

Musa returns

FROM PAGE 1
Musa spoke of his experience while having some snacks. But he was interrupted as many people including his wife, friends, colleagues kept on calling him. They knew Musa was supposed to be within cellphone network by then.

Musa's group reached the base camp of Mount Everest on May 14. They stayed there for two days to get accustomed to the thin air. From there they went to the advanced base camp and came down to the base camp again to get used to low oxygen levels and altitude.

"We planned to start from the advanced base camp on 20 May. But we heard Muhiit and his group had already started for camp-1 from there. We started 15 minutes after Muhiit," said Musa.

"Weather was really bad when we reached camp-1. It was still 1,800 metres to the Everest peak," he said.

"I saw 12 tents destroyed in the snowstorm. It was not possible to go out. Some groups gave up and decided to go down. But our Sherpa leader Prema dorji Sherpa said, 'Let's wait for one more day'. The next day the weather was really good. We started for camp-2 and on May 22, we did the final push from there in the evening and reached the peak early in the morning on May 23," Musa said.

Musa's oxygen pipe leaked at 8,300 metres high.

"I felt like dying. I was panting and felt like dying. Luckily the sherpas noticed it and they fixed it quickly

and I survived.

"When I reached the peak, dawn just broke... I saw the first light. We took photos there," Musa said.

He said they queued there to take photos with the Buddha idol.

"The peak is a small place. Only 20 people can stand there together. Our sherpa told us to go down," Musa said.

Musa said, "I started feeling bad descending.

"It was hard for me to go down as I was thirsty. I saw a dead body there."

The sherpas told him that many people die while descending as they deplete their energy going up.

They hurried to go back to camp-1. "Then I met an Australian who gave me some water and 'power gel tablet' which helped me regain energy," Musa said.

Musa came down to base camp on May 24 and reached Kathmandu around 9:00pm (local time) yesterday evening.

Musa started from Kathmandu on April 12 and came back after 45 days.

The Bangladesh High Commission will receive Musa with a small party tomorrow.

"Everest is the highest peak of the world. Musa Ibrahim climbed the mountain and it is also a victory of Bangladesh. It indicates people from Bangladesh are capable of taking up any challenge," Neem Chandra Bhowmik, Bangladesh ambassador to Kathmandu, said while receiving Musa at Hotel Thamel.

JMB still able

FROM PAGE 1
phones, as doing so would mean running the risk of being tracked.

Fresh from last week's successes, the law enforcers are now on a hunt for JMB leader Bhagina Shahid and those who slipped through the dragnet during Sunday's raid on a house at Dania.

JMB's military wing commander Shiblu was captured during the raid that left eight cops hurt in an attack by the fleeing militants.

Those who escaped arrest Sunday are Shiblu's wife and military wing sub-commander Kawsar alias Milon and his wife.

Following up the information obtained from Shiblu, police arrested JMB chief Saidur, his third wife Naima Akhter, the outfit's military coordinator Amir Hossain alias Sharif and Ehsar (full-time) members Nur Hossain alias Sabuj and Abdullah Hel Kafi in the capital and Narayanganj on Monday and Tuesday.

Shady contracts

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The advertisements were published in the Daily Janata and Khabropatra, the audit report said. The average circulations of both the newspapers are 10,000 a day, said Abul Kalam, Circulation Manager of Dhaka Newspapers Hawkers Union.

An auditor involved with the project audit said because of the publication in thinly circulated newspapers, it was possible for favoured contractors to buy all the newspapers on that day, keeping other contractors at bay.

In reply to The Daily Star question why the DCC published advertisements to such obscure newspapers, the DCC PRO Abdur Rahman said DCC has to help keep these newspapers alive.

Twenty-five contractors did the project work on 50 roads, said the audit report, which was completed in 2006 and published on the CAG website this month.

The auditors suggested that the government assess the financial losses caused due to the irregularities. They also suggested identifying the people responsible.

The CAG officials made repeated requests to DCC officials to respond to the audit but the DCC did not.

Abul Foyez Md Abid, director general for Foreign Aided Projects Audits, said the CAG office could take legal action against auditors if there is any documented evidence of demanding bribe.

"Other than documentary backup and written complaint we cannot accept any verbal accusation," Abid said.

He said if the DCC officials publish the advertisement in small newspapers, it meant that they violated public procurement guideline and wrongly gained benefit from it.

Although the audit report is a public document, the CAG would not provide a copy to The Daily Star, which made a request under the Right to Information Act, 2009.

Manjur denies

FROM PAGE 16
become one of a party one has to love and work for it."

"I have been working with BNP and getting its back-up," he said.

Replying to a query about his joining a BNP city unit meeting, Manju said he won't have any objection if anyone wants to take him to BNP meetings as a BNP-backed candidate or a member of BNP.

"Manju has been with us since he sought nomination from BNP before the last parliament election of December 2008," said Khasru, also the chief election agent for the BNP-backed candidate.

"He has been allying with BNP keeping no connection with other parties since then. So, the question of his joining BNP is immaterial," said Khasru adding, "Manju could not have sought nomination unless he had joined BNP."

"Was there any official announcement or did anyone know when I joined BNP where I have been for over two decades," Khasru questioned.

ICU of DMCH

FROM PAGE 1
to a stop in 2005 and again in 2006 due to lack of nurses.

DMCH authorities said, two weeks ago, one of the relatives of prime minister, who was admitted to the burn unit, did not get any ICU support, as the unit was not operational.

Later, she was shifted to a private hospital for the treatment.

After this, Deena Huq, director general of the prime minister's office, visited the burn unit and asked the authorities concerned to make the ICU functional immediately, sources added.

Industries Minister Dilip

Informant held

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later as they "did not recognise him".

However, local sources claim the detectives arrested Amirul knowing his exact identity.

Intriguingly, the same DB team raided Amirul's house in Sakhipur village an hour after releasing him and his neighbours saw him leaving before the detectives arrived.

The Rab high-ups claim they are desperately trying to arrest Amirul, whose wife gave a different version on May 25. She said her husband was staying with them in the house as usual. Robi, Amirul's son and a class III student, also said his father was in the house.

Locals suspect law enforcers are avoiding arresting Amirul as he may give clue to his link to local godfathers and how they used him to put their rivals in danger.

An alleged petty black marketeer and drug peddler, Amirul has made a good fortune in the last three to four years.

After he became Rab's informant, he came close to a number of people locally known as godfathers.

These godfathers allegedly used Amirul in exchange of a good sum of money to set firearms or bombs at the houses of rival shrimp businessmen and have them arrested by Rab.

Neighbours and a good number of locals supported this allegation.

The locals claim they know at least five to six arms recovery incidents since the caretaker rule in which arms were planted before Rab recovered those. They also hinted that Amirul had links to those incidents.

BEHIND AMIRUL'S FORTUNE
Neighbours said he moved to Sakhipur village in Debhata upazila from his ancestral land in Bhomra in Sadar upazila around four years ago.

"Amirul was initially a day labourer before he ended up becoming a petty black marketeer. Finally, he started working as an informant of BDR. He was also involved in snatching in the area," said an employee of transports house at Bhomra who knows Amirul since his boyhood.

He moved to Sakhipur village around four years ago and rented a house at Tk 300 per month. Later, he rented a three-room house at Tk 800 per month.

"Around a year ago Amirul bought a one-storey building on around 15 katha of land at Tk 7.5 lakh," a neighbour told The Daily Star.

"His house is taking new shapes with new decoration from time to time," added the neighbour asking not to be named.

During a visit to Amirul's house, his wife also admitted that her husband bought the house around a year ago at Tk 6-7 lakh.

Amirul also owns a shrimp enclosure of 20 bighas of land.

Reckless driving

FROM PAGE 1
Girls' College at Azimpur intersection, with Samrat standing right behind it on the street, on way to his elder sister's residence at Mirpur-10.

There was another bus in front of it blocking its way, and the driver of the bus behind wanted to pull out of the stop; he moved the bus in reverse without checking if anyone was behind the vehicle, knocking Samrat down on the street.

People around screamed, but the driver did not stop reversing, and then without stopping, and ignoring the screams, he swerved the bus forward to the right pulling out of the stop, crushing Samrat's head on the way out.

An Eden College employee Suresh took Samrat to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where on duty doctors declared him dead around 8:40am, hospital sources said.

As the news reached the Buet campus, hundreds of students poured out on to the street around 11:00am, and put up barricades at Azimpur, Palashi, Nilkhet, and Lalbagh intersections. They vandalised buses and human haulers on the roads.

A group of students rushed to the spot of the accident, and shattered the killer bus's windshields and window panes. Then they pushed the bus inside the adjacent Azimpur Government Staff Colony compound.

Around 12:30pm the protesters pushed the bus out of the compound again, and took it to Palashi intersection where they torched it. Within 15 to 20

minutes they set three other buses on fire.

Soon two units of Palashi Fire Station arrived at the scene and doused the fire.

Although the students returned to their dorms around 1:30pm, normally returned on the roads around 3:00pm, said Officer-in-charge of Shabbagh Police Rezaul Karim.

Samrat's family, classmates, and the Buet administration staff including Vice-chancellor Prof AMM Shafiqullah rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital to see him.

"His brain was oozing out of the skull. It is hard to recognise him as the left part of his face and head was crushed," said Doctor Protul Kumar Sarker of DMCH.

Samrat got his secondary, and higher secondary certificates from St Joseph's School, Khulna, and Khulna City College respectively with golden grade point average, said his family. On Monday he got his dorm seat at Ahsanullah Hall of Buet.

His body was sent to his village after a namaz-e-janaza at Buet central mosque at 1:30pm.

The Buet authorities declared a day of mourning at the university for tomorrow. Teachers, students, and other staff will wear black ribbons on the day, and form a human chain at 1:30pm on the campus protesting the death, said an official of the institute's public relations department.

Lalbagh Police seized the bus that killed Samrat, and filed a case in connection with the fatal road accident.

Buddha Purnima

FROM PAGE 16
message on the occasion of the Buddha Purnima.

The day's programme began with lighting of lamp in the morning. Later prayers and other rituals were held.

Bangladesh Bouddha Sangskritik Kendra brought out a procession in the morning from Shahbagh to National Press Club in the city.

State Minister for Religious Affairs M Shajahan Miah joined the procession as the chief guest.

President Zillur Rahman hosted a reception for the members of the Buddhist community on the occasion of Holy Buddha Purnima at Bangabhaban here yesterday afternoon.

Ambassadors of Thailand, Vietnam and Bhutan; High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Bangladesh, representatives from international organisations and members of the Buddhist community, among others, attended the programme.

The President exchanged greetings with them and wished them a happy and prosperous future.

Bangladesh Bouddha Krishti Prachar Sangha also organised a discussion at Sabujbagh Dharmarajik Bouddha Bihar in the city.

Industries Minister Dilip

Barua attended the function as the chief guest.

Earlier, President of Bouddha Krishti Prachar Sangha Bishuddhananda Mohathero opened the Buddha Purnima celebration programmes at Dharmarajik Bouddha Bihar by hoisting the national and religious flags.

Later, a colourful rally was brought out under the auspices of Buddha Purnima Udjapon Parishad.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Buddhist Samity Dhaka unit organised a discussion on the premises of Kalachandpur High School premises in the city.

ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, MP, attended the discussion as the chief guest, while Chemon Ara Begum, MP, was present as special guest.

President of the samity Sanghapriya Tero chaired the discussion.

As per the belief of the Buddhists, the emergence of great Gautam Buddha took place on this day 2,553 years ago.

Bangladesh Television, Bangladesh Betar and other private TV channels and radio stations aired special programmes, while newspapers published articles highlighting the significance of the day.

Stop wastage

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steps to dredge all major rivers of the country for increasing their navigability as well as to contain more rainwater.

"This will also help the country to save the people from the impact of flash flood," she said.

Konuma praised Hasina for her strong leadership in making the country self-reliant in food.

He noted that the international leadership recognised and praised the initiative of Hasina and her achievement in making the country food surplus.

During the meeting, it was mentioned that 2.6 million tonnes of surplus rice was produced during the previous tenure of the Awami League government whereas the country earlier had a deficit of 4.0 million tonnes.

"I hope many countries around the world will take Bangladesh as their model in producing food grains and make their country self-reliant," Konuma said.

He recalled that during Hasina's previous tenure, the FAO awarded her with the prestigious Ceres Award in 1999 in recognition of her achievement.

Konuma also mentioned that in 2001, during caretaker government, Hasina was invited by name to attend the G-8 summit in Italy though the chief advisor was interested to attend it.

"The summit later adopted poverty alleviation as one of its agenda honouring Sheikh Hasina," PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told the reporters.

Ambassador at-large M Ziauddin and the FAO representative in Dhaka Ad Spijkers, among others, were present.

Forget all disputes

FROM PAGE 16
raised their voices against him, for any mistakes he had committed.

"To err is human. I'm not infallible. I'm feeling pathetic for my errors and also assure you to work together," said Mohiuddin, who recently resigned from the post of CCC mayor.

"We would work under a common platform from now on as directed by the party chief," he added.

Emerging from the meeting, organising secretary Ahmed Hossain, who is in-charge of looking after Chittagong divisional politics of AL, told The Daily Star that it was a very fruitful meeting and all the leaders have committed to work for Mohiuddin in the election.

Participants in the meeting said the AL president directed Rezaul Karim, a leader of Chittagong AL unit, to withdraw from the mayoral race scheduled for June 17.

AL joint general secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif said Rezaul would also work for Mohiuddin.

The meeting also discussed ways to work for Mohiuddin, he added.

Chittagong lawmakers ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, Shamsul Haque Chowdhury, ABM Abul Kashem Master, Mainuddin Khan Badal, state minister for environment Hasan Mahmud, AL president member Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser and senior leaders of Chittagong AL unit were present in the meeting.

BNP undecided

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party did not take any decision to boycott it.

BNP attended the last session of parliament and staged a walk-out on April 4, just a day before the session ended.

Party Chairperson Khaleda Zia on May 19 announced a set of agitation programmes as a 'warning message' to the grand alliance government.

The party will observe countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal on June 27, stage demonstrations on June 17 and a mass sit-in on June 9.

Talking to The Daily Star, Zainul Abidin Faroque yesterday said, "We are not paying attention to parliament, as we are now busy making our agitation programme a success."

Rebutting Faroque's statement, Salauddin Quader said Faroque has no authority to make such comment. "It's true we are in movement but we also can use parliament to gear up for agitation against the misrule of the present government."

MK Anwar, another member of the standing committee, said the decision is not final yet. The environment is not in their favour due to the aggressive behaviour of the ruling party men including the prime minister.

AI criticises

FROM PAGE 1
said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pledged in February and October last year that the government would end extra-judicial executions.

However, up to 70 people reportedly died in "crossfire" in the first nine months of 2009. Police authorities usually characterised suspected extra-judicial executions as deaths from "crossfire" or after a "shoot-out", the report added.

Citing example, it said family members of Mohsin Sheikh, aged 23, and Mohammad Ali Jinnah, aged 22, two Awami League student leaders, alleged that Rapid Action Battalion personnel shot the two men dead in Dhaka in May 2009.

The Rab claimed that the men disregarded a warning to stop at a checkpoint. It said that in the "gunfight" that followed, the men were shot dead.

An autopsy of the bodies showed that none of the bullets fired by Rab officers had gone astray, which suggested that this was a planned killing and not a "gunfight".

Police subsequently opened criminal investigations against 10 Rab personnel, but no one was brought to justice.

The AI in its report mentioned that the AL government endorsed some institutional reforms, which the caretaker government had initiated under temporary legislation, includes Human Rights Commission Act, which Parliament enacted in July.

The government also set up the Information Commission in July after Parliament passed the Right to Information Act in March.

Criticising human rights violations in the trials of BDR members, AI report said the BDR mutineers killed at least 74 people, including 57 army officers.

Thousands of BDR personnel were subsequently confined to barracks and denied all outside contact.

Reports soon emerged that scores—possibly hundreds—of BDR personnel suffered human rights violations, including torture, for possible involvement in the mutiny.

So far at least 48 BDR personnel died in custody. And there were allegations that torture may have been the cause or a contributing factor in some of these

deaths.

An official investigation into the circumstances of the mutiny failed to establish its causes.

Another investigation by the Criminal Investigation Department of the police to identify charges against more than 3,000 BDR personnel awaiting trial had not submitted its report by year's end.

The government confirmed in September that trials for killings, hostage taking and looting would take place in civilian courts.

It was not clear what resources, particularly in terms of additional training for judges, were available to courts to provide fair trials to such an unprecedented number of defendants.

Turning to repression of opposition, it said police continued to use unnecessary and excessive force against protesters.

In this context, it cited police attack on peaceful protesters at a rally organised by the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports in September 2009.

On violence against women, the Amnesty quoting newspaper reports cited at least 21 cases where a husband had killed his wife because her family could not afford to give him dowry money.

Police sources said they had received at least 3,413 complaints of beating and other abuse of women over dowry between January and October.

In many of the known cases, prosecution led to conviction, but the authorities failed to develop, fund and implement an action programme to actively prevent violence against women.

Women's rights groups said many cases of violence against women, such as the alleged rape of sex workers in police custody, were not reported for fear of reprisal and lack of protection. It also reported deaths due to demand for dowry.

Turning to indigenous people's rights, the Amnesty report said the government began in August to disband major army camps in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) to meet one of several unimplemented agreements of the 1997 CHT peace accord.

N Korea

FROM PAGE 16
violated the disputed Yellow Sea borderline, and that it would consider a complete block on access to a joint industrial project in the North Korean city of Kaesong.

The BBC's John Sudworth in Seoul says the announcement is another piece in the picture that is coming out of North Korea of increasing tension.

On Tuesday, North Korea announced it would sever all ties with the South.

It had also banned South Korean ships and planes from its territory - a measure it repeated in its Thursday statement.

South Korea will "resolutely" deal with the North's measures, a South Korean defence ministry official said without elaborating, according to the Associated Press news agency.

South Korea had already announced a package of measures, including a halt to most trade with North Korea. It is also seeking action via the United Nations Security Council.

The Yellow Sea was the site of deadly naval skirmishes in 1999 and 2002.

South Korean drill Thursday's announcement came hours after 10 South Korean warships took part in an anti-submarine drill.

The South Korean exercise is one of the first visible signs of a raising of South Korea's defence posture in response to the incident, our correspondent says.

With tensions rising rapidly, the North has reacted angrily to trade and shipping sanctions announced by the South.

The two states are technically still at war after the Korean conflict ended without a peace treaty in 1953.

Dreams

FROM PAGE 1
"You people please look after my son, he never stayed outside home," Shah Alam told one of his roommates, Nafaz Mahmud.

The roommates got his company only for two days.

The killer bus smashed his head while he was on his way to his elder sister's residence at Mirpur 10 in the morning.

In the evening, his body was sent to his village home at Nizra in Gopalganj district headquarters.

"My son never stayed outside home without me. Now I lost him forever. Take me to my beloved, please," his mother Syeda Shamsunnahar cried out at DC road residence in Gopalganj town yesterday evening, reports a correspondent from the district.

"Hugging me before leaving for Dhaka ten days ago, my son said how he would leave without me," said Shamsunnahar.

She was getting unconscious frequently. The father was speechless.

"Samrat told me over phone that he was coming to my home as the university would remain closed for two days," said Jannatul Nayeem Shammi, his elder sister.

Youngest among four siblings, Samrat secured golden GPA 5 in both the SSC and HSC from St Joseph's School in Khulna and Khulna City College.

Samrat enrolled in mechanical engineering of Buet for the session 2009-10.

While in service, Shah Alam stayed in Khulna town along with the family and settled in Gopalganj town after retirement.

The grief stricken family now only wants exemplary punishment of the reckless driver.

Pyongyang

FROM PAGE 16
Pyongyang's military general staff also scrapped a pact which guards against accidental naval clashes at the flashpoint border, and repeated threats to shut down a joint business project.

Elsewhere in the Yellow Sea, South Korea's navy staged an anti-submarine exercise, its first since Seoul publicly accused Pyongyang of torpedoing one of its warships on March 26 with the loss of 46 lives.

In Seoul, an estimated 10,000 protesters shouted "Kill our enemy!" and whacked images of the North's leader Kim Jong-Il with wooden bars.

Investigators from five countries said last week they found overwhelming evidence that a torpedo attack by a North Korean submarine sank the Cheonan near the border.

The South has announced a series of reprisals including a halt to trade. The North, which denies involvement, has responded with angry rhetoric and an announcement that it is cutting all ties with its neighbour.

Blasting the South's "confrontation maniacs, sycophants and quislings", the North's military said agreements on forestalling accidental conflicts would be declared "completely null and void".

The border was the scene of deadly clashes in 1999 and 2002 and of a firefight in November last year. The South's military believes the Cheonan was sunk in revenge for the firefight.

The general staff said it was also scrapping military safety guarantees for South Koreans crossing the land border, and would consider a complete block on access to the Kaesong joint industrial estate in its territory.

It repeated a threat to attack loudspeakers if Seoul goes ahead with its plan to resume cross-border propaganda broadcasts as part of reprisals.

Some 42,000 North Koreans work in 110 South Korean factories at Kaesong, which was developed as a symbol of reconciliation.

"We are watching whether North Korea will take action to cripple the operations of the Kaesong estate, or will close it," said unification ministry spokeswoman Lee Jong-Joo.

Off the west coast, far away from the border, eight South Korean warships launched a drill to destroy mock North Korean patrol boats and submarines, firing cannon and dropping depth charges.

Officials quoted by Yonhap news agency said South Korea's military and the 28,500 US troops in the South had raised their alert level and stepped up aerial surveillance of the North.

Unaware dad

FROM PAGE 1
man. If any arrangement is made for her marriage, I will give her a lesson which she will never forget," said Hasina Begum, mother of Aleya quoting Khokon.

Khokon went to Aleya's residence in Mirpur a week back and threatened her for refusing the proposal.

Hasina told the reporter that one and half months ago her daughter was taken away by Khokon's men. Hasina got her daughter back by giving Tk 2,000.

Khokon, who was earlier also arrested twice for drug peddling in Gulshan and Mirpur, made the plan several days back and started taking preparations for the attack from Wednesday morning, police said.

Condition of Aleya is still critical and she was kept at ICU in burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital with a 65 percent burn injuries.

In a grisly assault in the city's Pallabi on Wednesday night, a group of three men set fire to the teenage girl because she had refused to marry one of the attackers.

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Fake passports

FROM PAGE 16
brokers at Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) in Mirpur.

Rab-4 officials said they detained those people on charges of cheating and harassing people.

Trott century

FROM PAGE 16
dangerous Kevin Pietersen for 18 and Ian Bell fell to Rubel Hossain for 17.

Debutant Eoin Morgan was not out on 15 as he gave Trot valuable company.