



A large part of North South Road in Bangshal is being used as a dumping zone. Locals and garbage collectors continue to throw waste in the area -- right next to a footbridge. The photo was taken recently near Suritola Model Government Primary School.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

ROHINGYA CRISIS Bangladesh seeks UK's diplomatic leadership at UN

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has sought strong and unremitting support from the United Kingdom to end the Rohingya crisis and ensure their safe repatriation to Myanmar.

"We would like to see UK's sustained diplomatic leadership in UN in New York, Geneva and the Security Council, for safe and sustainable return of Rohingyas to Myanmar," said State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam, while addressing the 49th Bangladesh Independence and National Day reception in London on March 27.

The reception was organised by Bangladesh High Commission in London at International Maritime Organization.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to UK Saida Muna Tasneem greeted the guests and delivered the welcome speech.

Deputy Leader of the House of Lords and Minister of State for Defence Earl Howe, Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland, and Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization Kitack Lim attended the event, among others.

They all praised Bangladesh for progressing in the fields of economy and social sectors under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Addressing the event, Shahriar Alam urged all to keep raising their voices for Rohingyas until the displaced persons return to Myanmar with dignity.

"The UK continues to assume a special place in the foreign policy priority of the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," he said.

The governments of Bangladesh and UK look forward to celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations of the two countries jointly in Dhaka and in London, added the state minister.

"We would celebrate the friendships between Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and then British Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath as well as with Prime Minister Baron Harold Wilson in the early 70s," he added.

In her welcome speech, Saida Muna Tasneem said the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been championing development with a target of attaining double-digit economic growth and making Bangladesh a developed, progressive and secular country.

She thanked the UK government and its people for their support to Bangladesh and hoped that the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and UK would reach a new height in the days ahead.

US ambassador wraps up Rajshahi visit

BSS, Dhaka

US Ambassador Earl R Miller has visited Rajshahi to promote the US educational and cultural exchanges, economic engagement, and law enforcement cooperation in the region.

Miller inaugurated the new American Corner at Varendra University, presented certificates to students in the English Access Microscholarship Programme, and joined students in the screening of US-funded films designed to encourage tolerance, non-violence, and community engagement during his three-day visit that ended yesterday, said a press release of the US Embassy in Dhaka.

He visited Radio Padma. He awarded certificates to students participating in the State Department-funded English Access Microscholarship Programme. At Rajshahi University, he introduced "Projonmo Wave," a short film series designed to encourage tolerance, non-violence, and community engagement among young people.

The US envoy also visited the Bangladesh Police Academy. He was welcomed by city Mayor Khairuzzaman Liton. He also paid his respects by laying a wreath at Rajshahi University Shaheed Minar, marking Independence Day.

Steps underway to enhance capacity of fire service

Says home minister

BSS, Dhaka

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said steps are being taken to enhance the capacity of Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence for ensuring security in the capital.

"We are working to improve the capacity of fire service for security in Dhaka. We are appointing advisers in this regard," he added.

"Following their suggestions, the fire service department will be recast," said the home minister.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at the inauguration session of the "Bangabandhu Inter-University Sports Champs 2019" at Hatirjheel in Dhaka.

Asaduzzaman Khan informed that a fire station is being constructed in each upazila across the country.

He said firefighters have already established an example of fast service.

If anyone calls the fire service through 999, they are reaching the destination fast and taking necessary measures, he added.

"Now, they are able to douse fire of multi-storied buildings. We will take initiatives to purchase more equipment in this regard," the home minister said.

State Minister for Youth and Sports M Zahid Ahsan Russel presided over the session where Secretary in-Charge of Youth and Sports Dr M Zafaruddin, among others, was present.



With rods sticking out, a man drives a locally-improvised motorised vehicle on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway amid traffic. As such slow moving and illegally modified three-wheelers continue to ply the highways defying a government ban, one may wonder what's the point of having a ban without proper enforcement? The photo was taken in Savar's Nabinagar area on Thursday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Tea vendor's school for the less privileged

BSS, Narayanganj

Shuva Chandrer School on the premises of Chashara Railway Station in Narayanganj is an institution to educate street children.

Shuva Chandra Das, a 25-year-old tea vendor, established the open-air school in 2016. He has been the lone tutor for the last three years.

Shuva was born in abject poverty and lost the scope of formal education after the demise of his mother when he was in the fifth grade.

However, he learnt the curriculum of the three later grades from one Taher, a teacher of Narayanganj Bar Academy.

"I was deprived of education, so since my childhood I dreamt of establishing a school for children who have no access to education," Shuva said.

"I understood the need for education to be freed from poverty as I had a rough childhood," he added.

Shuva named his school "Lal Sabujer Potaka - Sree Shuva Chandra Prathamik Bidyalaya" where he gives pre-primary education to children. After students complete pre-primary level, Shuva takes the

children to nearby government primary schools for admissions.

Now Shuva is providing education to 63 children in his school, and so far, 30 children, mostly residents of adjacent slums, were admitted to primary level from his school.

Alam, a fellow tea vendor at Chashara station, said Shuva started his school in a slum on khas land beside the rail line. But later it was shifted to an open area near the platform as railway authorities evicted the slums for construction works.

Students of the school are happy as their teacher, Shuva, loves them very much. Their teacher treats them to biryani on the holidays, said Sumaiya, Mariya and Hasina, students of the school.

Shuva has a tea stall at Rambabur Pukur Par in Chashara. He earns about Tk 8,000-10,000 every month, which he spends to run his school.

"Every child has merit, but many of them cannot flourish due to lack of opportunities," Shuva said, adding that he does not want any child to be deprived of education.

Prof Shabnam

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reporters that the former provost was relieved of her duties temporarily as she was found involved in the irregularities at Kuwait Maitree Hall during Ducusu election on March 11.

Votings at Kuwait Maitree Hall was suspended around 9:30am on March 11, after a stash of stamped ballots in favour of Bangladesh Chhatra League's panel was found.

Female students found the stash of stamped ballots, in a sack, inside the reading room. They burst into protest following the discovery.

Following the incident, Prof Shabnam Jahan was removed from the post of hall provost and was replaced by Prof Mahbuba Nasrin.

Bangladesh is a role

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artificial technologies in health, education and agriculture sectors to reduce costs and ensure better services.

In his speech, Solaiman Mondal said the project is being implemented in 21 districts and over 10,500 women are getting ICT training under the project.

After the training, they can do an internship through which they will be transformed into skilled human resources and workforces in ICT sector, he added.

The last call

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called Heritage Air Express Ltd. They were on the 10th floor and met the same fate.

According to Monir's elder brother Moazzem Hossain, his brother was in Saudi Arabia for a long time and worked in a travel agency. He was a divorcee and came back to Bangladesh in 2008. He is

from Barishal.

"He was shifted to the Banani branch of the agency from Motijheel for one week on a special assignment, and Thursday was supposed to be his last workday at the branch. Who could have thought it would be his last day?" Moazzem lamented.

The boy with the right

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"I did it as I thought if I could stop the leak, fire fighters will be able to use more water and people will be saved," said Nayeem, a class five student of Brac's Anondo School in Korail Slum.

He said he was home when he saw the fire on news and rushed to the spot. He wanted to help out in any way possible, the boy added.

Nayeem, whose family was affected by

fire at Korail slum, said he could not do anything when their house was burning but this time he wanted to help the fire fighters.

He wants to be a government officer when he grows up.

Nayeem's hometown is Barishal. He has a sister named Kajol. His father Ruhul Amin is a coconut seller and mother Nazma Begum works as a domestic help.



To get respite from heat, children jump off a ship anchored on the bank of Kitronkhola in Barishal to take a dip in the river. The photo was taken in 30 Godown area yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

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