BNP leader's house comes under attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Miscreants carried out an attack on the house of one BNP leader in Khulna city on Saturday night.

The incident took place around 11:30pm in the city's Customs Ghat area when perpetrators threw stones and vandalised one portion of the house belonging to Md Mahbub Kaiser, a former councillor of ward 22, and a member of BNP city unit, said the victim.

Kaiser, who was out of home at the time, told The Daily Star quoting his wife that unidentified armed miscreants riding 14-15 motorcycles arrived at his house and tried to enter it breaking the main gate.

The miscreants then threatened him, telling him not to participate in the upcoming city corporation elections, Kaiser said quoting his wife.

When locals came forward hearing the commotion, the miscreants fled the scene.

"I have immediately informed Khulna city Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque, who assured me that he would look into the incident, and the Sadar Police Station," he said.

"Ever since the incident, my family members are in panic," he added. Kaiser said he has no idea who was

behind the attack. Shafiqul Alom Mona, convenor of Khulna city unit BNP said, the AL activists and their hooligans

launched the attack to intimidate BNP men ahead of the election. He also accused the police of

Khulna mayor could not be reached over the phone.

Hasan Al Mamun, officer-incharge of Khulna Sadar Police

Station, said, "We are yet to receive any complaint from the victim.'

Myanmar crisis to dominate Asean leaders summit

AFP, Singapore

inaction.

The festering crisis in Myanmar will loom over talks between Southeast Asian leaders in Indonesia this week, as they renew calls for an end to the escalating violence.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military putsch that ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's government in February 2021, with the junta's bloody crackdown on dissent sparking social unrest and an economic disaster.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) -- long decried by critics as a toothless talking shop has been trying to kick-start a fivepoint plan agreed with Myanmar two vears ago after mediation attempts to end violence failed.









AUDIOPHILE FRIENDS

Taking the love for music to next level

Music is an art, some of us take it to an idolatry rank, with no compromise on sound quality. This is a complicated speciality and is appreciated by a group called, Audiophile Friends, in Dhaka. For them, music is the crux of their existence; it is an expression of emotions and they delve into the depths of it to understand the musician's performance

A general listener does not get much into the finer nuances of music, as an audience they are superficial, while an audiophile can connect themselves with the musicians.

"Audiophiles simply love to listen to music on a good system. We are a non-commercial group, and listening to good music is our hobby," says Sayedur Rahim Bappi, CEO, Noise Digital Audio and HiFi Digital

"Audiophiles are an exceptional breed of people who are fascinated by pure audio, motivated by sound quality, and addicted to audio gadgets. They take their passion for music one step further. They're curious about how songs are recorded and the science behind how sounds are reproduced," says Saveed Siddiqui, an audiophile himself looking for purity of sound.

Audiophile Friends is a group of 12 like-minded people and recently they celebrated Record Store Day in Dhaka for the first time. It was organised by Harun Al Rashid, one of the members.

It is quite surprising for laymen that audiophiles prefer vinyl records over CDs because the record's sound has depth where the bass frequencies and

Sound quality is still unbeatable and it has a magnetic wave imprint compared to digital recordings. As a result of this love, the collection of the turntable is becoming a vogue within the audiophile cult-like groups in

The demand for the use of nostalgic vinyl records has recently increased in Dhaka and there is a robust long play collectors and sellers, all closely knit to Audiophile Friends.

"There is a music lover in all of us. In my case, while growing up in Old Town, a gramophone played



78-rpm records scratchy made me fall in love with Rafi, Mukesh,

Lata, etc," Siddiqui recollects. He adds, "Later on, a Phillips record player with much clearer audio introduced us to the 33-rpm vinyl. Tom Jones, Engelbert Humperdinck, Elvis, and the Beatles became part of our lives. With only one TV channel and limited hours of transmission, music became an obsession. And while more companies were bringing systems catering to music lovers, we kept chasing after better and better sound."

Being an audiophile is an expensive hobby, very few can appreciate the frequency ranges of the system and how perfectly and accurately you can listen to a song.

"With streaming audio companies using MP3, compressed audio, and system manufacturers making wireless players, most people shall be satisfied with the sound but audiophiles, with very fine-tuned hearing, are even capable of catching the tiniest of sound in the background, and their choice will be the high-end systems. Just the wiring might cost thousands of dollars," Siddiqui relates.

"Passionate listeners like to create the perfect ambiance for music and to do it they try to set a sophisticated sound system. What machine you

buy, how your room is equipped to handle the sound, and the interiors -- all matter; a single amplifier's character can vary from room to room," Bappi relates.

After the sixty's music revolution, musicians had the chance to record more harmony, ambiance, and synthetic elements, which were not possible to record earlier because of the lack of technology.

Traditional music has simple arrangements whereas modern music after the sixties is layered music. Layering is the process of combining multiple individual sounds to create a cohesive sound that is more complex and interesting. There is a pleasure in listening to layering of multiple synth sounds that creates a richer tone in long plays. This passion demands a sophisticated sound system, that the audiophile of Dhaka appreciates.

the upcoming general polls in

Bangladesh and they want a fair

In response, Hasina said, "We're

committed to holding a fair election.

It requires participation of all and I

want cooperation from all to hold fair

She said the AL government has

done everything required to hold a

fair election that includes introducing

a voter list with photographs and

powerful enough alongside bringing

institutional frameworks to hold a fair

"We have made the Election

independent

election in the country.

transparent ballot boxes.

election," she added.

Commission

ARSA man beaten to death by Rohingyas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A member of the armed insurgent group Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army was beaten to death at a Rohingya camp in Ukhiya upazila of Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

He was apprehended and killed by camp residents following a shooting incident that left three refugees injured at Block G-1 of Camp 13 in Palongkhali union, police said.

The deceased was identified as an Arsa man, but his name could not be known immediately, said Sheikh Mohammad Ali, officer-in-charge of Ukhiya Police Station.

The injured are Ramida Khatun, 55, and her two sons, Md Rafique and Jubair.

A group of 25-30 people arrived at the camp to attack Sub-Majhi Syed Hossain, leader of block G-1, around 3:00am, said Ameer Jafar, commanding officer of APBn-8, reports UNB.

"At that time, residents of the block got out of their homes and tried to resist them," he said.

Meanwhile, the OC said that while fleeing, the criminals opened fire at the refugees, leaving the three injured.

Following the shooting incident, one of the criminals was apprehended and killed on the spot by locals, he added.

He said the body was sent to the Cox's Bazar General Hospital morgue for an autopsy, while the injured were sent to an NGO-run hospital for

2 women killed after run over by trains

UNB, Bogura

Two women were killed after they were run over by two different trains between Bogura's Sonatola and Dupchachia Talora rail stations.

The deceased are Kohinur Begum, 50, and Tanjila Akter, 35.

SI Aminul Islam of Bogura Railway Station Police Outpost said Tanjila was crushed under a train around 9:00am in the Stadium field area.

Meanwhile, Kohinur slipped and fell on the tracks while attempting to board a running train.

She was rushed to upazila health complex where the duty doctor declared her dead, said Marufa Sharmin, station master of Dupchachia Talora rail station, said

SI Aminul Islam said, their bodies were handed over to their families as no complaints were filed.

Man arrested for raping schoolgirl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Moulvibazar court yesterday sent a man to jail in a case filed over the rape of a 7-year-old second-grade schoolgirl in Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar.

Dipu Reli, 19, son of Sanmunna Reli, was arrested on Saturday night, said Kamalganj Police OC Saniov Chakrabarty. The girl is undergoing treatment at Moulvibazar

Sadar Hospital. Her mother filed a case against Dipu -- a

According to the case statement, Dipu lured the

girl to his house and raped her there.

Afterwards, she returned home and told her

family members about the matter.

We too want fair polls like in the UK Biman's move puzzles experts

Alam adds that no airlines are currently flying dedicated cargo flights to Dhaka because the demand is very low.

Carriers like Emirates, Etihad, Oatar, Fly Dubai, Turkish and Kuwait Airways can't even fill the cargo holds of their passenger planes despite their huge network and high number of onward destinations they serve from their hubs.

Biman only serves a handful of destinations.

"We don't have the required quality infrastructure, international standard cargo village, and loadingunloading facilities... Biman getting into dedicated cargo business will be suicidal," Alam said, adding, "It is not the time for Biman to have dedicated

freighter service." "Does the revenue earned by Biman carrying freight in the cargo hold of passenger planes last year justify operating dedicated cargo

flights?" he said.

sector is dominated by the duopoly of US plane maker Boeing and European manufacturer Airbus.

Aviation experts are critical of Biman's attempt to use planes of both makers, known in aviation sector as using a mixed fleet. The national flag carrier will

have to train its cockpit, cabin crew members and engineers afresh to deal with the new aircraft. All these will require a lot of money. "Unfortunately, we see such

from the outside," Alam said, adding that Biman should be given the liberty to make its own decision.

He said Biman still owes different organisations Tk 3,500 crore, which buying planes over the last decade has not had the desired outcome.

Another aviation expert, ATM Nazrul Islam, now the MD of the government-appointed of Directors for United Airways, said there are advantages and

"An airline can bargain better with the manufacturer if it buys planes from both companies. In the case of carriers with large fleets, you can enjoy some advantages. But from the point of view of operations, if you have aircraft of both plane makers, the disadvantages are so many," he

Biman Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Shafiul Azim said, "The decision to launch several new routes, including to Japan and decisions being imposed on Biman the US, has already been made. The procurement of Airbus planes is part of our plan." State Minister for Civil Aviation M

Mahbub Ali said Biman using aircraft of Boeing and Airbus will not create suggests that the money spent on any problem as many large carriers use mixed fleet.

Biman has 21 planes -- four Boeing 777-300 ERs, four Boeing 787-8s, two Boeing 787-9s, six Boeing 737-800s, and five short-haul De Havilland Canada Dash-8 Q400s.

Of the 21, Biman owns 18 and the



The premier said they believe in dynamic leadership of Hasina. Westminster like democracy following which Bangladesh has introduced a question-answer session.

During the meeting with the UK foreign minister, several bilateral issues like climate change, trade and commerce alongside the Rohingya came up prominently, Momen said. Cleverly highly

praised the humanitarian role of Bangladesh premier for sheltering a huge number of Rohingyas in Bangladesh. "Britain will remain

Bangladesh for quick repatriation of Rohingyas," he said. Momen said the British government has taken a bill on the Rohingva issue

Momen said Hasina also had interactions with King Charles III

effective role to pass the resolution.

Charles III.

consolidated

He lauded

Cleverly also expressed his

Hasina said Bangladesh has a

gratitude to the Bangladesh premier

as she joined the coronation of King

very good relationship with the UK

since Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman arrived in London after

being released from the Pakistani jail

following the country's independence

Cleverly said, "Relations between Bangladesh and the UK is very

deep-rooted and it is being further

advancement of Bangladesh under the

the

and was warmly received there.

during the Commonwealth Leaders' Event when she invited the King to visit Bangladesh and the King replied

ELECTIÓN OBSERVERS

Hasina yesterday requested the Commonwealth to send diverse election observers from different member countries for the upcoming general election in Bangladesh, adds

The PM said this while Commonwealth Secretary General Baroness Patricia Scotland called on her at the hotel, said Momen while

in the Security Council and played an briefing reporters after the meeting. In reply, Patricia Scotland said the Commonwealth is ready to help

Bangladesh in holding the polls, Momen said. She said in many Commonwealth countries they made the same arrangement where all political parties express their commitment that they

will join the election, and what they want for making the polls fair. "If they don't win, they must accept the polls results," Momen quoted her

as saving. Patricia Scotland added that the political parties will pledge that they will not go for violence. "All political parties will express their commitment

for a free and fair election." Momen said the Bangladesh government also wants that. "All political parties will make their

political commitments." The Commonwealth secretary general said political parties will make public commitment where they will say that they will participate in the election, will do everything for

ensuring fair and non-violent polls. "They want to help us," Momen said, adding, "We said of course."

Hasina requested training for Election Commission officers in the district level like they did in the past. She asked them to hold meetings with the Election Commission as it is now

independent. informed Commonwealth that her government has taken a number of steps to strengthen the EC and ensured voting

rights in the country. Apart from the polls, artificial intelligence, climate change, mental health and digital connectivity were prominently discussed in the meeting,

Momen said. Hasina has expressed her desire that Bangladesh wanted to lead artificial intelligence committee of Commonwealth from June next as the country is now leading the Commonwealth's business-to-

business event, he said. Momen Commonwealth secretary general has

The global commercial aviation disadvantages of using mixed fleet. remaining five are on lease. EU monitoring team likely to visit in July

"There would be no point in sending the mission if the election is one sided."

international community, especially the western countries, has been critical of the last two national polls, alleging those were mired in irregularities.

They repeated the call for a free and fair election, slated for late this year or early next year.

US Secretary of State recently said the whole world would be watching Bangladesh's polls this time.

Meanwhile, the government said it would be welcoming international elections observers.

Whiteley said the EU exploratory mission will come to Bangladesh possibly in July to speak to all the

stakeholders -- government, political parties, EC and security officials. It is an independent professional exercise and not a political EU mission, he

is feasible, useful and advisable to deploy a full EU observation mission."

Once a report is submitted by the mission, a decision will be taken by the EU High Representative Josep

Whiteley explained that sending observers takes place in three phases: first, the exploratory mission visits six months before the polls, then a second observation mission will visit two months before, and lastly, another will visit during the polls.

"I am very happy that I can say that we can take the very first step. This shows there is good will from both sides."

He added that Joseph Borrel "They have to decide whether, considers Bangladesh a priority like any observation mission, if it country for sending election observers.

> Asked about his assessment regarding the participation in the national polls, especially as the opposition BNP is sticking to its demand for a polls-time caretaker government, while the ruling Awami League opposes it, Whiteley said it is a matter of the political parties to reach a decision regarding the pollstime administration.

> "What we want is that the polls be free and fair."