BSF shoots

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Rabiul died of his injuries on way to Mashaldangi village while Najir Uddin breathed his last on way to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital in Dinajpur, the OC added.

Speaking to The Daily Star over the phone, Commanding Officer of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Battalion 50 Lt Colonel Shahidul Islam said a company commander-level flag meeting between the BGB and BSF was held at the Zero line at the same border over the issue around 2:00pm yesterday.

In the meeting, BGB officials strongly protested the killings. However, BSF officers claimed their members opened fire after being attacked by Bangladeshi men while entering India through the border illegally, the CO added.

Police filed a case with Haripur Police Station in this connection. The bodies were sent to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital for autopsies.

Rights body

FROM PAGE 12

documented in 2020 that the Digital Security Act is the weapon of choice used by the authorities to pursue critics, including those critical of its handling of the pandemic. Media workers, activists, academics and students have been targeted, including prominent journalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol, who was charged in May 2020 after he was forcibly disappeared for 53 days," stated the report.

"There has been a disturbing increase in press freedom violations. The authorities continued to block numerous news sites critical of the government, including investigative journalism websites," said the report.

"There has also been violence by political activists against reporters in the field. Activists linked to the ruling party were involved in attacks on journalists during the covering of Dhaka municipal elections in February 2020," it added.

In order to make judgments about these, the report evaluated whether states endorse impunity for cases of physical attacks, disappearances, assault, illegal detention, verbal abuse, harassment and intimidation of civil society. They see if there is active involvement or support from the state in cover ups and undermining investigations and prosecution.

To rate the state of freedom of association in country, the monitor also evaluates whether activists are imprisoned, attacked or tortured, whether civil society organisations face barriers in operation.

Freedom of expression is evaluated based on whether journalists face legal or physical harassment, or risk their lives, and whether independent journalism is allowed.

In addition to Bangladesh, 43 countries (out of 196) were also classified as repressed.

Man dies

FROM PAGE 12

their fishes and constructed house on the madrasa's land, they added.

Liton's brother-in-law Mofizur Rahman Gazi said police held Liton around 4:00pm on Sunday on the basis of that complaint.

"Hearing the news, I rushed to the police station and saw Liton was sick. Some policemen were taking him to a local health complex," he said.

After providing primary treatment, on-duty doctors there sent Liton to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barishal where he died around 1:00am on Monday, he added.

Contacted, Anik Mitra, medical officer of Dashmina Health Complex, said they washed Liton's stomach twice for cleaning out poison then referred him to Barishal hospital.

Liton's wife Mazeda Begum said Liton was completely well when police held him. He fell sick being tortured by police. "I want justice," she said.

The victim's father-in-law Matlab Gazi said, "Liton did not take any poison. Rather, he was tortured to death."

Contacted, Mohammad Jashim, officer-in-charge of Dashmina Police Station, said police did not check his body when he was held.

Liton was carrying poison with him. As he was taken to the police station, he went to the toilet and took the poison. He started shouting a few moments later. Policemen rushed to the toilet and recovered a bottle of poison there, he added.

Police authorities formed a three-member probe body, headed by district's additional superintendent of police Mostafizur Rahman, to investigate the matter.

The probe body has been asked to submit report by five working days, said the probe body chief.

Meanwhile, a day after the incident, police claimed to have recovered a suicide note from an abandoned place of Liton's house.

The note read, "Bashbaria Rajjabia Dakhil Madrasa super Maulana Mohammad Shihab Uddin and a local Mohammad Mofiz Khan will be responsible for my death."

Animal rights activists, wearing monkey masks and dressed as prison inmates, demonstrate outside the Thai embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia yesterday, against what they claim is the exploitation of primates as labour in Thailand's coconut industry.

PHOTO: AFP

Bob Dylan sells rights

FROM PAGE 12

The deal is one of the biggest acquisitions in Universal's history and means the company will collect all future income from more than 600 songs, which includes towering classics such as 1965's "Like a Rolling Stone".

"The deal is the most significant music publishing agreement this century and one of the most important of all time," UMG said in a press release.

UMG declined to say how much the deal was worth but it was likely to have swelled the coffers of the man who once wrote "money doesn't talk, it swears" by many millions of dollars. The Financial Times said it could be in nine figures.

A Universal spokesperson told Reuters: "Can't discuss specific deal terms but essentially rights were with him."

Dylan, who emerged from the Greenwich Village folk scene in the early 1960s to become arguably the most acclaimed and influential artist of the rock era, is still going strong at the age of 79.

His latest album "Rough and Rowdy Ways", released this year, was a critical and commercial success. Rolling Stone magazine said in its review: "Dylan is exploring a terrain nobody else had reached before yet he just keeps pushing on into the future."

The first songwriter to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, he was also playing about 100 dates a year on his "Never Ending Tour" until the coronavirus pandemic forced him to cancel his schedule. In recent years, he also a produced his own whiskey, named "Heaven's Door" after one of his best-known songs.

The copyrights for songs spanning his 60-year career include such anthems as "Blowin' In The Wind", "The Times They Are A-Changin" and "Tangled Up In Blue," as well as "Make You Feel My Love", which was huge hit for Adele, and "Things Have Changed", for which he won an Oscar.

UMG Chairman Sir Lucian Grainge said Dylan had "amassed a singular body of work that includes some of the greatest and most popular songs the world has ever known."

"Brilliant and moving, inspiring and beautiful, insightful and provocative, his songs are timeless — whether they were written more than half a century ago or yesterday," Grainge said in the press releaee. "It is no exaggeration to say that his vast body of work has captured the love and admiration of billions of people all around the world."

Everest 'grows'

FROM PAGE 12

the rock base on the summit and not -- as with the new reading -- the covering of snow and ice on the peak.

Employing trigonometry hundreds of miles away on the Indian plains, British colonial geographers first determined Everest's height in 1856 at 8,840 metres (29,002 feet) above sea level.

After Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa famously first reached the summit of Everest on May 29, 1953, an Indian survey readjusted the altitude to 8,848 metres (29,028 feet).

That measurement was widely accepted, with the number alluring not just ambitious mountaineers but also inspiring names for adventure clothing lines, restaurants and even a vodka.

In 1999 the US National Geographic Society concluded the world's highest point was higher at 8,850 metres (29,035 feet). But Nepal never officially recognised this new height, although it is widely quoted.

China meanwhile conducted several surveys, and in 2005 came up with its measurement of 8,844.43 metres (29,015 feet).

That provoked a row with Nepal which was only resolved in 2010 when Kathmandu and Beijing agreed that their measurements referred to different things -- one to the height of Everest's rock and the other to the height of its snowcap.

Covid fuels fears

FROM PAGE 12

At least 70,000 Bangladeshi garment workers lost work after big brands rushed to cancel orders early in the pandemic.

Jobs like Morshed's - at a legitimate factory with a living wage and free of debt - are now few and far between.

Organisations that work to get slavery victims back on track - then keep them safe - say most have lost earnings in Covid-19, and fear this leaves them newly exposed to re-trafficking.

"Survivors face unique push factors that make them an easy prey for traffickers," said Masud Ali, executive director of the research-based group INCIDIN Bangladesh.

"When a victim returns home and starts living with the family, but isn't able to contribute due to job cuts, he becomes a burden. He also has to deal with the stigma of being a survivor. These factors force survivors to move," he said.

According to charity Winrock International, 72 of the 77 survivors they support in the northern city of Rangpur saw their income fall - 14 lost their jobs - between April and August.

Relatives of about 400 trafficking survivors needed food donations to survive the pandemic, said the charity Justice and Care.

Add to that the fact that survivors now carry an extra burden of repaying the loans they took out to survive lockdown, and the risk of re-exploitation rises still further.

Which is why Morshed's factory job sets him apart.

"Giving a trafficked victim a job, is like saving him from committing suicide," said Mostafiz Uddin, owner of Denim Expert Limited, the factory that hired Morshed.

"Trafficked victims go into a state of shock after losing everything. Everybody, even their own family, sees them as a failure ... hiring them is a kind of rehabilitation and that's more important than money. It gives mental peace," he added.

The factory, which makes clothes for brands such as H&M and Zara and employs about 1,900 workers, began employing survivors of exploitation in 2018.

While the initiative is small, Uddin is breaking ground. He employs three survivors and is in talks with four more.

The denim factory also recruits from Bangladesh's transgender community - it has five trans workers - and is developing a jobs programme for marginalised sex workers.

Survivors find it especially hard to cope with job losses or a fall in income, experts say, as many struggle with trauma or a loss of confidence.

"They often give up easily. I have seen survivors quit factories just because of intense pressure," said Tariqul Islam, Bangladesh's Country Director of Justice and Care, which works on anti-trafficking measures in the South Asian nation.

"They then rely on people who give them false hopes of making easy money. That's where the danger of re-trafficking lies... the job cuts also puts many survivors in danger of starting their rehabilitation process from scratch," he added.

To address these issues, advocates have urged the government to make a list of trafficking survivors and give them priority to obtain jobs abroad through legal channels.

A government official in Jessore, a border town known for trafficking, acknowledged more must be done to protect victims.

"We are working on ways to provide more training to survivors so that they have the right skills to get jobs in the market," said Deputy Director Asit Kumar.

Help cannot come soon enough for Mita, a survivor who lost her job in August and wonders how next to support her family.

Now 22, Mita was trafficked and sold to a brothel in Mumbai when she was 13. After her rescue, she lived in a government shelter before returning to Bangladesh in 2017.

With hopes of a fresh start, she joined a garment factory the following year, but lost her job due to the pandemic.

Now she worries about slipping back into the shadows.

"I know that I have overcome a lot of things in life, but right now I am worried because I don't have a job and I don't know how I am going to support my mother," Mita said.

Inconsistent

FROM PAGE 12

situation and reconstruction work.

INDIAN ARTISTS CALL ON BANGABANDHU

Indian vocal artists Maya Sen, Arati Bagchi, Mira Banerjee call on Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Gono Bhaban today. The artists had come to Dhaka to participate in the Ustad Alauddin Music Conference being held at the stadium.

AUSTRLIA OFFERS TWO FOKKER PLANES

Australia offers to provide two Fokker friendship planes for Bangladesh Biman as grant. The two aircraft are expected to be delivered by April next year.

Sources: December 10, 1972 issues of Dainik Bangla, Ittefaq and The Daily Observer.

DSCC tears down hundreds

FROM PAGE 12

He said people on different occasions built the shops in the open and parking spaces.

"We have decided to tear down illegal shops from all DSCC markets and as part of it, we are demolishing the illegal shops from the three markets under Fulbaria Supermarket-2. Such drives will gradually be conducted in other markets."

HOW SHOPS WERE BUILT

Some 2,300 shops were constructed at the Fulbaria Supermarket-2 following the main design. But 911 others were built illegally on different times. Of them, 308 are in block-A, 292 in block-B, and 311 in block-C.

DSCC sources said the construction of the illegal shops in the basement started in 1997 when late Mohammad Hanif was the mayor. With some conditions, he allowed the traders association concerned to run businesses in the basement temporarily.

During the tenure of late mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, some traders also got permission to run businesses temporarily.

But since 2012, the construction of illegal shops went on on a large scale following the then administrator's permission, they said.

DSCC sources said though the owners and traders got permission from the administration to temporarily run several hundred shops for rent, they made permanent structures and increased the number of shops to 911.

Firoz Ahmed, general secretary of Zakir Market's Owners Samity, said they got the allotment of 911 shops during the tenure of the DSCC administrator.

He added that they paid rent only for two months and after that the DSCC stopped taking rent. The other administrators and mayor Sayeed Khokon did not take any rent from them.

He said in 2018, they filed a writ petition with the High Court against the DSCC move to demolish their shops.

After that, a section of DSCC officials took Tk 5 to 10 lakh from each of them as outstanding rent and giving them trade licences, he claimed.

Firoz said the DSCC did not give them any trade licence.

The DSCC again stopped taking rent after Taposh became mayor, he said, adding that they got the notice of eviction on December 6.

"We sought one month's time from the mayor, but we did not get it," he said.

Contacted, mayor Khokon told The Daily Star that illegal shops had been running there for a long time.

He said when they went to demolish those, the shop owners and traders filed a writ petition with the HC and following the HC directives, they revised their decision at a board meeting of the DSCC.

He said following the decision, they made the shops that paid their rents legal.

About taking money, Khokon said the DSCC did not take any money for giving the traders licences, it just took all the outstanding rent from them.

TRADERS IN CRISIS

Many traders, who took shops spending Tk 70 to Tk 80 lakh, are now in a serious trouble.

"I bought my shop for Tk 20 lakh from Firoz, a representative of the owners samity, in 2012. Later in 2018, I had to give Tk 10 lakh to the city corporation to make my shop legal," claimed Siddiqur Rahman.

He added that he would fall into a big financial trouble.

Rashedul Islam, another shop owner, said they had "purchased" two shops for Tk 75 lakh each.

He said the DSCC in 2018 closed their shops and they had to pay Tk 22 lakh to the city corporation for running their business.

WHO against mandatory

FROM PAGE 12

ONLY 'RESPONSIBLE' CHOICE

"The vaccine story is a good news story. It is the victory of human endeavour, potentially, over a microbial adversary," said the organisation's emergencies director Michael Ryan.

"We need to convince people and we need to persuade."

As for making vaccines mandatory, he said: "I think all of us who work in public health would rather avoid that as a means for getting people vaccinated.

"We are much better served to present people with the data and the benefits and let people make up their own minds.

"There are certain circumstances... where I would believe that the only responsible thing would be to be vaccinated," he added.

According to the WHO's overview of different candidate vaccines, 51 have entered human trials, 13 of which have reached final-stage mass testing.

A further 163 candidate vaccines are being developed in laboratories with a view to eventual human testing.

Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat

Administration Section

Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1225

Invitation for Tenders under Framework Contract

1.	Ministry/Division	Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat
2.	Procuring entity name	Senior Assistant Secretary, Administration Section, Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat.
3.	Invitation for	Supply of Stationeries, Crockeries, Electric & Electronics, Lenience, Photocopier Toner & Developer, Computer Printer's Toner, Computer Spare Parts, Printer Spare Parts, Medicine & Medical, Re-agent, Chemical and others accessories under Framework Contract.
4.	Invitation Ref. No.	11.00.0000.604.07.024.20/673 , Date: 06/12/2020
5.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (National) Under Framework Contract
6.	Budget and Source of funds	Revenue Budget
7.	Tender Package/Lot name and short description of goods	Package-1(Lot-1)- Paper, Pens ete. Package-1 (Lot-2)- Gum, Packaging tap, Stapler, Stapler Pin, Chain File, Binder Clip etc. Package-2(Lot-1)- Plastic's Bucket, Basket, Mug, File tray ete. Package-2(Lot-2)- Crystal's Plate, Mug, Jug, Tea-pot, Rice dish etc. Package-3 (Lot-1)- Electric ketle, Battery, Wall Clock, Calculator, Water Filter etc. Package-3(Lot-2)-Water Purifier Machine, Water Filter, PP Filter, Water Carbon Filter etc. Package-4-Insect Spray, Airfreshner, Sanitizer, Tissue Paper, Toilet Paper, Napkin Paper ete. Package-5- National flag, Towel, Umbrella, PVC Mat etc. Package-6(Lot-2)- Photocopier Toner & Developer. Package-6(Lot-3)- Photocopier Spare Parts & Duplicating Machines Spare Parts. Package-6(Lot-4)- Photocopier & Duplicating Machine Servicing. Package-7(Lot-2)- Fax Machines Spare Parts. Package-9(Lot-1)- Computer Toner (HP Brand). Package-9(Lot-2)- Computer Toner (Non HP Brand & Others Accessories). Package-9(Lot-3)- Computer Spare Parts. Package-9(Lot-4)- Computer Printers Spare Parts. Package-14-(Lot-1)-Medicine Package-15-Medical Re-agent, Chemicals & Other Accessories.
8.	Tender Schedule selling place	Block: Administration Section, North-East, Ground Floor, Room No-131, Parliament Secretariat.
9.	Tender selling date	13/12/2020 - 04/01/2021.
10.	Tender submission & opening date and time	Package-1: Lot-1, Lot-2, Package-2: Lot-1 & Lot-2 Submission date: 05/01/2021, Time: 9:30AM-12:00PM Opening date: 05/01/2021 Opening Time: Package-1: Lot-1: 12:05, Lot-2: 12:30, Package-2: Lot-1: 1:30 & Lot-2: 2:00 PM
		Package-3: Lot-1, Lot-2, Package- 4 & Package-5 Submission date: 06/01/2021, Time: 9:30AM-12:00PM Opening date:06/01/2021,Opening Time:Package-3:Lot-1:12:05,Lot-2:12:30,Package-4:1:30PM & Package-5 2:00PM
		Package-6: Lot-2, Lot-3, Lot-4 & Package-7: Lot-2 Submission date: 07/01/2021, Time: 9:30AM-12:00PM Opening date: 07/01/2021,Opening Time: Package-6: Lot-2:12:05, Lot-3: 12:45, Lot-4:1:30 & Package-7:Lot-2: 2:00 PM
		Package: 9: Lot-1, Lot-2 & Lot-3 Submission date:10/01/2021, Time: 9:30AM-12:00PM Opening date:10/01/2021, Opening Time: Package-9: Lot-1: 12:05, Lot-2: Lot-2: 12:45, Lot-3: 1:30 PM
		Package-9: Lot-4, & Package-15 Submission date: 11/01/2021, Time: 9:30AM-12:00PM Opening date: 11/01/2021, Opening Time: Package-9: Lot-4: 12:05 & Package -15: 12:45 PM:
		Package-14(Lot-1) Submission date: 12/01/2021, Time: 9:30AM-12:00PM Opening date: 12/01/2021, Opening Time: 12:05 PM
11.	Tender submission & opening place	Deputy Secretary (Admin-1), Level-7, Block-East, Room No-7, (Lift-13,14,15 & 16)
12.	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	(a) Reputed supplier firms/Organisation having valid trade license (2020-2021), Income Tax clearance Certificate (2020-2021), Vat registration certificate (11Digit)/BIN, Experience Certificate, Authorization letter (If Applicable) (b) Detailed terms & conditions will be mentioned in tender schedule.
13.	Price of tender schedule	Per schedule price of TK. 1,000/-(One thousand)-3000/-(Three thousand) only (As mentioned in the schedule).
14.	Tender security & Tender Validity Period	Package:1(Lot-1): 1,50,000/-, 1(Lot-2): 65,000/-, Package: 2(Lot-1): 20,000/-, 2(Lot-2): 60,000/-, Package-3: (Lot-1):32,000/-, 3(Lot-2): 40,000/-, Package: 4: 1,20,000/-, Package-5: 70,000/-, Package-6(Lot-2):90,000/-, 6(Lot-3):78,000/-, 6(Lot-4): 16,000/-, Package:7(Lot-2):10,000/-, Package:9(Lot-1): 1,90,000/-, 9(Lot-2):75,000/-,9(Lot-3):83,000/-, 9(Lot-4): 22,000/-, Package-14(Lot-1): 3,00,000/- & Package-15: 95,000/-, Validity period: 120 days
15.	Name designation, address & Phone number of official inviting tender	A S M Humayun Kabir, Senior Assistant Secretary (Administration). Block: North-East, Ground Floor, Room No-131, Parliament Secretariat. (55029007, Intercom: 2306/2188.
16.	Special instructions	• Contract will be for 1(One) year initially and it may be renewed for next 2(Two) years, subject to satisfactory supply of goods. • Package/Lot based lowest bidders will be selected. • The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.

06/12/2020

(A S M Humayun Kabir)
Senior Assistant Secretary
Phone: 55029007

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