

## UN envoy

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"Bengalis" from Bangladesh even though their families have lived in the country for generations. Nearly all have been denied citizenship since 1982, effectively rendering them stateless, and they are also denied freedom of movement and other basic rights.

The long-simmering Rohingya crisis exploded in August 2017 when Myanmar's military launched what it called a clearance campaign in Rakhine in response to an attack by a Rohingya insurgent group. The campaign led to the mass Rohingya exodus to Bangladesh and to accusations that security forces committed mass rapes and killings and burned thousands of homes.

Amnesty International accused Myanmar's military in late May of a new round of widespread human rights violations in its battles against the Arakan Army since January 2019. The rights group said the military carried out indiscriminate killings of civilians as well as arbitrary arrests and torture, but it also said the Arakan rebels committed abuses against civilians including kidnappings though on a lesser scale.

Schranner-Burgener said the fighting involving the Arakan Army "is having a devastating impact on all local communities caught in the crossfire, independent of their religious or ethnic background." And "it is also further impacting efforts toward the dignified, voluntary and safe return of refugees," she said.

US deputy political coordinator Elaine French expressed deep concern that little progress has been made in improving conditions in Rakhine. The United States agrees with the UN that conditions aren't conducive for Rohingya refugees to return, she said, and the government's suspension of internet service in Rakhine "casts further doubt on its commitment to creating conditions that allow people to feel they can live in safety and security."

In a positive step, Schranner-Burgener said Myanmar has produced a draft national strategy to close camps for displaced Rohingya with support from international experts, the UN and others. But she stressed that this must be part of a larger effort that deals with their freedom to move, get jobs and receive basic services.

Myanmar's UN ambassador, Hau Do Suan, said the government has approved the return of about 13,000 Rohingya from Bangladesh, from two lists totaling over 30,000 Rohingya, and plans to send a high-level delegation to Cox's Bazar to explain arrangements for repatriation.

## Parts of WWII

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A team comprising an aviation historian, Queen's University Belfast surveyors and pupils from Foyle College in Derry and Ballybay Community College in Co Monaghan, working in conjunction with Monaghan County Museum, retrieved the remaining parts of a twin-engine fighter on Saturday.

The pilot was returning home to this base with the 82nd Fighter Group, who were based at the US Army Air Station 344, Eglinton in Derry when the plane crashed.

He later took part in the Allies' North Africa campaign against Germany but was shot down and taken prisoner in January, 1943.

After the war, he returned to his hometown in Iowa and died in 2006. Now his daughter Merryl Randall intends to visit Ireland to see the remnants of her father's plane.

Irish Defence Forces personnel recovered most of the wreckage in 1942.

But licensed ground-penetrating radar surveys undertaken in early 2019 revealed that not all the aircraft was recovered by the military.

## Heavy rains

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wall collapse yesterday, a fire brigade official said, after a similar incident on Saturday killed 15.

Mumbai is looking to turn itself into a global financial hub but large parts of the city struggle to cope with annual monsoon rains, as widespread construction and garbage-clogged drains and waterways make it increasingly vulnerable to chaos.

As much as 375 mm (14.8 inches) of rain fell over 24 hours in some areas of Mumbai, the highest in 14 years, flooding streets and railway tracks, forcing the suspension of some suburban train services which millions of commuters ride to work each day.

About 1,000 people stranded in low-lying areas of the city were rescued by naval personnel using rubber boats after a swollen river began to overflow, municipal authorities said.

As weather officials forecast intermittent heavy showers and isolated extremely heavy rainfall, authorities called a holiday for government offices and educational institutions.

"Rain is expected to remain intense even today," city authorities said on Twitter. "We request you to stay indoors unless there's an emergency."

UNPREPARED  
Indian television showed images of flooded homes and people walking through waist deep water, stoking criticism of city authorities.

"Every year, the first spell of rainfall throws normal life out of gear in Mumbai. An inquiry is needed into why this happens despite claims of preparations," said Ajit Pawar, a state opposition leader.



Smoke billows out of Auto Spinning Mills Limited after a fire broke out at the factory in Nayanpur area of Gazipur's Sreepur upazila yesterday afternoon. The fire killed a security guard of the factory and badly damaged its machinery.

PHOTO: STAR

## Railway official suspended over bribery

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village in Sadar upazila, alleged that Masum took Tk 28,000 bribe from him to help him get a lease of three bighas of railway's agriculture land.

"I gave the bribe but didn't get the lease as Masum demanded another Tk 12,000 bribe, saying that he has to 'manage' his higher authorities," he said.

Nurul Islam, 62, another farmer of the village, alleged that he and some 50 other farmers of the village were forced to give bribe to Masum for

getting a lease of railway land. "We didn't get the lease as we failed to give the demanded money," he said, adding that he gave a bribe of Tk 10,000 for getting a lease of 40 decimals of railway land.

ACC Commissioner Aminul also asked the Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB) authorities in Lalmonirhat to provide power connections to 450 families in Sadar upazila's Kalmati village. BREB officials and brokers took Tk 15 lakh

bribe from them by July 17 this year to give electricity connections, the villagers alleged.

"Return the money to the villagers who gave it with the hope of getting electricity connections," he asked the BREB authorities.

Aminul also asked the Department of Public Health Engineering to install two tube-wells by today as Abdur Rahim, 35, and his mother Tahera Bewa paid Tk 3,200 for getting the tube-wells from the DPHE a year ago. "It is sad that

Abdur Rahim and his mother had to sell a goat to arrange the money," he said.

At the hearing, people from different areas raised allegations against officials of different departments, including land, settlement, education, and relief and rehabilitation. Some issues were solved immediately at the hearing.

Lalmonirhat Deputy Commissioner Abu Jafor, Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Jayashree Rani Roy, freedom fighters and journalists, among others, took part in the hearing.

## Corruption plagues railway

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and supervision, hundreds of acres of railway have been grabbed. Also, railway officials and employees have built residences illegally grabbing railway lands, it said.

According to the railway, about 2,839 acres of its land remains grabbed until April.

Graft also takes place in land acquisition, the report said, adding that government incurs huge financial losses because of massive corruption that comes during the auction of metre-gauges and broad-gauges.

Moreover, keeping railway's workshop and sleeper factory ineffective, the government is pushed

to face more financial losses, it said. In the report, the ACC blamed some railway officials and employees for the sale of train tickets on the black market.

In its recommendations, the anti-graft watchdog suggested taking assistance from specialised institutions, including IBA, Buet and BMC, and using digital management system during recruitments for ensuring transparency and accountability.

The report asked for adopting a digital data entry system for proper management of railway's land.

The ACC also recommended bringing all activities of Bangladesh

Railway under automation to prevent corruption.

Talking to journalists, the ACC commissioner said his office was not only monitoring activities of the railway ministry, but was also trying to prevent graft elsewhere.

He said there was no alternative to prevention of graft for maintaining the pace of economic advancement in the country.

Later at a briefing, the railway minister said his ministry had adopted a zero-tolerance policy against all types of corruption.

He also said the recommendations in the report would be taken into consideration.

SOURCES OF GRAFT	
○	Lease of railway property
○	Purchase of locomotives, wagons
○	Anomalies in ticket sale
○	Modernisation of station signalling system
○	Construction of single line dual gauge track
○	Land acquisition
○	Irregularities in sale of machine parts on auction
○	Sale of poor quality food in trains

## Control mosquito

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in dengue cases.

The HC bench of justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader passed the order during hearing of a writ petition moved by Advocate Manzill Murshid on behalf of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh seeking its directive on the government to prevent air pollution in Dhaka.

During hearing Dhaka city corporations submitted two reports through their lawyer Advocate Nurunnahar Akter to the court,

saying that they have taken many steps, including spraying medicines, forming ward-based committees and raising awareness for the prevention of mosquito menace and air pollution in the capital.

Advocate Manzill Murshid told the court that the dengue menace had taken a turn for the worse in the capital and many people, including the finance minister, have reportedly been affected.

So, effective steps are needed to be taken to prevent the spread of dengue, he argued.

Sanya Tahmina, line director (communicable disease control) of DGHS, said it is very important to destroy the source of Aedes mosquitoes to reduce the number of patients.

She said dengue fever in Bangladesh is now an endemic disease, meaning people will get infected with this disease throughout the year.

DSCC Chief Health Officer Brig Gen Sharif Ahmed and his counterpart in DNCC Brig Gen Md Mominur Rahman Mamun recently at a programme in health ministry

said they were taking different steps, including building awareness among the people, and giving more emphasis on using larvicide and adulticide to keep dengue cases in check.

The number of recorded cases of dengue infection was 10,148 last year, the highest in the 18 years, according to the DGHS. The disease took 26 lives last year.

The country saw 93 deaths in 2000, the year dengue outbreak hit the country for the first time. A total of 5,551 people got infected that year.

## Iran playing with fire

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But he also said the move could be reversed.

"They know what they're doing. They know what they're playing with and I think they're playing with fire," Trump told reporters at the White House when asked about Iran.

The United States withdrew from the nuclear deal last year and hit Iran's crucial oil exports and financial transactions as well as other sectors with biting sanctions.

Tehran, which has sought to pressure the remaining parties to save the deal, announced on May 8 it would no longer respect the limit set on its enriched uranium and heavy water stockpiles.

It threatened to abandon further nuclear commitments unless the remaining partners -- Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia -- helped it circumvent sanctions, especially to sell its oil.

IRAN REJECTS ACCUSATION  
The White House had earlier said

"the United States and its allies will never allow Iran to develop nuclear weapons," vowing to continue exerting "maximum pressure" on the regime.

"It was a mistake under the Iran nuclear deal to allow Iran to enrich uranium at any level," spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham said in a statement.

The statement added that "even before the deal's existence, Iran was violating its terms," to which Zarif reacted yesterday by tweeting "seriously?"

France urged Iran to rapidly reverse its breach of the nuclear pact.

In a statement, President Emmanuel Macron said yesterday he had "noted with concern" Tehran's overstepping of the limit set in the 2015 deal with world powers and called on Iran "to immediately reverse this overshoot and abstain from any other measure that would undermine its nuclear obligations."

The French leader also said he would continue in the coming days to work towards a resolution of the

standoff between Iran and the US.

Russia yesterday urged Iran not to give in to emotion and instead abide by its nuclear agreements.

"We call on our Iranian colleagues to show sangfroid, not to give in to emotions by any means and observe key provisions of the IAEA Safeguards Agreement and the Additional Protocol to this agreement," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

China, like France a signatory to the 2015 deal, said it regretted Iran's move but urged all parties to exercise restraint and said the US policy of increasing pressure on Iran was the "root cause of the current tensions", reported Reuters.

Britain's Foreign Minister Jeremy Hunt said on Twitter that London was "deeply worried" and urged Iran to "come back to compliance" with the nuclear deal.

UN chief Antonio Guterres said it was "essential" that Iran stick to the deal.

EFFORTS NOT ENOUGH  
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged European countries to impose sanctions on his country's arch-foe Iran, reported AFP.

Trump spoke with French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday about Iran's breach of the nuclear deal limit, the White House said.

The US president expressed hope in an interview broadcast Monday -- which was taped prior to Iran's announcement on the uranium limit -- that Tehran will come to the negotiating table.

"Hopefully, at some point, they'll come back and they'll say, 'We're going to make a deal.' Let's see what happens," Trump told Fox News Channel's "Tucker Carlson Tonight."

The European Union said Friday after a crisis meeting aimed at salvaging the deal that a special payment mechanism set up to help Iran skirt the sanctions, known as INSTEX, was finally "operational" and that the first transactions were being processed.

## DIG Mizan

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Haque Samaji questioned the legality of the special judge's jurisdiction to hear the bail petition.

But Anti-Corruption Commission Public Prosecutor Mosharraf Hossain Kajol explained that on June 24 the government issued a gazette notification empowering the special judge to hear all the issues, including remand and bail petition ones.

Later, Samaji argued on the bail petition saying that his client had earlier submitted his written wealth statement to the ACC where he narrated all the matters.

But the statement was not available in the judicial file. His client earned reputation nationally and

internationally after he joined the police force.

Mizan also played an important role in preventing militancy. The charges brought against his client were not believable. So, he should be granted bail considering his social status, the lawyer added.

Opposing the defence pleas, Kajol said the ACC firstly enquired into the allegations brought against Mizan and found authentication of his involvement in acquiring wealth illegally. Since his joining in the police force in 1991, he could earn over Tk 1 crore. But the enquiry team found that he had earned over Tk 3 crore through illegal means.

With his illegal money, Mizan

bought flats, plots and shops for his wife, brother and relatives in different parts of the capital and outskirts of the capital, he said.

Moreover, the High Court rejected his bail and ordered police to arrest him when he appeared before it for bail in the case. So, the charges brought against him are non-bailable and he appealed to the court to send Mizan to jail, said Kajol.

After hearing both the sides, the judge rejected the bail petition and ordered police to send him to Dhaka Keraniganj Central Jail.

On Monday, the HC handed Mizan to the police after he appeared before it and sought bail in the graft case and also asked the Dhaka Metropolitan

Police to produce him before the court within 24 hours.

Later, the top-ranking police officer was taken to Shahbagh Police Station.

On June 24, the ACC filed the case with its Integrated District Office in Dhaka against Mizan, his wife Sohelia Anar Ratna and nephew Mahmudul Hasan, a sub-inspector of police, on charges of amassing over Tk 3 crore beyond known sources of income.

The HC bench on Monday also summarily rejected another anticipatory bail petition of the suspended DIG's nephew (sister's son) Mahmudul in connection with the same case and directed him to surrender before the trial court within 72 hours.

## Witness narrates

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and vice-president of the madrasa governing body Ruhul Amin and another AL leader Jamsed came to the madrasa and asked Nusrat's mother where her daughter was. A few minutes later, Nusrat entered the principal's room with her elder brother Noman and passed out.

Sub-inspector Md Iqbal and Yasin Commissioner sprinkled water on Nusrat's face and she regained consciousness. In the meantime, the madrasa authority had called police as Nusrat's mother rebuked the principal, and the incident created an uproar.

SI Iqbal then asked Nusrat, "Why did you make a scene?"

SI Iqbal then took the principal to the police station, and Nusrat, her mother, and friends Nishat and Foorty, and her brother Noman also went there and gave statements. Nurul Amin was also called to the police station.

At that time, Nusrat's mother filed a case against Siraj for sexual harassment.

APRIL 6: THE DAY SHE WAS SET ON FIRE

Around 9:40am on April 6, Nusrat came to the madrasa along with her brother Noman to sit for Alim exams (equivalent to HSC). Guard Mostofa let her in but stopped her brother.

About 10 minutes later, screams were heard and fire was seen on the roof of the three-story cyclone shelter, which doubles as an academic building of the madrasa. Nusrat was seen standing on the first-floor stairs and all in flames, the peon said.

Police constable Russell, who was on duty at the exam centre, and guard Mostofa put off the fire. One Baby Rani Das poured water on her. Russel and Baby then took Nusrat to Sonagazi Upazila Health Complex, wrapping her with a doormat.

On the very day, a glass, a burqa, salwar, a part of a scarf, a pair of shoes -- all of them party burnt, a polythene bag smeared with kerosene, and burnt matchsticks were recovered from the roof where she was set alight.

NUSRAT DIES

Nusrat was later shifted to the district general hospital and finally to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. With 80 percent burns, she breathed her last on April 10. The 18-year-old was fatally burnt because she refused to withdraw the case against the principal.

The murder trial opened against 16 people including, principal Siraj Ud Doula, at the Feni Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal on June 27.

The court is supposed to resume proceedings at 11:30am today.

## Two more

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Leon, conducted a raid in Shafipur area of Gazipur's Kaliakair upazila around 1:00am to recover firearms.

Sensing their presence, Leon's cohorts opened fire, forcing them to retaliate. At one point of the "gunfight", Leon was caught on the line of fire and sustained bullet wounds, the OC added.

Later, policemen rushed Leon to Kaliakair Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead, the OC further added.

He said five policemen were injured during the "gunfight" and received treatment at the upazila health complex.

Police also claimed to have recovered a pistol and three bullets from the spot.

Meanwhile, Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, came up with the same narration of the "gunfight" incident in Cox's Bazar.

Police arrested "a top listed drug dealer" Hamid around 4:00pm on Monday in Moheshkhalipara bazar area of Teknaf, said police.

Based on his information, a team of policemen, along with Hamid, went to Moheshkhalipara area around 2:00am to recover firearms, the OC claimed.

Sensing police presence, Hamid's cohorts opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate. At one point of the "gunfight", Hamid was caught on the line of fire and sustained bullet injuries, he added.

Police rushed Hamid to Teknaf Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead, the OC further said.

The body was sent to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Three police officers -- Sub-inspector Shwapan Chandra Das, Sub-inspector Kazi Saif Uddin and Constable Royal Barua -- were injured during the "gunfight", police said.

Police also claimed to have recovered four light guns, 17 cartridges, 21 bullet shells and 6,000 yaba pills from the spot.

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

## Criminals

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of Chandraghona Police Station, said neighbours noticed the bodies around 7:30am and informed the police.

Police recovered the bodies and sent those to the Rangamati General Hospital for autopsies, he said.

No one was arrested yet in this connection, he added.

Khusi Mong Marma, a member of the Raikhal union parishad, said land-related dispute might be the reason behind the murders.

OC Ashraf said they were investigating into the matter.