

India to set up SEZ for investors from Bangladesh

India has decided to set up a special economic zone (SEZ) in Tripura's border town of Sabroom, targeting investors from Bangladesh, said Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb. Sabroom, a small town in Tripura, is 70km away from the Chattogram Sea port in Bangladesh. "The Department of Commerce under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Friday gave the approval in-principle for setting up the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Sabroom at a cost of Rs 147 crore," Deb wrote in a post in Twitter. "The proposed SEZ would be a game changer for Tripura's economic growth and the entire Northeast would be benefited," he said, reports Indian newspaper sentinellassam.com.

Deb met Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her visit to Delhi last week and discussed the connectivity and trade between the Northeastern states and India. He said, after his request, Hasina showed interest on an international flight from Dhaka to Agartala.

An official at the chief minister's Secretariat told Indo-Asian news service (IANS) that the Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina assured that she would soon take a step in this regard.

"Both the leaders discussed the plying of vehicles between Bangladesh and the North-eastern States."

During the meeting, Deb apprised Hasina about the ongoing water, surface and air connectivity issues, besides the huge scope of increasing trade and economic activities between the Northeastern states and Bangladesh.

Sheikh Hasina told the chief minister that vehicle operation issues are likely to come up in the upcoming treaties to be signed between the two countries, the official said.

N Korea boat collides with Japan sea patrol

AFP, Tokyo

A North Korean boat yesterday collided with a Japanese fisheries agency patrol vessel in the Sea of Japan, sending around 20 North Koreans overboard, Japan's coastguard said.

"We rescued some 10 people but their condition has not yet been confirmed," a coastguard spokesman told AFP.

Satoshi Kuwahara, a Japanese fisheries agency official, told reporters the patrol boat was warning the North Korea vessel to leave the area, which falls under Japan's exclusive economic zone.

When foreign vessels illegally operate in Japan's waters, Japanese patrol boats often send an audio message, display a warning sign on an electric bulletin board, or spray water at them, Kuwahara said.

The North Korean ship, believed to be a fishing vessel, capsized after the crash with Japanese patrol boat Okuni, the spokesman added.

Local media said no crew members on the Japanese patrol vessel were injured.

The collision occurred in waters some 350 kilometres (217 miles) northwest of Noto peninsula in Ishikawa prefecture in central Japan, said Kazuma Nohara, another coastguard spokesman.

"We've been strengthening patrols around the water there in cooperation with the fisheries agency," in recent years following reports that many North Korean fishing boats were poaching fish and squids, he told AFP.

Experts say some fishermen from the North are travelling far out to sea in order to satisfy government mandates for bigger catches.

But their old and poorly equipped vessels are prone to mechanical faults and other problems, including running out of fuel, and there are few ways for them to call for rescue.

A record 225 suspected North Korean fishing vessels washed up on Japan's coast last year, according to the coastguard.

Festivals

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Bangladesh. And we've been able to create such an environment," said the PM.

Hasina said people irrespective of their religion, caste and creed celebrate Pahela Baishakh and Bangla Nababarsha and the government also provides Pahela Baishakh allowance.

People respect the religion of each other here, she said.

The government wants to contain social diseases like terrorism, militancy, drugs and corruption so that those cannot destroy families, the society and the country.

Principal of Ramkrishna Math and Secretary of Ramkrishna Mission Swami Purnamantanda Maharaj delivered the welcome address.



Protesters react after police fired tear gas in the Mong Kok district in Hong Kong yesterday. Hong Kong protesters arrested for defying a new face mask ban appeared in court yesterday following a violent weekend of unrest which saw bloody clashes with police and widespread vandalism that crippled the city's train network.

Trio wins Nobel Medicine Prize

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Kaelin identified another gene, present in patients with a genetic disorder that puts them at far greater risk of certain cancers. The gene rewires the body's ability to prevent the onset of cancer, and it plays a key role in how cancer cells respond to low oxygen levels.

Their work has shed new light on the specific, cell-level processes the body undergoes when low on oxygen -- from helping our muscles function during exercise to adapting to life at high altitude.

Cells' oxygen-sensing ability is also essential during foetal development and in creating new blood vessels.

DRUGS BEING DEVELOPED
A large number of diseases are linked to EPO, including renal failure and severe anaemia.

Cancerous tumours use the body's oxygen-regulating tools to hijack blood vessel formation and allow the cancer cells to spread. The Nobel committee said yesterday that several trials were underway developing drugs to interrupt this process, potentially short-circuiting tumour growth.

"Intense ongoing efforts in academic laboratories and pharmaceutical companies are now focused on developing drugs that can interfere with different disease states by either activating, or blocking, the oxygen-sensing machinery," the jury said.

Kaelin, 61, works at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in the US,

while Semenza, 63, is director of the Vascular Research Program at the Johns Hopkins Institute for Cell Engineering.

Ratcliffe, 65, is director of clinical research at the Francis Crick Institute in London, and director of the Target Discovery Institute in Oxford.

Sitting in his Oxford office, Ratcliffe said he was writing a grant proposal when he learned of the award.

"Despite this good news I guess I'll continue doing that. Meet the deadline," an excited Ratcliffe told the website Nobelprize.org.

DISCOVERY SCIENCE
The British researcher also said the prizewinning discoveries illustrated the importance of scientists being allowed to pursue "knowledge for its own sake," admitting that when he started working on the EPO problem it seemed "niche".

"As with almost any discovery science, the impact of that becomes evident later and we didn't really foresee the broad reach of this system when we started the work," Ratcliffe said.

Anna Wedell of the Nobel Committee echoed this.

"The benefit is understanding this fundamental mechanism, but the practical applications are yet to come and that's actually what characterises a great discovery," Wedell told AFP.

Yesterday's announcement opened an unusual 2019 Nobel season in which two literature laureates will be

crowned after a scandal postponed last year's award.

The Peace Prize will be awarded in Oslo on Friday, with speculation rife that Swedish teenage activist Greta Thunberg could win for her campaign to raise awareness about climate change.

Other names circulating for the honour are Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who clinched a peace deal with arch foe Eritrea, and NGOs such as Reporters without Borders and the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Before that, the Physics Prize will be announced today and the Chemistry Prize tomorrow.

On Thursday, the Swedish Academy will announce one literature laureate for 2018 and one for 2019, after postponing last year's award due to a sexual harassment scandal that exposed deep rifts among its 18 members.

The Academy has spent the past year trying to address its issues and restore its honour, and is therefore seen to be steering clear of controversy in its picks.

Among the writers who have been making a buzz include Poland's Olga Tokarczuk, Kenya's Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, Ismail Kadare of Albania, Joyce Carol Oates of the US and Japan's Haruki Murakami, say critics questioned by AFP.

The announcement of the Economics Prize will wrap things up on Monday, October 14.

US troops start leaving

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US forces had started withdrawing from the frontier, making way for the Turkish onslaught, the scope of which remains unclear.

President Donald Trump yesterday justified his decision to withdraw US troops from Turkey's border with Syria, saying the region would have to "figure the situation out" and that America needed to get out of "ridiculous Endless Wars."

Turkey has sent reinforcements to the border in recent weeks, and Erdogan said yesterday in televised remarks the long-threatened offensive could "come any night without warning".

His comments came after Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Twitter that Turkey was "determined to ensure our country's existence and security by clearing terrorists from this region".

He was referring to the SDF, which has ties to Kurdish militants inside Turkey and which Ankara considers a terrorist organisation.

Fearing yet another chapter of bloodshed and mass displacement in the Syrian conflict, the United Nations said it was "preparing for the worst".

The European Union warned that civilians would once again bear the brunt of a military assault.

'AT ALL COSTS'
In its statement, the White House made clear it would stand aside when its Nato ally Turkey moves in.

US Senator Lindsey Graham, a top ally of Trump, said yesterday he would be calling on Congress to reverse the president's decision to withdraw US troops from Turkey's border with Syria.

SDF spokesman Mustafa Bali said Washington's decision "is about to ruin the trust and cooperation between the SDF and US".

"People here are owed an explanation," he said on Twitter.

The SDF, which spearheaded -- with backing from the US-led coalition -- several of the most significant battles against IS over the past five years, also vowed to resist any Turkish attack.

"As the Syrian Democratic Forces, we are determined to defend our land at all costs," it said in a statement posted on social media.

Ankara says it wants to urgently establish a "safe zone" on the other side of the border where it could send back some of the 3.6 million refugees who fled the eight-year war in Syria to live on Turkish soil.

But the Kurds argue that Turkey's goal is to weaken the Kurdish presence in the region by modifying the demographics of the area with the return of mostly Sunni Arab refugees.

Ankara's planned offensive is expected to focus on the border areas of Ras al-Ain and Tal Abyad, which are Arab-dominated towns governed by the Kurdish administration in northeast Syria.

Kurdish forces have dug trenches

and tunnels in the two areas in preparation for a Turkish offensive, according to the Observatory.

'PREPARE FOR WAR'
In Ras al-Ain on Sunday, local armed forces allied with the Kurdish administration stood behind dirt berms, monitoring the frontier.

They had covered streets in the town with large metal canopies to block the view of Turkish drones, sources there told AFP.

"The prudent should prepare for war," said Mustafa Bozan, a 79-year-old shopkeeper.

Nearby, Issam Daoud said that local security forces have erected checkpoints at key entrances to the town.

"The fate of the region will be the same as that of Afrin," the 38-year-old said, referring to a former Kurdish enclave captured by Turkish troops and Syrian rebels last year.

The SDF has also warned that a Turkish offensive would reverse the military gains achieved against IS and allow for the jihadist group's surviving leaders to come out of hiding.

In its statement, it said that IS cells would break out detained jihadists from Kurdish prisons and take over camps where their relatives are held.

But Turkey's presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said yesterday that Ankara "will also continue to fight against DAESH (IS) and will not allow it to return in any shape and form."

5,000-year-old city discovered

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"It is 650 dunams (0.65 square kilometres), meaning double what we know."

A ritual temple was found within the ancient city along with rare figurines with human and animal faces, they said.

It also included burnt animal bones in a stone basin that they called proof of sacrificial offerings.

The excavation allowed for an older settlement from some 7,000 years ago from the Chalcolithic period to be uncovered as well, though smaller than the other discovery.

urbanisation" in what was Canaan at the time.

Dina Shalem, another of the archaeologists, noted it included fortifications some 20 metres long and two metres high as well as a cemetery.

Around four million fragments were found at the site, including pieces of pottery, flint tools and vases of stone and basalt, said Elad.

Some of the tools came from Egypt, the archaeologists said.

including a club that could have been used as a weapon.

"Thousands of people lived here from agriculture and commerce," said Paz, with estimates putting the number at between 5,000 and 6,000.

He said the site was abandoned in the third century BC for unknown reasons.

The excavations carried out over the course of two and a half years included the participation of 5,000 teenagers and volunteers.

More poor

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in poverty, while almost half of those living in poverty live in extreme poverty and are unable to afford a basic food consumption basket.

Using the international poverty line, a measure that allows comparison with poverty levels in other countries, the rate of poverty in Bangladesh is relatively high by regional standards, the report said.

In Bangladesh 14.8 percent of the population live in poverty, bested only by India in the Saarc region. Some 21.2 percent of the population still live under the international poverty line in the neighbouring country.

Only 0.8 percent of the population live below the international poverty line in Sri Lanka and 3.9 percent in Pakistan, according to the study.

"Bangladesh has an inspiring story of reducing poverty and advancing development," said Mercy Tembon, the WB's country director for Bangladesh and Bhutan.

Since 2000, the country has reduced poverty by half. In the last decade and a half, it lifted more than 25 million out of poverty.

"However, there is no room for complacency," she added.

Furthermore, more than half of the population in Bangladesh can be considered vulnerable to poverty, as their levels of consumption are close to the poverty threshold -- a proclamation that the finance minister strongly disputes.

"There is no chance for those who have come out of poverty to fall back into it -- we have taken plenty of measures," Kamal said.

The reasons for the decline in urban poverty reductions include slow manufacturing job creation, reduced female labour force participation (FLFP) and increase in poverty among the self-employed in the service sector.

There has been little growth in the share of the Bangladeshi labour force engaged in industry, and this has limited the amount of poverty reduction derived from the country's industrial growth, the report said.

The slowdown in job creation in the garments and textiles sector is partly responsible for the diminishing rates of FLFP.

Between 2005 and 2010, overall labour force participation in urban areas increased because of a substantial increase in FLFP. The expansion of the garment sector was an important force in raising FLFP as 80 percent of the employees are female.

But between 2010 and 2016 FLFP declined about 4 percentage points.

The stagnation in poverty reduction in services is also concerning given that around 44 percent of the urban poor are part of households primarily engaged in the sector, the report said.

"Tackling urban poverty is critical," Mercy said.

The urban poor may be better off than their rural counterparts in terms of income but worse off in key social indicators, said Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive director of the Power and Participation Research Centre.

Many poor urban households live in slums, facing poor housing, insecurity and overcrowding.

He recommended rolling out health safety net programmes for urban poor.

"People are at the risk of falling into poverty for lack of healthcare. Therefore, urban health safety net has become important," he said, adding that social protection for the urban poor is a relatively under-focused area in policy discussions.

On the flip side, rural Bangladesh spearheaded poverty reduction from 2010 to 2016, accounting for about 90 percent of the drop in poverty. And industry and services, not agriculture, mostly led the poverty cuts.

"This reflects the slower growth in agriculture during this period but also the fact that agriculture growth was less poverty reducing compared to the past and other sectors."

Meanwhile, the Western divisions did not see the same gains as the East between 2010 and 2016.

Since 2010, poverty has risen in Rangpur division, the historically poorer Northwest of the country; it has stagnated in Rajshahi and Khulna in the West.

The East and central Bangladesh have fared much better: poverty has fallen moderately in Chittagong and declined rapidly in Barisal, Dhaka and Sylhet.

As the country is facing new and re-emerging frontiers of poverty reduction, specifically tackling urban poverty and poverty in the West, approaches that uncover effective traditional and new solutions must be embraced, the Washington-based multilateral lender said.

"Policies to reduce poverty when poverty incidence is high are different from those when poverty is lower."

In the past, relatively straightforward measures like the introduction of high-yielding rice varieties could kick-start a process of welfare improvement.

But now, more sophisticated policies are needed to reduce poverty over a sustained period and in a more complex economy.

Continuing Bangladesh's practices of innovative policy experimentation and learning from other countries' experiences of similar economic and development transformation will be important to tackle some of the challenges presented.

"We will take measures in the budget to address these issues," Kamal said, adding that 1 crore new jobs would be created by 2030 and needs- and technology-based education would get priority.

The brains behind

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them in his store.

But due to his gambling problem, he started losing money and was forced to sell the store and send the family members back to the village.

Arman was the second among six siblings.

His father Munshi Rafiqul Islam was a member of local union parishad for a long time.

While travelling to Thailand and Singapore frequently to buy the goods, he came to know about casinos.

In mid 2000s, during the BNP-led government, he got entrance into the clubs in Motijheel.

Since he had friends in the area and had experience in gambling, he became very popular in different gambling circles very soon.

In 2008, when the Awami League-led government took office, he became close to the Jubo League leaders. Through his gambling skills, he became close to Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat who was also a gambler.

When Samrat became the president of Dhaka South unit Jubo League on July 14, 2012, Arman became the vice-president.

Sources close to the circles, said he taught Samrat about running casinos. Since Samrat virtually controlled everything in the area, they started the business. Arman worked as the expert and accountant of Samrat.

When Samrat started investing in film industry, Arman looked after that business as well.

Arman also established a production company named Desh Bangla Multimedia. On August 12 this year, it released a Tk 3 crore film named "Moner Moto Manush Pailam Na".

The company is currently producing its second film titled "Agun".

He used to live with his wife and children in a rented flat in Mirpur.

"We do not know much about his business. We were scared of him and... never asked him anything about his business," Jewel said.

Arman was very loyal to Samrat and that's why when the latter went into hiding, Arman accompanied him, said people close to the circle.

They were arrested by Rab early Sunday in Cumilla.

Both of them were expelled from Jubo League several hours after the arrest.

He was sent to Cumilla Central jail on Sunday night. A mobile court of Rab sentenced him to six months in jail after he was found drunk during the arrest.

Rab also filed a narcotics case against Arman on charges of possessing 140 yaba pills.

Our Correspondent in Cumilla contributed to this report.

22-day ban

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of important rivers, exchanging views in meetings with fishermen and fish traders to increase awareness on the issue, said district fisheries officer Md Mollah Amdadullah, adding that mobile courts would be conducted in different areas to ensure the ban was observed smoothly.

Officials from the fisheries department, fish traders, representatives of fishermen, and law enforcers were present in the meeting chaired by Md Matiul Islam Chowdhury, deputy commissioner of Patuakhali.

Pijus Kanti Hori, former associate professor of the zoology department in Patuakhali Government College, said hilsa come to different rivers in the spawning season to lay eggs.

"During this time, many mother hilsas are caught. To ensure proper hilsa reproduction, the government imposes the ban every year on hilsa netting," he said.

Worker dies

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after midnight.

Robiul sustained severe injuries on his head after a broken iron sheet fell on him, he said.

The inspector added that Robiul was taken to Chattogram Medical College Hospital where he died at 6:20am.

Dengue cases

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Around 114 dengue patients were hospitalised in 24 hours till yesterday morning in Khulna division, and the number of total cases reached 9,115 in the division this year, according to Khulna health directorate office.