

'We mustn't wait till last Rohingya leaves Rakhine'

Yunus sets 7-point proposal for crisis resolution, says Bangladesh now ready for election

BSS, Cox's Bazar

Urging the international community to take stronger action to ensure justice, repatriation, and stability for the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals, Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday placed a seven-point proposal to help resolve the Rohingya crisis.

"It is not only the responsibility of Bangladesh, but also of the international community to share the burden of the Rohingya crisis, find solutions, and play an active role in implementing those."

He made the remarks while inaugurating the main session of the three-day international conference titled "Stakeholders' Dialogue: Takeaways to the High-Level Conference on Rohingya Situation", which aims to engage global stakeholders.

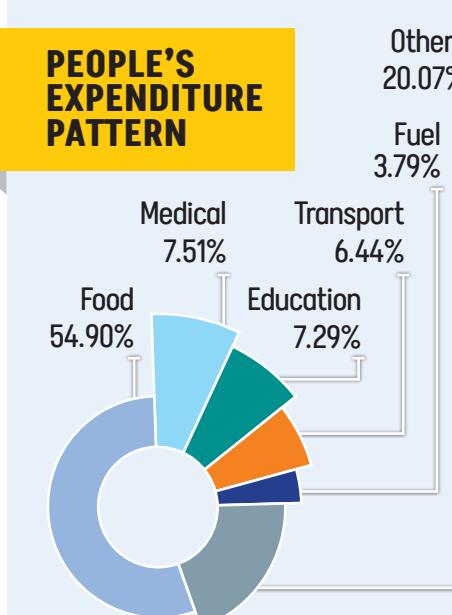
The event, held at the Hotel Baywatch in Cox's Bazar, marked the eighth Rohingya Genocide Remembrance Day yesterday.

Explaining the first point of his proposal, Yunus said the umbilical relationship of the Rohingyas with their homeland cannot be severed.

"So, their rights to return to their homeland must be secured. Therefore, we urge all parties and partners to create a practical roadmap for their speedy, safe, dignified, voluntary and sustainable return ... We must not be held hostage to mere rhetoric. The time for action is now."

About the second point, Yunus said continued contributions from donors and humanitarian partners are vital to keep life-saving aid running. "We appeal to international donors to enhance their commitments and fill the funding gaps in the Joint Response Plan for 2025-26. At the same time, we urge stakeholders to undertake consolidated efforts for adequate and sustainable funding for the future."

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Poverty soars to 28%

Food insecurity, chronic illness, debt deepening household vulnerabilities, finds govt-funded study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poverty in Bangladesh has surged over the past three years, with nearly 28 percent of the population now poor compared to 18.7 percent in 2022, according to new estimates by the Power and Participation Research Centre.

The share of people living in extreme poverty has also risen to 9.35 percent this year, up from 5.6 percent three years ago.

This means one in every four people now lives below the poverty line, while one in every 10 is trapped in extreme poverty.

Another 18 percent are in the "vulnerable non-poor" group, at risk of falling into poverty anytime.

TOP 5 PURPOSES OF DEBT

Household consumption	29.33%
Medical expenses	10.75%
House construction/repair	10.13%
Shop credit (consumption)	9.23%
Business/industrial investment	8.96%

PPRC Executive Chairman Hossain Zillur Rahman revealed the findings yesterday while presenting the results of a national-level study on the state of the real economy at the LGED auditorium in Dhaka.

The think tank surveyed 8,067 households nationwide between May 8 and May 31 this year, with funding from the finance ministry.

The previous findings were

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Repatriation hinges on Myanmar

Say UN, 11 Western countries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is the responsibility of Myanmar to create conditions that would allow Rohingya refugees to return home voluntarily, safely, and with dignity, said the United Nations.

Marking the eighth anniversary of the Rohingya exodus into Bangladesh, the UN and 11 Western countries issued statements urging action to address the crisis that has displaced more than a million people since 2017.

On August 25, 2017, Myanmar's military launched a crackdown against the Rohingyas in Rakhine State. Thousands were killed, while survivors endured arson, rape, torture, and ethnic cleansing. About 7,50,000 fled to Bangladesh, joining

"The most meaningful contribution the international community can make for the Rohingya is to bring Min Aung Hlaing and other military leaders before an international court."

Chris Sidoti of Special Advisory Council for Myanmar

those displaced by earlier pogroms. Since late 2023, another 2,00,000 Rohingyas have crossed the border, swelling the population in Cox's Bazar to over one million.

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Hundreds blinded by bullets

ICT-1 hears more harrowing details of July violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An eye doctor from a Dhaka hospital, where 864 injured people were treated during the July uprising, said 493 of them lost vision in one eye while 11 became completely blind.

Twenty-eight others had severe visual impairment, Zakia Sultana Neela, assistant professor at the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital, told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday.

Neela, a prosecution witness in a crimes against humanity case filed against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her two top aides, said almost all patients were admitted between July 17 and August 6 last year.

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বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

সতর্কীকৰণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আসল নোট চিনুন নিরাপদ লেনদেন নিশ্চিত করুন

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃক সম্পত্তি বাজারে ইস্যুকৃত নতুন ডিজাইনের ১০০০, ১০০, ৫০ ও ২০ টাকার নোট প্রচলনে দেয়া হয়েছে। পাশাপাশি, ইস্যুকৃত পূর্ববর্তী সংস্করণের নোটসমূহের বৈধতা ও লেনদেনযোগ্যতা বাহন রয়েছে। নগদ লেনদেনে আসল নোটের ব্যবহার নিশ্চিতকরণ ও জাল নোট প্রতিরোধে সকলকে সচেতন ও সতর্ক থাকার পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে।

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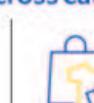
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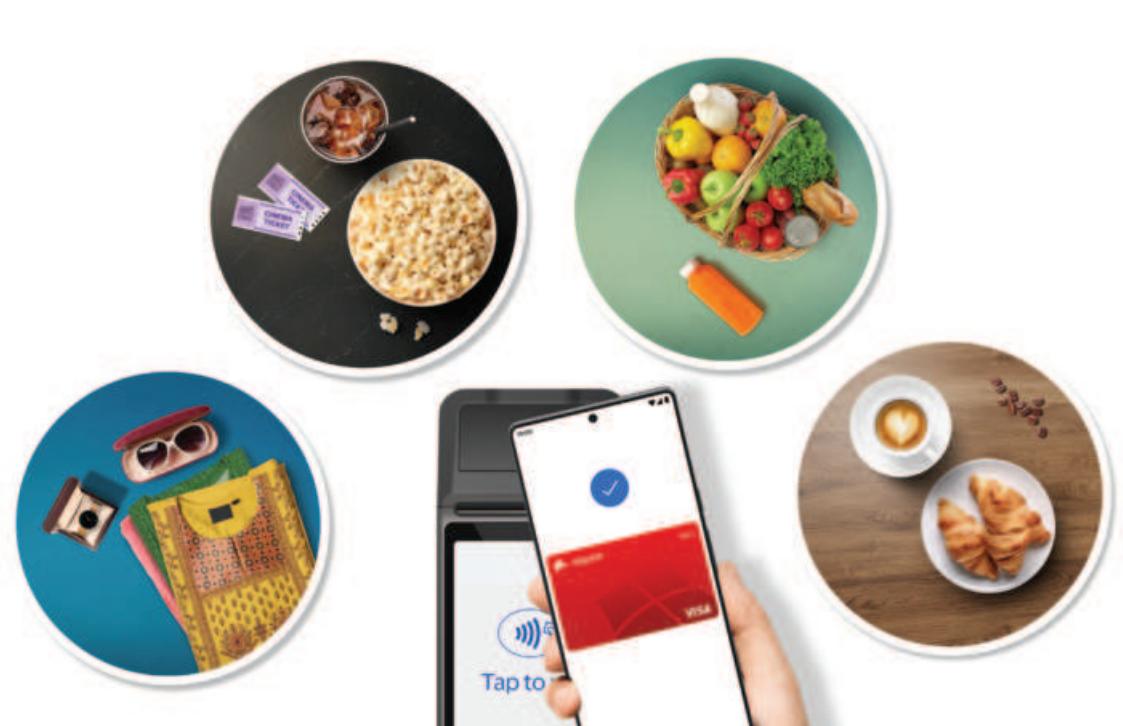


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NEWS ANALYSIS

Bangla-Pak ties grow, but '71 still unreckoned

PORIMOL PALMA and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Bangladesh-Pakistan relations began to thaw after the 2024 uprising. Over the past year, three ministerial visits to Dhaka, a foreign secretary-level meeting, and two meetings between top leaders Prof Muhammad Yunus and Shehbaz Sharif have marked a significant shift from the last 15 years.

That was not all. Bilateral trade increased to \$865 million in 2025 from \$628 million the previous year. The two countries have initiated direct shipping, while visa regulations have eased and direct flights are set to start. Cooperation in education, culture, media and academia is expected to grow as several deals have been signed.

Bangladesh is willing to build a relationship, as expressed by Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain, moving away from adversarial attitude of the last 15 years.

However, the unresolved issues of 1971 still call for reckoning.

Following his meeting with Bangladesh's foreign adviser on Sunday, the Pakistani foreign minister told the media that these issues had been resolved twice -- once in 1974 and again during former president Pervez Musharraf's visit. He did not elaborate.

Historians indicate the minister was likely referring to the 1974 tripartite agreement among Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, and Pervez Musharraf's 2002 visit.

Bangladesh wants a formal apology from Pakistan for the 1971 atrocities committed by its military against Bengalis, settlement of financial accounts and repatriation of stranded Pakistanis.

The financial claims include \$4.52 billion covering Bangladesh's share of undivided Pakistan's pre-1971 assets and foreign aid, unpaid provident funds, and savings

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