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‘ARAKAN ARMY’ ABDUCTS 12 MORE BANGLADESHI FISHERMEN FROM NAF RIVER

The Arakan Army, an insurgent group in Myanmar, has allegedly abducted 12 Bangladeshi fishermen from the Naf River estuary near Teknaf in Cox’s Bazar as they were returning from fishing in the Bay of Bengal.

Teknaf administrator (UNO) SK Ahsan Uddin said the group took the fishermen along with their boat from the Naikhyangdiya area on Saturday afternoon.

The abducted fishermen have been identified as: Md Ali Ahmad, 39; Mohammad Amin, 34; Fazal Karim, 52; Kefayet Ullah, 40; Saiful Islam, 23; Saddam Hossain, 40; Md Russell, 23; Md Soyaib, 22; Arif Ullah, 35; Mohammad Mostaq, 35; and Nurul Amin, 45.

They are all from the villages of Shah Porir Dwip. Abdul Gafur, president of the Shah Porir Dwip Trawler Owners’ Cooperative Society, said the



men were taken while returning from sea fishing.

“The fishermen are not safe. Incidents like this are happening repeatedly. A permanent solution is needed,” he added.

Trawler owner Sultan Ahmed said the 12 fishermen were returning to the shore due to adverse weather in the morning.

“We learnt about the incident from the crew of another trawler that made it back,” he added. “Two phones on board the abducted trawler have been unreachable since noon, which suggests the Arakan Army took the boat and its crew.”

“We are all working on the matter so that the fishermen can be brought back quickly,” UNO Ahsan said.

■ Source: thefinancialexpress.com.bd

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■ “The most meaningful contribution the international community can make for the Rohingya is to bring Min Aung Hlaing and other military leaders before an international court,” said Chris Sidoti of SAC-M.



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ROHINGYAS SEE GLOBAL CONF AS ‘LAST HOPE’ FOR JUSTICE, DIGNIFIED RETURN

With three major international conferences on the Rohingya crisis scheduled over the next four months, more than 1.3 million Rohingyas living in Bangladesh say they view these as their “last hope” for justice and a dignified return to Myanmar.

At just 17, Toufique Al Mohsin fled Maungdaw in 2017 during a brutal military crackdown. Now 25, he has spent eight years in exile along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border. “Because of various global crises, the Rohingya issue has lost international attention. In this reality, these upcoming global initiatives have become our nation’s last hope,” he told the Daily Sun on Saturday.

That sentiment is echoed across the camps in Cox’s Bazar, where refugees see the conferences as a rare chance for the international community to push for a sustainable solution. The first event, a three-day Stakeholders’ Dialogue: Takeaways to the High-Level Conference on the Rohingya Situation, begins today in Cox’s Bazar.

Co-organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the High Representative for the Rohingya Issue, the dialogue



will run until 26 August, with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus scheduled to attend on Monday. The conference will bring together diplomats, global organisations, academics, Rohingya representatives and international experts.

Organisers said it aims to amplify Rohingya voices – especially those of women and youth – on aspirations, grievances and future hopes. Five thematic sessions will cover humanitarian support and funding challenges, developments in Rakhine State, confidence-building for repatriation, justice and accountability for atrocities and long-term strategies for a durable solution.

A festive mood has gripped the camps as the event opens, with refugees hoping it will

spotlight their struggles in the absence of direct representation at next month’s UN gathering.

Rohingya Student Network representative Toufique said that “Arakan has already fallen under the control of the Arakan Army, making repatriation more complex,” and urged the international community to pressure both Myanmar authorities and rebel groups to resolve the crisis.

In a symbolic shift, Rohingya camps recently elected five leaders through informal voting, the first such exercise since the 2021 killing of prominent leader Mohibullah.

Newly elected President Moulvi Syed Ullah said, “We have been invited to the stakeholders’ dialogue.

Source: daily-sun.com

BGB ON HIGH ALERT AMID RENEWED ROHINGYA INFILTRATION ATTEMPTS FROM RAKHINE CLASHES



Fresh armed clashes have erupted in Myanmar’s Rakhine State between the Arakan Army and various armed groups, prompting renewed attempts by Rohingyas to cross the Naf River into Bangladesh.

The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) is maintaining strict vigilance to prevent illegal entry.

Lt Col Ashiqur Rahman, commander of the Teknaf-2 BGB Battalion, said: “Sixty-two Rohingyas were turned back on Friday. Thousands are waiting across the border to enter, but BGB remains in strict control. No one is being allowed in. We’ve increased patrols at key

infiltration points. The gunfire occurred on the other side of the border, so there’s no reason for panic on our side.”

Gunfire near Teknaf’s Hwaikyang border began Friday night and continued into early Saturday, causing Rohingyas to flee toward Bangladesh. In recent days, several armed groups—including the Arakan Salvation Army (ARSA), the Arakan Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO), and the Arakan Rohingya Army (ARA)—attacked Arakan Army positions, displacing many Rohingyas. Thousands are now gathered near the Naf River, close to Maungdaw township, waiting to cross.

Sirajul Mustafa Chowdhury, UP member from Ward 2 of the Hoikeang Union Parishad in Teknaf, said, gunfire lasted from 10pm to 5am, causing panic among residents, but no bullets entered Bangladesh. BGB patrols remained active, and no Rohingya managed to cross.

Abdul Rahman, a shrimp farmer from Hwaikyang, said: “Across from my village lie the Rakhine villages of Kumirkhali, Sheelkhali, and Saidong. Eight years ago, these villages were home to Rohingyas. After the military crackdown in August 2017, the Myanmar junta forced hundreds of thousands to flee to Bangladesh.

Later, military barracks and border posts were set up there. In December last year, the Arakan Army took over those camps from the junta. Now, they’re under attack again by various armed groups.

I heard gunfire throughout Friday night and ran to the nearby market in fear. War-like sounds are coming again from across the border.”

■ Source: dhakatribune.com