLADESH'S CHOICE

2018

I choose peace

NZ shooting survivor of Bangladeshi origin tells national remembrance

AFP, Christchurch

A Maori lament echoed across Christchurch yesterday as a survivor of the New Zealand mosque attacks told a national remembrance service he had forgiven the gunman responsible for the racist massacre that took his wife, and shocked the world.

"I am choosing peace and I have forgiven," wheelchair-bound Farid Ahmed of Bangladeshi origin told tens of thousands gathered in the grieving southern city, drawing sustained applause as he implored New Zealanders of all faiths to also reject hate.

Wearing a traditional Maori cloak, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern was among those who stood silently with heads bowed while the names of 50 people killed by a self-avowed white supremacist were read out.

Speakers honoured the dead and those who survived the March 15 attacks, including 22 people who remain in hospital, among them a critically injured four-year-old girl.

Ardern, who was joined by representatives from nearly 60 nations, including her Australian counterpart Scott Morrison, received a prolonged standing ovation when she took the stage.

The 38-year-old leader, widely hailed for her response to the tragedy, praised the way New Zealanders had embraced their devastated Muslim community since the attacks.



Farid Ahmed, a survivor of the New Zealand mosque attack, speaks during the national remembrance service for the victims at Hagley Park in Christchurch yesterday. *Right*, women react as the national anthem is played. Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern places her hand over her heart as she walks past families of the victims.

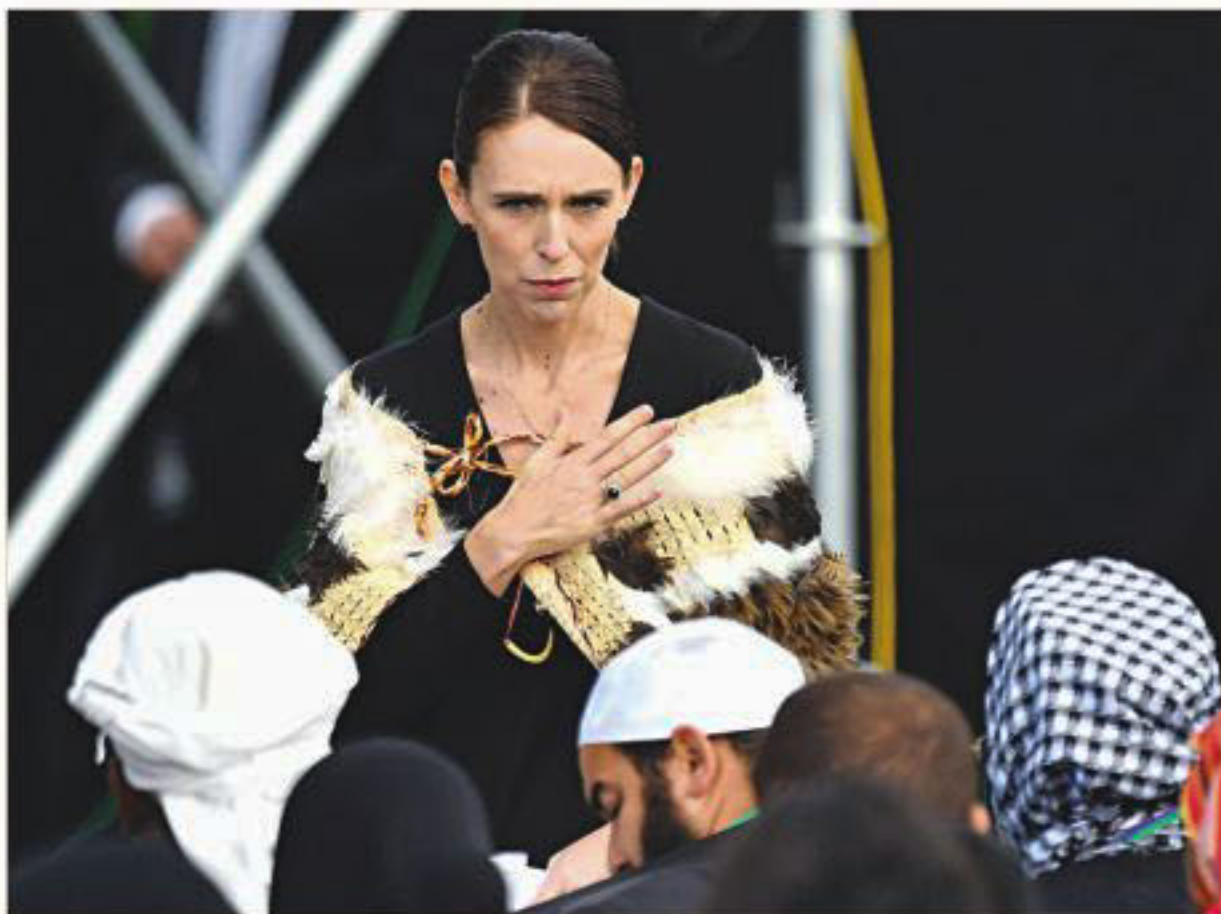


PHOTO: REUTERS/AFP



Pakistan army kills many in Rangpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On this day in 1971, the ruthless Pakistan army opened fire in the in the surrounding areas of Rangpur Cantonment, killing many innocent civilians.

Besides, scores of houses were set to fire in those areas and many people were tortured by the Pakistan military men.

On behalf of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendro broadcasted a programme urging the democratic governments across the world to

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Justice obstructed

Rights groups' report on trafficking of Bangladeshis and Rohingyas blames Thai, Malaysian authorities for probe delay

PORIMOL PALMA

Law enforcers had been nonchalant for years when thousands of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis were facing heinous crimes, including murders and burial in mass graves, in the bordering hilly regions of Thailand and Malaysia.

Though the Malaysian authorities discovered a camp and a possible mass gravesite in Wang Kelian of Perlis State on January 19, 2015, they destroyed the camp, which would have been useful to assist in the investigation and prosecution of the crimes, said Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) and Fortify Rights, a Southeast Asian rights platform, in a report on Wednesday.

"The four-month delay in investigating the gravesite delayed the exhumation of remains [in May 2015] from the site, which, in turn, hampered forensic specialists from identifying the causes of their death. This may constitute obstruction of justice," it says.

Though the Malaysian police discovered hundreds of human trafficking victims in 2013 and 2014, they treated them as "undocumented foreign migrants" and sent them to immigration detention centers, instead of protecting them as trafficking survivors, said the 121-page report titled "Sold like fish".

According to the report, more than 170,000 people, mostly Rohingyas, were trafficked by boats from Myanmar and Bangladesh to Malaysia and Thailand during 2012-15. In the camps in Thai and Malaysian border regions, human traffickers from Myanmar, Thailand and Malaysia had held them captive for ransom.

On April 30, 2015, the Thai authorities found more than 30 bodies in a mass grave near the Malaysian border. On May 25 that year, the Malaysian

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Ensure safety at workplace

EU calls upon Dhaka to replicate measures like in RMG industry

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union wants Bangladesh to replicate the safety standards in garment factories at all buildings to ensure workplace safety.

The EU made the call a day after a devastating fire at a building in the capital's Banani killed at least 25 people and injured over 70 others.

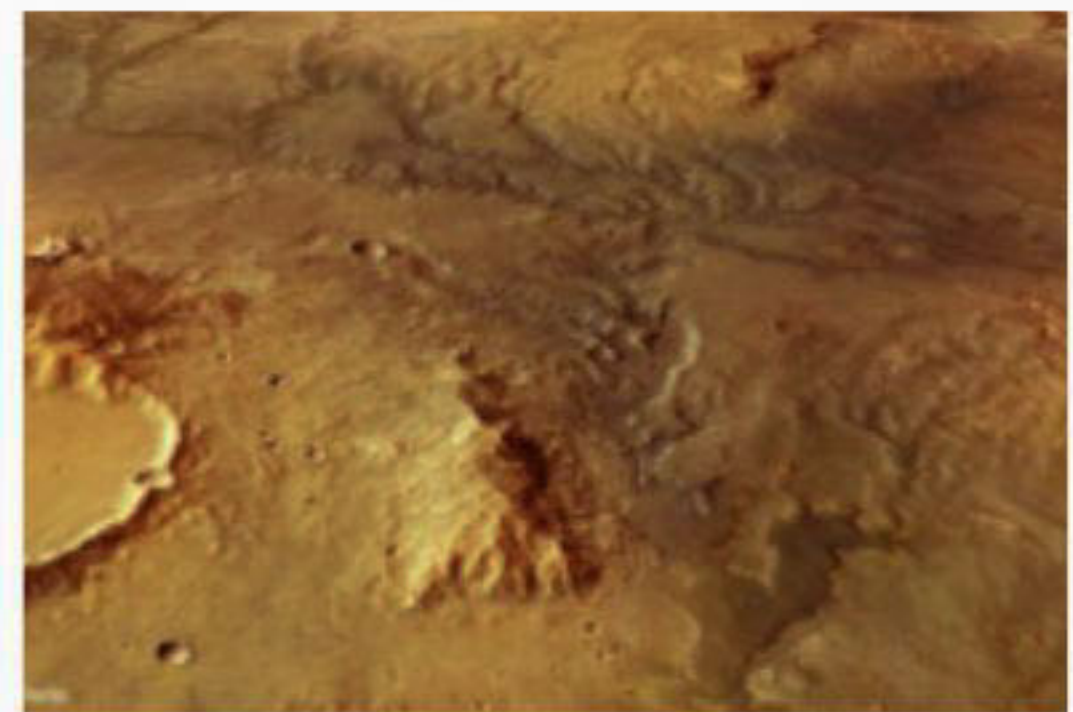
"The European Union attaches high importance to safety at the workplace and has been working since 2013 with the authorities of Bangladesh to improve the workplace safety in the Readymade Garment sector," said Konstantinos Vardakis, chargé d'affaires of EU delegation to Bangladesh.

In a statement yesterday, he said the EU also encourages the Bangladesh government to take similar policy measures at the workplace in other economic sectors in Bangladesh, including in the building sector.

"The delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh expresses its deep

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Huge rivers flowed on Mars: scientists



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Huge rivers seem to have been flowing across Mars relatively recently, scientists said.

The flowing water came in rivers much bigger and more powerful than those seen on Earth, they said. And they seem to have stuck around far longer than we had realised.

The raging water courses carved deep channels into the Martian surface at "hundreds of locations", said scientists.

Satellite images and data from Nasa's Curiosity rover indicate that many of the rivers were twice as wide as those on Earth.

They may also have persisted until less than one billion years ago, the evidence suggests.

The findings are a mystery, because scientists had thought the Red Planet was losing its

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Anti-narcotics campaigner murdered in Narayanganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A woman was beaten to death for protesting drug peddling at Tanbazar in Narayanganj city last evening.

The victim, Arzu Begum, 40, was the wife of Aktar Hossain of the area.

Her daughter Lucky said her mother had been campaigning against drugs for a long time which led to a rivalry with local drug peddler Ramzan.

Lawyer Hamida Begum appeared for drug peddlers, including Ramzan, in the court, she said.

Quoting locals, Mizanur Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station, said Arzu along with some locals brought out an anti-drug procession and went to Hamida's house at Tanbazar

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



Family members break down in tears as the body of apparel firm employee Amir Hossain, 29, reaches his village home in Pabna's Santhia upazila yesterday morning.

PHOTO: AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

No-deal Brexit 'likely'

Says EU as UK MPs reject May's deal for third time

REUTERS, London

Lawmakers rejected Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit deal for a third time yesterday, sounding its probable death knell and leaving Britain's withdrawal from the European Union in turmoil on the very day it was supposed to leave the bloc.

The decision to reject a stripped-down version of May's divorce deal has left it totally unclear how, when or even whether Britain will leave the EU, and plunges the three-year Brexit crisis to a deeper level of uncertainty.

After a special sitting of parliament, lawmakers voted 344-286 against May's 585-page EU Withdrawal Agreement, agreed after two years of tortuous negotiations with the bloc.

Within minutes of the vote, European Council President and summit chair Donald Tusk said EU leaders would meet on April 10 to discuss Britain's departure from the bloc.

The EU executive, the Commission, said that "a 'no-deal' scenario on 12 April is now a likely scenario".

May had told parliament the vote was the last opportunity to ensure Brexit would take place. She cautioned that if the deal failed, then any further delay to Brexit would probably be a long one beyond April 12.

"I fear we are reaching the limits of this process in this House," May told parliament after the defeat. "The implications of the House's decision are grave."

"The legal default now is that the United Kingdom is due to leave the European Union on 12th April," she said.

The British pound, which has been buoyed in recent weeks by hopes that the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



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PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 30

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN	4-45	12-45	4-45	6-20	7-45
JAMAAT	5-20	1-15	5-00	6-25	8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION