



PHOTO: REUTERS

Buddhist-nationalist, as part of the military's perpetual aim to retain absolute control over Burmese society while keeping democracy functional at a superficial level and religious nationalism intact.

Though the Buddhist nationalism-military connection began with General Ne Win, General Hlaing unleashed the religious extremism-terrorism card by gaining moral and spiritual support from a significant part of Burmese society itself. At least I saw much of the elite populace of the city of Yangon remain emphatically calm while genocide continued in their backyard. Of course, what surprised me most was not the cruelty of the military but the blend of collective silence and selective amnesia that a majority of society continues to explicitly express.

Aung San Suu Kyi is just a scapegoat in this cleansing episode. Power ostensibly resides in the hands of Suu Kyi but allows the military and the monks to call the shots. She is the darling of the West because she bears the flag of the Western prescription of democracy for the Eastern theatre. She is, at the same time, the darling of the Burmese military because she bears the flag of the Burmese market for the Western theatre, and of course she is the darling of the military-backed nationalist monks because they give importance to social capital. Who would let her slip away then, despite the ongoing witch-hunt by the media?

Perhaps this time the alliance between the military and the Buddhist Bin Laden Ashin Wirathu has taken the near terminal shape of ethnic cleansing of the largest ethnic minority—the Muslims. I will not be surprised if history writes about Burmese Muslims as Hitler's Jews of the 21st century. Although the Burmese

Securing Rohingya fates with sound foreign policy

SHAHAB ENAM KHAN

Analysing international relations has an inherent challenge—it leaves an uncouth cognitive trail that makes us think that the world is about anarchism and that nothing but “interest” prevails in the end through the means of suitable “isms”. I am from that part of Asia where cynical realism is the only language of

politics and security. Ergo, the recent high wind-chill of parochial geopolitics in my neighbourhood has brought the shivering effect of a coming abyssal anarchy for which we have not discovered any windshield.

The current phase of the Rohingya crisis-turned-genocide has been linked to the bolstered ethnic cleansing agenda of the Burmese military, rather than domestic political overshooting. To be precise, it has allegedly been orchestrated by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, an avid



PHOTO: UNCIA PAK

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken bold initiatives to make the global theatre understand that Bangladesh is suffering a deep crisis.



PHOTO: AFP

Is Aung San Suu Kyi just a scapegoat in this terminal cleansing episode, allegedly orchestrated by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, an avid Buddhist-nationalist?