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TURKISH OFFENSIVE IN SYRIA

4 lakh can be displaced: UN

14 more civilians killed; 1 lakh flee homes in conflict zone

AFP, Geneva

Turkey's deadly assault on Kurdish positions in northeastern Syria has forced 130,000 people to flee their homes, the UN said yesterday, adding it was preparing for that figure to more than triple.

"We have moved into a planning scenario where up to 400,000 people could be displaced within and across the affected areas," Jens Laerke, a spokesman for the UN humanitarian agency OCHA told AFP in an email, adding that these people would be "in need of assistance and protection."

The UN had said Friday that some 100,000 people had been forced to flee their homes since the beginning of Turkey's military incursion on Wednesday, after US President Donald Trump ordered American troops to pull back from the border.

But by yesterday it warned of further displacements from rural areas around Tell Abiad and Ras al-Ain with latest estimates "surpassing 130,000 people".

"Exact numbers cannot yet be ascertained," the agency said in an updated assessment document.

Meanwhile, hundreds of relatives of foreign jihadists escaped from a displacement camp in northern Syria, Kurdish authorities said yesterday.

Fighting raged along the border on the fifth day of an offensive that has provoked an international outcry and left dozens of civilians and fighters dead.

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Sky lanterns, known as fanush, take flight, as people gather yesterday at Buddha Mandir in Chattogram's Nandan Kanon area to celebrate Prabarana Purnima, the second biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community in Bangladesh. This full moon night marks the conclusion of a three-month long seclusion of Buddhist monks -- in their monasteries -- for self-education and atonement.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Anwarul made new cabinet secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior Secretary to Bridges Division Khandker Anwarul Islam was made the cabinet secretary yesterday.

Ministry of Public Administration issued a gazette in this regard, mentioning that the order would come into effect immediately.

Khandker Anwarul Islam has replaced Mohammad Shafiqul Alam.

Shafiqul will be serving as alternative executive director of the World Bank from November 1 for next three years, according to a separate gazette published by the public administration ministry.

Current alternative executive director of the World Bank Muhammad Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan's tenure will end in October.

The newly appointed Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam joined civil



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RID'S TOXIC PARACETAMOL

SC upholds restraining order on 2 drug officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order restraining two drug administration officers from working due to their negligence in dealing with a case regarding toxic paracetamol syrups and suspensions.

The officials are Assistant Director Shafiqul Islam and Deputy Director Altaf Hossain of the Directorate General of Drug Administration.

Following a petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), a four-member bench of the SC's Appellate Division passed the restraining order.

Shafiqul and Altaf were held responsible by the Dhaka Drug Court in 2016 for knowingly violating the due legal procedures in a case against Rid Pharma, a company accused of manufacturing the toxic paracetamol.

On July 18 this year, the HC issued the restraining order against Shafiqul and Altaf for their negligence in duty, which was later stayed by the SC following a petition filed by the duo.

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TESTING FISH FEED

Importers cash in on legal loopholes

BISHAKHA DEVNATH

A battle between the Chattogram customs and fish feed importers over the jurisdiction of the port authority to check hazardous substances in imported consignments has laid bare loopholes in the import policy.

A few months back, the Chattogram Customs House (CCH) seized 2,717 tonnes of imported fish and poultry feed containing hazardous ingredients like meat and bone meal (MBM), animal bones and by-products of pigs.

The CCH then conducted tests on some samples of fish feed at the Poultry Research and Training Centre, ICCDDR, B and Customs Lab. The tests revealed the presence of MBM.

The commerce ministry banned the import and sale of MBM on December 26, 2018, following a report of the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority.

The ban came after the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority found by-products of swine and bovine in MBM and alerted the ministry to its hazardous impact -- including cancer -- on human health.

Fishtech BD Ltd, a fish feed importer, took issue with the tests and brought the matter before the High Court.

It said the Import Policy Order 2015-18 does not allow the Customs to test the presence of MBM and other harmful medicine.

The policy says "competent authority of the exporting country" will certify that goods are free from swine, by-product of tannery and chromium. Such certifications were also furnished before the court, copies of which were obtained by this newspaper.

Furthermore, it pointed out that according to the policy, local authorities were only tasked with checking nitrofurans, chloramphenicol and melamine upon arrival of consignments at the port.

After hearing the petition, on August 14, the HC ordered tests to be

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Samrat victim of personal, political vengeance

Says his family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Jubo League leader Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat was implicated in cases due to personal and political vengeance, his family members claimed yesterday.

They, however, did not go into details.

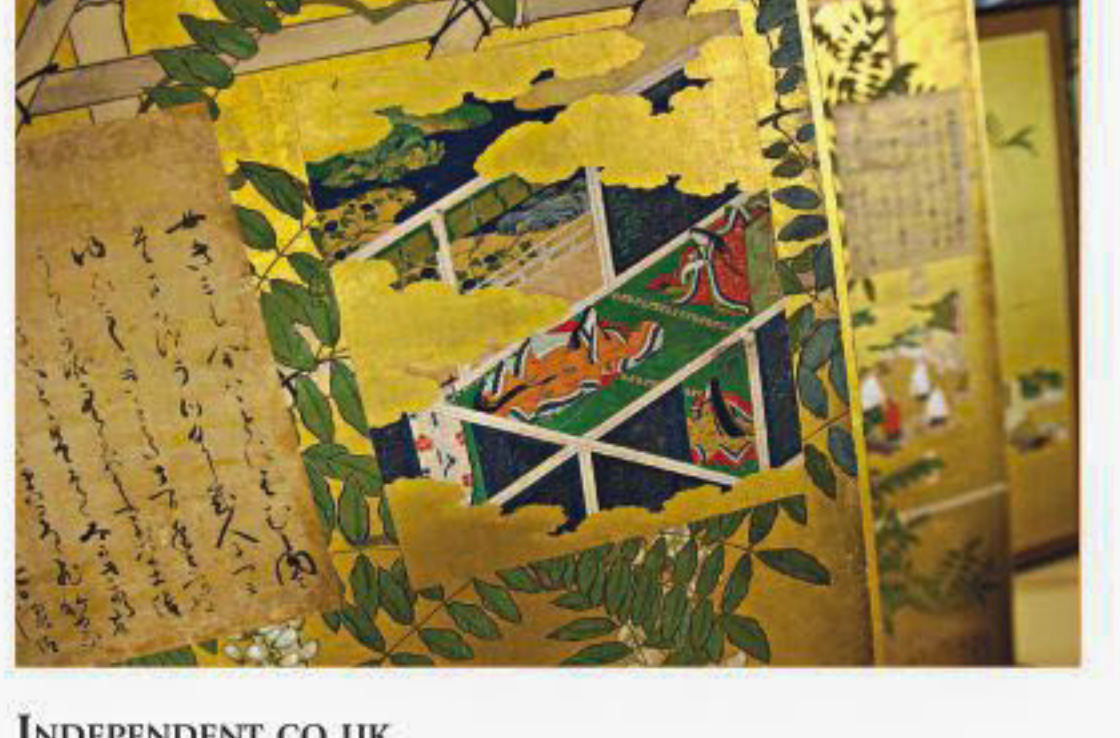
Saying that Samrat was very sick, they also demanded his immediate release for proper treatment.

"My son is innocent. He is very sick. Please show mercy, release him and arrange better treatment for him," his 80-year-old mother Sayera Khatun Chowdhury appealed to the prime minister in a feeble voice at a press conference in Dhaka Reporters Unity.

On October 6, Rab arrested former Dhaka South Jubo League

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Lost chapter of 'world's first novel' found



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A lost, ancestral chapter of what is widely considered to be the world's first novel has been found.

The manuscript was located in the Tokyo home of the descendant of a former feudal lord, according to the Asahi Shimbun, a national newspaper in Japan.

The Tale of Genji, composed by novelist Murasaki Shikibu, was written in the 11th century while the author was a lady-in-waiting at the Japanese court.

It tells the story of a prince named Genji, who meets and eventually marries a woman named

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Jubo League leader among 2 killed in 'shootouts'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jubo League leader and an alleged robber were killed in two separate "gunfights" with Rab in Chattogram and Moulvibazar yesterday.

In Chattogram's Agrabad area, Khorshed Alam, 45, senior vice-president of ward-28 Jubo League, was shot dead during a raid around 9:30pm.

Tipped off about a group of miscreants and extortionists gathering in the area, a Rab team conducted a raid beside World Trade Centre last

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 14
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-15 5-45 7-15
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-50 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Two killed in shipbreaking yard in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two workers lost consciousness and died inside a tugboat while dismantling it at a shipbreaking yard in Sitakunda of Chattogram on Saturday night.

The deceased were identified as Masudul Islam, 22, son of Jahangir Alam from Sitakunda, and Saiful Islam, 23, son of Ali Hossen from Nilphamari.

Quoting co-workers, inspector (investigation) Shamim Sheikh of Sitakunda Police Station said while working inside a water tank of MV Sierra in the evening, Masudul and Jahangir lost consciousness.

Other workers took them to Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where on-duty doctors declared them dead on arrival at 10:00pm, he said, adding that the bodies were sent to CMCH morgue for autopsy.

Mentioning poor safety measures for workers at the yards, General Secretary Md Ali of Bangladesh

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This aerial view shows flooded homes beside a collapsed bank of the Chikuma river in Nagano, Nagano prefecture yesterday, a day after Typhoon Hagibis swept through central and eastern Japan.

PHOTO: AFP

Typhoon leaves 26 dead in Japan

15 missing; thousands of troops, rescue workers deployed to save stranded residents, fight floods

AFP, Tokyo

At least 26 people were killed by powerful Typhoon Hagibis, local media reported yesterday, a day after the ferocious storm slammed into Japan, unleashing unprecedented rain and catastrophic flooding.

More than 100,000 rescuers, including 31,000 troops, were working into the night to reach people trapped after torrential rain caused landslides and filled rivers until they burst their banks.

The destruction forced the Rugby World Cup to cancel a third tournament match, though a key Japan-Scotland fixture was ruled safe to play.

The storm moved off land yesterday morning, and while it largely spared the capital, it left a trail of destruction in surrounding regions.

The government put the death toll at 14, with 11 people missing, but local media said at least 26 people had been killed, and at least 15 were still unaccounted for.

Rivers overspilled their banks at nearly a dozen locations, including in central Japan's Nagano, where a levee breach sent water from the Chikuma river gushing into residential neighbourhoods, flooding homes up to the second floor.

Military and fire department helicopters winched survivors from roofs and balconies in several locations. In Iwaki City, Fukushima, a rescue went tragically awry when a woman died after falling while she was being winched to safety.

Elsewhere, rescue workers carried out an hours-long boat operation to evacuate hundreds of people from a

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