



‘Does asking for forgiveness absolve one of their crimes?’

Defence asks while cross-examining ex-IGP Mamun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun yesterday maintained that his actions during the July uprising were carried out as part of his official duties.

During a cross-examination by the defence counsel at the International Crimes Tribunal-1, he also said, “Issuing directives to suppress a movement may be legal, but shooting and killing protesters in a peaceful movement is not.”

He added that although he knew the student movement was legal, he had to act against it while carrying out government duty.



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A Palestinian woman weeps as she carries the body of a baby killed in Israeli airstrikes on Gaza City at dawn, ahead of a funeral procession outside Al-Shifa Hospital yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Act to avert mass hunger among the Rohingyas

Asean Parliamentarians for Human Rights urges regional bloc

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Asean Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) has made an urgent call for the creation of Asean Humanitarian Fund to deliver life-saving support and prevent mass hunger among Rohingyas in Bangladesh.

“The World Food Programme warned that food rations will run out after November 2025 unless \$17 million per month is secured,” said Charles Santiago, co-chair of APHR and former member of parliament of Malaysia.

The call was made at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday after a three-member APHR delegation conducted a fact-finding mission to the Rohingya camps and host communities in Cox’s Bazar from September 1 to 4.

There are around 1.5 million Rohingyas in Bangladesh, including about 150,000 who fled since 2023 amid renewed conflicts in Myanmar.

“The Rohingya crisis is not a distant issue. It is an Asean issue, and if the regional bloc continues its inaction, the costs will be high: human trafficking, arms and drug smuggling, as well as an influx of refugees that would continue to threaten stability across the region,” said Santiago.

The APHR called for the creation of an Asean platform

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Journo beaten by lawyers in Dhaka courtroom

Another verbally abused

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Somoy TV reporter was beaten by a group of lawyers while covering the bail hearing of journalist Monjurul Alam Panna, who was arrested under the Anti-Terrorism Act, at a Dhaka courtroom yesterday afternoon.

Journalist Asif Muhammad Siam was attacked inside the courtroom of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Hasib Ullah Pias. Witnesses said the incident occurred around 2:55pm, shortly after Monjurul was brought to the court, wearing a helmet, handcuffs, and a bulletproof vest.

After Monjurul removed his helmet, he told police, “Why are you doing this? I am not your enemy.”

Journalist Muktadir Rashid Romeo of Bangla Outlook asked Monjurul if he had been tortured in jail, to which Monjurul replied, “No.”

Moments later, lawyer Muhiuddin Molla reportedly verbally abused Muktadir for speaking, prompting the journalist to respond that only the judge can order someone to leave the courtroom.

Angered by this, the lawyer rushed at him, and Somoy TV’s Siam stepped in to stop him. According to witnesses, Muhiuddin then struck Siam. The lawyer and several others dragged Siam outside, continuing to beat him. Siam was left bleeding before state lawyer Kayum Hossain intervened and took him to the witness stand for protection.

Muktadir was also forced out of the courtroom and verbally abused.



Asif Muhammad Siam

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Entire families being ‘wiped out’

Say Gaza officials as Israel intensifies attacks; 54 more Palestinians killed

AGENCIES

Palestinian officials said entire families are being “wiped out” as Israel intensified its bombardment of residential areas in Gaza City and makeshift encampments across the Strip.

At least 54 Palestinians have been killed in the attacks since dawn yesterday, while thousands of residents defied Israeli orders to leave, remaining behind in the ruins in the path of Israel’s latest advance.

“This time, I am not leaving my house. I want to die here. It doesn’t matter if we move out or stay. Tens of thousands of those who left their homes were killed by Israel too, so why bother?” Um Nader, a mother of five from Gaza City, told Reuters via text message.

Hamas on Wednesday evening said that it is ready for the formation of an independent national administration to run Gaza and for a comprehensive truce deal, which will see all Israeli captives released.

The group’s remarks came shortly after US President Donald Trump called on Hamas to release all 20 hostages. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office criticized Hamas’ comments in a statement. “Unfortunately, this

is yet another spin by Hamas with nothing new in it,” it said.

Netanyahu’s office reiterated that the war in Gaza would only end if all hostages were released, Hamas was disarmed, the strip was demilitarized, Israel established security control over the enclave, and an alternative civilian administration was established.

- Thousands of residents defied Israeli orders to leave
- Hamas reiterates readiness for comprehensive Gaza deal
- Death toll from starvation in enclave rises to 370

Gaza’s health ministry yesterday said that at least 370 Palestinians have died from starvation in the enclave since the start of Israel’s offensive in October 2023, including 131 children, reports Al Jazeera online.

The ministry said that at least three people have died of malnutrition in the Strip over the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, Nelson Mandela’s grandson has said Palestinians’

lives under Israeli occupation are worse than anything Black South Africans experienced under apartheid, and urged the global community to come to their aid.

Mandla Mandela, 51, spoke to Reuters on Wednesday evening at Johannesburg Airport, where he was boarding a flight to Tunisia to join a flotilla aiming to deliver food and humanitarian supplies to Gaza despite an Israeli naval blockade.

“Many of us that have visited the occupied territories in Palestine have only come back with one conclusion: that the Palestinians are experiencing a far worse form of apartheid than we ever experienced,” Mandela said.

“We believe that the global community has to continue supporting the Palestinians, just as they stood side-by-side with us,” he said.

Mandela is joining a group of 10 South African activists in the Global Sumud Flotilla, which includes dozens of boats and hundreds of people from 44 countries including Swedish activist Greta Thunberg.

South Africa’s African National Congress said their mission “echoes our own struggle for liberation”.

Mandela emphasised that, when apartheid ended in 1994, it was after intense pressure and sanctions from other nations.

Rights groups condemn EPZ worker killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights groups yesterday issued separate statements condemning the extrajudicial death of factory worker Md Habib in Nilphamari’s Export Processing Zone on September 2.

The incident took place while workers were protesting for unpaid arrears.

Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB), a platform of 23 organisations, issued a statement “strongly condemning the incident” and demanding “a fair investigation, justice, and exemplary punishment for those responsible”.

It said, “Firing on workers is a direct and extreme violation of human rights.”

Democratic Rights Committee, a citizen’s platform, in its separate statement also slammed the government for giving tacit support to mobs preying on those going against majoritarian beliefs. “It astonishes us that the joint forces, who very easily killed a worker and carried out various extrajudicial killings over the past year, cannot control local mobs and attacks.

“Just like the previous government, this government is also taking an anti-worker, anti-women, anti-minority, undemocratic and authoritarian role,” it said.

Both platforms demanded payment of arrears owed to workers, withdrawal of unjust layoffs, and proper compensation to the family of the killed worker.

The committee’s statement further said, “The fall of fascism happened in exchange for the blood of many working people. Yet after the mass uprising, the first extrajudicial death to occur was that of a worker. In continuation of that, the state’s joint forces killed Md Habib, a worker of Evergreen factory, who was participating in a just movement.

“We see that the interim government has not only

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Afghanistan rattled by another quake

Death toll crosses 2,200

REUTERS, KABUL

A magnitude 6.2 earthquake struck southeastern Afghanistan yesterday, the German Research Centre for Geosciences said, the third tremor in the same region since Sunday, when one of the country’s deadliest quakes in years killed more than 2,200 people.

Naqibullah Rahimi, a spokesperson for the health department in Nangarhar province, said the quake’s epicentre was in the remote Shiwa district near the Pakistan border, with initial reports of damage in the Barkashkot area, though details were still being collected.

The tremor, at a depth of 10 km (six miles), followed the earlier quakes that flattened villages in Kunar and Nangarhar provinces, left tens of thousands homeless, and injured more than 3,600 people.

Survivors have been left without shelter as aid groups warn of dwindling resources, with the United Nations and other agencies citing a critical need for food, medical supplies and shelter.

Rescue workers yesterday pulled bodies from the rubble of homes razed in Afghanistan’s earthquakes as the confirmed death toll topped 2,200, while homeless survivors faced a bleak future with global aid agencies warning of dwindling resources.

Search operations continued in the quake-hit

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GRACING OUR GOLDEN FIELDS . . . A flock of spotted doves soars gracefully over the golden-green Aush paddy fields of Bogura’s Sariakandi, where the season’s crop is ripening. Drawn to the fields in this period, these doves feed on grains and seeds scattered across the paddies. Spotted doves, native to South and Southeast Asia, are easily recognised by the black-and-white checkerboard pattern on their necks. They thrive in open woodlands, farmlands, and even urban gardens, often nesting in low shrubs or trees. Known for their soft, rolling coo and fast wingbeats, they are resilient, adaptable, and often seen in pairs or loose flocks. These humble birds add rhythm to rural landscapes, embodying the delicate balance between agriculture and nature.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

Fashion legend Armani dies

AFP, Rome

Italian fashion legend Giorgio Armani, king of a high-end lifestyle empire, has died at the age of 91 “surrounded by his loved ones”, his company said yesterday.

“With infinite sorrow, the Armani Group announces the passing of its creator, founder, and tireless driving force: Giorgio Armani,” it said in a statement.

The best known contemporary designer, Armani opened his fashion house in Milan in 1975, quickly rising to the top of the industry and going on to dress the stars.

His funeral will be private, the group said, but well-wishers can pay respects beforehand at a funeral chamber open tomorrow and Sunday in Milan.

“Il Signor Armani, as he was always respectfully and admirably called by employees and collaborators, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loved ones,” the company said.

“Indefatigable to the end, he

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