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# PM TO SPEAK TO TRUMP ON CRISIS

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Najib will highlight atrocities against Rohingya in visit to Washington



FERNANDO FONG  
SUBANG  
kee.soon@nst.com.my

ISSUES on atrocities committed against Rohingya Muslims will be highlighted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak during his meeting with United States President Donald Trump in Washington on Tuesday.

Najib expressed hope that Trump would consider looking into the humanitarian crisis, which saw more than 300,000 people fleeing Rakhine State in Myanmar to escape violent oppression by the government.

Najib said Malaysia was com-

pelled to embark on the humanitarian mission as the crisis had escalated to a "frightening proportion".

Malaysia is the first Asean country to send aid to the Rohingya.

"We cannot treat it lightly because according to the report we have received, they (Rohingya) are being mercilessly persecuted.

"They (the Rohingya) have been abused, tortured, killed, raped and (subjected to) frightening acts.

"I will raise this issue for his

(Trump's) consideration, as he also has many other challenges on his plate, including tension with North Korea, among others," Najib said after sending off a humanitarian mission team yesterday to help Rohingya refugees seeking shelter in Bangladesh.

The mission, which departed from the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) airbase here, comprised 12 personnel from the Armed Forces and Defence Ministry.

The endeavour is part of the "Negeraku Prihatin" campaign, which focuses on promoting humanitarian awareness.

Six army personnel, a ministry officer and a Malaysia for Youth (iM4U) volunteer boarded an RMAF Airbus A400 military transport aircraft, which is loaded with 12 tonnes of canned food, rice, biscuits, milk powder, hygiene products and water purification tablets, among others.

They arrived in the evening at

Hazrat Shah Amanat Airport in the coastal seaport city of Chittagong, where most of the refugees are located.

The rest of the team members flew to Dhaka on a commercial flight yesterday evening.

Najib said a batch of 35 iM4U volunteers would be sent on the humanitarian mission.

The team had received permission from the Bangladeshi government to deliver aid directly to the refugees.

The prime minister earlier led prayers before take-off and addressed mission members.

Present was Armed Forces chief General Tan Sri Raja Mohamed Affandi Raja Mohamed Noor.

Najib said Malaysia would do its best to assist Bangladesh in providing aid to the increasing number of refugees.

"The Bangladeshi high commissioner to Malaysia said about 350,000 Rohingya refugees have escaped to Bangladesh. The scale

of the disaster is immense as there were already 500,000 Rohingya refugees in the country."

He said a reconnaissance team would be sent to Dhaka tomorrow to discuss with the Bangladeshi government subsequent measures needed to assist the refugees.

Asked if the Nobel Peace Award given to Myanmar's First State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi should be withdrawn, Najib said the issue was a separate matter.

"That is a separate issue, but the response by the Myanmar government (to the international outcry) is rather disappointing."