

Fire traded on Satkhira border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) traded gunfire on Madra and Kakkdanga borders under Kalaroa upazila late Thursday night.

The Indian border guards of Daharkanda and Hakimpur camps under Swarnnagar Police station of 24 Parganas district opened fire on Madra and Kakkdanga BDR outposts, forcing the paramilitary Bangladesh troops to retaliate.

Both sides traded 40 to 50 shots during the skirmishes, but no casualty was reported.

Immediately after the incident, the BSF reinforced its strength in all the border outposts and increased patrols. BDR personnel have also been put on alert.

When contacted, Major Kamrul Hasan of 41 Rifles Battalion confirmed the incident. BDR sent a letter to its Indian counterpart protesting the incident, he said.

2 killed in attack of elephants

UNB, Jamalpur

Two people were killed by wild elephants in Dewanganj upazila of the district yesterday and the day before.

Shaila Begum, 50, of Chitalidighar village came under attack by a herd of wild elephants while she was collecting firewood at about 9:00am yesterday. She died instantly.

In another incident, a farmer named Motaleb Hossain, 50, of Muamari village, was trampled to death by the elephants on Thursday.

Locals said the elephants attacked Motaleb when he was working on his cropland at about 7:00pm.

Peace deal means little for hills people

Vital clauses in accord remain unimplemented in 9 years

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

With the fundamental clauses remaining unimplemented nine years into the signing of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord, the brewing discontent among the hill people is threatening to turn violent again.

On this day, on December 2,

1997 the peace accord was signed by Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) and the then Awami League (AL) government, ending a two-decade long bush war but the fundamental clauses of the accord still remain unimplemented.

PCJSS, a political forum of indigenous communities in CHT, will

observe the 9th anniversary of the historic peace accord today with protest rallies in three hill district towns and in upazila headquarters of Rangamati, Bandaraban and Khagrachhari simultaneously.

The day will also be observed centrally in the capital under the

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50 hurt as AL, BNP clash in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

BNP and Awami league (AL) activists clashed in different areas of the district yesterday and on Thursday night, leaving 50 people from both sides injured.

Many houses, BNP offices and shops were also damaged during the clashes.

The seriously injured AL men are Saiful Islam, his wife Monowara Begum, Mohammad Shafiqul Islam, Mohammad Marfat Ali, Belal Hossain, Tota Mia, Rokeya Begum, Moriam Begum and Belal.

The BNP activists, who were seriously injured, are Zillur Rahman, Bellal, Nurjahan, Zahir,

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Yunus calls all to protect democracy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday called for protecting the country's democracy, saying any alternative to democracy will not be sustainable.

He said alternatives to democracy brought immense sufferings to the nation earlier.

Reiterating his peace formula between the two rival camps, Yunus said, "There is no alternative to election."

"The rival parties must reach an understanding for the national election."

Addressing the 52nd founding anniversary of the National Press Club, Yunus said time has come for journalists to issue a wake-up call to the nation. A major role of the media is to guide the nation during crisis, he pointed out.

"If democracy survives we will be able to stand as a great nation. Otherwise, the next generation will blame us for our failure."

He also advised journalists to be more cautious about publishing negative side of the society. "The media are much enthusiastic about negative news than positive information," he observed.

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Outlaw killed in 'shootout'

UNB, Rajshahi

An underground operative was killed during a "shootout" between his accomplices and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Durgapur upazila of the district last night.

Police said the dead, Babu, 30, son of UP Chairman Afsar Ali, was an active member of an outlawed party.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab personnel raided the old cattle market area near Taherpur-Durgapur road at about 7:15pm to arrest Babu and his cohorts.

Sensing the presence of the Rab men, Babu and his accomplices opened fire on the law enforcers, prompting them to retaliate.

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PHOTO: STAR

Potential buyers check out books at a stall after opening of the 13th Dhaka Book Fair on Shilpakala Academy premises yesterday.

2 outlaws slaughtered

UNB, Pabna

Two outlaws were slaughtered by their rivals at Nandanpur village under Ataikula upazila of the district early yesterday.

The dead are Tikka, 35, of Bangram Masterpara under Santhia upazila, and Baki, 33, of Nandanpur village under Ataikula upazila.

According to police, Tikka and Baki were cadres of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (ML-Janajuddho). Local people said a gang of 20 picked up the two outlaws from a house at the village at around 1:00am. The gang took the two to a field and slit their throats.

On information, police went to the village yesterday morning, recovered the bodies and sent them to Pabna General Hospital for autopsy.

Police said Tikka and Baki might have been killed by their rivals in the party. Both were wanted in a number of cases, they added.

King goes missing in Nepal's new anthem

AFP, Kathmandu

A Nepalese panel has chosen a new national anthem making no mention of the country's king, officials said yesterday, in a fresh sign of rising republican sentiment against the 238-year-old monarchy.

"The song was selected from a total of 1,272 different ones," the

head of the National Anthem Selection Task Team, Satya Mohan Joshi, told AFP.

The lyrics were written by Pradeep Kumar Rai, a 30-year-old lawyer and part-time poet from the east of the impoverished Himalayan nation.

Joshi said the lyrics "represent national glory and people's

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Jubo Dal man bombed, shot to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenaidah

Outlaws of the Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) Janajuddha faction last night bombed and gunned down a district Jubo Dal leader in Jhenaidah.

The dead was identified as Haider Ali Hadu, 40, district unit organising secretary of the Jubo Dal, BNP's youth front. He was a close aide to former BNP lawmaker

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| Prayer Timing | | |
|---------------|-------|------|
| December 2 | | |
| | Azan | |
| Fajr | 5-15 | 5-50 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 3-45 | 4-00 |
| Maghrib | 5-19 | 5-22 |
| Esha | 7-00 | 7-30 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

