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"This time, unfortunately, our diplomacy has totally flopped. Now we are blaming others."

GONOSHASTHAYA KENDRA FOUNDER ZAFRULLAH CHOWDHURY ON ROHINGYAS REPATRIATION (PAGE 3)

"It seemed like a prison. It is a different culture and a different nation."

ABAHANI COACH MARIO LEMOS ON THE TEAM'S TIME IN PYONGYANG (PAGE 18)

"I want all Pakistanis to come out tomorrow noon to show solidarity with the Kashmiri people and send the Indian-occupied Kashmiris a clear message..."

PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER IMRAN KHAN ON "KASHMIR HOUR" (PAGE 8)

Be more active, aggressive

Dhaka urges int'l community to help hammer out sustainable solution to Rohingya crisis

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has urged the global community to be more aggressive to help thrash out a sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis.

"Global leadership and international organisations have to be more active to compel Myanmar to make arrangements for the Rohingya return," Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said yesterday.

"They [global leadership] also have responsibilities. We have appealed to them to be more aggressive and take initiatives to address the crisis," he told reporters after a meeting with foreign diplomats and representatives of the UN and other international bodies in Dhaka.

It's not a problem for Bangladesh only, but for the entire world too, he noted.

Asked about the international community's response, he said they lauded Bangladesh for the way it is handling the crisis.

"The whole world is recognising what we have done," Momen said referring to comments made by the foreign diplomats at the meeting.

He also communicated to the international community that Myanmar has been playing a blame game after the second attempt to repatriate Rohingyas failed.

None of the 1,276 Rohingyas of 339 families, interviewed by the UNHCR, volunteered to return to their homes in Myanmar's Rakhine State on August 22.

A similar repatriation bid also failed on November 15 last year as the Rohingyas said they had no guarantee of citizenship, safety or freedom of movement.

Since August 25, 2017, more than 743,000 Rohingyas fled violence in Rakhine and took shelter in Bangladesh. They joined some 300,000 others, who had fled previous waves of violence in Rakhine and took refuge in Cox's Bazar. The coastal district is facing economic, environmental and social challenges due to the huge influx of refugees.

Momen came down hard on Myanmar for its August 22 press release in which it squarely blamed Bangladesh for what it said was the failure to send back the displaced people.



The Meghna lays waste to some buildings in Chandpur Sadar upazila. At least 25 families lost homes to the fury of the mighty river in the last seven days. The photo was taken a couple of days ago.

PHOTO: ALAM PALASH

University student raped in Shyamoli

STAR REPORT

Two men allegedly raped a female student of a private university at an office in the capital's Shyamoli area where she went to appear for a job interview on Tuesday afternoon.

The 20-year-old victim filed a case with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station in this connection accusing Fahim Ahmed Foyez, 31, and Nahid Patwary, 32 on early Wednesday, said Jane Alam Munshi, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Police arrested Fahim after raiding the office of Health Vision Limited, a supplier company of different vaccines, where the incident took place, the OC said, adding that the office housed in an apartment on Road no. 3 was also used as a residence.

According to the case statement, the victim and Nahid had been connected on Facebook for the last one year and they had some conversation during this period.

On the day of the incident, Nahid called her around 2:00pm and asked her

INT'L DAY OF THE VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

A thousand days of wait

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Apart from eyes that fight weariness, each of them has one thing in common: they are all waiting for their husbands -- who had gone missing years ago in a notorious spate of enforced disappearances.

Nilufa Yasmin is one of the women. The last conversation she had with her husband Mahfuzur Rahman Sohel, a Chhatra Dal leader in Bangshal, was on December 2, 2013.

He went out of home saying he would bring flowers as it was his son's birthday. "Tell him [their son] I'm coming back shortly."

But Sohel never returned. He along with three others were reportedly picked up from the capital's Shahbagh.

"When we went there [in Shahbagh], some florists told us that the DB men picked them up," said Nilufa.



Six years on, Nilufa is still waiting for her husband to return. In the meanwhile, their two children are growing up hardly knowing their father.

On numerous occasions, the family members held programmes and appealed to the authorities to bring back the victims. The calls, however, have fallen on deaf ears.

Today is the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances. The day is observed globally since

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Padma Bridge to open by 2021: Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the plying of vehicles on the Padma Bridge would begin by June 2021.

"The Padma Bridge project has witnessed an overall progress of 73 percent. The way the work of the project is progressing, it is likely that the construction work of the bridge will be complete by 2020. Another 5-6 months will be needed to complete the remaining work," he said.

The minister was talking to reporters at an agreement-signing ceremony at the secretariat in the capital.

The Finance Division and Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) inked the agreement on repayment of the loan for the Padma Multipurpose Bridge.

Director (finance) of BBA Md Moniruzzaman and Additional Secretary of the Finance Division Md Ekhlashur Rahman signed the deal on behalf of their

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Don't talk, Minni; SP, you too

HC grants her conditional bail, calls for guideline on law enforcers' limit to talk on case probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to Ayesha Siddika Minni on conditions that she cannot talk to the media and she will remain in her father's custody.

If Minni breaches the conditions, her bail will be cancelled, the court said while delivering the verdict on her bail petition.

The HC also criticised the superintendent of police in Barguna for making a statement to the media that Minni while on police remand confessed to her involvement in the murder of her husband Rifat Sharif.

It directed the home secretary and the inspector general of police to formulate a guideline on statements to be given by law enforcers to the media on the progress of cases and those arrested during investigation.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman passed the verdict after hearing the bail petition.

The court granted the bail on different grounds. Those



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Three more die from dengue

Unofficial death toll now 123

STAR REPORT

Three more, including two children, died from dengue in Dhaka, Rangpur and Faridpur yesterday.

With them, 123 people have so far died this year after being infected with the mosquito-borne disease.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), however, has so far confirmed 52 deaths. Some 1,189 dengue patients were hospitalised across the country in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, it said.

The DGHS added that the number of dengue suspected deaths was 180. Of them, it reviewed the deaths of 88 and confirmed 52 deaths from the disease.

Kinkar Ghosh, epidemiologist of Dhaka Shishu (Children) Hospital, said nine-year-old Siam, of Madaripur, lost his battle against dengue at

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Waste floating on fountain water on the premises of Mohanagar Natya Mancha in the capital yesterday. Experts say such stagnant water can be an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes. Mohanagar Natya Mancha is run by the Dhaka South City Corporation, which has been raiding different places of the city to kill Aedes mosquitoes, responsible for dengue.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Chaos in Britain over Brexit drama

Corbyn vows to foil no-Brexit with emergency debate in Parliament; polls more likely after latest move

REUTERS, London

The opposition Labour Party yesterday said it would trigger an emergency debate in parliament next week to try to stop Prime Minister Boris Johnson taking Britain out of the European Union without a withdrawal deal.

More than three years after the country voted in a referendum to leave the bloc, the United Kingdom is heading towards its gravest constitutional crisis in decades and a showdown with the EU over Brexit, which is due to take place in just over two months time.

In his boldest step since becoming prime minister last month, Johnson enraged opponents of a no-deal Brexit on Wednesday by using a parliamentary mechanism to order the suspension of parliament for almost a month.

The speaker of the lower house of parliament, John Bercow, called this a constitutional outrage as it limited the time the 800-year-old parliament has to debate and shape the course of British history.

Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn said that as soon as parliament returns from its summer break on Tuesday, his party would initiate a process to legislate against a no-deal Brexit that he said would be damaging for the jobs and the economy.

"What we are going to do is try to politically stop him (Johnson) on Tuesday with a parliamentary process in order to legislate to prevent a no-deal Brexit and also to try and prevent him shutting down parliament in this utterly crucial period," Corbyn told reporters.

"This country is in danger of crashing out on the 31st of October with no deal," he said. "We have got to stop

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