



**Clockwise from left, Rohingyas, mostly women and children, huddle under makeshift shelters in the rain. An old man tells of his sufferings in Myanmar. A man carrying his father walks to an unregistered camp. A woman shelters herself from rain under a plastic sheet. A five-month pregnant Hindu woman, whose husband was killed in Myanmar, is consoled by her aunt. The photos were taken in Kutupalang area of Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya upazila yesterday.**

PHOTOS: ANISUR RAHMAN

# India keeps

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40,000 Rohingya refugees from the country.

It is also in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence on the brutal persecution of the ethnic minority in Myanmar during his visit to Myanmar. Modi has been facing criticisms at home for both.

The Lok Sabha (Lower House of Indian Parliament) Secretariat on Thursday night defended its refusal to be a part of the Bali Declaration, reports our New Delhi Correspondent.

"This was in view of the fact that the declaration, which was to be adopted at the conclusion of the Forum, was not in line with the agreed global principles of sustainable development.

"Therefore, the proposed reference to the violence in Rakhine state in the declaration was considered as not consensus-based and inappropriate," the secretariat said in a press statement.

The part of the declaration, to which India objected, spoke of the forum expressing "deep concern on ongoing violence in the Rakhine State of Myanmar, amongst others..."

The declaration went on to "call on all parties to contribute to the restoration of stability and security, exercise maximum self-restraint from using violent means, respect the human rights of all people in Rakhine State regardless of their faith and ethnicity, as well as facilitate and guarantee safe access for humanitarian assistance."

The Lok Sabha statement said, "The country-specific amendment to the draft declaration was proposed the eleventh hour by selective countries which referred to the violence in Rakhine state of Myanmar."

The Indian delegation's decision came on the day Modi wrapped up his maiden three-day visit to Myanmar. He backed the government of the country.

Modi in a joint appearance before the media with Myanmar State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi urged all stakeholders to find a solution that respects the country's unity.

Around a month before Modi's visit there, the Indian home minister on August 9 told parliament that 40,000 Rohingyas staying in India would be deported.

This prompted the National Human Rights Commission to issue a notice to the home ministry on August 18 calling for a detailed report on the matter in four weeks.

In another development, the Indian Supreme Court on Monday sought to know the government's position on a petition challenging its decision to deport illegal Rohingya Muslim immigrants back to Myanmar.

But on the next day, as Modi began his visit to Myanmar, Kiren Rijiju, state minister for home, announced that the government had set up a

taskforce to identify Rohingyas, who had taken refuge in different states of the country, in order to begin the process of deportation.

### CRITICISMS IN MEDIA

"New Delhi, in any case, is hardly in a position to give lectures on humanitarianism when it has rhetorically spoken of expelling Rohingya refugees and pass the matter to the Supreme Court," said the Hindustan Times in its editorial on Thursday.

"New Delhi skirted the issue of Myanmar's horrific treatment of its Rohingya Muslim minority but was able to persuade Naypyidaw to allow India to launch a large-scale aid programme in Rakhine province, the home of the Rohingya and the epicentre of the present violence," said the English daily.

In its editorial, The Tribune, another daily, yesterday said the sheen came off Modi's aspiration to be a global statesman when he meekly echoed Aung San Suu Kyi's rather lame and patently dishonest excuse for not taking up the cause of the Rohingyas and terming it a problem of terrorism.

"The reasons for Modi's silence in Myanmar are not hard to discern: first and foremost is that the march towards Hindutva will be diluted by accommodating largely Muslim Rohingyas. Second is geopolitical: India would not want to push the Myanmar regime into China's arms by a tough stance on the refugees," it asserted.

Columnist Ashis Ray yesterday in an article in the National Herald also slammed Modi.

"As for Modi, he hasn't borne in mind that standing shoulder to shoulder with Suu Kyi is one thing, doing the same with the Myanmar military is another. He has, tragically for India, chosen the latter," he wrote.

"And in so doing, he has unwisely drawn a parallel between the Rohingya and Kashmir imbroglions in the eyes of the world. Besides, Bangladesh has been one of India's closet allies in recent years. It is unlikely to be best pleased by Modi's Rohingya policy," Ashis commented.

Law professor Shiv Visvanathan in an article in the Hindu yesterday said, "If we abandon Rohingya, we abandon the idea of India as a home of refugees and hospitality. A country which offered a home to the Parsis, the Tibetans, the Afghans, and the Jews cannot turn a little minority of helpless people back."

Ravi Nair, executive director of South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre, in a recent article in The Indian Express, lamented that the Indian government could not even make a gesture to Bangladesh of offering humanitarian assistance as faraway Turkey has done.

"The Indonesians and Malaysians in ASEAN are none too happy with the Indian position on the Rohingyas," he wrote.

# Global outcry grows louder

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Patrick Murphy, deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asia, told reporters that Washington saw shortcomings on the part of the security forces and the government in dealing with the situation in Rakhine and was pushing for urgent restoration of access for humanitarian assistance and journalists there.

"Security forces, in fact, need to be there to protect civilian populations and to address the threats posed to the governing structure," he told reporters yesterday.

"At the same time, they have a responsibility to carry out those activities in accordance with rule of law and international human rights."

Besides, during a State Department press briefing Thursday afternoon, spokeswoman Heather Nauert insisted that the Trump administration cares about the crisis.

"We urge all in Myanmar to avoid actions that exacerbate tensions there," she said.

Nauert also said, "The United States is working through the United Nations and other international organisations to assist tens of thousands of civilians who have fled to southeastern Bangladesh since August 25."

"We are also communicating with Burma's neighbours and other concerned international partners on efforts to end the violence and assist affected communities there."

Replying to a question, she said, "I know it is a difficult situation for Bangladesh, as it is for any country, to absorb refugees. We have provided -- I believe it's about \$55 million this year -- to Burmese refugees not only in Burma, but I believe also in Bangladesh. If I have anything more for you on that, I'll get that to you."

### SENATE RESOLUTION

Also on Thursday, two top US Senators -- Dick Durbin and John McCain -- introduced a resolution condemning the "horrific acts of violence" against the Rohingya, and calling upon Suu Kyi to live up to her historic democratic and human rights ideals by taking action to stop this humanitarian tragedy.

Co-sponsored by US Senators Dianne Feinstein, Cory Booker and Bob Menendez, they issued a joint resolution strongly condemning the violence against and displacement of Rohingya civilians and calling for an immediate halt to all hostilities by Myanmar's authorities.

The Senate resolution also calls upon Myanmar to allow the United Nations "unrestricted access" to assess the situation and provide aid, and to end legal restrictions on citizenship and freedom of movement for the Rohingya.

Also condemning the attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army militant group, the resolution called for the implementation of the recommendations of Kofi Annan Commission.

Other senators, including Benjamin L Cardin and Cory Gardner have also expressed similar concerns.

On Wednesday, US House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce in a letter to Myanmar State Counsellor Suu Kyi said: "Your government and the military have a responsibility to protect all of the people of Myanmar, regardless of their ethnic background or religious beliefs. These atrocities, the latest and most severe against this minority group, must end."

The Washington Post wrote that the outcry in Congress reflects the dismay and confusion of the stoic group of Suu Kyi's supporters in Washington that nurtured her throughout her more than 15 years under house arrest.

Suu Kyi's unwillingness to speak out against the military crackdown, which came in response to insurgent attacks in Rakhine State on August 25, has prompted some former admirers to suggest that she be stripped of the Nobel Peace Prize she won in 1991.

Calling for international response, Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, meanwhile, said the global community needs to intervene to protect the Myanmar minority group.

She also urged fellow Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi to speak up for the Rohingya, BBC reported yesterday.

Earlier, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, another Nobel Prize winner, told his "dearly beloved younger sister" Suu Kyi that "the images we are seeing of the suffering of the Rohingya fill us with pain and dread."

Yesterday, rights groups held a briefing for UN Security Council diplomats on the Myanmar violence. Russia and China did not send any diplomats, according to people at the meeting.

Myanmar has said it was counting on China and Russia to protect it from any Security Council censure, reports Reuters.

In Malaysia, several hundred protesters rallied outside the Myanmar Embassy, urging Kuala Lumpur to sever diplomatic ties with Naypyidaw.

Besides, its maritime agency chief said the country's coast guards will not turn away Rohingyas fleeing violence in Myanmar and is willing to provide them temporary shelter, reports Reuters.

Meanwhile, the two-day World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Indonesia from Wednesday, expressed deep concern over ongoing violence in the Rakhine State.

The "Bali Declaration" adopted by the Forum urged everyone to "exercise maximum self-restraint from using violent means, respect the human rights of all people in Rakhine state regardless of their faith and ethnicity, as well as facilitate and guarantee safe access for humanitarian assistance."

Amid reports of atrocities against the minority group of Myanmar, an estimated 2,70,000 Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh in last two weeks alone, UNHCR said yesterday.

Bangladesh is struggling to cope with the latest influx, which takes the number of Rohingya refugees in camps near its border with Myanmar to around 6,70,000.

Of these, nearly 3,57,000 -- a third of Myanmar's total Rohingya population -- have left since October when the latest upsurge in violence began, writes AFP.

A top Bangladeshi diplomat in Dhaka told The Daily Star that they have information about brutal killings of at least 3,000 civilian Rohingyas during the military crackdown in Rakhine.

On the basis of witness testimonies and the pattern of previous outbreaks of violence, Yanghee Lee, the UN special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, said, "Perhaps about a thousand or more are already dead."

"This might be from both sides but it would be heavily concentrated on the Rohingya population."

**NORWAY DEEPLY CONCERNED**  
Norway's foreign minister Borge Brende called on Suu Kyi and her government to allow humanitarian groups to distribute aid in Rakhine state, deeming limits on their work "extremely serious."

On Wednesday, the minister said that the Norwegian government is

deeply concerned about escalating violence and the deteriorating humanitarian situation of the Rohingya.

He said "all groups must show restraint," but stressed that "authorities, under the leadership of Aung San Suu Kyi, have a particular responsibility to protect civilians from abuses, to stop the violence and to ensure humanitarian access."

In a separate statement, Norway's Refugee Council said "full and unimpeded access to affected communities" is needed.

Earlier, Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland and Minister of International Development and La Francophonie Marie-Claude Bibeau in a statement on September 1 strongly condemned the escalating violence -- and its impact on innocent people -- in northern Rakhine State.

They said Canada encourages Myanmar to take measures to facilitate the continued delivery of humanitarian assistance.

### 'ETHNIC CLEANSING'

Human Rights Watch said the United Nations Security Council should hold a public emergency meeting and warn the Myanmar authorities that they will face severe sanctions unless they put an end to the brutal campaign against the Rohingya.

"The United Nations and concerned governments need to press Burma right now to end these horrific abuses against the Rohingya as a first step toward restoring Rohingya to their homes," Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director at Human Rights Watch, said.

Rohingyas fleeing security forces in Rakhine State have described killings, shelling, and arson in their villages that have all the hallmarks of a campaign of "ethnic cleansing," according to a press statement of HRW yesterday.

### PAKISTAN CABINET RESOLUTION

The Federal Cabinet of Pakistan on Thursday passed a resolution against Myanmar calling upon Suu Kyi to take immediate steps to stop the atrocities being committed in Myanmar.

The resolution also urged the United Nations to take the lead in stopping the "genocide of Rohingyas" in Myanmar.

# Counter-terror chiefs want help of social media

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"We're dealing with a problem in our communities, with people who do not travel, and become radicalized and move to violence... These were British plots by British people."

Christian Rousseau, head of Canada's Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre, calls it a shift to "Terrorism 3.0" as the Islamic State group reels from battlefield defeats in Iraq and Syria.

"The ability of an organized threat directed from overseas, where people travel, money travels, things travel, we're relatively good at being able to catch that," he told the Intelligence and National Security Summit in Washington.

"The generation of terrorism that is now most impactful in Canada is the inspired or enabled terrorism," he said. Those are people who self-radicalize or radicalize online, then decide to launch an attack.

difficult because not only can we not deter them... but there are no signs to help us deal with this."

In Germany, too, attacks trend toward self-radicalized, "inspired lone wolves," according to Friedrich Grommes, head of the international terrorism division of the German Federal Intelligence Service.

But in Germany's case these have been from recent immigrants, not second-generation immigrants like in Canada, Britain and the United States.

### HELP FROM FACEBOOK WANTED

The officials said that shift requires new approaches to detecting threats, with a focus on sources like social media.

But tough privacy laws and the protections enjoyed by the largely American internet and social media giants are impeding authorities in their ability to ferret out lone wolf threats, they said.

McGuinness said he wants to see more pro-active support from Facebook, Google and other online giants with the ability to conduct large-scale automated scanning of users for possible threats.

He also called on the United States to pass laws to lift a ban on US internet companies responding to terror-related search warrants from foreign law authorities.

More than 95 percent of crime and terror cases involve people using an American technology application, he said.

### CHALLENGE OF ENCRYPTION

Potential attackers and their Islamic State coaches usually move to the encrypted "dark web" to talk, Rousseau said.

"We can see the invitation, but we can't see the conversation afterwards," he said. "Encryption is stopping us from seeing the whole picture."

protections are especially strong, there is increasing understanding of the need for more access by counter-terror investigators, Grommes said.

"ISIL is vanishing from the soil and going cyber," he said, referring to the Islamic State group.

"There is a growing understanding that we have to adjust our legislation to the European level... to assert the balance between protecting privacy and discovering illegal things like international terrorism."

Nick Rasmussen, director of the US National Counterterrorism Center, said American authorities are having more success by pumping large amounts of evidence of potential jihadist activity to the social media companies themselves, to press them to act unilaterally.

"We are going to make sure we burden them with knowledge about how their tools, their technologies, their platforms are being used," he said.

# Bank bends rules

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with 1st Commercial Court in Chittagong -- on April 30, 2003, claiming more than Tk 32.05 crore including the principal amount and interest.

The bank also filed a criminal case against the borrower for unauthorised delivery of 10,000 tonnes of edible oil and palm oil.

It had financed the company for importing oil through 10 LCs worth \$2.86 million (Tk 23.21 crore at current conversion rate), between November 5, 2000 and January 25, 2002.

The company stored the oil in MEB Tank Terminal in Chittagong. Later, it sold the oil in the market without informing its financier UCB, thus committing a criminal offence.

Finding no way to recover the loan, the UCB board in December 2004 wrote off Tk 26.48 crore on condition that the cases continue and the BB is kept updated on the matter.

The board then decided to settle the loan for only Tk 5 crore in April 2008 when MA Hashem and his son Showkat Aziz Russell were UCB directors.

The final clearance came at a UCB board meeting chaired by Hashem on February 27, 2014. The matter was not listed as one of the meeting's top priority issues; rather it was on the "miscellaneous" agenda. The board decided to withdraw the cases and waive the loan for Tk 5 crore.

The minutes of the 361st board meeting read, "Resolved that the settlement of written-off outstanding of M/S Russel Vegetable Oils Ltd., Khatunganj Branch with redemption of land, building, machinery and other assets against payment of Tk 5 crore (already paid by the borrower company as per decision of 261st Board of Directors' meeting dated 03.04.2008) be approved and relevant cases be withdrawn."

Talking to The Daily Star, BB Deputy Governor SK Sur Chowdhury said, "Principal amount cannot be waived without the central bank's permission,

especially when there is involvement of a board member in the loan."

The Daily Star got it confirmed from the UCB that the bank had not taken Bangladesh Bank's approval before settling the loan.

As of December 31 last year, Hashem and his spouse had 2.54 crore shares in the UCB and his son Showkat 1.12 crore shares.

Hashem held the post of UCB chairman for five years and his son Showkat other important positions, including that of audit committee chairman.

Talking to this correspondent, Hashem said, "The board decided to settle the loan for Tk 5 crore in 2008 when Jahangir Alam Khan was chairman. As the decision was not implemented, I settled the issue in 2014."

He said the oil refinery project was abandoned and the borrowers gave the bank Tk 5 crore by selling their land.

Hashem said that though the borrowers were his relatives, the loan was sanctioned to Russel Vegetable Oils. His wife Sultana Hashem was not present at the board meeting which approved the loan.

"Humans can make mistakes, but you should see the intention," he said, referring to the loan settlement issue.

Jahangir Alam Khan, former chairman of the bank, didn't respond to phone calls and SMS from this newspaper.

Contacted, Muhammad Ali, who was UCB managing director in 2014, said he had no knowledge of the matter.

UCB Managing Director AEA Muhaimeen declined to comment.

MA Hashem started his business career in 1959 with tobacco trade. He later established Patex Group, one of the country's largest conglomerates with ventures involving banks, non-bank financial institutions, insurance, beverage, particle boards, drinking water, jute, plastic, aviation, paper and IT.