

## APBn member shot in Ukhiya Rohingya camp

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A member of the Armed Police Battalion (APBn) was shot in a gunfight with criminals at a refugee camp in Ukhiya upazila of Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

The attackers were members of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (Arsa), the Myanmar-based armed group that dominates the area, said police.

Shahraj, 25, a constable at Madhurchhara Police Camp under the 14 APBn, is undergoing treatment at Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital.

The incident took place in the F-block of the Madhurchhara 4-Extension camp, said Additional Deputy Inspector General of Police Mohammad Iqbal, also the commander of APBn-8.

**The attackers were members of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (Arsa), the Myanmar-based armed group that dominates the area, said police.**

Additional DIG Iqbal said nine APBn members were on security duty in the F-block of Madhurchhara.

"At one point, 30 to 35 miscreants entered the camp and started firing indiscriminately at the APBn members. The APBn members also fired back in self defence. At one stage, the criminals escaped," the police official said.

APBn member Shahraj suffered bullet wounds in his right thigh and right-hand finger, Iqbal added.

After the gunfight ended, Shahraj was rescued and brought to Ukhiya Upazila Health Complex before being shifted to Cox's Bazar District Sadar Hospital for better treatment, he said.

The police operation is ongoing to arrest the criminals involved in the incident, the police official added.



Children playing in the waterlogged playground of the Buet Staff Quarters yesterday afternoon. Even two days after Friday's torrential rains, the water is yet to clear, exposing the dismal state of the city's drainage system. Such polluted water can cause several diseases, especially of the skin.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## TRUMP ASSASSINATION BID Violent US rhetoric comes 'home to roost'

AFP, Milwaukee

The attempted assassination of Donald Trump by a gunman at his Pennsylvania rally has confirmed the worst fears of public figures warning that an escalation in incendiary political rhetoric on all sides could lead to bloodshed.

US lawmakers and analysts have been voicing concern since the 2021 US Capitol riot that increasingly bellicose campaign language was becoming a worrying confusion on the US body politic ahead of November's presidential election.

The danger was vividly illustrated in 2022, when then-House speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband was attacked with a hammer by a far-right conspiracy theorist who wanted to hold the Democratic leader hostage and "break her kneecaps."

The political affiliations of Saturday's shooter, identified as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks, were not immediately clear -- but analysts and politicians immediately pointed the finger at extreme political discourse.

"For weeks Democrat leaders have been fueling ludicrous hysteria that Donald Trump winning re-election would be the end of democracy in America," House Republican Majority Leader Steve Scalise, who was seriously wounded in a mass shooting at a congressional sports event in 2017, said on X.

"Clearly we've seen far-left lunatics act on violent rhetoric in the past. This incendiary rhetoric must stop."

Senior Trump campaign aide Chris LaCivita assailed the language of "leftist activists, Democrat donors and even Joe

Biden."

While Ajamu Baraka, Green Party candidate Jill Stein's running mate in 2016, suggested Democratic rhetoric might have led the gunman to see it as his "patriotic duty to eliminate an existential threat to the nation."

"The chickens have really come home to roost," he posted on X.

What none of the three acknowledged was that Trump himself has been a major architect of the coarsening in US political discourse in recent years.

Many of Trump's targets in Congress and the government -- from Republican Senator Mitt Romney to retired top government scientist Anthony Fauci -- have disclosed having to take on private security after threats from Trump's supporters.

## India should implement it if we're to get water

FROM PAGE 1

know the constitution or have any idea how a government runs.

"Yes, they are meritorious, but they will have to have ideas about these matters.

"We can't do anything [about quotas] until the issue is resolved in court. It is the reality. They'll have to accept this reality," she said.

She said, "No one says anything as long as they [protesters] continue their peaceful movement. But if they go for anything else, like attacking police and their vehicles or other things, the law will take its own course."

Hasina said the government abolished the quota system after a movement. "But what is the result of this abolishment seen today?"

Mentioning that women had joined the movement in 2018, she said only two females in the last BCS exam qualified for foreign services and four for police.

Defending district-based quotas and quotas for marginalised communities, the PM said some districts have been deprived after the abolishment of the quota system. Not a single person got a job in police service from 23 districts, she added.

"Why do they have so much anger against the freedom fighters?" she said, adding, "If the grandchildren

of freedom fighters don't get quota benefits, should the grandchildren of Razakars get the benefit?"

**QUESTION LEAK**

Hasina asked journalists to find out those who passed the government recruitment exams with the help of leaked question papers.

Mentioning that action would be taken against those who got benefits from question paper leaks, she said, "Why would we not take action? They have no right to work. But who will find them? If they [those who leaked the questions] name any person that they have sold the questions to and if it can be proved, then we will see."

"He who pays a bribe, and he who takes a bribe are both criminals. Those who leak question papers and those who buy them are both criminals. But who will figure it out? Journalists should try to find that out ... then we will take action," she added.

**CORRUPTION**

Responding to a question on corruption, she said, "I will not spare the corrupt people no matter whoever they are or whatever position they have as I started the drives against corruption. I don't even consider who are close or who are not."

Hasina said she has taken action against a former peon of her home who had amassed Tk 400 crore.

"He worked in my house. He

was a peon and now he has Tk 400 crore. He can't go places without a helicopter. It's true. How did he make so much money?"

She said she does not think that drives against corruption would harm the image of her government and reiterated her commitment to pursue "zero tolerance" for corruption.

Without mentioning any name, she said trials of some corruption cases have also been criticised, even though the accused committed corruption and misappropriated money of workers.

**ON JOURNALISTS**

Replying to a question about journalists' access of information, the PM said gathering information is one thing and stealing files is another.

"A negotiation was going on for buying vaccines. One of my officers was working round the clock. The officer left the room for a while leaving the important files. A journalist of a renowned newspaper entered the room and stole the documents, and my officer caught the journalist," she said.

"Then the journalist went into the bathroom and hide the documents in her sari ... the file was taken out. And it seems there was no crime committed."

Later the journalist was awarded for stealing the file, Hasina added.

"This was not the first. The journalist was earlier captured at the ministry of shipping and later freed after signing a bond. But later the journalist became a heroine and world-famous," she said.

**TRUMP ASSASSINATION BID**

Hasina condemned the assassination attempt on former US president Donald Trump and termed the attack "unfortunate".

"It is really regrettable. He is a presidential candidate. We definitely condemn it ..."

"It is our question as to why such an incident took place in a civilised country, like the USA which is the pioneer of democracy," Hasina said. She noted that the Republican Party did not blame the US government for the attack and President Joe Biden also condemned the attack.

"If such an incident took place in Bangladesh, the government would have been blamed," she said. On the Rohingya issue, Hasina said she sought China's cooperation in resolving the crisis.

She noted that the Chinese president thanked Bangladesh for its humanitarian assistance to the Rohingyas and reiterated China's commitment to supporting their repatriation.

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and had to be identified using other methods. "We're looking at photographs right now and we're trying to run his DNA and get biometric confirmation," Kevin Rojek, FBI special agent in charge, said during a press briefing.

USA Today reported that dozens of law enforcement vehicles were stationed outside a residence listed at the address on Crooks' voter registration record. Agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were on the scene and a bomb squad was at the residence, USA Today reported.

Today, the perimeter of the residence was guarded by yellow police caution tape. An Allegheny County Police vehicle was parked outside. "It's insanity that anyone would do this," Dan Maloney, a 30-year-old resident from the area was quoted as saying by USA Today.

Reuters could not immediately identify social media accounts or other online postings by Crooks. Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, did not immediately respond to questions on whether the platforms had removed any accounts related to the suspect.

## Trump survives

FROM PAGE 1

community," Shapiro said, adding, "Political disagreements can never, ever be addressed through violence."

US President Joe Biden, a Democrat, said he had ordered a review of how the man carrying an AR-15-style rifle managed on Saturday to get close enough to shoot from a rooftop at Trump, who as a former president has lifetime protection by the US Secret Service.

Earlier, the 81-year-old Democrat had called the attack "sick" and spoke to Trump afterwards. He also cut short a weekend at his vacation home and flew back to Washington to deal with the crisis.

Biden was scheduled to deliver remarks on the incident at 1:30 pm (1730 GMT) yesterday, the White House said.

Trump's wife Melania said the gunman was a "monster," who had attempted to silence her husband's "laughter, ingenuity, love of music, and inspiration."

World leaders also condemned the attack, with the Kremlin yesterday morning saying there was no place for violence in politics.

In scenes that will haunt an America already traumatised by gun violence and political upheaval, Trump clutched his ear and fell to the ground after shots rang out at the rally on Saturday.

Secret Service agents immediately surrounded him and bundled the former president off stage, as he raised a fist in defiance, with blood streaked across his ear and face.

Trump said afterwards that he was "shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear" and heard a "whizzing sound."

The shooter, reportedly a registered Republican, was believed to be working alone.

Meanwhile, FBI officials yesterday said the suspected gunman was acting alone and used an AR-style rifle purchased legally to shoot at the former US president, adding that they had no indications of any mental health issues with the suspect.

The FBI officials, in a call with reporters, said the investigation was at an early stage and that they had not yet identified an ideology associated with the suspect. They said finding the motive behind the shooting was one of their priorities.

A video published by US outlet TMZ shows the alleged assailant lying on his belly on a sloping rooftop and aiming a rifle. A quick succession of gunshots is heard followed by screams from off-camera Trump supporters attending the rally.

His father Matthew Crooks told CNN that he was trying to establish "what the hell is going on", and would not comment until he spoke to law

## KP Sharma Oli Nepal's new PM

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's president appointed Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli as prime minister for a fourth time yesterday, after his communist party forged a coalition government with the centre-left Nepali Congress.

"President Poudel has appointed KP Sharma Oli as the new prime minister of Nepal," Kiran Pokharel, press adviser to President Ram Chandra Poudel, told AFP.

Oli, 72, who heads the Communist Party of Nepal- Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML), will be sworn into office today, Pokharel added.

His predecessor and former coalition government ally, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, lost a vote of confidence on Friday, barely 18 months after taking office. Dahal was forced to step down after Oli's party withdrew its support.

## Former councillor found dead

UNB, Naogaon

A 47-year-old former councillor, who remained missing since Friday, was found dead in a water body at Paticihara in Patnitala upazila of Naogaon district yesterday.

The deceased, Mizanur Rahman, was a former councillor of Ward 9 under Najipur municipality.

Mozaffar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Patnitala Police Station, said farmers spotted Mizanur's body floating in Saligram Buridah waterbody in the morning and informed the police.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Naogaon Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Mizanur remained missing since he left home Friday afternoon, said his family members.

## Man arrested for rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police arrested a 40-year-old man in Netrakona early yesterday on the charge of raping a schoolgirl.

A Netrakona court subsequently sent Ujjol Mia from Paboi village in Mohanganj to jail, police said.

The girl's mother had lodged a rape case with Mohanganj Police Station on Saturday.

Quoting the case statement, Md Delwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of the police station, said the girl, a fifth-grader, returned home from school on Wednesday afternoon.

As she was home alone, Ujjol entered the house and raped her. When the girl started screaming, Ujjol fled the scene, threatening her not to disclose the matter.

The girl was taken to Netrakona General Hospital for a medical test, said the OC.

## The man who shot Trump

FROM PAGE 1

State voter records show that Crooks was a registered Republican. The upcoming November 5 election would have been the first time Crooks had been old enough to vote in a presidential race.

Crooks lived about an hour away from where the shooting took place in Butler. The Federal Aviation Administration yesterday said that it closed the airspace over Bethel Park for "special security reasons."

When Crooks was 17 he made a \$15 donation to ActBlue, a political action committee that raises money for left-leaning and Democratic politicians, according to a 2021 Federal Election Commission filing. The donation was earmarked for the Progressive Turnout Project, a national group that rallies Democrats to vote. The groups did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

Crooks' father, Matthew Crooks, 53, told CNN that he was trying to figure out what happened and would wait until he spoke to law enforcement before speaking about his son.

A video published by US outlet TMZ on Saturday showed that a gunman, suspected to be Thomas Matthew

Crooks, lying on his stomach on a rooftop with a rifle in hand.

"The guy has longer brown hair, and he seems to be wearing a grey shirt/khaki pants -- and as you can see, he's carefully trying to pinpoint a target from afar before pulling the trigger," TMZ reported.

The man is not shown firing in the published footage. But a quick succession of gunshots is heard followed by screams from people off-camera.

"He's turning this way, be careful guys," a man is heard saying.

"Somebody got shot," another voice says. "He's right there, laying down."

"Dude, that's exactly why we need... Trump here," another man is heard saying.

"Secret Service don't (mess) around," another man says.

A second video published by TMZ shows shaky footage of the same rooftop and a blurred body.

"You can see the guy there," a person off-camera says. "I think they hit him ..., he looks dead."

Another video posted by a TikTok user shows Trump touching his right ear just after multiple bangs are heard. In the same frame, a security force