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# ‘Horrible nightmare’

## US mourns as teenage gunman kills 19 children, two teachers at Texas school; Biden calls for tougher gun control

AFP, Uvalde

A tight-knit Latino community in Texas was wracked with grief yesterday after a teen in body armour marched into an elementary school and killed 19 small children and two teachers, in the latest spasm of deadly gun violence in America.

Details of the atrocity, the victims and the 18-year-old suspect – who was killed by police – emerged as America grappled with its deadliest school shooting since the Sandy Hook tragedy in Connecticut a decade ago.

“This town is heartbroken, devastated,” said Adolfo Hernandez, whose nephew was at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, a small community about an hour from the Mexican border, during the Tuesday shooting.

“We feel like there’s a black cloud above this town,” he told AFP. “You just want to pinch yourself and wake up from that horrible nightmare.”

President Joe Biden addressed the grief-stricken nation in the hours after the attack, with a call on lawmakers to take on America’s powerful gun lobby and enact tougher laws to curb gun violence.

“When in God’s name will we do what we all know in our gut needs to be done?” Biden asked, his voice slow and heavy with emotion.

In Uvalde, police had blocked off the area around the

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Relatives of a victim break down in tears after an 18-year-old gunman shot dead 19 children and two adults at the Robb Elementary School, in Uvalde, Texas, US, on Tuesday.

# Don’t put any extra burden on Bangladesh

## UN envoy urges India, other neighbouring countries about Rohingya refugees

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi has appealed to the neighbouring countries, including India, to take care of the Rohingyas they are hosting and not to put an additional burden on Bangladesh.

He also made an appeal to the Asean countries plus China, Japan and South Korea to use their influence so that the Rohingyas do not flee to Bangladesh, and Myanmar is encouraged to take back their nationals who fled violence and took shelter in other countries.

At a press conference at a hotel in Dhaka yesterday after wrapping up his five-day visit to Bangladesh, Grandi came up with the call in response to a query from a journalist on illegal entry of a few hundred Rohingyas from India to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh, now sheltering more than a million Rohingyas, has already sent a note verbale to India in this regard.

Grandi said the number of Rohingyas living in other countries are nothing compared to those living in Bangladesh.

“So, Bangladesh needs to be relieved of the burden.”

The UN top official visited Rohingya camps in Cox’s Bazar and Bhasan Char, and held meetings with the

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# One in 4 healthcare professionals had it

## Findings govt study on 1,394 of them

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

One in four healthcare professionals engaged in treating Covid patients in Bangladesh had suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a government study has found.

PTSD can develop from traumatic events, and symptoms may include flashbacks, nightmares, severe anxiety, and uncontrollable thoughts about the event.

Among the healthcare professionals, doctors came off worst, followed by nurses and technologies, the study scheduled for release today found.

Under the study styled “Psychological impacts, well-being, associated factors and coping strategies of health professionals during Covid-19 pandemic in Bangladesh”, 1,394 healthcare professionals were interviewed in person between January and June last year.

Of them, 596 were doctors, 713 nurses and 85 were medical technologists.

The interviewed healthcare professionals had worked for at least a month with Covid patients.

Females appeared to be more

protective equipment (PPE) and ran the risk of contracting Covid.

“Most of the participants were stressed, tired and many had difficulty sleeping. Some were worried about their families and relatives, which aggravated their tension and anxiety,” it said.

One participant said, “As it is an infectious disease, we had the same fear as the patients. Many things were unknown to us. The hospitals were not ready to treat this type of new disease. Threats of duty-induced infection along with a negative attitude of the society, including patients, the media and mass people aggravated our mental stress.”

Many participants adopted strategies, including regular prayers, watching TV, reading, surfing the internet, and spending time on social media, to mitigate the effects of the disorder. Some even resorted to

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# A welcome instance

## JS secretariat to return Tk 80cr to govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Parliament Secretariat is returning Tk 80 crore to the government, thanks to fewer parliament sessions, foreign tours, and training programmes amid the coronavirus pandemic, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said yesterday.

The Parliament Secretariat Commission yesterday approved a Tk 341.89 crore budget for parliament to spend on its development and non-development expenditures in the 2022-23 fiscal year, up from the current fiscal year’s Tk 316.01 crore.

Of the next year’s allocation, only Tk 80 lakh is marked for development.


The speaker, who chaired the meeting where the decision was made, later told reporters that Tk 189 crore was spent from this year’s allocation as of May.

The estimated budget of Tk 365.82 crore for 2023-24 and Tk 391.43 crore for 2024-25 fiscal years were also approved at the meeting.

Various allowances for the secretariat employees and officials have been increased for the coming fiscal. The allowance

It increased various allowances for its employees and officials. The allowance for excess work during sessions has been increased from Tk 500 to Tk 600. Besides, lunch allowance

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