

RESOLVING ROHINGYA CRISIS

# Europe stands by Bangladesh

*EU, German, Swedish FMs assure Dhaka; Japan pledges help in repatriation process*

STAR REPORT

Germany, Sweden and the European Union yesterday extended their strong support to Bangladesh on the Rohingya issue.

They also highly appreciated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her great humanitarian gesture of sheltering tens of thousands of forcibly displaced Rohingyas in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The support and appreciation came when German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel, Swedish Foreign Minister Margot

Wallstrom and European Union High Representative and Vice-President Federica Mogherini separately called on her at the Gono Bhaban yesterday evening.

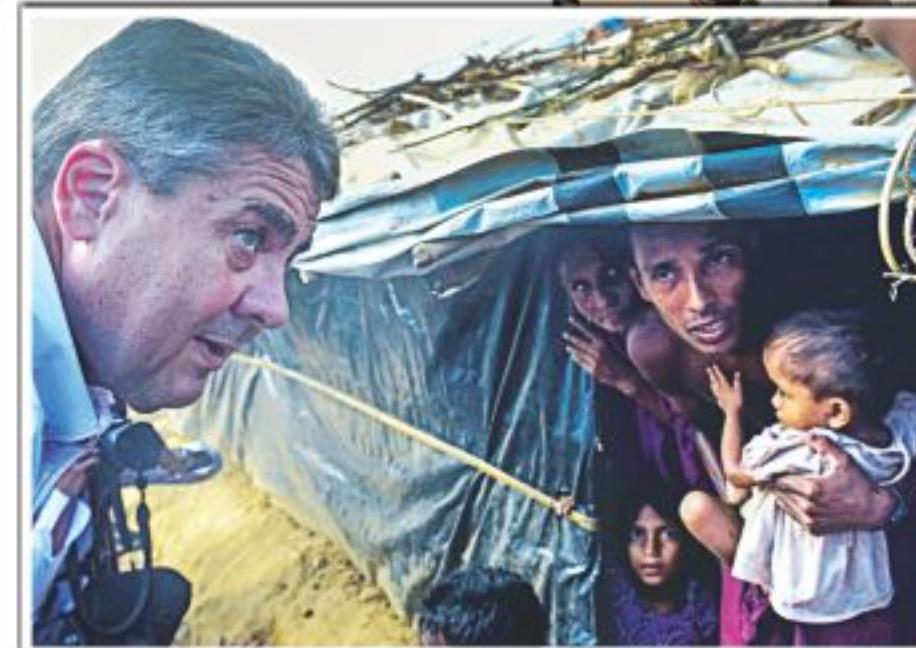
After the meetings, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim told reporters that Hasina discussed with them various aspects of the Rohingya crisis and said it would be difficult for Bangladesh to keep them for a long time.

The press secretary said the three expressed their grave concern over the atrocities on the Rohingyas in Myanmar.

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EU Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini (in green) visits Kutupalong Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar yesterday. She is accompanied by foreign ministers of Germany and Sweden. Sigmar Gabriel, German foreign minister, inset, talks to refugees.

PHOTO: AFP



## Caught in labour trap

*Child labour law, policies inadequate; social awareness, safety net, economic incentives can improve things*

### UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY

BISHAKHA DEVNATH

Alamgir jumped out of a human haulier inside Dhaka Cantonment and kept hollering at the top of his voice, "Jahangir Gate, Jahangir Gate".

Within minutes, all the seats got filled up, the vehicle started moving and the 14-year-old boy began collecting fare standing on the step.

Rain or shine, Alamgir, who looked thinner than most children his age, has been assisting the driver for long hours every day for the last six months.

Asked why he has to toil this way, the boy, wearing brown trousers and a red T-shirt, twisted his lips into a faint

smile, balancing his weight on the step.

"Is this hard work at all? I used to carry bricks and heavy bags of cement [before this job]," he said as he continued taking fare, counting money and returning the change to passengers.

Alamgir has been in hazardous jobs, as defined by the government in 2013, for the last two and a half years since his family moved to the capital from Sunamganj's Dharmashala following a huge crop loss. He now

lives near Matikata Bazar.

From his narrative, it seemed his struggle and financial troubles did not even let him think of education and fun time in school.

The government has made a number of policies, amended laws and signed ILO Convention 182 on worst forms of child labour to fight the menace. But, experts say, effective means should be created for such families that feel the supplementary income of their children is necessary for survival.

"The intergenerational transfer of poverty will continue if child labourers

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Ten-year old Shohag and his friend work close to open flames in their job. Shohag is like many other children who are employed by foundries in the city's Demra area. Hundreds of workshops in the area hire underage children for these hazardous tasks.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## No decision yet on section 57

*Govt to clarify its stance once Digital Security Act placed in JS, says law minister*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will clarify its position on the controversial section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act while placing the proposed Digital Security Act before the parliament, Law Minister Anisul Huq said yesterday.

He told reporters about the decisions after a meeting on the draft of Digital Security Act at the secretariat, attended by ministers and officials of different ministries and government agencies.

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## 'Business partner behind kidnap'

*Says Aniruddha; partner refutes allegation; questions remain*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Businessman Aniruddha Kumar Roy, who returned home nearly three months after his abduction, yesterday alleged that one of his business partners might be behind the incident, an allegation his partner rejected outright.

In a statement to the media, Aniruddha, managing director of RMM Group, said his business partner Mohiuddin Ahmed Mahin and his men did whatever possible to grab the three firms he had established.

The firms -- RMM Leather Industries Ltd, RMM Knit Clothing Ltd and SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

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NEWLY ELECTED ATAB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2017-2019



S.N. Manzur Murshed (Mahbub)  
President



MD. HELAL UDDIN

Chairman, Election Board  
ATAB Election 2017-2019



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