

PROTEST OVER POLICE ASSAULT ON TRUCKER Transport workers block Dhaka-Ctg highway

Sergeant suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Transport workers halted traffic on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in the port city's City Gate area for around one and a half hours yesterday, protesting assault on a truck driver by a traffic sergeant.

The sergeant, Noor-e-Alam, was suspended for the incident, said Sujayetul Islam, deputy commissioner (traffic) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

A departmental enquiry would be conducted into the matter, and departmental action would be taken against the sergeant if found guilty, he said.

Abdul Mabud, general secretary of Chittagong District Truck and Covered Van Workers' Union, alleged that Noor-e-Alam had demanded money

from truck driver Mohammad Ali who was returning to Chittagong city from Dhaka.

As Ali refused to pay Noor-e-Alam the money, the sergeant beat him up, Mabud said.

Ali took first aid.

Following the incident, about 100 transport workers barricaded the highway around 10:00am, demanding punishment to the sergeant, said eye witnesses.

Several hundreds of vehicles got stranded from the point on both sides of Dhaka-Chittagong highway, one of the busiest in the country.

People travelling to and from Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, Chittagong, Rangamati, Khagrachhari, Feni, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Comilla, Narayanganj and Dhaka were affected.

Shaon Chowdhury, who was going to Chittagong from Dhaka, said his bus came to a halt for about 45 minutes in Fajdarhat.

Like Shaon, hundreds of passengers had to face immense sufferings due to the road blockade.

On information, high officials of CMP rushed to the spot and assured the demonstrators of punishment to the sergeant and proper treatment of Ali.

After a discussion between the workers' leaders and high police officials, the transport workers withdrew the barricade around 11:30am, said Ismail Baro Miah, joint general secretary of the workers' union.

"The deputy commissioner [Sujayetul] has assured us of punishing the sergeant," he said.

15kg gold seized at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs intelligence yesterday seized gold bars and chains, weighing around 15 kilograms, from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

Following a tip-off that some gold bars were being smuggled in, a team of customs intelligence searched the ladies' toilets at the immigration around 1:45am and found 12 gold bars, each weighing one kilogram, and 671 chains, weighing three kilograms, said Mujibur Rahman, an additional director of customs intelligence.

The gold bars and chains were kept in three packets, said Mujibur, adding that they sought video footage from Civil Aviation of Bangladesh to know about the smugglers.

The bars and chains are worth around Tk 7.5 crore, said Umme Nahida, assistant director of customs intelligence.

None was arrested while a case was being filed in connection with the seizure.

EU foreign affairs chief

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Palestinians are seeking to achieve statehood in Gaza and the Israeli-occupied West Bank with east Jerusalem as the capital.

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas yesterday said that a draft resolution was on course to be submitted to the UN Security Council this month calling for an end to Israeli occupation.

The text is expected to be vetoed by permanent member the United States.

Mogherini's visit comes against a backdrop of surging Israeli-Palestinian tensions in annexed east Jerusalem where there have been near-daily clashes in flashpoint neighbourhoods.

In the village of Kfar Kana in northern Israel, meanwhile, a 22-year-old was shot dead by security forces after intervening in the dawn arrest of one of his relatives, brandishing a knife, according to police.

Dozens of angry youths later erected barricades and set fire to tyres on the outskirts of the village as police deployed reinforcements.

Arab Israelis, who account for about 20 percent of Israel's population, are the descendants of Palestinian Arabs who remained on their land when the Jewish state was established in 1948.

The shooting followed another night of clashes in east Jerusalem pitting youths throwing stones and fire-crackers against police who used rubber bullets, stun grenades and tear gas.

The spike in violence came after one of the camp's residents ploughed a car into pedestrians in Jerusalem on Wednesday, killing a policeman and injuring nine other people before he was shot dead. On Friday, a young Israeli also died of injuries sustained in the attack -- the second of its kind in a fortnight.

The anger has been fuelled by

Israel's settlement activities as well as efforts by far-right Jewish fringe groups to secure prayer rights at the Al-Aqsa compound which is holy to Jews as well as Muslims.

Speaking on Friday during her first official visit to Jerusalem, Mogherini said there was a real "urgency" to pick up and advance the moribund peace process.

She also flagged up Israel's settlement building on lands the Palestinians want for a future state as an "obstacle" to a negotiated peace.

Shortly afterwards, Mogherini met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who gave a terse statement dismissing all criticism of his settlement policy.

"I reject the fictitious claim that the root of the continuous conflict is this or that settlement," he said.

"Jerusalem is our capital and as such is not a settlement."

Netanyahu ordered the security forces to either seal or demolish the homes of any Palestinian involved in anti-Israeli attacks, an official said Friday.

Mogherini had been scheduled to meet Palestinian prime minister Rami Hamdallah in Gaza but he cancelled his trip after a series of bombs there Friday hit the homes and cars of Fatah officials.

Fatah, the party of Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas, laid the blame on the Islamist movement Hamas, the de facto rulers in Gaza, as a new row broke out between the rival Palestinian factions.

Hamas announced Friday it was forming a thousands-strong "popular army" in the devastated Gaza Strip in response to what it called "serious Israeli violations" at Al-Aqsa.

Prime accused captured

FROM PAGE 1

The arrest of Sajid, who stayed near Lalgola Madrasa in Mukimnagar under Murshidabad district, will give a huge boost to the blast probe being conducted by the NIA, officials said.

His interrogation is expected to give some vital information about JMB's plans in India and Bangladesh. Also the interrogation might throw light on the location of nearly 40 Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) that were shipped ahead of the October 2 blast.

An NIA team will visit Bangladesh soon for studying previous terror cases involving JMB and sharing information about the outfit's activities in both the countries.

The blast in a house at Khagragarh in Burdwan town had claimed the life of Shakil Ahmed on the spot, while Sovan Mandal died at a hospital.

Police detained injured Hasan Saheb and based on information given by him rounded up six people in Assam.

The arrested accused identified Sajid and his wife Fatima as "lead trainers" at Simulia madrasa in West Bengal where people were being indoctrinated for jihad and kept in readiness for indulging in terror activities.

Sajid allegedly has paid Rs 8.75 lakh to another accused Kausar, also a Bangladeshi national, for purchase of

land for a madrasa in Burdwan.

Sajid's arrest came a day after his close associate Zia-ul-Haque, a key suspect in Burdwan blast case, was picked up by NIA in Kolkata.

Haque is suspected to be a key motivator of the terror module and a close associate of another accused Rezaul Karim Sajid.

Investigations have revealed that Haque was tasked with indoctrinating and training youths for terror activities in Simulia and Mukhimnagar madrasas.

A resident of Malda district in West Bengal, Haque was also associated with Simulia madrasa chief Maulana Yusuf, who has been on the run.

ARREST OF WOMAN

Pallab Bhattacharjee, additional director general of police in Assam, told Reuters that the woman was charged with collecting arms with an intention of waging a war against India.

"She has been arrested by the special operations unit of the Assam police and will be produced before a court today," he added.

Our New Delhi correspondent adds: The arrestee, Sujana Begum, was picked up from a bus station in Guwahati. She is the wife of Burdwan blast case accused Sahanur Alom, now absconding.

Sudhakar Singh, superintendent of police (operations), said Guwahati city police had information about the movement of Sujana.

"She was wanted by police in a case over alleged indoctrination of women for jihad," he added.

The NIA has declared a reward of Rs 5 lakh for information leading to the arrest of Sahanur, hailing from Chatala village of Barpeta district in Assam.

Indian army admits 'mistake' in killing two teenagers

AFP, New Delhi

The Indian army has admitted it made a mistake in shooting dead two teenagers in restive Indian-administered Kashmir this week, a rare public admission of fault by the military.

The teenagers died after soldiers fired at a car on the outskirts of Srinagar on Monday, while another youngster was critically wounded.

Countrywide

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League to hold programmes regularly in the capital and denies permission for opposition programmes, including peaceful human chains.

"Police officials now talk in political language. They've become so powerful that they don't allow opposition men to hold any type of political programme," he added.

Contacted, Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media and public relations) of DMP, said the Suhrawardy Udyan is not under their jurisdiction.

"It's the Public Works Department who gives permission for holding rallies there. The DMP ensures security if anyone gets permission to this end, but the BNP didn't get permission from them [PWD]," he mentioned.

The DMP told BNP that it was ready to ensure security if the party held the rally at any indoor venue instead of the Suhrawardy Udyan, said Rahman.

Asked about DMP's claim, a BNP assistant office secretary said when they approached the PWD for permission, it asked the party to have permission from DMP first. The police authorities also responded in the same way, he added.

South Sudan rivals vow to end war under sanctions threat

AFP, Addis Ababa

East African nations have told South Sudan's government and rebels to immediately halt their nearly 11-month-old civil war or else face sanctions and even a regional intervention.

The warning was issued in the early hours of Saturday by the regional bloc IGAD after the latest direct talks between South Sudan President Salva Kiir and rebel leader Riek Machar failed to result in a comprehensive peace deal.

IGAD said both sides had pledged to an "unconditional, complete and immediate end to all hostilities" after

two days of negotiations in Addis Ababa, and has given the pair just 15 days to finalise a transitional power-sharing accord.

Kiir and Machar signed a ceasefire at the start of the year and several subsequent deals to renew it, but the truces have been short lived. IGAD said yet another violation would have severe consequences.

"Any violation of the cessation of the hostilities by any party will invite collective action by the IGAD region," a statement said, listing asset freezes, travel bans and an arms embargo as possible sanctions.



Are you Genetically Linked to Diseases?

You know you got your curly hair from your mother and your prominent nose from your dad. However, these may not be the only things you have inherited from your family. Studies have shown that common diseases can be genetically passed down through families, though some of which may be caused by a combination of abnormal cell mutations, unbalanced lifestyle and your environment.

Know your Family Health

Understanding how your genes affect you is the first step towards conquering diseases. Knowing your family health or medical history of parents, grandparents and siblings is vital as they provide the most accurate links to genetic risks. These familial patterns including specific types of cancer and diseases, can help you and your doctor use the information to diagnose a medical condition. If you discover that you are at an increased risk of a disease, regular health screening can help you check on your health status and any early detection will minimise the risk of complications before an undiagnosed problem worsens.



Genetic Testing for Cancer

Today, genetic testing for cancer has become more common as part of health prevention. Depending on the type of cancer and how many family members are affected, one may opt for genetic testing to help identify carriers, diagnose disease and predict the likelihood of a person developing cancer in his or her lifetime. According to Dr Lynette Ngo, Specialist in Medical Oncologist & Consultant, Raffles Cancer Centre, a positive test result increases a person's risk of developing cancer, but it cannot tell if this gene mutation will actually develop cancer, or when it will be developed.

Personalised Care for Cancer

The discovery of specific genetic mutations that drive cancer growth has led to the development of novel drug therapies. These therapies target on each specific mutations to block

and shrink the cancer tumour. Many drugs that are currently available are "one-size-fits-all," but they may not work the same way for everyone. Pharmacogenomics is the study of how genes affect a person's response to drugs. This combines the science of drugs and the study of genes to develop effective medications and doses tailored to a person's genetic make-up. According to Dr Ngo, the goal is to customise treatments for each cancer subtype based on individual's genes and to optimise response and patient's survival while avoiding unnecessary and non-beneficial treatment.

Risk of inheriting a mutated gene for cancer is increased if:

- An individual develops cancer at less than 40 years of age
- There are two or more first degree relatives with cancer, especially if they were diagnosed with cancer before 50 years old
- There is a first degree relative with more than one cancer, such as cancer in both breasts, or cancer in the colon and the uterus
- Family members from different generations have breast or ovarian cancer (both mother's or father's side)

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), breast cancer topped the list of the women affected with various types of cancers in Bangladesh. Women who are diagnosed with breast cancer often have a family history of breast cancer, ovarian cancer and other cancers. "Predictive gene testing measures the expression of thousands of genes in breast cancer cells at once by an assignment of a recurrence score. If the score is low, it shows that patients will not benefit from the combination of chemotherapy and hormonal therapy as compared to having hormone therapy alone," shared Dr Ngo. However, it is recommended for women to go for regular screening as the most effective prevention of breast cancer.



Detecting Diabetes

Besides lifestyle and environmental factors, the risk of developing diabetes due to genetics depends on the type of diabetes. According to Dr Abel Soh, Specialist in

Endocrinology & Consultant, Raffles Diabetes & Endocrine Centre, type 1 diabetes accounts for 10 per cent of those with diabetes. Usually, the individual would have inherited the risk factors from both parents. "If there is a history of type 1 diabetes in the family, measuring certain antibodies in the blood can help determine the risk level of developing the disease," explained Dr Soh. Type 2 diabetes, which accounts for 90 per cent of those with diabetes, has a stronger link to family history than type 1 diabetes. Most patients with type 2 diabetes are overweight and tend to lead a sedentary lifestyle. "If both parents have type 2 diabetes, the child's risk is about one in two. Research found that dietary changes weight reduction can lower one's risk of developing type 2 diabetes by more than 50 per cent," added Dr Soh.



Inherited Heart Diseases

One of the inherited factors of heart diseases is familial hypercholesterolemia as the high level of low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol causes an increased build-up in the blood arteries. Usually a very low level of LDL may also show abnormalities on their electrocardiogram and treadmill stress test.

According to Dr Abdul Razakjr Bin Omar, Specialist in Cardiology & Consultant, Raffles Heart Centre, if your parents developed heart disease, high cholesterol and high blood pressure at a young age, you may be predisposed to have congenital diseases or may tend to develop diseases at a younger age. "Since one's genetic background cannot be changed, some people need medication to lower their risk of having a heart attack. One should maintain a healthy diet, exercise regularly to strengthen the heart and avoid stress to prevent the blood vessels from becoming stiff," explained Dr Razakjr. **RH**

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