

ROHINGYA CRISIS

# Mount pressure on Myanmar with sanctions

Suggests AIBS policy brief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Targeted sanctions, diplomatic pressures, and similar mechanisms are needed to hold Myanmar accountable and ensure justice for the Rohingya people, said a policy brief published by the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS).

The policy brief titled "Rohingya Crisis: Current Challenges and the Way Forward," marking six years of the Rohingya crisis, was published on Saturday.

AIBS and The Berkley Centre for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs at Georgetown University collaborated to organise a two-day symposium in

May 2023 that served as the basis for this policy brief.

During the symposium, the experts also emphasised the importance of international attention and commitment to finding a just and durable solution to the crisis, while highlighting the urgency of addressing the lack of access to education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities for Rohingya refugees.

The policy brief was authored by Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, a Fellow with the AIBS, and offered a set of policy recommendations to deal with the crisis.

The said actions against Myanmar will prevent the military regime from

perpetrating such human rights violations in the future, said the brief, mentioning how the international community dealt with Syria could be used to address the human rights violations in Myanmar.

It also noted that collaborative efforts between international actors, including governments, NGOs, and civil society organisations, are crucial to protecting the Rohingya's human rights.

"The military coup in Myanmar, the gradual decline in international aid for the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, and the lack of progress on repatriation talks have created new and complicated realities," it observed.

The committee has been asked to submit the probe report within the next 10 days.

After probe committee's formation on August 10, DNCC sued four people on August 24, including three officials of the chemical company, on charges of forgery in importing BTI pesticide.

According to DNCC officials, the case was lodged as the supplier did not import BTI from the US, EU countries, Singapore, India, and Malaysia, breaching the purchase contract.

Earlier, DNCC blacklisted Marshal Agrovet and cancelled its purchase order with the company for importing BTI from Chinese company Shandong Ganon Agrochemical although it claimed to have imported the chemicals from Singaporean company Best Chemical Co (S) Pte Ltd.

Chittagong Customs also filed a case yesterday, accusing five Marshal Agrovet officials of importing BTI pesticide for DNCC by forging documents and using false paperwork.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

enacts any repressive laws that contradict the will of the people and attempts to enforce them, then citizens are not obliged to comply with such laws."

He added that Khadija is being kept behind bars, while the government has failed to deliver justice in cases like Sagar Runi, Toki,

and many others for years. "The reason why justice has not been served in these cases is because those in power are involved in them," he said.

Renowned Director Ashfaque Nipun, singer Shayan, General Secretary of Moulana Bhasani Parishad Harunur Rashid,

and student leaders from various left-leaning student organisations also spoke at the event.

Khadija, a political science student, was arrested on August 27 last year after police pressed charges against her in the two cases, filed by New Market and Kalabagan police themselves on October 11 and October 19, 2020.

According to her NID and academic documents, she was only 17 when she was sued for hosting the Facebook webinar, where Delwar Hossain, a retired army officer, made controversial remarks.

Delwar, who is currently abroad, was also accused in these cases. Khadija has so far been denied bail as many as six times, her family members said.

## 365 days of injustice

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Referring to the denial of bail to Khadija six times, Prof Samina questioned, "Has she committed any heinous crime that warranted the court to reject her bail six times?"

Zonayed Saki, chief coordinator of Ganosamhati Andolon, questioned, "Where are we living now? The government is ruling the country using the taxes of the general people, yet they are imposing suppressive laws on them."

"If people's right to vote cannot be restored, these repressive acts will persist," he added.

Demanding the immediate release of Khadija, Communist Party of Bangladesh leader Mujahidul Islam Selim said, "If the government

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## BTRC official

FROM PAGE 5

moments and blackmailed her with it when she wanted to end the relationship.

Sunjib then raped her several times and tortured her, reads to the case statement.

On August 15, Sunjib called the woman to his Dhanmondi home and hit her with a bottle with an intention to kill her, the statement added.

The woman managed to leave the house and filed a case with the Dhanmondi Police Station.

## We are starving

FROM PAGE 5

gardens. The workers in this garden suffer a lot. Wages get withheld every few months, and we have to fight for them. We want the government to acquire this garden."

Bangladesh Tea Workers Union Vice President Pankaj Kanda said that the owner of Hosnabab Tea Garden has been irregular in paying wages to the workers for many years. The labourers don't get paid what they owe properly.

The garden authorities have agreed to meet with us on Monday (today) to resolve the issue. If a settlement is not reached, tea workers will start a movement across the country, he added.

Contacted, Prof ASM Maksud Kamal, pro-vice-chancellor (academic), told The Daily Star that a meeting has been set up to talk to the students regarding their demands. "After discussing with them, we will make a decision."

The students previously blocked the same place with the same demand on August 16 and 22 and did the same at least five times in the last three months, and all of them were on weekdays.

According to the university's current criteria, first-year students (of seven colleges) in social sciences and business faculties must attain a minimum CGPA of 2.00 to be promoted to the second year, second-year students require 2.25, and third-year students require 2.50.

## BTI pesticide

FROM PAGE 3

Meanwhile, DNCC is trying to import BTI from authentic sources, added Reza.

IEDCR sent their report to DNCC after testing the pesticide for nine days. According to their report, the supplied BTI is effective and safe for public health. PPW's report echoed the same, said Faridul Hassan, acting director of PPW.

A five member committee, headed by DNCC Additional Chief Engineer Mohammad Sharif Uddin, is still investigating the issue while Marshal Agrovet remains blacklisted.

The committee has been asked to submit the probe report within the next 10 days.

After probe committee's formation on August 10, DNCC sued four people on August 24, including three officials of the chemical company, on charges of forgery in importing BTI pesticide.

He said, "Government organisations consistently face shortages in essential logistics, and there are ongoing efforts to bridge this gap. Without timely mosquito control and widespread community involvement, the prevention of dengue infections and fatalities will be challenging."

Sheldon Yett, UNICEF

## Tk 50,000 spent per patient

FROM PAGE 3

Representative to Bangladesh,

"I think mosquitoes

are smarter than our

people working at

the local government

organisations," he said,

urging for an innovative

approach to prevent

mosquitoes from breeding.

He termed the dengue

outbreak as a public health

failure which has put

hospitals under strain.

While presenting a

keynote at the beginning

of the event, Prof Nazmul

Islam, director of Disease

Control at the DGHS,

said that the health

ministry has been working

to ensure treatment for the

patients at the hospital.

"The shortage of medical

equipment is not as severe

as portrayed in the media,"

he said.

In the concluding

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## EC may allow

FROM PAGE 3

"We discussed the vital

role of strong democratic,

independent institutions,

the role of the media and

the civil society," she said,

adding, "We also discussed

roles of independent

observers."

She, however, did not take any questions

from the reporters.

The meeting started at

11:00am and continued for

more than one hour.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

### Office of the Executive Engineer

#### DPHE, Lalmonirhat District, Lalmonirhat.

[www.dphe.lalmonirhat.gov.bd](http://www.dphe.lalmonirhat.gov.bd)



মোঃ আনুর হোসেন  
হাওলাদের

গ্রাম শহরের উপরি

#### Invitation for e-Tender notice

1 Ministry / Division	Local Government Division.
2 Implementing Agency	Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE).
3 Project/ Program Name	Fourth Primary Education Development Program (PEDP-4).
4 e-Tender IDs (with Package Number)	866398 (PEDP4/WB-2512), 866399 (PEDP4/WB-2306), 866400 (PEDP4/WB-2307), 866401 (PEDP4/WB-2606) and 866418 (PEDP4/TW-494).
5 Description of works	<p><b>PEDP4/WB-2512:</b> Construction of 06 Nos 2 storied RCC WASH Block at Hatibandha and others upazilas in Lalmonirhat FY 2023-24.</p> <p><b>PEDP4/WB-2306:</b> Construction of 06 Nos 2 storied RCC WASH Block at Sadar and others upazilas in Lalmonirhat FY 2023-24.</p> <p><b>PEDP4/WB-2307:</b> Construction of 06 Nos 2 storied RCC WASH Block at Aditmari and others upazilas in Lalmonirhat FY 2023-24.</p> <p><b>PEDP4/WB-2606:</b> Construction of 06 Nos 2 storied RCC WASH Block at Hatibandha and others upazilas in Lalmonirhat FY 2023-24.</p> <p><b>PEDP4/TW-494:</b> Installation of 45 Nos Shallow Tubewell (STW) at Sadar (10), Hatibandha (05), Aditmari (10), Kaligonj (10) and Patgram (10) upazila in Lalmonirhat district under PEDP4, FY 2023-24.</p>