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## Secy goes on official foreign trip days ahead of retirement

BAHARAM KHAN

Allegations have surfaced against Social Welfare Secretary Md Mohiuddin of violating instructions from the Chief Adviser's Office by undertaking a foreign trip for what has been described as an "insignificant" event just days before his retirement.

Mohiuddin is scheduled to return on August 3, a day before his last working day and him going on post retirement leave (PRI). Several senior officials at the ministry confirmed to The Daily Star that Mohiuddin left for the US on the morning of July 26 on a Qatar Airways flight.

He is leading a five-member team to a programme titled "Social Protection and Labor Knowledge Exchange Event". According to a ministry notification, the travel expenses would be borne by the World Bank.

The delegation also includes



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Even Pak forces in 1971 did not commit brutality like Hasina did  
Says Asif Nazrul, apologises hours later

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul yesterday said the brutality committed by Sheikh Hasina and her associates during the July uprising may have exceeded that of the Pakistani forces during the 1971 Liberation War.

He made the comments at a discussion after the screening of a documentary titled "Trial of July Carnage" at the Judicial Administration Training Institute.

However, hours later, in the wake of criticism over his comments, Nazrul offered an apology.

On his Facebook page, he wrote, "... I now realise that it was not right of me to compare her [Hasina's] brutality with that of the Pakistani forces during 1971 against the people of Bangladesh. Both are heinous crimes. I offer my sincere apologies to those who felt I had

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Gunman kills NYPD cop of Bangladeshi origin, 3 others

STAR REPORT

A gunman killed four people, including a policeman of Bangladeshi origin, after storming a skyscraper in central Manhattan of New York yesterday.

Dildarul Islam, 36, from Moulvibazar in Bangladesh, was shot dead while providing security for the site on Park Avenue.

Officials said he had migrated to the US from Bangladesh, had two children and his wife was expecting a third. He died "a hero", they said.

Police identified the shooter as Shane Tamura, a 27-year-old Las Vegas resident with a history of mental illness struggles, who ended the Monday evening (US time) massacre by shooting himself in the

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Mourners carry the bodies of Palestinians killed in an Israeli strike during their funeral in Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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## Famine now 'playing out' in Gaza Strip

Warns global hunger monitor; 62 Palestinians killed, including 19 aid seekers

AGENCIES

Famine is "playing out" in the Gaza Strip, a global hunger monitor said in an alert issued yesterday as international criticism of Israel intensifies over rapidly worsening conditions in the Palestinian enclave.

"The worst-case scenario of Famine is currently playing out in the Gaza Strip," said the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) alert. "Mounting evidence shows that widespread starvation, malnutrition, and disease are driving a rise in hunger related deaths."

Its alert coincided with a statement from Gaza health authorities saying Israel's military campaign had now killed more than 60,000 Palestinians.

The IPC alert does not formally classify Gaza as being in famine. Such a classification can only be made through an analysis, which the IPC said it would now conduct "without delay," reports Reuters.

"Immediate action must be taken to end the hostilities and allow unimpeded, large-scale, life-saving humanitarian response. This is the only path to stopping further deaths and catastrophic human suffering," the IPC alert said.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces killed at least 62 Palestinians across Gaza since dawn yesterday,

- Israel's offensive has killed 60,000 so far: officials
- UN agencies issue call to 'flood' Gaza with food aid
- Israeli FM ignores int'l pressure for ceasefire

including 19 aid seekers, despite "pauses" in fighting to deliver essential humanitarian aid, reports Al Jazeera online.

The United Nations food agency said that it is not getting the necessary volumes of humanitarian assistance into Gaza despite Israel issuing new measures to enable more supplies to enter the enclave.

"We have not gotten the authorisation, the permission to move in the volumes that we've requested," Ross Smith, a senior regional programme adviser at the World Food Programme's Regional Bureau for East & Central Africa said at a UN briefing in Geneva via video link.

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1,200 sued over attack on Hindu homes in Rangpur  
Victim families still reeling from shock

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Three days after the first round of attacks on Hindu homes in Rangpur's Gangachara upazila, a case was filed last night against 1,200 unidentified individuals on vandalism and looting charges.

The attack on the Hindu community in Aldadpur Balapara village of Betgari union took place in two phases – first on Saturday night and then once again on Sunday afternoon – by people protesting a Facebook post allegedly by a local teenager, hurting religious sentiment.

"We are withholding the identity of the complainant for security reasons," Gangachara Police Station Officer-in-Charge Al Emran told The Daily Star last night while confirming the filing of the case.

As of last night, no one was arrested in connection with the attacks.

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July Charter must guide next polls  
Says Nahid, condemns attacks on Hindu homes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam yesterday said the next election must be held on the basis of the July Charter and the next government will be obliged to implement the charter.

"There is no alternative to the July Charter and July Proclamation...It is our clear message," he said at a street rally in Gazipur as part of the party's "July March to Rebuild the Nation" campaign.

He also stated that the July Charter and July Proclamation must be declared by August 5. "We don't want any alternative," he said, adding that the July Charter must have a legal basis.

The NCP leader said national consensus must be achieved on how the charter will be implemented.

In another rally, Nahid said, "Our fight for a new Bangladesh is going on... We have declared we will drive Mujibism out from every inch of this land."

Nahid also condemned the recent attacks on Hindu homes and businesses in Rangpur's Gangachara upazila and called for justice.

Speaking at a rally at Nirala intersection in Tangail yesterday, he said, "We've seen that Hindu homes were recently attacked and looted in Rangpur. We strongly condemn this."

Nahid said no one should be spared for insulting the Prophet [PBWH], but "justice must follow the law."

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Eighth-grader Fatema Sayria Prerona, right, returned to Milestone School & College in Uttara's Diabari yesterday for the first time since the jet crash. She was there to retrieve the schoolbag of her younger brother, who is currently receiving treatment for burn injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Seeing her arrive, a friend offers words of comfort.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Arakan Army oppressing Rohingyas like junta did: HRW

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Arakan Army has imposed severe restrictions and committed grave rights abuses against the ethnic Rohingya population in Myanmar's Rakhine State, said Human Rights Watch in a new report yesterday.

The territorial gains in the state have been accompanied by movement restrictions, pillage, arbitrary detention, mistreatment and unlawful forced labour and recruitment, among other abuses against the Rohingya.

Myanmar's military has long subjected the Rohingya to atrocity crimes, including the ongoing crime against humanity of apartheid.

And now the Arakan Army, which controls some 90 percent of Rakhine State, is carrying out policies of oppression against the Rohingya similar to those long imposed by the Myanmar military, said the New York-based rights watchdog.

"The Arakan Army should end its discriminatory and abusive practices and comply with international law," said Elaine Pearson, Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

The Arakan Army pledged inclusive, equitable governance in areas it captured from Myanmar's abusive military junta after fighting resumed in November 2023.

But Rohingya describe life under the Arakan Army as harsh and restrictive, with discriminatory regulations and practices, according to the report.

From April to July, HRW interviewed 12 Rohingya

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