



Magsaysay Award 2005 winner Prothom Alo Editor Matir Rahman, second from right, was accorded a reception at Sonargaon hotel in the city yesterday. Seen in the picture are, from left, Mediastar Ltd Chairman Latifur Rahman, Gramene Bank Managing Director Dr Mohammad Yunus, Matir Rahman and ex-Notre Dame College principal Father Richard William Timm.

Top Narayanganj criminal killed in 'crossfire'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Listed criminal S M Selim alias Tower Selim, also a central leader of the Bangladesh Krishak League, was killed in an "encounter" between police and his accomplices at Takkar field near New Stadium in Narayanganj at 3:30am yesterday.

Tower Selim, arrested from a house in Khilkhet Nikunja-2 area by a joint team of Detective Branch and Fatullah police on the night of September 7, was being interrogated for arms on Thursday at Fatullah Police Station, sources said.

No one, not even journalists, were allowed to see Selim after his arrest.

Accompanying Tower Selim, a police team led by Officer-in-Charge

Shafiqullah went out in search of arms at Takkar Math near New Stadium at 3:30am.

Some 10 to 12 accomplices of Tower Selim opened fire on the police, who returned the fire.

At one stage of the half an hour-long encounter, Selim jumped out of the jeep, tried to flee and was killed in the encounter, police said.

Three policemen were also injured in the incident, police said, adding that they recovered one foreign made revolver with three bullets, one shutter gun with three bullets and five bullets of Chinese rifle left by the criminals.

The body was handed over to his relatives after autopsy.

Meanwhile, Selim's family members alleged that he was killed in a plan way to serve politics purpose.

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STAR FILE PHOTO

Recently returned camel jockeys receive first hand knowledge of literacy at the shelter home of the Social Welfare Department at Agargaon in the capital.

A DIFFERENT TALE OF CAMEL JOCKEY BROTHERS

They now don't know how to start life anew

PORIMOL PALMA

Obaidullah and his younger brother Dalim cannot now dream of anything as a better future other than looking after camels, working as jockeys, going to cinema and roaming about market places.

"I do not know what to do now. We are learning Bangla, English and numbers. Maybe we shall have to go back to Dubai to look after camels again," said Obaidullah, 17, about his future plan.

Cheated by a broker, the boys from Narsingdi were sent to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) when they were only eight and four years old for being used as camel jockeys.

The two brothers said their life in Dubai was "not that bad"

as they were paid quite well and provided with good housing and food.

Interviews with them reveal that like many others, who never went to school neither in Bangladesh nor in the UAE and have become deeply accustomed to the Arabian culture and language. They cannot think beyond what they used to do in the desert.

The broker took the two brothers and their mother Sahara Begum to Dubai in 1996 promising work for the mother and education for the boys.

Saying the UAE government will provide education for the boys free of cost, the trafficker allured the boys' father Hossain Sobhan prompting him to sell all his land property in Narsingdi, Obaidullah said.

Besides camel-jockeying, the two brothers and another

On their arrival in Dubai, they were kept at a place for a night. The next morning, an Arab named Mayer Beraji took Obaidullah and Dalim to his house and began using Obaidullah as a camel jockey. Beraji trained Dalim and started using him as a jockey one year later.

Obaidullah said his owner was a good man under whom they worked for nine long years. But this was not true for most other employers in the oil-rich Middle Eastern country where camel race was a popular game. "In the beginning, I would often fall down from the camel's back, but slowly it became easy for me," Obaidullah said.

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8 hurt in Pakistani KFC, McDonald's bomb blasts

AFP, Karachi

Twin bomb blasts wounded eight people at crowded KFC and McDonald's fast food restaurants in Pakistan's southern city of Karachi early yesterday, a senior provincial official said.

Rauf Siddiqui, interior minister of southern Sindh province, said the explosions were linked to a nationwide strike called by opposition parties on Friday, but the opposition denied any involvement.

"We have very strong suspicions that the blasts were in connection with the opposition strike call," Siddiqui told AFP, adding that no one had been arrested yet in connection with the attacks.

"Eight people were injured, mainly by flying glass," Siddiqui said.

The first explosion happened in

the KFC in Karachi's upscale Defence district at around 12:40 am (1940 GMT), injuring a number of people including a baby girl and her family, police and witnesses said.

The device planted on the restaurant's mezzanine level shattered its plate glass windows and blew a hole in a concrete wall.

"I was having a meal by myself when I heard a big explosion and all the windows were blown in," witness Mohammed Nehan told AFP. "The family near me were all rushed to hospital afterwards."

The second blast happened behind the kitchen at a crowded McDonald's kiosk around two kilometres (more than one mile) on the Karachi seafront. There were no injuries.

The explosions came hours before the strike, called by Islamic

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US, UK are terrorist nations: Mahathir

AP, Kuala Lumpur

American and British pilots whose bombs killed Iraqi civilians were murderers, and actions taken by those two countries during the invasion of Iraq amounted to terrorism, former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

Several British and diplomats of the US walked out in protest of Mahathir's broadside against their countries in a speech at a national conference on human rights.

Mahathir, who ruled majority Muslim Malaysia for 22 years, also defended his human rights record while in government. He was often criticised for detaining suspects without trial and for imprisonment of former Deputy Premier Anwar Ibrahim.

Mahathir decried the deaths of Iraqi civilians and compared American and British actions in Iraq to rocket attacks by Israel on

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Manmohan to meet Musharraf in New York

AFP, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will meet Pakistan's president on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly next week, a senior Indian official said yesterday.

Singh will also meet French President Jacques Chirac, US leader George W. Bush and his Chinese and Russian counterparts during a six-day trip to France and United States from Sunday, the official said.

Foreign secretary Shyam Saran said Singh and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf would hold a dinner meeting in New York.

The talks, the first between the two leaders since April, are expected to centre on the ongoing peace process between the two South Asian countries and will take place on September 14, according to earlier reports.

Singh will also hold talks with Chinese President Hu Jintao, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Bush during his three days in the United States.

After leaving India on Sunday, Singh will first stop in France for three days before heading to the UN General Assembly.

"France has been our very close partner, politically, economically as well as in security relations. This visit is taking place after a gap of nearly seven years. So, it is a very important visit," Saran told reporters.

As well as Chirac, Singh will meet French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin, Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy and members of the French industry.

"We will have the privilege of receiving the president of France in the early part of next year. India and

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Justice Faizee accorded reception

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A madrasa committee backed by local BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami leaders accorded a reception to High Court Justice Faisal Mahmud Faizee in Fatikchhari upazila yesterday.

The committee erected at least 13 gates holding different banners at several points in the upazila from Haida Bridge to Heyanko in Dantmara.

Dantmara Moniul Ulum Madrasa organised the reception on its premises in the afternoon. Three BNP-backed and one Jamaat-backed Union Parishad chairmen -- Faridul Alam, Jahangir Alam, Ekramul Haq Babul and Habib Ahmed --, among others, addressed the function.

The reception began at around 5:30pm and Justice Faizee addressed the function for a few minutes, witnesses said.

They said the organisers hastily removed the banners and a few chairs, sensing the presence of two journalists, who also left the venue

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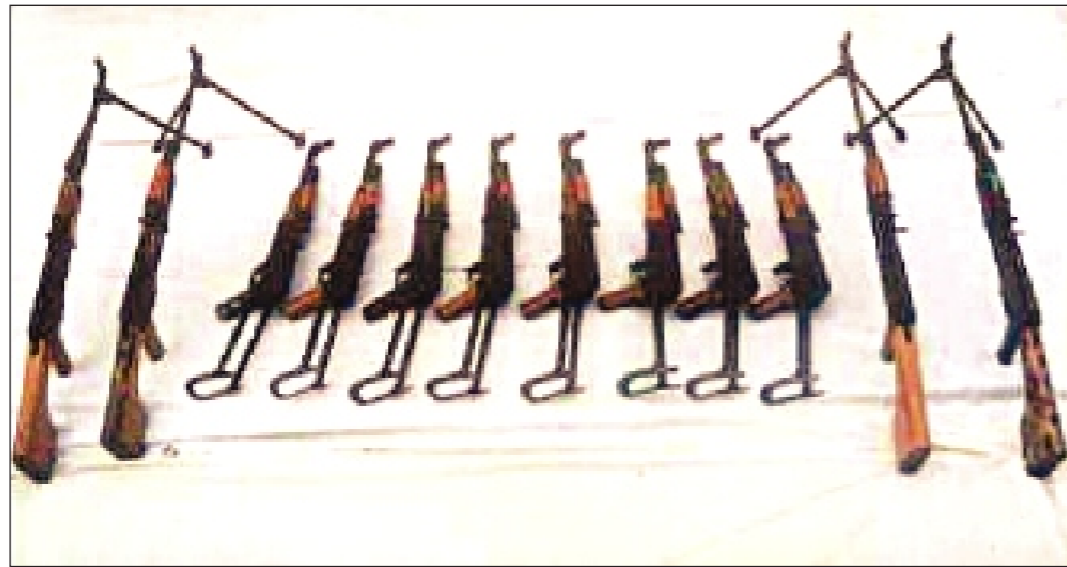


PHOTO: STAR

Eight AK47 rifles and four light machine guns recovered from Naikhangchhari in Bandarban on Thursday night.

Katrina survivors being evacuated by force

BBC ONLINE

US police backed by troops have begun to use force to remove people from their homes in the city of New Orleans.

As many as 10,000 people had refused to leave the flooded city despite the mayor's compulsory evacuation order.

Many are now going voluntarily - but others are being handcuffed and taken to evacuation centres, officials say.

Meanwhile, an opinion poll suggests that two-thirds of Americans think the president could have done more in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

The Pew Research Center found that two-thirds of the African-Americans asked believed the government reaction would have been faster if most of those affected had been white.

American political figures have criticised the slow response to the disaster.

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell has added his voice, in a TV interview to be broadcast in the US on Friday.

Powell said he could not understand why more preparations had not been made.

But he said so many African-Americans were left unprotected because they were poor, rather than because they were black.

US Undersecretary of State Karen Hughes said allegations that President Bush was not doing all he could to help were heartbreaking to him.

New Orleans Police Chief Eddie Compass told the Associated Press that a "sensitive" approach would be used to remove people.

"We are not going to be rough," he said. "We are going to use the

minimum amount of force."

The evacuation has been ordered for health reasons. E.coli and other dangerous germs have been found in the polluted floodwaters.

Several deaths have already been attributed to infected wounds.

In other developments:

Some 25,000 body bags are being sent to the city, with Mayor Ray Nagin saying he fears the death toll could climb to 10,000

About 60 percent of the city is still flooded, according to the Army Corps of Engineers

Water is being pumped out by 37 of the city's normal pumps along with 17 portable pumps

Floodwaters are dropping to reveal dead bodies, raw sewage, fuel and rusting vehicles, and more

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Prayer Timing		
September 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-14	6-17
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

