

## Journo shot dead in northwest Honduras

AFP, Tegucigalpa

A journalist was shot dead in northwest Honduras Saturday, the 79th killed since 2001 in the Central American country, according to a human rights group.

Edgar Joel Aguilar, a correspondent for HCH TV was shot dead in the city of Copan around 200 kilometers northwest of the capital Tegucigalpa, the Honduras National Commissioner for Human Rights said in a statement.

Local media reported that Aguilar had received death threats from unknown sources.

"Each time a journalist is killed is an assault on the right to life and the right to freedom of expression," Commissioner Roberto Herrera Caceres said.

## Scientists

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humans, Zhaoming Liu, Ruikang Tang and ten other Chinese scientists wrote in their paper.

Resins, ceramics and amalgam fillings can be used to restore enamel, but they don't achieve permanent repair and can become loose because they are made of foreign materials.

Enamel has also long eluded scientists. According to the scientific paper, enamel's structure was never duplicated artificially.

The scientists tested the product on damaged human teeth that had been removed from patients and kept in a solution that recreates the mouth environment.

The gel succeeded in making the enamel repair itself within only 48 hours, the scientists wrote.

They said a major shortfall of the gel is that it only managed to generate a layer of about 3 micrometres - about 400 times thinner than undamaged enamel.

The New Scientist reported that the scientists were currently testing the gel on mice and hope to test it on people - in natural circumstances in which they eat and drink - at a later stage.

Nearly three in four (74 percent) of British adults have had a tooth removed, according to the Oral Health Foundation.

## Yaba addict

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His mother died soon afterwards, said Ismail Hossain, officer-in-charge of the Dhunat Police Station.

Khokon's father Samad Mondol, aged about 95, told police that Khokon had been demanding Tk 5,000 throughout yesterday. He left the house in the evening fearing that his son would beat him up for money.

Locals said Khokon was a yaba addict and he frequently fought with his parents over money.

## Kingpin killed

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Police claimed to have recovered four light guns, a homemade gun, 18 bullets and 20 bullet shells from the spot.

Four Rohingyas, including Nur, accused in the Jubo League leader murder case, have been killed in "shootouts" with police.

Jubo League leader Omar Faruk, 30, was shot dead at Jadimiru allegedly by a group of Rohingya criminals on August 22.

Since then, police had been looking for Nur, the OC said.

Nur came to Hnila union in 1992 from Myanmar. He earned a lot of illegal money through robbery and yaba trading, he added.

Asked about his national ID card, Brig Gen Mohammad Saidul Islam, director general of the Election Commission's National Identity Registration Wing, said they learnt about the matter yesterday and would form a committee to investigate it.

**ANOTHER KILLED IN SYLHET**  
An alleged robber was killed in a similar incident with police in Beanibazar upazila early yesterday.

Misbah Uddin, 29, of Rohar Shangon village of Zakiganj upazila, was a listed criminal and accused in at least eight cases, including six robbery ones, filed with different police stations, said Abani Shankar, officer-in-charge of Beanibazar Police Station.

On information, police arrested Misbah from Gowainghat upazila's Jaflong on Saturday morning. Police later went to Sheola bridge area, along with him, to recover firearms around 5:00am yesterday, the OC said.

"When our team reached the spot, a group of associates of Misbah started firing at us and Misbah tried to run away from the police van.

After a gunfight with the attackers, we found that Misbah was hit and rushed him to a hospital where doctors declared him dead," he said.

Police claimed to have recovered a homemade gun, a bolt cutter and several sharp weapons from the spot.

The body was sent to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College for an autopsy, the OC added.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify the reported gunfight incidents.

Our Cox's Bazar and Sylhet correspondents contributed to this report.



Chairs are strewn in front of Chattogram BNP office after two groups fought over chanting slogans during yesterday's rally on the occasion of the party's 41st founding anniversary.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Army holding court martial

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The report described grisly violence at the hands of soldiers and Buddhist vigilantes, who allegedly attacked villagers with guns, knives, rocket launchers and grenades before dumping bodies into pits and dousing them with acid.

Estimates from survivors in Bangladesh put the death toll in the hundreds, the report said.

Security forces claimed they were under attack by some 500 villagers, and that they had acted "in self-defence", according to state-run media last year.

UN investigators want Myanmar generals prosecuted for genocide for overseeing the brutal crackdown in Rakhine state.

The army staunchly denies the allegation, calling the 2017 operation a proportionate response to deadly

militant attacks on police posts.

Rights groups say the military has done little to hold anyone accountable for atrocities.

It previously admitted that members of the security forces had helped kill 10 Rohingyas in a different Rakhine village in September 2017.

Four officers and three soldiers were sentenced to 10 years in prison with hard labour, but a prison official said in May that they were "no longer in detention".

Conflict-scarred Rakhine state is virtually sealed off to media, and has in recent months been the site of fierce battles between the military and the Arakan Army -- a rebel group claiming to fight for more autonomy for ethnic Rakhine Buddhists.

In June the government ordered all mobile phone operators to suspend internet data in nine townships across

Rakhine and neighbouring Chin state, saying the internet was being used to coordinate illegal activities.

But mobile operator Telenor Group said yesterday the internet had resumed in "five of the nine affected townships" the day before.

Tun Aung Kyaw, a secretary of Rakhine's biggest political party, the Arakan National Party, said the internet shutdown had been lifted in the four Rakhine townships of Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Rathedaung, and Myebon, and one in Chin state.

Telenor said it was urging for internet services to be restored to the remaining four affected townships in Rakhine for "humanitarian purposes".

UN rights investigators have said they fear the data blackout could serve as a cover for human rights violations by the military.

## ACC to sue eleven

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The loan, including interest, now accrued to Tk 179 crore.

In the enquiry, the ACC found that those who misappropriated the money were: Chairman of MM Vegetable Oil Products Hefazatur Rahman, its Managing Director Jahir Uddin and Directors Kamal Uddin, Kafil Uddin, Rafiq Uddin, Shafiq Uddin and Jasim Uddin, proprietor of Lucida Trading Mohammad Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, proprietor of Globe International Mahbulul Alam Chowdhury, BDBL's former senior principal officer Dinesh Chandra Saha and retired general manager Syed Nurur Rahman Kadri.

Contacted, Hefazatur told, "The LCs were not fake. We have not done anything of this sort."

In 2014, more than a dozen banks met with the debt-ridden Mostafa

## UN chief vows continued support for DR Congo army

AFP, Beni

UN chief Antonio Guterres yesterday promised continued blue helmet support for the army of the Democratic Republic of Congo fighting an array of armed groups.

Arriving in Beni in the country's east, the secretary general said the UN peacekeeping mission MONUSCO, the Congolese army and national police "will continue to work together to return peace and security to the region."

"We will do everything to bring an end to the scourge of insecurity in the region," he said.

Also stricken by an Ebola epidemic, the region of Beni has been the setting since 2014 of a deadly conflict that has claimed hundreds of civilian lives.

The authorities blame the Islamist-rooted Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) group that arose in western Uganda.

The inhabitants of Beni sometimes accuse UN soldiers of inaction against the ADF.

"It is important that the population of Beni knows that we have heard their cries of distress," said the UN chief.

Guterres will discuss the insecurity with President Felix Tshisekedi in Kinshasa today.

Later Sunday, he was due to visit an Ebola treatment centre at Mangina near Beni, where the epidemic started a year ago. It has since killed more than 2,000 people.

## Far-right surge expected in east German state polls

AFP, Berlin

Germany's far-right AfD party was yesterday hoping for strong gains in elections in two ex-communist states, potentially shaking Chancellor Angela Merkel's fragile coalition government.

The anti-immigration Alternative for Germany party has polled strongly in both Brandenburg and Saxony states, part of its eastern electoral heartland.

Aside from railing against Islam and asylum-seekers, the AfD has capitalised on resentment about a lingering east-west wealth gap since the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall.

"Let's complete the Wende" (turnaround), it has vowed, referring to the peaceful revolution that ended the Soviet-allied one party state and brought national reunification in 1990.

The AfD has long co-opted the

former pro-democracy chant "We are the people" and turned it against what it labels the "Merkel regime".

Eastern Germany is home to several of the AfD's most extremist leaders, among them Bjoern Hoecke, who has labelled Berlin's Holocaust memorial a "monument of shame".

His close ally, former paratrooper Andreas Kalbitz, 46, who has had deep ties to right-wing extremist groups, is the top candidate in Brandenburg.

Der Spiegel weekly has reported that in 2007 Kalbitz joined known German neo-Nazis on a visit to Athens that came to police attention because of a swastika flag flown from a hotel balcony.

Kalbitz confirmed to the magazine that he joined the trip but insisted that the event "was not conducive to arousing my further interest or approval".

In Brandenburg, which surrounds

Berlin, the AfD has been polling neck and neck with the governing Social Democratic Party (SPD), both at just over 20 percent.

In Saxony, the state where the extremist anti-Islam Pegida street movement was born, the AfD has slipped back somewhat behind Merkel's centre-right Christian Democrats (CDU).

But even if the AfD emerges as the strongest party in either state, the other major parties are expected to shut it out from governing by forming coalitions to achieve majorities.

Political scientist Wolfgang Schroeder of Kassel University said that election gains could therefore spell a "successful failure" for the AfD.

"Although it has a high voter turnout and has contributed to shifting the political discourse to the right, it has little real political effect," he said.

## Bangladesh to lose \$7b

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it the GSP+ scheme, under which the country can continue to enjoy zero percent duty. Otherwise, it would be left with the standard GSP scheme, which calls for up to 9.6 percent duty.

Multilateral concessional loans too will dry up.

At present, such loans account for about 60 percent of all foreign loans. It would come down to 46.2 percent in 2026 and 4.2 percent in 2041, found the study.

The development means the country would have to make do with high-cost market borrowing, whose share will increase to 42.4 percent in 2026 from 26.3 percent at present. In 2041, it would make up 82.41 percent of all foreign loans.

The graduation will also increase the cost of interest of external debt from 2026. The interest payment will increase to 1.2 percent in 2041 from 0.7 percent in 2026.

Subsequently, the impact assessment report advised raising the tax to GDP ratio to 15 percent by 2031 from existing 10 percent and

keeping the fiscal deficit at less than 5 percent to navigate the challenges of graduation.

It also suggested keeping the inflation rate at less than 5 percent and improving the ranking on the World Bank's Doing Business index from 176 in 2019 to 75 by 2024.

The assessment report also proposed for ramping up spending on the education sector to 3.5 percent of GDP by 2031 from 1.8 percent at present.

It also called for strengthening banking supervision and reduction of default loans to 7 percent or below by 2021 from current 11.70 percent.

In March 2018, after 43 years as an LDC, Bangladesh became eligible for graduation to the developing country bracket after it met all the three criteria.

The Committee for Development Policy (CDP), a United Nations panel, announced the graduation.

The CDP will review Bangladesh's progress in 2021, and the country's official graduation from the LDC category will take place after a three-year transition period.



Red Crescent medics stand at the site of Saudi-led air strikes on a Houthi detention centre in Dhamar, Yemen yesterday. More than 100 people are believed to have been killed in the air strikes on the detention centre, the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Southern Africa threatens to quit wildlife trade monitor

AFP, Johannesburg

Southern African nations are threatening to quit the global wildlife trade regulator after it refused to relax restrictions on trade in ivory and rhino horn and imposed a near total ban on zoos taking African elephants captured in the wild.

Ties soured during this week's meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in Geneva after numerous proposals from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) regional bloc were rejected.

Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe -- home to the world's largest elephant population -- asked for the right to sell ivory acquired through natural deaths, confiscations and culling.

The demand was rejected by a majority of 101 votes.

The CITES treaty, created more than four decades ago, regulates trade in some 36,000 species of plants and animals and provides mechanisms to help crack down on illegal trade

and sanction countries that break the rules.

But members of the 16-nation SADC bloc accuse it of turning a blind eye to Africa's problems.

"The result has been failure to adopt progressive, equitable, inclusive and science-based conservation strategies," Tanzanian Environment Minister George Simbachawene told the Geneva meeting.

"Time has come to seriously reconsider whether there are any meaningful benefits from our membership to CITES," he said.

The ministers accused the regulatory body of bowing to animal rights groups and unreasonably prohibiting the trade of African wildlife and products rather than regulating it fairly.

"A great disappointment, shocking outcomes," said Botswana's Environment Minister Onkokame Kitso Mokaila.

"I think CITES has long passed its sell-by date," he said, adding SADC needs "something else... that speaks to the issues of today."