

Bangladesh must push harder

Say international relations analysts on resolving Rohingya crisis

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh needs to go for an emphatic push to resolve the Rohingya crisis, which otherwise could turn into a major global security issue, said international relations analysts yesterday.

At a webinar, they said the world cannot forget this crisis, created after decades of genocidal acts by the Myanmar authorities, in the midst of other crises.

Analysts observed that while Myanmar itself is going through a civil war-like situation since the military coup in February this year, the international community needs to start a peace-building process for Myanmar.

Bangabandhu Centre for Bangladesh Studies, Canada (BCBS) and Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) jointly organised the webinar titled "The Rohingya Exodus in Bangladesh: Regional and Global Security Implications".

Speakers said Myanmar is plunging into more turmoil, with many of the ethnic rebel groups joining the National Unity

Government's forces to resist the Myanmar military, while nearly a million Rohingyas are getting even more frustrated, as there has been no repatriation since the latest exodus in 2017.

Human trafficking, drug smuggling and religious extremism could go from bad to worse in the refugee camps, they feared.

"I think this is the right time to go for a strong push for a solution to the Rohingya crisis," said Prof Imtiaz Ahmed of Dhaka University's international relations department.

Negating the notion that the Myanmar military is very strong, he said it is, in fact, a weak entity because it is killing its own people.

A lot of international conventions were formulated after the Second World War, and all of them will be considered ineffective, if the world does not take proper action on this issue, he added.

He proposed that Canada -- which, alongside the Netherlands, is providing logistic assistance to the ICJ case -- can act as a mediator.

The Rohingya issue is a global problem,

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"This is the right time to go for a strong push for a solution to the Rohingya crisis."

PROF IMTIAZ AHMED
International relations department, DU



Final-year students of Dhaka University's seven affiliated colleges blocked off Nilkhet intersection yesterday for about two hours, from 1pm to 3pm, demanding re-examination. According to them, the pandemic hindered their educational activities, which resulted in them performing badly in a recent exam. Meanwhile at Shahbagh, members of eight student organisations demonstrated to protest the price hike of fuel and public transport fares, inset.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN, PALASH KHAN

Dengue claims another life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more dengue patient died while at least 106 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am today of which 24 are outside Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the new cases, a total of 1,247 were diagnosed during the running month out of a total 24,902 infected. Of the total infected, 3,702 are from outside Dhaka.

At least 5,458 were diagnosed in October, 7,841 in September, 7,698 in August, 2,286 were hospitalised in July, 272 in June while 43 were infected

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Include food safety issue in textbooks

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Food safety issues should be in the curriculum and textbooks of primary education to increase awareness among people, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

The event -- "Appraising Food Safety Act 2013 and its Rules and Mass Media in Creating Public Awareness" -- was organised by Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) at a city hotel.

Speaking at the programme, noted development journalist Shykh Seraj said farmers are unconsciously contaminating food by using excessive pesticide.

"At the same time, they are damaging soil fertility by using extra fertiliser," he said, requesting the ministries concerned to work together to increase consciousness

among people at production level.

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder said in a bid to provide safe food to people, the government is going to set up mobile laboratories in eight divisions of the country to check food standard and quality.

Besides, the government is going to set up the largest testing laboratory of Asia in Narayanganj.

The minister said ensuring food safety is the demand of time. "To build a healthy, active and meritorious nation, it is necessary to ensure safe food," he said, adding, that is why the government formulated the Food Safety Act.

Food secretary Dr Mosammat Nazmanara Khanum said setting up of

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A little late, but it finds a way to the plate

Exploring Mirpur's bazar of salvaged food

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

At Mirpur's Mazar Road, three to four vans can be seen running an off-beat food business. Throughout the week, especially on the weekends, sellers set up shop with an offering of delicacies, all at dirt-cheap price.

From biryani to firmi, their "menu" consists of everything one would hope to find at the most lavish wedding events. Yet, none of the items cross the Tk 200-300 mark, and herein lies the twist.

The concept of the business is to buy extra or discarded food from wedding events, doa mahfils, and



even from restaurants, and sell it back to those who don't have the good fortune to access these events.

Visiting the area on a Friday, this correspondent spoke to three such traders.

One of them, a woman choosing to remain anonymous, has been engaged in this trade for the last three decades. "It started with my parents. Back then, you could buy a tukri [basket] of 50 kg food at a meagre sum of Tk 100. We would resell it at double the price."

"We didn't have fridges back then. If the food got wasted, you threw it away," she continued. "This was especially true since the food that came in wasn't very good to begin with. It came unsorted and rarely had whole pieces of meat. Each plate would go for Tk 1-2, with primary customers being rickshaw-pullers and

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Roaring flames ravaged the Halishahar-Warehouse kitchen market yesterday, leaving many owners devastated, since they solely depended on their businesses for their survival. Once the fire was doused, tradesmen were seen desperately rummaging through the remains of their belongings.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Burnt to ashes

Fire guts 46 shops at Ctg kitchen market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

"The fire took everything away from me; it left me with nothing. My son's dream is now over. How will we pay off our debt?" said 55-year-old Dolan Rani Pal, who was wailing in front of her cloth shop, or where it used to stand.

The shop at the port city's Halishahar-Warehouse kitchen market was burnt to ashes yesterday morning.

"After mortgaging gold ornaments, I had taken Tk 5 lakh to open the shop. But the fire burned everything in front of my eyes," she said, with her voice choking.

Like Rani, 46 shop owners were going through the same emotions, as their

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No Rash Mela from this year on

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The traditional Rash Mela, held on the occasion of Rash Purnima in Dublar Char (Alorkol) of the Sundarbans, is being cancelled from this year on, with the aim to conserve the biodiversity of the mangrove forest.

In a letter sent from the Cabinet Division, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has provided instructions in this regard. Letters have also been sent to the deputy commissioners of coastal districts.

Though this year's event will not be held on the previously marked November 17 to 19, religious activities for Hindu devotees, like holy baths or Punyasnan, and traditional worship rituals will be held at other times, officials said.

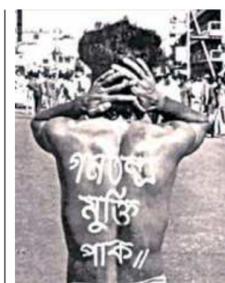
Khulna Regional Forest Conservator Mihir Kumar told the Daily Star, "The spot where the fair is held falls under a reserved forest. Thousands of people go there on occasion of the fair and ruin the forest's biodiversity."

"However, Hindu devotees will be allowed to go there during the time," he added.

This is the third year the fair will not be held, as it was cancelled in 2019 due to the cyclone Bulbul and in 2020 due to the pandemic.

According to the Forest Department, this year, devotees will start their journey from Bagerhat's Mongla towards Alorkol by boat on the occasion of Rash Puja on the morning of November 18.

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Noor Hossain Day today

BSS, Dhaka

Shaheed Noor Hossain Day, a red-letter day in restoration of democracy in Bangladesh, is being observed today with due solemnity.

On this day in 1987, Noor Hossain, who imprinted his bare chest and back with the slogan "Swairachar nipat jak, gonotrantra mukti pak" (down with autocracy, let

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What action taken against them?

HC on 206 Gazipur medical centres without clearance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday wanted to know what steps have been taken against 206 private hospitals and diagnostic centres in Gazipur which have no environmental clearance certificates.

The court also ordered the DGs of DGHS and DoE to submit a report in 60 days.

The HC issued a rule in this regard. The environment secretary, DGs of DGHS and DoE and four officials were made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Kamrul Hossain Mollah came up with the order and rule.

CHILD ELECTROCUTED IN BARISHAL

HC issues rule over compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain in two weeks why they should not be directed to give adequate compensation to seven-year-old Md Zubayer Rahman from Barishal's Muladi who lost his hands in electrocution.

Energy and resources secretary, chairman of Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, general manager of Bangladesh Pally Bidyut Samity and 11 other officials concerned have been made respondents to the rule.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman issued the rule and order following a petition filed by Zubayer's father Tofazzal Hossain seeking its order on respondents to give him Tk 2 crore as compensation. Petitioner's lawyer Abdullah Al Mahub said Zubayer was electrocuted on October 15. An electricity line was illegally set over a two-storey house of the petitioner although he earlier applied to the office concerned to relocate the cable line. Zubayer was admitted to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery for treatment, but his left hand had to be amputated and his right hand became out of order, the lawyer said.

On Monday, the same HC bench issued a rule asking authorities to explain in a week why they should not be directed to give compensation to Raqibuzzaman (7) from Sakhira who lost his right hand and leg after being electrocuted.

'EC to blame'

Says GM Quader on failure to prevent violence centring UP polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has completely failed to maintain law and order situation in the ongoing Union Parishad elections, said Jatiya Party Chairman and deputy leader of the opposition GM Quader yesterday.

In a statement, the JP chairman said attacks, counter attacks and shootings over the elections have become a daily occurrence. These incidents of murder (during the UP elections) have created panic among people... They do not want to see bloodshed during elections.

GM Quader said the second and third phases of union parishad elections are going on across the country. "Union parishad

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Grazing the surface of a parked bus, a woman carrying her child squeezes by a passenger shade built on a narrow footpath in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday. The structure, meant to help passengers wait for the bus, exposes passers-by to the potential risk of accidents.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON