

Rohingya repatriation is not Bangladesh's lone responsibility: Momen

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The Daily Morning Voice Online Desk: Foreign Minister A K Abdul Momen on Sunday said Dhaka has been continuing its efforts to repatriate forcibly displaced Rohingyas to their land of origin in Myanmar but it is not lone responsibility of Bangladesh. "It (Rohingya repatriation) is not only our task rather the world's big powers have the similar responsibility to commence the repatriation," he told media after attending a programme.

The foreign minister said the Rohingya repatriation has prolonged due to lack of sincerity of the global powers regarding the issue. In last five years, he said not a single Rohingya was repatriated to Myanmar though Naypyidaw never said that they would not take back their people. "We will continue our efforts to commence the repatriation in bilateral, trilateral and multilateral forms," he said adding that even genocide case against Myanmar was filed in International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The foreign minister said he urged several developed countries to take some Rohingyas from Bangladesh under third country resettlement initiative unless repatriation is started. Since August 25 in 2017, Bangladesh has been hosting over 1.2 million forcefully displaced Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar district and most of them arrived there after a military crackdown by Myanmar, which the UN called a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing" and other rights groups dubbed as "genocide". Earlier, the foreign minister handed over wheel chairs and sewing machine among the disadvantage people organized by AL Khayer Foundation at Dhoadighi area in Sylhet city.

Sylhet district council chairman and district Awami League general secretary Nasir Uddin Khan and city Awami League general secretary Professor Zakir Hossain were present, among others.