

# PM arrives in China

Scheduled to attend conference of World Economic Forum today

UNB, Dalian, China  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has arrived here on a five-day China visit, which is expected to bolster ties between the two countries.

A special flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying her and her entourage which took off from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka at 5:20pm landed at Dalian Zhoushuizi International Airport around 12:15am (local time) today.

Bangladesh Ambassador to China M Fazlul Karim received the PM at the airport. After the reception, a ceremonial motorcade escorted Hasina to Shangri-La Hotel, where she will be staying during the visit to Dalian, a port city in China's Liaoning province.



land at Beijing Capital International Airport at 12:15pm (local time). After her reception, Hasina in a ceremonial motorcade will be taken to Diaoyutai State Guest House, where she will be staying during her visit to Beijing. In the afternoon, she will join a community reception followed by dinner at Legendale Hotel, Beijing.

On Thursday, Hasina will join the welcome ceremony and place wreaths at the Heroes Memorial at the Great Hall of the People in the morning. Later, she will hold a bilateral discussion with Chinese PM Li Keqiang and attend an agreement signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People. Hasina will join a banquet to be hosted by the Chinese PM there.

The PM will attend a business roundtable with Chinese business leaders in the afternoon. On Friday, Hasina is scheduled to deliver a speech at an event to be organised by a Chinese think tank, "Pangoal Institution", in the morning. Later, the CEOs of some Chinese companies are expected to meet Hasina at her place of residence and she will hold a meeting with Chairman of NPC Li Zhaogang.

The PM will hold a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping at Diaoyutai State Guest House in the afternoon. She will also join a banquet to be hosted by the Chinese president at the same place. Wrapping up her China visit, Hasina will depart Beijing for Dhaka at 11:00am (local time) on Saturday by a special flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines. She will arrive at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 1:35pm (BST) the same day.



Suspended deputy inspector general of police Mizanur Rahman, in white shirt, is being taken out of the High Court yesterday after the court handed him over to police.

## HC hands DIG Mizan over to police

FROM PAGE 1  
The HC bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice SM Kuddus Zaman passed the order after summarily rejecting Mizan's petition seeking anticipatory bail in the case. During the hearing, the court commented that Mizanur Rahman has completely destroyed the image of the police department and as well as the country through his activities. It has been seen on TV that he (Mizan) confessed to giving bribe to an Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) official. He cannot be granted bail, Justice Obaidul Hassan said.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that Mizan should land in jail after police will produce him before the trial court. Asked, Mizan's lawyer Momtaz said he did not know whether his client would seek bail from the lower court. Mahmudul's lawyer Aminul told this newspaper that his client will surrender to the trial court in 72 hours in line with the HC order. A bail petition will be moved before the lower court on his surrender, he added.

in January last year when he was accused of forcibly marrying and torturing a woman. Later, he was withdrawn from his post at Dhaka Metropolitan Police, and the ACC opened an investigation into him in May last year. The ACC investigation said Mizanur amassed Tk 3.28 crore illegally over a period of 20 years. He made the money by taking bribes and being involved in other corruptions, the probe report said, adding that between 1998 and 2018, Mizan earned Tk 4.63 crore, but only Tk 1.35 crore of it came from legal sources. After finishing the probe, the ACC recorded a case against the police official on June 24 this year.

The HC bench also summarily rejected another anticipatory bail petition of the suspended deputy inspector general's nephew (sister's son) Mahmudul in connection with the same case and directed him to surrender before the trial court within 72 hours. Earlier in the day, Mizanur and Mahmudul appeared before the HC bench and filed separate bail petitions. Advocate Momtaz Uddin Ahmed Mehedi argued for Mizanur while Advocate Aminul Islam stood for Mahmudul during yesterday's hearing. Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan represented the ACC. During the hearing, Momtaz told the court that Mizan was a "very honest officer". When Mizan was an additional commissioner of police, he was awarded a gold medal for his courageous role in preventing extremism and terrorism, the lawyer said, adding that his client would not leave the country if granted bail.

ACC source said the suspended DIG cited "personal reasons" for not appearing before the commission. "He [Mizan], however, said he will show up at any date fixed by the ACC," said an official of the commission, adding that the commission fixed July 8 for the interrogation. ACC official Khandaker Enamul Basir, who allegedly took bribe from Mizan, also did not come to the commission yesterday to face questioning. In a letter, Basir said he could not come due to his illness. The commission later fixed July 10 for the quizzing. Soon after the allegation of bribery surfaced in the media, ACC formed a three-member committee headed by ACC Director Sheikh Md Fanafillah and assistant directors Gulshan Anwar Pradhan and Md Salauddin to investigate the matter. Mizan had come under the scanner

The commission also formed another committee to investigate the allegation that DIG Mizan bribed Basir. As a part of the probe, the commission summoned Mizan and Basir for interrogation on July 1. The ACC also asked senior reporter of ATN News Imran Hossain Sumon to appear before it on June 26. The television channel first aired a report where Mizan brought the allegation.

## ROHINGYAS IN COX'S BAZAR

# Myanmar to send envoys to camps by end of July

Says Myanmar's UN ambassador; they'll explain to refugees arrangements for repatriation

AFP, United Nations  
Myanmar is sending a high-level delegation soon to camps in Bangladesh to explain to hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims how they can return home, Myanmar's UN ambassador said yesterday.

Some 740,000 Rohingyas fled a crackdown by Myanmar's military in 2017 in Rakhine state and are living in camps in Cox's Bazar. Many refugees have been traumatised, providing accounts of rape, mass killings and razing of villages. Myanmar's Ambassador Hau Do Suan told a General Assembly meeting that his government will "dispatch a high level delegation to Cox's Bazar very soon, by the end of July, to explain to the displaced people the arrangements made for the repatriation and resettlement."

He said some 30,000 Rohingya had requested to return, of whom about 13,200 have been verified as former residents and "can return to Rakhine anytime". Myanmar has faced international pressure to allow the Rohingyas to return to Rakhine and grant them citizenship rights. The United Nations has complained that progress to address the refugee crisis has been far too slow. "The only viable solution for the refugees is the safe, voluntary and dignified repatriation to Myanmar," said UN envoy to Myanmar Christine Schraner-Burgener. "And the key responsibility for creating conducive conditions in Rakhine lies with Myanmar." She said that a "first step" to addressing the Rakhine crisis would be to halt the heavy fighting with the Arakan Army (AA), a group pushing for more autonomy for the state's ethnic Buddhists. The United Nations has described as "ethnic cleansing" the mass expulsion of the Rohingyas, but Myanmar's army insists the campaign was justified to root out Rohingya insurgents who staged deadly raids on border posts in August 2017.

## Remembering

FROM PAGE 1  
Emory University in the US, was one of the three Bangladeshis killed there. He was given the choice of walking out of the café.

But he refused to leave his friends Abinta, a Bangladesh-born US citizen, and Tarishi, an Indian student of the University of California. He was killed along with his friends. Two police officers also lost their lives as groups of law enforcers tried to close in on the place. The five militants and a chef of the café were killed in a commando operation the next morning. Another staffer died in hospital while in custody. Around six months after the attack, the café reopened a few blocks from its original location.

Masuda Begum was also seen at the site. She was holding a picture of her son, Zakir Hossain Shaon, 19. A restaurant staffer who was detained as a suspect that night, Zakir succumbed to his wounds on July 8. "Who will say why my son was killed? We didn't get justice or any help because we are poor," she wailed. Diplomats from the embassies of Japan and Italy, and members of law enforcement agencies, paid their homage to the victims. After over two years of investigation, the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of DMP submitted a charge sheet to a Dhaka court on July 23 last year, accusing eight militants.

All the accused are behind bars and the case is now under trial. According to the charge sheet, "Neo JMB" militants had planned and executed the attack. CITC Chief Monirul Islam yesterday was asked about Bangladeshi militants in Syria. He said, "It is difficult to get information about all of them. Most of them have died in the war. The immigration police have been alerted about this."

Terming militancy a global scourge, Rapid Action Battalion Director General Benazir Ahmed said people should be cautious.

# River grabbing a criminal offence

FROM PAGE 1  
The grabbing and pollution of the Turag has reached such a level that the court had to declare it a "person" and a living entity. The Turag is the third river in the world to receive the status. A river in Columbia and another in India has such status.

## HC DIRECTIVES

- EC has to declare river encroachers, polluters ineligible for running in any elections
- BB has to issue a circular directing all banks not to give loans to river grabbers, polluters
- Govt has to make a list of river grabbers and publish it in the media
- "Polluters Pay" Principle must be part of the country's law
- Turag river a "legal person", "living entity"
- National River Commission's clearance a must before taking up any project related to rivers, water bodies
- River Commission is the "legal guardian" for conservation of all rivers and it should "act like their parents"

In its directives, the court declared the river commission as the legal guardian of all rivers and that it must act like their "parents". The state must act as the trustee of all rivers, hills, sea beaches, forests, canals, beels and other waterbodies while the NRCC would remain bound to protect them.

Any government authority, including the planning commission, LGED, Water Development Board, BIWTA, and BADC, have to obtain the NRCC's no-objection certificate prior to going for any new scheme for any rivers, canals, and waterbodies. All river-related authorities would have to cooperate with the NRCC to ensure river protection, navigability, development, and beautification, it said. The verdict came at a time when river-grabbing by influential groups seemed unstoppable. Often, river grabbers returned soon after being evicted.

The court, while delivering the verdict in February, said playing blind man's buff over protecting the rivers has to stop since the grabbers return and occupy rivers after their evictions. The HC ordered the government to make a list of the grabbers and expose them by publishing the list in the media.

It also directed the Election Commission to disqualify the people responsible for river grabbing and pollution from running in elections to union parishads, upazila parishads, municipalities, city corporations and parliament. River grabbers and polluters would also not be able to get bank loans, the court said.

The Bangladesh Bank was ordered to make sure no river grabbers get bank loans. The court asked the education ministry to take steps for holding an hour-long class every two months at all public and private academic institutions, including schools, madrasas, colleges, and universities, to build awareness about the importance of rivers.

The industries ministry was ordered to arrange an hour-long awareness meeting every two months with factory workers of the country. Immediately after release of the full verdict yesterday, the NRCC sat to study the directives and content. "The verdict is in favour of the country's interest and in favour of conservation of rivers as national wealth," NRCC Chairman Muzibur Rahman Howlader told The Daily Star. It would greatly help the commission in doing its duty, he said. The HC bench of Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ashraf Kamal delivered the verdict on February 3. Even though the BIWTA, since January, carried out a 36-day eviction drive along the Buriganga, Turag, and the Balu, and had torn down several hundred illegal structures on the river, it is yet to remove the earth and sand fillings and restore the rivers to their previous state. The BIWTA has taken up a project to clear the illegal earth and sand filling in the Turag.

Following another judgment of the apex court in 2009, district administrations embarked on demarcating the four rivers around Dhaka excluding their foreshores and in deviation of the court's directives. This made way for permanent private ownership of the foreshores and encouraged river grabbers. The Buriganga, Turag, Balu, and the Shitalakkhya are set to officially shrink rather than be restored to their former glory.

According to an official estimate, the Shitalakkhya alone lost 1,860 acres. Yesterday, Manzill Murshid, the lawyer for Human Rights for Peace for Bangladesh, citing the court's directives said the chairmen of union, upazila, and zila parishads and of municipalities across the country have to make lists of people and organisations responsible for river grabbing and pollution and make them public by putting them on notice boards and billboards.

The authorities would make a database that would include maps and satellite images of all rivers, canals, beels and waterbodies in the country so that anyone could access those even at union-, municipality-, upazila- and district-level for a fee.

## Tigers face

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The top-sided nature of the ground and the disadvantage it holds for spinners may open a door for pacer Rubel Hossain. He may take the place of off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz, who has been Bangladesh's most economical bowler in the tournament. Another option could be to rest Mosaddek Hossain, but that would reduce a batsman against a strong bowling lineup. If Rubel does come in in place of Mehedi, Mosaddek will continue to bowl a few overs of off-spin while the part-time medium pace of Soumya Sarkar could also be called into action. The toss could well play a crucial role as it will be a used wicket and is expected to slow down as the day wears on. On the same wicket, England batsmen enjoyed the best of conditions against India on Sunday in the first 20 overs of the match, and that may be the way forward for Bangladesh, if they win the toss, to steal a march on India with their in-form top six.

## NUSRAT MURDER

# Siraj sexually abused other students too

2 witnesses tell court

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

The madrasa principal who allegedly ordered the killing of Nusrat Jahan Rafi had sexually harassed several other girls before, two students of the madrasa told a Feni court yesterday. Nishat Sultana and Nasrin Sultana, students of Sonagazi Senior Fazil Madrasa, testified that their principal Siraj Ud Doula used to call girl students to his office room, telling them that he would give them the question papers ahead of exams.

The witnesses told a Women and Child Repression Prevention Court that Siraj's personal assistant Nurul Amin called Nusrat out of her classroom on March 27 and said the principal wanted to see her at his room.

As Nusrat knew about the allegations of sexual abuse against Siraj, she took Nishat and Nasrin along with her.

## SL hold off WI

FROM PAGE 1  
Pooran dug deep, also scoring his maiden ODI ton. The West Indies found themselves in early trouble at 22 for two, with Sunil Ambris and Shai Hope back in the dressing room, both dismissed by veteran fast bowler Lasith Malinga.

Chris Gayle flickered briefly but was caught for 35 from a steeping top edge by Jeffrey Vandarsay off the bowling of Kasun Rajitha. Pooran, 23, held the innings together but the West Indies' hopes were badly hit when Carlos Braithwaite was unluckily run out when bowler Isuru Udana diverted the ball into the stumps off his fingertips, with the batsman well out of his ground. The West Indies looked down and out at 199 for six in the 35th over but Pooran put on 83 for the seventh wicket with Fabian Allen to keep them in the hunt before a second run-out.

The Caribbean side needed 31 runs off the final three overs when captain Dimuth Karunaratne summoned Angelo Mathews to bowl for the first time in an ODI since 2017. He struck with his first ball, removing a distraught Pooran, who slashed at an innocuous wide delivery and was caught behind by wicketkeeper Kusal Perera. Earlier, Fernando hit a sparkling maiden ODI century, with all of the top order chipping in to help him. The 21-year-old reached three figures off exactly 100 balls with eight fours and two sixes but was caught by Fabian Allen off the bowling of Sheldon Cottrell for 104. Sri Lanka revived their fading hopes of reaching the World Cup semifinals by beating England but a heavy defeat to South Africa and results elsewhere ended their chances. West Indies started the tournament with a thumping seven-wicket win against Pakistan but have not won a single match since, with their batsmen in particular letting them down. Australia are still the only side mathematically certain of their place in the last four, with India, New Zealand and England currently occupying the other top-four slots. Pakistan and Bangladesh still have a chance of progressing.

## Stable

FROM PAGE 1  
Has spread... Overall, his condition remains unchanged. Also Leader of the Opposition Parliament, Ershad, 89, had been suffering multiple health conditions for about nine months now. He was admitted to the Dhaka Combined Military Hospital (CMH) on June 27.

About Ershad's breathing problem, Quader said Ershad was given "oxygen under pressure" for most of the time. But now he is being given oxygen under pressure every two hours. "If the situation remains the same, he will be given normal oxygen," he said quoting doctors.

About Ershad's major health complications, Quader said most of the major complications were decreasing now. "Treatment is going on for the rest of the few complications. Doctors said he will begin to improve every day from now on," he said, adding, "We are hopeful that he will get well soon."

In reply to a query, Quader said according to doctors, it was not possible at present to take Ershad abroad for treatment. On Saturday, Quader said his brother's condition improved by 50 percent in the last three days. The former military ruler has been suffering from various old age complications, including low haemoglobin, liver problems, high bilirubin and knee pain.

The five-time MP flew to Singapore's National University Hospital for medical treatment on January 20 and returned on February 4. Since then, he had been visiting CMH regularly for health check-ups. Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader and Health Minister Zahid Maleque visited Ershad yesterday.

After the visit, Maleque told reporters that the JP chief's condition was critical and he was on life support. However, Ershad's personal assistant Maj (ret'd) Khaled Akhtar, when asked, told The Daily Star that the health minister said that by mistake.