



Begum Rokeya’s dream fulfilled

Says PM on women empowerment in Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said Bangladesh is advanced enough in terms of women's empowerment as the country has fulfilled the dream of Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain.

"We are always making endeavours so that our women become self-reliant and stand on their own feet as Begum Rokeya said. She said her dream would be fulfilled on that day when women would become judges and barristers. We are advanced enough in that case," she said.

The premier was addressing an event at Dhaka's Osmani Memorial Auditorium marking Begum Rokeya Day 2023 and the distribution of Begum Rokeya Padak 2023.

Hasina said many developed countries could not elect a woman as the head of government yet. Even in the most powerful country, no woman has been able to be president till date, she said.

Regarding her role in the appointment of Nazmun Ara Sultana as the first woman justice to the country's higher court, the PM said she has one regret that Nazmun Ara could not be the chief justice.

PHOTO ON PAGE 2



A ball of fire rises above a building during an Israeli strike, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

BNP announces first public event since Oct 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP and its like-minded parties will form human chains across the country to mark the International Human Rights Day today.

The party's Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said family members of BNP supporters who have been victims of enforced disappearance, extrajudicial killing, and arrest on false charges will take part in the demonstration in front of the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka at 11:00am.

Speaking at a virtual press briefing, Rizvi yesterday said family members of the victims cannot speak in the country as the government continues to violate human rights despite concerns expressed by global rights bodies.

BNP insiders said several human rights organisations might join the event.

Rizvi said since October 28, when a BNP rally ended in clashes with law enforcers, at least 20,665 leaders and activists have been arrested in 583 cases across the country.

He added that 175 BNP men were

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

People’s mandate crucial for dealing with unjust int’l pressure

Says Wahiduddin Mahmud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It'll be a major challenge for the least developed countries like Bangladesh not to extend any unjust and illegal benefits to multinational conglomerates or foreign forces due to the changing geopolitics and geoeconomics, Wahiduddin Mahmud said yesterday.

Rather, the noted economist added, it will be much easier for the governments to maintain a balance between their political interests and the foreign economies' interests, as much as they are backed by the people's mandate.

"Geopolitics and geoeconomics are two sides of the same coin ... LDCs have become victims of geopolitical adversaries," observed Mahmud, a former economics professor of Dhaka University.

However, he said, these countries have both opportunities and risks here. A former adviser to caretaker government, Mahmud was speaking at a session called "Evolving global order and geoeconomics: implications for less developed countries" at the annual BIDS conference on development held in Lakeshore Hotel in Dhaka.



SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Washington complicit in Israeli war crimes

Says Mahmoud Abbas; attacks intensify across Gaza after US vetoes UNSC ceasefire bid

REUTERS, Gaza/ Cairo

Israel pounded the Gaza Strip from north to south yesterday in an expanded phase of its two-month-old war against Hamas, after the United States wielded its UN Security Council veto to shield its ally from a global demand for a ceasefire.

Thirteen of the Security Council's 15 members voted for the resolution calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire that was blocked by Washington.

Since a truce collapsed last week, Israel has expanded its ground campaign into the southern half of the Gaza Strip by launching the storming of the main southern city Khan Younis. Simultaneously, both sides have reported a surge in fighting in the north.

Residents of Khan Younis said yesterday that Israeli forces were ordering people out of another district just west of positions the Israelis stormed earlier this week, suggesting a further assault could be imminent.

Zainab Khalil, 57, displaced with 30 of her relatives and friends in Khan Younis west of the Israeli positions, said troops had ordered people in nearby Jalal street to leave, "so it might be a matter of time before they act against our area too. We have been hearing bombing all night."

"We don't sleep at night, we stay awake, we

try to put the children to sleep and we stay up fearing the place would be bombed and we'll have to run carrying the children out. During the day begins another tragedy, and that is: how to feed the children?"

Nasser and another southern hospital, al Aqsa in Deir al-Ballah, reported 133 dead and 259 wounded in the past 24 hours, raising an official toll already at nearly 17,500, with many thousands more missing and presumed dead.

There were no new figures yesterday for dead and wounded from other parts of Gaza, including the entire northern half, where hospitals have ceased functioning and ambulances often can no longer reach the dead.

"We believe the number of martyrs under the rubble might be greater than those received at hospitals," health ministry spokesperson

Ashraf al-Qidra told Reuters.

Fighting in the north has been its most intense in parts of Gaza City and settlements on its northern edge, where huge explosions could be seen from across the fence in Israel.

Northern Gaza families were posting messages on the internet pleading with emergency crews to venture into Gaza City to rescue loved ones still trapped there.

"We appeal to the Red Cross and the civil emergency to immediately go to Attallah house. People are besieged inside their house

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



133 dead, 259 were wounded in 24 hours in Gaza



Barrister Mainul Hosein passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Barrister Mainul Hosein, former adviser to a caretaker government, passed away at a city hospital yesterday. He was 83.

He breathed his last while undergoing treatment at Evercare Hospital in the capital. He had been suffering from cancer, said Wahiduzzaman, an aide to Barrister Mainul.

He left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter, and a host of relatives, admirers, and well-wishers to mourn his death.

A prominent lawyer, he was a politician and publisher of The New Nation, one of the oldest English dailies in Bangladesh. He was also the former chairman of the editorial board of The Daily Ittefaq.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

US, UK, Canada slap sanctions on dozens of abusers

AFP, London

Dozens of alleged human rights abusers around the world face new sanctions Friday under a coordinated action by the United States, Britain and Canada to mark the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The long list of targets ranges from human traffickers in Southeast Asia involved with "scam farm" operations, Taliban officials responsible for rights abuses in Afghanistan and leaders of gangs ravaging Haiti's population.

London said it was hitting 46 individuals and entities with asset freezes and travel bans ahead of the December 10 landmark, recognized annually as International Human Rights Day.

The United States for its part targeted 37 people in 13 countries, while Canada imposed sanctions on seven people as part of the joint action.

"We will not tolerate criminals and repressive regimes trampling on the fundamental rights and freedoms of ordinary people around the world," said UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron.

"I am clear that 75 years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UK and our allies will continue to relentlessly pursue those who would deny people their freedom."

The landmark 30 article document, which outlines fundamental rights and freedoms for all of humanity, was adopted on December 10, 1948 during the early days of the United Nations.

The UK's list of targets include 17 members of the Belarusian judiciary, including prosecutors in charge of politically motivated cases against activists, journalists and rights defenders.

Five individuals in Iran face curbs for imposing and enforcing the country's mandatory hijab law, while nine people were targeted for trafficking people in Cambodia,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

First tyrannosaur fossil discovered with its last meal

REUTERS

The young Gorgosaurus knew what it liked for dinner. About 75 million years ago in what is now Canada's Alberta province, this fearsome T rex cousin set about hunting turkey-sized yearlings of a feathered plant-eating dinosaur called Citipetes.

With such prey numerous, the Gorgosaurus could be picky about what it ate. It dismembered the helpless Citipetes and swallowed its meaty legs whole, ignoring the rest of the carcass.

Scientists said on Friday they have unearthed fossilised remains of a juvenile Gorgosaurus that was five to seven years old and about 15 feet (4.5 meters) long. Amazingly, it included the animal's stomach contents, revealing its last meals.

Gorgosaurus and the more famous Tyrannosaurus, which lived several million years later, are members of a meat-eating dinosaur group called tyrannosaurs. This fossil has provided insight into the ecology of this group, showing that the feeding strategy and diet of tyrannosaurs changed dramatically during their lifespan. This is the first tyrannosaur skeleton with prey items preserved inside its stomach.



Players of the Bangladesh and New Zealand teams pose for a photograph with the two-match Test series trophy following the visitors' four-wicket victory in the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Story on Page 11.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

BUSINESS

No chance for a fully floating exchange rate: BB

The central bank governor yesterday ruled out the possibility for a floating exchange rate although many economists have long suggested Bangladesh put in place a market-determined price to tide over the current economic volatility.

"There is no possibility of launching a floating exchange rate," he said, adding that most of the economists the Bangladesh Bank has talked to have suggested not to go for a freely floating exchange rate. "It will be more market-based that will allow ups and downs within a band so that the exchange rate remains closer to the real exchange rate."

STORY ON B1