

Bangladeshi shot dead by BSF near Jakiganj border

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Bangladeshi national was shot dead by BSF near Jakiganj border on Thursday, local people said.

Selim Ahmed, 35, son of Jamshed Ali of village Sultanpur under Jakiganj thana went to his relatives' house at village Lamajura under Karimganj district on the other side of the bordering river Kushiara two days ago. He was shot dead by BSF men at Kushiara char near the border while returning home early Thursday morning, local people said, identifying the body.

The villagers informed the BDR of the matter in the afternoon.

When contacted, an official at the Battalion headquarters of BDR, Sylhet said we have heard an incident of killing by BSF in the early hours of yesterday, but we are not that much concerned since it had happened inside the Indian territory.

Meanwhile, two Indian nationals, who were caught while moving suspiciously on the Juri border under Kulaura thana in Moulvibazar district and Sutarkandi border in Sylhet district on Thursday and Wednesday, were handed over to the Indian authorities yesterday afternoon.

India conducts fresh autopsy to renew claim

NAZMUL ASHRAF

India continues claiming that some of the BSF members who died during the skirmish with BDR at Boraibari border village on April 18 were lynched, although an immediate post-mortem report conducted at a Bangladesh hospital stated that "all the BSF personnel died of bullet injuries".

While submitting the report of the post-mortem, done at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, the BDR also asked the BSF to do another post-mortem or invite foreign observers if the latter disagreed with the report. But, the BSF did not agree to the suggestion at the time.

However, the Indian authorities recently did another post-mortem on the bodies of BSF members and the post-mortem report said that "eleven of the 16 bodies had marks of bullet injuries", according to a Times of India report published yesterday.

Refuting India's allegation that five BSF men were lynched, Dhaka had already made it clear that the Indian border troops were killed in the battle that erupted when they tried to assault a BDR outpost.

The Times of India investigative report quoted the BDR officials at Boraibari as saying that the BSF men were killed in combat by light machine guns while referring to New Delhi's version that the BSF soldiers were "dragged" into Bangladesh territory and then "tortured and killed".

Providing details of the misadventure of the Indian border guards, a BDR soldier described to the daily the BSF assault as "a most goofy

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Average emission level in city nearly 6 times that in US!

SHEHAB AHMED

Motorised vehicles emit 80 per cent of the particulate matters in the air of the capital, revealed a recent Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) study.

The study, conducted between April 2000 and February 2001, found the average emission level in Dhaka to be 89mg per cubic metre, whereas in developed countries like the United States it is a mere 15 mg/m³.

According to the BAEC study, air in the capital is thick with fine particulates that mainly come from smoke emitted by the auto-

rickshaws, buses and trucks. The most harmful among these particulate are carbon monoxide, sulphur oxide and nitrogen oxide.

On February 18 a sample from

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high speed diesel (HSD) showed that PM 2.5 mass was 262.26. On February 25 and 26, it came down to 52.54 and 40.33 respectively. Incidentally, those were hartal days and less than five per cent of the city's mechanised vehicles took to the streets.

The PM10 count too displayed significant fall over the same period. It was 217.72 on February 18, and 44.82 and 42.59 on February 25 and 26 respectively.

PM 2.5 and PM 10 remain suspended in the air for hours and even days, and can spread far from the source. These particles enter the respiratory tract, reaching deep into lungs. PM10 includes all particles likely to pass through the nose and mouth. PM2.5 consists of particles able to reach the inner parts of the

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File photo shows spewing of black smoke by vehicles in the city

Alleged mugger killed in police firing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police shot dead an alleged mugger and seriously injured another one near Palashi in the city yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mamun, son of Azizur Rahman while the injured was identified as Dulal. Police also arrested three other alleged muggers.

The incident took place when six people riding in an auto-rickshaw tried to snatch valuables from two rickshaw passengers at about 4:45pm at the Palashi-Nikhet intersection opposite to Zahurul Haq Hall of Dhaka University.

As one of the women in the rickshaw cried out for help, the muggers took off. At this point, patrol police came forward and tried to stop the auto-rickshaw. But the vehicle sped away with the muggers hurling bombs and shooting at the police from inside.

Police gave chase in another auto-rickshaw and fired at the muggers in retaliation in which two of the muggers were hit by bullet.

Police chased the muggers into the Tin Natar Mazar complex near Doyel Chattar and arrested four of them while one got away.

Mamun's body was recovered from the auto-rickshaw. Police also found two bombs and a sharp knife on the dead man's person. His body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

The arrested three besides the injured Dulal include the driver of the auto-rickshaw that the muggers were on. They are Nurul Amin, 25, son of

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Feni terrorists beat another newsman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Another journalist was beaten up by a gang of terrorists near Amu Bhuiyan Bazar under Daganbhuiyan upazila of the district on World Press Freedom Day on Thursday.

This is second such incident in the district since January 25. UNB's local correspondent Tipu Sultan was the first victim on the day. He was severely beaten up by ruling party men in Feni town.

Tipu is now undergoing treatment at Pangu Hospital in the city.

Local people said Shahidul Alim Imran, local correspondent of Manabzamin, came under attack while he was returning home at about 8 pm.

A gang of eight terrorists swooped on Alam when he reached near the Bazar. They beat Alam

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BTTB plans E-1 system to ease network pressure

Microwave facility, coaxial connections to help ISPs

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

With a view to reducing pressure on its fixed lines and facilitating operations for the Internet Service Providers (ISPs), the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) is likely to introduce the European Standard-1 (E1) system within a few months.

"Introduction of E1 system would release nearly 6,000 fixed BTTB telephones, now used as access

lines for the ISPs," a highly placed source in the board said.

Once the system is put in place, he said, the BTTB would distribute these free lines to prospective telephone subscribers.

The board has plans to provide microwave facilities and coaxial cable connections to the individual ISP in the absence of a fibre-optics network, he added.

The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications and the BTTB

have earlier approved installation of the E-1 system and work is underway, he said. "In fact, installation work is at its final stage."

The BTTB would also offer a lower charge for ISPs willing to get connection through E1 cable. "We are planning a new rate for the ISPs so that they feel encouraged to get E1 connections," another source said.

Presently ISPs have to pay Taka

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Law & order deteriorates in Ctg city

Terrorists roam freely in Hathazari, Raozan & Fatikchhari

NURUL ALAM, Chittagong

Acts of terrorism, murder and abduction, looting and illegal toll collection have contributed to deterioration of law and order in the port city and its surrounding areas. There is hardly any day that passes without any incident of crime, but most of these incidents including abduction remain unreported, according to sources.

In Hathazari, Raozan and Fatikchhari, the most vulnerable areas of Chittagong in terms of crime, notorious terrorists roam freely carrying sophisticated arms,

the sources informed.

Sources also said that these 'identified' terrorists enjoy blessing of some influential political leaders who are busy organising the gangsters to serve their own purposes during the upcoming parliament polls.

At least ten people, including businessmen and expatriates who were returning home from Middle Eastern countries, were reportedly abducted by armed goons in Fatikchhari area alone in the past one month. They were later released on ransom, sources said.

The police, however, say that

efforts are on to curb crime in Chittagong.

Meanwhile, a senior medical officer of Chittagong port, Zahurul Islam Sarkar, was killed allegedly by armed terrorists who stormed his residence on OR Nizam Road in the city on the night of April 28, police and local residents said.

The killing angered the medical professionals in the port city, prompting the doctors to observe a two-hour work stoppage in hospitals, clinics and chambers from 10 in the morning on April 30. The doctors also registered their protests against the killing by holding rallies,



Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting Ramna Batamul carnage on Pehala Baishakh, the first day of Bangla New Year.

CMP reward for helping arrest Mamun

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) yesterday announced a reward of Tk 1 lakh for helping arrest Mamunur Rashid Mamun sued under the Public Safety Act for assaulting two senior journalists of the Purbokone, a local Bangla daily.

The CMP in a press release yesterday evening made the announcement. Mamun is a listed terrorist accused in as many as 18 criminal cases.

The press release seeking help in this regard requested anyone to contact the authorities over phone (031-610550 or 031-635106). It has

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Elderly woman murdered in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An elderly Christian woman was murdered at her residence at Alkaron under Kotwali thana in the city at midnight on Thursday.

The victim was identified as Kalera Salgado, 74.

Police recovered the body yesterday morning from the first floor of a two-storied building at Alkaron Lane and sent it to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police said, the assailants entered the victim's room by breaking open the window and strangled her.

The woman was sleeping alone in a room on the first floor of the building while her eldest son was on the ground floor with his family. Two other sons of the woman are living abroad, family sources said.

Shukrana Dibash observed

BSS, Dhaka

Different organisations yesterday held Milad Mahfil and offered special prayers over the High Court verdict in Bangabandhu Murder Trial as part of the nationwide 'Shukrana Dibash'.

Devotees at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque offered special munajat after Juma prayers.

Dhaka district unit of Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote organised a Milad Mahfil and offered special prayers at its Kakrail office.

Later a discussion was held here with its convener Maksudur Rahman Khan Maksud in the chair.

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Commentary

A moral action of our time

MAHFUZ ANAM

It has been a long, sad and shameful wait to see justice done in the case of Bangabandhu's assassination.

It is after long 26 years of his brutal murder that the assassins are finally facing the fate that they deserve. We want all legal steps to be completed and the guilty ones to get the full benefits of law, an iota of which they did not grant to Bangabandhu and his family when they slaughtered en masse. They butchered them all including the 10-year old Sheikh Russell and the two

newly married wives of Sheikh Kamal and Sheikh Jamal. They exhibited an extent of blood thirstiness, which is rare in our history and non-existent as a trait in our people.

It is to the credit of Sheikh Hasina's government, and a measure that we fully lent our support to, that the trial of Bangabandhu's killers took place under ordinary law of the land. No special tribunal, no special court and no special act of parliament was passed to bring these killers to book. As a result, the process took far longer time than perhaps we would have liked it to.

But at the end of it law stands upheld, the trial process beyond question and the outcome enjoying national and international credibility.

The wait has also been sad. As freedom fighters we could not bear the thought that the man who suffered more than a decade of jail term for our cause, the leader who united us behind the idea of an independent State, and the inspirational personality whose speeches and deeds inspired us during the greatest period of our history, namely the

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Clubs, cinemas run by defence forces NBR reminders for taxes

RAFIQ HASAN

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has sent two separate reminders to the defence and home secretaries for duties and taxes by various military and paramilitary-run clubs and recreation centres.

NBR Chairman Zakir Ahmed Khan in the letters to Defence

Secretary Idris Ali and Home Secretary M M Reza on April 23 said value-added tax (VAT) and supplementary duty are applicable to every commercially operated club, restaurant, community centre, decorator, caterer and cinema hall.

Neither the government nor the NBR exempted those establishments run by defence forces includ-

ing army, navy and air from duties and taxes.

Such establishments run by the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) also have to pay duties and taxes, the chairman said.

The NBR through a letter on September 1, 1999 asked all such ventures to get registration and pay

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Announcement

The list of allottees of Rajuk plots in extended Uttara Residential Area, provisionally selected from among 1997 applicants, on Pages

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A two-page special supplement of Khulna Power Operators Ltd

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
May 5		6.29 pm
May 6	5-21 am	

Prayer Timings		
May 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	4-30	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-30	6-35
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation