

439 Bangladeshis killed by BSF in 5 years

Says Odhikar report

UNB, Dhaka

A human rights watchdog yesterday said a "humanitarian crisis" has been created on the border in the wake of unrelenting intrusion by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) troops into Bangladesh territory shooting down or kidnapping innocent civilians and plundering.

"The people in Bangladesh frontier areas always live in panic," Odhikar said, adding that at least 439 Bangladeshis have been killed by BSF and Indian intruders in last four years and 10 months to August 10 this year. Those killed were mostly farmers.

During this period, another 374 Bangladeshis were injured, 443 arrested and 496 kidnapped. Besides, 82 people, including eight children, were missing and seven women raped. Some 40 incidents of snatching and marauding occurred during this time.

In its report Odhikar said BSF and Indian intruders shot dead the farmers while they were cultivating their lands and took away the bodies across the border. "Sometimes, BSF members kidnapped farmers and killed them inside India."

The HR body noted that despite flag meetings at BOP Company Commander level and director

general of BDR and BSF level, there has not been any remedy found for the "extra-judicial killings and violation of human rights".

It said some 83 Bangladeshis were killed, 128 wounded, 14 arrested, 100 kidnapped, 31 missing, 2 women raped and 8 incidents of looting occurred this year until August 10.

Odhikar, demanded an international inquiry into continued intrusion by the Indian BSF men, killing and kidnapping Bangladeshi nationals and push-in incidents. It also urged the Indian government to stop the orgy of killing by their border guards.

Concern over filing case against eminent citizens

Researchers of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) expressed deep concern over the filing of a criminal case against eminent researchers and citizens, says a press release.

Referring to the recent exchanges between the CPD and a high-level government functionary that led to the filing of the case, they said, "As a research institute, we feel bound to break our traditional silence in a situation that could threaten independent research and dissemination, as well as throttle the freedom of speech and free thought. We condemn this trend and request all concerned to demonstrate greater maturity and responsibility."

"There is a long tradition of independent research and dissemination in Bangladesh, including well-developed norms for expressing differences in opinion about data or methods. It is unfortunate that in recent times such norms appear to have been eroded," they added.



Students of Bangla Department of Dhaka University take out a mourning procession on the campus yesterday on the occasion of the second death anniversary of Prof Humayun Azad.

PHOTO: STAR



Supreme Court Bar Association President Barrister Amir-ul Islam speaks at a press conference in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

No reform, no election

Jalil tells Jubo Moitree convention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday blasted a certain quarter of intellectuals saying they are misleading the people by giving ambiguous statements about the 14-party opposition combine's ongoing street movements for electoral reforms.

"We will encourage people in the spirit of 'no reform, no election' so that they are not misled," Jalil, also coordinator of the 14-party, said at a convention of the Jubo Moitree, youth front of Workers' Party, at the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers' Bangladesh (IEB) in the city.

He said they placed reform proposals aiming to establish people's constitutional rights to vote. "The proposal is not meant for Awami League or any other political party for coming to power in the upcoming parliamentary election, rather it is meant for ensuring congenial atmosphere for conducting free and fair elections," he added.

Pointing at US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard A Boucher's recent comment on ruling coalition partner Jamaat-e-Islami that 'I find no Jamaat connection with the extremists', Jalil said despite the extremists' repeated

confessions, it is 'unfortunate' that he found no Jamaat connection with the extremists.

He also condemned the recent attempts of some quarters that brought defamation charge against country's eminent citizens who show ways and means for advancement of the country.

Jalil said such initiatives would open up new avenue in the movement for establishing exploitation free democratic state.

President of the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, popularly known as Shantu Larma, stressed the need for a pro-people government to end the misrule and repression of the alliance government. He said programme-based unity among the people is needed to establish a government that would ensure the rights of all quarters of people.

Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon urged the young generation to popularise the 23-point common national programme among the people so that the people could support it in the upcoming election as the 23-point has specifically addressed employment and other issues for the people.

Chaired by Jubo Moitree

President Nur Ahmed Bakul, the programme was also addressed by Party General Secretary Bimal Bishwas, Fazle Hossain Badsha, Haider Akbar Khan Ranu, Pankaj Bhattacharyya, Abdus Samad, Dilip Barua, eminent journalist Kamal Lohani, General Secretary of Bangladesh Economic Association Prof Abul Barakat, Editor of the daily Shamokal Abed Khan and Acting Editor of Shapthahik 2000 Golam Murtuza.

Youth found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of an unknown youth from the city's Karwan Bazar area yesterday.

The youth, aged around 25, was found lying on the roof of a building of a kitchen market at Karwan Bazar at around 3:00pm.

Police, who suspect the victim to be lying dead for the last two days, filed an unnatural murder case in this connection.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Monsoon depression forms at northwest bay

UNB, Dhaka

The well-marked low over northwest Bay of Orissa-West Bengal coast intensified into a monsoon depression over the same area yesterday.

The low centered at 12:00noon about 540 kms west-southwest of Chittagong Port, 520 kms west-southwest of Cox's Bazar Port and 350 kms southwest of Mongla Port. It is likely to intensify further and move into a northwesterly direction. Its associated steep pressure gradient persists over North Bay.

Squally weather may affect the ports, said a Met Office bulletin.

Maximum sustained wind speed within 44 kms of the depression centre is about 40 kph rising to 50 kph in gusts or squalls. Sea will remain moderate.

All fishing boats and trawlers over north Bay have been advised to come close to the coast and proceed with caution till further notice.

2 commit suicide in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife allegedly committed suicide in the city's Lalmatia area yesterday.

Mahima Zaman Chowdhury, 33, hanged herself from the ceiling fan with a scarf at around 8:00pm at her residence.

Mahbubul Alam Chowdhury, the victim's husband claimed it to be a suicide though Mahima's relatives believe it to be a pre-planned murder.

The victim's brother filed an Unnatural Death (UD) case in this connection with Mohammadpur Police Station.

Meanwhile police recovered the body of Abdullah Al Razzak, 25, a final year medical student of Dhaka Medical College (DMC), from Dr Fazle Rabbi Hall at 11:00pm on Friday.

Seeing him hanging from the ceiling fan of his room at around 10:30pm, Razzak's friends informed police. The body was later sent to DMC morgue for autopsy.

His body was sent to his village home at Gavindapur at Gaibandha.

Razzak's alleged love affair might have been the cause of his death, said the police.

'Humayun Azad to remain alive thru' his writings'

DU CORRESPONDENT

The second death anniversary of eminent writer Prof Dr Humayun Azad was observed yesterday on the Dhaka University (DU) campus and at his village Rarikhal in Munshiganj with due respect to the unconventional poet and writer.

On the occasion, Dr Humayun Azad Foundation organised a discussion at the RC Mojumdar Arts Auditorium of DU.

Presided over by Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, the discussion was also addressed by Prof Anu Mohammad, Dr Jafar Iqbal, Prof MM Akash, Prof Mohammad Samad and other renowned personalities.

Speakers said Prof Azad would remain alive through his uncompromising writings, thoughts, creativity and spirit and in the minds of his students and readers.

They said the death of Prof Azad is an irreparable loss to the nation on the backdrop of prevailing unrest due to rise of Islamic militancy across the country.

DU Bangla Department, where Prof Azad has taught for a long time, took out a silent procession on the campus to mark the day with participation of teachers and students of different faculties.

They placed wreaths at the place in front of Atomic Energy Commission, where the writer was brutally attacked.

Bangladesh Chhatra League, student wing of the main opposition Awami League, also placed wreaths at the same place.

Villagers and Azad's fans held several programmes, including discussion and reminiscing meeting, at Rarikhal High School yesterday where he studied.

Earlier, on February 27, 2004, unknown assailants brutally stabbed Prof Azad in a bid to kill him in front of Atomic Energy Commission near Bangla Academy premises when he was

returning from the Amar Ekushey Book Fair.

Later, he went to Germany on a scholarship from Germany-based international body of writers, Pen International, on August 7 in 2004

and was found dead in an apartment in Munich on August 12 in the same year.

Prof Azad was born at Rarikhal in Munshiganj on April 28 in 1947.



Dhaka Cycling Club organises a cycle procession at Shahbagh in the city yesterday marking the International Youth Day.

PHOTO: STAR

Int'l Youth Day observed

DU CORRESPONDENT

Department of Population Science of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday observed the International Youth Day 2006.

The department with the cooperation of the Dhaka University Journalists' Association (Duja) has taken up a two-day programme with the support of United Nations Fund for Population (UNFP).

To mark the day, the department brought out a colourful procession on the campus, attended by a good number of teachers and students of the university and Duja members. The procession paraded different streets on the campus.

DU Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz, UNFP Country Representative Dr Pornchai Suchit, DU Teachers' Association General Secretary Prof Dr Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman, department's Project Director Prof AKM Noor-Un-Nabi, Chairman of the department Tahmina Gofur, Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences Prof Harun-or-Rashid and many students were present.

The day is being observed round the globe since 2000 following the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly in 1999.

This year's theme is "Tackling Poverty Together".

Today a roundtable will be held at the Planning and Development Academy auditorium at 10:00am.

Marking the day, the Youth Development Directorate and UNFPA jointly organised a seminar on 'Creating Livelihood Opportunities to Tackle Poverty and Empower Youth' at Jubo Bhaban here yesterday.

Youth and Sports Secretary M Sirajul Islam was present at the seminar as the chief guest, while UNFPA National Officer Dr Nur Mohammad presented the keynote paper.

Dhaka Cycling Club arranged a cycle march from Dhaka University Fine Arts Institute to Central Shaheed Minar at 11:00am with a call to make cycling popular to reduce transport costs as well as for good health.

Bangladesh Jubo Union organised a signature collection campaign and "symbolic missile destruction programme" in front of the National Museum at Shahbag, protesting Israeli attacks in Lebanon.



Members of Dhaka City (North) Mohila Awami League, women front of the opposition Awami League, line up at Dhanmondi yesterday demanding execution of the verdict in Bangabandhu murder case.

PHOTO: STAR