

# 'Lucky to be born in Bangladesh'

By Nadeem Qadir

DHECHUA PALANG CAMP-1, Cox's Bazar, Feb 27: Nurunnahar Begum was still panting from labour pains after giving birth to her fifth child at this camp for Myanmar (Burmese) Muslim refugees, where shelter from the elements is little more than a shed made of bamboo and plastic sheeting.

The child, a girl, with her umbilical white cord still visible, was washed by fellow refugee women before the camp's doctor or health volunteer could arrive.

With the baby girl, another Burmese refugee arrived in Bangladesh, to fight not only for her future but also survival at this crowded camp, housing several thousand fellow Rohingya Muslims.

"Do not worry, so far child is fine," her grandmother said an hour after she had handed over the baby to the pale, but apparently happy mother.

The women around murmured that she was lucky to be born in Bangladesh instead of Burma, where they lived in constant fear of being attacked, tortured, raped or murdered, allegedly by Burmese troops.

Amid some relief after the child's delivery, the baby's aunt, Zohura Khatun, said angrily: "We came here to save our lives and chastity...."

Burmese troops were raping Muslim Rohingya women en masse."

Then she cried and narrated how the beasts raped her and others in their village home in Mongdu across the border in Burma. "Even a 12-year old girl from a neighbour's family was not spared by the brutes."

The refugees, mostly from poor farming families, are struggling for survival in the camp with limited supplies.

Abdul Hakim Mondol, officer-in-charge of the camp, said the camp had 50 sheds made of straw, bamboo mats and plastic sheets which are divided among the families. He said more such shelters would be set up slowly.

This and other growing camps nearby look like small towns on the hill slopes dominated by the green or blue plastic sheets that cover the straw roofs.

"We are giving them occasionally wheat and rice besides oil, pulses and biscuits with the help of local Red Crescent Society," Mondol said, adding that government doctors with volunteers from private organisations were providing medical aid to the refugees "as far as possible."

Several local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) like the Gonoshastha Kendra

and the Muslim Aid-Bangladesh are already working to help the refugees in the camps.

Daud-uz-Zaman Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar, said he had asked private organisations to give details of what they wanted to offer for the refugees.

"We will take what is needed and suitable for distribution as relief," he said.

"Foreign humanitarian organisations have to get government clearance for working directly in the camps," he said. Asked why were they not being allowed to go into the camps on their own, he said "Don't ask me, ask the Home and Foreign Ministers."

Members of the Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF) or Doctors Without Borders said restrictions hampered their planning and that sanitation conditions were 'dramatic' in the camps.

"The sanitation condition in the camps is dramatic and unless immediate steps are taken there is every possibility of a serious outbreak of diarrhoea, which has already hit 75 per cent of the patients treated," Dr Clements Vlasich said in Cox's Bazar.

He said 34 of 75 patients he treated on one day had diarrhoea and most were children aged under five years. Skin diseases and respira-

tory infections were also serious problems in the camps, Vlasich said.

Catherine Lefebvre, also of MSF, said psychological illnesses were a problem, while the group was working with government doctors to educate women to breast feed rather than use powdered milk.

"Mothers come in with their sick babies and we then find that they are psychologically suffering from fear and shock," she said, adding they needed counselling.

Gonoshastha paramedic, Shafiqur Rahman, treating patients in Camp-2, said they were daily attending some 400 patients including pregnant women.

"Sporadic diarrhoea cases have started and unless more tubewells are sunk soon there could be a serious situation," Rahman said adding that they have "little more than a month before the monsoon starts."

Local doctors said children were also suffering from skin diseases and malnutrition, while would-be mothers were suffering from iron deficiency.

Ansar personnel guard the two camps divided by a road that connects the tourist town of Cox's Bazar in the north and fishing town of Teknaf in the south near the border with Burma.

# 12 die in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least twelve persons were killed in separate road mishaps in the country on Wednesday and Thursday.

In Dhaka two persons were killed when they were run over at Gulshan and Mirpur. A ten-year-old girl, Maina, was smashed under the wheels of a truck at Mirpur Darus Salam while crossing the road. The truck could not be traced.

A rickshaw puller, Shamsul Haq (30) died when a truck (Dhaka Metro No 9378) smashed his rickshaw near Gulshan. The driver was arrested by the Gulshan police.

Our correspondent from Narayanganj adds: Four persons were killed and 40 injured when a truck collided with two minibuses on the Dhaka Chittagong highway at Chhanalpara near Siddhirganj. The dead are Ershad Ali (45), Manirul Islam (32) and two unidentified males of about the age of 40.

The minibuses (Dhaka Metro Da 9105 and Dhaka Na

2880) going from Dhaka were overtaking at high speed when the speeding truck (Dhaka Ja 9142) from the opposite direction rammed the buses. All the four persons died on the spot.

Police said that one of the unidentified man might be the driver of a minibus. However, the other drivers managed to escape.

The injured persons have been admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and other hospitals.

Siddhirganj police has seized all the vehicles and a case has been filed.

Our correspondent from Gaibandha adds: Six persons were killed and 25 others injured when a passenger bus plunged into a roadside ditch on Bogra-Rangpur highway near Palashbari Wednesday.

The driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle. Two of the victims died on the spot while the others succumbed to their injuries at the hospital.

## Bahrain

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programmes of the government to uplift the overall living condition of the people. He mentioned the initiatives taken to develop the vast human resources to attract foreign investment. He also briefed Shaikh Khalifa about the current influx of Myanmar Muslim refugees into Bangladesh and the consequent impact on the country's economy.

The Bahraini Foreign Minister praised the quality of Bangladesh's manpower and assured that Bahrain would look forward to Bangladesh as a source of recruitment of more manpower.

He also expressed his appreciation of the predicament faced by the Bangladesh government in its bid to support the Myanmar refugees from its limited resources.

Both the foreign ministers also agreed to establish soon a Joint Economic Commission (JEC) of the two countries.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister extended invitation to Shaikh Khalifa to visit Bangladesh at the earliest opportunity.

## Muslim envoys

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cess Wednesday by briefing about twenty heads of Mission.  
Bangladesh's appeal to the United Nations for assistance to the refugees and the response by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was also mentioned to the heads of Mission.

The severity of the problem was understandably appreciated by the Islamic countries, whose envoys attended the briefing Thursday.

The Kuwaiti Ambassador in Bangladesh Muhammad Najm said many Kuwaitis were raising money in their individual capacity for the Myanmar Muslim refugees now sheltered in Bangladesh.

They have already collected a substantial amount and the drive is continuing, the Ambassador informed the Bangladesh government.

It is learnt that Bangladesh has chosen to keep the foreign governments abreast with the refugee situation when more and more refugees are pouring into the country giving the problem an alarming turn.

# The Midnight File

## Direct rule in Kashmir extended again

NEW DELHI, Feb 27: The Indian parliament approved today a six-month extension of direct rule over Kashmir by New Delhi, as a minister denied allegations human rights violations in the northern state. Both houses voted for the government motion seeking the extension of direct rule for another six months from March 2, when the present term expires, reports AFP.

## Nagorno-Karabakh truce breaks down

MOSCOW, Feb 27: Fighting with attack helicopters, tanks and missile batteries today shattered an hours-old ceasefire in the disputed trans-Caucasian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, opening the door to full-scale war. Armenia and Azerbaijan blamed each other for the breakdown in the ceasefire, reports Reuters.

# Satellite TV

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national security. But racial tension, upset traditional Asian notions of morality or make local stations redundant.

On the question of having an open sky, the position of the government today is 'no for various reasons, Malaysian Information Minister Mohamed Rahman said. These include questions of security and content of programmes."

Predominantly Muslim Malaysia, which bans screen nudity and programmes that offend Islamic sensitivities, has banned private satellite dishes used to receive direct television broadcasts, except for ministers and the royalty.

Singapore bans home ownership of satellite dishes but allows financial companies to have them. It is facing the new era by privatising the state-owned Singapore Broadcasting Corp (SBC) and foreign alliances with foreign channels.

This allows SBC to develop expertise and raise revenue, while retaining some government control over programming.

No satellite television firms have taken off yet in Manila but wealthy Filipinos and five-star hotels have bought dishes for about 800 dollars, giving access to channels such as CNN.

Manila has no policy on satellite television. "We can't really do anything to stop it if it spreads", an official said.

Taiwan has tried unsuccessfully to crack down on satellite television, even raiding illegal cable television

firms to snap wires. The services are usually reconnected within hours.

Small dishes used to tune in to some satellite programmes are legal but medium and large dishes permitting reception of CNN and Star-TV are illegal. Officials say Taiwan plans to ease the restrictions soon.

Perhaps the country most worried about satellite television is China whose monopoly over state-run television has left one billion viewers bored with undiluted propaganda cranked out in its news items, documentaries and soap operas.

Beijing last month ordered tourist hotels to unhook links to Star-TV. No reasons were given.

China is launching a cable television service in major cities as an instrument of control. It hopes for agreements with Star-TV and other stations to air programmes selectively.

Analysts say that unless it provides a more attractive mix of programmes, the venture is doomed to failure.

Many in southern China spurn state television and tune in to Hong Kong stations, which have their biggest audiences in Guangdong province.

## Open air concert

By Staff Correspondent

The Sonargaon Hotel yesterday arranged an open-air concert at the Panth Path in the city in observance of the Tourism Week '92.



Employees and drivers of Bangladesh Secretariat locked the gates to the Secretariat yesterday afternoon to protest an untoward incident involving a Secretariat driver and on-duty police personnel.

## Rail, road barricade in Rajshahi

RAJSHAH, Feb 27: A complete rail and road barricade programme was observed here today in support of Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) call for withdrawal of false cases against their 60 student leaders, reports UNB.

Responding to the call, all types of vehicles were off the road and rail communications in the district remained disrupted from midnight Wednesday.

The GCO, an alliance of seven left leaning student organisations called for the programme at a meeting at RU campus last week.

Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir filed the alleged false cases for killing four of its workers in a series of clashes on RU campus during the last three years.

From early morning various student groups brought out

processions on the campus and put barricades in and around the city to make their programme a success.

No classes or examinations were held during the blockade hours from 6 am to 12 noon today.

The picketers put up barricades on rail tracks near Rajshahi University station, damaged a BRTC bus, a motor cycle and attacked the local radio relay tower office.

They damaged the Dhaka-bound BRTC bus from Chapalnawabganj at 12.30 pm near C&B office.

## KAFCO

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Minister, yesterday held a meeting with senior officials in preparation for today's meeting.

Bangladesh faces enormous pressure from various quarters to settle the issue by early next month.

The World Bank has also expressed concern at the delay in the settlement.

"We are particularly concerned.... that the current difficulties with the project could have wider ramifications in terms of discouraging foreign investments," the WB in a letter to Bangladesh government last November said.

## Freedom Party pandal attacked

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, Feb 27: A pandal of Freedom Party at a local maidan was set on fire by a group of young men last night at about 1.30 am.

## Internal clashes leave 2 JCD, BCL workers injured

By DU Correspondent

Two activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Chhatra League (S-A) were assaulted in different incidents at the Dhaka University campus Thursday.

Bablu a JCD leader and vice president of the Madar Bakhs Hall Student Union of the Rajshahi University, was beaten up by a group of unidentified young men in front of the Lecture Theatre of Dhaka University yesterday at 1.20 pm.

Sources said that the incident of assaulting was allegedly by related to the internal clash of the JCD.

In a different incident at the Zahurul Huq Hall of the university a BCL (S-A) activist Shahe Alam was seriously injured in a clash between two groups of the BCL (S-A).

Shahe Alam received serious head injury and was taken to a private clinic.

## Biman

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nounced on October last year.

The previous contract of 115 pilots of the national airlines expired in June last year but has not yet been renewed.

Managing Director of Bangladesh Biman and BAPA president led the respective side during the three-hour meeting.

A Biman official said that the negotiation will continue. Both the management and BAPA leaders would meet again next week, he added.

## England emerge

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Frettas each claimed three wickets for England and Lewis was named man-of-the-match.

Commentators say England is now the favourite to win the tournament after defending champion Australia suffered successive losses to New Zealand and South Africa.

Pakistan improved its record to 1-1 with a comprehensive 53-run win over Zimbabwe at Belle Vue Oval in Hobart.

Aamir Sohail cracked 114 runs from 136 balls as Pakistan made 254 for four from its 50 overs.

Zimbabwe quickly fell behind the required run-rate and could only score 201 for seven in response.

Sri Lanka, which has a 1-1 record, faces India, which is 0-1, at Mackay in the only match scheduled for Friday, ahead of a busy weekend.

The West Indies plays Zimbabwe in Brisbane on Saturday, with New Zealand playing South Africa in Auckland.

On Sunday, Pakistan plays England in Adelaide and Australia plays India in Brisbane.

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## UNHCR plan

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refugees would keep on increasing as more and more people are arriving from Arakan, the western province of Myanmar.

Meanwhile, the Australian government announced an emergency relief fund of 2.5 lakh Australian dollars to assist the Rohingya refugees, according to an embassy press release.

The citizens of Kuwait have also donated 3 lakh US dollars to assist the refugees, Foreign Office sources quote Kuwait embassy said here today.

## Activated carbon industry opens

RAJSHAH, Feb 27: A new industry which will produce activated carbon from rice husk was formally opened here today, reports UNB.



নানা প্রকার রাসায়নিক ও পারমাণবিক পরীক্ষা-নিরীক্ষা, বৃক্ষ নিধন, অতিরিক্ত জ্বালানী কাঠ ব্যবহার, যানবাহন, কলকারখানা, তৈল শোধনাগার ও তেলকূপ সমূহে অগ্নিকাণ্ড ইত্যাদি কারণে পৃথিবীর ওজন স্তরের ক্ষতি হওয়ায়

ভূমণ্ডল উত্তপ্ত হচ্ছে

ফাল্গুন

ঘন ঘন বন্যা, খরা, ঝড়-ঝঞ্ঝা, সাইক্লোন, টর্নেডো, জলোচ্ছ্বাসসহ নানা প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগ ও তার তীব্রতা বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে

বৃক্ষ বাতাসকে সজীব রাখে, তাপ শোষণ করে, মাটির ক্ষয় রোধ করে, প্রয়োজনীয় প্রাণী ও পতঙ্গকুলকে আশ্রয় দান করে, মানুষের জন্যও একাধারে খাদ্য ও আবাসগৃহ উপহার দেয় এবং

পৃথিবীকে শীতল রাখে  
জন্ম থেকে মৃত্যু পর্যন্ত মানুষের জন্য গাছ অপরিহার্য

অধিকহারে গাছ লাগানো। পরিবেশকে রক্ষা করুন

পরিবেশ আমাদেরকে রক্ষা করবে।



পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার