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Outgoing Dutch ambassador to tell companies at his home

When Harry Verweij arrived as Dutch ambassador three years ago, he had little idea about Bangladesh's dynamism and thriving businesses. During his tenure, he discovered the immense potential the country holds. He shared thoughts on the future and challenges while talking to *The Daily Star* before he leaves Dhaka tomorrow.

PORIMOL PALMA

DS: Tell us about the evolution of the relationship between the two countries.

Harry: We've stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Bangladesh since its independence; we share a 50-year long diplomatic relationship. Our development-oriented partnership is fast evolving into one based on mutual trade and investment. Bangladesh currently exports mostly RMG products to the Netherlands, which was worth \$1.2 billion in 2020. Bangladesh imported a mere \$200 million that same year. There is significant potential for growth and diversification, which demands upgrading and equalising our trade relationship. What helps is what I'd call the "straight-forwardness" and open exchange among friends.

DS: Which areas can help boosting our economic partnership?

Harry: Bangladesh's focus on RMG exports needs to



SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



With the rise of water, the Jamuna has begun eating up shores in Tangail Sadar upazila. Over 50 houses and crop lands, including a hand-loom factory and mill, have already been eroded since the catastrophe began on Monday. The picture was taken at Char Pauli village of the upazila.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam quits 20-party pact

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam, a component of the BNP-led 20-party alliance, has quit the opposition platform citing various reasons, including "not evaluating alliance members properly".

On January 7, 2016, another component of the combine, Islami Oikya Jote, had parted with the platform.

Issuing a statement yesterday after an emergency meeting at the party's Purana Paltan office in the capital, Jamiat said it had formed an electoral alliance with different political parties, including BNP, under special circumstances.

"In its continuity, Jamiat took part in several national elections unitedly under the alliance. But it is very sad to say that the coalition partners have not been evaluated properly."

The party said BNP recently announced unilaterally without taking the opinion of the 20-party alliance components that it

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

SALARY CUT IN BIMAN

Pilots say they won't do any extra work

RASHIDUL HASAN

Pilots of Biman Bangladesh Airlines have threatened that they would refrain from operating extra flights if the authorities do not withdraw the decision of cutting their salaries by July 30.

"Biman pilots will only 'fly by the book' if their demand is not met by July 30, meaning that they will not do any additional duty to operate flights," Capt Mahbubur Rahman, president of Bapa, told *The Daily Star*.

"... We are scheduled to fly 75 hours in a month. But many pilots are flying beyond their flying hours to keep Biman afloat," he added.

If the pilots do not operate aircraft, flights of the airline's most popular destinations, including Abu Dhabi, Doha, Dammam, and Dubai, might have to be cancelled, said sources in Biman.

"We will be forced to stop operation of aircraft if our demand is not realised finally," Capt Mahbubur warned.

"The Executive Committee of Bangladesh Airlines Pilots' Association (Bapa), today [yesterday] decided that if the Biman authorities do not solve the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Military victory the only solution: Tajuddin

JULY 15, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

ALL-OUT WAR TILL VICTORY

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh Tajuddin Ahmed declared today that "military victory is the only solution to the situation in Bangladesh", reported *The People*, a pro-AL English-language weekly.

It also reported that Awami League members of the National and Provincial Assemblies at a meeting had taken an "oath of all-out war till victory".

The report said 110 members of the National Assembly and 200 members of the Provincial Assembly had attended the meeting, which was held somewhere in Bangladesh.

The oath read: "The enemy shall be engaged not only on land, but also in the air and on the sea if need be, and shall be defeated once and for all to safeguard the independence of the people of Bangladesh."

The meeting decided to rename the Mukti Fauj (liberation army) as "Mukti Bahini" (liberation forces) signifying the "advent of the air force and the navy".

The Mukti Fauj now has over 1,20,000 men, comprising about 40,000 troops of the East Bengal Regiment, East Pakistan Rifles and about 80,000 volunteers. The Fauj was led by a large number of Bangalee officers of the Pakistan army who had defected and joined the freedom fighters.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



REFUGEE CAMP

Rohingya man beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A Rohingya man was beaten to death at Noyapara refugee camp in Teknaf upazila early yesterday over longstanding enmity with his rivals.

The dead, Mohammad Shaker, 45, was a resident of the refugee camp.

Sources at the camp said Shaker, who was educated in a madrasa, used to work as a police source at the camp. He had a dispute with robber Jakir, who was killed in a "gunfight" with law enforcers a few months ago. He lived outside the camp for about one and a half years due to threat on his life.

Shaker returned to the camp after Jakir's death and started a small grocery store. Early yesterday, associates of Jakir swooped on Shaker at the store and beat him to death, the sources told *The Daily Star*.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

S'pore unveils floating solar farms



AFP, Singapore

Singapore yesterday unveiled one of the world's biggest floating solar power farms, covering an area the size of 45 football pitches, as part of the city-state's push to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

The project is the country's most ambitious yet, comprising 122,000 panels on Tengoh Reservoir that will produce enough electricity to run its five water treatment plants.

Singapore is among the biggest per capita carbon dioxide emitters in Asia and its land scarcity makes boosting renewable energy sources a challenge.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Teen raped at Gaibandha bus stop

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

A woman was raped in Balua Bazar bus stand area of Gaibandha Sadar upazila on Monday evening, said police, quoting the victim.

The 18-year-old filed a rape case with Gaibandha Sadar Police Station against two people on Tuesday night.

The accused are Lal Mia, 45, a butcher of Parbotipur village, and Bokul Prodhan, 48, who sells tickets at the bus stand, of Bhogabanpur village in Sadar upazila, said police.

Bokul is accused of abetting the rape, added police.

Citing the case statement, Inspector Rojib Ali, investigation officer of the case, told *The Daily Star* that the victim went to Balua bus stand on Monday evening to buy a bus ticket to Dhaka after an altercation with her mother. She did not know that the Dhaka-bound bus

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

BSF shoots a Bangladeshi youth dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A Bangladeshi youth was shot dead by the members of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at Mahishstuli Baroghari border in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila early yesterday.

The dead is Subal Chandra Roy alias Saddam, 30, of the upazila's Bhelabari union. BSF men took his body in their territory.

The victim's father Satish Chandra said that his son went to the border to fetch cows. Another youth Bharat Chandra Roy, 32, who accompanied him, went missing.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING JULY 15

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-15 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-15
JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-58 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



The authorities of Kamalapur railway station disinfecting the platforms to make it safer for people to travel. However, there has been a lack of passengers, as online ticket services have been facing server issues. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

RIOTS OVER JAILING OF ZUMA

Death toll in S Africa now 72

Citizens arm themselves as crowds rampage; over 1,200 arrested

REUTERS, Johannesburg

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said yesterday he might order more troops onto the streets as the army and police struggled to quell days of looting and violence that has claimed 72 lives.

Some citizens armed themselves to protect their property and businesses from the rampage, the worst in South Africa for years. Food and fuel supplies are running short.

Triggered by the jailing of ex-president Jacob Zuma last week after he failed to appear at a corruption inquiry, it has widened into an orgy of looting and an outpouring of anger over the hardship and inequality that persist in South Africa 27 years after the end of apartheid.

Shopping malls and warehouses have been ransacked or set ablaze in several cities, mostly in Zuma's home in KwaZulu-Natal province, especially the Indian Ocean port city of Durban, and the financial and economic centre Johannesburg and surrounding Gauteng province.

Soldiers have been deployed to help outnumbered police contain the unrest. Security forces say they have arrested more than 1,200 rioters, but the government has held back from imposing a state of emergency.

Ramaphosa met with leaders of political parties yesterday to discuss ways to address the unrest.

"President Ramaphosa welcomed proposals made by political leaders and said expanded deployment of the South African National Defence Force was being addressed," a government statement said.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2