

# Myanmar must take them back

Indian external affairs minister tells PM about Rohingyas who fled violence in Rakhine State

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India has said Myanmar must take back its nationals who have fled their homes to escape violence and taken refuge in Bangladesh.

"Myanmar must take back their nationals... this is a big burden for Bangladesh. How long will Bangladesh bear it? There should be a permanent solution to this crisis," visiting Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj was quoted as saying at a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting at 6:00pm.

About terrorist acts in Myanmar's Rakhine State, Swaraj said terrorists can be punished. "Why innocent people?" Ihsanul quoted the Indian minister as saying at the meeting.

Swaraj, who arrived in Dhaka yesterday afternoon on a 24-hour visit to attend a meeting of India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission (JCC), also urged the MORE ON PAGE 2 SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj talk at the former's office in the capital yesterday.

## BNP delegation meets Sushma

Discusses next polls, Rohingya issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visiting Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj yesterday told BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia that India hoped a free, fair, credible and inclusive election would be held in the country and the polls would be acceptable to all.

"She [Sushma] hoped that a fair, neutral and acceptable election will be held here with the participation of all political parties," Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the BNP, told journalists after the meeting, quoting Sushma.

Khaleda had a 45-minute meeting with Sushma at Dhaka Sonargaon Hotel, while six other party colleagues of the former premier accompanied her during the talks.

"The Indian external affairs minister has listened to us. She said as a democratic country, India wants a democratic environment

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4  
PHOTO ON PAGE 5

PHOTO:  
PMO

## REFUGEE CRISIS

### WB mission assessing need for aid

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

A World Bank team is doing a need assessment to help Dhaka deal with the Rohingya crisis that is already putting a tremendous pressure on Bangladesh.

A six-member mission led by Sanjay Srivastava, programme leader of WB's Sustainable Development, SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## No real progress yet

Efforts to solve Rohingya crisis fall short; UN pledging conference on aid today

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Rohingyas have been telling the world numerous stories of horror, loss, murder, rape and villages burned to the ground over the last two months. The world's media have been flooded with their harrowing tales.

The atrocities being carried out by the Myanmar military since August 25 have been termed "a textbook example of ethnic cleansing" by the UN and "genocide" by different human rights bodies.

Yet, there has been no real progress in

resolving the world's fastest growing humanitarian crisis.

As the global outcry fails to force Myanmar to end the atrocities, their flight continues, increasing the number of refugees in Bangladesh.

The crisis has been crying out for strong global action for a solution. But the actions remain inadequate.

In fact, the role of UN Security Council has been appalling. It was able to issue only SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## Rohingyas may lose land, crops

REUTERS, Sittwe

Rohingyas who will return to Myanmar after fleeing to Bangladesh are unlikely to be able to reclaim their land, and may find their crops have been harvested and sold by the government, according to officials and plans seen by Reuters.

Civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who has no control over the military, has pledged that anyone sheltering in Bangladesh who can prove they were Myanmar residents can return.

Reuters has interviewed six Myanmar officials involved with repatriation and resettlement plans. While the plans are not yet finalised, their comments reflect the government's thinking on how Suu Kyi's repatriation pledge will be implemented.

Jamil Ahmed, who spoke to Reuters at a refugee camp in Bangladesh, is one of many Rohingyas who hope to go back.

Describing how he fled his home in northern Rakhine state in late August, Ahmed said one of the few things he grabbed was a stack of papers -- land contracts and receipts -- that might prove ownership of the fields and crops he was leaving behind.

"I didn't carry any ornaments or jewels," said the 35-year-old. "I've only SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

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## South Africa complete whitewash

SAKEB SUBHAN from East London

It was hard to escape the feeling of déjà vu at East London yesterday. It was the end of another series on Bangladesh's tour of South Africa and the Proteas had completely outplayed the Tigers with a series whitewash. What made it seem very similar to the end of the Test series was the utter lack of gump-tion and fight from Bangladesh, who just seemed to want the series to be over with. That being the case, they got their wish as South Africa won the third ODI by a whopping 200 runs after scoring 369 for six, giving the hosts the long foretold and expected 3-0 whitewash.

The reaction when AB de Villiers caught Mehedi Hasan Miraz off Imran Tahir to end Bangladesh's innings at 169 in 40.4 overs said it all -- De Villiers just completed the catch and rolled the ball on the ground without a hint of celebration, such has been the completeness of South Africa's superiority SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

وَيْلٌ لِلرَّحْمَةِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Azimur Rahman**  
1935 - 2001

**This Moment**

I may never see tomorrow; there's no written guarantee.  
And things that happened yesterday belong to history.  
I cannot predict the future, I cannot change the past.  
I have just the present moment, I must treat it as my last.

I must use this moment wisely, for it soon will pass away.  
And be lost forever as a part of yesterday.  
I must exercise compassion, help the fallen to their feet.  
Be a friend unto the friendless, make an empty life complete.

The unkind things I do today may never be undone.  
And friendships that I fail to win may nevermore be won.  
I may not have another chance on bending knees to pray.  
And thank God with a humble heart for giving me this day.

- Author Unknown



## No classical music festival this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bengal Classical Music Festival for this year has been cancelled, due to the unavailability of its venue, the Army Stadium.

Bengal Foundation made the announcement in a press conference at the Westin Dhaka in the capital on Sunday. They issued a press release that said the Army Sports Control Board (ASCB) on August 31 had denied allotment of the Army Stadium from November 20-28 (with the event set for November 23-27) to Bengal Foundation, citing the arrival of the Pope to Bangladesh at the time as the reason. MORE ON PAGE 9 SEE PAGE 2 COL 3