



UKHIYA ROHINGYA CAMP

Massive fire razes homes

'Four refugees including two kids die'



STAR REPORT

Four Rohingyas, including two children and a woman, were reportedly killed and hundreds of others were injured in deadly fires that burned several thousand shanties at Balukhali refugee camp in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, yesterday.

The fire started around 4:00pm and firefighters almost doused it an hour later. But another wave of fire broke out shortly after 11:00pm and was still burning down shanties at the densely populated camp as of 12:30am, locals said.

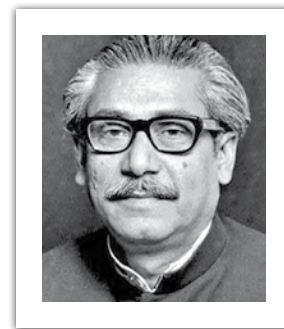
Rohingya community leaders and officials told The Daily Star about the casualties but the authorities have yet to officially confirm the numbers.

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Refugees try to save whatever belongings they can as a fire rages through the Balukhali Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya yesterday afternoon turning the entire sky orange. Many refugees in the tightly packed camp got injured trying to save their belongings and trying to get to safety.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF RO YASSIN ABDUMONAB



Gandhi Peace Prize for Bangabandhu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian government has decided to honour Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with the Mahatma Gandhi Peace Prize-2020 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to social, economic and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods, an official statement said yesterday.

The jury for Gandhi Peace Prize is chaired by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and comprises of two ex-officio

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50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Better use of resources can be a game changer

Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina say during twin celebrations



From left ... Guest of honour of yesterday's twin celebrations Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari, President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Rehana stand while the national anthem is being played at the National Parade Square.

PHOTO: PID

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday shared her vision of fostering friendship in South Asia to optimise utilisation of natural resources, alleviate poverty and work together to tackle the challenges of climate change.

The PM said a large number of people in South Asia is still living below the poverty line and many are still going to bed every night with hunger.

"Many are deprived of the minimum necessities of life," she said.

It is possible to alleviate poverty in South Asia by ensuring optimum utilisation of natural resources, the prime minister said while addressing the twin celebrations of Mujib Borsho and the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence at the National Parade Square on the sixth day of the 10-day state programme yesterday.

Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari spoke at the event as the guest of honour, while President Abdul Hamid as the chief guest. Education Minister Dipu Moni

delivered the welcome speech, while noted litterateur Selina Hossain presented the keynote on "Banglar Mati Amar Mati" at the event moderated by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam.

Bhandari is the third world leader to join the event after the Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. Bhutan Prime Minister Lotay Tshering is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka today and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 26.

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Covid cases, deaths climb

Daily new cases 7-month high, another 30 die

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

As deaths from Covid-19 and the number of new cases continue rising, experts fear the transmission rate may rise further in the coming weeks.

They suggested boosting Covid-19 transmission control activities by increasing daily tests and isolating the positive cases.

Yesterday, the health directorate reported 28 coronavirus-related deaths - the highest number of daily deaths recorded in more than 10 weeks.

On January 7, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported 31 deaths. Since then, both deaths and new cases declined till mid to late February, after which the trend reversed and new infections crossed the 1,000 mark on March 10.

From March 9, the numbers have started spiking and shown a steady

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Vaccine drive loses steam

Many in rural areas know little about the campaign; experts say registration process complex, full of hassles

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

Jahur Ali, a 44-year-old worker at a stone quarry in Tetulia, was utterly clueless about the ongoing Covid-19 vaccination campaign.

"I didn't know that the vaccination campaign is going on. I've come to know about it from you just now," Jahur, who collects stones from the Mahananda River near Bangladesh-India border, told this correspondent in the second week of this month.

He, along with several others, was busy picking up stones from the riverbed and putting those in baskets.

Joining the conversation, one of his co-workers, Md Shahidul, 30, said, "I have heard about it [the vaccination campaign]."

He, however, didn't know that the Covid vaccine was being administered at Tetulia Upazila Health Complex, only half a kilometre away from there.

This correspondent then talked to a group of women at nearby Eidgah Basti Guchchagram. A brief conversation with them made it clear that they had very little knowledge about the countrywide vaccination campaign.

"I have heard about the vaccination campaign. But I do not know where I can get it. None [of the health workers] contacted us," said Jahana Begum, 40, a domestic worker.

Asked whether they would take the vaccine, they answered in the affirmative.

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Atiqullah Khan Masud no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent journalist and Editor and Publisher of the daily Janakantha Mohammad Atiqullah Khan Masud passed away yesterday morning.

He was 71. Atiqullah, also a valiant freedom fighter, left behind his wife, two sons, grandchildren and relatives to mourn his death.

The chairman of Globe Janakantha Shilpa Paribar was declared dead after being rushed to a private hospital in the capital around 5:30am, said Tapan Biswas, special correspondent of the newspaper.

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মুজিব চিরন্তন

জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের
জন্মশতবার্ষিকী ও স্বাধীনতার সুবর্ণজয়ন্তী
উদযাপন উপলক্ষ্যে অনুষ্ঠানমালা
স্থান: জাতীয় প্যারেড স্কয়ার
২৩শে মার্চ ২০২১, মঙ্গলবার

থিম (Theme): নারী মুক্তি, সাম্য ও স্বাধীনতা

সময়	কর্মসূচি
বিকাল ৫.১৫	জাতীয় সংগীত পরিবেশনা মুজিব চিরন্তন থিমের ওপর টাইটেল এ্যানিমেশন ভিডিও আবহ সংগীত (থিম সং ভিডিও প্রদর্শন) স্বাগত সম্বাষণ ও সম্বালনা: ব্যারিস্টার মহিবুল হাসান চৌধুরী এম.পি, মাননীয় উপমন্ত্রী, শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয় থিমভিত্তিক ভিডিও প্রদর্শনী থিমভিত্তিক আলোচনা: ড. শিরীন শারমিন চৌধুরী, এম.পি, মাননীয় পিপিকার, বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সম্মানিত অতিথির বক্তব্য: মি. অরুণ আজুলে, মহাপরিচালক, ইউনেসকো
সন্ধ্যা ৬.০০	আলোচনা পর্ব সমাপ্তি

সময়	কর্মসূচি
সন্ধ্যা ৬.৩০	বঙ্গবন্ধুকে উৎসর্গ করে বন্ধু রাষ্ট্রের সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠানের ধারণকৃত ভিডিও পরিবেশনা (স্বইজারল্যান্ড) মুজিব চিরন্তন থিমের ওপর টাইটেল এ্যানিমেশন ভিডিও থিমভিত্তিক সিজি এ্যানিমেশন ভিডিও সম্বালনা- ১ থিয়েট্রিক্যাল কোরিওগ্রাফি মা, নারী ও স্বদেশ/ জননী ও জন্মভূমি (নারী ও বাংলাদেশ নিয়ে কালজয়ী কিছু গান) সম্বালনা- ২ থিয়েট্রিক্যাল কোরিওগ্রাফি অনন্যা অপরাঞ্জিতা (থিম্যাটিক কোরিওগ্রাফি) সম্বালনা- ৩ থিয়েট্রিক্যাল কোরিওগ্রাফি গাহি সাম্যের গান সম্বালনা- ৪ থিয়েট্রিক্যাল কোরিওগ্রাফি আনন্দধারা ক্ষুদ্র নৃগোষ্ঠীদের গান ও কোরিওগ্রাফি পরিবেশনা সম্বালনা- ৫ থিয়েট্রিক্যাল কোরিওগ্রাফি বঙ্গবন্ধুর গান সমাপ্তি

জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের জন্মশতবার্ষিকী উদযাপন জাতীয় বাস্তবায়ন কমিটি

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Water tariff in Dhaka set to rise again

HELEMUL ALAM

Dhaka Wasa has again proposed hiking water prices by five percent for residential and commercial uses from July 1.

According to the proposal, to be placed before a meeting of Dhaka Wasa Board today, the prices of each unit (1,000 litres) of water will be Tk 15.18 for residential use and Tk 42 for commercial use, up from the current prices of Tk 14.46 and Tk 40 respectively.

The company also wants to raise sewerage charges at the same rate, Wasa sources said.

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