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TIME WORLD LEADERS STARTED ACTING ON ROHINGYA ISSUES

THE Rohingyas, more than a million of them already sheltered in Bangladesh, may face constraints as, keeping to a release of the office of the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees, there has been a fresh influx of 150,000 Rohingyas in a year and a half. This is described as the largest after the 2017 influx when three quarters of a million Rohingyas left violence and persecution in Rakhine State into Bangladesh. There are fears that health services for the Rohingyas across Cox's Bazar camps could be severely disrupted by September.

Food assistance for camp dwellers would stop by December. The World Food Programme in early March sounded the warning on the reduction in food aid for the Rohingyas citing a fund shortage as the reason for the decision. The education of some 240,000 children, including 63,000 fresh arrivals, could also be

discontinued. The UNHCR office has called for more financial assistance from humanitarian partners, noting that fresh arrivals are largely dependent on the solidarity of the Rohingyas living in the camps, putting them among the world's most densely populated places.

The UNHCR release, which says that 121,000 of the fresh arrivals have already been biometrically registered by June, notes that the ongoing conflict, targeted violence and persecution in Rakhine State in Myanmar continue, forcing thousands, overwhelmingly women and children, to cross the border into Bangladesh seeking safety. The UNHCR office, however, fears that more of the Rohingyas could be residing informally in the overcrowded camps. When the repatriation of the Rohingyas has become uncertain, with a series of attempts having failed since 2017, and conflict, violence and persecution continue in Rakhine State, more of the

Rohingyas enter Bangladesh and live in camps amidst overstretching the severely diminished resources, prompting the UNHCR office to put out the call for financial assistance from humanitarian partners. All this makes it a bad proposition for both the Rohingyas, who are left with their rights almost strangled, and the Bangladesh authorities, who are pushed into trouble in the management of the Rohingya issues because humanitarian partners appear unwilling to shell out adequate money. And, in all this, the Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh are left with a bleak future, with hopes for a graceful, sustainable voluntary repatriation to Rakhine State. This appears to be happening because of the inability of Bangladesh to boldly take up the issue with bilateral, regional and international forums and the inability of world leaders, or world forums, to make the repatriation happen.

Source: newagebd.net

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ASEAN AGREES MYANMAR ELECTION IS NOT A PRIORITY: MALAYSIA



Malaysia's Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamad Hasan takes part in a press briefing during the 58th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting and related meetings at the Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur on July 11, 2025. Photo: MANDEL NGAN/Pool via REUTERS

The Southeast Asian bloc ASEAN has agreed that an election in Myanmar was not a priority and is urging the country's ruling junta to adhere to its peace commitments instead, Malaysia's foreign minister said on Friday.

Myanmar, an ASEAN member, is in the grips of an escalating civil war and critics have derided the junta's planned election this year as an attempt to prolong military rule through proxies in the absence of a viable political opposition.

Minister Mohamad Hasan said members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which Malaysia is chairing, want Myanmar to honour a "five-point consensus" peace plan it

junta agreed to in 2021, months after a coup against Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government. The peace plan has largely been a failure, with the military government unwilling to engage in dialogue with opponents it views as "terrorists". Opposition political parties have been decimated and what remains of them are either barred from or unwilling to contest the election.

"An election is not part of the five-point consensus," Mohamad told reporters on the sidelines of a gathering of ASEAN foreign ministers.

"We advised Myanmar that an election is not a priority for now, the priority is to cease all violence... so that all parties can sit together."

ASEAN has barred Myanmar's generals from attending its key meetings since 2022 for failing to honor its peace commitments. Myanmar is represented at meetings by foreign ministry officials.

Mohamad said the bloc would not accept an election in Myanmar that was not participated by all parties.

"There's no point in having a partial election. That will not solve any problems, but instead will worsen conditions."

Myanmar's military is battling to contain a widening rebellion by ethnic minority rebel armies and a resistance movement that mushroomed quickly after a lethal crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations. At least 3.5 million people have been displaced, according to the United Nations.

Human rights groups have accused the junta of committing widespread atrocities against the civilian population, which it has dismissed as Western disinformation.

ASEAN also wants a temporary ceasefire announced by the junta after a devastating earthquake in March to be extended and expanded, Mohamad added. Rebels, rights groups and conflict monitors have accused the junta of ignoring its own ceasefire and continuing artillery and air assaults, which it denies.

Source: tbsnews.net