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Stay out of the Gulf

Iran's Rouhani warns foreign forces amid new US deployment, says Tehran will present peace plan to UNGA

AFP, Tehran

President Hassan Rouhani yesterday denounced the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf and said Iran will put forward a peace plan, after arch-foe the United States ordered reinforcements to the tinderbox region.

"Foreign forces can cause problems and insecurity for our people and for our region," Rouhani said in a speech at an annual military parade.

Rouhani also said Iran would present a peace plan to the United Nations in the coming days.

"In this sensitive and important historical moment, we announce to our neighbours that we extend the hand of friendship and brotherhood to them," he said.

Tensions between Iran and the US and its allies have threatened to boil over since May last year when President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from a 2015 nuclear deal and later began re-imposing sanctions in a campaign of "maximum pressure".

The tensions escalated in the wake of devastating September 14 attacks on Saudi oil installations that Washington and Riyadh have, to varying degrees, blamed on Tehran.

Following the attacks, which caused global oil prices to spike, Trump initially raised the possibility of a military response, tweeting that the US was "locked and loaded".

Washington later expanded its long list of sanctions against Tehran by further targeting its central bank, as

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Students demonstrate at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University for the fifth consecutive day yesterday demanding removal of its Vice Chancellor Khondoker Nasiruddin for his alleged involvement in corruption.

PHOTO: STAR

GOPALGANJ UNIV Protest goes on for VC's removal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University (BSMRSTU) continued their protest for the fifth consecutive day yesterday demanding resignation of the vice chancellor for his alleged involvement in corruption and irregularities.

A number of teachers at the university also joined the protest, expressing solidarity with students.

Power and water connections to the dormitories were not resumed till filing of this report last evening.

Earlier on Saturday morning, the authorities suddenly declared a 10-day vacation ahead of Durga Puja and asked the students to vacate dormitories by 10:00am.

As the students refused to give in, the authorities severed power and water connections to the dorms after 10:00am.

The authorities also shut the dining facilities at the dorms in an effort to quell the movement, causing immense sufferings to the students staying on the campus.

According to university's academic calendar, the vacation was scheduled to be started on October 4.

Some students have been observing an indefinite hunger strike since Thursday to press home the same demand.

The protesters said they would continue their protests until VC Prof Khondoker Nasiruddin steps down.

The Daily Star yesterday tried to contact Prof Nasiruddin on phone several times, but he didn't respond.

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Former secy Nasima new NHRC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former senior secretary Nasima Begum has been appointed as the new chairman of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the first female to occupy the position.

Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry yesterday issued a gazette notification in this regard.

Nasima will be succeeding Kazi Reazul Hoque, who served in this role from August 2, 2016 to July 1, 2019.

Nasima has served as the secretary of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs before being appointed to the new role.

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A different butcher in Birganj

Jamila breaking stereotype starts male-dominated profession to change her lot

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A woman is breaking the stereotype as well as earning solvency by butchering cattle in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur.

Jamila Begum and her husband Zahir Hossain opened a meat shop at Jharbari Bazaar of the upazila some 19 years ago. Zahir used to slaughter and skin the animals while Jamila used to look after the accounts initially.

But Zahir was a drug addict, recalled Jamila. The 49-year-old was married off to Zahir when she was 16. The couple has two children.

"After five years of marriage, I got to know that he was addicted to drugs. We lived in Bogura where he ran the family by rickshaw-pulling. But in 2000, we had to shift to my father's place at Debarupara village in Birganj because he was in too much debt," said Jamila.

"I took up the job because I wanted to save my husband from drug addiction, but I failed. After shifting here, we remained jobless for a month. Gradually we arranged Tk 25,000 and started selling beef at Jharbari Bazaar," she told this paper.

"Things went smoothly for two years, but situation started to deteriorate in 2005.

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Two land in jail for kidnapping, killing teen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A Manikganj court has sent two men to jail on charges of abducting and killing a teenage boy in the district's Sadar upazila.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Jahangir Hossain passed the order on Saturday after recording the statements of the accused -- Ibrahim Hossain, 24, and Arif Hossain, 23 -- under section 164.

Rokibuzzaman, officer-in-charge of Manikganj Sadar Police Station, said the duo was arrested on Wednesday.

On August 6, a tenth grader named Ashraf Islam went missing. His maternal grandfather filed a general diary with the police station on August 7 in this connection, the OC said, adding that the criminals demanded ransom to Ashraf's expatriate father.

The arrestees, in their confessional statements, said four people, including them, suffocated Ashraf to death on August 7 and dumped his body in the Kaliganga river.

On information, police conducted a search and rescue operation in the river but the body could not be found, said Hanif Sarkar, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Manikganj

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Swiss hold 'funeral' for lost glacier



AFP, Mels

Dozens of people dressed in black went on a "funeral march" up a steep Swiss mountainside yesterday to mark the disappearance of an Alpine glacier amid growing global alarm over climate change.

The Pizol "has lost so much substance that from a scientific perspective it is no longer a glacier," Alessandra Degiacomi, of the Swiss Association for Climate Protection, told AFP ahead of the event.

Yesterday's climb took place as the UN gathered youth activists and world leaders in New York to mull the action needed to curb global warming.

The solemn two-hour "funeral march" led up the side of Pizol mountain in northeastern Switzerland to the foot of the steep and rapidly melting ice formation, situated at an altitude of around 2,700 metres (8,850 feet) near the Liechtenstein and Austrian borders.

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Last five years to be hottest on record: UN

AFP, United Nations

Average global temperature between 2015-2019 is on track to be the hottest of any five-year period on record, a UN report by the world's leading climate agencies said yesterday.

"It is currently estimated to be 1.1 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial (1850-1900) times and 0.2 degrees Celsius warmer than 2011-2015," said the report titled United in Science, a synthesis of key findings.

Other major takeaways from the report include that the extent of Arctic summer sea ice has declined at a rate of 12 percent per decade over the past 40 years, with the four lowest values between 2015 and 2019.

Overall, the amount of ice lost from the Antarctic ice sheet increased by a factor of six each year between 1979 and 2017,

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A barricade on fire is pictured during a demonstration by anti-government protesters in Sha Tin, Hong Kong yesterday. Pro-democracy protesters clashed with riot police outside a mall, with some activists vandalising a nearby subway station and defacing a Chinese flag, but plans to disrupt the airport did not materialise.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'We'll mobilise to vote you out'

Young climate activists seek step up from streets to political table

REUTERS, United Nations

Young climate change activists demanded a greater role in decision-making Saturday as they met leaders at UN headquarters, saying that their growing voice on the streets had yet to earn them a seat at the political table.

"The decisions about our future are still being made largely without us," said Marina Melanidis, a Canadian delegate at the gathering, held ahead of a UN summit today aimed at accelerating action to tackle global warming.

"Young people deserve to co-design their own futures - and honestly, you can't do that without us," she told United Nations officials.

Former Chilean president Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, agreed young people should have more influence over policies that will affect them, particularly with regard to climate change.

"We need young people represented in the places where decisions are made," rather than simply protesting outside that system, she said.

Komal Karishma Kumar, of Fiji, warned young people would start to hold leaders accountable at the ballot box if they did not step up efforts swiftly to address climate threats.

"We will mobilise to vote you out," she promised.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres recognised the leading role of young people in street protests that have pushed the urgency of curbing global warming up the political agenda.

More than 4 million people marched Friday in a series of rallies all around the world to demand that governments

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