

DEALING WITH ROHINGYA CRISIS

CPA lawmakers stand by Dhaka

Put pressure on Myanmar, PM urges CPA countries

RASHIDUL HASAN and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Lawmakers from Commonwealth countries have committed their full support for Bangladesh in resolving the Rohingya crisis. The commitment came yesterday after Dhaka briefed them on the issue during the annual conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in the capital.

Most of the lawmakers, who spoke at the briefing session at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, termed the atrocities against the Rohingyas in Myanmar "genocide", and said this cannot be "tolerated."



in the conference over the crisis.

Earlier in the morning, inaugurating the 63rd annual CPA conference at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the Commonwealth countries to exert pressure on Myanmar to stop persecution of its Rohingya citizens and take them back from Bangladesh at the earliest.

She noted that Bangladesh is eager to maintain good relations with its neighbors. "But inhuman persecution meted out to the Rohingya population in the Rakhine State of Myanmar and their forceful expulsion from their homeland has created instability in the region and beyond."

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FORCE MYANMAR TO TAKE BACK ROHINGYAS: PM, PAGE 2



A Rohingya refugee girl carries wood through the Kutupalong refugee camp at sunset in Cox's Bazar on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

TOP QUOTE

"Genocide is happening in Myanmar and the world is watching..."

SALMA ATAULLAHJAN
SENATOR FROM CANADA AT A BRIEFING SESSION OF THE CPC IN DHAKA

Solution, not punishment

Says US on its objective regarding Myanmar and Rohingya issues

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States right now is preferring diplomatic solutions to the Rohingya crisis instead of punishment to Myanmar though there is scope for sanctions if needed, a State Department official said in Dhaka yesterday.

"We have a variety of sanctions available to us should we decide to use them. This will be a part of larger efforts of pressure," said Thomas A Shannon, under secretary of state for political affairs.

"But right now, as I noted earlier, our purpose is to solve the problem, not to punish," he said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Dumped dangerously

20 killed in Texas Church shooting

Highly infectious medical waste being handled carelessly by most hospitals, putting public health, environment in danger

RAFIUL ISLAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Anyone walking down the street in front of the main entrance to the DMCH emergency unit would encounter an awful sight: used syringes, bandages, dressings, saline bags and many other medical waste littering the pavement.

A heap of such rubbish is also seen in and around two large garbage containers, meant only for regular day-to-day waste.

At times, blood from the bandages and the dressings mix with stagnant rainwater in potholes and gives off foul smell. Flies buzz

around the garbage and stray crows and goats scavenge there.

It might sound bizzare but many of the several hundred cleaners working at the country's largest hospital dump such infectious medical waste right into the containers every day, completely ignoring the health hazards. Often, the containers overflow and the entire place is strewn with rubbish.

These waste is kept in the open for hours before ragpickers collect the recyclable things, including syringes, saline bags and scalpels from that place. The city

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AGENCIES

At least 20 people were killed in a shooting at a Texas church yesterday, US media reported.

ABC News cited a law enforcement official as saying 20 were killed and 30 wounded in the shooting.

Other media outlets were citing unnamed officials who gave death tolls as high as 27, reports AFP.

The shooting took place at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, a small community about 30 miles (50 kilometers) southeast of San Antonio.

The shooter was killed after a brief chase, reports CNN quoting the sheriff of the county.

Officials say the suspect fled the scene of the shooting in Wilson County and was killed after a brief chase north into neighbouring Guadalupe County.

However, it's not clear if the shooter was killed by police

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