

Dry weather forecast

UNB, Dhaka

Rain and thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi division and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Comilla and Sylhet in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country. Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 40.0 degree Celsius at Rajshahi and the lowest 19.8 degree Celsius at Srimongol.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:25 pm and rises tomorrow at

5.28 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
Max	Min	Morning	Evening
37.2	24.8	65	35
34.8	25.0	64	72
40.0	20.6	62	34
37.5	25.4	75	50
37.6	24.5	59	52
36.2	23.4	41	41
35.5	24.4	72	72
	in Ce Max 37.2 34.8 40.0 37.5 37.6 36.2	in Celsius Max Min 37.2 24.8 34.8 25.0 40.0 20.6 37.5 25.4 37.6 24.5 36.2 23.4	in Celsius perc Max Min Morning 37.2 24.8 65 34.8 25.0 64 40.0 20.6 62 37.5 25.4 75 37.6 24.5 59 36.2 23.4 41

Tension prevails

that "the situation is tense and worrying" as "there have been a massive build-up of BDR soldiers and heavy movement of Army troops along the borders with Assam, Tripura and Mizoram states".

Bangladesh officials and Army sources yesterday dismissed the claims by the official and a section of the media in India.

"The Bangladesh Army has not moved a single troop from any of its cantonments," a high official told The Daily Star last night.

Director General of Bangladesh Rifles Major General Fazlur Rahman and Director General of BSF Gurbachar Jagat talked over telephone late Monday night on ways to defuse the border tension.

The BDR chief was learnt to have assured his counterpart that not a

Benazir

FROM PAGE 12

unilateral moratoriums on testing after their tit-for-tat nuclear blasts in May 1998 triggered international economic sanctions against them.

Both countries are yet to sign the CTBT, which has been approved by more than 150 nations but which can only come into force once 44

nuclear-capable countries inkit. "We (Pakistan People's Party) thought that Islamabad should have signed on May 28, 1998 right after the detonations saving us from the economic battering and crushing debt burden," Bhutto said.

Delwar

FROM PAGE 1

Police said they fired on Delwar when he hurled bombs at them.

Family sources said although the victim's brother 'officially' received the body from the DMCH morgue at about 3:30pm yesterday, the police vehicle that was carrying the body to Delwar's Matuail residence from DMCH, disappeared after Delwar's brother got down from the vehicle on their way to Matuail to inform one of his relatives.

Matuail graveyard for burial. brother at the graveyard, police day. He was 70. refused to hand over the body.

Witnesses said police along with and two daughters, some local Awami League activists made arrangements for washing the body and asked local people to join

spot immediately.

Bangladesh side unless there is provocation from the other side. Both the chiefs agreed that

single gunshot would be fired from

trenches dug recently in some border positions should be dismantled immediately and local commanders must hold flag meetings whenever a

tense situation arises. The sources said BDR has started withdrawing its forces from areas where skirmishes took place last week. BDR personnel in those points have been put on "normal

The BDR meanwhile has collected "a substantial number of weapons and ammunition in Kurigram", left behind by BSF after its recent intrusion and withdrawal.

An inventory of the recovered weapons is being prepared and these will be handed over to BSF shortly, the officials said.

There are nearly 700 BDR border outposts (BOPs) along Bangladesh's 4000 kilometere border with India.

Death anniversary



death anniversary of Mohammad Nurul Hug, a renowned educationobserved today, says a press release.

The fourteenth

To mark the occasion, milad mahfil, remembrance programme and distribution of food at an orphanage has been organised by

He was the author of many publications including the much acclaimed Dukhu Miar Dukher Jiban, the life story of rebel poet Kazi

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Shamsul Hug, accounts officer of Later in the evening, a team of Bangladesh Society for the Enforce-Demra police took the body to the ment of Human Rights (BSEHR) died of a heart attack at the Sikder Despite fervent requests by Delwar's Medical Hospital in the city yester-

Hug is survived by wife, one son

The qulkhwani of Hug will be held at his residence at 281/7 Sultanganj, Rayer Bazar in the city

BSEHR President Justice Sultan Hossain Khan, Secretary General Sigma Huda and other officials and employees of the organisation yesterday condoled the death of Huq and prayed for the eternal

Mock trial: 3 top opposition leaders sentenced to death at N'ganj

REPORT AGENCIES, N'ganj

A mock court here yesterday sentenced three top opposition leaders to death on various charges.

The mock court, chaired by a 14year-old boy, Minhajul Haque Marzu, passed the order against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for "creating law and order situation in the country" and Jamaat leaders Prof Golam Azam and Matiur Rahman Nizami for collaborating with the Pakistani occupation forces in 1971.

Nineteen people including Shamim Osman, MP, made their deposition before the mock court.

People from various parts of the district gathered in front of Ali Ahmed Chunka Pathagar to witness the trial. Processions were also brought out and effigies of the three leaders burnt after the verdict.

BDR families

FROM PAGE 12

crore. It would take almost one hour to reach Alubazar of Shariatpur from Harinaghat river port of Chandpur. he added.

He said Roads and Highways Department has already constructed 34-kilometer long link road at a cost of Tk 27 crore and the road was made open for traffic.

Rangamati

FROM PAGE 1 Criminal activities have increased due to failure of the District Law and Order Committee, he alleged.

A retired government official at Kalindipur blamed law enforcing agencies for their inaction. People report incidents of crime to law enforcers, sometimes even risking their life, but desired results are not

"If they are sincere, nabbing terrorists, most of whom are untrained, should not be much difficult," he added.

Some people say, hill top security installations in some areas is of little help as the criminals get enough time to flee after abduction or mugging before security personnel come

into action. When asked, a top police official denied that the law and order has deteriorated. "Free movement of people in CHT after the peaceaccord speaks of improvement in

the situation", he claimed. Another high official of a law enforcing agency seeking anonymity said it is difficult to check criminal activities in the forest-clad district with poor logistics, particularly ist, will be vehicles. Poor road communication system is also a great obstacle, he

Nine journalists

Daily Runner published from Jessore. They were killed in 1994 and

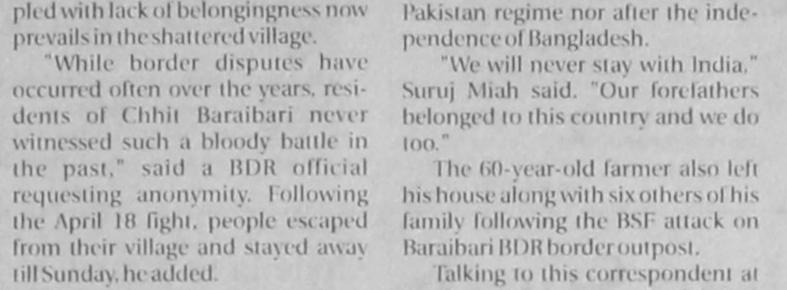
1995 respectively. S M Alauddin, the editor of Dainik Patradut, Satkhira was gunned down in his office in 1996, while Saiful Alam Mukul, editor of The Daily Runner, Jessore was killed by miscreants in 1998.

Working journalist of Chuadanga's daily Din Badaler Kagoj Bazlur Rahman and Rezaul Karim, secretary of Kaliganj Press Club of Jhenidah district were also killed in the 1998.

Mir Elias Hossain Dilip, editor of Dainik Bir Darpan published from Jhenidah was gunned down in the year 2000 and Shamsur Rahman, Bureau Chief of Dainik Janakantha was killed in his office in Jessore town on July 16 the same year.

Last Friday, gunmen shot and stabbed Daily Janakantha's Faridpur correspondent Probir Shikder. His right leg has been ampu-

Besides, about 50 journalists in different districts of south-western zone were severely injured in armed attacks by miscreants during the last six years, according to newspaper reports and police sources.



Indo-Bangla border

frontiers.

try official said.

ECNEC

FROM PAGE 1

Dhaka.

Sikdar, Past President, BPSM are also seen in the picture.

middle-aged farmer of the village.

Trans-border trade between

Bangladesh and India remained

unaffected with busy transactions in

the major land ports despite the

worst ever frontier skirmishes

between the two countries, officials

land ports Benapole remained

normal despite the recent flare-up

in Roumari frontiers," a customs

official at the crucial Benapole land

goods train between Bangladesh

and India remained normal while

buses carried their usual load of

passengers in the Dhaka-Calcutta-

disrupted even for a day," an immi-

received here from Sona Masjid land

port at Shibganj in greater Rajshahi

said activities of Tamabil land port

near the troubled Padua village were

disrupted for a week since April 12

when tensions flared up. But nor-

malcy was restored quickly relieving

particularly the coal traders as

consignments continued to come

Customs officials at Benapole

said 268 Indian trucks moved into

Bangladesh territory on April 19, 187

on April 20 and 276 on April 21 and

165 trucks on April 22. During the

last four days 400 trucks carried jute

Authorities at both sides of the

border were very watchful so that no

hindrance is created in import and

export between the two neighbour-

ing countries, they said.

from the Indian side.

to India.

and Bhomraland port at Satkhira.

gration official at Benapole said.

"The operations here were not

Similar reports were also

Reports from Sylhet, however,

He added that the movement of

port said, yesterday.

Dhaka route.

"The trans-border movement at

trade normal

FROM PAGE 1

BSS, Dhaka

diplomatic crisis.

charged mortar shells.

Out of 217 houses in the village,

some 50 houses were damaged in

the fight, 35 completely. Most of

these were destroyed when BSF

left a deeper scar in the minds of the

villagers. A sense of insecurity cou-

However, the border clash has

between border forces of the two countries. For 54 years this has been a disputed land."

Life in Chhit Baraibari

Yussuf Abdullah Haroon, President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI)

addressing a meeting on the present economic situation of the country organised by Bangladesh Dokan Malik

Samity (BDMS) at Federation Auditorium yesterday. Among others Mohammad Ali, Vice President, FBCCI, Amir

Hossain Khan, Chairman, BDMS, Alhaj Abdus Salam, President, BPDCMA, Abu Motaleb, Director, FBCCI

Akhtaruzzaman Manju, Director, FBCCI, Helaluddin Helal, President, Dhaka Dokan Malik Samity (DDMS) and Khoka

এফবিসিজাই

Two years ago a similar incident villagers. took place but none was killed, he

to resolve the dispute, which dates back to 1947, neither during the Pakistan regime nor after the inde-

"Living here has always been Katkimari Bazar, some five kilometroublesome," said Azimuddin, a ters inside Bangladesh territory on Sunday, he said that his family "In Chhit Baraibari, we often face members, particularly women and

the two countries continued to hold

frequent flag meetings to prevent

the return of tensions as foreign

ministry officials in Dhaka said

diplomatic and political level efforts

succeeded in restoring peace in

countries, our 4000-kilometre

boundary line is not a natural border

or barren line. Millions of people live

in the borders causing vibrant eco-

nomic activities," one foreign minis-

districts said the recent frontier

skirmishes, however, have signifi-

cantly reduced the unofficial border

trades or smuggling with intensive

patrolling of Bangladesh Rifles

(BDR) and Border Security Force

(BSF) of India on both sides of the

long frontline in the past two weeks.

ment of DC hill park, construction of

officers' club auditorium in Dhaka,

establishment of training academy

and testing laboratory of Public

Works Department, construction of

Benapole Parjatan Motel and traffic

sign supply and installation to

facilitate traffic movement in

Kibria, Education Minister A H S K

Sadique, Food Minister Amir

Hossain Amu, Industries Minister

Tofail Ahmed. Agriculture Minister

Begum Matia Chowdhury, Science

and Technology Minister

Mohammed Nuruddin Khan, CHT

Affairs Minister Kalparanjan

Chakma and State Minister for

Religious Affairs Maulana Nurul

Islam and officials concerned were

present at the meeting.

Finance Minister Shah A M S

But officials from the frontier

adverse situation due to tension children, did not feel secured during the trouble. "We took shelter on the bank of the Brahmaputra."

The same was the case with most

Some 600 people of 217 families living in Chhit Baraibari are on the There has not been any initiative voter list prepared by the Bangladesh Election Commission and have exercised their adult franchise for years now. They usually cast their votes at Barbanda polling centre, adjacent to local MP Golam Hossain's residence, located less than a mile away from Chhit

> On many occasions, BSF has threatened residents of Chhit Baraibari and asked them to live alleged one villager, who preferred not to be named.

"Looting of our goods and attack by people from across the border frequently takes place," he

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 12

Baraibari.

prime minister, who is leading a four-party opposition alliance movement, called upon the people to continue the 72-hour hartal till 6 amon Thursday. Referring to the killing of a man

by police firing on BNP activists during picketing at Demra on Monday the BNP Chairperson said: "The subservient fascist government wants to cling to power forc-"Unlike those in Middle Eastern

She observed that the Awami League government deceived the people as it did not yet implement any commitment to them.

Khaleda cautioned that people would never forgive the government responsible for what she said endangering country's independence, sovereignty, public life and property and the economy.

PM: Ferry service FROM PAGE 1

Chowdhury Maya, Bir Bikram, said the Chandpur-Shariatpur ferry service project was taken up at the initiative of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for easing the traffic pressure on the Dhaka city as well as opening a new route connecting the southeastern region with the southern districts.

He said Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) has taken a five-year project at a cost of Tk 6 crore for dredging and construction of landing platforms.

Maya said under this project, two row-row ferries would be procured with assistance from government of the Netherlands at a cost of Tk 109 crore. It would take almost one hour to reach Alubazar of Shariatpur from Harinaghat river port of Chandpur, he added.

He said Roads and Highways Department has already constructed 34-kilometer long link road at a cost of Tk 27 crore and the road was made open for traffic.

Border tension: Vajpayee govt under fire

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Minister Atal Bihari Vajpaye has risked the wrath from within in coming out with a restrained response to the border tension with Bangladesh and the killing of 16 BSF personnel.

When the issue came up for discussion in Parliament on Monday, the government came under attack less from the Opposition and more from ruling BJP and its allies like Shiv Sena. Haryana Vikas Party and Vajpayee's former ministerial colleague Ram Jethmalani, an independent member of Lok Sabha who won the poll with the support of BJP and Sena.

BJP and its allies flayed the government's handling of the border skirmishes and its "soft" response to the killing of BSF jawans. They said New Delhi should have sent a "stern" message to Bangladesh and Shatrughan Sinha, the film starturned-politician of BJP, even questioned Indian government's absolving Bangladesh government of responsibility for the killing of BSF

Jethmalani said it was a "matter of shame" that the news of the killing was first known through Bangladesh media. He even said some ministers should resign taking responsibility for the incidents.

The criticism from the main proximity to each other.

Opposition Congress was much more muted. Leader of the The government of Indian Prime Opposition and Congress chief Sonia Gandhi was careful in her remarks in Lok Sabha, lower house of parliament, and said government should probe if there was any intelligence failure or slackness in vigilance for the gruesome killing of BSF

> She said acts of "criminal adventurism" should not be allowed to jeopardize Indo-Bangla relations.

> Opposition leaders Mulayam Singh Yadav of Samajwadi Party and Raghuvans Prasad of Rashtriya Janata Dal accused Vajpayee government of trying to improve India's relations with neighbouring countries by "playing with" the lives of Indian soldiers.

> But there is general appreciation in diplomatic and political circles here that the political leadership of India and Bangladesh displayed considerable restraint in dealing with a sensitive development at the

> border after the skirmish. Meanwhile, Assam state Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta met Vajpayee and Home Minister L K Advani on Monday and demanded strengthening of BSF presence along the border with Bangladesh following last week's stand-off. He also sought the setting up of more BSF border outposts with closer

Kalidas Murder Case BDR-BSF clash Babul Mollah Villagers start remanded again

UNB, Bagerhat

Babul Mollah, one of the accused in Advocate Kalidas Boral murder case, was again placed on a six-day police

Babul Mollah was earlier placed on a two-day remand after his arrest on April 18.

RMCH intern docs continue strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Interns of the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) observed strike for the third day yesterday, demanding security of the doctors prevailing in the area despite some on the hospital campus.

The RMCH Intern Doctors Association went on a strike, when a female doctor's gold chain was snatched by some miscreants on the campus Saturday night.

Gen Stackpole visits Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CIR

Lt General (rtd) Henry C Stackpole who commanded 'operation sea angel' in Chittagong after the cyclonic disaster of April 29 in 1991, yesterday arrived in the port city and visited a cyclone shelter at Patenga and other coastal areas here.

Talking to the press men here at Patenga Stackpole said that he was impressed to find a substantial increase of facilities here to face the disasters.

"In 1991 when I came here, these facilities were not available while there was more devastation than in a war, "he said.

Replying to a question, Stackpole said "I have come to see the facilities and situation here.

returning home BSS, Roumari Despite the reinforced vigilance of both Bangladeshi and Indian border

guards on the frontline at Roumari. the villagers, who fled their homes during the last week's skirmishes. started returning home. "More than 70 per cent people of 35 border villages have returned

a complete ceasefire since Friday." an official of the Roumari Upazila Administration said. UNO of Roumari Abdul Quaium Malek Sardar added that his office

home as the two sides have enforced

had so far distributed four tonnes of rice for those who returned home. The BDR officials said peace was

Meanwhile, BDR sources said they recovered some weapons including shells and wireless sets during searches in Baraibari village

after the ceasefire. They hinted that the war machines might be returned to the BSF during the next flag meetings.

Transfers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Badiur Rahman, Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division of Local Government and Rural Development and Cooperatives Ministry, has been transferred as Chairman of Land Appeal Board (LAB). According to establishment

division sources yesterday, former chairman of LAB Dhiraj Kumar Nath has replaced Rahman as the new secretary of the division. Badiur Rahman was made

Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division on October

Second day of hartal

FROM PAGE 1 house at Natun Bazar slum under

Mirpur Section 13 at 12.45 pm. They all were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition.

Hospital sources said, Badal and Karim lost their left eyes in the explosion while Sumon's left hand was blown away. Four petrol bombs and bomb-

ered from the spot. The bombs were being made to use during the hartal, police claimed. Police constables Abdur Rashid and Mokhtar Hossain were injured when a bomb was thrown on them

making materials were also recov-

at Nababpur in Sutrapur thana at 7.45 pm. They were admitted to the DMCH. Police arrested Shamim Mahbub and lasim from Shahbagh area at 12.55 pm as they were carrying four bombs reportedly to throw on the

running vehicles. They also arrested Nahid. Mohammad Ali, Haidar Akbar Robin and Ahsanullah with firearms during the hartal in the city.

Police recovered 24 bombs from Sramajibi Hospital compound at 1.30 am and another 15 from Agargaon Jahangir Slum at 3am. Yesterday's hartal passed off

distance road communications. Trains, air and launch services were not affected by the hartal. Shops and educational institutions remained closed, but government offices functioned as usual. Office-goers reached their workplaces either by without any major incident of viorickshaws or on foot. Some of them lence in and outside the capital even risked to have a ride on buses where the presence of pro-hartal activists was much less than on ortempos.

Attack on newsmen on rise

Meanwhile, the border forces of

FROM PAGE 1

eases had to amputate his bullet-hit Two journalists of the Chittagong-based daily Purbakone

were injured when a terrorist group, reportedly led by Mamunur Rashid Mamun, an armed cadre of the ruling party-backed Jubo League, stormed the newspaper office last 13.

police roughing up three journalists in the capital, who were covering targeted for assassination because gling operations, Rahman regularly street celebrations on the New Year of the reports they had filed or covered activities of criminal gangs

Also in January, followers of an sation Islamic cleric attacked the crew of the state-run Bangladesh Television, assailants gunned down Mir Illias reports.

member roughed up a journalist in dieden route to the hospital. Satkhira district while several other after being threatened by hoodlums south-western district, arguing that against influential quarters. allegedly hired by corrupt politi- the underground leftist activists

Police severely beat up nine engage in the democratic process, and medical instruments attacked journalists after one of them shot Hossain himself wrote numerous Baki Billah, a daily Sangbad staff.

Tangail press club on February 27. population.

Opposition activists beat up three newspaper reporters in the capital based special correspondent for the as they were covering hartal on April Janakantha and a contributor to the 2, and another at the Minto Road BBC Bengali service, was killed official residence of Leader of the when two armed men stormed into Opposition in Parliament on April his office and shot him point blank

Last year, two journalists were

while they were covering a section. Hossain, editor of the Dainik Bir mostly women, of audience at a Darpan, from close range in 40 journalists while political activ-Jhenaidah. His friend, Alfaz Uddin, ists and religious zealots roughed up Supporters of a Union Parishad who was with him on a motorbike, 45 others. None was, however, killed. Darpan had been vocal against ists and sent two of them to prison

pictures of some students being articles criticising local militants for dragged by police officers near the ignoring the needs of the rural

> on July 16. Jessore, which is close to the

Police also arrested three journal-

should abandon violence and doctors armed with razors, scissors duties smoothly".

ing that doctors left a seriously injured patient waiting for seven Journalists covering opposition-

Reporting on the country's highly

In 1999 police assaulted at least BNP-led general strike during which several journalists were assaulted and harassed, the home minister sent a memorandum to the country's police chiefs asking them to guarantee safety and security of nobody should obstruct newsmen

-Billah had filed a news report claim-

In February 1999, shortly after a

pressmen had to flee their homes left-wing militant activities in the following publication of reports media people, and to "ensure that In a unique case on 24 April, three from performing their professional

sponsored general strikes were often attacked, both by political

politicised university campuses is also hazardous, as student activists routinely threaten and harass journalists who probed too closely into their affairs. In the southern districts, newsmen faced violent reprisals for their reporting on criminal syndicates and militant

But the instruction apparently

failed to protect the journalists.

Opposition BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami brought out processions in the city demanding immediate resignation of the government. The ruling Awami League also brought out anti-hartal proces-

Paltan Lane area and another in front of Shahjahanpur Boys School hours before the vehicles were allowed to ply. The opposition alliance allowed rickshaws, vans and pushcarts to ply the roads from 2 p m to 6 am during the 72-hour hartal, the third phase

The pro-hartal activists torched

five rickshaws in the city's Purana

Motor vehicles in a limited number plied different city routes while a large number of rickshaws were seen in most of the city areas.

The shutdown disrupted normal

in the current month. The opposi-

tion also enforced a 60-hour hartal

from April 1 and a 72-hour from

life, economic activities and long-

in the single digits.

cies to clients. Koizumi has criticized the sys-

the Janaza. The victim was buried at on April 27 after Asr prayers. the graveyard in the presence of police, said a local resident. AL activists and police misbehaved with photojournalists as they tried to take snaps of the victim's family and ordered them to leave the peace of the departed soul. Koizumi next PM

Japan's political system is also in slum near MES college, has report-

trouble. Koizumi will take over from edly amassed wealth worth over Tk

Koizumi, certain to be formally named prime minister later this week by the LDP-dominated Parliament, takes office as Japan is wallowing in a decade-long economic slowdown. Unemployment is high, a hoped-for recovery has fizzled and the financial system is deployed there. riddled with bad debts.

to change Japan, and fortunately,

many party members supported my

dismal year in office has been defined by a string of scandals, political gaffes and support ratings Koizumi, a former health minister known for his shaggy hairstyle and fiery rhetoric, is pushing economic and structural reforms, including the privatization of Japan's massive postal system, which offers saving

Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, whose

tem as inefficient, but his desire to Mamun's cadres, the sources said.

accounts and even insurance poli-

the party leadership, and many analysts believe he will have a hard time carrying out the promises of | right leg on Sunday. reform that were the focus of his Mamun

change it has little support among

FROM PAGE 12 number of policemen were Mamun who earlier lived in a

He was used by some influential people of the city and political leaders to take possession of lands and for anti-social acts, sources claimed. He also collects monthly toll

from shop owners from WASA cross-

ing to Sholoshahar, the sources said.

He maintains a cadre known as 'Mamun Bahini'. He had reportedly demanded Tk seven lakh from BNP leader Morshed Khan MP in connection with the incident at hotel Misfallah at GEC crossing, where the lawmaker's son was assaulted by

On January 15, unidentified received death threats for his activities.

Shamsur Rahman, a Jessore- hours two days back.

The year, in fact, began with murdered. They either died in the Indian border with south-western line of duty or were deliberately Bangladesh, is a centre for smugtheir affiliation with a news organi- and armed political groups in the region. Rahman had periodically

activists and police.