

JUNGLE SALIMPUR

242 sued over attack on joint forces camp

BSS, Chattogram

Chattogram police have filed a case against 242 individuals, including 150 to 200 unidentified persons, over early Monday's attack on a joint forces camp in Jungle Salimpur.

Inspector Sohel Rana of the Faujdardhat police outpost under Sitakunda Police Station filed the case on Monday night, confirmed station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammad Mohinul Islam.

The OC said names of a total of 42 people, including five people arrested from the scene and local crime boss Md Yasin, have been mentioned in the case. "Apart from this, 150 to 200 unidentified people have been named as accused."

He said the case has been filed under various sections of the Explosives Act on charges of launching an armed attack on police, obstructing government work and damaging government property.

In the early hours of Monday, armed criminals attacked and destroyed a newly built camp for the joint forces in the Alinagar area of Jungle Salimpur. Before the attack, roads leading into the hilly terrain were dug up in at least three places so that law enforcers could not respond to the scene quickly.



Homebound people crowd the BRTA flyover in the Abdullahpur area of Dhaka as they leave the capital to celebrate Eid-ul-Adha with their families.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

RAPE, ABUSE OF CHILDREN

One held over attempted rape of 7-year-old in Rangpur

60-yr-old arrested for raping, impregnating teenager in Gazipur

STAR REPORT

Police arrested a man on charge of attempted to rape a seven-year-old child in a jute field in Rangpur city yesterday.

The arrestee is Badiuzzaman, 45, a labourer, said Rangpur Metropolitan Police Commissioner Mohammad Abdul Mabud at a press conference.

According to the police, the incident occurred on Monday night in Kolabari area of Mahiganj upazila, when Badiuzzaman lured the child with a packet of chips to a nearby jute field and attempted to rape her, but fled when locals noticed him.

The child's family filed a case with Mahiganj Police Station the same day, and police through a drive arrested the accused early yesterday.

Police said Badiuzzaman lives in Dhaka and occasionally visits Rangpur.

In Gazipur's Kaliganj upazila, police arrested a 60-year-old man and sent him to jail on charges of raping and impregnating a 13-year-old girl.

The arrested accused is Abdur Rahim, 60, a rickshaw puller of Baligaon area.

When the incident came to light yesterday, during the fifth month of the child's pregnancy, locals detained the and beat him up and later

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Govt turns to foreign loans to plug deficit

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He also warned that the domestic borrowing target would be difficult to maintain.

With a Tk 9,30,000 crore budget, even if borrowing is reduced by Tk 1,00,000 crore, the deficit could still reach Tk 250,000 crore.

Revenue collection is unlikely to exceed Tk 5,50,000 crore, meaning the government will inevitably need to borrow more from domestic sources, despite liquidity problems in banks.

Resorting to money printing would risk further inflation.

Besides, the BNP's election manifesto pledged to reduce debt dependency, but this hinges on boosting revenue collection, Zahid said.

While some measures are planned, the extent of improvement remains uncertain.

"Aligning expectations with reality will be quite difficult," he said.

Budget implementation data shows that in recent years, borrowing has been required not only for the development budget but also for the operating budget. As a result, interest payments have steadily increased year after year.

Bangladesh's total public debt burden has crossed Tk 22,00,000 crore by December 2025 with a growing reliance on domestic sources as the government looked to "insulate the economy from foreign currency risks".

Of the total debt, Tk 3,00,000 crore was borrowed during the interim government rule, according to the finance ministry's latest quarterly bulletin.

The bulletin states the public debt stood at Tk 18,90,000 crore at the end

of June 2024, a little over a month before the interim administration assumed power. The figure was Tk 13,44,000 crore at the end of June 2022.

During the interim government's rule, domestic debt rose by Tk 1,70,000 crore, reaching Tk 12,50,000 crore by December. Foreign loans increased by Tk 1,47,000 crore to Tk 9,59,000 crore in the same period.

Domestic borrowing dominates the government's overall debt portfolio.

At the end of 2025, the domestic and external liabilities constituted 57 percent and 43 percent of the total government debt stock.

"By focusing on the local market, the government is deepening domestic liquidity while reducing its exposure to exchange rate fluctuations," the bulletin said.

Gaza health officials say 7 killed in Israeli airstrikes

AFP, Gaza City

Gaza health officials said Israeli airstrikes killed at least seven people on Tuesday, including five in one attack, in the latest violence to hit the territory despite a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

Gaza remains gripped by daily violence, with both the Israeli military and Hamas accusing one another of violating the truce in effect since October 10.

"Five martyrs and several wounded were transferred (to hospital) after an Israeli airstrike targeted a group of citizens in eastern Al-Maghazi," the civil defence agency, which operates as a rescue service under Hamas, said.

Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital and a Palestinian security source confirmed the incident and the casualties.

The Israeli military said it was checking the reports.

A witness told AFP that a group of armed men entered the Al-Maghazi refugee camp and broke into a house on Tuesday morning.

"Residents in the area noticed them and confronted them with stones and sticks, at which point an Israeli drone then fired a missile at the residents, killing five," he said.

The witness, who declined to be named for safety reasons, added that the gunmen subsequently fled toward the border area east of the camp, which is under Israeli control.

Messi fitness under scrutiny ahead of WC

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Iceland on June 9 in the United States. Their title defence officially starts against Algeria on June 16 in Kansas City, Missouri. The South American giants will also face Austria and Jordan in Group J.

The 38-year-old forward was forced off during Inter Miami's thrilling 6-4 victory over Philadelphia Union on Sunday after appearing to clutch the back of his left thigh in the 73rd minute. Messi immediately headed down the tunnel, raising fears over his availability for Argentina's World Cup campaign.

In a statement released on Monday, the Major League Soccer club said medical examinations revealed "an overload associated with muscle fatigue in his left hamstring," although no specific timeline was provided for his recovery.

"The timeline for his return to physical activity will depend on his clinical and functional progress," the club added.

Messi, who inspired Argentina to World Cup glory in Qatar four years ago, remains central to the team's hopes despite questions surrounding his fitness. The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner claimed the Golden Ball as the tournament's best player during Argentina's triumphant campaign, which secured the nation's first world title since 1986.

Since joining Inter Miami in 2023, Messi's workload has been carefully managed, with the club often resting him during congested schedules. With MLS currently on a World Cup break, Argentina's medical staff will now closely monitor the veteran playmaker's condition ahead of what is widely expected to be his sixth and final World Cup appearance.

Record temps as spring heat wave bakes Europe

AFP, London

Residents of western Europe turned to fans and fountains as they sweltered through a record-breaking heat wave yesterday, with temperatures set to soar even further.

Hit by a so-called "heat dome" of warm air from northern Africa that is pushing the mercury well above normal levels for May, some Europeans even admitted they were considering getting air conditioning, in a region famously averse.

Baking in a bright London sun, 47-year-old Gurjit Gill, who works in banking, said he was happy to be going into work – because of the air con.

"I'm thinking about actually maybe getting an AC unit, because the bedrooms at nighttime are quite unbearable," he told AFP.

People across western Europe swarmed beaches, braved the streets clutching handheld fans and umbrellas to fend off the sun, and went for a dip or splashed themselves wherever they could – including Rome's Barcaccia fountain and the bubblers in the Jardin du Palais Royal in Paris.

The UK reported its hottest-ever day for May, at 35C near London – breaking a record of 33.5C set Monday – as a high-pressure system trapped warm air over western Europe.

In France, which also logged its hottest-ever May day Monday and then again yesterday, the weather agency said the heat wave could last through the week, predicting temperatures could go as high as 39C in some areas.

Scientists say human-driven climate change is amplifying such extremes, with weather events like heatwaves, droughts and floods becoming more intense and frequent.

"This record-breaking heat has the fingerprints of climate change all over it," said Friederike Otto, a professor of climate science at Imperial College London.

"Temperatures on this scale were once exceptional even at the height of summer... But the science is very clear – climate change makes these heatwaves hotter, longer and far more frequent."

Swiss tourist Philippe Bignens, 56,

visiting London with his father, told AFP they had to change plans and retreat to their hotel to avoid being outside at the hottest time of day.

"If you're not concerned about global warming, you must be deaf, blind altogether, right? So it is there, yes. We have to be concerned and try to do something about it," he said.

Across the English Channel, tennis fans in Paris baked in temperatures of 33C at the French Open, with players battling through heat that Norway's Casper Ruud said left him feeling "like a zombie".

Government authorities also noted the heat had taken a deadly turn.

French authorities yesterday reported at least seven deaths linked to the heatwave – five of which were drownings, as many people sought relief on beaches and in the water, even though lifeguard supervision is not due to start in many areas until July.

Authorities in Britain said four teens had drowned in England since Sunday.

A record May temperature of 28.8C was recorded at two of Ireland's weather stations amid the current blast of heat, Met Eireann data showed.

In France, news channel BFMTV said its journalists had received threats and insults "from climate-sceptic internet users" over the channel's weather maps – covered in red and "based on broadly accepted scientific facts", it said.

Benjamin Boisson, a fruit grower in southern France, worried the extreme fluctuation in temperature would cause a sharp drop in production, as well as complicate storage.

Already, a previous warm weather spell forced him to harvest apricots five days earlier than planned this year, on May 1, he said.

"That may not seem like much, but it changes everything. The major retailers weren't ready and are still selling Spanish apricots when they should have switched over to French ones," he said.

Spain's State Meteorological Agency (Aemet) also warned of "extraordinarily high temperatures for this time of year" that will continue all week.

Cattle sales pick up

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"I brought 13 bulls from Trishal. On May 25, I sold three and made Tk 30,000 profit. But yesterday, I incurred a loss of Tk 40,000 after selling four more. I am now hoping to recover profits from the remaining five," he said.

However, Mohammad Mostofa, another trader at Diabari, said he was satisfied after earning more than Tk 1 lakh by selling 16 of his 23 bulls.

"I made profits on most of the sales, but my final earnings will depend on selling the remaining cattle," he said.

Visits to Kalshi and Kochukhet cattle markets also found trading activity increasing as the number of available cattle declined due to strong sales.

Traders said prices gradually increased in the afternoon as sales accelerated after 1:00pm and buyers became more active.

At Kalshi market, trader Titu Sardar from Rajbari said he brought eight cattle, six of which had already been sold.

Last year, he brought 20 cattle and earned around Tk 20,000 to Tk 25,000 in profit per animal. This

year, however, he reduced his stock to eight because of higher prices in village markets.

His cattle were priced between Tk 1.20 lakh and Tk 2 lakh. Although the cattle were of similar size to last year's, profits dropped to Tk 5,000 to Tk 8,000 per animal.

"I have earned around Tk 25,000 to Tk 26,000 by selling six cattle. I still have two left and hope to sell them at better prices," he said.

At Kochukhet market, traders and customers said trading remained steady from Monday night through yesterday morning before picking up significantly after 1:00pm.

Traders and market fee collectors said cattle that were selling for Tk 80,000 to Tk 90,000 earlier in the day fetched around Tk 10,000 more later in the afternoon.

Many traders said they accepted low profit margins of Tk 2,000 to Tk 5,000 per animal due to concerns over market conditions.

Meanwhile, both traders and customers continued to suffer from waterlogging and muddy conditions at the cattle markets following heavy rainfall over the last three days.

An Eid amid ashes and loss

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But before that day could come, a fire broke out in a neighbouring house and ripped through the densely packed settlement between 7:00pm and 7:30pm on Monday. Scrap materials and plastic goods helped the flames spread rapidly.

"We just ran for our lives. We could not save anything," she told this correspondent.

The family lost belongings worth over Tk 100,000, including a refrigerator, television, bed, and other furniture.

"Now we do not know where we will go. Until we find a room, we will have to stay under the flyover."

Among the worst affected was Delwar Hossain, around 60, who lost nearly everything tied to his livelihood. He owned 10 auto-rickshaws and a garage in the slum.

Five vehicles were initially taken out, but three were later stolen amid the chaos. The rest were destroyed in the fire.

Delwar had lived on government land in the area for about 15 years and also ran 12 rental rooms. "Everything is gone," he said, adding that residents had recently been told to clear the

area after Eid.

"We were preparing to move. But the fire destroyed everything before that."

He estimated his losses at around Tk 10 lakh and said he is now burdened with nearly Tk 5 lakh in loans.

A few metres away from Anowara under the same flyover near, Asma Begum, 40, sat with her family after losing their rented rooms.

She lived with her husband, seven daughters, and one son in two rooms for Tk 6,000 a month. Her husband works in waste collection, while she was involved in scrap-related work. With eviction already looming, they had sent some belongings to their village home before Eid. Whatever remained was burned. "We will spend Eid under this flyover."

The family now hopes to collect and sell discarded items to raise money and return to their village after Eid.

Firefighters brought the blaze under control around 9:35pm after nearly two hours of effort involving 15 units.

Fire Service Director Lt Col Md Azad Anwar said the control room received the alert at 7:23pm.

He said the slum had around 1,200 homes and scrap shops, with around 3,000 to 3,500 residents. Firefighters, assisted by locals, police, Rab, and army personnel, managed to contain the fire.

With no nearby water source, 15 water-carrying vehicles were brought in.

Azad said, "The cause is still unknown and will be determined after investigation. A committee will be formed in this regard."

Authorities said no casualties or missing persons had been reported as of Monday night.

In front of the burned area, a three-member volunteer medical team treated about 60 injured people, most with burns and cuts.

Meanwhile, police detained Nazmul Hasan Moni, 27, over allegations of setting the fire.

Residents said he had a dispute with a shopkeeper and allegedly threatened to burn the slum earlier in the day. He was later beaten by locals and handed over to police.

Pallabi Police Station Officer-in-Charge Hasan Bashir said a case was being filed in which Nazmul would be shown arrested.