Impose arms embargo on Myanmar army

Asean Parliamentarians for Human Rights suggest targeted sanctions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Asean Parliamentarians for Human Rights yesterday demanded that the Southeast Asian regional bloc mount pressure on Myanmar to ensure safe and voluntary repatriation of the Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh.

It also wants the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to hold talks with India, China and Russia in order to impose an arms embargo and targeted sanctions on the Myanmar military accused of ethnic cleansing.

"It is their [China, Russia and India] arms being used against the Rohingyas," said Asean Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) Chairperson Charles Santiago at a press conference following a fourday visit to Bangladesh.

"We urge the Asean foreign ministers to hold an emergency meeting to discuss the Rohingya repatriation plan and put pressure on Myanmar to take the onus of the repatriation," he added.

A fact-finding mission of APHR Cox's Bazar, MPs of Bangladesh, and

officials of Bangladesh government and the UN in last four days.

city

They lauded Bangladesh for sheltering more than 688,000 refugees who fled military crackdown in Rakhine since August 25. However, they were also critical of the repatriation deal signed between Bangladesh and Myanmar on November 23.

The repatriation was scheduled to begin on January 23 amid concerns from the refugees as well as from the international community on the safety issue in Rakhine.

"Most of the Rohingyas we talked to said they want to return to Rakhine because they were born there and lived there for decades. They had their houses and property but cannot return under the present circumstances," said Charles Santiago, an MP from the Democratic Action Party of Malaysia.

Based on the talks with the Rohingyas, the fact-finding mission said the refugees have four specific demands -- ensuring safety in Rakhine, compensating them as their houses and property were damaged and memtalked to the Rohingya refugees in bers of their community killed and SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



average traffic speed is just above walking speed and it could be worse in the coming years if measures are not taken.



Son beats up mother mercilessly

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Lying on a hospital bed, 55-year-old Bulbuli Begum could barely keep her eyes open. Her right leg was swollen and there were bruises all over her hands. Doctor said there were many more injury marks on her body.

The woman was tied to a tree and beaten mercilessly allegedly by her son in Satnai Balapara village of Nilphamari's Dimla yesterday morning. Her only "fault" was she did not let him take loans from others by

mortgaging her land. Bulbuli's husband Rafigul Islam demanded immediate arrest of Liton, their 30-year-old son who went into hiding soon after the incident.

Rafigul, 60, said his wife inherited some land from her father at some important places in the upazila. On several occasions, Liton took money from others after convincing Bulbuli to mortgage her property.

"I have two sons and my elder son [Liton] seems to be totally spoiled. He does many illicit things," he said.

"On Tuesday night, Liton again took Tk 50,000 from a person against a 15-decimal plot in Kharibari market area. At this, Bulbuli became furious and asked him to return the money."

Over the same matter, the mother and the son had a fight yesterday morning when there was no one else at home. At one point, Liton tied her to a tree on their yard and started to beat her with a stick. Bulbuli fainted a couple of minutes later, according to Rafiqul and witnesses, who wanted to remain unnamed.

Their neighbours took Bulbuli to

words. She could only say her

Liton fled.

Dimla upazila health complex. Talking to The Daily Star there, Bulbuli was fumbling for the right

attacker was her son. Rasheduzzaman Rashed, residential medial officer at the hospital, said the woman was beaten brutally and

was still traumatised. Dimla Upazila Nirbahi Officer

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UNO, 2 govt staffers face defamation

charges UNB, Habiganj

A Tk 1-crore defamation case has been filed against the Azmiriganj upazila nirbahi officer and two other government staffers for tearing off a festoon with photographs of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her ICT Affairs Adviser

Sajeeb Wazed Joy. Upazila Jubo League member Joydeep Roy Jony filed the case against UNO Pulak Kanti Chakrabarty, Upazila Project Implementation Officer Mohammad Ali and work assistant Md Sakaria of

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'Innovation' in tax dodging

FROM PAGE 1 RamaDBK Limited. The LC issued by the First Security Islami Bank Limited (FSIBL) against the consignment showed the invoice value at \$47,400 (around Tk 39 lakh).

According to the tariff rules, the tax on import of such vehicles is 366.06 percent. This means the total tax against the invoice value was Tk 1.43 crore. But a tampered LC was submitted to

invoice value to \$27,400 (about Tk 22.75 lakh). This helped the company dodge tax of around Tk 60 lakh by paying Tk 83 lakh in tax.

the customs authorities, lowering the

Atiar Rahman, C&F agent responsible for releasing the consignment, said it was a mistake.

"We are ready to cooperate with the authorities in all possible ways. The certification letter, not an LC. authorities informed us that around Tk 1.5 crore has to be paid in tax against this consignment.

"We have already paid around Tk 90 agent. lakh. We are ready to pay the rest of the money as well as a fine if imposed by the authorities," he added.

Directorate officials filed a case with the customs house against the importer and the C&F agent on December 3. The case is yet to be disposed of. Earlier on November 8 last year,

Apparel Options Private Limited in Chittagong's Chatteshwari area imported goods worth Tk 1.5 crore in a consignment from China against the Free of Cost (FOC) facility. The company forged the certifica-

tion letter issued by the United Commercial Bank Ltd, the commercial invoice, the packing list as well as the sales contract.

In case of FOC, a bank issues a

Directorate officials on November 15 filed a case with the customs house against the importer and the C&F

The customs authorities also seized consignments of several other firms for forging bank documents. Those include FT Corporation, AS Enterprise, Sardar Agro Products, Yunus Auto Rice Mill and exporter M/S SM Design.

Himalaya, a firm based in the capital's Motijheel, gave a declaration of importing two elevators worth \$9,950 (around Tk 8.25 lakh) from China in December. But examining the container, the customs officials found 175 photocopiers worth around Tk 1 crore, instead of elevators.

The firm doctored all the documents, including the LC and packing list, submitted against the consignment. The Chittagong Express Agency was responsible for releasing the consignment, said several officials at the Audit Investigation and Research Department of the customs house.

recommendations for taking action against the culprits, the higher authorities let them off the hook by only slapping fines. As per the Customs Act 1969, the

customs officials said that despite their

and the C&F agents involved in such forgery. However, this Act is hardly enforced, they pointed out. Asked, AKM Nuruzzaman, commissioner of the customs house, said they have taken steps to stop such tax eva-

sion and also ensure that the culprits

authorities can confiscate goods and

cancel the licences of the importers

are brought to book. Talking to this correspondent, National Board of Revenue Member Lutfor Rahman (customs policy) said they have already taken some measures to check such tax dodging.

"We will have a tougher approach towards such fraudulence and hope these measures will yield positive Seeking anonymity, a number of results in the coming days," he added.

Ship-breaking bill passed in parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament last night passed "Bangladesh Ship Recycling Bill, 2018", which has provisions for imprisonment and fines for violation of the law.

According to the bill placed by Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu, a zone would be established in Chittagong for the ship-recycling industry under section 4 of the draft law and the owners would have to run

The draft law makes it mandatory for yard owners to have the lives of

by the relevant international laws and conventions, the bill said.

The bill said if anyone established a yard without permits, the punishment could be up to two years' jail or a fine between Tk 10 lakh and Tk 30 lakh or

The punishment for importing a ship without a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the shipping ministry was

Tk 10 lakh and Tk 30 lakh. Recycling a ship without NOC

and Tk 30 lakh. The punishment for producing a

fake NOC was set at five years' jail or a fine between Tk 5 lakh and Tk 20 lakh. In the case of setting up yards outside the zone, the punishment would

between Tk 10 lakh and Tk 30 lakh, according to the bill.

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forgers held

The Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested four members of two separate money counterfeiting gangs and seized fake Indian rupees worth Rs 12.28 lakh and Bangladeshi currency worth Tk 20 lakh from their posses-

The arrestees -- Duruduzzaman Biswas alias Jaman, Tariqul Islam, Mojibur Rahman and Joynal Abedin -were arrested from Dhaka, Gazipur

A team of DB (north) arrested Duruduzzaman and Tariqul from the capital's Farmgate area and Rajshahi and seized the fake Indian currencies from their possession, said Devdas sioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police

laptops and scanners.

While addressing a briefing at DMP media centre, AC Devdas said the DB Duruduzzaman was involved in money counterfeiting business since 1988.

cases. He was arrested by Adabar police in April last year. After securing bail, he went back to his old profession.

Gleaning information from him, the team arrested Tariqul from Raipara area of Rajshahi along with Rs 10.28

During primary interrogation, the arrestees admitted that they used to sell the fake rupees in the bordering areas. They used to sell one lakh rupees

Attackers indeed from BCL FROM PAGE 1 attack by "outsiders" and "Chhatra Dal VC, although the protestors had a across the country on January 29, protest-

harassed female students and beat up the protest coordinator, before handing him over to the authorities.

On that day, demonstrators were staging a sit-in before the VC's office demanding cancellation of the affilia-

tion of seven colleges with the DU. Sources at the proctor's office said that the DU authorities called in the

BCL men on both occasions. Both the DU authorities and the BCL denied the claim.

On Tuesday, more than 100 demonstrators -- comprising leftist student leaders and general students -- besieged the VC's office after breaking down three gates -- the main entrance of the Registrar Building and two more inside. The VC was holding a meeting inside.

"Normally, the gates remain open. But the authorities locked all the gates preventing us from meeting the VC. So we broke them to place our demands," said Tuhin Kanti Das, DU unit president of Chhatra Union.

However, at one point, BCL men led by its General Secretary SM Jakir Hossain and its DU unit President Abid Al Hasan swung into action to escort the VC away, punching, slapping, kicking and beating up students and leftist leaders with iron rods,

witnesses and victims said. The BCL denied the claim, saying it

was the BCL men who came under an

activists".

But photographs published in newspapers and video footage aired on TV channels tell a different story.

They show BCL leaders and activists, including Assistant Secretary of central unit Ashraful Alam, Office Affairs Secretary of Bangabandhu Hall unit Sadikur Rahman and its Vicepresident Mehedi Hasan Shanto and Publication Affairs Secretary Saidur Rahman Shanto of the same unit, Mohsin Hall BCL activist Elahi hasan, Organising Secretary Abu Said and activist Md Sajjad of Ziaur Rahman Hall unit beating up the protestors

They also show female Chhatra League leaders including Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall unit President Benjeer Hossain Nishi, Ruqiayyah Hall unit President BM Lipi Akter, Kuwait Moitri Hall unit President BM Farida Parvin and General Secretary Srabony Shaila were seen beating up female students and

with iron rods and sticks.

tearing up their dresses. However, the female BCL leaders claimed that the protestors assaulted them and that they took treatment at the the DU Medical Centre. They also posted photos of "taking treatment" on Facebook and demanded punishment of

those "who attacked them and the VC". In fact, there was no attack on the

long, heated argument with him over their demands.

Interestingly, although the BCL leaders admitted that they were present at the scene, DU Proctor Prof AKM Golam Rabbani yesterday claimed that no BCL activists were there.

Asked if he called in the BCL men, he told reporters at the VC's office that they were not in a situation to call anyone.

Asked how the BCL activists then came to "rescue" them, he said, "I have already given you my reply." In a press release on Tuesday night,

the university authorities said that some agitating students of the university and some outsiders launched a pre-planned attack in the name of demonstration. The release made no mention of the BCL attack on the protestors.

Contacted, BCL's DU unit President Abid Al Hasan yesterday claimed they went to the VC's office on information from general students. "Rescuing the VC was our moral duty." Meanwhile, amid criticism over the

Tuesday's attack, BCL men carried out similar attacks at Chittagong University and MC College in Sylhet yesterday, injuring nearly 30 students (see separate story on page 3).

In another development, Pragatisheel Chhatra Jote, an alliance of left leaning student organisations, yesterday called for a strike at all educational institutions

ingTuesday's incident. They will hold a rally at the base of

Raju Sculpture at the DU on January 26 and a nationwide demonstration on January 28, said Imran Habib, coordinator of the alliance. General students under the banner of "Students against repression" at

point demand, including a fair investigation into the attack. BCL leaders and activists under the banner of "Shacheton Shadharan Shikhkharthibrinda" too staged a sitin in front of VC's office around noon yesterday, demanding punishment of those who "attacked the VC and

assaulted their female leaders". 'CRIMINALS FROM OUTSIDE' In a press release, Dhaka University Teachers' Association expressed con-

cern over the "unwanted" incident before the VC's office. The Association does not believe DU students can commit acts like vandalism and destruction of univer-

sity properties and misbehaving with

teachers, officials and employees and

attempting to attack the VC, it said. "It appears that it was an attempt by criminals from outside to create unrest on the camps and thus create instability in the country ahead of the election as part of a conspiracy by a vested quarter," it said.

IS attacks aid group office in Afghanistan

FROM PAGE 16

said the last attacker was killed.

"The fight is over," the provincial governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani told reporters.

Authorities said they believed six at least some of them were in police uniform, a commonly used tactic.

Two of the dead were guards at the compound, and one was a civilian. It was not clear if the other two dead were attackers or civilians, the spokesman said. The raid began with a huge blast at

around 9:00 am that rocked the neighbourhood, where other aid groups and government buildings are based. "Right after that children and peo-

ple started running away," said Ghulam Nabi, who was nearby when the bomb exploded. "I saw a vehicle catch fire and then a gunfight started."

Islamic State said the attack targeted British, Swedish and Afghan government institutions in a statement on its Amaq news agency. Save the Children was founded in Britain, and a Swedish aid group office and a building of the group representative said in an attackers were involved. Witnesses said Afghan Department of Women's emailed statement. Affairs are near the compound. The attack underlines how difficult

operating in Afghanistan has become for humanitarian aid groups, which have faced heavy pressure from armed groups and kidnappers. In 2017, a total of 17 aid workers were killed and 32 injured in the country.

OUTRAGEOUS Save the Children, which says it

reaches almost 1.4 million children in attack. Afghanistan, said it had suspended its operations temporarily and closed its offices in Afghanistan, where it works in eight provinces as well as in three others through partnership agree-

"We remain committed to resuming

our operations and lifesaving work as quickly as possible, as soon as we can be assured that it is safe to do so," a In October, the Red Cross said it was

Afghanistan following attacks that killed seven of its staff. "An attack against an organisation

Civilians and aid workers must not be targeted," said Monica Zanarelli, head of the Red Cross delegation in Afghanistan, in response to yesterday's "Increased violence has made oper-

ating in Afghanistan increasingly difficult for many organisations."

government has been under heavy

drastically reducing operations in

that helps children is outrageous. casualties.

President Ashraf Ghani, whose

condemned the attack in a statement in which he called on neighbouring countries not to help militant groups. Jalalabad is the capital of Nangarhan province on the porous border with

pressure to improve security, also

Pakistan. The province has become a stronghold of Islamic State, which has grown into one of Afghanistan's most dangerous militant groups since it appeared around the beginning of 2015. Backed by intensive US air strikes, Afghan forces have claimed growing

success against the Taliban and other militant groups, including Islamic State, but militant attacks on civilian targets have continued, causing heavy The attack in Jalalabad came just days after Taliban militants attacked

including 13 foreigners.

the Hotel Intercontinental in the capital, Kabul, killing at least 20 people,

their yards there.

every employee in their yards insured. The yards would also have to abide

set at two years' jail or a fine between

could result in a jail sentence of up to two years or a fine between Tk 10 lakh

another press conference placed a fivebe up to two years' jail or a fine

Four currency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

sions on Tuesday night.

and Rajshahi.

Bhattacharya, additional commis-(DMP) yesterday. The DB team also seized equipment used for making fake notes, printers,

team first arrested Duruduzzaman in front of Shuktara Hotel at Farmgate. Duruduzzaman is an accused in six

lakh, said AC Devdas.

for Tk 8,000.

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