

ROHINGYA CRISIS
Solutions lie with Myanmar: Canada

UNB, Dhaka

Canada yesterday said they are using all tools at their disposal, including sanctions, against Myanmar leaders and companies as well as diplomatic efforts to help find a solution to Rohingya crisis.

“We fully agree that the causes and solutions to the crisis lie with Myanmar, and this is why we’re using all tools at our disposal to help,” said Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Benoit Préfontaine.

He was addressing a symposium titled “Bangladesh-Canada Relations: Prognosis for Partnership” at a city hotel organised by Cosmos Foundation.

Préfontaine said Canada has a long history of helping and welcoming refugees, and their citizens deeply care about what the Rohingya and Cox’s Bazar host communities are going through.

He said Canada is engaged in “extensive advocacy” and continues to work with the international community to find a way to bring to justice those responsible for gross human rights violations and abuses in Myanmar.

Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque, who was the chief guest at the event, termed Bangladesh-Canada relation a trouble-free one which is growing on all fronts.

Chairman of the Cosmos Foundation Enayetullah Khan delivered the welcome speech, chaired by Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, principal research fellow at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore.

Appreciating Canada’s support, Foreign Secretary Haque said Canada acted “very decisively” including passing a strong resolution at its Senate. Subsequently Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar’s civilian leader, was stripped of her honorary Canadian citizenship over her inaction on military violence against the Rohingyas.

Bangabandhu to be conferred honorary Dr of Laws by DU
DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University will confer the honorary Doctor of Laws degree [posthumous] on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, as part of the yearlong celebration of “Mujib Borsho” in 2020.

“The decision was taken at a meeting to confer the award on Bangabandhu next year, marking ‘Mujib Borsho’ (Mujib Year),” DU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Md Akhtaruazzaman said yesterday while speaking at a press conference on DU’s 52nd convocation, slated for Monday.

The government has chalked out elaborate programmes to celebrate Mujib Borsho from March 17, 2020 to March 26, 2021 marking the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation.

Bangabandhu will be given the degree as he was a student of the university’s Law Department, Prof Akhtaruazzaman added.

Straight from the farm to buyers

First farmers’ market draws city dwellers

ABDULLAH AL NAYEEM

It is not often that residents of the city have the chance to buy fresh vegetables directly from growers, but that is all set to change.

“Krishoker Bazar” [farmers’ market] -- a new initiative by the agriculture ministry has introduced a space where farmers can bring their goods directly to their urban customers.

From now on, the ministry will arrange the country’s first ever farmers’ market at Sech Bhaban premises on the capital’s Manik Mia Avenue from 7am to 11am on the weekend [Friday and Saturday].

Agriculture Minister Abdur Razzaque on Friday inaugurated the market, announcing that they are planning to run it throughout the week, and expand to different parts of Dhaka and other cities.

The vegetables sold at the market have been certified safe by the ministry, meaning the produce were grown without using artificial chemicals like conventional fertilisers and pesticides.

The concept, which is already popular in many countries around the world, have already been received well by both growers and buyers.

Talking to The Daily Star, farmers said they are getting good prices, as no broker is involved in the selling processes, while buyers expressed satisfaction over the pricing and quality of the produce.

“The products we sell here are priced almost close to that of the city kitchen markets, like Karwan Bazar. Our prices are lower than those of the super shops,” claimed Kobbad Hossain Ovi.

“We are able to offer this price because we



People buying fresh vegetables directly from growers at Sech Bhaban on Manik Mia Avenue.

can sell our goods directly to consumers and no brokers are involved here,” said the young farmer from Savar.

This newspaper visited the Karwan Bazar kitchen market and a super shop in Farmgate area, and found his claims to be true.

It found prices of some of the vegetables to be between Tk 5 to Tk 20 higher than those of Karwan Bazar, while some were similarly priced.

A number of items sold at the farmers’ market were found priced Tk 5 to Tk 10 cheaper than the city’s largest kitchen market.

Besides, most produce were found cheaper than prices at the the super shop.

Arjumand Banu, a shopper at the farmers’ market, said the quality of the vegetables are satisfactory.

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Caring with a smile

CRP celebrates 40 years of service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 31 years ago, Jobeda Khatun suffered an accident at home and became permanently disabled.

With disability came difficulties and the 52-year-old Gazipur resident fought hard to overcome those. She did not lose hope, nor did the physicians helping her.

Over the years, treatment and training on life skills by dedicated physicians at Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) in Savar have given her a new life. Now, despite her disabilities, Jobeda can manage every necessary household chore by herself.

Not just her, hundreds of people with disabilities have similar stories to share as they too have been treated and trained by CRP and given a new lease of life.

With the motto, “I am CRP”, many of them gathered at CRP headquarters yesterday to celebrate its 40th founding anniversary. The centre organised a daylong event to mark the day.

The programmes included poetry recitation and musical performances. But the highlight of the event was performances by children with disabilities, who are



Education Minister Dipu Moni speaks at the event.

receiving treatment at the centre.

Education Minister Dipu Moni; CRP founder Valerie Ann Taylor; its executive director Shafiqul-ul-Islam and media personalities, among others, attended the daylong event.

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