

# The Daily Star

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## GIVING TRANSIT TO INDIA

Ashfaqur Rahman explains its implications for Bangladesh and India

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## CAR RENTAL FLOURISHES

The business is boosted by emerging corporate sector

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## PLAYING DEAD TO BE ALIVE

Adrian Pracon, a witness to Norway tragedy, tells a tale of horror

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### Cheers for partisan traders

MORSHED ALI KHAN and ABDUL WAHED from Rajibpur, Kurigram

The people of Balamari village under Rajibpur Police Station have long been excited about the prospect of the border haat there. Thus far, many of their relatives have suffered, even got killed, injured or jailed trying to trade across the border. So the news of the haat thrilled them immensely.



### BORDER HAAT

But not anymore, as these people know the benefits of the border haat will go to the selected ones the rich and partisans.

More than 20 out of 25 people selected and given identity cards for a stall in the haat are established businessmen, having shops in Rajibpur market, a place about five kilometres from the Balamari-Kalaierchar border haat.

That's not all. The 25 beneficiaries are

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## Border haats trade hopes

Dhaka, Delhi start open trading on no-man's land

MORSHED ALI KHAN and ABDUL WAHED from Balamari border, Kurigram

Top-level officials of India and Bangladesh yesterday inaugurated the first-ever official border haat on the no-man's land here in efforts to bring economic benefits to the people of the area.

The inauguration comes nine months after the neighbouring countries signed agreements to set up two border haats.

Ministers, members of parliament, high officials of district administration and border forces and distinguished invitees from either side attended the ceremony.

As Commerce Minister Faruk Khan and his Indian counterpart Anand Sharma hoisted the national flags, children from Bangladesh sang their national anthem and a band of Indian border guards played theirs.

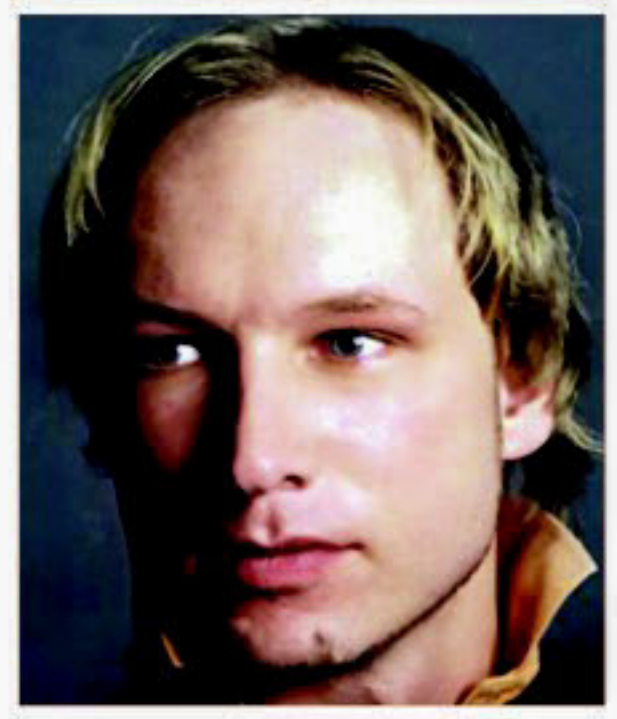
Around 500 people from the two countries were allowed in the small haat area, approximately the size of two football pitches.

The ceremony was enlivened by colourful tribal dances, songs and beats of drums. Thousands of people including children gathered on the bank of the river Zinziram on the Bangladesh side and watched the function from a distance.

While the jawans of Indian Border Security Force and Border Guard Bangladesh shook hands and cracked jokes, 50 authorised vendors from both sides sat in their stalls to sell their produce and other merchandise. Some sold ready-made clothes, fish and vegetables while some others paans (betel leaf) and melamine items.

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PHOTO ON BACK PAGE



A wounded woman is brought ashore opposite Utaoya island (in the distance) after being rescued from a gunman who went on a killing rampage targeting participants in a Norwegian Labour Party youth organisation event on the island, some 40 km southwest of Oslo. The facebook profile picture, top, of suspected gunmen Anders Behring Breivik who has been arrested. PHOTO: AFP

## Norway toll now 92

Paradise island turned into hell with Friday shootout killing 85; Oslo blast claims 7

AGENCIES

Norwegian police searched for more victims yesterday after a suspected right-wing zealot killed at least 92 people in a shooting spree and bomb attack that have traumatized a once-placid country.

As harrowing testimony emerged from the summer camp where scores of youngsters were mown down, Norway was struggling to understand how a coun-

try famed as a beacon of peace could experience such bloodshed on its soil.

"Never since the Second World War has our country been hit by a crime on this scale," Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg told journalists as police searched for more bodies on the idyllic Utoeya island.

The latest death toll from the island

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## The suspect

Christian fundamentalist leaning 'to the right'

AGENCIES

His Facebook profile says he is "conservative", "Christian", and "single", interested in hunting and video games like World of Warcraft and Modern Warfare 2.

Local media have identified him as Anders Behring Breivik, whose picture on his Facebook page shows a man with longish blonde hair and piercing eyes.

The posting lists his religion as "fundamentalist"

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### Sonia Gandhi due tonight

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Sonia Gandhi, president of India's ruling Congress party, arrives here tonight on a 24-hour visit to attend an autism conference and receive a

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## Country now like a derailed train

Lament leading citizens at launch of books on Tajuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens yesterday said the country is now like a derailed train, and there is a competition to eliminate good elements from the constitution.

Referring to the recent constitutional amendment, they said people did not bring the ruling alliance to power to retain Islam as state religion or keep Bismillah.

People rather extended their support to

launched.

Muhammad Habibur Rahman, former

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### CORRECTION

In a story headlined "Suranjit slates role of home ministry", we inadvertently described Tajuddin Ahmad as the first president of independent Bangladesh. He

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the grand alliance to restore the spirit of the original constitution of 1972, they said at a book launch at the Planning and Development Academy auditorium in the capital.

Two books on the country's first prime minister Tajuddin Ahmad, who was killed inside prison on November 3, 1975, were

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