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DEATH OF 3 PEACEKEEPERS

Identify the perpetrators

Guterres asks Central African authorities

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called on the Central African authorities to spare no effort in identifying the perpetrators who attacked the Bangladeshi peacekeepers and bring them to justice swiftly.

The attacks targeting UN peacekeepers may constitute war crimes under international law, said a spokesperson for the secretary-general in a briefing in New York yesterday.

The UN chief said this after three peacekeepers from Bangladesh were killed following the explosion of an IED in the Central African Republic on October 3.

The deceased are Jahangir Alam, Jashim Uddin and Sharif Hossain. Major Ashrafal Haque, who is injured, is receiving treatment, said spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric.

Guterres expressed his deepest condolences to the families of the fallen peacekeepers and to the government and people of Bangladesh. He wished the speedy recovery of the injured.

In a separate statement, Gwyn Lewis, UN resident coordinator, said, "Today and every day we stand in solidarity with the women and men who stake their lives and well-being in service of peace, and [we] honour their sacrifice."

Close to 7,000 Bangladeshis currently serve in the

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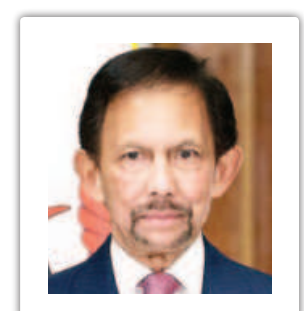


PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

A view of the under-construction Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel. This underwater tunnel, being built under the Karnaphuli river in Chattogram, is expected to significantly reduce traffic congestion on both sides of the river and shorten travel time. According to officials, the project has already seen 91 percent completion and is scheduled to be open to the public at the end of this year.

Brunei keen on migrants, Bangladesh want oil

Sultan Bolkiah arrives Oct 13



JAMIL MAHMUD and PORIMOL PALMA

Brunei wants to hire Bangladeshi workers only under a government-to-government arrangement to streamline the recruitment process, which has been plagued with irregularities for years.

According to sources in the Bangladesh mission in Bandar Seri Begawan, the two countries are eager to introduce direct flights between them to reduce the cost of labour migration

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JP rift widens

Golam Moshi calls press conference on future council

RASHIDUL HASAN

The ongoing rift between Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader and Raushan Ershad's, the party's chief patron and leader of the opposition, over taking control of the party continues to widen.

Raushan on August 31 unilaterally declared committees in different districts to convene the party's 10th council on November 26.

Yesterday, Golam Moshi, political secretary of the opposition leader and member-secretary of the council preparation committee, also announced a press conference at a city hotel for today to discuss holding the council.

GM Quader, also the deputy leader of the opposition in parliament, in the last three weeks expelled at least three senior leaders including opposition chief whip Mashur Rahman Ranga, lawmaker from Rangpur-1, from their posts.

The tensions between the two sides are mounting, sources in JP told The Daily Star.

JP Secretary-General Mujibur Haque Chunnun yesterday told this correspondent that they are not taking any activities of Golam Moshi and his group into cognisance, as they do not belong in the Jatiya Party.

"We don't bother with what they are doing regarding holding of the press conference as they [Golam Moshi and others] are not in the party," Chunnun also said.

Asked, Golam Moshi said they firmly believe that Raushan Ershad, widow of Jatiya Party founder and former president Hossain Muhammad Ershad, is the main leader and flag carrier of the party.

"Therefore, she has convened the party's council to expand, strengthen and prepare it for the next election," Moshi also said.

"We are working in the party under her leadership to fulfil the aspirations of the workers of Jatiya Party."

Raushan, who is undergoing treatment at a Bangkok hospital, is likely to return home this month, JP sources said.

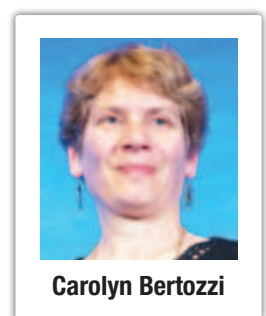
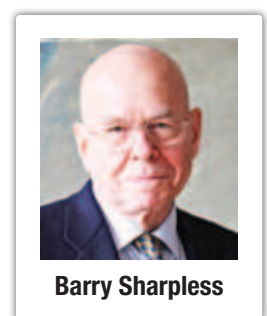
The rift between Raushan and GM Quader, younger brother of JP founder Ershad, started brewing following Raushan's announcement of holding the party's council.

Sources at the JP told this correspondent that the pro-Raushan group is planning to oust Quader from his post in the party.

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Trio win Nobel Prize in Chemistry

They pioneered technologies known as click chemistry, bioorthogonal chemistry



REUTERS, Stockholm

Scientists Carolyn Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and Barry Sharpless yesterday won the 2022 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for discovering reactions that let molecules snap together to create new compounds and that offer insight into cell biology.

The field of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry has been harnessed to improve the targeting of cancer pharmaceuticals now being tested in clinical trials, along with a host of health, agricultural and industrial applications.

"Combining simple chemical building blocks makes it possible to create an almost endless variety of molecules," the award-giving body said in a statement, adding that "sometimes simple answers are the best".

Danish winner Medal described click chemistry as a way to build complex structures and link them as if they were pieces of Lego, the plastic

construction toy.

The technology is employed globally to learn more about cells and track biological processes. It also allows assembly in the lab of stable molecules without creating undesirable by-products that had hobbled older methods.

Sharpless joins an elite band of scientists who have won two Nobel prizes. The other individuals are John Bardeen who won the Physics prize twice, Marie Curie, who won Physics and Chemistry, Linus Pauling who won Chemistry and Peace and Frederick Sanger who won the Chemistry prize twice.

"I'm absolutely stunned, I'm sitting here and I can hardly breathe," Bertozzi said from California after the academy reached her by telephone with the news she had won.

She added that as part of her work, she and her team managed to visualize and understand cell surface structures known as glycans, leading to a new

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ROHINGYAS' DEATH 6 suspected traffickers arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police yesterday arrested six people for their alleged involvement in trafficking people by a trawler that sank in the Bay on Tuesday.

Of the arrestees, four – Mohammad Selim and Korban Ali, of Moheshkhali upazila in Cox's Bazar; Abdullah, of Cox's Bazar town; and Shahid Ullah, of Teknaf – were on the trawler when it capsized.

On information from the four, police arrested Mohammad Rashid and Mohammad Sharif, both Rohingyas, from Balukhali refugee camp in Ukhiya.

All six of them were shown arrested in a trafficking case that was filed against 24 named and 10 to 15 unnamed people on Tuesday night, said Hafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station.

Hossein Mubarak, sub-inspector of Baharchhara Investigation Outpost, filed the case. Police were trying to arrest the rest of the accused, the OC said.

On Tuesday morning, at least six people, including a child, died after a Malaysia-bound trawler sunk off the coast of Teknaf, Cox's Bazar.

According to some survivors, the refugees were being trafficked

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Paris waves goodbye to cardboard Metro tickets

AFP, Paris

The Paris Metro is phasing out cardboard tickets after 120 years, taking the capital's urban transit into a contactless future but leaving behind nostalgic fans who will miss the humble rectangular cards.

Beyond their intended use as a transport token, the tickets with their trademark magnetic strip have inspired artists, filmmakers and singers, served as emergency notepads and, most of all, bookmarks.

"As the metro ticket disappears, so does a part of our lives," said Gregoire Thonnat, a collector and author of a book on the history of the metro ticket. "The metro ticket is part of how we picture Paris."

Île-de-France Mobilités, which operates the metro's ticketing system, had wanted the pack of 10 tickets known as "carnets" to be gone by the first quarter of this year.

But then the Covid-19 pandemic erupted, and Russia's war in Ukraine, and with it a global shortage of microchips needed to make the smartcards to replace the tickets – whose sales still total 550 million per year, more than 50 tonnes of paper.

"We were in a hurry, but the chip crisis slowed us down," Laurent Probst, director general at Île-de-France Mobilités told AFP.

The operator has started cutting the number of metro stations that still sell carnets to nudge clients towards plastic cards, and many turnstiles can no longer read cardboard tickets.



SUED UNDER DSA

Mohila Dal leader held in Rajbari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police yesterday arrested an activist of Rajbari district unit Mohila Dal for making derogatory remarks on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Sonia Aktar Smrity, also the founder of Rajbari Blood Donors Club, was arrested from her home around midnight, said locals.

Samsul Arefin Chowdhury, science and technology affairs secretary of the Awami League's Mizanpur union unit, filed the case against Sonia.

According to the case statement, Sonia made provocative speeches

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Shopkeepers and locals of Mohammadpur gather near the Sonar Bangla Filling Station in the capital's Asad Gate area to load up on diesel for generators yesterday afternoon. After the national grid failure left half the country without electricity for much of Tuesday, people have been eager to take precautionary measures, fearing frequent and lengthy power cuts.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

MAHSA AMINI DEATH Iran schoolgirls lead protests

Tehran summons British envoy, alleging UK meddling in unrest; Swedish MEP cuts hair during speech in solidarity with Iranian women

AGENCIES

Iranian schoolgirls have come to the fore in protests over the death of Mahsa Amini, removing their hijabs and staging sporadic rallies in defiance of a lethal crackdown by the security forces.

Amini, 22, was pronounced dead days after the notorious morality police detained the Iranian Kurd last month for allegedly breaching the Islamic republic's strict dress code for women.

Anger flared at her funeral and spread to become the biggest wave of protests to rock Iran in almost three years, despite the backlash by the security forces that has killed scores and seen hundreds arrested.

Students rallied at the weekend before being confronted by riot police who cornered them in an underground car park of Tehran's prestigious Sharif University of Technology before hauling them away.

Schoolgirls have since taken up the baton around the country, removing their hijabs, shouting anti-regime slogans and defacing images of the clerical state's leaders.

"Death to the dictator," a group of bare-headed girls is seen chanting in reference to supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as they force a man, reportedly the principal, out of a school in Karaj, west of Tehran, on Monday in a video verified by AFP.

Another group of girls is seen chanting "Woman, life, freedom", as they march down a street of the Karaj neighbourhood of Gohardasht.

"These are really extraordinary scenes. If these protests are going to achieve anything, it will be because of the schoolgirls," Esfandyar Batmangheli of the Bourse & Bazaar news and analysis website tweeted in response.

Schoolgirls are also seen emptying

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