

INTERNATIONAL

ICRC warns of violence against aid workers in Gaza, Sudan

AFP, Manama

The International Committee of the Red Cross's director-general told AFP yesterday that humanitarian workers were being increasingly targeted in Gaza and in Sudan, where five Red Crescent volunteers were killed this week.

"It is now becoming a pattern of violence against humanitarian workers in Sudan, in Gaza, and others, that we find very dramatic," Pierre Krahenbuhl told AFP in the Bahraini capital Manama.

There have also been reports that 460 people were killed at the last partially functional hospital in El-Fasher -- which recently fell to Sudanese paramilitaries, sparking fears of a return to the ethnically motivated atrocities of 20 years ago.

Krahenbuhl also told AFP that Israeli allegations that ICRC visits to Palestinian detainees posed a security threat were untrue.

On Wednesday, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz issued an order banning the ICRC from visiting Palestinians jailed under a law that allows their indefinite detention.

Katz had said the visits, which had been halted since the Gaza war began, would "seriously harm the state's security".

But Krahenbuhl said there was "no way in which our visits can pose a security threat or a national security threat" to Israel.

Two years of conflict in Gaza have killed over 68,000 Palestinians, according to Gazan health authorities and left the enclave in ruins.

The ceasefire in Gaza has eased the trauma of Israel's air strikes and blockade but a shortage of cash has left Palestinians unable to spend what little money they have without falling victim to wartime profiteers. Israel launched the war after Hamas-led fighters attacked southern Israel in October 2023, killing 1,200 people.

Burnt stations hinder probes

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The scale of destruction was so severe that the station's operations remained fully suspended for two months.

"Everything was gone -- our vehicles, case files, and computers. We were left with almost nothing," said Inspector Ramzan Haq of Jatrabari Police Station.

He also underscored the challenges of recovering medical reports and forensic documents that are critical to investigations in sensitive cases.

"Hospitals were hesitant to provide duplicate reports, citing procedural issues. But we had no choice but to push forward."

Mirpur Police Station also lost all its case records and crucial documents. Around 200 motorbikes and 15 vehicles parked inside the station went up in flames.

"...The fire completely gutted case records, vehicles, and furniture. It took eight months to make the station fully functional, starting with just a few tables and chairs," Sajjad Rumon, the OC of the station, told The Daily Star.

"We are still working on retrieving vital documents... The loss of critical evidence such as forensic reports has delayed many investigations, particularly in cases of sexual assault and child abuse."

Some pieces of evidence, such as

blood stained clothes and weapons used in murders, have been lost forever, he noted.

"We have informed courts that evidence in many cases has been destroyed. As an alternative, we are taking statements from the witnesses," added Sajjad.

Contacted, Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Omar Faruqi, said there should not be any problems in proceeding with trials in the cases whose documents are with courts.

For other cases, police will have to come up with explanations, he added.

460 ESTABLISHMENTS DAMAGED

According to PHQ data, 460 police stations, outposts, and other establishments across the country were damaged between August 1 and 6 last year during the mass uprising.

At least 526 police vehicles, including 241 pickups, 217 motorcycles, 13 four-wheel drive vehicles and 55 cars, were also damaged in fires.

Over the last 14 months, 200 pickup trucks, 20 four-wheel drive vehicles, 46 cars, and 152 motorcycles were bought for the force, said the data.

When asked, AHM Sahadat Hossain, assistant inspector general at the PHQ, said, "Various units have already been provided with some new vehicles to strengthen patrol and crime prevention activities.

The police headquarters is working to enhance the operational capabilities of every police station and unit," he added.

MORE SUPPORT NEEDED

Many police officials have expressed frustration over the delay in receiving sufficient support even 14 months after the uprising.

"We are doing everything we can to rebuild the station... We have received some support but that is not enough," said a sub-inspector at Mirpur Police Station on the condition of anonymity.

Giving an example, the officer said there were eight pickups at Mirpur Police Station before the fire, but it has so far received five.

"We need at least 10 patrol vehicles to properly cover the Mirpur area. Now, we are struggling to patrol only the key points under our jurisdiction as we don't have enough vehicles," said Sajjad, the OC of the station.

A sub-inspector at the station said, "We may be able to recover evidence in most cases, but we are yet to regain the confidence to carry out our duties properly. Many of us are still hesitant to deal with any incident involving mobs... The images of charred police stations are still fresh in our minds.

"If any major incident is reported, we still need to send two to three patrol teams at the scene," added the officer.

Some pieces of evidence, such as

Man sent to jail for assaulting woman

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the past few days as she was "deeply traumatised".

She added that administrative officials had been trying to contact her and that she had already spoken with them. "They informed me that the accused is being held at Mohammadpur Police Station. I'm going there now," she said.

Explaining why she decided to make the video public, Tibro said, "I'm making this video so that if anything happens to me, you all will know."

When this newspaper called the number used by Tibro, a man answered and declined to speak to the media about the incident. "We want justice, and that is all we want to say," he said without revealing his identity.

According to the investigation report submitted by Sub-Inspector Akkel Ali of Mohammadpur Police

Station at a Dhaka court, the complainant is a university student who frequently travels by bus. On October 27, around 1:40pm, she boarded a Ramzan Paribahan bus from Dhanmondi 15, heading towards Basila.

Around 2:20pm, as the bus reached Basila Metro Housing, the accused made an offensive remark about her attire, asking, "What are you wearing?" When she confronted him, he responded with vulgar comments.

As she protested, the accused grabbed her and began hitting her. In self-defence, she struck him with her shoe.

The accused then punched her and forced her off the bus. On information, her friends went to the spot and rescued her, the report says.

The investigation officer said the accused admitted to his involvement during preliminary interrogation.

Malaysia cops looking into extradition

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reported Malaysian news portal, Malaymail yesterday.

He said he had the opportunity to discuss the matter with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus when he visited Malaysia recently.

"Both sides agreed that the matter will be handled or managed on a P2P. I will leave it at that for now; I do not want to go beyond that," he told reporters at an event in Kuala Lumpur.

However, Saifuddin did not specify whether Dhaka had clarified the purpose of the extradition.

Last November, Saifuddin said

his ministry confirmed receiving an application from Bangladesh requesting Malaysia to detain Aminul and Ruhul, following allegations that both were involved in money laundering, extortion, and foreign worker trafficking activities.

He, however, had said the Malaysian government requested further clarification from Dhaka regarding the application, specifically whether their detention was for the purpose of extradition or for conducting further investigation.

Malaymail reported that it understands Aminul is no longer the chairman of Bestinet but still holds a

stake in the company.

Malaysia froze the recruitment of workers from Bangladesh, alongside other countries, in May last year.

Between 2022 and 2024, under the syndication of 101 recruiting agencies led by Aminul and Ruhul, over 450,000 Bangladeshi workers were recruited by Malaysia. They were charged between \$4,500 and \$6,000 each.

On October 24 last year, Bangladesh police sent a letter to Putrajaya, seeking the arrest and extradition of the duo to assist in their investigation into suspected money laundering, extortion, and the trafficking of migrant workers.



Defense ministers and top officials from ASEAN member countries, along with Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn, pose for a group photo during the opening session of the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Hundreds killed in Tanzania vote protests: opposition

REUTERS

Tanzania's main opposition party said yesterday hundreds of people had been killed in protests over elections across the country this week, as the government said it was restoring order after "isolated incidents".

The United Nations said credible reports indicated at least 10 people were killed in protests in three cities, the first public estimate of any fatalities by an international

body since Wednesday's vote.

The government has not released any estimates on casualties or responded to requests for comment. Reuters could not independently verify the figures.

Protesters have taken to the streets since Wednesday, angered by the exclusion of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's two biggest challengers from the race and what they described as widespread repression.

Witnesses have said police fired tear gas and gunshots to break up some demonstrations.

Police have imposed an overnight curfew in the commercial capital Dar es Salaam over the past two nights after government offices and other buildings were set ablaze. Internet access has been disrupted since Wednesday. Military and police patrolled the streets of Dar es Salaam yesterday.

LINKS TO EPSTEIN SCANDAL King Charles strips brother Andrew of titles, his mansion

REUTERS, London

Britain's King Charles has stripped his younger brother Andrew of his title and forced him out of his Windsor home, Buckingham Palace

said on Thursday, seeking to distance the royals from him over his links to the Jeffrey Epstein scandal.

Andrew, 65, the younger brother of Charles and second son of the late Queen Elizabeth, has come

under mounting pressure in recent years over his behaviour and his ties to late sex offender Epstein.

Stop strikes on alleged drug boats in Caribbean UN rights chief asks US

AFP, Geneva

The United Nations yesterday urged the United States to halt strikes on vessels in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific allegedly carrying drug traffickers, and to prevent "extra-judicial killings".

UN rights chief Volker Turk said these people had been killed "in circumstances that find no justification in international law".

"These attacks -- and their mounting human cost -- are unacceptable," he said in a statement.

Israel launches more strikes on Gaza Strip

FROM PAGE 12

Israel

has returned the bodies of 30 more Palestinians to Gaza, a hospital told AFP yesterday. The Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Yunis told AFP that "the bodies of 30 Palestinian prisoners were received from the Israeli side as part of the exchange deal".

Meanwhile, an Israeli army drone attack targeted a motorcycle in the town

of Kounine in the Nabatieh governorate of south Lebanon. According to

the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) will help "surge in" experts to clear land mines, cluster bombs and munitions dropped during the war. Removing the unexploded ordinance to allow more aid into Gaza is "a vital component" of the recently US brokered ceasefire agreement, the UK foreign ministry said.

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ

অধিনায়ক (অ্যাডিশনাল ডিআইজি) এর কার্যালয়

৯ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন

মৌলিশহর, চট্টগ্রাম

“উন্মুক্ত পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM) ”

তারিখ-৩০/১০/২০২৫খ্রি।

আরক নং-এপিবি(১)/কিউএম-২০২৫-২০২৬/১০৪৪০

এতোকালের (আরক নং-এপিবি(১)/কিউএম-২০২৫-২০২৬/১০৪৪০ পর্যন্ত) ৯ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, মৌলিশহর, চট্টগ্রাম সরকারের কার্যালয়ের ক্ষেত্রে সীলনামোকাবল ক্ষেত্রে উন্মুক্ত পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি দেওয়া হচ্ছে।

প্রতিটি দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি অধিনায়ক (অ্যাডিশনাল ডিআইজি) এর কার্যালয়, ৯ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, মৌলিশহর, চট্টগ্রাম সরকারের জন্ম প্রক্রিয়া করা যাচ্ছে।

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