

Ensuring justice a precondition for Rohingya repatriation

Says Ambassador Rabab Fatima

BSS, Dhaka

Ensuring justice and accountability for the Rohingya population is an important precondition for their safe, dignified and voluntary return to Rakhine state in Myanmar, said Ambassador Rabab Fatima, permanent representative of Bangladesh to the UN.

She said this on Thursday while addressing the Security Council Open debate on “Peace building and sustaining peace: transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict situation”, said a press release.

Highlighting the importance of internationally recognised criminal justice mechanisms in ensuring justice for countries coming out of conflict, she welcomed the “groundbreaking decision” of the International Criminal Court about ensuring accountability of the rights violations and crimes by Myanmar against its Rohingya population.

She also exemplified the ICJ order of January 23 as a momentous development in this regard.

In reiterating Bangladesh’s commitment to the Security Council’s Women Peace and Security, and Youth, Peace and Security agenda, the envoy said, “We remain committed to supporting multi-pronged efforts of the UN to prevent and ensure accountability for violence against women and children during armed conflicts.”

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

Firefighters getting out of a mangled bus after completing their rescue operation. The vehicle hit a covered van from behind on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway near Bhawal National Park around 11am yesterday. The bus supervisor and conductor died on the spot and 10 passengers sustained injuries due to the accident.

Six killed, 13 injured in road accidents

Four die in Gazipur alone

STAR REPORT

Six people were killed and 13 injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Gazipur, an unidentified youth was killed as a bus hit him while he was crossing Dhaka-Mymensingh road at Gilaberaid in Sreepur, said police.

In another incident, a man, whose identity could not be known, died instantly as a pickup ran him over on a road in Joinabazar area, said Monjurul Haque, officer-in-charge of Mawna Highway Police Station.

In Rajendrapur, the supervisor and conductor of a bus were killed and 10 passengers injured when the vehicle hit a covered van from behind, said OC Alamgir Hossain Buiyan of Gazipur Sadar Police Station.

The identities of the deceased could not be known immediately.

In another incident in Gazipur, an SUV carrying Mymensingh Divisional Commissioner Mostafizur Rahman hit a road divider at Rajendrapur Chourasta, injuring him and two of its passengers, said Joydevpur Police Station OC Javedul Islam.

The accident occurred as the vehicle tried to avoid collision with an oncoming speeding car, said the OC.

The injured were taken to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Medical College Hospital.

In Gopalganj, two people were killed and another was

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2 held with 9,000 litres of stolen oil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-7) in a drive yesterday seized a tanker truck carrying 9,000 litres of stolen furnace oil and arrested two persons from port city’s Panchliah area.

The arrestees are Md Rizwanul Haque (35) and Md Rahman (34), said Rab sources.

According to Rab, the two are part of a smuggling gang. They used to smuggle oil from abroad through ships and unload those at the outer anchorage to evade tax.

“Tipped off, we arrested the duo from the entry point of a flyover in Shulokbahar area around 2pm,” Assistant Superintendent of Police Tarek Aziz, also operation officer of Rab-7 (Chandgaon camp), told The Daily Star.

“They were planning to take the oil to Sitakunda after unloading in Bridge Ghata area of Karnaphuli upazila,” said ASP Aziz.

The Rab official said, “Every month, the syndicate used to smuggle two consignments through deep sea.”

“We are not sure whether the consignment was smuggled from a mother vessel or government vessel. We’ll know the details after interrogating them,” he added ASP.

Maj Shamim Sarkar, deputy director of Rab-7, said they have gleaned names of some syndicate members from the duo and actions will be taken against them.

ASP Aziz said a case was filed with Panchliah Police Station in this connection.

Tackling the nuisance of hydraulic horns

Savar youths run awareness campaign

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

As hundreds of vehicles pass through Savar every day, the busy, bustling area on the outskirts of the capital sees severe sound pollution, further aggravated by hydraulic horns used in local battery-run three wheelers.

On Friday, a group of university and college students -- part of an organisation called Chobighor -- conducted a campaign on the town’s central thoroughfare to raise awareness about the nuisance.

Around noon, the group organised a rally at Savar Bazar road, and seized some 100 hydraulic horns from auto-rickshaws. Keeping with the theme of Valentine’s Day on Friday, the youths gifted a rose to each auto-rickshaw driver, and educated them on why they should not be using such loud horns.

According to news reports, the sound of hydraulic horns measure at 95 decibel, higher than the permitted level (75dB) for vehicle horns.

Prince Ghosh, founder and president of Chobighor, said, “We want to see a hazard-free Savar. Hydraulic horns on auto-rickshaws are causing severe sound pollution here, so we decided to raise awareness among drivers.”

“The drivers have responded positively to our campaign and we hope that they will accept our request to stop using such loud horns,” he added.

“We also submitted an application to Savar municipality’s mayor, seeking a ban on hydraulic horns in this municipality, which he accepted,” said Prince.

Meanwhile, locals welcomed the initiative. Kamrun Nahar, a sixth-grader, said, “The loud noise of these horns is very disturbing, especially during studies. I’m glad this issue is being addressed.”

Rabul Mia, who used a hydraulic horn in his auto-rickshaw, said, “I was not aware of the harm this was causing, and I will use a different horn from now on.”

Mayor of Savar municipality Hazi Abdul Goni appreciated Chobighor’s initiative and thanked them for this timely initiative.

“I have decided to declare a ban on hydraulic horns following their request. We will work together to reduce sound pollution,” he added.

Dog culling in St Martin’s sparks outrage

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Cig

Last week, a group of people were seen scouting the beaches of Saint Martin’s island with a large net in hand. They were capturing dogs, and strangling them to death one by one, using a metal contraption.

The canines squirming and screaming to escape this death trap had become a common scene during winters in the island, and this has allegedly been happening under the supervision of Saint Martin’s Union Parishad.

This month, they culled around a hundred dogs, and stopped only after a tourist challenged them on the legal grounds of this cruel act on February 13.

Samee Kader, a lawyer who was on holiday at the island, witnessed the culling. He told The Daily Star that a group of people were capturing dogs and killing them mercilessly.

He saw four spots on the beach where dead bodies of at least 30 dogs were piled up.

“When I challenged them and asked who ordered the culling, they were faltering to answer. At one point they said they were forest department staff, and fled when I asked them to produce identification documents,” said Samee.

Riazul Haque, member of the island’s Union Parishad, denied giving any order for dog culling, and claimed not to have any knowledge of it.

The Daily Star could not reach Shah Jahan Mia -- chairman of the union parishad -- for comments, as he is currently in prison.

Seeking anonymity, a former member of Saint Martin’s Union Parishad told The Daily Star that every winter, the parishad has been hiring a group of people to cull dogs, as they find it to be the “easiest option” to keep the dog population of the island under control.

The group stays for three to four days and

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Good news for heart patients in M’singh

First-ever cath lab opens at MMCH



PHOTO: STAR

The cath lab at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Cardiac patients in Mymensingh have much to cheer about as a cardiac catheterisation laboratory (cath lab), was inaugurated at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) yesterday.

Patients admitted at the 1,000-bed hospital with heart diseases will be able to avail better treatment from this lab, said hospital sources.

Cath lab is an examination room in a hospital or clinic with diagnostic imaging equipment used to visualise arteries and chambers of the heart and treat any stenosis or abnormality found.

MMCH is often burdened with patients three times its capacity. Of those, some 200 are currently admitted at the cardiology department against its 20 seats.

But they could not be served fully when they needed stenting. “Now patients will get this facility at the hospital,” said Dr Ganapati Aditya, an associate professor of cardiology (head of unit-2), at MMCH.

A stent is a tiny tube that doctors can insert into a blocked passageway to keep it open. Stents restore flow of blood or other fluids, depending on where it’s placed.

Dr Aditya said previously, many had to travel to Dhaka to get the services. “Disadvantaged patients will be benefitted most from this lab,” said Dr Laxmi Narayan Majumder, deputy director of MMCH.

A patient will have to pay around Tk 6,000 for angiogram and related tests at the hospital, which is around Tk 25,000 in private hospitals.

Thousands from greater Mymensingh region (Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Netrakona, Kishoreganj and Tangail), Sylhet, Sunamganj, Gazipur, Gaibandha, Kurigram and Gazipur districts come to the hospital

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Members of youth organisation Chobighor in Savar educated around 100 battery-run auto-rickshaw drivers on the harmful aspects of loud hydraulic horns. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Conference on cyber security begins at DIU

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A two-day conference on cyber security began at Daffodil International University (DIU) on its permanent campus in Ashulia of Savar yesterday.

Software engineering department of the university organised the second international conference titled “Cyber Security and Computer Science”.

National Digital Security Agency Director General Md Rezaul Karim inaugurated the conference as chief guest. Prof Jemal Abawaji of Deakin University, Australia; Prof Mamoun Alazab of Charles Darwin University, Australia; and Prof Oguz FINDIK of Karabuk University, Turkey presented keynote papers at the event.

The inaugural ceremony was also addressed by DIU Vice Chancellor Prof Yousuf M Islam, pro-VC Prof SM

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‘TORTURE’ AT SAVAR REHAB

Two employees arrested over patient’s death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Police arrested two employees of a drug rehabilitation centre in Savar yesterday over the death of a patient.

The arrestees -- Robiul Hossen (20) and Labib Ahmed (27) -- had been working at “New Ador” in Radio Colony area for four months, said police. Jahangir Alom (38) was declared dead at Enam Medical College Hospital on Friday, hours after he was admitted to the rehab.

His family alleged that Zahangir was beaten to death before he was taken to the hospital.

Victim’s brother Manik Mia filed a case with Savar Model Police Station accusing five named persons -- including New Ador managing director Ariful Islam Jewel -- and two to three unnamed people.

Sub-inspector Moniruzzaman, investigation officer of the case, said the body bore multiple injury marks. During primary interrogation, the arrestees confessed that they kicked and slapped Jahangir and gagged him, said the SI. They also poured water in his nose, he added.

Contacted, AKM Shaukat Islam, deputy director of narcotics control office in Dhaka, said, “We heard about the incident. We are looking into the matter.”

The arrestees made confessional statements at a Dhaka court when they were produced before it, said SI Moniruzzaman. The court sent them to jail later, he said.

AUW’s sixth Model UN confce held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

The Model United Nations Club of Asian University for Women (AUW) in Chattogram concluded its sixth MUN conference yesterday.

The conference began on Thursday. Considered one of the prestigious MUNs of the country, the conference was attended by over 200 delegates, ranging from middle schoolers to university students from all over the globe, said a press release.

This year’s theme was “Enhancing global diversity to combat racial discrimination and religious conflict”.

The event started off with a plenary session conducted by Dr Nirmala Rao, vice chancellor of AUW, and Dr Michael Eaton of the university’s Politics, Philosophy and Economics faculty.

The conference was led by six committees that tackled alarming issues currently ravaging the world, and the youth represented different nations.

The MUN’s closing ceremony was held at a city hotel yesterday. Delegates from different committees were recognised for their performance at the conference, the press release added.

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1	Tender IFT Ref. No.	This office Memo No. 656, 657, 658, 659, 660 Date: 16.02.2020
2	Ministry/division	Local Government Division.
3	Implementing agency	Department of Public Health Engineering.
4	Project/program name	Fourth Primary Education Development Program (PEDP-4).
5	Total package	05 Nos. (01 No. = Major Maintenance + 04 Nos. = WASH Block).
6	e-Tender IDs	427073, 427074, 427075, 427076, 427077
7	Description of work	1) Major Maintenance of 46 Nos. Wash Block (Package No.- PEDP-4-0136) 2) Construction of 08 Nos. RCC Wash Block (Package No.-PEDP-4-0296) 3) Construction of 07 Nos. RCC Wash Block (Package No.-PEDP-4-0297) 4) Construction of 07 Nos. RCC Wash Block (Package No.-PEDP-4-0298) 5) Construction of 07 Nos. RCC Wash Block (Package No.-PEDP-4-0299)
8	Name, designation & address of official inviting tender	Amit Kumar Sarkar, Executive Engineer, DPHE, Chapainawabganj District., Tel. No.-0781-52584.
9	This is online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. e-GP registration is mandatory for the tenderer. Interested persons/firms can see details in the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd or contract to the undersigned office.	

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Amit Kumar Sarkar
Executive Engineer, DPHE
Chapainawabganj District