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Deep division, no action

Most members, including US, UK, France, strongly condemn Rohingya persecution at UNSC; meeting ends without resolution as China, Russia back Myanmar

SHAKHAWAT LITON

China and Russia has once again prevented the UN Security Council from making any decision on Myanmar to protect Rohingyas from atrocities, just three years after demonstrating a strong anti-genocide stance.

In 2014, when the UNSC held a discussion on occasion of the 20th commemoration of Rwanda genocide, Beijing and Moscow joined other members of the council to air their concerns against genocide.

With their support the council unanimously passed a strongly-worded resolution, renewing its commitment to fight against genocide.

But three years down the line, China and Russia at the Security Council meeting on Thursday vehemently opposed any action against Myanmar. This exposed a deep division within the the UN's most powerful body, with the US, the UK and France demanding an end to "ethnic cleansing" of Rohingya, a Muslim minority in the Buddhist-majority Myanmar.

Empowered to take collective action to prevent and halt atrocity crimes, the UN is

unable to take any action until an end to the deadlock in the UNSC.

The Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorise the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security. But for this it needs to unanimously pass a resolution with no negative vote by any of its permanent members.

The UNSC's three other permanent members -- the US, the UK and France enjoying the veto power along with China and Russia in the council -- may need to find alternative ways to put pressure on Myanmar to resolve the Rohingya crisis, according to political analysts.

What China and Russia said at Thursday's meeting sends a clear indication that they did not move an inch from their previous stance on Myanmar and is likely to stick to their guns in the Rohingya issue in the coming days.

Eleven years ago, they cast a double veto to the UNSC's first draft resolution on Myanmar which called on the then military

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A Rohingya man mourns beside the bodies of his three children at a school near Inani beach in Cox's Bazar yesterday. At least 20 people, including the three, drowned in the Bay on Thursday when a boat carrying Rohingya families capsized near Inani beach.

PHOTO: AFP

ROHINGYAS DISPLACED FROM MYANMAR

Dhaka for safe, sustainable return of all

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has called for measures to ensure safe, voluntary and sustainable return of all the people displaced from Myanmar into its territory over the years, including those displaced recently.

"Bangladesh looks forward to immediately start working with Myanmar and the international community to help implement the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State," said Masud Bin Momen, ambassador and permanent representative of Bangladesh to the UN.

He was addressing a UN Security Council (UNSC) meeting on the "Situation in Myanmar" early yesterday.

The envoy said Bangladesh continues to exercise utmost restraint in the face of repeated, unwarranted and willful provocations by Myanmar. "As a responsible and responsive

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WHAT THEY SAID AT UNSC MEETING

The crisis has generated multiple implications for neighbouring States and the larger region, including the risk of inter-communal strife. We should not be surprised if decades of discrimination and double standards in treatment of the Rohingya create openings for radicalisation.

ANTONIO GUTERRES
UN SECRETARY GENERAL

International community should view the difficulties and challenges confronting the government of Myanmar through objective optics, exercise patience, and provide support and help.... Many of the differences and antagonisms in Rakhine have been building up over a long time and there is no quick fix.

WU HAITAO
CHINA'S DEPUTY AMBASSADOR

Violence in Rakhine hasn't stopped despite government claims.... Rohingyas described rape being used as a weapon to scare families to leave, and reported villages being burned.... These atrocities attest that the Myanmar government is using arson to de-populate northern Rakhine and take over ownership of land.

MASUD BIN MOMEN
BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR

Excessive pressure on Myanmar's government can only aggravate the situation in the country and around it.... There is no alternative to resolving the longstanding and complicated crisis in Rakhine through political means and a dialogue among all nationalities and faiths.

VASSILY NEBENZIA
RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR

The time for well-meaning, diplomatic words in this council has passed.... We must now consider action against Burmese security forces who are implicated in abuses and stoking hatred among their fellow citizens.

NIKKI HALEY
US AMBASSADOR

There is no ethnic cleansing and no genocide in Myanmar.... Security operations ended Sept 5 and the vast majority of those who fled to Bangladesh did so because fear was instilled in the heart by the terrorists.

U THAUNG TUN
MYANMAR'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

South Africa opener Dean Elgar was dismissed for 199 to provide a rare moment of respite for Bangladesh on the second day of the first Test at Senwes Park in Potchefstroom yesterday. The hosts declared their first innings on 496 for three.

PHOTO: AFP

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Voyage for safety ends in tragedy

WASIM BIN HABIB and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT, from Cox's Bazar

Mohammad Zafar held one of his twin sons tight in his arms and kept the other in the lap as the trawler bobbed up and down in rough waters amid heavy rain.

Sitting close to him, his wife put her arms around their older son, six-year-old Jaber.

When the coast of the Bay of Bengal was just 300 yards away, a strong wave hit the rickety boat, causing it to break and overturn.

Zafar, a farm labourer from Myanmar's Mwai Daung village, managed to grab the hands of his twin sons -- Yeasin and Nur Kaiyas -- in the water for a few minutes while his wife struggled to stay afloat with Jaber.

Soon the twin slipped through his fingers and the waves swept them away. He then looked for his wife and Jaber, but they were nowhere to be found.

"I could not save them. They all drowned before my eyes... What's the point of being alive now?" asked Zafar, giving a vacant look at the motionless bodies of his three sons and wife at Inani Government Primary School in Ukha yesterday.

At the school ground, 12 more bodies of Rohingya

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Chastised Tigers regain some ground

SAKEB SUBHAN from Potchefstroom

Although they regained some ground, Bangladesh continued to be outclassed by South Africa as the hosts seized a stranglehold on the first Test after the second day's play at Senwes Park, Potchefstroom yesterday. After the inexplicable decision on Thursday to win the toss and bowl first on a flat track, Bangladesh could only take three South African wickets as the hosts declared their innings on 496 -- powered by Dean Elgar's 199 and Hashim Amla's 137 -- during the tea break, and Bangladesh were reduced to 127 for three in response, 369 runs behind.

The batsmen at the close were Tamim Iqbal -- batting at number five for the first time in his career -- on 22 and Mominul Haque on 28.

SAVAGERY IN COLD BLOOD Prime accused of killing teenage boy arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Rab yesterday arrested the prime accused in the murder of teenage boy Sagor Mia in Kishoreganj's Bhairab upazila.

The arrestee is Akkas Ali, 45, of Charsirampur village in Mymensingh Gouripur upazila.

On information, a team of Rab-14, led by its special company commander and additional superintendent of police Sajjad Hossain, raided Shambhupur area around 3:00am and arrested Akkas, Rab sources said.

Akkas was waiting near Shambhupur rail crossing in Bhairab for a Sylhet-bound train to escape arrest, the sources added.

Rab later handed over Akkas to the Detective Branch of police in Mymensingh, which is investigating the case.

On Monday morning, Akkas and his associates beat Sagor to death over an allegation that the 18-year-old attempted to steal a water pump from Akkas' fish hatchery at Charsirampur in Mymensingh's Gouripur.

Sagor, son of Shipon Mia of Natokghar Lane Railway Colony area in Mymensingh town, came out of house around 4:00am with a rickshaw-van to collect scrap, family members said.



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