

## UKHIYA REFUGEE CAMPS

# Two Rohingya men shot dead, another knifed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Three Rohingya men, including a community leader, were shot and stabbed to death in three refugee camps in Ukhiya upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Criminals from the Myanmar-based armed group Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) carried out the killings, said Shamim Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Ukhiya Police Station.

The deceased were identified as Md Abdullah, 23, a resident of Block C of Balukhali Camp 17, and Nadir Hossain, 39, head majhi (chief community leader) of Block F of Madhurchhara Camp 4, and Master Aiub, 35, a resident of Bhasanchar refugee camp in Noakhali.

**Earlier on December 6, three Rohingya men were killed and two others were injured by suspected Arsa criminals in Ukhiya upazila of Cox's Bazar.**

Additional DIG Amir Zafar, commander of the 8 Armed Police Battalion, said Aiub was illegally staying at Ukhiya's Camp 15 for the last two months.

"Around 15-20 ARSA criminals attacked him at the camp and stabbed him to death," he added.

In the other two incidents, armed criminals called the victims out of their homes and shot them out on the road, leaving them dead.

"ARSA criminals committed these murders to establish dominance in the refugee camps," said OC Shamim.

On information, police recovered the bodies and sent them to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for post-mortem examinations.

Additional DIG Md Iqbal, commander of the 14 Armed Police Battalion, said additional forces have been deployed in the camp. "APBN is conducting drives to catch those involved in the incident."

Earlier on December 6, three Rohingya men were killed and two others were injured by suspected Arsa criminals in Ukhiya upazila of Cox's Bazar.

At least 11 Rohingyas have been killed at different camps in Ukhiya over the last 30 days.



PHOTO: STAR

NUSRATH JAHAN

As life goes on, day in and out in a monotonous tone, it is not uncommon to get overwhelmed. When all else seems to be getting too much, perhaps it is time to take a break. Like many other simple perks of Dhaka, there are several lakes nestled away from the urban tumult that often escapes our notice. Surprising, isn't it?

The tranquility and verdant surroundings of Dhaka's lakes provide a stark contrast to the busyness of this concrete jungle. It's a break to recharge, a chance to escape the never-ending beat of city life and rediscover the simplicity of existence.

With a myriad of greens surrounding it, the old trees providing shade and winding trails weaving through it all, the lakeside scenario is no less than a masterpiece of natural artistry. A lazy stroll with no specific goal in mind not only calms the nerves but refreshes your soul in a rather unexpected and pleasant way. The perfectly placed park benches along the lakeside extend an invitation to linger, providing a front-row seat to the serene spectacle of nature.

We often speak of "going out, taking

an unknown route, meeting more people". Well, these lakeside parks may just be the perfect chance to do that.

Strike up a conversation with a stranger perhaps. Everyone comes with their own unique stories; listen to them and share your own. You can make a great friend or part as friendly strangers with the possibility of crossing paths again.

Another thing that sets the lakes of Dhaka far apart from other options to unwind is how they cost you nearly nothing.

Pause by a roadside tea stall and engage in the age-old tradition of sipping a hot cup of tea while soaking in the winter sun. These days, the tea stalls will give you a list of options starting from

the simple lemon tea to the curious tamarind and chilli tea.

Regardless of your choice for the day, it is a simple pleasure, the warmth in that cup working like an instant mood lifter. If you are in one of the more popular spots, you may also indulge in a delicious plate of fuchka, samosa, shingara, or the best of lakeside delights, the paratha rolls.

A lakeside stroll is often a chance to unplug and find solace in nature's embrace. From moments of introspection, shared laughter with newfound friends, and the simple joys of budget-friendly delights, lakes are peaceful retreats within the city, a sanctuary where time slows down, and one can bask in the uncomplicated beauty of life.



ভক্ত বিজ্ঞানের ডিজিটাল লেকচার



## US team to arrive today

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party violence, violence targeting women and other marginalised groups, and online harassment and threats, as well as the role of state institutions in addressing these types of violence, NDI said in a statement earlier.

"The assessment will seek to evaluate the drivers and implications of election violence during the election cycle and provide constructive recommendations to reduce violence in future elections."

Following the conclusion of the electoral process, NDI and IRI will produce a technical assessment report on electoral violence.

**Foreign ministry spokesperson Sehel Sabrin in a weekly briefing yesterday said nine countries have confirmed to observe the election.**

Earlier, the NDI and IRI sent a joint pre-election assessment mission from October 8 to 11.

This bears significance given that the US announced a visa policy in May this year, saying that those undermining democracy in Bangladesh will be denied US visas. It has been calling for free, fair, and peaceful elections.

Meanwhile, foreign ministry spokesperson Sehel Sabrin in a weekly briefing yesterday said nine countries have confirmed to observe the election.

India, Sri Lanka, China, Russia, Japan, Uzbekistan, Mauritius, Georgia, and Palestine are sending observers, she said.

On the other hand, the OIC, Commonwealth, and the Arab Parliament will also observe the elections, she mentioned.

A four-member EU expert panel is already in Dhaka to observe the election.

## EC can but doesn't verify claims properly

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statements of candidates and make them public. The EC later incorporated a provision in the law to this effect.

At least 1,896 aspirants will run for parliament in the January 7 election from the country's 300 constituencies. Over 1,500 of them are nominees of 27 political parties.

AL Advisory Council member Nooh-Ul-Alam Lenin said if there is a provision for recording the candidates' wealth information, there should also be a provision for verifying it.

"This might not be possible ahead of January 7. But those concerned should consider amending the law in the next parliament. This will increase people's trust in wealth statements," he said.

In Awami League's 2008 election manifesto, one of the pledges was to "take effective steps against corruption".

The manifesto reads, "Influential individuals have to disclose their

annual wealth information. Stern steps will be taken to prevent and erase corruption... to wipe out graft, unearned money, defaulted loans, extortion, tender manipulation, and muscle power."

In its 2014 election manifesto, the AL replaced the word 'Influential' with "citizens of all tiers".

"Accountability of citizens from all tiers regarding one's wealth, income will be ensured," it reads.

In the 2018 manifesto, the AL did not mention issues related to wealth.

AL lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury in 2010 placed a bill on the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament in the Jatiya Sangsad.

The bill was aimed at ensuring that lawmakers uphold high moral standards in and outside the House.

The UK, India, Canada, South Africa, and different other countries have codes of conduct for their MPs.

However, no step was taken to pass

Saber's bill.

Shujan Secretary Badiul said if Saber's bill was passed, the MPs would have been required to disclose their wealth information every year.

Responding to a question regarding the allegations of unusual increase in the wealth of some AL nominees, the party's General Secretary Obaidul Quader on December 12 said, "If the Anti-Corruption Commission does not raise questions, and the aspirant is allowed to participate in the polls, then you cannot call them corrupt."

Rights activist and former adviser to a caretaker government Sultana Kamal said she is surprised at how the wealth of some candidates has increased.

"When I read the newspapers, I wonder if this is real... the wealth of some people has increased by 200 times, 300 times or 400 times," she said, adding the candidates' wealth information must be scrutinised.

## BB reconstitutes

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The central bank's move to restructure the board came after Parveen wrote to the BSEC on December 17 to convey her apprehension that she may be ousted from the board through manipulation of the digital voting system by some of the board members.

She cited the case of Moazzem and Mabroor, who were voted out of the board similarly.

Before the voting day, some directors forcefully collected the beneficiary owner's account numbers of the general shareholders and prepared a manipulated election system so that they could exclude Moazzem and Mabroor, she said in the letter.

Then on December 20, the bank

informed the Dhaka Stock Exchange that the chamber judge of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division issued a status quo order on the holding of the bank's AGM until January 21 next year, responding to an appeal against an order issued by the High Court.

Earlier, the High Court stayed the AGM following an application by a director of the bank. Later, the bank moved to the Appellate Division against the HC order.

In the first nine months of the year, the bank's losses almost quadrupled to Tk 1,124 crore from a year earlier, while its defaulted loans during the period amounted to Tk 13,514.6 crore.

Its stock price has been languishing at the floor price of Tk 8.3 since July 28 last year.

## 135 BNP-Jamaat men

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They then vandalised vehicles, blasted crude bombs, threw brick chunks at police, obstructed them from carrying out duties, demanding the release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Sub-inspector Md Burjahan filed a case with Turag Police Station.

Yesterday, another Dhaka court jailed 15 BNP activists for six months over political violence in Bangshal area in November 2013.

Two convicts were in the courtroom when Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Dhaka Sultan Sohag Uddin delivered the judgement.

The court also acquitted 47 other accused, as the charges against them were not proven.

It recorded statements of 16 prosecution witnesses during the trial.

Former ward councillor of Dhaka City Corporation Mohammad Mohon and Jubo Dal Organising Secretary Ishaq Ali Sarker are among the convicts.

The case statement said a group of BNP leaders and activists assembled in front of Nawab Yusuf Super Market in Bangshal on November 27, 2013.

They blasted crude bombs, torched a vehicle, assaulted police personnel, and prevented them from discharging duties.

After the incident, police lodged a case with Bangshal Police Station.

Besides, Dhaka Metropolitan

Magistrate Md Jashim sent eight BNP activists to two and a half years in jail over political violence at Sutrapur in November 2018.

Six prosecution witnesses gave their statements before the court.

According to the case statement, on November 6, 2018, a group of BNP activists illegally gathered on the street in front of Dhaka National Medical Institute Hospital in Old Dhaka's Sutrapur. They then hurled brick chunks at police and obstructed them from performing duties.

SI Md Hafizulla filed a case with Sutrapur Police Station.

Another Dhaka court yesterday jailed six BNP activists for one and a half years in a case lodged with Hazeribagh Police Station on November 13, 2010, for illegal gathering on the streets and obstructing police from discharging duties.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Ahmed Humayun Kabir also acquitted 51 others, as the charges against them were not proven.

Five prosecution witnesses testified before the court in the case.

Also yesterday, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate sentenced 13 Jamaat activists to two years in prison in a case lodged with Rampura Police Station in October 2018 for obstructing law enforcers from discharging duties.

In the case, four prosecution witnesses gave depositions before the court.