



Rohingyas taking muddy water from a hole they have dug near Kutupalong camp in Ukhia on Friday. The refugees are suffering from lack of safe drinking water and sanitation.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Roadside refugees suffer the brunt

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husband Mohammad Elias along with some women appeared and said they came to that place a week ago from Shilkhali, Rathidaung in Myanmar. "Suddenly last night, she [Zobaida] had labour pain. With the help of some other women the mother gave birth to the child," said a lady from a nearby tent.

The woman then pointed to another tent and said a baby was born the same way in the same unhygienic condition in that tent four days ago.

There were similar tents as far as the eye could see. Ten to 12 people were staying in each.

"You go to any tent, you will find at least one sick kid," said Nur Bahar, a Rohingya woman. "We have no other facilities here. We don't know any other place."

Shafiqa, who came from Buthidaung township, said two of her four sons were suffering from fever for the last four days. They were lying in their tent and they had no medicines.

Fatima, another woman, said her daughter was having diarrhoea and fever for the last few days.

Asked, Nur Bahar said she took a bath for the first time in 15 days yesterday.

"I went to the old Kutupalong camp for a shower today. I was lucky to have a chance for it," she said.

Cleaning the roadside forest and cutting hills, newly arriving Rohingyas

have set up slums along the highways. But there is hardly any drinking water for them.

Some NGOs were coming with water lorries, but it was very insufficient in comparison with the huge number of people.

Asked about the sanitation issue, Sanjida Begum, a woman who was cleaning her clothes in a canal near the Balukhali camp, said, "There is no arrangement for taking bath and using latrines. We have to go to the jungle at night."

"We got some food as relief. We can drink from this canal as well. But we can't clean ourselves with this dirty water. Me and my five daughters haven't taken a bath in the last five days," she said.

All the women and the children in the area were facing the same problem.

People traveling to that place could easily get a stench of human excreta. CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver Ramjan Ali said the place was not like that even a week ago.

NGO workers said they were facing the problem while working in those areas.

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, executive director of Coast Trust, an NGO, said, the government should take immediate steps to arrange drinking water and ensure sanitation for the people.

"Otherwise it would be a big humanitarian crisis," he said.

Contacted, Md Ali Hossain, deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar, said a

huge number of refugees had arrived within a very short time.

"It is almost impossible to ensure all the facilities for everyone so quickly. But we are trying our best to solve the problem. Hopefully, things will be okay in a day or two," he said.

VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

Meanwhile, a rubella and polio vaccination campaign for 1.5 lakh children of Rohingya refugees started in Ukhia and Teknaf upazilas yesterday morning.

All the children, aged between six months and 15 years, would be vaccinated for rubella (measles), Cox's Bazar Civil Surgeon Dr Abdus Salam told The Daily Star over phone.

Children below five years would be administered polio vaccines while six-month-old to five-year-old children would be provided vitamin A capsules, he said.

"Most of the children of the Rohingyas are either not vaccinated or poorly vaccinated. So, we decided to conduct the vaccination," he said.

"We have found four children suffering from rubella," Salam said.

"We have already got all the necessary supplies from the government and non-government agencies, and mobilised additional health personnel from neighbouring upazilas to conduct the vaccination campaign," he added.

He said they would be able to vaccinate the targeted children in seven to 10 days.

Graduation in AI

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It is the internet of things (IoT), a state of the art technology that gets physical devices of a household interconnected/ inter-networked and enables those to collect and exchange data, and commands those into action on instruction from owner's smart phone.

The DataSoft Systems Bangladesh Limited embarks on this high-end IoT challenge through which it moves to get 10,000 apartments smart. Located at the heart of Tokyo, the first batch of 200 rental apartments is expected to be IoT-proper by January next year. The rest would follow in a couple of years.

For Bangladesh, technology inflow from Japan is natural but technology outflow to Japan unprecedented. Quite understandably, DataSoft is all pumped-up and bubbling with excitement ahead of the landmark contract signing ceremony worth no less than \$8m in Dhaka with Japan's Smart Life Inc today.

"This is a significant leap and a very important milestone for Bangladesh information technology sector," Manjur Mahmud, the COO (chief operating officer) of the company, told The Daily Star in halting words.

Clearly struggling to hold back his

emotions, the shaven-headed techie beamed saying, "It is for the first time a Bangladeshi IT company is selling large scale cutting-edge technology solution in Japan."

This Japan project is going to fetch a windfall income as well: \$8,000 approximately from each of the 10,000 apartments and recurring earnings of \$10-15 from every unit each month. It will create fresh employment of 300 IT professionals at home and 30 in Japan.

The investment on a smart house is more than justified, argues a beaming Manjur as the solution nearly halves operational and management cost of an apartment complex. And as a result, rent of apartments also goes down by 18-20 percent.

"It's a revolution of sorts," said Mustafa Jabbar, president of software entrepreneurs' organisation BASIS (Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services).

"Basic computer era is about to be over. This is an era of artificial intelligence," said Jabbar, who is the pioneer in the country's IT sector, which has been posting a steady export growth of over 26pc for several years.

A visionary who initiated

Bangladesh's journey in the technology decades back, Jabbar thinks this achievement is bound to inspire many other local companies to dare into AI-driven projects.

For a Bangladeshi company to implement AI-driven project in one of the most modernised countries like Japan speaks volumes for DataSoft's capacity and ambition. "With DataSoft, Bangladesh just sets its feet on the world of AI," he said.

There is a huge mismatch in official and unofficial figures of annual earnings from software export. According to Export Promotion Bureau, the forex earnings in fiscal 2016-17 stood at \$179.19m but BASIS said it crossed \$1b mark.

Jabbar, who credited government's Digital Bangladesh Policy for the fast-growing sector, said the bureau missed out on the significant earnings by free-lance exporters. Besides, the IT companies, as per BASIS estimate, earned over \$2b last fiscal year while meeting the domestic demand for software.

The growth curve is phenomenal already. And it can only go higher on initiatives of Bangladeshi techies.

PM leaves for New York

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for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam, and the chiefs of the three services saw the PM off at Dhaka airport.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA M Ziauddin and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to UN Masud Bin Momen would receive her at the airport in New York this afternoon.

From the airport, Hasina would go to Hotel Grand Hyatt in New York where she will be staying during her tour.

On September 18, the PM would attend a high-level meeting on UN Reform to be hosted by US President Donald Trump.

The next day, Hasina along with

other heads of state and government would join the official lunch to be hosted by UN the secretary-general. The lunch would be followed by a high-level roundtable of the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment for Leaving No One Behind.

She will join the OIC Contact Group meeting on Rohingyas at the UNHQ in the afternoon.

In the evening, Hasina would attend a reception for the Commonwealth heads of state and government to be hosted by British Prime Minister Theresa May and Prime Minister of Malta Dr Joseph Muscat, the current Commonwealth chair-in-Office.

The PM would join a welcome

reception of US President Donald Trump in the evening at Palace Hotel at Madison Avenue.

Later, she would attend a reception to be hosted by the Bangladesh community at New York Marriott Marquis.

On September 20, the PM would attend the signing ceremony of the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at the UNHQ.

Hasina would brief the press on her UN visit in the evening on September 21 at the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh in New York.

She will leave New York for Virginia by road on September 22. After staying in Virginia for a week, the PM would leave for Bangladesh on September 29 and return home on October 2.

Men more likely

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What's more, this may be because they're more narcissistic.

There are two main ways in which people use social media -- in the case of this study, Facebook. Some are prosocial, looking to build relationships and connect with others in a positive way. Others are antisocial, seeking attention online and trolling.

Researchers from Brunel University and Goldsmiths, University of London have found that men are more likely

than women to use Facebook with antisocial motives.

To reach their conclusions, 573 US adults were sent an online survey asking them to rate themselves on a 13-point narcissistic personality scale. They were also asked about their motives for using Facebook.

Examples of antisocial behaviour included statements saying "I use Facebook to make people feel jealous," "I use Facebook to be mean to people" and "I use Facebook to post sexy pic-

tures of myself."

Statements demonstrating prosocial behaviour included "I use Facebook 'like' and 'comment' functions to show support for others," "I use Facebook to communicate with people I do not often see" and "I use Facebook to see what other people are up to."

Results revealed that men reported more antisocial motives for using Facebook than women, which was put down to their greater narcissism.

Govt trying to split 20-party combine : BNP

UNB, Dhaka

The BNP-led 20-party alliance yesterday alleged that the government is trying to split the coalition to weaken it ahead of the 11th parliamentary election by intimidating its partners through repressive acts.

"The efforts are on to split the 20-party alliance as it was in the past, but our alliance is intact," he said.

The main motive behind the recent forced disappearance of Kalyan Party General Secretary MM Aminur Rahman is to slow down the alliance's politics and intimidate its partners, alleged BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir as he spoke at a press conference at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office.

Though Aminur is not a big threat to the government, he has been forced to disappear so that other alliance partners get panicked, he said.

Fakhrul called upon the home minister and law enforcement agencies to track down all the victims of enforced disappearance, including Aminul, and return them to their families.

Now no citizen of the country has security as the incidents of enforced disappearance have marked a rise across the country. "It seems to us Bangladesh has now turned into a security state. Anybody can be picked up any time without any warrant or any information."

"The state becomes the biggest terrorist when it doesn't give people proper information and deceives them. The menace of enforced disappearance emerged in the country since the Awami League came to power. Unfortunately, it now has spread all over the country."

Indian rights

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rights," NHRC chairperson and former Chief Justice of India Justice H L Dattu said.

The rights body is also likely to cite various orders of the apex court in India in which it has held that the fundamental right to life and liberty enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution applies to all, irrespective of whether they are Indian citizens or not, said sources.

The Indian government is expected to spell out its stand on Rohingya refugee deportation before the Supreme Court tomorrow.

While issuing a notice to the home ministry in August and criticising the government's decision to deport Rohingyas, the NHRC had stated that "India has been home to refugees for centuries. It has continued to receive a large number of refugees from different countries."

"Even though India is not a signatory to the 1951 Convention on Refugees and also the 1967 Protocol, it is a signatory to a number of United Nations and world conventions on human rights. Till today, the country has evolved a practical balance between human and humanitarian obligations on the one hand and security and national interests on the other," the NHRC had said.

Two Rohingya immigrants Mohammad Salimullah and Mohammad Shaqir, who are registered as refugees under the UNHCR, have moved the Indian Supreme Court, contending they have taken shelter in India after escaping from Myanmar due to widespread discrimination, violence and bloodshed against the community there.

They challenged their deportation on several grounds, including violation of international human rights conventions.

CPJ urges

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with firearms and raid the char villages deep at night. They loot cattle and valuables at gunpoint, locals say.

At least seven people were shot dead by robbers for resisting their crimes in different places in last few years, they add.

There are 165 char islands along the Teesta and Jamuna rivers and many of these chars remain isolated from the mainland.

The locals say at least 60 families were living on Kholabari char at Islampur upazila in Jamalpur but were forced to shift to Tengrakandi char in Fulchhari due to frequent attacks by robbers.

The robbers attack wedding party boats, cattle and goods carrying boats even in daylight and loot goods, cattle and valuables, said Hashem Ali, a farmer of Tengrakandi.

Iman Ali, member of a village police team in Tengrakandi, said very recently three boats of robbers came to attack the area, but locals foiled their attempt.

Earlier on August 8, robbers attacked the villagers of Chowmohon char. As locals tried to resist, the criminals opened fire on them, leaving one Dulal Mia dead on the spot and injuring another Bablu Mia. Angry people at one stage caught two robbers, beat up one to death and threw his body into the river.

Sahebuddin, member of a ward in Tengrakandi and president of ward unit Awami League, said, "We have hired Santal man Alpon from Ghoraghat in Dinajpur so that they can protect their lives and property

N Korea seeks military

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blockade," Kim said, according to KCNA.

The UN Security Council condemned Friday's launch as "highly provocative" and US President Donald Trump scheduled talks with the leaders of Japan and South Korea to address the crisis.

The US Pacific Command confirmed Friday's rocket was an intermediate range ballistic missile (IRBM) and said the launch did not pose a threat to North America or to the US Pacific territory of Guam, which Pyongyang has threatened with "enveloping fire".

Seoul's defence ministry said it probably travelled around 3,700 kilometres (2,300 miles) and reached a maximum altitude of 770 kilometres.

Video broadcast by the North's Korean Central TV showed a missile blasting off from a mobile transport vehicle and shots of it soaring through clouds.

"The combat reliability of Hwasong-12 was thoroughly verified," Kim was quoted as saying by star TV

presenter Ri Chun-Hee, who appears when North Korea wants to boast of its achievements or needs to make an important announcement.

North Korea's official party newspaper Rodong Sinmun allocated half its coverage to pictures of the launch.

Yang Uk, an analyst with the Korea Defence and Security Forum, told AFP that Kim's stated ambition of achieving a military balance with Washington was some way off.

"It's too unrealistic for North Korea to reach equilibrium in nuclear force with the US," he said.

The North has raised global tensions with its rapid progress in weapons technology under Kim, who is regularly pictured by state media over seeing launches and visiting facilities.

"The latest launch, which was apparently made from a TEL (transporter erector launcher or missile vehicle) instead of a makeshift launch pad, means the North is now ready to deploy the IRBM Hwasong-12 for combat purposes," Yang said.

24.4m not getting

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However, the report did not have the corresponding figure for wasting in Bangladesh back in 2006.

Stunting (short height for age) and wasting (low weight for height) are important public health indicators.

The UN report also shows a rising tendency of obesity among Bangladeshi adult (18-year of age) population as the number of obese people more than doubled from 1.4 million a decade back to over three million now.

About the global hunger scenario, the UN report stated that after a steady decline for over a decade, global hunger is on the rise again, affecting 815 million people in 2016, or 11 per cent of the global population.

The increase, 38 million more than the previous year, is largely due to the proliferation of violent conflicts and climate-related shocks, said the report.

Some 155 million under-five children are stunted, while 52 million suffer from wasting, and an estimated 41 million are now overweight.

for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) said in their joint foreword to the report.

They stressed that some of the highest proportions of food-insecure and malnourished children in the world were concentrated in conflict zones.

"This has set off alarm bells we cannot afford to ignore: we will not end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030 unless we address all the factors that undermine food security and nutrition. Securing peaceful and inclusive societies is a necessary condition to that end," they said.

Famine struck in parts of South Sudan for several months early this year, and there is a high risk that it could recur there as well as appear in other conflict-affected places, namely northeast Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen, they noted.

Anaemia among women and adult obesity are also causes for concern. These trends are a consequence not only of conflict and climate change but also of sweeping changes in dietary habits as well as economic slowdowns.

The report singles out conflict, increasingly compounded by climate change, as one of the key drivers behind the resurgence of hunger and many forms of malnutrition.

"Over the past decade, conflicts have risen dramatically in number and become more complex and intractable in nature," the heads of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund

Three killed

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out each time an aid truck arrived and when food sacks were thrown to the refugees.

Two police officials told AFP that they were unaware of any deaths of refugees due to a stampede in the Rohingya camps.

"We know two Rohingyas have died on Friday at Balukhali area. They included a six-month-old baby who died of pneumonia," local police chief Mohammed Kai-Kislu said.

A 70-year-old man died of natural causes, he said, adding that another Rohingya man died on Saturday in a different place.



Villagers in Char Tengrakandi of Fulchhari upazila prepare themselves with bows and arrows to fight robbers.

PHOTO: KM REZAUL HOQUE

People turning to bows

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from the robbers."

"In response, the robbers have threatened me with dire consequences. A police camp is inevitable in the char to protect the people from robbers," said Jainul Abedin Jalal, chairman of Fazlupur Union Parishad.

Against this backdrop, a meeting against increasing trend of robbery and abuse of drugs was held on Friday afternoon at Chandanesh High school ground where lawmakers and high officials of district and police administration of Gaibandha, Kurigram and Jamalpur were present.

More than 1,000 people from different areas attended the meeting demanding a permanent river police outpost in char land for their safety.

The speakers at the meeting assured the people of setting up additional police outposts in the chars with necessary high-speed water vehicles to maintain law and order.

Chaired by Gautam Chandra Pal, deputy commissioner, Gaibandha, the meeting was attended by Deputy Speaker in Parliament Advocate Fazley Rabbi Mia as the chief guest.

Jamalpur-2 lawmaker Faridul Islam Dulal, Kurigram-4 lawmaker Ruhul Amin, Additional DIG of Rangpur Range Monjurul Kabir, Deputy Commissioner of Jamalpur Ahmed Kabir, Police Super of Gaibandha Masrurur Rahman Khaled, Police Super of Jamalpur Rawnak Jahan, and Police Super of Kurigram Menhajul Islam, Habibur Rahman, among others, addressed the meeting.

People turning to bows