

St Martin's finally gets supplies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A month's worth of supplies were taken to St Martin's Island by tourist ship Baro Awlia yesterday to ease the food crisis, officials said.

Some 150 people who had been waiting to return home on the island for at least nine days were taken there by the ship.

Amidst armed conflict in nearby Myanmar, barely any boat had travelled to and from St Martin's since June 6, resulting in an acute shortage of essential supplies.

Locals said over the last few days, gunshots were fired from across the border at trawlers and speedboats on the Naf river.

Yamin Hossain, additional district magistrate, said the government sent some food items and local traders took rice, onion, potato, fruits, and other essentials on Baro Awlia.

He added that the supplies will last for a month.

Rehena Akhter, who was on board the ship, said she, her husband and their three-year-old daughter went

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The 150-year-old Pingna cattle market spills over the Jamalpur-Tangail highway in Jamalpur's Sarishabari upazila yesterday. The market sits every Friday and with the Eid only a few days away, cattle and customers were aplenty. Vehicles, however, were stuck in tailbacks for hours.

PHOTO: SAHIDUL ISLAM NIRAB

Border killings continue despite BSF promise

10 Bangladeshis killed since March after BSF DG said they'd use non-lethal weapons

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Border killings continue despite India's Border Security Force's repeated assurance of bringing it down to zero.

At least 10 Bangladeshis were shot dead allegedly by BSF after its Director General Nitin Agarwal said the border force personnel are using non-lethal weapons with intent to minimise the casualties during the DG-level border conference held on March 10.

Of the deceased, four were killed in March, three in April, two in May, and another this month, according to data from the rights group, Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK).

According to ASK and media reports, 12 Bangladeshis, including a BGB member, have so far been killed by the BSF this year, raising questions about the effectiveness of the border force's measures.

"The border killings have been going on for a long time. This cannot continue, and it must be resolved immediately through discussion," ASK Executive Director Faruq Faisal told The Daily Star recently.

He said, "India also shares borders with China and Pakistan, but we don't see such killings there. This will continue unless the Bangladesh authorities take a logical

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ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES Prices go up ahead of Eid

SUKANTA HALDER

As Eid-ul-Azha approaches, consumers brace for a hike in the prices of essential commodities, a trend seen all too often ahead of Eids.

In the week leading up to Eid, commodity prices have risen in the capital and elsewhere in the country, straining consumers.

The recent price increase is especially painful because Bangladesh's average inflation rate has been above 9 percent for the previous two years.

During visits to several kitchen markets in the capital yesterday, it was found that the prices of soybean oil, onions, eggs, rice, garlic, ginger, cardamom, and bay leaves, among other daily necessities, had gone up compared to a week ago.

Meanwhile, data from the state-run Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) also showed a similar trend.

Depending on quality, fine rice was selling at Tk 68-78 per kilogramme (kg), up from Tk 60-78, according to various retailers.

On the other hand, the price of coarse rice has gone up to Tk 57-58 per kg.

On top of that, the runaway cost of cooking oil has also been hurting middle and lower-middle-income families.

Loose soybean oil was being sold at Tk 155-160 per litre, up from Tk 150, and bottled soybean oil was priced at Tk 170 per litre, up from Tk 165.

Local garlic was being sold at Tk 200-220 per kg, up from Tk 190-220, while ginger price was Tk 250-300 per kg, up from Tk 240-280.

Local onions were selling at Tk 85-90 per kg, up by about Tk 5, and four pieces of brown eggs was selling for Tk 52-54, up from Tk 50.

Bay leaves were being sold at Tk 200-300 per kg, up from Tk 150-200.

Small cardamoms (elaich) were selling at

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'Ananda' makes them smile

For Korail slum children with cerebral palsy, Saturday is a day of laughter and joy

NILIMA JAHAN

Over the past year, 12-year-old Samia's life has undergone a significant change. In the capital's Korail slum, the child was born with cerebral palsy, a group of neurological disorders that appear in infancy or early childhood and permanently affect body movement and muscle coordination.

As a result, she spent most of her childhood bedridden, unable to sit or turn from side to side on her own.

But, now, she looks forward to every Saturday because it is the one day she gets to live the life of a regular child that she was previously deprived of.

For the past year, she wakes up early every Saturday, has her breakfast, and puts on her favourite red frock while her mother styles her hair into two ponytails.

She then waits for the dedicated volunteers to pick her up in a wheelchair and take her to "Ananda", a daycare centre that essentially serves as a respite care centre.

Along with Samia, other children arrive by 10:00am and slowly settle in. They mingle, play games, sing nursery rhymes together,

and engage in various fun-filled activities. They also receive essential physiotherapy before being given snacks and lunch, all of it free of charge.

According to the latest

96.64 percent lack balance; 89.32 percent have abnormal muscle stiffness or looseness; 90.97 percent have restricted hand or foot movement; 89.06 percent face behavioral issues; and 85.49



Each child gets specialised cared catered to their individual needs at Ananda.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

National Survey on Persons with Disabilities-2021 by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the number of people with cerebral palsy in the country is approximately 136,800.

Around 96.34 percent of them have communication limitations;

percent experience partial or full inactivity of hands or legs.

Children like Samia rely on dedicated volunteers or palliative-care assistants (PCAs) for support.

The assistants engage them in

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Israel hits Gaza as truce talks fail to progress

34 more Palestinians killed

AFP, Palestinian Territories

Israeli strikes hit Gaza yesterday as truce talks with Hamas failed to progress and tensions surged on Israel's northern border with Lebanon.

Witnesses reported the strikes in various parts of the Gaza Strip in the morning, particularly the centre. At Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the central city of Deir al-Balah, men gathered over the body of an 11-year-old boy who died during bombardment of nearby Bureij refugee camp.

In a black singlet, the child lay on a floor smeared with fresh blood, a white bandage covering the top half of his face, AFP images showed.

Israel's military yesterday said troops continued operations in central Gaza, where warplanes had struck a "militant cell" and "military structure" in the Zeitun area.

After projectiles were fired from northern Gaza into southern Israel on Thursday night, artillery and aircraft hit the launch sites, the army said.

At least 37,266 Palestinians have been killed and 85,102 have been injured in the offensive that began on October 7, the Gaza health ministry said in a statement yesterday. Some 34 Palestinians were killed in the previous 24 hours, the ministry added.

Fears of a broader Middle East conflict have surged again, with Lebanon-based Hezbollah fighters, who are backed by Iran, launching waves of rockets against Israeli military targets on Wednesday and Thursday.

- 2 killed as Israeli warplanes hit house in Lebanon
- Palestinians lament shortages of essentials ahead of Eid

New pterosaur species discovered

CNN ONLINE

An amateur paleontologist has discovered a new species of pterosaur, a flying reptile that lived alongside dinosaurs around 100 million years ago.

Kevin Petersen, an avocado farmer and curator of the Kronosaurus Korner fossil museum in northwest Queensland, Australia, unearthed a number of fossilised bones in western Queensland in 2021.

These have since been identified as belonging to *Haliskia peterseni*, a new genus and species of pterosaur, according to a statement from a team at Curtin University in Perth, which led the research, published in the journal *Scientific Reports* on Wednesday.

"With a wingspan of approximately 4.6m, *Haliskia* would have been a fearsome predator around 100 million years ago when much of central western Queensland was underwater, covered by a vast inland sea and globally positioned about where Victoria's southern coastline is today," study lead author Adele Pentland, a PhD candidate at Curtin's School of Earth and Planetary Sciences, said in the statement.

The giant creature was the first vertebrate to evolve the ability of flight and lived alongside dinosaurs during the Mesozoic Era, which started around 252 million years ago.



Afghanistan pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi runs for joy as Ibrahim Zadran chases him in celebration following one of his three wickets against Papua New Guinea in their Twenty20 World Cup Group C fixture at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy Stadium in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago yesterday. The three wickets helped Farooqi to 12 scalps in three matches while leading the Afghans to a place in the Super Eight stage with a seven-wicket victory.

PHOTO: ICC

Pakistan out as USA seal Super 8s spot

AGENCIES

The USA advanced to the Super Eights stage of the T20 World Cup on Friday when their match against Ireland was abandoned, an outcome which meant former champions Pakistan were eliminated.

Ground staff spent hours working to dry the wet outfield at Lauderhill but shortly after the umpires had inspected conditions a huge downpour ended any hope with the field quickly under water once again.

South Florida has suffered heavy rain and flooding and the game on Tuesday at Lauderhill between Sri Lanka and Nepal was also abandoned.

There were heavy showers earlier on Friday morning which added to the workload which all proved to be in vain.

Fans who had waited patiently inside the Central Broward Stadium were instructed to stay in the facility and in shelter due to thunder and lightning which accompanied the torrential rain.

The USA reach the last eight in their debut appearance in the T20

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