

A tale of

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other needs," Naser told The Daily Star during a recent visit to the Rohingya camps in the district.

The prices offered by the refugees are much lower than the prices in local markets. For example, they sell a litre of Soybean oil for about only Tk 50.

As the refugees are living in restricted places and have no cash, they have no other choice but to sell the relief goods and use the money to bring diversity in their meals, he added.

Over 700,000 Rohingyas had fled Myanmar and came to Bangladesh since the state launched a brutal crackdown on them in August, last year. The UN has described the crackdown as a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing".

Noor Mohammad, another refugee, told this correspondent that he had been a fisherman all his life.

He used to fish in the sea when he was in Myanmar. Naturally, he has always had fish on his daily menu.

But the man, aged over 40, said he had not eaten a fish since he had fled his motherland last year.

"I have forgotten the taste of fish," said Noor.

In Ukchia, Kutupalong, Balukhali and Court Bazar areas Rohingyas are often seen standing beside the road selling relief goods.

The goods are mostly bought by Bangladeshi traders, who set up shop every afternoon on an empty field behind the main market of Court Bazar in the upazila.

On the field every afternoon, things like big blue buckets, white water containers, orange and red bins, cooking oil, steel plates, colourful blankets, and packs of child food bearing the logo of UNFPA, IOM, UKAID, WFP or UNHCR lie on the ground before the vendors.

"I used to sell vegetable in a local market, but for the last few months, I have been selling these relief items. I buy these from Rohingyas and sell them here making a small profit," said Morshed Mia, a Bangladeshi trader.

Local officials say they are aware of the matter.

"I've already received information regarding this issue and have sent my officers to verify.... but they could not find anything," said Kamal Hossain, deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar.

Selling relief materials is illegal, he added.

BB to get

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Hena Mohd Razee Hassan told BSS yesterday.

Hackers stole \$101 m from BB accounts at the New York Fed in February 2016. Of the amount, \$81 million was transferred to four accounts at RCBC in Manila and another \$20 million to a bank in Sri Lanka.

But the transfer of \$20 million to Sri Lanka failed because of a spelling error by the hackers. Later, the BB was able to retrieve about \$15 million from the Philippines.

Of the rest \$66 m, around \$51 m has already been traced, said Razee Hassan.

"Another court will deliver its verdict on the rest on the traced money. I hope the verdict will also be in favour of Bangladesh Bank."

He said the BB was making all kinds of efforts to trace the untraced money soon.

The deputy governor said BB was also taking preparations to file a lawsuit against the Filipino Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC) within the stipulated time to recover the total heisted money.

Earlier, BB lawyer Ajmalul Hossain QC said they were taking preparations to file a case as early as possible.

He said a case was likely to be filed with a US court and the BB might complete all preparations, including consultation with lawyers, within two to three months.

Suspected Russian spy found in US embassy in Moscow

AFP, Washington

A suspected Russian spy worked at the US embassy in Moscow for a decade before being quietly dismissed last year, reports said Thursday.

The woman, a Russian national, was hired by the Secret Service and came under suspicion following a routine security sweep carried out by the State Department, according to sources quoted by the Guardian, which broke the story, and CNN.

The probe found she was having regular unauthorized meetings with the main Russian intelligence agency, the FSB.

"We figure that all of them are talking to the FSB, but she was giving them way more information than she should have," an official told CNN.

The woman had access to the Secret Service's intranet and email systems, the reports said, giving her a window into potentially sensitive data including the schedules of the US president and vice president.

Uproar over Assam

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While the opposition has accused the BJP-led central government of playing vote-bank politics over this issue, the government has responded by saying that the demand for the NRC being updated is a very old one.

Mamata Banerjee, chief minister of West Bengal, and her party Trinamool Congress have aggressively protested against the NRC list, calling it an attempt to divide and rule and target people who would not vote for BJP.

There were protests in parliament over the overnight detention of a team of Trinamool Congress lawmakers at the airport in Assam's Silchar where they had gone to address public meetings and take stock of the situation arising out of the publication of the final draft citizen's list on July 30, reports Our New Delhi Correspondent Pallab Bhattacharya.

The Lok Sabha was adjourned briefly yesterday amid noisy protests by Trinamool Congress over detention of its MPs in Silchar.

As soon as the House took up the Question Hour, Saugata Roy said he has moved a notice for breach of privilege against the Assam home secretary and others for detaining the MPs.

Speaker Sumitra Mahajan said he can raise the issue after questions. Not satisfied, TMC members rushed to the Well raising slogans against the BJP government in the state and at the Centre. They also demanded a reply from the prime minister.

"BJP ki tanashahi nahin chalegi" [BJP's dictatorship won't run] and "Pradhan Mantri jawab do, Pradhan Mantri kahan gaya" [PM give a reply, where is the PM] were some of the slogans chanted.

Leader of Congress party in Lok

Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge supported the Trinamool saying it is important to note that MPs were detained when parliament session is on.

The Speaker said what the TMC members were doing was "not proper".

The police in Assam yesterday detained eight members of a Trinamool team in the security area of the Silchar airport. The delegation returned to Kolkata this morning without entering the city.

On August 1, Mamata flew from Kolkata to New Delhi to meet all the leaders who are believed be on the other side of the Modi-Shah ruling axis within or without the BJP. Her meeting with LK Advani was the talking point of the day. Mamata sought Advani's blessings at a time when she had launched a movement against the Modi government over a range of issues including the latest row over Assam NRC.

The reason for Mamata Banerjee's anguish against Assam NRC could be her government's response to the process followed in the neighbouring state and apprehension that the Bangla-speaking people left out of draft list of citizens may head to West Bengal, according to a report of the India Today.

The first NRC was prepared in 1951 and included all those who were mentioned in the 1951 Census of India.

The idea of updating the NRC in Assam stems from the demand to identify illegal migrants in the state from Bangladesh, something which the All Assam Students Union (AASU) and All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) demanded during the six-year-long Assam Movement. The movement culminated with the signing of the Assam Accord in 1985.

Road safety demo

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Police were seen at the spot. Around 12:15pm, three police officials asked the students to leave the area. However, the protestors stayed there till 1:00pm.

About 40 students took position at Mirpur-10 roundabout around 10:30am. Their number grew with students of some private universities joining them.

After a break for Juma prayers, they returned to the area and started checking driving licence and controlling traffic. They later declared that they would again gather at the spot today.

"We are not enemies of anyone, nor are we acting against anybody. We have come here to press home the demand for safe roads," said a student.

Around half a kilometre away in front of Sony Cinema, guardians formed a human chain in solidarity with the student movement.

"We are ashamed to see you [students]. You did what we could not do," read a placard held by one of the participants of the demonstration.

Students, guardians and worried citizens formed human chains and staged demonstrations at different areas in the capital.

Public buses remained off the city streets yesterday, causing suffering to commuters.

In Chittagong, over 500 students from different educational institutions continued their agitation.

Some students gathered in front of Chittagong Press Club in Jamalkhan area at 3:30pm and blocked a lane of the road. Later, more students as well as activists of different left-leaning organisations joined in.

Some students of the Institute of Fine Arts of Chittagong University joined the demonstration to express solidarity with the protestors. Some guardians were also seen expressing solidarity with them.

Students of Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University in Tangail's Santosh formed a human chain on the campus in the morning, demanding safe road.

The protest began on Sunday after college students Dia Khanam Mim and Abdul Karim Rajib were killed in a road crash in the capital's Kurmitoral area.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Shadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, a platform that spearheaded the quota reform movement, yesterday called for a student strike at all educational institutions across the country for today protesting the attacks on children demanding safe roads.

"We urge the government to meet the students' nine-point demand, ensure trial of the attackers and implement the three-point demand of the quota reformists to solve the problem," Hasan Al Mamun, convener of the platform, said in a statement.

Cut Jamaat ties

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Ruhul Quddus Talukdar Dulu, organising secretary of the BNP, demanded that the party announce tough programmes to free Khaleda, said party sources.

He also criticised Jamaat, a key component in the BNP-led 20-party alliance, saying, "The role Jamaat played during the Sylhet City Corporation polls went against the spirit of alliance. In Sylhet, they wanted to show that the BNP needed Jamaat, but they got only 10,000 votes. If needed, we have to sever ties with the Jamaat."

Another organising secretary of the party Asadul Habib Dulu echoed the same and said, "Communist Party [Communist Party of Bangladesh] and many other parties are not forming any coalition with us just because of Jamaat. They might have fewer votes, but they have a good position in national politics. We have to wage a movement keeping the Jamaat aside."

Jamaat-backed independent candidate contested the July 30 Sylhet city elections, defying the BNP and other alliance partners repeated requests to withdraw its candidacy. The Jamaat rather asked the BNP to extend support to its contender, BNP leaders said.

Masud Arun, president of Meherpur district BNP, gave a different view on the Jamaat, saying that unity should be forged keeping all

political parties, not excluding anyone.

Tarikul Hasan, general secretary of Satkhira BNP, said Jamaat played a role of "betrayer" in local government elections. "So, keeping ties with the party will not bring any good results for us; rather it will be a burden on us."

Saidur Rahman Bachchu, general secretary of Sirajganj BNP, said, "The BNP is a pro-election party. So, the party should take part in elections." "For participating in the polls, Khaleda Zia's release is the first condition. We have to wage a movement for this and party leaders of Dhaka should play a key role to this end," he said.

Amzad Hossain, general secretary of Meherpur BNP, said there was no reason for taking part in the next parliamentary elections under the Awami League-led government, said party insiders.

A leader of Barisal BNP, Akand Kuddus, said hartal and blockade like programmes should be enforced to ensure Khaleda's release and force the government to hold the elections under a non-partisan government.

Nazrul Islam Monzu, Khulna city BNP president, said they first wanted Khaleda's release, then elections.

The meeting was chaired by BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, while party standing committee members and other senior leaders were present.

Sergeant stops

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permission and who gave me the power to do that," the officer told The Daily Star.

"When I told him about traffic congestion on the road, he started verbally abusing me. After a while he left, continuing to be on the wrong side of the road. I reported it to my high-ups later and filed a general diary in this connection," Jalil said.

Noor E Alam, superintendent of police in Chittagong, said, "ASP Mashiur Rahman was closed to the district police headquarters and relieved of all duties.

"After learning about the incident, I informed the Police Headquarters and asked an additional superintendent of police to investigate the incident."

The SP added that action will be taken after the probe.

Seeking anonymity, a police officer said Sergeant Jalil and a constable were managing traffic when the ASP's pickup truck, heading for Patiya upazila, came. After they stopped the vehicle, the ASP came out of the vehicle and started abusing Jalil.

Minutes before the incident, Mashiur allegedly beaten up two toll collectors and an engineer of the toll plaza of Shah Amanat Bridge.

Apurbo Shaha, in-charge of the toll plaza, said, "The ASP came at the toll plaza around 11:45am. His pickup was in the queue with three other vehicles. But suddenly the ASP came out of the vehicle with a baton and started vandalising toll booths and beating up our employees.

"We have the CCTV footage of the incident and lodged a complaint with Karnaphuli Police Station," said Apurbo.

Stonehenge

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Thursday in Scientific Reports.

Others may have died on the job, or settled near Stonehenge to finish their days.

What Snoeck discovered in the lab is that strontium, a heavy element found in bone, resists the high temperatures of a funeral pyre, which can top 1000 degrees Celsius (1832 degrees Fahrenheit).

Indeed, extreme heat seals the element's unique signature, isolating it -- even over thousands of years -- from contamination by surrounding soil.

For scientists trying to tease out data from human remains burnt to a crisp, this opened up a gold mine.

Cremation destroys all organic matter, including DNA.

"But all the inorganic matter survives, and there is a huge amount of information contained in the inorganic fraction of human remains," Snoeck explained.

By measuring traces of strontium, he told AFP, "it is possible to evaluate the origin of the food we eat, especially the plants."

Plants absorb strontium from the soil, and that strontium is then incorporated into our bones, reflecting the place where the plants grew.

The researchers examined skull bone fragments from 25 people buried during an early phase of Stonehenge's history, around 3000 BC.

Ten of them, they determined, had spent at least the last 10 years of their lives in a different region.

The scientists were also able to tell whether the wood used in funeral pyres was from the Wessex area around Stonehenge, or from trees typical of the forests in Wales.

This enabled them to conclude that some of the people buried at the site had probably been cremated in western Britain before their ashes were transported.

Tigers face

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opens Tamim Iqbal and Soumya Sarkar for first-ball ducks in the first over. Having later been reduced to 43 for four, Mahmudullah Riyad and Mushfiqur Rahim staged a mini recovery but the innings lost steam and sputtered to 143 for nine, a woefully inadequate total against the hard-hitting West Indians.

The West Indies, the current world champions in the format, then made a mockery of a revised target of 91 in 11 overs as Andre Russell hit the bowlers to all parts and took them home with 11 balls to spare.

Bangladesh will be facing much of the same tomorrow. The only hope for the Tigers could have been that the pitch in Lauderhill will be slow like the one that produced low-scoring games in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) last year. However, Shakib Al Hasan -- the only Bangladesh player to have played at the stadium during his CPL stint -- said that the pitch seemed to be quicker and better for batting.

That will doubtless suit the West Indian power hitters like Marlon Samuels, Russell, Evin Lewis and skipper Carlos Brathwaite.

For their part, to have a chance, Bangladesh will have to avoid the batting implosion that saw them surrender the initiative early in the first match. Even then, unless West Indies have an off day, form and class indicates that the series will be sealed before the final match on Monday.

Brexit on the menu at May, Macron dinner

AFP, Paris

British Prime Minister Theresa May heads to President Emmanuel Macron's "summer Elysee Palace" on the Mediterranean coast yesterday, seeking to soften resistance to a Brexit plan which has upended her government while failing to win over sceptical EU negotiators.

She and Macron will hold an "informal" two-hour meeting at Bregancon, a 17th-century fort long favoured by French presidents as a summer retreat.

"The plan was to go to Bregancon, which is to be a summer residence but also a place for working, and since May was finishing her vacation in Italy we proposed hosting her here," a source in Macron's office said.

May is going to lay out "London's position on the Brexit talks and its future relations with the EU," the source said. "It will be the occasion to clarify this proposal and discuss the political context."

There will be no press statement afterwards, because "there is absolutely no intention to speak in place of Michel Barnier," the EU's designated Brexit negotiator, the source added.

Police to go tough

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constitution and the existing law. But before doing so, we want everyone to play a responsible role... I would say it will depend on the situation and incidents," he told The Daily Star.

The DMP chief claimed they have evidence that a vested quarter infiltrated into the students' movement. "If things go in a disciplined way, the question of taking legal actions would not arise at all," he added.

"What the students have been doing was supposed to be done by us, but we could not do that. It is our failure," Asaduzzaman said, adding that the jolt they gave the law enforcers was necessary.

"But everything should revolve around discipline, a system. If things go on like this for a long time, it would become like the Gonojagoron Mancha.... Initially, everyone was with the movement, but later it deviated and different types of people infiltrated into it and started misusing the movement."

He said the students should go back to school now and give time to the government to implement their demands. "If the government fails, they can take to the streets again."

Asaduzzaman made the remarks a day after top police officials held a meeting at the Police Headquarters (PHQ), with Inspector General of Police Mohammad Javed Patwary in the chair. The meeting discussed the ongoing student movement and the strategy to control the situation. Directives have been given to the field level police officials in this regard, said meeting sources.

Police have been asked to take along with them leaders of the ruling Awami League and Chhatra League, pro-AL student front, to identify non-students in the movement and control the demonstrations.

Police suggested slowing down of the mobile phone internet speed to make sure that news about the movement cannot be spread promptly by using the mobile phone networks.

Following the death of two college students in a road crash in the capital's Kurmitola area on Sunday, students took to the streets demanding safe roads.

Asked about Thursday's meeting at the PHQ, Asaduzzaman said they discussed the protest positively as the

Pressure is growing on May to win allies on the continent after her "Chequers plan" prompted two top ministers to resign in protest last month.

The prime minister has just a few months before an agreement on Britain's divorce from the EU -- set for March 29, 2019 -- must be forged in principle ahead of a European summit in mid-October.

Barnier has already shot down May's proposed solution to keeping the border between the UK and EU member Ireland open without "hard border".

Under May's proposal a dual system of taxation would be introduced which would see taxes levied by each side of the Irish border for the benefit of the other.

Bank of England Governor Mark Carney told the BBC yesterday that the risk of a no-deal Brexit was "uncomfortably high" as talks entered a "critical phase".

European leaders have steadfastly voiced support for Barnier, who wrote in a piece published in French and German newspapers Thursday that Britain and the EU "are 80 per cent in agreement on an exit deal."

police do not consider students their opponents as they don't have any bad motive.

He said students checked documents of vehicles in different city areas yesterday and there was no problem.

"I am not only an individual, but also the police commissioner of Dhaka. The constitution, CrPC and laws have put the responsibility on me to ensure safety of the city residents and their properties."

He warned that police would not sit ideal if anyone tries to torch a vehicle, attack an office or disrupt security at the diplomatic enclave.

FM to visit

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She will arrive in Dhaka on August 8 as part of her three-nation tour.

Besides, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono is likely to arrive in Dhaka on August 7 on a one-day trip, a highly-placed source at the foreign ministry told The Daily Star yesterday.

Foreign ministry officials said Ali would lead a delegation of 15 members of Joint Working Group formed to facilitate Rohingya repatriation.

They also said the Commonwealth secretary-general would hold discussions with the prime minister, ministers and other public figures on the priorities and commitments agreed by leaders at the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in April.

Before touring Bangladesh, Patricia will visit Sri Lanka and Brunei. In Dhaka, she will address the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies on the theme "The Commonwealth Advantage -- progress and potential".

Meanwhile, the foreign minister yesterday held a meeting with Indian State Minister for External Affairs General (ret'd) Vijay Kumar Singh on the sidelines of the 25th ASEAN Regional Forum meeting in Singapore.

During the meeting, they discussed the current situation on the repatriation of the Rohingyas as per the agreement signed between Bangladesh and Myanmar.

The Indian minister reassured their readiness to extend all possible cooperation and support to Bangladesh for implementation of the terms of the agreement.

Blasts at Afghan

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There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, but the Taliban have denied involvement.

UPTICK IN VIOLENCE

The blasts come as urban areas across Afghanistan have been rocked by an increasing number of attacks in recent months, with both Islamic State (IS) and Taliban insurgents targeting security forces and government installations.

The Taliban has not claimed a major attack in a city for weeks as it comes under increased pressure to agree to peace talks with the Afghan government.

But IS has carried out multiple attacks in the eastern city of Jalalabad and the capital Kabul in recent months, targeting everything from government ministries to a midwife training centre.

Last month an IS suicide bomber blew himself up near Kabul international airport, killing 23 people including AFP driver Mohammad Akhtar.

The uptick in violence comes as US and Afghan forces intensify ground

and air offensives against IS, and the Taliban step up their turf war with the group.

Earlier this week more than 150 IS fighters surrendered in northern Afghanistan -- in a move that Afghan security forces and the Taliban hailed as the end of the extremist group in the north of the country.

The surrender followed the Afghan army's decision to take over security in the eastern city of Jalalabad in IS's main stronghold of Nangarhar province after a spate of attacks, mostly claimed by the group.

Afghan civilians have taken the brunt of the gruesome war that began after the 2001 US-led invasion uprooted the Taliban regime.

Insurgent attacks and suicide bombs were the leading causes of civilian deaths in the first half of 2018, a recent UN report showed.

A total of 1,692 civilians were killed, the highest number for the period since the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan began keeping records in 2009.

Another 3,430 people were wounded, the report added.