

RIGHTS IN BANGLADESH

Take prompt action for civil liberty, safety

Congressman tells US House of Representatives

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Congressman Jamie Raskin has voiced support for human rights defenders, members of minority groups, and civil society in Bangladesh, saying that the Bangladesh government is persisting in threatening the basic human rights and civil liberties of its people. Addressing the House of Representatives on June 7, he said the Bangladesh government has earned widespread criticism for its deteriorating human rights record, and for its failure to protect the most vulnerable people living in Bangladesh – indigenous people, women, religious minorities, activists, and refugees.

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Amidst the bustle of vehicles on the busy Kurmitola Road, construction work of Dhaka Elevated Expressway and the metro rail can be seen at the same time, as progress steadily continues. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Will the budget close gender gap?

JAMIL MAHMUD

In his latest budget speech, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal emphasised on giving importance to young women's skill development in professional and technical fields to reduce the country's gender gap. He stressed that Bangladesh is in a better position internationally – in terms of political, economic and social empowerment of women and elimination of gender inequality – due to implementing various measures in line with the eight Five-Year Plan. The minister mentioned Bangladesh's position in the World Economic Forum's "Global Gender Gap Report 2021", in which the country ranks 65th among 156 countries and first among South Asian nations. He said the government is working to make the position of women "satisfactory" in terms of participation in economic activities and entitlement to benefits. While the finance minister's promise to give importance to women's skill development in professional and technical fields is a necessary step, there are a few more areas that Bangladesh needs to look at to ensure gender parity, especially in regards to closing the gap in economic participation and opportunity. Bangladesh achieved a better position in the Global Gender Gap Report largely due to its fair scores in political empowerment (0.546 percentage points), educational attainment (0.951), and health and survival (0.962). When it comes to economic participation and opportunity, the country's score is a mere 0.418 percentage points. Among South Asian countries, Nepal (0.630), Bhutan (0.556), Sri Lanka (0.547) and the Maldives (0.491) have better scores than Bangladesh in "economic participation and opportunity" of women. Also, in terms of female's labour force participation rate, Nepal (85.3 percent), Bhutan (62.3 percent), and Maldives (43.1 percent) are ahead of Bangladesh (38.5 percent). In Laos, which ranks first in "economic participation and opportunity" with a score of 0.915 (36th in overall gender gap index with 0.750 score), female's labour force

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 11

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4-05	12-45	5-00	6-50	8-15
Jamaat	4-40	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Woman files case over harassment at DU campus

DU CORRESPONDENT

A case was filed yesterday against an unidentified man with Shahbagh Police Station over sexual harassment of a young woman on Dhaka University campus. The incident occurred in front of DU's Sir AF Rahman Hall on Wednesday night, said Moudut Hawlader, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station. OC Moudut told this correspondent that police have already collected CCTV footage from the spot and are currently investigating the incident. The victim filed the case herself with Shahbagh Police Station and confirmed that she

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Gates electronic, process still manual

Additional features yet to be installed

RASHIDUL HASAN and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Although authorities have installed electronic immigration gates or e-gates at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA), the system still does not have all the planned functions. This system will include features (which are yet to be installed) like verification of passenger, destination and visa information for a hassle-free immigration process. Once the features are installed, inbound and outbound passengers will only need to face immigration officials just for the departure and arrival seal. Other immigration processes will be completed automatically. Amid criticisms that e-gates take up more time than the existing system, Group Captain Kamrul Islam, executive director of HSIA, yesterday told The Daily Star, "We're working to include an

integrated system with e-gates, which will notify immigration officials automatically whether the passengers are carrying a valid visa or boarding pass." BMET cards would be checked manually, since it is not possible to integrate them into the system. Kamrul further said it may take time but passengers have given positive feedback regarding the process. Besides, work to install two more e-gates with the existing three for inbound passengers has already started. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan inaugurated the e-gates in June last year. They were opened for use last Tuesday. At the time, Kamrul claimed that passengers with e-passports will be able to pass immigration through e-gates in only 18 seconds. In reality, e-gates are only checking passport validity now; other processes are being carried out manually. What this

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This may look like a garbage dump, but this pile of waste that stands tall near Siddhirganj Bus Stand on Dhaka-Chittagong highway is the result of locals mindlessly dumping their garbage on the road. Despite the stench and a host of other inconveniences it causes in the area, authorities are yet to take action. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

1971 GENOCIDE

Demand for int'l recognition to be placed before UN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demand for international recognition of the genocide carried out by Pakistani army during the Liberation War is set to be placed before United Nations Human Rights Council. The 50th session of the council, an inter-governmental body within the UN, will take place between June 13 and July 8 in Geneva. An organisation of the Bangladeshi diaspora, Stichting BASUG (Bangladesh Support Group), submitted a written statement with the demand, said Mahboob Zaman, an organiser of BASUG's Bangladesh chapter. He said that the statement was put on agenda item 3. In the statement, BASUG reiterated the demand for international recognition of the 1971 genocide, committed against the Bengalee nation during the war. "We demand a UN resolution... without further delay. There is an urgent need for an UN-sponsored resolution condemning atrocities that took place in 1971. The perpetrators must be brought to justice, because new generations must know what took place in Bangladesh. We cannot forget and must learn from this evil," it said. Unfortunately, the genocide is becoming a forgotten chapter in contemporary history. Due to lack of international recognition, the

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NEW MARKET CLASHES

No headway in Nahid, Morsalin murder cases

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Over a month and a half have passed, but law enforcers are yet to locate the prime suspect in the murder case of deliveryman Nahid Mia. He was killed during the recent violent clashes between Dhaka College students and New Market's shopkeepers. No headway has been made in the investigation centring the murder of shopkeeper Morsalin either, another victim of the clash. The prime suspect in the Nahid murder case, Emon Bashar, an activist of Chhatra League, remains on the run, as police's detective branch (DB) is yet to find him. Emon, also a Bangla department student of Dhaka College, reportedly hacked Nahid during the clash on April 19. Nahid later died in a hospital. "We have no update about him [Emon]. We couldn't yet ascertain whether he's in the country or not," HM Azimul Haque, deputy commissioner of DB's Ramna division, told The Daily Star on Thursday. The DB official said it will take time to submit the charge sheet, as the prime suspect is still on the run. The brawl that started on April 18 night had spilled into the next day, leaving two dead and others – including, journalists, students and police officers – wounded. Nahid Mia (18), deliveryman of a computer accessories shop, and Morsalin (26), a shopkeeper at a clothing store, were killed during the clashes. DB has been investigating the two murder cases. A total of five cases were filed in connection with the clashes. In one of them, police accused 24 individuals, mostly BNP leaders and members of its affiliated bodies. Besides, over 1,700 unnamed people were accused in five cases. Officials said it is important for investigators to arrest Emon first to file a charge-sheet. DB seized two of Emon's mobile phones from his college hostel after the incident. Six Chhatra League activists of Dhaka College were arrested in the Nahid murder case. Footage and photos showed that Nahid was

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