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PERMANENT SOLUTION TO ROHINGYA CRISIS PM urges quick, effective UN steps



- Myanmar must unconditionally stop violence, ethnic cleansing
- Protect all civilians irrespective of religion, ethnicity in Rakhine State
- Establish 'safe zones' under UN supervision in Myanmar for the protection of people irrespective of religion, ethnicity
- Implement Annan commission recommendations, send UN fact-finding mission to assess situation
- Ensure 'sustainable return' of all forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Bangladesh to their homes in Myanmar
- Currently Bangladesh hosts over 800,000 Rohingyas of Myanmar

BSS, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought expeditious UN and global interventions to protect all civilians in Myanmar's Rakhine State and take effective steps for a permanent solution to the protracted Rohingya crisis.

Addressing the UN General Assembly in New York on Thursday, she called upon the UN secretary-general to immediately send a "fact-finding mission" to Rakhine.

She suggested several other steps to stop ethnic cleansing in Rakhine. "Firstly, Myanmar must unconditionally stop the violence and the practice of ethnic cleansing in Rakhine State immediately and forever."

Hasina reiterated Bangladesh's call to establish "safe zones" in Myanmar under UN supervision to protect all civilians irrespective of religion and ethnicity and implement the recommendations made by the Kofi Annan-led Rakhine advisory commission unconditionally.

She said "sustainable return" of all the forcibly displaced Myanmar Rohingyas to their homes must be ensured so that they can return safely and securely and with dignity.

The PM said it was the 14th time she was addressing the UN General Assembly (UNGA), but this time she came to New York with a heavy heart just after seeing the "hungry, distressed and hopeless Rohingyas" in Cox's Bazar.

"Hundreds of thousands of Rohingyas from Rakhine State are entering Bangladesh to flee violence. As estimated by the International Organisation for Migration, over 430,000 Rohingyas entered Bangladesh in the last three weeks," she told the UN's annual meeting.

Forcibly displaced people of Myanmar fled an "ethnic cleansing" in their own country where they had been living for centuries, she added.

According to the PM, Bangladesh was currently sheltering over 800,000 Rohingyas. The ongoing atrocities and human rights violations in Rakhine once again aggravated the situation at the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, she said.

"We are horrified to see that the Myanmar authorities are laying landmines along their stretch of the border to prevent the Rohingyas from returning to their native land."

Hasina condemned all kinds of terrorism and violent extremism in Myanmar saying her government

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A Rohingya refugee child carries aid in Cox's Bazar yesterday. The United Nations will need \$200 million over the next six months to face the "catastrophic" influx of more than 4,20,000 refugees, a top UN official said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Myanmar found guilty of genocide

International peoples' court delivers verdict

"The State of Myanmar is guilty of the crime of genocide against the Rohingya group.... the casualties of that genocide could be even higher in the future if nothing is done to stop it."

PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL

STAR REPORT

Myanmar is guilty of genocide against the Rohingya people, according to the verdict of international Permanent Peoples' Tribunal.

A seven-member panel announced the verdict yesterday after considering documentary and expert evidence as well as the testimony of some 200 victims of the atrocities committed

against the Rohingya, Kachin and other minority groups in Myanmar, reports The Star Online of Malaysia.

Head judge Daniel Feierstein, who founded the Centre for Genocide Studies in Argentina, read out the findings following five days of hearing held at the moot court of the law faculty of University of Malaya.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina meets UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at the United Nations in New York on Thursday.

PHOTO: PTD

ROHINGYA REFUGEES Army to help dist admin in relief efforts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Bangladesh Army will start working in coordination with the district administration on the relief efforts and rehabilitation of Rohingya refugees from today.

The army and the administration will distribute relief materials at 12 different points in Ukhiya and Teknaf, Cox's Bazar. Deputy Commissioner Ali Hossain told a press conference at his office yesterday.

Since August 26, the

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Expecting mothers in urgent need of food, healthcare

PINAKI ROY and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

Amid several hundred Rohingya people, Sajeda Begum was trying her best to grab some food or other aid thrown from running vehicles on Cox's Bazar-Teknaf road yesterday.

But after a while, the four-month pregnant mother stopped trying as she lost her strength to fight with hundreds of refugees jostling for food near the Kutupalong camp.

"Please, give me something for my baby," begged Sajeda, 22, in a broken voice holding her one-year-old son.

Like her, many expecting Rohingya women, especially whose husbands went missing or got killed, are in urgent need of food and medical care.

Among the new arrivals of some 4,29,000 Rohingya refugees, more than 16,000 are expecting mothers, according to Health Minister Mohammed Nasim.

"Sometimes we ate dry food that we brought from home and sometimes borrowed food from others," said Sajeda, describing how they survived on the way before crossing the border.



Rasheda Begum with her son Aiyaz.

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India, China sympathetic to Rohingyas

Says PM

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said diplomats of India and China saw for themselves the plight of the Rohingyas and they were very much sympathetic to them.

She was responding to a question during a press conference at the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN.

The PM also mentioned that India and China came forward with humanitarian assistance, and they were sending relief materials to Bangladesh for the Rohingyas. "They're extending all sorts of cooperation."

Hasina said all the diplomats, stationed in Dhaka, went to the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar to see for themselves the sufferings of the refugees. "They talked to them ... they're all sympathetic to the Rohingya refugees."

She added that after giving shelter to some 800,000 Myanmar nationals

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Flood-hit people's plight not over

Homeless flood victims still living on dykes

STAR REPORT

For the last 42 days, the Water Development Board's dyke has been Delwar Hossain's home.

He along with his five family members took refuge on the embankment in Lalmonirhat Sadar after floodwater washed away his house at Gobordhan village on August 12.

All his belongings, crop and livestock were lost to the swirling water of the Teesta river.

Floodwater receded from the village in the last week of August. But his plight is far from over as it's almost impossible for the 52-year-old farm labourer to rebuild his house without financial support.

"Only Allah knows how long we will have to live like this on the dyke," he said.

Hasina Bewa, another flood victim, is luckier than Delwar.

The 32-year-old woman, who has been staying in a makeshift house beside Lalmonirhat-Fulbari road with her husband and their two kids since August 11, got a bundle of corrugated iron sheets and Tk 3,000 in aid for rebuilding her house.

"This is too inadequate to build a house anew," said Hasina whose family is now fully dependent on government relief.

She said she needed around Tk 35,000 to reconstruct the house.



Like Delwar and Hasina, many flood victims are still living in makeshift houses on WDB dykes and at the roadside. Most of them depend on relief from government and NGOs for survival.

More than five million people of 27 districts have been affected by flood resulting from onrush of water from upstream and incessant rain in August. Floodwater badly damaged roads and caused huge losses to the farmers.

Though floodwater receded in most of the districts, the situation in some flood-hit districts is still dismal with many families

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CREDIT RATING

Valid From	Valid Till	Rating Action	Long Term Rating	Short Term Rating	Outlook
May 19, 2017	May 18, 2018	Surveillance	A+	ST-2	Stable

Long Term Rating: An institution rated "A+" has a strong capacity to meet its financial commitments but is somewhat more susceptible to adverse developments in the economy, and to business and other external conditions than institutions in higher-rated categories. Some minor weaknesses may exist but these are moderated by other positive factors.

Short Term Rating: An institution rated "ST-2" has a strong capacity to meet its financial commitments in a timely manner; however, it is somewhat susceptible to adverse developments in the economy, and in business and other external conditions.