

UN special

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Rohingya, a Muslim minority that has suffered decades of poverty and repression, and been denied basic rights such as citizenship and freedom of movement.
Lee also visited the border guard posts, attacked in October, as well as a prison.
Northern Rakhine has been under strict military lockdown since October 9, when a gang killed nine border police officials near the border with Bangladesh, leading to a clamp-down that has left anywhere between 84 and 400 Rohingya dead.
According to the UN, at least 65,000 Rohingya have reportedly fled across the border to Bangladesh to escape violence allegedly committed by the military, including the burning of homes, rape and murder of civilians.

The Myanmar government and military have denied all the allegations.

On Friday, Lee met Muslim community leaders during her visit to a Rohingya neighbourhood in Sittwe.

Lee also visited border guard posts, the attacks on which in early October triggered clearance operations by the military.

But a powerful ethnic party rejected a request for a meeting with Lee on Friday evening.

"We are not meeting her because we don't believe she and her organisation [the UN] have a will to resolve the issues fairly," Ba Swe, joint secretary of the Arakan National Party, told Anadolu Agency on Saturday.

"The issues will never be solved as long as they accept these Bengalis as members of this country's ethnic groups," Ba Swe said, using a term that suggests Rohingya are illegal immigrants from neighbouring Bangladesh.

Lee continues her travels through the conflict zone before returning to Yangon later in the week.

Al Jazeera's Looi also said the UN envoy will also look into reports that the flow of aid to Rohingya has been "severely curtailed" since the military operation began three months ago.

"The UN said they are concerned about the rising rate of malnutrition among the Rohingya in this area, because this is an area, where food security is already in doubt," Looi said, adding that as many as 150,000 people are dependent on aid.

A law passed in Myanmar in 1982 denies Rohingya - many of whom have lived in Myanmar for generations - citizenship, making them stateless.

The law denies Rohingya rights to Myanmar nationality, removes their freedom of movement, access to education and services, and allows arbitrary confiscation of property.

Referring to another report of Displacement Solutions, an international organisation dedicated to resolving cases of forced displacement throughout the world, the IOM also mentioned that around six million people have been displaced from their homes due to climate change effects in Bangladesh.

Increased temperatures and variations in rainfall are the most prevalent climate change elements affecting the lives and livelihoods of people in Bangladesh in recent years, it mentioned.

Golam Rabbani, a leading consultant at Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, led the team for conducting the study in Bangladesh.

As he was presenting his research findings, he said 92 percent respondents felt that the impacts of internal migration had made women more vulnerable as men could go for work in another district.

Referring to the IDMC report, he said more than 19 million people across the world were displaced internally in 2015 due to sudden-onset of disasters.

Of the global total, 7.9 million or 41 percent were from South Asia, he added.

Bangladesh and Nepal are the countries of origin of many less skilled international migrants, while the Maldives is identified as the destination of many migrants from both Bangladesh and Nepal. However, all three countries are also destination for skilled migrants originating from within the region.

Prof Ainun Nishat, an eminent expert on climate change issues and former vice-chancellor of BRAC University, however, said it was essential to ensure alternative livelihoods for the affected people instead of encouraging them in migration.

Environment and Forests Ministry Secretary Istiaque Ahmad and Chief of Mission of IOM Bangladesh Sarat Dash, among others, spoke on the occasion.

PM flies

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Centre in Davos. Before the opening of the plenary, WEF Executive Chairman Klaus Schwann will call on her.

Concluding her five-day tour, Hasina is expected to reach Dhaka around 10:15am on January 21.

A long, winding

FROM PAGE 1
A day after the abduction of Nazrul and six others on April 27 of that year, Selina filed an abduction case against six people including the then NCC councillor Nur Hossain. Later, the bodies of the victims were found floating in the Shitalakkhya river.

She received threats for filing the case but she didn't budge. She eventually mobilised public support and waged a movement demanding justice for the killings. Braving all fears, she turned up in court to testify.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, she said, "This is the day I have been waiting for. I hope all the accused will get the highest punishment, including Nur Hossain [the prime accused]."

The District and Session Judge's Court is expected to deliver the judgement this morning, said Shakhawat Hossain, a lawyer of the plaintiffs.

The court fixed the date after the completion of the defence's closing arguments in favour of 35 accused in two cases filed over the incident.

Of them, 26 are Rab men while eight others are reportedly associates of Nur Hossain.

Twenty-three, including Nur Hossain and dismissed Rab officials Lt Col Tareque Sayeed Mohammad, Maj Arif Hossain and Lt Commander MM Rana, are in jail while 12 are on the run.

Selina wants death penalty for all the accused and its quick execution.

There had been a longstanding conspiracy by Nur Hossain against her husband, and after the murder her family was threatened several times, she said.

"Yet I have not caved in to any threat or fear just to see the perpetrators get the highest punishment."

"We still do not feel safe."

Selina filed a general diary in this regard in December last year.

Nupur Begum, wife of slain driver Jahangir Alam, who was pregnant at the time of the incident, said, "I became a widow and my child lost his father. I want justice."

Mizanur Rahman Ripon, brother of victim Moniruzzaman Swapan, said his brother was the main breadwinner of the family.

"We will not get back our brother but we will get some solace if the culprits get the highest punishment," he said.

Lawyer Shakhawat expressed the hope that the highest level of the government would not interfere in justice being delivered.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said he expects exemplary punishment of the accused in the case.

Talking to reporters at the Supreme

Court, he said those who are allegedly involved in the incident had the duty to protect lives and properties of people. If they were involved in the crime, their offence is unforgivable.

HOW IT UNFOLDED

On April 27, 2014, seven people, including senior lawyer Chandan Sarker, were abducted from the Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road.

After appearing before a Narayanganj court in a criminal case that day, Nazrul along with Moniruzzaman Swapan, Tajul Islam, Liton and his driver Jahangir Alam were returning to Dhaka in a microbus.

As they reached Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah, another microbus waylaid them and abducted them.

The next day, Nazrul's wife Selina filed a case against six people. Apart from Nur Hossain, five accused were Hasmat Ali Hasu, Hazi Yasin Mia, general secretary of Siddhirganj upazila Awami League; Aminul Islam, Anwar and Iqbal Hossain.

The five were dropped from the charge sheet.

Chandan, senior lawyer at the Narayanganj District Judge's Court, and his driver Ibrahim were killed as they happened to witness the abduction of Nazrul and his associates.

His son-in-law Bijoy Kumar Paul filed a case in this regard.

On April 30, six bodies were recovered from the river and the body of another surfaced the following day.

The murderers cut the victims' bellies and tied the bodies to sacks full of bricks before throwing them into the water. They were blindfolded, and their hands and legs were tied, according to police.

Nazrul's father-in-law alleged that Nur had given the Rab men Tk 6 crore to kill Nazrul with whom he had a long-standing political feud.

The three Rab men -- Tareque, Arif and Masud -- were withdrawn from Rab on April 29 for their alleged involvement in the abduction.

Tareque was the commanding officer of Rab-11 in Narayanganj when the abduction and killing took place. He is the son-in-law of Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya.

On May 6, 2014, the three Rab officials were forced into retirement. The High Court on May 11 ordered the government to immediately arrest them. They were arrested accordingly.

Nur fled immediately after the murders. He was detained in Kolkata, India for trespassing and possessing an illegal firearm. He was brought back to the country in November, 2015.

Cop failure

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to inform the tribunal about Wazuddin's death led it to frame charges against the accused in absentia on December 11 since the prosecution, on the basis of an earlier police report, pressed formal charges identifying him as a fugitive.

On Wednesday, Private channel Somoy TV ran a report that more than six months after his death, the tribunal indicted Wazuddin on December 11 last year, appointed a state defence counsel and fixed January 31 to record testimony of the prosecution witnesses.

News of Wazuddin's death did not come to the notice of the prosecution or the investigation agency although his family had informed local police about it, the report said.

The tribunal on Thursday came down heavily on the prosecution, the investigation agency and the police for giving wrong information that led to charge-framing against a dead person.

Around 11:30am on Thursday, the Mymensingh SP sent a report to the tribunal's registrar's office on the death of Wazuddin.

Asked about the delay, SP Nurul Islam told this correspondent yesterday, "We actually could not learn about it [Wazuddin's death]."

However, a document the SP sent to the tribunal along with his letter shows that the OC informed him about the death on August 22 last year.

In his letter to the SP, OC Rifat Khan Rajib wrote that Wazuddin died of "old age complications" on May 7 last year at his son's rented house in Joina Bazar area under Sreepur Police Station in Gazipur.

"A report over his death was submitted to the superintendent of police on August 24, 2016. It is urgently needed to inform the International Crimes Tribunal about the death of the warranted accused," reads the letter.

One of the OC's letters, death certificate of Wazuddin and the order of arrest warrant issued by the tribunal were sent to the tribunal with the SP's letter.

Contacted, OC Rifat said when he came to know that the SP office did not inform the tribunal about Wazuddin's death, he sent another letter to the SP office on December 24.

Following the SP's order, the OC sent a third letter to the SP on January 11 and that letter was finally sent to the tribunal along with the SP's letter. The third letter sent by the OC also informed the SP about the death on August 24.

When Nurul Islam's attention was drawn to the OC's letter, he said, "I have to comment after going through the documents."

Hrishikesh Saha, conducting prosecutor of the case, told The Daily Star yesterday that Wazuddin would not be indicted had the SP sent the letter in time.

"And we would not have to be embarrassed ... It is the sole responsibility of the SP," the prosecutor added.

Sanaul Huq, co-coordinator of the tribunal's investigation agency, said the OC and the SP showed a "gross lapse" in performing their duty.

Wazuddin was buried at his house and also received a death certificate, but the OC did not inform either the tribunal or the investigation officer of the case about it.

On the allegation, the OC said the accused's body was buried secretly and his family members did not inform the police. "It took time to confirm his death."

Sanaul said even after getting the report in August, the SP did not forward it, meaning he "did not perform his duty properly."

The police department should take action against the officials responsible for it to stop recurrence of such incidents, he added.

Tribunal Registrar Shahidul Alam Jhinuk said it was the duty of the police to inform the tribunal in time about the death of the accused, but they did not do that.

"It is the tribunal which will make a decision if any action would be taken against the police officials," he added.

One China 'not negotiable'

Beijing warns Trump

AFP, Beijing

Beijing on Saturday warned the US that the One China policy was non-negotiable, after Donald Trump suggested he could abandon the decades-old diplomatic principle and boost ties with Taiwan.

"It is not up for negotiation," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said in a statement.

"There is only one China in the world, Taiwan is an inalienable region of China, and the government of the People's Republic of China is the only legitimate government representing China."

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Tigers self-destruct

FROM PAGE 1
hospital where an X-Ray report confirmed that there was no fracture. But he was not in a position to walk without any support when he returned to the team hotel from the hospital at around 9:00pm.

His departure suddenly changed the complexion of the game and Bangladesh, who were nicely building on a crucial 56-run first-innings lead after the home team were all out for 539, collapsed to 66 for three at stumps on the fourth day.

To be honest, vice-captain Tamim Iqbal pressed the self-destruct button when he judiciously tried to cut left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner off the back foot against an incoming delivery and was bowled for 25, leaving Bangladesh at 50 for one. After the departure of Imrul in the 13th over of a possible 23 overs left in the day's play, it was expected from Tamim to play more sensibly. But his reverse sweep in the next over and that dreadful late cut a ball later was uncalled for.

A nervous Mahmudullah Riyad then departed for five -- he was caught down the leg side off Neil Wagner. He has so far showed that he is very uncomfortable against short-pitched deliveries just above the rib-cage, which the Black Caps exploited during the limited-overs series.

Bangladesh were reduced to 63 for two and it soon turned 66 for three when night-watchman Mehedi Hasan Miraz was run out in hopeless fashion. He set off for a second run which was never there and by the time he backtracked to regain his crease a direct hit from Santner dislodged the wickets at the non-strikers' end.

Thankfully, the umpires called it a day after his dismissal and Bangladesh finished their second innings with a lead of 122 runs and seven wickets remaining to set up an interesting fifth and final day.

Earlier, New Zealand began the fourth day on 292 for three and were bowled out for 539, but not before Santner hit a career-best 73 that allowed the home side to get close to Bangladesh's huge 595 for eight declared.

Santner hit some lusty blows after Kamrul Islam Rabbi ended the misery of Neil Wagner, who was struck twice on the helmet in an over before top-edging an attempted pull that substitute wicketkeeper Imrul took comfortably. It was the fifth catch for Imrul which is a Test record for a sub keeper.

In the second session of the day, Mahmudullah popped up on the horizon with two wickets in an over as Bangladesh opened up the prospect of a considerable first innings lead

against the home team.

The occasional off-spinner struck with the very first ball with a harmless delivery that was going down the leg side. But BJ Watling on 49 and having dominated a 73-run seventh-wicket stand with Mitchell Santner, went for the pull shot but could not middle it, with the ball running off the face of the bat towards the keeper. A smart Imrul Kayes behind the wicket took it beautifully and appealed for a caught behind. But the umpire was unmoved and the stand-in keeper promptly asked for a review, which confirmed the dismissal.

Mahmudullah then struck with his fifth delivery, a simple leg-before decision against Tim Southee for one. The home side were quickly reduced to 473 for eight, 122 runs behind Bangladesh's imposing total. They went for tea at 492-8.

In the first session, Shakib Al Hasan struck for a second time just before lunch and it was opener Tom Latham. Batting on 177, the left-handed opener swept the ball but missed it completely and was adjudged leg-before.

It was Latham's highest Test score, beating his previous best of 137.

Shakib had earlier struck in the first hour when the left-arm spinner removed Henry Nicholls for 53. The New Zealand middle-order batsman was caught at leg slip by Miraz. His dismissal ended the 142-run fourth-wicket stand between Nicholls and opener Tom Latham with the score on 347 for four.

The home side lost another wicket after adding another 19 runs to the total. This time debutant right-arm pacer Subhshis Roy got his first Test wicket by removing Colin de Grandhomme after the batsman had hit him for a four and a six over deep square leg. It was a full ball and Grandhomme wanted to thrash it through the covers but could only manage an inside edge to Imrul behind the wicket after making 16.

Bangladesh took the second new ball after 80 overs but the pacers failed to make any impact on a day which was mostly cloudy and there is a possibility of rain.

Facebook

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That engineer will work on "developing advanced [brain-computer interface] technologies", according to the ad. That will involve using computers and artificial intelligence to work with "neuroimaging and electrophysiological data", according to the same listing.

Mark Zuckerberg has referred to a version of telepathy as the computer platform of the future, and the job ads suggest that Facebook is working on such technology. In a Q&A last year he described how people would be able to "capture a thought... in its ideal and perfect form in your head and share that with the world".

Other jobs in the Building 8 team -- which is apparently just being established -- include jobs looking for people capable of building a "communications and computing platform of the future".

That platform also seems to make use of new forms of interacting with computers. It requires that the person doing it has experience of "speech and audio signal processing algorithms and systems", and that those will be used to build the new system.

Another job listing reveals that Facebook is looking for a haptics specialist, who would help the company use touch interactions to build "realistic and immersive" experiences.

All of the jobs are listed as temporary, two-year contracts that require someone who is "slightly impatient". But it isn't clear when or even whether any of those projects will actually come to fruition, and whether they'll be included in Facebook products or entirely different, new projects.

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He led many killing

FROM PAGE 1
Awal's cook. After the execution of seven JMB leaders, including Awal, in 2007, Jahangir became a close accomplice of Nazrul and also received militant training from Nazrul.

In early 2013, JMB split into two factions, and Jahangir became an organiser and also a close accomplice of "Neo JMB" Chief Coordinator Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury.

Arrested on Friday night in Tangail, Jahangir is now being interrogated by CTTC officials during an eight-day remand.

Initially, Nazrul's murder left little clue for detectives, but the law enforcers later came to know about his fellow JMB members' link following the arrest of some "Neo JMB" leaders and activists.

After the killing of Nazrul, Jahangir joined "Neo JMB", an offshoot of JMB, following a meeting in a northern district. Chief "Neo JMB" Coordinator Tamim also attended the meeting in 2014, police officials said.

One of the "Neo JMB" spiritual leaders, Maulana Abul Kashem, teacher of a madrasa in Joyprhat, played a key role in introducing Jahangir to Tamim. Kashem has knowledge of religious issues and used to preach to the members of the outfit.

However, Monirul Islam, chief of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, yesterday said they were still trying to identify and arrest Kashem.

"Jahangir is also a member of the four-member board of Neo JMB, which makes decision on who is going to kill whom in northern Bangladesh," a high official of the CTTC unit told The Daily Star yesterday.

Because of Jahangir's expertise in recruiting members and targeted killings, Tamim appointed Jahangir as operational commander to carry out attacks on police in early July, days after the Gulshan café attack in which 20 hostages, mostly foreigners, were killed.

Monirul earlier said Jahangir was wanted in 22 militant attack cases which happened in northern

Bangladesh. He either directly took part or gave instructions to kill people.

A high official of CTTC unit, requesting anonymity, said they were now looking for at least two dozen more "Neo JMB" leaders and activists, including at least four high-level leaders.

High-level leaders Ripon and Khaled are believed to have fled to India and Sohel Mahfuz is believed to be in hiding somewhere in Bangladesh, said the official. Sohel is a close relative of Nurul Islam Marzan.

Law enforcers have been on the hunt for Sohel for many years.

Also known as "Hathkata Mahfuz", Sohel joined the banned organisation during its initial years under the command of first JMB chief Shaykh Abdur Rahman.

Abdur Rahman along with five others, including his deputy Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai and brother Ataur Rahman Sunny, was executed on March 29 in 2007