

# Hearing in KL

FROM PAGE 1  
Faculty of Law.  
National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh's Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque and its secretary Hiranmaya Barai left Dhaka on Sunday night to take part in the hearing.  
Farhana Syeed, public relation officer of NHRC, told The Daily Star last night that the NHRC team has already visited Cox's Bazar to oversee the Rohingya situation and they [Chairman and secretary] will share their findings before the tribunal.

India jurist Bellur Narayanaswamy Srikrishna, a retired Supreme Court judge, was to be part of the jury but could not come.

On September 22, the tribunal will make a conclusion based on oral testimonies on the atrocities and give findings to the United Nation's Fact Finding Mission that was tasked to send its official to Yangon.

The findings are not legally binding and cannot be enforced by law.

On March 6 and 7 this year, a similar tribunal was held in London which concluded that the UN and Asean had to take swift action against Myanmar to stop the crimes against minorities groups.

Since it was set up in 1979, PPT has held hearings on collective human rights violations around the world.

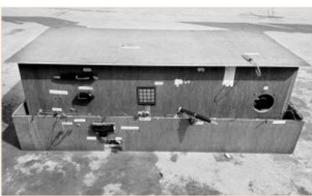
The Rohingya, a stateless, mostly Muslim minority in Buddhist-majority Rakhine, have long experienced persecution in Myanmar, which calls them illegal immigrants.

Rights groups accused the Myanmar military of burning Rohingya villages and raping women. But the Army said it was responding to attacks by militants and has denied targeting civilians.

According to the UN, 391,000 Rohingya refugees have arrived in Bangladesh since violence broke out in western Myanmar's Rakhine state on August 25.

The current humanitarian crisis began following an attack by the insurgent Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on police and military posts in the northwestern state of Rakhine that had led to a violent offensive by the Myanmar Army.

# Low-cost device



FROM PAGE 16  
the sensors involved but through careful calibration we managed it."

The innovative system has been submitted to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, a leading standard-setting organisation, for recognition. "For home use the system will cost around Tk 30,000 to install," estimates Khalid Hossain Jewel, "but with commercial production that cost could substantially reduce." Niaz and his supervisors hope the government might offer its support in making the system widely available.

For Niaz personally, developing the high-tech security system has been enjoyable. "I chose to study engineering because I would be able to use my creativity to develop new technology for mankind's benefit. Engineering has a lot to offer in this way."

# Woman hurt

FROM PAGE 16  
Sadar Hospital with burns on her waist and both hands.

Quoting victim's elder brother Shahed Ajmal, police said Jewel Miah, a neighbour of Rubina, and his two associates -- Abu Taher and Kashem -- threw acid at his sister through the window while she was sleeping in her room around 12:15am.

Jewel wanted to build an illicit relationship with his sister in absence of his brother-in-law. Jewel also called his sister over mobile phone and disturbed her, Shahed alleged.

Both Jewel and his two associates went into hiding after the incident. Shahin Miah, doctor of Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital, said Rubina suffered 15 percent burns to her body. But she was out of danger.

Ali Ashraf, officer-in-charge of Bijoynagar Police Station, said they heard about the incident. Necessary legal action would be taken in this regard, the OC added.

# Hefajat wants

FROM PAGE 16  
the office of the UN Resident Coordinator, said a press release of the organisation.

Earlier, Hefajat held a rally in front of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque and urged the government to launch a vigorous diplomatic campaign to save Rohingyas in Myanmar.

Their rally and procession halted traffic in Paltan, Kakrail and Shantinagar areas for hours, causing sufferings to the commuters.

Over 400,000 Rohingyas fled persecution in Buddhist-majority Myanmar to Bangladesh in the last three weeks.

The influx was triggered by Myanmar army's response to alleged insurgent attacks on 30 police posts and an army base in Rakhine State on August 25.



COURTESY: JEEON

**A patient at a Projotno centre talks about her health problem to a physician at Dhaka over the Internet. A Rural Medical Practitioner is next to her. The telemedicine service is given through an Android app developed by Jeeon.**

# Striving to better

FROM PAGE 16  
names of drugs and how to provide first aid while running drug stores."

While some of them got a formal certification as Rural Health Practitioners (RMPs) in the 1980s, that certificate is no longer legally recognised; yet, there are 1.3 lakh RMPs practising across the country.

They are extremely hard to monitor and regulate because they are decentralised private sector providers.

Unaware of the health consequences, and encouraged and perversely incentivized by pharmaceutical companies, they regularly provide steroids and powerful antibiotics that bring quick relief to patients from sufferings from varied symptoms but at the same time leave irreversible impact on their health.

Giving an example at Jeeon's Lalmatia office in the capital, Dr Fahima Mumtaz showed pictures of a woman with inflammation on her cheeks. The patients had used an ointment with steroid on acne to see the problem reappear in a more severe form as fast as they were gone.

She has found such cases to be commonplace among rural patients.

Asked why Jeeon works with RMPs when they are the ones to be blamed for the misuse of drugs, Rubayat said they were living close to the patients targeted.

"RMPs have gained rural people's trust because they know them personally and they go to these health practitioners with their health complaints for decades or probably for generations. They charge nothing for anything other than medicines, offer credit when you don't have cash, and drink tea with you while inquiring about your ailing grandma.

"The formal healthcare system could learn a thing or two about personalised care from these guys!"

The team at Jeeon designed their operation around the RMPs, training them to put in necessary information and pictures of a patient into an

Android application. A set of physicians in Dhaka would see them to suggest treatment, medical investigations, if needed, and even refer a patient to a specialised doctor in nearby facilities if the problem is complex and requires face-to-face consultation.

In doing so, Jeeon wants to be a partner for the government and the medical community to reign in malpractices in this sector, and sustainably improve the health outcomes for poor people in this country. The government has recognised Jeeon's efforts and awarded it as one of the top 10 startups in Bangladesh last year.

In its ongoing experimental phase at 32 Projotno centres in Kishoreganj, Netrakona and Sunamganj, Jeeon has provided treatment to some 7,500 patients already in nearly two years. The company has plans to expand its operation after concluding its pilot phase this September.

It is also building partnerships to broaden the scope of its services, such as introducing an ECG machine built by an Italian startup at Projotno centres to screen and treat heart problems. Jeeon wants to build an all-in-one platform where people would get information about various low-cost and free health services provided by charitable doctors, hospitals and NGOs.

It seems Jeeon has a long journey to make, as it aims to reach all the remotest parts of the country. Luckily, Jeeon has a strong set of funders and supporters backing it. In addition to high net-worth private investors in the USA who provide 80% of its investment, Jeeon also received substantial support from the USAID and other foundations, and also a small grant from the government.

But in the long run, Jeeon expects the consultation fees and other revenues collected through its services to carry it to sustainability and self-sufficiency.

Based on Jeeon's inspiring vision for the future of healthcare in this country, that long-run could not come early enough.

# Govt plans OMS

FROM PAGE 16  
high -- Tk 50 to 54 a kg -- in Dhaka's retail markets.

The rice market remained volatile with the government asking the local administrations in rice-trade zones to go for occasional raids to ensure that no one hoards the staple. But rice mill owners sharply reacted to the move claiming no millers would stock rice during this pre-Aman lean season.

The millers rather attributed the price hike to domestic production shortfall, panic following fake news of India's rice export ban and the government's failure to maintain a good stock of rice in public granaries.

Abdur Rashid, president of Bangladesh Rice Mill Owners' Association, and its General Secretary Layek Ali have been asked to attend today's meeting with Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed and Food Minister Qamrul Islam.

Qamrul told The Daily Star that efforts were on to import more rice, and strict monitoring put in place to stop any move to hoard rice by traders.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said the OMS operation would be further extended so that people in districts and upazilas got subsidised rice.

"It's good news that after the haor crop loss [in the last Boro season] we just had a productive Aus season. In the Aus season, we harvested 27 lakh tonnes of rice, five lakh tonnes higher from last year's," she said.

She is expecting a good harvest of monsoon rice -- Aman -- in November, but until that time, she said, all stakeholders should show restraint in keeping the rice price at tolerable level.

**ULTRA-POOR FOOD PROG ON HOLD**  
The Tk 10-per kg rice distribution under "Food Friendly Programme" was due since September 1.

After a delay for a while, the food ministry decided last Thursday that the programme would be launched today.

However, food officials confirmed yesterday that considering the low rice stock in hand and the need for higher allocation for the OMS programme, the government decided to put the Tk 10-a-kg programme on hold.

"Let us build up the rice stock first and then we'll go for the programme," said a policy planner seeking anonymity.

To run for three months (September to November) the Tk 10-a-kg-rice programme the government requires

4.5 lakh tonnes of foodgrains while to operate the OMS beyond the district-level for a month it needs some 50,000 to one lakh tonnes of rice.

Until yesterday, the public food stock had 3.45 lakh tonnes of rice while another 1.21 lakh tonnes were in the import pipeline.

**WHITE RICE AND PARBOILED RICE**  
Most of the foodgrains in the government stock at present is imported white rice (Atap) while consumers largely prefer parboiled rice (Shiddho) when they buy the staple from OMS points.

The agriculture ministry has asked the food ministry to allocate more white rice in Sylhet, Chittagong and haor regions where consumers are habituated to having Atap, and to allocate parboiled rice in other areas.

Sources said the government would distribute white rice to the 50 lakh ultra poor under Food Friendly Programme.

**RICE IMPORT FROM MYANMAR**  
After an overnight hectic bargaining between the visiting delegation from Myanmar and Bangladesh's state grain agency -- Directorate General of Food -- the two countries agreed yesterday on a price deal for rice import.

Bangladesh would get one lakh tonnes of white rice at \$442 per tonne.

The Myanmar delegation, however, did not agree to give any price concession on export of parboiled rice and remained fixed at \$485/tonne rate, which Bangladesh didn't accept.

Earlier in June, Bangladesh bought two lakh tonnes of white rice from Vietnam at \$430/tonne and 50,000 tonnes of parboiled rice at \$470/tonne.

**ANTI-HOARDING VIGILANCE CONTINUES**

Local administrations in Rajshahi, Natore, Comilla, Kushtia, among other districts, have continued keeping a watch on the rice situation to check hoarding.

In Natore, four rice mills have been fined yesterday for operating without license, and stocking more rice than they require for keeping the mills operational. Two more rice mills were fined in Rajshahi.

Speaking at a press briefing in Dhaka, Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque warned against rice hoarding. He said police would take action against those found to be hoarding rice in a bid to create artificial crisis in the country.

# Trump

FROM PAGE 16  
billion biennial core budget and 28.5 percent of its \$7.3 billion peacekeeping budget. The contributions are agreed on by the 193-member General Assembly.

Guterres, who also took office in January, told the meeting: "To serve the people we support and the people who support us, we must be nimble and effective, flexible and efficient."

He agreed that UN bureaucracy was a problem that kept him up at night.

"Our shared objective is a 21st century UN focused more on people and less on process," Guterres said. "Value for money while advancing shared values -- that is our common goal."

Trump also said that all peace-keeping missions should "have clearly defined goals and metrics for evaluating success."

The United States is reviewing each of the UN peacekeeping missions as annual mandates come up for Security Council renewal in a bid to cut costs. The United States is a veto-wielding council member, along with Britain, France, Russia and China.

On Sunday night, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson met with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi.

When asked if the UN refugee agency could perform its current missions if the United States cut its voluntary contributions to the budget, according to a pool report Grandi answered: "I would say no."

"US aid is vital to what we do to support refugees around the world and to find solutions to their situations," Grandi said.

# BCL leader

FROM PAGE 16  
Asim and his driver, Liton Mollah, were caught, the girl was rescued and the vehicle was seized. The two accomplices of Asim, however, somehow fled, added the police officer.

He also claimed to have recovered an unlicensed firearm and five bullets from the car.

The girl is the daughter of a ward councillor of Barisal City Corporation, said police.

# 2,000-tonne

FROM PAGE 16  
more space in adjacent areas.  
The job, which involved elevating the building by a metre, was completed on Sunday after just two weeks of work.

The temple complex was established at a different location in Shanghai in 1882 and moved to its current home in 1918, with the hall built some time between 1918 and 1928.

Buddhist statues and relics in the hall were wrapped up for protection and moved with it, the People's Daily newspaper said.

Workers initially pumped cement into the foundations of the hall to strengthen them, before embarking on the big move -- part of a wider project started in July 2014 to alleviate "severe fire safety and public security concerns", the temple said.

# PM attends

FROM PAGE 1  
countries, who are in New York to attend the 72nd UN General Assembly session, joined the meeting held at the UN Headquarters.

In recent years, the United Nations "has not reached its full potential because of bureaucracy and mismanagement," Donald Trump said, calling on the UN to invest "more in people and less in bureaucracy".

The meeting titled "Reforming the United Nations: Management, Security, and Development" was held as a way to give momentum to Secretary-General António Guterres's efforts to adopt a declaration to bring greater efficiency, accountability and transparency in the UN.

As of yesterday, 128 nations signed the declaration, according to the UN. Hasina is scheduled to attend another meeting on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and hold a bilateral meeting with her Bhutanese counterpart Tshering Tobgay today.

Later in the day, he PM would hold a meeting with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and attend a follow-up meeting of Global Deal for Decent Work and Inclusive Growth.

# 50 ghost firms traced

FROM PAGE 1  
According to report, the number of companies which owe over Tk 100 crore each to the bank is 11. Together, they defaulted loans of Tk 1,256 crore.

The number of companies defaulting on a loan of Tk 50 crore to Tk 100 crore each is 30. The total amount of defaulted loan here is Tk 2,105 crore.

The number of firms which owe Tk 10 crore to Tk 50 crore each to the bank is 95 and together, they owe the scam-hit bank Tk 2,403 crore.

As many as 50 clients owe Tk 5 crore to Tk 10 crore each to the bank. They have defaulted on loan of Tk 361 crore.

The companies with defaulted loans of Tk 1 crore to 5 crore each is 137. Together, they owe the bank Tk 326 crore. The number of companies which have a defaulted loan of below one crore each is 305. The amount of defaulted loan from them is Tk 88 crore, shows the report.

There are some loan defaulters who belong to the same family.

The top defaulter is Well Tex Ltd owned by Majedul Haque Chisty Shameem and the firm's defaulted loan is Tk 128.99 crore.

Majedul's other companies Abid Dyeing Mills Ltd defaulted on a loan of Tk 44.45 crore and Anan Socks defaulted on a loan of Tk 14.65 crore.

His brother Md Mahabubul Haque Chisty, known as Babul Chisty, is also among the loan defaulters. His firm EFS International owed Tk 53.67 crore to BASIC Bank. Mahabubul is a director and former chairman of Farmers Bank.

Mahabubul could not be reached over phone for comments.

Delta System Ltd came second in the defaulters' list with its owner Faizul Hoque Shikder owing Tk 128.22 crore to the bank.

Current JP lawmaker from a reserved seat Mahajabemurshed's IG Navigation Ltd came third in the list. The firm owes Tk 119.95 crore.

"Somehow, we have been caught in the scam of the former BASIC Bank chairman. We have taken the loan and we will definitely pay it back," she told The Daily Star yesterday.

Her two brothers-in-law are also among the defaulters, shows the report.

Faisal Murad Ibrahim became a defaulter after his firm Bay Navigation Ltd stopped paying back installments against a loan of Tk 116.38 crore, while Rashed Murad Ibrahim's MRF Trade House Ltd owes

Tk 58.36 crore to the bank.

The parliamentary committee recommended publishing in the newspapers the names of firms which defaulted above Tk 50 crore of the BASIC BANK money.

The committee directed BASIC bank to send it a list of those involved with the irregularities in giving out loans and information on actions taken against them.

In reply, BASIC Bank told the committee that in order to realise the loans, it filed cases with Artha Rin Adalat. But many of the firms in question have filed writ petitions with the High Court.

The number of on-trial cases at the end of last month stood at 326. Together, these firms owed Tk 4,535 crore to the bank.

The loans were given to the wife and children of the people involved with the fake organisations, says the report.

Committee member Zahangir Hossain, quoting BASIC Bank MD Khondoker Md Iqbal, said the former chairman of the bank made a huge mess while giving out the loans.

The MD told the committee meeting that while granting loans the former chairman did not go by any rules of the central bank, the Banking Division and the Basic Bank, said Zahangir.

The committee then instructed BASIC Bank to submit a detailed report on the 57 firms by January next.

Meanwhile, Sonali Bank has submitted a list of its top 20 loan defaulters to the committee. Together, those 20 defaulted on loans of Tk 3,234 crore.

The largest state bank also provided the committee with a list of the firms from which it has realised loan money. Till last month, only Tk 14 crore were realised from those companies.

Its top defaulters include TM Brothers Group, which defaulted on a loan of Tk 481 crore, and Hall-Mark Group for Tk 479 crore in unpaid debt.

The committee also asked for sending it a list of the Sonali Bank branches which counted losses for the last five years in a row and also to close down those branches.

Till July 31, the number of loss-making branches of Sonali Bank was 314. The state-run bank has a total of 1,210 branches.

# Some Rohingyas

FROM PAGE 2  
It said many Rohingyas have "illegally" acquired voter identity cards and Permanent Account Number cards required for filing income tax returns and for high-value financial transactions while some are "using the 'hawala' route to raise money for illegal activities".

Earlier, two Rohingya refugees filed a petition challenging a government move green-lighting their deportation. This prompted the government to file the 15-page affidavit before the bench headed by Chief Justice of India, Dipak Misra, where the Indian government hinted that the SC shouldn't interfere in executive policy dealing with illegal Rohingya migrants.

Arguing for deportation of Rohingyas, the government said the Rohingya influx began in 2012 and added that there are at present around 40,000 such refugees in the country.

The government also told the top court that deporting Rohingya refugees

would be an "executive policy decision" and the Supreme Court must not interfere.

The apex court rejected a plea to issue a notice to India's National Human Rights Commission, headed by a former Supreme Court judge, which opposed deportation of Rohingyas.

The NHRC said it would argue against the deportation of the two Rohingya refugees, Md Salimullah and Md Shakir.

To this, the apex court bench said "We want to first see the legal position. What's the jurisdiction of the court and what kind of jurisdiction can we invoke."

The apex court bench set the next hearing in the case to October 3.

A group of eminent jurists were present in court yesterday to appear for the Rohingya refugees and against their deportation. They included Fali S Nariman, Kapil Sibal, Rajeev Dhawan, Colin Gonsalves, Ashwani Kumar and Prashant Bhushan.



**জাতীয় গ্রন্থকেন্দ্র**

সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

৫/সি, বঙ্গবন্ধু এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০

ফোনঃ ৯৫৫৫৭৪৩ ও ৯৫৫৫৭৪৫, ফ্যাক্সঃ ৯৫৭২২১১

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জাতীয় গ্রন্থকেন্দ্র

## বেসরকারি গ্রন্থাগারে অনুদানের জন্য দরখাস্ত আহ্বান

সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের রাজস্ব খাতে বরাদ্দকৃত অর্থ থেকে ২০১৭-২০১৮ অর্থ বছরের জন্য বেসরকারি গ্রন্থাগারসমূহে অনুদান প্রদানের নিমিত্ত বেসরকারি গ্রন্থাগার থেকে নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

**নিয়মাবলী**

- (ক) যে সকল গ্রন্থাগারের জন্য আবেদন করা হবে তার রেজিস্ট্রেশন/তালিকাভুক্তির সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি অবশ্যই সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- (খ) নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরম বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়ের সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের উপসচিব-২ অথবা জাতীয় গ্রন্থকেন্দ্র, ৫/সি, বঙ্গবন্ধু এভিনিউ, ঢাকা থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। এ ছাড়া জাতীয় গ্রন্থকেন্দ্র ওয়েবসাইট [www.nbc.org.bd](http://www.nbc.org.bd), সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় [www.moca.gov.bd](http://www.moca.gov.bd) ওয়েবসাইটে আবেদন ফরম ডাউনলোড করে আবেদন পাঠানো যাবে।
- (গ) আবেদন ফরমে সংশ্লিষ্ট উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার/জেলা প্রশাসক (মেট্রোপলিটন এলাকার জন্য) গ্রন্থাগারসমূহের অস্তিত্ব ও কার্যক্রম সম্পর্কে নিশ্চিত হয়ে প্রত্যয়ন করবেন এবং স্থানীয় সংসদ সদস্য/জেলা প্রশাসক/উপজেলা পরিষদ চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভার মেয়র এর সুপারিশ থাকতে হবে।
- (ঘ) আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে আবেদনকারীর (পাঠাগারের সভাপতি/সাধারণ সম্পাদক/মোনীতি প্রতিনিধি) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- (ঙ) আবেদন ফরম আংশিক পূরণকৃত এবং স্থানীয় জনপ্রতিনিধি/স্থানীয় প্রশাসন কর্তৃক যথাযথ প্রত্যয়নকৃত না হলে আবেদন বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- (চ) আবেদনপত্র ৩০ নভেম্বর ২০১৭ তারিখের মধ্যে সচিব, সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ভবন-৬ (১০ তলা), ঢাকা-১০০০ বরাবরে পাঠাতে হবে। কোনোভাবেই এই সময়সীমা বৃদ্ধি করা হবে না।
- (ছ) শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান, ধর্মীয় প্রতিষ্ঠান, এতিমখানা কিংবা এনজিও পরিচালিত কোনো গ্রন্থাগার এই অনুদানের আওতায় আসবে না।
- (জ) অগ্রহী গ্রন্থাগারসমূহকে অনুদানের জন্য নির্ধারিত ফরমে যথানিয়মে আবেদন করতে হবে। গ্রন্থাগারের প্যাডে আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।
- (ঝ) গ্রন্থাগারের ব্যাংক হিসাব নম্বরের অনুকূলে অনুদানের চেক প্রদান করা হবে বিধায় ব্যাংক হিসাব নম্বর থাকতে হবে। গ্রন্থাগারের ব্যাংক হিসাব নম্বর না থাকলে আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। উল্লেখ্য, গ্রন্থাগারটি যে উপজেলায় অবস্থিত সে উপজেলায় অবস্থিত ব্যাংক ব্যতীত অন্য কোন এলাকার ব্যাংক হিসাব নম্বর গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- (ঞ) পূর্ববর্তী বছর/বিগত সময়ে অনুদান পেয়ে থাকলে উক্ত গ্রন্থাগারের বার্ষিক আয়-ব্যয়ের নিরীক্ষিত প্রতিবেদন আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

মোঃ নজরুল ইসলাম  
পরিচালক (উপসচিব)

জিডি-১৮৯৮