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Fresh blow to UK PM's Brexit plan

MPs back bill to block no deal exit from EU on first vote

AFP, London

British lawmakers inflicted a fresh defeat on Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Brexit strategy yesterday, approving in principle a law that could stop him taking Britain out of the European Union without a deal next month.

The House of Commons voted by 329 to 300 in favour of a draft bill that could delay Brexit for three months, although it still must pass further stages to become law.

Johnson had earlier warned he would call an early election on October 15 if the legislation went ahead, insisting Britain must leave the EU as planned on October 31, with or without a divorce deal with Brussels.

"I will never allow that," he told MPs about the delay plan, saying the draft law would "surrender" control over Brexit negotiations to Brussels.

But the government was braced for defeat, and has already introduced a motion for a vote later yesterday calling for a snap poll before the last summit of EU leaders before Brexit, which begins on October 17.

In yet another twist in the tortuous Brexit process, SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Tea and snacks stalls and their customers leave little room for pedestrians on the pavement of Green Road in the capital. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

GRAFT IN PLANE LEASE Biman takes action against two officials

RASHIDUL HASAN

The board of Biman Bangladesh Airlines has decided to cancel its contract with one of its official and suspended another in connection with corruption and irregularities while leasing two aircraft from EgyptAir.

The airlines ended its contract with Group Capt Sazzadur Rahim (ret), director of engineering and material management, and suspended Ghazi Mahmud Iqbal, chief engineer of engineering services.

The board of directors came up with the decision following a meeting headed by its Chairman Air Marshal (ret) Muhammad Enamul Bari at the Biman headquarters on Tuesday, meeting sources said.

"The national carrier made a non-transparent agreement with the EgyptAir in 2014 for taking two Boeing 777-200ER on lease which went against the interest of Biman," a top official of civil SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



WCC RECOGNITION FOR SONARGAON IN THE OFFING

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To revive the glory days of the heritage weave, Jamdani, the National Crafts Council of Bangladesh (NCCB) and the Bengal Foundation is in discussion with the World Crafts Council (WCC) to consider the prospect of Sonargaon being recognised as a World Craft City.

SEE ON PAGE 10 COL 2

'SI, informant raped me'

Claims woman; police say she didn't name any cop in the case; victim now missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A mother of two in Jashore alleged that a police sub-inspector and his informant raped her on Tuesday night, but police yesterday claimed that she registered a case against four persons, excluding the SI.

The woman remained traceless since the filing of the case with Sharsha Police Station early yesterday.

Earlier on Tuesday afternoon, she narrated the incident to journalists at Jashore Sadar Hospital where she had gone for medical tests, hours after she had been allegedly gang-raped.

She said SI Khairul Islam, in-charge of Gorpara Police Camp under Sharsha Police Station, his informant Kamaruzzaman alias Kamrul and two to three local men went to her house around 2:30am on Tuesday.

As she opened the door, Khairul told her that he would help get her husband released from jail if she gave him Tk 50,000.

The woman also said SI Khairul had picked up her husband from the house 10 days ago, and demanded Tk 50,000, she added.

"As I failed to give him the money, he implicated my husband in a false case, saying 50 bottles of Phensedyl were found in his possession. My husband is now in jail in that case," alleged the woman.

On early Tuesday, she again refused to give the money to SI Khairul and got locked into an argument with him. At one stage, SI Khairul and Kamrul forcibly entered the house and raped her, said the victim.

The woman said she had told her neighbours about the incident after the SI and others left.

"My neighbours told me I needed to undergo medical tests before filing a case. I have come here [hospital] before going to the police station."

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Bangladesh's ours, for all

PM tells event marking Janmashtami

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she feels very bad when people belonging to different religions undermine themselves by calling themselves "minority communities".

"I feel very bad. Why do you [people of Hindu, Buddhist, Christian and other religions] undermine yourselves? Bangladesh is ours, it's for all," she said while exchanging greetings with Hindu community members at the green lawn of the Gono Bhaban on the occasion of Janmashtami.

"I don't know why you repeatedly term yourselves minority. Aren't you citizens of this state? Aren't you residents of this country? Isn't this land your birthplace? This is your homeland," the prime minister said.

She said every person of this country has equal right

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

BARBECUE USE

Australian vegan sues neighbours



NDTV ONLINE

An Australian woman has tried to stop her neighbours from using their barbecues by suing them in court, a media report said on Tuesday.

Perth resident Cilla Carden claimed that their neighbours' activities, among them barbecuing and smoking, as well as their noisy children, breached residential laws, BBC said in the report.

She alleged that wafting smells of cigarettes and barbecues had caused "undue offence" to her home in the Perth suburb of Girrawheen, according to a Supreme Court of Western Australia judgement.

"They've put (the barbecue) there so I smell fish - all I can smell is fish," Carden, who is a vegan, told Australian media on Monday.

"I can't enjoy my backyard, I can't go out there," she added.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Schoolboy killed in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A tenth grader was hacked to death in Dhaka's Mohammadpur area around 8:00pm yesterday.

The dead is Mohsin, 16, of Mohammadpur's Chand Mia Housing Society.

Three of Mohsin's friends were also injured in the attack.

A group of criminals attacked Mohsin and his friends near a culvert of the housing society and left them injured. Locals later rescued and sent them SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 5

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:35 12:45 4:30 6:20 7:45
JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 4:45 6:25 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

LANDMINE BLAST

'Rohingya man' killed on border

AFP, Dhaka

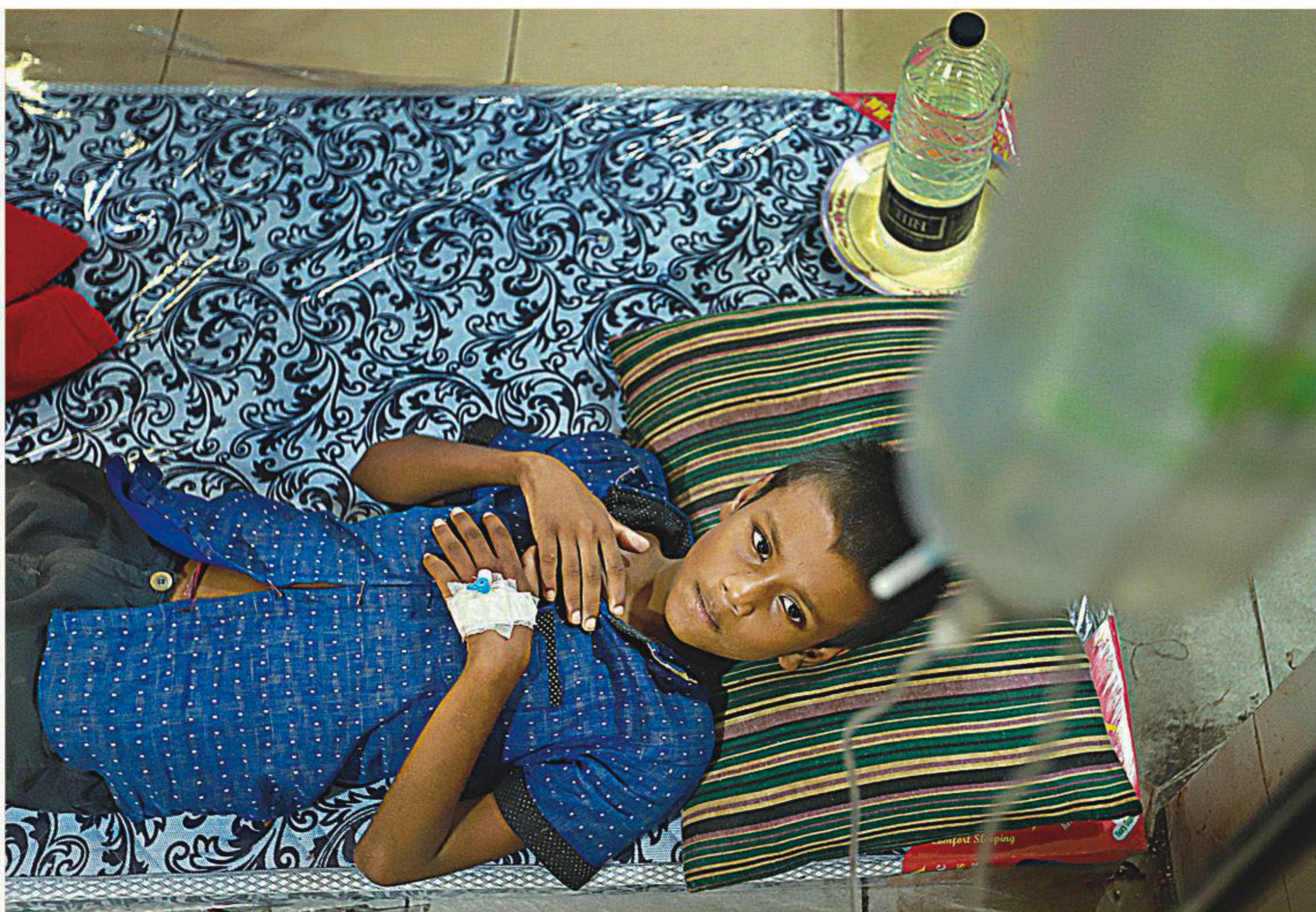
A man believed to be a Rohingya refugee has been killed in a suspected landmine explosion along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, officials said yesterday.

Nearly a million of the Rohingya people live in camps in southeast Bangladesh after fleeing military violence in Myanmar and typically use the porous border to travel back to Rakhine state.

Bangladesh officials have accused Myanmar security forces of planting mines along border areas to prevent the refugees from returning to their villages.

Bangladesh border guards said they heard a loud explosion on Tuesday and saw several men leaving behind a badly wounded person at the border village of Ghumdum.

"We suspect he was killed in a landmine explosion inside Myanmar SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Alamgir Hossain, 11, a dengue patient at Mugda Medical College Hospital, looking at his bag of IV fluids. The boy left home when he was eight. About his origin, he can only remember that he was a student of Naima Latifia Sonia Dakhil Madrasa and his father's name is Badal. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

HK extradition bill withdrawn

Pro-democracy activists vow to press on with their campaign

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam yesterday withdrew an extradition bill that triggered months of often violent protests so the Chinese-ruled city can move forward from a "highly vulnerable and dangerous" place and find solutions.

Her televised announcement came after Reuters reports on Friday and Monday revealing that Beijing had thwarted an earlier proposal from Lam to withdraw the bill and that she had said privately that she would resign if she could, according to an audio recording obtained by Reuters.

"Lingering violence is damaging the very foundations of our society, especially the rule of law," a sombre Lam said as she sat wearing a navy blue jacket and pink shirt with her hands folded on a desk in front of her.

It was not clear when the recording was made. The withdrawal still needs the approval of the Legislative Council, which is not expected to oppose Lam.

The withdrawal, a key demand of protesters but just one of five, came after unrest that drove the former British colony to the edge of anarchy as the government repeatedly refused to back down - igniting pitched battles across the city of seven million, the arrests of more than 1,000 protesters, and leaving a society deeply divided.

Many are furious about perceived police brutality and the number of arrests - 1,183 at the latest count - and want an independent inquiry.

"The government will formally withdraw the bill in order to fully allay public concerns," Lam said.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2