

ROHINGYA POPULATION PUZZLE

Trespassing dwarfs repatriation

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK, back from Cox's Bazar

Thirteen years ago some 250,877 refugees from Myanmar braved the Arakanese forests, hills and the Naff river to take shelter in Bangladesh. Bangladesh, with support from the United Nations, stood by their side despite its own population and poverty problems.

Then, since 1992 to date, Bangladesh has sent back 236,490 Rohingya refugees to Myanmar. So, population in the Rohingya refugee camps is now supposed to be thin -- 19,841 including the children born here.

But, in reality, there are still over 200,000 Rohingyas living in and around Cox's Bazar, as illegal immigration remains almost unchallenged in the bordering coastal region. This astonishing figure was



Shanties in front of Teknaf Upazila Parishad office house over 1,250 families of illegal Rohingya immigrants who have been squatting for the last one and a half years.

Police club AL rally, 3 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three people were injured as police clubbed a main opposition Awami League (AL) rally on the city's Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday.

The main opposition organised the gathering to protest the bomb blast at a meeting of its leader Suranjit Sengupta in Sunamganj, Sylhet on Monday.

Law enforcers barred a procession of Awami Shechshabeb League, volunteer front of the AL, near Bangabandhu Avenue. Following an altercation with party activists, police clubbed them, injuring at least three, sources said.

However, the affected resumed soon after the incident and continued without any interruption, they added.

Speaking at the rally, party General Secretary Abdul Jalil alleged that the government backed all

WATERLOGGING

4 lakh marooned inside DND dam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Torrential rains in the last three days have flooded most areas within the Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) embankment, paralysing life for about four lakh people.

Most of the roads and lanes and many houses in the areas have been inundated and household waste mixed with rainwater worsened their sufferings.

The affected areas include Kajla, Matuail, Dhonia, Konapara, Basharpool, Dogair, Deilla, Hazinagar, Tengra and Boxnagar of Demra and Shanarpar, Nemaikashari, Bagmara, and Jalkuri of Narayanganj.

Local people attributed the

massive water logging to lack of drainage and sewerage system in the DND dam area, adjacent to the capital.

They said the situation is similar during the rainy season every year. The DND dam was originally built as an irrigation project.

Over the last 20 years, thousands of people built houses in the area turning it into an entirely unplanned residential area. People mostly from lower middle-income and low-income groups started living in the area buying small plots despite the lack of basic amenities.

Some pumps are being used under local initiatives and some others by the Water Development

Water levels at 5 rivers cross danger point

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Water levels in most of the rivers continued to rise, as wet monsoon set in across the country.

Out of 85 monitoring stations of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), 54 recorded rise while eight recorded fall. Water levels at five river locations were above danger levels.

According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) of BWDB, during the last 24 hours till 9:00am yesterday, light to heavy rainfall was recorded at most of the places while very heavy fall recorded at many places over the country.

During the same period significant rainfall estimates were 180.0 mm at Rajshahi, 138.0 mm at

Tadao assures PM of more help in infrastructure, energy

UNB, Dhaka

Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Tadao Chino yesterday assured increased assistance for development of Bangladesh's agribusiness, energy and infrastructure sectors three core areas vital for the country's economic growth.

The assurance came when the visiting ADB president called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the afternoon.

The prime minister sought ADB's cooperation in the massive programmes taken up for the development of education, healthcare and agriculture.

The ADB president assured strong support of the bank for the development of these fields.

Appreciating the initiative and success of Bangladesh in primary education, he assured providing assistance in a bigger way in improvement of education.

"Bangladesh is the first country where ADB set up its residence mission Bhawan and the bank has been fully involved with the

SINGAPORE PM ARRIVES TODAY

Manpower, investment to top agenda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Increase in manpower export will be high on the agenda as Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong arrives this afternoon on a three-day official visit as part of his Asian tour.

Increase in trade and investment is also likely to be part of discussions between Dhaka and Singapore.

Bangladesh will sign an agreement on 'Promotion and Protection of Investment' and a 'Protocol on Regular Consultation' with Singapore.

Goh Chok Tong is coming at the invitation of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the second leg of his South Asia tour. He will lead a 30-member delegation, which will arrive on a special aircraft from Pakistan, and will leave for Sri Lanka for the final



Goh Chok Tong

leg of his tour on June 25.

Goh Chok will be accompanied by the Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Foreign Affairs Lee Yock Suan,

Cop critically hurt as angry students throw slab on him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police constable received critical head wounds yesterday when a group of agitating students of Jagannath University College threw a concrete slab on him during a clash with traders at Patuati in the city.

The on-duty police constable, Abdul Kader, 45, was rushed to nearby private Sumana Clinic where doctors gave him first aid before referring him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Kader was later shifted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital for a complicated surgery.

"We cannot provide support for the nature of brain surgery the patient requires now. He needs micro-surgery which is not available at our neurosurgery department right now," said one of the surgeons at the hospital.

Humayun Kabir, a fellow constable on patrol duty who witnessed the incident said, "We were trying to pacify some agitating student leaders standing in front of the main



PHOTO STAR

Schoolchildren walk home through rainwater that swamped the road in Palassey in Dhaka after hours of predawn showers yesterday.

Tk 3.51 crore foreign currency seized at ZIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials yesterday seized foreign bank notes worth Tk 3.51 crore at Zia International Airport (ZIA).

Customs Inspector Mozammel Hossain and his colleagues found five containers behind the luggage belt, which were kept for Gulf Air flight No. GF-459, customs sources said.

The customs team retrieved currencies of different countries worth Tk 3,51,20,893 after the containers were scanned, sources added.

The notes were deposited at the Valuables Warehouse of the ZIA, customs officials said. A departmental case was lodged.

Judge under 'pressure to free criminals' before by-polls

Files writ petition

UNB, Dhaka

A district and sessions judge yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court (HC) stating he was under tremendous pressure to set some hardened criminals free before the Dhaka-10 parliamentary by-election.

He was transferred to Barisal within 16 months of his posting in Dhaka for not giving in to the pressure, judge of the Speedy Trial Tribunal (STT) No. 2 Sheikh Jahangir Husain said in the petition.

Jahangir challenged his 'misfea-

sance' transfer order on June 13 and sought an inquiry into it. He was asked to relinquish his charge as STT judge by June 22 and join his new post.

A Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice Mohammad Joydul Abedin and Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader heard the counsel of the petitioner for about two hours. Attorney General A F Hassan Ariff rushed to the court to take note of the unusual petition.

The inconclusive hearing resumes today.

Car bomb kills Iraqi minister's bodyguard

S Korean hostage wins more time

AGENCIES, Baghdad

A car bomb exploded in a Baghdad street yesterday as a convoy of U.S. troops and Iraqi police drove past, killing a bodyguard of Iraqi Minister of State Adnan al-Janabi and two children.

"The explosion went off while a civilian car was passing and two children were burnt in the back of the vehicle," said Hassan Abdel Kazem, who owns a shop near the site of the attack.

He added that the children's parents were also wounded in the attack in the Amariyah district.

Four cars were destroyed in the

US staff visit Bangla Bhai area to collect information

Police lead them to outlaw-affected victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Three US embassy officials yesterday visited Bagmara upazila in Rajshahi under tightened security to gather information about the atrocities of anti-outlaw outfit Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMB), but police escorted them to the

families affected by outlaw violence.

Police in the name of security did not let the team from Dhaka talk to ordinary people freely and refused to give details on the visit to the northwestern upazila, believed to be a strong base of JMB operations commander Bangla Bhai.

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AL calls hartal for July 3

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League (AL) has called for a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal for July 3 to protest the bomb blast at a meeting of Suranjit Sengupta in Sunamganj and killing of two cops by Chhatra Dal cadres in the capital.

Awami League directed its front organisations to withdraw their proposed hartal on June 30 and enforce it on July 3.

The AL also announced to hold demonstration and bring out procession across the country on June 26.

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48 killed as rebels attack Russian police posts

AP, AFP, Chermen, Russia

Heavily armed militants launched overnight attacks against police buildings, border guard stations and other government offices in Ingushetia, a Russian region bordering Chechnya, killing 48 people including three high-ranking

regional officials.

The fighters seized the Interior Ministry in Nazran, the largest city in Ingushetia, and attacked the border guards' headquarters there as well as in two villages near the border with Chechnya shortly before midnight Monday, regional

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MEDIMET Pharmaceuticals Ltd. wins ISO 9001:2000 certificate

QIA MEDIMET Pharmaceuticals

ISO 9001:2000 Certificate Awarding Ceremony

Date: 2nd June 2004. Venue: Hotel Sheraton, Dhaka

Chief Guest: **Mr. Mizanur Rahman Sinha**
The Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Special Guest: **Prof. Dr. Md. Habibur Rahman**
Secretary, Drug Administration, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Dr. Richard J. Henry, Director, URS, Bangladesh

Dr. Khondker M. Iqbal, Managing Director, MEDIMET Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Honorable State Minister of Health and Family Welfare Mr. Mizanur Rahman Sinha is handing over the ISO 9001:2000 certificate to **Kh. Tarique-ul-Islam**, Managing Director of MEDIMET Pharmaceuticals Ltd. awarded by URS, England.

Message

A.T.K.M. Azmal
CEO
Daruma Consulting Ltd.
BASHATI CONDOMINIUM, Apt. # B-3, H-15, R-17
Banani, Dhaka, Mobile: 011857919

DARUMA

Daruma Consulting Ltd.
Architects, Planners, Interior Designers

Message

ARCHITECT
SATA HIDEAKI, Tokyo Japan
Managing Director
Daruma Consulting Ltd.
Apt. # B-3
BASHATI CONDOMINIUM
H-15, R-17, Banani, Dhaka

People's tastes have changed with the change in our socio-economic development. Small space, busy family, tidy apartments - modern life has its mark everywhere. Apart from few minor social problems, the city dwellers of Bangladesh enjoy similar benefits to many of the renowned cities of the world. Skyscrapers, shopping malls, factories, offices, schools & colleges - everywhere positive changes have taken place. With a vision to keep up with the world standard of superior life style through exclusive Interior Designing & to make your dreams come true, **DARUMA** has started its operations in Bangladesh. **DARUMA** is here to help you to get best out of your space in the most modern, elegant & efficient way.

Alike you, I also have noticed that the lifestyle in Bangladesh has changed very rapidly in the recent years. Nowadays exclusive branded cars roam around in the streets of Dhaka & posh super markets are a very familiar sight here. All these dazzling aspects of this fast growing city sometimes startle us! I have to say, standard of living in Bangladesh is booming with prosperity.

Since many years I've been engaged in Interior & Exterior Designing & Garden Planning in Tokyo. If my vast experience in these fields can contribute to the fast flourishing lifestyle of Bangladesh, I would be very happy.

Mascol Plaza, Uttara, Tel: 8924444, 8923838, Ext-426/427