

WB POST-POLL VIOLENCE

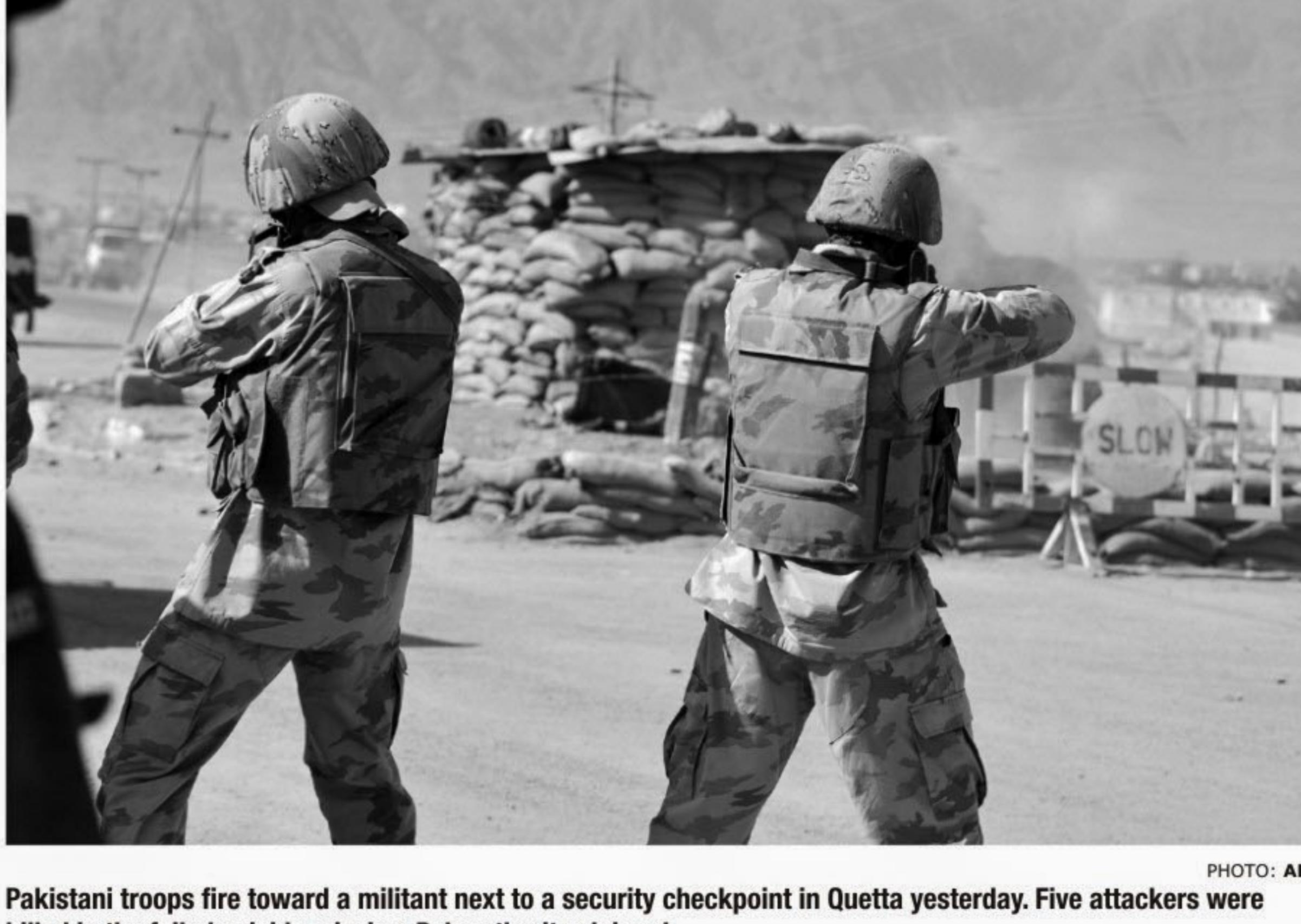
Indian HM
urges governor
to stop

PTI, Agartala

Union Home Minister, P Chidambaram yesterday expressed grave concern over post-poll violence in West Bengal and asked the Governor to take all measures to stop it.

"It is a matter of concern. I do not know whom to blame for it. Last night I have spoken to West Bengal Governor to take all possible measures to stop violence there, because violence cannot be tolerated," Chidambaram told reporters here.

"I have also spoken to Mamata Banerjee and Mukul Roy about the violence and appealed to all political parties to stop violence. I think they would respond to my appeal," he added.



Pakistani troops fire toward a militant next to a security checkpoint in Quetta yesterday. Five attackers were killed in the foiled suicide mission, Pak authority claimed.

Pakistan
arrests senior
Qaeda leader

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani security forces have arrested senior al-Qaeda operative Muhammad Ali Qasim Yaqub -- alias Abu Sohaib Al Makki -- in the southern port city of Karachi, the military said yesterday.

"According to preliminary investigations, Al Makki is a Yemeni national and has been working directly under al-Qaeda leaders along Pak-Afghan borders," the military's media wing said.

Al Makki is apparently not on the list of internationally most wanted al-Qaeda operatives but the military's statement mentioned his network was operating in the region.

LADEN KILLING AFTERMATH

Pakistan to return damaged
chopper to US

PTI, New York

Taking steps to ensure that its frontline stealth technology does not pass onto hostile hands, the US has drawn assurance from Pakistan to return the tail of one of the helicopters that crashed while landing Navy SEALs in the mission to kill Osama bin Laden.

Pakistan has agreed to return the tail of the modified variant of the Sikorsky H-60 Blackhawk helicopter, Senator John Kerry, now on a visit to Pakistan, was quoted as saying by the New York Times.

The Navy SEALs 6 team disabled the stealth chopper during the raid after it developed faults in an apparent bid to ensure that frontline technology did not fall into non-US hands, US media reports said.

2 brothers arrested in Pakistan
for links with Osama's couriers

PTI, Islamabad

Pakistani security agencies have arrested two brothers in the country's northwest for alleged links with the two al-Qaeda couriers who owned the compound where Osama bin Laden was killed in a US raid.

The security agencies arrested Razaul Hasan, 22, and Ziaul Haq, 24, in Martung area of Shangla district in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province yesterday.

They were accused of having links to Arshad Khan and Tariq Khan, the two couriers who were killed along with the al-Qaeda leader.

The brothers were arrested from a house in Kotkai village in the mountainous Shangla district, The News

Pakistan PM hails China
ties amid strains with US

AFP, Beijing

Pakistan's prime minister declared China his country's best friend in an apparent dig at Washington as he was to begin a visit to China yesterday with US ties tested over Osama bin Laden's killing.

"We appreciate that in all difficult circumstances, China stood with Pakistan. Therefore we call China a true friend and a time-tested and all-weather friend," Gilani told China's official Xinhua news agency in an interview.

"We are proud to have China as our best and most trusted friend, and China will always find Pakistan standing beside it at all times," added Gilani, who was scheduled to arrive in Shanghai later yesterday, according to Pakistani officials.

His comments appeared to underscore tensions with Washington following the May 2 US raid on a compound where bin Laden was living in northern Pakistan, which left the country's civilian and military leaders angry and embarrassed.

On Monday, US Senator John Kerry demanded Pakistan make progress against terrorism through "actions, not by words" in a visit to the country.

The fact that the terrorist mastermind had been hiding out in Pakistan, possibly for years, has raised accusations the country's powerful security establishment was either incompetent or complicit in bin Laden finding a haven.

Further raising tensions, Nato helicopters from Afghanistan wounded two Pakistani soldiers in a cross-border attack yesterday, triggering a "strong protest" from Islamabad.

Gilani had no engagements in China until a speech today at a cultural forum in the eastern city of Suzhou, Pakistani officials said.

He was then to travel to Beijing to meet Chinese leaders including President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao.

The two sides are expected to sign a series of cooperation agreements and discuss how they can better combat extremism.

Stop treating India
as 'biggest enemy'
Nawaz Sharif urges Pakistan

PTI, Islamabad

As Pakistan's powerful military held out threats to India, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has called for reappraisal of ties with its neighbour to move forward and progress, saying Islamabad must stop treating New Delhi as its "biggest enemy".

Sharif, who was earlier involved in talks with India when the Kargil crisis erupted, also sought a probe into the 1999 conflict with India.

The former Prime Minister, who is the chief of main opposition PML-N party, is currently on a three-day visit to southern Sindh province where he made the remarks during an interaction with the media in Karachi yesterday.

He called on the government to also conduct an inquiry into the 2006 killing of Baloch leader Nawab Akbar Bugti in a military operation and the carnage in Karachi on May 12, 2007 that killed over 40 people who tried to rally in support of then-deposed Supreme Court Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry.

Sharif, whose government was deposed in a military coup led by former President Pervez Musharraf in 1999, reiterated his demand for the budgets of the military and the ISI to be placed before Parliament for scrutiny in line with the practice in other democracies.

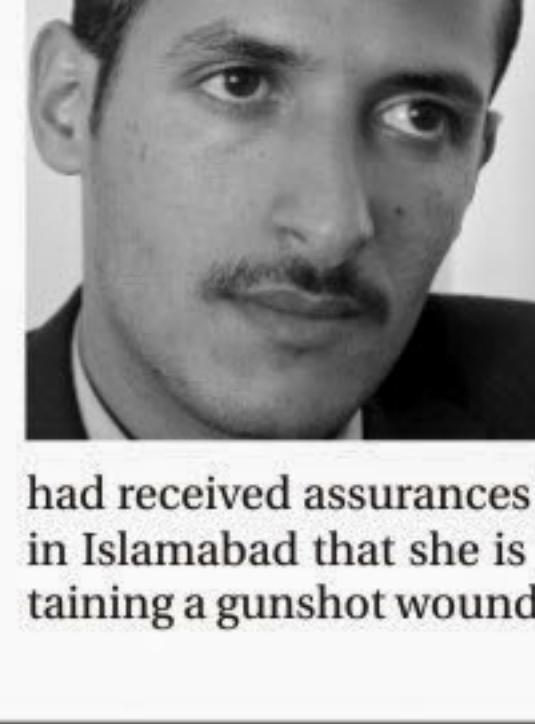
Burma frees
inmates but
no opponents

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar began releasing 17,000 prisoners yesterday, an official said, under a clemency programme that sparked outrage from critics as it leaves more than 2,000 political detainees languishing in jail.

The vast majority were expected to be common criminals, despite repeated calls on the regime to free the huge numbers of political prisoners often held under vague laws for double-digit jail terms.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) called the announcement a "sick joke", while the United States urged the regime to go much further as it renewed economic sanctions against Myanmar.

Widow's family in Yemen
demands her return

AFP, Sanaa

The Yemeni family of the youngest widow of al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden demanded on Tuesday that she be repatriated along with her five children from Pakistan where she is being detained.

The brother of Amal Abdulfattah told AFP he had received assurances from the Yemeni ambassador in Islamabad that she is "in good health" despite sustaining a gunshot wound to the leg during the US com-

More subsidy for food

FROM PAGE 20

Prices of goods have already soared much that would force the government to increase subsidy to ensure food security. The government will put emphasis on import of rice and wheat instead of purchasing the commodities from local market.

Though the boro harvesting season has already started the government has not taken any decision on food procurement. The government's procurement from local market mainly takes place during the boro season.

In the international market price of petroleum is on the rise and the government has to import more petroleum products to supply it to

rental power plants. The government will have to give more subsidies on this sector even after recent adjustment of petroleum prices.

In the current fiscal year, Tk 9,200 crore has been allocated for subsidy, which may cross Tk 12,000 crore in the next FY.

Non-development expenditure in the next budget will increase by 26 percent to stand at Tk 118,000 crore.

In the current fiscal year, Annual Development Programme (ADP) has been slashed down to Tk 35,130 crore from Tk 38,500 crore.

In the next FY the ADP size will be Tk 46,000 crore, which is 31 percent more than the revised allocation, sources say.

In making budgetary allocations the local government division, power, road and railways will get maximum amount. The local government division is likely to get highest allocation of around Tk 10,000 crore.

The Awami League-led grand alliance has already passed two and a half years of its five year tenure. Keeping the next parliamentary elections in mind, more allocation is being given in the rural areas for infrastructure development including construction of roads, culverts and bridges.

The Power Division will get more than Tk 7,000 crore to meet the power demand which was a main election pledge of the ruling Awami League.

Yunus said the members

Do not let go of GB ownership

FROM PAGE 1

control of the bank.

"Grameen Bank is a priceless wealth for you. Do not give away this to anyone. You are the owners of this bank. Do not let go of this ownership," Dr Yunus said in a letter addressed to the bank members.

"If anyone speaks about taking away the ownership of Grameen Bank, if anyone speaks against your bank, then you must protest against it... If you remain silent, the bank will be taken away from your possession," he said.

In papers, the government controls 25 percent shares while 75 percent belongs to the borrowers, the majority of them are rural women. However, the government now effectively has only 3.29 percent share in terms of paid-up capital and the borrowers own the rest.

Yunus said the members

of the microcredit agency are set to face tough time following his departure from the bank he founded three decades ago.

"Soon you will be put under difficult tests. You must prepare yourself from now on to come out successfully from these tests. If you are able to protect this bank, then your children and descendants will be benefited from its wealth."

In the letter, the microfinance pioneer described how he embarked on one of the greatest economic innovations of the 20th century 35 years ago.

"Thirty-five years ago, I did not know that I would start a bank, and that I would lend to poor people, especially to poor rural women. Like many other teachers, I was busy teaching in the classroom, far from the realities on the ground. But Jobra village took

my future completely into a different direction."

"I saw, first hand, how the loan sharks enslaved the villagers; I thought that if I were to lend money to the poor, then the villagers could be free from the grasp of the loan sharks. That is what I did. I never imagined that this would become my calling in life."

The "Banker to the Poor" thanked women members of the bank for successfully overcoming tough challenges to make the Grameen Bank a success story.

"A lot of people from the villages resisted your joining Grameen Bank. They were opposed to seeing women handle money and earn. They tried to frighten you by telling you about the horrifying outcomes of accepting money from Grameen Bank."

"They said this was a missionary bank whose purpose was to convert you.

They threatened to attack you; they threatened that they would bury you wrapped in black shroud when you died; they would not have a burial prayer for you. They threatened to chase you from your homes. And many of you were chased out of your homes and your villages."

"But you did not get frightened. You became united... You vowed that you would bring prosperity to your families. That is why from the Grameen Bank Project, you managed to create Grameen Bank and became its owners."

In 2006, Yunus and Grameen Bank jointly won the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to create economic and social development from below".

The central bank move triggered a legal battle with Yunus lost in courts. On May 12, he resigned from the bank "to prevent undue disruption in the activities of the micro finance institution".

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Petrobangla banks

FROM PAGE 20

As part of this state-to-state

venture, Russian technical

team s have visited

Bangladesh several times,

while a Bangladeshi team

has recently returned from

Russia. Last month, the two

countries drafted a MoU in

this connection, but they

refrained from signing it.

Now a nine-member

team from Russia is on a visit

to Bangladesh. They will be

joined by executives today

from Gazzprom International, which is

owned by the Russian government.

primary understanding,

Russia will mobilise two rigs in August and begin a series of drilling of wells -- one in Rashidpur gas field, four in Titas, one in Semutang, two in Shahbazpur, one in Begumganj and one either in Sundalpur or in Kapatia.

"We believe if we can secure the Russian deal, we will be able to achieve our gas sector goals. Presently, Bapex is deploying four rigs for various drilling works. Together with Russia, we can make quick progress," the Petrobangla chairman pointed out.

Gazprom, one of the world's largest companies, would take a few months to complete the drilling works after signing the agreement.

Russia would also help prepare a gas sector strategic master plan outlining the country's future exploration, drilling and distribution network.

Gazprom seeks to enter into joint venture agreements with the national gas companies for a long-term operation. It would also open a local office in the country.

Petrobangla then turned to Russia for help and the Russians reciprocated with a host of offers. As per the

Moulana Mohammad Makshudur Rahman- A Torch-Bearer of Extra Ordinary Brilliance and Ingenuity

Moulana Mohammad Maksudur Rahman was born in a very prestigious and spiritually enlightened Sufi family of Mirzakhil Darbar Sharif under Mirzakhil Village in Satkania district. He is the eldest son of the present Sazzada Nashin Pir-E-Murshed Kebla-E-Alam, Hazrat Taajul Aareef (KSA). It is known that the ancient abode of this great spiritual lineage was Madina Manawara. His forefathers were highly revered as great Saints in Indo-Pak Subcontinent. For past two hundred and fifty years, they upheld the tradition of Great Silsila-e-Jahangiria. Recently, Moulana Mohammad Maksudur Rahman has accomplished his M.Phil. Degree work under the supervision of senior professor Dr. Sabir Ahmed of the Department of Islamic History and Culture. The subject of his research is "Hazrat Ashraf Jahangir Simnani and his old encounters in Sultanat-e-Bangladesh: Mirzakhil Darbar Sharif, A Case Study." He has obtained M.Phil. Degree on the 6th April, 2011, the Syndicate meeting 472 of Chittagong University has awarded this degree to Moulana Mohammad Maksudur Rahman. From the very</p