



Pran Pasteurized Milk



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

Star Showbiz



DHAKA'S WATER WOES

The city needs a hydraulic vision should we want to save it

PAGE 7

TROUBLE BREWING?

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu suspected of bribery, fraud

PAGE 8

Take back Rohingyas

OIC chief calls upon Myanmar, says main responsibility to solve the crisis lies with it

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Urging Myanmar to take back Rohingya populations from Bangladesh, visiting OIC Secretary General Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen yesterday said Myanmar should resolve the ongoing humanitarian crisis over the persecuted minorities.

"Main responsibility to resolve this longstanding crisis is Myanmar's," he said and called for concrete steps in this regard during his visit to Ukhaia upazila in Cox's Bazar.

He met refugees at two camps -- one registered and another unregistered -- and talked to those who escaped Rakhine state following grave human rights violations and widespread persecution by Myanmar security forces.

The OIC chief listened to horrific stories of killings, torture, rape, use of human shields by security forces and deaths in custody. He said the world will be informed of these rights violations.

Rohingya refugees have been a big headache for Bangladesh as the country has been hosting 3,00,000 to 5,00,000 of them for over three decades. After the latest crackdown began on October 9, 2016, some 75,000 new members of the Myanmar Muslims entered Bangladesh.

Expressing OIC's solidarity with the Muslims there, PHOTO ON PAGE 16 SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Al-Othaimeen



A charred wreckage of a car burned down by angry locals following the death of a house help in the capital's Banasree yesterday. Violence erupted in the area as Laily Begum, 25, was found dead at a house there. Inset, the face-off between police and the locals. Story on page 16.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS/PALASH KHAN

Uttaran 'notice', our reply

The Daily Star is surprised at the tone and content of Uttaran's "Notice Demanding Justice" sent to it by advocate Md. Idrisur Rahman in response to our report headlined 'Hills lost to housing' published on 7th July 2017. We categorically state that all facts contained in our report are based on official documents and decisions. None of the conclusions is our own. All the relevant documents are in The Daily Star's possession.

There can be no question of it being "false, fabricated and with ulterior motive." Therefore Uttaran's claims are baseless.

That Uttaran has flattened hills for housing scheme without mandatory approval is mentioned in the Cox's Bazar assistant commissioner's investigation report memo no191 dated 15th December 1990; in violation of the Deputy Commissioner's order of 27th September 1990; and in the environment department's memo no-173/2010/107 dated 2nd January 2011.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Biman cancels two more hajj flights

One-third of 1.27 lakh pilgrims sent so far

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman had to cancel two hajj flights again yesterday due to the dismay of over 800 pilgrims.

It happened only a day after Biman Bangladesh and Saudi Arabian Airlines used their full capacity, for the first time in around a week.

In the last 12 days, the national airlines of the two countries carried about one-third of a total of 1.27 lakh pilgrims, Shakil Meraj, general manager (public relation) of Biman told The Daily Star.

The two Biman flights were cancelled due to SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Save hills, save lives

Following fatal landslides in June, UNDP finds out causes, makes a set of recommendations to prevent disaster

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Unplanned settlement, deforestation, lack of guidelines for constructions in the hill region, development interventions, and heavy rainfall were among the causes of the devastating landslides in the Chittagong Hill Tracts over one and a half months ago, according to a UNDP report.

The UN body also blamed various constructions obstructing natural water flow, leasing of forest lands for commercial crops, lack of building code and lack of understanding of hill ecology for such a major disaster.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) came up with the report five weeks after the series of landslides on June 13 claimed over 160 lives in Rangamati, Bandarban and Chittagong. Of them, 120 people died in Rangamati alone.

After making assessments of the three hill districts from July 2 to 16, the UNDP on July 19 sent the report titled "Chittagong Hill Tracts Post-Landslides and Flash Floods Recovery Assessment" to the disaster management and relief ministry. SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

The development partner made 27 recommendations outlining immediate (up to six months), mid-term (seven to 12 months) and long-term (beyond 12 months) action plans for the government to prevent the recurrence of landslides.

Recommendations for immediate actions include ensuring basic assistances like food, water, health care, protection and safety of women and girls, reconstruction of houses, resumption of livelihoods by providing cash, agricultural inputs or by building skills and access to clean drinking water.

"Monsoon is not over yet. Make sure that people living in unsafe locations are identified and monitored or given early warning," the report suggested.

It further recommended rehabilitation of schools and other essential community infrastructures.

The UNDP recommended stopping deforestation, hill cutting, banning brick kilns, indiscriminate sand and stone mining, halting illegal or unplanned settlements in the hills and taking SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

WHAT TO DO TO CHECK LANDSLIDES

Stop unplanned settlements, deforestation, hill cutting

Relocate hill people to safe area

Conserve natural forests; plant deep root species

Follow EIA to carry out development projects

Resume livelihoods by providing cash, agricultural inputs

Ban brick kilns, indiscriminate sand/stone mining

Formulate hill management policy

Is rape rising?

Teen girl 'raped' in Dinajpur, college girl in Bogra; cops arrest several people, including BCL men, over rape charges over the last few days

STAR REPORT

Amid an outcry over frequent incidents of rape, a 13-year-old girl was allegedly raped in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur yesterday.

The sixth grader orphan girl, who lives in a relative's house at Kalikabari, was alone when her neighbour Zakaria forcibly took her in a nearby abandoned house around 1:30pm and raped her, police said, quoting locals.

Hearing her screams, locals rushed to the house and found the girl bleeding profusely. She is now being treated at M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital in Dinajpur in a critical condition.

Police are trying to arrest Zakaria, who has since gone into hiding. Also yesterday, police arrested a college student on charges of raping a class nine student in Sonatola of Bogra.

Arrestee Tayef, 22, reportedly violated the girl in his home on August 1, said Shariful Islam, officer-in-charge of Sonatola Police Station.

The girl's father filed a case against five people, including Tayef and his parents, he added. "We are conducting drives to arrest the rest."

The girl was sent to Bogra Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital for a forensic test yesterday.

Incidents of rape and sexual harassment have been making headlines almost regularly of late. SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



A couple with their child wade across the flooded Noapara-Kaipara road in Abhaynagar upazila of Jessore. Top right, Tarapada Mondal, a flood-affected villager of Dumurtala, is building a makeshift cottage on the Noyapara-Moshitara road where he took shelter along with hundreds of others. Bottom right, a college partly submerged in water at Manirampur upazila. The photos were taken last week.

PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

BHABADHAHA: A tale of sorrow

DIPANKAR ROY with ANDREW EAGLE

Once famed for the ingenuity of its 21 sluice gates designed to efficiently channel the water of several rivers through plains and wetlands, the Bhabadaha area in Jessore has in more recent times become a tale of sorrow. Several of the sluice gates have been inoperative for years, with siltation-aggravated, avoidable flooding the current hallmark of each monsoon. This year, heavy rainfall has caused havoc across the country. Bhabadaha has not fared well.

Across three upazilas of Jessore and two in Khulna, areas that should be able to rely on the Bhabadaha infrastructure, over 100 villages are currently inundated with several thousand homes damaged. Many schools are submerged. The flooding is primarily the result of the failure to manage water flows from the Muktershari, Teka, Bhadra, Shree and Hori rivers. In places the riverbeds are higher than the plains around them, with siltation leading to overflow.

"Riverbed siltation has been causing prolonged water-logging in the southwestern part of Khulna division for around three decades," says Ranjit Bawyal, convenor of the Bhabadaha Water Management Committee. "Despite our requests the government has not taken effective action."