



Members of the Myanmar's Advisory Commission on Rakhine State visiting Kutupalong unregistered Rohingya slum in Cox's Bazar's Ukha yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Bleak days

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sisters and all of them are married." "My father had managed me my job just seven months ago. I earn just Tk 8,000 every month and used to supplement his [Badal] income. But I don't know what will happen now," Mamun said.

Badal's widow, Aysha Khatun, said she also did not know how the family would survive now. "My elder sons could not study because of poverty. And now, when we have been dreaming about my youngest son, this tragedy has struck us," she said.

Aysha urged the government to recognise her husband's sacrifice, and give her other sons jobs at the railway department.

Hannan Miah, assistant headmaster of Mukhi Pallisebok High School, said the villagers were proud of Badal. "We hope that the country would recognise Badal's heroic sacrifice".

Jihadi books

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Long titled "Techniques of Silent Killing".

The OC said the book had been found with a militant suspect in Britain and in several dens of militants in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country. There was another book on how to make explosives published by Ansarul Islam Bangla Blog.

On Sunday afternoon, Motiur was taking away several sacks full of books and leaflets by a rickshaw-van. Some of the books fell on the road as the rickshaw turned upside down, said local people.

From there people informed police of the books, they said. Boalia police recorded a case against some 15 leaders of Jamaat and Shibir in this connection.

Rajshahi city Jamaat ameer Abul Hashem said Jamaat had rented the office on the ground floor of a two-storey building from Dawat-ul-Islam Trust six years ago. For the last two years, there has not been any political activity there.

Moniur has worked there as a peon, Abul said, adding that he had no knowledge of how those books ended up there at that office.

Nur Hossain

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of the murder charge.

Citing the appeals, Lutfor told The Daily Star that his client was not present on the spot where the seven people were killed in Narayanganj in April 2014.

There was no witness' statement or evidence about the presence of Nur Hossain at the scene of the crime, he said.

The lawyer said without considering the issue, the trial court sentenced his client to death in two cases filed in connection with the killing of seven people -- Narayanganj City Corporation panel mayor Nazrul Islam, his driver and three associates, and senior lawyer Chandan Sarkar and his driver.

Lutfor also said the HC might hold a hearing on the appeals.

The seven were abducted allegedly by some Rapid Action Battalion men from Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road in Siddhirganj on April 27, 2014.

Nur, who was then a ward councillor of Narayanganj city, allegedly bribed the Rab men to murder Nazrul with whom he reportedly had a long-standing political feud. Lawyer Chandan and his driver were killed as they happened to witness the Rab men abducting Nazrul and his associates.

Team hopes to submit

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They then visited Kutupalong registered Rohingya camp.

Around 3:00pm, they held a meeting with Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Ali Hossain at his office.

The DC told The Daily Star that the commission wanted to know about the condition of registered and unregistered Rohingyas.

Ali said as a representative of the government, he requested the commission to find out a permanent solution to the Rohingya crisis and take them back to Myanmar.

At present, around 33,000 Rohingyas are staying in two registered Rohingya camps in Ukha and Teknaf upazilas. Besides, 45,000 Rohingyas are now in Leda Rohingya slum, 90,000 in Kutupalong slum, 10,000 in Paschim Balukhali slum and 5,000 in Shaplapur slum of Teknaf.

As per reports of different government agencies, around three lakh other Rohingyas are living in Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, Chittagong and other parts of the country.

Talking to the commission at Kutupalong Rohingya slum, Rafiq

Ahmed, 40, of Gouzbil village in the Rakhine state, alleged that the Myanmar army looted his house before torching it.

Another Rohingya, Nurul Alam, 35, of Hatiyapara village, alleged that the Myanmar army had killed his two brothers.

Abu Siddique, president of Kutupalong Rohingya slum management committee, said the commission wanted to know in details about the condition of Rohingyas who recently fled from the Rakhine state. They told the commission what they knew.

The Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, also known as the Rakhine Commission, was formed to find lasting solutions to the complex and delicate issues in the Rakhine state.

The nine-member commission is led by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. It is comprised of six Myanmar citizens and three foreign experts.

Meanwhile, US Ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Bernicat reached Cox's Bazar yesterday and she is expected to visit Rohingya camps in Ukha and Teknaf upazilas today.

Build inclusive society

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could hope for a "somewhat more credible and less partisan Election Commission (EC) to organise the polls".

"How far the EC will be permitted to neutralise the pervasive influence of an incumbent regime in office for a decade, presiding over a partisanised administration which manages election at ground level, remains to be seen," he said.

State policy has supported entrepreneurial effort but much more should be done, he said, adding "The primary task of the state should be to minimise rent extraction from our entrepreneurs, recognise their contributions at all levels and build upon their gains".

Prof Sobhan said malfunctioning democracies, manifested through dysfunctional representative institutions, contribute to malgovernance through excessively weak accountability of public institutions.

"Accountability is further weakened in the absence of competitive elections," he said, adding that such unaccountable governance encourages corruption and

perpetuates inefficiency.

The noted economist suggested introducing provisions for The Right to Recall (RTR) for lawmakers who do not honour their electoral pledges and engage in malfeasance. RTR is a law that allows citizens to replace public servants holding key posts in the government.

He also underscored the need for media freedom, ensuring accountability of public servants and total transparency.

"Through websites the public should have ready access to the bank accounts and tax records of all ministers, MPs, local representatives, public servants, private entrepreneurs receiving benefits from public institutions via bank loans, loan rescheduling, public subsidies and other such supportive interventions involving the use of public resources," he said.

While commemorating Abdur Razzaq, he said politicians like Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Tajuddin Ahmad and Aatur Rahman have all been inspired by his ideas and looked on him with affection and respect.

Founder and Chairman of Brac Sir Fazle Hasan Abed said though there are many unfinished agendas, the country has made excellent progress in reducing child mortality and increasing life expectancy in the last 45 years.

He hoped that the foundation will turn out a centre of excellence in future.

Among others, Pro-vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Dr Nasreen Ahmed, Chairperson of Bengal Foundation Abul Khair, Director General of Razzaq Foundation Ahrar Ahmad, Senior Fellow of Center for Policy Dialogue Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya also spoke.

2 crore suffer

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"The law should be amended to include grandparents, grandchildren and cousins as donors," the report says.

Rafiqul Alam, former chairman of BSMMU's nephrology department, pointed out that the Iranian government provides incentives for kidney donation and kidney transplantation is done free of cost there.

People should be convinced that donating one of two good kidneys does not affect the health of the donor, while donating kidneys of the brain dead can save thousands of lives, he said.

Golam Kibria, former professor of urology at BSMMU, cautioned that laws should be framed or amended in a way that checks organ trafficking.

MA Salam, former urology professor at BSMMU, said the law has to be clear that there is no interest between the kidney donor and recipient. The social welfare ministry can play a major role in this aspect, he added.

At the event, BSMMU Vice-Chancellor Kamrul Hassan Khan and pro-VC Shahidullah Shikder declared donating their organs after death.

BSMMU pro-VC Sharfuddin Ahmed, Registrar Ali Asgar Moral, urology professor Sajid Hasan, paediatric nephrology professor Habibur Rahman, Society of Urology President SA Khan also spoke.

Tortured housewife rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A housewife was rescued yesterday after she had been tortured and kept unfed for days by her husband who wanted money from her family to buy drugs.

The victim, Kolpona Begum, 19, was lying unconscious at the yard of her in-laws' house when the Jaldhaka municipality mayor and some councillors went there and took her to Jaldhaka Upazila Health Complex.

Jahangir Alam, a doctor of the hospital, said Kolpona had blacked out in mental shock and for physical weakness as she was unfed and tortured for days, and there were marks of injuries on different parts of her body.

Her father Afizar Rahman, of Singria village of Jaldhaka, married her off to Nur Islam, 28, son of Mominur Rahman of Tinbot village in the municipality, a year ago.

Before the marriage, he claimed to be a garment employee in Dhaka, Afizar said.

The bride's father at the time gave him a television set, a bi-cycle and Tk 50 thousand as dowry.

Soon after marriage, Kolpona realised her husband was unemployed and drug addict. Within six months, he spent all cash and sold the TV, bi-cycle and other gift items to buy drugs, her father told The Daily Star.

Nur Islam then started torturing Kolpona to force her into bringing money from her father, but when she refused, the torture escalated.

For the last four days he didn't let her eat anything and beat her, locals said.

Police clueless

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72, of Noakhali, used to live alone in the house, he said.

Earlier, it was seen that the so-called "pir" and mazar-related people became a target of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

Omar Ali, a city corporation staff, also a former president of the colony's arbitration (panchayat) committee, said Nurjahan used to live Hazrat Shah Ali Baghdadi Mazar, locally known as Mirpur Mazar, but started living in city colony area, owned by the city corporation, eight years ago.

Some city corporation employees and some other followers of the "pir" built a house for her in the colony. Her followers used to sit with her regularly, he said.

A murder case was filed.

Khaleda

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properly", said Rezak Khan, adding that the matter should be investigated again for ensuring justice.

However, Public Prosecutor Mosharaf Hossain Kajol opposed the petition and appealed to the court to start reading out the charges to Khaleda brought by 32 prosecution witnesses.

After hearing arguments from both the sides, Judge Abu Ahmed Jamadar adjourned the hearing until February 2.

The court asked Khaleda to appear before it on that day.

The BNP chief appeared before the court at 11:10am and left the courtroom at 3:35pm. The former prime minister was allowed to sit on a chair.

The ACC had filed the case on July 3, 2008 with Ramna Police Station accusing Khaleda, his elder son Tarique Rahman and four others for misappropriating over Tk 2.10 crore that was received as grants for orphans via a foreign bank.

Of the six accused, Khaleda, former BNP lawmaker Kazi Salimul Haq Kamal and businessman Sharfuddin Ahmed are on bail while the others have been absconding.

SALAM FALLS SICK
BNP chairperson's adviser Abdus Salam fell sick on the court premises yesterday when he went there with the party chief.

He was admitted to Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College Hospital in the city, said Syrul Kabir Khan, a staff of Khaleda's media wing.

"As Abdus Salam felt unwell around 11:00am, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir took him to the hospital," he added.

Shift lower courts

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He also hoped that the trial of the BDR carnage case will end soon as he has already instructed the judges in this regard.

Terming the judiciary the country's most neglected sector, the chief justice said the judiciary was yet to be digitised.

"All our prisoners are still registered manually for which many prisoners could not be traced for about six months to one year. I noticed it in Kashimpur jails, and as a chief justice, it will hurt me if anyone stays in jail without trial," he said.

"We will not keep any innocent man in jail. It is a violation of human rights." During his visit, the chief justice enquired about the prisoners and donated a good number of books, many on the Liberation War, of worth Tk 1 lakh, to the jail library.

Inspector General of Prisons Brig Gen Syed Iftakhar Uddin, among other jail officials, was present during the visit.

6 shot dead, 8 injured

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the city's historic center.

The mosque has already been the target of hate: a pig's head was left on the doorstep last June during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Other mosques in Canada have been targeted with racist graffiti in recent months.

The attack comes as Canada has vowed to open its arms wide to Muslims and refugees after US President Donald Trump's controversial immigration ban Friday sparked travel chaos and outrage around the world.

SENSELESS VIOLENCE
Trudeau said in a statement that "we condemn this terrorist attack on Muslims in a center of worship and refuge."

"Muslim-Canadians are an important part of our national fabric, and these senseless acts have no place in our communities, city and country.

"It is heart-wrenching to see such senseless violence," Trudeau said. "Diversity is our strength, and religious tolerance is a value that we, as Canadians, hold dear."

Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard said in a series of Twitter posts that the government was "mobilized to ensure the security of the people of Quebec."

"Quebec categorically rejects this barbaric violence," he wrote. "Solidarity with Quebec people of Muslim faith."

After condemning what he called an "odious attack" French President Francois Hollande said "it's the spirit of peace and openness of the people of Quebec that the terrorists wanted to hit."

Police stationed near the mosque told AFP that they had feared this type

of attack "because it's happening all over the world."

"For us Muslims, Quebec and Canada had been a safe zone," said Hamid Nadiji, who learned of the shooting from a friend and rushed to the mosque area.

POLICY OF COMPASSION
The immigration ministry said Sunday that Canada would offer temporary residence permits to people stranded in the country as a result of Trump's order.

"Let me assure those who may be stranded in Canada that I will use my authority as minister to provide them with temporary residency if needed as we have done in the past," Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen told a news conference.

Trump has suspended the arrival of all refugees to the US for at least 120 days and barred entry for 90 days to people from seven Muslim-majority countries: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

Hussen, who is of Somali origin, did not condemn the US measure but stressed that Canada would continue to pursue an immigration policy based on "compassion" while at the same time protecting the security of its citizens.

"We welcome those fleeing persecution, terror and war," he said, echoing a welcoming Twitter post by Trudeau on Saturday.

According to the latest Canadian census, from 2011, one out of five people in the country are foreign-born.

Canada has welcomed more than 39,670 Syrian refugees between November 2015 and early January 2017, according to government figures.

Hajj to be costlier

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amount would be Tk 3.19 lakh from Tk 3.05 lakh last year.

The base price for private packages would be at least Tk 1.56. It was Tk 1.55 lakh last year. Hajj agencies would offer packages after adding costs of food and accommodation.

The pilgrims under the private management would have to pay for qurbani (sacrificing animals) through the coupons of Islamic Development Bank in Saudi Arabia.

"No one will be allowed to buy sacrificial animals directly as the bank itself will be making the arrangements," Alam said.

The cabinet secretary said the pilgrims under both the government and the private arrangements must

rent houses on "common spaces" in Makkah and Madina.

The pilgrims would have to collect foods through catering companies to be appointed by the Saudi government, he said, adding that no one would be allowed to cook food on their own.

Alam said pilgrims under the private arrangement would have to open bank accounts in Saudi Arabia, and that they would have to pay hotel and house rents online.

He said the air fare has been set at \$1,500 while like the previous year, online registration and machine-readable passports are must for pilgrims.

The cabinet secretary said each Hajj agency would have to send minimum 150 and maximum 300 pilgrims.

Trump defends travel ban

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"This executive order sends a signal, intended or not, that America does not want Muslims coming into our country. That is why we fear this executive order may do more to help terrorist recruitment than improve our security," the two said.

Trump lambasted McCain and Graham together in a two-tweet response, writing: "The joint statement of former presidential candidates John McCain & Lindsey Graham is wrong - they are sadly weak on immigration. The two Senators should focus their energies on ISIS, illegal immigration and border security instead of always looking to start World War III."

But even as Trump hit McCain and Graham, other Republicans were similarly criticising his executive order.

Rep Will Hurd, R-Texas, called it "the ultimate display of mistrust." Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker, R-Tennessee, said the order "has been poorly implemented, especially with respect to green card holders."

"This was an extreme vetting program that wasn't properly vetted," Sen Rob Portman, R-Ohio, told CNN's Jake Tapper on "State of the Union."

Already, a federal judge in New York blocked part of Trump's executive order on immigration, ruling that authorities could not remove individuals from seven Muslim-majority countries who had arrived in US airports after the order had been issued. Other judges had ruled against the order, as well.

Sixteen Democratic state attorneys general issued a joint statement calling Trump's move "unconstitutional, un-American and unlawful" and vowing to fight it in court.

The controversy comes the week Trump has said he will announce his choice for a

vacancy on the Supreme Court.

The chaotic scenes around airports Saturday came in part because Trump's administration had reportedly not allowed career Homeland Security Department staff to see the executive order.

One key question for many is how the order will affect US green card holders and people who hold dual citizenship with a Trump approved country and one of the seven banned nations.

Adding to the confusion, Trump administration officials seemed to at times contradict themselves during appearances on Sunday news shows. In mere minutes during an interview with NBC, White House chief of staff Reince Priebus said the order "doesn't affect" green card holders, then later said "of course" it affects green card holders from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Yemen and Somalia -- the seven countries Trump has temporarily stop immigration from for 90 days.

Later Sunday, Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly issued a statement that sought to clarify their status saying, "lawful permanent resident status will be a dispositive factor in our case-by-case determinations."

Another Homeland Security official told CNN the green card holders who are returning to the US will still go through additional screening and national security checks upon landing. However, the government is trying to ease their entry back into the US. Unless they have a significant criminal history or links to terrorism, they will be allowed back in the country after going the check the official said.

"This is our message to them: get on a plane. Come back to the US. You will be subject to secondary screening, but everything else will be normal," the Homeland Security official told CNN.

2 more public universities

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the district, but it was later revised. Like other public universities, it would offer courses in arts, commerce and science subjects.

With the latest two, the number of public universities in the country would be 40.

The cabinet also approved the draft of the Bangladesh Ship Recycling Act-2017 incorporating a provision of tougher punishment for violating the law. The proposed law was aimed at providing a further boost for the country's ship recycling industry, said the cabinet secretary.

A separate zone would be established in Chittagong for the ship recycling industry where the industry owners would set up yards and run their factories. The industries will also have to abide by international laws and conventions, Shafiqul added.

He said the punishment for importing or recycling ships without a "no objection certificate" (NOC) would be two years' jail or a fine of between Tk 10 lakh and Tk 30 lakh. A similar punishment would be meted out to anyone for setting up a yard without prior permission or building yards outside the zone.

The punishment for availing the facility through fake certificates would

be maximum five years' jail or a fine of between Tk 5 lakh and Tk 20 lakh.

Under the new law, an 11-member board would be constituted to oversee the activities of the ship recycling industries with an additional secretary of the industries ministry as its chairman.

The cabinet also approved in principle the draft of "The Integrated Small-scale Irrigation Policy, 2017" aimed at ensuring development of surface and underground water resources as well as their efficient use.

It also endorsed the draft of the agreements to be signed with India titled "Inter-agency Agreement between Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP) and Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) on Cooperation Regarding Nuclear Power Plant Project in Bangladesh".

The meeting also approved another draft agreement to be inked with India titled "Arrangement between the Indian Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (BAERA) for the Exchange of Technical Information and Cooperation in the Regulation of Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection".