

# SYLHET-MEGHALAYA BORDER SURVEY Stalemate in talks seems to be over soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Director General of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Major General Md Rafiqul Islam has said the joint survey along Sylhet-Meghalaya borders will begin after accord between the two sides on a few issues.

"Earlier the survey had to be suspended as some differences surfaced after we started it months ago. The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Joint Border Working Group are now working to narrow the differences. Hopefully the survey will resume soon," the DG said at the battalion headquarters of the 5 BGB, Sylhet, on his return after visiting different borders in the district yesterday afternoon.

As his attention was drawn to some Indian Khasias' recent attempt to loot paddy on Dibir Haor borders in Zaintapur upazila, the BGB chief said, "The border areas are now relatively calm due to fruitful discussions with the Indian Border Security Force. The Indian Khasias will no longer have the chance to harvest from croplands inside our territory."

"The stalemate in survey has been prevailing as we could not agree with the Indians over survey points on the 'adversely possessed lands' on different borders in the area. A team from the Directorate of Survey from the capital will visit the borders concerned in presence of the officials of BGB and civil administration," said Sylhet Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Ahmed Shamim Al Razi, also coordinator of the regional survey team.

Against the backdrop of repeated incidents of intrusion for paddy crops and fishing as well as killing and injuring of Bangladesh nationals by the BSF and the Indian Khasia tribesmen, the authorities decided for joint survey on the Zaintapur, Gowainghat and Kanaighat borders. Accordingly, it began on December 7 last year.

But it had to be suspended after the December 14 incident, when about 500 armed Indians, backed by the BSF intruded into the Bangladesh territory and occupied some lands on Padua border. However, they retreated in the face of chase by thousands of villagers after some time.

As the survey works resumed April 5

on Dibirhaor near border pillar No 1284 and 1270 on Padua borders, the Indians claimed 55.3 acres on Dibir haor and 320 acres on Padua borders that had been in possession of Bangladesh. But, they failed to produce documentary evidence in support of their claims.

The Indian Khasia tribesmen had also opposed the survey on Dibir haor border in Jaintapur upazila, claiming 55 acres of Bangladesh lands as of them. Same way they pressed for suspending survey on the Sonarhat-Lynkhat border, where about 80 acres of Bangladesh lands in addition to the 100 acres on Protappur-Padua border had been in the Indians' possession.

An uneasy calm, except a few stray incidents, has been prevailing on about 20 kilometre border from Sonarhat to Dibir Haor in Gowainghat, Kanaighat and in Jaintapur upazilas as the joint border survey on the adversely possessed lands began on December 7.

Sources said the Indians were pressing to start survey from different points without any supplementary records and ignoring the existing border pillars, set in 1947.



PHOTO: STAR

MV Banglar Maya ran aground on the bank of Nandabala River in the Sundarbans under the impact of Wednesday's cyclone. It was later salvaged by Mongla Port Authority yesterday.

## STORM LASHES MONGLA UPAZILA Over 100 houses damaged, vessel runs aground

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Mongla Port Authority (MPA) yesterday salvaged a vessel that ran aground on the bank of the Nandabala River in the Sundarbans during storm on Wednesday.

The ship, MV Banglar Maya, was caught in the storm at the outer channel of Passur River at around 3:30pm and ran aground on the bank of the Nandabala at around 5:30pm.

Mongla upazila nirbahi

(UNO said over 100 houses were damaged and a large number of trees uprooted in the upazila during the storm that lasted for two hours from 3:30pm.

Deputy Traffic Manager Mokhesur Rahman of MPA said the ship, carrying 11, 500 tonnes of rice imported from Thailand, arrived at Mongla Port on April 13.

He said 10,456 tonnes of rice were unloaded earlier and the ship is now laden with the remaining 1,035 tonnes.

Relentless efforts were made by the port authority to salvage the ship of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation with help of tug boat Agni Prahari, Deputy Harbour Master Manzur Mowla said.

The ship remained cordoned off by coastguards and navy personnel because it got stuck in a most vulnerable area of the forest, said lawmaker Habibun Nahar who visited the ship along with Mongla UNO Mizanur Rahman at 7:30 pm.

## Abducted boy rescued, one held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

An abducted schoolboy of Panchagarh was rescued from a residential hotel at Ghatail upazila headquarters of Tangail on Wednesday afternoon.

Abducted five days ago, the boy was identified as Tuhin, 16, son of Shahidul Islam of Dakkamara village in Panchagarh municipality area.

Officer-in-charge of Panchagarh police station SM Faruque told this correspondent that on 28 April, Rasel, 33, son of Ahsan Mollah of Enayetpur in Sirajganj abducted Tuhin from Panchagarh bus terminal area.

Then the abductor made phone calls to Tuhin's father Shahidul and demanded Tk3 lakh ransom. Otherwise, Tuhin would be killed, he threatened.

Later, on 2 May, Tuhin's father filed an abduction case with Panchagarh police station accusing Rasel as he was known to Shahidul's family.

Tracking Rasel's mobile calls, sub-inspector of Panchagarh police station, also investigation officer (IO) of the case, Din Mohammad went to Ghatail and rescued Tuhin from a room of Bongshal Residential Hotel and arrested Rasel.

Police handed over Tuhin to his family on Wednesday night.

Rasel was produced in the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court and the court sent him to Panchagarh jail.

## College student murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A college student was stabbed to death on Wednesday morning near Baitul Najat Jame Mosque at Tootpara under Khulna Sadar police station.

The victim was identified as Milon Sheikh, 22, only son of grocer Md. Monir Sheikh of the area. Milon was a student of second year class at Haji Abdul Malek Degree College under Khulna city.

According to Monir Sheikh, the murder of his son was a sequel to Milon's previous enmity with some associates over cricket playing.

Police and the victim's father said that the college boy was called by one of his associates over cell phone. When Milon went to the mosque area near his house, a gang of 7/8 stabbed him. He succumbed to severe stab injuries in his chest at 10:30pm at the Khulna Medical College Hospital.

Police picked up three people in connection with the murder although the real killer is still at large, said OC SM Kamruzzaman.

## 2 'robbers' held in Chittagong

UNB, Chittagong

Police arrested two alleged robbers along with firearms from Agrabad CGS colony area of the city on Wednesday noon.

Police said on secret information that a gang of five were moving in the area in an auto-rickshaw to commit a robbery, they chased the vehicle and arrested two of them while three others managed to flee.

The arrestees were identified as Hridoy, 25, and Asgar Ali, 40. Police also recovered one home made gun, two cartridges and two sharp weapons from their possession.

The arrestees confessed to police that they were involved in a number of robberies and snatching in the city since long.



PHOTO: STAR

A man, hit with a three-pointed spear thrown by opponents, being taken to the hospital after a fierce clash between supporters of two prospective union parishad chairman candidates in Chardighaldi union in Narsingdi Sadar upazila yesterday.

## 20 injured in Narsingdi pre-election clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

At least 20 people were injured in a fierce clash between the supporters of two prospective chairman candidates in the upcoming election to Chardighaldi Union Parishad in Narsingdi Sadar upazila yesterday.

Police said the clash was a sequel to a rivalry between Newaz Ali Member and Farhad of Anantarampur village as the two want to contest the upcoming election for the post of chairman.

The supporters of the two probable candidates also chased each other a few days ago. The clash ensued at around 5:00 am yesterday when Farhad's men equipped with three-pointed spears attacked the houses of their rivals at the village.

Newaz's supporters retaliated and also used the same spears and other lethal weapons during the clash that continued for one and a half hours, leaving at least 20 people from both sides injured.

Nine of the injured--

Alamgir, 40, Mister Ali, 35, Mokarram, 25, Khorshed, 27, Shah Jamal, 28, Alek Mia, 32, Hanifa, 30, Nabi Mia, 40, and Monowara Begum, 35--were admitted to Narsingdi Sadar

Hospital while the rest given first aid. Amamgir, Mister Ali and Mokarram were later shifted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital as their condition deteriorated.



PHOTO: STAR

Another victim of spear attack

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## DR BAQUI MIRZA MURDER Mastermind is another doctor Says main accused

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Arrested Zakaria Masud, one of the main accused in Dr Baqui Mirza killing case, yesterday told journalists that a doctor posted at Sirajganj was the mastermind behind the killing.

He also disclosed the name of the doctor at a press briefing arranged by Rab-12 at its office here yesterday.

"The doctor hired me for Tk 1 lakh for killing Baqui, but he did not pay the money later," Zakaria said.

Rab arrested Zakaria, 25, son of Jel Haq Sheikh in Mohakhali bus terminal area in the capital on Sunday. Earlier, two other accused, Ruhul Amin Babu



Main accused Zakaria

and Esha, a distant cousin of the deceased, were arrested.

The doctor had gone into hiding. When contacted over cellphone, he denied his involvement in the killing.

Dr Baqui Mirza, 37, acting resident medical officer (RMO) of Sirajganj General Hospital, was murdered in a room of a government dormitory near the District Judge's Court on April 16.