

POST-COUP MYANMAR
Outgoing UN envoy says the country has spiralled into civil war
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The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

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RABIUL AWAL 15, 1443 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00



REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXI No. 271

KARTIK 7, 1428 BS

ROHINGYA CAMP IN COX'S BAZAR

Six killed in grisly attack

Eight others injured as armed assailants storm a madrasa in wee hours; locals question security of the settlement

MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAT and FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

At least six Rohingyas were killed and eight others injured as a group of armed criminals attacked a madrasa inside a refugee camp in Ukhiya early yesterday, hours after a block raid of the Armed Police Battalion (APBn).

The incident occurred at Darul Ulum Nadwatul Ulama Al-Islamia Madrasa in Moinarghona camp-18 around 3:00am, said police.

The murders took place 23 days after the assassination of Rohingya leader Mohibullah in Kutupalong refugee camp, raising questions over the security of camps housing more than 10 lakh Rohingyas.

"A group of armed criminals attacked

the madrasa at block-H52 in Moinarghona area, and hacked madrasa students and teachers in their sleep, leaving six dead," said APBn-8 Commanding Officer Shihab Kaiser Khan of Cox's Bazar.

In this connection, police already arrested a suspect, a Rohingya man named Mujibur Rahman, 17, with a homemade gun, six bullets and a machete from the camp area, said the CO.

Of the six deceased, Md Ibrahim Hossain, 22, Azizul Haque, 26, were madrasa students while Md Nur Alam Halim, 45, and Hamidullah, 55, were teachers, said their family members and other local sources.

The other two have been identified as madrasa's volunteer Md Amin, 32, and one Idris, 32, a resident of block-J5 of camp-12.

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Two schoolgirls along with a man cross a bamboo bridge over the Bijoynagar canal in the capital's Manda. Residents of the houses along the canal have to put themselves in harm's way regularly as such bridges are the only way out of their abodes. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



Tougher test awaits Tigers in Super 12

SPORTS REPORTER from Dubai

After an eventful first round of the ICC T20 World Cup in Oman saw Bangladesh finish as Group B runner-ups and secure progression to the Super 12 stage, Mahmudullah Riyad's side now face an even tougher challenge.

The Tigers were drawn in Group 1 for the Super 12 alongside Australia, West Indies, South Africa, England and whoever finishes top of Group A in the first round, most likely to be Sri Lanka.

Scotland, who finished as champions in Group B

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On runway of recovery

Pandemic-hit aviation sector turning around as flight operations at HSIA increase threefold in three months

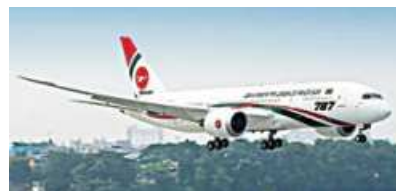
RASHIDUL HASAN and JAMIL MAHMUD

Following a prolonged rough ride, driven by the pandemic, the country's aviation sector is finally turning around as flight operations and the number of passengers flying from the Dhaka airport have almost tripled in three months.

Things appear to be on track to get to the pre-pandemic level, said industry insiders.

The development comes as a huge relief for the three prominent local airlines, which suffered a revenue loss of Tk 2,250 crore in the last one and a half years because of the pandemic.

Of the three, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, the national flag carrier, suffered a loss of Tk 1,300 crore, US-



Bangla Airlines Tk 800 crore and Novoair Tk 150 crore, said their top officials.

Besides, the resumption of regular flights has brought back smiles on passengers' faces, ending their long excruciating wait.

Migrant workers, stuck in the country for months, are now returning to their workplace while those scheduled to join their new jobs abroad are also boarding flights. It

also opened a window of opportunity for Bangladeshi students waiting to pursue higher studies abroad, said the industry insiders.

After the pandemic struck the country in March last year, only a handful of flights, mostly special, chartered and cargo ones, took off from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport for around a year, leaving the airport almost deserted. Regular flight operations on almost all international routes remained halted.

The HSIA, the main airport of the country, is now once again busy dealing with inbound and outbound passengers, who require to follow the Covid protocols.

"Almost all the 28 foreign airlines

HSIA currently handles around **10,000** outbound passengers a day, which was **3,500 to 4,000** three months ago.

80 flights are now operating from HSIA per day.

Number of daily flights was **120** during the pre-Covid-19 period.

"Almost all the 28 foreign airlines have resumed flight operations to and from Bangladesh."

AIR VICE MARSHAL M MAFIDUR RAHMAN CHAIRMAN, CAAB

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Local admin officials and volunteers visit the madrasa inside a Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya upazila yesterday, hours after unidentified criminals killed six Rohingyas there.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

CUMILLA MAYHEM
Iqbal admits to his crime, say police

Fayez makes confessional statement to magistrate

STAR REPORT

Hours after his arrest, Iqbal Hossain confessed to putting the Holy Quran inside Nanua Dighir Par puja mandap in Cumilla but the motive behind it still remains unknown, police said.

In another development, Fayez Ahmed, charged under the Digital Security Act for going live on social media from the puja mandap on October 13, gave his confessional statement before a Cumilla court yesterday.

On Thursday night, Iqbal was arrested from

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Silence of the river

The Akhira devoid of human activity as Majhipara fishermen stay away 5 days after communal mayhem

KONGKON KARMAKER and MOSTAFA SHABUI

Fishermen of Majhipara village look to the Akhira for their livelihood, but since October 17 they have been unable to answer the river's call even though they need its bounties desperately.

Their nets and other fishing equipment lie burnt and in tatters, because religious zealots inflamed by a Facebook post ransacked and set fire to Hindu households and establishments in the village located in Rangpur's Pirganj upazila.

The victims of the attack say they are still scared to go back to the river and so, since the day of the violence, the Akhira river has been devoid of human activity, as if stunned into silence.

The Akhira and the Boro Beela -- a 1400-hectare natural water body through which the river flows when it passes through the Majhipara -- have for centuries been the villagers' lifeline and continue to be so for the 180 fishermen there, said locals.

Pushpa Rani, 30, whose house in the village was burned, said, "The attackers burned our three fishing nets and looted the other. The fishing nets were the means of our livelihood."

Fisherman Dholu Das, 38, said, "The attackers did not torch my house but looted all our belongings including three fishing nets. The nets were my only avenue to a livelihood."

"I got a fishing net from the local fisheries office but can't go to the river as I am still in a panic," said 25-year-old Nibash Chandra Das, another

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Law enforcers cannot avoid responsibilities

47 eminent citizens say culture of impunity behind recurrence of attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-seven eminent citizens yesterday said the recurrence of communal attacks in the country was due to a prevailing culture of impunity.

Although many communal attacks of similar nature took place in the past, those involved in the incidents remained out of the trial process, the eminent citizens said in a joint statement.

"We strongly demand that individuals and groups, those involved in such criminal acts and [who] created religious madness in the past few days, be immediately brought under the trial process," reads the statement.

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People form a human chain protesting the recent communal attacks on Hindus across the country. Renowned cultural organisation Chhayanaut organised the protest in front of its office in the capital's Dhanmondi yesterday. The protesters called for resisting communal forces.

PHOTO: STAR



Azimur Rahman
1935 - 2001

Your Spirit

By Tram-Tiara T. Von Reichenbach

I know that no matter what
You will always be with me.
When life separates us
I'll know it is only your soul
Saying goodbye to your body
But your spirit will be with me always.
When I see a bird chirping on a nearby branch
I will know it is you singing to me.
When a butterfly brushes gently by me so care freely
I will know it is you assuring me you are free from pain.
When the gentle fragrance of a flower catches my attention
I will know it is you reminding me
To appreciate the simple things in life.
When the sun shining through my window awakens me
I will feel the warmth of your love.
When I hear the rain pitter patter against my window sill
I will hear your words of wisdom
And will remember what you taught me so well'
That without rain trees cannot grow
Without rain flowers cannot bloom
Without life's challenges I cannot grow strong.
When I look out to the sea
I will think of your endless love for your family.
When I think of mountains, their majesty and magnificence
I will think of your courage for your country.
No matter where I am
Your spirit will be beside me
For I know that no matter what
You will always be with me.