

# PM expects

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"He just asked how is Bangladesh? I said 'it's doing very well, but the only problem that we have is the refugees from Myanmar'," Hasina told Reuters in an interview. "But he didn't make any comment about refugees."

A Myanmar military response to insurgent attacks last month in the country's Rakhine state sent more than 410,000 Rohingya Muslims fleeing to neighboring Bangladesh, escaping what the United Nations has branded as ethnic cleansing.

The Myanmar government says about 400 people have been killed in the fighting.

Hasina, who is due to address the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations General Assembly tomorrow, said Trump's stance on refugees was clear, so it was not worth asking him for help with the Rohingya refugees.

"Already America declared that they will not allow any refugees," she said. "What I can expect from them, and especially [the] president. He already declared his mind ... so why I should ask?"

"Bangladesh is not a rich country ... but if we can feed 160 million people, another 500 or 700,000 people, we can do it."

A senior White House official was unaware of the exchange but said Trump was deeply interested in the subject and that "he would definitely engage if it were brought up."

Shortly after taking office in January, Trump tried to put a 120-day halt on the US refugee program, bar Syrian refugees indefinitely and impose a 90-day suspension on people from six predominantly Muslim countries.

"The travel ban into the United States should be far larger, tougher and more specific-but stupidly, that would not be politically correct!" Trump said on Twitter on Friday.

About a million Rohingya lived in Rakhine State until the recent violence. Most face travel restrictions and are denied citizenship in a country where many Buddhists regard them as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

Hasina said she wanted to see more international political pressure on Myanmar to allow the Rohingya to return.

"[Aung San Suu Kyi] should agree that these people belong to her country and that Myanmar is their country. They should take them back," she said. "These people are suffering."

# Vital information

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Hours after it was prepared, this correspondent found a copy of the report having a line that read the deceased had "swollen injury mark" at the back of his head.

A few days later, the line, however, was crossed out in the report. There were signatures of the magistrate on that line.

Asked why it was done, SI Kamal said, "Please don't ask me any question about it. I am feeling embarrassed."

He advised this correspondent to talk to the magistrate instead.

Asked, the magistrate refused to make any comment on the matter. "I can't talk about it. I am sorry," said the magistrate.

Contacted, Rajshahi Zone Rab Director Lt Col Mahbubul Alam, who had earlier rejected the allegations against the Rab company commander brought by Majharul's wife, said he was unaware about the change made in the police inquest report.

He, however, said most of the injury marks mentioned in the inquest report "were not injuries at all by the definition of law".

The inquest report stated that there were injury marks on the middle of Majharul's forehead, sides of both eyes, on his lips and throat.

Injury marks were also found on his left chin, knees, toes, left hand, near elbows, waist and back.

Meanwhile, talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Hamidul Haque, a senior criminal lawyer in Rajshahi, said in many cases in the past, information was deleted from the police inquest reports. "I found such cases before. This is done to cover up crimes and save criminals."

A family member of Majharul said, "I want justice. The accused are powerful people. The change was made [in the inquest report] so that they can go unpunished."

# Delhi to help

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Bangladesh PM yesterday. The meeting with the prime minister of Bangladesh was more in the nature of a courtesy meeting. It was a very short meeting. The issue of Rohingya did not come up during the meeting for discussion, Raveesh Kumar, spokesperson of the external affairs ministry, told reporters at a news conference in New Delhi.

Raveesh said the discussion between Hasina and Sushma was "purely bilateral".

"Warm encounter reflecting our historical and cultural ties. Courtesy call on Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by EAM," he said in a tweet after the meeting.



Satellite images released by HRW

# UN wants unfettered, full access to Rakhine

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termed it a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing".

The crackdown forced over 415,000 Rohingyas to flee to Bangladesh.

Myanmar Army, however, has rejected credible accounts of widespread abuses and said it is conducting operations against the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army that attacked security forces on August 25.

It claims that ARSA militants and Rohingya villagers have torched their own homes, but fails to present any evidence to substantiate the claim.

Contradicting Myanmar Army's claims, HRW in its yesterday's statement said a new analysis of satellite imagery from Rakhine brought forth the near total destruction of 214 villages.

The satellite images, made possible due to a clearing of monsoon cloud on September 16, reveal destruction of tens of thousands of homes across Maungdaw and Rathedaung Townships.

"These images provide shocking evidence of massive destruction in an

apparent attempt by Burmese security forces to prevent the Rohingya from returning to their villages," said Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director at HRW.

"World leaders meeting at the UN should act to end this mounting crisis and show Burma's military leaders they will pay a price for such atrocities."

**MSF WANTS ACCESS FOR AID GROUPS TO RAKHINE**

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in a statement yesterday demanded that international humanitarian organisations must immediately be granted independent and unfettered access, including for international staff, to address massive humanitarian needs in Rakhine State.

Hundreds of thousands of people in Northern Rakhine are left without any meaningful form of humanitarian assistance.

In Central Rakhine, approximately 120,000 internally displaced people remain in camps where they are entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance for their survival, due to

severe movement restrictions.

MSF said there is a "very real risk that patients will die unnecessarily" in Rakhine unless MSF and other international humanitarian agencies are immediately allowed unhindered access to all areas in Rakhine.

**REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL WANTS SANCTIONS ON MYANMAR**

Washington-based Refugee International has urged US President Donald Trump to impose financial sanctions and arms embargo on Myanmar.

"During his UN address, President Trump must demand strong measures to end the ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity being perpetrated by the Myanmar military against the Rohingya people," said Refugee International President Eric Schwartz at a press conference at a city hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

Refugee International President Eric P Schwartz and senior advocate for human rights Daniel P Sullivan visited Cox's Bazar and collected first-hand

information about the recent arrivals.

"There is no doubt in my mind that Burma is responsible for crimes against humanity," Schwartz said.

**IOM CONCERNED OVER HEALTH EMERGENCIES IN ROHINGYA CAMPS**

In a statement, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said newly arrived children are at high risk of vaccine preventable diseases.

Bangladesh government, World Health Organisation and humanitarian partners launched an urgent immunization programme to vaccinate 150,000 newly arrived children.

"Nutrition support and management of malnutrition, especially severe acute malnutrition, are also urgently needed for these children," said Dr Samir Kumar Howlader, IOM National Health Programme Officer.

"Lack of safe drinking water, personal hygiene and sanitation facilities have already resulted in acute watery diarrhea and other water borne diseases. So, disease surveillance and

early warning systems also need to be strengthened significantly," he added.

**ATROCITY ON ROHINGYA BARBARIC: AMARTYA SEN**

Nobel laureate Prof Amartya Sen and Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales have offered to be signatories to the open letter written by Nobel peace laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus to the UN Security council, calling for an intervention to end the humanitarian crisis in Rakhine, UNB reports.

In a letter to Yunus Centre yesterday, Amartya Sen expressed his willingness to add his name to the list of signatories, says a release of Yunus Centre.

Prof Sen wrote to Prof Yunus that he does not usually add his name to joint statements, but "the atrocity in Burma on the Rohingya is so intolerable -- that so uniquely -- barbaric that I have to sign the letter".

Wikipedia Founder Jimmy Wales and Middle-East-based business leader and philanthropist Arif Naqvi also wrote to the Yunus Centre to add their names to the list.

# PM seeks

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said representatives from the USA, Germany, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, China and Denmark as well as national security adviser of Myanmar attended the meeting.

The leaders highly appreciated the way Bangladesh has given shelter and other supports to the Myanmar Rohingyas.

The Bangladesh foreign secretary said his country along with 127 others also signed the US-drafted 10-point political declaration backing efforts by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to initiate an effective and meaningful reform of the world body.

**BHUTANESE PM MEETS HASINA**  
The PM also held a bilateral meeting with her Bhutanese counterpart Tshering Tobgay.

Shahidul said the Bhutanese leader expressed keenness to take services from the Bangabandhu Satellite, to be launched into the orbit later this year, as well as to procure internet bandwidth from Bangladesh.

The PM said Bangladesh would work out the modalities and consult with India on the bandwidth issue as internet cable would pass through the Indian territory.

# Geneva toilets

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Derouand said two people had agreed to compensate the restaurants for the costs of the blockage, and the restaurants had withdrawn a complaint that they made when the incident happened in May.

The cash was confiscated during the investigation and it was unclear who would get it if it was found to be lawful. There was no immediate reason to think it was dirty money, Derouand said.

# Dhaka hosts

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of CPA, is set for the eight-day-long mega event, the global issue would be discussed, Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, speaker of Bangladesh Parliament, told reporters at a briefing at the Jatiya Sangsad Media Centre.

"The Rohingya crisis was not developed when the executive committee of CPA finalised the agenda for the 63rd conference. But there is an opportunity to discuss the sufferings of the Rohingya people during a workshop titled 'What factors fuel the rise of different kinds of nationalism'," she said in reply to a query.

Echoing Shirin Sharmin, also chairperson of the CPA, Akbar Khan, secretary general of CPA, said it is certain that the issue would come up for discussions.

The speaker said the CPA Bangladesh chapter and the Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad would host

the conference at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre and the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Some 600 delegates including the speakers, deputy speakers, lawmakers and other delegates from 180 national and provincial parliaments of 52 countries are set to attend the conference, she said in a written statement.

Representatives from the UN and other international organisations would also take part.

The theme of the 63rd CPC is set as "continuing to enhance the high standards of performance of parliamentarians."

The conference would elect the new chairperson of the parliamentary group for a three-year term.

Although the conference would kick off on November 1, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also vice-patron of the CPC, would formally inaugurate the

conference on November 5 at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Shirin Sharmin would preside over the conference, in which Deputy Speaker Fazole Rabbi Mia would lead the Bangladesh delegation.

Formed in 1911, the annual flagship event would bring together parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and decision makers from across the Commonwealth for this unique conference and networking opportunity.

The 62nd CPC was held in London where the group decided to hold the next conference in Dhaka. The CPA assembly was originally scheduled to be held in Dhaka in 2016, but the congregation was postponed following the deadly attack on Holey Artisan Bakery that left 22 people, mostly foreigners, dead.

# 5 dubious claims Suu Kyi made in her speech

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challenges facing Rakhine, and police and military action in the state.

Following attacks on border police posts in October 2016, the report said, "subsequent military and police operations led to tens of thousands of Muslims fleeing across the border to Bangladesh."

"While Myanmar has every right to defend its own territory, a highly militarized response is unlikely to bring peace to the area," the report said.

"Unless concerted action -- led by the government and aided by all sectors of the government and society -- is taken soon, we risk the return of another cycle of violence and radicalisation, which will further deepen the chronic poverty that afflicts Rakhine State," Annan said in a statement.

UN human rights chief, Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini, has said the situation in Myanmar seems like a "textbook case of ethnic cleansing," a claim which has been repeated by multiple human rights groups.

Both Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have published damning reports on the causes of the exodus, including accusations that the Myanmar military has deliberately burned Rohingya villages in a campaign of "ethnic cleansing" against the minority.

They backed up this conclusion with satellite imagery of fires, photos and videos from the ground, and witness

testimony of human rights abuses by the Myanmar authorities.

**'MYANMAR DOES NOT FEAR INTERNATIONAL SCRUTINY'**

Suu Kyi said she is aware of the "world's attention" focused on Myanmar presently, but said her government "does not fear international scrutiny."

"If you are interested in joining us in our endeavors, please let us know," she added. "We can arrange for you to visit these areas and to ask (those who have stayed) why they have not fled, why they have chosen to remain in their villages."

While the situation may change following Suu Kyi's speech, access to Rakhine State has been heavily restricted to media, human rights groups, and diplomats.

A tightly government-controlled media trip to Rakhine state was organized earlier this month, but permits for journalists to visit the area independently and interview people without official interference have been next to impossible to come by.

Amnesty International has accused the government of denying aid workers access to the state, while in January UN special rapporteur on human rights Yanghee Lee was prevented from visiting some parts of the state for "security reasons."

Doctors Without Borders said it had been providing services to displaced people within Rakhine, "but international staff have not been granted travel

authorizations to visit the health facilities since August, whilst national staff have been too afraid to go to work following remarks by Myanmar officials accusing NGOs of colluding with (militant groups)."

In December, Kofi Annan also appeared to criticize the government's denial of access to Rakhine to aid groups and other NGOs.

**'THE GREAT MAJORITY OF RAKHINES IN THE STATE HAVE NOT JOINED THE EXODUS'**

Rakhine State has a population of around 3.1 million, some one million of which are Rohingya Muslims.

The UN estimates that over 400,000 Rohingyas have arrived in Bangladesh since August 25. They joined around one million Rohingyas already in the country who traveled there during previous periods of unrest.

Earlier this month, the government said 176 out of 471, or 37.4% of all Rohingya villages were empty of people, and an additional 34 villages were "partially abandoned." During her speech, Suu Kyi said, "50% of the villages of Muslims are intact."

Suu Kyi did not use the word "Rohingya" in her speech to describe Muslims living in Rakhine, so it is difficult to ascertain whether she is referring to the state's entire population, or specifically the Rohingya population the UN and others say have been disproportionately affected by recent violence.

impose its will on other nations and will respect other countries' sovereignty.

"I will defend America's interests above all else," he said. "But in fulfilling our obligations to other nations we also realize it's in everyone's interest to seek a future where all nations can be sovereign, prosperous and secure."

Reading carefully from a script, Trump said the US military would soon be the strongest it has ever been.

Turning to Venezuela, Trump called the collapsing situation there "completely unacceptable" and said the United States cannot stand by and watch. He warned the United States was considering what further actions it can take.

"We cannot stand by and watch," he said.

# Light rain

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Matsya Bhaban intersection and then on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue where I was stuck for an hour," he said.

Mohsin Habib, an employee of a private company, said he had a minor accident at Shewrapara while going to his office at Karwan Bazar as a private car rammed his motorcycle thanks to the dilapidated condition of Begum Rokeya Sarani.

"A large part of the road was battered due to construction work for metro rail. This narrowed down the road, making it pretty difficult for the vehicles to move amid huge presence of rickshaws," he said.

The met office has meanwhile forecast that rain might continue over the city and the middle and southern parts of the country till September 24 due to the low. The rainfall is likely to increase further after September 25.

"Light to moderate rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind are likely to occur at most places of Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at many places of Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions," the forecast says.

Besides, the meteorological department advised hoisting the local cautionary signal no three for the maritime ports, including Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla.

Abul Kalam Mallik, a meteorologist of Bangladesh Meteorological Department, told this correspondent that the monsoon was still active over the country and the northern Bay of Bengal, and the rain was normal in the season.

"We will take a decision about the signal at the ports after observing the weather till 10:00am tomorrow [today]," he said.

"Rohingya" is a politically charged term in Myanmar and one the government has repeatedly refused to endorse.

The only time Suu Kyi said the word during her speech was when she referred to the ARSA militant group -- the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army.

"She chooses to use the word in relation to a terrorist group, that means that is the only identity that Rohingya will be attached to, from her perspective and she hopes from the international perspective," said Penny Green, a professor of law at Queen Mary University of London.

**'ALL PEOPLE (IN RAKHINE) HAVE ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE SERVICES'**

Suu Kyi's claims Rohingyas have access to the same services as their non-Muslim neighbors is contradicted by the Annan commission's report which found Muslims, in particular internally displaced persons, are "deprived of freedom of movement."

"Movement restrictions have a wide range of detrimental effects, including reduced access to education, health and services, strengthened communal segregation, and reduced economic interaction," the report said.

Moreover, it found that "access to health is particularly low within the Muslim community in the northern and central parts of the state. In some areas, Muslims face discriminative obstacles that prevent available lifesav-

ing services from being accessed."

Azeem Ibrahim, a senior fellow at the Center for Global Policy who has visited internally displaced person camps within Myanmar, told CNN the population there "don't have the same level of access at all to anything."

**'NO CLEARANCE OPERATIONS' SINCE SEPTEMBER 5**

In late August, Rohingya militants attacked and killed 12 security officers, according to Myanmar's state media, which kicked off the latest round of violence.

Human rights groups and other observers say those attacks were responded to with a major military and security operation that included helicopter attacks and the burning of Rohingya villages. Refugees have also told CNN non-Muslim groups were armed and encouraged to attack their Muslim neighbors.

Government efforts to "restore the situation to normalcy" are succeeding, Suu Kyi said. "Since the fifth of September, there have been no armed clashes and there have been no clearance operations."

However, satellite imagery examined by Amnesty International appears to show more than a dozen burned villages and fires since that date.

Human Rights Watch said 62 villages were torched between August 25 and September 14.