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ROHINGYA REPATRIATION

It looks uncertain

Hasina tells UNGA president

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed concern about the repatriation of Rohingyas following the recent development in Myanmar as it has made the process uncertain.

"The situation has become uncertain due to the recent developments in Myanmar," Hasina said when visiting United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) President Volkan Bozkir met her at the Gono Bhaban.



PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting.

Mentioning that over one million Rohingyas have taken shelter in Bangladesh, the PM said, "We were in dialogue with the Myanmar government with little progress."

She said Bangladesh is monitoring the present situation in Myanmar as the repatriation process has become uncertain.

Hasina said Bangladesh has prepared an island, Bhasan Char, for temporary but comfortable shelter of the Myanmar nationals, mentioning that over one lakh Rohingyas can be moved there. "More than 18,000 have already been moved."

Ihsanul said both Hasina and Bozkir discussed various issues like the upcoming UNGA session, climate change, Rohingya issue and Covid-19 pandemic.

About the pandemic in Bangladesh, the PM said the government is trying to save both the lives of people and the economy.

Hasina mentioned about the stimulus packages and other incentives announced for all sections of people to keep the economy moving properly.

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PHOTO: PRABER DAS

Saudi expatriate Mohammad Rana waits outside the office of Saudia Airlines in the capital's Karwan Bazar yesterday to confirm his trip. Like him, many other expatriates bound for the Gulf country were not sure whether they would be able to fly as they were asked to book a hotel room there for quarantine. Rana had booked his return to Saudi Arabia on a midnight flight tonight.

SAUDI-BOUND EXPATS

Govt to give them cash support

RASHIDUL HASAN

With the Saudi-bound Bangladeshi workers enduring immense sufferings following a travel advisory by the kingdom, officials at the expatriates' welfare ministry yesterday said the ministry decided in principle to provide cash support to the migrant workers under financial strain.

Seeking anonymity, a top official of the ministry told this newspaper that an inter-ministerial meeting will be held on May 30 to discuss the issues relating to the Saudi-bound workers and decide on how to provide them with financial help.

Ministry sources said the agenda will include exorbitant airfares to the Middle East countries, vaccination of workers

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

PHONE CALL LEAK

Home ministry suspends two police officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry yesterday suspended two police officials -- one of the rank of superintendent of police and the other of the rank of assistant SP -- following the leak of their alleged phone conversation regarding police and Rab.

It issued separate circulars suspending SM Fazlul Haque, currently posted in Rab-5, and Nazmul Hasan, assistant commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police. Fazlul was recently promoted to the rank of SP.

The circulars did not elaborate on the reasons for their suspension but mentioned that the steps were taken in public interest. The orders took effect immediately.

The inspector general of police was asked to send complaints to the ministry for filing departmental

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 26

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-40 8-00
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-45 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

The Indians need a mass famine: Nixon

MAY 26, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

NIXON-KISSINGER CONVERSATION
On May 26, 1971 American President Richard Nixon had a telephone conversation with his Assistant for National Security Affairs Henry Kissinger on the situation in East Pakistan.

Referring to Indira Gandhi's letter to Nixon, Kissinger suggested that the US president should answer the letter and use it to put pressure on Indira not to take military action.

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Hossain Ali, chief of the Bangladesh mission in Kolkata, paying a floral tribute to rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam on the occasion of the latter's birthday on May 26, 1971.

SHAHINUDDIN MURDER

Police claim ex-MP is the mastermind

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ex-MP MA Awal masterminded the murder of Pallabi trader Shahinuddin. He instructed people to carry out the killing, according to AKM Hafiz Akhter, additional commissioner of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Addressing a press conference, he also said Awal had gotten into a dispute with Sahinuddin

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Indian couple has mid-air wedding

AFP, New Delhi



An Indian couple chartered a passenger jet to stage a mid-air wedding that hijacked coronavirus restrictions by taking more than 160 guests.

India's civil aviation authority has ordered an investigation and suspended the crew of the jet, officials said.

Because of a brutal new coronavirus wave -- that saw India's death toll pass 300,000 on Monday -- most states only allow 50 guests at weddings, but 161 friends and family of the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



Employees of Public Works Department pick up litter in Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital yesterday. Even though hawkers are not allowed in the park and littering is forbidden, they have to clean up the place almost every day.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

India's Covid infections ebb

Lowest daily spike recorded in six weeks; states struggle for vaccines

AGENCIES

India's official tally of daily infections of coronavirus fell to the lowest in nearly six weeks in the past 24 hours, offering hope that a devastating second wave is ebbing, but government leaders said shortages of vaccines were a big concern.

Barely 3% of the country's 1.3 billion people have been vaccinated, the lowest rate among the 10 countries with the most Covid-19 cases, leaving India and its ill-equipped healthcare system vulnerable to a potential third wave, experts said.

The Serum Institute of India, which is

supplying the AstraZeneca vaccine, and local firm Bharat Biotech which is providing Covaxin, have both said they are ramping up production but the supply remains way short of the millions of doses India needs.

Yesterday, the country posted 196,427 new coronavirus cases over the last 24 hours, its lowest daily rise in infections since April 14, and less than half the 414,188 peak reported on May 7.

However, India's eight north eastern states, half of which share borders with Bangladesh, are reporting a steep rise in cases in the last two weeks, sparking fears

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Niloufer Manzur

FOUNDER & PRINCIPAL - SUNBEAMS SCHOOL
1945-2020

An epitome of courage, a pioneering educationist, Mrs. Niloufer Manzur has left behind a legacy of grace and excellence. She touched the lives of everyone she met and illuminated thousands of minds through her love of knowledge.

On the occasion of her death anniversary, we pay our humblest tribute to the extraordinary woman and teacher for her indelible contributions to our nation. She will remain eternally in our hearts through her lessons and wisdom.

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