

Flow of hides

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applied salt...We are waiting to sell the hides to the tanners."

It is the same story in Europe, what he said, a tandem of tanners to delay in making payments, at times even by a couple of years.

Had the practice of tanners providing funds to rawhide merchants been maintained on a large scale, people sacrificing the animals could have sold the skins in the local markets at higher prices, he added.

The prices dropped by over 30 percent compared to that of last Eid, the tanners said, resulting from the lack of funding by tanners, near non-operation of tanneries and salt becoming costlier.

A medium-sized cow hide fetched Tk 600 to Tk 800 whereas last Eid it was sold for Tk 1,200 to Tk 1,300, said rawhide merchants.

That Eid, the price per square foot of cow rawhide was fixed at Tk 50-55 in Dhaka and Tk 40-45 outside. For that of he-goat, it was Tk 40-45 and for she-goat Tk 15-17.

Moreover, the merchants said to have been hit by the less rawhides, mostly due to financial constraints and floods, while about 5 percent of rawhides turned bad for not being treated with salt on time.

This year, 45,57 lakh cows and buffaloes and 71 lakh goats and sheep were expected to be sacrificed, according to commerce ministry data. Traders say the figures ended up being around 20 percent less.

Though Hazaribagh no longer houses tanneries, some of the tanneries still got transported to the area for scaling.

The industries ministry recently claimed that 67 of the 155 tanneries have started full-fledged operations at the Savar estate. Tanners say only 20 were up and running.

Most could not start operations either for the absence of gas connections or for their structures not being completely set up.

Leather and leather goods are the second highest export-earning sector for Bangladesh, at \$2.5 billion last fiscal year, up 2.9 percent year-on-year, according to data from Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau.

Interest rate

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2016-17 and is set to do so again this year.

A country attains gap status when its graduation from IDA is imminent because its per capita income has consistently exceeded the IDA operational per capita income cutoff, but has very limited creditworthiness.

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the per capita income was \$1,465 in fiscal 2015-16 and last fiscal year.

As per the WB's own estimation, it was, however, \$1,330 and \$1,480.

The service charge on IDA loans is 0.75 percent. In addition, there is a 0.25 percent front-end fee and 0.25 percent commitment charge.

The gap period is 38 years including six years grace period.

But as per the new plan, the rate of interest and other charges would be 2.62 percent. The repayment period is 30 years including a grace period of five years.

The WB has informed the finance ministry along with several others about the impending changes in the terms and conditions of its loans last week.

"If any country becomes richer and the quality of life there improves, its concessional credit will shrink, and this is natural," said Zainul Bakhit, former research director of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies.

But in case of Bangladesh, it is the quality of the projects and their timely implementation that is more important than the cost of funds.

"If the project is good and it can be implemented on time, the cost will be much lower," Zaid added.

Though the rate of interest on WB loans is increasing, it is still much lower than on other commercial loans.

Bangladesh gets the highest amount of loans from the WB among the multilateral and bilateral development partners. In the last several years, Bangladesh received more than \$1 billion in loans annually from the WB.

After the WB, the country borrows from the Asian Development Bank, whose interest rate is 2 percent and LIBOR-based.

Among the bilateral donors, Bangladesh is set to receive a big amount of loan from China in the near future.

The interest rate on the Chinese loan is 2 percent. In addition, 0.4 percent other charges are applicable and the repayment period is 20 years including five years' grace period.

However, in case of Chinese soft loan, the government of that country selects bidders or suppliers. There is no scope for competitive bidding.

Malaysia, Turkey

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an already serious humanitarian situation," a top official of the European Commission said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been escalating the human rights violations targeting the Rohingya Muslim minority during a phone call with Myanmar's civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, AFP reports quoting Turkish ambassador to Turkey.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu will visit Bangladesh today, the state-run Anadolu news agency reported.

In the phone call with Suu Kyi, a former political prisoner of Myanmar's junta, Erdogan said growing human rights violations against Rohingya Muslims "deeply concerned" the entire world, sources from his office said.

Suu Kyi has come under fire over her perceived unwillingness to speak out against the treatment of the Rohingya or chastise the military.

Erdogan said Turkey "condemns terror and operations against innocent civilians," adding that the developments in Myanmar had turned into a "serious humanitarian crisis which caused the world to wake up."

The Turkish leader had previously said he would bring up the issue at the next UN General Assembly in New York later this month.

Countries on Friday said "deeply concerned" by the situation in Myanmar and called for " restraint and calm to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe."

A fresh upsurge of violence in mainly Buddhist Myanmar has forced tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees to flee the country for neighbouring Bangladesh, sparking fears of a humanitarian crisis.

The growing crisis threatens Myanmar's diplomatic ties, particularly with Muslim-majority countries in Southeast Asia such as Malaysia and Indonesia where there is profound public anger over the treatment of the stateless Rohingya.

Our diplomatic correspondent adds:

In a statement yesterday, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management of the European Commission Christos Stylianides also called on all sides to

Govt to set up camp

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If necessary, the government would also expand the unregistered Rohingya camps in Kutupalong and Balukhali of Ukhia, and in Noapara and Leda of Teknaf, said sources.

The decisions were made at an unscheduled meeting at the office of Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shahid Alam in the secretariat yesterday.

It was attended by secretaries to the disaster management and relief ministry, the Service Division of the home ministry, the land ministry, and the environment and forest minister and also the deputy commissioners of Cox's Bazar.

Talking to The Daily Star, Md Shah Kamal, secretary to the disaster management and relief ministry, said he was asked to provide shelter to the fleeing Rohingyas in Balukhali area of Ukhia.

He also said they had been asked to consider and deal with the Rohingya issue from a humanitarian angle.

Yesterday's meeting was a follow up of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit with some ministers and top bureaucrats at the Gono Bhaban on Monday night.

The PM asked them to handle the Rohingya issue with utmost caution and from a humanitarian perspective.

Hasina also gave directives to prepare an accurate database of the Rohingyas who have been staying in

the growing demand.

Referring to ongoing vessel and container congestion at the port, Alam said the situation would worsen if the government did not take the steps immediately.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Member (admin and planning) Md Zafar Alam said they were trying hard to improve the port's performance with the given capacity.

Besides such growth last year, the port handled the record highest 2.3 lakh TEUs containers last month, he added.

He said they got approval for purchasing 55 pieces of equipment last year and have already signed contracts for 80 percent of the equipment. Moreover, three new rubber-tired gantry cranes (RTGs) have already been included and three more to come by next month.

Mentioning a number of projects, he said they were going to start construction of Patenga Container Terminal (PCT) and its foundation stone would be laid on September 8.

The PCT is set to be completed by 2019, Laldia Multi Purpose Terminal by 2020 and the first phase of Bay Terminal by 2021, he added.

Modi to hold

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are now fleeing the country after being caught in violent ethnic clashes, have become a political issue in the northeast, which share a border with Myanmar for nearly 1,600km, reports the Hindu.

Many Rohingya civilians are suffering greatly and are now fleeing the violence across the border into Bangladesh.

"This must not be taken back or deported. We greatly appreciate the hospitality extended by the Government and people of Bangladesh for many decades," said the Commissioner in the statement available in the website.

"The assistance and protection of the Bangladeshi authorities regarding these new refugees is crucial until the situation in Rakhine State has stabilised and they can safely return," the statement added.

Maldives condemns atrocities on Rohingya Muslims

Strongly condemning the atrocities against the Rohingyas in Rakhine state, the Maldives has ceased all trade ties with Myanmar until the Buddhist majority country takes measures to stop persecution on the Muslim minority.

Citing "systematic repression" of the minority group documented in the past by the UN, the Maldives has also condemned the other recent cycle of violence that resulted in the death of Rohingyas and displaced several thousands.

In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry on Sunday night, the Maldives also called for swift action from the international community to stop the bloodshed.

The Government of Maldives has decided to cease all trade ties with Myanmar, until the Government of Myanmar takes measures to prevent the atrocities being committed against Rohingya Muslims," it reads.

The Government of Maldives respects the United Nations Secretary General and the United Nations Human Rights Council to look into the grave violations of human rights against the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar."

Around 123,000 Rohingyas have fled Myanmar to Bangladesh since violent clashes erupted on August 25, according to the UNHCR.

Shafiq said two more ferries would be added to the service today.

Naznin Chowdhury, a private organisation employee, who had been waiting at the Daulatdia ferry terminal for four hours since morning, said, "Every year, we have to go through the tailbacks at the same place. But the authorities concerned care little about it and do not take any measures timely."

In Mymensingh, ferry service between Shimulia and Kathalbari was disrupted due to poor navigability in the Padma, reports our correspondent.

Of 21 ferries, four small ferries were operating on the route.

Two ferries Raipura and Jamuna, which were stranded in Louhajang channel Sunday night, with over 50 vehicles, were yet to be recovered as four fifth ferry as he added 127 runs for the third wicket with Warner to conclude a commanding day at the office.

Warner was dropped off a sharp chance by Milomir Haque at short leg of Taijul Islam on 59, before skipper Musfiqur Rahim missed a stumping chance off Mehedi Hasan Miraz when the 30-year-old, on 73, came down the track and was beaten by the turn, only for the ball to stay low and Milomir's spikes to be unable to hold down firmly.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) asked the heavy vehicles to use alternative route to cross the river.

Giasudin Patwary, manager of BIWTA at Shimulia ghat, said the four small ferries - Dhaka, Comilla, Kakoli and Korobi - had been carrying cars and microbuses since yesterday.

He also decided that the disaster management and relief ministry would be in charge of the overall management of these activities.

Disaster Management and Relief Minister Md Fozluzz Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Secretary to the ministry Shah Kamal will visit the Rohingya camps tomorrow to know about the current situation there.

According to the UNHCR, an estimated 123,000 Rohingyas entered Bangladesh since violence broke out in Rakhine State on August 25.

Their arrival has raised fears of a already crowded camps in Bangladesh - home to over 500,000 Rohingya refugees before the latest crisis - struggle to cope with the influx.

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Putin warns

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seven sets of UN Security Council sanctions so far.

As well as the US, South Korea and Japan, Chinese President Xi Jinping, French President Francois Hollande and British Prime Minister Theresa May have called for stronger measures against it, with several arguing for a potentially crippling oil embargo.

But Putin made clear that Russia was opposed to further interdictions, and while China - North Korea's patron and closest political and economic partner - has yet to be drawn on the issue it tends to resist placing pressure on Pyongyang.

Putin, speaking after an international gathering in China, said Russia condemned North Korea's "provocative" actions.

But he called for dialogue and warned against other actions that could escalate the crisis.

"Resorting to military sanctions in this situation is useless and inefficient," he told reporters in the Chinese city of Xiamen following a summit of the five nation BRICS club of emerging economies.

"All of this can lead to a global planetary catastrophe and a great number of victims."

"They will eat grass but they will not run away from the path that will provide for their security," he said.

World powers are scrambling to react to the latest ominous advance in the North's rogue weapons programme, which has sent global tensions soaring.

US President Donald Trump has approved in principle the sale of "million-dollar" dollar worth military weapons and equipment" for South Korea, the White House said Monday.

South Korea said it fired a volley of ballistic missiles on Monday to simulate an attack on the North's nuclear test site, followed yesterday by major live-fire drills at sea.

At an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council, US Ambassador Nikki Haley said Washington would present a new sanctions resolution for debate in the coming days.

Declaring that "enough is enough," Haley said existing measures not worked and accused North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un of "begging for war" with the country's sixth and most powerful test.

South Korea estimated the blast's yield at 50 kilotons, more than three times the size of the bomb detonated over Hiroshima in 1945.

Aus dominate Tigers

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88 off 170 balls and 266 minutes at the crease, during which he hit just four boundaries. Peter Horwitz was also unable to add 50 runs from 115 balls with five fours, registering his fourth fifty as he added 127 runs for the third wicket with Warner to conclude a commanding day at the office.

Warner was dropped off a sharp chance by Milomir Haque at short leg of Taijul Islam on 59, before skipper Musfiqur Rahim missed a stumping chance off Mehedi Hasan Miraz when the 30-year-old, on 73, came down the track and was beaten by the turn, only for the ball to stay low and Milomir's spikes to be unable to hold down firmly.

Nasir Hossain, the other overnight batsman, looked composed after resuming on 19 and continued in the same manner till he became the second victim of Ashton Agar, edging to Warner for 45 crucial runs as the home side were reduced to 293 for eight.

Nasir was dismissed for the third consecutive time by Agar and it was similar to his dismissal in the second Test when he edged to the wicketkeeper trying to cut a ball close to the body.

Mehedi Hasan Miraz was run out after he hesitated for a second run to leave the Tigers nine down and four short of 300 in the next over when Taijul Islam then carried the score to 305 before becoming Lyon's seventh wicket.

Australia did get a thumping start when Musfiqur dived full length to his right to catch a nick off opener Md Renshaw's switch to a Musafizul Islam bouncer.

Wasim Jaffer, who had been dismissed in the previous over, was then run out in the second over of the innings. It was the first and only wicket taken by a Bangladeshi fast bowler in the series so far.

But after the arrival of Aussie skipper Steven Smith the Bangladeshi bowlers seemed to lose the momentum and bowled either side of the wicket with a defensive field setting that helped the pair get off to a comfortable start and reach a position from where they could dominate the afternoon session.

The captain and the vice-captain batted solidly and gave no chance to the home side while adding 93 runs for the second wicket, with Smith reaching his T20 Test fifty.

With 20 minutes left for tea, Musfiqur brought Taijul Islam into the attack and off the first ball Smith, batting on 58 off 93 balls with eight fours, left a huge gap between bat and pad for a gen of delivery from the left-arm spinner to sneak through.

The Aussie skipper turned out the ball he had lined up.

The visitors were 98 for two and when the Bangladeshi bowlers decided to step up the aggression the defence was breached and the tourists took to contain runs by keeping fielders on the boundary, making it easy for Handscomb to settle down quickly.

Earlier, Australia managed to knock off the remaining four Bangladeshi wickets in the first 23.2 overs of the morning session, with off-spinners Nathan Lyon taking two off-spinners and ending up with an innings haul of seven for 94. Bangladeshi managed to

Haley did not spell out what measures Washington was seeking, but diplomats said it could target oil supplies to North Korea - potentially dealing a major blow to its economy.

In a phone call with Putin on Monday, South Korean president Moon Jae-in - who travels to Russia Wednesday - told him it was time for the Security Council to "seriously" review the suspension of crude oil supplies to the North, and the export of its workers, many of whom are sent to Russia to earn funds for Pyongyang.

Jakarta offers

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national leader Aung San Suu Kyi, said she was tasked by Indonesian President Joko Widodo to visit Bangladesh to convey three things.

"One is to convey the sympathy of Indonesia to the burden of Bangladesh on the refugee issue. Second one is to convey Indonesia's readiness to support in easing the burden of the government of Bangladesh and the third was to discuss the situation on the ground," she said.

Marsudi said Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina agreed in principle to take Indonesia's support. "We will continue to discuss what sort of support Indonesia will give."

The visiting foreign minister, who left Dhaka last night, told reporters that she had an in-depth discussion with the Bangladeshi leadership about the situation on the ground and conveyed Indonesia's sympathy to Bangladesh over the refugee issue.

Marsudi did not take any questions after her nearly two minutes press statement at Pan Pacific Sonarog Hotel.

The foreign ministry had announced a joint press briefing by Bangladesh and Indonesian Foreign Minister but as there was no one from the Bangladeshi side to speak with at the venue, she made the statement on her own.

Earlier in the afternoon, Marsudi had a meeting with Bangladesh's counterpart, Foreign Minister AG Mahmud Ali, at State Guesthouse Padma.

The Indonesian foreign minister last visited Bangladesh on December 20, 2016 when there was a discussion with the Bangladeshi authorities on finding a lasting solution to the Rohingya crisis.

add another 52 runs from their over-night score of 253. Lyon drew first blood as he got the much-awaited run from the pitch with a lovely delivery which took the inside edge of the bat and went on to the stumps of Musfiqur who had added just six to his overnight 67.

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Sujan Ali, Assistant Physician of Pangsha upazila said he will visit the student on Wednesday and take steps as required.

"I never thought something like this would happen from a single strike," he told this correspondent over phone.

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