

Testimony of destruction

UN official sees dozens of burned villages, asks Myanmar generals to carry out credible probe; US holds Myanmar army responsible



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs has visited dozens of burned and destroyed villages in northern Rakhine during his recent tour by air, and called on Myanmar to investigate allegations of human rights abuses by security forces.

It was the first visit by a top UN official from its New York headquarters since the latest violence began in Rakhine in late August, forcing nearly 6,00,000 Rohingyas to cross into Bangladesh in one of the worst and fastest growing humanitarian crisis in history.

Concluding his visit to Myanmar from October 13-17, Jeffrey Feltman underscored the importance of accountability and non-discriminatory rule of law and public safety as part of the comprehensive approach needed to address the fears and distrust among communities in Rakhine, according to a press note issued by the UN yesterday.

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Thousands of people take over one side of the road in front of the airport in Dhaka yesterday to receive Khaleda Zia, inset, who returned from London after three months. The reception created a long tailback, in which the BNP chief herself remained stuck, reaching her Gulshan home three hours after she left the airport.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN/BNP

Khaleda back home after 3 months

BNP men stage huge gathering

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was given a warm welcome by her party men on her return home from London yesterday after three months.

She reached Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on an Emirates Airlines flight around 5:05pm. Security was stepped up around the airport before her arrival.

Thousands of leaders, activists and supporters of the BNP and its associate bodies thronged the airport with processions since 2:00pm to greet the party chief. Holding banners and festoons, they stood on the pavement of the Airport Road.

As the crowd got bigger by 4:00pm, many people were on the street, chanting slogans. This led to a severe traffic disruption on the busy Airport Road for hours, causing sufferings to commuters. Large tailbacks were stretching from in front of the airport intersection to Kakoli roundabout.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

CEC praises AL for development

AL places 11-point proposal for next polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda yesterday said the Awami League has taken the country to the "highway of development".

"The crown is on Sheikh Hasina's head for expanding science and technology and preserving the environment through ensuring development in education, social, economic and infrastructure in every sector. Today, Bangladesh has become a middle-income country under the leadership of the prime minister," he said.

According to the CEC, almost all the laws and regulations of the Election Commission were formulated during the tenure of the AL government and his office was enjoying more freedom in comparison to ECs in many other countries.

He lauded the AL and Hasina this way at the start of yesterday's dialogue between the commission and the party at the Nirbachan Bhaban in Agargaon.

Led by General Secretary Obaidul

- Introduction of EVMs
- Army may be deployed in aid of civil power
- Appointing presiding, assistant presiding officers only from government officials
- Stopping the use of illegal money, muscle power

Quader, a 22-member AL delegation placed an 11-point proposal to the EC during the formal talks on the upcoming national elections.

Emerging from the around two-and-a-half hours meeting, Quader said their discussion was "positive and constructive" and that they placed the proposal- "fairer, more neutral and acceptable election."

He also said the CEC termed the proposals "neutral".

The proposals included introduction of electronic voting machines (EVMs), ensuring proper execution of existing electoral laws and regulations to prevent the use of illegal money and muscle power, taking strict action against public servants for irresponsible behaviour and appointing presiding and assistant presiding officers only from government officials.

The AL also requested the EC to ensure transparency and be careful in appointing local and foreign observers.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

MUGGING CASES 88pc accused acquitted

Victims, witnesses in many cases do not appear in court making the legal process long, police say

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Bellal Hossain Sabuj landed in jail four months ago in a mugging case but he walked out of jail two months later on bail. He then reunited with his cohort, Abdur Rahman alias Milton who served time twice in mugging cases, and resumed their criminal activity.

On October 8, the duo killed second-year Daffodil University student Khandaker Abu Talha, 23, when he protested their attempt to mug a pedestrian at Wari in the capital. The incident was recorded by a CCTV camera which police collected as evidence.

Sabuj is one of the dozens of muggers who continued with their criminal activity after being arrested and then released on bail or acquitted, according to police and lawyers.

Before their arrest in Talha murder case, Sabuj, 19, and Milton, 20, had been arrested several times for mugging, said Farid Uddin, deputy commissioner of Wari division police.

A police headquarters database shows that 88 percent accused of mugging got acquitted between January and June. During this period, judgments in 157 robbery cases involving 436 accused were delivered.

Only 53 accused were punished in 27 cases while 383 walked in 130 cases.

Besides, police in the six months submitted final report

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আমরা শোকাহত

ব্যাংক এশিয়ার ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান এ.এম. নূরুল ইসলাম বুধবার (১৮ অক্টোবর, ২০১৭) রাজধানীর গুলশানের ইউনাইটেড হাসপাতালে ইন্তেকাল করেছেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহে...রাজউন)। তাঁর বয়স হয়েছিল ৭৮ বছর।

ব্যাংক এশিয়া পরিচালনা পর্ষদ এবং ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্তৃপক্ষ ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান এ.এম. নূরুল ইসলাম -এর মৃত্যুতে গভীর শোক প্রকাশ এবং মরহুমের বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফিরাত কামনা করছে।

আগামী শুক্রবার (২০ অক্টোবর, ২০১৭) বাদ আসর গুলশান আজাদ মসজিদে মরহুমের আত্মার মাগফিরাতের জন্য দেয়া মাহফিল অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

বাংক এশিয়া

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AB special hands SA series win

SAKEB SUBHAN from Dhaka

It was evident long before yesterday's second ODI at Boland Park that Bangladesh were completely outmatched by hosts South Africa on their tour, and that had happened without the help of the best and most celebrated batsman in the land, even as the others plundered runs off the hapless bowling. So when AB de Villiers, who spent time cooling his heels in the dressing room as openers Hashim Amla and Quinton de Kock put on a record chase unconquered in the first ODI, got his chance and made fullest use of it yesterday, there was no

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আপনি জানেন কি !!

বাংলাদেশের অগণিত ফ্রিলান্সারদের অভাবনীয় উপার্জনের স্বপ্ন দুয়ার খুলে দিয়েছে সোনালী ব্যাংক ও Xoom a PayPal Service এর মেরী বন্ধন।

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