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HATIA TRAWLER CAPSIZE: MISSING ROHINGYA WOMAN'S BODY FOUND, DEATH TOLL HITS 2



The body of a missing Rohingya woman has been recovered a day after a trawler capsized in the Meghna River near Hatia, an island Upazila in Noakhali. This brings the death toll to two, while a policeman and a child remain missing.

The woman's body was found floating in the Meghna River near Bibir Hat in Lakshmipur's Ramgati on Sunday, according to Kutub Uddin, chief of Bhasan Char Police Station.

The victim was identified as Hasina Khatun, 25. She had been working as a UNHCR volunteer at the Rohingya camp in Bhasan Char. She was on the trawler with her husband, Md Tarek, and their 4-year-old son Md Tamim when disaster struck.

Tarek was rescued and is currently receiving treatment at Noakhali General Hospital, but their son Tamim is still missing. The other missing person is constable Md Saiful Islam, who was stationed at the district police lines.

Shafiquel Islam, chief of the Borokheri River Police Outpost in Ramgati, said locals spotted the woman's body floating near Bibir Hat and alerted police. Her body was recovered and brought to the outpost. It will be sent to the district hospital morgue for an autopsy.

The trawler had tipped over on Saturday afternoon amid rough weather and strong waves on the Meghna River near Hatia.

The vessel was carrying 39 people, including three policemen, four Ansar members, a Rohingya patient, and NGO officials, according to Noakhali's Additional Superintendent of Police Mohammad Ibrahim. It had departed from Bhasan Char around noon.

■ Source: bdnews24.com

MYANMAR'S MILITARY EXTENDS CEASEFIRE UNTIL JUNE 30

Myanmar's ruling military has extended a ceasefire with pro-democracy forces until June 30. The extension was announced on Saturday.

The military and pro-democracy forces separately declared a temporary ceasefire after a major earthquake struck central Myanmar in March. The aim was to prioritize relief efforts. Fighting has continued since the military coup in 2021. The military says March's quake has left more than 3,700 people dead and over 5,000 injured.

It also says it decided on the latest extension to speed up the reconstruction and rehabilitation of affected areas.

But a source from the pro-democracy camp told NHK that the military's ceasefire declaration is false and unacceptable, as the military is attacking schools, hospitals and other places where people gather.

■ Source: nhk.or.jp

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UNICEF PULLS PLUG ON
ROHINGYA, HOST
COMMUNITY EDUCATION

In a major scale-back of its education program in Cox's Bazar, Unicef has confirmed that more than 1,179 host community volunteer teachers will be laid off, all Unicef-supported learning centres in the Rohingya camps will shut down from June 6, and key subjects like English and science will be dropped from early-grade classrooms starting in 2025.

These decisions, officially communicated through an internal letter issued by Unicef on May 27 and addressed to at least six implementing partners, are part of a wide-ranging cost-cutting measures attributed to a significant drop in global humanitarian funding.

Implementing partners and aid workers warn the consequences will be profound — disrupting education for thousands of vulnerable children in both the Rohingya camps and the host community and risking a surge in school dropouts.

According to a Unicef press release received late yesterday night, the education of around 230,000 Rohingya refugee children is under threat due to an acute and deepening funding crisis.

■ Source: dhakatribune.com

ROHINGYA 'CORRIDOR' POSES
A THREAT TO INDIA'S NORTHEAST

A humanitarian corridor of such a kind would surely not be in India's interest, given the potential that it holds for increased infiltration of refugees, movement of drugs and Myanmar-based militant groups into the Northeast



Security personnel stands guard outside a Rohingya village in Myanmar's restive Rakhine state. (AFP/File)

A humanitarian corridor for the displaced Rohingyas of Myanmar's Rakhine state, through Bangladesh, has been an idea that the United Nations has been promoting ever since the Rohingya crisis began. However, after UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres visited Bangladesh in March 2025, this idea has gained greater traction. The corridor's exact location has not been made public, but it would be fair to assume that it would be astride the Naf river at Teknaf (southeast of Cox's Bazar) to Maungdaw in the Rakhine state of Myanmar.

The creation of such a corridor could potentially involve Bangladesh in Myanmar's internal conflicts. The interim Muhammad Yunus government readily agreed to this proposal of the UN. However, in Bangladesh, this decision came under criticism from other political parties, academics and security

experts because it would lead to further cross-border movement of Rohingyas, thus increasing the risk of cross-border smuggling, trafficking of drugs, weapons and humans; all at the cost of internal stability. The Bangladesh Army chief, Gen. Waker-uz- Zaman, has also raised strong objections, in fact he has clearly told Mr Yunus not to go ahead with the proposal. A holistic look at the stakeholders involved in this humanitarian corridor and their likely stand on this is, therefore, necessary to understand the issue better.

On the Myanmar side the stakeholders are the military junta, the Arakan Army (which is fighting the junta) and the people of Rakhine itself. The junta, though now not in control of vast parts of Rakhine state (14 of the 17 cities in Rakhine state are under control of the Arakan Army), is still holding out at the key locations of Sittwe and Kyukphu; the former being the important sea port for the India-led Kaladan Multi-Modal Trade and Transit Project (KMMTTP) and the latter being the deep sea port of the Chinese (where China has invested \$7.3 billion).

■ Source: deccanchronicle.com