

‘Let’s go home; let’s go to Myanmar’ Say Rohingyas at rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox’s Bazar

Thousands of Rohingyas yesterday held a rally in Ukhia of Cox’s Bazar – to tell the world that they want to go back to their homeland Myanmar, marking World Refugee Day.

Rohingyas joined the rally in front of the Balukhali 18 camp in-charge’s office – holding the national flag of Myanmar and banners and festoons with different demands.

The Rohingya community organised the rally on the first day of “Let’s Go Home” (Bari Cholo) campaign launched at 23 camps – 21 in Ukhia and two in Teknaf upazila, an official of a government intelligence agency told The Daily Star.

They also handed out leaflets with their seven-point demand which includes repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar at the earliest, cancellation of 1982 citizenship act of Myanmar, ensuring dignity and security of Rohingyas in Myanmar, and ending of persecution of innocent people of Myanmar.

Additional law enforcers have been deployed and members of different intelligence agencies were also put on alert ahead of their programme.

One of the organisers, Zahid Hossain said, “June 20 is World Refugee Day. Ahead of the day, we want to inform the world – through peaceful rallies – that the Rohingyas are citizens of Myanmar.”

“The State of Arakan (now Rakhine State) is our birthplace. We want to return to our homeland,” he further said.



Under the instruction of the Chattogram District Administration, a worker strikes down the home of one of the 145 families living under the slope of the Foy’s Lake hills yesterday. The decision was taken after four people were killed in a landslide recently. The authorities have jotted down a total of 835 families at risk of being landslide victims.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

LANDSLIDE RISK 145 families evicted from Ctg hills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

After a landslide killed four people recently, Chattogram District Administration yesterday evicted 145 families from hills near Foy’s Lake.

Masud Rana, assistant commissioner (land) of the Chandgaon circle; Omar Faruk, AC (land) of Kattoli circle; and Al Amin, AC land of Agrabad circle, led the drive.

The utility connections were severed so that the occupants cannot return to the hills, said Plabon Kumar Biswas, staff officer of the administration.

The local administration asked them to move to safer places. According to the district administration, 28 hills in the district are vulnerable to landslide during the monsoon.

The authorities have

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Lightning strikes kill 4 in 2 districts

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed in lightning strikes in Cox’s Bazar and Noakhali yesterday, according to reports from our local correspondents.

The deceased were identified as Md Imtiaz (25), Abdul Karim (30), Md Ali (40) and Abul Kalam Kalu (21).

They all died while fishing during downpour coupled with thunderstorm, said law enforcers and local administration.

In Cox’s Bazar, Imtiaz from Chullarpara in Uttar Dhurong was struck by lightning around 11:00am in Kutubdia, said Kutubdia Police Station Officer-in-Charge Omar Haidar.

Abdul Karim from the same village came under lightning strike while he was on his boat, said the OC.

Md Ali from Shorotgona died in lightning strike as he was catching fish during thunderstorm in Pekua area, said Pekua Police Station OC Forhad Ali.

In Noakhali, Abul Kalam Kalu from Domarchar in Hatiya was struck by lightning while he was catching fish in the river Meghna, said Saidul Islam Forhad, member of Purbo Charbata Union Parishad.

Stranded on a hillock

Lone bridge connecting Tripura village to mainland collapses in flood



The only bridge connecting 30 families from the Tripura community to the mainland in Satchhari Nation Park area in Habiganj has collapsed due to the heavy rains and the ongoing flood situation in Sylhet.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

MINTU DESHWARA

Around 30 families from the Tripura community, living on a hillock in Satchhari National Park area in Habiganj’s Chunarughat upazila, are in grave trouble. The only bridge connecting them to the mainland has collapsed due to the stormy winds and flood water flowing down the canal. As a result, they remain stranded on the hillock, unable to move to a safer region.

Local administrations are unable to help them as communication systems are cut off.

However, this incident is not their lone problem. In the last

four years, this community has been affected by landslides caused due to heavy rains. Many houses were destroyed in the process.

Again, some people are crossing the bridge, taking a risk on their lives amid high currents, fearing that the flood situation will only get worse.

Tripura rural headman Chittaranjan Barman said, “Our hillock has been crumbling for seven years now. In the meantime, four families have left as their houses were completely demolished. We have repeatedly urged the government to save this hillock, but to no avail.” He said the bridge collapsed when it started

raining from early Tuesday morning. “It’s impossible to use the bridge at present as the soil has been removed from underneath its base.”

Mahmud Hasan, range officer of Satchhari National Park, said the local administration has been informed about the matter.

Contacted, Chunarughat Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Siddhartha Bhowmik said, “If the bridge is repaired now, it will collapse again if it rains. Technically we can’t construct the bridge without building the guide wall, since otherwise it will collapse again. The Water Development Board has sent a proposal for its construction.”

‘Padma Bridge a milestone’ Prof Ainun Nishat tells Barishal conference

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A conference titled “Padma Bridge and its socio-economic implications” was held at Barishal University yesterday.

The Faculty of Social Sciences of BU organised the international conference at Jibanananda Das Conference Hall.

Dr Ainun Nishat, emeritus professor of Brac University and water resources and climate change specialist, joined the event as chief guest.

Dr Nishat said the Padma Bridge will open the door to possibilities in the southern region. This bridge will be a milestone in making decisions in the economy, he said.

“From the very beginning there were many challenges, the design had to be changed. We were also aware of the environment,” he said.

Actions were taken so that there would be no disruption in movement of hilsa in the waters, Dr Nishat added.

He said the bridge will directly benefit four divisions including Barishal and Khulna.

Barishal University Vice Chancellor Prof Md Sadequ Arefin chaired the conference.

Three killed in road accident

UNB, Keraniganj

Three people, including two members of a family, were killed when a private car crashed into an electric pole in Nawbaganj upazila of Keraniganj early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as private car driver Monir Khan Billal (54), Abul Kashem (65) and his granddaughter Farhana (8).

The accident occurred around 4:00am when the car, returning from Dhaka airport after receiving a family member, hit a roadside electric pole on the Dhaka-Nawabganj Dohar regional road.

The accident left six people injured, said Sub-inspector Alamgir Hossain of Nababganj Police Station.

Kashem and Farhana died at a local health complex while Billal at National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR) after locals took him there, the police official.

3 workers hurt in gas tank explosion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Three workers of a tyre-burning factory were injured as its liquified gas storage tank exploded in Birampur upazila of Dinajpur yesterday.

Birampur police said the factory was set up at Salbaganj village for producing gas to burn tyres. It was being operated illegally, they said.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Parimal Kumar Sarkar echoed the law enforcers.

The workers were burning tyres at the factory since Saturday morning.

Suddenly, the tank exploded, injuring the three – Roni Mia (18) from Sylhet, Mazedur Rahman (26) and Abdul Kader from Dinajpur.

Locals took them to Birampur Upazila Health Complex. Later, doctors referred them to Rangpur Medical College Hospital as they suffered severe burns.

‘From death row convict to imam, cancer specialist’ Rab arrests him after 21 years of being on the run

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sheikh Enamul Haque – sentenced to death for attempting to assassinate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina – moved to Gazipur from Gopalganj in 2001, changed his name, and had a National ID card made with fake information later on.

He worked as an Imam at a local mosque in Shalna for eight years. By this time, he also taught at a homoeopathy college in the district.

In 2010, he moved to Dhaka from Gazipur and stayed in Uttara and Banasree. In 2015, he set up a homoeopathy college named “IK Homeo College Uttara” and continued running it till 2020.

Later, he set up a “Cancer Cure Centre” at his home in Uttara and started deceiving patients in the name of providing treatment.

Enamul was right under the nose of law enforcers in Gazipur and Dhaka for the last 21 years.

Finally, he was caught.

A team of Rab-1 arrested him from Uttara area on Saturday. Khandaker Al Moin, Rab’s Legal and Media wing director, told a press briefing yesterday.

“Enamul had a general education but identified himself as a Qari, (who recites the Quran following proper rules). He worked as an Imam at several mosques in Gazipur,” he said.

Apart from treating cancer patients, he claimed to be able to “cure AIDS”. In addition, he claimed to be a successful doctor in treating diseases like

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