

# Clash kills Rohingya woman in refugee camp

UNB, Cox's Bazar

A Rohingya woman was killed and four people were injured in a clash between two groups of displaced Myanmar nationals at a camp in Teknaf yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Ansar Begum, 35, wife of M Ilias of Block-B of Nayapara Rohingya camp. Officer-in-Charge of Teknaf Model Police Station Ranjit Barua said an altercation ensued between two groups of Rohingyas around 3:00pm over setting up a shop at the camp.

Later, the feuding groups got engaged in a clash and attacked each other with sharp weapons, he said, adding that Ansar Begum died on the spot and four other Rohingyas suffered injuries in the clash.

The injured were taken to Teknaf Upazila Health Complex, the OC added.

# Man kills

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Hira – were returning home from Parerhat Bazar area when Apan allegedly swooped on the trio with a sharp weapon near Parerhat Sea Police Outpost, said police, quoting witnesses. Hearing screams, locals rushed to the spot, caught Apan and handed him over to police.

The locals also rescued the father and his two daughters and took them to Pirojpur Sadar Hospital where doctors declared Jahangir and Ripa dead.

Shakil Sarwar, on-duty doctor at the hospital, said the two were dead on arrival.

# Gagged, mugged

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is lucky enough as he escaped death. A car driver who incidentally witnessed the incident helped police arrest the eight criminals.

Elias is a class-X student at Gopalpur Ali Haidar High School in Noakhali's Begumganj upazila. He was visiting the city.

The arrestees, aged between 14 and 21, are Md Ibrahim, Al Amin, Ariful Islam, Samsul Haque Arman, Md Rakib, Md Masud, Md Rabiul, and Md Mohim, the highway police said.

"The arrestees are transport workers and they used to work as drivers and helpers in buses plying between Sitakunda and Chittagong city," said Rafique Ahamed Mazumder, traffic inspector at Faujdardhat highway police outpost, adding that the muggers were handed over to Sitakunda police.

Quoting Elias, Sergeant Saiful Islam of the outpost said he first sat beside the driver's seat and later one of the muggers asked him to sit in the back.

When he sat there, the muggers first gagged him and started beating him up, said Saiful.

Traffic Inspector Rafique told The Daily Star that when the muggers pushed Elias off the bus, a car driver noticed it and started chasing the bus and managed to block the vehicle by placing his car in front of it near Faujdardhat police outpost. Bus driver Ibrahim was arrested then.

Police later arrested seven others with the help of locals and admitted Elias to a Sitakunda hospital, said Sergeant Saiful.

A case was filed against the eight arrestees with Sitakunda Police Station.

# Iconic lensman

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Bangladesh, Vietnam, the Middle East, Iran, Chile and Cuba as well as documenting South Africa under apartheid.

"He was a godfather for an entire generation of young photographers," Magnum president Thomas Dworzak said.

"An Iranian transplanted to Paris, he was a citizen of the world who documented without rest wars, disasters, revolutions and uprisings." Abbas was "a great gentleman and one of the best photographers I have ever met," Jean-Francois Leroy, director of the 'Visa pour l'image' photography festival in Perpignan, southern France, wrote on Twitter. "Abbas was a great among the greats," Reporters Without Borders president Pierre Haski said on Twitter. "His work was huge and covered so many areas."

Abbas travelled the world to learn about religion, a fascination born out of the Islamic Revolution in his home country, which he covered from 1978 to 1980, before exiling himself for 17 years.

"He is someone who had big and very committed documentary projects, and for the long term," said photography historian Clara Bouveresse, author of a reference book on Magnum.

"His book on the Iranian revolution in 1980 was a way of telling this event in detail with a sequence, a narration. He was someone for whom the way of organising images, of sequencing them, counted enormously," she said.

# Yaba trader killed

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for killing Freedom Party Leader Mostafizur Rahman Mostafa in 1996.

"Arif walked out of Keraniganj Jail on bail faking documents just two weeks ago. He spent around Tk 5 lakh for the arrangement," said a top official of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CITC) who had been on a hunt for Arif since his name surfaced as a yaba trader.

"We got some names of people who have helped Arif in the process of obtaining bail by faking documents. We will bring them to book," the official said, requesting anonymity.

According to police sources, Arif took shelter in the capital's Mohammadpur initially after getting bail, though he began his involvement in the regular illegal business again.

Based on information, a team of Munshiganj police arrested Arif around 10:00pm on Wednesday from Durgabara area of Munshiganj while he was waiting to deliver a consignment, Gazi Salauddin, inspector (investigation) of Munshiganj police station, told The Daily Star.

Two of his associates, however, managed to flee from the spot, he said, adding that police recovered 110 pieces of yaba pills from his trouser pockets.

"As Arif was also wanted in arms cases, we interrogated him about it and he gave us a location in Gajarikandi village," said Salauddin.

When police was going to raid the village around 2:30am with Arif, his associates stopped them in Katakhal area and a "gunfight" ensued as the miscreants began firing, forcing police to retaliate, he said.

Arif came in the line of fire and the duty doctors declared him dead after he was rushed to Munshiganj General Hospital for treatment, added

# Mayhem

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(Chittagong zone) told The Daily Star that the police launched a drive against CNG-run auto rickshaws yesterday following a High Court ban on the three-wheelers on highways across the country. They seized two auto-rickshaws and took those to the police station.

"After a few minutes, around 200 people on 50 to 60 CNG-run auto rickshaws came to the police station and started hurling bricks and stones off the station," the ASP said. He also claimed that at one point a driver named Shahidul Islam snatched a gun from a police constable and tried to flee.

Later, police opened fired shots in the air and charged batons to bring the situation under control and held Shahidul with the firearms. Farhad said three police constables were injured during the melee.

None of the protestors could be reached for any comments.

The constables-- Rubel, Mobarak and Saleh Nur-- were admitted to hospital, said the ASP.

A case was lodged in this connection.

# Tragedy strikes

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Mofazzal, who works at a garment factory, rushed to his village in Baigari village of Birganj yesterday. Grief-stricken, he could hardly speak to this correspondent.

"I just wanted better treatment for my wife and my child. How could this happen to me?" he lamented.

SM Kibria, sub-inspector at Dhap Police Outpost in Rangpur, said the ambulance rammed the parked lorry, leaving Monira dead on the spot.

Locals rescued the others and rushed them to RMCH in critical condition. Opia and Tusher died later, he said.

Dr Salma at the RMCH emergency unit said the three injured were still in a bad condition.

Officer-in-Charge Babul Mia of Rangpur Sadar Police Station said they seized the ambulance.

# Tk 10cr, some puzzles

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bags in front of four witnesses (one resident of the flat and three security guards), the statement read.

However, talking with The Daily Star two security guards said they could not go inside the flat during the raid and that the Rab seized their phones. They were made to sit with two Rab officials at the main gate.

They were given back their phones after the raid ended around 3:45am, they claimed.

"The Rab officials came around 2:00am and said they would go to Mosharaf sir's flat. We asked them to speak on the intercom, but they didn't let us do it," one security guard said, asking not to be named.

The Daily Star tried to speak with his family members yesterday, but the security guards there said they were not home.

This paper also went to his office, which is close to his house, for comments. One official said there was nobody there authorised to speak to the media.

Asked, two of his employees claimed Mosharaf went abroad a week ago.

Contacted last night, Lt Col Md Anwar Uzzaman, commanding officer

Salauddin. Police also recovered a pistol, two bullets and two sharp weapons from the spot.

Searching the Crime Data Management System (CDMS), police found that Arif was wanted in at least 12 cases, said Inspector Salauddin.

Arif was arrested by police a number of times but he managed to get bail.

On March 10, a team of Narayanjanj Detective Branch of police arrested Arif's wife Sabina Yesmin Runu from Munshiganj.

Just a day before the arrest, the district DB police arrested an assistant sub-inspector of Narayanjanj Sadar Model Police Station and recovered 50,000 yaba pills in his possession. The ASI, Suhrawardy Rubel, later disclosed Runu's name as the source of those yaba pills and DB police later arrested her. She is currently in jail.

On the other hand, locals of Panchashar union, upon hearing the news of Arif's death, expressed their joy by distributing sweets.

# 6-year-old

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Medical College Hospital for further treatment."

Deputy Director of the Bogra Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, Nirmalendu Chowdhury said, "We have begun treatment after she was admitted here yesterday. Her condition has improved a little."

He added that the forensic exams are yet to take place.

Although we did not get any written complain, I had sent a sub-inspector (SI) Mizanur Rahman to inspect the incident, officer-in-charge of the Shibganj police station Shahid Mahmud said

SI Mizanur told The Daily Star that he heard of the incident upon visiting the victim's house, but did not find the accused or his family members.

Incidents of child rape have made headlines of late.

On February 20, a six-year-old was allegedly raped in Narayanjanj, a five-year-old in Cox's Bazar on March 26, a 10-year-old in Chittagong on April 18 and a five-year-old was allegedly raped in Faridpur on April 20.

# EU extends

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In December the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution asking Guterres to appoint a UN special envoy on Myanmar, putting a special focus of the world body on trying to help resolve the crisis.

Myanmar UN Ambassador Hau Do Suan did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Wednesday on Guterres' plan to appoint Schraner Burgener, who was previously Switzerland's ambassador to Thailand.

UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said on Wednesday that he expected an announcement of an appointment "in the coming days."

UN Security Council envoys are due to travel to Bangladesh and Myanmar shortly to assess the situation.

Hau Do Suan told Reuters earlier this month that his country welcomed "any constructive engagement and counsel of any kind from the international community to advance human rights."

However, he said Myanmar does not believe the appointment of a special envoy "will solve the multi-faceted and complex situation of Myanmar unless his or her mandate is carried out based on the principle of respect for the sovereignty and dignity of the country concerned, objectivity and impartiality."

He noted that the position would need the full cooperation of the government and people of Myanmar to work.

# Cosby found

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expletive-laden tirade as prosecutors argued he was a flight risk.

The verdict was a vindication for the prosecution, after Cosby's first trial ended with the sequestered jurors hopelessly deadlocked after 52 hours of deliberations.

It also ended a winning streak for Los Angeles lawyer Tom Mesereau, who leapt to fame for getting Michael Jackson acquitted of child molestation in 2005, but who ultimately failed to deliver for Cosby.

A case with no physical evidence, the trial essentially boiled down to he-said, she-said, hinging on how credible the jury found 45-year-old Constand, a former basketball player turned massage therapist.

'COULD NOT FIGHT HIM OFF' The Canadian woman said she went to Cosby's home to discuss her impending resignation as director of operations for women's basketball at Temple University, where he was on the board of trustees.

The actor offered her three blue pills to "help take the edge off," which she took believing they were a natural remedy.

"I trusted him," Constand said. But within minutes, she developed double vision, started slurring her words and lost consciousness.

When she came to, she said Cosby was penetrating her vagina with his fingers, groping her breasts and making her masturbate him.

"I was limp and I could not fight him off," she said.

When Constand first reported the assault, the district attorney at the time initially refused to press charges.

Prosecutors reopened the case in 2015, nearly a decade after she signed a \$3.4 million settlement with Cosby in 2006, claiming that new evidence had come to light just as other accusers came forward.

Around 60 women, many of them onetime aspiring actresses and models, came forward publicly to brand him a calculating, serial predator who plied victims with sedatives and alcohol to bed them over four decades.

Crucial to the second trial was Judge Steven O'Neill's decision to let five other women testify how Cosby had preyed on them in a similar manner, to demonstrate "common plan, scheme or design."

# EU concerned

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political, economic, cultural and social rights.

The EU recalled the importance of strengthening the rule of law and both sides underlined the contribution of the civil society to a functioning democracy, the release said.

A visiting EU delegation raised the issues and also discussed the preparation of the next general election in Bangladesh at the biennial meeting of the Subgroup on Good Governance and Human Rights in the framework of the EU-Bangladesh Cooperation Agreement held in Dhaka on Tuesday, the release said.

At the meeting, the EU expressed its expectations that the government of Bangladesh will ensure that the conditions for credible, transparent and inclusive elections will be in place.

In response, the government of Bangladesh has assured the EU that it would provide all-out support to the Election Commission in holding a free, fair and credible election in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh side requested the EU to continue providing political and other supports in returning the Rohingyas to Myanmar in safe, dignified and sustainable manner.

The EU expressed its commitment to continue mobilising political support and humanitarian assistance to help bring about a lasting solution to this crisis, including the safe, dignified and voluntary return of the Rohingyas, the release added.

Five years after the tragedy of the Rana Plaza collapse, the EU noted the progress made so far under the Sustainability Compact, notably on safety of working places, but urged that more needed to be done in terms of aligning Bangladesh labour legislation with international labour conventions and their implementation.

The EU underlined the urgency to address the alleged acts of violence and harassment against trade unionists and the trade union leaders, and investigate those. The EU called on Bangladesh to ensure proper implementation of labour law in respect of registration of trade unions and urged to bringing in line with the ILO Convention on freedom of association, its draft law on Export Processing Zones.

Muhammad Shahidul Haque, senior secretary of the law ministry, led the Bangladesh delegation, while Caroline Vinot, head of division, regional affairs and South Asia in the European External Action Service, led the EU team.

Diplomats from several EU member states also attended the meeting as observers.

# Macron slams 'Trumpism'

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multilateralism. You're the ones now who have to help to preserve and reinvent it," he said, in a tacit nod to Trump's efforts to shake off international shackles.

In doing so, he flipped the script of the trip -- the Trump White House's first full state visit -- which was until now dominated by intimate images of the French and US first couples planting trees, exchanging kisses and socializing.

Trump at one point brushed Macron's shoulder and said: "He is perfect."

Transatlantic political reality reasserted itself Wednesday, however, as Macron -- speaking in an accented but increasingly confident English -- recalled the glories of past US-French cooperation.

Trump's trade sanctions against European steel and aluminum will enter into force in coming weeks unless Trump agrees to sign a waiver. Despite his affection for Macron, he has not yet said he will do so.

Macron hit back.

"We need a free and fair trade, for sure," Macron said. "A commercial war opposing allies is not consistent with our mission, with our history, with our current commitments for global security."

Trump has also warned he may not renew sanctions waivers on Iran next month, which would effectively torpedo the 2015 nuclear deal, a triumph of multilateral diplomacy.

Together with Trump, Macron called Tuesday for a more comprehensive "new" deal with Tehran, but made clear to lawmakers that France would not be walking away from the existing accord.

Several Democrats said they were impressed by Macron's impassioned call for US engagement on multiple fronts, particularly on climate change and Iran.

House Democrat Adam Schiff judged that Macron had offered "more of a direct contradiction of the president than I was expecting."

"There were more than a few uncomfortable moments on the GOP side of the aisle," he told AFP.

But Republican Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said he didn't feel Macron had rebuked his host.

"He said in there that he believes in free and fair trade. That's exactly what the president asked for," McCarthy said.

Macron's provocative speech came after he enjoyed an exuberant welcome from the Republican president -- an elaborate state dinner, an intimate get together for four with their wives at George Washington's Virginia estate Mount Vernon, and repeated vows of friendship.

The 40-year-old French leader spoke at length of "how deep, how strong, and how intense the relationship is between our two countries," and marveled at the unforeseen rapport he has forged with the 71-year-old Trump.

But while the "bromance" has provided plenty of material for late

night TV comedy, the key question is whether Macron can translate the privileged relationship into concrete results -- be it on trade, Iran or the climate.

After his Congress speech, Macron addressed students at George Washington University, where he pledged to help "win peace" in Syria by defeating Islamic State extremists in the war-scarred nation.

He also spoke of the "tremendous challenge" facing America's younger generation as it grapples with global issues like climate change and geopolitics, but offered words of encouragement.

"At the end of the day you will be the ones to decide," he said.

# Enzyme

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called telomerase, could lead to drugs that slow or block the ageing process, along with new treatments for cancer, they reported in the journal Nature.

"It has been a long time coming," lead investigator Kathleen Collins, a molecular biologist at the University of California in Berkeley, said in a statement.

"Our findings provide a structural framework for understanding human telomerase disease mutations, and represent an important step towards telomerase-related clinical therapeutics."

Part protein and part RNA -- genetic material that relays instructions for building proteins -- telomerase acts on microscopic sheaths, known as telomeres, that cover the tips of the chromosomes found inside all cells.

In humans, each cell contains 23 pairs of chromosomes, including one pair of sex chromosomes -- the "X" and "Y" -- that differ between males and females.

Australian-American biologist Elizabeth Blackburn, who shared the 2009 Nobel Prize in Medicine for discovering telomeres and their protective function in the 1970s, likened them to the tiny plastic caps that keep shoelaces from fraying.

Eventually, however, shoelace tips and telomeres do break down: every time a cell divides the telomeres get worn a little bit more, until the cell stops dividing and dies. This, biologists agree, is probably central to the natural ageing process.

But there is a twist.

In 1985 Blackburn discovered telomerase, and its remarkable capacity to extend a cell's lifespan by essentially rebuilding telomeres with extra bits of DNA, much in the same way that retreading a tyre can make it nearly as good as new.

Telomerase, in other words, was revealed to be a key agent in longevity.

A 2010 study showed that ageing could be reversed in mice that were treated with telomerase.

And in 2011, scientists found a way to transform age-worn cells from people over 90 into rejuvenated stem cells indistinguishable from those found in embryos.

# Bangladeshi

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co-founder of Creative Conservation Alliance, a non-profit organisation, dedicated to ecological and cultural preservation, was honoured with the prestigious Whitley Award by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal in a ceremony held in a glitzy ceremony at the Royal Geographic Society at London.

Caesar won the award for his work on preserving Asia's largest tortoise currently found in a remote corner of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) -- Caesar's own promised land.

In 2011, Caesar began exploring CHT to survey for rare reptiles and amphibians. Nestled between the Bangladesh and Myanmar border, the CHT is one of the least explored, but most bio-diverse areas on the planet.

It was here that Caesar's team first discovered the wild Asian giant tortoise, previously thought to be extinct. They also uncovered a new species of forest turtle.

Caesar has since set up an initiative to protect tortoise populations and their surrounding habitats. But instead of blazing his own trail alone, Caesar has involved in the local community in the preservation work as well.

He has trained former Mro hunters as biologists and now they document the region's wildlife.

A press release by the Whitley Fund for Nature says that with his Whitley Award, Caesar will work with Mro people to establish community conservation areas to safeguard forest habitat from being lost and curb hunting by training more ex-hunters as "parabologists" employed to monitor and protect turtles.

This has been his dream. During a conversation with The Daily Star a few months ago, Caesar expressed his desire to create such "conservation

corridors" and stressed on the urgent need for them.

Apart from instilling a communal pride in the hidden gems of CHT, Caesar's team have also created a market for indigenous crafts -- reviving cultures on the verge of being lost.

A dialogue with the national government has also been initiated to gain support for conserving the area.

According to the press release, Edward Whitley, founder of the Whitley Fund for Nature, said: "In an area of Bangladesh that has faced decades of social and political conflict, Caesar has become a figurehead and has made huge steps towards bringing these reptiles back from the brink. We are especially thrilled to be supporting Caesar during our 25th anniversary year and look forward to following him on this journey."

"What began as a personal interest and exploration has advanced into a fully fledged conservation programme. From helping to construct schools and educate future generations, to empowering local communities and reviving traditional cultures, I have been able to touch the hearts and lives of many people through species conservation. With the support of this Whitley Award, I can continue to make a difference to the future of both the wildlife, my fellow men and entire cultures," Caesar said on the occasion.

An annual event, often referred to as the "Green Oscars", the 2018 Whitley Awards, are part of Whitley Fund for Nature's 25th Anniversary celebrations.

The winners will each receive £40,000 in funding to support their work to conserve some of the planet's most endangered species and spectacular places.

Shahriar Caesar Rahman is also the 2017 Future for Nature award winner.