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# UNHRC adopts resolution for Rohingya return

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations Human Rights Council yesterday unanimously adopted a resolution emphasising on sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis through their repatriation by creating a congenial environment in Myanmar's Rakhine and ensuring justice and accountability for them.

The resolution was adopted during the ongoing 56th session of the council in Geneva, according to a statement issued by the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN Office and other international organisations in Geneva.

The statement says Bangladesh took the initiative for the resolution titled "The situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar" and it was placed on behalf of all member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

The resolution was adopted following intense and long discussion.

Shanchita Haque, acting permanent representative of the Bangladesh mission, said with limited resources and different challenges, it is not possible for Bangladesh to give shelter to the huge number of Rohingyas for an indefinite period.

"The international community should support Bangladesh in the repatriation by realising the importance of the causes of Bangladesh's concerns," she added.

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A side of the approach road of the Charabari bridge in Tangail Sadar has been devoured by the Dhaleshwari due to strong currents. Road communications between the district town and five unions have been disrupted, causing sufferings to thousands in the char areas. The photo was taken yesterday. Story on Page 5.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

## Pakistan's ISI gets power to intercept calls

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's ISI has been given the power to track criminal and terrorist activities and the government would ensure it did not infringe people's lives and privacy.

"The federal government in the interest of national security and in the apprehension of any offence, is pleased to authorise officers ... to intercept calls and messages or to trace calls through any telecoms system," said the notice, seen by Reuters.

The move was opposed in parliament by the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan.

Khan had previously backed the ISI's surveillance of politicians' telephone calls, or even his own, in the absence of legal authorisation.

A leader of the party,

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## BIRTH CONTROL ITEMS

# Govt stock nearing exhaustion

RASHIDUL HASAN

The government's family planning efforts are likely to be seriously hindered as supplies of contraceptives at the field-level offices are running dangerously low.

At present, there is no injectable contraceptive in any upazila and the stock of birth control pills will run out in a few months, according to officials of the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP). The stock of implants has also run out.

The reason for the supply running low is a halt in procurement for months due to a legal battle at the High Court.

Although the legal battle has ended recently and the procurement process has resumed, the DGFP officials cannot give a timeline for when the birth prevention materials, which are distributed for free, will be available at the field level.

Subsequently, the DGFP has started rationing and redistributing the current stock, they added.

The eligible couples in Bangladesh are provided seven options for contraception:

## WORLD POPULATION DAY

### STATE OF FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMME

- 2.81 eligible couples
- No injections at any upazila
- DGFP started rationing contraceptive materials
- 37pc of eligible couples receive contraceptives from govt
- Shortage likely to increase mother and child mortality

permanent system for male and female, intrauterine devices, implants, oral pills, condoms and injectables.

At the end of May, there is no stock of the oral contraceptive pill Sukhi (3rd gen) in 287 upazilas, according to the DGFP stock status report. There is no stock of Sukhi (2nd Gen) in 414 upazilas.

The stock of the other oral contraceptive pill Apon is 13.33 million cycles and was projected to run out in June, according to the report.

While procurement of 45 million cycles of Sukhi (3rd gen) is under process, it will take several months to get the supplies in hand, according to DGFP officials.

There are no injectables in 462 upazilas. The stock of 0.151 million vials was supposed to run out soon, too.

The current stock of condoms is 20.32 million, and this stock can be used up to November.

Population experts fear that the scarcity of birth control materials will increase mother and child mortality rates as eligible couples might go for an unintended pregnancy causing abortion.

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## MYANMAR CONFLICT

# Armed group claims control of town in Shan state

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar ethnic minority fighters said yesterday they have seized a town along a key trade highway to China following days of clashes with junta troops.

The town of Naungcho "is totally ours," General Tar Bhone Kyaw of the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) told AFP.

Earlier yesterday a military source told AFP that ethnic minority fighters were in control of "most" of Naungcho.

Myanmar's northern Shan state has been rocked by clashes since late last month when an alliance of ethnic armed groups renewed an offensive along the highway that runs from second city Mandalay to China's Yunnan province.

Naungcho is around 50 kilometres (30 miles) along the highway from the former British hill station of Pyin Oo Lwin, home to the military's elite officer training academy.

Another road from the town leads to Taunggyi, the capital of Shan state. AFP was unable to reach a junta spokesman for comment.

Myanmar's borderlands are home to myriad ethnic armed groups who have battled the military since independence from Britain in 1948 for autonomy and control of lucrative resources.

# Ukraine will stop Putin

Biden tells Nato in forceful speech, promises new air defences for Kyiv

REUTERS, Washington

US President Joe Biden pledged to forcefully defend Ukraine against Russia's invasion at the Nato summit in Washington on Tuesday evening, using the global stage to try to show allies at home and abroad that he can still lead.

Biden, 81, has endured 12 days of withering questions about his fitness for office as some of his fellow Democrats on Capitol Hill and campaign donors fear that he will lose the November 5 election after a halting debate performance on June 27.

"(Vladimir) Putin wants nothing less, nothing less, than Ukraine's total subjugation ... and to wipe Ukraine off the map," Biden said in his welcome to Nato member states to the summit, referring to the Russian president. "Ukraine can and will stop Putin."

Biden spoke off of a teleprompter with a strong and confident voice and largely avoided the verbal flubs and signs of confusion that marked his debate performance.

"Today Nato is stronger than it's ever been in its history," he said. Biden also announced a major package of air defences for Ukraine.

The air defences "will help to protect Ukrainian cities, civilians, and soldiers," Biden said in a joint statement with other leaders, adding that they would look to

send dozens more shorter range systems in the coming months.

The US pledge comes on top of two new Patriot systems already being given by Germany and Romania, and one the Netherlands has said it is putting together with parts from other allies, reports Reuters.

The centrepiece of the Nato summit is set to be new commitments of military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the summit would "further strengthen" the war-torn country's path to Nato membership.

Zelensky, who arrived in Washington on Tuesday and is due to meet with Biden today, has said Ukraine needs a minimum of seven Patriot systems.

"We are fighting for additional security guarantees for Ukraine - and these are weapons and finances, political support," he said on social media.

Ukraine ultimately wants to join Nato to ward against further future attacks by Russia but candidates have to be approved by all of the alliance's members, some of which are wary of provoking a direct conflict with Russia.

Some members want the alliance to make clear Ukraine is moving toward Nato "irreversibly" and are keen for language in a summit statement beyond the alliance's pledge last year that "Ukraine's future is in Nato."



## Scaloni hails grit of Messi & Co

REUTERS, East Rutherford

Argentina's path to the Copa America final has been no bed of roses, coach Lionel Scaloni said, as he lauded his players for their performance in Tuesday's 2-0 semifinal win over Canada.

Canada, ranked 48th in the world, played high-energy football and looked to turn the match into a physical battle but Argentina's quality shone through in the end.

Julian Alvarez and Lionel Messi scored to secure Argentina's spot in the final of a third straight major tournament after their victories at the 2022 World Cup and Copa America in 2021.

"It is extremely tough to reach another final. It is tough because we know how hard it is to get there," Scaloni told reporters.

"The bar has been set very high. Everyone thought it was going to be a bed of roses and it wasn't like that at all. Canada proved it today by being a very difficult opponent."

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Argentina superstar Lionel Messi celebrates scoring his team's second goal as the first goal-scorer Julian Alvarez chases him during their 2-0 win against Canada in the first semifinal of Copa America at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

# Mummified climber found in Peru 22 yrs later



REUTERS, Santiago

Peruvian police and mountain rescue workers recovered the body of an American climber who went missing in 2002 as glaciers in Peru's highest mountain and surrounding area continue to retreat.

The mummified, skeletal corpse still had well-preserved climbing boots, crampons and clothing, as well as a driver's license and passport belonging to William Stampfl.

Stampfl is suspected to have died in an avalanche more than 20 years ago.

In a statement, police said they recovered his body on July 5 at an altitude of 5,200 metres (17,060.37 ft), well below Huascaran's 6,768-metre summit.