

ROHINGYA ISSUE

Dhaka reminds int'l community of their duties

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has stressed on the international community's responsibility towards establishing accountability and justice for the massive human rights violations perpetrated against Rohingyas in Myanmar.

The minister raised the issue at a meeting with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet Jeria in Geneva on Tuesday.

He reiterated Bangladesh's strong commitment to promoting safe, dignified and voluntary return of Rohingyas to Myanmar in a conducive environment.

Momen conveyed Bangladesh's readiness to work with Myanmar, UNHCR, OHCHR and other parties concerned to bring about a sustainable and durable solution.

Bangladesh continues to bear the burden of over 1.1 million Rohingyas as no repatriation took place over the last four years amid "lack of initiative" from the Myanmar side and "inadequate steps" by the international community.

Four years ago, Myanmar's military carried out a horrific "ethnic cleansing" against the Rohingya in northern Rakhine State. The brutality of the military's atrocities shocked the conscience of the international community.

The last exodus of Rohingyas began on August 25, 2017 when violence broke out in Rakhine, forcing thousands of Rohingyas to seek shelter in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh had handed over a list of 840,000 Rohingyas to Myanmar for verification, but the verification process by the Myanmar side was very slow, Dhaka says.

Repatriation attempts failed twice in November 2018 and August 2019 amid Rohingyas' lack of trust in the Myanmar government.

Bangladesh and Myanmar signed a repatriation deal on November 23, 2017. On January 16 the following year, the two countries inked a document on "Physical Arrangement", which was supposed to facilitate the return of Rohingyas to their homeland.

Pakistan asks

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appointment of Dr Malik as the governor of the occupied territory of Bangladesh as an acceptance of defeat by the so-called military junta of Islamabad.

"It is evident that Tikka Khan's awful rule of ruthless killing, looting, burning and raping have been turned into ignominious nullity on the soil of Bangladesh. The killer has fallen. His chivalrous glory is crumbled into pieces. He is to get out as a disgraced man with head low and vanity lower. There is a clear message in this for General Yahya Khan also," added Moshtaque.

He further said, "The appointment of Mr Malik is yet another attempt to throw a handful of dust in the eyes of the world to create confusion. People of Bangladesh know the designs behind this sort of restoration of civil administration. They witnessed this same 'restoration' once after Ayub [Khan] staged a coup in 1958, again after Yahya ascended the throne of Pakistan in 1969. When colonial rule by a military governor becomes pungent and embarrassing, the military rulers go for transplanting a civilian quisling as the Subedar of Bangladesh. This time also the military colonialists have exercised their ground rule of colonial administration. This known game is not going to pay any dividend this time in an attempt to convince foreign powers to give aid and assistance."

NURUL AMIN REFUSES TO LEAD PAKISTAN TEAM TO UN
Former East Pakistan chief minister Nurul Amin declined to lead Pakistan's delegation to the forthcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly. Nurul Amin, leader of the Pakistan Democratic Party, was the lone non-Awami League member to win the election to the National Assembly in December, 1970. He turned down the request of President Yahya Khan's regime to lead the delegation due to "health reasons".

IPU TO DISCUSS BANGLADESH ISSUE

The Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) unanimously decided to enter the question of "international cooperation in favour of the East Pakistani people and refugees" on the agenda of the 59th IPU session which was formally opened today at Versailles by French President Georges Pompidou.

PAKISTAN LIFTS PRESS CENSORSHIP

The Pakistan government lifted press censorship throughout Pakistan, an official spokesman announced today. *Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com*

Govt to arrange 1 crore doses every month

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It was the 14th session of the eleventh Jatiya Sangsad which began around 5:00pm, presided over by Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury.

In the scripted answer, PM said: "Steps have been taken to ensure more than one crore vaccine doses every month."

According to the schedule received from Sinopharm, two crore shots will be available every month from October onwards and six crore shots by December, she added.

So far, 1,82,89,018 people have got the first Covid dose and 78,40,169 people have been vaccinated with the second dose. In total, 2,61,29,187 doses of Covid-19 vaccine have been administered, the PM told parliament.

Hasina said the country has a stock of 1,18,96,343 doses of Covid vaccine right now.

She said the government has established communications with all vaccine producing organisations. "Of them, we [first] got response from

Tigers stroll to maiden T20I

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successful captain for Bangladesh in the format. Mahmudullah now has led Bangladesh to 11 victories in 23 T20Is, surpassing the previous best of Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, who led the Tigers to 10 victories in 28 T20Is.

It was once again Shakib Al Hasan who played the pivotal role in such a dominating win. Shakib, who was adjudged the player-of-the-series against Australia last month, continued his good run of form with yet another all-round performance.

The premier all-rounder picked up two wickets giving away just 10 runs in

Indian Serum Institute and booked three crore doses of vaccines with advance payment."

There was no response from any other vaccine producing companies then, she said.

"Afterwards, Sinopharm from China and Sputnik-V also responded and we took initiatives immediately; we have inked an agreement with Sinopharm and also signed a memorandum of understanding for local production."

Till August 30, the prime minister said, her government has already taken measures to collect 24,54,52,700 doses of Covid-19 vaccine as part of the initiative to inoculate all the people.

She said the process to purchase three crore doses Sinopharm vaccine and 7.50 crore dose Sinovac vaccine through Covax is at the final stage.

The PM said the government has sent formal proposal to purchase 70 million doses of Johnson and Johnson vaccine, 30 million dose

Sinopharm vaccine, and 73 million Sinovac vaccine from Covax with the finance of Asian Development Bank.

DELTA PLAN 2100

Responding to a question from Shameem Haider Patwari from Jatiya Party, Hasina informed the House that every year, about 6,000 hectares of coastal land is lost to erosion. As a result, about 50,000 people became homeless, she said.

She said the government has taken a move for a permanent solution to the river erosion problem.

The project Delta Plan 2100 has been undertaken for overall river management, water supply in urban and rural areas, waste management, flood control, river erosion control, river training, and to maintain navigability.

She mentioned that in this plan the whole country has been divided into seven river basins and survey is going on. The surveys on Karnaphuli, Sangu and Matamuhiri rivers have been completed.

four for nine runs in four overs after Kiwi skipper Tom Latham had elected to bat.

Latham and Henry Nicholls then began rebuilding, but always looked shaky and indecisive against Bangladesh bowlers who already had their tail up and were looking unplayable on a slow, low and gripping Mirpur pitch, tailor-made for enhancing their abilities.

Latham's 34-run stand with Nicholls eventually came to an end when the former mistimed a pull-shot off all-rounder Mohammad Saifuddin in the 11th over.

his four overs before playing a crucial role with the bat, scoring a team-high of 25 off 33 deliveries that stabilised the innings after Bangladesh had lost two early wickets.

Coming into the series on the back of a historic 4-1 series victory against the Aussies, Bangladesh were clear favourites against an inexperienced New Zealand side, who are on the tour without a single player from their squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup.

Mahmudullah's troops did play like favourites as they began the rout by reducing the clueless visitors to

None of the Kiwi partnerships after that crossed double-figure mark as left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman rattled the tail, picking up three wickets for just 13 runs in 2.5 overs.

Coming in to chase a low total, Bangladesh were left in the lurch by openers Mohammad Naim and Liton Das as both exited after scoring just a solitary run each.

However, a fruitful contribution from Shakib followed by unbeaten scores of 16 and 14 from Mushfiqur and Mahmudullah respectively saw the Tigers eventually register an easy victory with 30 balls to spare.

OBITUARY MOTION FOR PROF ALI ASHRAF

The House yesterday unanimously adopted an obituary motion expressing profound condolence on the demise of Prof Ali Ashraf, a veteran lawmaker of ruling Awami League from Cumilla-7.

A freedom fight and former deputy speaker of parliament, Ali Ashraf died on July 30 at the age of 74.

"We have lost an experienced parliamentarian," the prime minister said while participating on the obituary reference.

She noted that Ali Ashraf had written 15 books on contemporary politics and economics.

Among others, Jatiya Party Chairman and Deputy Leader of the Opposition GM Quader, Law Minister Anisul Haq, Agriculture Minister Abdul Razzaque, LGRD Minister Tajul Islam, and AL lawmakers Matia Chowdhury, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim participated in the discussion.

The second section is "IED Research Centre", where the officials preserved the worlds latest IED related research, analysis and books.

There is a Data Fusion Corner in the centre, from where, officials will be on duty round the clock and give feedback, advice and input to all other police units.

There is also "Technical Intelligence" corner to keep data about how to diffuse IED, collect biometric and collect evidence to submit in court.

And finally, there is "Chemical Exploitation" corner to check and analyse different types of chemicals used in IED.

Rahmat Ullah Chowdhury, in-charge of BDU unit, told The Daily Star that the bomb data centre will be a centre of excellence for Bangladesh police to provide knowledge on IED.

"BDU is the only trained team in police and it has to respond to bomb calls across the country. We have to respond to around 10 calls on an average every day. Due to continuous analysis, the centre will be able to help officials to diffuse IED safely and it will also reduce the risk factor," he said.

A team of Bangladesh Army and US Central Intelligence Agency (FBI) have already visited the data centre and praised the initiatives, according to officials.

Regarding the use of IED by militant outfits, BDU officials said three homegrown militant outfits – Huji, JMB and Neo JMB – were mainly found to use the IED and bombs.

But all of the IED's were prepared by the militant outfit watching different tutorials and videos and the elements were also collected from a local source, they said.

For this reason, the data centre is also keeping the updated data of the country's chemical traders and which type of chemicals they are selling so that it did not goes to any wrong hands.

Abdul Mannan, deputy commissioner of special action group of CTIC unit, told The Daily Star that they are working to turn these bomb data centre into an institute, from where the officials working in law enforcement agencies can receive training.

"We have also plan to share intelligence and dataset with developed countries so that the people from the abroad can also get the scope to have training from the centre," he added.

During their stay in Doha, they learnt that six other Bangladeshis and 150 Afghan students of AUW also flew to Riyadh later that day by another US special flight.

Razib said while in Doha, their company arranged tickets and they flew to Dubai by an Emirates flight and flew to Dhaka on Tuesday night.

"What has happened to us in the last two weeks was just nightmare. It's now over. The worries of our families, friends and the countrymen are also over," he said.

Razib thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, all the government officials in Dhaka, Uzbekistan and Qatar, and journalists for their help in the times of trouble.

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Frustration grows in BNP grassroots

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moving forward with the election in mind, not a movement. It's not lost on the high-ups that the organisation still lacks the strength to pull off a movement.

The BNP boycotted the January 5, 2014, election, demanding polls under a non-partisan interim government. It waged a countrywide movement but could not force the government to concede its demand; rather it was criticised for destructive politics.

Then in 2018, it formed a greater alliance with Jatiya Oikyafront and participated in 11th parliamentary election. But it managed only nine seats including one reserved seat for women. The party boycotted the election results alleging massive rigging but eventually joined parliament.

Fast forward three years, the BNP is still in a shambles.

A district leader wishing not to be named said the party should hold a council immediately to draw up

a long-term vision and a roadmap regarding the months leading up to the polls. This would give party activists some kind of hope.

"The central leadership is out of touch with the grassroots. The gap should be bridged immediately and top leadership should issue specific directives. Grassroots leaders are frustrated, they need hope ...," he added.

Central leaders claim that with an eye on the next election, the party has started stepping up its organisational activities including forming committees for associated and front organisations. It has already formed convening committees for Dhaka North and South city units.

Although the party has been making this claim since 2009, the revamp process is yet to be completed.

BNP insiders said personal rivalries and intra-party feuds are the main barriers to completing the process. They said although the success of any movement depends largely on

how it goes in Dhaka, the party is not in a good shape here in terms of organisational strength.

BNP's Publicity Affairs Secretary Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie said that since outdoor programmes are suspended for around two years on account of the pandemic, they are focusing on reorganising the party.

"Our initial target is to revamp the party and complete it by this year. We have to force the government to hold the election under a non-partisan interim government and for this we need strength. We are now gaining strength," he added.

Annie, also a former student leader, said the revamping process was hampered because of the government's repression on the BNP men.

Party leaders said their biggest achievement is the party has been able to keep its leaders and activists united even in these most trying times.

Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, party's secretary general, said, "The government is bent on splitting the

Their 2-week long nightmare finally ends

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with the Taliban's seizing of control before the final withdrawal of the US and other Nato forces by August 31.

Razib said they all had decided to return home as the Western forces were withdrawing and that formation of a new government was likely, but it was beyond imagination that the Taliban would take control so fast.

They had flights on August 16, but with the Taliban's seizing control of Kabul the day before, the flights were cancelled, leaving them in trouble because no commercial flights were available.

"We were secure in our company residences in Kabul, but as all the foreigners were leaving, we were trying to get into the airport," he told this correspondent at his Dhaka home yesterday.

They, along with nine other

Bangladeshis, made attempts to enter the airport five times but failed as they were not allowed in on security grounds.

After avoiding the bomb blasts on August 26 that killed about 100 people, including 13 US troops, they took shelter in a place that is about eight minutes' drive from the airport. The Bangladeshis and about 150 Afghan students of Asian University for Women (AUW) in Chattogram stayed in seven buses on the streets for nearly 40 hours from noon of August 25.

"There was panic indeed. Our relatives were all worried. We were getting calls from journalists. Bombs were going off and people were killed. There were security concerns," he said.

He said Foreign Ministry Secretary [East] Mashfee Binte Shams and Bangladesh Ambassador to Uzbekistan, Zahangir Alam, regularly

called them, asking what they could do.

Razib, who has been working in Afghanistan for 14 years, said they were desperately trying to enter the airport in anyway before August 30 as the US was scheduled to complete its troop withdrawal by August 31.

He added that they could not leave Kabul by that time, they feared of getting stranded there for a long time.

"With frantic efforts, finally six of us entered the airport braving huge crowds and requested the US forces to put us on any flight and evacuate us in anywhere outside Afghanistan," said Razib.

In a few hours, they were put onboard a flight of the US to Doha. With instructions from the foreign ministry in Dhaka, the Bangladesh embassy in Qatar called them and arranged Covid tests and

to receive any relief goods.

Asma Begum, 45, said, "Flood water entered our village around 15 days ago. We are suffering much because we have no work, no food. We are even collecting drinking water from 5km away by boats. People who do not have boats cannot go outside."

On the other hand, on August 29, around 200 houses in Noapara char under Bogura's Sariakandi upazila was devoured by the Jamuna due to erosion and flooding, said Shawkat Ali, chairman of Chaluabari union parishad.

Over one lakh people of 25 unions of five upazilas have been marooned, but a flood loss report has still not come to the district administration, said Md Abdur Rahim, district relief and rehabilitation officer.

In Tangail, over one lakh people

Around 30pc of country to be flood affected

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hardships in those districts, they said.

In Kurigram, around 50,000 flood victims on the banks of the Brahmaputra, Dharla and Dudhkumar rivers are facing crises of food and pure drinking water. Many of the flood victims have left their homes and taken shelter along with their furniture and livestock on government roads and WDB dykes.

Mahu Miah, 58, of Char Parbati in Jatrapur union on the bank of the Brahmaputra in Kurigram Sadar upazila, told The Daily Star that he had moved with his family to a government road as his house is inundated with flood water.

So far, no government assistance has been provided to them, he said.

Ayub Ali, chairman of Jatrapur union

parishad, said the amount of relief materials he has received is low when compared to that which is required.

The District Relief and Rehabilitation Office (DRRO) has allocated 280 tonnes of rice and Tk 12 lakh for flood victims in nine upazilas of Kurigram.

However, due to the delay in preparing the list of flood-hit people, the government relief aid has not yet reached the victims, said Ayub Ali.

In Bogura, around 70,000 people of three upazilas are suffering from shortages of drinking water and dry foods.

Visiting the Shonpacha char under Bogura's Sariakandi upazila, our local correspondent found around 500-600 people (165 families) were affected by flood a month ago, but they were yet

Formation of new govt in final stages

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In footage posted on a pro-Taliban account of the build-up of the parade, a helicopter flew overhead, trailing the Taliban's standard beneath it as fighters wrapped in headscarves waved beneath.

At least one Black Hawk helicopter has been seen flying over Kandahar in recent days, suggesting someone from the former Afghan army was at the controls as the Taliban lack qualified pilots.

The United Nations warned, meanwhile, of a looming "humanitarian catastrophe", underscoring the daunting challenges that the Taliban face as they transform from insurgent group to governing power.

'EXTRAORDINARY SUCCESS'
US President Joe Biden was nonetheless defiant. "This is the right decision. A wise decision. And the best decision for America," Biden said in an address to the

nation.

For America, Biden argued, the only choice was "leaving or escalating", and called the evacuation as an "extraordinary success."

"No nation has ever done anything like it in all of history; only the United States had the capacity and the will and ability to do it," he said.

Biden, who has been savaged by critics for his handling of the withdrawal which saw the US and its

allies evacuate more than 122,000 in just over two weeks, also said the US would continue the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan and other countries, and warned the Islamic State group: "We are not done with you yet."

Russian President Vladimir Putin, meanwhile, said the US' 20-year campaign in Afghanistan ended in "only tragedies, only losses."

It is "impossible to impose anything from outside", he said.

Country's first

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according to officials.

Md Asaduzzaman, chief of CTIC unit, told The Daily Star yesterday that the data centre will help speeding up explosives related cases investigation as it already has all types of IED's history and who used those IED's.

"The centre will also keep communication with a developed country and take information if any new IED's found anywhere in the world," he said.

The CTIC chief said that people got panicked when they found an IED.

"We have earlier seen that due to mishandled and not having proper knowledge, people often got hurt. The data centre will help create awareness. People will get knowledge and notify local police so that action can be taken immediately," said the CTIC chief.

During a visit yesterday, five separate sections were found in the data centre.

"Bomb Archive", in where, IED and Bomb replica used in political program and militants' attacks like Holey Artisan café attack, Tazia Possession, Narayanganj police outpost attack, Moulvibazar and Ashkona militant hideout was kept.

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World's biggest

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Drouot auction house in Paris, where it will be offered by the specialist auctioneers Giquello on October 21.

It is estimated that it will sell at 1.2 to 1.5 million euros (\$1.4-\$1.8 million), though dinosaur auction sales have proved very unpredictable in the past.

The dinosaur has an export licence and there are a dozen possible buyers, said Alexandre Giquello of the Giquello house.

The two-metre-wide skull, some 200 bones and large horns of the animal were being assembled Tuesday behind the windows of a Drouot exhibition gallery in central Paris.

A unique specimen with the skeleton more than 60-percent complete -- including 75 percent for the skull -- Big John was discovered in 2014 in the US state of South Dakota by geologist Walter W. Stein Bill. Its restoration was carried out in Trieste in Italy.

This sale comes amid continued enthusiasm for dinosaur skeletons, with prices often reaching records that leave public museums and research centres unable to outbid private buyers.

WHO worried