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Human Rights Report: The documentation section country. Commission deeply expressed its concern on huge killing in May 2013 and violation of human rights. The Law enforcing agencies and related Govt. departments should be more responsible so that percentage of killing may be brought down to zero level. To institutionalize the democracy and to build human rights based society the rule of law must be established everywhere. Both physical and mental torture have been prohibited in constitution of Bangladesh and UN charter of human rights. But in practice the law enforcing agents of the government are neglecting those constitution of the land and as well UN charter. Through enforcing rule of law only such violation against human rights can be minimized.

It appears from documentation division of BHRC:

of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC) furnished this survey report (Human Rights Report) on the basis of daily newspapers and information received from its district, sub-district and municipal branches. As per survey it appears that 224 people were killed in May 2013. It proves the law and order situation to be not satisfactory. The commissions extremely anxious at this situation.

Such series of murder may be entitled as unsatisfactory situation of law and order in the Total 224 Nos. of people total killed in May -2013 Under-

Killed after Raping 3, Killed due to social discrepancy 137, Killed by Law enforcing authority 38, Killed due to doctor negligency 3, Killing for dowry 3, killed by Acid throwing 2, killed after Missing 38.

Besides victims of torture violating human rights in May 2013.

Suicide 20, Savar tragedy 1129, Road Accident 224, miscellaneous Accident 152.

And to do so, they need to be educated. But the girls, especially in the rural areas are forced by their families to get married at a very early age, which is illegal as well as unethical.

Experts have recognized plenty of dangers due to early marriage, called for plugging legal loopholes, raising awareness, and a positive

Child marriage: a detriment to development

A large number of population in Bangladesh still think that women need not have to be educated as their lives are to be spent in the kitchen of their in-laws' houses. Fortunately, that is not the case anymore, women are



now being bestowed upon a

lot of higher responsibilities

which they are performing

even better than men can do!

It is true that women need to

be given opportunities to

explore and choose the type

Change in social norms. The health and education of the girls are threatened when they are married off at early age. The situation worsens if that leads to early pregnancy, contribute to the rising number of premature births. Perception of men to boost their financial status through dowry and the feeling of insecurity in girls' families, mostly belong to the lowincome groups. Many girls end up getting divorced for failing to recover, and with very little chance of remarriage; finally they become burdens of their families.

Taking all these issues into account, the governments of Bangladesh, Canada, and Malawi sponsored a special session of the 57th Commission on the Status of Women at United Nations headquarters in New York last month in March 4-15, 2013 to address child marriage. The panel discussed a range of actors such as parliamentarians, the United Nations, community leaders, and civil society as the best method of child marriage prevention. Moderator Carole Presern, executive director of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health said, "We all have a role to play in reducing child marriage and ensuring that girls remain girls and not wives and mothers."

According to a report of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 42 million girls will be married before age 18 by the year 2020. That means 39,000 girls will be married each day, and 14.2 million girls each year. UNFPA Executive Director Babatunde Osotimehin said, "There are over 600 million girls in the developing world today. We, as the global community, have the responsibility to ensure that all those girls have access to quality education, access to health care/ services, and safe spaces so that they are not violated or abused. Certainly they are the future of the world."

Around 34 percent of women aged 20 to 24 in developing countries and 49 percent in least developed countries are married as children. Α UNICEF study of 2012 reveals that early or child marriage remains most common in rural areas and for those girls living in extreme poverty. Malawi and Bangladesh, the panel's sponsors, have some of the highest rates of child marriage in

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the world. In accordance with UNFPA, pregnancy and childbirth complications are the leading cause of death among girls age 15 to 19 years in the developing countries. Girls, less than 15 years of age are five times more likely to die in childbirth and face an increased risk of HIV. The panelists further said that child/ early marriage is a form of gender-based vio-

lence. The act of forced marriage includes physical, sexual, and emotional violence. They equated child marriage to rape; so we can no longer have 39,000 girls being married every day. It is unacceptable. Research shows that higher levels of education for girls prevent child marriage. During the talk, panelists offered legislative and religious solutions to prevent child marriage. Parliamentarians have an obligation. To make sure policies are implemented to protect girls from early marriage, including registering all traditional marriages to track the number of girls underage married with parental approval. Panelists agreed that the international community must act to bring an end to early forced marriage.

Refugee Crisis of Bangladesh



Tarek Chowdhury

glorious history. Bangladesh possesses a prosperous culture and her-

Bangladesh is

one of the few

offering plenti-

ful green land

with a rich and

in

Asia,

countries

South

itage. It is a land of delightful natural beauty with a chain of great rivers and clear lakes surrounded by green hills, beautiful green tea gardens and exotic tropical rain forests.

Science the independ-

ethno-linguistic heritage of the Bengali people. They opposed its agitation for independence from Pakistan. In 1971, they support for the Pakistani army and participation in pro-Pakistani militias, such as the Razakars, Al shams, Al Badar etc. In liberation period this people committed mass war crimes like



Pakistan government for accept the Biharis. The reality is neither country offering citizenship; the Biharis have remained stateless science the migration time. Organizations such as Refugees International have urged the governments of Pakistan and Bangladesh to "grant citizenship to the hun-

dreds of thousands of people who remain without effective nationality". The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is

ents day in 1971 Bangladesh faced the refugee problem. Muslim Bihari ethnic group from the Indian State of Bihar, currently residing in Bangladesh, descendants of migrants from Bihar to Previous East Pakistan at the time of the Partition of India to join the Muslim state of Pakistan. They spoke Urdu, which became the official Pakistan. language of Moreover this Bihari ethnic group not yet respects the independence of Bangladesh. They are not sharing the

genocide, rap, torture civilian etc. After the independence of Bangladesh they were relocated to refugee camps. They have since appealed the Pakistani government for the right to settle in Pakistan. Their petition has only met with marginal support from the Pakistani authorities, who have allowed only a small number of the "Stranded settle Pakistanis" to in Pakistan. Nowadays some in Pakistan have groups urged strongly to the

Sake? **qubeuaKui-7**

not addressing the plight of the Biharis. In 2006 a report estimated that between 240,000 and 300,000 Biharis live in 66 crowded camps in Dhaka and 13 other regions across Bangladesh.

In a visit to Bangladesh in 2002, Pakistani former military president Parvez Musharraf said that, while he had sympathy for the plight of the 'stranded Pakistanis', he could not allow them to immigrate to Pakistan. He said his country was in no position right now to absorb so many refugees.

Then again, Bangladesh has been host to hundreds thousands of registered and unregistered Rohingyas. The first large group of Rohingyas refugees was arriving in 1978. In the year 1979 around 50,000 refugees remained in Bangladesh. Till then they are still coming this land. Some 30,000 registered refugees in Kutupalong and Nayapara, two governmentrun camps near Cox's Bazar, are relying on regular distributions of food rations and relief items such as shelter and clothing. Basic water, sanitation and health services are provided by the government, UNHCR and its partners.

While these may sound like luxuries to an estimated 200,000 unregistered Rohingya living outside the camps and to local villagers in this poverty-stricken country, camp residents lament that they cannot work legally or study beyond Grade 5 in the camps' around 21 primary schools.

The UN refugee agency is working to change that sense of powerlessness, but within tight operational constraints. It works

refugee-elected camp management committees, empowering them to mediate and disputes organizing women's training and peace education workshops. Vocational training is another important empowerment tool. While the refugees are not permitted to work or to sell things they produce, UNHCR seeks to keep them occupied while teaching them skills like carpentry, soap making and tailoring that they can hopefully use in the future. Unfortunately, there are few prospects after the six-month training as most refugees cannot afford to buy their own equipment. Even those who manage to buy a sewing machine find it hard to get raw materials and to market their products. Without regular practice, their skills fade quickly. As a none-sufficient economical nation Bangladesh face inconvenience with its huge

number of refugees. The increasing number may deep impact to our economy in near future. They may cause threat to the lives and livelihood of the local unemployment. In the same time closely with increased prices of com- media on the event of crisis.

modities, rampart, deforestation, competition for accommodation and education. They are serious concerns to distort social and communal harmony. Recently they also involve several crimes like theft and fraud, as well as more serious concerns of robberies, murder arms and human trafficking, drugs abuse etc. Certain political parties have been reported to be using them for securing notes by providing them with national identification cards. In addition some refuges nowadays impinge on the national interests of Bangladesh by using Bangladeshi passports and travel abroad. This may damaging to the vital labor export and their criminal activities hamper our national reputation also.

Due to none cooperation by the Myanmar and Pakistan government the refugee situation is one of the big concerns for Bangladesh. Our government should engage rest of the world to find a sustainable solution to this refugee's crisis. It is time to give a strong massage to international community and E-mail: thcrelic@gmail.com

Cycle of election-year violence must end

beur

US wants investors not to turn back on BD because the solution is reform not withdrawal: Sherman assures support

Human Rights Report:

US Under Secretary for Political Affairs Wendy R Sherman on Monday said she is optimistic over a credible and inclusive polls in Bangladesh, but is it Bangladesh people to decide what should be the polls-time government and how the election will be

held. "That's really a for decision Bangladesh," she told reporters at a joint press conference when asked about the polls-time government.

Earlier, speaking

at a function at Sonargaon Hotel titled "A partnership without Boundaries: US-Bangladesh Relations" she laid emphasis on improving political climate in the country saying, "Bangladesh must free itself from the cycle of election-year violence to prosper truly.

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic

can't presume ... to tell the leaders what issues demand attention, what wrongs must be righted or what approach your country must take as it faces the grave challenges of the future,"

She said she had watched with dismays as the streets of Dhaka have been shut down

withdrawal," she said. Replying to questions at the end of the partnership dialogue, which is the third one, she said decision on Ticfa agreement will be taken in June in Washington. So also the decision of continuation of GSP will be dealt with separately.

> She said the partnership dialogue had covered wide ranging issues of mutual interest between the two countries. The meetings were produc-

tive and reviewed progress among other things on continued collaboration in countering terrorism, security assistance, UN peacekeeping operations and humanitarian assistance.

On polls time election Sherman said, every time and at every turn of the year, the people of Bangladesh have chosen democracy and chosen to make progress, even make it stronger and better. She laid emphasis on smooth participation of individual voters in exercising their votes saying individual vot-

this

Rural

Under



by hartals and after hartals, by angry demonstration after angry demonstrations. "There are obstacles along the roads, But I am certain Bangladesh will be able to make the hard choice not only to meet any challenge but to prosper. We are here to support you,"

she said. Referring to Rana Plaza acci-

Studies (BIISS) organized the meeting where Sherman and Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque co-chaired the dialogue.

Sherman told the meeting "I

dent and its impact on garment industry she said, "we are encouraging international investors not to turn their back on Bangladesh, because the solution is reform not

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ers make things different. Foreign Secretary Shahidul Assistant Haque, US of Secretary State for Economic Business and Affairs Jose W Fernandez, Ambassador US Dan Foreign Mozena and Ministry DG (EP)Μ Shameem Ahsan were, among others, present.

Ticfa and GSP Responding to a question on Ticfa and GSP, Sherman said the decision has its own process, She said both the governments are committed to deepening economic relations. "Ticfa is only one of the mechanisms in deepening our relationship. We've so many mechanisms in doing so." On the role of buyers in improving work conditions and safety, Sherman said buyers have very critical role, and they must be engaged. "We'll continue to work together in everyway to get buyers stay here.

She said we have to make sure that the tragedy does not visit Bangladesh again. "At the end of the day, it's the government to take the lead role...efforts to that must sustain at the end in order to resolve all the problems."

At the partnership dialogue other topics like democracy and governance, trade and investment, security cooperation, and regional integration dominated. Sherman stressed the importance of an inclusive democratic process and

free, fair and credible elections at all her meetings. Both sides acknowledged Bangladesh's leadership role in promoting greater regional connectivity and discussed the security landscape in the region, including Afghanistan and Myanmar. In the context of regional security, they recognized that free movement of ideas, goods and people enhances regional peace and prosperity, a joint statement on the partnership dialogue said.

The statement further recognized the vital and active role Bangladesh plays in ensuring security and stability, regionally and globally. The next Partnership Dialogue will be held in Washington in 2014. Sherman announced the creation of a \$2 million programme, as part of President Obama's Global Health initiative, to improve the management of deadly tuberculosis through the private health sector in Bangladesh.

Funded through USAID, this programme will improve the detection and treatment of tuberculosis in private sector hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies, said a US embassy release.

Sherman announced the creation of a new five-year, \$8 million programme award as part of President Obama's Global Climate Change initiative to the World Bank to expand the use of solar energy in Bangladesh.

> A avbe**vna**Kvi - 10

Electrification and Renewable Energy II program, USAID is contributing to the installation of solar home systems, power grids, and irrigation pumps. The US is funding an assessment to measure point source emissions of black carbon (soot) from select industrial sites across the country, it said. This assessment, also part of President Obama's Global Climate Change initiative, complements US-Bangladesh collaboration on the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants, of which the United States and Bangladesh are founding members. USAID has launched a new three-year, \$7 million programme to improve the economic and nutritional status of 100,000 people in southern Bangladesh. This horticulture activity, launched under

President Obama's Global Food Security initiative, will expand the production and consumption of a variety of local vegetables, increase the use of integrated pest manpractices, agement and expand cold chain systems. The opening of an American Business Corner the at Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry which will be a repository of literature, data, and catalogues to promote US-

Bangladesh business ties.

Amnesty International Annual Report 2013 - Bangladesh

Some 30 extrajudicial executions were reported. State security forces were implicated in torture and other illtreatment and at least 10 enforced disappearances. Political violence resulted in the death of at least four men. Women continued to be subjected to various forms of violence. The government failed to protect Indigenous communities from attack by Bengali settlers. At least 111 workers died in a factory fire, some allegedly because officials refused to let them leave the premises. More than 20 temples Buddhist and monasteries, one Hindu temple and scores of Buddhist homes and shops were set on fire during a communal attack. One person was executed and at least 45 people were sentenced to death. Background

January, the Prime In Minister stated that no human rights violations had been committed in the country.

Political violence escalated in December, when opposition parties tried to impose day-long general strikes. At least four people died and dozens of strikers and police sustained injuries. Jamaat-e-Islami demanded the release

of their leaders currently being tried on war crimes charges. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) demanded that the forthcoming general elections be held under a caretaker government. Members of a group affiliated with the governing party attacked opposition members, beating and stabbing one bystander to death. National and international concern about allegedly high levels of corruption were echoed in June when the World Bank cancelled US\$1.2 billion credit for the construction of Padma bridge in central Bangladesh, due to the government's insufficient response to allegations of corruption. An inquiry by the Anti-Corruption Commission remained open. The authorities continued to raise concerns with India over killings of Bangladeshis by Indian border control forces. More than a dozen

Indian forces while crossing the border into India. Extrajudicial executions

At least 30 people were victims of alleged extrajudicial executions. Police claimed they had been killed in gun battles with security forces. Families said they had been killed after being arrested by people in plain clothes identifying themselves as Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) personnel or other police. No one was brought to justice for these killings.

"RAB personnel allegedly shot dead Mohammad Atear Rahman (also known as Tofa Molla), a farmer, in Kushtia district on 12 September. RAB said he was killed in "crossfire", although Atear Rahman's family and other witnesses said RAB had arrested him at his home the previous evening. His body reportedly bore three gunshot wounds, two in the back. Torture and other ill-treatment

Torture and other ill-treatment were widespread, committed with virtual impunity by the police, RAB, the army

Who is a human rights activist? The person who earns an honest living and spends a part of her / his earning for the cause of suffering humanity at large, always stand firm beside a person in distress, respectful to the law of the land and speaks out in favour of peace without fear of possible persecution is worthy of calling Human Rights Activist.

- Bangladesh Human Rights Commission



Bangladeshis were killed by