

ROHINGYA REFUGEES

Are we paying for our hospitality?



STRATEGICALLY SPEAKING

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As if a million Rohingya refugees are not enough, we have to now face the prospect of Rohingyas sneaking in through the borders from India into Bangladesh. Not in too many places has one seen a country not only accept such a large number of persecuted, internationally displaced people, but also shelter them for years on end. The second tranche of them will have been here five years come August. And their numbers inside the camps are increasing.

The report on the matter, carried in this daily on May 22, reveals two very disturbing facts. One, that we are paying for our hospitality—so much so that the conditions in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar are working as a pull factor for the Rohingyas presently sheltered in India. The Rohingyas in India are suffering on two counts. Firstly, the conditions in the refugee camps locally are compelling them to seek egress out to Bangladesh, and, obviously, the security arrangement in Indian camps are not strict enough, for which the refugees manage to escape from the camps and travel, sometimes as far as from Jammu, to Kolkata, and eventually across the border.

But, equally more seriously, their religious identity as Muslims makes them vulnerable in India. These are not subjective observations, but conclusions drawn from the statements of Rohingyas who have managed to cross into Bangladesh. According to *The Daily Star* report, it is estimated that there are about 500 or so of them in Bangladesh as of now, who chose to shift camps from India to Bangladesh. However, a report dated January 27, 2019 on Scroll. in said that "some 2,000 Rohingyas who had taken refuge in India have reportedly left for Bangladesh." What we are facing now is reverse migration compelled out of fear stemming from Jammu-based groups' threat to launch a "catch and kill" movement against the Rohingyas.

The story of Rohingyas escaping from Indian camps and into Bangladesh is not new. At one time, several of them were left in a limbo on the border between Bangladesh and India, with neither country willing to accept them.



The Indian position that they were Rohingyas trying to infiltrate India from Bangladesh does not wash for reasons known to all. And, reportedly, the pushback of Rohingyas has been the official policy of the Indian government.

The 500 or so Rohingyas are the ones who have been identified and arrested. No one knows how many of them are living in Bangladesh—inside the camp or out, clandestinely. Secondly, and equally ominously, there are people on both sides of the border who are thriving on the plight of the Rohingyas in India, actively, as appears from the same report, aided by the Indian border forces.

We wonder, when more than 99 percent of the border has been fenced with triple concertina wire, how come the Rohingyas in India manage to sneak through the almost impregnable fences? How come these Rohingyas, in the vast expanse of the border, find holes in those fences, which are laid out in layers of three, and cross into Bangladesh escaping BSF notice?

As a Bangladeshi, one would not be remiss to ask whether it has been a folly to follow the international conventions and accept the Rohingyas on humanitarian grounds. The rest of the world seems to have forgotten the Rohingyas' and Bangladesh's plight. Little does the world note the cost we have had to bear. According to one study, presently, Rohingyas constitute more than a third of the

▲ Bangladesh has been hosting more than a million Rohingya refugees for nearly five years now, and more continue to cross over to find shelter.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

local population in southeast Cox's Bazar region. Prime forest lands have been decimated to house the refugees and provide fuel for their cooking. The social cost has been equally damaging. The initial open arm attitude of the locals has transformed into hostility, sometimes open and sometimes veiled. Can the locals be blamed for the change in attitude when they stand to economically suffer in the job market, with glut in the local labour force and

consequent fall in wages, when they see preferential treatment to the refugees while their own conditions are no better, and the solution of the Rohingya crisis seems remote?

It seems our diplomatic efforts have lost steam. The international community has taken us for granted, happy with the status quo as long as we take care of the refugees. Shifting them to better and more spacious locations in Bangladesh, Bhasan Char and elsewhere, may convey the message that Bangladesh has accepted the *fait accompli*, that it shall have to lump the refugees for the foreseeable future. The Rohingya issue is no longer the emotive issue it was four or five years ago.

Unfortunately, money has trumped morality and humane consideration. Our three good friends have demonstrated visibly that their support lies where the money is. But not only them, another very good Middle Eastern friend has invested in Myanmar oil, which prevents it from putting pressure on Myanmar. And the ummah has been most visible through its silence, with honourable exceptions, of course. Is it that Myanmar wields more strategic leverage on India, China and Russia than we do, which was a factor in Myanmar getting away with genocide? Thus, we should formulate our strategy from that datum point. As for those sneaking in from India, Bangladesh would need India's sincere help in stopping the flow, because that appears to be the result of India's policy on Rohingyas and how they are being dealt with there.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

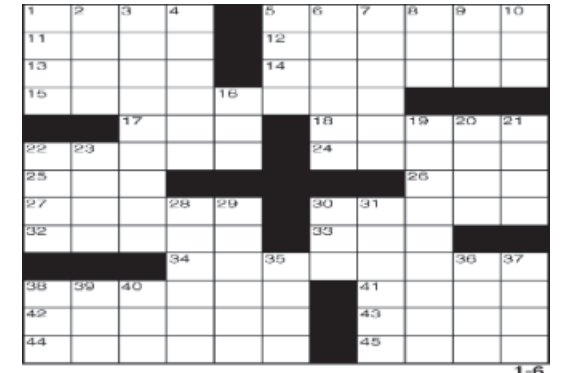
- 1 Base meal
- 5 Propeller parts
- 11 Skin woe
- 12 Speak from memory
- 13 Whiskey serving
- 14 Show clearly
- 15 Acted obsequiously
- 17 Completely
- 18 Corduroy feature
- 22 Sharpened
- 24 Like haunted houses
- 25 Easter find
- 26 Sturgeon eggs
- 27 Fields
- 30 Gushes forth
- 32 Museum piece

DOWN

- 1 Mardi Gras wear
- 2 Canyon sound
- 3 Arm-waving creation
- 4 End a suit
- 5 Make coffee
- 6 Pries
- 7 Having a low pH
- 8 Clamor
- 9 Series-ending abbr.

ACROSS

- 10 Take in
- 16 Unoriginal
- 19 Thrill-seeker
- 20 Expand
- 21 Peepers
- 22 Get news of
- 23 Fairy tale monster
- 28 Broadcasting
- 29 Uncommon
- 30 Plunked down
- 31 Cockpit occupants
- 35 Prepared to drive
- 36 Yard tool
- 37 Reached base, in a way
- 38 Bit of ointment
- 39 Greek vowel
- 40 Junior, to senior



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জাতীয় নদী রক্ষা কমিশন

এনএসসি ভবন (১৭ তলা)

৬২/৩, পুরানা পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০

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“বাঁচাও নদী, বাঁচাও মানুষ, বাঁচাও দেশ”



নং-১৮.২০.০০০০.০১৮.৩০.০০১.২০২০ (অংশ-১)-৭৯০

তারিখ: ১৫ জ্যৈষ্ঠ ১৪২৯
২৯ মে ২০২২

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বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী/ঠিকাদার/নির্মাণ প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্ত করার নিমিত্ত লটভিত্তিক অগ্রহ প্রস্তাব নির্দেশক্রমে আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

লট নং	কাজের বিবরণ
লট-ক	অফিসের স্টেশনারি ও মনোহারি দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহ
লট-খ	১। প্রিন্টারের টোনার ও অন্যান্য কম্পিউটারের আনুষঙ্গিক যন্ত্র ও যন্ত্রাংশ সরবরাহ ২। ফটোকপি মেশিনের টোনার ও অন্যান্য আনুষঙ্গিক যন্ত্র ও যন্ত্রাংশ সরবরাহ
লট-গ	বৈদ্যুতিক সরঞ্জাম
লট-ঘ	কমিশন কর্তৃক দেশের নদ-নদী, হাওর-বীওড়, জলাশয়-জলাধার পরিদর্শনকালীন ভিডিও চিত্র ধারণ, সম্পাদনা, ডকুমেন্টারি প্রস্তুত এবং কমিশনের ইউটিউব চ্যানেলে আপলোডকরণ

২। আগামী ১৩/৬/২০২২ তারিখ দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে অগ্রহী সরবরাহকারী/ঠিকাদার/নির্মাণ প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে অগ্রহপ্রস্তাব/প্রস্তাব কমিশন কার্যালয়ের প্রশাসন ও অর্থ শাখায় রক্ষিত বাক্সে দাখিল করতে হবে। দাখিলের ক্ষেত্রে নিম্নরূপ শর্তাবলি অনুসরণ করতে হবে:

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২০২২/০৫/২০২২

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দুরালাপনী: ০২-৪১০৫২০৫৫

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Office of The Director

Chattogram Medical College Hospital

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Memo No. CMCH/Tender/Non-MSR/Diet/2022-2023/e-GP/6942

Date: 29-05-2022.

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1	704614	Procurement of Dried Goods: Rice, Pulses, Sugar etc for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	20-Jun-2022 16:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00
2	704613	Procurement of Vegetables for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	20-Jun-2022 16:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00
3	704612	Procurement of Milk and Dairy Products for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	20-Jun-2022 16:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00
4	704611	Procurement of Fish and Meat for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	20-Jun-2022 16:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00
5	704610	Procurement of Chicken Egg for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	20-Jun-2022 16:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00
6	704574	Procurement of Bread, Biscuits and Fruits ect for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	20-Jun-2022 16:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00	21-Jun-2022 14:00

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(Signature)

(Brigadier General Md. Shamim Ahsan)

Director

Chattogram Medical College Hospital, Chattogram.

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