



An injured baby elephant is sitting on the ground in Khalequer Ghona area of Chattogram's Rangunia upazila yesterday. Falling from a 150 feet high hill on March 24, the calf fractured different parts of its body and lost mobility. Since then local forest officials are looking after the animal and are trying to rescue it from the remote area.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA YOUSUF

# Elephant calf struggles to live

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Chattogram

When an elephant calf fell down from a 150 feet high hill on March 24, at Khaleque'r Ghona of Sharafbata union under Rangunia upazila, other elephants in its herd frantically tried to pull it back up and take it along with them.

As the hind legs of the calf were completely paralysed, the other elephants failed to pull it up but they pushed it forward to bring it into people's notice before leaving.

On-duty forest guards heard the helpless grunts of the calf that very day. They contacted the relevant authorities. They have since then engaged one guard to feed banana leaves to the injured calf.

The elephant, weighing 600 kg, is around 3-4 years old.

For the past 10 days, the calf has been raising its trunk at the sight of human gatherings as if to ask for their help.

People living nearby are coming in hundreds to visit the injured calf.

"It is heart wrenching to see the way the baby elephant is asking for help. The moment it sees us, it raises its trunk up for help," Abdullah, a villager close to the hill, told The Daily Star on the spot.

Divisional Forest Officer (Wildlife Management and Nature

Conservation Division) of Chattogram Golam Mowla told The Daily Star that they formed a three member committee to oversee the situation of the injured elephant on March 25.

We are trying our best to rescue the elephant, he added.

Dr Mustafizur Rahman, veterinary surgeon of Dulahazari Safari Park, also member secretary of the committee formed to treat the elephant, confirmed the height of the hill that the calf fell from to be 150 feet.

"We assume that it fell from the hill while searching for food along with its herd. I found the hill to be sandy and thus, incapable of carrying much weight.

"The injury is massive as the calf's backbone, tail and legs are fractured, leaving it paralysed and immobile. Primarily, we injected steroids to relieve it from pain and dextrose saline to give it some energy. As the area is remote, hilly and inaccessible, it is difficult to lift it and move it to a safer location," he said.

The team will be keeping a watch on the elephant, he said.

Md Jashim Uddin Elahi, beat officer of Chiringa under Rangunia forest range, told The Daily Star that they found the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## Legal experts for ensuring rule of law

Constitutional promises not being kept, they say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The constitution's promise of establishing rule of law in the country is not being kept, said legal experts at a discussion yesterday.

Addressing the discussion, former Supreme Court judge Justice Mohammad Abdul Matin sought to know if Bangladesh had been able to establish democracy and the rule of law as promised in the constitution.

Citing examples of various countries about the power of courts and judges to uphold the rule of law, he expressed frustration at the atmosphere created in the country's judiciary after the Supreme Court scrapped the 16th amendment to the constitution last year.

"Today, the nation asks: Have we been able to fulfill the promise of establishing democracy and the rule of law? An election-centric democracy, a super powerful executive branch, a dysfunctional legislative as a result of Article 70 of the constitution and a trembling judiciary in the face of the onslaught by the executive over the cancellation of the 16th amendment to the constitution ... don't all these prove that we have failed to keep that promise?" he said.

The roundtable discussion on rule of law was organised by Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

## Student loses arm in road mishap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A passenger lost his right arm after it was sandwiched between two speeding buses trying to overtake each other in the capital's Banglamotor yesterday.



Rajib Hossain, 22, a third-year student of Government Titumir College, is undergoing treatment at the intensive care unit of Samorita Hospital, said Officer-in-Charge Abul Hasan of Shahbagh Police Station.

The officer told The Daily Star that Rajib was going to his college in Mohakhali in a double-decker bus of BRTC from Shahbagh. As the bus was overcrowded, he stood at the rear gate with his right hand dangling outside.

When the bus reached near Banglamotor around 1:15pm, another bus of Sajan Paribahan tried to overtake it. At one point the buses scraped together and Rajib's right hand, sandwiched between the buses, got severed from the elbow, the OC said quoting witnesses.

He added that police seized both the buses and detained the BRTC bus driver. "We could not arrest the driver of Sajan Paribahan as he managed to flee after the accident."

Jahidul Islam, an uncle of Rajib, said he used to live in the capital's Mir Hazirbagh of Jatrabari and was the eldest among his three brothers.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

## Progress made, but concern remains

UN body on economic, social, cultural rights says on Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has expressed concern about repeated reports of shrinking space for human rights defenders, including journalists, trade union activists, civil society activists, and for dissenting voices in general.

It voiced concern about overbroad restrictions on the activities of rights defenders imposed by certain provisions in legislation or proposed legislation of Bangladesh, including the draft Digital Security Act 2018.

The Geneva-based committee recommended ensuring a safe and favourable environment for rights defenders, reviewing the legislation, particularly Section 57 of the ICT Act and similar provisions in the draft Act

and repealing the Special Powers Act, 1974.

It, however, lauded Bangladesh for achieving progress in poverty reduction, gender equality as well as attaining qualification for graduation from LDC to a developing country.

The committee yesterday published its findings on the civil and political rights records of Mexico, Niger, Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Spain and New Zealand.

The UN body expressed worries about the pervasiveness of corruption and its devastating impact on the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, particularly by disadvantaged and marginalised individuals and groups.

It also recommended improving

## Myanmar agrees

FROM PAGE 1

Peruvian Ambassador Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, who holds the council's rotating presidency, said details of the itinerary had yet to be finalised, including whether the government would allow the council to visit Rakhine state.

"Obviously, we're interested in Rakhine state," said Meza-Cuadra. "There's nothing better than a visit on the ground to see how it is."

Britain, Kuwait and Peru are organizing the council's visit, which would include a tour of Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. No date for the trip has been announced.

Myanmar authorities say the operation in Rakhine state is aimed at rooting out extremists, but the Security Council is demanding that the Rohingya be allowed to safely return home.

MALAYSIA INTERCEPTS ROHINGYA BOAT

A boat carrying dozens of Rohingya from Myanmar arrived in Malaysia yesterday and the members of the stateless Muslim minority will be allowed to enter the country, authorities said.

The vessel carrying 56 people was

intercepted by Malaysian maritime authorities near the northwestern island of Langkawi, said navy chief Ahmad Kamarulzaman Ahmad Badaruddin.

Its arrival came as fears grow about conditions in overcrowded camps for the minority fleeing violence in Myanmar.

"All 56 passengers, mostly children and women, are safe but tired and hungry," said the navy chief. "The boat and its passengers will be handed over... to the immigration authorities."

The navy and coastguard had stepped up patrols in the area after the boat briefly stopped on an island off Thailand's western coast Sunday, and the passengers said they were en route to Malaysia.

Rohingya migrants trying to travel south by boat have been rare since Thai authorities clamped down on regional trafficking networks in 2015, leaving thousands of migrants abandoned in open waters or jungle camps.

Rohingya refugees fleeing to Bangladesh have arrived to find cramped settlements and often squalid conditions in the Cox's Bazar district. Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya who fled previous waves of persecu-

## Reimpose sanctions

FROM PAGE 1

who fled atrocities, including killings, rapes and burning of houses, in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

Rizvi said EU's travel ban on Myanmar's military leaders had been a useful start and now it was the need of the day to revisit the question of market access and investment in Myanmar.

"Without pressure, nothing will happen. Myanmar won't be secure for the Rohingyas. If Myanmar is not secure, Rohingyas will not go back," Rizvi said.

Repatriation of the Rohingyas seems uncertain though Myanmar signed a deal with Bangladesh in this regard in November last year.

Bangladesh sent a list of over 8,000 Rohingyas, but Myanmar provided one with some 600 verified names only.

The international community has been critical of the security situation in Rakhine where Rohingya houses were burnt and the vegetation cleared. Security installations were also being built. There are reports of ethnic Rohingyas being rehabilitated in lands once owned by the Rohingyas.

Myanmar said it has built temporary camps for the returnee Rohingyas

before they are rehabilitated to their own homes.

The minority community though has demanded citizenship, recognition as an ethnic Rohingya community and a UN-controlled safe zone in Rakhine.

He said the current Rohingya crisis is not a result of attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army and subsequent violence only, but it is a well-planned strategy devised by Myanmar.

Rohingyas were listed as citizens in Myanmar's 1948 constitution but their citizenship was invalidated in the 1982 citizenship law, which led to several waves of violence and exodus.

Bangladesh had no alternative to accepting the Rohingyas under such a humanitarian crisis. Then, in good faith, they went ahead bilaterally with Myanmar for a solution, but Myanmar hardly made any concessions, he said.

"We didn't create the problem, but Myanmar [did]. So the solution lies with Myanmar," Rizvi told the international audience, adding that every Rohingya wants to go back to Myanmar but only if their citizenship and legitimate rights are guaranteed.

"If Myanmar can get away, there

will be no security of minorities anywhere in the world. So, we really need to wake up," he said and called for "extraordinary international support" for the Rohingyas.

The participants in the discussion called upon the UN and other members of the international community so diplomatic channels for sufficient humanitarian assistance are used and the rights of Rohingya women, children and other vulnerable groups in the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar are protected.

The diplomats, academics, foreign relations experts from 11 countries, including India, Thailand, US, UK, Sweden, Singapore, Malaysia and Bangladesh, also called upon the international community to comprehensively investigate the ongoing acts of genocide, mass atrocities, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing in Myanmar.

In the Dhaka Declaration -- read out by Prof Intiaz Ahmed, director of the Centre for Genocide Studies at Dhaka University -- they demanded prosecution and punishment of those responsible.

It also called upon Myanmar and international community to address

the issues of loss and damages caused by the exodus of the Rohingyas.

The Dhaka Declaration emphasised on Myanmar's responsibility in restoring and protecting citizenship rights and human dignity for the Rohingyas.

Professor Intiaz Ahmed said while Bangladesh goes on with bilateral negotiation with Myanmar, it is crucial to deeply engage the international community.

"Rohingya crisis is not a bilateral issue; it is very much an international one. So, it has to be addressed internationally," he said.

Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque said he saw progress in the repatriation process. Initially, Myanmar refused to engage the UN Refugee Agency in the process but they did so later.

A Myanmar delegation, which is visiting Bangladesh in the middle of April, agreed to visit Rohingya camps.

"This is surely progress," Haque said.

Manzoor Hasan, executive director of the Centre for Peace and Justice, BRAC University and Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, also spoke at the concluding ceremony.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## PAHELA BAISHAKH Social media activities to be monitored

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police will strictly monitor Facebook and other social media platforms ahead of Pahaela Baishakh, the first day of the Bangla calendar, to avoid any untoward incident.

"Specialised units of police, having capacity to monitor social media, have been instructed to keep an eye," Inspector General of Police Mohammad Javed Patwary said while presiding over a security meeting regarding Pahaela Baishakh at Bangladesh Police Headquarter.

The government instructed to finish all celebrations and programmes at open places by 5:00pm on the day.

"All programmes at open places have been asked to wrap up by 5:00pm while the authorities of Rabindra Sarobar shall end their programmes by 7:00pm," Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said after the meeting.

He also said several watch towers would be set up with adequate search lights at Ramna Batamul.

Besides, a number of mobile courts would be deployed in Ramna and Dhaka University areas to avoid sabotage activities, he added.

The minister said nobody would be allowed to wear masks during Mangal Shobhajatra which will be cordoned off by police for security reasons.

About ensuring security on Pahaela Baishakh, the minister said police were

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## Locally made sets to hit market soon

FROM PAGE 1

plants across the globe and this will be its ninth state-of-the-art factory, said Ruhul Alam Al-Mahbud, chairman of Fair Group, at a press conference at the Dhaka Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

"We want to create a new identity of Bangladesh as a mobile phone-producing and -exporting country," said Mahbud.

From the second week of May, the plant would start production and before Eid, the devices would hit the market, said Mohammad Mesbah Uddin, chief marketing officer of Fair Electronics.

Managing Director Seungwon Youn of Samsung Electronics Bangladesh said the plant was part of their commitment to provide genuine and world-class Samsung products to Bangladesh.

"We are sure the range of Samsung

4G smartphones will help the country achieve its digitalisation goals as we move forward," Youn said.

Samsung entered Bangladesh in 2009. It runs a research and development institute here that works on developing apps, business-to-business solutions and localisation.

The Narsingdi plant would be fully owned by Fair Electronics but Samsung would ensure device quality, said Mueyeedur Rahman, head of mobile at Samsung.

Samsung sees a lot of demand for its smartphones in Bangladesh and the new plant would help to fulfil the demand, he said.

Without quality testing and without the lab's certification, no product would be released to the market, said Mesbah Uddin. "Through Samsung's quality testing, its global standards will be ensured."

The price of a locally assembled device will definitely be significantly lower than that of the imported model, officials said.

Currently, there are 29.50 percent taxes on different segments of finished mobile device import. For importing parts and segregated equipment, the tax is between one and 10 percent.

"Definitely this tax benefit will be passed on to the customers but right now we cannot confirm how much the price will be reduced," said Mesbah.

The three-line plant generated over 500 direct jobs and has the ability to produce a few lakh devices a month.

Bangladesh is one of the largest and fastest growing smartphone markets. Last year, the country imported Tk 10,000 crore worth of devices and 26 percent of them were Samsung devices, according to Bangladesh Mobile Phone Importers Association.