



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Two victims of Mirpur slum fire transport their allotted relief, from the temporary shelter at Bangabandhu Bidyanketon school yesterday. The government is providing 30kg of rice to each of the affected families. A massive fire broke out at Chalantika slum on August 16, burning thousands of shanties to ashes.

Govt determined to ensure safe, nutritious food for all: Razzaque

Says commercialisation of agriculture now the main challenge

UNB, Dhaka

Agriculture Minister Md Abdur Razzaque has said the government is determined to ensure safe and nutritious food for the country.

"The country's agricultural sector witnessed huge growth over last several years. There was a time when many Bangladeshis went hungry. They would miss two or even three meals in a day. Now they eat full meals. So now for the government, the main commitment must shift to ensure safe and nutritious food for the people," Dr Razzaque said at a reception in the city for the National Agriculture Awards gold medalists on Thursday.

The minister noted that the ruling party had placed special emphasis on the country's agriculture sector in its election manifestos. Commercialisation of agriculture is the main challenge for the government.

"The government will modernise, mechanise and commercialise the agriculture sector soon. This year, farmers did not get fair prices for paddy following huge production cost. If we can fulfill it [our promises] then farmers will get fair prices," the minister also said.

Abdur Razzaque also said that his ministry won't depend on the food ministry to purchase paddy from farmers.

"We will ensure that farmers get fair prices for their monsoon paddy. We will make list of real farmers. We will continue to give farmers cash incentive in upcoming monsoon too."

The minister said the government will set up a modern, internationally-accredited laboratory in Purbachal to facilitate export of agricultural goods.

He also said the country is going to export 100,000 tonnes of paddy soon.

"Farmers and exporters would be sent to Vietnam to observe coffee and cashew nut cultivation, so that we can cultivate it in our Hill Tracts too."

He further said the agriculture sector has witnessed 34 percent growth this year, promising more in future. "We will reform the Agriculture Marketing Department soon," he added, to much agreement from his audience.

A total of 49 individuals and institutions including farmers, researchers and others playing important roles for the advancement of agriculture received gold medals for their contributions to the sector over a 16-year period -- 1403 to 1419 of the Bangla calendar (corresponding to 1996-2012 in the Gregorian calendar).

Secretary to the agriculture ministry Md Nasiruzzaman, agriculturists and high officials from different departments were present at the programme.

Righteous movements a part of DU's history: VC Akhtaruzzaman

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman yesterday said righteous movements are part of the glorious history of the university.

"Teachers and students of the university always protest against any wrongdoing, oppression, systematic torture, and these righteous movements are part of the glorious history of DU," said the VC while addressing a discussion meeting held at the Teacher-Students' Centre, organised marking the "Black Day" of DU.

"The demands raised by the students were logical, and had the then government and the administration properly realised that demand and taken the right steps to resolve it, then this black day would not have been

observed at DU today," he added.

Acting Registrar Md Enamuzzaman conducted the meeting where, Dhaka University Teachers' Association President Prof ASM Maksud Kamal, General Secretary Professor Shibli Rubaiyatul Islam, Ducus vice-president Nurul Haque Nur, and Zahidul Islam Biplob -- a tortured student, spoke.

Expressing deep condolences to the teachers and students who were tortured on August 23, 2007, the VC said, "We will take appropriate steps at the right time, by appraising and analysing each incident from our own position in order to avoid any such untoward situation in future."

On the occasion, a human chain was formed at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla, joined by hundreds of students,

teachers, officers and employees of DU, sporting black badges.

On August 20, 2007, some military personnel severely beat up students, and a violent clash ensued centring a football match at DU central playground.

Thousands of DU students took to streets protesting the incident and demanded withdrawal of the army camp from the campus. Protests soon spread to all educational institutions across the country.

Following the clash, the then army-backed caretaker government imposed a curfew on divisional cities. Four DU teachers -- Prof Dr Anwar Hossain, Prof Dr Sadrul Amin, Prof Dr Harun-or-Rashid and Prof Dr Neem Chandra Bhowmick -- and several students were detained on August 23 and tortured in custody.

Janmashtami celebrated in Mymensingh, Barishal

STAR REPORT

Hindu communities in Mymensingh and Barishal celebrated Janmashtami -- the birth anniversary of Shri Krishna -- yesterday with due religious fervour, according to our correspondents.

In Mymensingh, a colourful procession was brought out in the city. Participants dressed as deities of the Hindu pantheon, attracted many enthusiastic onlookers. The procession was brought out from Durgabari Temple and paraded main roads of the town.

Kendriyo Sarbojanin Janmashtami Utjapan Parishad (Mymensingh unit) organised a two-day programme, including a discussion on the life and work of Shri Krishna, and a rally.

Different institutions, including Durgabari Temple, Pranob Matth, Zila Puja Udjapan Parishad, Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad and

representatives of temples of the town and outside, joined the celebration.

Mymensingh City Corporation Mayor Ikramul Haque Titu inaugurated the programme. State Minister for Social Welfare Sharif Ahmed was chief guest, while Advocate Pijush Kanti Sarker, convener of the parishad, was in the chair.

In Barishal, thousands participated in a series of programmes organised in the city in festive atmosphere.

The day's proceedings began with a discussion at 11am at Sadar Road-Line Road Point.

After that, a colourful traditional Janmashtami procession was brought out at 11:45am, with musical instruments, placards and banners.

Bijoy Krishna Dey, a social worker, inaugurated the procession where Gazi Noimul Islam Litu, panel mayor of Barishal City Corporation, was chief guest.

Mohammad Mustafa passes away

CITY DESK

Mohammad Mustafa, retired general manager of Bangladesh Bank and former president of NGFF School Alumni Association, passed away at United Hospital in the capital's Gulshan yesterday. He was 70, says a press release.

The advisory and central committee of NGFF School Alumni Association condoled the death and expressed sympathy to the bereaved family.



Primary and Ebtedayee exams from Nov 17

UNB, Dhaka

This year's primary and Ebtedayee examinations will be held on November 17-24.

National Steering Committee on Primary and Ebtedayee Terminal Exams decided on the dates at a meeting on Thursday.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education M Zakir Hossain presided over the meeting.

"Primary and Ebtedayee examinations are the biggest programmes under the ministry," Zakir said, urging all to help conduct the examinations properly.

"Question paper leaks can be kept in check if the procedure, from formulating papers to publishing results, is done sincerely," he added.

BNP claims diplomatic

FROM PAGE 5

them," Rizvi said while speaking at a rally by Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha Dal and Jatiyatabadi Muktiyuddher Projonmo at Nayapaltan demanding the release of BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia.

He further said, "It's an utter failure. You've failed diplomatically to send the Rohingyas back."

Rizvi said the government has long been saying it has many foreign friends, but no one did anything for it to begin the repatriation process. "But Bangladesh has long been enduring huge pressure of such a big population of Rohingyas."

Despite all the preparations, no Rohingya turned up on Thursday to avail the voluntary repatriation offer given to them to go back to their place of origin in Rakhine state of Myanmar, prompting

the authorities to suspend the repatriation process for the day, the UNB report adds.

The first batch of Rohingyas was scheduled to return on November 15 last year but it was also halted amid unwillingness of Rohingyas to go back -- for lack of a congenial environment in Rakhine.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen on Thursday said Bangladesh does not want to do anything by force and laid emphasis on resolving the trust-deficit among Rohingyas who refused to return to their homeland.

Bangladesh is now hosting over 1.1 million Rohingyas most of whom entered the country since August 25, 2017. The two countries signed a repatriation deal on November 23, 2017, but there has been little progress.

Six killed, four injured

FROM PAGE 5

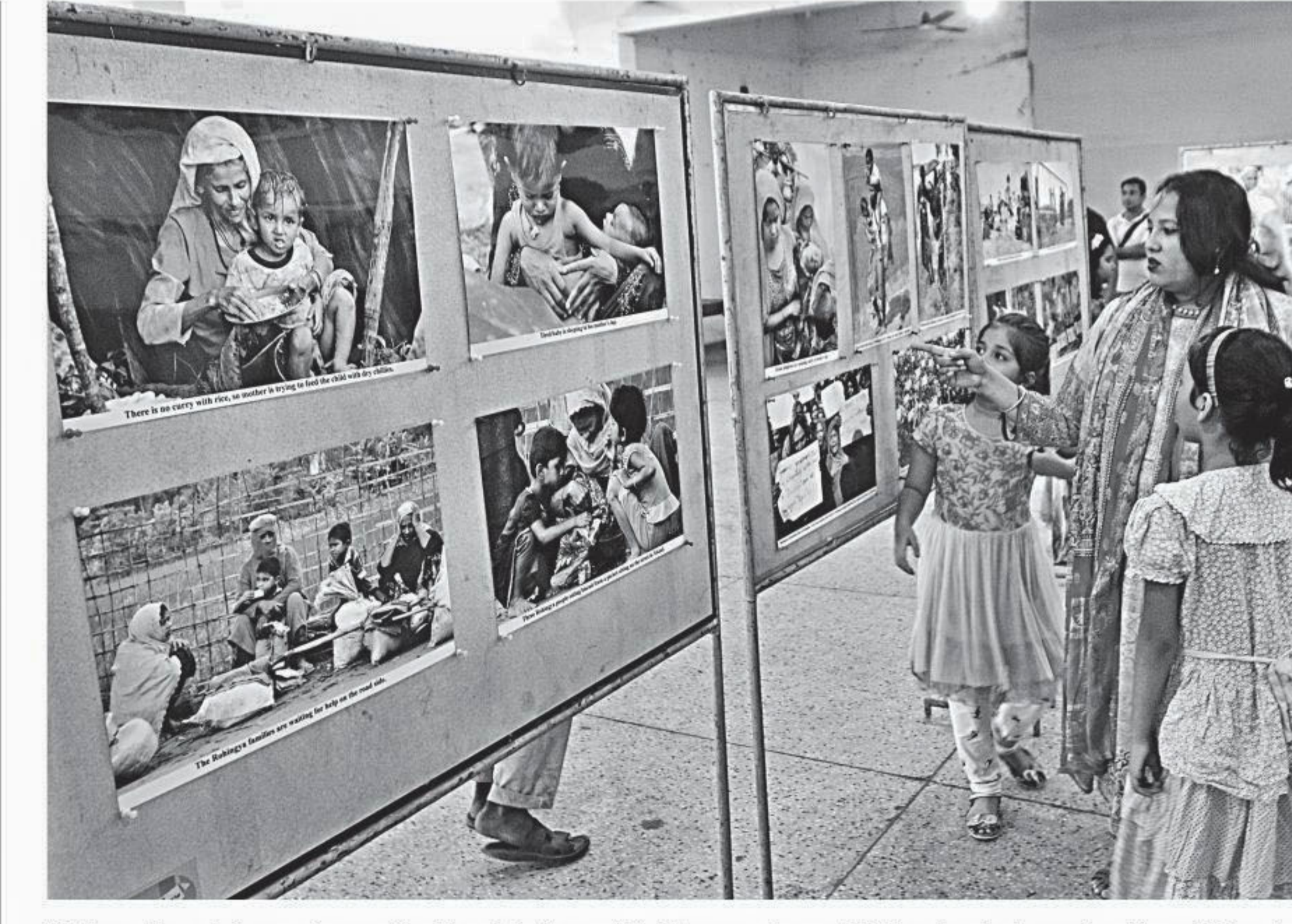
Tangail General Hospital, said Sub-inspector Motiur Rahman of Gori Highway Police Station.

Meanwhile, two persons were killed as a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying them and a truck collided head-on in Chattogram

city's Chandgaon area.

Md Suman, 22, from the city's Kuaish; and Md Anis, 33, from Battery Goli, were declared dead at Chattogram Medical College Hospital, said Chandgaon police.

Police seized the truck and detained its driver.



Visitors view pictures showcasing the daily lives of Rohingyas at an exhibition by photographer Sanaul Haq, held in the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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Strengthen communal

FROM PAGE 3

The Hindu community of the country yesterday observed Janmashtami, marking the birth of Lord Krishna, with due religious fervour.

According to Hindu religion, Lord Vishnu incarnated in the universe as Lord Krishna in the prison of Raja Kangsa on this day, the eighth of "Shukla Pakkha" (bright fortnight) in the month of Bengali calendar Bhadra in Dwapara Yuga, in order to protect "Dharma" from the hands of devils.

Sri Krishna was born to Devaki and her husband Vasudeva in Mathura to which Krishna's parents belonged.

Members of the Hindu community brought out processions in the capital, divisional cities and district towns displaying the eventful life of Krishna and hold other programmes on the occasion.

Different social, cultural and religious organisations also chalked out elaborate programmes to observe Janmashtami, which is a public holiday.

Over 61,000 dengue

FROM PAGE 3

The other deceased, Alamgir, a madrasa student in Jashore, was diagnosed with dengue on August 19 after he was admitted to Kaliganj Upazila Health Complex with fever, his brother Sujan Gazi told this correspondent.

He was shifted to Sakhira Sadar Hospital as his condition worsened, said Dr Sheikh Tayebur Rahman, health official of the upazila health complex.

Alamgir was later admitted to a private hospital in Khulna where he passed away around 6pm, his brother added.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

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North South University (NSU), the first private university in Bangladesh, seeks applications for the following positions:

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WFP World Food Programme

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (Supplier Enlistment)
Expression of Interest Number: CXB19NF83EOI

1. INTRODUCTION

UNWFP with offices in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh is undertaking an exercise of updating its supplier's roster and hereby invites expression of interest from prospective suppliers and service providers.

WFP will draw up a list of vendors and service providers who meet the criteria set out at point #3. Each time a specific tender is to be concluded, WFP will invite all vendors on the list of the relevant categories of goods/services to submit a tender.

Inclusion on the list of WFP Vendors does not mean that a company shall be invited in all tenders and does not constitute any contractual relationship between the company and WFP. It only means that if included in the database, a company will be given an equal consideration in process of supplier selection.

2. LIST OF FOOD COMMODITIES, GOODS AND SERVICES

- Interpretation and translation; b) Surveys, evaluation and data collection;
- Promotional & visibility materials (banners, sign post, caps t-shirts, branded vests etc);
- Provision of man power semi-skilled and skilled labour services;
- Office furniture; f) Office equipment and maintenance-photocopiers, binders;
- Office stationery and household items;
- Electronic data processing equipment (Computers, Laptops, Servers, Printers, Scanners etc);
- Weighting scales both electronic & mechanical;
- Electrical equipment and maintenance services (generators, air-conditioning systems, Inverters, solar panel systems);
- Warehouse materials/equipment (fumigation sheets, tarpaulins, phostoxin, wooden and plastic pallets, packaging materials, PP bags, bag stitching machines etc.); i) Consultancies (environmental management, hydrologist);
- Prefabricated structures;
- Construction and engineering equipment and works (civil engineering, mechanical engineering, architectural designers);
- Construction materials supply; p) Supply and maintenance of security equipment and services;
- Firefighting equipment, services and maintenance; r) Office supplies-bottled water services, newspaper supply services etc;
- Telecommunication equipment and services; t) Insurance services; u) Medical / pharmaceutical supplies;
- Printing, publishing services; w) Garbage collection and disposal services; x) Auction services; y) Food grade plastic containers;
- Supply of used standard containers. aa) Cleaning and security companies;
- Vehicle rental services; cc) Vehicle maintenance services and spare parts (garage services);
- Heavy & light construction equipment rental services; ee) Hotel & conferences facilities and event management;
- Maintenance and repair of plumber and carpentry; gg) Customs clearance; hh) Provision/ supply of fuel;
- Courier services; jj) Catering; kk) Pest control and management; ll) Provision of language tutorial/teaching (English/French/Spanish)

For those who send their documents in the past, no need to send them again, you are on our roster

3. CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION ON (One or More) OF CATEGORIES OF SERVICES OR GOODS

In expressing your interest to UNWFP, the prospective suppliers and service providers must submit the following requirements, and this shall be the criteria for inclusion and exclusion from the vendor list.

- A cover letter introducing the prospective suppliers/service provider and a brief business profile;
- Certificate of Registration/Incorporation, Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association;
- Letters of recommendation from at least three reputable public/private or United Nations institutions/organizations/agencies;
- A complete set of audited accounts for the last three years;

Those already in UNWFP supplier's roster aren't required to make a fresh expression of interest.

Expressions of interest must be sent in Zipped folder to the following email: coxsbazar.procurement@wfp.org and clearly marked in subject line: **Expression of Interest N° CXB19NF83EOI**

All expression of interest should be received no later than **4 September 2019 at 15.00 Bangladesh Time**. No expression of interest will be received after the closing date and time.

This exercise may include an interview with the applicant, inspection of applicants' office/premises, facilities and any other items of interest to UNWFP.

Cox's Bazar, 4th August 2019

Harmesh (Zeff) KAPOOR
Deputy Emergency Coordinator (OIC)
WFP - Cox's Bazar