

# THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

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## ENDLESS INFLUX

### 1m by year end, predicts IOM

Rohingyas pouring in day and night, making it difficult for local officials to manage the refugees

PINAKI ROY and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAI from Shah Porir Dwip, Teknaf

It was an endless stream of Rohingyas crossing into Bangladesh from the strife-torn Rakhine State in Myanmar.

Some had lost all their loved ones while others were lucky enough to escape with their family members.

Crossing the Naf river, dozens of boats with 20 to 25 people each docked at Shah Porir Dwip round-the-clock. The new arrivals got down from boats and headed for the refugee camps in Teknaf of Cox's Bazar.

Tens of thousands of Rohingyas continue to pour into Bangladesh since August 25 when Rohingya insurgents attacked police posts and an army base, prompting a military counter-offensive.

Yesterday, International Organisation for Migration Director (operations and emergency) Mohammed Abdiker Mohamed said 10,000 to 20,000 refugees are arriving every day, and if this trend continues, the number may reach a million by year end.

The number of newly arrived Rohingyas was about 400,000, he said. "We are really getting concerned that the number will increase... Two weeks ago, we talked about 70,000 to 80,000. Yesterday, we talked about 379,000," Mohamed said at a joint press conference organised by UN Refugee Agency UNHCR and the IOM at a hotel in the capital.

"Unless a political solution is found, there is a possibility that the entire Rohingya community may come to Bangladesh," he said, according to

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**MUHAMMAD ABDIKER MOHAMMAD**  
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL  
ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION



Rohingyas in a seemingly endless line keep pouring in. Having crossed the Naf river by boats, they walk on the banks at Shah Porir Dwip in Bangladesh. The picture was taken yesterday.

4,00,000 AND COUNTING

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Persecution must stop

US secretary of state says; EU sanction on Myanmar sought

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

International pressure on Myanmar soared yesterday as US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson called the violence against Rohingyas minorities "unacceptable".

The European Parliament urged European Union to make it clear that the 28-nation block was prepared to consider sanctions on Myanmar if it did not halt human rights abuses.

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## Too little, too late

INAM AHMED and SHAKHAWAT LITON

Although it came quite late in the series of events, the UN Security Council statement Wednesday still reminded the world how terrible is the nature of persecution and massacre of the Rohingyas. So grave is the matter now that even China and Russia which in the past had blocked several UN resolutions since 2007 including the one mooted in March this year did not object to Wednesday's censure.

After the statement, British UN Ambassador Matthew Rycroft said it was the first time in nine years the council had agreed to a statement on Myanmar.

This is probably because the world has this time been totally convinced of what the International State Crime Initiative (ISCI), had concluded in its 2015 report that "the Rohingyas faces the final stages

of genocide".

The ISCI, a highly respected community of scholars working to expose, document, explain and resist state crimes, is based at Queen Mary University of London. Its other partners are University of Hull, University of Ulster and Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. Eminent linguist, historian and philosopher Noam Chomsky is one of its honorary fellows.

Nevertheless, its report said to be the most systematic study on the treatment of the Rohingyas had gone largely unnoticed or been ignored by the international community. Otherwise the world would not have waited for 2017. And the ongoing murders and rapes of the Rohingyas could perhaps be avoided.

While doing the study, ISCI had found that of the six stages of genocide -- stigmatization; harassment;

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## Same chair, but worlds apart

PINAKI ROY and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAI

Samir Uddin, who rushed to help the distressed throughout his life, has now grown so old that he can't even move on his own. Until recently, he used to sit on his favourite wooden easy chair at a corner of his homestead in Rakhine the entire day. Passers-by would stop and greet him out of respect.

These days, the Rohingya man still sits on the same chair, but the place is not the same. For him, it is an unknown place with almost no familiar faces.

Although the violence broke out in Rakhine on August 25, Samir and his family moved to Bangladesh last week. They tried their best to stay there in vain.



Samir Uddin

REPORTER'S Diary

Messy day, every day

OSAMA RAHMAN, from Cox's Bazar

As I was heading towards Shah Porir Dwip, the uninterrupted range of lush green mountains had an entrancing effect. Momentarily, I forgot my purpose for visiting. As I was marveling at the clouds delicately clinging to the mountains, like lovers reuniting after a long time, I realised, not all the wisps were clouds; some were

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## Who's calling the shots in Myanmar?

THE HUFFINGTON POST

If you haven't been paying much attention to events in Myanmar recently, you might be shocked or surprised by Aung San Suu Kyi. Yes, her response to the violence in Rakhine state, on the country's west coast, has been extremely disappointing. No, she shouldn't be denying that human rights abuses are happening. Yes, she should!

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Driver of an over-loaded nosimon, a locally made three-wheeler, lets go of the handlebars while talking to the men on the moving vehicle. Such three-wheelers are banned on the highways. The photo was taken on Cox's Bazar-Teknaf road in Court Bazar area on Tuesday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Rice price soars

Qamrul smells 'plot to embarrass govt'; report on India's export ban a rumour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As rice prices have gone up further in the last four days, the government yesterday said conspiracy has been afoot to destabilise the rice market.

"A certain quarter is playing politics with rice across the country... A subtle conspiracy has been hatched to embarrass the government," Food Minister Qamrul Islam told reporters at a press briefing at his secretariat office.

"The country now has a rice stock of 1 crore tonnes at various levels. There is no rice crisis... There is no reason that the price of rice will spiral to Tk 70 to Tk 80 a kg or attempts will be made to hike it to Tk 100," he added.

Meanwhile, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday in parliament dismissed some recent newspaper reports that India stopped exporting rice to Bangladesh till November.

"I talked to the Indian deputy high commissioner over the phone today [yesterday]. I also contacted our high commissioner in India. They categorically denied the information that India has stopped rice export to Bangladesh," he said.

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