

ROHINGYA PRESS

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82 ROHINGYAS RETURN TO MYANMAR VOLUNTARILY: UNHCR

Eighty-two Rohingya individuals spontaneously returned to Maungdaw, Myanmar from May 12 to 18, motivated by intentions to restart their businesses and resume farming their land, according to a document published by the UN Refugee Agency - UNHCR. This is the first case of voluntary return of Rohingyas to Myanmar since 2017, a senior official told UNB referring to the UNHCR document published on May 22. An additional 30-40 Rohingyas are expected to return, expressing hope that the Arakan Army (AA) would provide them with some form of documentation, according to the UNHCR updates on the humanitarian cross-border situation in Rakhine and Cox's Bazar.

In 2017, an influx of approximately 750,000 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, triggered by military crackdowns in Rakhine State, crossed the border into

Bangladesh. This large-scale displacement added to the already existing Rohingya refugee population in Bangladesh, bringing the total number to over a million.

Some are reportedly youth who fled forced recruitment in 2024, and now believe the situation in Maungdaw has since improved.

The AA is reportedly accepting bribes to allow returns and are questioning returnees about conditions in Cox's Bazar camps and activities of organized groups.

"While no coercion has been reported, it remains unclear what assurances, if any, AA has provided to the returnees," the official said quoting the UNHCR document.

The AA reportedly detained five individuals (four Bangladeshis and one registered refugee) who entered Myanmar in the reporting week.

■ Source: jagonews24.com

MOI UNION MINISTER MEETS RAKHINE ETHNIC ASSOCIATIONS



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn met with the members of Rakhine ethnic associations at the Yangon Region government office yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister said assistance will be provided to Rakhine people who are currently in Yangon for various reasons, and such assistance is a gesture of goodwill from the Prime Minister to ethnic people. After the Mandalay earthquake, the rescue and recovery measures were undertaken under the leadership of the Prime Minister, and all the difficulties can be overcome with unity in the future.

The Union minister and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein coordinated the discussion. After the meeting, they cordially met with the members.

■ Source: gnln.com.mm

More News:

■ United Nations chief Antonio Guterres on Friday said Palestinians in Gaza are "enduring what may be the cruelest phase of this cruel conflict" as Israel ramps up its military offensive.



46TH ASEAN SUMMIT TO
BEGIN MONDAY IN
MALAYSIA WITH US
TARIFFS, MYANMAR
CONFLICT ON AGENDA

Malaysia is set to host the 46th summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Monday with the bloc's leaders ready to discuss a myriad of regional and global issues, particularly the US "reciprocal" tariffs, Myanmar conflict and maritime disputes in the South China Sea.

The bloc's 10 member states will also discuss key regional issues, including economic cooperation, security and sustainable development. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, as the rotating chair, will preside over the summit, according to a statement from the ASEAN secretariat.

Speaking before the summit, Anwar said the meeting would focus on enhancing intra-ASEAN cooperation, boosting regional economic interests, and promoting investment initiatives, the Malay Mail reported.

Myanmar's junta chief Min Aung Hlaing has been barred from ASEAN meetings after the military refused to comply with the bloc's peace plan that called for humanitarian aid access and negotiations.

■ Source: aa.com.tr

INDIA, MYANMAR, AND THE
ROHINGYA TRAGEDY

Rohingya lives are being traded like contraband while states shirk responsibility



Something deeply unsettling is unfolding along Bangladesh's south-eastern frontier. The hills and forests of Bandarban are now a grim backdrop to a crisis that has been slowly boiling over -- one that mixes geo-politics, human despair, and systemic neglect.

It's not a conflict in the traditional sense, but it carries the weight of one. It is a tragedy that too many are content to overlook.

Trafficked, or fleeing?

In early January, Bangladeshi border guards intercepted nearly 60 Rohingya near the Alikadam border. Among them were children and the elderly, worn down by days of treacherous travel.

The scale and co-ordination behind the crossing -- vehicles ready, routes pre-mapped, and local facilitators in place -- reveal the presence of an organized trafficking pipeline rather than a desperate dash for safety.

But this incident is just one ripple in a much larger wave. Over just three months, from late 2024 into the new year, authorities rounded up over a dozen traffickers and turned away nearly 400 Rohingya trying to slip through porous terrain.

The smugglers are no longer lone operators -- they're part of a criminal web charging fees in cash, drugs, even gold, depending on what's available. Hidden trails through thick jungles and forgotten outposts now serve as arteries for this trade in human lives.

Quiet expulsions

Then comes the role of India -- specifically, a deliberate campaign by parts of its government to forcibly push undocumented people, mostly Rohingya, into Bangladesh.

Assam's Chief Minister didn't mince words: They're done with paperwork, and instead, they're shoving people over the fence. Proudly, even. These aren't whispered operations either. In May alone, around 340 individuals were dumped onto Bangladeshi soil, some blindfolded, many abused, and most shuttled in from hundreds of miles away.

It's a grotesque form of political outsourcing: Take a vulnerable group, fly them across a subcontinent, and drop them like unwanted parcels at someone else's door.

■ Source: dhakatribune.com