



A Rohingya man passes a child through a border fence near Maungdaw on the border with Bangladesh. Top right, Rohingyas try to enter Bangladesh from no man's land in Cox's Bazar as smoke rises in the background. There were reports of gunshots in the area. Some Rohingyas, bottom right, walk along the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf road on way to Ukhaia of Cox's Bazar. Thousands of Rohingyas have been fleeing ongoing military operations in Myanmar's Rakhine State since Friday. The photos were taken in the last two days.



PHOTO: AFP/REUTERS/ANISUR RAHMAN

## Stranded in no man's land

FROM PAGE 1

Every day, the Myanmar military is conducting patrols by helicopter along the border. Sounds of gunshots came from the other side yesterday morning.

Some Rohingya people with bullet and burn injuries have been admitted to different hospitals in the last three days. They claim to be the victims of Myanmar military offensive.

"A total of seven bullet-hit patients have been admitted to our hospital in the last two days," Dr Shahin Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, resident medical officer of Cox's Bazar Sadar Medical Hospital, told The Daily Star yesterday.

At least 11 others with bullet and burn injuries have come to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

The local authorities are officially denying that already thousands of Rohingyas have arrived in Bangladesh since the outbreak of fresh conflicts in Myanmar.

"People are coming to Bangladesh like floodwater. My estimation based on reports of different agencies is the number of newly arrived Rohingyas will be 20,000 to 25,000. But I cannot tell the media about it revealing my identity," said a top official, talking to The Daily Star.

Sarwar Kamal, upazila nirbahi officer of Naikhyangchhari, Bandarban, claims that no Rohingya has entered Bangladesh territory and those who crossed the Myanmar border are still waiting in no man's land.

UNHCR in a statement yesterday said that a total of 5,200 people came to Bangladesh from Myanmar as of Sunday.

### LIFE IN NO MAN'S LAND

Crossing the barbed-wire fence marking the Myanmar border, Rohingyas have put up a few hundred makeshift tents using polythene sheets and bamboos by the Tambru canal near Tambru Bazar in G h u m d h u m , Naikhyangchhari.

A few refugees are allowed to cross the knee-deep canal to go to Tambru Bazar to buy supplies, including food and medicine, when needed. They have to return after the shopping.

They can collect drinking water from houses in Vajabunia and Tambru villages.

Holding an infant in her arms, Ayesha Begum, a woman from Naichudeng village in Dekibunia of Myanmar, was seen crossing the canal. She was going to a physician at the marketplace as her baby was suffering from cold and fever.

Ayesha Begum said they had left their village two days ago for Bangladesh fearing persecution by Myanmar army.

Zahed Hossain, headmaster of Vajabunia Government Primary School, said at least five thousand people have taken shelter on the other side of the canal.

He reckons two to three thousand people already managed to go to different camps inside Bangladesh in the last two or three days.

"People made this temporary camp across more than one square kilometre area," said Mohammed Hossain, a resident of Tambru village.

Some Rohingyas in no man's land near Jolpaitoli were seen with cattle brought from Myanmar. These correspondents found at least 50 cows at

### FIRE DETECTED FROM SATELLITE IMAGERY IN MAUNGDAW, MYANMAR

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that point as hundreds of refugees were waiting to enter Bangladesh territory.

Thousands of Rohingyas have made similar temporary shelters also in no man's land near some other remote areas including Chakdhala, Rizu Aamtali, Borochnankhola and Hatimora of Naikhyangchhari.

A local journalist who visited the areas told The Daily Star that many such tents have mushroomed in two rubber plantations and on some hill slopes of the upazila.

**NEW ARRIVAL IN CAMPS**  
Rohingyas arriving every day are being sheltered by their relatives in Kutupalong and Balukhali unregis-

tered refugee camps.

Around five hundred of them came to the Kutupalong camp yesterday morning from several villages of Maungdaw in Rakhine State.

Abul Hossain is from Gurkhali village of Maungdaw. He said almost all the people from Gurkhali, Mazarpara and Lemsi and Reika villages either arrived in Bangladesh or were trying to come.

If BGB men do not allow them in, they try some other points, he said when asked how they enter the country despite patrolling by border guards. There are reportedly many unguarded points on Bangladesh-Myanmar border.

This correspondent found at least one hundred families waiting at the entrance to the Kutupalong and Balukhali camps yesterday. Some of them came empty-handed; some brought utensils and live chickens.

Local sources said Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders) have set up a medical camp at Kutupalong to treat injured Rohingyas. But they were not allowing any journalist there.

Asked how many injured they have treated so far, Sazzad Hossain, communication officer of MSE, a humanitarian organisation, said they were not providing any medical information to journalists.

Meanwhile, BGB pushed back 51 Rohingya people to Myanmar on Monday night as they were trying to enter Bangladesh illegally.

The border guards imposed an embargo on fishing in the Naf River, which marks the border between Bangladesh and Myanmar.

## UN worried

FROM PAGE 1

ferocious military crackdown in response to insurgent attacks in October last year, reports Reuters.

According to an UNHCR estimate, some 5,200 Rohingyas had entered Bangladesh since the latest violence. Several thousand more were reported to be stranded at different points along the Myanmar border.

Against such a backdrop, Guterres urged the Myanmar authorities to grant humanitarian agencies unfettered and free access to the affected communities.

He noted that the UN stands ready to provide all necessary support to both Myanmar and Bangladesh in this regard.

Meanwhile, New York-based Human Rights Watch reported of widespread burnings in at least 10 areas in northern parts of Rakhine.

"This new satellite data should cause concern and prompt action by donors and UN agencies to urge the Burmese government to reveal the extent of ongoing destruction in Rakhine State," said Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director of the HRW.

The UN Refugee Agency said the situation in Rakhine was "dramatically worsening" and it was concerned about the precarious situation in Myanmar.

"We are concerned that the num-

ber of people needing help may rise further over the coming days."

The UNHCR said it was aware of several reported instances of people being prevented from entering Bangladesh. "This poses very grave risk to the individuals affected."

The agency said it communicated its readiness to support Bangladesh in helping the refugees fleeing Myanmar. At the same time, it also called upon the international community to support Bangladesh in doing so, with all necessary aid and other help.

Voicing concern at incitement to further violence in Rakhine, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein urged all sides to renounce the use of violence.

"I utterly condemn the violent attacks on security personnel, which have led to the loss of many lives and the displacement of thousands of people," Zeid said in a statement.

"Unfortunately, what we feared appears to be occurring. Decades of persistent and systematic human rights violations, including the very violent security responses to the attacks since October 2016, have almost certainly contributed to the nurturing of violent extremism, with everyone ultimately losing.

"This turn of events is deplorable. It was predicted and could have been

prevented."

Zeid also expressed worries about claims by Myanmar State Counsellor's Office that international aid workers were complicit in or supporting the attacks.

"Such statements are irresponsible and only serve to increase fears and the potential for further violence."

"I am extremely concerned that the unsupported allegations against international aid organisations place their staff in danger and may make it impossible for them to deliver essential aid," he said.

The UN high commissioner further said the perpetrators of the attacks on security personnel must be brought to justice as must those who have been attacking the civilian population. All this must occur with full respect for international human rights law.

"State authorities should issue clear instructions to security forces to refrain from using disproportionate force, minimise damage and injuries and respect the right to life. Those who use excessive force must be held accountable.

"The State has a duty to protect those within its territory -- without discrimination," Zeid added.

In the meantime, at a meeting with visiting senior US diplomat Alice Wells at state guesthouse Padma in

the morning, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali sought US support to resolve the Rohingya crisis.

Wells, acting assistant secretary of state for south and central Asian affairs, termed the current situation in Myanmar "quite concerning".

**HRW STATEMENT**  
The HRW yesterday said satellites initially detected active fires in the early afternoon of August 25 in the village tracts of Zay Di Pyin and Koe Tan Kau in Rathedaung.

On August 28, satellites located fires in another eight locations from mid-morning to early afternoon, including in Maungdaw town and several other villages in Maungdaw Township.

It compared the locations of these fires with witness statements and media reports, and found a correlation with some reported incidents where residences have allegedly been deliberately burned.

The HRW noted that the information bears a close resemblance to that found during widespread arson attacks in Rakhine State during violence against the Rohingyas in 2012 and 2016.

The Myanmar government and army blame Rohingya residents and militants for the burning of some structures, but thus far have not presented evidence to support their

allegations, the HRW mentioned.

It demanded that the Myanmar government grant access to independent monitors to determine the sources of fire and assess allegations of human rights violations.

HRW Deputy Asia Director Phil Robertson said, "Shuffling all the blame on insurgents doesn't spare the Burmese government from its international obligations to stop abuses and investigate alleged violations."

Yesterday, Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said they were preparing to receive people fleeing fighting in Myanmar.

"Thailand's defence ministry and security are preparing to receive various displaced people," he told reporters.

He noted that the Thai authorities would send them back "when they are ready".

He, however, didn't say if any Rohingya from Myanmar arrived since the recent violence, reported AFP.

Earlier on Monday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan urged the international community to step up efforts to help the Rohingyas, saying the world was "blind and deaf" to their plight.

He described the latest flight of the refugees towards Bangladesh as an "extremely painful event" and vowed to take up the issue at the UN General Assembly next month.

## Tigers allow

FROM PAGE 1

chase of a 265-run target with their two best batsmen -- David Warner (75) and Steve Smith (25) -- at the crease after Nathan Lyon's six-wicket haul.

As Tamim Iqbal, who played yet another prudent innings of 78 in the second innings to help Bangladesh score 221 runs, said after the third day's play: "It is difficult to judge what comes next on such a wicket". The fourth morning -- which will start with Australia needing 156 more to win -- may well have unforeseen drama in store at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

So we may have to wait until the first hour of the fourth day to know if the Tigers will rue their captain Mushfiqur Rahim's sudden brain fade to fall victim of an unfortunate run out which dashes the home side's chances of setting a 300-plus target. And Soumya Sarkar's costly spill at first slip, that gave Warner the chance to pose a threat to the hitherto dominant home team before an unbeaten 81-run partnership between Smith and his deputy Warner changed the complexion of the match.

Courage, agility and good judgment are among the requisite qualities of a good slip fielder, but Soumya tried to save himself by taking his eyes off the ball when he needed to close his hands around the fast-approaching red blur after Warner, on 14, slashed a thick edge off Shakib Al Hasan's first over. That miss only added one more layer to an overall dismal Test for Soumya, as he earlier missed another catch and played a reckless shot in the penultimate over of the third day's play.

Bangladesh felt the consequence of those mistakes as Warner batted masterfully on a difficult surface. Warner and Smith made the Aussies' intentions very clear -- they were not there just to stay at the wicket, but were intent on pursuing runs and used their feet brilliantly to make full use of a slightly undisciplined bowling display from Bangladesh.

The Tigers however had the opportunity to make a total that would have been extremely hard in the conditions to eclipse, especially with the authority that Tamim and skipper Mushfiqur Rahim batted with against the Aussies' spin and pace bowlers.

Resuming the day on 45 for one, Bangladesh lost nightwatchman Taijul Islam early while Imrul Kayes followed him quickly, trapped in front to become Lyon's first victim. Tamim, however, was serene as he negotiated all the threats and with Mushfiqur fluently rotating the strike.

They went to lunch on 133 for three, with Tamim and Mushfiqur well set. The Aussies started the second session brilliantly as a short-ish delivery from Pat Cummins flew off the pitch and kissed Tamim's glove on the way through to Matthew Wade to send the left-hander back 22 runs short of a well-deserved hundred. Tamim shaped his innings with a mixture of calmness and aggression, including eight eye-catching boundaries during a 155-ball knock.

Shakib showed his aggressive intent from the start and paid the price when the left-hander was unable to follow up his first innings 84 when he fell while advancing to Lyon and being well caught at deep cover.

Then came that freakish dismissal which ended Mushfiqur's stay on 41. Sabbir Rahman drove a Lyon delivery hard back at the bowler and the ball brushed Lyon's fingers on way through to the non-striker's stumps, where Mushfiqur seemed to be in another world for a fraction of a second, long enough for the damage to be done.

Wickets kept falling as Nasir Hossain under-edged Ashton Agar and was well caught by Matthew Wade for a duck, and Sabbir followed in the next over when he was given out, caught at short leg off Lyon for 22.

Mehedi Hasan Miraz's late surge of a 35-ball 26 finally dragged the hosts to 221 before being all out and setting a 265-run winning target, which initially looked good enough but later it seemed that a brilliant bowling effort would be needed to bring all the good work of the previous two days to fruition.

## Seabirds smell

FROM PAGE 16

Scientists found birds with poor smell struggled to find their way home when out of sight of land.

However, as soon as they approached the coast they could recognise familiar landscape features using an inbuilt 'smell map'.

Researchers tracked 32 free-ranging Scopoli's shearwaters off the coast of Menorca, which were split into three groups.

One set had its sense of smell removed temporarily, another carried small magnets and a control group was left alone.

Miniature GPS loggers were attached to the birds as they nested and incubated eggs in crevices and caves on the rocky Menorcan coast.

They were then tracked as they foraged at sea.

All of them flew out to forage, gained weight and incubated eggs, but the birds with the affected sense of smell made poorly-orientated flights home when they were out of sight of land.

Researchers found their orientation then improved when approaching the coast, suggesting that birds must consult an 'olfactory map' when out of sight of land.

## Rana Plaza owner

FROM PAGE 1

sentenced to jail by a court among six cases filed against him on different charges.

Following the verdict, the judge sent Rana to jail with conviction warrant. Rana was arrested after the Rana Plaza Collapse on April 24, 2013 that left 1,136 people killed and about 2,515 others injured.

On May 2, ACC Deputy Director

Mahbubul Alam filed the case with Ramna Police Station against Rana for not submitting his wealth statement to it within the stipulated time.

According to the case statement, on April 2, 2015, the ACC sent a notice to Sohel Rana at Kashimpur jail in Gazipur asking him to submit his wealth statement to it within seven days. Rana received the notice on April 4 but he

did not respond.

Later another notice was served. But Rana did not submit his wealth statement within the stipulated time.

After an investigation, the ACC submitted the charge sheet against Rana on August 1 of 2016 while the court framed a charge on March 23 this year. **STATUS OF OTHER FIVE CASES**  
Five more cases were also filed against

Rana for killing, building code violation, possessing illegal arms, narcotics and accumulating wealth illegally. All cases are now under trial and pending with different courts in the capital.

On July 18 last year, Dhaka District and Sessions Court framed charges against Rana and 40 others on charges of killing 1,136 people and injuring about 2,515 others while another court

framed charges against Rana and 17 others in a case filed over building code violation on June 14 of 2016.

Another Dhaka court on May 21 this year framed charges against Rana, his parents and seven others in another graft case.

Two more courts had earlier indicted Rana in cases filed for possessing illegal arms and narcotics.