



A microbus lies on its side after a gun attack left four of its passengers and the driver dead, while the bodies are kept in another vehicle in police presence in Rangamati's Betchhari yesterday. PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKMA

Gun attack kills 5 in Rangamati

Gunmen open fire on mourners of slain upazila chairman; leader of a UPDF faction among dead, 7 injured

ANVIL CHAKMA, SANJOY KUMAR BARIJA and SAIKAT DEWAN

Just a day after the killing of Shaktiman Chakma, chairman of Naniarchar Upazila Parishad in Rangamati, another five people were shot dead in the hill district yesterday.

The five, including a Bangalee driver, were on a microbus full of political leaders and activists headed for Hugumara area of the upazila to attend the funeral of Shaktiman.

Unidentified gunmen ambushed them in Betchhari area around 12:15pm, also leaving seven others injured.

Tapan Jyoti Chakma, 50, alias Borma, president of UPDF (Democratic); Sujon Chakma, 28, general secretary of Mohalchhari unit Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP), and Pronok Chakma, 23, a member of Jubo Samiti, died on the spot.

Setu Chakma, 30, another member of Jubo Samiti, and driver Md Sajit, 32, died on their way to hospital.

With Shaktiman and yesterday's five, at least 17 people were killed in Khagrachhari and Rangamati over the last six months. Of them, nine were from UPDF, two from PCJSS-MN Larma, four from UPDF (Democratic), and one was a UPDF supporter.



Tapan Jyoti Chakma

UPDF (Democratic) is a breakaway faction from the United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF), a political party of hill people opposing the CHT Peace Accord of 1997.

Shaktiman was a vice president of PCJSS-MN Larma, a group which, according to sources, recently formed an alliance with the UPDF (Democratic).

PCJSS-MN Larma came into being after SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

VIOLENCE, GROUPING IN HILLS

- At least 17 killed in six months in two hill districts
- UPDF was formed, mostly by students opposing the 1997 peace accord between govt and PCJSS
- PCJSS split into two factions during 2007-08 caretaker rule
- Under the leadership of Tapan Jyoti, UPDF (Democratic) was formed in November last year

ROHINGYA REPATRIATION

OIC to act strong to resolve crisis

It says after visiting refugee camps; 45th session of the OIC foreign ministers' meet begins in Dhaka today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation has pledged a strong role in addressing the Rohingya crisis.

"We will play a strong role along with Bangladesh, United Nations and international community," Hesham Youssef, assistant secretary general for OIC's humanitarian affairs, said after visiting Rohingya camps in Kutupalong yesterday.

Myanmar should face continued pressure over repatriation of Rohingyas to their homeland, he told reporters at a community centre in the area.

Youssef also regretted OIC's inadequate role since the Rohingya crisis began on August 25 last year in Myanmar's Rakhine State form where over 700,000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh amid a military crackdown.

Rohingyas in Myanmar are denied citizenship and other basic rights since 1982.

There has been no repatriation despite a deal signed by Bangladesh and Myanmar. The UN Security Council has also not been able to take any decisive action in addressing the crisis.

Against this backdrop, Dhaka is hosting the 45th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers today.

A 53-member high-profile delegation of the OIC arrived in Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar around 11:30am and talked to the refugees for about an hour.

Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland, Special Envoy to the OIC Masud Husain and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Special Envoy to Myanmar Bob Rae and Bangladesh's Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam accompanied the delegation.

"The Rohingya crisis will be one of our main agenda in the OIC SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

MONSOON WORRY UN gears up aid efforts in refugee camps

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, has said it is rushing additional aid to Bangladesh where the first monsoon rains in Cox's Bazar district affected hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees there.

Humanitarian partners estimate that between 150,000 and 200,000 Rohingya refugees will be at risk this monsoon season.

"They are living on land prone to landslides and flooding and are in urgent need of relocation. Of this number, 24,000 people are at critical risk due to severe instability of the land on which their shelters have been constructed," UNHCR spokesperson Andrej Mahelic said at a press briefing at the Palais des Nations in Geneva yesterday.

He said the first of three scheduled humanitarian airlifts carrying additional shelter materials arrived in Bangladesh on May 1.

Its cargo of 1,400 tents is the first batch of the 10,000 tents that UNHCR will airlift by the end of May. The tents would provide emergency SEE PAGE 12 COL 5



Members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) delegation arrive at Kutupalong refugee camp yesterday. PHOTO: AFP



People look at an electricity pole that broke after a truck veered onto the footpath and crashed into it in front of the DMP headquarters on Bailey Road yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Nat'l issues dominate local polls campaign

AL, BNP mayor candidates in Khulna, Gazipur campaigning hard to woo voters; local issues get little attention

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

National issues have been dominating the election campaigns of the Awami League and BNP mayor candidates in the Khulna and Gazipur city polls.

As the two cities are going to polls along party lines on May 15 for the first time, the four mayor hopefuls of the two major parties have been talking about the national issues to woo voters.

Besides, central leaders campaigning for their party colleagues are also bringing many national issues to the fore. SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

The AL leaders are reminding voters about the BNP-Jamaat's alleged violence before and after the January 5, 2014 parliamentary polls and the "failure" of the incumbent BNP-backed mayors in carrying out development works in the two cities.

Highlighting the government's development projects, the AL candidates argue that voters should elect mayors from the ruling party to help the government continue the development works.

However, the BNP candidates have been

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