

BSF shoots 2

FROM PAGE 12

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

Twice Trafficked? Covid-19 fuels fears for trafficking survivors

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION, Dhaka

Parvez Morshed thought he was going to become a tailor in Saudi Arabia, but the Bangladeshi migrant was tricked by a recruiter and ended up working as a builder earning half the promised pay.

Unable to support his family and clear the loan he borrowed to get the job, Morshed returned home mid-pandemic to work in a garment factory that ran a programme hiring trafficking victims.

"The job in Saudi was supposed to be a way out for my family. But it put us in more trouble than before," Morshed told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone.

"It has been difficult to get jobs due to the coronavirus, so I consider myself fortunate to be working here. It saved my family from a lot of trouble," said the 30-year-old tailor, four months into his new job.

Morshed is one of the lucky few. Charities helping Bangladeshi migrants who have been tricked into fake jobs, ending up saddled with

debt or working in dire conditions, say workers now risk falling back into the same trap as the Covid-19 fallout eats into income opportunities at home.

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.

Myanmar armed forces

FROM PAGE 12

and for federal democracy and sustainable peace.

Budget documents detail large-scale spending without parliamentary oversight and the allocation of funds to procure items from major corporations, including Caterpillar (USA), Alcatel-Lucent (France/Finland), Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG (Germany) and FANUC (Japan).

Data also shows the Myanmar military's failure to disclose the bulk of their business income.

The publishers assert this is evidence of wide-scale misappropriation of funds from military businesses at a massive loss for the people of Myanmar.

Justice For Myanmar Spokesperson Yadanar Maung said the information exposes the greed and corruption of the Myanmar military cartel, and its international business networks that enable the military's continued criminal conduct.

"We call on the Myanmar government and parliament to urgently rein in the Myanmar military's spending until they are fully under civilian control, respect human rights, are held accountable for their crimes and abide by Myanmar and international law. All assets stolen by the Myanmar military must be returned to the people of Myanmar."

The documents were also provided to the Organized Crime

and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), an international consortium of investigative journalists, which investigated some of the companies and exposed loopholes in the EU sanctions regulations. The OCCRP confirmed with a Jordanian source familiar with the C-295 deal that Jordan is selling the planes, although the source did not know which country the planes are being sold to.

Yadanar Maung said domestic and international businesses that supply the Myanmar military risk aiding and abetting the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

If the C-295 purchase goes ahead, they will likely be used to carry troops to ethnic areas, supporting the military's international crimes, Maung said.

"We call on the government of Jordan to refrain from selling arms to Myanmar military, including C-295 planes. We call for all businesses to cut ties with the Myanmar military and for foreign governments to sanction military leaders and military-owned companies."

Maung said Airbus and their partners must end all direct and indirect ties with the Myanmar military, including training and technical support. "Action is urgently needed to end Myanmar's 70-year long civil war and the people's suffering, and build a federal democracy and sustainable peace."

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 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.

Hundreds torn down

FROM PAGE 12

"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 Siddiqui 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.

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 (29,022 feet) above sea level.

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.

AUSTRALIA 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.

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, Lence, 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 etc 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 etc. Package-2(Lot-2)- Crystal's Plate, Mug, Jug, Tea-pot, Rice dish etc. Package-3 (Lot-1)- Electric kettle, 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 etc. 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: 23062188.
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.

GD-1955

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