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Rohingya refugees, who fled Myanmar, make their way after crossing the border at Palongkhali in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

ROHINGYA CRISIS EU doors closed for Myanmar generals

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union has said it will suspend invitations to Myanmar military commanders over the "disproportionate" use of force that has driven more than half a million Rohingyas out of the country.

The EU says the perpetrators of crimes against Myanmar's Rohingya minority must be brought to justice, and the 28-state bloc is reviewing defense cooperation over the violence.

"In the light of the disproportionate use of force carried out by the security forces, the EU and its Member States will suspend invitations to the Commander-in-chief of the Myanmar/Burma armed forces and other senior military officers and review all practical defence cooperation," according to the resolution adopted by the European Council in Luxembourg yesterday.

On September 18, Britain suspended financial aid and training to Myanmar armed forces amid "ongoing violence" in the country.

The EU foreign ministers at a meeting also said "credible allegations of serious human rights violations and abuses, including brutal attacks on children, must be thoroughly investigated".

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Poverty reduction rate slows down

Hardcore poor drops to 12.9pc of population from 17.6pc in 2010

REAZ AHMAD and REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh's rate of poverty reduction has slowed down in recent years.

The yearly average rate of poverty reduction has dropped from 1.7 percent, between 2005 and 2010, to 1.2 percent, between 2010 and 2016.

The average poverty reduction rate has been calculated from the data to be revealed through a flagship BBS (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics) report today, officials told The Daily Star.

Experts noted with concern that a slower growth in agriculture was largely contributing to this slowdown and immediate policy interventions were needed to give the poverty reduction efforts momentum.

Year	% of people in poverty	% of ultra poor
2016	24.3	12.9
2010	31.5	17.6
2005	40.0	25.1
2000	48.9	34.3

They also spoke of a drop in remittance, lack of job opportunities, wealth inequality and challenges of reaching the hard-to-reach poor people.

According to the BBS' preliminary Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) Report 2016, 24.3 percent of the population is now living in poverty, down from 31.5 percent in 2010.

And the percentage of the ultra poor also

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Large influx again

30,000 more Rohingyas arrive in never-ending flow; 12 drown as boat sinks in Naf; dozens missing

STAR REPORT

At least 12 people drowned and dozens remained missing after a boat carrying Rohingyas sank in the Naf River yesterday, as more than 30,000 Myanmar nationals joined half a million others who crossed over into Bangladesh since late August.

The dead include seven women and four children aged between one and four. Fifteen boat people have been rescued.

Teknaf Coast Guard Commander

**5,67,000
AND COUNTING**

Zafar Imam Sajeeb said the boat was packed with 50 to 60 Rohingyas from Dhaonkhali of Rakhine State in Myanmar.

It capsized near Shah Porir Dwip of Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, in the morning. The 12 bodies were pulled by coastguards.

Officer-in-Charge of Teknaf Police Station Md Mainuddin Khan said the dead have been buried with the help of local union parishad. Efforts are on to find out the missing.

A border guard told AFP that the boat was just 200 yards from the Bangladesh coast when it sank in rough waters.

Fazlul Haq, a local official, said the boat was owned by a Bangladeshi villager who had made large sums of

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Fire kills five of a Bangladeshi family in Kuwait

STAR REPORT

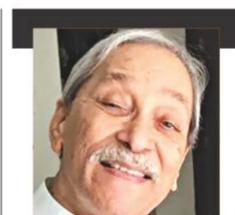
A Bangladeshi woman and her four children were killed after a fire broke out in a building in Salmiya area of Kuwait yesterday, reports the Kuwait Times, a local English daily.

Firefighters rushed to the five-storey building in response to an emergency call and managed to rescue nine people who were trapped in thick smoke.

But the five, who were found in critical condition, died on the way to Mubarak Hospital, the daily said.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the fire started in a fourth-floor apartment, and smoke trapped the Bangladeshi family inside their fifth-floor apartment, while

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Crack Platoon's Chullu no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He was a member of the special squad that shook the confidence of the Pakistan occupation army and unnerved them using clandestine commando attacks during the 1971 Liberation War.

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