



Maintain pressure on Myanmar

PM urges OIC over Rohingya repatriation; opens council of foreign ministers



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other members of the visiting OIC team have called for united efforts for a sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis.

For that to happen, they stressed the need for an urgent and effective action plan so the Rohingya people can return to their homeland in Myanmar.

The call came at the inauguration of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) that began in Dhaka yesterday.

The two-day meeting is taking place at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. The theme of this year's meet is "Islamic Values for Sustainable Peace, Solidarity and Development".

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

'Attackers came in 2 groups; target was Tapan'

STAR REPORT

The gunmen who shot dead five people by ambushing a motorcade in Rangamati's Naniarchar on Friday had come in two groups for the attack, said investigators and other sources in police.

And they knew which

SHOOTING AT NANIARCHAR

vehicle was carrying Tapan Jyoti Chakma alias Borma, president of UPDF (Democratic), added the sources.

The shooting lasted five minutes targeting Tapan's microbus that was leading the convoy, said a survivor named Orchin Chakma, who was with the organisation leader on that vehicle.

Talking to this newspaper, he mentioned that they had set out for Huguarama of Naniarchar in four jeeps, two buses and two microbuses to attend the funeral of slain upazila parishad chairman Shaktiman Chakma.

The killing of Tapan and four others, including a Bangalee driver, came just a day after the attack on Shaktiman. No case was filed in these connections as of last night and no arrest made.

Rangamati SP Md Alamgir Kabir, however, said, "We have a primary sketch of the incident and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Canada to stand by OIC initiative

Assures its FM; Hasina invited to raise Rohingya issue at G-7 summit in June

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The international community must pledge to hold the perpetrators of the crimes committed against the persecuted Rohingya minority in Myanmar, Canadian



Chrystia Freeland

Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said yesterday.

"The atrocities must end. Justice must be done. And it depends on us," she said while addressing the inauguration of the 45th session of the Council of Foreign

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Aztec wonder herb

Nutrient rich chia to be grown in Bangladesh for first time

MD AMINUL ISLAM with ANDREW EAGLE

The Aztecs knew a thing or two about chia. The herb from the mint family, native to southern Mexico and Guatemala, was given as tribute by the people to their rulers in many provincial Aztec states. In more recent years, chia seeds have become a common food ingredient throughout Latin America, as well as in the United States and Europe. Now scientists at the Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh are confident that chia farming has good prospects here.

"I collected chia seeds from Mexico in 2010," says Dr Md Alamgir Hossain, the professor from the university's crop botany department who led the research team. "For four years we adapted the plant to suit local conditions. After that we completed field trials. Finally, this year, the BAU Chia-1 variety is ready for farming."

With 67 percent omega-3 fatty acids, which are essential for good health, chia offers a better alternative to harmful cholesterol in



PHOTO: MD AMINUL ISLAM

Scientists at Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh have grown chia on the campus.

people's diets, according to Dr Hossain.

"Many people in this country cannot afford enough fish and fish oils, which are the main sources of omega-3," he says. "Chia will be available year-round. It can be eaten directly, blended with water or included in soft drinks, milk and yoghurt products."

Chia seeds, which are

similarly rich in thiamine and niacin, and a good source of dietary mineral requirements including calcium, iron, magnesium, manganese, phosphorus and zinc, are also commonly used in bread products.

"Local climate and soil conditions are favourable for chia," the scientist says. "Chia seeds are easily stored at normal temperatures for up to a year, and the herb can be grown organically because it is of little interest to insects. Chia will be cheaper to farm than many of our traditional crops."

In recognition that chia may have potential to reduce the risk of heart disease, the crop that has been enriched with vitamins A, B, D and E, has been introduced to farmers with the slogan 'Maintain a healthy heart, a healthy life with chia.'

"Thus far around fifty farmers from different districts have been trained in chia cultivation," notes Dr Hossain.

Ideally a late autumn to winter crop in Bangladesh, chia takes around 100 days to reach harvest, and the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



The construction work of Meghna Bridge on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway is going on in full swing. Being built parallel to the old one, this bridge would cut the travel time between Dhaka and Chittagong and reduce tailbacks. The bridge is likely to be opened to traffic early next year. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

3 MAJOR BRIDGES BY EARLY NEXT YEAR

Dhaka-Ctg highway awaits relief

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Opening of three new bridges on the Shitalakkhya, Meghna and Gumti rivers will reduce bottlenecks on Dhaka-Chittagong highway early next year.

Officials hope the four-lane bridges alongside the existing Kanchpur, Meghna and Meghna-Gumti bridges will bring an end to sufferings the passengers have been

experiencing for years on the country's busiest highway.

They believe the new bridges will be ready for use by next January or February as construction work has been accelerated.

Ibne Alam Hasan, chief engineer of Roads and Highways Department (RHD), said they were trying hard to finish the construction of the bridges by the end of this year.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

UN must act to end plight of Rohingyas

Says UNSC chief; formal briefing on May 14

AGENCIES

Ambassador Joanna Wronecka of Poland, this month's UN Security Council president, has said that the United Nations has to act when Rohingya refugees are suffering.

She made the remarks at the UN headquarters on Thursday after visiting Myanmar Rohingya in Bangladesh refugee camps earlier this week.

"So, when you see the people suffering we have to act," she told reporters during a monthly briefing on the council's program of work. "The main question is how to help."

"It is difficult to live in the camps," she said. "The conditions are extremely difficult because in Bangladesh due to the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

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