Too many adversities await new UK PM

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KAMAL AHMED

polls among party faithfuls, the Conservative Party has chosen Liz Truss, a free market champion, as its leader and the fourth prime minister in six years since the Brexit referendum. Liz Truss is the third female prime minister in the United Kingdom, following the footsteps of Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May, a unique record for the Conservative Party, which its rival the Labour Party is yet to achieve. Had her rival Rishi Sunak succeeded, that too would have set a new record, making him the first leader from the ethnic minority communities to rise to the top. Liz Truss moves into one of the most famous addresses. Number 10. Downing Street, vacated by a scandalridden populist leader Boris Johnson. Given the enormity of the economic woes the UK is facing amid a war in Europe involving Russia and a prolonged global energy crisis, the challenges she faces are multilayered and daunting.

Simply put, her first and main task will be to take effective economic measures to ease the cost-of-living crisis faced by the ordinary people in the UK. Inflation has already exceeded 10 percent and is predicted to rise above 15 percent in the coming

ONSISTENT with the opinion months. Fuel prices have doubled and are expected to rise many times more as Russia has suspended its gas supplies to Europe. Railway and transport workers, postal workers, some dockers and even barristers have resorted to strikes demanding pay rise. Pressures to increase public service wages and provide financial support to vulnerable groups are mounting. With the Bank of England's warning that the UK is heading towards a deep recession like the 1970s, the new prime minister's biggest challenge would be to ease public sufferings, bring the economy back to recovery and make it grow again.

> During her campaign leadership, one core policy she frequently uttered was the mantra of helping the economy grow by lowering tax burdens. Her rival Rishi Sunak and a number of leading economists argued that instead of tax cuts for big businesses, money should be spent on providing relief to those who need it most. In her victory speech, and later during her first prime ministerial statement, Truss stuck to her mantra of tax cuts, but promised immediate help to tackle the spiralling energy costs.

> Accepting the need of state intervention in dealing with rising

energy costs is not the first or only occasion where she has adjusted her stance, if not take a complete U-turn. Her father was a Laboursupporting academic, and she joined him in protests against the nuclear arms race and demanded abolition of the monarchy. In her early days in politics, she was a member of the Liberal Democratic Party, from which she switched to the Conservative Party. However, since joining the Conservatives, her ascension to the top has been quite rapid. She served the government in various capacities and is one of the most experienced ministers in the previous cabinet. In the Brexit referendum, she campaigned in favour of remaining in the EU. But later she admitted that her position was wrong and became a staunch Brexiteer.

On the diplomatic front, she is known as a hawk and has earned some wrath from Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov for insulting President Vladimir Putin, whom she described as a "rogue operator." Unwavering military and financial support to Ukraine amid war fatigue and the financial crunch at home will certainly remain a challenging task for her administration.

Her most crucial foreign policy challenge, however, will be relations with Europe over disputes on implementation of the Brexit deal. The prolonged dispute over the Northern Ireland Protocol, involving a virtual border on the Irish sea for cargo movement between mainland Britain and Northern Ireland, risks a trade war with Europe. It became even more critical as the devolved administration in Northern Ireland remained without a government due to the unionist party's refusal to join the power-



UK Prime Minister Liz Truss faces multilavered and daunting challenges.

sharing government until the UK make inroads in the British market. government tore up the deal with the EU. Liz Truss, as the foreign secretary, favoured unilaterally opting out of the EU deal, and if she makes good on her promise, a European retribution will aggravate the economy further.

There's little doubt that such a trade war will have wider consequences for the rest of the world, too. Otherwise, it is unlikely that there will be any major change in the UK's foreign policy directions. Though her drive for promoting free trade beyond Europe had limited success for UK exports, it opened up possibilities for others to

She had also reiterated her support to the controversial policy of offshoring asylum seekers to Rwanda in a bid to stem the inflow of migrants from war-torn countries crossing the risky English Channel via Europe. This policy has caused friction with the UN, too, and is currently a subject of iudicial review.

On the political front, the coming davs won't be smooth sailing either. Among the party's 172,000 voters, she was endorsed by about 57 percent, which is lower than her three predecessors; each of them had

secured over 60 percent of the votes. In the parliamentary party, too, she came second against Rishi Sunak, which is reflective of the daunting task of uniting the party. Opinion polls suggest the majority of the British people want a national election, and Labour is consistently performing well against the Conservatives. Winning the party leadership was tough, but winning the next election will be a monumental challenge. Besides, her additional headache would be the question of Scottish nationalists' demand for a referendum on their independence, which so far has been resisted by the Westminster government.

The two-month-long leadership campaign, since Boris Johnson announced his resignation on July 6, have laid bare the weaknesses of the party and the failures of the government as all the blame for the country's current woes were laid on the then front-runner former chancellor Rishi Sunak's economic policies. Some observers believe that, despite the disgraceful exit, Boris Johnson will return to frontline politics and Liz Truss's failure to ride out the economic storm will create such an opportunity. Pointing at his departing speech, in which Boris likened himself to Cincinnatus, a Roman statesman who turned to farming after leaving Rome, veteran political journalist Andrew Neil tweeted, "This is not the speech of a departing prime minister who necessarily thinks he's going away forever. And he's enough of a classics scholar to know, in comparing himself with Cincinnatus leaving for his farm, that when the call came, Cincinnatus

Protect Rohingya women from sexual exploitation



A CLOSER **LOOK** Tasneem Tayeb is a columnist for The Daily Star.

TASNEEM TAYEB

refugees who fled Myanmar women and small children – given three meals a day. that men and boys were the major target groups of the Tatmadaw although presenting a figure is difficult as such data is scarce.

Rohingya women have survived brutal gang rape, mutilation, unspeakable torture, and murder of their loved ones – including their children - before their eyes, when the Myanmar forces unleashed their atrocities on them with the intent of ethnic cleansing and genocide over decades, with one of the biggest attacks taking place in 2017. Yet, these women survived; their resilience overcame their helplessness, and they embarked upon a journey to Bangladesh in search of safety. They came here with scarred souls; their horrific experience in the Rakhine state left long-term psychosomatic impacts on them that include conditions like post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and panic attacks. Unfortunately, for these women, respite was not to be found in the camps inside Bangladesh.

Once inside the refugee camps, Rohingya women face a different set of problems – which includes sex trafficking. Many of these women have lost their fathers, husbands and sons to the Tatmadaw attacks, and the fathers and husbands of some others had previously fled to East Asian countries, including Malaysia and Thailand, seeking a better life abroad. For these women, having to survive without a male protector and breadwinner, inside the cramped camps, in a patriarchal and conservative social structure, is very difficult. Without access to economic opportunities, yet left to fend for themselves and the remaining members of their families, these women are often tricked into sex trafficking by unscrupulous individuals.

Take the case of Halima, whose plight was highlighted in a 2017 BBC report "Rohingya women in Bangladesh face 'forced prostitution.'" When 21-year-old Halima came to Bangladesh with her neighbours, whereabouts of her family, she was marry her. Halima bought his words required.

ORE than a million Rohingya at face value; such must have been her desperation. At the house where over the past few decades are Halima was taken by the man, Halima living in sprawling and over-crowded found another seven-eight young camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar. girls like herself, and all of them were It is safe to assume that a significant forced into sexual slavery. Halima was percentage of these refugees are unpaid, and was only provided with

> Later, although she was rescued, she chose to remain a sex worker because she had no other way of earning a livelihood. "I want to go back to praying five times a day, having meals with my family... I want the life I had before with my family in Myanmar," Halima told the BBC.

> There are many more Rohingya women who have been forced into prostitution by hustlers. Many of these

> > For those women who have been tricked into this profession or forced into it by their husbands to earn a quick buck – they can keep between 80 cents and **USD 1.20 per client** on an average, after giving the hustlers their cuts - seeking justice is not a viable option as they hardly have access to Bangladesh's formal justice system.

women work in Kutupalong, in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya upazila. The sex trade hotspot in Kutupalong is the largest in the camps, with more than 500 sex workers earning livelihoods there. Apart from this, the sex workers are often transported to hotels and guest houses in the greater Cox's Bazar area for jobs. Since the nature of the job is clandestine, and the women cannot tell their families and communities what they do for a living, they resort to lying, saying they are going to get medicine or visiting someone outside the camp. According to a report without any knowledge about the published by PBS, the hustlers have an understanding with the army penniless and hungry. A man offered personnel posted at the checkpoints her food and told her that having surrounding the camps, which lost his wife, he was looking for a enables them to smuggle Rohingya bride. He told her that he wanted to women and girls in and out when

What is even more alarming is that the refugee camps. the demand for children, both boys and girls, are increasing among the clients, as reported by Sky News, in a report titled, "Pimp says Rohingya plight 'good for business."

For those women who have been tricked into this profession or forced into it by their husbands to earn a quick buck – they can keep between 80 cents and USD 1.20 per client on an average, after giving the hustlers their cuts - seeking justice is not a viable option as they hardly have access to Bangladesh's formal justice stem. The loosely-tied mechanism that is in place at the camps to address grievances are not womenfriendly and are more focused on managing the situation rather than delivering justice. It is basically in the form of a body involving a local Rohingya leader, called majhi, along with representatives from mosque committees and government officials to monitor individual camps, and it is they who manage the system. Often, the women who have dared to speak up have found no solution. The Humanitarian, in a report, quoted the protection and rule of law coordinator for the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Bangladesh, Patrick Sooma, as saying, "The informal system often fails to

provide adequate justice for women." And for the Rohingya women who are trafficked abroad and sold into sexual slavery in India, Nepal, Middle East and East Asia, among other places, justice remains a far-fetched

Sex trafficking is a major problem in the Cox's Bazar camps, and reveals the dark underbelly of the lives of the refugees in Bangladesh. This situation needs to be addressed immediately. First of all, the government needs

to ramp up security around and inside the camps so that women are not coerced into this profession by hustlers or their families, and the women and children cannot be smuggled outside the camps. Secondly, the government and humanitarian agencies working in the field need to make sure that Rohingya families have access to the basic essentials. Then, the government and humanitarian agencies need to put more focus on the education and empowerment of Rohingya women so that they can become more aware, identify the threats, and make informed decisions be it about earning a livelihood here or finding opportunities abroad.

Rohingya women should also be provided with adequate counselling and healthcare facilities. While some NGOs and humanitarian agencies, along with the government, are working in these areas, more needs to be done, with a structured and holistic approach. Most importantly, the government needs to create a sustainable and structured justice system for the refugees so that the Rohingya women feel confident to seek legal recourse for the persecutions they have faced inside

But these are only stopgap measures. The most important step in ending the plight of the Rohingya women and children at the refugee confidence so that they can exercise camps has to be taken by the their own agency and help themselves to rehabilitate Rohingya women and international community, who needs and other women from their children.

rehabilitation solution for them. These women and children need to be empowered with education and

to find a suitable and sustainable communities find better lives. And the role of the international community here is paramount. Bangladesh alone cannot find a sustainable solution

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার আইন, বিচার ও সংসদ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় লেজিসলেটিভ ও সংসদ বিষয়ক বিভাগ প্রশাসন শাখা-১

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লেজিসলেটিভ ও সংসদ বিষয়ক বিভাগ, আইন, বিচার ও সংসদ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা এর সরকারি কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থবছরে মনিটর, প্রিন্টার, স্ক্যানার এবং ল্যাপটল (টাচ ক্ষিন) সরবরাহের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারীদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাছে।

উন্মকে দবপান বিজ্ঞাপ্তি

2	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ/সংস্থা	লেজিসলেটিভ ও সংসদ বিষয়ক বিভাগ, আইন, বিচার ও সংসদ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়।		
2	সংগ্রহকারী জেলা	ज ंका		
9	কি জন্য আল্লান	(ক) ১ (এক) টি মনিটর, (খ) ৪ (চার) টি প্রিন্টার (২+২), (গ) ২ (দুই) টি জ্ঞানার ও (ঘ) ১ (এক) টি লাপেটপ (টাচ স্ক্রিন)।		
8	আহ্বানের সূত্র ও তারিখ	৫৫,০০,০০০০,১০৫,০৭,০০৬,২২,৫১৯, তারিখ-০৭/০৯/২০২২ খ্রি.		
¢	সংগ্ৰহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)		
Ġ	বাজেট এবং সোর্স অব ফান্ড	রাজ্য		
٩	দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নাম	(ক) ১ (এক) টি মনিটর, (খ) ৪ (চার) টি প্রিন্টার (২+২), (গ) ২ (দুই) টি স্ক্যানার ও (খ) ১ (এক) টি লাপিটপ (টাচ ক্ষিন)।		
ь	দরপত্র আহবানের তারিখ	০৭/০৯/২০২২ খ্রি.		
۵	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	২২/০৯/২০২২ খ্রি. (অফিস চলাকালীন দুপুর-০২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত)		
50	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৫/০৯/২০২২ খ্রি. বেলা- ১১:০০ ঘটিকা		
33	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৫/০৯/২০২২ খ্রি. বেলা- ১১:৩০ ঘটিকা		
25	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ঠিকানা	সরকারি পরিবহন পুল ভবন, লেজিসলেটিভ ও সংসদ বিষয়ক বিভাগ (কক্ষ নং-১১০২, ১১ তলা)		
30	(ক) দরপত্র দলিল গ্রহণকারীর দপ্তর	সরকারি পরিবহন পুল ভবন, লেজিসলেটিভ ও সংসদ বিষয়ক বিভাগ (কক্ষ নং-১১০২, ১১ তলা)		
	(খ) দরপত্র দলিল খোলার দপ্তর	সরকারি পরিবহন পুল ভবন, লেঞ্জিসলেটিভ ও সংসদ বিষয়ক বিভাগ (কক্ষ নং-১১০২, ১১ তলা)		
\$8	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	দরপত্রের সাথে হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেপ, আয়কর সনদ ও বাংক থেকে আর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতার সনদপত্র এবং জাতীয় সরবরাহের সাথে সংশ্লিষ্টতার প্রামাণিক পত্র [কমপক্ষে ৩(তিন) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র] ভ্য রেজিস্ট্রেশন সাটিফিকেটের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপিসহ দরপত্র দলিলে উল্লিখিত যোগ্যতার প্রামাণিক/কাগঞ্চপ দাখিল করতে হবে।		
50	মালামাল সংগ্রহ ও কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বর্ণনা	(ক) ১ (এক) টি মনিটর, (খ) ৪ (চার) টি প্রিন্টার (২+২), (গ) ২ (পুই) টি জ্ঞানার ও (ঘ) ১ (এক) টি ল্যাপটপ (টাচ জ্ঞিন)।		
26	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	প্রতিসেট সিডিউলের মূল্য ৫০০/-(পাঁচশত টাকা) মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য)। সিডিউলের মূল্য ট্রেজারী চালানে মাধ্যমে সচিব, লেজিসলেটিভ ও সংসদ বিষয়ক বিভাগ, বরাবর কোড নং-৩-২১০১-০০০১-২৩৬৬ তে জ দিয়ে সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।		
29	সংগৃহীতব্য মালামাল/কাজের বর্ণনা	অবস্থান	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি (টাকা)	সরবরাহের সময় (দিন)
	(ক) ১ (এক) টি মনিটর, (খ) ৪ (চার) টি প্রিন্টার (২+২), (গ) ২ (দুই) টি স্ক্যানার ও (ঘ) ১ (এক) টি ল্যাপটপ (টাচ ক্ষিন)।	সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব (প্রশাসন শাখা-১), লেজিসলেটিভ ও সংসদ বিষয়ক বিভাগ; আইন, বিচার ও সংসদ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা [কক্ষ নং-৬৩৪ (৭ম তলা), ভবন নং-৪]	১০ (দশ) হাজার টাকা মাত্র সচিব, লেজিসলেটিভ ও সংসদ বিষয়ক বিভাগ এর অনুকূলে তফসিলভুক্ত ব্যাংকের পে-অর্ডার/ ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে দাখিল করতে হবে।	২০ (বিশ) দিন।
74	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবি, ঠিকানা ও ফোন/ফ্যাপ্স নম্বর	সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব (প্রশাসন শাখা-১), লেজিসলেটিভ ও সংসদ বিষয়ক বিভাগ; আইন, বিচার ও সংসদ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা [কক্ষ নং-৬৩৪ (৭ম তলা), ভবন নং-৪] ফোন নম্বর: ৫৫১০০৫৭৩		

ফোন নম্বর: ৫৫১০০৫৭৩ (অফিস)