City

GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

Declare crimes against Rohingyas genocide

Rohingyas urge the world

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of Genocide Remembrance Day, the Rohingyas called on the governments across the globe, including the UK and US, to declare the crimes against the Rohingya community as genocide.

In a joint statement, on the fourth anniversary of the Rohingya influx, 10 Rohingya organisations called on the UN member states to impose targeted sanctions against the Myanmar

The statement also said that the UN was slow to show coordinated action to hold the propagators accountable for the crimes they committed on their land.

As the authorities did not allow any outdoor events, the Rohingyas held placards and spoke standing in front of their camps, mourning, remembering and calling for accountability of the

The statement said they back the efforts made in the International Court of Justice, and the international community's and the National Unity Government's commitment to international justice.

The organisations that signed the statement include Champions of Change, Education and Wisdom Development for Rohingya Women, Refugee Committee, Rohingya Women Education Initiative, Rohingya Youth for Legal Action, Rohingya Youth Unity Team, Voice of Rohingya, Rohingya Student Union, Arakan Rohingya National Union, Rohingya Women Empowerment and Advocacy Network.

Some 750,000 Rohingyas fled genocidal attacks by the Myanmar military in the Rakhine state since August 25, 2017, and took shelter in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar.

Thousands of the Rohingyas were killed, women raped and their houses

Four years after the genocidal acts, the Myanmar military on February 1 this year overthrew the elected government in a coup and since then killed more than 1,000 men, women,

Algeria's Foreign Minister Ramtane

Lamamra said Tuesday that his

country has severed diplomatic

relations with Morocco due to

"hostile actions", following months of

The countries have long accused

resurgent tensions between the North

one another of backing opposition

movements as proxies, with Algeria's

support for separatists in the disputed

region of Western Sahara a particular

African rivals.

and children and imprisoned several thousand others for opposing the

"The junta that controls the country is the same military junta that led genocidal attacks against our people and now are committing human rights violations against the whole country," the statement said.

Rohingyas are still at grave risk in Rakhine where the military continues to confine thousands of Rohingya to internment camps.

They said they support the resistance including the Civil Disobedience Movement, the National Unity Government (NUG) and all people working for democracy and human rights against the military junta.

They called on the NUG to expand on its Rohingya policy and appoint a Rohingya minister and other Muslim leaders into the NUG, which was formed under the leadership of Aung San Suu Kyi's National Democratic

The NUG had issued a statement committing to issue Rohingya citizenship, fundamental rights and

"Four years on, we will work to be able to return to our homeland as citizens, to build a country that ensures justice and rights for people regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity."

In a separate statement, the Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights thanked Bangladesh for sheltering the Rohingyas.

The statement signed by its Chairman Mohib Ullah said there have been delays in the implementation of four provisional measurements ordered by the ICJ in January last year.

It said both the NUG and the Burmese military government have been complicit in the genocide of the Rohingya people.

The NUG did not include any Rohingya scholars in its membership, however, he said.

The organisation demanded the UN and the international community to refuse to recognise the NUG as a democratic or representative body until it includes Rohingya.

bone of contention for Morocco.

"Algeria has decided to cut

diplomatic relations with the

Kingdom of Morocco from today,"

Lamamra announced during a press

never stopped carrying out hostile

In a statement later Tuesday,

Morocco's foreign ministry said Algiers'

move was "completely unjustified" but

expected given the logic of escalation

actions against Algeria," he added.

"History has shown... Morocco has

Algeria cuts diplomatic ties

with 'hostile' Morocco

conference.

seen in recent weeks".

Bangladesh Chief of Army Staff General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed standing alongside Chief of Turkish General Staff General Yasar Guler, centre, and Chief of Turkish Land Forces Commander General Musa Avsever, right, during his ongoing official visit to Turkey.

Top-heavy 'discriminatory'

Ideally, the structure of a functional bureaucracy should look like a pyramid - heavy at the bottom, light at the top.

Experts and former bureaucrats said the present shape of the country's bureaucracy was not structurally sound. According to them, it hampers productivity and harmony among different tiers of officials.

Latest government "Statistics of Civil Officers and Staff-2020" released on June 15 show 490 officials hold joint secretary (Grade 3) post against 370 approved posts. Besides, against 135 posts, 165 officers hold Grade 4 (selection grade) -- which falls between joint secretary and deputy secretary (Grade 5).

In contrast, the rest six of the nine tiers face manpower shortages. The situation is most severe in Grade 6 (senior assistant secretary) and Grade 9 (assistant secretary). There are 886 senior assistant secretaries against 1,740 posts while there are 736 assistant secretaries against 1,314

Against this backdrop, the government has moved to promote another batch of joint secretaries to the post of additional secretary, according to a recent report by Bangla daily Samakal.

"This [such in-situ promotion] is not good for the administration. Promotion should be consistent with the sanctioned posts," said former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder.

According to experts, there are no specific guidelines for in-situ promotion, creating scope for "pick and choose" following intense lobbying and political leniency. The taxpavers have to spend more

for these officials, although they are getting the same service from them, they said.

A recent survey by Transparency International Bangladesh found that the current state of the civil bureaucracy

Iftekharuzzaman said the top-heavy structure was "starkly opposite" compared with the organogram of any functional organisation.

"This organisational structure creates obstacles in promoting administrative skills and efficiency. It also creates hindrance to the promotion of the officials at the lower tiers and increases backlog in the decision-making process," he told The Daily Star. WHY SUCH PROMOTION?

The term "in-situ" was not much popular in Bangladesh's civil administration before 2006. In the last 10 years, however, such promotions are all too common.

Officials from different nonadmin cadre services said they had to wait for years for promotion due to unavailability of posts.

"But things are different in case of the administration cadre," one official said, requesting anonymity.

In an unprecedented move in November 2018, the government promoted 230 additional superintendents of police to the post of SP in-situ amid police demand for promotion.

Several police officials said that was the first - and since then the last - in situ promotion in police cadre.

According to one admin official, there are too few posts above deputy secretary, which makes the competition within the admin cadre intense. Also, promotion on the basis of batches has been a norm in recent years.

supernumerary promotions," he said, wishing anonymity. 'ADVERSE IMPACT'

Before 2006, there was a practice of in-situ promotion anticipating future vacancy, but the number used to be very small, Ali Imam Majumder said

Director last BNP-led government promoted 200 to 300 officers to deputy secretary post. The promoted officials however did not get any new posting, he added. The subsequent caretaker

government found that many deputy secretary-level officers did not have any work although there was a dearth of assistant secretaries and senior assistant secretaries. A supernumerary promotion system

was then introduced to make the deputy secretaries more productive. However, the caretaker administration had also decided to abolish such posts once the need was over.

After taking office in 2009, the Awami League-led government started giving "rampant promotion," which is inconsistent with the approved posts, the former cabinet secretary said.

He also cited examples of top-heavy admin structure in public universities and the police force.

said, "Supernumerary promotions are going on in the police too." Besides, public universities, even though not part of civil service, have a top heavy structure, he added.

When asked about the impact of the admin cadre enjoying disproportionate benefits in terms of promotion, Iftekharuzzaman said, "It puts an adverse impact on the inter-cadre relationship.

"Deprived officers [in other cadres] find it discriminatory. It affects their performance," he said recently.

On July 29, this paper asked KM "This means, if the number of Ali Azam, senior secretary of the officials in a particular batch is high, public administration ministry, about the number of promotions also gets the incredible number of in situ high. Hence the high number of promotion in some grades. He said he needed to go through the data first, and asked this correspondent to call him on August 1.

Repeated attempts to reach him via phone and texts were unsuccessful.

The Daily Star yesterday tried to reach State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain but

3 cops arrested

Some were in uniform, said Abu Ali, a

relative of the abductees. They started looking for Lutfar, who was not home at that time. Later, they picked up his son Zahangir Alam,

28, and wife Jahura Akter, 50. They also took away a motorcycle from the house, said Khalilur Rahman, another relative of the victims.

The villagers and their relatives looked for them through the night, but failed to learn their whereabouts. The next day, Chirirbandar police was

informed of the incident. The family members also lodged a complaint with Rab-13 CPC-1 in

Dinajpur, seeking help. Meanwhile, the suspects phoned Md Kamruzzaman, a relative of the victims, and demanded Tk 15 lakh ransom. They also threatened the family members with dire consequences if the police were

informed. The suspects allegedly said the two kidnapped would be murdered if the

ransom was not paid. "They contacted me over phone several times and demanded the ransom soon after the kidnapping. Finally, the family members agreed to give them Tk 8 lakh ransom to get them freed," Kamruzzaman added.

Later, the kidnappers asked the family members to pay the ransom in Baserhat area of Dinajpur Sadar upazila on Tuesday afternoon.

Meantime, police of Chirirbandar and Dinajpur Sadar made a plan to arrest the kidnappers with the help of villagers and relatives. As per the plan, they took positions in Baserhat, along the Dinajpur-Rangpur highway, said

When the criminals realised that police were following them, they drove the microbus fast towards Doshmile area but got stuck in traffic. The villagers were able to catch the car.

Later, police detained the three CID

and took them to Chirirbandar Police

Three of the arrestees told Chirirbandar police that they were members of Rangpur CID. They were then taken to the Dinajpur SP office for further interrogation.

Hearing of the incident, top officials of Rangpur and Dinajpur CID went to the SP office.

Quoting the abductees, relatives said the abductors tortured them mercilessly and kept changing their locations.

Contacted, Subrata officer-in-charge of Chirirbandar Police Station, confirmed that the police rescued the victims after their abduction. But he refused to give any details of the people involved in the

kidnapping. Dinajpur SP Anwar Hossain also refrained from making any comments.

However, Ataur Rahman, an additional special superintendent of Rangpur CID, said three members of his department, including an ASP, were caught by locals over abduction allegations in Dinajpur.

Sources in the CID office in Rangpur said the three members conducted an unauthorised raid in Chirirbandar upazila. They added that the three were on a 10-day leave from August 21.

Debdas Bhattyacharia, DIG of Rangpur range, told this paper over phone yesterday that an untoward incident happened in Dinajpur. He added that action would be taken against those involved in the incident.

Yesterday, police arrested Fashiul Alam Palash and recovered the motorcycle taken from the victims' house from his home.

Victim Zahangir yesterday filed a case against 11 people, including the five arrestees.

Recording of statements of the victims was going on in court when personnel and the microbus driver this report was filed around 8:30pm.

The position paper is based on review of various documents, reports and analyses of secondary data that was vetted by the education ministries and

The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education and the Ministry of Education have developed a Covid-19 Response and Recovery Plan with an estimated budget of \$90 million (Tk 768 crore approximately). The plan will first be supported by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) accelerator funding for Covid-19 and will later be joined by other development partners, said the

Deputy Education Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury told The Daily Star that the estimate they made was a primary one.

"Financing of recovery plan will not be a big problem. Development partners' financing will speed up the implementation, but even without that, the implementation will not remain stuck due to unavailability of funds," he

education ministry official said around \$20.7 million would be needed for TV, Radio, mobile and online content development and developing low-cost learning packages and distribution. Another \$36.6 million would be need to arrange sanitisation in schools following health protocols for reopening, raising awareness on health and safety issues, and providing mental health support for students and teachers.

The study also said about \$10.5 million would be needed for student assessment upon return to school and teachers' training. Another \$4 million would be required to arrange supplementary learning materials and

communication, technological solutions, integrating remote learning into regular education, upgrading remote learning platforms, formulating policies.

71,951 crore to the education sector for the 2021-2022 fiscal -- Tk 26,311 crore for primary and mass education ministry, Tk 36,486 crore for secondary and higher education division and Tk 9,154 crore for technical and madrasa

The amount makes up 11.91 percent of the total outlay and 2.08 percent of

The government has continued to keep its focus on education indicators with targeted policies, interventions and support programmes to improve both quality and quantity of education. However, a number of challenges still hover around the country's goal of attaining universal education. The concerns include inclusive and quality education at all levels, said the position

the education ecosystem and has had a multi-dimensional impact. A number of new vulnerabilities emerged, making the existing ones more acute.

In the wake of the pandemic, educational institutions have been closed since March 17, 2020, and that caused massive disruption in the education of 36.8 million students.

on education cannot be neglected. Covid-19 has increased the poverty rate of the country from 20.5 percent in the 2019-20 fiscal year to 29.5 percent in the 2020-21 fiscal year, according to BBS.

"Studies have shown that people have struggled to meet basic food expenses. An estimation made by SANEM [South Asian Network on Economic Modeling states that before the pandemic, families of 24 percent students were below the poverty line, which could rise to 44 percent with three months of prolonged lockdown.′

the country. As per Unicef, Bangladesh has the highest rate of child marriage.

The government had allocated Tk introduction of two-three years' backto-school campaigns, placing emphasis on drop-out-prone areas. Giving monetary incentives for coming back to school will also be instrumental. The interventions should be targeted and specific, like stipends or school feeding.

It also recommended increasing parental engagement for raising awareness on the importance of education and implications of child marriage and child labour. Redesigning the school feeding programme to mitigate the nutritional deficiencies children might have had during the closure of the schools was also

education programmes targeting areas that are still lagging behind and incentives for teachers serving at vulnerable areas. It will also be important to pay special attention in maintaining gender parity in education considering the changed context of the pandemic.

traditional and online learning methods. Schools should also offer the option for joining classes online for students who would prefer not to join

It also proposed investment of 4 percent of the GDP and 15 percent of the budget to resolve the existing vulnerabilities.

Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury said the government has plans to reduce possible dropout rates as well as child marriage.

"It will be easier once the schools reopen. Many are predicting huge dropouts, but we have seen that around 93 percent of students are submitting assignments to their schools when they are given assignments as part of the government's efforts to continue education for secondary students."

"We will give due attention to the he added.

Army chief meets Turkish chiefs of land forces and general staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief of Army Staff of Bangladesh, General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed, has met with General Musa Avsever, chief of Turkish Land Forces and General Yasar Guler, chief of Turkish general staff, over the past two days during his ongoing official visit to Turkey. During the meeting, the army chief

between Turkey and the Bangladesh army, said an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release. The talks focused on possible areas

discussed issues of mutual interest

of defence cooperation between the two countries, including training exchanges, the release said. Apart from meeting

important officials of the Turkish army, Army chief Gen Shafiuddin had inspected the operation control room of Turkish Unmanned Aerial System (UAS), Army Aviation Headquarters, and Turkish Air Spaces Industry.

He also visited the graveyard and museum of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk in Ankara and paid homage at the

Naem Nizam's

FROM PAGE 1 that every resolution and activity of the organisation always done on the basis of consensus,

said a statement of the Parishad. Earli

Reazuddin Ahmad, Hanif Mahmud of The editor Financial Herald, reported that following the Parishad's last resolution,

the meeting did not materialise. The meeting was attended by Mahfuz Anam; Reazuddin Ahmed; Tasmima Hossain, editor of Ittefaq; Matiur Rahman, editor of Prothom Alo; Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, editor of Manabzamin; Shah Husain Imam, editor of Financial Express; Nurul Kabir, editor of New Age; Shyamal Dutta, editor of Bhorer Kagoj; AMM Bahauddin, editor of Daily Inqilab; Saiful Alam, editor of Jugantor; MA Malek, editor of Dainik Azadi; Md Mozammel Haque, editor of Karatoa; M Shamsur Rahman, editor of the Independent; Mustafiz Shafi, acting editor of Shamakal; Zafar Sobhan, editor of Dhaka Tribune; Dewan Hanif Mahmud; and Amit Habib, editor of

his attempts to bring Naem Nizam to

Cops put pressure

Desh Rupantor.

negligent" as Pradeep, the prime accused in the murder case, talked over phone during Tuesday's proceedings.

Public Prosecutor Faridul Alam drew ts attention to media reports on the According to media reports, Pradeep

It made the observation after

was talking over phone on Tuesday when defence lawvers were crossexamining the complainant, Sharmin Shahriar Ferdous, sister of the victim. Yesterday, the court rebuked Pradeep

personnel and lawyers from both sides to be cautious in the future. All 15 accused in the case were present at the courtroom, said court

and warned him. It ordered the police

Following the court proceedings, the defence lawyers talked to the media and voiced concern that their clients might

not get justice. Earlier on Monday, the court started recording depositions of witnesses in the case. On the first day, the complainant gave her deposition.

mentioned in the charge-sheet of the The court already summoned 15 of them to give depositions between August 23 and August 25. It recorded statements

of two witnesses till yesterday.

The names of 83 witnesses have been

In the next phase, the court will record statements of the other witnesses from September 5 to 8, said Assistant Public Prosecutor Ziauddin Ahmed. The court on June 27 framed charges

policemen, including Pradeep, Liaqat, sub-inspector Md Shahjahan and assistant sub-inspector Liton Mia. Yesterday, Liaqat's lawyer claimed at the court that his client did not sign a

confessional statement under section

against the 15 accused. Of them, 12 are

164 in the case. On August 30 last year, the investigation officer in the case, senior assistant superintendent of police Khairul Islam of Rab in Cox's Bazar, told reporters that Liaqat gave a confessional statement under section 164 of the code of criminal procedure before the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court-4 in

the district. The investigator submitted the charge sheet in the case against the 15 on December 13 last year, about five months after Sinha was killed. 3 COPS WITHDRAWN

Three police personnel were withdrawn and attached to the district police lines over Pradeep's phone conversation during court proceedings. Cox's Bazar Superintendent of Police

Mohammad Hasanuzzaman confirmed this to The Daily Star yesterday. A three-member probe committee, led by Additional SP Pankaj Barua, has been formed to investigate the incident,

said the SP. Departmental action will be taken against those found guilty of negligence

in duty, he added.

creates a series of problems. Towards the end of its tenure, the he could not be contacted. Recovery plan needs \$90m

various stakeholders.

Quoting the study, a senior

community-based activities The rest of the money will be needed

education division.

The pandemic has distorted much of

The impact of economic distress

Not resuming education will also affect the situation of child marriage in

RECOMMENDATIONS The position paper recommended,

recommended by the position paper.

It urged a focus on equity-based quality

The paper proposed blending in-person classes.

Education Deputy

recommendations after reviewing it,"