

3 injured as criminals fire on private car

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Three people including two hijras were injured when unidentified assailants stopped their car and opened fire on them on Baipail-Abdullahpu Highway in Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital yesterday. The injured are chief of Ashulia transgender community Abdul Rashida, 40, a member of the same community Shikha, 28, and driver Nurun Nabi, 24.

Police said four transgender people from Jamgora area of Ashulia were heading towards Tongi to attend a community meeting when a microbus intercepted their vehicle near Morangang Bridge around 10:30am.

Three to four unidentified attackers had opened fire on the car and sped away. Hearing their scream, locals rushed to the spot and took the injured to Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar.

Of the injured, the condition of Rashida, who was at the Intensive Care Unit, was critical with bullet injuries in the abdomen and chest. Shikha suffered bullet injuries in the chest and Nurun Nabi in his left arm, doctors said.

Akhi, who was also in the car, said the unidentified criminals shot five to six bullets.

According to the community members, there are more than 500 transgender people living in several areas in Ashulia. They said they have no enmity with anyone who might plan to kill their chief.

Rezaul Haque, officer in-charge of Ashulia police, said the reason behind the attack could not be known, adding, they are investigating the matter.

The transgender communities of Savar and Ashulia demanded fair investigation into the incident and immediate arrest of the attackers.

MP's event

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They cooked here. Several thousand people took turns to eat in the classrooms."

He added that all classes would resume from today.

Some of the students who came yesterday were turned away by the litter and smell.

"I came to school after two days only to find that there is no way I could stay there for long," said a teenager.

The feast was part of lawmaker Khandakar Azizul Haque Arzu's effort to get the Awami League ticket in the next elections, locals said.

Asked, lawmaker Azizul Haque Arzu told reporters on Saturday that the students and parents would have no problem with what was happening.

"The parents and children are willingly making the sacrifice.... I am their guardian," he said.

Contacted, Shajahan Ali Saju, president of the school governing body, said he saw nothing wrong with holding the programme there. "The institution is located near the MP's house. So the campus was used for the purpose," he said.

Bera Upazila Parishad Chairman Abdul Kader, also president of the Upazila Education Committee, said nobody had the right to do such a thing.

"Nobody can do this. It is very painful when a lawmaker does such a thing....," he said.

Germany

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cities of Cuxhaven, Bremerhaven, Bremervoerde and Buxtehude in northern Germany -- a stretch normally plied by diesel trains.

"The world's first hydrogen train is entering into commercial service and is ready for serial production," Alstom CEO Henri Poupart-Lafarge said at an unveiling ceremony in Bremervoerde, the station where the trains will be refuelled with hydrogen.

Alstom has said it plans to deliver another 14 of the zero-emissions trains to Lower Saxony state by 2021, with other German states also expressing an interest.

Hydrogen trains are equipped with fuel cells that produce electricity through a combination of hydrogen and oxygen, a process that leaves steam and water as the only emissions.

Excess energy is stored in ion lithium batteries on board the train.

The Coradia iLint trains can run for around 1,000 kilometres on a single tank of hydrogen, similar to the range of diesel trains.

Alstom is betting on the technology as a greener, quieter alternative to diesel on non-electrified railway lines -- an attractive prospect to many German cities scrambling to combat air pollution.

"Sure, buying a hydrogen train is somewhat more expensive than a diesel train, but it is cheaper to run," Stefan Schrank, the project's manager at Alstom, told AFP.

Other countries are also looking into hydrogen trains, Alstom said, including Britain, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Italy and Canada.

In France, the government has already said it wants the first hydrogen train to be on the rails by 2022.



Hijras (transgender) wait in front of Enam Medical College and Hospital in Savar after unknown criminals shot two members of the community in Ashulia yesterday. Inset, one of the injured being taken to the operation theatre at the hospital.

PHOTO: STAR

Millions evacuated

FROM PAGE 16
and bare hands to dig through mounds of rocky soil in the northern Philippine mountain town of Itogon, where 11 bodies have been pulled from the rubble and dozens more may still be trapped after a landslide buried an emergency shelter.

Relatives of the missing were among those taking part in the search for survivors, with little hope they are still alive.

"We believe that those people there, maybe 99 percent, are already dead," the town's mayor Victorio Palangdan told reporters.

Tearful families surrounded a whiteboard bearing names of the dead and missing as others inspected recovered bodies for signs these could be their loved ones.

Joan Catteg, 42, told AFP her missing cousin Harvey had taken shelter at the bunkhouse.

"He texted his wife not to worry. He said nothing bad will happen to him and that once the rain stops, he will go up. But he hasn't returned until now."

More than 155,000 people remain in evacuation centres in the Philippines two days after Mangkhut -- the world's most powerful storm this year -- struck, said national police spokesman Benigno Durana.

Across northern Luzon, which produces much of the nation's rice and corn, farms were under muddy floodwater, their crops ruined just a month before harvest.

Hong Kong began a massive clean-up yesterday after the typhoon raked the city, shredding trees and bringing damaging floods in a trail of destruction.

The government of the high-rise city described the damage as "severe and extensive" with more than 300 people injured.

The monumental task of cleaning up began as residents, some in suits and ties, struggled to get back to work on roads that remained blocked by felled trees, mud and debris.

Bus services were halted and commuters piled onto platforms trying to board infrequent trains after trees fell on overhead power lines. Schools will remain closed through today.

Landslides and severe flooding affected some areas, with over 1,500 residents seeking refuge in temporary

shelters overnight.

'KING OF STORMS'

The storm, with gusts of more than 230 kilometres per hour (142 mph), sent buildings swaying and water surging into homes and shopping malls in Hong Kong, with some roads waist-deep in water.

Windows in tower blocks and skyscrapers were smashed as people cowered inside.

In the neighbourhood of Heng Fa Chuen, thousands of rocks and pebbles from the sea covered parkland along the coastline which had been battered by waves.

The city's main Victoria Park became an obstacle course with hundreds of trees down and many completely uprooted.

In the neighbouring gambling enclave of Macau, all 42 casinos shut down for the first time in its history as the storm approached.

They opened again yesterday but Macau was still in recovery mode after severe flooding hit parts of the city, forcing emergency workers to rescue people from shops and homes using boats and jetskis.

Yesterday morning, shopkeepers in Macau were hosing down their stores which had been caked in mud after the floodwaters receded.

The storm made landfall in mainland China late Sunday, killing four in Guangdong including three hit by falling trees.

Authorities there said they had evacuated more than three million people and ordered tens of thousands of fishing boats back to port before the arrival of what Chinese media dubbed the "King of Storms".

In the city of Zhuhai, a stone's throw from Macau, volunteers and police pulled fallen trees and debris off highways.

"I think it will take us three or four days before it gets back to normal," said Zhang, a police officer clearing a road near Nanshui town.

Rice paddies and banana plantations along the highway were flooded and destroyed, while some factories in nearby industrial areas suffered damage.

AL working

FROM PAGE 1
Former BNP minister Nazmul Huda-led Bangladesh National Alliance will be with the AL alliance.

Islamic Front president Syed Bahadur Shah yesterday told The Daily Star that they have formally announced that they would join the polls as a component of the AL-led grand alliance.

"After talking with the Awami League leaders, we have made the announcement today [Yesterday] that we will contest election under the alliance banner," he said.

The AL is in touch with Islami Oikya Jote, led by Abu Hasanat, son of Fazlul Haque Amini. The AL also wants to get Zaker Party under its umbrella.

On Saturday, a new alliance named "Islamic Democratic Alliance" (IDA) was formed, comprising 15 Islamist and like-minded political parties and organisations, to support 14-party during the polls.

Bangladesh Islami Oikya Jote Chairman Al-Hajj Misbahur Rahman Chowdhury has been named the chairman of the newly-formed alliance while lawmaker and former secretary general of Bangladesh Tarikat Federation MA Awal is its co-chairman.

Mohammad Nurul Islam Khan, chairman of Gonotantrik Islamic Movement, is the secretary general of the alliance.

"We are talking to many political

parties but we are yet to make any conclusive decision. I think after the announcement of election schedule, the final shape of the grand alliance will be revealed," Muhammad Faruk Khan, president member of the Awami League, told The Daily Star.

Krishak Sramik Janata League President Kader Siddique, who once tilted towards B Chowdhury and Kamal Hossain, is maintaining regular contacts with AL leaders.

"We are observing the situation. We are yet to decide. We will decide considering the welfare of the country," Habibur Rahman Talukdar, general secretary of Krishak Sramik Janata League, told The Daily Star.

Bangladesh Nationalist Front (BNF) President SM Abul Kalam Azad also expressed his interest in staying with the AL alliance.

On Saturday, Juktofront, comprised of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and Nagorik Oikya, forged unity with Dr Kamal Hossain's Jatiya Oikya Prokriya. They said they would work together for their demand for election under a non-partisan interim government. The BNP is likely to form an alliance with them.

The Left Democratic Alliance, a newly formed platform of eight left-leaning parties, also raised the demand for holding of the parliamentary election under a non-partisan administration.

Alleged

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Including him, at least 228 people have been killed since the anti-narcotics drive began on May 4. Most of them were killed in so-called gunfights involving police and Rab.

Rab company commander Azmal Hosen said a patrol team of the elite force noticed some suspicious people near Katashkol Sugarcane Centre and asked them to surrender around 1:30am.

But they opened fire on the Rab team, prompting the law enforcers to retaliate that resulted in a "gunfight".

At one stage, the attackers retreated and Rab found bullet-hit Sirajul lying on the ground. They rushed him to Baraigram Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead.

Officers recovered a pistol, a bullet, a magazine, 530 pieces of yaba, and Tk 3,205 from the spot, he claimed.

Indian

FROM PAGE 16
BJP General Secretary Ram Madhav had last week said his party-led government would "detect, delete (from list of citizens) and deport" illegal migrants from Bangladesh.

Odisha will witness fresh state legislative assembly elections in the coming months. So far, 137 Bangladeshis have been detected in the voters list in Mahakalpada tehsil. After thorough verification of their antecedents, these people have been removed from voters list, said Kendrapara Collector Dasarathi Satpathy.

The voter list revision process will continue till September 27.

The officials engaged in the exercise have been asked to ensure that none of the "foreign" nationals finds a place in the final voters list, Satpathy said.

As many as 3,987 Bangladeshis have been staying in Odisha illegally. Of them, 1,649 have been staying in coastal Kendrapara district followed by 1,112 in Paradip and Jagatsinghpur, officials said.

Of the 3,987 people, 1,551 from 362 families living in Mahakalpada tehsil of Kendrapara district were served deportation notice in 2005. However, the deportation move has been kept on hold following intervention by the then federal Indian government.

In an attempt to curb influx of illegal immigrants, committees comprising revenue, police and forest officials have been formed to intensify vigil on illegal immigrants.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 2
Although Brunei is a high income country the innovative input score is very less. It is ranked tenth in Asia. It is followed by Philippines and Indonesia. Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh are the least innovative countries in Asia.

As per the report, innovation in Asia can grow if increased protectionism -- in particular protectionism that impacts technology-intensive sectors, IP, and knowledge flows across the board -- could be contained.

Such dynamics, as per the report, could create the basis for productive knowledge spillovers and opportunities for collaboration and the generation of new knowledge and innovation.

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A 'fig leaf for genocide'

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"The very first thing she could have done was not provide cover for the military by dismissing the overwhelming number of reports of mass rape as fake," Sidoti said.

"She could have refused to provide a fig leaf for military atrocities of the most serious kind... she has enormous moral authority, she won 80 percent of the popular vote in the 2015 election."

Sidoti is a former Human Rights Commissioner and ex-commissioner of the Australian Law Reform Commission.

The presentation of the final investigation to the Swiss-based council will mark a crucial step on the long road to obtaining justice for thousands who lost their lives or their homes or who were brutalised during the merciless operation by Myanmar's troops.

A preliminary report released last month by Sidoti, former Indonesian attorney-general Marzuki Darusman and Sri Lankan lawyer and women's rights expert Radhika Coomaraswamy, called for Myanmar's senior generals to be prosecuted for genocide.

Based on 875 interviews with victims and eyewitnesses plus satellite imagery, it documents the shooting and stabbing of children, the scorching of Rohingya villages and gang rape on an enormous scale.

Sidoti told The Daily Telegraph:

"The level of trauma in the camps in Bangladesh is beyond anything I have ever seen."

Last month, the Myanmar government dismissed the UN investigators' findings as "false allegations".

However, the UN panel has recommended a referral to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague as an option, which has already won support from some quarters.

Last week, more than 160 British MPs signed a letter urging Prime Minister Theresa May and Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt to refer Myanmar's military to the court.

An ICC trial was only one way to push for justice, Sidoti added, explaining that other options could include specialised criminal tribunal or an individual country exercising its right to universal jurisdiction for crimes of this magnitude.

The 400-page report, to be released today, will remind the international community of its obligations to take action, and will explicitly include a call for a ban on arms sales and on "high level exchanges and training" with the Myanmar military until it has been reconstituted.

According to Sidoti, the reluctance of the international community to act sooner is "the most haunting question of all".

BNP team likely to visit

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senior party leader wishing anonymity.

Humayun Kabir, BNP assistant international affairs secretary, is coordinating the trip.

Recently, a three-member team of the BNP, headed by party's Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, held a meeting with United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Miroslav Jenča at the UN headquarters.

The delegation also held meetings with the officials of State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labour, and Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs.

"It is a continuous engagement of the party. Earlier, we used to engage with diplomats working in Bangladesh. Now, we are expanding it to multilateral agencies. We have discussed the current political situation and election atmosphere," said a senior leader, wishing not to be named.

The BNP delegation told the UN that then UN assistant secretary general Oscar Fernandez-Taranco visited Dhaka before the general election on January 5, 2014 to strike a consensus between the political parties in Bangladesh, but the initiative is still incomplete. The BNP called for completing the task.

The team also talked about BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's sentencing to jail and "repression" on the BNP

leaders and activists, party insiders said.

In reply, US State Department officials said they were well aware of the situation, and also wanted an inclusive and acceptable election in Bangladesh, party sources said.

"I informed them [the UN] about the country's current political situation. They wanted to know more on this issue and we informed them," Fakhrul told reporters after the party's standing committee meeting last night.

New Thai party charged under draconian law

AFP, Bangkok

Thai police yesterday charged members of a new progressive party led by a maverick 39-year-old tycoon with spreading "false" information about the ruling junta in a Facebook live broadcast.

Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit was charged under the Computer Crime Act alongside two other members of the "Future Forward" party over a weekly broadcast on Facebook in June.

The show accused the junta of trying to intimidate rivals into aligning with it before next year's election, Pannika Wanich, a spokeswoman for Future Forward, told AFP.

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e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for below mentioned procurement:

Brief description: Procurement of Gasket of ST CCCW Heat Ex-Changer of Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1).

Tender No: 221580

Publication date: 18/09/2018 at 10:15

Closing date: 10/10/2018 at 17:00

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GD-2110

Superintending Engineer (Procurement)
North-West Power Generation Co. Ltd.