Rohingya Influx, Security and Capability of Bangladesh Police in Rohingya Camps: An Assessment

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Abstract: This study explores the security implication of the Rohingya presence in Cox's Bazar and assess the capabilities of Armed Police Battalions (APBn) to maintain the security situation of the Rohingya camps. Since 2017 more than 1.3 million Rohingyas are living in Cox's Bazar suspending their basic human rights. Bangladesh government with other UN & INGOs are providing assistance to Rohingyas but not all the necessary commodities. The criminal activities of the Rohingya camps are regular phenomena which have been already put excessive load on the law enforcement agencies. These large number of migrated people have been a significant issue of insecurity. Using mixed-method approach via content analysis, survey, KII and FGD this study will explore the security issues, difficulties, weaknesses, limitations and capabilities of the APBn. The available sparse literature on the topic focuses on mostly social security dimensions of this Rohingya issue in Bangladesh. This study seeks to the more physical dimensions of safety and security. The recommendations generated from this study will seek to provide reliable policy directives to better equip the APBn in handling the emergent security issues of Rohingya camps in Cox'sBazar, Bangladesh.

Keywords: Rohingya, Security, Armed Police Battalions (APBn), Law Enforcement Agencies, Crime.
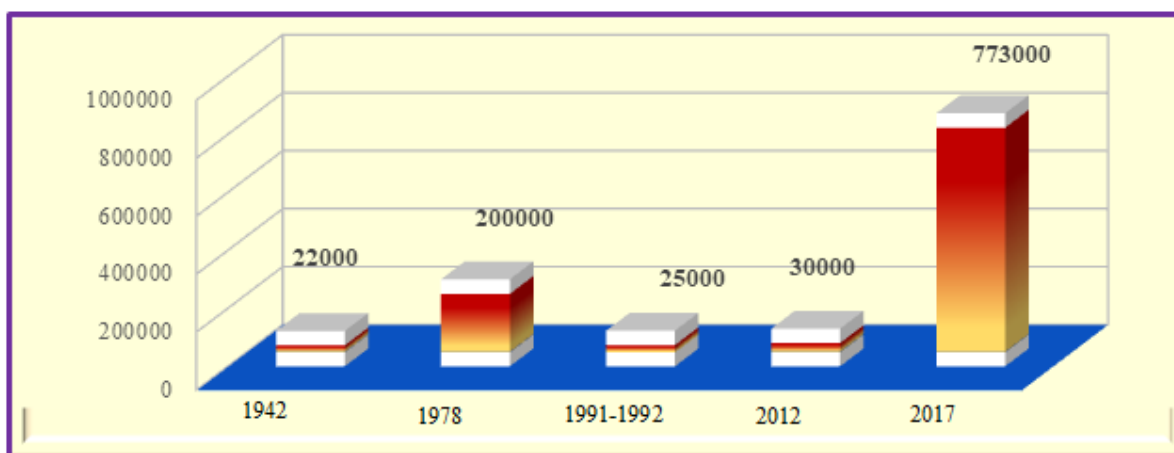
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1. Introduction

"The Rohingya have been described by the United Nations as one of the most persecuted minorities in word (UNHCR, 2018)." The Buddhist nationalist "969" campaign against Muslims of "MaBaTha" organization make the situation worsen. "Effectively denied citizenship under the 1982 Citizenship Law, they are one of the largest stateless populations in the world. (Lewa, 2009:11)." The state sponsored persecution, religious conflict with Buddhism and the atrocities of Myanmar military compelled them to cross the border and take shelter in Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh. "The number of registered and unregistered Rohingyas residing in thirty-three congested camps at Cox's Bazar in the southern part of Bangladesh varies from 900000 to 1.3 million. (UNHCR, WHO, 2019)." Bangladesh had welcomed the displaced Rohingyas on humanitarian grounds. Now a days aid supports are fading away. "Instead, they are getting involved in criminal and militant activities making the existing problems diversified and exacerbated. (Zafar, 2020)." "For a resolution of the problems faced by the stateless Rohingya refugees, a multi-faceted approach is required (Ahmed, 2019)." This is crucial for assessing the capabilities of APBn to handle the security of Rohingya camps which are not yet to be explored detail in the literature. This study based on Survey, KII, FGD and secondary data from local police stations and reliable & reputable sources. This study will provide a set of recommendations for strengthening capacity of APBn as well as Bangladesh Police. Moreover, this study can greatly contribute to the overarching literature

concerning Rohingya crisis as well as provide a solid foundation regarding the available countermeasures on security issues for both short and long terms.

2. Background

"The Rohingya people are a stateless Indo-Aryan ethnic group who believe in Islam and reside in Rakhine State, Myanmar. The term 'Rohingya' is derived from the Arabic word 'Rahm' which means mercy (Ullah, 2011)." "The Burmese do not seem to have settled in Arakan until possibly as late as the tenth century CE. Hence earlier dynasties are thought to have been Indian, ruling over a population similar to that Bengal. All the capitals known to history have been in the north near modern Akyab (Hall, 2018)." "They ruled the Rakhine state and some parts of Bangladesh and India from the beginning of the Maruk-U dynasty in 1430 until the Burmese occupation of 1785 (Ali, 1985:866)." During the rule of Buddhist Magh's leader Ga Than De with his other associates destroyed Muslim mosques, temples, shrines, libraries. "About 30000 Rohingya Muslims fled from Arakan to Chittagong due to persecution (Ullah, 2021)." "In 1826 Arakan was annexed under British India, and their full control over Burma was ensured in 1885 (FAISAL, 2020)." During 1942 in the second world war the independent Burmese army, along with Japanese Army and local Buddhist Maghs attacked Muslim villages. "More than 1,00,000 Muslims Rohingya were killed by them and about 80,000 fled from Rakhine state to the Chittagong division of British India (Ullah, 1995:107)." "Myanmar Army carried out its operation against 'so called insurgents' at Rakhine state after several police posts and military outposts were attacked by Arakan Salvation Army (ARSA), a separatist outfit on 25 August 2017 (Fair, 2018)" "UN High Commissioner for Human Rights described the atrocities perpetrated against the Rohingyas of Rakhine as the 'textbook example of ethnic cleansing UN News 2017 (Hussein, 2018)." The Myanmar Military has committed several times genocide, raped children & women, taken valuable assets, set fire on the Rohingya villages and burnt all most all their houses. The brutality of Myanmar's military compelled them to cross the border and take shelter 33 camps in Cox'sBazar.

Figure 1: Rohingya Influx in Bangladesh (OCHA & UNHCR).

"Before the largest influx of Rohingya in August, 2017 Bangladesh has experienced some influx of Rohingya in the year of 1978, 1991, 1992, and 2012 (Parnini 2013)." Bangladesh government has imposed restriction on their movement but in vain. The security situation is going to worse with the passing of time. "Moreover, the involvement of the Rohingya people in unlawful activities concerning narcotic trade and the importation of small arms and light weapons and human trafficking have put the host populations into a state of dire insecurity (Banerjee, 2019)." Bangladesh government has deployed three Armed Police Battalions (APBn) to maintain the security of the Rohingya camps. "The capacity of these Armed Police Battalions (APBn) brigades APBn-16, APBn-8 and APBn-14 have been tested due to high number of deaths involving armed confrontations with organized narcotic dealer groups in Cox's Bazar ."

It is still unclear whether the security force is having a desirable effect on improving the security situation or not. The security implications seriously jeopardize the safety and security of the vulnerable part of Rohingyas

as well as host community. This study can provide crucial data on refugee management as well as security measures and improvements for handling crisis situations concerning displaced populations and refugees.

3. Statement of the Problem

Bangladesh does not have any dynamic legal framework or specific policies for handling, controlling and managing migrated people in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is also a non-signatory state of the International Refugee Convention of 1951 and its protocol of 1967. Criminal activities generated due to Rohingya presence in Cox's Bazar are significant issues need to be addressed immediately for security concern of the host state. This study will assess the capabilities of APBn and explore the strengthening grounds of APBn in combatting with criminals. Furthermore, by following mix- method approach the findings of this study can greatly contribute to the literature on refugee management and security measures for the situation of crisis.

4. Rationale of the Study

The security implications of the Rohingya presence in Cox's Bazar are intensified. The controlling measures & shortcomings of Bangladesh Police are not yet to be explored in detail. Moreover, the capabilities of APBn in the Rohingya camps for combating such security challenges has not been explored in any capacity thus far, leaving a significant gap in the literature on the security of Cox's Bazar. These issues involve significantly sensitive issues and extensive data are not quite available to the general public. This study seeks to full uncover security issues due to the Rohingya presence in Cox's Bazar and assess the capabilities of the APBn by exploring their difficulties, weaknesses and limitations. Definitely, this study will help to formulate effective and constructive policies for robust refugee management initiatives, and also provide a set of recommendations in security concern for Bangladesh Police.

5. Research Questions

Grand research question-

1. What are the security issues generated by the Rohingya presence and which are the areas needed to be developed for enhancing the capabilities of Armed Police Battalions in the Rohingya camps?

Sub-Questions-

2. What are the security issues due to the Rohingya presence in Cox's Bazar?
3. How are the APBn combating with different security issues in the area?
4. What are the difficulties/weakness/limitations of the APBn?
5. What are the important factors needed to be further developed for enhancing capacity of APBn?

5.1 Concerned Variables

The variables that need to be concerned for this research question involves the number of police cases, estimated unlawful activities, the changes in law enforcement procedures in dealing with security issues in Cox's Bazar. Beside this training, reward, punishment, working hour, physical & mental readiness, leave, age, gender etc. can influence the capabilities of APBn which are considered as independent variables.

6. Research Objectives

The objectives of this research are –

- To explore the security issues generated due to Rohingya presence and assess the capabilities of APBn to maintain security situation of the Rohingya camps?
- To explore the security issues in terms of physical safety & security that have generated due to Rohingya presence.

- To explore the controlling measures, difficulties, weaknesses, limitations of APBn for effective handling the security of the Rohingya camps.
- To prepare a set of recommendations for enhancing the capabilities of APBn.

7. Literature Review and Conceptual Framework

7.1 Literature Review

Introduction of the conflict triangle is one of the signatures works of Johan Galtung (1967). Here he discusses how attitudes involving perceptions and viewpoints towards a community and behavior involving the nature of confrontations and interactions between communities determine the trajectory of conflicts in a society. This in turn determines future perceptions in a cycle resembling a triangle. For handling any security situation, the role of law enforcement is highly imperative which has not painted in his literature in detail.

Crossman (2014) has brought up the issue of human security related to the Rohingya refugee population in more contemporary times. Her work details the oppression of this diaspora and opens up the grounds for how their security issues can spread to countries they eventually flee towards.

Leider (2018) has then discussed how the lack of agency of the Rohingya population can lead to a deterioration of bilateral negotiations with Myanmar's government for possible repatriation measures. These works together set the backdrop for how the ethnic conflict in Myanmar and the resulting Rohingya diaspora can generate international security concerns if left unchecked. For security threats at the international level due to the Rohingya refugee populations.

Kipgen (2019) and Hossain et al. (2020) attempted to address the problems of public and national security brought by the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. This study indicated that Rohingya problem is posing a several security issues for Bangladesh and a coordinated effort involving Myanmar, Bangladesh, China, India, and other surrounding nations should be made to resolve this issue. The authors forecast that although the problem currently affects Bangladesh, if it is not resolved, it will soon become a regional security threat. However, the internal security issues that the host country Bangladesh faces because of these issues has been only briefly touched upon this work, despite a constructive approach to discussing the regional issues that stem from this crisis.

Ab & Khairi (2020) have attempted to explore how the smuggling of Rohingyas from Myanmar to Malaysia poses a threat to their human security. They articulated findings based on two-part field study that involved Rohingya refugees, activists, and community leaders between 2013 and 2016 in Klang Valley, Malaysia. It was found that the smuggling of Rohingyas involves several typical activities such as recruiting victims, negotiating the terms of their smuggling, embarkation from points of origin, and transiting in transit countries before their arrival in Malaysia. This research also showed how severe examples of smuggling may develop into a different type of humanitarian crime, namely human trafficking. This study opens up a pathway to discussing and assessing whether the sufferings of the Rohingya populations due to their trafficking incidents remain isolated, or they spread to the local host population and in turn compromises their safety alongside the oppressed Rohingya refugees.

Zafar (2020) analyzed relevant literature to explore the nature of security challenges causing by refugees for Bangladesh. This research revealed that these risks are deemed to be extremely critical particularly in the political, social, economic, and environmental spheres. Therefore, the return of refugees to Myanmar can provide a permanent solution to these risks, instead of several steps like implementing rigorous rules and regulations and increasing aid in the refugee camps, which can only temporarily handle the threats.

Momem (2021) analyzed security threats and concern from the three angles: (i) local livelihood, (ii) political competition, and (iii) future risks of radicalization that may appear from the statelessness of the Rohingya population. This study examined the current scenario that requires specific responses from the regional

governments. This research argued that political will is quite essential and actions must be undertaken to adequately address security implications.

Minar (2021) evaluated four potential danger areas: social, economic, internal, and public security to find out whether Bangladesh's security has been threatened as a result of the enormous migration of Rohingyas. This research examined the frequency of reports of newspapers and the way they were portrayed in order to determine if the dangers are low, medium, or high level. It was found that Bangladesh did not encounter any significant security threat throughout the past three years, but there are certain criminal actions and activities that only pose a low-level security threat. More specifically, this study disproves common claims that refugees pose hazards to national security or create obstacles to the host nation.

Rana & Riaz (2022) applied securitization theory to explore the process of securitization by developing two main arguments. These arguments can be understood by the qualitative analysis of official statements, policies and existing scholarly research. Firstly, the researchers pointed out the securitization process began in the 1990s and substantially grew in the 2010s, contrary to those articles that considers securitization of Rohingyas in Bangladesh as a relatively new phenomenon. Secondly, the researchers showed both discursive and non-discursive securitizing tactics to secure Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

In Europe, an example of Germany and UK show the changes that have taken place in developed countries due to an increased refugee flow. Germany saw public opinion shifting to advocating for a more restricted refugee flow and stricter immigration policies (Mader, 2019). The UK sawa similar change, but instead of the general public, it was politicians that seized the 2015 Syrian Refugee Crisis to advocate for anti-immigration positions, which is large part led to its separation initiative from the EU (i.e., the Brexit initiative) aside from immigration concerns (Gianfreda, 2018). Such stances from the public and politicians stemmed from the insecurity caused by refugee presences in host borders. This shows how differently countries in these two regions handled their respective refugee crisis situations.

Considering the available literature, data on how the socio-political dynamic involving the host and the Rohingya population, and the physical safety and security has been complicated by the Rohingya presence in recent times has not been explored in adequate detail. Moreover, the prompt readiness or preparedness of the Police forces in effectively handling any of the security issues emerging in the area due to the Rohingya presence has not been explored in any adequate capacity throughout the literature and even though no published literature mentioned details the difficulties, weaknesses and limitations of APBn which are needed to be developed for handling the emerging security threats.

7.2 Conceptual Framework

A conceptual framework is an analytical tool which enables the readers to obtain a general overview of the research and it also gives the readers a notion on the research activities that will be performed as well as the manner on how this carried on.

Refugee:

UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugee: "A refugee is any person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reason of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of the country (Refugees, 2019)."

Security

Security is freedom from, or resilience against, potential harm (or other unwanted coercive change) from external forces. It focuses on the absence of fear of loss or harm or any kind of threat.
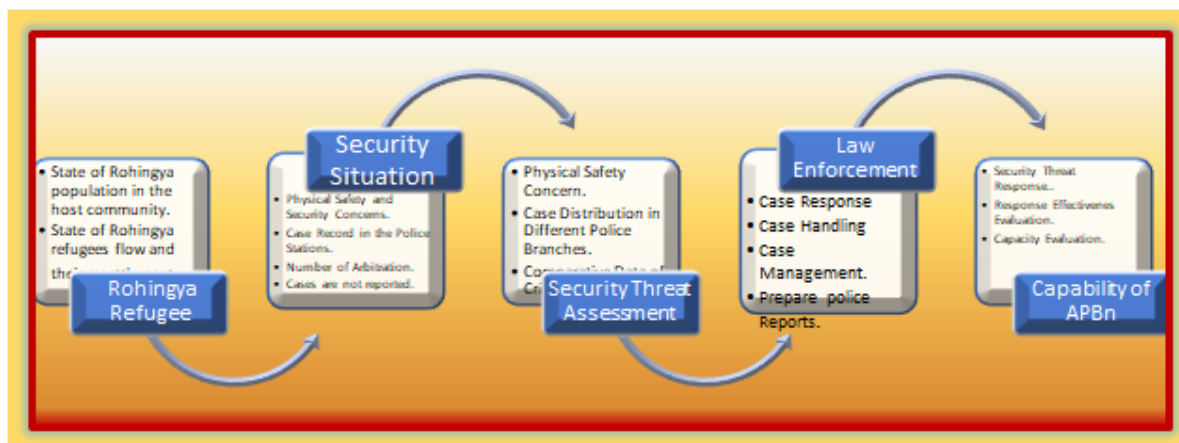
Law enforcement

Law enforcement can be defined as the activities of a group of people who are responsible to enforce laws, investigate crimes and make arrests. There are three components- police, court and corrections. In Bangladesh, law enforcement agencies include-

- Bangladesh Police,
- Rapid Action Battalion,
- Ansar,
- Village Defense Party and
- Gram Police.

Bangladesh Police

Bangladesh police is the core law enforcement agency which plays vital role in maintaining law and order of the country. Armed Police Battalion is one of the wings of Bangladesh police.

Figure 2: Conceptual Framework

The important concepts for this study are used to formulate the conceptual framework consisting of five key areas –Rohingya Refugee, Security Issues, Security threat assessment, Law Enforcement and assess the capabilities of APBn. Rohingya Refugee-evaluates the level of Rohingya influx and its current stage. Security Issues- evaluates the overall security issues in terms of physical safety. Security Threat Assessment- evaluates the state of Rohingya influx to Bangladesh utilizing field data and relevant case records of police stations. Law Enforcement- evaluates how the Bangladesh Police respond to the Rohingya-related security threats. Capability Assessment- evaluates the overall quality of the security threat response mechanism of the APBn.

8. Methods and Methodology

The study has followed a mixed method including quantitative and qualitative methods to do survey for data collection. The study also has based on primary and secondary data. Primary data has been collected from the field through structure questionnaire survey of APBn, Rohingya, NGOs workers and the general public who are any way involve in Rohingya camps. KII and FGD methods have been applied in depth analysis. Purposive sampling has been used for KII and Snowball sampling has been used for FGD. The secondary data has also collected from various published sources such as books, journals, articles, reports, internet and other available sources. The crime data has been collected from the APBn and District Police, Cox's Bazar. The collected data has been edited, coded, and analyzed by different statistical packages and software. The researcher has strictly maintained the ethical issues as respondent interest, reference, citation and plagiarism.

8.1 Research Design:

The mix method has involved simultaneous collection of both quantitative and qualitative data and then merged to obtain better result to understand a problem. This mix- method study have followed convergent design-
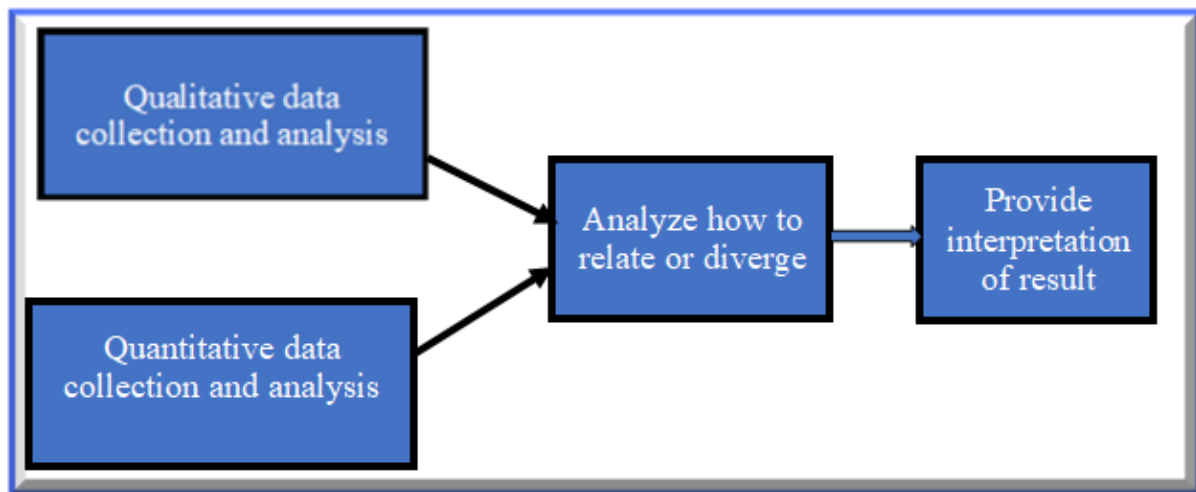
Figure 3: Convergent design.

8.2 Respondents and Sample Size

The total population of Cox's Bazar district including Rohingya is 32,33,519 [9,43,529 (Rohingya) + 22,89,990 (local)] according to the census of 2021 & UNHCR. For determining the sample size, the formula of Scottish Mathematician William Cochran has followed. Here, level of confidence 95%, Confidence Coefficient 1.960, Proportion 0.5 and Margin of error 5%, Sample size is 385.
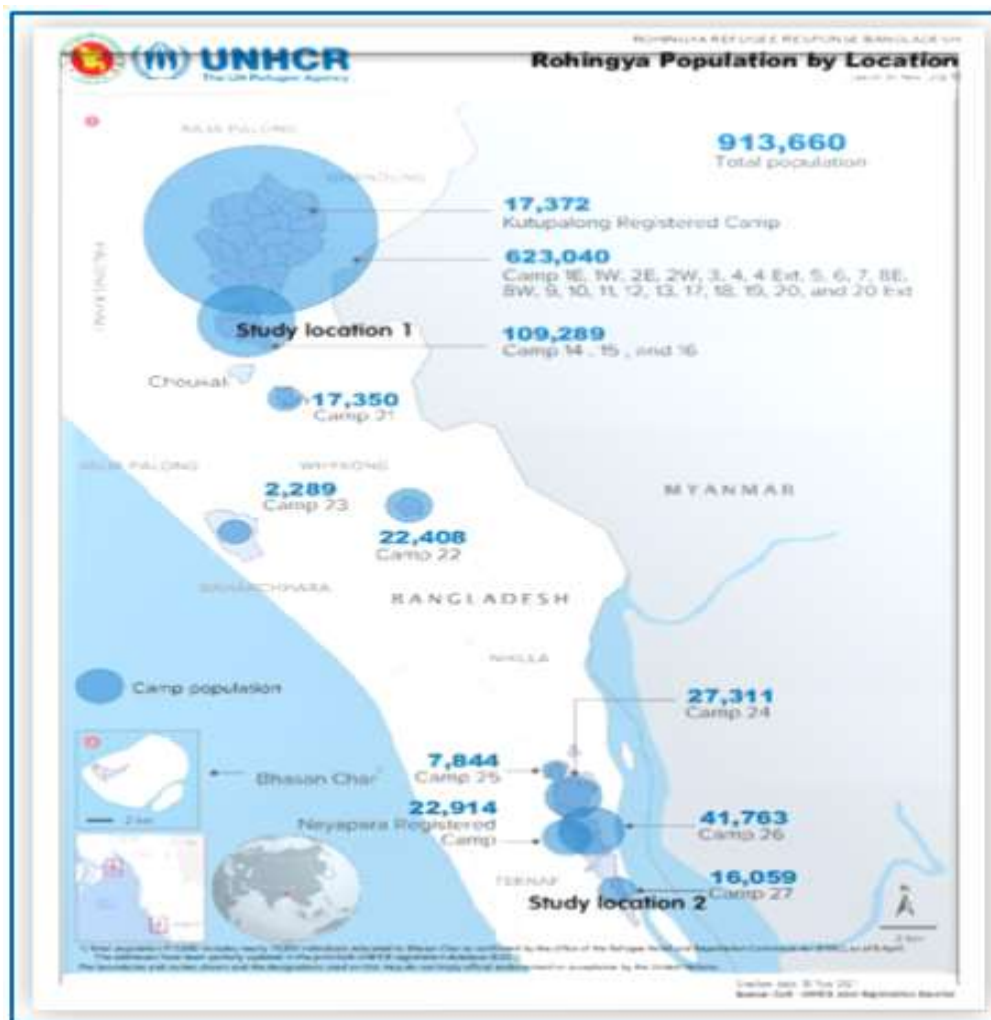
8.3 Study location:

Figure 4: Study location map, source UNHCR

The study area involves Kutupalong, Balukhali, Panbazar camps (Study location-1) are under the Ukhai Police Station and Nayapara- (Study location-2) camp is under the Teknaf Police Station.

8.4 Data Analysis and Interpretation:

Secondary data and survey explore crime pattern is rising in Rohingya camps.

Figure 5: Five years crime statistics (Source District Police)

This chart has shown that the crime statistics of Rohingya camps are in increasing trend. According to the district police administration and APBn statistics total number of recorded criminal cases in the year of 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 have showed in the above chart. Except the year 2020 in other years major offences are increasing trend. In the year 2020 was going on COVID-19 crisis and the crime was less than other years.
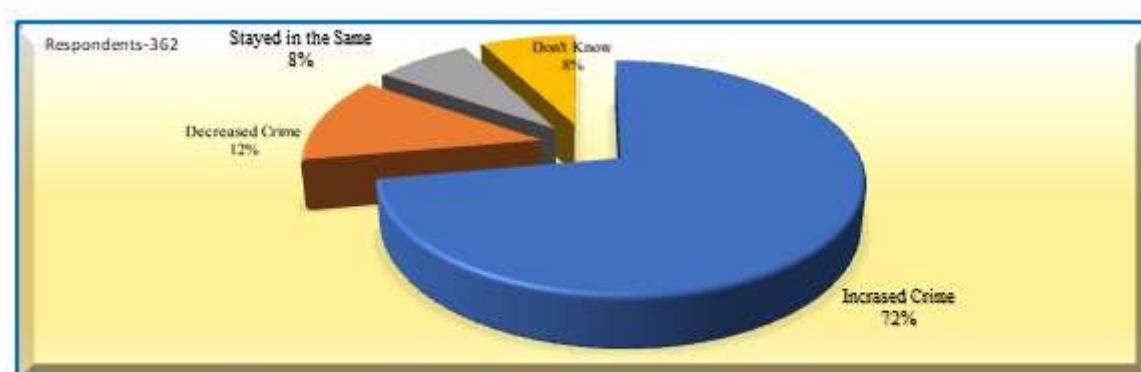

Figure 6: Crime Increasing (Source: Survey on 362 Respondents)

A survey has carried out among 362 respondents. There are 122 students, 218 service holders, 12 business men and 10 others residing in Cox'sBazar. According to survey 72% respondents think that crime is in increasing trend.

8.5 Conflict dynamics and reasons for crime of the Rohingya camps:

The major reason for conflict in the Rohingya camps is group domination over the camps for doing illegal drug business, arms smuggling, kidnapping, extortion and other illegal activities. There are several Rohingya organizations and terrorist groups are active in the camps such as -

Name of Rohingya Organizations	Activities
ARSA: Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army.	9. Formed: 2013 10. Chief: Ataullah Abu Omar jununi. 11. Activities: drug business and other illegal activities.
ARSPH: Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace & Human	12. Formed: 2000

Right	13. Leader late Mohib Ullah. 14. Status: Inactive.
RSO: Rohingya Solidarity Organization	15. Formed: 1982. 16. Leader Dr. Younus 17. Activities: drug business & illegal activities
ARNO: Arakan Rohingya National Organization IM: Islami Mahajj.	18. Formed: 1998 19. Leader: Nurul Islam 20. Status: inactive. 21. Activities: Extortion
ARNU: Arakan Rohingya National Union.	22. Leader Mr. Elies. 23. Face book and online activities.

Source: District Police Administration

Beside this, there are many terrorist groups are active in the Rohingya camps.

Terrorist Groups	Activities
24. Nobi Hossen group (Very active) 25. Master Munna group. 26. Master Enam group. 27. Moulovi Ayas group. 28. Kalim Ullah group. 29. Mobin goup. 30. Deel Mohammed group. 31. Hasim goup / Sadek group etc.	32. Domination over the camps, 33. Illegal drug business, 34. Human trafficking, 35. Kidnap and take ransom, 36. Murder, Rape, 37. Robbery & theft, 38. Extortion

Source: District Police Administration

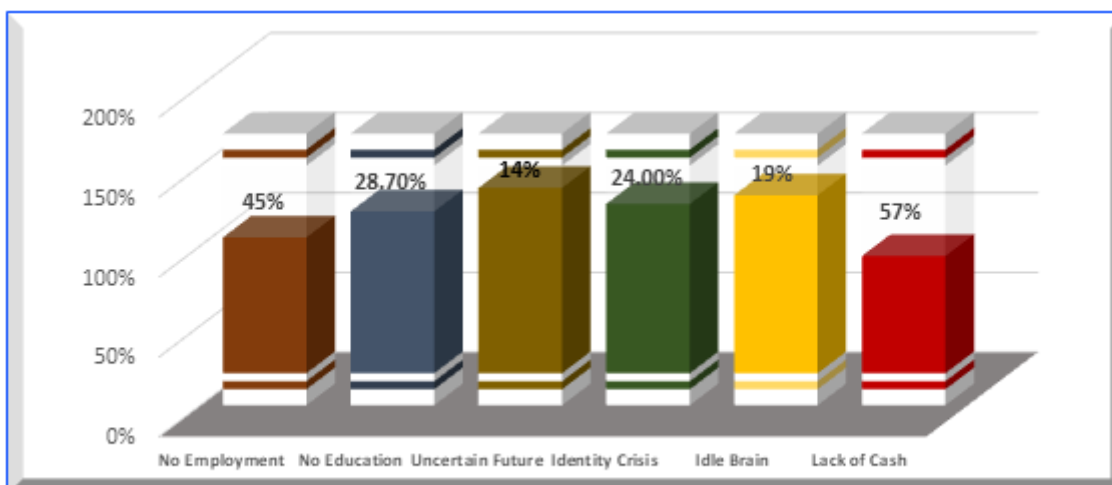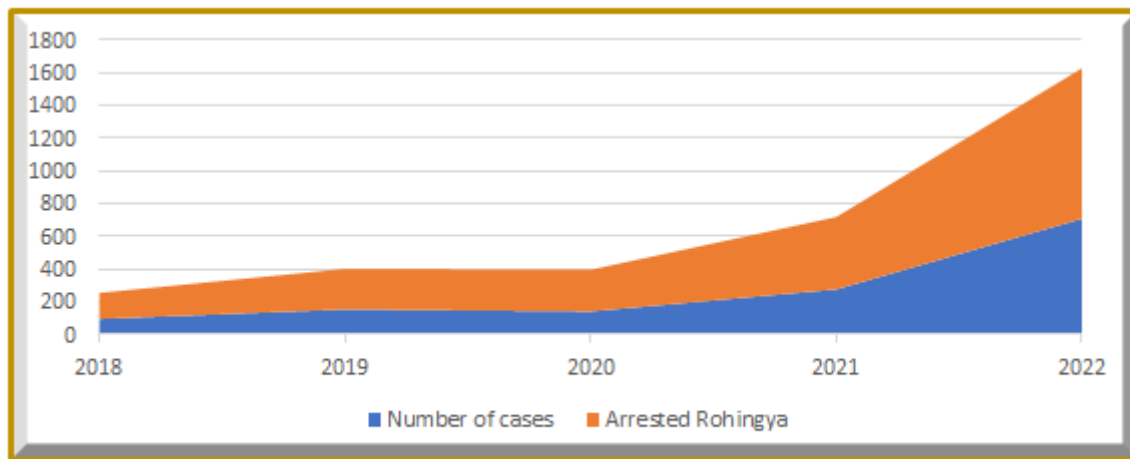### 8.5.1   Other reasons for involvement in crime of Rohingya –

Figure 7: Reasons for crime (Source: Survey on 129 Rohingya)

A survey has conducted on 129 Rohingyas and they think that there are lot of reasons for involvement in crime of Rohingya people such as lack of liquid money (cash taka), lack of education, lack employment opportunity, identity crisis, uncertain future etc.

8.5.2   Drug smuggling, drug storage, supply or transportation:

Figure 8: Recorded 'YABA' related cases (Source: Cox'sBazar District Police)

According to the crime statistics of district police of Cox'sBazar, drug related 707 cases were recorded and 920 Rohingyas were arrested in the year 2022 for illegal drug business. The highest quantity of 'YABA' recovery was 23,93,518 pills in the year 2022. "Rohingya camps on both sides of border remain key points of smuggling (Khan, 2020)."

Drug dealers use young Rohingya women and girls for carrying or transportation of drugs and all the carriers get a good amount of money.

8.5.3   Kidnapping and taking ransom:

A survery has carried out among the 132 Rohingya persons and they said that there are many terrorist groups in different forms are active in the Rohingya camps such Master Munna group, Nobi Hossen group, ARSA, AL YEAKIN, RSO, etc. The terrorist groups kidnap people and take ransom. Even though they also kidnap and kill people for personal enmity. "Rohingya terrorist kidnapped Abdur Rahman from host community and released him after 30 hours (Represetative, 2022)."

8.5.4   Human Trafficking and document forgery:

Figure 9: Rohingya rescued from sea (Source: The Daily Star)

The Rohingya people find better opportunities in other countries. "More than 3,500 desperate Rohingya attempted deadly sea crossings in 39 boats in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal in 2022 (Ruma Paul, 2023)." "At least four people including a child died as a Malaysia-bound trawler carrying Rohingya refugees sunk off the coast of Teknaf, Cox's Bazar (The Daily Star Correspondent, 2022)."

The Rohingyas are also fabricating NID and Passport. "10 arrested in Chattogram for providing fake NIDs to Rohingyas (The Business Standard Correspondent, 2022)."

8.5.5   Arms Smuggling:

According to APBn and District Police crime statistics 138 arms recovery cases have been recorded and 302 Rohingyas has been arrested by the law enforcing agencies in the last three years.

8.5.6   Murder in the Rohingya camps:
"Young man gave a video message with a pistol confessing to the killing of 4 Rohingyas ." "Rohingya: killings in the refugee camp, the Rohingya militant organization ARSA wants to take control of the camp? ." "26 Rohingyas have been killed in more than 20 clashes and shooting in the Rohingya camps last four and half months ."

8.5.7   Robbery Cases in last three years:
Rohingya with the nexus of local people doing robbery and theft near the registered camps under Teknaf Police station. 47 cases have been recorded against 177 persons in the year 2022.

8.5.8   Extortion:
According to survey 27.2% Rohingyas think that terrorist groups are taking money as extortion from the shopkeepers, Ration reselling syndicate, rich families.

8.6 Security measures of Armed Police Battalions:
The main responsibility of APBn is to ensure security of the Rohingya camps. They also perform administrative & other secondary tasks. APBn has taken the following measures for prevention and control crime –

Figure 10: APBn activities (Source: Survey on 795 APBn forces)

8.6.1   Foot and vehicle patrol in the Rohingya camps:
Every APBn camp covers 3/4 Rohingya camps. One mobile team consists with 8/10 police conducts foot patrol for each Rohingya camp during night and for day time one mobile patrol. A team of supervisor supervises mobile patrols. According to survey 22% police are engaged in patrolling.

8.6.2   Information based operation in the Rohingya camps:
On the basis of intelligence/information APBn conducts operation. This type of operation team consists with 25/30 members of APBn. Sometimes, APBn also conducts block raid. According to survey 22% police are engaged in information-based operation.
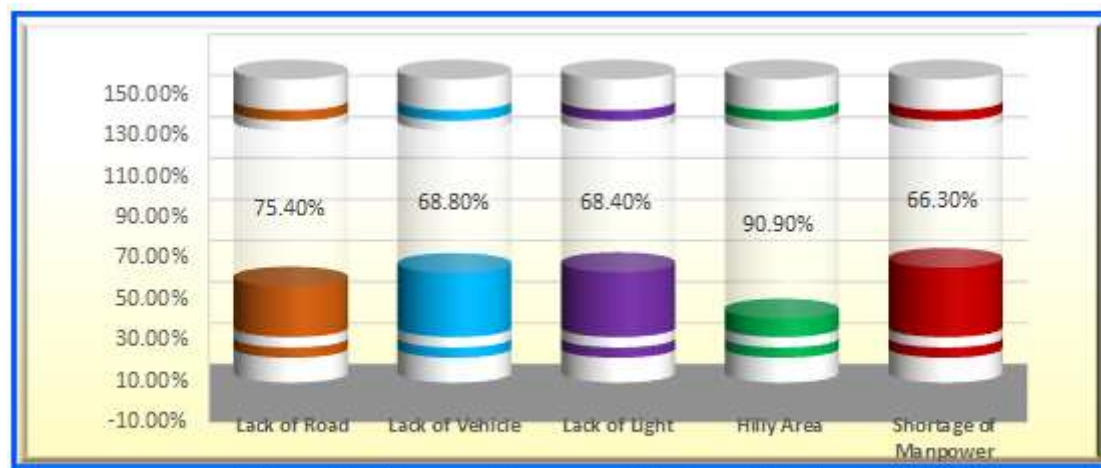
8.6.3   Intelligence Collection & Bit policing in the Rohingya people:
APBn collects intelligence form the Rohingya people as well as majhees of the camps. According to survey 21% police are engaged in intelligence collection and bit policing.

8.6.4   Access Control:
APBn sets up check posts for access control but there are thousands of ways to go inside the camps. According to survey 20% police are engaged in access control.

8.7   Difficulties of APBn ensuring security of the Rohingya camps:

(Figure 11: Source: Survey on 795 Armed Police forces)

8.7.1   Lack of road communication:

The road communication within the Rohingya camps is not adequate enough. Only a few roads can use for motor vehicle patrol. According to survey on APBn forces, 75.4% police think that lack of road communication all the camp area is not covered by patrolling.

8.7.2   Hilly area:

Most of the Rohingya camps are situated in the hilly area and impossible to cover by foot patrol. According to survey, 90.9% police think that due to hilly area they cannot cover whole the camp.

8.7.3   Shortage of manpower:

Due to shortage of manpower every force has engaged on duty for night shift continuously several days. According to survey, 66.3% police think that manpower should be increased.

8.7.4   Lack of vehicle:

Each police camp has only one pick up for patrolling and very few motor cycle which is insufficient to make an effective patrol in the Rohingya camp. According survey, 68.8% police think that lack of vehicle effective patrolling is not possible.

8.7.5   Difficult to access control of the Rohingya camps:

There are thousands of entry points in the Rohingya camps. According to survey, 55.8% think that they cannot properly control the access point. It is quite absurd to maintain the access control without having individual fencing with watch tower to every camp.

8.7.6   Non-cooperation of the Rohingya community:

The Rohingya people don't cooperate to police. Rohingya people don't want to be witness of any incident. They just say "N JANI N DEKHI" that means "don't know and don't see". According to survey79.50% police think that Rohingya people are unwilling to provide information.

8.7.7 Difficult to make data base of the Rohingya people:

APBn don't not have data-base of the Rohingya people. They need to prepare more updated criminal list with profile pictures. According to survey, 72.7% police think that face identification data-base is required for effective crime control.
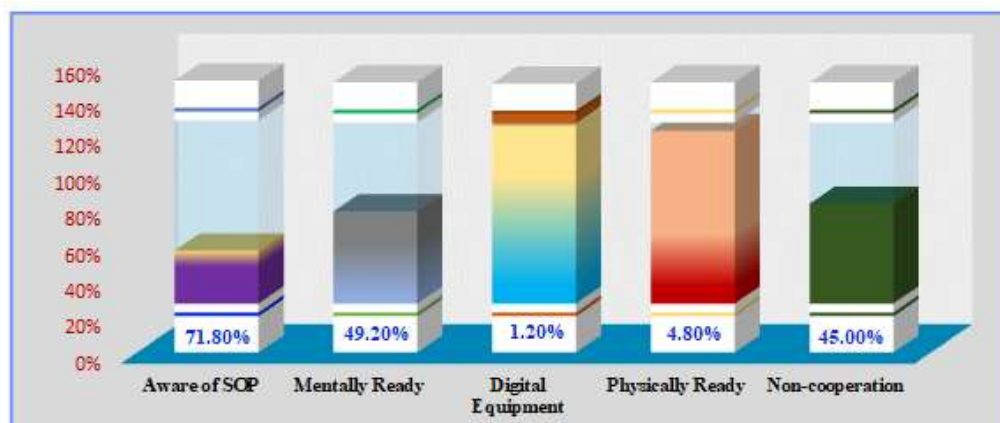
8.8 Weaknesses of APBn in the Rohingya camps:

Figure 12: Different issues of APBn (Source: Survey on 795 APBn forces)

8.8.1   Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of APBn:
SOP describes the guidelines, tasks, duties and activities required to ensure an effective operation and it also includes policies and procedures of the given task. According to survey 71.8% members of APBn are not aware of SOP.

8.8.2   Physical readiness:
Physical readiness is required for combatting with crime. According to 4.8% police think that they are not physically fit to work in the hilly area.

8.8.3   Mental Preparedness:
The mental preparedness is required to do any challenging task. A survey has showed that 49.2% police personnel don't mentally ready to work in the Rohingya camps.

8.8.4   Poor surveillance:
Surveillance means to monitor behavior, many activities or information. According to survey all most all police forces think that digital surveillance is highly required for controlling the security of the camps but only 1.2% don't think so.

8.8.5   Cooperation from other agencies:
There are several organizations work in the Rohingya camps. According to survey on 795 forces of APBn, 45% think that they are not getting expected level of cooperation from other related agencies.

Beside above all this, the APBn forces are not aware of SOP, Strategic Plan, Evacuation Plan, Alarm Scheme, Crime Mapping according above pie chart.

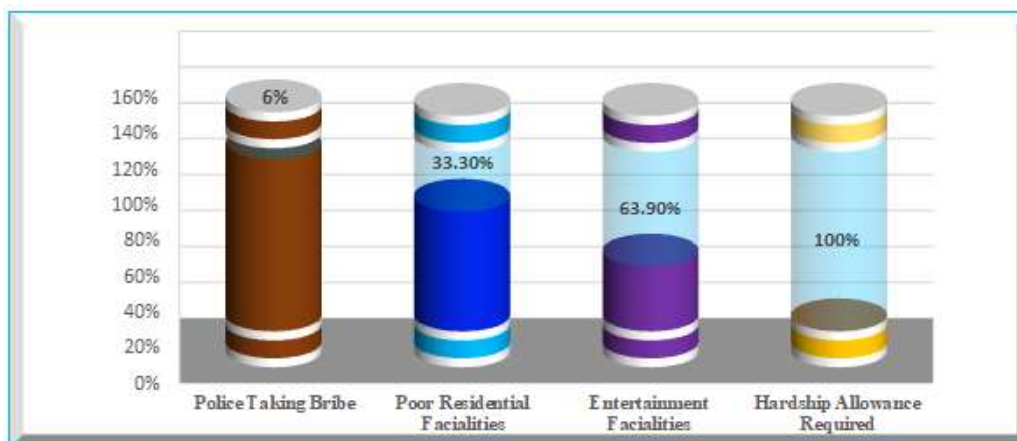**8.9 Limitations of APBn in the Rohingya camps:**

Figure 13: Different issues (Source: Survey on 795 APBn forces)

8.9.1 Police taking bribes:

Most of the APBn members' service records are not good at all. According to survey, 6% Police are taking bribe from various sources such as drug dealers, shopkeepers, CNG three-wheeler vehicles and other sources.

8.9.2   Poor residential facilities in the police camps:

The infrastructure of all the police camps is not good and during summer it is very hot. According to survey 33.3% police think that their residential facilities are very poor. Even though they don't have adequate wash facilities in the camps.

8.9.3   Lack of entertainment:

There is no adequate space for outdoor games but a few of the camps have indoor game facilities. Even though they do not get full speed of mobile network in the camps. According to survey 36% police think that they don't get adequate entertainment.

8.9.4 No hardship allowance for Police:

The hostile situation of the camp is threat to all including the police personnel. They can be under attacked by any terrorist group. Police is doing hard work 24/7 for conducting operation in the hilly area but they don't have any hardship allowance. All other government employees are getting extra allowance for working in Rohingya camps but they are not saving 24/7. They just stay in the camp 3/4 hours and come back to city. According to survey, 100% police think that hardship allowance will motivate them to do better performance.

8.10 Field level opinion from different professionals:

Commanding Officer of 8-Armed Police Battalion Md. Amir Jafor says-

For ensuring law and order of the Rohingya camps, we conduct patrol, block raid, check post and collect intelligence. Conflict between terrorist groups is regular phenomenon in the Rohingya camps due to domination over the camps and to control illegal drug (YABA) business, arms & gold smuggling and other illegal activities for getting money. For effective management of security, we need to consider the following things-

- Skilled and willing personnel should be deployed in the Rohingya camps.
- To be aware of international environment and know the Rohingya language.
- To provide hardship allowance for motivation and adequate transports.
- After serving certain period the personnel should be transfer and rewarded.
- For each Rohingya camp should have one police camp and separate fencing for effective access control.
- Every camp should have periphery road, watch tower, adequate surveillance equipment and adequate lighting during night.

- To prepare face identification data-base for all Rohingya.
- All the related organizations should work to achieve a common goal and cooperate at highest in order to APBn.
- To set up intelligent wing with optimum level of logistics support.
- The hilly area should be connected by road communication.
- Rohingya people should be engaged voluntarily in community policing and for selection/cancel of MAJHEE (Representative of the Rohingya camp) police opinion should be required.

Commanding Officer of 14-Armed Police Battalion Sayed Harun-ar-Rashid says-

We do operational activities as per the requirement of the Rohingya camps. The main reason for conflict is group domination over the camps for controlling illegal drug business and extortion. Lack of road communication and hilly area are the main hazard for effective operation. Almost 80% police members' service records are not good and they don't want to serve here mentally. We need to motivate them by providing hardship allowance, reward and transfer after serving certain duration. He also points out that proper access control, set up digital surveillance equipment, optimum level of cooperation from all required agencies including Rohingya community are very important for effective security management. Unified efforts from all required agencies can only help to achieve a unique goal.

Commanding Officer of 16-Armed Police Battalion Mohammad Hasan Bari Nur says-

We have taken security measures for 07 registered camps of Teknaf. Usually, we do foot & bike patrol, mobile patrol, check post, block raid, collect Intelligence, bit policing and give motivational lecture in the worship of Rohingya camps. There are few groups named Salman Shah group, Saleh group who are involved in kidnapping, robbery and other criminal activates. There are 300 Rohingya criminals are abscond from the registered camps. He also informs that a good number of Bangladeshi people are living inside the camps by born according to their generations. All those family should be shifted from there for better handling the security situation. Strong surveillance, realistic information and optimum level of cooperation from all related organizations are required to maintain sustainable security environment.

Superintendent of Police of 14 APBn Md. Saifuzzaman says 27bcs–

There are many groups active in the Rohingya camps. Among of the groups ARSA, AL YAKIN, RSO, Islami Mahaj, Nobi Hossen group, Munna group are very active in doing illegal drug business, kidnapping, murder, extortion and other illegal activates. He also says that Ataullah Abu Omar Al Jununi is the leader of ARSA and normally he stays outside the camps. There are lot of problems in the Rohingya camp for effective operation such as inadequate road communication, topography of the camp area, no separate fencing of the camp, no light during night, high density in the Rohingya camps, non-cooperation of Rohingyas, shortage of manpower, no hardship allowance, lack of surveillance equipment, no updated data-base etc.

Camp Commander of JAMTOLI ASP Md. Faruk Ahamed says–

The total area of the camp is near about 2/3 squire kilometers which is difficult to cover by foot due to hilly area. There is shortage of manpower in the camp and that's why one constable continuously perform night duty consecutively 8/10 nights. We cannot maintain effectively access control as because of thousands of entry points of the camps. There are several terrorist groups are active such as ARSA, AL YEAKIN, RSO, NOBI HOSSEN group, MUNNA group are involved in illegal activities specially in drug smuggling, arms smuggling, kidnapping, murder, extortion etc.

Camp commander of Kutupalong ASP Md. Imrul Hasan says-

We do visible policing, conduct operation according to block, collect advance intelligence, conduct patrolling, check post in the main entry points. Sometime we do combined operation with the help of district police, RAB and executive magistrate. He suggests-

- To increase the manpower, provide hardship allowance and more logistic supports.
- To make periphery road and fencing every camp separately.
- Established digital surveillance equipment and prepare data-base of all Rohingyas.
- To give investigation power to APBn.

Camp Commander of PANBAZAR ASP Md. Jalal Uddin Buya says-

ARSA, AL YEAKIN, RSO, ISLAMI MAHAJ, NOBI HOSSEN group are also involved in drug trafficking and other illegal activities. For effective handling the security situation the following things need to consider-

- Combination of Unarmed and Armed branch is making problem.
- No hardship allowance for police.
- Lack of expected level cooperation from other agencies.
- No investigation power of APBn.
- Take time to respond of any sudden incident due to shortage of vehicle, lack of road communication and shortage of manpower.

Female police members of Mohduchara APBn Police camp say-

Female police members are engaged for sentry duty and protection duty for CIC office during office time. Female police members don't have separate accommodation and they are staying in the same compound with male officers. It is difficult for them to stay inside the room due to high temperature. Female members don't have entertainment scope and even though they don't get full speed of mobile network. They don't have freedom and mental peace in policing here in Rohingya camp. No transport is available after evening inside the camp.

Social worker and employee of a non-government organization related with Rohingya camps Mr. Bayezid Ahamed says-

Myanmar Army and Police get huge amount of money by patronizing illegal drug 'YABA' and 90% of 'YABA' transportation route is the border area of UKHI and TEKNAF police stations which are connected with Myanmar border. Drug dealers any way make the route safe both side of the border and storage 'YABA' inside the Rohingya camps. The security situation of the Rohingya camp is going to worse day by day due to domination over the camps to control the illegal drug 'YABA' business which involve huge amount of money. It is a big challenge for APBn to control the security situation. The following things should take under consideration for effective controlling the security situation of the Rohingya camps-

- To control boarder and stop illegal drug "YABA' dealing inside the camps.
- Every related organization should cooperate optimum level to APBn for achieving a unique goal.
- Camp In Charge (CIC) should stay in the camp 24/7.
- To ensure the Rohingya community involvement for controlling the security situation.

Chairman of PALONGKHALI Union Council Md. Gufur Uddin Chawdhuary says-

The security situation of PALONGKHALI Union area is good but the situation withing the Rohingya camps is not good at all. The situation is going to worse due to group conflict of ARSA, RASO, AL YEAKIN. The main activities of these groups are illegal drug (YABA) business. Drug traffickers transport illegal drug 'YABA' from Myanmar to Rohingya camp directly. May the drivers and employee of different organizations use their vehicle to transport YABA from Rohingya camps to other places. Rohingyas are getting money by involving different volunteer activities provided by NGOs and 10% of their earning is taken by AL YEAKIN as extortion. He suggests-

- To stop use of mobile phone, establish phone booth and MAJHEE can only use button mobile set.
- Make strong fencing for every camp and not allow them to come outside the camp.
- All relief goods should be distributed through the government employee of Bangladesh.
- Local people should be engaged as volunteer with Rohingya volunteer.

Additional Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Mr. Md. Shamsud Douza says to maintain sustainable security situation-

- The coordination of inter agencies should be enhanced.
- Camp In-Charge's (CIC) presence 24/7 in the Rohingya camp will impact on the improvement of security situation.
- Police should be provided hardship allowance and after serving certain duration he/she should be transferred and rewarded.
- Police should have access on existing data-base of Rohingya population.
- Police should be provided adequate logistics and better accommodation with modern facilities.
- No CIC mentally wants to serve in the Rohingya camps.
- All agencies should provide coordinated efforts to achieve a common goal.
- Still, it is not clear about the repatriation of Rohingya. It is needed to formulate long term policy for this crisis. Strong diplomacy is required to motivate the international community as well as all the nearest countries of Bangladesh to solve this issue.

President of Cox'sBazar press club Mohammed Abu Taher says-

The security situation of the Rohingya camp is deteriorating due to group domination over the camps and to control illegal drug business & other illegal activities. Several groups are active in the Rohingya camps for doing illegal drug (YABA) business and other illegal activities. Host community are affected in many ways and several incidents of abduction of locals were occurred by the Rohingyas. People from UKhia Police Station area are greatly involved in illegal drug business with the nexus of the Rohingyas. Rohingya should not put together in one place and they should be divided into several small groups for better handling. APBn, District Police, RAB, Secret Agencies should make a strong coordinated effort to maintain the security situation of the camps. The surveillance of secret agencies should be increased and installed digital surveillance equipment. The cooperation and coordination of civil administration with law enforcing agencies should be enhanced. Police opinion should be mandatory for appointing and changing any MAJHEE (camp representative of Rohingya). We may motivate Rohingyas to make a regulatory body among themselves for their betterment. By considering Myanmar policy, Bangladesh should have a dynamic policy framework to address the Rohingya issue.

8.11 Summary of KII & FGD:

- The main reason for crime in the Rohingya camp is conflict within terrorist groups due to domination over the camps for controlling drug business, arms and gold smuggling which involve huge amount of money.
- Armed Police Battalions don't get expected level of cooperation from other agencies.
- APBn does not have updated data base of the innocent part of Rohingya as well as criminal.
- There is no light, no effective fencing, no CC coverage, no access control of the Rohingya camps.

- There is shortage of manpower, inadequate patrol vehicle and inadequate logistics in APBn.
- Service records 80% of Police personnel are not good and they don't want to serve here in Rohingya camps.
- To provide hardship allowance for motivation and after certain duration they should be transferred and rewarded.
- Rohingya are not cooperative to provide information to police.
- APBn should identify all the terrorist groups as well as their members and conduct information-based operation against them.
- Without stopping illegal drug (YABA) business inside the Rohingya camps security situation never be controlled.
- The transportation route of illegal drug 'YABA' should be sealed by any means with appropriate authority for the sake of our beloved motherland.

8.12. Findings and Recommendation of the study:
- APBn should prepare appropriate SOP, face identification data-base for all Rohingyas and update criminal data-base with recent pictures.
- Every Rohingya camp should be separated by effective fencing including watch tower, CC coverage and adequate lighting with periphery road communication.
- Digital equipment should be installed in all the important places for surveillance.
- To engage Rohingya people in community policing and for selection/cancel of MAJHEE (Representative of the Rohingya camp) police opinion should be mandatory.
- Access control should be monitored strictly with the help of digital devices.
- To provide need-based training including language, provide hardship allowance for motivation and adequate logistics including transports.
- After serving a certain period in the Rohingya camp he/she will be transferred and rewarded by the appropriate authority.
- Camp In Charge (CIC) should stay within the Rohingya camps 24/7 and cooperate APBn to perform operational activities and increase the Rohingya community engagement.
- The main route of illegal drug 'YABA' smuggling is now UKHI after crossing the Myanmar border. This route is very close to most of the Rohingya camps. The responsible authorities should play vital role to stop any way smuggling and transportation of illegal drug 'YABA.'
- To detect terrorist groups, leaders, associates, members and conduct information-based operation against terrorists.
- To established strong and effective intelligence and research wing with adequate support of logistics, modern digital surveillance equipment and skilled manpower.
- All the agencies should cooperate to APBn at expected level to fight against illegal drug 'YABA'. Only a unified effort can help to achieve this goal.
- Bangladesh Police should have a dynamic policy framework to address the Rohingya issue by considering Myanmar policy in this regard.
- For permanent solution a strong diplomacy is required to create immense pressure on Myanmar to take Rohingya back. In this regard, China, India and other powerful countries can play a vital role for permanent solution.

9 Significance of the Study

This study can generate a clear overview of security threats due to Rohingya presence and explore the area require to develop for APBn. It can also generate a robust set of recommendations for the local law enforcement agencies. Due to the sensitive nature of the data involving physical harm and threat to physical safety and security, this study can prove to be a valuable source of data. Additionally, the involvement of the local Police Forces in overseeing, managing, and handling the security threats arising from the Rohingya

presence is a significant addition to the literature. Moreover, this study is highly significant as because it can provide the foundation for improving the security apparatus that has been deployed at Cox's Bazar.

10 Limitations of the study

The limitations of the study are-

1. The researcher does not cover all the reputed journal or articles.
2. The hostile situation of Rohingya camps can be considered one of the serious limitations of this study.
3. Rohingya people are afraid to give information against any terrorist group, police etc.
4. The local government leaders may not give the proper information regarding crime and criminals.
5. The police may not provide all those information which stand against them.
6. All the criminal incidents are not reported or recorded to the police station. The reality and the statistics of Police Station may differ.

11 Conclusions

The study aims at examining how the Rohingya possess security threats and to measure the capability of APBn in handling the said security threats through using a mix qualitative and quantitative tools and methods ranging from structured or semi-structured questionnaire survey, in-depth interview, together with secondary data and literature review, from where a set of recommendation will be made for the local law enforcement agencies. It will also help to explore the difficulties, weakness and limitations of APBn and assist to develop the required grounds of APBn. The quantitative variables i.e. questionnaire survey would provide for ranking and scaling for the state-of-the-art statistically meaningful analysis towards better understanding of the study issues. Finally, the research findings from all methods including secondary data and information would be triangulated towards reinforcing the study conclusion. The study will produce policy suggestions and recommendations for Armed Police Battalions as well as Bangladesh Police.

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