



Wake up AND STOP ROHINGYA ABUSES

"This is clearly, clearly, clearly genocide that is going on by the Burmese government and military against the Rohingya people."

MAIREAD MAGUIRE.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No one would realise better than a woman how it feels when a child is snatched away from the arms of a mother and slaughtered, a man is murdered before the eyes of his wife, or a girl is raped. That is what happened to countless Rohingya women back in Rakhine State of Myanmar. As three Nobel laureates listened to such harrowing tales of tortured women and children one by one in the refugee camps of

Cox's Bazar, they could not hold tears back. The trio, all of them mother themselves, then urged Myanmar's de facto leader and their fellow Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi to speak out about violence against the Rohingyas, often dubbed one of the most persecuted minorities in the world. They implored her to "wake up" to the brutalities, warning she otherwise risks prosecution for "genocide". The three Nobel Peace Prize winners -- Tawakkol Karman, Shirin Ebadi and



Nobel Peace laureates -- Yemen's Tawakkol Karman and Northern Ireland's Mairead Maguire -- in tears hearing the harrowing tales of Rohingya refugees at Thyangkhali camp in Ukha yesterday. PHOTO: VIDEO GRAB

ROHINGYA CRACKDOWN EU prepares new sanctions on Myanmar

European Union foreign ministers yesterday agreed to prepare sanctions against Myanmar generals over the killings of Rohingya Muslims and to strengthen the EU arms embargo, accusing state security forces of grave human rights abuses. As reported by Reuters last week, foreign ministers meeting in Brussels asked the EU's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, to draw up a list of names to be hit with EU travel bans and asset freezes. In a statement, ministers called for "targeted restrictive measures against senior military officers of the Myanmar armed forces"

Hajj expenses to go up by Tk 16,000

Rising airfare to blame. Pilgrims have to spend around Tk 16,000 more this year to perform hajj, mainly because of high airfare. The cabinet yesterday approved the draft of Hajj Package-2018, fixing the maximum cost for a pilgrim under the government arrangement at Tk 3,97,929, which was Tk 3,81,508 last year.

Cash incentive rules flouted

8 exporters, in league with 2 banks, misappropriate Tk 43cr by abusing central bank provision, finds BB probe

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Kuliarchar Sea Foods, a Cox's Bazar-based fish exporter, withdrew about Tk 19 crore in cash incentives from Mercantile Bank last year, violating government rules. Exporters cannot collect the incentive, meant to encourage exports, until the entire export earnings are credited by the importer to the exporter's bank, according to a Bangladesh Bank circular issued in December 2001. But some exporters with help of their local banks continue to breach

the rules, a BB investigation has found. In the last two years, five companies, including Kuliarchar, misappropriated Tk 40 crore in such incentives from Mercantile. Three other companies took away Tk 3.35 crore from Jamuna Bank, the BB report said. The central bank carried out the probe between May and November last year. The Daily Star has been able to contact five of the eight companies in question. All of them denied any wrongdoing. But top officials of both the banks involved admitted violating rules.

They said they would try to adjust the amount from future export earnings of these firms and make sure this did not happen again. Twenty-seven export sectors receive cash incentive between 2 percent and 20 percent under a government policy to boost export and encourage exporters to explore new markets. The sectors enjoying cash subsidy include garment industry, frozen food and fish industry, leather products, finished leather, agro-based products and agro-processing industry.

BNP won't take a tough line till July

Fears losing steam before polls if it goes for an all-out movement now

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP would not go for any tough movement at least until July as it feels it would not be able to carry on with the agitation up to the elections later this year, party insiders claimed. They said even though they were frustrated with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia bail getting tied up in court and the government becoming tougher on them, they would not go for any programme that could become violent. They said holding on to the momentum of a movement was key and the party believes that igniting one right now would be a waste.



People gather near the mangled remains of the bus that hit a parked lorry on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Tripurdi area of Narayanganj's Sonargaon yesterday. At least 10 passengers, including two children and three women, were killed. PHOTO: STAR

10 killed in N'ganj as bus hits lorry

STAR REPORT

Attending a wedding in Gazipur on Sunday night, Kajal Rani Saha and her son Shuvo Saha were on way to their home in Chandpur's Haziganj yesterday. The mother and the son, who failed to get a direct bus to their village, boarded a Chittagong-bound bus near the Kanchpur bridge around noon. As the vehicle reached Tripurdi area of Narayanganj's Sonargaon about an hour later, it hit a parked lorry on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway. At least 10 passengers, including Shuvo, 16, were killed and 30 others injured. The deceased included three women

and two children. Of the injured, 15 were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. With her blood-stained saree, Kajal, 46, was seen wailing in front of the emergency unit of the hospital yesterday afternoon. "Oh God, please don't take away my Shuvo. Please give him back," she kept wailing hearing the news that her son, who used to run their six-member family by selling street food, was no more. Another victim, Mizanur Rahman, 25, was returning to his home in Feni along with his wife Hena Akhter, 18 and brother-in-law Ramim, 6. The couple had gone to Mizanur's in-laws' house in Keraniganj a week ago.

I believe that it is my responsibility as a Bangladeshi to help those in need. I used to also volunteer at an orphanage to teach kids how to read and write in English. I believe that it is my duty to help others because these kids are the future and we need to make the world a better place for everyone. Due to my mother, my incredible role model, I value gratitude, respect, and open mindedness; therefore my purpose in life is to become successful, hard working, and accepting, but at the same time care for those around me and appreciate the fortune and life I live.

I realize and understand that most problems have fairly complex solutions and require concerted planning, widespread education, class action and substantial funding. one of the most important values for me is loyalty. In this case, I am demonstrating loyalty towards my community and thus, I need to actively participate in it in order to create positive changes.

তোমার চাওয়াগুলোও আজ দেখছে পৃথিবী
তোমার পাওয়াগুলোও আজ পাচ্ছে পৃথিবী

তোমার দেখা, বলা, চলা নিয়ে কাজ করছি আমরা...
অবিন্ধা কবির ফাউন্ডেশন কাজ করছে তার দেখা স্বপ্নগুলো পূরণে।
একশতম জন্মদিনে অবিন্ধাকে আমাদের উপহার, তার স্বপ্ন সত্যি করার অঙ্গীকার।
অবিন্ধা কবির [১৯৯৭-২০১৬]

Abinta
Abinta Kabir Foundation