

Home boss to travel to Myanmar

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The home boss was briefing reporters after a meeting of National Smuggling Prevention Committee at his ministry.

On October 2, Myanmar's Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor Kyaw Tint Swe visited Dhaka and offered to take back the Myanmar nationals.

During bilateral talks that day, the two countries agreed to form a joint working group to start the repatriation process for all the Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh.

The home minister said Bangladesh wants to repatriate all Rohingyas to Myanmar, as the Myanmar minister has pledged to take back their citizens.

Diplomatic sources said Kamal was scheduled to visit Myanmar much earlier. But it was deferred due to developments in Rakhine in late August.

A military crackdown began in response to insurgent attacks on some 30 police posts and an army base on August 25, forcing over 5,15,000 Rohingyas to cross over into Bangladesh.

Before this influx, Bangladesh was hosting about 3,00,000 of the Myanmar nationals who entered the country in various phases.

A senior official at the foreign ministry yesterday told The Daily Star that the home minister's visit will help take forward the negotiations with Myanmar.

"There was important discussion over border and security issues during the visit of Myanmar's union minister on October 2," he said, adding that some instruments on better border management are ready to get final shape during the visit.

Some sources, however, claim that Dhaka is not very optimistic about any sudden change in Rohingya situation since the forcibly displaced people continue to stream towards the border while violence continues in Rakhine.

Myanmar assured Bangladesh and the international community that it was stopping the exodus, but the latest video footage from inside Myanmar shows half-buried corpses, villages burning and desperate people fleeing through the mountains.

The videos also appeared to contradict claims of Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi that security forces ended their operations on September 5, reports Australia's ABC News.

Union minister Kyaw Tint Swe, too, during his Dhaka visit categorically stated that there has been no military operation since September 5.

But footage sent to ABC News allegedly shows security forces and vigilantes burning Muslim homes in the town of Maungdaw as recently as Thursday night.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali is also expected to visit Myanmar as Aung San Suu Kyi has invited him to the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting scheduled for November 20-21.

But, some sources say, his visit depends on outcome of the home minister's meeting.

At a separate programme in Banani, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said Bangladesh would keep its border open for Rohingyas until violence stops in Rakhine.

The decision had been made on humanitarian grounds, he added.

Quader, also the roads and bridges minister, added the UN should take a strong stance to prevent a fresh influx.

REFUGEE REGISTRATION

As many as 91,423 Rohingyas have been brought under the biometric registration, said the home minister, adding some 9,000 are being registered every day.

Highlighting the importance of biometric registration, the minister said the Rohingyas who will not be registered will not be able to receive domestic and international aid.

He added that the government has taken stern position against smuggling and will install scanning machines at all 16 land ports to curb smuggling and infiltration of all sorts of illegal items into the country.

TIB CONDEMNS 'UN FAILURE'

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has strongly condemned the UN failure to take into cognisance and act upon the report of an independent expert it commissioned before the military crackdown

in Rakhine.

TIB expressed deep disappointment that the UN not only suppressed the report it received in May but also ignored the prediction that security forces were going to be "heavy-handed and indiscriminate" in dealing with the Rohingyas, which came true in August-September.

TIB termed it an unacceptable offence that the global body deliberately shelved the recommendation to be coherent and undertake serious contingency plan against the impending violation of human rights.

In a statement issued yesterday, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said, "We call upon the UN to explain this inaction, particularly the inability of UN to practise what it preaches. No one, not least the UN, can be above accountability."

TIB demanded disclosing the report for public information and those responsible for the failure to act in a manner that could have prevented the worst possible form of pre-planned and massive violation of human rights must be brought to justice, he said.

Iftekharuzzaman further said the UN should now have the courage to explain the reasons behind suppressing such a hugely important report and deliberately missing the opportunity to prevent what UN itself later described a "textbook case of ethnic cleansing".

FRESH WAVE

Meantime, the Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK in a statement on Saturday said starvation caused by Myanmar's military and government restrictions will create a new wave of Rohingyas escaping to Bangladesh.

Thousands more will leave their hometowns and face harder conditions in the coming days and weeks. Crops are ready to harvest and those remaining in the area are prospective nominees of forced labour since the Rohingyas farmers left the state.

The Rohingyas still in Myanmar now face pressure from the military to buy the livestock stolen from those who have fled. The cost now is triple the market value and the threat of arrest for refusing also frightens the people.

Mystery shrouds Malaysia expat's death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kuching

A Malaysia expatriate was found dead in Badhbazar area of Kumarkhali upazila yesterday, three days after he went missing.

The deceased was Rakibul Islam, 36, son of Montu Biswas of Paharpur village. He came to Bangladesh last month, said the victim's younger brother Rafikul.

Additional Superintendent of Police Abul Kalam Shahid said Rakibul went out of home to go to his in-laws' house in Badhbazar area on Thursday night and since then he remained missing.

Informed by locals, the law enforcers recovered the body from the Kalri river in the area yesterday morning.

Police picked up Sohail Hasan, 23, and Lalon Mia, 25, for interrogation.

Missing

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of Birab Khalpar area, had gone missing on August 9.

On August 12, his wife Nasima Begum filed a general diary with Rugganj Police Station, said Inspector Selim Miah, in-charge of Bhalab Investigation Centre in Rugganj.

The GD was recorded as a case on September 7 accusing Azizul Haque, Siyem, Badol, Jasim, and Mamun of abducting Monir over a previous enmity.

On Saturday, police arrested prime accused Azizul at Baniachang upazila of Habiganj.

As per his confessional statement, police recovered the body in Pukurpur area of Khalpar in Kanchan municipality. Azizul also said they killed Monir by slitting his throat, police official Selim added.

The body was sent to Narayanganj 100-bed hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Univ student killed

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departmental store on RKMission road, he was stopped by two muggers who snatched away his mobile phone and money brandishing sharp weapons.

That could be the end of a regular mugging story and he could join his class at the university. But there was more to it.

A minute after Talha got mugged, the criminals stopped another rickshaw. Two locals, Sunny and his sister Sadia, who were on it, started shouting for help when Talha responded.

"As Talha grasped one of the muggers from behind, the mugger first stabbed him in his hands and then in his right thigh," said Faruk Ahmed Sujon, a cousin of Talha. He started bleeding profusely.

Sunny and some others tried to catch the muggers, but they fled by an auto-rickshaw that had been parked nearby.

Talha was rushed to nearby Salahuddin Hospital. As his condition deteriorated, he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 7:30am. He succumbed to his injuries within half an hour there, Sujon said.

In the police inquest report, it was

stated that there were deep cut marks on his right hand, injury marks on his left hand and a biting mark under his right elbow. On his right thigh, there were two marks of stabbing.

Talha used to live in Ashulia near the university campus. Every weekend, he came home.

"He [Talha] left home in the morning for his university. I was taken aback when I heard him speak with his voice trembling and saw him bleeding," said the grieving father, Khandaker Nuruddin, deputy manager of JBF Digital Trading Company Limited. He could not speak anymore.

Nurul Amin, additional deputy commissioner of Wari zone, said police analysed the footage of nearby CCTV camera.

"We have seen two suspected muggers in the footage, but they were actually three. Our team is working to arrest the culprits," he added.

Talking to local people, The Daily Star learnt that the neighbourhood of R K Mission road is a mugging prone area. They urged the authorities to increase

CJ visits hospital for tests

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The official, however, could not give details about the chief justice's health condition but said the CJ had earlier talked about going to Australia to see his daughter and receiving treatment.

However, the chief justice did not get his ticket as of yesterday, the official added.

The pro-BNP faction of the Supreme Court Bar Association led by its President Zainul Abedin and Secretary AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon has meanwhile organised a human chain on the SCBA premises protesting what they said was the house arrest of the chief justice.

Moudud Ahmed, Nitai Roy Chowdhury, Abed Raza, Umme Kulsum Rekha, among others, spoke on the occasion.

On the other hand, ruling Awami League-backed lawyers of the SCBA held a press conference at the South Hall

of the SCBA building protesting against the statements of Zainul Abedin and Mahbub Uddin Khokon regarding the CJ's one-month leave.

SCBA Vice-President Md Ozi Ullah, Treasurer Rafiqul Islam Hiru, executive members Habibur Rahman, Noor-Alam Uzzal and Cumar Debul Dey addressed the press conference.

Chief Justice SK Sinha has been on one month's leave since October 3.

Earlier, Law Minister Anisul Huq said the chief justice had gone on leave for treatment as he had cancer.

The BNP, however, alleged that the chief justice was sent on forced leave.

Justice SK Sinha came under the spotlight after a Supreme Court bench headed by him scrapped the 16th Amendment to the Constitution that restored parliament's authority to impeach SC judges for misconduct or incapacity.

Still recoiling in horror, pain

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who brought them to Bangladesh, told this correspondent yesterday.

"We crossed the border on September 1 but have not been able to contact Hasan's grandfather ever since," said Rafia, a widow in her 50s. Weighed down with pain and suffering, she seemed to have aged a decade in the past month.

While their grandmother spoke of the strenuous journey to escape the conflict-ridden Rakhine state, Nur Khan stared vacantly into seemingly nothingness. He kept mum when asked what his name was. He did not wish to speak, especially to a stranger.

Nur Khan seemed like he did not know who to trust outside of his immediate family.

Famished and riddled with lesions all over their bodies, the siblings are among the 7,000 Rohingya orphans, a number authorities presume will double by the time they have finished surveying the recent influx of refugees from Myanmar.

To deal with the growing number of orphan children, the Department of Social Welfare under the Social Welfare Ministry has already taken up a project

to register those in the Rohingya camps from September 20.

Since then, a total of 6,797 Rohingya orphan children, who the social welfare officials term "Myanmar National Orphan Child" were registered.

Pritom Kumar Chowdhury, Deputy Director of Department of Social Welfare, said, "We hope that we can complete the registration process within the next week. We are apprehending that the number could double."

He also said that after completing the registration process, they will be given smart cards.

"We have already applied to the Deputy Commissioner Cox's Bazar to allocate 200 acres of land in Balukhali dedicated to these children to build shelter for them."

Contacted, Md. Ali Hossain, DC of Cox's Bazar, said, "We have received an application from the department of social welfare. After completing their registration process, we will certainly allocate land for them if they want to set up shelter centre for the orphan children in Balukhali area."

Sobbir Ahmed, a block leader in Tyingkhali temporary shelter centre in Ukhiya upazila, said there are hundreds

of children who have lost both their parents; the lucky ones, if the word even applies, have lost either a father or mother.

Sabika (8), Sehana (6), Jennat Ara (4) and Rohina (2.5) are three sisters who can at least count on the warmth of a mother, a comfort no longer afforded to thousands of Rohingya children.

Sabika now looks after her siblings when her mother Saira Khatun goes to collect relief for them. When asked where their father was, neither Sabika nor Sehana gave any reply. They did not know what to say, perhaps hope preventing them from saying they no longer had one.

Seeing this correspondent, their aunt, Layla Khatun, came forward saying their father Salimullah was a wood trader. They all left the house when chaos broke in Myanmar but returned home after a while. However, one day all of a sudden, the Myanmar army raided their house and killed their father. On September 5, their mother Saira Khatun crossed the border and took shelter in Tyingkhali.

Now, the girls have to rely solely on their mother.

(OIC) in the UN General Assembly was pushing for a human rights resolution on the country.

Last year the EU announced that for the first time in 15 years it would not introduce a resolution at the General Assembly's Third Committee, which focuses on human rights, condemning Myanmar's record -- rewarding it for progress.

The European bloc could revive the resolution in the current session, taking on board the OIC draft and broadening it out beyond the Rohingya crisis, one diplomat in New York said.

Diplomats said some members of the UN Security Council were exploring whether the 15-member body could agree a formal statement, or even a resolution, calling for an end to the violence, full access for aid and the safe return of refugees.

However, Myanmar has said it was negotiating with China and Russia, which have veto powers in the Security Council, to protect it from any possible action. China and Russia have both expressed support for the Myanmar government.

Myanmar's relations with the UN have grown increasingly testy since the discovery of World Food Programme-branded biscuits at a suspected militant camp in July prompted the government to accuse the UN agency of supporting the insurgents, forcing it to shut down its operations in Rakhine.

Myanmar is stalling on accepting a plan by the UN to upgrade the UN country head to the more powerful rank of Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) when its current top official, who is due to be rotated, is replaced.

Thaung Tun, Suu Kyi's National Security Advisor, told Reuters that the UN "must treat us equally".

"We'll be fine with anybody if all member states have an ASG assigned. Not just us," he said.

City chokes on demo

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and publishing exam schedule for the third-year students.

The colleges are Dhaka College, Eden Mohila College, Shaheed Suhrawardy Government College, Kabi Nazrul Government College, Begum Badrunnesa Government Mohila College, Mirpur Government Bangla College and Titumir Government College.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof Md Akhteruzzaman went to Nilkhet around 11:30am and assured the students that their results would be published by November.

Getting the assurance, the students cancelled their plan to submit a memorandum to the president, but didn't withdraw the barricade.

Around noon, the DU authorities announced the schedule for their honours third-year exam.

They ended the agitation programme at 6:00pm and announced resuming their protest today.

The students, however, postponed today's demonstration after the president and the secretary of DU Chhatra League assured them of arranging a meeting between the VC and the student leaders for fixing a specific date for publication of results.

"Until then, we postponed our agitation," Mehedi Hasan, a student of Kabi Nazrul Government College, told this correspondent.

Yesterday's agitation caused the traffic to go haywire, putting the commuters, especially school and office

goers in trouble.

Kataban, Science Lab, Shahbagh, Green Road and Dhanmondi areas saw traffic chaos.

"I left home for New Market around 9:00am, but could not reach my destination even after three hours," said Kafi Hassan, a resident of Dhanmondi.

Sabina Yasmin Khan, a prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal, said it took her one and a half hours to go to the High Court from Kathalagan whereas it usually takes only 20 minutes.

Traffic policemen at the Aarong intersection on Manik Mia Avenue were seen diverting the vehicles heading for Kalabagan, Azimpur and Science Lab.

Asked about the delay in publishing results, Prof Akhteruzzaman said, "The main reason behind it was lack of coordination between National University and Dhaka University, and some mismanagement in the administration."

"We will try to publish the results by November. If possible, we will do it this month," he added.

The agitating students said they were frustrated at the delay as they could not apply for jobs.

"The university authorities are pushing our future into uncertainty. Now, we are left with no other choice but to stage demonstration. We will go for a tougher movement if needed," said Jahir Islam, a student of Dhaka College.

"We are falling behind others in the job market as we could not sit for any

competitive job test due to the delay in publishing the results," he added.

The colleges got affiliated with the DU on February 16 this year when the final exams of Honours fourth year of the 2011-12 session were going on.

The exams were held in February under the National University. But the DU held the viva voce as the colleges had become affiliated with it.

The DU got the responsibility of publishing the results. But the authorities have failed to do so even nine months after the exams were held.

"Since the National University held the examinations, they should have finalised the results. But they did not give us [the DU] the tabulation sheets," said a DU official seeking anonymity.

On Thursday, the students announced holding a protest rally at Shaheed Minar on Sunday to press home their five-point demand, but the university authorities did not allow them to hold the programme.

Earlier on July 20, students of the seven colleges staged a demonstration blocking the Shahbagh intersection, demanding immediate announcement of exam schedules for fourth-year students of the 2009-10 session.

Siddiqur Rahman, a student of Titumir Government College, went blind after he suffered severe injuries in his eyes in a police excess during the demonstration.

Following the incident, police filed a case with Shahbagh Police Station against 1,200 students of the colleges on July 21.

Google

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"That's why we need to take innovative approaches to help restore connectivity on the island," he added, urging wireless carriers to "cooperate with Project Loon to maximize this effort's chances of success."

Loon, part of a series of futuristic projects out of Alphabet's "X" laboratory, was originally created to provide internet coverage in under-developed rural areas.

A similar project using drones was closed down in 2016.

The balloons are sent 12 miles (20 kilometers) above the Earth's surface, where they can remain autonomously for over 100 days. They are made from a polyethylene canvas the size of a tennis court.

Initially designed to drift, the balloons are now equipped with navigation systems, powered by solar panels, which keep them in a specific area.

The announcement comes after electric carmaker Tesla said it could help restore electricity to Puerto Rico using solar panels and batteries.

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e-Tender Notice

Memo No. 1575 Date: 08-10-2017

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

e-Tender are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, Tangail PWD Division, Tangail for the following procurement:

Tender Description

Project Name: Establishment of Tangail Medical College and Extension of 250 Bedded General Hospital into 500 Bedded Medical College Hospital.

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Tender documents last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time
1	124779	Construction of single Doctors accommodation (Male) (06-storied building with 10-storied foundation) including internal sanitary & external water supply, boundary wall, internal electrification, compound drain, gas connection etc. Financial year-2017-2018	05 November, 2017 at 11:00am	06 November, 2017 at 15:00pm

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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