

# A society 'encouraged to hate'

Amnesty says Rohingya crisis is its consequence, 'hate-filled rhetoric' of leaders threatens to normalise discrimination against marginalised groups



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The atrocities against the Rohingyas in Myanmar and the subsequent crisis are the consequences of a society encouraged to hate and lack of global leadership on human rights, Amnesty International has said in a report titled "The State of the World's Human Rights".

"We saw the ultimate consequence of a society encouraged to hate, scapegoat and fear minorities laid bare in the horrific military campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya people in Myanmar," said AI Secretary General Salil Shetty.

The report, which covers 159 countries, also mentioned the issues of rights violations in Bangladesh, including enforced disappearances, crackdown on public debate and criticism, and failure in holding accountable armed groups that carried out the killings of secular bloggers.

The report, which was launched by the Amnesty International yesterday, said the world is reaping the

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EUI MULLS SANCTIONS ON MYANMAR GENERALS -- PAGE 8

# NEW PAVEMENTS, OLD PAINS



Hawkers return to claim footpaths for themselves. The newly beautified footpaths, an initiative of the mayors from Dhaka North and Dhaka South, are quickly falling into disrepair. These photos were taken from Rajrabbagh, Shantinagar and Farmgate areas recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



## Why is BNP waging this movement?

Questions PM at rally in Rajshahi

UNB, Rajshahi

Criticising BNP leaders for their movement to have Khaleda Zia freed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked if the movement was for "a thief".

"The BNP leaders are waging a movement now. What is this movement for? Their leader has landed in jail for looting money. Is this a movement for a thief?" she said while addressing a rally at Rajshahi Government Alia Madrasa ground in the city.

"She [Khaleda] is enduring punishment today as she could not provide the money to orphans that came for them in the last 27 years," the PM added.

Hasina said the money was brought from abroad in 1991 for setting up an orphanage, but "they embezzled the money resorting to anomalies".

"Where is the orphanage? How many orphans are there? Have the orphans got a single penny?" she questioned.

The PM said Bangladesh had been the world champion in the corruption perception index for five consecutive years when the BNP was in power.

Seeking vote for "boat",

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# Major shake-up at edn ministry

30 officials transferred for 'irregularities', 'holding post for years'; question leak on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday transferred 30 education ministry officials to different colleges outside Dhaka over allegations of irregularities and for holding the same posts for years.

Yesterday, the education ministry issued two separate orders in this regard with immediate effect.

The ministry took the action in the face of criticism within as many of the officials had been holding the same posts for years. The transfers came at a time when the ministry is getting a lot of flak from different quarters for its failure to plug leaks of question of the ongoing SSC exams.

According to the government rules, an official cannot stay in the same post for more than three years, but some of the

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# BANGLADESH ON GRAFT INDEX

## Slightly better, still a long way to go

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has moved two notches up in the global Corruption Perceptions Index of 2017, but the scale of corruption in the country remains alarming, according to the Transparency International.

Among the 180 countries surveyed, Bangladesh ranked 143rd (17th from bottom), securing 28 points out of 100. The global average score is 43.

In 2016, Bangladesh stood 145th among the 176 countries surveyed.

The latest score is the highest so far by Bangladesh since 2001, when the country was included in the index for the first time. Earlier in 2013, Bangladesh scored 27.

New Zealand scored the highest, 89, to top the 2017 list, followed by Denmark and Finland that scored 88 and 85.

Somalia became the most corrupt coun-



try for the eleventh time, scoring only nine. South Sudan and Syria secured 12 and 14 points to become second and third most corrupt countries.

The Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB), the Bangladesh chapter of the Berlin-based graft watchdog, shared the findings of the global survey at a press conference at its office in the capital's Dhanmondi yesterday.

"This year's findings can give us some relief, but there is nothing to be happy about it... We are not satisfied. We have to go a long way," TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said, revealing the report.

Bangladesh is still far away from achieving

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# It is Pakistan's proxy war with Chinese help

Says Indian army chief about 'planned influx of Bangladeshis into India's north-east region'

AGENCIES

A "planned" influx of people from Bangladesh into India's north-eastern region is underway as part of a proxy war being waged by Pakistan, with support from China, to keep the area disturbed, Indian army chief General Bipin Rawat has said.

He took recourse to the "faster" growth of the Badruddin Ajmal-led All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) in Assam, as compared to the BJP in the 1980s, to buttress his point on the increase in Muslim population in several districts of the state in the backdrop of the National Register of Citizens being updated and finalised to detect illegal immigrants there, reports The Times of India.

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# Khaleda's appeal accepted by HC

Fine stayed; bail prayer hearing on Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday accepted BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's appeal challenging the lower court verdict that convicted and jailed her for five years in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

The HC also stayed the lower court order that fined her and asked the court to forward the case records to it within 15 days.

It fixed Sunday for hearing a bail petition filed by the BNP chief.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Shahidul Karim came up with the order and fixed the date after hearing arguments on the acceptance of her appeal and on the bail petition. The appeal was filed on Tuesday and the bail petition yesterday.

Zainul Abedin, a lawyer for Khaleda and also a vice-chairman of BNP, told The Daily Star that accepting an

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