



Tension, fear on Teknaf frontier

Naf river route closed, trade with Myanmar stopped as Arakan Army claims taking control of border

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

Locals and Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar are in fear amid reports of the Arakan Army's takeover of the Rakhine State and full control of the 270km Myanmar border with Bangladesh.

Due to security concerns, Teknaf upazila administration yesterday imposed restrictions on traffic on the Naf, which flows between Teknaf and Myanmar territory.

Boats that carry people and supplies between Teknaf and St Martin's Island had not operated yesterday, according to Rashid Ahmed, president of the local service trawler owners' association. He hopes the restriction would be lifted today.



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Jubo Dal, Swechchhasebak Dal, and Chhatra Dal leaders in cars and microbuses head towards Akhaura in their long march to protest the attack on Bangladesh's mission in Agartala, desecration of the national flag in Kolkata, and an alleged conspiracy to incite communal unrest in Bangladesh. This photo was taken in the capital's Fakirapool yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

3 pro-BNP bodies march to Akhaura Warn India against undermining Bangladesh

SAJJAD HOSSAIN, from Akhaura

Any attempt to undermine Bangladesh's sovereignty would face strong protests, leaders of Jubo Dal, Swechchhasebak Dal, and Chhatra Dal warned India yesterday.

After a long march from Dhaka to Brahmanbaria's Akhaura Land Port, the BNP-affiliated organisations also urged India to maintain friendly relations with Bangladesh and avoid interfering in its internal matters.

As part of the "Long March to Agartala" programme, thousands

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IMF offers extra \$1b for reforms

Govt pushing for at least \$2b under existing loan programme

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has offered an additional \$1 billion to Bangladesh but the government is pushing for at least \$2 billion to implement the interim government's reform agenda, narrow the deficit in the current account and shore up the dollar stockpile.

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed sought a fresh \$3 billion from the Washington-based multilateral lender under the existing loan programme on the sidelines of the annual World Bank-IMF meeting in October.

Following the discussion, a 13-member IMF mission came to Bangladesh at the beginning of the month to review the country's performance and compliance with structural reform conditions for the fourth tranche of the existing loan.

The issue of extending the loan amount was discussed with the mission, which has offered about \$1 billion in exchange for additional reform conditions. The Daily Star has learnt from people involved with the discussions.

But the government is holding out for at least \$2 billion. In that case, \$1 billion would be coming in each of the remaining four tranches under the existing loan programme.

In January last year, the multilateral lender approved a \$4.7 billion loan package for Bangladesh. So far, it has disbursed \$2.3 billion in three instalments.

Meanwhile, the IMF mission is set to hold talks with officials of the finance ministry and the central bank today and on December 15 to finalise various policy documents.

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Flourishing tech urgently needed to expedite CHT communication

Says Prof Yunus

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday stressed the need for flourishing technology to accelerate communication in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.



The country's hilly region should be taken forward in education, technology, and economy, he said in a virtual address to the Hill District Council Management training programme.

"The hilly areas are remote, which makes communication difficult. That is why flourishing technology there is urgent. This distance can be overcome through technology," he said.

The training was organised for the chairmen and members of the hill district councils at CHT Complex in the capital.

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Israeli strikes in Syria illegal: UN experts

Over 350 targets hit; Biden's top aides head to Mideast amid rising tensions

AGENCIES

Israel's strikes on Syria following the fall of longtime president Bashar Al-Assad violate international law, United Nations experts said yesterday, branding Israel's attempts to "preemptively disarm" its foes as "lawless".

Since Assad's ouster, Israel, which borders Syria, has sent troops into a buffer zone on the east of the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights, in a move the UN has said violates a 1974 armistice.

Over the past 48 hours, following the collapse of the government of Bashar al-Assad, the military said jets had conducted more than 350 strikes on targets including anti-aircraft batteries, military airfields, PHOTO ON PAGE 2

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Political parties trying to portray interim govt as a failure

Says Nahid Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nahid Islam, adviser to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, yesterday said political parties are attempting to discredit the interim government as they want to be in control of reforms.



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সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

“বিভিন্ন সূত্রে অভিযোগ পাওয়া যাচ্ছে যে, অনেক ভিনদেশি নাগরিক অবৈধভাবে বাংলাদেশে অবস্থান করছেন এবং অবৈধভাবে বিভিন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত রয়েছেন। যে সকল বিদেশি নাগরিক অবৈধভাবে বাংলাদেশে অবস্থান করছেন বা কর্মরত আছেন, তাদের অবিলম্বে বাংলাদেশে অবস্থানের বা কর্মরত থাকার প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ বৈধতা অর্জনের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

এক্ষেত্রে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল দপ্তর/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে প্রয়োজনীয় সহযোগিতা প্রদানের জন্যও অনুরোধ করা হলো। অন্যথায় অবৈধভাবে অবস্থানকারী এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।”

“Complaints are being received from various sources that many foreign nationals are illegally staying in Bangladesh and illegally working in various institutions. All foreign nationals who are illegally staying or working in Bangladesh are requested to obtain legalization with necessary documents to stay or work in Bangladesh immediately.

In this regard, all concerned departments/institutions are also requested to provide necessary cooperation. Otherwise, legal action will be taken against those staying illegally and the relevant institutions”.

স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়

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