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ROHINGYA REFUGEES

Aid agencies seek \$920m for this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations aid agencies and NGO partners yesterday launched a Joint Response Plan, seeking \$920 million to meet the needs of over a million Rohingya refugees and vulnerable Bangladeshis in Cox's Bazar.

The fund will be used for over 900,000 Rohingyas and 330,000 Bangladeshis.

"Our humanitarian imperative today is to stabilise the situation of stateless Rohingya refugees and their Bangladesh hosts. We are hoping for timely, predictable and flexible contributions in order to meet the goals of this year's appeal," said the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Filippo Grandi.

He also called for Myanmar to take urgent action to address the root causes of the crisis which have persisted for decades, so that people are no longer forced to flee and the refugees can eventually return home in safety and dignity.

The JRP is launched at a time when conflicts between Myanmar military and Arakan Army have been escalating since early January.

More than 745,000 Rohingya refugees have fled from Myanmar's Rakhine State to Bangladesh since August 2017, escaping violence and joining roughly 200,000 other refugees already displaced by previous cycles of violence.

"We encourage countries in this region and beyond to show solidarity with Bangladesh and to support Myanmar to start creating conditions for voluntary, safe and dignified

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Devotees spill over on to Dhaka-Mymensingh highway near Tongi Bus Stop during the Juma prayers on the first day of Biswa Ijtema yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Biswa Ijtema begins on Turag bank

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Biswa Ijtema, one of the largest congregations of Muslims, began on the banks of Turag in Tongi after Fazr prayers yesterday.

Devotees from home and abroad thronged the Ijtema ground to attend the four-day congregation.

Yesterday, they offered Juma prayers conducted by Maulana Zubair Hassan, the imam of Kakrail mosque in Dhaka.

Having been held in two phases since 2011, this year's Ijtema will have a single phase, with two separate Akheri Munajat (final prayers) supposed to be conducted by the leaders of two Tabligh Jamaat factions.

Maulana Zubair, who leads one of the factions, is administering the first two days of the Ijtema and will conduct the Akheri Munajat today.

Syed Wasiful Islam, who leads the other group that follows Indian preacher Maulana Saad Kandhalvi, will supervise the last two days and conduct the Akheri Munajat.

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Italian city to pay people to bike to work

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Bari has become the first Italian city to pay people to cycle to work.

Residents who get on their bike will receive 20 cents (18p) per kilometre for the daily commute during a four-month pilot scheme.

Up to 1,000 locals can register to take part in the initiative, which will pay participants up to €25 a month, reports The Local.

Non-commuter journeys are designated a lower rate – 4 cents (3p) per kilometre.

An extra €50 bonus is also up for grabs each month, awarded to the 10 participants who have cycled the highest number of kilometres.

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Pak will pay heavy price

Says Modi after terror attack kills 44 troops in Kashmir; India removes most favoured nation status given to Pakistan

AGENCIES

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday promised a strong response to a car bombing in Kashmir that killed 44 paramilitary that his government blamed on Pakistan, ratcheting up tensions with the nuclear-rival.

The attack on a military convoy in Jammu and Kashmir where India has been battling an insurgency was the worst in decades and comes just months before Modi's ruling Hindu nationalists face a tight general election.

"We will give a befitting reply, our neighbour will not be allowed to destabilise us," Modi said in a speech soon after he called his security advisers to consider a response to the attack that has provoked an outpouring of anger on social media and demands for retribution.

"My condolences to families of those martyred in Pulwama attack, those behind the terror strike will pay a very heavy price," Modi said.

The Pakistan-based Islamist militant group Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) claimed responsibility soon after a suicide bomber rammed his car laden with explosives into a bus carrying Central Reserve Police Force personnel on Thursday.

The Indian government said it had incontrovertible evidence of Pakistan's involvement in the attack. Islamabad rejected the suggestion it was linked to the attack.

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For survival, it must apologise for 1971 role

Political parties react over rift in Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different politicians and analysts said Jamaat should apologise to the nation as advised by Abdur Razzaq who resigned from the party yesterday.

Welcoming Razzaq's resignation from Jamaat in protest of its reluctance to offer apology for its role in 1971, they also said the party should shun religion-based politics and amend its charter that says the party aims to establish the rule of Islam.

"I think it's a positive move from Razzaq. He felt repentance for the party's anti-liberation role in 1971," BNP standing committee member Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman told The Daily Star.

"If Jamaat formally apologise as a party, the people may forgive it," he said, adding that the party's

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THAKURGAON SHOOTING

BGB sues two dead, 273 other villagers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

The Border Guard Bangladesh on Thursday filed two cases against some 275 villagers of Baharampur village in Thakurgaon's Haripur upazila, including two deceased, in connection with the Tuesday's incident.

During the incident, a BGB patrol team opened fire on locals following a clash over seizure of smuggled cattle, leaving three people dead and 16 others injured.

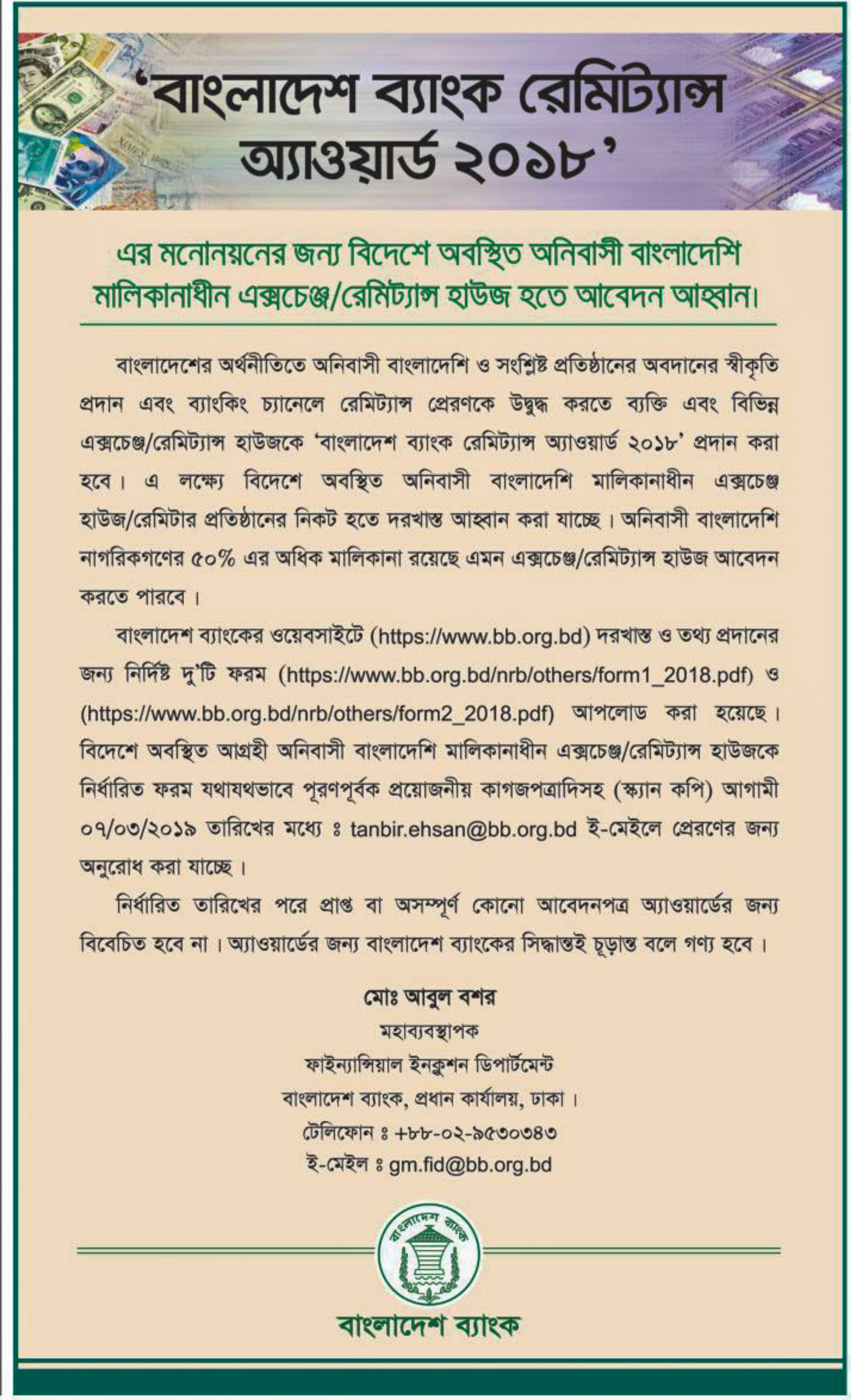
Officer-in-Charge of Haripur Police

Station Md Amiruzzaman said Company Commander of Betna BGB camp Ziaur Rahman filed two separate cases with the police station.

One case was filed over the smuggling of cattle accusing three people, including the two deceased Nabab, 35, and Sadek, 45.

The other case was filed over the attack on the BGB personnel. Some 275 villagers were made accused in the case, with 19 named and the rest unnamed.

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‘বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক রেমিট্যান্স অ্যাওয়ার্ড ২০১৮’

এর মনোনয়নের জন্য বিদেশে অবস্থিত অনির্বাসী বাংলাদেশি মালিকানাধীন এক্সচেঞ্জ/রেমিট্যান্স হাউজ হতে আবেদন আহ্বান।

বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতিতে অনির্বাসী বাংলাদেশি ও সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের অবদানের স্বীকৃতি প্রদান এবং ব্যাংকিং চ্যানেলে রেমিট্যান্স প্রেরণকে উদ্বুদ্ধ করতে ব্যক্তি এবং বিভিন্ন এক্সচেঞ্জ/রেমিট্যান্স হাউজকে ‘বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক রেমিট্যান্স অ্যাওয়ার্ড ২০১৮’ প্রদান করা হবে। এ লক্ষ্যে বিদেশে অবস্থিত অনির্বাসী বাংলাদেশি মালিকানাধীন এক্সচেঞ্জ হাউজ/রেমিটার প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। অনির্বাসী বাংলাদেশি নাগরিকগণের ৫০% এর অধিক মালিকানা রয়েছে এমন এক্সচেঞ্জ/রেমিট্যান্স হাউজ আবেদন করতে পারবে।

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইটে (<https://www.bb.org.bd>) দরখাস্ত ও তথ্য প্রদানের জন্য নির্দিষ্ট দু'টি ফরম (https://www.bb.org.bd/nrb/others/form1_2018.pdf) ও (https://www.bb.org.bd/nrb/others/form2_2018.pdf) আপলোড করা হয়েছে। বিদেশে অবস্থিত আর্থহী অনির্বাসী বাংলাদেশি মালিকানাধীন এক্সচেঞ্জ/রেমিট্যান্স হাউজকে নির্ধারিত ফরম যথাযথভাবে পূরণপূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রাদিসহ (স্ক্যান কপি) আগামী ০৭/০৩/২০১৯ তারিখের মধ্যে : tanbir.ehsan@bb.org.bd ই-মেইলে প্রেরণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

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বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক



A representative of German Red Cross greets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with a bouquet for sheltering Rohingyas in Bangladesh on humanitarian grounds. The photo was taken during a civic reception accorded to Hasina by expatriate Bangladeshis at Hotel Sheraton Munich Arabella Park on Thursday.

PHOTO: BSS

5.5 lakh yaba pills seized in Bandarban, Cox's Bazar

STAR REPORT

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh and Rapid Action Battalion yesterday seized over 5.5 lakh yaba pills in Bandarban and Cox's Bazar.

In Bandarban, BGB members recovered 440,000 yaba pills, worth around Tk 13.2 crore, from Naikhyangchhari upazila, reports our district correspondent.

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 16
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-25 12-45 4-30 5-57 7-15
JAMAAT 6-00 1-15 4-45 6-01 7-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION