

Find lasting solution to Rohingya crisis

President says at Asean Summit

UNB, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin yesterday called upon the international community to urgently find a lasting solution to the Rohingya crisis.

He warned that any delay in the repatriation of Rohingyas could put the entire region at risk.

"It is the collective responsibility of the international community to find a durable solution to this crisis in its place of origin in Myanmar. Further delay to commence safe, voluntary and sustainable repatriation and shortage of humanitarian support may put the entire region at risk," he said.

The president said this at the inauguration ceremony of the 18th East Asia Summit at the Jakarta Convention Centre in the Indonesian capital.

He said that Prime

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The prime minister exchanging greetings with members of the Hindu community at Gono Bhaban during the holy Janmashtami celebration yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

Why would you call yourselves minority?

PM tells Hindu community

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the Hindu community not to consider themselves as minorities but to enjoy equal rights in Bangladesh.

"Why would you call yourselves a minority? There is nothing like minority and majority here. All citizens will live here, enjoying equal rights. Don't undermine yourselves as a minority. Why do that when you are part of this country?" she emphasised.

The PM made these remarks while exchanging greetings with members of the Hindu community at Gono Bhaban during the holy Janmashtami celebration. She asserted that those born in Bangladesh's soil are its children with citizen rights, encouraging them to live accordingly.

She highlighted her government's commitment to maintaining religious and communal harmony in Bangladesh, promoting social solidarity where one group does not undermine another, and ensuring equal rights for all citizens. She also called attention to the presence of individuals with vested interests who may seek to create problems.

The premier expressed concern about people maligning Bangladesh abroad and urged everyone to remain vigilant. Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder, State Minister for Religious Affairs Md Faridul Haque Khan, and State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Swapan

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G20 SUMMIT Dhaka wants to be voice of Global South: Momen

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh wants to be the voice of the Global South at the G20 Summit, raising issues of climate change, Rohingya crisis, food and energy challenges emanating from the Russia-Ukraine war, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be visiting India from September 8-10 to attend the summit in New Delhi.

On the sidelines, Hasina will hold bilateral meetings with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman and the UAE, Argentinian and South Korean presidents.

"We have made significant achievements in terms of socio-economic development and women empowerment. We have been a leader in the Climate Vulnerable Forum. We want to showcase these achievements," said Momen at a media briefing at the Foreign Service Academy.

Asked if Bangladesh's upcoming national elections will be discussed during the meeting between Hasina and Modi, Momen said, "I don't know."

He then said Bangladesh is committed to free and fair elections.

"We will welcome it if anybody wants to extend any support or recommendations, but we will not entertain any pressure. We want regional stability and peace. We don't want any proxy war in this region," he said.

Momen did not respond when asked if Bangladesh will raise the Teesta water sharing agreement that has been pending since 2011, despite the final preparation, because of opposition from West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Bangladesh and India will sign several MoUs, including those involving cooperation on agricultural research, culture, and on transactions with the taka and the rupee between Bangladesh Bank and India's NPCI Bank, he said.



Country records 2nd highest daily fatalities

20 die; monthly data shows death toll rising

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The country yesterday recorded the second-highest daily fatalities with 20 more deaths as a month-wise comparison shows a spike in the death toll.

Of the recorded 20 deaths yesterday, 11 were reported in the capital.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) data, at least 98 people died in the first week of September. The figure was 76 in the first week of August. However, the hospitalisation numbers have come down marginally. The number of hospitalisations was 16903 and 17,651 respectively.

With yesterday, deaths and cases, the total number of deaths and cases this year jumped to 691 and 1,40,711 respectively. Among the deaths and cases, August alone had 342 deaths and 71,976 cases.

Amid this alarming situation, experts yesterday urged authorities concerned to take necessary steps to kill adult mosquitoes to control the situation.

GM Saifur Rahman, an entomologist of the National University, said, following the World Health Organisation guidelines, killing adulticide is no less important than killing larvae.

Authorities concerned will have to identify the clusters of the infected mosquitoes and will have to continue fogging every alternate

day until the reproductive chain of the Aedes mosquitoes is broken.

Echoing Saifur, entomologist of Jahangirnagar University Kabirul Bashar said to control the situation, it is very important to kill adult mosquitoes even outside Dhaka.

control activities at their places for their or their family members' dengue infection.

One-year-old Affan took treatment at a private hospital in Sirajganj before coming to the Shishu hospital.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Urging the government to strengthen and activate all the local government bodies from Union Parishad to the district level to control Aedes mosquitoes, Bashar said all these bodies will have to be provided with the necessary funds, manpower and training.

During a visit to two hospitals -- Shishu hospital and Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital on Wednesday, many residents outside Dhaka blamed poor mosquito

control activities at their places for their or their family members' dengue infection.

His father Rejaul Karim said there is no activity in the union parishad level though huge numbers of mosquitoes are there.

Md Hossain, father of two-year-old dengue patient Hafsa Moni, from Hossaindi in Munshiganj echoed him.

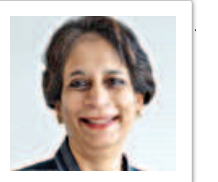
"My daughter was diagnosed dengue positive and was admitted to Shishu Hospital on August 18 and recovered on August 23.

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UN official to visit from Sept 9 to 12

STAR REPORT

UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Regional Director for Asia & the Pacific Kanni Wignaraja will visit Bangladesh from September 9 to 12.



During her visit, Kanni will go to Bhasan Char and Cox's Bazar, where she will meet the Rohingya communities and witness the impact of UN-supported interventions within the Rohingya refugee camps.

Additionally, Kanni will engage in high-level discussions with key government officials, including the foreign minister, the speaker in parliament, and the principal secretary of the Prime Minister's Office.

"These meetings are vital for strengthening cooperation between UNDP and the Government of Bangladesh, as well as for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda in the region," said a statement of the UN yesterday.

ODHIKAR OFFICIALS Verdict deferred to September 14

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A tribunal yesterday rescheduled the judgment delivery on two officials of rights body Odhikar to September 14 in a case filed under the ICT Act.

Judge AM Julfikar Hayat of Dhaka Cyber Tribunal set the new date for the delivery of the verdict, which was scheduled for yesterday, as he could not prepare the judgment.

The case was filed for running "a distorted report and doctored images" about the May 6, 2013 police action on a Hefajat-e-Islam rally in the capital's Motijheel.

The two accused are Odhikar Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan and Director ASM Nasiruddin Elan.

CASES AGAINST PROF YUNUS

301 lawyers call for withdrawal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three hundred and one lawyers of the Supreme Court yesterday urged the government to stop "taking measures of oppression and harassment" against Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus.

In a letter, they also urged the government to "withdraw all the vexatious cases against him".

The 301 lawyers, including several pro-BNP counsels, signed the statement yesterday, saying that "the current government is trying to eliminate whoever it considers to be its opponent by using the state machineries".

The lawyers, who signed the statement, include senior advocates Zainul Abedin, Subrata Chowdhury and AM Mahub Uddin Khokon; Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal, Syed Mamun Mahub, Fariduzzaman Forhad, Gazi Kamrul Islam Sajal, Rezaul Karim Reza, M Mahubur Rahman Khan and Jamiul Haque Faisal and AKMEhsanur Rahman.

"The ongoing judicial process by the current illegitimate government against Nobel Laureate Professor Dr Muhammad Yunus is just slanted, stirred up and outrageous," the statement read.

"The ongoing judicial harassment against Prof Yunus using the state apparatus under the cover of a formal trial process is greatly damaging the image of Bangladesh across the world.

"As lawyers, we want assurance of the safety of all citizens of the country and the fair application of laws. We, the lawyers of the constitutional court of Bangladesh, strongly condemn this fascist behaviour of the government, and are calling for an immediate cessation of all kinds of the staged vindictive process and withdrawal of all ongoing vexatious cases filed against the Nobel Laureate Professor Dr Muhammad Yunus," the statement further read.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Unable to meet up with housing expenses, Kohinoor, who works as a domestic help, hops onto her belongings on a rickshaw-van with her child as she shifts from the capital's Green Road to Rayerbazar. Though the action is risky, Kohinoor is left with no alternatives as she has no one to supervise her kid while she ensures her things are delivered to her new address properly. The photo was taken yesterday in Panthapath.

Climate summit begins in Dhaka today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will host a three-day regional climate summit in Dhaka beginning today with the goal of strengthening regional collaboration among South Asian nations.

"The summit will offer insight into dealing with the effects of climate change, as well as brainstorm on how to reduce global environmental pollution, improve water management, migrate to green energy, and use natural resources sustainably," said Special Envoy to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, during a press conference held at a hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

Climate Parliament Bangladesh, The Earth Society, and Observer Research Foundation are jointly organising the summit at Sheraton hotel in Banani.

Around 450 people -- including climate experts, and policymakers -- will join the summit.