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From the paddy fields of Magura to the women's cricket team

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Singapore PM warns SE Asia faces IS, cyberattack threat

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PROMISES MYANMAR never kept

Rohingyas recall previous experiences, to place 13 demands to UNSC for repatriation

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA, from Cox's Bazar, and PORIMOL PALMA

Nurul Amin had fled to Bangladesh along with his parents in 1991, just as more than 2.5 lakh Rohingya who escaped forced labour, rape and religious persecution in Myanmar.

At only 10, it was his first time as a refugee.

However, having lived in a makeshift camp for about two years in Cox's Bazar, the family returned home in Maundaw of Rakhine on Myanmar authorities' promise of granting them citizenship, something that they had been denied since 1982.

Years went by, but Myanmar did not grant them citizenship. Instead, they were offered national verification card (NVC), popularly known as "embassy card" which means the Rohingya are illegal migrants from Bangladesh.

Nurul, the only son of his parents, still kept his hope alive although he, like all other Rohingyas, faced restrictions on movement and right to property. They also had to pay officials for marriage and even burials.

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Shanties as far as the eyes can see in Kutupalong Rohingya camp in Ukhia of Cox's Bazar. Risk of deadly mudslide in the monsoon looms over the homes built all over the hillocks that have been denuded. The picture was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Keep pressure on Myanmar to expedite repatriation

Govt to UNSC team visiting Cox's Bazar

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA, from Cox's Bazar

Bangladesh government has urged the visiting UN Security Council delegation to keep pressure on the Myanmar government to speed up the repatriation process and to recognise the Rohingya situation as a crisis.

The delegation agreed to continue its pressure on the Myanmar government and help find an amicable solution to the humanitarian crisis, three high officials, who attended a meeting held at a hotel in Cox's Bazar yesterday evening, told The Daily Star requesting anonymity.

The delegation lauded Bangladesh's tackling of the situation.

The meeting, presided over by acting foreign

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The UN Security Council, which is entrusted with ensuring global peace and security, has so far failed to protect the human rights of the persecuted Rohingya in Rakhine. As the delegation of the UNSC witnesses the massive human tragedy sites in Cox's Bazar of Bangladesh and Rakhine in Myanmar, two experts on international relations share their views with Porimol Palma of The Daily Star.

Time for UNSC to show it cares



IMTIAZ AHMED

The United Nations Security Council's visit to the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar and the affected villages in Rakhine can add a new dimension to the way the crisis is being looked at by the international community, said Professor Imtiaz Ahmed of Dhaka University.

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CR ABRAR

It was redemption time for the UN Security Council, which had seen an erosion of people's trust in the world body for its failure in taking concrete actions against Myanmar, a country accused of genocide and ethnic cleansing, said Prof CR Abrar.

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Camp or prison?

Infamous 'shelters' inside Myanmar reinforce Rohingya fears, demand for their closure

SHAKHAWAT LITON

They are like prisons. Yet, the Myanmar government calls them camps. In those camps in Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine, one lakh Rohingyas have been languishing for almost six years.

The entire area is fenced off and the entrances are guarded by security forces. The inhabitants are forbidden to travel outside the squalid camps in an apartheid-like condition.

These so-called camps have become prisons for the Rohingyas who were confined there by the Myanmar government for the sake of their "safety".

The Rohingyas suffer from chronic malnutrition and receive minimal medical care. They are not allowed to return to their homes from where they were ousted in the face of sectarian violence in June, 2012.

They don't even have any hope for going back. Nobody knows what happened to their homes and properties. The Rohingyas have become refugees in their own country.

The headline of a Time magazine report published four years ago perfectly described the situation in the camps: "These Aren't Refugee Camps, They're Concentration Camps, and People Are



Dying in Them."

The whole world was more or less aware of the inhuman conditions of the Rohingyas, who are mentioned as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Myanmar's official records. They, however, lost the global attention following the latest wave of violence against the Rohingyas living in Rakhine state.

More than seven lakh Rohingyas crossed the border into Bangladesh after Myanmar army had launched a violent crackdown on them in August 25 last year. These people are also called IDPs.

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Shield Rohingyas from monsoon

IOM appeals for urgent aid to help refugee camps deal with floods, landslides

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations has said that the lives of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees hang in the balance as they face 'life threatening' hazards due to the monsoon and cyclone seasons, which threaten to destroy their makeshift camps in Bangladesh.

The United Nations migration agency -- the International Organization for Migration (IOM) -- appealed in a statement, released on Friday, for urgent financial aid to prepare life-saving measures against floods and landslides in the makeshift camps in Cox's Bazar.

Without new funding, tens of thousands of people in the camps, fleeing violence in Myanmar since August 2017, will be at risk, the IOM said.

"We cannot wait for funding to come in after the emergency is over and possibly preventable tragedies have occurred," John McCue, IOM's senior operations coordinator

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Coach severs car driver's leg

It first rear-ends car then runs him over as he protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A coach ran over a car driver near Mayor Hanif Flyover at Dholaiar in the capital yesterday, severing his leg from the knee, after rear-ending the car and being chased down.

About a kilometre from the spot, a coach of Green Line Paribahan rear-ended the car of Russel Sarker, 26, and sped away. But the coach got stuck in traffic near the Mayor Hanif Flyover and Russel was able to catch up and halt the vehicle.

Russel had stood in the way of the coach holding a brick chunk and eventually Russel and coach driver Kabir Hossain locked in an altercation, witnesses said.

As the traffic began moving again, Kabir drove over Russel and his left leg got crushed under the wheel.

Locals chased the coach and caught it with the help of police near the Jatiya Press Club, Shahbagh police said.

Kabir was detained and the coach was seized, said Officer-in-Charge (Investigation) Zafar Ali Biswas.

Russel, who works for a power company, was first rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with the severed leg. He was then moved to Square Hospitals which referred him to Apollo Hospitals.

Doctors at Apollo were trying to reattach his leg, said Arif Hossain, Russel's co-worker.

Arif claimed that the coach driver ran over Russel with intent.

Abdus Sattar, general manager of Green Line Paribahan, said his staffers inside the coach said Russell threw a brick breaking the windscreen of the coach coming from Khulna. He was about to attack again when traffic started moving and Kabir drove away. Russel fell on the ground and got run over.

On April 4, Rajib Hossain, lost his right hand after it got stuck between two buses in the city's Bangla Motor area.

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GREETINGS
The Daily Star

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BUDDHA PURNIMA

Buddha Purnima today

BSS, Dhaka

Buddha Purnima, the biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community, is being observed amid festivity across the country.

The community has arranged different programmes, including colourful processions, Puja, Sanghadan, discussions and cultural functions to mark the day in a befitting manner.

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SEE EDITORIAL ON PAGE 6

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paying homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman after placing a wreath at the bust of Bangabandhu on Sydney University campus in Australia yesterday.

PHOTO: PID