

# Redistribute refugees

Say Cox's Bazar civil society, NGO members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

High concentration of the Rohingya population in Cox's Bazar is posing serious risks for the economy and ecology of the tourist district, said an alliance of civil society and non-government organisations yesterday.

The local population of Cox's Bazar is 27 lakh, while the number of Rohingyas stands at 800,000, which might become around 10 lakh by the year's end, making Cox's Bazar the most densely populated district in Bangladesh, they said.

While population density per square kilometre in the country would be 1152 by the year end, it would be 1485 in Cox's Bazar, said the alliance - Cox's Bazar Civil Society Organisations-NGO Forum (CCNF) - in a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Union.

The Rohingyas are also spreading out beyond the designated camps. They have taken shelter in Cox's Bazar town, both sides of Marine Drive and in other upazilas of the district. This is a serious risk for tourism," said Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, co-chair of CCNF.

The prices of essentials in Utkhla, Teknaf and Cox's Bazar town have

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4



Newly arrived Rohingyas women sit and wait for help with their children near a port after crossing the Bangladesh-Myanmar border yesterday at Shah Porir Dwp near Cox's Bazar.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## BDR CARNAGE

### HC verdict on death reference, appeals on November 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court on November 26 will deliver the verdict on the death reference and appeals in the BDR carnage case.

The HC special bench yesterday set the date.

The same bench had kept the reference and appeals as *curia advisari vult*, a Latin legal term meaning the verdict could be delivered at a later date.

If a lower court sentences any person to death in a case, its judgment is examined by the HC through hearing arguments for confirmation of the death sentence. The case documents and judgments reaches as death reference to the HC from the lower court in seven days after the latter delivers the verdict.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

## New window

FROM PAGE 20

of the documents for letting more and more people know about the trial proceedings, the 1971 Liberation War and the war-crimes perpetrators.

"These documents could be sources of history. We have already started our work and hope to complete it in phases," Sanaul Huk, co-coordinator of the agency, told the Daily Star last week.

The HC bench members would investigate the written complaints, include reports, statements of witnesses, documentary evidence, including books, newspapers, audio and video clips, and verdicts.

On October 10, the agency, designed to probe war-time crimes committed in 1971, at a meeting formed a committee to archive the documents.

The committee is led by Sanaul. The other members are Obayul Ullah, assistant director (administration), and Anisur Rahman, librarian, of the agency and the investigation officers of the cases concerned.

"We will do the work with our own money. We will take suggestions from experts as well," Sanaul said.

Six war criminals have already been executed and another convict is now serving jail until death for crimes committed during the Liberation War in 1971 after all proceedings of the tribunal and the Supreme Court.

Talking about the other reasons behind archiving the documents, Sanaul said while investigating some war crimes cases, they found that some relevant documents were destroyed.

"So we decided to provide the documents to several libraries and institutions at home and abroad so that anti-liberation forces cannot destroy them altogether," he said.

A prominent war crimes researcher, Mofidul Hoque, also a trustee of the Liberation War Museum, said the move was "prudent and termed it a 'commendable job'."

"Storing documents is seen as a very important task in other war crimes tribunals worldwide. So, we need a rich archive," he said.

He said the agency should preserve every single document related to the trials.

## Address Rohingya crisis at APEC, ASEAN meets

FROM PAGE 1

Myanmar to more diplomatic pressure, at least from world leaders, including the US, during the three summits hosted by Vietnam and the Philippines.

They said it would not be possible to get Myanmar to resolve the crisis without continuing pressure on the country.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres would be attending parts of the Asean and related summits in the Philippines while Myanmar de facto leader Suu Kyi would be meeting Asean leader in the Philippines after the APEC summit.

According to the HRW, the UN Security Council "should impose an arms embargo and targeted economic sanctions and travel bans on military officials implicated in the atrocities".

The council should now take

more meaningful action, but in the meantime governments concerned, especially those in Asia, could take coordinated bilateral or multilateral action to impose targeted sanctions and travel bans, the rights group added.

Leaders gathering in Asia should also discuss the creation of judicial mechanisms to hold perpetrators of abuses in Myanmar accountable, including via the General Assembly and Human Rights Council. The Security Council should refer the situation in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court.

"The International Criminal Court was created precisely to deal with crimes against humanity like those being committed in Burma," Adams said. "Members of the Security Council discussing the Asia summits should be discussing referring the situation in

Burma to The Hague."

Meanwhile, the Philippine Daily Inquirer in an editorial titled "Asean has an obvious role in Rohingya crisis" said representatives of the platform need to address the crisis in Myanmar's Rakhine state at its root causes.

Among the 10 member-countries of Asean, only Malaysia had displayed courage, it said.

**TRUDEAU TO MEET SUU KYI** Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was scheduled to lead a bilateral meeting with Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi at the APEC summit in Vietnam, according to a report of Canadian Press.

This would be their first meeting since a crackdown by security forces that began on August 25 and has forced Rohingyas to take shelter in Bangladesh.

About 200 entered Bangladesh just yesterday morning.

Last night, the UNB reported citing the UN Migration Agency that the number of new arrivals from Myanmar's Rakhine State now stands at 613,000.

Bob Rae, Canada's special envoy for the Rohingyas crisis, is scheduled to brief Trudeau on his findings in Myanmar at the APEC leaders' summit. Rae is also expected to use the 21-member APEC event to meet other regional players to push for a coordinated solution to the crisis.

Trudeau had said that he reached out to Suu Kyi about the atrocities being committed against the Rohingyas.

Meanwhile, the Liberal government has come under pressure to strip Suu Kyi of her honorary Canadian citizenship.

## 'Bandhan' between Khulna, Kolkata

FROM PAGE 1

ties is very much essential.

In this regard, the PM mentioned about the vision of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who had conceived the idea of regional cooperation in 1972. "This remains our constant guide. I'm sure these connectivity initiatives will further consolidate this vision."

With the inauguration of the services, a new door of relationship has been opened up between the two countries, he said, adding that the relationship would be further strengthened in future.

Hasina said Bangladesh-India relations were in fact setting new high standards of bilateral cooperation in the region and beyond. "I'm sure we would be having many more similar, happy occasions in the days ahead for the greater benefit of our peoples."

She said it was yet another happy occasion in Bangladesh-India relations. "On this important day, I'm excited to join you to join your Excellency to formally launch the end-to-end immigration and customs of Dhaka-Kolkata Maitree Express and flagging off Khulna-Kolkata Bandhan Express service."

The PM said these initiatives along with a new International Passenger Terminal at Chitpur, Kolkata would facilitate comfortable journey between Dhaka-Kolkata and Khulna-Kolkata.

He expressed optimism that these services would give a boost to cultural exchanges and tourism between the people of the two countries.

Hasina said the two neighbours were having wonderful cooperation in the railways sector. "Since 2009, it has been strengthened further. Our two countries are also working to re-open our pre-1965 rail links for cargo transport between Bangladesh and India."

She thanked the Indian government for supporting the railways projects through the Line of Credit (LoC) fund.

Mentioning that connectivity is one of the main pillars of the Indo-Bangla bilateral cooperation, she said, "Our two countries are not only connected through rail, road, inland water and air, but we are connected through internet bandwidth, coastal routes, power grid as well."

These new modes of connectivity were adding diverse dimensions to India-Bangladesh connectivity architecture. She expressed happiness that the countries recently extended their connectivity to space.

Hasina also extended a belated Happy Diwali wishes to Mamata, Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and the people of India.

"She invited Modi, Mamata and Sushma to visit Bangladesh."

**'INDIA IS A RELIABLE PARTNER'**

The Indian PM said the launch of the first passenger train service between Kolkata and Khulna and three other key connectivity projects marked yet another step towards revival of the physical connectivity that had existed between the two neighbours before 1965, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

"Whenever we talk of connectivity, I'm always reminded of the vision to revive the pre-1965 connectivity. I'm happy we are taking relentless strides in that direction," Modi said.

He said India takes pride in being a "reliable partner" in Bangladesh's development. The 2nd Bhairab and 2nd Titus railway bridges would help strengthen the rail network of the latter, he added.

The Indian PM said development and connectivity were linked with each other and the ties between India and Bangladesh, particularly between the people of West Bengal and Bangladesh, were decades old.

India and Bangladesh would touch a "new sky" of development and prosperity as the bilateral ties are being taken forward and people-to-people relations are further strengthened, he added.

Modi said the relations between the leaders of the neighbouring countries should be like the true meaning of the word "neighbour" and they should speak to each other and visit each other whenever they feel like and no protocol should come in the way.

Recalling that he and Hasina had used videoconferencing facility to jointly launch the South Asian Satellite and the integrated checkpoint at Petrapole-Banepole border earlier this year, the Indian PM said he was happy to once again get the opportunity to inaugurate a series of key connectivity projects.

Earlier, Modi began his speech breaking into Bangla. "Aaj ei shubho uplokkhe diu deshabesbar amara abhinandan janai. Aaj amader

moitree, bandhan ar sudiro holo."

Indian external affairs minister also joined the videoconference yesterday.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, PM's Economic Affairs Adviser Ashwini Kumar, Political Affairs Adviser HT Imam, State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shabir Alam, Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka Harsh Vardhan Shringla and secretaries concerned were present at the Gono Bhaban.

The two railway bridges have been built at a cost of \$100 million, which has been met from India's \$8 billion soft loan to Bangladesh.

The bridges will reduce travel time between Dhaka and Chittagong and Dhaka and Sylhet and trains using dual gauge and broad gauge tracks will be able to run on them.

Our Banepole correspondent adds, The Bandhan Express began its trial run from Kolkata with an 18-member Indian delegation on Wednesday.

Asim Kumar Saha, deputy regional manager of Bangladesh Railway, described the trial run of the train as a milestone.

Railway sources said the new train would start its commercial operation from November 16.

The Bandhan Express is scheduled to ply the route every Thursday. It will start from Kolkata at 6:00am and reach Khulna at 1:00pm.

On the return trip, it will leave Khulna at 3:30pm and reach Kolkata at 8:30pm on the same day.

The ticket fare has been fixed at Tk 1,500 for each passenger of AC compartment and Tk 2,000 for each travelling in AC cabin.

handed over to its administration officers, who gave an undertaking that all the activities of the school would remain suspended for an indefinite period.

Yesterday, proprietor of the school Khaled Hassan Matin and guardians of 12 students submitted the three writ petitions to the HC seeking stay on the government's decision.

In the petitions, they said the educational activities of the school have been hampered due to the government's decision and therefore, the education of the students has become uncertain.

## Robbers kill three in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Three people were killed and two others injured in two separate robbery incidents in two neighbouring upazilas of Faridpur early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Sazzad Miridha, 37, son of Jaber Miridha and Sentu Miridha, 33, son of Ayesha Miridha of Abdul Gofur Miridha Dangi village under Charbaradrasan Union of Charbaradrasan Upazila and Abdul Malik, 32, son of Sultan Khatun of Soitankhali village under Dheukhali Union of Sadarpur Upazila.

The first incident happened in Abdul Gofur Miridha Dangi village. A local resident said, "A gang of seven numbering 16-17 broke into the house of Samsul Karim at around 2:00 in the morning. The pre-wedding celebrations of Fakir's son had been held at the house the evening before."

The gang held the family hostage at gunpoint and looted valuables including 45 tolas of gold ornaments. When villagers were alerted to the situation they chased the robbers who had by then broken into another house for a robbery.

The villagers found a speed boat docked at the nearby river and damaged it to prevent the robbers from escaping. However, two robbers guarding the boat opened fire and shot four

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

## Dhaka sways

FROM PAGE 20

Hason Raja. They were followed by reputed Bangladesh folk singer Fakir Shahabuddin, whose authentic renditions of songs from various regions, including Maitzbaridha songs and songs of Shah Abdul Karim got the audience on their feet.

Eminent Brazilian composer-singer Mauricio Tizumbra and his sister (sixth) were also present. The programme featured performance of the first half of the programme. With his back-up musicians all playing various kinds of percussion instruments, Tizumbra brought the experience of pulsating Afro-Brazilian beat to the stage.

Tizumbra was praised for the energy and the language being totally foreign did not stop the spectators from dancing and singing along to the chant-like songs.

The opening ceremony followed, where Finance Minister of Sun Communications and Square Group Anjan Chowdhury, Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon, Dhaka Bank Managing Director and CEO Syed Mahbubul Rahman, eminent singer-researcher Indramohan Rajbangshi chief guest Finance Minister AMA Muhiut on stage.

In his speech, Anjan Chowdhury thanked the prime minister, the army, law enforcement and security personnel for supporting and making the festival possible.

"Music runs in the blood of Bangladesh people. Every time when they go fishing, farming, joining their daily chores," AMA Muhiut said in his speech. "Culture and taste is something that must be acquired and at a festival like this, where we get to hear the music of different people from all around the world, is significant in developing a cultured mind," he said.

The Dhaka International Folk Festival, Presented by Meril, powered by Dhaka Bank and organised by Sun Communications, will continue tomorrow, featuring an array of performers from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Iran and Mali.

## Five lives

FROM PAGE 1

armed with spears, swooped on each other near Charigram Bazar, leaving four dead on the spot and the others injured. Makbul died on his way to hospital, added police and locals.

Among the injured, Rifqul Islam, 25, Tufazzal Islam, 38, and Kalam Mia, 48, were in critical condition. They were admitted to Kishoreganj Sadar general hospital. The other injured were sent to Mithamoon Health Complex and given first aid.

Contacted, Maruf Mia said, "Two of the deceased - Rajib and Makbul - were from his group while the other three belonged to the group headed by Palash."

He claimed that Rajib was attacked by the rival group without any provocations as he went near the canal yesterday morning. "The clash ensued when my men went to the spot to protect the incident."

Palash could not be reached for comments. His mobile phone was switched off.

Majibur Rahman, chairman of Dhaka Housing said he called to settle the issue several times before but in vain.

Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Mithamoon Police Station, said they recovered the bodies and sent them to the morgue. General Hospital morgue is full of autopsies.

Additional law enforcers were deployed in the villages to avert any more untoward incident, he said.

No case was filed and no one was arrested.

"We are investigating," the OIC