

## CHARGES AGAINST CJ Judges informed why SC issued statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, now performing the functions of the chief justice, yesterday informed all the Supreme Court judges about the circumstances under which the court issued the statement about CJ Surendra Kumar Sinha two days ago. The five judges of the Appellate Division of the SC, including Justice Wahhab Miah, expressed reluctance to sit in the same bench with Justice Sinha after the president handed them over documentary evidence on 11 specific allegations against the CJ and they did not get satisfactory answers from Justice Sinha, according to the statement.

Yesterday, Justice Wahhab Miah said the SC statement came as the chief justice had made a statement before leaving for Australia on Friday night, sources at the court said.

Justice Wahhab was addressing a full court meeting of the SC where all the judges of the Appellate and High Court divisions were present.

While leaving for the airport, Justice Sinha briefly spoke to reporters in

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Rohingya refugees from Myanmar wait to be let through by Bangladeshi border guards after crossing the border at Palongkhali of Cox's Bazar yesterday. A Rohingya child, right, among the refugees.

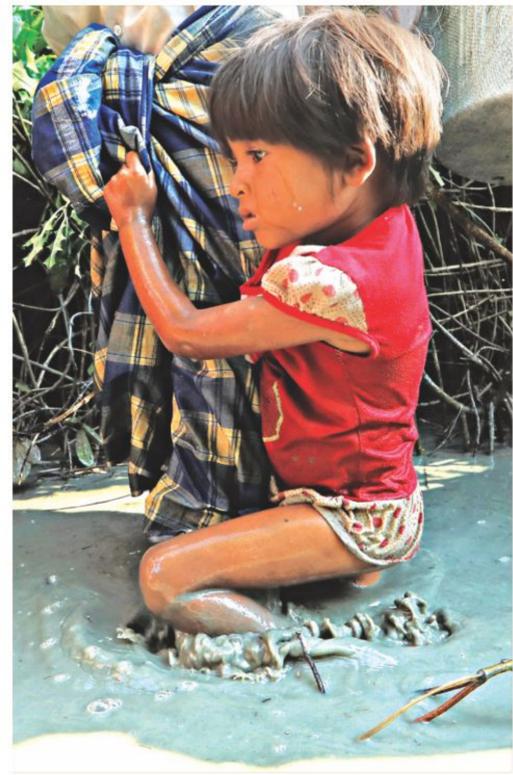


PHOTO: REUTERS

## Carry garbage

FROM PAGE 16  
before it on steps they would take to comply with the directive.

The HC issued a rule upon the corporations and the government to explain why carrying garbage on trucks and vans without proper covers beyond the specific time should not be declared illegal.

In the rule, the court also asked them to show causes why they should not be directed to make appropriate rules and regulations for waste management system of the city corporations pursuant to the power conferred by section 41 of the local government (City Corporation) act 2009.

The bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul-Hoque and Justice Mohammad Ullah came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed by Barrister Mahfuzur Rahman Milon, executive director of rights organisation Justice Watch Foundation.

Milon told The Daily Star that the city corporations would have to collect garbage and transport it in covered trucks between 10:00pm to 6:00am following the HC order.

He also said the vehicles currently used for the purpose give off a foul odour and often cause traffic jam while collecting garbage.

Barrister ABM Altaf Hossain placed arguments for the petitioner.

Commodore MA Razzak, chief waste management officer of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), said that they would comply with the court order.

According to official sources, DNCC collects 2,500 tonnes of solid waste with 132 vehicles every day and dumps the waste at Aminbazar landfill site.

The equipments include waste compactors, waste container carriers, dump trucks and open trucks.

Of the equipments, 25 compactors are used for compressing wastes and are covered, modern and more efficient in waste management and used during daytime.

The south city corporation handles nearly 3,000 tonnes of solid wastes with 130 open trucks, 90 dump trucks and 16 compactors.

## Large influx again

FROM PAGE 1  
money ferrying Rohingya into the country.

He said the small fishing trawlers were highly vulnerable to accidents as they approached the shore, where they are often buffeted by large waves.

Earlier on October 8, another Rohingya boat sank at Golar Char point of Shah Porir Dwip. At least 37 bodies of victims from that incident have been recovered so far.

Since August 29, as many as 26 boats filled with Rohingyas have sunk in the Bay and the Naf, leaving at least 89 children, 63 women and 30 men dead. Besides, the body of one Bangladeshi boatman was also found.

Meanwhile, an estimated 30 thousand more Rohingyas entered Bangladesh through Anzumanpara of Palongkhali union in Ukhiya upazila. About a thousand others entered through Jaliapara, Dakkhinpara of Shah Porir Dwip points in Teknaf, reports The Daily Star correspondent from Cox's Bazar.

This adds to 5,37,000 Rohingyas who, according to the UN, had arrived

in Bangladesh over the last seven weeks.

Contacted, Major Ashikur Rahim, operation officer of BGB 34 Battalion in Cox's Bazar, told newsmen yesterday morning that nearly 15 thousand Rohingyas crossed Bangladesh-Myanmar border since Sunday night. But he could not give the exact figure.

He thinks the refugees staying in different camps are asking other Rohingya people in Myanmar to come to Bangladesh.

Major Iqbal Ahmed, acting commander of 34 Battalion, told The Daily Star that 10 to 12 thousand Rohingyas arrived through Anzumanpara yesterday. Border guards provided them humanitarian aid before sending them to Balukhali camp.

Abdul Gafur Chowdhury, chairman of Palongkhali Union Parishad, said the number of those who entered through Palongkhali border point from Sunday late night till yesterday morning would be more than 30,000.

Nur Hossain, chairman of Sabrang Union Parishad under Teknaf, said more than one thousand Rohingyas

came to Shah Porir Dwip from crossing the Naf and took shelter at Hariakhali temporary shelter. They will be sent to Balukhali.

**NEVER-ENDING FLOW**  
Wading through waist-deep water with children strapped to their sides, the refugees told Reuters they had walked through bushes and forded monsoon-swollen streams for days.

A seemingly never-ending flow entered Bangladesh near the village of Palongkhali. Many were injured, with the elderly carried on makeshift stretchers, while women balanced household items, such as pots, rice sacks and clothing, on their heads.

"We couldn't step out of the house for the last month because the military were looting people," said Mohammad Shoaib, 29, who wore a yellow vest and balanced jute bags of food and aluminium pots on a bamboo pole. "They started firing on the village. So we escaped into another."

"Day by day, things kept getting worse, so we started moving towards Bangladesh. Before we left, I went back

near my village to see my house, and the entire village was burnt down," Shoaib added.

The unprecedented influx began after insurgent attacks on security posts in Rakhine State on August 25 sparked a ferocious military response, with the fleeing people accusing security forces of arson, killings and rape.

**FOOD, AID RESTRICTED**  
Refugees who survived the perilous journey said they were driven out by hunger because food markets in Myanmar's western Rakhine have been shut and aid deliveries restricted. They also reported attacks by the military and Rakhine Buddhist mobs.

The influx will worsen the humanitarian emergency unfolding in Cox's Bazar, where aid workers are battling to provide refugees with food, clean water and shelter.

Yesterday, the Red Cross opened a field hospital as big as two football fields, with 60 beds, three wards, an operating theatre, a delivery suite with maternity ward and a psychosocial support unit.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingyas had already been in Bangladesh after fleeing previous spasms of violence in Myanmar, where they have long been denied citizenship and faced curbs on their movements and access to basic services.

Despite Myanmar's assurances that aid was on its way to the north of violence-torn Rakhine, thousands more starving people were desperate to leave.

"We fled from our home because we had nothing to eat in my village," said Jarhni Ahlong, a 28-year-old Rohingya man from the southern region of Buthidaung, who had been stranded on the Myanmar side of the Naf for a week, waiting to cross.

From the thousands gathered there awaiting an opportunity to escape, about 400 paid roughly \$50 each to flee on nine or 10 boats yesterday morning, he added.

"I think if we go to Bangladesh we can get food," he said.

## EU doors closed for Myanmar generals

FROM PAGE 1  
The Council said it encourages Myanmar to enter into a dialogue with its neighbouring countries, in particular Bangladesh, on finding solutions to top common concerns, notably the repatriation of refugees to their place of origin.

The EU appreciated the constructive role played by Bangladesh under "difficult circumstances".

It also underlined the relevance of current EU restrictions on Myanmar that include an embargo on arms and equipment that could be used for internal repression.

The EU would consider additional measures if the situation in Rakhine did not improve, said the Council, adding that it also "stood ready to respond accordingly to positive developments".

"There are deeply worrying reports

of continuing arson and violence against people and serious human rights violations, including indiscriminate firing of weapons, the presence of landmines and sexual and gender based violence," the foreign ministers said in a statement.

The Council in its resolution also called upon Myanmar to ensure the swift and full implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, "especially the crucial issue of citizenship for the stateless Rohingya population".

The European foreign ministers also urged all sides to put an immediate end to violence and appealed to the Myanmar army to end its military offensive in Rakhine and ensure protection of all civilians without any discrimination.

It called upon the Myanmar govern-

ment to calm tensions between communities and allow unconditional and safe humanitarian access to the region and ensure sustainable return of the Rohingyas who fled their homes and sought refuge in Bangladesh, as a result of violence and fear.

The Council also said the EU has stepped up humanitarian assistance for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and stands ready to extend its activities in Rakhine to help all people in need, if granted access.

**END CRISIS IN RAKHINE: IPU**  
The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has expressed grave concerns about the continuing violence, intimidation and forced displacement of the Rohingyas from Myanmar's Rakhine State, reports BSS.

"Reports of documented widespread cruelty against Rohingya children, women and men and the ensu-

ing massive exodus into neighbouring Bangladesh are very disconcerting," the IPU said in a joint statement by its President Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Secretary General Martin Chungong.

The IPU, a platform of national parliaments from around the world, condemned human rights violations and stressed the Myanmar authorities' responsibility to protect all people living in that country.

It asked Myanmar parliament, also an IPU member, to make every effort to help bring the crisis to an end.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh yesterday urged the IPU members to play an important role in mobilising world opinion to force Myanmar to resolve the Rohingya crisis, reports BSS.

Deputy Speaker Fazle Rabbi Miah made the call at the general discussion of the 137th IPU Assembly in Saint

Petersburg, Russia, said a handout released in Dhaka, reports UNB.

Fazle Rabbi, leader of the Bangladesh parliamentary delegation to the assembly, explained his country's position on the Rohingyas.

Following a proposal placed by Bangladesh, the IPU Assembly held a general discussion on the humanitarian crisis and strengthening efforts to stop persecution of Rohingyas.

On Sunday, the deputy speaker placed a proposal before the IPU to include the Rohingya issue in its general discussion's agenda, which was adopted by vote.

Russian President Vladimir Putin opened the IPU assembly on Saturday as it drew around 2,000 parliamentary delegates from across the world for focus discussions on overcoming intolerance, xenophobia and extremism.

## Poverty reduction rate slows down

FROM PAGE 1  
dropped from 17.6 in 2010 to 12.9 now. However, poverty alleviation was faster during the previous five years and that was evident in the previous HIES reports done in 2005 and 2010.

Today's launching of HIES-2016 also coincides with the global observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the declaration of this day by the United Nations.

This year's International Day for the Eradication of Poverty observance has kept forming of peaceful and inclusive societies in the core of its theme.

Experts noted that to attain the dream of building an inclusive society in Bangladesh, more investment was needed in agriculture, which employs 45 percent of the rural people.

The HIES is one of the core activities of the BBS. It contains a wide range of socio-economic information at the household level that has strong influence in the decision making process of the government.

The BBS generally releases HIES every five years but this time it is a year late.

Akhter Ahmed, who heads Bangladesh country operation of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), said a prime reason behind slowing down of poverty reduction was a slower growth of the farm sector over the last few years.

He said the farm sector growth slowed down to just 0.7 percent in 2012-

- Slow growth in farm sector
- Inequality and lack of job opportunities
- Drop in remittance
- Challenge of reaching out to ultra poor

16 period whereas it had posted a robust growth of 4.8 percent in the preceding five years.

"We've consistently posted a good GDP growth and per capita income is growing too. We've to understand that then why the rate of poverty reduction falters. Policy interventions are needed to invest more in agriculture so that farmers can grow more rice in less land and also get better prices by growing non-rice high-value crops," said Akhter.

World Bank's lead economist in Dhaka, Zahid Hossain, said, "It's good news that poverty reduction is taking place but bad news is the pace got slower."

He identifies increasing inequality and lack of job opportunities a reason. He elaborates, giving reference to BBS Labour Force Survey, that employment rate was 3.1 percent during 2003-10 but it reduced to just 1.9 in the last six years.

Zahid noted that it was paradoxical that poverty reduction slowed at a time when Bangladesh's GDP and per capita

income showed growth. "Question remains who took the fruits of these growths, these must have gone to the richer section of the population," he said.

Mentioning the slump in remittance during the latest HIES survey period, he said remittance has direct bearings on rural economy and it plays a vital role in enhancing income of the poor people.

Distinguished Fellow Mustafizur Rahman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), however, finds it natural. He said due to the elasticity of poverty reduction, the rate of reduction might get little slower.

He said now the new areas of poverty cut have to be through targeting more marginal groups, like victims of river erosion or people living in remote places.

"Further reduction would be increasingly more challenging. It will require taking targeted programmes to reach the hard-to-reach people and also expand the social safety net programmes," explained Mustafiz.

Referring to overall economic growth indicators, which were very positive, he said, "Some of these growths are labour-displacing tech-driven growths, which we've to keep in mind."

On the point of inequality, Mustafiz said it would be interesting to see how that was reflected in the HIES today. As the BBS has tripled its sample size for this survey, Mustafiz believed it would give more insight on rich-poor, regional and rural-urban variations.

## Crack Platoon's Chullu no more

FROM PAGE 1  
"Crack Platoon", as the squad was known, conducted extremely dangerous operations on army convoys and important installations in Dhaka flawlessly. Each successful operation demonstrated that the long-cherished independence was just a matter of time.

Imbued with determination and passion for his motherland's independence, Masud Sadique Chullu joined the band of young guerrillas that eventually became a dreaded force even to the well-trained Pakistan military.

The man, who fought for freedom and dignity of the motherland, breathed his last yesterday. Masud, fondly called Chullu Bhai by his loved ones, died around 4:30pm at Apollo Hospitals in the capital.

He was 72. Masud, the younger brother of former education minister AHSK Sadique, left behind his wife Yasmeen Sadique, only daughter Sanjana Sadique and a host of relatives, admirers and well-wishers.

His body will be kept at the mortuary of United Hospital until his daughter returns from the US. He will be buried tomorrow, said barrister Moin Ghani, Masud's son-in-law.

Born on March 29, 1945, in Keshabpur of Jessore, Masud was only 26, a fresh science graduate from Dhaka College, when he joined Crack Platoon, a special commando team of the Mukti Bahini, created under Sector-2. Valiant freedom fighters Shafi Imam

Rumi, Bodiul Alam Bodi, Abdul Halim Chowdhury Jewel, Habibul Alam, Kazi Kamaluddin, Shahadat Chowdhury, Fateh Ali Chowdhury and Mofazzal Hosen Chowdhury Maya were some of the members of this famed platoon.

The guerrillas stunned the Pakistani authorities by organising multiple attacks on police checkpoints and electricity substations, highlighting the growing tension in the country.

However, on August 30, 1971, Masud was arrested in Dhaka where he was to carry out an operation, according to the book "Tormenting Seventy One: An account of Pakistan army's atrocities during Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971".

In the book, Masud narrated painful stories of how many of them were brutally tortured by the Pakistani army to extract information and elaborated on the torture he faced when captured and taken to Nakhla Para MP Hostel camp.

The Pakistan army used to stub cigarettes out on his throat.

"From my throat to knees, they carried out the same method of torture. Once, they pushed a lit cigarette into my rectum. I lost my senses due to the acute pain. I cannot recall how long I remained unconscious," Masud narrated.

Fortunately enough, he was spared death as his elder brother was a key bureaucrat in the then-Pakistan government. But his platoon members, including

Bodi, Rumi, Jewel and Azad, were captured by Pakistani army a day before his arrest. Unfortunately, they never returned to their families.

Prominent war crimes researcher Mofidul Hoque said the urban guerrilla group, Crack Platoon, was of a special character in the country's Liberation War.

"Whereas the guerrillas conduct their operations in comparatively rural areas, the members of Crack Platoon carried out their attacks in Dhaka. That's why their ventures were risky," he said.

He also said their attacks were symbolic as they had been able to rubbish the notion the Pakistani authorities tried to propagate about everything in East Pakistan being normal.

The operations of this force were widely discussed globally during the war, he said.

"Crack Platoon is a special and important chapter of the war, and Masud Sadique Chullu played an integral part," said Mofidul, a trustee of the Liberation War Museum.

In a Facebook status, eminent cultural personality and freedom fighter Nasir Uddin Yousuff wrote, "Our beloved Masud Sadique Chullu has departed for the great beyond. Chullu Bhai, how could we forget you? ... But will the country you left behind tell your story?"