



Protect people fleeing conflict in Myanmar

Urges UN rights chief

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk has urged all member states to create safe and dignified pathways for refugee protection and resettlement, particularly for the Rohingyas.

He made the call at the Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on Myanmar during the 60th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva yesterday.



"I once again urge all governments to do everything possible to protect people fleeing the conflict in Myanmar, including by search and rescue operations at sea, and to refrain from refoulements, including pushbacks," he said.

The UN is going to hold a high-level conference on the situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar on September 30 in New York to highlight the crisis.

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Relatives mourn beside the bodies of Layan, 2, and Iman Salem, 5, who were killed in an Israeli strike on their displacement tent in the Al-Nasr neighbourhood, at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

'Gaza is a graveyard'

Says UN rights chief, denounces Israeli 'genocidal rhetoric'

AGENCIES

The United Nations rights chief yesterday voiced alarm at the overt "genocidal rhetoric" by Israeli officials about Gaza and called for decisive international action to "end the carnage".

He said the occupied Palestinian territory was already "a graveyard".

In his opening address to the UN Human Rights Council's 60th session, Volker Turk slammed "Israel's mass killing of Palestinian civilians in Gaza (and) its infliction of indescribable suffering and wholesale destruction".

Meanwhile, Israeli attacks across Gaza since dawn yesterday killed at least 40 people and destroyed another high-rise in Gaza City.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) bombed a 12-floor block in the middle of Gaza City where dozens of displaced families had been housed, three hours after urging those inside and in hundreds of tents in the surrounding area to leave.

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Total literacy elusive after Tk 4,000cr spent

WASIM BIN HABIB and ARAFAT RAHAMAN

Nearly one in five Bangladeshis aged seven and above remains illiterate, despite Tk 4,000 crore being spent on literacy programmes over the past 34 years.

The literacy rate among people aged seven and older is now 77.9 percent as per the Bangladesh Economic Survey 2024, said Bidhan Ranjan Roy Podder, the primary education adviser.

The actual rate could be even lower as the previous governments often tried to suppress information, he told reporters on Sunday.

Against the backdrop, Bangladesh yesterday joined the global observance of International Literacy Day.

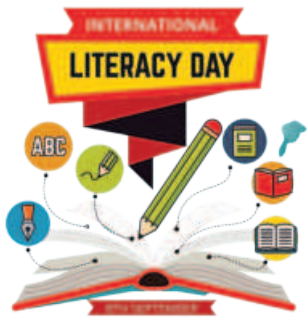
Declared by UNESCO in 1965, this year's theme is "Promoting literacy in the digital era".

In Bangladesh, literacy is most commonly defined as the ability to read and write.

But the UNESCO broadened the definition beyond the conventional concept of reading, writing and counting skills. It encompasses the ability to identify, interpret, create and communicate in an increasingly digital, text-driven, information-rich and fast-changing world.

Literacy is attained through formal education and adult literacy programmes, but in Bangladesh, the focus has largely remained on the former, with the latter receiving less attention.

Since 1991, successive governments have undertaken multiple efforts to eradicate illiteracy, with the Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE) implementing at least nine projects ranging from basic and post-literacy to non-formal education schemes.



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Ex-secy Abu Alam Shahid Khan arrested

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent former secretary Abu Alam



Md Shahid Khan to jail in an anti-terrorism case.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Saifuzzaman passed the order after police produced him before the court, said a sub-inspector working in the court.

According to defence lawyer Obydul Islam, detectives arrested the former secretary in the Eskaton area early yesterday, even though his name was not included in the FIR.

Earlier, 16 people, including former minister and expelled Awami League leader Abdul Latif Siddique, Dhaka University law professor Sheikh Hafizur Rahman, journalist Monjurul Alam Panna, and freedom fighter Golam Mostafa, were arrested in the case.

On August 29, police filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station against the arrestees, accusing them of inciting terrorism through a speech delivered under the

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Courts grapple with shortage of judges

Bangladesh lags behind most South Asian countries in terms of judge-to-population ratio

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

With one judge for every 78,023 people, the Supreme Court and lower courts have been grappling with a growing backlog of cases, delaying legal remedies for thousands of justice seekers.

Bangladesh currently has one of the lowest judge-to-population ratios in South Asia -- 2,307 judges for 18 crore people.

In India, there is one judge for every 68,775 citizens, while Pakistan has one judge for every 81,417, according to Law Lab, which conducts research on legal, constitutional, and human rights issues.

Nepal has one judge for every 63,000 citizens, and Sri Lanka one for every 55,000.

The Maldives has the highest ratio with one judge for every 4,977 people, followed by Bhutan with one judge for 13,278. Afghanistan ranks lowest, with one judge for every 592,361 people, shows Law Lab data.

Overall, most South Asian nations lag far behind developed countries. For example, the USA has one judge for every 6,667 people and the UK one judge for every 13,140.

In Bangladesh, the shortage of judges has resulted in a backlog of 46.52 lakh cases, causing frustration among litigants and lawyers.

According to a SC report, each judge is now burdened with an average of 2,016 cases.

The Appellate Division has only seven judges, who are dealing with a total of 37,000 cases.

Recently, 25 judges were appointed to the High Court Division of the SC, raising the number of HC judges to 113.

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JUDGE-TO-POPULATION RATIO

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF JUDGES	POPULATION (approximately)
Maldives	200	5.15 lakh
Bhutan	60	7.97 lakh
Sri Lanka	416	2.32cr
Nepal	468	2.96cr
India	21,285	146.86cr
Bangladesh	2,281	18cr
Pakistan	3,142	25.58cr
Afghanistan	72	4.26cr
USA	52,132	34.8cr
UK	5,298	6.96cr

Man hands over son to police over Rajbari attack

Says he identified son from a video of grave desecration

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The father of a suspect in the attack on a darbar sharif at Goalanda upazila in Rajbari has claimed to have handed his son over to police.

The suspect, Apu Kazi, 25, was among seven arrested on Saturday night and sent to jail on Sunday, police said.

Yesterday, his father Arif Kazi said Apu had given a confessional statement to the court under section 164 of the code of criminal procedure.

The attack on Friday afternoon followed protests over controversies surrounding the tomb of a man named Nurul Haque, locally known as "Nurul Pagla". Videos of the assailants exhuming the body and burning it on a highway went viral on social media.

Speaking to this correspondent, Arif said, "I myself identified my son in a video that showed several people exhuming the body from the grave."

"Since he was among them, I handed him over to the police. He must face punishment for what he has done."

Meanwhile, police yesterday said they have arrested seven more suspects, taking the number of arrestees to 14.

Besides Apu, another arrestee

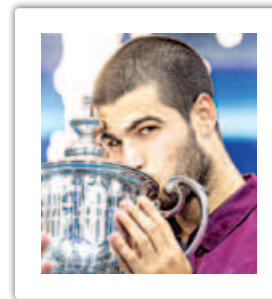
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The Bhologanj Sada Pathor tourist spot in Sylhet's Companiganj upazila has regained its natural charm, as white stones earlier looted were recovered by different organisations and reinstalled, restoring the site's scenic beauty.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Career Slam now Alcaraz's 'first goal'



AFP, New York

Carlos Alcaraz says winning next year's Australian Open to seal a career Grand Slam is his main objective after securing a sixth major title in New York on Sunday.

Alcaraz beat chief rival Jannik Sinner 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 to claim his second US Open crown and would become the youngest man to win all four majors if he lifts the trophy in Melbourne next January.

"It's my first goal,

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IN MEMORIAM

As Numair walked through the dusty streets of his motherland after 10 years away for post-graduate studies, he reflected:
"I am delighted to be back. It has been thrilling for me to see so many old faces again... It has been surreal to wake up to morning prayers, to hear again birds calling from my childhood, and to find old trees, roads, and homes, vanished... I have been returned from the vacuum of my former life, and Bangladeshi air has rushed in."

Dr. Numair Atif Choudhury

Director, BIT

(Date of Death: September 9, 2018)

MAY ALLAH GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST

MS. ANIKA RAHMAN, Sister (Managing Director & CEO, BIT)

MS. TALITA CHOUDHURY, Sister (Board Director, BIT)

LATE MS. LUBNA CHOUDHURY, Mother (Founder Principal, BIT)

