



THE DAILY

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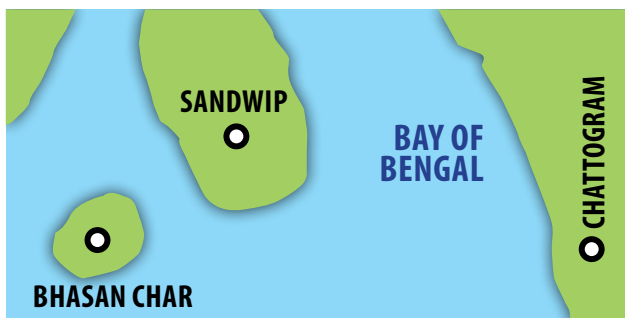
**“Through opposing the construction of sculpture of Bangabandhu, they are also opposing the country’s constitution and acting against the spirit of the Liberation War.”**  
WORKERS PARTY PRESIDENT RASHED KHAN MENON

**“The state of the planet is broken. Humanity is waging war on nature. This is suicidal... There is no vaccine for the planet.”**  
UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTONIO GUTERRES SLAMS FAILURE TO COMBAT GLOBAL WARMING

**“I want to play with him for sure, next year we have to do it.”**  
BRAZILIAN FOOTBALLER NEYMAR REVEALS HIS DESIRE TO REUNITE WITH LIONEL MESSI NEXT SEASON

# ROHINGYA RELOCATION

## First batch off to Bhasan Char



PORIMOL PALMA and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

The government yesterday began transferring Rohingyas to Bhasan Char from the congested camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf where about a million of them have been living.

The process has begun as the UN and rights groups allege that they have limited information about what has been going on and that the government has yet to allow a technical team to assess the feasibility of the housing project in Bhasan Char, an island around 37 miles off the coast of Bay of Bengal under Hatiya upazila of Noakhali.

Officials and Rohingya leaders said around 600 families from the camps in Kutupalong and Teknaf were taken by buses to Ukhiya Degree College, some 2 km away from the Kutupalong camp, on Wednesday night, under tight security by the Armed Police Battalion.

“We were provided breakfast and then lunch at the transit camp [Ukhiya Degree College]. Then, about 40 Rohingyas got into each of the buses for Bhasan Char,” Mizanur Rahman, a Rohingya community leader, told The Star.

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A Rohingya refugee looks ahead from a bus that is taking them to Bhasan Char from a refugee camp in Cox’s Bazar yesterday. Around 2,500 Rohingyas would be taken to the island in the Bay of Bengal from camps in Cox’s Bazar.

PHOTO: AFP

## Rights groups call for halting resettlement

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Human rights groups have called for halting the relocation of Rohingyas to Bhasan Char and ensuring full and meaningful participation of the refugees in the process.

The call came as the government yesterday began relocating around 2,500 Rohingyas to the island, where Bangladesh Navy has prepared accommodation for one lakh Rohingyas under a housing project.

Government officials said nearly 1,000 Rohingyas left the camps in Cox’s Bazar for the island in Noakhali’s Hatiya in 20 buses.

The Tk 3,100-crore housing project was taken up in 2017, after about 750,000 Rohingyas fled a military campaign in Myanmar’s Rakhine state and took shelter in heavily-congested camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf.

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## Incidents of 71 cannot be forgotten, forgiven

Hasina tells Pakistan high commissioner

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh cannot forget and forgive atrocities committed by Pakistan in 1971, according to a press release of the Press Wing of the Prime Minister’s Office. “Incidents of 1971 cannot be forgotten or forgiven,” she said while Pakistan High Commissioner in Dhaka Imran Ahmed Siddiqui



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## More stimulus to offset Covid shock

ADB working on to lend \$1b for Bangladesh’s economic recovery; slow disbursement of funds from govt-announced stimulus packages

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government and development partners plan to inject more money into the economy for its recovery amid the pandemic while the progress in implementing the stimulus packages for employment creation and revitalisation of the rural economy remains slow.

The Asian Development Bank is likely to give Bangladesh \$1 billion for economic recovery and tackling the Covid fallout. Another Tk 3,000 crore may be allocated for the expanding scheme for credit guarantee on small loans. The fund will be provided by the government and the World Bank.

Fresh funds are in the pipeline for Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) and Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Foundation

for providing loans to small and cottage industries, top government officials and development partners said at a discussion in the capital yesterday.

The Finance Division organised the discussion titled “Employment Creation and Revitalising Rural Economy” to evaluate the progress of the schemes taken up since the pandemic hit the country.

The governments has so far rolled out 21 stimulus packages since March to absorb the economic shocks of the pandemic.

Of the packages, six involving Tk 34,458 crore were aimed at employment creation and revitalisation of the rural economy. But till November, Tk 13,053 crore or 37.88 percent of the amount was disbursed, according to finance ministry officials.

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### KEY POINTS

Additional Tk 3,000 crore for credit guarantee for small loan

New fund in pipeline for BSCIC

Less than half the amount of previous stimulus packages disbursed so far

Some banks’ non-cooperation’ blamed for slow progress of stimulus packages

## RAPE AT MC COLLEGE HOSTEL

### Charges pressed against eight

All of them former BCL men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police yesterday pressed charges against eight persons in the case filed over the gang-rape of a woman at Murari Chand (MC) College hostel in Sylhet on September 25.

The case’s investigation officer Sub-inspector Indranil Bhattacharya submitted the charge sheet to Sylhet Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Abul Kashem’s court.

In the charge sheet, six are charged with raping the woman while two are accused of assisting them.

The rape accused are Saifur Rahman, 28, Shah Mahbubur Rahman Rony, 25, Tarekul Islam, 28, Arjun Laskar, 26, Mohammad Ainuddin alias Ainul, 26, and Misbaul Islam Rajon, 27.

Other accused are Rabiul Hasan alias Islam, 25 and Mahfuzur Rahman Masum, 25. All eight are arrested and in jail.

Police arranged a press conference at the office of deputy commissioner (south) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP) in the afternoon where they updated about the progress of the case.

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### THE THIRD VIEW



MAHFUZZ ANAM

‘HOW DEMOCRACIES DIE’ There is much to learn from this book

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## CHT BORDER ROAD

### 1,036km to pave way for surveillance

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

A border road along the three hilly districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban is being built to enable surveillance and prevent cross-border criminal activities.

The government is constructing the 1,036km road, which will take approximately 10 years.

The construction of the road to make patrolling the remote areas easier started on January 1, 2018.

“The first phase of the border road has already started and once it is completed, it will open new opportunities,” AKM Mamunur Rashid, deputy commissioner of Rangamati, told The Daily Star.

It will increase vigilance in border areas which are currently hard to reach and also provide access to people living in remote areas, he added.

According to the authorities concerned, the initiative comes as a response to insurgent activities and smuggling along a 20-kilometre stretch of unguarded hilly border with Myanmar in the southeast, which has become a safe haven for insurgents and weapons smugglers.

The adjacent region to this vulnerable stretch of border falls mostly in the Chittagong Hill Tracts district of Bandarban, where thick vegetation and dense forests make it virtually impossible for law enforcers and border guards to navigate and is therefore completely unguarded. The border will run along the three hill districts of Bandarban, Khagrachhari and Rangamati to strengthen border surveillance and check the activities of insurgent groups.

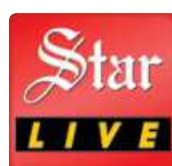
Local law enforcers said these groups smuggle in arms from insurgents active in India’s eastern states, also known as the Seven Sisters, and Myanmar through the

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## SAFETY HARD TO AFFORD

A small room made with corrugated iron sheets, for pigeon rearing, rests on a tree near the first floor of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute’s gymnasium building in Tejgaon. For years, families of nearly two dozen low-paid employees of the institute have been living in the dilapidated building as they can’t afford to live anywhere else. Some of them rear and sell pigeons to make some extra money. Top right, a family inside a common kitchen in the three-story building with no gas connection. Bottom right, inside the pigeon coop.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



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