

Motorbiker stabbed to death

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Cardiovascular Diseases. After a three-hour battle, the 36-year-old died around 5:45am.

Milon's wife Shilpi filed a murder case with Shahjahanpur Police Station.

He used to live with his wife, a 10-year-old son, and a seven-year-old daughter in Gudaraghat area of Mirpur-1.

Milon's neighbour and friend Siraj Uddin, an auto-rickshaw driver, said he used to work for several ride-sharing services mostly after midnight. Siraj said he talked to Milon over phone several times early yesterday.

During their conversation around 12:45am, Milon was at Roy Shaheb Bazar in Old Dhaka, and they were supposed to go to Sadarghat together to pick up launch passengers.

Siraj said, "I spoke to Milon for the last time at 2:12am. He said he was

heading to Malibagh CID office and would come to Shadarghat within five or six minutes."

Around 2:25am, he received a call from Milon's friend Himel and learned about the stabbing. The two then rushed to the DMCH.

Atikur Rahman, a sub-inspector of Shahjahanpur Police Station, said Milon did not use any ride-sharing app during the time of the incident.

"He was a rider of Uber and Pathao. But he had not been using either of them since August 7," the SI said, adding that the details of the suspect could be known immediately if Milon used the app. "Many riders take pillion passengers on contract nowadays. Perhaps Milon did the same."

Atikur also said Milon might have got on the flyover near Abul Hotel in Malibagh and was stabbed in front of Padma Diagnostic Centre.

3 'criminals' shot dead

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It was believed that more than one criminal was wounded in the drive, said the ISPR.

The situation is under the army's control and similar drive will continue to ensure peace and security, the press release added.

Meanwhile, the UPDF in a press release said the three deceased were

members of the organisation.

It said the dead were Nabin Jyoti Chakma, 38, Bhujendra Chakma, 50, and Ruchil Chakma alias Russel, 26.

Contacted, Rownak Alam, an additional superintendent of police in Khagrachhari, told our district correspondent that they recovered the bodies from the spot and took those to Dighinala police station.

New police unit

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setting up three police stations and a number of police investigation centres, and installing closed-circuit television (CCIV) cameras at different points in the camps, along with a security fence around the camps' perimeter.

The proposed measures are aimed at combatting the rising crime rates and averting further untoward situations.

According to data from the district police, 76 cases were filed against Rohingyas in 2017. The number has already risen to 187 till August 25 of this year. Around 471 cases have been filed against 1,088 Rohingya since 2017.

AIG Akteruzzaman said they had proposed forming two specialised battalions for Rohingya camps last year; the ministry approved one.

The special unit approved last year, the Armed Police Battalion (APBn-14), boasts a force of 588 officers, including a superintendent of police (SP) as its commanding officer. It began working on December 27, said Sohel Rana, assistant inspector general at the PHQ.

It replaced some 725 officials who were temporarily deployed in the area from different ABn battalions. Some 225 policemen from the Cox's Bazar district police are also working with the special force to maintain law and order, according to officials.

Rakib Khan, acting commanding officer of APBn-14, told The Daily Star yesterday that they had officially started in December last year, but were yet to fully begin operations as they were still setting up offices.

"Despite working for UN foreign missions, we do not have the experience in dealing with foreigners in our own country. Not only do we have to ensure their security, we also have to curb the crimes committed by them, which is a big challenge," Rakib said.

A home ministry high official requesting anonymity said the approval of the new battalion was taking time as the Rohingyas were not permanent residents of the country and were subject to repatriation.

"We have to think about the use of the battalion after the Rohingya repatriation is completed, as there is a financial cost involved in it," the official added.

"The situation is still under control in camps, but we need to be cautious as it can deteriorate," ABM Masud Hossain, superintendent of police (SP) of Cox's Bazar, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Masud said that police registered a monthly average of 18 to 20 cases against Rohingyas, whereas the number was 150 for the local population of 4.7 lakh. "But, the number of cases against Rohingyas is rising and untoward situations may arise in the future, as around 11 lakh people are living there together."

Currently, there is one police officer

for every 1,353 Rohingyas. The new battalion would bring the ratio down to 1:681. The United Nations standard is 1:400.

Apart from the police, other law enforcement agencies also work in the camp areas.

Interestingly, according to police data, the police to people ratio for all of Bangladesh is one police officer for every 750 persons.

SP Masud said the Rohingyas were involved in different types of crimes like murder, human trafficking and narcotics smuggling.

According to police intelligence, some Rohingyas have formed different crime gangs like "Hit Point Group" and "Al Yeakin group". While the number of reported crimes is already high, intelligence officials working in the camps say it could be the tip of the iceberg as many incidents go unreported.

Some among the refugees have attacked police, killed a local politician and have also murdered other Rohingyas over internal feuds, they said.

On Sunday night, Rahim Ullah, 25, was stabbed to death by another Rohingya over internal feud in Kutupalong camp, said Abul Munsur, officer-in-charge of Ukha police station.

Two days earlier, Jubo league leader Omar Faruk, 30, was shot dead by a group of Rohingya miscreants. Three Rohingyas involved in the murder were killed in a gunfight with police, said SP Masud.

According to police database, around 33 Rohingyas were killed in gunfights with law enforcers so far.

MORE SECURITY, JOBS MULLED

The district police in a special report sent to PHQ in May this year said the Rohingyas were going to different places from camps using the hilly areas of the district.

Against this backdrop, the police recommended building security or barbed-wire fences enclosing the camps.

According to the UN Refugee Agency's emergency handbook on minimum standards and best practices in developing emergency response camps, the setting up of security fences depends on the circumstances involved.

The police report also mentioned installation of CCIV cameras at important places around Rohingya camps.

In the special report, police also requested setting up small handicraft producing houses as most of the Rohingyas were unemployed, which could be a reason behind the increasing crime rate.

Presently, Bangladesh hosts some 11 lakh Rohingyas, of whom 743,000 came during the latest influx following the brutal military crackdown in Rakhine State beginning on August 25, 2017.



Accumulated rainwater inside a structure made for beautification near the capital's Aarong intersection. Kinkar Ghosh, an epidemiologist at the Dhaka Shishu Hospital, said such stagnant water is ideal for breeding of Aedes mosquitoes, which spread dengue. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Worries grow for doctors, staffers

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nets at the dengue wards in Mitford Hospital, DMCH, and Mugda Medical Hospital College. This is increasing the risk of dengue for doctors and other hospital workers.

At Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, most of the patients were using mosquito nets.

Several doctors said that physicians and healthcare workers need to stay near the patients round the clock, and dengue is spread through an Aedes mosquito's bite after it takes the blood of a person infected with the virus.

BREEDING GROUNDS AT HOSPITALS

The outdoor garden and other areas on the premises of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital were found littered with coconut shells, used water bottles and plastic coffee mugs, which are all possible breeding grounds for Aedes mosquitoes.

Similar scenes were seen at the open space adjacent to the radiology and imaging department and inside the parks beside the main entrance to the hospital.

In many instances, attendants of patients were seen littering the open spaces with used water bottles and coconut shells.

"We have kept dustbins at every nook and corner of the hospital. But many people still litter here and there. Our cleaners usually clean these open spaces twice a day, but we have a shortage of manpower. Still, we are trying our best," the hospital's Director Uttam Kumar Barua told The Daily Star.

He said 13 nurses and 12 doctors of his hospital were suffering from dengue. But it was difficult to say how or where they got infected.

"It could have happened at the hospital, their home or elsewhere."

At Mitford hospital, some plastic containers and coconut shell were found in the gardens near the hospital's old building. Six nurses of the hospital were infected with dengue.

Senior nurse Sharmin Akhtar said she was admitted to BIRDEM hospital on August 16 with dengue and returned home on August 21.

"I don't know where I was infected as there is a possibility to be infected anywhere," said Sharmin.

At DMCH, small plastic containers and coconut shells were found near the emergency gate and in the garden near the boundary. DGHS data showed that 63 doctors, nurses and other hospital staffers were infected with dengue.

A DGHS study conducted from July 31 to August 4 after on 14 places in the capital, including Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Mugda Medical College Hospital, found that both hospitals were ideal breeding grounds for Aedes.

Authorities said that the situations in the Mugda Medical College Hospital and the DMCH had somewhat improved. However, authorities were struggling to keep the hospitals clean due to the lack of awareness of attendants.

Dr Nasir Uddin, assistant director of DMCH, said they have deployed 40 additional cleaners after Eid-ul-Azha and now the situation was better than before.

He said some visitors still litter here and there though they have kept 1,000 waste bins in different areas of the hospital.

Asked about why no mosquito nets were being used for dengue patients, he said in some areas it was

not possible due to lack of space.

"Some patients do have mosquito nets with their beds but refuse to use them even after we advise them to do so," he said.

Hospital staff at Mitford Hospital and Mugda Medical College Hospital also said that patients were reluctant to use mosquito nets even though the facility is being provided.

A recent visit to Mugda Medical College Hospital showed that its current state in terms of cleanliness had improved. But stagnant water was found on the roof of a one-storey room near the prayer room of the hospital, where mosquitoes can breed.

A record 64,765 dengue-infected people went to hospitals this year till yesterday, according to the DGHS.

The number is more than six times that of last year. The total number of infected people are likely to be even higher, as many cases go unreported.

At least 5,562 people are currently admitted to different hospitals across the country.

In 24 hours since 8:00am yesterday, at least 1,251 new patients -- 577 in Dhaka and the rest outside -- had been admitted to different hospitals, according to the DGHS.

Meanwhile Dadan Laskar, a college student of Shamsur Rahman College in Shariatpur's Gosairhat upazila, died on Sunday after being infected with dengue.

Mirazul Islam, a friend of the victim, said, "Dadan was diagnosed with dengue at Gosairhat Upazila Health Complex on August 23. The on-duty doctor referred Dadan to Shariatpur General Hospital around 5:30pm, but he died on the way to the hospital around 7:30pm."

(Our Faridpur Correspondent contributed to the report.)

Tk 2cr now talk of JU

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and disputes ensued over the share. Contacted over phone, JU BCL President Jewel Rana admitted he was present at the meeting, but he denied joining any discussion on money sharing.

"The allegation is not true. Did anyone say that we had taken money from them? Did anyone say we had stopped their work? We are helping them so that the work goes on smoothly," he said.

JU BCL Secretary Sufian could not be reached for comments over the phone despite several attempts. Joint Secretary Saddam and Vice President Niamul also made no comments.

Golam Rabbani, general secretary of central BCL, didn't respond to phone calls or text messages. BCL President Rezwanaul Huq Chowdhury Shovon's phone was found switched off yesterday.

According to the Planning and Development Office of JU, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnc) approved Tk 1,445 crore for "further development of the university" in October last year. In the first phase, the construction of five dormitories involving around Tk 450 crore has recently started.

BCL insiders said the organisation leaders were supposed to get around Tk 6 crore from this project and Tk 1 crore was given to the JU BCL before the Eid-ul-Azha.

And some portions of the Tk 1 crore has already been distributed among JU BCL's hall unit leaders and activists.

Talking to this newspaper, at least

there. We bargained on who will get how much money," a BCL leader, who claims to be present at the meeting, told The Daily Star.

"Finally, it was decided that the president will get Tk 50 lakh, general secretary Tk 25 lakh and a third group will get Tk 25 lakh."

Of the factions, one is led by JU BCL President Jewel Rana, another by General Secretary SM Abu Sufian Chanchal and the third is led by Joint Secretary Saddam Hossain and Vice President Niamul Hassan Taj.

The conflict among the three BCL factions was evident as they were locked into clashes at least seven times in the last 10 months, leaving over 150 injured.

The groups led by JU president and general secretary are followers of the central BCL president while the third faction is loyal to the central BCL general secretary.

Initially, it was decided that the JU president and general secretary would get fifty-fifty share of the money. But on August 7, the third group held a meeting with BCL General Secretary Golam Rabbani, which changed the equation.

To reach a consensus, the three factions then sat with the VC at her residence on August 9.

The third faction proposed that it will get half of the money as it maintains ties with the central BCL secretary. But the JU BCL president and secretary objected to that.

The matter was "settled" as the VC mediated, meeting insiders said. However, the "truce" lasted for a few days among leaders of three factions

10 BCL leaders and activists admitted receiving the money.

At six male dormitories, JU BCL president gave Tk 18 lakh to eight leaders to distribute it among activists who are loyal to him, said three BCL men who received and distributed the money.

The general secretary distributed Tk 40,000 for Shaheed Rafiq Jabbar hall, Tk 30,000 for Al-Beruni hall and Tk 30,000 for MMH hall as he "controls" those dormitories, sources said.

Meanwhile, three leaders of the third faction distributed Tk 9 lakh in three halls keeping Tk 3 lakh each for themselves. A few former BCL leaders also received some amounts, according to sources.

The development project stirred controversy from the very beginning with some construction companies alleging that BCL men snatched their tender documents.

Besides, construction companies have primarily marked around 1,132 trees on the green campus to chop those down. Already around 500 trees have been felled, drawing the ire of students and teachers.

"We are surprised to be informed about distribution of the huge amount of money," said General Secretary of JU Teachers' Association Prof Sohel Rana.

"We wanted development but we, from the very beginning, have been calling for ensuring proper use of the project fund," he said, fearing that such distribution of money among BCL leaders and activists may create unrest on the campus.

Inaction of key

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If Myanmar is found guilty at the ICC, it could be punished.

However, it is unlikely that the UNSC would take such an action since China and Russia, not parties to the Rome Statute, may use their veto power in the council. Over the last two years, the two vetoed every concrete action against Myanmar.

The US, which imposed sanctions on Myanmar's top general and three senior officers for violating human rights, does not recognise the atrocities committed by the Myanmar military as acts of genocide.

In September last year, US threatened tough action on the ICC if it tried to prosecute Americans for alleged war crimes in Afghanistan.

Prof Mizanur Rahman, an international law expert at Dhaka University, said the US was very unlikely to support any move to ensure justice for Rohingyas at the UN Security Council.

Things have come to this despite the fact that a UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission last year reported that Myanmar's military carried out mass killings and gang rapes of Muslim Rohingyas with "genocidal intent". These caused about 7.5 lakh Rohingyas to flee Rakhine and take shelter in Bangladesh.

The mission called for the UNSC to impose an arms embargo on Myanmar and recommended targeted sanctions and setting up of an ad-hoc tribunal to prosecute suspects or refer them to the ICC.

There have been no such moves.

The Organisation of Islamic Conference, however, decided to take Myanmar to the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the UN.

Experts are unsure as to how this would pan out due to divisions among global powers.

THE ICC

The ICC constituted a pre-trial chamber regarding the situation in Bangladesh and Myanmar, and in July, ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda requested authorisation from the ICC judges to investigate the situation in Myanmar from October 9, 2016 to August 2017.

According to a recent article by migration researcher Yuriko Cower-Smith at the University of Guelph, Canada, international law experts John Packer and Payam Akhavan have observed that the ICC has serious resource constraints and it is notoriously slow.

Packer also said accountability must not be limited to trials of individuals, Myanmar itself must be held to account.

Yuriko said a verdict of the ICC might result in prosecution of some individuals but would not necessarily ascribe guilt to Myanmar as a country.

"Continued efforts should be made to refer the situation in Myanmar to the ICC. Unfortunately, it is an expensive and lengthy process with narrow reach, meaning that other legal options may be preferable or be pursued in tandem."

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ)

As per the consensus at a recent OIC conference in Saudi Arabia, Gambia would take Myanmar's case before the ICJ, according to Bangladesh's foreign ministry officials.

"But Gambia is yet to file the case. We don't know the fate of it," said Prof Mizan.

Yuriko said this channel is important since article 9 of the UN Genocide Convention confers the ICJ jurisdiction to determine if a government was responsible for acts of genocide, including their failure to prevent or punish perpetrators.

Prof Mizan said, "The OIC should have had a much stronger role in this case... This is frustrating."

Prof Imtiaz Ahmed, director of Centre for Genocide Studies at Dhaka University, said the major world powers might be divided over Myanmar but it is widely recognised that Myanmar committed genocide.

"The UN fact-finding mission and a number of other organisations made damning reports revealing evidence of genocide in Myanmar," he told The Daily Star.

The mission has information about the people and companies who have investments in and links to businesses owned by the Myanmar army and called for severing the ties, he added.

Canada and France also recognised that the crimes against Rohingyas constitute genocide and called for justice.

Prof Imtiaz said despite the situation at the UNSC, there is global support for justice for Rohingyas.

For the first time, Chinese officials were present at Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh during the second attempt to repatriate Rohingyas on August 22. "If the pressure continues, China could be convinced that Myanmar needs to be held accountable," he said.

Mofidul Hoque, trustee of the Liberation War Museum of Bangladesh and a war crimes researcher, said international NGOs and civil society members should put more pressure on the global community to pursue the case against Myanmar.

"The Rohingya too should mobilise and become a voice for their own cause," he said.

CASES AGAINST ROHINGYAS

Type of case	2017		2018		2019 (Jan to Aug 25)	
	Cases	Accused	Cases	Accused	Cases	Accused
Arms	12	23	13	21	11	38
Murder	08	22	15	33	20	81
Rape/attempt to Rape	02	02	16	27	13	27
Narcotics	22	40	95	159	91	169
Abduction	0	0	09	39	06	40
Human trafficking	0	0	02	08	22	94
Police assault	01	08	0	0	0	0
Dacoity/attempt to dacoity	02	06	07	26	0	0
Filed under the Foreigners Act	23	39	12	20	02	13
Filed under the Special Power Act	02	03	09	20	10	20
Other crimes	04	16	30	61	12	33
Total	76	159	208	414	187	515