

AMAZON FOREST FIRES

# Brazil open to foreign aid

*Bolsonaro conditionally accepts help from G7 nations*

AFP, Porto Velho

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro is willing to accept foreign aid for fighting fires devastating the Amazon rainforest, but only if the country controls the funds, his spokesman said Tuesday.

The announcement suggests Bolsonaro has dropped an earlier demand that French President Emmanuel Macron withdraw "insults" made against him before he would accept a G7 offer to help put out the fires in the world's largest rainforest.

"The Brazilian government through President Bolsonaro is open to receiving financial support from organizations and even countries," Otavio Rego Barros told reporters in the capital Brasilia, without referring specifically to the G7's offer.

"The essential point is that this money, on entering Brazil, will be under the control of the Brazilian people."

Bolsonaro has been involved in an escalating war of words with Macron over the worst fires to hit the Amazon in years -- blazes that have sparked a global outcry and threatened to torpedo a huge trade deal between the European Union and South American countries.

A top Brazilian official on Monday rejected the G7 countries' offer of \$20 million to combat the fires devastating the forest in Brazil and Bolivia, saying Macron should take care of "his home and his colonies."

"Mr Macron must withdraw the insults he made against me," Bolsonaro told reporters in the capital Brasilia earlier Tuesday.

"To talk or accept anything from France, with the best possible intentions, he has to withdraw these words, and from there we can talk."

Macron and Bolsonaro have repeatedly locked horns in the past week, with the French leader accusing Bolsonaro of lying to him about his commitments on climate change and vowing to block the EU-Mercosur trade deal involving Brazil that took decades to negotiate.

EMERGENCY SUMMIT

Peru and Colombia proposed on Tuesday an emergency Amazon summit for countries in the region in order to coordinate a strategy to protect the vast rainforest currently blighted by numerous fires.

RELATED STORY, PHOTO ON PAGE 8



People take part in a rally held by the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions after a number of crew members in the aviation industry were let go for joining the anti-extradition bill protests, in Hong Kong, China yesterday

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Anwarul Islam

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The Daily Star.

Khandker Anwarul Islam joined civil service in 1983.

He became secretary on January 31, 2013 and senior secretary on July 13, 2017. He is also the ex-officio executive director of Bangladesh Bridge Authority. Before this, Anwarul Islam worked in the cabinet division as additional secretary.

He joined Bridges Division under the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges as secretary (in-charge) on November 13, 2011.

Anwarul Islam earned his BSS (hons) and MSS in social welfare from the University of Dhaka. He also holds a postgraduate diploma in development planning.

16 SECRETARIES TO RETIRE

A total of 16 secretaries will retire this year and 24 more in 2020, said sources in the bureaucracy.

Of the 474 additional secretaries, over 250 are from the batch of 1986 or before.

On the basis of seniority, additional secretaries from the 1986 batch are supposed to get priority for promotion.

## Step up efforts

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They said most of the officials and employees of Dhaka city corporations are working in the field to kill mosquitoes. If an enquiry committee is formed, their activities might be hampered, the lawyers added.

Deputy Attorney General Kazi Mynul Hasan appeared for the government, and Barek Chowdhury and Toufiq Inam represented Dhaka north and south city corporations respectively.

On Monday, the HC set yesterday for passing an order on whether a judicial commission will be constituted to enquire if there was any negligence of the authorities in purchasing effective chemicals to kill mosquitoes.

On that day, DNCC lawyer Sayeed Ahmed Raja told the court that a judicial enquiry needs to be launched to find out whether the authorities had failed or were negligent in purchasing effective insecticides on time to kill mosquitoes and the court can pass a necessary order.

## Graphene-lined

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too strong for mosquitos to bite through.

"Mosquitoes are important vectors for disease all over the world, and there's a lot of interest in non-chemical mosquito bite protection," said senior author Professor Robert Hurt from Brown University.

"We had been working on fabrics that incorporate graphene as a barrier against toxic chemicals, and we started thinking about what else the approach might be good for. We thought maybe graphene could provide mosquito bite protection as well."

To test the material, participants placed their arms in an enclosure filled with mosquitos. Researchers compared the number of bites participants received on their bare skin, on skin covered in cheesecloth and on skin covered by a graphene oxide (GO) film.

Skin covered with the GO film did not get a single bite, unlike skin that was bare or covered in cheesecloth, according to the paper published in PNAS.

"With the graphene, the mosquitoes weren't even landing on the skin patch—they just didn't seem to care," said Cintia Castilho, a PhD student at Brown University and the study's lead author.

## Statements of IO, SP don't match

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Justice Enayetur Rahim said the journalists reportedly asked the SP whether Minni had confessed to her guilt or not, and he (the SP) replied in the positive.

DAG Sarwar said the SP had replied to queries from the journalists regarding the murder case, a sensational one, and that the SP discharged his duty accordingly.

Justice Enayetur Rahim said, "The higher position they hold, the more responsibility they have. So they have to remain aware [of matters] adequately."

Minni's lawyer ZI Khan Panna prayed to the court for granting bail to the 19-year-old.

"She lost her husband. I can assure that she will not leave the country and will not obstruct the course of the investigation if granted bail. Therefore, I am praying for her bail," the lawyer said.

DAG Sarwar opposed the bail petition saying Minni had spoken to Nayan Bond, the main accused in the case, over phone at least eight times before and five times after the killing.

Minni had a relationship with Nayan and was involved in the

planning of the murder. Therefore, she may not be granted bail at this stage of the case, the DAG said.

Minni's lawyer replied that Nayan had reportedly spoken to Barguna Police Station's Sub-inspector Asaduzzaman 77 times before the murder.

As amicus curiae, senior lawyer and criminal law expert Munsurul Hoque Chowdhury placed his opinion before the court, saying that there were sufficient grounds to grant Minni bail.

"The investigation officer has informed the court that the investigation of the case is in its final stage. If she [Minni] is granted bail it will not be an intervention in the investigation ... granting bail is the discretion of the court," he said.

Earlier in the day, Humayun Kabir, the IO of the case, appeared before the HC bench along with the case docket as per its August 20 order.

The court asked the IO whether the police could arrest Nayan in the case. He replied in the negative.

Nayan was killed in a "gunfight" as he and his accomplices attacked law enforcers when they went to arrest him, the IO said.

Rifat Sharif, 25, an internet service provider, was hacked to death in broad daylight in front of Minni's college in Barguna town on June 26.

In the CCTV footage of the incident, Minni was seen screaming and trying to save her husband from the attackers.

Rifat's father filed the murder case with Barguna Sadar Police Station against 12 people on the day of the incident. The prime accused in the case, Nayan Bond, was killed in a "gunfight" with police on July 2.

Police arrested Minni after a daylong interrogation on July 16. A court placed her on a five-day remand the following day. Three days later, a Barguna court recorded her statement.

Following the same bail petition of Minni, the HC on August 20 issued the rule asking the government to explain within a week why Minni should not be granted bail in the case.

Besides, the court asked the Barguna SP to explain why he held a press conference on July 18 and said Minni was involved in the murder even before the investigation was completed.

### FOREIGN INTERFERENCE

## Australia moves to protect its universities

AFP, Sydney

Australia moved to counter foreign interference at its universities yesterday, establishing a task force to help protect sensitive research, cyberdefences and free speech.

With concern growing about China's clout on campuses Down Under, education minister Dan Tehan announced more intensive consultation between schools and government officials -- including spy agencies.

The group will focus on bolstering cyberdefences, protecting sensitive intellectual property and making sure collaboration with foreign individuals or organisations does not hurt Australia's national interests.

## Indian SC

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and order, but residents have expressed frustration and anger over the lockdown.

Hundreds of people have been queued up outside a government office in Kashmir's main city of Srinagar every day to make calls outside the region.

The Supreme Court also allowed Sitaram Yechury, head of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), to visit Kashmir to meet his colleague, Mohammed Yousuf Tarigami, a former lawmaker who is among hundreds of political workers and activists that the government has detained since the crackdown began.

Yechury was turned back from Srinagar airport when he tried to visit his colleague on August 9.

Separatist militants have been battling Indian security forces in Kashmir for years. India accused Pakistan of stoking the insurgency.

Pakistan denies doing so.

The nuclear-armed rivals both rule parts of the divided Himalayan region but claim it in full.

The revocation of Kashmir's special status in the constitution means people there will lose exclusive rights to property, government jobs and colleges places and open them up to all Indians.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi says the reform will open up Kashmir's economy to the benefit of all.

## Court bins

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the reporter had not made any mistake by using the word.

On August 19, ward-2 Councillor Masum Rana in Khagrachhari filed another case against Sanjoy making the same complaints.

A court in the district directed the Police Bureau of Investigation of Chattogram to investigate the matter.

## Ensure planned development

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considering all these factors."

She said these should be ensured in rural areas as well so that people do not have to come to the capital just to look for jobs. "They'll have employment opportunities in their respective areas, too."

The PM said nature must be in mind while carrying out development work, such as protecting rivers, canals and wetlands, ensuring water drainage system and preserving waterways.

"We have to consider these issues while going for any development work."

The four-year-long Land Acquisition and Biodiversity Preservation project will be implemented by the Local Government Engineering Department at a cost of Tk 395 crore.

The project is being undertaken as part of the ongoing "Important Urban Infrastructure Development Project (2nd Phase)" involving Tk 3,465 crore. This will be implemented in 281 municipalities across the country between January 2018 and December 2021.

Under the project, development of roads, construction of bridges, culverts and drains, acquisition of land, preservation of biodiversity, digging canals, reconstruction of river banks, renovation of ponds/lakes/canals, beautification, tree plantation, and installation of streetlights will be done.

PM's Adviser HT Imam, her Principal Secretary Nojibur Rahman, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, MP, Tungipara upazila chairman, Tungipara municipality mayor, and local Awami League leaders were present.

Stressing the need for undertaking development programmes through a well-thought-out plan, Hasina said development was not only building structures, rather taking up various programmes considering the needs of people and protecting the environment and biodiversity.

She asked all concerned to take up development programmes in accordance with the need. "Don't undertake unnecessary development projects such as constructing needless bridges as they increase siltation leading to dying rivers."

She also enquired about the condition of roads and other development work, particularly in the villages of Tungipara, saying, "I want to develop my Tungipara constituency."

Hasina was also apprised of the latest condition of some important development work in Tungipara municipality areas undertaken by the LGED.

The development work includes the construction of Sheikh Russell Children Park (completed), re-digging and beautification of Tungipara-Patgati Canal (completed), beautification of ponds of Tungipara upazila complex (completed), construction of Patgati Kitchen Market (ongoing), construction of Tungipara Kitchen Market (completed) and construction of multi-storey building (proposed), completion of a graveyard opposite to Sheikh Russell Children Park, reconstruction of a mosque at Tungipara Bazar (proposed), and construction of a new Tungipara bus stand (ongoing).

## Shafiqul made new DMP

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weeks of speculation about who was going to replace Md Asaduzzaman Mia as the next DMP chief.

The public security division of the home ministry yesterday issued a gazette notification regarding Shafiqul's appointment with immediate effect.

Hailing from Chuadanga district, Shafiqul, has been known as the "clean image" officer in the police force.

The new DMP commissioner, who has been serving as the chief of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police since May 16 this year, however, is expected to take charge from September 13 when the incumbent DMP commissioner goes on retirement.

On August 13, the government reappointed Asaduzzaman as the DMP commissioner for another month on contractual basis, cancelling his post-retirement leave.

In another gazette notification yesterday, the home ministry appointed Additional Inspector General (AIG) at Police Headquarters Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun as the chief of CID.

The ministry also promoted Deputy Inspector General (DIGs) of Special Branch Mahbub Hossain and

Biswas Afzal Hossain to AIGs (current charge) and transferred them to the Police Headquarters yesterday.

Shafiqul Islam, Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, Mahbub Hossain and Biswas Afzal Hossain joined the police cadre in eight BCS, 1989.

PROFILE OF DMP COMMISSIONER

Son of Shawkat Ali and Sufia Khatun of Naoda Bondo Beel village in Alamdanga upazila of Chuadanga, Shafiqul was born on October 30 in 1962.

He passed BSc (honours) from the Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh in 1986.

He started his career as a police officer as the AIG in Khagrachhari. He also served as the superintendent of police of Syedpur Railway Police, Narayanganj, Patuakhali, Sunamganj and Cumilla.

Shafiqul served as the Addl commissioner and commissioner of Chittagong. He was also appointed as the DIG of Chattogram and Dhaka Range.

He was promoted to the rank of Addl IG in September 2017 and served as the Addl IG HRM and Anti-Terrorism Unit. He was transferred as the chief of CID on May 19.

## Three more patients die

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verification was needed before it could be declared as death from dengue.

In Khulna, Shahida Begum, 50, died at the Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH).

Partha Protim Debnath, assistant registrar of KMCH medicine department, said Shahida had died of dengue shock syndrome. Besides, her diabetes was uncontrolled and she was suffering from liver disease too.

In Mymensingh, dengue patient Hafizul Islam, 34, a garment worker, died early yesterday.

Hafizul, from the district's Trishal upazila, was admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital on August 14 after being diagnosed with dengue, Hafizul's neighbour Atiqul Islam said.

He was under treatment there for five days before being released.

On Tuesday night, Hafizul's condition deteriorated again and he was taken back to the hospital, where the doctors suggested that he be taken

to Dhaka immediately, Atiqul said.

"He died on his way to Dhaka around 4:00am yesterday."

A total of 1,157 patients were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday. Of them, 551 are in Dhaka and 606 outside the capital.

DENGUE RESEARCH IN BARISHAL

A high-level dengue research team, including seven doctors and eight senior technologists, collected blood samples and other relevant data from 1,800 households and organisations to find the reasons behind the spread of dengue in Barishal.

Omar Faruque, leader of the research team of Institute Of Epidemiology, Disease Control & Research, said they would prepare a report.

Since July 16, some 3,665 patients were hospitalised in the district. Of them, 3,372 were released and 11 died, said Shyamal Krishna Mandal, assistant director at the divisional health directorate.

## BNP calls for national unity

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The recommendations were that the government should treat the Rohingya issue as a national crisis, convene a national dialogue to arrive at a national consensus, and initiate a vigorous global campaign to convince all regional and international friends of repatriation.

It also included that a government delegation, led by the foreign minister and others, should visit the land designated for the Rohingyas after repatriation and ensure the environment there is conducive and safe for their return.

"This delegation can also include representatives from the Rohingya community which will help build their confidence and create pressure on Myanmar," Khasru said.

The party also said the government must ensure that the UN oversees the repatriation and the post-repatriation situation in Myanmar.

Fakhru alleged that Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader had started blaming the BNP for

"instigating" the Rohingyas.

"We think this sort of talk will not resolve the crisis, but instead will strengthen Myanmar and intensify the crisis," he said.

The BNP leader said there was no alternative to forging national unity and all nations must unite and come forward to resolve the crisis.

Fakhru said that the country was in danger as the Rohingya repatriation had become uncertain. "From the beginning, we were saying that the government alone cannot solve the crisis."

BNP standing committee member Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain said if repatriation was delayed then the situation would deteriorate.

Former ambassador and BNP leader Reaz Rahman said the Myanmar authority's policy on the Rohingyas was consistent, whereas Bangladesh's one was shaky.

BNP standing committee member Abdul Moyeen Khan, former teacher of Dhaka University Mahbub Ullah and others spoke at the seminar.