



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXIX No. 322 | AGRAHAYAN 27, 1426 BS | **Your Right to Know** | RABIUS SANI 14, 1441 HIJRI | 20 PAGES PLUS SHOUT PRICE: Tk 12.00

Defiant Suu Kyi in denial

Myanmar genocide claims 'factually misleading' while use of 'disproportionate force' couldn't be ruled out, she says at ICJ, defends military operation against the Rohingyas

AGENCIES

Myanmar civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi defended her government from accusations of genocide against the Rohingya community at the United Nation's top court yesterday, calling the allegations "incomplete and misleading."

Addressing the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at the Peace Palace in the Netherlands, the Nobel Peace Prize winner said "genocidal intent cannot be the

only hypothesis" regarding the Myanmar military's operations in Rakhine State in the summer of 2017.

More than 740,000 Rohingyas fled into neighbouring Bangladesh in 2016 and 2017 during the ensuing violence. Survivors have recounted harrowing atrocities including gang-rape, mass killings, torture and widespread destruction of property at the hands of the Myanmar army.

The violence has been described as MORE ON PAGE 2 SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

It all started ages ago

PORIMOL PALMA

Denial of citizenship to Rohingyas and their systematic deprivation and violation of basic rights by the Myanmar authorities over the decades were not mentioned by any of the lawyers at the ICJ -- making their arguments of genocidal intent weak, analysts said.

"Genocidal intent was not only in 2016 or 2017 in the military crackdown against the Rohingya. Myanmar took up a genocidal policy since 1962. It was a slow genocide that found its momentum in 2017," said former ambassador Munshi SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Plumes of smoke billow from a plastic factory in Hijoltola of Keraniganj near Dhaka city yesterday afternoon. The fire killed a worker and injured 33 others.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi speaks on the second day of hearings in a case filed by Gambia against Myanmar alleging genocide against the minority Rohingya population at the International Court of Justice in The Hague yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

"Genocidal intent cannot be the only hypothesis."
AUNG SAN SUU KYI

"Multiple independent agencies and experts, as well as Rohingya themselves, have documented mass killings, widespread rape, and wholesale destruction of land and property intentionally inflicted on innocent civilians. The government has discriminated against the Rohingyas for decades. This is genocide and it's precisely what the Genocide Convention set out to prevent."
AKILA RADHAKRISHNAN, GLOBAL JUSTICE CENTRE PRESIDENT

Stop taking evening courses

UGC issues directives for public universities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has said all the public universities should stop conducting evening courses as they harm the image and characteristics of the universities.

In a 13-point directive issued yesterday, the statutory apex body for higher education also called on the vice-chancellors to seek SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

KERANIGANJ PLASTIC FACTORY FIRE

At least 1 killed, 33 others hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least one worker was killed and 33 others were severely burnt in a fire at a plastic factory in Hijoltola of Keraniganj on the outskirts of the capital yesterday afternoon.

The man killed in the fire could not be identified as the body was charred beyond recognition. "We admitted 33 injured patients. Ten of them have 100 percent burns. The rest suffered burns in at least 20 percent of their bodies," said Brig Gen AKM Nasir Uddin, director of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

One of the injured workers Zakir Hossain, 22, said the fire broke out at a room where eight cylinders of inflammable gas were kept. He added that there was a leak in the lines.

Around 300 people worked in two shifts at Prime SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



On this day in 1971

DECEMBER 12
General Niazi from his safe Cantonment residence proudly says that the Pakistan army would fight for every single inch as long as a single troop lived.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

BSMMU BOARD Khaleda Zia's report sent to apex court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BSMMU yesterday sent a medical report of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to the Supreme Court.

The move came a day before the scheduled hearing on her bail prayer in the Zia Charitable Trust graft case.

But the BNP alleged that the government was trying SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

INDIA'S CITIZENSHIP BILL

Okayed in Rajya Sabha

Troops deployed as violent protests paralyse Assam, Tripura; curfew imposed in Guwahati

STAR REPORT

Protests paralysed major cities in India's northeast states yesterday as BJP-led ruling Hindu nationalist government won parliamentary approval for a far-reaching citizenship law that critics say undermines the country's secular constitution.

The Citizenship Amendment Bill seeks to grant Indian nationality to Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jains, Parsis and Sikhs, but not Muslims, who fled Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan before 2015.

The legislation was passed 125-105 by the upper house yesterday, after the lower house voted in support of it just after midnight on Tuesday. It will be sent to the

president to be signed into law, with his approval seen as a formality.

"A landmark day for India and our nation's ethos of compassion and brotherhood!," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted after the bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha yesterday.

Opponents of the legislation have threatened to challenge it in the Supreme Court, saying it violates the principles of equality and secularism enshrined in the constitution.

"Today marks a dark day in the constitutional history of India," Congress Chairperson Sonia Gandhi said in a statement.

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Contrasting wins for Cumilla, Chattogram

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League kicked off with two contrasting matches on the opening day in Mirpur yesterday, with Chattogram Challengers edging past Sylhet Thunder in a competitive first game and Cumilla Warriors thrashing Rangpur Rangers in the second match under lights.

In the first match, local batsmen Mohammad Mithun and Imrul Kayes stole the show at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. Mithun hit a career-best unbeaten 84 off 48 balls and, with the help of a 96-run fourth-wicket stand with skipper Mosaddek Hossain, lifted Sylhet to 162 for four. Sylhet

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

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21 November 2019
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