



Country's interest protected

FM on Rohingya repatriation deal

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali yesterday said Dhaka protected its interest in signing the deal with Naypyitaw over the repatriation of Myanmar nationals and hoped to send them back home within a reasonable time.

"Our interest has not been ignored or hampered at all...our main goal is to send back the Rohingya Muslims sheltered in Bangladesh and we have been able to make Myanmar agree to take back its nationals," he said at a press conference at the foreign ministry after returning home from Myanmar.

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As part of yesterday's nationwide celebrations of Unesco's recognition of Bangabandhu's March 7 Speech, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressed a rally attended by public servants, students and people from all walks of life at Suhrawardy Udyan.

PHOTO: PID

Upper hand Myanmar's

Experts, refugees doubt return of all Rohingyas under new deal that stipulates verification requiring documents of residency, 'old and expired citizenship identity cards'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The criteria stipulated in the new Rohingya repatriation deal will make it difficult for the Myanmar nationals to return to their homes in Rakhine State from Bangladesh, say experts and Rohingya refugees.

The Rohingyas will have to go through a verification process that will require them to submit documents to prove their past residency

in Myanmar.

The documents include "old and expired citizenship identity cards" or national registration cards or temporary registration cards, according to the "Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State" signed between Dhaka and Naypyitaw on November 23.

Once repatriated to Rakhine State, the Rohingyas will primarily be kept at temporary shelters or arrangements for a "limited time" and their freedom of movement will be allowed as per the existing laws in Myanmar.

However, the Rohingyas who have taken shelter in Bangladesh to escape persecution in Myanmar say these

► Myanmar will have the final say in verification of Rohingyas

► Refugee documents issued by UNHCR will also be verified by Naypyitaw

conditions go against their interest as only a few of them have residency cards.

Besides, it was still unclear whether they would be granted citizenship and the rights as enjoyed by the Buddhists in Myanmar.

"I don't want to go back to Myanmar unless it is guaranteed that I will be given citizenship," said Rohingya community leader Jamal Hossain, 42, now staying at Balukhali camp in Cox's Bazar's Ukhia.

Another Rohingya man, Jamal Hossain, who came from Buthidaung, said he had a residency card, but it along with all other

things in his house was burnt to ashes. He somehow managed to flee to Bangladesh with his family members.

"Even if I'm given the chance to go back to Rakhine, I will not accept it under the prevailing situation," he said.

Several other Rohingyas also echoed his view.

They are among the 622,000 Rohingyas, who have fled atrocities in Rakhine since the Myanmar military launched a brutal crackdown there on August 25.

The UN and the US termed the violence ethnic cleansing, while France and rights bodies defined it as genocide and crimes

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'Rape alarm' for Rohingya women

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, from Cox's Bazar

In Kerunali Rohingya camp of Teknaf, where stories of sexual harassment and rapes at night are ubiquitous, anything that comes in handy for women to stave off unwanted advances is a huge blessing.

That is why Kamalida, 18, thinks that her small hand-held device, which gives off the high-pitched ambulance wail at the press of a button,

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Turning waste into fashion

Garment waste can potentially generate \$4 billion annually

BISHAKHA DEVNATH

Garment waste management exemplifies the idea of one man's trash being another man's treasure. If tapped correctly, it has the potential of bringing in \$4 billion annually.

The idea is to turn the scraps into materials greatly demanded in the fashion world. By doing this, two usually conflicting interests -- business growth and addressing climate change -- can harmoniously intersect in each other's path.

In a recent study, Reverse Resources, an Estonia-based software company trying to develop an online market place for garment waste for ensuring its maximum utilisation and better value, showed that the total volume of annual leftovers from the county's garment units is around 400,000 tonnes.

If these leftovers are recycled for making new yarns and used in re-manufacturing garments, it will be a business of more than \$4 billion.

More than 25 percent of resources are discarded in fabric and garment factories, which can go up to 47 percent in some cases, as per the findings of RR.

Even if the country's 4,500 active garment units gain efficiency and ensure optimum use of fabrics, there is unavoidable waste at different stages of production while designs are cut out in making garment items, stitching and dyeing them.

Using waste from one cycle of production in the next through remanufacturing involves practical challenges but recycling it



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