

One killed in BSF fire near Benapole

UNB, Benapole

A Bangladeshi national was killed and three others were injured in a brushfire by Indian Border Security Force at Rajghatpur border on Monday.

Witnesses said the four Bangladeshi youths came under the BSF attack while they were working in a field at zero point near Berapara border of India.

Later, the BSF personnel took the body and the bullet-injured youths to the Indian side. The identity of the youths could not be immediately known.

BSF sources said none came to them for any information on the deceased and the injured youths.

The BSF claimed that they found three packets stuffed with smuggled goods from the spot.

Tension was prevailing along the Indo-Bangla border following the incident.



PHOTO: STAR

Firemen try to hose down a raging inferno that burnt 50 wholesale shops on the first floor of Karwan Bazar kitchen market yesterday evening.

Bangladesh eligible for new US dev aid

AFP, Washington

The United States on Tuesday named 63 countries, including Bangladesh, eligible to share billions of dollars in US aid under a new program aimed at rewarding developing nations which commit to democratic and free market reform.

A billion dollars has already been made available by Congress for fiscal year 2004 and President George W. Bush on Monday asked lawmakers to approve 2.5 billion dollars for the account in fiscal 2005.

Nations named Tuesday will be able to compete for a slice of the aid under the program, billed by the

Bush administration as a revolutionary way to wean poor nations of long-term aid and prevent assistance from disappearing into the coffers of corrupt states.

Eligible recipients include fledgling states like East Timor and Bosnia-Herzegovina, South Asian giants India and Pakistan, and Uganda, Nigeria and Senegal, which Bush visited during a quick tour of Africa last year.

The announcement followed a meeting on Monday of the board of directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) which will administer the aid.

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Secretary of State Colin Powell chairs the board, which also includes Secretary of the Treasury John Snow, US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick, and the head of the US Agency for International Development Andrew Natsios.

Powell said at the start of the meeting on Monday that "People matter."

"The plight of the world's poor presents all of us with a profound moral challenge," he said. "Alleviating their suffering also holds profound implications for freedom

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India says abetting terrorists may boomerang

Asks neighbours to take lesson from Bhutan

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, from New Delhi

India on Tuesday asked Saarc countries to draw a lesson from Bhutan's recent military operation in its territory against Indian militants and said encouragement to terrorist activities could boomerang on the countries themselves.

"The bottom line in our relations with neighbours must remain the need to be sensitive to each other's security concerns and to neither encourage nor undertake any activity that might be detrimental to the security and welfare of the neighbour," External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha said while delivering a lecture here on '12th SAARC Summit and Beyond'.

Encouraging non-state actors, terrorists and other elements by providing sanctuary and support is

Inspiration should be drawn from the courage and foresight with which Bhutan has moved against elements within its borders which were threatening its own sovereignty as well as security of India, he said.

Bhutan's Royal Army had carried out operations in December-January against north eastern Indian insurgent groups like ULFA and NLF.

Pointing out that there have been several developments in India's immediate vicinity, Sinha said it would be wise for everyone to learn from these developments.

Encouraging non-state actors, terrorists and other elements by providing sanctuary and support is

Mere denials will not suffice.

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2 robbers held as daring bid to rob house foiled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police foiled a daring robbery attempt at a house at Mohammadpur and arrested two robbers Tuesday afternoon.

Police and witnesses said a band of six robbers broke into the house of the chief purchase officer of Dhaka City Corporation at Tajmahal Road and took all its inmates hostage at around 2:30pm.

Sensing the robbery attempt, locals called Mohammadpur police and two mobile teams led by sub-inspector AKM Mamunur Rashid rushed to the spot and raided the house.

The robbers asked the police team to leave the spot; otherwise,

they said they would kill the family.

One robber snatched nine-year-old Anika at gunpoint to use her as a shield and ordered the inmates to ask police to leave the area. Otherwise, Anika will be killed, the robbers shouted at the besieged inmates.

One of the policemen however stormed into the room and shot at the robber who was holding Anika hostage. The robbers released Anika and tried to flee the house with the body firing at the police who also retaliated, police said.

During the gunfight, seven people including two police constables and two robbers sustained bullet wounds.

Four robbers fled the house, but

ROAD WITH MYANMAR Joint survey by Feb 20

BSS, Dhaka

Experts from Bangladesh and Myanmar will conduct a joint survey between February 15 and 20 on construction of Bangladesh-Myanmar Friendship Road, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda said yesterday.

He said the process to constitute Bangladesh survey team within February 15 has been taken on an urgent basis. Additional Chief Engineer of Roads and Highways Division Abed Uddin Ahmed would head the Bangladesh team.

Huda was presiding over a meeting to implement the project for construction of Bangladesh-Myanmar Friendship Road to establish direct road link between the two countries at the conference room of

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19 killed, 92 hurt in road accidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nineteen people were killed and 92 others injured in road accidents across the country during the last four days ending yesterday.

Five people including a class seven student died in separate road accidents in Bogra in the last four days ending yesterday. The victims are: Mizan, 13, Joban Mondal, 70, Sajeda Khatun, 50, Gadu Mian, 55, and Abu Sayed Labu, 40.

Three people including a 12-year-old boy were killed while nine others injured in separate accidents on Dhaka-Panchagar highway yesterday morning.

On Thursday, five were killed and 40 wounded near Bonanza Inn, a highway hotel in Sirajganj, when a

man died on the spot and five others

were injured when two taxicabs

rammed into each other at

Dewanbagh on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at 2:00pm yesterday.

One Ambia Khatun was killed

after a speeding bus knocked her

down at Langalbandha at about

3:30pm yesterday.

In another accident in Rangpur,

Asaduzzaman Barshan, 12, died on

the spot and four others injured as a

speeding bus hit another bus from

behind on Dhaka-Panchagar high-

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