



KEY EVENTS

- AUG 25, 2017**
Rohingya influx begins
- NOV 23, 2017**
Bangladesh, Myanmar sign repatriation deal
- NOV 15, 2018 AND AUG 22, 2019**
Repatriation deal fails
- NOV 11, 2019**
Gambia files genocide case with the ICJ
- JAN 23, 2020**
ICJ issues order asking Myanmar to prevent acts of genocide
- FEB 1, 2021**
Myanmar junta takes control through a coup
- MARCH 21, 2022**
US declares Myanmar's mass killing of the Rohingyas as genocide
- JULY 22, 2022**
ICJ delivers verdict it can go ahead with Gambia's case

ROHINGYA POPULATION

COX'S BAZAR CAMPS 2017	7,73,997	OUTSIDE CAMPS (Approx)	2,50,000
2022	9,36,733	BHASAN CHAR	30,000



TOTAL 12,16,733

FUNDING ON DECLINE

YEAR	REQUIREMENT	FUND RECEIVED
2017	\$434m	\$317m -- 73%
2018	\$951m	\$688m -- 72%
2019	\$920m	\$692m -- 75%
2020	\$1,058m	\$684m -- 65%
2021	\$943m	\$679m -- 72%
2022	\$881m	\$426m -- 49%

5 YEARS OF INFLUX

Rohingya return a distant dream

PORIMOL PALMA

Khin Maung dreamt of becoming a lawyer to help the Rohingyas realise their rights in a country where they were denied citizenship.

The hope was dashed after Myanmar imposed restrictions on university education for the Rohingyas in 2012 and he had to flee to Bangladesh from the brutal military crackdown in 2017.

Five years on, he is living as a refugee in a Cox's Bazar camp, a life which he thinks is not dignified at all. Depending on others for food, clothes and shelter is not something he ever wanted.

Like many other Rohingya youths, Khin Maung is also frustrated over the lack of formal education, training or jobs in the camps. "This situation can prompt the youths to resort to illegal activities," he said.

"We would like to go back to our ancestral home in Arakan as soon as possible and put an end to the camp life," Khin, 27, told this correspondent over the phone from the Kutupalong Rohingya camp.

He is among about 750,000 Rohingyas who took shelter in the district in 2017, joining three lakh others who had fled earlier waves of persecution in Myanmar.

Bangladesh sheltered them on humanitarian grounds despite a myriad of challenges the country itself has to face -- poverty, unemployment and regular natural disasters that displace thousands of people every year -- while close to a million migrate for jobs abroad annually.

Things have worsened in recent times due to Covid-19 pandemic and rising inflation amid a shortage of essential commodities in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The authorities now consider the refugee crisis no longer bearable and are calling for quick repatriation.

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But how practical is the optimism of Bangladesh? What's Myanmar's position?

According to international relations analysts, Myanmar faces higher level of pressure because of the verdict of International Court of Justice (ICJ) that it can pursue the Gambia's genocide case and the US' declaration of violence against Rohingya as genocide.

Also, Myanmar faces more pressure from the western world for restoration of democracy while the National Unity Government (NUG), formed in exile by the MPs of the Suu Kyi's National League of Democracy (NLD) following the coup in February last year, keeps lobbying various countries for support.

The NUG also announced it would grant Rohingyas equal rights as enjoyed by all citizens of Myanmar though it was the NLD rule during which the 2017 military crackdown took place.

Dhaka in talks with Moscow to buy crude, refined oil

Says Russian envoy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka is in talks to buy crude and refined oil from Moscow, Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh Alexander Mantyskiy said yesterday. "A number of initiatives regarding the supply of Russian crude and refined oil are being discussed both at the intergovernmental and business-to-business levels," the envoy told a media briefing at the Russian embassy.

He said a sample of SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



The voice for inclusive polls falls silent

MOHUDDIN ALAMGIR

Mahbub Talukdar, who, as an election commissioner, raised a lone voice against the ills within the election commission till his retirement, died at a city hospital yesterday.

He was 80, and left behind his wife and three children.

As an election commissioner, he was outspoken and would often publicly criticise some of the commission's decisions.

He was known to have walked out of commission meetings and issued notes of dissent, and all with an aim to make the country's elections fairer.



MAHBUB TALUKDAR 1942-2022

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PRIVATE POWER PLANTS

'Collusive deals' cost taxpayers \$1b a year

Finds research on power purchase in 2004-2017

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Uncompetitive deals made with some private power plants resulted in high power prices that cost the taxpayers around \$1 billion a year in subsidies, said a research paper presented yesterday.

The study delves into how consumer prices are marked up by the "collusive investing" of politically well-connected investors, and how competitive investment could have prevented this.

The research, conducted by Mushtaq Husain Khan, chief executive director of Anti Corruption Evidence Research Partnership Consortium and also a professor of economics at SOAS, University of London, was presented at Bangladesh Institute for Developments Studies (BIDS).

The study analysed the prices of electricity bought from 58 private

plants between 2004 and 2017.

It found that Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) bought electricity from some power plants at a price 25 percent higher than that of identical power plants.

"The difference is massive when you look at the scale of the expenditure, and could account for \$1 billion per year ...," said Mushtaq.

To make power affordable, BPDB typically sells power to consumers at a lower price and makes up for the loss with subsidies, said the study.

Just lease of government land in the form of subsidy to some private power plants led to a 15 percent rise in power prices, the study calculated after factoring in the lease in economic modelling.

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

More than half the length of bundled bamboos sticking out of the back of a truck on the capital's Manik Mia Avenue. Trucks transporting cargo like this is common. It is a highly risky practice as drivers behind the trucks may not notice the extended length of the vehicle and drive into it, with disastrous results. The photo was taken recently.

JRC crippled by a lack of political will

PINAKI ROY

The Joint Rivers Commission has not been much effective in resolving the issues of water sharing of transboundary rivers due to a lack of commitment from India and also for Bangladesh's technical incapacity to be persuasive.

And this has been affecting the ecology, environment and livelihoods of millions in Bangladesh.

Even though the neighbours share 54 rivers, and the JRC has been working since 1972, only one water-sharing deal -- the Ganges -- was signed, and that too, two and a half decades ago. That treaty is set to expire in 2026.

The water ministers of the two countries have so far met 37 times and there have been many meetings of secretaries and technical committees. Yet, the JRC has very little to show for.

However, after a series of discussions, the JRC had finalised the agreement for sharing the water of the Teesta in 2010, but the deal was

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Rash driving claims life of schoolgirl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Like every other day, Tahmina Akhter got her seven-year-old daughter ready for school, which is walking distance from their home in East Jurain.

It was not long after she bade her little girl goodbye that the bad news came.



Mehjabin Islam

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HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

FOUNDER CHAIRMAN OF THE PREMIER BANK LIMITED

VETERAN FREEDOM FIGHTER DR. H.B.M. IQBAL

ON ACHIEVING MAHATMA GANDHI PEACE AWARD 2022

On the occasion of the Diamond and Golden Jubilee of India-Bangladesh Independence, South Asia Social Cultural Forum & International Literary Council organized "Maitri Utshab 2022" in Kolkata, India where Dr. H.B.M. Iqbal was awarded "Mahatma Gandhi Peace Award 2022" a lifetime achievement award for his undeniable contribution in the banking sector.

Premier Bank family wishes him heartfelt congratulations on this well deserved achievement.

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