

JUST A HOOK TO SOME LOVED ONES' SAFETY TO US



ROHINGYA SHELTERS Fear of health emergency

MSF treated 487 diarrhoea patients at Kutupalong on Sept 6-17; refugees include 16,000 pregnant women

With shortage of food, water, medicine, sanitation and shelter in the Rohingya settlements in Ukhiya and Teknaf, a public health emergency is just around the corner, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said yesterday.

The Geneva-based international humanitarian organisation, which has been operating a health programme in the Rohingya camps, said it treated 487 patients for diarrhoeal diseases at Kutupalong between September 6 and 17. "We are receiving adults everyday on the cusp of dying from dehydration. That's very rare among adults, and signals that a public health emergency could be just around the corner," Kate White, MSF's emergency medical coordinator, said in a statement.

Healthcare facilities – government or NGO – are overwhelmed by the sheer number of patients, it said.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Mohammed Nasim said over 16,000 Rohingya women have arrived pregnant.

Nurses and midwives in the government facilities have aided the delivery of 173 babies, the minister told a press conference at the ministry.

MSF clinics had received a total of 9,062 outpatients, 3,344 emergency room patients, 427 inpatients, 225 patients with violence-related injuries, and 23 cases of

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A car parked on the footpath blocking pedestrians near Bangla Motor yesterday. Such nuisance is quite common in the area.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

LONGADU FIRE 3 months on, they're still homeless

ANVIL CHARMMA, back from Longadu

More than three months after the burning down of indigenous people's houses in Longadu upazila of Rangamati, it now seems to be a forgotten tale of horror with victims still living in the open, in schools, Buddhist monastery and makeshift houses.

All these days they have been living with the hope that they will be rehabilitated as promised by the local administration.

Longadu Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mosaddik Mehelal Imam said, "We have written to the higher authorities for rehabilitation of the victims. The process is underway."

Meanwhile, in a visit to the affected area on Tuesday, this correspondent saw many indigenous people in Manikjor Chara, Tintila village and Parata Parya village living in schools and monastery where they had taken shelter following the arson attack by Bangalee local people over the

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First grader 'raped' in Gazipur

Cops rescue victim, mother from confinement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A man allegedly raped a schoolgirl in the district's Sreepur upazila and kept the victim and her mother confined to their home for six days with the help of his associates to hush up the crime.

Police rescued the girl, a first grader at a primary school, and her mother from the home in Chinsuhukhania village yesterday afternoon.

The girl's mother said accused rapist Bilal Hossain, 45, of the same village called her daughter to his home around 11:00am on Friday to sweep his room. As she was about to return home, Bilal pulled her to

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'Model' to militant Operative of JMB's Sarwar-Tanim group arrested yesterday, Rab claims; family says he went missing on May 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Once a young model, Imam Mehedi Hasan turned into a militant leader about two years ago, claimed Rab.

Mehedi, a BBA graduate from Darul Ihsan University, was arrested by the Rapid Action Battalion in the capital's Banastee area early yesterday.

However, his family members said the 29-year-old had been missing since May 4 when he along with his brother-in-law Sayem Billah, who completed SSC this year, went to Arambagh to collect business cards.

According to Rab, the arrestee was involved in regrouping the "Sarwar-Tanim group" of militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

He was placed on four-day remand through a Dhaka court yesterday in a case filed with Banani Police Station under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mehedi's elder brother Waliur Alam said they filed a general diary with Khilgaon Police Station on May 5 after the two had gone missing. Sayem is still traceless.

Col Tuhin Mohammad Masud, commanding officer of Rab-3, claimed Mehedi is a commander of the "Brigade Ad-Dar-e-Kutini" of the Sarwar-Tanim group.

The arrestee used to recruit members, collect fund and motivate others to leave home for militant activities, he said at a press briefing at the Rab media centre in Karwan Bazar.

Mehedi was known as Abu Jibril inside the militant outfit. The Rab said the JMB set up two operational brigades — Badr Squad



Imam Mehedi Hasan

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Nine killed as Red Crescent truck flips

SANJOY KUMAR BARIJA, Bandarban

At least nine labourers were killed when a truck loaded with Red Crescent relief materials for the Rohingya turned turtle in a ditch in Naikkhanchhari of Bandarban yesterday.

Twelve others were also injured. AKM Jahangir, secretary of the International Committee of the Red Crescent Bandarban unit, said all the deceased were Bangladeshi workers hired to distribute food packages to 500 Rohingya families along Bangladesh's border with Myanmar in Bandarban.

Among the deceased, Md Abdullah, 18, Jalil Ahmed, 40, Surat Alam, 35, Sayedul Amin, 26, Abdullah, 16, Mamunul Hakim, 19, died on the spot while Sultan Ahmad, 44, Abdul Mabud, 40, and Sudoshon Barua, 45 died on their way to Naikkhanchhari Upazila Health Complex, said Taslim Iqbal Chowdhury, chairman of Naikkhanchhari Sadar Union Parishad.

Of the 12 injured, one was taken to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital while the rest were receiving treatment at

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'Emotional' robots can judge your personality



MAIL ONLINE

Robots are now so smart they can work out whether you're male or female and even what your personality is like from one handshake.

Researchers are developing an 'emotional' humanoid robot that is sensitive to human touch and can read social situations so they always come across as polite and empathetic.

In addition to looking like a human, robots must also become more sociable so they can integrate into human environments, researchers say.

"Giving robots a personality is the only way our relationship with artificial intelligence will survive," said Professor Adriana Tapus from ENSTA ParisTech, Université Paris-Saclay.

Our research will help the next generation of

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Holy Ashura on Oct 1

BSS, Dhaka

The holy Ashura, commemorating the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hossain (RA), grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), will be observed in the country on October 1.

In a meeting yesterday evening, the National Moon Sighting Committee made the decision as the new moon of Muharram, the first month of Hijri 1439, appeared in the country yesterday, said an official release.

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 22
Fazr Juma Akr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:40-12:30-4:30 6:45- 7:30
JANUAT 5:15-1:15-4:45 6:10- 8:00
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Trump orders new N Korea sanctions

Measures target people and entities doing trade with regime; China orders banks to stop working with Pyongyang

REUTERS, New York

US President Donald Trump yesterday ordered new sanctions that open the door wide to blacklisting people and entities doing business with North Korea, including its shipping and trade networks, further tightening the screws on Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs.

Trump stopped short of going after North Korea's biggest trading partner, China, and praised its central bank for ordering Chinese banks to stop doing business with North Korea.

Pyeongang has resisted international pressure, conducting its sixth and largest nuclear test on Sept 3, and launching numerous missiles this year, including two intercontinental ballistic missiles and two other rockets that flew over Japan.

"Today I'm announcing a new executive order, just signed, that significantly expands our authority to target individual companies, financial institutions, that finance and facilitate trade with North Korea," Trump told reporters ahead of a luncheon meeting with the leaders of Japan and South Korea.

"Our new executive order will cut off sources of revenue that fund North Korea's efforts to develop the deadliest weapons known to humankind," Trump said. "We're also launching technology, and manufacturing industries were among those the United States could target."

He said the order enhanced the US Treasury Department's authority to target those that conduct "significant trade in goods, services or technology with North Korea."

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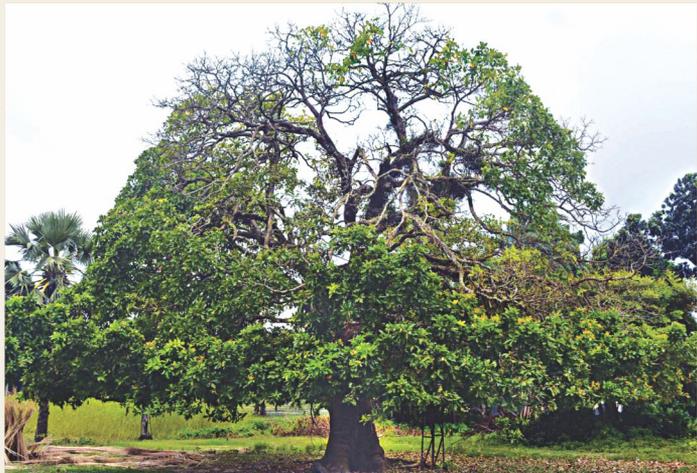
Guardian tree of Faridpur

By SUZIT KUMAR DAS with ANDREW EAGLE

Caught in the mosaic of day-to-day concerns, it's not always that one can appreciate the bigger picture: how much the future is with us, how the past endures. But in Ramkhondo village in Katzapur union of Faridpur sadar upazila, there is a place where it's hardly possible not to feel one's relative insignificance within a grander scheme. In a field is a centenarian hijol tree standing as continuity's sentinel, offering

PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

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The century-old hijol tree in Ramkhondo village in Faridpur sadar. Hundreds of people visit the tree almost every day.