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Three UPDF men killed in Khagrachhari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three members of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) were killed by miscreants in Khagrachhari yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Sijon Chakma, Sashon Tripura and Jayen Chakma, UPDF's Spokesperson Aongya Marma confirmed.

He said, "An armed group opened fire on our members at Shanti Ranjan Para under Latiban union, leaving the three dead on the spot. The incident took place around 10:30am in a house."

Panchari Police Station Officer-in-charge Mohammad Jashim told our correspondent, "We heard about the incident from locals. Since it is a remote area, police could not reach the scene immediately."

A press release, signed by Niron Chakma, information and publicity affairs secretary of the UPDF, said that they have called a road block in the district today to protest the killings. They also demanded arrest of the criminals, it said.



Workers renovating a courtroom for the International Crimes Tribunal where proceedings would begin from November 3 of cases filed over crimes against humanity and genocide during the mass uprising.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Hajj to cost Tk 1 lakh less

Cheapest package starts at Tk 4.78 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An intended Bangladeshi pilgrim will have to spend a minimum of Tk 4.78 lakh for performing hajj next year under the government's management.

Bangladeshi pilgrims would be able to perform Hajj in 2025 for Tk 4.78 lakh, about Tk 1 lakh less than in the previous year, under government arrangement.

The Hajj package prices were set based on feedback from all stakeholders, a meticulous analysis of expenses across various areas and the rationalisation of all possible costs, said the Religious Affairs Adviser AFM Khalid Hossain yesterday while announcing the decision of the executive committee on hajj management affairs.

Accommodation in Makkah will be provided within 3 kilometres from the Haram Sharif courtyard and within a maximum of 1.5 kilometres from Masjid Nabawi in Madinah.

Shuttle bus services will be available for travel to Haram Sharif in Makkah. This package includes tent accommodation in the green zone (Zone-5) in Mina and 'D' category services in Mina and Arafat.

There would be another Hajj package for Tk 5.75 lakh, which is Tk 11,710 less than in previous year.

Accommodation in Makkah will be within 1.5 kilometres of the Haram Sharif courtyard and in the Markaziya area in Madinah.

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ISRAEL'S UNRWA BAN UNSC expresses 'grave concern'

AFP, United Nations

The UN Security Council yesterday expressed "grave concern" over the Israeli parliament's adoption of a bill banning UNRWA, the main United Nations aid agency working with Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

The Council also called on Israel to "abide by its international obligations" and "respect the privileges and immunities" of the agency, a target of vehement Israeli criticism.

In a statement, the Council called on "all parties to enable UNRWA to carry out its mandate, as adopted by the General Assembly, in all areas of operation," saying the agency was the "backbone" of humanitarian relief in war-ravaged Gaza.

"No organization can replace or substitute UNRWA's capacity and mandate to serve Palestinian refugees and civilians in urgent need of life-saving humanitarian assistance," the Council said.

The Security Council has struggled since the start of the Gaza offensive to speak with one voice due to Washington's power to veto in support of its ally Israel.

But yesterday, all Council members including the United States "strongly warned against any attempts to dismantle or diminish UNRWA's operations and mandate."

"No organization can replace or substitute UNRWA's capacity and mandate to serve Palestinian refugees and civilians in urgent need of life-saving humanitarian assistance."
 UNSC

'Hasina to be repatriated once ICT verdict is in'

CA's Office wants direct communication with WHO bypassing Saima Wazed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government will take measures to bring back ousted former prime minister Sheikh Hasina from India after getting evidence and verdict from the court.

Bangladesh has an extradition treaty with India, so it is possible to bring her back under the treaty, said Apurbo Jahangir, deputy press secretary to the chief adviser, at a press conference at the Foreign Service Academy in the capital yesterday.

"We will be able to talk about the process once we get the verdict, as Hasina is facing a case here," he said.

The International Crimes Tribunal is investigating Hasina for crimes against humanity and has issued arrest warrants against her and 45 others earlier this month.

Hasina fled to India on August 5 in the face of a mass uprising and is currently living in the Indian capital.

Jahangir also said the government has requested direct communications with the World Health Organisation as Bangladesh's point of contact Saima Wazed Putil, its regional director for South-East Asia since

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Biden suggests Trump supporters 'garbage'

Faces backlash; Harris urges Americans to turn page on Trump 'chaos'

AFP, Washington

US President Joe Biden came under fire Tuesday for appearing to refer to Republican Donald Trump's supporters as "garbage" during an election campaign call.

Speaking in a video call with the nonprofit VotoLatino, Biden addressed the controversy that erupted after one of Trump's warm-up speakers at a New York rally on Sunday referred to Puerto Rico as a "floating island of garbage."

"The only garbage I see floating out there is his supporters," said Biden. "His, his, his demonization of Latinos is unconscionable and it's un-American."

In a statement, the White House said Biden was referring to Trump's rhetoric, not to his supporters. "The President referred to the hateful rhetoric at the Madison Square Garden rally as 'garbage,'" said White House spokesperson Andrew Bates.

Biden's vice president, Kamala Harris, is locked in a too-close-to-call race against Trump for the White House, with Election Day just one week away.

The comments were seized upon by Trump's campaign, with the Republican presidential hopeful calling them "terrible."

"These people. Terrible, terrible -- terrible to say a thing like that," Trump said at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania.

He compared the comments to when Hillary Clinton -- running against Trump for the presidency in 2016 -- said half of the Republican's supporters were "deplorable."

"Garbage, I think is worse, right?" quipped Trump in Pennsylvania. Trump's running mate J D Vance called Biden's words "disgusting."

Meanwhile, Harris urged Americans to write the "next chapter" for their country and reject Trump's chaos and division as she delivered a powerful closing argument to voters Tuesday evening against the glowing backdrop of the White House.

The Democratic vice president warned against Trump's lust for "unchecked power" as she addressed a mass rally at the site where her Republican rival riled up a mob before the deadly January 6, 2021 assault on the US Capitol.



HC scraps 11 cases against Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday scrapped the trial proceedings of 11 cases filed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

The cases were filed in connection with arson, violence, and sedition with different police stations in Dhaka in 2015.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Syed Enayet Hossain delivered the verdicts after hearing 11 petitions filed by Khaleda in 2017 seeking to quash proceedings of the cases.

Khaleda's lawyers Zainul Abedin, Mahbub Uddin Khokon, Kayser Kamal, and Nasir Uddin Ahmed Ashim told reporters that trial proceedings of 10 arson and violence cases were cancelled on the grounds that their clients were not present at the places of occurrences mentioned in the cases.

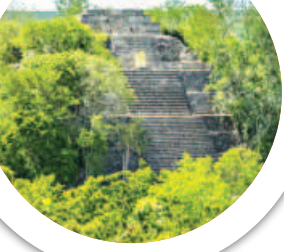
Also, the HC quashed the sedition

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Lost Mayan city discovered in Mexico jungle

REUTERS, Mexico City

A team of archaeologists has discovered more than 6,000 ancient Mayan structures hidden by vegetation in the southeastern Mexican state of Campeche, including a city of pyramids they have dubbed "Valeriana."



The city was discovered by chance thanks to Lidar, or light detection and ranging, a technology that uses lasers to map and analyze archaeological landscapes.

The dataset used for the study came from about 122 square kilometers of high-quality airborne Lidar data collected in 2013 as part of a forest monitoring project called Alianza, which aims to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

When researchers processed the data using archaeological methods, they saw what others had missed: A huge ancient city that may have housed between 30,000 and 50,000 people at its peak between 750 and 850 AD.



People search the rubble for missing persons at the site of an Israeli strike that hit the Al-Loh family home in Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

ISRAELI ATTACK ON IRAN Missile production unaffected

AFP, Tehran

Iran said yesterday that its production of missiles remained intact, following Israeli air strikes targeting military facilities last week.

"There has been no interruption in the process of producing offensive systems such as missiles," Defence Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh told reporters.

"The enemy tried to damage both our defensive and offensive systems," he added.

Israel launched strikes on military sites in Iran on Saturday, citing Tehran's October 1 missile attack that followed the killing of Iran-backed militant leaders and a Revolutionary Guards commander.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said later that the strikes "hit Iran's defence capabilities and missile production".

Iran's armed forces said the attack

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