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## Mayhem over Facebook post

1 killed as police try to contain violence by zealots in Rangpur, 30 Hindu houses torched, 20 including 7 cops hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A man was killed and 20 others were hurt after police fired rubber bullets and teargas shells as violence flared up in Horkoli Thakurpara village of Rangpur yesterday over an alleged Facebook post "demeaning Islam".

At least 30 Hindu houses were burned and vandalised as religious zealots ran riot in the village in the afternoon and staged demonstrations blocking Dinajpur-Rangpur highway.

Law enforcers took action triggering a clash that left seven policemen, among others, injured.

The deceased was identified as Habibur Rahman. He died of bullet injuries at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) where 11 of those wounded were undergoing treatment.

Police arrested five people over the incident.

Titu Chandra Roy, son of late Khogen Roy of the village, "made the Facebook post" on November 5, said Jinnat Ali, officer-in-charge of Gangachara Police Station.

Alamgir Hossain, a trader from nearby Lalchandrapur village, under the district's Gangachara upazila, filed a case against Titu the same day, the OC added.

Titu, now in his 30s, has been living in Narayananj with his wife for around four years, local sources say. This newspaper could not reach him for comments.

It also could not be verified whether anyone else was handling his Facebook account or if it was hacked.



An elderly woman wails after zealots burned down her house in Horkoli Thakurpara village of Rangpur yesterday in a targeted attack over an alleged Facebook post "hurting religious sentiments". At least 30 Hindu houses were destroyed in the mayhem.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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## Rohingya children face harsh reality

36,373 orphaned children are now living in and around refugee camps; many are at risk of abuse, trafficking

MARTIN SWAPAN PANDEY, from Ukhia

When much of the camp around her is still fast asleep, Radia, 12, wakes up at 5:00am and quickly buries herself in her Quran study. Throughout the day, she spends as much time as she can -- eight to ten hours daily -- memorising the Arabic texts.

"This way, I try not to remember the things I have been through. But it doesn't work all the time," she says, pain etched on her face.

Both her parents were shot and killed by the Myanmar army inside their home at Throgbazar of Busidaung in the Rakhine State as the family was trying to escape the military crackdown in early September.

Amid intense firing, she hid in a nearby hill with some relatives. They came out of the hiding to bury her parents after the army left, said Radia, who reached Cox's Bazar

## Aid access still challenging

Says UN official about humanitarian efforts in Myanmar's Rakhine state

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Though the Myanmar authorities have agreed to allow the UN to resume food distribution in Rakhine, aid access in the state remains extremely challenging, says the UN.

"Our humanitarian colleagues tell us that aid access in Myanmar's northern Rakhine state remains extremely challenging, with the UN being granted almost no access by the government," Stéphane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN secretary-general, told reporters at the UN headquarters in New York on Thursday.

The international Red Cross movement (ICRC) was able to continue providing assistance in the area, he said.

"However, the needs remain high, with the Red Cross movement aiming to reach more than 180,000 people with assistance by the end of the year. Further humanitarian access and assistance is urgently needed."

Dujarric said the UN secretary-general has called for "full and unfettered access for aid workers in Myanmar, including in Rakhine State, to ensure that all those in need receive assistance."

As a result of the overall limitations on access, the UN

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## Jubo League men attack MP's event

The female MP taken to hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Some Awami League and Jubo League men allegedly assaulted party lawmaker Amatul Kibria Keya Chowdhury during a programme in Bahubal upazila of Habiganj yesterday evening over filming the event.

Later, the lawmaker fell unconscious while describing the incident at a roadside rally in the upazila's Mirpur area. She was admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Hamidul Karim, deputy director of Habiganj social

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## Chief justice's leave expires

Law minister not sure whether he extends leave; Sinha goes to Canada

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha is yet to inform the law minister anything about extension of his 39-day leave that expired yesterday.

"I don't know whether the chief justice has extended his leave," Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star last night.

He further said the CJ can rejoin office once he returns home from abroad.

Seeking anonymity, a close aide to the CJ told his correspondent that Justice Sinha, who went on leave on October 3 on health grounds, left Singapore yesterday for Canada to see his ailing daughter. Sinha flew to Singapore from Australia for treatment on November 6.

The aide, however, could not say whether the CJ informed the government or the Supreme Court authorities about the date of his return.



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Rohingyas from Myanmar cross the Naf River with an improvised raft made of empty plastic jerrycans to reach Teknaf of Cox's Bazar yesterday. Inset, refugees, including women and children, get off the raft at Sabrang point in Teknaf.



PHOTO: REUTERS

## IGP plays down abductions, disappearances

Says it's nothing new in the country

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday said abduction and enforced disappearances are nothing new in the country.

"The crimes have been taking place since the ancient period," he told journalists after inaugurating the newly-built main gate of Chandpur Police Lines.

The IGP made the remarks amid growing concerns over the disappearances of a journalist, a university teacher and at least eight others in recent times.

Asked about the disappearances of the journalist and the teacher, Shahidul said police were trying hard to rescue them.

He claimed that the law enforcers solved the mysteries behind 75 percent of the abduction cases and rescued the victims. "We can't solve the other 25 percent due to various problems."

He further claimed that many foreigners have praised the law and order situation in the country.

Utpal Das, a senior reporter of online news portal purboposhchimbd.news, went missing on October 10 while Mubashar Hasan, assistant professor of political science at North South University, on Tuesday in the capital, said their family members.

Plainclothes men picked up Tanvir Yasin Karim, a book importer, from his house in the capital on Wednesday morning.

According to rights body Ain o Salish Kendra, as many as 524 people have become victims of enforced disappearance between 2010 and October 2017 in Bangladesh and more than 334 of them are still missing.

## Human rights activists concerned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights activists have expressed concern over the recent incidents of enforced disappearance.

At least 10 people, including a journalist, a university teacher, a publisher and political leaders, have gone missing since August 22. Some of them were picked up by unidentified people, said their family members.

Rights body Ain o Salish Kendra says 334 of the 524 people, who allegedly became victims of enforced disappearance between 2010 and October 2017 across the country, are still missing.

Many of those who returned to their families never disclosed anything to the media about their abductors.

Eminent rights activist Sultana Kamal yesterday said, "Whenever any citizen goes missing this way, it has to be understood that there is no security at all. People are going missing and the issue is not being resolved. Such a crime is an extreme violation of human rights."

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