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GOVT WORKING FOR ROHINGYA REPATRIATION WITH FULL CITIZENSHIP: RELIGIOUS ADVISER



The interim government is actively working to ensure the safe and dignified return of Rohingya community to their homeland with full citizenship rights, said Religious Affairs Adviser Dr. A F M Khalid Hossain on Tuesday evening.

Speaking to journalists following a communal harmony rally organized by Khagrachhari district administration, Dr. Hossain stated that the government is maintaining regular communication with various international organizations on Rohingya issue.

He added, “A delegation, including the Chief Adviser, is attending UN General Assembly. We are hopeful that this visit may bring positive developments regarding Rohingya repatriation.” Earlier, addressing the rally as chief guest, Dr. Hossain emphasized Bangladesh’s long-standing tradition of communal harmony.

He assured that the government is alert to ensure a peaceful celebration of the upcoming Durga Puja festival.

“Instructions have been given to local administrations and

law enforcement agencies to remain vigilant,” he said. Highlighting the government’s commitment to communal harmony, Dr. Hossain said, “The interim government is not just speaking about harmony; it is proving it through action.”

He mentioned a government allocation of Tk 6 crore to support Durga Puja celebrations nationwide, with special funds allocated by Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs for the three hill districts. Among those present at the event were Khagrachhari Deputy Commissioner (DC) ABM Iftekharul Islam Khandaker, Zone Commander Lt. Colonel Khadimul Islam, Superintendent of Police Arefin Jewel, senior officials from various government departments, political leaders, religious figures and representatives of civil society.

Source: observerbd.com

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■ Arakan Army (AA) Commander-in-Chief Major General Tun Myat Naing has accused elements in the Bangladesh’s border security forces of backing Rohingya insurgents in coordinated attacks on an AA base.



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ROHINGYAS: INDIGENOUS TO ARAKAN, NOT TO BANGLADESH - HRM ROKAN UDDIN

The claim, repeatedly advanced by successive Myanmar governments, that the Rohingyas are “Bengali migrants from Chittagong” who entered during British colonial rule is a politically motivated fabrication.

Historical evidence demonstrates beyond doubt that the Rohingyas are indigenous to Arakan (present-day Rakhine State), with cultural, religious and demographic roots in the region that predate British annexation in 1826 by several centuries.

Prior to the Burmese conquest in 1784, Arakan was an independent kingdom. Contemporary chronicles describe it as a prosperous coastal state with close ties to Bengal.

Between the 15th and 17th centuries, Muslim rulers appointed by the Bengal Sultans governed Arakan for nearly two hundred years. At least 18 Muslim monarchs, styled as ‘Shahs’ or ‘Khans’, reigned during this period, promoting Islamic learning, constructing mosques and patronising a syncretic culture that allowed Buddhist and



A Rohingya boy looks on through the barbed wire fence at a refugee camp, Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, Aug. 25, 2025. (Reuters Photo)

Muslim traditions to coexist.

The emergence of Arakanese Muslim communities, later known as the Rohingyas, was the product of centuries of interaction: Arab traders, Persian scholars, Central Asian migrants and Bengali settlers married into local populations, forming a distinct identity deeply rooted in Arakanese society.

The Burmese invasion of Arakan in 1784 by King Bodawpaya was not merely a political conquest but a deliberate attempt at demographic and cultural transformation that left a

permanent scar on the region. With an invading force of some 30,000 troops, Bodawpaya unleashed a campaign that combined military occupation with systematic depopulation.

Contemporary accounts and later historical studies record that over 20,000 Arakanese Muslims, ancestors of today’s Rohingyas, were captured and forcibly marched to central Burma. Many were enslaved, conscripted as labourers or soldiers, and deliberately dispersed to weaken their communal strength and erase their identity in Arakan.

Source: daily-sun.com