

ASIA BOAT MIGRANTS UN despair over lack of rescues

BBC ONLINE

The UN has condemned the refusal of South-East Asian countries to rescue thousands of migrants adrift at sea.

UNHCR spokeswoman Vivian Tan said the lack of rescues over the weekend was a "bad sign".

Aid agencies say a grave humanitarian crisis is in train as countries in the region refuse to accept the migrants.

People on the boats are believed to be severely malnourished. Survivors who have made it to shore say there have been deadly fights on board over food.

Ms Tan warned that "time is running out" to help the migrants.

"We were hoping that more ships would be found, and that more people would be rescued and allowed to come onto shore. Unfortunately, this

didn't seem to have happened," she said.

The Indonesian authorities have told fishermen not to help the migrants - unless their boats are sinking or they are in the water.

Military spokesperson Fuad Basya said fishermen could deliver food, fuel and water to the boats, or help with repairs, but that bringing them to shore would constitute an illegal entry into Indonesia.

Some fishermen in Indonesia's Aceh province had told the BBC that they were not allowed to help migrants even if they were drowning.

Meanwhile the mayor of Langsa, the Indonesian port where many of the migrants are being cared for, has said the city has no budget for aid on this scale, and that it has received no help from Jakarta.

Some fishermen in Indonesia's Aceh province had told the BBC that they were not allowed to help migrants even if they were drowning.

Meanwhile the mayor of Langsa, the Indonesian port where many of the migrants are being cared for, has said the city has no budget for aid on this scale, and that it has received no help from Jakarta.

Myanmar acknowledges

FROM PAGE 1

The Indonesian navy prevented a suspected migrant boat from entering the country's waters at the weekend after the arrival of hundreds of Rohingya and Bangladeshis and has stepped up patrols in the area, the military said yesterday.

The three nations have sparked outrage by turning away some overloaded vessels, and thousands of migrants are still believed to be stranded at sea after a Thai crackdown disrupted long-established people-smuggling and -trafficking routes.

Also yesterday, a spokesman for Aung San Suu Kyi's party said Muslim boatpeople fleeing dire conditions in Myanmar are entitled to "human rights".

Suu Kyi has faced criticism for not speaking strongly on the issue, as surging Buddhist nationalism has deepened the desperation of a group largely viewed as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

But her party spokesman took the highly unusual step Monday of urging Myanmar to give stateless Muslims in the country a chance to get citizenship.

"If they are not accepted (as citizens), they cannot just be sent onto rivers. Can't be pushed out to sea. They are humans. I just see them as humans who are entitled to human rights," Nyan Win told reporters on the sidelines of a meeting between political parties and President Thein Sein in Yangon.

Myanmar's estimated 1.3 million Rohingya are not accepted as an ethnic group and most are denied citizenship.

Emotional reunion in Shillong

FROM PAGE 1

Meghalaya police arrested Salahuddin on May 11 as he was "hanging around aimlessly" in Golf Links area of Shillong nearly two months after his disappearance.

Hasina stayed with Salahuddin for around half an hour, journalists from Bangladesh and India who were at the hospital told The Daily Star.

Claiming that Salahuddin is "critically ill", she told reporters that they wanted to take him to a third country for better treatment through legal process.

Subrata Acharya, India bureau chief of Somoy TV, told The Daily Star that Hasina entered the hospital around 8:30pm (Bangladesh Time) along with two others.

After visiting her husband, she thanked the Indian government for providing her husband with shelter and treatment.

"We've already talked with lawyers and will bring them along to the hospital tomorrow while meeting my husband," Hasina was quoted by Subrata as saying.

Meanwhile, Salahuddin talking to journalists for the first time since he went missing on March 10 yesterday said that after riding a car for about 12-14 hours with his eyes blindfolded and hands tied, some people left him at the Shillong golf course.

3 brothers die

FROM PAGE 1

suddenly he dropped his mobile phone into the cesspit, said Ujjala Chakma, wife of Pradip Shashi.

Ubantu tried to retrieve the phone but to no avail. He then opened up the slab of the cesspit. Overcome by the overpowering fumes, he passed out before falling into the tank, neighbours said.

As there was no response from him for quite some time, Arpita, Ubantu's wife, informed her brothers-in-law. On hearing this, Hebantu rushed there and entered the toilet. But he too became unconscious and fell into the tank.

Finally, Pradip entered and he too

fell into it.

Hearing screams of family members, neighbours rushed to the spot and rescued the victims. While rescuing them, two neighbours -- Ripon Chakma, 22, and Bablu Chakma, 20, fell sick.

The three brothers were whisked off to Mahalchhari Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared them dead. Ripon and Bablu were undergoing treatment at the upazila health complex.

Dr Tanzil Farhad of Mahalchhari Upazila Health Complex said the victims were brought dead. He said they might have died because of the toxic gas inside the tank.

Pradip was a local correspondent of the Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj while Hebantu and Ubantu were farmers.

The death of the brothers created a

heart-rending scene at the house with family members and neighbours mourning their abrupt loss.

Their aged mother Sadhana Chakma was howling and fainting frequently.

"They left me alone, how would we survive?" she cried.

Semaiun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Mahalchhari police station, said after completing all formalities, the three brothers were cremated around 4:00pm yesterday. Several hundreds of people attended the funeral.

Pradip was a local correspondent of the Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj while Hebantu and Ubantu were farmers.

The death of the brothers created a

heart-rending scene at the house with family members and neighbours mourning their abrupt loss.

Their aged mother Sadhana Chakma was howling and fainting frequently.

"They left me alone, how would we survive?" she cried.

Semaiun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Mahalchhari police station, said after completing all formalities, the three brothers were cremated around 4:00pm yesterday. Several hundreds of people attended the funeral.

Pradip was a local correspondent of the Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj while Hebantu and Ubantu were farmers.

The death of the brothers created a

heart-rending scene at the house with family members and neighbours mourning their abrupt loss.

Their aged mother Sadhana Chakma was howling and fainting frequently.

"They left me alone, how would we survive?" she cried.

Semaiun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Mahalchhari police station, said after completing all formalities, the three brothers were cremated around 4:00pm yesterday. Several hundreds of people attended the funeral.

Pradip was a local correspondent of the Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj while Hebantu and Ubantu were farmers.

The death of the brothers created a

heart-rending scene at the house with family members and neighbours mourning their abrupt loss.

Their aged mother Sadhana Chakma was howling and fainting frequently.

"They left me alone, how would we survive?" she cried.

Semaiun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Mahalchhari police station, said after completing all formalities, the three brothers were cremated around 4:00pm yesterday. Several hundreds of people attended the funeral.

Pradip was a local correspondent of the Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj while Hebantu and Ubantu were farmers.

The death of the brothers created a

heart-rending scene at the house with family members and neighbours mourning their abrupt loss.

Their aged mother Sadhana Chakma was howling and fainting frequently.

"They left me alone, how would we survive?" she cried.

Semaiun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Mahalchhari police station, said after completing all formalities, the three brothers were cremated around 4:00pm yesterday. Several hundreds of people attended the funeral.

Pradip was a local correspondent of the Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj while Hebantu and Ubantu were farmers.

The death of the brothers created a

heart-rending scene at the house with family members and neighbours mourning their abrupt loss.

Their aged mother Sadhana Chakma was howling and fainting frequently.

"They left me alone, how would we survive?" she cried.

Semaiun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Mahalchhari police station, said after completing all formalities, the three brothers were cremated around 4:00pm yesterday. Several hundreds of people attended the funeral.

Pradip was a local correspondent of the Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj while Hebantu and Ubantu were farmers.

The death of the brothers created a

heart-rending scene at the house with family members and neighbours mourning their abrupt loss.

Their aged mother Sadhana Chakma was howling and fainting frequently.

"They left me alone, how would we survive?" she cried.

Semaiun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Mahalchhari police station, said after completing all formalities, the three brothers were cremated around 4:00pm yesterday. Several hundreds of people attended the funeral.

Pradip was a local correspondent of the Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj while Hebantu and Ubantu were farmers.

The death of the brothers created a

heart-rending scene at the house with family members and neighbours mourning their abrupt loss.

Their aged mother Sadhana Chakma was howling and fainting frequently.

"They left me alone, how would we survive?" she cried.

Semaiun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Mahalchhari police station, said after completing all formalities, the three brothers were cremated around 4:00pm yesterday. Several hundreds of people attended the funeral.

Pradip was a local correspondent of the Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj while Hebantu and Ubantu were farmers.

The death of the brothers created a

heart-rending scene at the house with family members and neighbours mourning their abrupt loss.

Their aged mother Sadhana Chakma was howling and fainting frequently.

"They left me alone, how would we survive?" she cried.

Semaiun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Mahalchhari police station, said after completing all formalities, the three brothers were cremated around 4:00pm yesterday. Several hundreds of people attended the funeral.

Pradip was a local correspondent of the Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj while Hebantu and Ubantu were farmers.

The death of the brothers created a

heart-rending scene at the house with family members and neighbours mourning their abrupt loss.

Their aged mother Sadhana Chakma was howling and fainting frequently.

"They left me alone, how would we survive?" she cried.

Semaiun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Mahalchhari police station, said after completing all formalities, the three brothers were cremated around 4:00pm yesterday. Several hundreds of people attended the funeral.

Pradip was a local correspondent of the Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj while Hebantu and Ubantu were farmers.

The death of the brothers created a

heart-rending scene at the house with family members and neighbours mourning their abrupt loss.

Their aged mother Sadhana Chakma was howling and fainting frequently.

"They left me alone, how would we survive?" she cried.

Semaiun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Mahalchhari police station, said after completing all formalities, the three brothers were cremated around 4:00pm yesterday. Several hundreds of people attended the funeral.

Pradip was a local correspondent of the Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj while Hebantu and Ubantu were farmers.

The death of the brothers created a

heart-rending scene at the house with family members and neighbours mourning their abrupt loss.

Their aged mother Sadhana Chakma was howling and fainting frequently.

"They left me alone, how would we survive?" she cried.

Semaiun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Mahalchhari police station, said after completing all formalities, the three brothers were cremated around 4:00pm yesterday. Several hundreds of people attended the funeral.

Pradip was a local correspondent of the Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj while Hebantu and Ubantu were farmers.

The death of the brothers created a

heart-rending scene at the house with family members and neighbours mourning their abrupt loss.

Their aged mother Sadhana Chakma was howling and fainting frequently.

"They left me alone, how would we survive?" she cried.

Semaiun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Mahalchhari police station, said after completing all formalities, the three brothers were cremated around 4:00pm yesterday. Several hundreds of people attended the funeral.

Pradip was a local correspondent of the Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj while Hebantu and Ubantu were farmers.

The death of the brothers created a

heart-rending scene at the house with family members and neighbours mourning their abrupt loss.

Their aged mother Sadhana Chakma was howling and fainting frequently.

"They left me alone, how would we survive?" she cried.

Semaiun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Mahalchhari police station, said after completing all formalities, the three brothers were cremated around 4:00pm yesterday. Several hundreds of people attended the funeral.

Pradip was a local correspondent of the Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj while Hebantu and Ubantu were farmers.

The death of the brothers created a

heart-rending scene at the house with family members and neighbours mourning their abrupt loss.

Their aged mother Sadhana Chakma was howling and fainting frequently.

"They left me alone, how would we survive?" she cried.

Semaiun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Mahalchhari police station, said after completing all formalities, the three brothers were cremated around 4:00pm yesterday. Several hundreds of people attended the funeral.