

Take coordinated action against Myanmar's junta UN special rapporteur urges int'l community

REUTERS, Geneva

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar on Monday called on the international community to coordinate sanctions to counter the abuses perpetrated by the southeast Asian country's military.

Since a junta seized power in February 2021, Myanmar has been plunged into chaos, with a resistance movement fighting the military on multiple fronts following a bloody crackdown on opponents.

Thomas Andrews, the special rapporteur, told reporters in Geneva that the junta's violence had galvanized and strengthened the opposition, and that coordinated, targeted sanctions could further weaken the military leadership.

"They have less control of the country than they did at the beginning of this coup," Andrews said of Myanmar's junta. "We could make a very significant difference if we increased our support and we coordinated that support...I think it

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Overspeeding main cause of Madaripur road crash
Says probe body member

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Shariatpur



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina poses for a photograph with the players of the Purba Panchapukur Government Primary School from Nilphamari, who won the Bangabandhu Gold Cup final beating Binodpur Collegepara Government Primary School from Rajbari, at the Army Stadium in Banani yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

London police racist, misogynist: review

AFP, London

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and bereaved families yesterday led calls for "top to bottom" reform of London's Metropolitan Police, after a review found the UK's largest crime-fighting force to be institutionally racist, sexist, and homophobic.

The report, written by government official Louise Casey, was commissioned after the kidnap, rape and murder two years ago of a London woman, Sarah Everard, by serving Metropolitan Police officer Wayne Couzens.

Since then another officer, David Carrick, has also been jailed for life for dozens of rapes and sexual assaults stretching back two decades, and several other Met scandals have emerged.

Casey found those shocking crimes were perpetrated in a pervasive culture of "deep-seated homophobia" and predatory behaviour, in which female officers and staff "routinely face sexism and misogyny".

She also warned the force could still be employing rapists and murderers.

Officers from minorities suffer widespread bullying, while violence against women and girls has not been treated seriously enough by the majority white and male force, she said.

A Muslim officer reported finding

bacon left in boots inside a locker, a Sikh said his beard was cut because a colleague "thought it was funny", and sex toys were placed in coffee mugs as pranks.

"I make a finding of institutional racism, sexism and homophobia in the Met," Casey stated in the foreword to her damning 363-page report, adding that the force "has to change itself".

"Upsetting" Casey's conclusions come nearly 25 years after the Macpherson Report -- which probed Met failures after the murder of black teenager Stephen Lawrence in 1993 -- also found the force institutionally racist and recommended dozens of reforms.

Yet she discovered that internal discrimination is "tolerated", with complaints "likely to be turned against Black, Asian and ethnic minority officers".

Lawrence's mother Doreen said the report showed the force was "rotten to the core".

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