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Trouble flares in hills again

2 ethnic people die in army firing, Bangalee settlers torch 200 houses

STAR REPORT

At least two indigenous persons were claimed by the authorities to have been killed as the army opened fire on agitated indigenous people feuding with settlers in remote Gangaram Mukh area of Baghaichhari upazila in the district yesterday.

But indigenous people claimed the number of killed to be at least six.

Seven persons including an army person were injured in the incident, which followed an attack on Friday night allegedly by a group of Bangalee settlers on the indigenous people over land disputes, report our correspondents in Rangamati and Khagrachhari.

The settlers had allegedly set fire to 40 houses of indigenous families on Friday night. They burnt 160 more houses in 11

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Baghaichhari upazila UNO Humayun Kabir, right, take cover when the security forces opened fire on feuding indigenous people and Bangalee settlers in remote Gangaram Mukh area of the upazila in Rangamati yesterday. Inset, the burning house of an indigenous family at Gangaram Mukh.



PHOTO: STAR

1,320MW PLANT Dhaka, Delhi sign MoU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding with India to install a 1,320 megawatt coal-fired power plant under joint venture in the country.

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) of India will conduct feasibility studies in Chittagong and Khulna. A plant with two units having a capacity of 660MW each will be installed in any of the two places after completion of the study in July.

The agreement, signed by two officials of NTPC and the Power Development Board in Dhaka, includes the provision of setting up joint-venture power plants in any place in the region in future, renovation of old power plants in the country, and training for manpower in Bangladesh's power sector.

Talking to journalists after signing of the MoU, PDB Chairman Alamgir Kabir said PDB and NTPC will form a joint venture company to set up the plant.

"Since NTPC has vast experience in running coal-fired power

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BDR to shut its shops

BDR boss says disciplinary force should not be involved in commercial venture

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and SHARIFUL ISLAM

Bangladesh Rifles has initiated a move to shut down the BDR shops, a chain of business outlets believed to have done the border force more harm than good.

Its Director General Major General Md Mainul Islam reckons that a disciplinary force like BDR should not be involved in commercial ventures.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, he said, "We have taken measures to shutter the shops. I think the sooner they are closed, the better."

In 2007, BDR teamed up with a private company named Nirmal Udyog and set

up some well-furnished general and grocery stores in the capital.

Currently, it has 11 shops including one in the BDR Pikhana headquarters and a warehouse.

But things have changed after February 25-26 mutiny that saw 74 people including 57 army officers killed in Pikhana headquarters last year. The then BDR DG, Major Gen Shakil Ahmed, was among the dead.

Now there is a realisation among the BDR authorities that it might have been a wrong step to engage the border troops in business activities.

Accordingly, BDR has recently written to the home ministry, saying it wants to

close down the shops.

Queried about the BDR's letter, Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder told The Daily Star that he has already asked the local government ministry to take over the running of those shops, as it was on the LGED land where the businesses are located.

He however said he did not know that a private company is involved in the enterprise.

BDR chief Mainul said they are consulting lawyers to work out legal means to scrap the contract with the private partner.

Though BDR has Tk 6 crore invested in

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Shaheed Minar on UN website

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time the image of the "Shaheed Minar," the memorial of the historic Language Movement of 1952, has been incorporated into

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Salute to language martyrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation today pays tribute to the Language Movement martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the mother tongue 58 years ago.

Amid tight security arrangements, President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina laid wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar three minutes past midnight last night and stood in silence for a few moments in remembrance of the martyrs.

They were followed by the deputy speaker, chief whip of parliament, the ruling Awami League leaders, cabinet members, Dhaka city mayor, chiefs of the three staffs, dean of diplomatic corps, attorney general, leaders of Awami Swetchchasebak League, Sector Commanders' Forum, Samyabadi Dal, Bangladesher

Samajtantrik Dal and National Awami Party.

Flanked by party colleagues, Opposition Leader and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia placed wreaths at 12:19am.

Members of various political, socio-cultural and professional bodies and general people were waiting in queues to pay their homage after the Shaheed Minar was open to all in the early hours.

Areas adjacent to the Shaheed Minar on Dhaka University campus have had a facelift on the occasion, while roads and medians have been festooned with Bangla alphabets and the national flag.

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FIND AN 8-PAGE SUPPLEMENT-- THE 'AMAR EKUSHEY ... SPECIAL' ALONG WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

21st February '52. 3:20 to 3:50
Bullets in the afternoon procession.
In those 30 minutes the everlasting history of the Language Movement was engraved in the heart of the world.

The power of staying close can create history in just 30 minutes

Let's unite and create the power of closeness once again, today at exactly 3 in the afternoon, near Amtala Gate*. Let's join the 1952's great activists **Abdul Matin, Ahmad Rafique, Anisuzzaman, Dr. Sayeed Haydar, Dr. Shorfuiddin Ahmad, Mortuja Bashir, Rowshon Ara Bachchu, Dr. Halima Khatun** and many others and remind the world of the power of staying close.

*Currently Dhaka Medical College Emergency Gate