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TENSION AT BORDER

Dhaka should call for int'l investigation Expert says

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh should call for an international investigation into Myanmar's unlawful activities at the border since the latter has shifted blame to the Arakan Army and Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, said an international relations analyst.

Prof Imtiaz Ahmed of Dhaka University's international relations department told The Daily Star yesterday that the investigation can be done either by the UN or by forming a commission with experts from countries like Japan, India, ASEAN members, China.

The call comes amid escalation of the conflict between the Myanmar military and Arakan Army at the Bangladesh-Myanmar border since early August.

Mortar shells and bullets fell repeatedly in Bangladesh side of the border and Myanmar helicopters also flew over the border. This was a violation of Bangladesh's sovereignty, said Prof Imtiaz Ahmed.

The United League of Arakan, whose armed wing is the Arakan Army, said they would accept Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh if the ULA could establish a relationship with the international community "as a government"

Last Friday, a Rohingya youth was killed in the shelling and several others were injured.

The foreign ministry summoned the Myanmar ambassador in Dhaka four times to lodge protest and sought foreign countries' cooperation in stopping the conflicts.

The Myanmar foreign ministry on Monday summoned Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury, the Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar, and told him that the Arakan Army and ARSA have been attacking border areas deliberately to damage relations between the two countries.

Foreign ministry officials said Myanmar previously violated Bangladesh's sovereignty during the Rohingya influx in 2017 and 2018, and repeat was unacceptable.

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A shirtless man runs with a shotgun in his hands, with police officials right in front of him, during a clash between BNP men and law enforcers in Munshiganj Sadar upazila yesterday. Story on page 1.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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Higher inflation, lower GDP this fiscal

Projects ADB in its Asian Development Outlook 2022 Update

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Life is set to get tougher for the poor and the low-income people as the Asian Development Bank yesterday projected that inflation in Bangladesh would average 6.7 percent this fiscal year, up from 6.2 percent in fiscal 2021-22.

Average inflation accelerated to 6.2 percent last fiscal year from 5.6 percent in fiscal 2020-21, reflecting strong domestic demand and higher global oil, gas and commodity prices resulting from supply disruptions caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The taka's depreciation against the US dollar also contributed to higher inflation, said the ADB's Asian Development Outlook 2022 Update unveiled yesterday.

ADB

This year, the government set a target to restrict inflation to within 5.6 percent. But in the first two months, inflation averaged 7.52 percent. The government is yet to release the statistics for August, which it usually does at the beginning of the following month.

However, inflation in Bangladesh so far appears to be in line with regional peers like India, Pakistan, Nepal, Thailand and Singapore.

Rising global commodity prices, increases in domestic-administered prices of all types of fuel and an expected upward adjustment in domestic power tariffs are the main factors that will stoke inflation in the coming months in Bangladesh, the ADB said.

This fiscal year's monetary policy will have

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Police out to instil fear in BNP men
Says Fakhrul; 'cops going door to door for info on them'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are spreading panic in the name of collecting personal information of leaders and activists of the BNP and other opposition parties going door to door, the BNP alleged yesterday.

"Whenever any movement begins, police go door to door for this," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told a press conference at party Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office.

He claimed that such acts of police are blatant interference in personal

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About 20,000 trillion ants live on Earth
New study estimates

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



There are about 20 quadrillion ants living on Earth – a 20 with 15 zeros – showed findings from a new study.

This figure corresponds to about a fifth of all the mass of every human on Earth, said the research, published in the journal PNAS on Monday.

The study reviewed a range of existing studies on ants, narrowed the research down to about 500 suitable papers and combined their data to arrive at this figure, which is "2-20 times higher than previous estimates".



Residents of Koshalkhana Madrasa Road in Barishal city stand in line to collect water from containers temporarily set up on a truck by the city corporation authorities. Due to unpaid water bills, the authorities have cut off electrical supply to at least 11 water pumps across the city, causing many to suffer.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

'This is not a bluff'

Putin vows to use 'all means' in Ukraine war, calls up reservists

AGENCIES

President Vladimir Putin yesterday called up 300,000 Russian military reservists, saying his promise to use all military means in Ukraine was "no bluff," and hinting that Moscow was prepared to use nuclear weapons.



month conflict by allowing Moscow to accuse Ukraine of attacking Russian territory.

A senior US official said Washington was taking Putin's "irresponsible" veiled threat to use nuclear weapons "seriously" and warned it could alter its "strategic posture" if need be.

US President Joe Biden tore into Putin yesterday as he addressed the United Nations, saying the Russian leader "shamelessly violated" the UN Charter when he invaded Ukraine.

Russian forces have attacked Ukrainian schools, railway stations and hospitals, part of Moscow's aim of "extinguishing Ukraine's right to exist as a state," Biden said.

Beijing, which so far has tacitly backed Moscow's intervention yesterday called for a "ceasefire through dialogue" after Putin's address.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, however, told German media he does not believe Russia will use nuclear weapons. "I don't believe that the world will allow him to use these weapons."

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