

REPORTS ON BSF Indian HC expresses concern

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka has expressed concern about the reports concerning the BSF that appeared in the local media, says a press release.

Termining the reports 'inaccurate and sensational', the high commission in a statement yesterday said the latest example of such reports was published in some papers on June 11 blaming the BSF for tension along Chaudanga border.

The high commission said the Indian authorities has investigated this incident and conveyed the following facts:

"At about 7:00pm on June 9, 2006, a BSF patrol party from border outpost Gede (across from Chaudanga in Bangladesh) detected some miscreants in Indian territory trying to illegally cross through the border fence near border pillar 75/2-S. On being challenged, these miscreants, instead of identifying themselves, attacked the BSF patrol party by flinging a sharp edged weapon."

"The BSF patrol party opened fire in self-defence, resulting in the killing of one of the miscreants. Subsequently, the BSF immediately came under heavy unprovoked fire from the BDR that continued intermittently until after midnight. Surprisingly, the BDR fired five high explosive bombs and nearly 6,000 rounds from a universal machine gun. After observing restraint for a long time, the BSF was forced to return fire," the statement said.

It also said the BSF later recovered the body of the dead miscreant and found that he was carrying 51 bottles of phensidyl and three kilograms of ganja (cannabis). The dead was identified as Md Yusuf, son of Md Isha Haque of village Akandberia in Chaudanga.

On June 11, a Commandant-level Flag Meeting was held where the Commandant, 35 Rifles Battalion of BDR, expressed his regret for the BDR firing, pleading that it had been due to a misunderstanding, the statement added.

Obituary

Begum Faizunnessa (Kachi), daughter of late Khan Shahe B Sayeduddin Ahmed of Baharukati Mahbari, passed away at Apollo Hospitals in the city yesterday at the age of 68, says a press release.

She had been suffering from renal failure and other old-age complications for a long time. A former librarian and assistant superintendent of Dhaka Eden College, Begum Faizunnessa was widely known as 'Kachi Apa' to students, teachers and guardians of the college.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque after Zohr prayers tomorrow (Thursday) and she will be buried at Azimpur new graveyard the same day.

Manjila Khatun

Manjila Khatun, a teacher of Sher-e-Bangla High School, passed away at her Malibagh residence on Monday at the age of 62 due to a cardiac arrest, says a press release.

She left behind one daughter, two sons and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death. She was buried at Azimpur graveyard.

Bashonti Mahalanobish

Bashonti Mahalanobish, wife of late Arun Chandra Mahalanobish, passed away due to cardiac arrest at the Central Hospital in the capital on Monday night at the age of 72, says a press release.

She was the mother of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra singer Bulbul Mahalanobish and journalist Shilpi Mahalanobish and mother-in-law of Managing Director of Concord Group of Companies Sarith Kumar Lal and banker Utpal Chowdhury. She was cremated at Postagola crematorium yesterday.

Death anniversary

Today is the seventh death anniversary of Q M Zaman, founder president of Bangladesh Cameraman Association, says a press release.

To mark this occasion, food will be distributed among the destitute in the morning, and a milad mahfil will be held at Shaheh Bari in Hajiganj after Asr prayers.



Police baton-charge the opposition activists near Sobhanbagh mosque in the city as they were marching in a procession during hartal hours yesterday.

Cop commits suicide in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A traffic police constable allegedly committed suicide in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

Police said Omar Faruk, 35, jumped from the roof of a six-storied building inside the traffic colony just behind Paltan Police Station at 12:15am.

He had been mentally ill for last three years.

An unnatural death case has been filed with Paltan Police Station.

Certificate course on multilateral system begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) and North South University (NSU) organised the inaugural ceremony of a two-month certificate course on 'The Multilateral System and Its Impact on Bangladesh' at the NSU auditorium in the city on Monday.

Reaz Rahman, advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, inaugurated the course as chief guest and made a keynote presentation on 'Future of the Multilateral System in a Changing World: Focus on UN System and its Reforms, OIC and Commonwealth'.

BEI President Farooq Sobhan chaired the event while Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqi, vice chancellor of NSU, delivered a welcome speech.

Former secretaries, ambassadors, diplomats, scholars and professors will speak on the impact and relevance of multilateral system on Bangladesh.

The course is open to all and intended to equip the participants intellectually so as to advance in their career and to meet the challenges of the external world.



Reaz Rahman, advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, speaks at the inaugural ceremony of a course on 'The Multilateral System and Its Impact on Bangladesh' organised Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) and North South University (NSU) at the NSU auditorium in the city on Monday.

Memories still fresh for witness of Hitler's last days

REUTERS, Berlin

There is nothing left of the underground bunker where Hitler committed suicide.

But for former SS officer Rochus Misch, the memories are still fresh, more than 60 years after the end of World War Two.

"There was a little working room, a living room, bedroom, toilet and shower and there was no more," said the last surviving witness to the final two weeks of Adolf Hitler's life, referring to the Nazi leader's underground quarters.

Gazing at the car park, which now covers the bunker, Misch recalled his time as a member of the Fuehrer's close entourage in the days leading up to April 30, 1945.

The 88-year-old, who still lives in Berlin, served Hitler throughout World War Two as a bodyguard and telephonist.

But as the Third Reich came to an end, Hitler withdrew to the underground shelter beneath his chancellery and dismissed most of his staff, retaining only those whose services were considered

essential -- including Misch.

"We were expecting it. Hitler let us go on April 22. I was here in Berlin... and we stuck it out until April 30," he said.

Misch's account of Hitler's last days is worn smooth from years of retelling. His answers to questions sometimes run off at a tangent but his feelings -- particularly about the subsequent portrayal of the events of that spring -- are clear.

"Hitler was not, as the press writes, from February on down here vegetating," he says. "He always came out and went up to his apartment in the flat and I went to my room."

"He came down when there was an air raid warning and so I came down too."

Hitler's bride, Eva Braun, whom he married two days before their deaths, also moved into the bunker, Misch says.

"(In the last few weeks) Eva came and then they stayed down there for the last 12 days."

WITNESS TO THE END

Dressed in an anorak, cardigan and black jeans, Misch faced a barrage of reporters at the bunker site when

a local history society unveiled the first sign indicating the location of the shelter.

"Herr Misch is the last one still living who spent the last 15 days in the bunker and experienced the end," said historian Dietmar Arnold, head of the Berlin Underworlds organisation which was responsible for the sign.

The bunker was filled with gravel and covered by a car park in the 1980s by the East German government. There is no trace of it left, nor of Albert Speer's monumental New Reichs Chancellery that once stood nearby.

Misch welcomed the sign -- hoping it would help bring him respite from the hundreds of journalists, historians and archivists who want to tap his memories of the man behind the Holocaust.

"Groups come here every day, they want to know; then they come to me, then they want me to come here."

"They want explanations. It can't go on," he said, his voice trailing off before he launched into another reminiscence.

"There were two witnesses. We

BNP to stage nationwide demonstration tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling BNP will stage demonstration across the country tomorrow to protest "derogatory remarks" made by Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina against Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in parliament on Monday.

The demonstration is also aimed to protest against what it said opposition-sponsored violence, anarchy, attack on High Court premises and other destructive activities across the country.

As part of the demonstration programme, BNP will hold rally and bring out procession in all upazila and district headquarters in the afternoon.

In Dhaka, the BNP will organise a rally at Muktangan at 4:00pm.

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, in a statement yesterday, asked leaders, activists and supporters of BNP and its front organisations to make the programme a complete success.

Garment workers for tripartite agreement

Leaders of '16-Garment Workers' Associations' demanded a tripartite agreement between the government, owners and workers in 72 hours otherwise they would launch a tougher movement, including strike, says a press release.

They also demanded forming a committee to monitor implementation of the agreement and provide 30 per cent interim allowance of present basic wage before fixing the new wage.

They also termed the news regarding a tripartite agreement, published in the media yesterday, as baseless saying no garment workers' association was even present during the so-called agreement signing, the press release added.

Japan sees no imminent missile test by N Korea

AP, Tokyo

Japan does not believe North Korea is preparing to test a long-range missile any time soon, the top government spokesman said yesterday.

"At this point, we don't see the launch of a missile as imminent," said Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe when asked about media reports such a test was likely. He refused to comment on what kind of information that was based on, saying the intelligence is classified.

The possibility of a test has been the cause of concern for about two weeks, with Japanese media, including national broadcaster NHK and Kyodo News agency, reporting that North Korea had moved a missile close to a launch site.

DHAKA TODAY Meeting Discussion Workers Party of Bangladesh will hold a discussion on 'crisis in the existing system of government'...

Zarqawi death may strengthen rival rebel groups

REUTERS, Baghdad

The death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, head of al Qaeda in Iraq, may boost other groups drawing support from the once-dominant Sunni Arab minority, including Saddam Hussein loyalists with more nationalistic aims.

While equally opposed to the US occupation and Iraq's Shi'ite-led government, their tactics are believed to be different from those of Zarqawi, who was notorious for beheading captives and killing hundreds of people in suicide bombings.

"The other insurgent groups... may become more powerful and benefit from the weakness of al Qaeda," said Professor Hazim al-Nuaimi of Mustansiriyah University in Baghdad.

Al Qaeda's leader in Iraq, who had a 25 million dollar (13 million pound) US bounty on his head, was killed in an American air strike on Wednesday night in a village north of Baghdad.

Sunni Arab militants loyal to Zarqawi were blamed for major bombings against Shi'ite targets in Iraq which sought to draw the majority Shi'ite community into a sectarian civil war.

"Zarqawi's death may change the methods of the insurgents," Nuaimi added, predicting less attacks against civilians. "It may not be as brutal... these other groups focus more on targeting US forces."

US and Iraqi officials hope that relatively moderate elements in the insurgency may eventually be lured into the US-backed political process, pointing to Sunni participation in a unity government formed last month.

New Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said after he took office last month at the helm of a grand coalition of Shi'ites, Sunnis and Kurds that his government would offer dialogue to insurgents who lay down weapons.

But the no-nonsense Shi'ite Islamists has rejected any role for militants with "Iraqi blood on their hands", including followers of Zarqawi, who had declared war on majority Shi'ites.

Maliki may soften his position, however, if leaders of other guerrilla groups show flexibility.

CONSTITUTION The most powerful insurgents are former officers in Saddam's army and intelligence network, people with years of military experience who had formed alliances of convenience with al Qaeda but were alienated by Zarqawi's brutal methods.

Al Qaeda militants from across the Arab world make up only about five percent of the insurgency, US officials say, but their spectacular suicide bombings kill the most people.

"If they (the US military) succeed in eradicating al Qaeda in Iraq it would strengthen the main strand of the insurgency, which is nationalist in orientation," said Joost Hiltermann, of the International Crisis Group think tank.

But, he cautioned, if that strategy failed, Zarqawi's followers could re-emerge as a strong threat.

A recent ICG report described al Qaeda as one among a handful of "particularly powerful groups" in the uprising that erupted after US forces invaded to overthrow Saddam in 2003.

It is fuelled in part by perceived grievances among Sunnis, who make up roughly 20 percent of Iraq's 26 million population, that they are being marginalised in post-Saddam Iraq.

Key to defusing the violence would be to revise a new constitution, which Sunnis fear will deprive them of oil revenue from Shi'ite and Kurd-dominated areas, Hiltermann said.

The community's integration into Iraq's armed forces was another crucial factor. "These are very difficult requirements to meet," he said.

BAGHDAD BOMBS Iraqi and US officials hailed Zarqawi's death but cautioned that it did not spell an end to the militant and sectarian killings that have pushed Iraq towards civil war.

As a reminder of this, a series of bombs killed at least 31 people and wounded nearly 70 others across Baghdad on Thursday, the day Maliki announced the news on live television.

"The Iraqi insurgency is a very loose organisation and I don't see how the decapitation of it will have such a great impact," said Nadim Shehadi, associate fellow of Chatham House's Middle East Programme in London.

But will the main insurgent groups perhaps embark on a different path now that the man behind the most gruesome and savage attacks has been removed from the picture?

"The strategy of the resistance will be the same but the tactics will change with an expected reduction of violence against civilians," said Nuaimi.



UCEP Executive Director Brig. Gen. (Retd.) Aftab Uddin Ahmad and Shishu Kallyan Trust Director Nazma Hamid exchange documents after signing a Memorandum of Understanding on the 'Extended SKT Programme for Skill Development' in the city yesterday.

UCEP, Shishu Kallyan Trust sign MoU

UCEP Bangladesh and Shishu Kallyan Trust (SKT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the 'Extended SKT Programme for Skill Development' in the city yesterday, says a press release.

UCEP Executive Director Brig. Gen. (Retd.) Aftab Uddin Ahmad and SKT Director Nazma Hamid signed the MoU. Director General of the Directorate of Primary Education Khandker Asaduzzaman and Project Director of Reaching Out of School Children (ROSC) Project AK Nazmuzzaman were also present.

Under the agreement, the UCEP will implement a skill training programme on a pilot basis at a cost of US\$ 200,000 funded by the

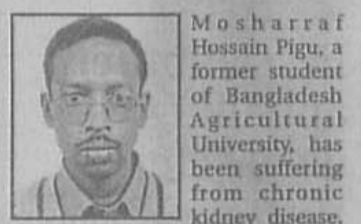
World Bank under the auspices of ROSC Project of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education.

Students of Shishu Kallyan Primary Schools, who have completed class five, will be enrolled in this programme starting in January 2007.

Speaking on the occasion, Asaduzzaman said that the UCEP, a leading NGO in the area of human resource development, is widely appreciated for its educational and vocational programme.

He also hoped that the new project, designed by UCEP-Bangladesh, would be an 'integrated model' for general education, skill development and subsequent job placement for the disadvantaged children of SKT.

Appeal for help



Mosharraf Hossain Pigu, a former student of Bangladesh Agricultural University, has been suffering from chronic kidney disease, says a press release.

The 32-year-old has been on dialysis since his both the kidneys have been damaged.

According to doctors, Pigu needs kidney transplant immediately, which can give him a new lease of life.

But such transplant involves a lot of money, which his father, a retired school-teacher, cannot afford.

He has appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save his life.

Contributions can be sent to MA Satter, Savings Account No.-8144, Sonali Bank, Boira Branch, Khulna. Phone: 01711061460.

Md Khairul Bashar Kiron



Md Khairul Bashar Kiron, a field officer of NSI, has been suffering from liver cancer, says a press release.

Kiron had been undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical Hospital, but he had to discontinue the treatment and return home about three months ago because of financial constraints.

Doctors said he needs proper treatment, which involves about Tk 5 lakh, but his family could not afford such expensive treatment.

His family has appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save Kiron. Contributions can be sent to the following account: Shirin Akter, Savings A/C No.- 8461, Janata Bank, Begum Rokeya Sarani branch, West Kafirul, Talata, Dhaka. Phone: 0152-447086, 0152-335210.

WEATHER TODAY Light to moderate rain likely UNB, Dhaka Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Sylhet division and at one or two places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Table with 3 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.