

# THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

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## ROHINGYA REPATRIATION

# 450 to return in first batch

Myanmar plans to start it by taking back displaced Hindu families on January 22

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Myanmar plans to begin the repatriation of its nationals from Bangladesh on January 22 with a group of 450 Hindu refugees.

A refugee camp has been set up at Taungpyoleiwei in northwestern Rakhine State for those returning overland from Bangladesh, and a second one at Ngakhuya in Maungdaw Township for those returning by sea or waterways.

Win Myat Aye, Myanmar minister for social welfare, relief and resettlement, made the announcement after talks between the government and representatives of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) in Naypyitaw yesterday, reports the Democratic Voice of Burma, a Myanmar news organisation based in Thailand.

Seeking anonymity, a senior diplomat at the Myanmar Embassy in Dhaka told The Daily Star yesterday, "Arrangements are being made to receive the displaced people from Rakhine from January 22 on completion of two months since the signing of the repatriation agreement," the Myanmar diplomat said.

As per the agreement signed between Dhaka and Naypyitaw on November 23, the repatriation process must

Dhaka to give Naypyitaw a list of 1 lakh Rohingyas

Finalises draft of physical arrangements for repatriation

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## ABUSES ON ROHINGYAS

# UN envoy for pressure on China, Russia

REUTERS, Seoul

The United Nations' independent investigator into human rights in Myanmar has called for international pressure on China and Russia to try to get them to oppose human rights abuses in Myanmar.

UN special rapporteur Yanghee Lee, who was last week barred by the Myanmar government from visiting the country, singled out China and Russia because they had failed to back some moves in the UN aimed at trying to halt the Myanmar military's crackdown on the Rohingya Muslim community in Rakhine province.

"I'd like to ask the international community to continue to work with China and Russia to persuade them to stand on the side of human rights," Lee told Reuters in an interview.

Neither has joined the United States, the

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An SUV is parked on a newly paved footpath in Bijoy Nagar in the capital yesterday and work is being done in it. The vehicle is blocking the entire pavement and pedestrians were seen stepping on to the street to go around the vehicle. A motorbike is also parked next to it. See page 16 (City in Frame) for more photos on illegal parking and occupation of pavements.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Work in remote hospitals or quit

PM tells doctors

UNB, Dhaka

Disappointed by some doctors' reluctance to stay in rural areas, Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said they should stay at their workplace to properly serve the people or quit their jobs.

She said, "If they leave their workplace [remote hospitals], then they should discontinue their

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## No fund stolen

It rather soared to Tk 6cr from Tk 2.33cr, Khaleda's lawyers tell court in Zia orphanage case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawyers of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday argued in court that no money was embezzled from Zia Orphanage Trust, rather the amount in the fund has increased to Tk 6 crore from Tk 2.33 crore.

They also told the court if there were indeed any irregularities in the formation of the trust fund, the matter could be settled under the trust act.

They were placing defence arguments before Dhaka Special Court-5 in Bakshibazar in Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

Talking to reporters after the hearing, Khandaker Mahbub Hossain, a senior counsel for Khaleda, said, "BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will be acquitted in Zia Orphanage Trust graft case if there is no order from the top authority [of the government]."

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## Obliged to stop it, he does the opposite

Locals allege UP chairman aids and abets child marriages by issuing fake birth certificates; he denies it

MASUK HRIDOY, Brahmanbaria

If informed about a child marriage, a union parishad chairman, like any other local government representative, becomes legally obliged to step in to stop the social evil.

But ironically, the chairman of Goalnagar union in Brahmanbaria's Nasirnagar is facilitating such marriages by issuing fake birth certificates for money, locals allege.

They submitted a written complaint against the chairman, Azharul Hoque, to the Brahmanbaria deputy commissioner in October, seeking prompt action against him.

The complaint says Azharul encouraged child marriage in the union which is a remote area with a poor literacy rate.

The UP chairman, an expelled leader of the local Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, refuted the allegation.

Asked, he said, "I never used any fake birth year on anyone's birth certificate. I always issued certificates on recommendations of ward members or based on children's vaccination cards."

Talking to The Daily Star recently, Abul Kashem, a guardian of a student and also a managing committee member of Goalnagar

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## ACC quizzes AB Bank's ex-chair

The anti-graft body says he claims Tk 165cr sent to UAE mistakenly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former AB Bank chairman M Wahidul Haque yesterday claimed that the bank had mistakenly sent Tk 165 crore to a bank in the United Arab Emirates, said an ACC official.

A recent Bangladesh Bank report said the commercial bank laundered the amount to the UAE through two shady organisations in the name of investment.

"It was not a mistake. They knew all about it from the very beginning," said the Anti-Corruption Commission official who interrogated Wahidul yesterday.

Talking to journalists after the quizzing, Wahidul denied


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M Wahidul Haque





RECORD HOLDER

LIFEBUOY WINS THE GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ TITLE

Lifebuoy made a world-record by creating the **Largest Human Image of a Hand** on October 14, 2017 to mark Global Handwashing Day. With the participation of 11,157 students, Lifebuoy Bangladesh broke all previous records to achieve this success.

Venue: Dhaka Residential Model College

Source: Visit [f /lifebuoybangladesh](https://www.facebook.com/lifebuoybangladesh)

