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TACKLING ROHINGYA CRISIS Canada calls for 'transition plan'

With no job or edn, refugees can be drawn to crime, radicalisation, Bob Rae says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Canada wants a transition plan for the Rohingyas as the repatriation process appears slow amid the refugees' lack of willingness in returning to Myanmar due to insecurity and non-conducive conditions in Rakhine.

"Not short or long-term, we need to make a transition plan for the Rohingyas," said Bob Rae, Canadian prime minister's special envoy to Myanmar, insisting on providing education and income generating activities for the refugees.

If they do not get education and jobs, they would turn to crimes and radicalisation, he said.

His comments come just days before the UN launches a joint response plan and appeals for \$920 million for the Rohingyas this year.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, however, called for continuous pressure on Myanmar from the international community for Rohingya repatriation.

Providing education to the 400,000 Rohingya children could act as a pull factor for the refugees, he said, adding, "We need to address these pull factors."

The suggestions came at a panel discussion on potential



Hollywood superstar Angelina Jolie, a special envoy for the UNHCR, addresses a press conference after her visit to the Kutupalong camp for Rohingya refugees in Ukhia of Cox's Bazar. The US actress visited the camp ahead of a new UN appeal for nearly \$1 billion to look after the refugees.

PHOTO: AFP

Jolie demands Myanmar's 'commitment' to end violence

AFP, Kutupalong

Angelina Jolie yesterday said that Myanmar must "show genuine commitment" to end violence that has driven hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims into neighbouring Bangladesh.

The superstar envoy for the UN refugee agency made the comments on the second day of emotional meetings with Rohingya, including rape survivors, in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district where some 740,000 Rohingya have taken refuge since August 2017.

There were already about 300,000 in camps before the exodus, which has strained Bangladesh's resources to the limit.

The visit came ahead of a new UN appeal to raise nearly one billion dollars for the one million Rohingya now in the camps around the town of Cox's Bazar.

"It was deeply upsetting to meet the families who have only known persecution and statelessness their

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SLOW INTERNET SPEED Blame game is all they can offer

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

Bangladesh lags far behind a number of countries in terms of average internet speed for both mobile and broadband connections, something for which the stakeholders blame each other.

The global average mobile internet speed is 25.08 megabytes per second (mbps) while it is only 9.06mbps in Bangladesh, according to a new report on online habits released by HootSuite and We Are Social.

Similarly, while the global average for broadband connection speed is 54.33mbps, it is only 25.08mbps in Bangladesh.

Twelve countries enjoy average fixed internet connection speeds of more than 100MBPS, while ten countries enjoy average mobile connection speeds in excess of 50mbps.

In this regard, MA Hakim, president of Internet Service Providers Association Bangladesh (ISPAB), said transmission

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CYBER SAFETY IN BANGLADESH 32pc children bullied online

Unicef study says after survey on 1,281 kids aged 10 to 17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 32 percent children in Bangladesh, aged between 10 and 17, face cyberbullying, violence and harassment online, according to a survey.

Online Safety of Children in Bangladesh, a study commissioned by Unicef Bangladesh, revealed the information on the Safer Internet Day yesterday.

The United Nations Children Fund also urged the authorities concerned to take concerted actions to tackle and prevent violence against children and young people online.

The organisation surveyed 1,281 children from different schools, colleges and madrasa and found that 25 percent of them accessed the digital world as early as 11.

Besides, 63 percent of the children use their own room as primary internet usages point, indicating prevalence of "bedroom culture" among them that allows less supervised internet uses.

The study also revealed that 70 percent of the boys and 44 percent of the girls surveyed admitted accepting unknown people on their "online friends" list, risking their safety.

Some 10 percent of the children reportedly faced religiously provocative content online, the survey read.

Yesterday, a press briefing was held at Janata Software Park in the capital's Karwan Bazar area.

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DHAKA CITY POLLS CEC wants it just like the nat'l election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda yesterday said he wanted the upcoming by-polls to Dhaka North City Corporation mayoral post and councillor election to the 36 new wards under the DNCC and the DSCC to be free and fair.

"The 11th general election was held in a fair manner. We want the Dhaka city corporation elections to be held like the national election," he said.

Huda made the comment while briefing returning officers and executive magistrates, who will carry out election duties for the February 28 polls, at his office in the capital's Agargaon.

The CEC thanked all returning officers and executive magistrates for

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Milky Way is twisted and warped, not flat



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Our galaxy is twisted and warped, scientists have said after a shock discovery.

The Milky Way that surrounds us has long been presumed to be relatively stable and flat. But scientists have accurately mapped the galaxy for the first time, and found that it becomes increasingly warped and twisted towards the edges.

It has been notoriously difficult to see the shape of our own galaxy, even as we have mapped others in detail. We are stuck inside of it and it is difficult to see: scientists liken the experience of measuring the Milky Way to standing in your garden and trying to work out what shape your country is.

Now researchers have used 1339 stars to create a map that reveals the true shape of our galaxy. They found that the disc of stars twists up as it approaches the edges, far from the flat shape that

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Time running out on Qatar labour reform

Warns Amnesty

AFP, Doha

Qatar is running out of time to stamp out widespread serious labour abuse for tens of thousands of migrant workers before hosting the 2022 World Cup, Amnesty International warned yesterday.

The rights watchdog said that despite well-publicised "nascent reforms" Qatar risked breaking its promises to deliver meaningful change before the Middle

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 6
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-15 5-52 7-15
JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-30 5-56 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Man killed in 'gunfight between gangs'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A man was killed allegedly in a "gunfight" between two rival criminal gangs in Moheshkhali upazila of Cox's Bazar early yesterday, police said.

The dead Sahab Uddin, 35, was a resident of Nonachari village of the upazila.

He was accused in 16 cases, including murder, robbery and extortion, filed with Moheshkhali Police Station, said Probhat Chandra De, officer-in-charge of the police station.

"Police entered the forest of Kalmadia area around 5:00am upon receiving information about a 'gunfight' between two rival gangs," the OC said, adding that they could not reach the spot until 8:00am due to "heavy exchange of firing".

Police later recovered a bullet-hit body, four firearms and 13 rounds of

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Life is a daily struggle for Shaheen. A helper of a human hauler driver, the 10-year-old works around 10 hours every day to earn only Tk 200. He is losing his childhood on the streets as he needs to support his father, a factory worker, to run their five-member family. The photo was taken on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar's Genda area yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

CBI can't arrest Kolkata top cop

Rules Indian SC in graft probe, asks police commissioner to appear before agency; Mamata ends sit-in

AGENCIES

Indian Supreme Court yesterday ruled that the CBI can't arrest Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar in connection with the Saradha chit fund scam probe.

It also directed Kumar to appear before the CBI and "faithfully" cooperate with the agency in investigation of cases arising out of the probe.

The three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi said Kumar will appear before the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for investigation at Shillong in Meghalaya.

The court said that though it has dispensed with the personal appearance of the three -- the chief secretary, DGP and Kumar -- it will take a call on their personal presence in court after perusing their responses during February 20 hearing.

The court also directed West Bengal chief secretary and DGP to reply to contempt petition filed by CBI by February 18.

Shortly after the Supreme Court's order, Mamata Banerjee has ended her sit-in saying "This dharna is victory for the Constitution and democracy."

Mamata said that Commissioner Kumar never excused himself from participating in the probe. "He (Kumar) said we want to meet at mutual place, if you want to ask for any clarification, you can come and we can sit," the West Bengal chief minister was quoted as saying by news agency ANI.

She also said that the court's order will strengthen the moral of the officers.

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