

413 Bangladeshis killed by BSF in 5 years

Says Odhikar report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and hoodlums killed 479 Bangladeshis inside Bangladesh territory in last five years, said a special report of Odhikar, a rights watchdog, in the city yesterday. Of them, 413 were killed by BSF men who continued killing, injuring, abduction, rape and mugging along the border during the period. Besides killing, 381 Bangladeshis were injured, 449 arrested, 531 abducted and seven women were raped by BSF men. Eighty-three people including eight children went missing and 40 fell victim to snatching and looting by BSF and Indian hoodlums. "Most of the victims were poor local farmers," said the report prepared on the basis of facts collected by Odhikar's own unit and stories

published in major national dailies. The victims were gunned down while working on their lands and in most cases BSF took the bodies to India and in some cases the abducted Bangladeshis were killed there later. Twenty-eight Bangladeshis were killed, nine injured, seven arrested and five abducted from October 10 to December 31, 2001. In 2002, Indian miscreants and BSF men killed 105, injured 54, arrested 366 and abducted 118 Bangladeshis. Besides, 30 people including eight children went missing and 12 incidents of snatching took place during the period. In 2003, 43 Bangladeshis were killed, 82 injured, 21 arrested, 120 abducted, two raped, eight mugged and seven went missing. The BSF men and hoodlums killed 76, wounded 35, arrested nine

and abducted 73 Bangladeshis in 2004. In 2005, 104 people were killed, 66 injured, 26 arrested, 78 abducted, 14 went missing, three women raped and four incidents of snatching and looting took place. Indian miscreants and BSF men killed 123 Bangladeshis, injured 135, arrested 20, kidnapped 135 and raped two women from January 1 to October 27 of this year. Besides, 32 people went missing and eight incidents of snatching and looting also took place during the period. Demanding proper international investigation and exemplary punishment to the perpetrators, Odhikar urged Indian and Bangladesh governments to take necessary steps to put an end to such human rights violation incidents.

'Form network to instil democratic values in schoolchildren'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday called for initiating an effective network across the country to inculcate schoolchildren with democratic values and practices. Millions of students all over the country have to be educated with the sense of enlightened and responsible citizenship, said Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley, chairman, Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB). In the context of present volatile situation, it is necessary to strengthen and enhance the sense of enlightened and responsible citizenry, he added. CDRB and the Centre for Civic Education (CCE), USA, jointly organised the workshop on 'Showcase Presentation of Portfolios: Project Citizen' at Biam auditorium in the city. The CDRB and the CCE in association with the education

ministry have been implementing the 'Project Citizen' since October 2005, involving 20 secondary schools in Dhaka and Savar. Under the one-year pilot project, the students have promoted competent and responsible participation in policy-making process and actively engaged in monitoring and influencing public policy. At the workshop, the students showcased their portfolios identifying a problem in the public policy, evaluating information, selecting or developing a proposed public policy and developing an action plan. The teachers under the project were also imparted training to conduct the programme. Speaking at the workshop, Adviser to the caretaker government M Azizul Haque said the government would provide all support for the success of the project. Biam Director General Shahidul Alam urged the US to extend assistance in strengthening and expand-

ing the term of the project. Additional Secretary to education ministry Abdul Matin Chowdhury stressed the need for initiating such programmes in remote areas. Jonathan Cebra, press & cultural attaché of the US embassy and director of American Centre, cited examples from his own country where the kindergarten children have to involve themselves in community service. The 'Project Citizen' has provided a unique opportunity for students to take active community responsibility, he said and lauded the Bangladesh schoolchildren who have chosen issues like waste management, water treatment, traffic and political turmoil. Education secretary Montazul Islam, Dr (Capt.) Maswoodur Rahman, member, board of directors, CDRB, and Mohammad Enayet Karim, executive director of CDRB, also spoke.

Use of IT in edn sector to make things easy, interesting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday reiterated the importance of using information technology (IT) in education sector to make it easy and interesting as well. They also asked for social awareness and comprehensive approach to provide students with IT facilities across the country. They were speaking at a press conference organised by Foundation for Education and Research Innovation (Feri) at Teachers' Training College in the city on the occasion of CD and VCD launching ceremony of 'Shohjo Ganit' (Doing sums easily) for the students of secondary school level. Feri, a voluntary organisation, after a four-year research launched two CDs containing sound, picture and animation in a view to making students interested in mathematics, a nightmare to many students. Speaking on the occasion, Prof Farida Banu of Mathematics department of Dhaka University (DU) said that the standard of education in our country has been very poor, as the students do not have basic concept in different subjects. Munir Hasan, general secretary of Bangladesh Mathematics Olympiad, asked for the provision of computer and introduction of multimedia to the students in cooperation with government and private organisations. Munir criticised the quality of paper used in the textbooks of secondary and higher secondary levels as the very sight of the books irritate students, let alone invoking interest. Speaking on the occasion, Prof Dr Muhammad Jafar Iqbal said over cell phone from Sylhet that he had been waiting for long for such audio-visual facilities for the students so that they can enjoy study and can do things on their own without going to coaching centres. Eminent educationist Prof Anwar Ali addressed as the chief guest while Prof Rawshan Ara Rashid, chairman of Feri presided over the function. Among others Munibar Rahman Chowdhury, former professor of Mathematics department, DU, Dr Sattayabrat Roy, deputy director of Science Development Centre of Dhaka Teachers' Training College and Prof Meherun Nesa, principal of Dhaka Teachers' Training College also spoke.



Former law minister Moudud Ahmed speaks at a rally of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal at Naya Paltan in the city yesterday protesting 'killing and anarchy' by 14-party combine.

Shun path of anarchy, take part in next election

BNP urges AL

BNP leaders of different city units yesterday termed activities of Awami League as 'barbaric' and warned that they would not tolerate any kind of AL anarchy and conspiracy anymore, says a press release. They asked their rivals to take part in the next election shunning the path of violence, anarchy, conspiracy and killing. The party's central leaders made the statements at different rallies in different thana units yesterday as part of BNP's programme against 'killing, terrorism, anarchy and conspiracy

against election' by AL-led 14-party opposition combine. "Knowing it well that people's verdict in the election will not go in their favour, AL leaders are conspiring to foil the election. They had turned the country into a heaven of terrorism during their reign by creating godfathers and are now busy in playing with blood," reads a BNP statement. Barrister Moudud Ahmed addressed a BNP rally of Ramna thana unit at Matsya Bhaban intersection while Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain addressed a

rally at Chwakhazar intersection. Kotowali BNP held a rally at Naya Bazar, Sutrapur thana BNP at Joy Kali Mandir, Demra thana BNP at Shaheed Faruk Sarak, Mirpur thana BNP behind Mirpur Police Station and Dhanmondi thana unit at Kalabagan. Badda BNP held a rally at Hossain Market, Khilgaon BNP at Meradiya Primary School and Shyamrup BNP held its rally in front of Alam Market.

Talk with EC for free, fair election

Diploma professionals tell political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Sammilita Diploma Peshajibi Parishad, an alliance of diploma professionals, yesterday urged all political parties to have discussion with the Election Commission (EC) in a bid to ensure a free and fair election. At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium, the parishad leaders said political parties should place election-related proposals to the EC by excluding their political demands. "The EC should be given some time to meet their demands constitutionally, and if it fails then it would be sensible to ask for removal of the CEC and other commissioners," said Engineer Mohammad Hanif, convener of the pro-BNP association, in a written statement. The speakers said the CEC and other commissioners could also hold discussions with political leaders to retrieve their credibility and announce the date for the next parliamentary election. They said the advisers to the caretaker government should not be pressed to resolve wrangle among the political parties as it is not their constitutional duty. Rather the political problems should be resolved in parliament after the election, they added. The speakers also urged the chief adviser to the caretaker government to take all decisions neutrally and constitutionally. They said political parties should have faith in people's choice. The speakers also urged a section of intellectuals not to explain the constitution purposefully as it will increase further tension. Jahanara Khatun of Diploma

Nurses' Association of Bangladesh, Ziaul Haider of Diploma Agriculturist Association of Bangladesh, Biplobuzzaman of Medical Technologist Association of Bangladesh, Ibne Fazal Saifuzzaman and Mohammad Kabir Hossain of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh were also present.

4 revolvers seized in city

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) seized four revolvers along with seven bullets during their drives in different areas of the city in the last two days. According to a DMP press release, acting on tip-off police arrested extortionist Masud, 25, from Malibagh and seized a revolver along with three bullets from his possession at midnight on Friday. He was an accused in arms case with Ramna police station. In another drive, police arrested Abdullah Al Masum, 30, a criminal, from Manikganj under Sabujabagh Friday night and recovered a revolver along with two bullets from his possession. Another police team arrested Sirajul Islam, 35, from a place near Tongi Diversion Road and recovered a revolver loaded with two bullets from his possession. In another drive, Lalbagh police arrested three people—Shafi, 22, Shakil, 24, and Maruf, 22 — from a road in front of Lalbagh tower and seized one revolver from their possession.

Bangladesh to help create global solidarity

BSS, Dhaka

Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, ambassador and permanent representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, said Bangladesh will contribute to the growth of global solidarity through sharing her development experience with all other nations. He said this in responding to the keynote address by former Polish president and Nobel laureate Lech Walesa at the Celebration of the International Day of Global Solidarity at the United Nations on Friday, according to a message received here yesterday. He said the contemporary age is different from all others because today we believe that the pains of some must be removed by the efforts of all. Developing countries must be in charge of their own destiny, but the international community must provide the appropriate global framework and support, when needed, he added. In his view the experience of Bangladesh was that "simple ideas often bring about the profoundest of changes." He mentioned micro-credit and women's non-formal education in this respect and cited the contribution of yet another Nobel laureate, Prof Muhammad Yunus, in this regard. Ambassador Chowdhury remarked that "the United Nations must provide the platform for transforming the vision of global solidarity into reality." He looked to the world body to reduce the incidence of poverty and disease. Among others who spoke on the occasion were the President of ECOSOC Ali Hachani and Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Jose Antonio Ocampo.

Admission seekers throng DU to submit forms

DU CORRESPONDENT

A large number of admission seekers thronged Dhaka University (DU) yesterday while the number of regular students was thin, on the university's reopening day after month-long Eid and Puja vacation and 11 days of unscheduled closure. Against this backdrop of political unrest, university authorities yesterday suspended all the scheduled examinations until November 18. Admission seekers were seen buying and submitting admission forms for the session of 2006-2007 queuing for long time at the Arts Building, TSC and Curzon Hall and Registrar Building of the university. A number of admission seekers said they were to hurry as the 14-party might call countrywide blockade and they might not submit forms within the last day on November 16. On the reopening day, the university campus was buzzed with different student bodies' programmes. BNP-backed student body Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) took part in a procession on the campus and held a rally in the morning, where central and DU unit leaders addressed. In the afternoon, JCD organised a separate rally at the Central Shaheed Minar protesting "Awami League's countrywide anarchy and violence". Former JCD leaders including Amanullah Aman, Fazlul Haq Milon, Khairul Kabir Khokon, Nazimuddin Alam, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anisul, Azizul Barea Helal, Shaful Bari Babu and other leaders spoke. Awami League-backed student front Bangladesh Chhatra League's (BCL) dissident leaders and activists took part in separate procession and held a rally on the campus. On the other hand, the central body of the BCL and DU unit did not enter the campus, as the JCD barred them from entering the campus.

Death anniversary Today is the 7th death anniversary of Hasna Hena Qadir, wife of Shaheed Lieutenant Colonel M Abdul Qadir, says a press release. Hasna Hena, one of the founders of the Ekkattur Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, died on this day in 1999. On the occasion, a milad mahfil was held yesterday after Asr prayers at the army graveyard in Dhaka where she was buried. Relatives and admirers have been requested to pray for the eternal peace of the deceased.

Mansur Ahmed STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Mansur Ahmed Khan, founder curator of the first liberation war based museum in the country 'Rajshahi University Martyred Memorial Archive'. Mansur, a valiant freedom fighter, authored a number of books, essays, dramas and children-friendly publications on liberation war including 'Muktijuddhe Rajshahi', 'Una-Sattar Shahid Shikhhak Dr Zoha' and 'Jibanta Shahid Mujibar Rahman Debidas'. He joined the RU Martyred Memorial Archive in 1976 and served there till death. He had important roles in establishing Rajshahi Art College, Mukhtijuddha Pathagar, Art School-Angkan and Mukhtijuddha Command Council unit at RU. He was involved in multifarious projects for stimulating liberation war ideologies and collecting historical facts. He discovered several mass graves and preserved remnants of martyrs all through his life. Mansur was the younger brother of eminent doctor Martyred Dr Soleman Khan and famous artist Hashem Khan.

Siddiqui Rahman Khan Today is the 34th death anniversary of freedom fighter Siddiqui Rahman Khan (Siddique Master), says a press release. During the liberation war, he was the commander of three thanas — Nawabganj, Dohar and Keraniganj. A teacher and social worker, Siddique hailed from Chariganj of Manikganj district. Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Association for Law Research & Human Rights arranged a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday with a call to resolve the political impasse through dialogue among President/ Chief Adviser to the caretaker government Iajuddin Ahmed, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.

Reinstatement of BSS journos demanded

BSS, Dhaka

A meeting of BSS Unit of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday demanded immediate reinstatement with continuity of service of the journalists and employees of the national news agency sacked under 'political consideration' during the regime of the immediate past government. The meeting also demanded a judicial inquiry headed by a district judge into all irregularities, corruption and mismanagement in the state run organisation during the last five years and punishment of the persons responsible for those. Presided over by BSS-Unit Chief Ihsanul Karim Helal, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Swapan Kumar Saha, Amirul Momenin, Shamsul Alam Belal, Monoj Kanti Roy, Subash Chandra Badal, Ajit Kumar Sarkar, Afzal Hossain, Anup Kumar Khastagir and Inamul Haque Babul. The meeting decided to submit a memorandum to the chief adviser and adviser for information of the caretaker government. The meeting also took a number of decisions including formation of a human chain to press home its demand. The immediate past BNP-led government terminated 27 journalists and seven employees of the Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) after forming government following the 2001 general election.

Two killed in Narsingdi road accident

UNB, Narsingdi

Two people were killed and 10 others injured when a bus skidded off Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Belabo upazila early yesterday. Police and local sources said the Dhaka-bound bus from Sylhet turned turtle on the roadside at Baroicha at about 4:00am, leaving two passengers dead on the spot. Identity of the two male deceased could not be known. Of the 10 injured, nine were admitted to Sadar Hospital while another was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in "critical condition". The driver, however, managed to flee.

Obituary BSS, Chittagong Anila Barua, mother of senior journalist and Bureau Chief of private news agency Bdnnews24 Samir Barua, died of old age complications at the age of 74 at Chittagong Medical College Hospital yesterday afternoon. She was undergoing treatment at CMCH for the last three months, family sources said. She left behind her husband, three sons, three daughters and a host of relations and admirers to mourn her death. Her cremation will be held at her village home at Jaldi in Chittagong today. President of Chittagong Press Club Abu Sufian and acting General Secretary Ejaz Yusufi and President and General Secretary of Chittagong Union of Journalists Shahid-ul-Alam and Reaz Haider expressed deep condolence at the death of Anila Barua. Nazrul Islam BSS, Dhaka Nazrul Islam, a veteran freedom fighter and father of Emdadul Islam, associate professor of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering of Jahangirnagar University, died of old-age complications on Thursday at the age of 65, says a press release. Nazrul left behind his wife, two sons, three daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death. He was buried at Rangamati Graveyard on the JU campus in state honour following a namaz-e-janaza.



Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or drizzle is likely at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Sylhet, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said in a forecast. Highest temperature 31.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 19.6 degree Celsius at Dinajpur and Sayedpur. The sun sets in the capital at 5.14pm today and rises at 6:12am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	30.0	22.7
Chittagong	29.6	24.3
Rajshahi	25.8	20.5
Khulna	29.8	22.8
Barisal	27.8	21.8
Sylhet	25.5	22.4
Cox's Bazar	29.8	25.0

Two labs open at Osmani hospital

BSS, Sylhet

Coronary angiogram and cathlab facilities were opened yesterday at the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital for treating heart patients. Adviser for Health and Family Welfare Professor Sofia Rahman inaugurated the facilities. The Heart Department of the hospital now has 50 beds, including 40 beds at the Coronary Unit and 10 beds at the Angiogram Unit. Speaking on the occasion, Prof Sofia urged the doctors to make optimum utilisation of the hospital equipment and provide care to the patients with sincerity and devotion. Brigadier General Shah-e-Alam, director of the hospital, and Prof Dr Rezaul Karim also addressed the function.



Sons and daughters of late Habibur Rahman and late Rabeya Rahman hand over a cheque for Tk 20 lakh to Kazi Rafiqul Alam, president of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, yesterday in donation for Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital.