

AL-led alliance for int'l pressure on Naypyidaw

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League-led 14-party alliance yesterday called upon the international community to mount pressure on Myanmar to repatriate the Rohingyas residing in Bangladesh.

It also hoped that the world would respond to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's call to push Myanmar into resolving the Rohingya crisis.

The alliance came up with the call after a meeting at the party president's Dhanmondi office with Tariqat Federation Chairman Syed Nazibul Bashar Majibhandari in the chair.

Awami League president member Mohammad Nasim briefed the media afterwards.

Hasina has been trying to resolve the Rohingya crisis through diplomatic channels, he said. "...I hope everyone will respond."

Responding to a query, Nasim, also the health minister, said many countries as well as the United Nations have condemned the violence.

Blaming BNP for doing dirty politics over the Rohingya issue, Nasim said the party's statement criticising the government's diplomatic efforts is meaningless.

Briefing reporters, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon stressed the need for a national consensus so that the Rohingya crisis cannot harm national security and political stability of Bangladesh.

Jatiya Party Secretary General Shahidul Islam said the Rohingya issue is Myanmar's internal problem and the country will have to solve it with its own efforts.



Demanding that the Myanmar government immediately stop the horrific acts of violence against the Rohingyas, different organisations form human chains yesterday. Top, Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), a civil society platform, in front of Jatiya Press Club. Bottom left, Religious organisation Sri Krishna Seba Sangha, and right, Bangladesh Sammilito Peshajibi Parishad at the same venue. PHOTO: STAR

Myanmar planted landmines at border Confirms Amnesty International

UNB, Dhaka

Myanmar's security forces planted internationally banned antipersonnel landmines along its border with Bangladesh which have seriously injured at least three civilians and reportedly killed one man in the past week, Amnesty International (AI) said in a report published on its website yesterday.

Based on interviews with eyewitnesses and analysis by its own weapons experts, AI has documented what seems to be targeted use of landmines along a narrow stretch forming part of the north-western border of Rakhine State, where the United Nations estimates 270,000 people have fled a major military operation in the past fortnight.

"...The Myanmar military's callous use of inherently indiscriminate and deadly weapons at highly trafficked paths around the border is putting the lives of ordinary people at enormous risk," said Tirana Hassan, AI's Crisis Response Director, who is currently near the Bangladesh-Myanmar border.

"The Myanmar Army is one of only a handful of state forces worldwide, along with North Korea and Syria, to still openly use antipersonnel landmines. Authorities must immediately end this abhorrent practice against people who are already fleeing persecution."

Some of the mines have been found near Taung Pyo Let Wal (also known as Tumbro) in Myanmar's Rakhine State on the edge of the border with Bangladesh.

Several eyewitnesses said they had seen Myanmar security forces, including military personnel and Border Guard Police, plant mines close to the Myanmar-Bangladesh border.

Many have fled the area to a makeshift refugee camp inside Bangladesh, but make frequent trips back across the border to bring supplies or to help others to cross.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Myanmar, Suu Kyi keep drawing condemnations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday demanded that the Myanmar government immediately stop the "horrific acts of violence" against the Rohingyas and urged the global leaders and the United Nations (UN) to take necessary steps to stop this humanitarian tragedy.

At the same time, they slammed Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar's de facto leader, for failing to condemn the violence against the minority group of her country.

Over the past two weeks, an estimated 290,000 Rohingyas have sought refuge in Bangladesh fleeing military offensive in Myanmar's Rakhine State.

Calling for an immediate halt to all hostilities by the Myanmar authorities, the organisations formed human chains in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), a civil society platform, called upon the

Myanmar government to recognise the Rohingyas as its citizens.

Speaking at a human chain, Murshikul Islam Shimul, co-coordinator (Dhaka zone) of Shujan, said if Rohingyas keep coming to Bangladesh following atrocities in Myanmar, Bangladesh will have to face severe problems in the days to come.

"Although Bangladesh government is providing shelter to Rohingya refugees, it will not be able to solve the Rohingya crisis alone," he added.

"It [Rohingya issue] needs to be seen as a humanitarian crisis rather than a political one."

Abul Hasnat, general secretary (Dhaka district committee) of Shujan, said the activities of Myanmar army are identical to those of Pakistan Army, who tried to exterminate the Bengali people in 1971.

Condemning the violence against and displacement of Rohingya civilians, Bangladesh Sammilito Peshajibi Parishad

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Hefajat to besiege Myanmar embassy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hefajat-e Islam, a Chittagong-based Islamist group, yesterday threatened to besiege the Myanmar embassy in Dhaka on September 19 protesting the ongoing atrocities on Rohingya Muslims in that country.

Hefajat General Secretary Junaid Abbunagri made the announcement at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club.

They would also organise a countrywide protest rally on September 16, he said.

He said they will submit memorandums to the United Nations and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

The Knowledge Machine

Month-long exhibition of primitive letterpress opens in capital



Visitors at an exhibition highlighting the significance of centuries-old printing technique of letterpress at the Bangladesh National Museum in the capital's Shahbagh. The month-long event was inaugurated yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

JAMIL MAHMUD

In one corner of Bangladesh National Museum, Rafiqul Islam is painstakingly assembling small metal blocks on a specialised frame.

He picks up the metal blocks from strange-looking wooden cases, containing hundreds of cubicles, placed around him. To be exact, there are 456 cubicles altogether.

The individual metal blocks Rafiqul is setting are carved letters of Bangla type and the wooden cases are called type cases.

Letter after letter he is forming lines of text. And line by line he is creating a template of a page to be used for printing a poem.

Rafiqul, a former compositor, is displaying the intricate craft of composition for letterpress printing at an exhibition being held at the museum titled "Okkhorjojonar Maddhomey Banglar Prachin Mudron Koushol" (primitive techniques of Bangla printing through typesetting).

The month-long exhibition was inaugurated yesterday to highlight the historic significance of letterpress machines.

The particular type of printing press, set up for Rafiqul's display of printing

techniques, is known as a treadle printing machine. An operator is standing by to run the machine once the composition is complete.

Remembering where to find each specific letter -- out of over 500 letters including the conjoined ones -- in the maze of cubicles is a task that requires sharp memory and long experience. In contrast, only 26 letters are required for printing in English.

"I used to be quick in finding each letter in its particular cubicle. But now, it takes me a few seconds longer, because I left the profession a couple of decades back," Rafiqul told this correspondent.

The centuries-old primitive letterpress, which played a significant role in shaping the printing history in Bangla, is about to become obsolete in the country, thanks to the rapid transformation in digital printing technology.

The museum authorities said a letterpress machine would be placed on display at the museum permanently after the exhibition is over.

The ongoing exhibition is part of a recent effort under which a museum was built at Kushtia's Kumarkhali in memory of publishing pioneer journalist Kargal Harinath, who founded his publishing house in 1863, they also said.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



Mina Parveen, project director of "Tottho Apa" (second phase) under the supervision of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, speaks at the inauguration of the "Digital Innovation Challenge for Woman 2017" at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The event was powered by Microsoft Bangladesh in association with The Daily Star.

Promote secularism to resist radicalisation

Shahriar Kabir tells seminar in Sweden

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lack of secular values, social injustice, culture of impunity and bad governance are the major reasons behind radicalisation, said eminent writer Shahriar Kabir.

Civil society across the world should come forward to prepare a de-radicalisation strategy as well as promote secularism and democracy to resist radicalisation, he added.

The acting president of Ekattorer Ghatk Dalal Nirmul Committee made the remarks while addressing as the key speaker at a seminar, "De-radicalising Muslim Diaspora in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Exploitation: Rohingya man sells 7 cows at Tk 8,000

ANANTA YUSUF

A small border hut in Ghumdum of Ukhia in Cox's Bazar was full of cattle and was offering cows at surprisingly low prices on Tuesday.

The traders were asking Tk 10,000 to Tk 15,000 for each cow, which, elsewhere in the country, would not be below Tk 30,000.

After asking a few people, the reason behind such low prices became clear: most of the animals came with the Rohingyas refugees, who were persuaded or tricked into selling their cattle at unbelievably low prices.

"I brought seven cows from my home. But I had to sell those for only Tk 8,000," said Moazzem Hossain, 35, at Ghumdum Bazar.

Moazzem was not in a position to bargain for a good price. Local traders and touts have all been united to buy these animals at as low price as possible.

They tell the refugees that their animals are ill or unhealthy and will die if they do not sell them fast. On the other side, the refugees also urgently need the money.

Another refugee, Shamsul Alam,



Brought along by a Rohingya refugee from Myanmar, it's an end of the road for these two cows at Shah Porir Dwip in Teknaf upazila Thursday. The long hazardous journey took a heavy toll on the animals as one of them fell dead and the other became so sick that he abandoned it there.

was much fortunate. Sitting near the bazar and staring at the animals that he sold to a local trader, Alam told The Daily Star that he got Tk 7,000 to Tk 8,000 for each of his cattle, which were all healthy and larger.

This correspondent met many Rohingyas refugees along the Tomburu

border of Ghumdum in Naikhangchhari, Kutupalong, Tangkhali, Balukhali and other places who were forced to sell their animals at unbelievably low prices.

There are refugees like Mohammad Ali who had all their luck turned against

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

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ApollO HOSPITALS DHAKA TOUCHING LIVES

Life-threatening heart condition of newborn treated with timely intervention

A three-days old baby weighing 3 kilograms was admitted to Apollo Hospitals Dhaka with the complaints of bluish discoloration of skin and respiratory distress since birth. After evaluation, the baby was diagnosed as pulmonary atresia (membranous), restricted patent ductus arteriosus and small patent foramen ovale with hypoplastic confluent branch pulmonary arteries.

As the baby had low saturation, an emergency balloon atrial septostomy (Raskind procedure) was carried out by Interventional Pediatric Cardiologist—Dr. Tahera Nazrin of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka. The main objective of the procedure was to make an atrial septal defect in order to allow more blood to travel to the lungs. After the procedure, the baby's saturation improved, while the PDA was kept open with a steady inflow of intravenous Prostaglandin E1. Raskind procedure is not a corrective surgery. It is a live saving non surgical procedure.