

BDR-BSF accord to check border crimes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday agreed to contain cross border crimes and other related issues through talks.

Border guards of two neighbouring countries reached at an agreement at a battalion commander level meeting held at Taki Camp in India yesterday.

Matters relating to killing and kidnapping innocent Bangladeshi nationals, smuggling of arms, explosives and drugs, cross border trafficking of women and children, insurgency, other criminal activities and confidence building measures came up during discussion.

During meeting, BDR alleged that BSF men kill Bangladeshi cattle traders along border areas off and on instead of arrest.

However, BSF officials showed positive attitude in resolving disputes through talks by holding flag meeting, a BDR official said.

Officials of both the border guards of Bangladesh and India agreed to resolve major disputes through discussion and by taking necessary measures on time.

Commanding Officer Lt Col Iqbal Azim of BDR 41 Rifles Battalion at Sathkira and BSF 18 Battalion Commanding Officer Ananta Singh led their respective teams.

Police foil human chain programme of rice traders

UNB, Bogra

Police on Wednesday foiled a human chain programme formed by rice traders and truck workers in Dupchachia upazila town demanding their security as well as rice-laden trucks.

Four people were also injured as police charged batons on the traders and workers and snatched the banners while foiling the programme, said the president of Dupchachia Rice Mill Owners' Association, Mobarak Ali.

The injured are Mobarak, Abdul Majid, Faizul Islam and Rana, he said adding, most often truck workers are injured and killed by criminals.

The human chain was formed from CO office bus stand to forest office.

However, being chased by traders and workers the law enforcers left the spot.

In an instant reaction, the workers and traders blocked the Bogra-Naogaon road for two hours. But after sometime they withdrew their programme when police admitted their fault.

Contacted, the officer-in-charge (OC) of Dupchachia police station, Mozammel Haque, said police mistakenly took action thinking BNP-Jamaat as organizers of the human chain.

500 vehicles get stuck at Paturia, Daulatdia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Shortage of ferry has been hampering ferry service on Paturia and Daulatdia ferry route.

At present, about 500 vehicles including buses and goods laden trucks have been stranded on both sides of the two ferry terminals.

Only five ferries out of 12 are now in operation at Aricha. The ferries are Shah Ali, Keramat Ali, Shah Jalal, Bir Shrestha Hamidur Ragman and Shah Poran. The authorities took two ferries to Mawa from Aricha one year ago.

Bir Shrestha Motiur Rahman were brought to Modhumoti floating workshop at Paturia yesterday for repair. Other ferries have also been shifted rent dockyards and floating workshops for repair.

Contacted, Ashraf Ullah Khan, Manager of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC), said he is not sure about restoration of normal ferry service.



Workers demonstrate blocking the car of Chittagong Port Authority chairman protesting start of berth operators' work under a new system yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

BCL men ransack IU bldg

Villagers block highway 'protesting' arrest of 4 students after vandalism; 20 hurt in clash with police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Twenty people including five police personnel were injured in a clash between law enforcers and villagers as people of Modhupur village adjacent to the campus of Islami University (IU) in Kushtia put barricade on Kushtia-Jhenidah highway yesterday evening.

The villagers put the barricade protesting arrest of IU student Mahbubur Rahman, also a resident of the village, and four others in connection with the ransacking on the campus yesterday morning.

Police arrested 20 people after the evening incident. A group of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists ransacked four office rooms of the administrative building of IU and fired 10 to 12 blank shots on the campus yesterday morning.

The incident occurred as a sequel to feud between two groups of BCL activists who got locked into several clashes on the campus after announcement of the IU unit committee of the organisation on May 28 last, campus sources said.

Some 30 BCL activists, led by former president of the university unit of the organisation Shahnoor Alam Keramat and present joint secretary Mahbubur Rahman, went out of Bangabandhu Hall at about 10:00am yesterday and ransacked rooms in the administrative building, said police and campus sources.

The BCL men threatened two university officials of dire

consequences as the latter tried to prevent them from ransacking valuables, campus sources said.

On information, Islami University Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mizanur Rahman reached the spot with a police team.

IU students Zillur Rahman, Mahbubur Rahman, Abu Jar Giffary Al Gaffar and Liton and an outsider were arrested at Bangabandhu Hall as police led by Kushtia Superintendent of Police Sahabuddin Khan launched a drive on the campus at about 2:30pm.

Protesting the arrest, people of Modhupur village, the home of Mahbubur Rahman, put barricade on Kushtia-Jhenidah highway near the IU campus at

around 7:00pm yesterday.

When police tried to remove the barricade, the villagers got locked in a clash with the law enforcers, causing injuries to five police personnel and 15 villagers.

"The troublemakers have fled the campus and now the situation is normal. A case has been filed with the local police station in this connection," said IU Proctor Mahbulul Arefin.

Vice Chancellor Prof Mohammad Alauddin said stern action will be taken against those who created panic on the campus and violated discipline.

"University authorities should take action against those responsible for creating unrest on the campus. We will

also take action after discussion with our central leaders," BCL university unit secretary Shamsuzzaman Tuhin told this correspondent over phone.

Jahangir Hossain was made president and Shamsuzzaman Tuhin secretary of the university unit of BCL committee that was formed on May 28 this year but a group led by Mahbubur Rahman and Ali Mortuza Khosru, aspirants for president and secretary posts of the committee, rejected the committee, campus sources said.

As the two groups clashed on the campus over the issue on June 2, 4 and 6, the authorities closed the university for eight days.

The university reopened on June 15.



A group of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists, including one wielding a sharp weapon, move on the campus of Kushtia Islami University yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

They wade thru' waist-deep water to attend school

Many stop attending classes as there is no other way to cross dying Atharobeki River in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Nearly half of over 400 students of Goarha High School in Ghatbhog union under Rupsha upazila of Khulna district have to wade through waist-deep muddy water of Atharobeki River to attend their classes.

Over a hundred of them have already stopped attending classes to avoid the risky act as Atharobeki River, which is gradually drying up under adverse impact of climate change, became unfit for movement of boats or mechanised ferries over two months ago.

"Around 200 students, who are inhabitants of Anandanagar, Kharbaria and Sheikhpara villages in neighbouring Terokhada upazila, have to take the trouble to wade through muddy water of the river for attending their classes. Many students recently caught cold as they got soaked with muddy water," said Headmaster Anadi Ranjan Biswas.

"My parents have asked me not to go to school as boat service across the dried up

river has remained suspended," Abul Hasnat, a student of class seven of the 30-year-old high school, said with a heavy heart.

"My father has taken my transfer certificate from the school as it is not possible for

me to attend classes after walking through mud everyday," said Jharna Das, a student of class eight.

Class ten students Badsha Sheikh and Lima Akhter said they will have to stop going to school if the situation contin-

ues. "I have planned an arrangement for a bridge made of bamboo and wood to facilitate students' attending classes," said Akbar Hossain, chairman of Rupsha upazila parishad.



Children waded through muddy water of dying River Atharobeki to attend classes at Goarha High School in Ghatbhog union of Rupsha upazila under Khulna district. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: STAR

QUESTION LEAK 160 arrested in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Kotwali police yesterday arrested 160 people from Gangachara upazila in connection with leakage of question meant for today's interview for selection of candidates for the posts of assistant teachers of government high schools.

Police arrested all the 160 from a guesthouse at the Vinno Jagot, a private park at Gonjipur under the upazila.

Police also arrested four people hailing from Rangpur, Nilphamari and Kushtia districts including a clerk of the establishment ministry for their alleged involvement in supplying the question papers to the candidates.

The arrestees are Hamidul Islam of Bheramara, Kushtia, Azizul Haque and Sirajul Islam of Kellabond, Aminul Islam of Mulatol under Rangpur Sadar upazila and Aminul Islam, a clerk of the establishment ministry.

A number of staff of the establishment ministry and BG Press leaked out the question papers to the interviewers, police said.

They asked all the 160 hailing from different districts to come to the guesthouse on Wednesday. Accordingly, they came and got the question papers. The candidates were asked to memorise answers to 80 questions in two days. The candidates were supposed to depart the guesthouse yesterday night.

On a tip-off, police raided the guesthouse and arrested them. Police also seized the question papers and a photocopy.

Being quizzed, the arrested candidates told police that they had a contract of Tk5 lakh with the question suppliers. They said to have paid Tk 2 lakh in advance while they were supposed to pay the rest amount after the interview.

Arms, bombs recovered in 2 dists: 14 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered arms and ammunition including bombs in separate drives conducted in Chuadanga and Kushtia yesterday morning and Wednesday.

The arms include three light guns, 19 bullets and two bombs.

Rab also arrested 14 robbers from Kushtia. On a tip-off, a Rab team raided at a bush at about 11:00 am yesterday at Buzrokar village in Sadar upazila, Chuadanga and recovered two hand bombs and five bullets by digging there.

Criminals might have kept the bombs and bullets for doing criminal activities according to their convenience, Rab said.

In an earlier drive, a Rab team raided an engine boat on the Padma at about 9:00 am on Wednesday and arrested 14 robbers.

Rab also recovered three light guns, 14 bullets and three sharp swords from the boat.

The arrestees are Sahidul Islam, Babu Mia, Mizanur, Babu (2), Habil, Pannan, Niyamat, Bidyut, Uzir Ali, Kuddus Ali, Ahad, Manju, Anwar Hossain and Monirul, all hailing from Kushtia and Pabna districts.

Police produced them before courts in Chuadanga and Kushtia yesterday from where they were sent to jail.

2 boys drown in pond

UNB, Sylhet

Two boys drowned in a pond of Kazitula area in the city on Tuesday.

One of the victims, Jashim, 11, was son of Abdun Nur while the other one, Sabuj, 12, was son of Tera Miah of Badambagicha area in the city. The two were close friends, locals said.

After a frantic search, locals and police found the floating bodies from Kazidighi on Wednesday morning.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Under-trial prisoner dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

An under-trial prisoner of Chuadanga jail died at Sadar Hospital on Wednesday evening. The dead was identified as Abur Hossain, 28, son of late Fakir Mohammad of Andulbaria village under Jibonnagar upazila of the district. According to jail authorities, Abur Hossain fell sick at about 10:00am on Wednesday morning and was rushed to the hospital where he died at around 6:30pm. Officer-In-Charge (OC) of Jibonnagar Police Station said they arrested Abur on April 28 in connection with a case filed against him under Narcotics Control Act. A Chuadanga court sent him to jail after police produced him in court on April 29. The case against Abur is under investigation OC said.

Tiger kills one in Sundarbans

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

A fisherman was killed by a tiger in the river Malancha near Telakata area of Sundarbans yesterday. The victim was identified as Iman Ali Sardar, 32, son of Shuk Chand Sardar of Kultali village under Shyamnagar upazila. Police quoting local people as saying that six fishermen, including Iman went to the Sundarbans for fishing, taking permission from Kadamtala Forest Station on July 5. When they were catching fish in the Telakata area at around 11:30am yesterday, a tiger swooped on Iman Ali and dragged him into the deep forest. Contacted, Kadamtala Forest Officer Masud Alam confirmed the incident. Locals recovered the body from the deep forest at about 3:00pm.

Cargo vessel sinks

UNB, Bagerhat

A limestone-laden cargo vessel capsized in Banstali channel of the Kumarkhali River after it collided with an oil tanker near Rampal yesterday morning. All the nine crew of the cargo vessel, MV Haji Akbar Ali-1, swam ashore. Police said the vessel, carrying 17,300cft limestone, was heading for Mongla from Sylhet. It sank when a Chittagong-bound oil tanker MT Energy-2 collided head on with it at 8:00am.



PHOTO: STAR

Committee to prevent repression on women and children forms a human chain at Hatibandha upazila town in Lalmonirhat district yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of the killer of schoolteacher Bina Rani.

Bomb attack on JL leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Criminals hurled bombs at a Jubo League leader in Ganna Union under Jhenidah Sadar upazila on Wednesday night, leaving him seriously injured. The victim, Shanti, 35, son of Shahar Ali of Kashimnagar village is undergoing treatment at Jhenidah Sadar Hospital. Police and locals said Shanti, general secretary of Jubo League Ganna Union unit, came under attack while he was returning home from a cattle market at around 9:30pm. A gang of criminals threw bombs on Shanti when he reached near Kashimnagar and fled the scene, locals said. Contacted, officer-in-charge (OC) of Jhenidah Sadar Police Station said police are looking for the criminals.

Mother, son electrocuted

A CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

A woman and her son were electrocuted at Chotabandha village under Shibpur upazila of the district on Wednesday night. They are Shayesta Begum, 45, and her son Rubel, 23. Police quoted the family members as saying that Rubel came in contact with a live electric wire at their house at around 8:00pm. Shayesta Begum was also electrocuted as he tried to save his son. Locals took them to the upazila health complex where the doctors declared them dead.

Man hacked to death

A CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Criminals hacked a man to death at Mirzapur village under Singra upazila of the district on Wednesday night. The deceased was identified as Abu Bakkar, 45, son of Lal Pramanik of Kashiabari village under the upazila. Police said Abu Bakkar went to his son-in-law Osman Gani's house at Mirzapur village on Wednesday. A gang of criminals called him out of the house at night, hacked him with sharp weapons and left the scene. Bakkar died on the spot. On information, police rushed to the spot and sent the body to hospital morgue for autopsy. Police said Abu Bakkar was wanted in several cases including for murder and extortion.

Phensidyl found at graveyard

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) recovered 100 bottles of Phensidyl from a graveyard in Koilarmukh area under Ramgarh upazila of Khagrachhari district yesterday. Acting on a tip-off, a team of 11 Rifles Battalion raided koilarmukh area in the morning and recovered the sedative drugs from the graveyard. Commanding Officer (CO) of 11 Rifles Battalion Lt Colonel Md Abdul Gaffar told this correspondent that BDR personnel also recovered 897 bottles of phensidyl, raiding different areas of Ramgarh in the last two weeks.

15 hurt, 4 shops gutted

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

At least 15 people were injured and four shops gutted in a fire at Notun Bazar under Sadar upazila of the district early yesterday. Locals and fire service sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at shop at the bazaar and soon engulfed the 15 adjacent shops. Fire fighters with the help of locals extinguished the blaze after an hour.

16 robbers held with firearms

UNB, Savar

Sixteen robbers were arrested with firearms near Hemayetpur bus stand early yesterday. Acting on a tip-off, Rab members raided the area at around 2:00am and arrested the robbers while they were making preparation to commit robbery on Dhaka-Aricha Highway. Two guns, bullets, some iron rods and three machetes were also recovered from their possession.