

'YABA TRADER' Man killed in BGB 'gunfight'

UNB, Dhaka

A suspected yaba trader was killed in a so-called gunfight with Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in Sluice Gate area of Teknaf in Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

The identity of the deceased could not be known immediately.

Tipped off, a team of BGB-2 challenged a boat carrying three people along sluice gate-1 of Naf River, said a press release from BGB headquarters.

Sensing danger, the criminals opened fire on BGB men, forcing them to fire back that triggered a "gunfight", the release said.

At one stage, all the criminals jumped into the river to flee, it added. BGB members found a man with bullet injuries and took him to a local hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Two BGB men were also injured during the incident.

A locally made firearm, 2.1 lakh yaba tablets, and two bullet cartridges were recovered.



BRAZEN DEFIANCE... Right next to a sign by Dhaka South City Corporation prohibiting vehicle parking on footpaths, a car is doing exactly that. A motorbike is also occupying the space meant for pedestrians. Car mechanics who operate in the capital's Bijoy Nagar area often provide service right on the footpath. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

One killed, five injured in Jashore road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A pick-up driver was killed and five were injured in a head-on collision between the pick-up truck and a bus in Bhatar Amtala area in Jashore's Bagherpara upazila yesterday.

The deceased is Arifur Rahman (28) of Sathkhira.

Locals and fire service officials rescued and took the injured to Jashore General Hospital. Condition of one of them is critical.

Four of the injured were identified as Masum Mandol (25), Babu Moral (30), Shaon and Kamrul.

Shaon and Kamrul said they were going to Magura's Sreepur upazila in a pick-up from Sathkhira.

When they reached Bhatar Amtala, their vehicle collided head-on with a bus. The pickup driver died on the spot.

Fire service official Abu Ahsan said they went to the spot around 9am, after being informed.

Dr Delwar Hossain Khan, emergency department doctor at the hospital, said two of the injured were admitted and others received first-aid.

Meanwhile, Bagherpara Police Station Officer-in-Charge Syed Al Mamun said police recovered the pickup, and a case was filed.

Cops fall

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Nuruzzaman filed a case against 13 named and 30 to 40 unnamed persons. Police arrested four of them, said Kamrul Faruk, officer-in-charge (OC) of Siddhirganj Police Station.

The arrestees are Md Aminul Islam (55), Maruf Khan (18), Md Wasim (29), and Samsuzzaman. All are residents of different villages in the upazila. They had information that Billal, an accused in a robbery case, was staying at someone else's house. The man is still absconding, said the OC.

Residents of the house were not available after the incident.

Arrest

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The next day, his wife filed a case saying Rayhan was tortured in Bandarbaraz police outpost which led to his death.

Sylhet Metropolitan Police suspended four personnel, including SI Akbar, who was in-charge of a police outpost.

Akbar ran away after the incident and was later detained on November 9.

Death anniv of Akhtaruzzaman

CITY DESK

The second death anniversary of Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury, a retired deputy general manager of Janata Bank, was observed yesterday, said a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil and Qurankhwani were organised at Eidgah Mosque in Dhanmondi, a milad mahfil at his Dhanmondi residence after Asr prayers and prayers at his Banani grave in Dhaka.

Akhtaruzzaman, son of late Gouharuzzaman Chowdhury, food secretary, passed away on November 14 in 2018. He left behind his wife, two daughters and a son.

He was also a banker of UBL (East Pakistan).

BNP trying

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Talking about the ruling party, Quader said no "pocket committee" would be allowed and those who are sacrificing and dedicated to the party would be included in the committees.

The conference was chaired by Bagmara AL president Enamul Haque.

Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Khairuzzaman Liton, district AL president Meraj Uddin Mollah and other leaders were also present.

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Notorious

FROM PAGE 3

nearby. Another gathering was seen next to a building where locals meet. From there, drugs were being supplied to various buyers who make the deals over phone.

A man named Langra Sumon runs the spot near a shop of AB block. Two brothers, Raja and Shahjada, assisted him in his yaba business. Top drug dealer Ishtiaq's elder brother Raju, two siblings Mamun and Mahmud and Abir Fatta are the main traders there.

Meanwhile, Intiaz controlled the drug spot at the corner of a hotel near Tin Rastar Mor while Janu and Tuntun sell drugs near another shop, according to locals.

Many more drugs spots were seen near Gobarpatti Road, Sainik League Junction and multiple areas in C Block. "Hawamath" in the same block is known as the cannabis spot, said locals.

Banned yaba pills were being sold like essentials there before the crackdown. Drug peddling inside the camp was almost shut down for the last two years but dealers are more active than ever before now, camp dwellers said.

At least 150-200 teenagers and youths are involved in drug peddling inside the camp, they added.

"Many youths joined again. They get Tk 500-1,000 per day... As no one obstructs them from selling drugs and no drives are being conducted by law enforcement agencies, they [drug peddlers] became active again," said a camp leader, preferring anonymity.

'RAIDS JUST FOR SHOW'

Camp residents said many raids have been conducted in the last few years. Police, Rab and narcotics department raid there and pick up 50 or even 100 people every time. Most of them are innocents. Some of them take cannabis while some are just small time peddlers, they said.

"The big fishes remain untouched. Who are these big fishes? Everyone knows their names... Apart from Ishtiaq, all live in Dhaka. But police can't seem to find them. Before every raid, the dealers get tipped-off. Why don't you find out the answers as to why drug peddling here goes on unabated even after so many raids," said a frustrated camp resident.

Locals alleged that the drug business inside the camp is run by a nexus of police

and narco bosses including Ishtiaq and Arshad.

"How can they sell yaba inside when five police checkpoints are set up outside?" questioned a camp resident, alleging that police informants are also involved in drug trade inside the camp.

They also alleged that whenever they handed over Ishtiaq's accomplices to police, officers brought charges showing a small recovery of drugs, helping them get bail within a short time.

On September 23 last year, a section of camp dwellers wrote to the home ministry and Police Headquarters narrating involvement of three officers of Mohammadpur Police Station.

A narcotics official, wishing anonymity, alleged, "Raiding and arresting drug traders in Geneva Camp is a tough job for us as we don't use arms. When we seek help from local police, they get the tip-off."

Recently, a section of camp dwellers wrote to the Prime Minister's Office and Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner, mentioning names of some drug dealers and their godfathers and requested the authorities to take action against the ongoing drug trade.

WHAT OFFICIALS SAY

Asked, Walid Hossain, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said they have been conducting anti-narcotics drives in the drug spots, but the peddlers often hid inside the crowded camp and narrow slums to evade arrest.

Regarding the ongoing situation there, he said, "We will soon conduct a big block-raid in the camp."

Contacted, Syed Hasan Nur Islam, councillor of ward 32 of Dhaka North City Corporation, told The Daily Star that they have been working since 2016 to make the Geneva Camp drug free.

"Our people have handed over many drug dealers to law enforcement agencies. However, due to the current coronavirus outbreak, there is a lag in the effort."

The councillor also sought the help of locals in this regard.

He hoped that locals will assist law enforcers in arresting drug peddlers and evicting them from the camp.

30,970 Saudi

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and medical report, potential migrant workers also have to submit "letter of approval" issued by their prospective Saudi employers to get their visas reissued.

Asked, the Baira secretary general said they have been helping workers in getting the approval letters from the Saudi employers.

Home to more than 22 lakh Bangladeshi expatriates, Saudi Arabia is also the leading destination for Bangladeshi migrant workers and top remittance-generating country.

In 2019-2020 fiscal year, migrant workers sent about \$4 billion in remittance from the oil-rich Gulf country, says Bangladesh Bank data.

This year, Saudi employers hired about 1.33 lakh workers from Bangladesh till March, according to data of Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training.

Hiring of workers from Bangladesh by employers in labour-receiving countries including Saudi Arabia stopped in mid-March with suspension of air communications amid the pandemic.

Arson

FROM PAGE 3

who were involved in setting fire on buses through video footage and CCTV footage and handed them over to the law enforcement agencies."

Kamal said a peaceful situation has been prevailing in the country because the law enforcement agencies are now actively maintaining law and order.

Meanwhile, 14 cases were filed and 32 accused have been arrested so far in connection with the arson attacks on buses. Of them, 28 arrestees have already been remanded.

At least nine buses were torched in different parts of the capital within the span of a few hours on November 12, which police suspect was part of a plot to carry out subversive activities. No casualty was reported.

According to the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, combustible materials were used in the arson attacks. Police have increased its patrols and number of checkpoints in the capital to avert any untoward incident, they added.



Endocrinology department of Mugda Medical College and Hospital brings out a procession in the capital yesterday, marking World Diabetes Day. The theme of the day this year is "Diabetes: Nurses make the difference."

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দরপত্র বিক্রয় ও পরিদর্শন- আগামী ১৮/১১/২০২০ তারিখ হতে ২৪/১১/২০২০ তারিখ মোংলা কাস্টম হাউস, মোংলা, বাণেশ্বর, নিলাম শাখা হতে ১০:০০ (দুইশত) টাকা (অফিসসমূহ) মূল্যে দরপত্র ক্রয় করা যাবে এবং মোংলা বন্দর জেটিতে রক্ষিত পাঞ্জি ও অন্যান্য মালামাল আগামী ২৪/১১/২০২০ তারিখ হতে ২৪/১১/২০২০ তারিখ সকাল ০৯:৩০টা হতে বিকাল ০৩:০০টা পর্যন্ত পরিদর্শন করা যাবে।

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