

Major nations hosting most refugees: UN

Report says record 70.8m displaced at end of 2018

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Quit UN for 'systematic failure'

Rohingya rights body urges UN secretary general, other top officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Free Rohingya Coalition, a global network of Rohingyas activists, has demanded the resignation of UN Secretary General António Guterres and other senior UN leaders for the global body's "systematic failure" in addressing the "genocide" against the Rohingyas in 2017.

In a 36-page report authored by veteran Guatemalan diplomat Gert Rosenthal, the activists denounced the UN's "ad hoc" divisions rather than cohesion within the UN system, "the absence of a clear and unified strategy" and shortcomings of "systematic and unified analysis from the field".

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A heavily damaged bus after it crashed into a tree in Bhangra Bridge area of Madaripur's Kalkini upazila yesterday afternoon. At least three passengers were killed and 15 others injured. Story on page 5.

Saudi crown prince

FROM PAGE 1
Khashoggi's killing provoked widespread disgust and damaged the image of the crown prince, previously admired in the West for pushing deep changes including tax reform, infrastructure projects and allowing women to drive.

Agnes Callamard, the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial executions, called on countries to invoke universal jurisdiction for what she called the international crime and make arrests if individuals are responsible.

In a report based on a six-month investigation, she also urged countries to widen sanctions to include the crown prince, who many consider the kingdom's de facto ruler, and his personal assets abroad, until and unless he can prove he has no responsibility.

Khashoggi, a critic of the prince and a Washington Post columnist, was last seen at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2 where he was to receive papers ahead of his wedding.

His body was dismembered and hidden from the building, the Saudi prosecutor has said, and his remains have not been found.

"What needs to be investigated is the extent to which the crown prince knew or should have known of what would have happened to the crown prince, whether he directly or indirectly incited the killing...whether he could have prevented the execution when the mission started and failed to do so," Callamard told reporters.

"It is the conclusion of the Special Rapporteur that Mr. Khashoggi has been the victim of a deliberate, premeditated execution...an extrajudicial killing for which the state of Saudi Arabia is responsible under international human rights law," Callamard said in her report.

The Saudi public prosecutor indicted 11 unnamed suspects in November, including five who could face the death penalty for charges of ordering and committing the crime.

Callamard said the Saudi trial should be suspended, citing concerns over secret hearings and a potential cover-up. Instead, a follow-up international criminal probe should be launched, she said, adding: "Of course there are a range of options, an ad hoc tribunal, a hybrid tribunal, any type of mechanism that will deliver a credible process and a credible outcome."

The CIA and some Western countries believe the crown prince ordered the killing, which Saudi officials deny.

The UN report publishes excerpts from what it calls conversations inside the consulate shortly before Khashoggi arrived at the building and during his final moments, in which a Saudi official is heard discussing cutting a body into pieces.

The material relies on recordings and forensic work by Turkish investigators and information from the trials of the suspects in Saudi Arabia, the report said. Callamard said that she could not reach firm conclusions about what the truth was told was the sound of a "saw" in the operation.

"Assessments of the recordings by intelligence officers in Turkey and other countries suggest that Mr. Khashoggi could have been injected with a sedative and then suffocated using a plastic bag," the report said.

Callamard went to Turkey earlier this year with a team of forensic and legal experts and said she received evidence from Turkish authorities.

Nusrat Murder

Mastermind Siraj sent to jail after 2-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

A Feni court sent Siraj Ud Doula, the suspended principal of Sonagazi Islamic Senior Fazil Madrasah, to jail yesterday in the sexual harassment case filed by the mother of slain student Nusrat Jahana Raf.

Siraj faced police remand for two days until being produced before the court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Zakir Hossain.

He had called Nusrat, an Alim candidate, at his office and tried to abuse her sexually on March 27, according to the case lodged by Nusrat's mother under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

Police arrested the principal the same day and put him behind bars following a court order.

In a confidential statement made on April 29, Siraj said that he had never had any associates from jail or burn Nusrat to death.

The teenage girl was tied up and set afire on the roof of the madrasah's administration building before she could sit for the Alim exam equivalent in SSC on April 6.

She died while undergoing treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital three days later.

The Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) is due to press charges in the Nusrat murder case at the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal in Feni today.

The charge sheet in the sexual harassment case would soon be filed by the police. Siraj's lawyer, Inspector Md Shah Alam, who is investigating the case.

Man arrested for raping, blackmailing college student

A CORRESPONDENT, Subidra

A Sathira court has sent a man to jail on charges of raping a college student, recording the incident and subsequent blackmailing money by the student.

Police arrested the accused — Abdul Hye Raju, 26, of Kaliganj upazila in the district — on Tuesday and placed him before a court after he was charged with raping a girl (PBI) Station on the same day.

Threatening the girl of spreading rape footage via social media, Raju so far embelzzled Tk 1.70 lakh and a laptop from her, the victim alleged. — According to the case statement, Raju and the girl were introduced to each other by one of their mutual friends around six months ago. Later, they built up a good relationship. On April 11, the duo was travelling from Dhaka to their native home — Sathira. On a bus, Raju took the girl to his relative's house and raped her at knife-point.

Left in the lurch

FROM PAGE 1

The day is being observed today when some 1.1 million Rohingyas, including 741,000 who fled military crackdowns in Myanmar's Rakhine state since August 2017, live in squalid camps of Cox's Bazar and their repatriation is still uncertain.

But the situation has worsened as clashes between Myanmar military and Arakan Army, an ethnic Buddhist rebel group, have escalated since early this year.

Bangladesh signed a repatriation deal with Myanmar in November 2017.

Myanmar also signed a tripartite agreement on the repatriation with the UN and the IHRIC in June 2017 and extended it this year. But many Rohingyas said Rakhine is not safe yet and that there is no guarantee of citizenship and freedom of movement there.

Last year, UN investigators demanded top military commanders in Myanmar be investigated and prosecuted for "crimes against civilians" under international law, including genocide, but the UN Security Council has yet to refer Myanmar's case to the International Criminal Court mainly because of opposition from China and Russia.

Though the living conditions in the camps in Ukhia and Teknaf have improved a lot compared with that in 2017, a lack of secondary education and employment among Rohingya youths are disturbing them, Rohingya activists said.

Mohibullah said Rohingyas were concerned that the international community was not focused enough on their suffering and genocide. Now they ["international community] are deciding our future without our consent," he told The Daily Star from Bangladesh.

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Germany yesterday.

There are some 130,000 Rohingyas living in camps in Rakhine. They should be issued citizenship and repatriation to their original homes before repatriating the Rohingyas from Bangladesh, he said.

Lwin said foreign dignitaries go to the camps and talk to them, but they do not talk to the people during negotiations with Myanmar.

"We feel completely ignored. It seems the international community wants to please Myanmar," he added.

Abul Kalam, Bangladesh's Refugee, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, said Bangladesh government tried to incorporate opinions of the Rohingya communities before making any decision, he added.

"We will try to do it more," he added.

In an email message, UNHCR's Bangladesh representative Steven Corliss said the UNHCR and the IHRIC were working across the Rohingyas settlements in Cox's Bazar, and they spoke with many refugees every day.

"The majority of refugees tell us that they want to go home when voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation is possible. We share this goal and are working toward this objective, along with the government of Bangladesh," he said.

Only the Myanmar government can make the changes needed to give them the confidence to return, he noted.

"The UNHCR will continue to work to preserve the right of voluntary return and, in this connection, to try and improve the conditions in Rakhine State. We will also continue to discuss with the Rohingya community in Bangladesh the possibility of returning to the future, and provide assistance and protection to them until solutions can be found," he said.

But Mitchell Santner picked his nerve, bringing up his century with a huge six off the next ball and then a four sealed the victory.

Tigers' mission

FROM PAGE 1

Mashrafe was clear about the size of the challenge they would face.

"If Australia are playing at 70 percent, we would need to play at 100 percent," Mashrafe said. "I don't think we will be able to win playing around five or 10 percent better, the gap will have to be much bigger."

However, having surprised everyone with greater chances themselves, by chasing down 322 against West Indies with 8.3 overs remaining, the Tigers can take renewed confidence in a mission that was not impossible, still looks improvable.

"It is all about the mentality; it is a mental game and those who will be succeeding will have greater chances of succeeding. It will be difficult, but it is not impossible," Mashrafe said.

Egypt accuses UN of seeking 'politicise' Cairo death

AFP, Paris

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Rajiv, foreign minister's spokesman Ahmed Hafez said he condemned "in the strongest terms" the call by the spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Rupert Colville, for an independent investigation into Morsi's death during a court hearing on Monday.