

Shared food, homes for some refugees

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Nur Mohammad Reshad, a living in Kutupalong Refugee Camp, who claimed to have come here 39 years ago, had a different story to tell. "Those of us who have been living here for so many years understand their trouble. We have all opened our homes to them. We share all our food with them," he said.

"Whatever we get, we share with them and sometimes keep less for us because they need it more now," heads.

Pointing at various homes, madrasas and schools, he showed how each of them was now hosting individuals who had just crossed the border.

He agreed with Shanwara's story but he said everyone there was in need and those with identity cards got the aid easier.

As authorities, UN agencies and NGOs struggle to cope with an influx of over 3 lakh Rohingya refugees, in addition to the previous 5 lakh, providing enough aid is their main worry now. The huge number of people means that there is not enough of it and the long time Rohingyas here make sure they get to the aid first.

Some Locals welcome the Rohingyas

Meanwhile, some locals have started to organise to help the new refugees. While the government is planning biometric registration, they are finding their own ways of identifying the new refugees and providing the

basic necessities to them.

Locals from Cox's Bazar and as far as Chittagong have taken it upon themselves to bring essentials to the Rohingyas. In almost every camp or locality with refugees, locals are distributing food, water, plastic sheets and clothing items.

Maulana Ashraful Mostafa from Ukhia is such man leading a four-man team in Balukhali providing clothes, money, biscuits and dry food to the refugees. A teacher of a local madrasa, Mostafa believes this his duty as a human being.

Travelling in a loaded pick-up truck with these items, he goes from place to place and hands out the items to the needy. "We saw news of the refugees and decided that we had to help. Nearby residents came together and donated all of this," he said. "Along with the clothes and food, we are giving them some money too."

In another location, Selim Jahangir, a former member of the Ukhia upazila and BNP joint-secretary of the area, is currently sheltering 2000 Rohingya women in his under-construction house in Balukhali.

"We found these women with children. Their husbands were not with them so we brought them here. We have given them tokens so we can identify who has gotten the relief and who hasn't," he says. He said he went around the new settlements and makeshift camps and selected those needing

relief the most.

"I am putting them up in my house so they can all be at one place. I am giving them the relief packages the Bangladesh Army has prepared," he adds.

Each relief packet contains half kg lentil, one dozen candles, seven kgs rice, potatoes and one matchbox.

But he has his concerns too. "I'm from here and these people are guests so we must help. But I have to say that something more needs to be done for them. The Rohingyas are pushing the labour price down and now the locals are finding it difficult to survive," he added. He also pointed out that the large numbers, open defecation and littering are hurting the environment and again stressed for more organised planning.

Meanwhile, relief materials aren't the only things locals are offering. Mizan, a resident of Naopara, is literally lending his hand. The self-employed 29-year-old says he visits the border point every other day. "The people crossing over need our help. Yesterday, an old man crossed the river and collapsed. I carried him to a doctor at Kutupalong," he says. The man was reunited with his son later, he adds.

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"It can move at the speed of the learner.

"This is beyond anything that we've seen in the industrial revolution or since with any other new technology.

"These are adaptive machines that adapt to individuals. They will listen to the voices of the learners, read their faces and study them in the way gifted teachers study their students.

"We're looking at screens which are listening to the voice of the student and reading the face of the student. Reading and comprehending."

Sir Anthony outlined his vision in a talk at the British Science Festival which took place last week in Brighton.

It will also be the subject of his new book The Fourth Education Revolution, due to be published early next year.

Robber' killed

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gang members opened fire. In retaliation, police returned fire, triggering a "gunfight". During the "gun battle", Robbani was hit by bullets and died on the spot, said police.

However, other members of the gang managed to flee.

Police claimed to have recovered a homemade gun and a bullet from the spot.

The bodies were sent to Mymensingh Medical College morgue for autopsies.

Robbani stood accused in a case filed for killing two people after rustling 10 cattle from a farm in Gopalpur village of Mymensingh Sadar upazila on August 21, said Mohammad Noor-e-Alam, additional superintendent of Mymensingh police.

As the announcement ends, another load of bricks is hastily thrown over a pothole. Papers over cracks. Much like the hotels in the beach town that paper over the cracks in our development.

That is perhaps the only truth we can be sure of. That and learn to savour the freedom we take so much for granted because like the truth, freedom is to be relished, because we never know how long it will last no matter the promises made.

In his order, the magistrate said he did not find any cogent grounds to frame charges against Mahmudur Rahman. Ten others were indicted as the charges brought against them were found to be true.

Of the 10 accused, Anwar, Lutfor Rahman and five others are now on bail while Nirob and two others are on the run.

The court fixed October 25 to start trial of the case.

According to the prosecution, it was alleged that a group of BNP-led-18 party alliance leaders and activists including Nirob, Anwar, Lutfor torched a taxicab by throwing petrol bomb in front of Wasa Bhaban in the city's Karwan Bazar at about 7:30am on March 26 of 2013.

Later driver of the cab Mohammad Babul filed a case against Nirob, Anwar, Lutfor and 15 others with Tejgaon Police Station.

On April 11 of 2013, police arrested Mahmudur Rahman in the case even though his name was not included in the first information report. He was also remanded for three days in the case.

Police also pressed charges against Mahmudur and 10 others and dropped the names of eight others from the charge sheet.

Mahmudur, a former energy adviser to the government, is accused in over 70 cases and was present in the court yesterday.

HEART-POUNDING NIGHT

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After what she called a terrifying night bunkered in her house in St Petersburg, on Florida's Gulf Coast, with her children and extended family, Julie Hally emerged with relief yesterday. The winds had toppled some large tree branches and part of a fence, but her house was undamaged.

"My heart just pounded out of my chest the whole time," said Hally, 37. "You hear stuff hitting your roof. It honestly sounds like somebody is just whistling at your window the whole night. It's really scary."

Governor Rick Scott said he would travel to the Florida Keys. Irma first came ashore at Cudjoe Key as a Category 4 hurricane with sustained winds of up to 130 mph (215 kph.)

US President Donald Trump in a ceremony at the Pentagon to remember the victims of the Sept 11, 2001, attacks vowed a full response to Irma, as well as continued federal support for victims of Hurricane Harvey, which flooded Texas.

Irma was forecast to cross the eastern Florida Panhandle and move into southern Georgia later in the day, dumping as much as 16 inches (41 cm) of rain, government forecasters said.

PM's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi was present at the meeting.

HEART-POUNDING NIGHT

Machines

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Within 10 years a technological revolution will sweep aside old notions of education and change the world forever, Sir Anthony Sheldon, master of Wellington College believes.

School teachers will lose their traditional role and effectively become little more than classroom assistants.

They will remain on hand to set up equipment, help children when necessary and maintain discipline, Sir Anthony said.

However, the essential job of instilling knowledge into young minds will wholly be done by artificially intelligent (AI) computers.

Sir Anthony, a historian and political commentator who has written biographies of ex-prime ministers David Cameron, Tony Blair, John Major and Gordon Brown, said: "It certainly will change human life as we know it.

"It will open up the possibility of an Eton or Wellington education for all.

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Talks on polls now

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The commission has been in discussion with election stakeholders for nearly three weeks to know their opinion about the next parliamentary elections scheduled to be held late next year.

Earlier, the EC had announced that it would complete talks with 40 registered political parties by September 20.

Starting from August 24, the EC has already held talks with seven political parties, civil society members, editors, senior journalists and representatives from print and electronic media.

The commission has drafted a new talks schedule which will be finalised soon. According to the draft, the EC will sit with Jatiya Party on October 9, BNP on October 12 and the ruling Awami League on October 16, said EC sources.

Bangladesh Muslim League and Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan will hold talks with the EC on October 2, Bangladesh Tarikat Federation and Bangladesh Jatiya Party on October 4; Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal and Jaker Party on October 5; and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Jasod-Rob) on October 8, says the draft.

Bikalpadhara Bangladesh will meet the EC on October 9, Bangladesh Workers Party and Bangladesh National Awami Party on October 11, Gonotantri Party on October 12, Communist Party of Bangladesh and Krishak Sramik Janata League on October 15, Samyabadi Dal on October 16 and Bangladesh Jatiya Party and Liberal Democratic Party on October 17.

The commission has been holding talks with two political parties every day from 11:00am to 1:00pm and 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Ten representatives

from each of the political parties are invited to join the discussion.

The EC also plans to hold talks with election observers on October 23, leaders of women organisations on October 25 and election experts on October 30.

A large number of civil society members during talks with the EC recommended restoring the "no vote" option in ballots, creating a level playing field for all political parties and deploying army for holding the next parliamentary elections in a free, fair and participatory manner.

25 missing

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Launch. The three were admitted to Multafganj Health Complex.

Yesterday's erosion devoured 20 percent of the river bank in the terminal area. The erosion also damaged 30 percent more area of the river bank in the last one week.

Sohag Mia, a witness, said, "The launches capsized in front of my eyes. There were 50-60 people in the three launches."

Mohamed Ali, a passenger of Mouchak-2 launch, said although he managed to get to the shore, his wife, mother-in-law and five-day-old daughter went missing. They had come from Dhaka.

Motahar Hossain, the lessee of the launch terminal, said the pontoon was separated from the terminal due to the erosion.

Meanwhile, the shipping ministry, the shipping department and the BIWTA have formed separate committees to investigate yesterday's incident. The BIWTA has asked its probe committee to submit the report within 24 hours.

India to start

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across 20,000 kilometres."

While Gadkari expressed how far he wanted to go to address India's water situation, his projects worried the Bangladesh government.

The country conveyed its concern though the foreign ministry that the proposed river connectivity in India would put the river ecology in peril and cause a water crisis here.

Bangladeshi environmentalists condemned the initiative, saying this would create a desert like situation in Bangladesh.

India cannot do something like that for the common waterways without a joint impact assessment together with the downstream country Bangladesh, they said.

"I strongly condemn such derogatory and brutal thought that ignores millions of farmers here along with the Sundarbans," said Sharif Jamil, joint secretary general of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolok (Bapa).

The withdrawal of water from the Ganges basin will create an acute water

crisis in the Padma, and the Sundarbans will be the worst victim due to salinity, he said. If water is withdrawn from the Brahmaputra, Bangladesh will face a dire situation.

"Bangladesh needs more water in the Ganges basin but this proposed dam will sharply decrease the flow of water in the Padma," Sharif said, adding that the government should take steps immediately to address the concern.

Zafar Ahmed Khan, senior secretary of the Ministry of Water Resources, told The Daily Star that Bangladesh had already communicated the matter to the Indian government.

"The Ganges and Brahmaputra are trans-boundary rivers and so any sort of intervention [in their flow] will trouble Bangladesh as we are lower riparian country."

There will be water crisis in Bangladesh if the proposed projects are implemented, Zafar said.

"River should be nurtured as river and one thing we have to keep in mind that no one is bigger scientist than nature," he added.

Mahmudur

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Sheikh Chhabidul Islam passed the order after scrutinizing the case dockets, statements of witnesses and other relevant documents of the case.

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INVITATION FOR BIDS