



A panjabi-clad United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus pose for a photo during their visit to Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: CA PRESS WING

ROHINGYAS IN BANGLADESH UN calls for more int'l funding

Guterres says Rohingyas are on the verge
of deep humanitarian crisis

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Rohingyas are on the verge of a deep humanitarian crisis in the wake of cuts in aid, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned yesterday, calling for more funds from international donors.

"The international community has an obligation to invest now in that aid for people who have already suffered so much. There is no time to waste," he said.

Guterres, accompanied by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, was addressing a large gathering of Rohingyas at a refugee camp in Ukhiya of Cox's Bazar.

Yunus pledged to put the government's efforts together with the United Nations so that the Rohingyas can celebrate their Eid next year back at their homes in Rakhine state.

In the Cox's Bazar camps, the life of the refugees has become more uncertain. The World Food Programme will be cutting monthly food rations from \$12.5 to \$6 per person from April, as the US has trimmed funds globally under the Donald Trump administration.

In 2024, donors provided only \$554

Ultimately the
solution must
be found in
Myanmar. We
will not give up until
conditions allow for
the voluntary, safe and
sustainable return for
the refugees here

ANTONIO GUTERRES,
UN secretary-general

million, or 65 percent of the total requirement for the more than 1 million Rohingya refugees.

"We are on the verge of a deep humanitarian crisis. With the announced cuts in financial assistance, we are facing the dramatic risk of having only 40 percent in 2025 of the resources available for humanitarian aid in 2024," Guterres said at a different press conference in Ukhiya.

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'We're here to support your reforms'

Guterres tells Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visiting United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres yesterday expressed his full support for the reform process initiated by Bangladesh's interim government.

During a meeting with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the latter's Tejgaon office, the UN chief also voiced concerns over the declining humanitarian aid for over a million Rohingyas living in Cox's Bazar refugee camps.

Guterres, who arrived in Dhaka on a four-day visit on Thursday, to express solidarity with Myanmar's forcibly displaced Rohingya people during Ramadan.

"I want to express our total commitment to the reform process. We are here to support your reforms. We wish you all the best. Whatever we can do, let us know," the UN chief told Yunus during the hour-long meeting, according to Chief Adviser's Press Wing.

He said he hopes that the reforms would lead to a free and fair election and a "real transformation" of the country. "I know the process of reforms can be complex."

In the meeting, Yunus briefed Guterres about the reform process, saying that around 10 political parties have already submitted their responses to the reports of the six reform commissions formed by the interim government.

Yunus said once the parties agree to the recommendations of the commissions, they would sign a "July Charter", which would be the blueprint for the

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BNP forms support cells for women, children

Party committed to
safe, fair society for
all: Tarique

STAR REPORT

BNP has formed two special support cells -- "Legal Assistance Cell for Oppressed Women and Children" and "Health Support Cell for Oppressed Women and Children" -- comprising party-affiliated lawyers and doctors.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi announced the formation of these cells at a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan central office yesterday, reports UNB.

He said these cells will gather information on incidents of violence, rape, and murder against women and children across the country.

Rizvi said similar cells have been set up in all 84 organisational districts of the BNP.

He said BNP's Law

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STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL

The Buriganga river, once a vital lifeline for trade and transportation, now stands as a testament to the devastating consequences of mindless pollution, with its brackish waters bearing witness to years of pollution. Industrial discharge, sewage, and rampant plastic pollution have devastated aquatic biodiversity and the overall ecosystem. The lone heron carefully treading on floating debris highlights the relentless struggle of wildlife to survive in an increasingly uninhabitable environment. The photo taken recently underscores the urgent need for sustainable solutions to combat pollution and restore one of Bangladesh's most iconic rivers.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

THE DISAPPEARED OF THE JULY UPRISING | PART 3

A systematic cover up of bodies

Seven months after the July uprising in Bangladesh, many protesters still remain missing. We investigated 31 cases: six were buried as unclaimed bodies at Rayerbazar graveyard; four were identified by families from among the charred bodies in Ashulia; two were handed over to families after DNA testing; and 19 are still unaccounted for. We found evidence of systematic government efforts to cover up medical records and bodies of the victims so they can never be found again. This four-part series also documents how families were denied time to collect the corpses from hospital morgues, and how they are now waiting for the bodies of their loved ones.

MASHFIQ MIZAN, KEERO ADHNAN AHMED
and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

On the afternoon of August 5, 2024, word spread across the country that Sheikh Hasina fled to India. In Gazipur, like elsewhere in the country, thousands poured into the streets in celebration. But there was also anger.

A group of protesters started chanting slogans outside Konabari Police Station, and the police opened fire. The protesters dispersed, but the cops kept hunting them down in nearby alleys. Md Ridoy, 20, a student and an autorickshaw driver, found himself

from where they were still firing at protesters. From there, three others, one in uniform and another in civilian clothing, dragged him towards an alley which leads straight to the Konabari Police Station. Ridoy is never seen again.

The International Truth and Justice Project, an organisation documenting crimes against humanity, has also investigated this incident.

"We went to the Konabari Police Station the next day. All we could find was the lungi

Ridoy was wearing underneath a desk," said Md Ibrahim, Ridoy's brother-in-law.

This newspaper found another video from the night of August 5, 2024, which



Md Ridoy lies on the street after being shot at point-blank range by police on August 5.

trapped in one such alley. The cops cornered him, dragged him onto the main road, right in front of Shareef General Hospital, according to authenticated video footage seen by The Daily Star.

Six officers closed in--one raised a stick, another held onto his shirt so he could not escape. Meanwhile, a third, later identified as Constable Akram, slowly stepped behind him with a gun in hand, like a predator marking its prey. Another cop slapped him. Simultaneously, Akram put the gun in his back and then pulled the trigger!

Ridoy collapsed, but the 20-year old was still breathing. The cops walked away as Ridoy bled profusely.

Minutes later, three officers returned, and carried him behind the police lines

shows the inside of the Konabari Police Station. Some policemen were seen making preparations to leave. In the video was a man wearing a white sleeveless undershirt and a lungi. Ridoy's relatives and locals identified him as Abed Ali, a trader.

According to Ibrahim and five locals, Abed helped the cops in disposing of Ridoy's body. Abed Ali could not be reached for comment.

Seven months on, Ridoy's family does not know where his body is. His name is not on the list of July martyrs prepared by the government, and his family is yet to receive any compensation from the government, his sister Jesmin Akhter said.

Five policemen, including Constable

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WFP to cut aid for
one million people in
Myanmar

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Stop tiptoeing
around women's
safety

P8

চট্টগ্রাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
৫ম সমাবর্তন - ২০২৫

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, চট্টগ্রাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ৫ম সমাবর্তন আগামী ১৪ মে ২০২৫ বুধবার অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। সমাবর্তনে ২০১১ থেকে ২০২৩ সাল পর্যন্ত উত্তীর্ণ স্নাতক (সম্মান)/স্নাতকোত্তর এবং ২০১৪ থেকে ২০২৪ সাল পর্যন্ত অন্যান্য পরীক্ষায় ডিগ্রি অর্জনকারীদের সনদ ও চ্যালেঞ্জার স্বর্ণপদক প্রদান করা হবে। ১৫ মার্চ ২০২৫ থেকে ৩০ মার্চ ২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত শুধুমাত্র অনলাইনে আবেদন করা যাবে। সমাবর্তন সম্পর্কিত বিস্তারিত তথ্য চট্টগ্রাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ওয়েবসাইট (<https://convocation.cu.ac.bd>) এ পাওয়া যাবে। এছাড়াও সমাবর্তন সম্পর্কিত যে কোন বিষয়ে প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য পেতে ০১৭১৬-১২৫৬২০, ০১৮১২-৫১৭৫৩১ ও ০১৭১৮-৩১২৩৫৩ নাম্বারে এবং cecuctg@cu.ac.bd ই-মেইলে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে।

(প্রফেসর ড. মোহাম্মদ সাইফুল ইসলাম)
রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
চট্টগ্রাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।