



# Myanmar not willing to take Rohingyas back

PM says in interview with Al Jazeera

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the war in Ukraine and its refugees have shifted global attention from the Rohingya crisis, making the situation on the ground more difficult.

“The war (in Ukraine) has made the situation more difficult. The whole focus is now on the war and the refugees from Ukraine,” she said.

The prime minister, in an interview with Al Jazeera, said that Myanmar is not showing any intent in taking their nationals back to their country despite Dhaka’s repeated attempts to resolve the issue through dialogue.

The premier spoke to the Qatar-based media outlet on a number of issues that include the situation in the Rohingya camps in Cox’s Bazar and the future of the Rohingyas living there on the sidelines of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) in Doha, Qatar.

Sheikh Hasina, who arrived in Qatar on March 4 to attend the conference, arrived in Dhaka this afternoon.

Al Jazeera journalist Nick Clarke interviewed the prime minister. A short part of the interview has been broadcast while the full part will be aired on Al Jazeera at 4:30 GMT on March 11 (10:30am, Saturday, Bangladesh time).

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4



**RAINBOW SMILES ...** A group of children gathered at a window, lying in wait to splash some colours on their friends during the celebration of Holi at Malnichhara tea garden in Sylhet yesterday. Known as the festival of colours or spring, Holi is one of the most popular and significant festivals in Hinduism. While people of all ages take part in it, it’s the children who find the most joy smearing each other with coloured water or powder.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

SEE PAGE 7 COL 2

# DSA should be amended

Says UN rights chief; Dhaka writes to UN in response to allegations of harassing rights defenders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk stated that the Digital Security Act should be amended.

“I urge that it [the DSA] be amended, as criminal sentences continue to be handed down against those exercising their rights to free expression and belief,” he said on Tuesday while outlining the human rights situations in 40 countries at the 52nd session of the Human Rights Council.

“I regret the increasing incidents of political violence, coupled with arbitrary arrests of political activists, and ongoing harassment of human rights defenders and media personnel in the build up to the elections ...”

“I am alarmed by the number and range of countries in which I must report steps that undercut institutions of justice, media freedoms, and the space for fundamental civic freedoms,” he pointed out.

Türk added, “If I have one message to deliver to every head of state or government it is this: listen to the people – and in particular, to victims and defenders of human rights.”

Earlier on February 22, Bangladesh had sent a letter to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, responding to allegations of continuous harassment of human rights defenders.

The letter was also directed to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID), the

SEE PAGE 7 COL 2

# Russians claim control over Bakhmut’s east

Ukrainians defiant; UN, Kyiv call for grain deal extension

REUTERS, Kyiv

The head of Russia’s Wagner mercenary group yesterday said his forces had taken full control of the eastern part of the Ukrainian city of Bakhmut, and Nato’s secretary general said it could all fall to the invading army in the next few days.

If Wagner boss Yevgeny Prigozhin’s claim is true, it would mean Russian forces now control nearly half the city in their costly push to secure their first big victory in several months.

But as one of the bloodiest battles of the year-long war ground on amid the ruins, Ukrainian defenders remained defiant.

Last week they appeared to be preparing for a tactical retreat from Bakhmut, but Ukrainian military and political leaders now speak of hanging on to positions and inflicting as many

casualties as possible on the Russians.

The General Staff of Ukraine’s armed forces said in its morning report: “The enemy, despite significant losses, continues to storm the town of Bakhmut.”

Prigozhin said his fighters, who have been spearheading the Russian assault on Bakhmut, had now captured the city’s east.

“Everything east of the Bakhmutka River is completely under the control of Wagner,” Prigozhin said on Telegram.

The river bisects Bakhmut, which sits on the edge of a swathe of Donetsk province that is already largely under Russian occupation. The city centre is on the west side of the river.

But in Stockholm, Nato Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg struck a pessimistic note. Speaking before a European Union defence ministers’

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

RECENT BLASTS, FIRE

Govt looking into whether BNP had any role in those

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A w a m i League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the government was looking into the recent incidents of explosion and fire to ascertain whether the BNP had committed those after failing with its movement.

“The government upon instructions of the prime minister is looking deep into those incidents to find out whether those were acts of sabotage or accidents,” he said.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, made the remarks while talking to journalists before joining a meeting of the AL with its associate bodies at the party’s central office on Bangabandhu Avenue.

Referring to the



SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

# Smiley, dimpled sphinx statue found in Egypt

AFP, Cairo

Archaeologists in Egypt have unearthed a sphinx statue “with a smiley face and two dimples” near the Hathor Temple, one of the country’s best preserved ancient sites, the tourism and antiquities ministry said.

It is the latest in a series of discoveries revealed over the past few months.

The limestone artefact, believed to be a stylised representation of an ancient Roman emperor, was found inside a two-level tomb near the temple in southern Egypt, the ministry said in a statement on Monday.

Next to the “beautifully and accurately carved” sphinx, researchers had found “a Roman stele written in demotic and hieroglyphic” scripts, the statement said. Once fully deciphered, the stele may shed light on the identity of the sculpted ruler, who the Egyptian research team said could be Emperor Claudius.

Hathor Temple, about 500 kilometres (310 miles) south of the capital Cairo, was home to the Dendera Zodiac, a celestial map which has been displayed at the Louvre in Paris since 1922, more than a century after Frenchman Sebastian Louis

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



# Rohingya leader shot dead at Cox’s Bazar camp

UNB, Cox’s Bazar

A Rohingya leader was shot dead by unidentified criminals at a refugee camp in Ukhiya of Cox’s Bazar yesterday morning.

The dead is Syed Hossain, aka Kala Bodda, resident and head majhi of Ukhiya’s Kutupalong 2-east camp, said police.

Syed Harunur Rashid, deputy inspector general of the Armed Police Battalion (APBn), said, Syed was shot dead when he came out of his house in the morning.

Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (Arsa) members might have shot him, he suspected.

The body was sent to the district sadar hospital after recovery, the DIG said, adding, “Efforts are on to arrest those involved in the murder.”

On Monday, miscreants killed another community leader Nur Habib alias Doctor Wakkes, 51, pulling him out of his house in camp-9, block 3/c at Balukhali Rohingya camp in Ukhiya.



**Workers building a scaffolding at the construction site of a highrise of Sarkari Karmachari Hospital in the capital’s Fulbaria. They appear to be not tethered to anything and a slip could be fatal. The photo was taken yesterday.**

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## INDIA-BANGLADESH PIPELINE

# Hasina, Modi to inaugurate it March 18

2.5 lakh tonnes of diesel will be brought in first year

MD NAZRUL ISLAM, Ctg

The 130-kilometre India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline is set to be inaugurated on March 18, in a development that will ensure quicker and smoother supply of fuel to the northern part of the country.

The construction of the pipeline, which starts at the Numaligarh Refinery in the Indian oil and gas-rich state of Assam and ends at Parbatipur depot in Dinajpur, is complete, according to Tipu Sultan, project director of the ‘India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline’.

“All preparations are complete for transporting fuel through this pipeline – we are now waiting for the inauguration,” he told The Daily Star.

The prime ministers of the two countries are scheduled to officially commission the pipeline on March 18, said ABM Azad, chairman of the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.

The Indian government has built the infrastructure of the pipeline, whose construction began on September 18, 2018. “And we have allocated land for the pipeline and constructed the receiving tank,” Azad said.

Once the pipeline is operational, BPC will no longer

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1