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Rohingya crisis: What's the solution?

Bangladesh is under the global spotlight because it is hosting Rohingyas who fled army oppression in Myanmar. Bangladesh has given shelter to around 1,000,000 Rohingyas and more are still coming to Bangladesh. They are staying at different camps in Cox's Bazar, a predominant tourist spot, where they are surviving by cutting firewood to use for cooking and to sell. Problems such as deforestation and landslides in the area are inevitable.

Bangladesh is not equipped to support the refugees for a long time. While representatives of various powerful nations and organisations are coming to Bangladesh to see the condition of the Rohingyas, they empathise with their plight and praise Bangladesh but haven't yet taken any significant steps against Myanmar. Why are the powerful countries of the world silent? What is the solution of this crisis? Sayek Ahmed Sajib Narayankul Dream Model School and College, Gazipur



Myanmar must be referred to the ICC

The International Criminal Court (ICC), based in the Hague, has sought to know Bangladesh's opinion by June 11 as to whether Myanmar can be responsible for atrocities held in Rakhine state. International human rights bodies have already blamed Min Aung Hlang, Myanmar State Army Chief, as the prime planner and perpetrator of the offences in Rakhine, called out by the global media as "ethinic cleansing". He stands blame for inciting the military junta and radical Buddhists and also spread racist propaganda against Rohingyas, terming them 'Bengalis'. He is the man who has been denying the citizenship of Rohingyas from the very beginning

Aung Sang Suu Kyi, de facto counsellor of Myanmar, has also been blamed for her inaction and silent support to the atrocities against Rohingyas. For this, her Nobel Prize in Peace has been called into question by the global media and civil society. Satellite video footage, media coverage and stories of victims' families in Rakhine are vivid instances of the atrocities against the Rohingya community. The perpetrator behind the

crime never confessed and now Myanmar has been trying to mislead the international community by destroying evidence of the atrocities in Rakhine using army bulldozers. Bangladesh must refer Myanmar to the ICC for the heinous crimes committed in Rakhine as soon as

Md Zillur Rahaman Lalmohan, Bhola

MIGRATION

▲ 2000 Bengalis in Pakistan's Karachi have applied for Travel Permits (TP) to return to equivalent to a onetime passport, which the Bangladesh Embassy provides to individuals it believes belong to Bangladesh.

According to the Deputy High Commission in Karachi, 853 individuals applied for TPs in 2016, 836 in 2017 and 425 in 2018. Of the total number of applications, 1,116 have been accepted so far and many of them have already begun new lives in

Bangladesh. It's difficult to state exactly how many Bengalis reside in Pakistan. Various reports however suggest that the figure can vary from around 7 to 20 lakhs, with most of them living in Karachi. Many of these Bangladeshis had found their way into Pakistan in the mid-80s looking for home. work.

"Several of them arrived in the 80s to work in the country's textile industry and the fisheries sector," explains Rana Asif Habib, President of Initiator, a rights organisation_in Pakistan.

Many also looked at Pakistan as a gateway through which they could travel to the Middle East and Europe. "There was a time whatever money when the popular they have managed

opinion was that years, more than you could come to Pakistan and go to Europe through the border shared between Balochistan and Iran. That border was easy to pass around 15 years ago and many took that route to Europe and the Middle East," explains Noor-E-Helal Saifur Rahman, Deputy High Commissioner of the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Karachi. "Because that border has been closed, or in other words, heavily

> The reasons for returning, despite having stayed in not seeing them for ages, Pakistan for most of their lives, seem to vary. Pakistan's weakening economy is one of them. The value of Pakistan's currency is weaker than Bangladesh's today and this has affected many Bangladeshis, whose main target had always been to financially support their families back

secured, many got

stuck in Pakistan,"

he adds.

Age is another factor. A number of TP applicants are above 60 and aren't able to find suitable work. As such, they want to return home and live with their families for good.

harassed by the On the other police for not being hand, there are able to produce any applicants who have identity cards. had enough of staying away from Bengalis end up their wives, parents, and children and are applying for Travel Permits (TP) to once and for all with return to Bangladesh every

"There are two ways to issue TPs," Most of the Bengalis explains Rahman. "Firstly, if a person brings a genuine Bangladeshi passport which belongs to him, no complained of being matter how old it is, that person is given the TP. This basically means that the person had entered Pakistan with a Bangladeshi passport and then overstayed. If someone does not have a passport,

Bangladeshi migrants in

Pakistan are struggling

earning money for their

families back home and

relationship between the

two countries seem to be

at a time when the

deteriorating.

NAIMUL KARIM

There's also the

issue of harassment.

in Pakistan live in

poor areas and

undocumented.

Some of them have

As such, several

to earn.

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THE STRUGGLE **

to strike a balance between

ILLUSTRATION: MANAN MORSHED

Building Karnaphuli Multi Lane Road Tunnel with Ultimate Safety



The opinions expressed in these letters do not necessarily represent the views of the Star Weekend.

PHOTO: AFP