

2 cops hurt in attack during anti-drug drive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Two policemen were injured in an alleged attack by suspected drug dealers while they were attempting to arrest an accused in a drug-related case in Lalmonirhat on Friday night.

The incident occurred around 11:00pm at Gendukuri village in Hatibandha upazila.

Hatibandha Police Station Sub-Inspector Ruhul Amin, who sustained injuries to his head and other parts of his body, was sent to a specialised private hospital in Rangpur for surgery.

Assistant Sub-Inspector Abdul Latif is undergoing treatment at a local health complex.

Officer-in-Charge Ramzan Ali said the policemen were conducting a raid to arrest Rashidul Haque Rashed of Gendukuri, who is wanted in a drug-related case.

During the drive, Rashed and his associates allegedly attacked the policemen with sharp weapons and sticks, said the OC.

A case was filed over the attack, the OC said.



KSRM Deputy Managing Director Selim Uddin hands over advanced medical equipment worth nearly Tk 2 crore to Additional Secretary (Budget) of the Ministry of Health Arif Ahmed and Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) Director Brig Gen Mohammad Taslim Uddin at a ceremony held at the hospital's conference room yesterday. Among those present were KSRM Director Jasim Uddin, CMCH Deputy Director Dr Ilias Chowdhury, Assistant Director Dr Kazi Saiful Alam, Dr Deb Prasad Chakraborty, Dr Ruma Bhattacharya, KSRM Deputy General Manager Wahiduzzaman, Media Adviser Mizanul Islam, Corporate Physician Dr Mezbah Uddin, Dr Junaid Ahmed, and Brand Coordinator Moniruzzaman Riyad.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Political will key to women

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promote women's leadership, and guarantee transparent nomination procedures.

The charter called for equal representation, 50 percent women and 50 percent men, at all levels of government as part of long-term democratic reforms.

It proposed regular gender-based audits of political parties in accordance with Section 90(B) of the Representation of the People Order. It said the findings should be made public.

The draft urged all political parties and elected representatives to establish internal complaint reception and redress mechanisms in line with the 2009 High Court directives.

It also recommended amending provisions of the RPO in line with General Recommendations 23 and 40 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the National Women Development Policy.

It proposed introducing provisions for the direct election of women representatives through a rotation system by reserving one-third of general seats at all levels of decentralised local government.

Election Commissioner Md Anwarul Islam Sarkar

said ensuring women's political participation, representation, and leadership development requires coordinated efforts by the Election Commission, political parties, civil society, the media, and local communities.

WAVE Foundation Executive Director Mohsin Ali stressed the need to raise awareness about women's political participation, representation, and leadership.

MP Rasheda Begum Hira said democratic reform means enabling women and men to work according to their abilities from their respective positions.

UN Women Representative Geetanjali Singh said to strengthen democratic governance, women must be included not only as voters but also as candidates, leaders, and decision-makers.

Harry Thomson, first secretary (political) at the Australian High Commission, said political parties should view women's inclusion not merely as providing opportunities but as recognising women as a source of strength.

Stephanie St Laurent Brazard, second secretary (development, gender equality) at the Canadian High Commission, said when women actively participate and provide leadership in politics, they contribute to economic growth and strengthen society.

EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed called for coordinated efforts to

prevent all forms of political violence against women. He said the realities of the situation could not be understood without engaging directly at the grassroots level.

Nusrat Tabassum, MP; Sanjida Islam Tuli, MP; EC Deputy Secretary Shah Alam; Luna Noor, central committee member of Communist Party of Bangladesh; Monira Sharmin, joint convener of National Citizen Party; Dr Habiba Chowdhury, political secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami; Nasrin Sultana Milu, joint general secretary of AB Party; Julhasnain Babu, general secretary of Ganosamhati Andolan; Ilira Dewan, former member of the Local Government Reform Commission; and Rajekuzzaman Ratan, joint general secretary of the Socialist Party of Bangladesh, among others, were present.

The annual DNC report said Bangladesh's location between major drug-producing regions, along with its borders with India and Myanmar, has made it vulnerable to trafficking.

It said yaba and crystal meth continue to enter the country mainly through the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, while traffickers are also using coastal, riverine

Yaba used as narco-currency

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drug trafficking, trading, and abuse mainly due to a lack of political will.

"Organised groups, from influential quarters to small dealers, are involved in the trade. Since the authorities know the routes, carriers, dealers and users, failure to control it raises serious questions," he said.

The report said cannabis remained the most prevalent drug in the country, accounting for more than 50 to 60 percent of cases detected by the DNC in 2025.

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and other alternative routes.

The report identified Cox's Bazar, Chattogram, Cumilla, Brahmanbaria, Narsingdi, Faridpur, Gazipur, Narayanganj, Tangail, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Natore, Naogaon, Pabna, Sirajganj, Bogura, Joypurhat, Dinajpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Satkhira, Jashore, Kushtia and Chuadanga as among the narcotics-prone districts.

It also listed several vulnerable trafficking points along the western, northern, and southeastern borders. In the southeast, Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, Shahporir Island, St Martin's Island, Ukhiya and other coastal and border points remain critical.

The DNC report said traffickers were increasingly using social media, online marketplaces, encrypted messaging apps, courier services and digital payment systems.

According to the report, some traffickers swallow yaba tablets, hide drugs in shoes, walking sticks and vehicle tyres, and use women and children as carriers.

At the Friday's event, the home minister said the government was following a zero-tolerance policy against drugs and working to implement its anti-drug strategy strictly.

He said changes were being made to the legal framework, on the advice of the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre, to track money laundering through

anonymous SIMs, mobile financial services, OTP and WhatsApp.

The minister said the government was not limiting its action to retailers or carriers, but was also committed to bringing the masterminds, financiers and godfathers of the drug trade to justice.

Jamaat MPs

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He further claimed that a minister had previously defended the recruitment of more than 11,000 employees by S Alam, suggesting possible links between the businessman and the government.

He also called upon the government to expedite legal proceedings to bring back former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and other "accomplices of fascism" to face trial.

Separately, Shahjahan Chowdhury criticised remarks by the home minister, who had earlier said, "Fakhrul Islam is not Islam, Jamaat-e-Islami is not Islam."

In response, Shahjahan said people in Chattogram nowadays joke that religious rulings no longer come from Islamic seminars but from parliament, describing the home minister as a "modern-day multi".

He argued that Jamaat's century-long history spoke for itself and rejected the need for any official declaration on whether it was an Islamic party.

Eight Ctg wards

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percent, against the recommended level of below 5 percent.

The Breteau index, which measures the number of positive containers per 100 houses inspected, was 30.81, well above the safe threshold of below 20.

The survey identified eight wards as exceptionally high-risk areas for a dengue outbreak: Uttar Kattali (Ward 10), Panchlaish (Ward 3), Jalalabad (Ward 2), Paschim Bakalia (Ward 17), Dakkhin Bakalia (Ward 19), Dakkhin Halishahar (Ward 39), Patharghata (Ward 34), and Anderkilla (Ward 32).

Entomologists found that Aedes aegypti, also known as the yellow fever mosquito, accounted for 70-80 percent of the larvae detected, while Aedes albopictus, also known as the Asian tiger mosquito, made up the remaining 20-30 percent.

The survey team recommended preventing water from remaining stagnant in containers for more than three days, maintaining cleanliness around homes and workplaces, removing plastic waste through municipal drives, and intensifying monitoring of high-rise buildings, basements, and construction sites.

It also recommended timely larvicide and adulticide operations, with adulticide spraying

immediately after sunrise and just before sunset.

The team also called for proper application of insecticides to prevent mosquito resistance.

Md Mofizul Haque Shah, divisional entomologist at the Chattogram Divisional Health Office, who led the survey, said June to September is typically the peak dengue season, prompting the department to conduct a pre-monsoon mosquito census.

He stressed the need for greater public awareness and effective implementation of the recommendations to prevent a dengue outbreak.

Sharful Islam Mahi, mosquito control officer of CCC, said they had already launched a special "crash programme" based on the survey findings.

"A dedicated 60-member team is working exclusively in the identified hotspots, and we have sufficient stocks of larvicide and adulticide for the next six months," he said.

He said CCC plans to conduct two more surveys during the middle and end of the monsoon to monitor changes in mosquito breeding patterns.

To strengthen public awareness, CCC, in collaboration with Médecins Sans Frontières, also known as Doctors Without Borders, launched a citywide awareness campaign on June 21.

Ruling alliance MPs

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He pointed to several institutions in England and Malaysia that are promoting Islamic banking system.

"We must promote Islamic banking," he proposed.

In response, BNP lawmaker Gayeshwar Chandra Roy alleged that non-Muslims are excluded from employment in Islamic banks, questioning whether such practices align with the party's ideals. "Was the country liberated only for Muslims?" he asked.

Gayeshwar recounted a personal incident where he had requested a job placement from a director of Islami Bank, who is now active in Jamaat politics. "The director told me, 'Send the name.' After I sent it, he replied, 'Sorry, he is Hindu. I cannot give him the job...'," he added.

Roy questioned whether a bank should operate this way. "Just because a bank carries the name 'Islamic', can it exclude non-Muslims from employment? Is that lawful? One may say a Hindu cannot enter a mosque or madrasa, but a bank is neither a mosque

nor a madrasa."

He argued that the ideals of an independent Bangladesh and the BNP's vision are rooted in religious values, but not confined to any single faith. "All religions must be respected," he stressed.

He also demanded an explanation from Andaleeve.

In response, Andaleeve said, "I am not aware of any restriction barring non-Muslims from working in Islamic banks. My understanding is that anyone can be employed there."

At this point, Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad intervened, noting that many remarks in the House were based on assumptions. He said if any director of Islami Bank were present, they could clarify the matter, adding that the issue was "sensitive and communal in nature".

Jamaat-e-Islami MP Shahjahan Chowdhury then took the floor, asserting that people of all faiths can work at Islami Bank, adding that in his own constituency, many members of the Hindu community are employed there.

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(Md. Hasan Ali)
Project Director
B-STRONG, LGED Part
e-mail: pd.bstrong@lged.gov.bd
Phone: 55006730
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