

More yaba entering Bangladesh

Home minister on impacts of military takeover in Myanmar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Significantly more yaba have been entering Bangladesh from Myanmar since the latter country's military assumed power in 2021, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told a parliamentary body yesterday.

"Despite discussions with the Myanmar government, the military government there is rather patronising yaba traders. Therefore, more of the drug is entering Bangladesh," he told the parliamentary watchdog.

The parliamentary standing committee on home ministry held the meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

According to working papers of the committee's

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Students of nearby schools at Gazipur's Dhirashram walk on the rail line, seemingly unrattled, while a train passes them by. They treat the rail line as a shortcut. It saves them a half-kilometre walk as opposed to using the main road. But what they do not consider is the risk involved in such a way of travelling. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Allow int'l orgs in Rakhine: PM

Rohingyas call for safe return home at rallies in Cox's Bazar

STAR REPORT



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Myanmar should allow international organisations to work in the Rakhine state to create an appropriate environment for Rohingya people to return.

The premier said this when Noeleen Heyzer, United Nations secretary-general's special envoy for Myanmar, called on her at her official residence Gono Bhaban, reports BSS.

Ihsanul Karim, PM's press secretary, briefed reporters after the meeting.

"We're pursuing this with Myanmar and had discussions. But, no response has come yet... How long can we host this huge number of people?" the premier was quoted as saying.

Some of the Rohingyas are already involved in criminal activities, including trafficking and drug abuse, she said, adding that they are also destroying the environment in the region. The UN special envoy said she visited Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar and had talks with them.

She said all, including UN agencies and NGOs, are working for Rohingyas in the camps.

Appreciating the country's efforts, she said Bangladesh needs a lot of support to deal with the Rohingya issue.

Heyzer said she also visited Myanmar and told its military government to find a solution.

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How do you make A BUS DISAPPEAR?

DB arrests 5 members of theft gang who stole, dismantled vehicles into pieces within hours and sold them

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Not a motorbike, not even a car, their target is stealing an entire bus.

After stealing a vehicle, they take it to a colluding workshop. There, the mechanic dismantles the entire bus into pieces within just two to three hours.

Then the machinery is sold to scrap shops, while other parts of the body are sold to metal factories in Narayanganj to turn them into usable iron.

Police's detective branch (DB) disclosed this information after claiming to have arrested five members of a bus-stealing gang.



At the workshop that was used to dismantle stolen buses, only number plates and parts of the vehicles were found. Inset, Md Ripon, the mastermind behind the operation.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



This group has stolen at least 15 buses or minibuses from different areas of Dhaka in the last seven months.

Md Ripon (40), the mastermind, started off being the helper of a human-haulier at an early age. Then, he became the driver, and years after, owner of a human haulier, said detectives.

Eventually, he became president of the human haulier association in Farmgate and

owner of 15 hauliers. And from these vehicles, he used to earn around Tk 15,000 daily.

But Ripon's fortune was evidently not enough for him. And this greed led him to lose everything after he started gambling using his earnings.

Three to four years back, Ripon started stealing buses and minibuses to sustain his livelihood and gambling, said detectives, quoting his statements during interrogation.

The four other arrestees are the workshop's owner Nur Islam (50), Nazrul Islam (51), Azizur Rahman (34), and Md Manzu Miah (38). All are owners of scrap shops and used to buy and sell stolen bus parts.

On April 4, Abdul Kuddus (62), owner of a minibus, filed a case

with Demra Police Station after his vehicle was stolen from Demra area in the early hours of April 2.

"While investigating the case, we first discovered the workshop near Eastern House of Mirpur-12, where the gang members used to dismantle buses," Mahfuzur Rahman, assistant commissioner of DB (Wari division), told The Daily Star yesterday.

When Abdul, along with police, went to the workshop, he could only find his vehicle's number plate.

"Using the intel from the workshop mechanic, we managed to find the mastermind and arrested the five last Monday," he said.

The five were then produced before a Dhaka court, which granted a one-day remand for

interrogation. After the remand period ended, the arrestees were sent to jail yesterday.

"During interrogation, the arrestees admitted to their involvement in this crime," said AC Mahfuzur.

THE TECHNIQUES

Ripon is well versed on the insides of a bus.

For stealing a vehicle, he used to target entry points to Dhaka, like Demra, Shanir Akhra and Jatrabari, where drivers and owners park buses at night after ending all trips, Muhammad Ashraf Hossain, deputy commissioner of DB (Wari division), told The Daily Star yesterday.

Ripon would target buses that had unlocked doors and were

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AL intra-party feud led to killing

Says DB about death of Karail grocer; 5 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Feuds between Dhaka North unit Awami League leader and AL-backed councillor of Dhaka North City Corporation led to the recent killing of a grocer in Karail slum in the capital a week ago, said investigators.

The feuds have been there over the years to control extortion money, slum rent and utility charges, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Additional Commissioner Harun-or-Rashid, came up with the information at a press briefing yesterday after arresting five accused in connection with the murder from different areas in the capital.

Grocery shop owner Al Amin (30) was beaten and stabbed to death in the slum during a clash between the two groups, while 10 were injured.

The five arrestees are – Mohammad Ali, Khwaja, Amjad, Russell and Masud Rana.

They were arrested on Tuesday night from different areas of the capital and are currently in DB's remand custody with the court's permission.

DB investigators said Dhaka North unit Awami League Vice President Abdul Kader Khan, and DNCC ward-19 councillor Mofizur Rahman have longstanding feuds over controlling the ruling party's committees and extortion money.

The slum is on a Rajuk, Public Works Department and other government agencies' property, with around 40,000 shanties, said Harun.

The slum dwellers have to pay Tk 8,000-10,000 for each shanty. They have to pay for bills of illegal utility services, and extra charges for refrigerators, cable TV and internet connections amounting to millions every month.

The money goes to political leaders and activists and some middlemen, who never pay it to the government authorities, said DB officials.

There have been several murders over the years over controlling money and forming AL's committees, said Harun.

The latest murder took place over forming AL.

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The feuds have been there over the years to control extortion money, slum rent and utility charges.

Still no robust policy to control Aedes mosquitoes

This year's dengue cases cross 5,000 mark

HELEMUL ALAM

Three years have passed since the country witnessed over one lakh dengue patients in a year.

However, even after that crisis, the initiative taken to prepare a policy to control vectors like Aedes mosquitoes is still in the drafting process.

Such initiatives have now become a dire necessity, as dengue cases crossed the 5,000 mark yesterday.

Aedes mosquitoes are vectors of dengue and Chikungunya viruses. Experts said as dengue has become endemic in the country and has already spread at the district level, a comprehensive policy or separate vector-control cell is crucial.

According to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 5,117 patients were admitted to different hospitals till yesterday. This year's death toll is 19 so far.

Local Government and Rural Development Minister Md Tazul Islam said the situation in Bangladesh is still better than in other tropical countries, including Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam.

He said they are still working on forming a comprehensive policy. A team from Australia experienced in vector management has shown interest

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Protestors gather at the Paltan intersection as part of a countrywide half-day strike called by Left Democratic Alliance, protesting the recent price hike of fuel, fertiliser and essentials.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

PRICE HIKE

Left parties observe countrywide hartal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The countrywide half-day hartal enforced by leftist parties to protest the recent price hike of fuel, fertiliser and essentials was observed peacefully yesterday.

Since dawn, picketers stayed at Paltan, Shahbagh, Mirpur, Mohammadpur and other areas of the capital, as well as important intersections of different district towns. But bus, launch and train services remained almost normal during the strike.

During the hartal -- called by Left Democratic Alliance (LDA) and members of "Nine Sanghatan" -- demonstrators scuffled with police at Paltan intersection and Shahbagh but none were seriously injured.

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Dengue death toll 19

Total number of patients 5,117

521 still undergoing treatment

Number of recovered patients 4,526

180 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

PRAYER TIMING

AUGUST 26

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:30	12:30	4:45	6:33	8:00
JAMAAT 5:05	1:15	5:00	6:36	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION