

## ROHINGYA CRISIS

## Special envoys of UN, Canada due next week

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN Special Envoy for Myanmar Christine Schraner Burgener and Canada's Special Envoy to Myanmar Bob Rae are expected to visit Bangladesh next week to discuss the Rohingya crisis with high government officials and visit the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals sheltered in Cox's Bazar.

Diplomatic sources said Rae is due to land in Bangladesh tomorrow morning for a two-day visit while Burgener is scheduled to arrive on July 12 for a three-day visit.

Rae, who has been an outspoken proponent of Myanmar's persecuted Rohingya Muslim minority, will leave for Cox's Bazar immediately after his arrival in Dhaka to visit the refugee camps housing an estimated 700,000 Rohingyas, who fled Myanmar amid widespread violence in Rakhine State beginning August 25, 2017, that the UN and others called "a textbook example of ethnic cleansing".

While in Dhaka, Rae will also meet

high government officials, including the prime minister and foreign minister, and interact with others concerned on Monday and before departing Dhaka on the same night.

The Canada's special envoy to Myanmar visited Bangladesh in November last year and again in May this year, making this his third visit.

Meanwhile, sources at the foreign ministry in Dhaka and New York said Burgener will arrive in Dhaka on July 12 for her first visit to Bangladesh since being appointed by the secretary general on April 26.

Burgener visited Myanmar last month and went to Rakhine State's Maungdaw township where she toured repatriation facilities and villages affected by violence during the brutal military crackdown targeting Rohingyas Muslims last year.

In Dhaka, she will meet the PM, FM and other stakeholders. She will also visit refugee camps in Cox's Bazar and directly talk to the Rohingyas, as well as

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AL President Sheikh Hasina is presented with a bouquet by General Secretary Obaidul Quader before a joint meeting of the party's Central Working Committee and Advisory Council at its new office building on Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

## Jubo League leader killed

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Jubo League, student and youth bodies associated with the ruling Awami League. Two Jubo League activists were injured in the clash occurred over a past feud at Bonarpara Rail Station Bazar, they added.

That night Mukul and some other friends were taking tea at the rail station. At one stage, a group of BCL activists equipped with deadly weapons swooped on him and his friends around 9:00pm. Three of them suffered injuries and critically injured Mukul was rushed to Gaibandha Sadar Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Mostafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Shaghata police, said a disagreement developed between the rival groups over a local football match organised in line with the World Cup Football two weeks ago. During the match held at the station

powerhouse ground, BCL activists beat up two Jubo League men and cases were also filed against each other.

A fierce clash ensued between those rival groups on Thursday night that led to Mukul's death, he added.

Harun-ur-Rashid Hiru, president, Shaghata upazila unit Jubo League, said rivalry developed between Mukul and BCL leaders over establishing supremacy in the locality.

Mukul got married a few months ago and his wife is pregnant, he added.

All the leaders and activists of BCL have meanwhile fled the area to avert probable arrest, locals said.

Superintendent of Police of Gaibandha Abdul Mannan Mia visited the area and asked the OC to arrest the accused.

An additional police force was deployed in the area to maintain law and order.

## Govt playing 'dubious role'

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over the alleged physical assault, verbal abuse and mental torture on a female protester and demanded immediate release of the detained demonstrators and withdrawal of false cases against them.

They also called for launching a judicial probe into the attacks on quota reform activists to punish the culprits.

"Dhaka Medical College Hospital did not provide treatment to quota reform leader Nurul Haq Nur. Now we heard that another quota reform leader Toriqlul Islam, who broke his leg, had eight stitches on his head and bruises all over his body [in an attack], was forced to leave Rajshahi Medical College Hospital," said Prof Fahmidul Haq of Dhaka University.

"Incredible! What a country we live in," he said, accusing the government of playing a "dubious role" on the quota reform issue.

Anu Muhammad, economics professor at Jahangirnagar University, said, "People like Moriom [the female protester] are our strength and hope. But the government has failed to understand them; the government has failed to understand this power".

Writer and anthropologist Rahnuma Ahmed asked where the women leaders of parliament were now as they were still not speaking up despite learning about the sexual assault on Moriom.

Nur's father Idris Hawladar said he was a farmer from a remote village and that he sold his land for the education of his son, who is a master's student at Dhaka University's English department.

"As a concerned person, Nur joined the quota reform movement along with the people of Bangladesh. But he was picked up by DB police and released an hour later," he said and broke down in tears.

"Later, he was beaten up on his university campus. He had so much pain all over his body that he could hardly stand up on his own. However, he was driven out of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

"When my son was admitted to a private hospital later, he was forced to leave that as well," Idris said, demanding an end to such repression on the participants of the movement.

Toriqlul's experience was even worse.

A master's student at Rajshahi University and joint convener of the quota reform movement at the university, Toriqlul was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital after being beaten up with a hammer and sticks. Some BCL men carried out the attack near the main gate of the university on Monday.

However, he was forced to leave the hospital and is now being treated at a private hospital, said his family members.

Supreme Court lawyer Hasnat

Quaiyum, one of the organisers of yesterday's programme, asked why such repression was taking place in a democratic country.

"Those who are in the government, why are they there? What is their job? ... Do they get salaries to foil peaceful movements? Do they get salary to oppress people?"

Jyotirmoy Barua, another Supreme Court lawyer, said what was done by police and the Chhatra League men during some recent incidents amounted to criminal offences.

Taking a dig at police, he said, "Their salaries are paid from our taxes. But they beat up our children and force them out of hospital. If we raise question, we are labelled as BNP-Jamaat". Jyotirmoy is among the 20 lawyers who have recently promised to provide legal aid to quota reform activists for free.

Meanwhile, another platform, under the banner of teachers against repression, said it would bring out a procession from DU Central Library premises tomorrow.

In a press statement yesterday, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia) expressed grave concern over the recent attacks on the protesters by the BCL and the police.

Termining the attack "violent", it also condemned the harassment of the university teachers and said that force against any peaceful assembly is prohibited under the international

human rights law.

## 'BNP-JAMAAT PROVOKING QUOTA REFORMISTS'

As BNP-Jamaat could not weaken the government through any meaningful movement, they were now provoking quota reform activists against the government, said Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday.

He was answering questions from journalists after inaugurating a newly constructed building of Moniando High School in Akhaura upazila of Brahmanbaria.

Despite the prime minister's commitment, the minister said, a vested quarter was trying to create a violent situation in the country in the name of the movement.

In a similar tone, Rajshahi University Vice Chancellor Prof M Abdus Sobhan said the ongoing quota reform movement was an "anti-government movement with a motive to carry out sabotage".

## 'MORE PAINFUL THAN DEATH'

Toriqlul was going through immense pain lying in his bed at Royal Hospital in Rajshahi city's Laxmipur area.

"It is more painful than death," one of his relatives quoted him as saying, reports our staff correspondent in Rajshahi.

Orthopedic surgeon Sayeed Ahmed, who is treating Toriqlul, said he would need more time to recover.

"For a thorough check up, we advised him some tests," he said.

## Winner not on the field

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previously the lone tragedy that Brazil ever experienced, when Uruguay denied their first World Cup in the last 15 minutes of the game to clinch a 2-1 victory from 1-0 down at the famous Maracana stadium in 1950. Since then Brazil went on to win five WorldCups, more than any other country.

Brazil were never humiliated like they were on July 8 in the 2014 semi-final. In front of a home crowd, it felt like a brutal public flogging -- a wound so deep that many pundits thought it would take at least a decade to heal.

Some famous football critics even saw the end of Brazilian era in world football. Brazil even vindicated that prediction by sinking further into the abyss after replacing Felipe Scolari with Carlos Dunga.

From number six in the rankings, Brazil are back to number one again. When countries like Italy failed to get a World Cup ticket, Brazil became the first country to qualify for the Russian fiesta. When hot favourites Germany, Spain and Argentina got dumped out

"Tite is a great coach, one of the best in the world. He just doesn't have the status of [Manchester City coach Pep] Guardiola and [Manchester United coach Jose] Mourinho because he's not in Europe. But he's as good as these guys."

Quotes like this from players and critics are common these days.

The secrets of Tite are planning, confidence and motivation. He is very dedicated and has an incredible ability to explain his ideas and explore the best of every player.

The first thing Tite did was institute the rule that there would be no permanent captain for Brazil. The armband is being rotated among players since he took over. The next remarkable step is less dependency on superstar Neymar.

Scolari went into Mission Hexa, the sixth World Cup for Brazil, purely depending on Neymar, who was then 21 years old. But Tite built a squad of several winners, of which Neymar is one. Interestingly, Tite is yet to offer the world's most expensive player the coveted armband. Neymar has to work

## Nawaz Sharif gets 10 years in jail

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Small protests quickly broke out after the verdict at the court in Islamabad, which was surrounded by heavy security, and in some other Pakistani cities including Multan in Punjab, the Sharif dynasty's provincial stronghold.

"We reject this decision," his brother Shahbaz Sharif, who is leading the PML-N into Pakistan's second ever democratic transition of power, told a televised press conference in Lahore.

"It is based on injustices. This decision will be written in black words in history," he said.

Khan for his part greeted the verdict with jubilation at a campaign rally in the Swat valley in Pakistan's northwest.

"Today all Pakistanis must offer thanksgiving prayers because today is the beginning of a new Pakistan. Now robbers will not go into assemblies, but to jails," he told a roaring crowd of thousands.

Lawyers said Sharif had also been fined eight million pounds (\$10 million) and that the court had ordered the federal government to confiscate the high-end properties in London's

exclusive Mayfair neighbourhood.

Analysts said the verdict would damage the PML-N's campaign, as the less charismatic Shahbaz seeks to fend off the challenge by Khan's Movement for Justice and other parties.

"No matter what the PML-N says, the decision is going to damage their vote bank," analyst Rifaat Hussain told AFP, adding that he thought it unlikely Sharif would return.

Recent surveys show that up to 22 percent of voters are undecided, he said, and with further serious allegations of corruption against the PML-N leadership there is little chance of Sharif mobilising the "sympathy factor" after the verdict to attract support.

The ruling has put Sharif in a "difficult position", agreed analyst Rasool Bakhsh Rais.

"If Sharif does not come back, his party is over. If he comes back, he will have to fight cases and he will be suffering a lot -- but in this way he will save his party."

Sharif, who at times during his premiership appeared to seek a better relationship with Pakistan's arch-

enemy India, has since his ouster repeatedly accused the military of wanton political interference.

The verdict coming just weeks before the polls fuelled narratives he was being targeted, said analyst Michael Kugelman.

"A culmination of fair justice served or politicized selective justice? Timing alone suggests the answer," he tweeted.

But Kugelman also suggested the party was becoming a "spent force": "The walls are closing in, and rapidly".

Journalists and activists have spoken of pressure by the military to censor positive coverage of the PML-N campaign amid allegations of a "silent coup". The military has said it does not interfere in the media.

The party has also seen a series of high-profile defections in recent weeks, further weakening its position.

The corruption controversy erupted with the publication in 2016 of 11.5 million secret documents from Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca documenting the offshore dealings of many of the world's rich and powerful.

## BAF PLANE CRASH

## Black box found in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

The black box of the Air Force's crashed training aircraft was recovered in Jessore yesterday.

Parimol Kumar Kundu, assistant director of Jessore Fire Service and Civil Defence, said the black box of the Air Force's plane that crashed in Bukbhora Baor on July 1 was recovered at 10:30am.

Two pilots were killed as the training aircraft taking off from Jessore Airport crashed around 9:15pm in Bukbhora Baor.

Teams from the fire service, navy, air force and army were looking for the plane's black box. It was finally found on the fifth day of the rescue operation.

According to aviation experts, a black box is a device that records all the cockpit interactions and technical details of an aeroplane.

## ADB okays \$100m for Rohingyas

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After Nakao received the request from Bangladesh Finance Minister AMA Muhith for grant assistance in early May, ADB developed and processed the project at an extraordinary speed under its emergency procedure, according to an ADB statement issued in Manila.

The \$100m grant project will support the displaced people sheltered in camps in Ukhaia and Teknaf upazilas of Cox's Bazar focusing on water supply and sanitation, disaster risk management, energy, and roads.

The project will rehabilitate roads within the camps to connect essential

food distribution and storage centers, hospitals, education facilities, and provide emergency access.

It will also resurface the road from Cox's Bazar to Teknaf and other critical sections.

To address water needs, the project will provide mobile water carriers, community bathing facilities, and build a piped water supply system and waste management facilities, together with small water treatment plants.

Under the project, solar powered and mini grid-connected street lighting will be provided. It will enable access to electricity augmented by substations, distribution lines, and

transformers.

The southeastern part of Bangladesh is highly susceptible to various types of natural hazards, including flooding, landslides, lightning and heat waves.

Given these potential challenges, the project will strengthen disaster risk management by constructing cyclone shelters with emergency access roads, as well as food distribution centres, walls to protect against landslides, and a storm water drainage network.

The ADB support will be within the framework of multi-sector Joint Response Plan prepared by the UN-led InterSector Coordination Group.

The project will be implemented in

coordination with UN agencies, the World Bank, and other donors who are providing humanitarian relief such as food, water, medical aid, and temporary shelter.

The first phase is costing \$120m over about two and a half years. The first ADB \$100m grant will come from the Asian Development Fund (ADF), while the government will provide \$20m.

Nakao appreciated the ADF donors' prompt endorsement of grant financing for Bangladesh.

The scope and timing of a second phase of ADB grant support of another \$100m will be determined based on the progress of the first phase.

of the World Cup, Brazil looked solid and like champions.

The Selecao's recovery is almost like the rise of the mythical phoenix from the ashes. So, was the Brazilian renaissance almost natural? Far from it. The Brazilian football federation played practically no role in it. The federation hit its lowest ebb as three of its bosses had to step down upon corruption charges.

Brazil were lucky to make an all-important recruitment. Brazil are born again and have become a force to reckon with mainly because of one man. He is Tite, The Coach.

The biggest challenge of the Brazilian coach was to fulfil the typical expectation of spectators. Winning is not enough. It has to come in "Brazilian", through beautiful football. Under Tite, Brazil are playing "Brazilian" brand.

Fondly called Professor by his charges, Tite inspired his team to win 19 of 21 matches before the World Cup.

harder to earn it.

Tite made his team more attacking, but with beefed up defence. Brazil have only conceded six goals in 24 matches with Tite in charge. Conceding seven goals in one game seems to be a thing of the past.

Tite is least interested about the favourites' tag or the No. 1 ranking.

"I care so little about it!" is Tite's reply for journalists. All he wants is hard work from his team. Because, he reminds his charges, talent doesn't win matches.

When Brazil take on Belgium in the make-or-break match tonight, any one of Philippe Coutinho, Paulinho, Gabriel Jesus, Willian, Douglas Costa or Firmino can seize the limelight from Neymar. Any of the players can score or become player of the day.

I believe Brazil will win. And, if it is a victory, the real winner will not be playing in the field but watching the game from the dugout!

The writer is former Sports Editor of The Daily Star