

Kazakh president moves to allow peaceful protests

Kazakhstan's president yesterday called for an easing of restrictions on peaceful demonstrations, three months after thousands were detained at opposition protests in the authoritarian country. Kazakh citizens currently need to obtain official permission to hold demonstrations, a legal stipulation that rights groups say gives authorities a veto on the constitutional right to free assembly.

Taskforce

Taskforce members raised questions about the basis of calculation done on the loss after graduation, and said that the report does not portray a positive side of graduating. In response, GED officials said that they prepared the report through various research organisations, including Policy Research Institute, and consulting with several renowned economists. They added that the report was made after calculating the possible loss of earning from exports, which may happen after graduation due to the phasing out of tariff benefit and price hike. The report also made several recommendations for the government to avoid any possible loss after graduation.

The meeting, attended by taskforce members who are also secretaries to different ministries, was presided over by the head of the taskforce Abul Kalam Azad, who is also the prime minister's chief coordinator on the Sustainable Development Goals. The taskforce was formed in January last year. Finance ministry officials said that the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), a United Nations panel, that announced the graduation, would also make an impact assessment report on Bangladesh's possible losses after graduation. "They [the CDP] will prepare the report by 2021," ministry sources said. GED officials said they have started the process of the eighth "Five Year Plan 2021-2025" keeping the losses after graduation in mind and chalking out possible measures to offset the losses.



Students attend a school boycott rally at the Chinese University of Hong Kong yesterday, in the latest opposition to a planned extradition law that has since morphed into a wider call for democratic rights in the semi-autonomous city.

Uncertainty grips Bengali colonies

over 19 lakh people from the Assam NRC. Fifty two-year-old Ahmad Hussain, a primary school teacher and his entire family, including 15 children, have been left out of the final list. Ahmad Hussain and his family members, including 7 brothers, are residents of Nichanchar village under the Baghbhor assembly constituency in Barpeta. During the NRC application process, the family used their 1951 legacy data of their late father Harmuj Ali Bhuyan along with other documents. Interestingly, the entire family apart from a brother of Ahmad Hussain, had been included the earlier draft NRC list but they have now been left out of the final NRC list. The excluded brother from the earlier draft NRC was Abdul Baten. When the NRC authorities served a hearing notice to Abdul Baten, he had used 1966 legacy data of late Harmuj Ali Bhuyan. Ahmad Hussain doubted that the difference of the legacy data of 1951 and 1966 is the main reason behind

this inclusion. The entire family is now spending sleepless nights after their names were not listed in the final NRC, reported India Today online. Ahmad Hussain, a teacher by profession, said, "We have found that not a single member of our family has been listed in the final NRC. There are 50 members in our family. We had used our father's legacy data of 1951. Our family members' names were listed in the earlier draft NRC but one of brother's name was not included. When he applied a second time, he used the 1966 legacy data." "For that, we were served several notices. We appeared in hearings four times. But our names were not listed in the final NRC. We are now frustrated. We are worried about it. We will apply again following the government instructions." Several families across Assam have been facing similar issues of partial inclusion and partial exclusion in the NRC. For them, the wait is now to get a notice so that they can take the next possible step forward.

General (Media) at the PHQ Sohul Rana said the IGP instructed the officials to complete investigation into the cases and bring the culprits to book. He also asked all to take necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. On August 8, the CTTC unit arrested five "Neo JMB" members who were self-radicalised and worked like a "wolf pack". Officials at that time said they had suspected that this group was involved in planting two powerful Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Khamarbari and Paltan. On April 29, two traffic police constables and a community traffic policeman were injured in a blast in Gulistan. In another incident, two people, including a female police officer, were injured after a bomb went off near a police pickup in the capital's Malibagh intersection on May 26. In the latest attack at Science Laboratory traffic police box, two policemen were injured. Similar IEDs were recovered from

DMP forms body to help investigate

Deputy Attorney General KM Zahid Sarwar Kajal told this correspondent that the government would move a regular leave to appeal petition before the Appellate Division challenging the HC verdict after getting its certified copy. During hearing on the government's stay petition earlier in the day, DAG Zahid told the apex court that Minni had connection with the killers of Rifat Sharif and she was involved in conspiracy of the killing. Minni cannot be granted bail in the case, he argued. Meanwhile, Minni's lawyer ZI Khan Panna told the SC that the police had illegally confined his client at Barguna police lines before arresting her. The police forced Minni to give confessional statement to the magistrate, he argued, praying to the SC to uphold the HC verdict that granted bail to Minni. Attorney General Mahbubey Alam also represented the government during the proceedings. On June 26, Rifat, 25, who used to provide internet services, was hacked to death in broad daylight in front of Minni. A video clip of the incident went viral on social media. In the footage, Minni was seen trying to save her husband from the attackers. Police arrested Minni after a daylong interrogation on July 16. A Barguna court placed her on a five-day remand the following day. Three days later, the court recorded her statement. On August 29, Minni was granted bail by the HC on conditions that she would remain in her father's custody and that she wouldn't talk to the media. The HC on September 1 released the full text of the verdict.

when she was on her way to a private bank in Banglamotor from her nearby office. DRIVER HELD Following his arrest from the capital's Kazipara area around 10:30pm Sunday, Morshed told police that he was on his first trip with the bus of Trust Transport Services, PBI Inspector Jewel Mia, who led the drive, told The Daily Star. He claimed that he could not control the bus while trying to avoid hitting a car. Morshed said he had a driving licence for medium-duty vehicles. He, however, could not show the licence to the PBI. He had been an assistant of a bus driver for long. Before sitting behind the steering wheel of the Trust Transport bus, he used to drive a car, the inspector said, quoting the arrestee. Morshed told police that pedestrians had beaten him up after the accident. But he somehow managed to escape and went to his village home in Kishoreganj. He became afraid after seeing the accident news on newspapers on August 28. He used to stay at his relatives' houses at night to dodge law enforcers. A PBI team conducted a raid at his village home, but he managed to avoid arrest. He later left his village home for the capital, the PBI official said. Yesterday, the PBI handed Morshed over to Hatirjheel police.

15 dead in Mali building collapse

Fifteen people were killed on Sunday when a three-storey building under construction collapsed "like a house of cards" in the Mali capital Bamako, the government and local media reports said. Twenty-six people were rescued alive from the partially occupied building after it collapsed just before dawn. "Thanks to the determination of the emergency services, a young girl of around four years has just been pulled out of the rubble alive." "Another survivor (a woman) has just, happily, been extracted by rescuers," the civil protection ministry said. The ministry later said an investigation into the building's owner had been opened. According to local media reports, the top floor collapsed onto the rest of the building which was already occupied, resulting in the entire structure "collapsing like a house of cards". Such collapses are common in Mali where buildings are often constructed without planning permission.

Victim's plight continues

Man jailed "After receiving the conviction warrant from the court, I engaged an informant to find the convict Nurul Absar. We went to the house of the [mentally challenged] man on the night of August 18. When I entered the house, he tried to hide inside his bedroom with the help of his wife and sister. During his arrest, he or his family members did not inform anything about his identity," the ASI told The Daily Star. He added that he had talked to local union parishad chairman and members to confirm his identity. He learnt about his mistake after he collected more information and photos of the actual convict.

Man jailed "After receiving the conviction warrant from the court, I engaged an informant to find the convict Nurul Absar. We went to the house of the [mentally challenged] man on the night of August 18. When I entered the house, he tried to hide inside his bedroom with the help of his wife and sister. During his arrest, he or his family members did not inform anything about his identity," the ASI told The Daily Star. He added that he had talked to local union parishad chairman and members to confirm his identity. He learnt about his mistake after he collected more information and photos of the actual convict.

Man jailed

Man jailed "After receiving the conviction warrant from the court, I engaged an informant to find the convict Nurul Absar. We went to the house of the [mentally challenged] man on the night of August 18. When I entered the house, he tried to hide inside his bedroom with the help of his wife and sister. During his arrest, he or his family members did not inform anything about his identity," the ASI told The Daily Star. He added that he had talked to local union parishad chairman and members to confirm his identity. He learnt about his mistake after he collected more information and photos of the actual convict.

2 killed in 'gunfights'

stolen auto-rickshaws in Bade Kolpa area of Mymensingh city, detectives raided the area. Sensing their presence, the gang members opened fire on them, triggering a gunfight around 1:00am, claimed the OC, who led the team. After the other gang members fled, police found bullet-hit Khalil on the spot, he claimed, adding they rushed him to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead around 3:00am. Detectives recovered a pipe gun and two stolen auto-rickshaws from the spot, the OC claimed. Two DB men -- ASI Md Amir Hamza and Constable Jahangir Alam -- were injured during the incident, he said. They were given treatment at Mymensingh Police Lines Hospital. The OC said Khalil was accused in some 10 cases including eight for stealing auto-rickshaws with different police stations in Mymensingh, Jamalpur and Sherpur. Police sent the body to Mymensingh Medical College morgue for autopsy while a case was filed over the incident, he said. [Our Sylhet and Mymensingh correspondents contributed to this report.]

FROM PAGE 2 them. Rab men retaliated with gunfire which triggered a gunfight, Satyajit claimed. After the "gunfight", Rab men found Fajar's injured body on the spot, he claimed, adding they took him to a hospital where doctors declared him dead. Two Rab men -- Assistant Sub-inspector (ASI) Sekandar and Constable Pandit -- were injured in the incident, the Rab official claimed. He also claimed that Rab recovered a pistol, 2,800 yaba tablets, and some marijuana and used ammunitions. Abdul Ahad, officer-in-charge of Gowainghat Police Station, said Fajar was accused in several cases filed with different police stations in Sylhet. The Daily Star could not contact Fajar's family and independently verify Rab's claims. In Mymensingh, Khalil, a resident of Bakchala village in Phulbaria upazila, was a member of an inter-district auto-rickshaw stealing gang, said detectives. Shah Kamal Akanda, officer-in-charge of the detective branch (DB) of police in Mymensingh, said acting on a tip-off that some auto-rickshaw thieves are involved in the trading of

Commissioner for refugees

a probe committee in this regard. The three-member committee was formed on August 27, and it was asked to submit a report in seven working days, said an RRRCC source. Meanwhile, another circular of the public administration ministry yesterday said Mahbub Alam Talukder, director of the Department of Disaster Management, would replace Kalam as RRRCC. Thousands of Rohingyas had fled Rakhine in phases escaping targeted violence. In the latest spells, over 743,000 fled military atrocities, including killing, rape, torture, and burning of houses in Rakhine, since August 25, 2017. They joined around 300,000 others who had reached Bangladesh before. Almost all Rohingyas have taken shelter in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. They have been living on humanitarian assistances provided by the Bangladesh government and international and national aid groups. Kalam yesterday said they formed

FROM PAGE 2 said he had been thinking of seeking a transfer due to his health condition. He was appointed as the RRRCC in February 2017. The government decision came eight days after Rohingyas held a mammoth rally in Kutupalong of Cox's Bazar, marking the second anniversary of the influx of Rohingyas into Bangladesh. They urged the international community to ensure justice for the atrocities committed against them by the Myanmar military. They also reiterated their demands for guaranteed citizenship and safe return to their homes in Rakhine. The rally was held without the government's approval. Many NGOs were blamed for helping the Rohingyas organise such a big meeting. "We were not informed beforehand about the Rohingya rally," Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen told journalists in the capital on August 26. Kalam yesterday said they formed

Highways to get

in saving the roads due to the "flawed limits". He also said many truck and lorry owners illegally modify their vehicles to carry goods beyond the permissible level, but the authorities give them fitness certificates in exchange for bribes. "In this situation, the new weighbridges might not give you the expected results," Prof Shamsul, also a former director of Buet's Accident Research Centre, told The Daily Star yesterday. Asked, Secretary Nazrul Islam said the maximum weight limit was increased in a "special situation". He said vehicles carrying even 40 tonnes of goods had operated on roads, but now the highest limit is 22 tonnes. "But it is not for an indefinite period. We will maintain the international standards once the new weighbridges are established. We will also bring down the maximum limits to 16 tonnes for the existing ones," he added. Two of the three existing weighbridges are situated at two points of the road, which is the country's busiest highway. Nazrul Islam said, "We are going to set up the [21] weighbridges to check overloading to save our roads and bridges." Last year, the Road Transport and Bridges Ministry sent the proposal to the planning ministry. Later, an inter-ministerial committee formed to examine the feasibility gave go-ahead to the project following field visits, road transport and bridges ministry sources said. The weighbridges will be set up at Jagadishpur in Habiganj, Mynamati in Cumilla, Deepraj in Bagerhat, Koilabari in Chapainawabganj, Keranihat in Chattogram, Tura in Kurigram, Bhajanpur in Panchagarh, Hili in Dinajpur, Shimultala in Sherpur, Gobraakura in Mymensingh, Naobadkathi in Satkhira, Kazirbazar in Nilphamari, Baro Ichapur in Tangail, Belonia in Feni, Darshana in Chuadanga, Bandar Connectivity Road in Chattogram, Masterbari in Gazipur, Rohitpur in Munshiganj, Bhanga in Faridpur, Sitakunda in Chattogram and Sutarkandi in Sylhet. QUESTION OVER EFFECTIVENESS Prominent transport expert Prof Shamsul Haque yesterday said the government ignored the international standards while fixing weight limits on highways and it resulted in early damages to roads. "So the government cannot shrug off its responsibility," he said. He said the existing three weighing machines appeared to be ineffective

Japan 'to set up police unit' for disputed islands

Japan will launch a special police unit equipped with submachine guns and helicopters to patrol disputed isles in the East China Sea -- a source of tension between Tokyo and Beijing, according to police and media. The deployment near the tiny islands known as the "Senkakus" in Japanese and the "Diaoyu" in Chinese could take place early next year, public broadcaster NHK reported yesterday. The National Police Agency said it had put in a budget request for an additional 159 officers to head off "illegal landings on remote islands by armed groups". NHK said it was the first time police had stepped up patrols near the disputed islands. However, extra jets from the Japan Coastguard were deployed in 2018 to patrol the islands, where a Chinese nuclear-powered submarine was spotted earlier last year. The uninhabited islets are at the centre of a festering row between Tokyo and Beijing, which is also involved in a widening dispute with several Southeast Asian countries over islands in the South China Sea. The Japanese government has long complained about China's routine dispatch of coastguard ships to waters surrounding the islands. Relations between Japan and China deteriorated in 2012 when Tokyo "nationalised" some of the islets.