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## ROHINGYA REPATRIATION Dhaka seeks ASEAN’s role

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam has underscored an active role of the regional countries including ASEAN for the safe and sustainable repatriation of the Rohingyas to Myanmar.

He also laid emphasis on efforts to end the armed conflicts and ensure a peaceful transition to civilian administration through elections in Myanmar.

The state minister shared the views at the two-day Oslo Forum hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway in association with the Geneva-based Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue on June 13-14 in Oslo, Norway.

The event drew retreats for over 100 international mediators and experts in sharing their perspectives and assessing the state of mediation and peacemaking against a backdrop of rising geopolitical tensions and rivalry, increasing conflict and the growing impact of climate change, social media and other factors that fuel conflicts.

The Forum held an open discussion on diplomatic developments in geopolitical hotspots, particularly war in Ukraine, Sudan, Yemen, and other conflict areas, including Myanmar, Afghanistan, Somalia, Ethiopia, and ways to prevent, interrupt or end conflicts, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday.

The Oslo Forum 2023 was opened by Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store and attended by, among others, Foreign Ministers of Norway, Indonesia and Colombia, and the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

Shahriar attended the event at the invitation of Norwegian Foreign Minister Anniken Huitfeldt.

Shahriar also held bilateral meetings in Oslo with the Norwegian Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Policy Bjørnar Selnes Skjæran and State Secretary of Foreign Affairs Erling Rimestad.



Rods carried by a truck extends far beyond its flatbed, creating risks for other road users. The photo was taken during the rush hour near New Supermarket in the capital last week.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Transcom Group Director Arshad Waliur no more



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transcom Group Director Arshad Waliur Rahman passed away at his home in the capital's Gulshan yesterday morning.

He was 58. Waliur was the eldest son of late Latifur Rahman, founder and former chairman of Transcom Group.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Gulshan Azad Mosque after Asr prayers.

He was buried at the Banani Graveyard.

Born on October 2, 1965, Waliur is survived by his mother, two sisters, and a host of relatives and well-wishers.

## First Bangladesh origin American becomes US federal judge

REUTERS

The US Senate on Thursday narrowly confirmed civil rights lawyer Nusrat Choudhury to the US District Court for the Eastern District of New York, making her the first Bangladeshi-American and female Muslim federal judge in the United States.

Nusrat, the legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Illinois, was confirmed on a 50-49 vote. She will also be the first Bangladeshi-American federal judge.

Nusrat previously spent most of her professional career with the national ACLU, where she worked on racial justice and national security issues. She was deputy director of the organisation's racial justice program from 2018 until 2020. US President Joe Biden nominated her to the federal bench in January 2022.

Top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer in a statement said that Nusrat's "experience as a talented and dedicated civil rights litigator has prepared her to serve with integrity and professionalism on the federal bench, and she will follow



Nusrat Chy

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## Ukraine offensive stands ‘no chance’

Says Putin; Kyiv claims Russia taking heavy losses in south, resisting near Bakhmut

AGENCIES

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday said Ukraine's counteroffensive would fail as Kyiv's troops sought to advance in several directions, including the southeastern region of Zaporizhzhia.

"I think that Ukraine's armed forces stand no chance here, as well as in other directions – I have no doubt about that," Putin told an annual economic forum in Saint Petersburg. He confirmed Russia had sent nuclear arms to its ally Belarus which borders Ukraine.

AFP and representatives of other countries the Kremlin deems "unfriendly" were not accredited to cover the forum. Putin claimed Ukraine's armed forces were suffering "heavy losses".

"In some places Ukrainian units are managing to reach the first line (of defence), in other places they are failing," he said. "They are using the so-called strategic reserves," he added.

Putin said Ukrainian forces did not achieve their objectives in any section of the front, adding: "That's the important thing."

Ukraine would soon run out of its own military equipment, making it totally reliant on hardware supplied by the West which would undermine its ability to fight for long, he said.

Advancing Ukrainian troops are facing "desperate resistance" from Russian forces around the eastern city of Bakhmut, and are inflicting big losses on Russian troops in the south, Ukrainian military chiefs said yesterday.

Colonel General Oleksandr Syrskyi, who is in charge of Ukrainian ground forces, said the situation in the east was tense and Russia was bringing its best divisions into the Bakhmut sector with backup from artillery and aircraft.

Meanwhile, at least two explosions rocked Kyiv yesterday and air raid sirens blared as African leaders began a peace mission, hoping to mediate between Ukraine and Russia.

The peace delegation, including leaders from South Africa, Senegal, Zambia, the Comoros and Egypt, met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky later yesterday, before talks with Putin in St Petersburg today. But, Zelensky ruled out talks with Russia.

A Reuters journalist in central Kyiv heard

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## BOTCHED C-SECTION DGHS closes OT at Central Hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate General of Health Services has ordered surgeries be suspended at the capital's Central Hospital as the services at its intensive care unit and emergency department are not satisfactory.

The order was issued yesterday after a DGHS team inspected the hospital, Sheikh Daud Adnan, director (hospitals and clinics) at the DGHS, told The Daily Star.

The development came a day after a Dhaka court sent two physicians of the hospital to jail in a case filed by a patient's husband over the death of their newborn baby following a C-section at the hospital on June 9.

Mahbuba Akter Akhi, who underwent the C-section, was later put on life support in another hospital nearby.

On Wednesday, Yakub Ali, the husband of Mahbuba, filed a case with Dhanmondi Police Station

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## Cave fossils unearth human migrations

CNN ONLINE



Humans originated in Africa, but when exactly our earliest ancestors left the continent and how they spread around the world has been intensely debated by archaeologists.

Two fossils unearthed in a cave in northern Laos suggest that Homo sapiens, our own species, was living in the region some 86,000 years ago,

according to a new study. The finding challenges the prevailing idea that humans' path across the globe was linear and took place in a single wave about 50,000 to 60,000 years ago.

"Chances are that this early migration was unsuccessful, but this does not distract from the fact that H. sapiens had arrived in this region by this time which is a remarkable achievement," said study author Kira Westaway, an Associate Professor at Macquarie University in Australia, via email.

DNA analysis of present day human populations has supported the hypothesis that early modern humans left Africa around 50,000 to 60,000 years ago, and archaeologists have thought our early ancestors likely followed coastlines and islands through southeast Asia toward Australia.

## Female Jubo Dal activist harassed by 'BCL men'

Police show her arrested in old case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Ctg

A female Jubo Dal activist was allegedly harassed by some Chhatra League men in Chattogram's Mirsarai upazila on Wednesday night when she was returning home after attending a youth rally in the port city.

Nadia Nusrat was subsequently handed over to police by the Chhatra League men, alleged a local BNP leader.

Police on Thursday showed her arrested in a case filed in December last year over subversive activities. A Chattogram court later sent her to jail.

The news of her arrest came to light yesterday morning after her political colleagues protested the incident on social media.

Jahid Hossen, officer-in-charge of Joraganj Police Station, said Nadia

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A delegation of African leaders visits a site of a mass grave, in the town of Bucha, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, outside of Kyiv yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## ETHNIC TENSIONS Minister's home set ablaze in Manipur

REUTERS, Guwahati

A federal Indian minister's house was set on fire by a mob in the remote northeastern state of Manipur, which has been hit by clashes between members of rival ethnic groups for over a month, officials said yesterday.

Junior foreign minister R K Ranjan Singh's office confirmed that a mob vandalised and set fire to his house in the Manipur capital Imphal.

"Fortunately none of the caretakers or family members were injured in the attack on the house," said an aide to Singh in New Delhi.

Singh is a federal minister in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. Modi's ruling party also governs the state of Manipur.

"I am shocked. The law and order situation in Manipur has totally failed," Singh told ANI, Reuters TV partner in India.

The attack comes after weeks of violent clashes between members of the Kuki ethnic group, who mostly live in the hills, and Meiteis, the dominant community in the low lands of the state.

Singh is from the Meitei community. No group has taken the responsibility for the latest attack.

Clashes between the two communities erupted on May 3, sparked by resentment over economic benefits and quotas for easy access to government jobs and education reserved for the Kukis.

Meiteis account for half of Manipur's population and extending limited affirmative action quotas to them would mean they would get a greater share in education and government jobs reserved for Kukis and others.

Latest federal home ministry records showed 83 people have been killed and over 60,000 residents displaced since May in the violence.