

Aussie cop stops press conference to tackle suspect

APRIL Sydney

A police press conference in Australia took an arresting turn yesterday when the speaker – a senior detective – suddenly bolted after a suspect and tackled him to the ground.

Detective Sergeant Darren Edwards was addressing the press on the lawn of a police station on Queensland's Sunshine Coast when he heard the ruckus of a man being chased by an angry father.

"He's been inappropriate to my daughter!" The father cried as Edwards, a former rugby league player, made a beeline for the suspect and fell him with a well-timed tackle.

"I dropped the shoulder and tackled him," Edwards later explained to local media, nursing a slight cut to his head.

The suspect, who identified himself as "Tasdo", was eventually restrained and handcuffed by several officers, while crying "Argh! Argh! Help me!" "I did nothing... I said nothing!" "I did just come out from the court!" he said as local news crews looked on.

The suspect was later charged with unlawful stalking.

Ex-MP Rana

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prison for a long time and other accused of the case had secured bail from the court, he said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Attorney General Basil Tully told this correspondent that the government would make a petition before the Supreme Court's Appellate Division, challenging the HC bail order.

The case involves a Shamim and Mamun – were killed on the orders of Amanur and his brother Jahangir Rahman Khan Kahan in Tangail on July 12, 2012, said Ashoke Sinha, investigation officer of the case.

Mamun's father Abdul Aziz lodged the murder case with a Tangail court on July 9 in 2013 against 13 people, said Basu, adding that the Tangail Model Police Station recorded the case on September 21 that year as per the Tangail court order. Amanur was shown arrested in the case in May last year.

Amanur was charge-sheeted in the case as per confessional statements of three other accused, the lawyer said, adding that Amanur landed in jail on September 18, 2016.

On June 18, 2019, following a government petition, the SC's Appellate Division upheld its chamber judge's order that stayed the HC bail order for Amanur.

The case was then led by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain also asked the HC to hear and dispose of the issue issued by the court on March 6 asking the government to grant permanent bail to the case.

Following a bail petition filed by Amanur, the HC granted him bail on March 6 and issued the rule.

Later, the SC chamber judge stayed the bail order and sent the stay petition filed by the state to the full bench of the Appellate Division for its hearing.

After delivering the rule, the HC yesterday delivered the verdict granting permanent bail to Amanur.

On March 15 this year, the same HC bench gave six months' bail to Amanur in freedom fighter Faruk Ahmar's appeal case.

Faruk's bullet-hit body was recovered on January 18, 2013. Later, police found evidence of involvement of Rana and his three brothers in the killing.

SC upholds

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The HC on May 19 declared the circulars and gazette notifications, which fixed the minimum age of freedom fighters at 12 and a half years in 1971, illegal and unconstitutional.

According to a gazette notification issued on January 17 last year by the liberation war affairs ministry, people who were aged at least 12 and a half years on November 30, 1971, would be eligible to apply for the status of a freedom fighter.

Earlier in November 2016, the ministry issued a circular and gazette notification imposing the minimum age of freedom fighters at 13 on March 26, 1971.

The government has so far changed the definition of freedom fighters 10 times and it's list six times since the country's independence.

A scrutiny of the war heroes' list is currently underway again.

On May 19, the HC in the verdict said that the definition of freedom fighters was determined by the President's Order 94 of 1972. It can only be changed by the parliament, not by a circular or gazette.

The government's Order of 1972 does not allow the government to fix or re-fix the age of the freedom fighters, the HC said.

Attorney General Mahabub Alam appeared for the government.



Yemenis protest against the suspension of aid provided by the World Food Program in front of United Nations office in the capital Sana'a yesterday. The UN's World Food Programme has warned that aid could be suspended to areas of Yemen under the control of Huthi rebels unless they abide by accords aimed at ensuring that supplies are not diverted.

PHOTO: AFP

Registration to start July 1

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The BRTA said it could not issue licence to any of the 16 companies that sought registration as none were able to fulfil all its conditions.

The companies had told the authorities that fulfilling some of the passenger-safety related conditions would take time as the process involved other stakeholders.

Against this backdrop, Road Transport and Highway Division held a meeting on June 10 with the Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader in the chair. BRTA Chairman Moshir Rahman at the

meeting said the licensing process was being delayed as the issue related to police helpdesk line, 999, had not been settled.

As per the guideline, the apps must have facilities so that both passengers and drivers can dial 999 in case of emergency.

The BRTA was asked to start issuing licences to service providers from July 1, making the dial 999 facility optional.

A BRTA official told this correspondent that even though the service providers were almost ready to provide the dial 999 service, the police were not.

"So, use of 999 was made optional

until the police are ready to provide the service," he said.

Contacted, Mostafizur Rahman, an additional superintendent of police, who is working on the issue at the Police Headquarters, said it might take another two months to complete work at their end.

Police is working with ride-hailing service providers to develop the integrated system so that police could respond immediately after a passenger or rider seeks help, he told The Daily Star on June 9.

The ministry has also directed the BRTA to fix highest fare according to the distance travelled.

BRTA Director Lokman said as per the guideline, cars cannot charge more than the fare fixed under the Taxis Cab Service Guidelines 2010.

At present, the government-fixed fare for taxis is Tk 85 for the first two kilometers and Tk 34 for each subsequent km. Passengers have to pay waiting charge of Tk 8.50 for every two minutes and Tk 20 extra for booking a taxi over the phone.

If anyone charges extra from passengers, they would take action, including cancellation of licence of the company, he added.

Quit UN for 'systematic failure'

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precluded the essential question of UN's own accountability.

In order for impunity to end within Myanmar and for genuinely to international protection system, the secretary general and his management agencies should be held accountable for the failures that have thus far emboldened Myanmar's ongoing genocidal persecution of Rohingyas, the FRG said.

"We therefore demand the resignation of senior UN leaders in whose hands the management of the entire UN system rests," it said.

Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch (HRW) yesterday asked Southeast Asian leaders to drastically rethink their response to the plight of the

ethnic Rohingya.

The 10 leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are scheduled to meet at the 34th ASEAN Summit in Thailand on June 20-23, 2019.

So far, ASEAN has focused largely on repatriation issues, treating the "humanitarian situation" to Myanmar's Rohingya State merely as "a matter of concern" and disregarding the government's crimes against humanity, said the HRW in a statement yesterday.

For this week's summit, ASEAN's Emergency Response and Action Team (ERAT) produced a "preliminary needs assessment" on repatriation for the approximately one million

Rohingya refugees now in Bangladesh.

The assessment was made without input from Rohingya's refugees and almost entirely disregards Myanmar government's atrocities that led to mass displacement. It does not even use the term "Rohingya," denying the group's self-identity, said HRW.

Brad Adams, Asia director of HRW, yesterday said, "Instead of adopting Myanmar propaganda, ASEAN should be pressing Myanmar to start cooperating with international institutions or else face consequences."

"Malaysia and Indonesia have led past efforts to raise Rohingya issues during regional meetings, and it's vital they do so again at this week's ASEAN summit," Adams said.

"ASEAN's credibility to deal with a damaging regional crisis is on the line."

ASEAN Parliamentary for Human Rights (APHHR) and Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development and Progressive Voice in a joint statement said ASEAN needs to stop turning a blind eye to Myanmar's atrocities against the Rohingyas, and cease lending legitimacy to the repatriation process.

"A huge political shift is needed for things to start moving in the right direction," said Eva Sudrajat, Indonesian PM and APHR Board Member.

Over 841,000 fled atrocities by the Myanmar military since August 2017.

Hunt on for a Bangladeshi

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Yesterday, Dhaka Metropolitan Police circulated photos and video clips of the new suspect on its website and Facebook page, requesting information on him. It requested to contact the additional deputy commissioner of Khilgaon zonal team (01713398596) in this regard.

The upazila elections held in 2009 had 70.51 per cent turnout whereas in 2014 it fell down to 61.23 per cent.

Election Commissioner Rafiqul Islam attributed the low voter enthusiasm to the absence of some

seven suspects landed in Dhaka on May 30 and stole money from 10 ATM booth in middle Badda the very next day.

Later in investigation, it came out that nine ATMs of Dutch Bangla Bank Limited (DBBL) had fallen prey to the international hacker group who stole around Tk 16 lakh.

In this method, the card was inserted in the ATM and the machine's connection with the bank's server got severed, after which the suspects just took money out. The method also left no record of the transaction in the bank's server.

DB sources, quoting an IT expert,

said although such kind of heist was new in Bangladesh, it had been seen in other countries where criminals used Tyupkin, a strain of malware, to empty ATMs.

Two cases were filed in connection with the ATM theft.

POLICE MET NCR CORP OFFICIALS In another development, DMP officials held a meeting with officials and experts from NCR Corporation, the company that supplied the ATM machines, yesterday.

Shahidur Rahman Ripon, additional deputy commissioner of DMP's detective branch (East), told The Daily Star that they discussed the

security issue related to the ATMs and bank server to find out the flaws in the system.

Wishing not to be named, a DB official said they were conducting a forensic test on the seized ATM identical card. At the same time, they were trying to contact the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Their priority is to find the technology used in the cards and tighten the security, he said.

During the meeting, NCR officials suggested using some antivirus software to prevent similar crimes in the future, the official added.

Turnout lowest in 10 years

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elections were held in 20 upazilas. The first phase of the election was held on March 10, second phase on March 18, third phase on March 24 and fourth phase on March 31.

The voter turnouts in the first four phases were 43.31 per cent, 41.25 per cent, 41.41 per cent and 36.50 per cent respectively.

The upazila elections held in 2009 had 70.51 per cent turnout whereas in 2014 it fell down to 61.23 per cent.

Election Commissioner Rafiqul Islam attributed the low voter enthusiasm to the absence of some

registered political parties in the polls.

"The elections became less competitive and participation of voters went down than that of previous elections," he said.

EC Deputy Secretary Atiar Rahman said that elections in 490 upazilas out of 492 took place in five phases.

"Rest of the elections will be held later as these were not held due to cases and not maturity of tenure," he said.

Atiar said that EC had a plan to hold elections of nine upazilas in October.

For the first time in history, the political parties nominated candidates for the posts of chairman, vice-chairman and female vice-chairman in 20 upazilas.

The BNP, left democratic alliance, a combine of eight left-leaning parties; Islami Andolon Bangladesh; Bangladesh Khelefat Andolan; and Bangladesh Muslim League boycotted the elections, saying that they did not see any prospect of free and fair polls.

The results also show that 115 chairman candidates had been elected unopposed in the upazila polls.

Of them, 114 are from the ruling

Awami League while the other is an independent, according to the data provided by the EC sources.

According to the EC, no elections were needed in 33 upazilas as all three candidates of the upazilas – chairman, vice-chairman and female vice-chairman – were elected unopposed.

The EC compiled the results of 475 upazils until 2:00pm yesterday. Of them, Awami League candidates won in 321 upazilas, independent candidates in 150 upazilas, Jatiya Party in 25 upazilas and Jatiya Party Japa in one upazila.

Ancient

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The mysterious teeth, which had been sitting unidentified in museum drawers for more than 40 years, are the first evidence that highly adaptable wolf-sized hyenas were in the North American Arctic, according to the paper published in the journal Open Quaternary.

The fossilised teeth belonged to Chasmaporthetes ossifragus hyenas that roamed the Arctic between 850,000 and 1.4 million years ago, researchers say.

The findings fill an important gap in scientists' knowledge of how hyenas reached North America, according to lead palaeontologist Jack Tseng from the University at Buffalo.

He said: "Fossils of this genus of hyenas had been found in Africa, Europe and Asia, and also in the southern United States. But where and how did these animals get to North America? The teeth we studied, even though they were just two teeth, start to answer those questions."

The bones suggest that ancient hyenas entered North America via Beringia where the Bering Land Bridge formed, connecting Asia with North America during periods of low sea levels.

From there, the animals made their way south to Mexico. The first hyenas known to have crossed into North America date back to around five million years ago.

"These rare records of hyenas in the Arctic fill in a massive gap in the collection of the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa and largely forgotten about until Dr Tseng discovered some old field notes describing the mysterious teeth. He drove to the museum and quickly identified the bones belonging to the genus Chasmaporthetes."

Govt plans

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Programme to initially provide free healthcare services to the poor in the three upazilas of Tangail.

Under the project, free healthcare is being provided to poor people for 78 diseases.

"Work on spreading the pilot project to all nine upazilas of Tangail is going on. If the piloting is successful, the activities will be expanded throughout the country," Hasina said.

She said a social health insurance project was being prepared for the RMG and tea garden workers with financial support from the International Labour Organization Agency (ILO).

Responding to another query from Awami League lawmaker Mamunur Rashid Kiron, the PM said the government was taking various steps to reach healthcare services to people's doorstep.

The government has different projects to build and renovate health centres, to increase the number of beds at hospitals at a cost of Tk 1.15 lakh crore by 2022, Hasina said.

It has a plan to increase life expectancy to 71.6 years by 2021, to increase the number of 14,800 community clinics, turn all the upazila health complexes into 50-bed hospitals and provide 230 ambulances, 200 water ambulances and 330 jets to healthcare organisations.

The government also plans to reduce the death of infants aged below five to 25 per cent, newborns to 12 per cent, and the country's maternal deaths.

Responding to another query from Gonoprof MUKABBAR Khan, the leader of the House said the number of mobile phone users in Bangladesh has increased to 16.05 crore till April this year, up from 4.5 crore in 2008.

The number of internet users reached 9.37 crore till April against 60 lakh in 2008, she added.

Chinese worker

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Zang Ion Seng, 26, died of excessive bleeding at Barishal Sher-I-Bangla Medical College Hospital around 3:30am yesterday hours after he was hit in the head during the clash, police said.

The incident took place following a rumour that a local employee was killed by Chinese men.

Police said Bangladeshi worker Sabindra Das, 32, died around 3:00pm on Tuesday after falling from a height of around 70 feet.

Amid rumours that he was killed by Chinese employees, Bangladeshi workers along with some local chatters the foreign workers.

A clash broke out soon, leaving six Chinese and two Bangladeshi employees injured, said Monirul Islam, an officer in-charge of Kalapara Police Station.

Injured employees Zang Hua, 34, Zang Ion Seng, 25, Zhang Hu, 26, Ju Jiang, 54, Lin Kumu, 27, Mostafizur Rahman, 45, Abbas Havelar, 40, were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.

Around 2,700 Chinese and 6,000 Bangladeshi nationals work at the site. The officers took place following scene to bring the situation under control.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Industries, Md. Shafiqul Islam, is to visit the site yesterday morning and held a two-hour meeting with officials of the power plant, local administration and law enforcement agencies.

General Manager of the project of Kuskalpra press club, alleged that Chinese workers chased the reporters who went to the site after Tuesday's clash.