

"It's about an insurance against a loss of a generation of children to hopelessness and despair -- something that we really must avoid at all costs."
SIMON INGRAM, SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS ADVISER TO UNICEF



"There is a mountain of evidence that the murder, rape, torture, burning and forced starvation was part of a highly orchestrated, systematic attack on the Rohingya."
DIANA SAYED, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (PAGE 2)



"The torture of Rohingya returnees puts the lie to Myanmar government promises that refugees who return will be safe and protected."
HRW DEPUTY ASIA DIRECTOR PHIL ROBERTSON (PAGE 2)



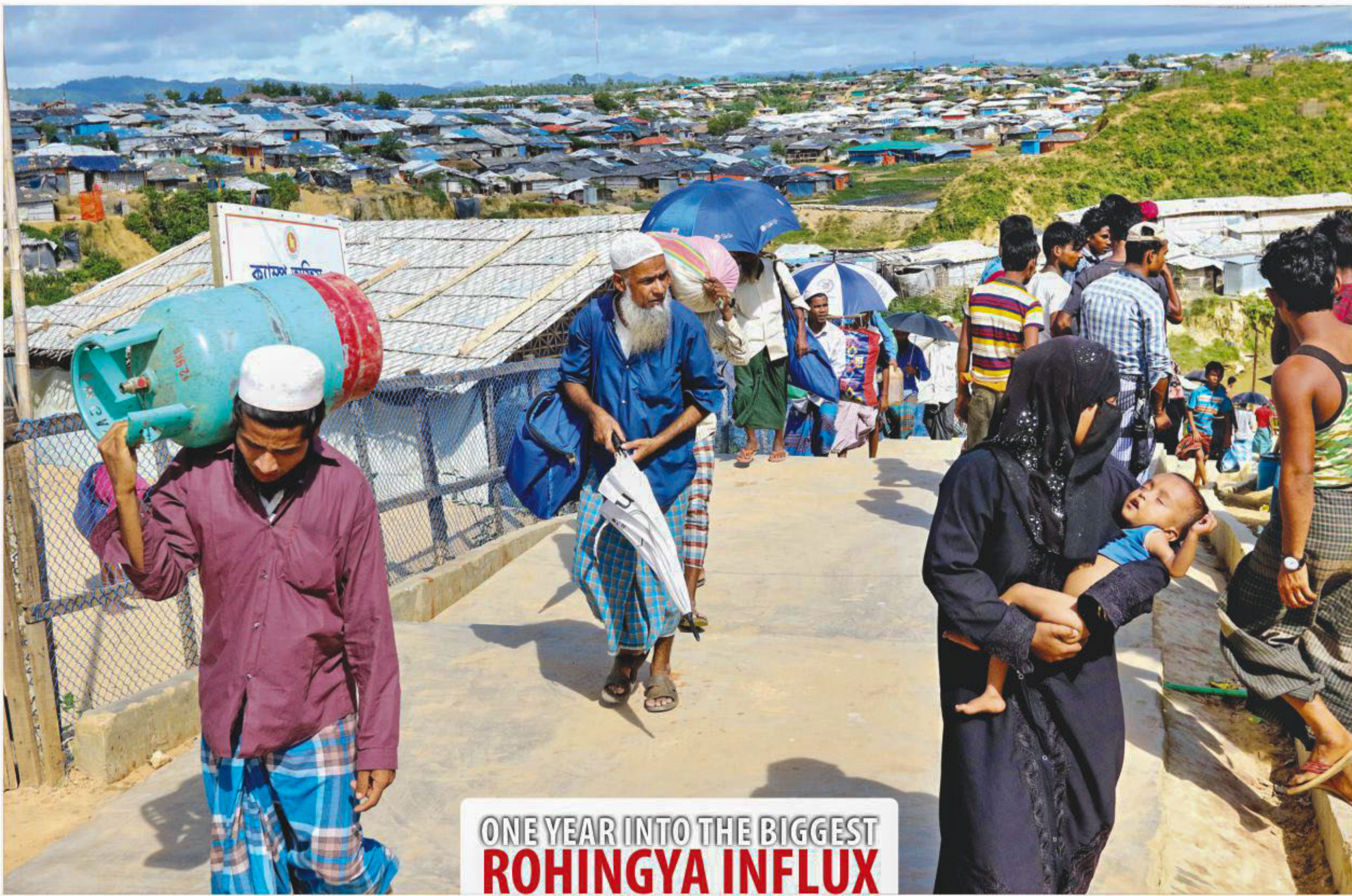
Caring for the little souls

Some Balukhali madrasas feed orphaned Rohingya kids

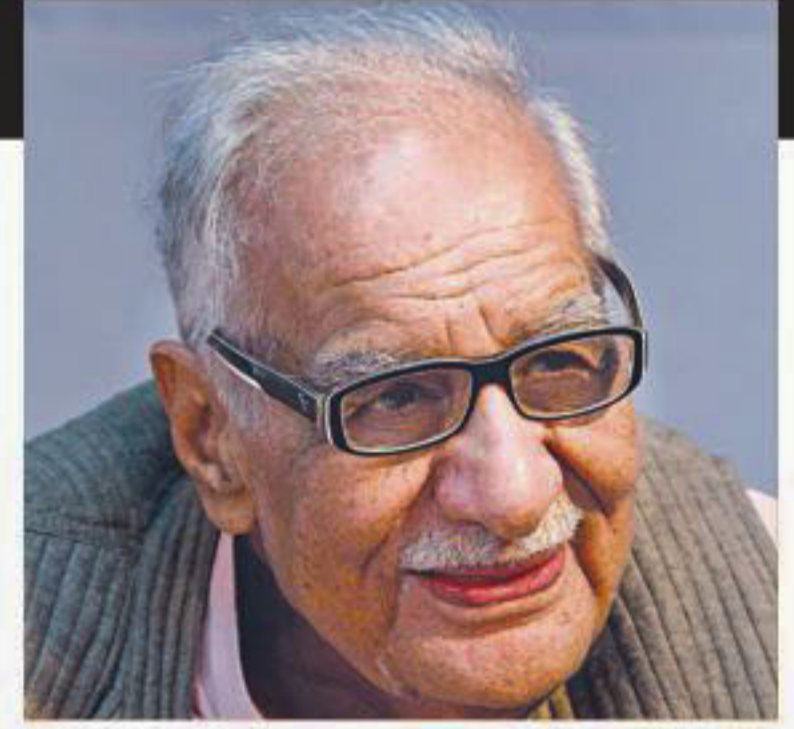
ZYMA ISLAM

Lunchtime was just over at Balukhali camp 8E. The household of Akhter Hujur officially has four members -- himself, his young wife, her sister and a tiny infant daughter -- but there is always one extra mouth to feed. That mouth belongs to a person with neither mother or father, nor family. Akhter works as an imam at the Mahadu Loga madrasa, which currently serves as the home for 25 orphans. Every day during mealtimes, the orphans run off to different homes all of whom have the kindness to share the fruits of their hearth. Once the plates are cleared the kids come back to their madrasa. At night, they push aside the hand-ful of worn-out old benches that make up the only furniture in their

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Rohingya refugees returning to Balukhali camp after receiving relief goods in Ukhaia of Cox's Bazar on Sunday. One year has passed since the Rohingyas started taking shelter in the district escaping a Myanmar military crackdown, but there is no sign of their repatriation beginning anytime soon. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



KULDIP NAYAR (1923-2018)

Tribute to A Unique Mentor

MAHFUZ ANAM

It was literally a magical moment when Kuldip Nayar (Kuldip Ji to all who loved and admired him) first stepped into the newsroom of the newly launched The Daily Star. He loved the vibrancy that comes naturally when a bunch of young journalists embark on their dreamy journey to bring out the "best paper" of their life and he responded with all his latent energy that lay subdued ever since he left the newsroom and became one of the most renowned columnists of India.

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DELAY IN REPATRIATION Suu Kyi's comments draw flak

PORIMOL PALMA

Aung San Suu Kyi's remark that the pace of Rohingya return depends on Bangladesh is grossly wrong and reflects Myanmar's lack of sincerity in finding a sustainable solution to the crisis, says international relations analysts. In a public lecture in Singapore on Tuesday, Myanmar State Counsellor Suu Kyi said her country had been "ready" to receive Rohingya returnees since January 23.

"It's very difficult for us to put a time frame on it by ourselves unilaterally because we have to work

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MORE THAN A MILLION ROHINGYA REFUGEES

Return still elusive

Longer they stay, heavier becomes the burden on Bangladesh

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The repatriation of the Rohingyas remains elusive even nine months after the signing of an agreement between Bangladesh and Myanmar.

The deal signed between Dhaka and Naypyidaw in November announced that their going home must begin in January 2018, within two months of the agreement signing.

But not a single Rohingya has been repatriated. Moreover, around 12,000 Rohingyas entered Bangladesh only this year and joined those who took refuge in Cox's Bazar camps last year.

Nobody in Bangladesh can say when the repatriation would begin or how long it would take to complete. Everything now depends on Myanmar's will.

The pressure was on Myanmar after the crisis gripped the world's attention. Myanmar's treatment of the Rohingyas was termed by UIN as a "textbook example" of ethnic cleansing.

Aung San Suu Kyi and her government faced strong global condemnation and outrage for the scorched-earth campaign carried out by Myanmar's military to drive the Rohingya population out of their homes in Rakhine. The demand for taking punitive action against Myanmar was loud.

Amidst such a situation, Myanmar signed the deal and agreed to begin the process for taking the Rohingyas back to their homes.

But Myanmar was never short of tricks. It imposed some stringent conditions in the deal -- the returnees must show national registration cards or documents of residency. Many Rohingyas have no documentation at all. It was impossible for many of them to present documents as they had to hastily flee killings and torching of homes.

So, the chance of their return remains bleak.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali had rejected the deal on October 9 in a briefing for diplomats. He said the "criteria are not realistic". But only six weeks later, the government agreed to the deal. There was no deadline for the repatriation; it could go on forever.

Myanmar's ally China had opposed repeatedly

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With a blank look on her face, a Rohingya child stands outside her shelter at Balukhali camp in Cox's Bazar on Sunday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Unicef warns of a 'lost generation'

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The refugee crisis in Bangladesh sparked by the mass exodus of people from Myanmar a year ago risks creating a "lost generation" of Rohingya children who lack the life skills they will need in future, Unicef has warned.

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2 indigenous girls 'raped' in Bandarban

Case filed against 3 'BGB men'; BGB denies allegation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Two Tripura girls, aged 12 and 17, were allegedly raped by two members of Border Guard Bangladesh in Lama upazila of the district on Wednesday night.

In a case filed yesterday with Lama Police Station, the girls said a third BGB man stood guard as they were raped in a bush not far from their village.

BGB jawans Sumon and Maruf of Tired Deva Camp were accused of raping and Nayek Rabiul of assisting, investigation officer of the case Sub-Inspector Abdullah said.

The men first offered the girls money for sex. They raped the girls after they rejected the offer, the SI said, quoting the case statement.

Lt Col Asaduzzaman, commanding officer of 11 BGB Battalion in Naikkyangchhari, said he was looking into the matter.

He, however, suggested that the alleged rapes were rumours spread deliberately to make the authorities withdraw the Tired Deva BGB camp.

Meanwhile, Bandarban Sadar Hospital, where the girls are admitted, has been heavily guarded by police, who are restricting the

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3-DAY EID HOLIDAYS

Road crashes kill at least 31

6 more killed yesterday

STAR REPORT

At least 31 people were killed and more than 100 others injured in road accidents during the three-day Eid holiday, while six others were killed in a single road crash in Feni yesterday.

Besides, another 17 people were killed in two road crashes in Feni and Narsingdi on Monday, a day before the vacation.

Most of the road mishaps during the Eid holiday happened on national and regional highways. Motorcycles were involved in 10 of the 23 incidents while three accidents took place when buses and trucks hit auto-rickshaws, run by CNG and batteries, on highways where they are banned from plying.

The number of casualties could be higher as many accidents, especially on regional highways, go unreported.

During the Eid-ul-Azha holidays last year, road accidents had claimed at least 29 lives. The number was 32 in 2016, 30 in 2015, 26 in 2014, 10 in 2013 and 40 in 2012.

Of the 31 dead, five each were killed in Gopalganj, Bogra and Comilla, three each in Chittagong and Kushtia, two in

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ভুল না করে
ঠিকতা করুন

বিপরীত লেনে গাড়ি না চালিয়ে
যান চলাচল স্বাভাবিক রাখুন।
সবার সচেতনতায় হবে-



নির্মল বায়ু এবং টেকসই পরিবেশ (CASE) প্রকল্প
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ ও উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন