

The monthly bulletin on the activities of the 'Peaceful Coexistence Project'. The project is being implemented by the Coast Trust in collaboration with UNHCR to improve 'peaceful coexistence' among Host and Rohingya Communities at Rajapalong, Palongkhali, Whykong, Hnila unions and respective 8 Rohingya camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

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**Leadership is being developed through the Debate and Essay writing competition among the students of Ukhiya and Teknaf**



*A moment during the debate competition at Nurul Islam Chowdhury Guljer Begum Technical School and College.  
PC: Ali Ahamad*

The improving peaceful coexistence project has successfully completed debate and essay writing competition in 25 educational institutions of Ukhiya and Teknaf. The debate was organized on the topics of "Not only Myanmar government due to lack of cooperation of international community, Rohingya repatriation is being delayed." On the other hand, the essay writing competition was organized on the topics "Human Rights: The Rohingya crisis and the Bangladesh perspectives".

In the debate, speakers in favor pointed out to the various initiatives taken by the Myanmar government to bring the Rohingyas back to their place from Bangladesh, even though Myanmar's government has not been able to take them by the list of 3,500 people. Because of the Rohingyas refused to go. In addition, they were given commitment to Repatriate the Rohingya gradually and also mentioned the shelter homes for them in Rakhine state. In the statement, they also discussed about on various meetings, agreements and negotiations between the Myanmar government and Bangladesh government for the Rohingya repatriation issue. The opposition speakers said that the lack of willingness of Rohingya people to be repatriated and the lack of cooperation of international communities was the reason for the delay of their repatriation.

The opposition team said that the UN is continuing to provide food, shelter, medical, education and assistance to the Rohingyas through various collaborative organizations for humanitarian reasons. Many countries from different parts of the world, including the European Union, the United States, the United Kingdom and the Middle East are helping the Rohingyas through the Bangladesh government in various ways. The Court of Criminal Justice has already initiated action against Myanmar government forces to bring the Perpetrators to justice for the killings, torture, rape, and looting of Rohingya people. Some countries have

already banned Myanmar army officers for visiting their country. The international community continues to pressurize Myanmar to take back the Rohingyas to Myanmar. The opposition team delegates also blamed the Myanmar government's non-cooperation and the diplomatic failure of Bangladesh govt. for not being able to make the international community more effective measures to address the crisis.

In essay writing competition, the contestants brought out the background of human rights, the analysis of the Rohingya crisis and their current situation and humanitarian perspective of Bangladesh and way out of the crisis has been exposed to their writings.

Teachers say such competition is increasing the awareness among the students on contemporary issues. They are gaining knowledge, their talent, their presentation style, their instincts, their leadership qualities are evolving. Which is important to growing up as a citizen with human qualities.

**Civil Society Members Oriented on "Importance of Peaceful Coexistence until Rohingya Repatriation"**



*Mr. Nikaruzzaman, UNO, Ukhiya Upazila, was delivering his speech.  
PC: Julfikar Hossain*

Two discussion meetings held with the civil society members of Ukhiya and Teknaf on "Importance of peaceful coexistence until Rohingya Repatriation." The program of Ukhiya Upazila was held on 27th November 2019 in the Ukhiya Upazila parishad hall room. On the other hand, the program of Teknaf Upazila was held on 7th November 2019 at the Mainuddin Memorial College.

The main purpose of the programs was to make the civil society members understand about the importance of peaceful coexistence among host and Rohingya communities in the context of Ukhiya and Teknaf. It is needed to continue humanitarian outlook and assist in the activities of government and development agencies in humanitarian work for peaceful Rohingya repatriation.

At the beginning of each of both programs, officials of the 'IPC Project' and members of the social cohesion committee presented the project's goals and objectives and detailed activities. The president, chief guest, special guests and other guests of the event have their own opinions and recommendations on the topic.

"In the current context, the 'Peaceful Coexistence' and 'Rohingya's repatriation' are very important to us," said Ukhya Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mr. Nikaruzzaman. "To resolve and address the Rohingya crisis and speed up their repatriation process we have to play a responsible role from own position. He also detailed the infrastructure based mega development project that was taken over targeting the entire Cox's Bazar, funded by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

"Everyone wants live in a very peaceful manner," said Md. Rashid, a teacher of Rajapalang Fazil Madrasha. But the Rohingyas have been here for a long time and many are not at peace for them. "He thinks that if government and private agencies work to recover the damage, it will help to sustain the peaceful situation.

Mir Saeed Ali, member, ward no.4, said, "I am working as a member of the Social Cohesion Committee of 'IPC Project' and I think that 'peaceful coexistence' and the 'Rohingya repatriation', both words are related to each other. Because, the absence of peaceful coexistence, may create internal strife and conflict. Government and other agencies will be busy solving the internal problem. It will be resulting in delay of repatriation process.

Senior teacher Narul Hakim chaired the meeting and the special guests at the meeting were the vice chairman of the Ukha Upazila parishad, Jahangir Alam, women vice chairman Kamrunesa baby and social services officer Rashed Chowdhury. Among others, the general secretary of Ukha Upazila, Imam Hossain, panel chairman of Palangkhali UP, Norual Absar Chowdhury, journalist Noru Mohammad Sheikh, head teacher Green Sen, Anjuman Ara Bird Promkhu.

Md. Firoz Ahmed Jamiri, chief guest of the Taknaf program and chairman of the Teknaf Upazila parishad, said that even though we have provided shelter for the Rohingyas from humanitarian perspectives, the local people are now facing a lot of trouble because of their existence for long time. So, the local's attitude towards them is getting worse day by day. In this situation, there is no alternative to peaceful coexistence and their rapid repatriation to their home country. He thanked all concerned for working on the 'Peaceful coexistence project' which was undertaken by COAST Trust with the help of UNHCR.

#### **"Project Result, Challenges & Learning Sharing with Standing Committee Members of Union Parishad" Held**

IPC project organized two programs titled "Project result, challenges & learning sharing with standing committee members of union parishad" in Ukhiya and Teknaf on 25 and 23 November 2019 respectively.

The Ukha program was held at the office of the 5 no. Palangkhali Union parishad and the program of Teknaf was held at the office of the Whykong union parishad.



*Mr. Nur Ahmed Anwari, Chairman of Whykong Union parishad speaking as Chief guest. PC: Ahmad Ullah*

The aim and purpose of the program was to discuss the positive results of the project with representatives of the local government and the concerned individuals. To improve their relationship, to promote positive aspects of NGO activities and to ensure a strong and stable relationship among the Rohingya and the locals.

Mr. M. Gofuruddin Chowdhury, Palongkhali union parishad chairman was present as the chief guest while Mr. Mozaffar Ahmed, UP member was chaired the program. On the other hand, Mr. Jalal Ahmed, UP Member, Whykong Union parishad chaired the program while Mr. Nur Ahmed Anwari, Chairman of Whykong Union parishad present as Chief guest.

A total of 70 people was present in the two Upazila meeting, 35 people at each meeting.

At the beginning of each of the program, IPC project officials and members of Social Cohesion Committee presented the project's goals, objectives and detailed activities. During the meeting, they shared the positive results, experiences and challenges of camp and union level visits, awareness sessions on human rights and peaceful coexistence, the sessions conducted in the school, sports, cultural and debate competitions. The other guests were presented their personal opinion on the improvement of peaceful coexistence.

Mr M Gofur Uddin Chowdhury, UP member, highlighted the liberal mindset of the Bangladesh government and the contribution of local people to Rohingya people. He also discussed the impact of the Rohingya crisis on local people and the challenges of conducting humanitarian activities. "We will work with the COAST Trust and UNHCR, as local public representatives and will ensure the safe repatriation of Rohingya people to Myanmar, he added. "

Mr Mozaffar Ahmad, MUP said, " Converting to skilled human resources of local people by providing training and increasing technical cooperation through the world bank, JICA, ADB etc is necessary. If the local youth community are trained, unemployment problem will be reduced in number and if the locals get the job and the employment generation happens, the situation will be remained calm.

**Target and achievement table of the month November 2019**

SL	Activities	Target	Achievement
01	Debate and Essay Writing Competition at Educational Institutions	25	25
02	Sports and Cultural Program at Edu. Institutions	16	16
03	Discussion Meeting Held with civil society members on "Importance of peaceful coexistence until Rohingya Repatriation."	1	1
04	"Project Result, Challenges & Learning Sharing with Standing Committee Members of Union Parishad"	1	1
05	Union Level Follow Up Visit	4	4
06	Camp Level Session	12	12
07	Camp Level Sports and Cultural Program	3	3

To make this newsletter all colleagues of 'Improving Peaceful Coexistence Project' helped providing necessary data and information.

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