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Dhaka condemns killings, terms the incident most serious

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The foreign ministry condemned the killings of two Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at the Chapainawabganj frontier early yesterday.

"We consider the incident as most serious and condemn the killings of the two BDR personnel," a foreign ministry statement issued last night said, referring to a spokesman of the ministry.

It said the BDR authorities will take up the matter with their Indian counterparts. "At present, we are waiting for the detail report of the situation."

Foreign Adviser Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury earlier told The Daily Star that Dhaka was waiting for a full report and will react more appropriately after getting the details of the incident.

"Now we are praying for the salvation of the departed souls of the two brave Bangladeshi soldiers," the adviser said, condoling members of the bereaved families.

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BSF intruders gun down 2 BDR men

Border security put on high alert

STAR REPORT

The Border Security Force of India (BSF) shot dead two Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) soldiers at Raghunathpur border under Shibganj upazila in

Chainawabganj early yesterday intruding into Bangladesh territory, sparking off tension at all frontiers around the country.

The killings coincided with foreign-secretary level talks between the two neighboring

countries in New Delhi, and took place just hours after both sides on Thursday pledged more cooperation in enhancing cross-border trade and security.

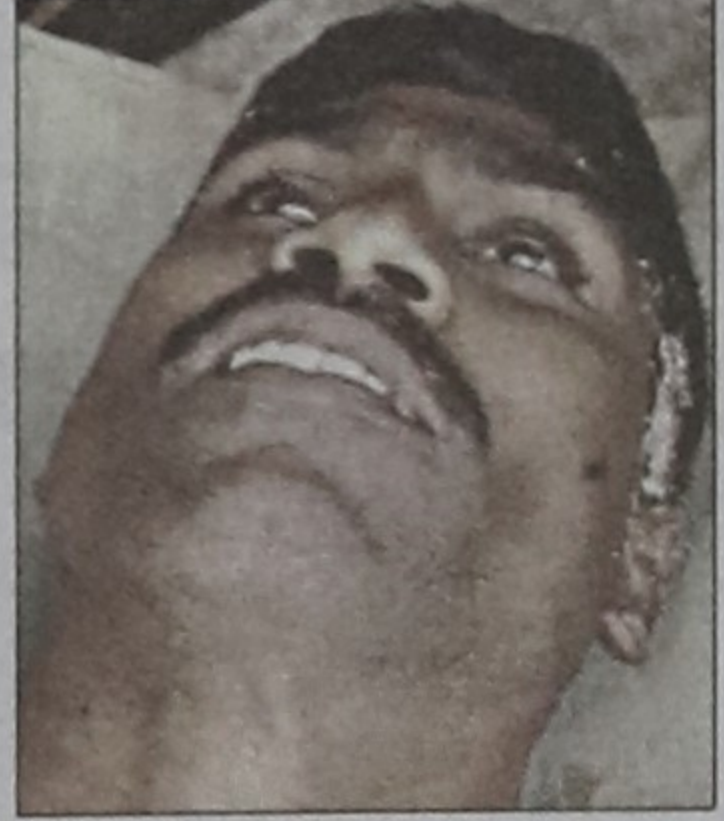
BDR officials said BSF guards opened fired on their personnel when they challenged the latter for illegally entering about 1,300 yards into Bangladesh territory shortly after Thursday midnight.

A group of BSF guards from Neemtita camp under Murshidabad district entered Bangladesh crossing the River Padma on a speedboat and walked over a risen shoal to Raghunathpur village of Durbhupur union under Shibganj upazila near pillar No 110.

Being informed, a patrol team of BDR from Raghunathpur border posted by Habilder Abdul Hannan Sarker rushed to the village and challenged the intruding BSF men for violating the line of control,



Abdul Hannan Sarker



Krishnopodo Saha

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PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka University students under the banner of Chhatra Odhikar bring out a torch procession on the campus yesterday evening demanding execution of war criminals.

Shamim Iskander arrested for ill-gotten wealth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces last night arrested Shamim Iskander, younger brother of detained former prime minister Khaleda Zia, in Dhaka Cantonment area.

A retired flight engineer of Bangladesh Biman, Shamim Iskander was arrested in connection with a case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) for amassing wealth illegally. The ACC filed the case with Ramna Police station on May 5 this year.

Sources said the joint forces picked up Shamim at around 9:45pm as he came out of Khaleda Zia's Shaheed Moinul Road residence after visiting his nephew Arafat Rahman Koko. ACC personnel were also present there.

Koko was released on Thursday for two months for his treatment

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Over half of polling centres in four cities vulnerable

STAR REPORT

Law enforcement agencies have identified 353 polling centres out of 579 as vulnerable to violence in elections in four city corporations scheduled for August 4, and launched crackdown on criminals working in favour of candidates.

Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) and Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP) started special drives last night to arrest alleged criminals. Similar operations would begin in two other city corporations within a day or two. The crackdown would be intensified two days ahead of the polls and continued until election results are announced.

Of the vulnerable polling centres, 138 are in Khulna City Corporation (KCC), 100 in Sylhet

City Corporation (SCC), 63 in Barisal City Corporation (BCC) and 52 in Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC). Ninety-three of these centres in three city corporations, except KCC, are most vulnerable to violence.

Sources in law enforcement agencies said they (agencies) have prepared separate lists of vulnerable centres considering previous records of violence and location of the centres. Some of the centres have been listed as vulnerable since those are located near the houses of candidates.

And they have a different list of criminals to be arrested before the polls as many on the previous list are contesting the elections or working in favour of candidates.

Meanwhile, intelligence agencies have been closely monitoring

law and order in the four city corporations and nine municipalities where polls will take place the same day.

BARISAL Barisal Metropolitan Police (BMP) will work out details of its planned special drive at an emergency meeting today, Hayatul Islam, BMP assistant commissioner for Kotwali Model Thana, said when contacted.

BMP has already finalised a list of criminals involved in the electoral process.

It has identified 13 centres as 'most vulnerable' in 30 wards of BCC. Sixty-three vulnerable polling centres are under one police station and seven police outposts, reports our Barisal correspondent.

The most vulnerable centres

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Khaleda, Tarique likely to be freed this week

Koko leaves for Bangkok today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her elder son Tarique Rahman are likely to be released this week, said party sources.

Tarique, also senior joint secretary general of BNP, might go to Germany or the United States for treatment after his release within a couple of days. His mother however will not leave the country, said leaders and lawyers of the now detained former prime minister.

Meanwhile, BNP chief's younger son Arafat Rahman Koko, who was released for two months on an executive order Thursday, will fly to Bangkok today for treatment. Accompanied by his wife Shamila Rahman, two daughters and a brother-in-law, he will take a Thai Airways flight at 12:30pm, said family sources.

He was examined by Dr Chowdhury Meshkat, an associate

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Protein going beyond reach of limited income group



PHOTO: STAR

Fish is becoming more expensive because of scant supply in the city. The photo was taken at Karwan Bazar Kitchen market yesterday evening.

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and WASIM BIN HABIB

Almost all protein sources are becoming unreachable to limited income group as well as the middle-class people as their prices have marked a sharp rise in the city markets and elsewhere in the country.

With the soaring price of the protein-rich items like fish, meat, pulses, chicken, egg and milk, many people have resorted to cut consumption of these items causing malnutrition among a large section of the populace.

Mostly, women and children are bearing the brunt of the situation.

The prices of protein-rich items, being dearer for the last few years, surged by 20 to 30 percent in the last one month.

It has become tough to purchase two kgs of beef and two chickens with Tk 1000. Moreover, it

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PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Illegal food shops are being set up along the walkways by Dhanmondi lake. DCC itself is also allowing the nuisance by leasing spaces.

Illegal shops destroying Dhanmondi lake

HELEMUL ALAM

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), guardian of Dhanmondi lake, itself has been filling up portions of the lake in the name of maintenance, giving an opportunity for illegal shops to be set up there.

The DCC authorities have been dumping soil at different points along the lake for about a month now, and the upshot is that already some new stalls are standing on the strip of land between the lake and walkways.

Muhammad Abul Hasnath, executive engineer of DCC zone-5, said they have taken the initiative to strengthen the banks of Dhanmondi lake and repair the walkways since those have become quite vulnerable to rain-induced subsidence.

"After bracing the banks with soil, we will grow grass on the slopes. We will also repair the walkways and widen those in some places," he said.

He observed it will be illegal to raise any structure in the area in question, and they will take immediate action against any encroachment on the lake or move to set up illegal shops.

However, during a visit to the lakeside Thursday this correspondent found that new stalls have been built in the narrow stretch between the lake banks and walkways opposite Medinova Diagnostic Centre. Some 20 chairs were placed over a part of the lake that has been filled up lately.

Shipon, brother of the owner of food shop 'Jhal Tak Corner', said they are going to open a new stall

beside the current one.

"We have rented the new one from Dynamic Food Court, a firm that has leased the area from the DCC. We will have to pay them Tk 6,500 a month for that," he added.

Dhaka Kabab, another food van in the area, is also rented from them. Mohammad Naimuddin, who is in charge of Dynamic Food Court in Dhanmondi Lake, said they have taken up a lease on sector-7 of the lake till the year 2013.

The city corporation has split the lake area into eight sectors and leased those to different firms. The revenues coming from the lessees are spent on maintenance and security of the lake, said a DCC official.

"We have five mobile food vans running in Rabindra Sarobar area, two on the side opposite Medinova and two restaurants--one near

Jhigatala bus stop and the other on the lake island," said Naimuddin adding that they have permission for all their operations.

The shops rented out or run by Dynamic Food occupy parts of the walkways with tables and chairs, meaning obstruction to visitors and joggers.

DCC executive engineer Hasnath said, "We have allowed setting up five mobile shops in sector 7, but we never gave permission to have tables and chairs in front of the shops."

The five shops near Rabindra Sarobar usually have around 20 tables and 80 chairs set up on the walkways. Taher, an employee of a food shop there, said, "In the afternoon, we remove the tables to make room for pedestrians."

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HRC Group chairman arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Joint forces yesterday arrested HRC Group Chairman Sayeed Hossain Chowdhury at his Gulshan home on charges of money laundering and keeping his purchased properties in other people's names.

Police said the business tycoon, also the chairman of the Editors' Board of Bangla daily Jajaidin, was arrested around 10:00am. He was attempting to flee the country on a Thai Airways flight at 1:30pm, police claimed.

A Dhaka court sent Sayeed to jail in the afternoon after he was produced before it.

Mir Rezaul Alam, deputy commissioner (DC) of Gulshan zone of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star, "Joint forces personnel arrested Sayeed Hossain Chowdhury and later handed him over to Gulshan police."

Sub-inspector Mohammad Shahidullah of Gulshan Police Station, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, told The Daily Star, "Sayeed was arrested for

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Power cut paralyses DMCH as patients bear the brunt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Patients at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday suffered severely due to power outage for over four hours in two phases.

Emergency patients bore the brunt of the situation as no pathological test was conducted during the period.

Hospital sources said the power supply remained suspended in the first phase for three and a half hours from 9:00am due to repairing work in the main electricity line of the hospital.

Though power supply was ensured in the emergency wards, operation theatres and intensive care units (ICUs) through generators, patients suffered badly as they could not have pathological tests like x-ray, ultrasonogram and CT-scan.

During the period, doctors could not admit some patients as

they were unable examine them in the dark. Many nurses were seen administering medicines and injecting the patients by lighting candles.

A group of six to seven people were seen waiting in front of the x-ray room in emergency block to have their x-rays at around 10:45am.

Shahida Akter, 18, who came with her uncle from Mirpur with severe pain caused by appendicitis, was seen waiting for ultrasonogram.

Her uncle Kamal Hossain said, "We reached here at around 8:00am but could not have the ultrasonogram as the doctors concerned were not present at that time. When the doctors came, the power went off. We are incapable of having the test outside of the hospital."

A technician at the radiology department wishing anonymity

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A costly mistake

Doctor arrested as patient dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a surgeon early yesterday after a patient died in the operation theatre (OT) of a city clinic allegedly for mistakes during surgery.

Sirajul Islam, 35, a mason and resident of old Dhaka, died at Medi Check Clinic in Naya Paltan area at 12:30am yesterday due to excessive bleeding, the death certificate reads.

Morgue sources said the victim's main vein connecting the torso and left foot was cut, leading to profuse bleeding.

Police recovered the body at around 3:00am yesterday, and before shutting down the clinic, they arrested Mohammad Karimullah, the only doctor there.

Relatives said Sirajul went to Medi Check Thursday afternoon to have the surgery which the doctor said would take about four hours.

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