



About 500 people take part in the annual fishing festival on New Year's day yesterday at the Chalanbeel's Boral river in Bhangura upazila of Pabna.

PHOTO: STAR

Israel charges Palestinian woman in viral 'slap video'

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli authorities have filed charges against a Palestinian woman after a video showing her and her cousin slapping and kicking two Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank went viral.

Nour Tamimi, 20, had on December 15 along with Ahed Tamimi, 16, accosted two soldiers in their village of Nabi Saleh in the occupied West Bank.

The soldiers were in the yard of a home to prevent Palestinians from throwing stones at Israeli motorists nearby, according to the charges filed at the Ofer military court on Sunday.

Ahed Tamimi's family says the incident occurred in the yard of their home.

A video shows the cousins approaching two Israeli soldiers and telling them to leave before shoving, kicking and slapping them.

Ahed Tamimi is the most aggressive of the two in the video.

The heavily armed soldiers do not respond in the face of what appears to be an attempt to provoke rather than seriously harm them.

They then move backwards after Ahed Tamimi's mother Nariman becomes involved.

Nour Tamimi, who was arrested on December 20, was charged with aggravated assault of a soldier and disturbing soldiers carry out their duties, the indictment read.

She was set to appear in the Ofer court later yesterday for a hearing on whether she will be held in detention until her trial begins.

Ahed Tamimi and her mother will face the same military court for a hearing, during which the prosecution could announce its intention to press charges.

Ahed Tamimi, arrested on December 19, has been lauded as a hero by Palestinians who see her as bravely standing up to Israel's 50-year occupation of the West Bank.

She has been involved in a series of previous confrontations, leading Israelis to accuse her family of using her as a pawn in staged provocations.

Two 'Neo JMB'

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their plans from their possession, said Palash Kanti Nath, additional deputy commissioner of CMP, who led the drive.

The counter terrorism unit conducted the drive at a five-storey building around 12:30am and arrested them on the fourth floor, he said.

Palash said the arrestees were under the unit's custody for further quizzing.

'Missing' banker

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Wednesday saying that Shaikat went missing on Tuesday. They said he last informed his wife around 11:00am that he was going to his bank's head office in Gulshan from the Shyamoli branch on official work, and to meet a banker friend.

Factional clash

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group were locked in an altercation with those of Nabil Ahmed, another former assistant organising secretary of JCD Sylhet Metropolitan unit, in Court Point area over who would speak first at a rally.

At one stage, the two groups attacked each other with sticks and sharp weapons, injuring Shimu and eight others of both the groups. The injured were taken to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital where Shimu died later.

Wahab Miah, deputy commissioner (media) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said additional law enforcers had been deployed in the city to avoid any further untoward incidents.

US got nothing in return giving Pakistan \$33b

Says Trump

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump said yesterday that the United States has "foolishly" handed Pakistan more than \$33 billion in aid over the last 15 years while getting nothing in return and pledged to put a stop to it.

"They give safe haven to the terrorists we hunt in Afghanistan, with little help. No more!" Trump wrote on Twitter. "The United States has foolishly given Pakistan more than 33 billion dollars in aid over the last 15 years, and they have given us nothing but lies & deceit, thinking of our leaders as fools."

It was not immediately clear what prompted Trump's criticism of Pakistan but he has long complained that Islamabad is not doing enough to tackle Islamist militants.

The New York Times reported on Dec. 29 that the Trump administration was "strongly considering" whether to withhold \$255 million in aid to Pakistan.

It said US officials had sought but been denied access to a member of the Taliban-linked Haqqani network captured in Pakistan who potentially could provide information about at least one American hostage.

Pakistan's foreign minister, Khawaja M. Asif, wrote on Twitter: "We will respond to President Trump's tweet shortly inshallah... Will let the world know the truth..difference between facts & fiction."

The premier Bangladesh all-rounder has previously occupied the top spot in the ICC's rankings on and off. But the 2017 was a special year when he dominated the all-rounder's top spot in Tests, ODIs and T20Is for most part of the year.

"Among all-rounders, Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan was the runaway leader across formats with Ashwin-Jadeja (of India) in Tests, Mohammad Hafeez (of Pakistan) in ODIs and Glen Maxwell (of Australia) in T20Is snatching the baton from him at different points in time," the ICC said in a statement on Monday.

Shakib ended an eventful year as the top all-rounder in Tests and T20Is. Pakistan's Mohammad Hafeez finished the year as the top ODI all-rounder. But Shakib's dominance in all three formats was enviable. He led the Test all-rounder's ranking for 284 days, ODI ranking for 283 days and T20I for a stagger-

The Trump administration said in August that it was delaying sending the \$255 million in aid to Pakistan. Last month, Trump said in a speech the US government makes "massive payments every year to Pakistan. They have to help." Pakistan counters that it has launched military operations to push out militants from its soil and that 17,000 Pakistanis have died fighting militants or in bombings and other attacks since 2001.

The top US general in Afghanistan, John Nicholson, said in November that he had not seen a change in Pakistan's behavior toward militants, despite the Trump administration's tougher line against Islamabad.

In a speech last month in Afghanistan to US troops, Vice President Mike Pence said "for too long Pakistan has provided safe haven to the Taliban and many terrorist organizations, but those days are over. President Trump has put Pakistan on notice."

Hamdullah Mohib, Afghanistan's ambassador in Washington, said in a Twitter posting yesterday that Trump's tweet was a "promising message to Afghans who have suffered at the hands of terrorists based in Pakistan for far too long."

The Pakistan embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment yesterday.

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He has scored 665 runs in seven Tests in 2017. He also took 29 wickets with a 10-wicket haul against Australia being his best. His Test figures could have been even better had he not skipped Bangladesh's two-Test series against South Africa after the BCB granted his request for a break from the longer format.

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Shakib the runaway leader

FROM PAGE 1

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At least 3 new faces

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ministry would be appointed.

Sources close to Kazi Keramat Ali, lawmaker from Rajbari-1, said he also got a phone call from the Cabinet Division to be at the Bangabhaban.

Keramat Ali, a four-time MP and the chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on government assurances, might be made a full minister, sources in the AL said.

A presidium member close to the PM also told The Daily Star that Mustafa Jabbar, president of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services, best known for being the creator of software Bijoy, would be included in the cabinet.

Jabbar is a close ally of the ruling party. He worked on its manifesto "Digital Bangladesh" before the 2008 polls.

Sources said making him a minister would be a reward for his contribution to the ICT sector.

In late 2014, Minister Abdul Latif Siddique was sacked from post and telecommunications ministry after he made "anti-hajj comments" at a programme in New York.

asked to be at the Bangabhaban this evening.

"I got a call in the afternoon. I have been invited to the Bangabhaban tomorrow [today] at 6:00pm," he said.

On July 14, 2015, the PM as part of a major reshuffle in her then one-and-a-half-year cabinet, promoted Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal to home minister, while Yeafesh Osman was promoted to science and technology minister.

She also made Nurul Islam BSC a technocrat minister giving him the charge of expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry.

At that time, actress Tarana Halim, lawmaker from a reserved seat for women, was made state minister for post and telecommunication while lawmaker Md Nuruzzaman was made state minister for food.

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Pranab due on Jan 14

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Former Indian President Pranab Mukherjee is expected to pay his first private visit to Bangladesh on January 14 to attend a literary conference and to address programmes of two private universities in Dhaka.

He is likely to deliver speeches at the convocations of the universities and address the concluding session of the Nikhil Bharat Banga Sahitya Sammelan on January 15.

The former Indian president is also expected to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and President Abdul Hamid.

During his visit, he may visit the site of the Chittagong Army Loot by a band of freedom fighters which was masterminded by Masterda Surja Sen in 1930.

Mukherjee had visited Bangladesh with relief materials in 1988 when it was hit by severe floods. His maiden visit to Bangladesh as president was in March 2013.

Twenty-four leaders and activists of the Awami League and its associate bodies were killed and over 300 others suffered splinter injuries in the August 21 attack on an AL rally in 2004.

Many of the injured became crippled for life while Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, then opposition leader, narrowly escaped with ear injuries.

Of the 49, eight accused, including three former inspector generals of police, are now on bail while 18, including Tarique, have been absconding.

Twenty-three accused, including former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar and ex-deputy minister for education Abdus Salam Pintu, now behind bars, were produced before the court yesterday.

The highest punishment for criminal conspiracy is death.

PROSECUTION'S SUBMISSIONS

Rezaur took around two hours to complete his submissions to the makeshift court set up at a building on the city's Nazimuddin Road. He was assisted by several lawyers, including Akram Uddin Shyamol and Farhana Reza.

During the BNP-Jamaat rule until October 2006, the investigators were out to misdirect the probe to protect the real culprits, according to the prosecution.

During the tenure of the last caretaker government, charge sheets in the two cases were filed against 22 people, including Abdus Salam Pintu and 21 Huji men, including Mufti Hannan.

However, the investigators could not identify the mastermind and the sources of the grenades used in the attack, the prosecution said.

A further probe into the cases was launched in 2009 to find out the source of the grenades.

A supplementary charge sheet was submitted against 30 accused, including Tarique, Lutfuzzaman Babar and former Jamaat secretary general Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, in July 2011.

In March 2012, the tribunal indicted 52 accused, including Tarique, on murder charges while 41 accused were indicted in the case filed under the Explosive Substances Act.

The 11 other accused in the murder case were not implicated in the explosive case. They include three former IGP, three ex-CID officials, two former senior police officials, Khaleda's nephew Duke, and two former army officers ATM Amin and Saiful Islam Joarder.

The court conducted the two cases simultaneously.

Jamaat leader Mojaheed has already been executed for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War while Mufti Hannan and another Huji man were executed in the case filed over the grenade attack on former British high commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Chowdhury in Sylhet.

Their names were dropped from the cases.

Prosecution demands

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Judge Shahed Nuruddin of the tribunal set today for hearing the defence arguments, when state-appointed lawyer Chaitanya Chandra Halder for Mohammad Hanif, a fugitive accused and owner of Hanif Paribahan, will place his arguments.

The prosecution on December 27 completed its closing arguments on facts. Yesterday, Rezaur took around two hours to complete his submissions to the makeshift court set up at a building on the city's Nazimuddin Road. He was assisted by several lawyers, including Akram Uddin Shyamol and Farhana Reza.

They destroyed the evidence to save the real culprits, he said, adding that the accused did not allow the victims' family members to file cases. Instead, they filed a case through a policeman to save the culprits, he said.

To divert the incident, the accused forced several people, including Jojo Mia, to give false confessional statements and attempted to implicate 28 innocent people with the attack, the chief prosecutor told the court.

Babar and several other accused helped Tajuddin, an accused who supplied grenades, to leave the country with a fake passport, Rezaur said, adding that the accused performed their duties as per the criminal conspiracy hatched in those meetings.

After the attack, a case was filed with Motijheel Police Station on August 22, 2004.

The CID submitted two charge sheets, one for hatching conspiracy and killing and another for supplying and using grenades. The second charge sheet was filed under the Explosive Substances Act.

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