

Liver traders

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the previous day and found missing a lobe of his liver.

Several arrests in Kalai upazila of Joypurhat recently led investigators to expose how a nexus of criminals deceives needy people into selling their organs.

A team of doctors led by Dr Zulfikur Rahman Khan of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH) did the transplant operation from 8:00am to 6:00pm at LabAid hospital on May 8.

Dr Sharmin Zaman Urmee, a junior consultant at Clinical Pathology of LabAid Ltd, conducted all medical tests, show documents.

Dr Zulfikur could not be contacted yesterday despite repeated attempts.

Dr Saifuddin Ahmed, a medical officer at the BSMMUH, said he had assisted the medical team with the liver transplant at LabAid Hospital on May 8. He said the hospital authorities were provided with necessary documents that showed the recipient Mir Giasuddin Ahmed is maternal uncle of donor Mehdi.

He said it is tough for a hospital to verify whether the donor and recipient are actually relatives or not.

The recipient died of heart disease a month after the transplant operation, said Dr Saifuddin.

He said only four liver transplant operations -- two at LabAid and two at BIRDEM -- have been done so far in Bangladesh.

Asked why he sold his organ, Mehdi said he heard that some people in Kalai had sold their kidneys for financial solvency, and it did not affect their health. His parents dead, Mehdi needed money to marry off his two younger sisters and buy land.

He said the recipient gave him Tk 1.5 lakh instead of Tk 3 lakh as promised by the broker.

Ulfa chief

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Sources said Barua has been injured but has survived the attack by the Myanmar soldiers.

He was with some rebels when he was detected and fired upon, they added.

The Assamese separatist group Ulfa recently began face-to-face unconditional talks with the Indian government in an attempt to usher in peace in insurgency-hit Assam. Its delegation met the home minister in New Delhi in February. The meeting was significant as it took place for the first time in Ulfa's 31-year history.

Its commander-in-chief and lone ranger Paresh Barua, however, was not present in the meeting. He is still at large issuing threats and carrying out attacks. He wants sovereignty as a pre-condition for talks.

The three decades of armed movement has witnessed the killing of several thousand civilians. The Ulfa, in a significant development earlier this year, admitted that all killings were wrong and declared that they were ready for formal unconditional talks with the government.

ARMS SMUGGLING

In Chittagong, a court on September 7 ordered the authorities concerned to publish an advertisement in two national dailies, asking Paresh Barua and another fugitive, Nurul Amin, to appear before it by October 3.

The court on June 29 issued an arrest warrant for Paresh Barua.

Barua is among the 11 newly charge-sheeted accused in two cases filed in connection with the 10-truck arms haul in Chittagong in 2004.

The 11 included former state minister for home Lutfazzaman Babar and Jamaat-e-Islami chief Mamiur Rahman Nizami.

The arms produced in Chinese factory Norinco were to be transported to India for the Ulfa, Muniruzzaman Chowdhury, investigation officer of the two cases, told reporters after submitting two supplementary charge sheets before the court on June 26.

Two cases were filed -- one for smuggling firearms and the other under the arms act -- a day after 10 truckloads of arms and ammunition were seized at a jetty of Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Ltd (CUFL) in the port city on April 2, 2004.

After BDR mutiny

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meeting with Obama during her planned private visit to the United States in the second half of May the same year.

"She also asked for a meeting with Secretary [Hillary] Clinton but made clear she would only visit Washington if the President agreed to see her," added the cable.

Moriarty also wrote that senior Bangladeshi officials were eagerly following up on the premier's request for a meeting with Obama.

On May 4, 2009, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni reiterated the government's strong desire for the meeting. She thanked the ambassador for supporting the request and said Bangladesh would also push for the meeting through its own channels in Washington.

The previous day, Bangladesh special envoy, Mohammad Ziauddin told the US embassy officials that the government viewed a meeting with Obama as an important sign of support for Bangladesh's transition back to democracy after two years of a military-backed caretaker government operating under a state of emergency.

"Ziauddin said such a meeting would increase goodwill toward the United States in this Muslim-majority nation of about 150 million people. He added that the Prime Minister was delaying the start of her trip to Canada, originally scheduled for May 5, to ensure she would be available to meet the President any time during the second half of the month."

Moriarty strongly endorsed meetings with both the President and the Secretary and said, "Even a short meeting with the President would help solidify US relations with the world's seventh most populous nation, which also is home to the world's fourth largest Muslim population."

"Sheikh Hasina's newly elected government embodies a delicate transition; a meeting for her with the President would bolster democracy in Bangladesh and make her a stronger partner in fighting transnational terrorism."

Moriarty wrote that Bangladeshi officials were lobbying for the meeting

clearly viewing a meeting with Obama as a strong signal of support for Bangladesh's still-fragile democracy.

"Despite its poverty, corruption and history of military political intervention, Bangladesh took a huge step forward with national elections in December 2008 that were declared free, fair and credible by domestic and international observers alike."

The then Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty on May 3 told Moriarty that a Hasina-Obama meeting would be very beneficial to democracy and stability in Bangladesh.

The PM met the US president in New York on September 23, 2009 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session.

In another cable sent to Washington on January 13, 2010, Moriarty wrote traditional distrust between AL and the Bangladesh military flared into the open in the aftermath of the 2009 BDR mutiny.

"Officers who openly expressed their dissatisfaction with the government's response to the mutiny saw a number of their fellow officers prematurely retired from service."

Continued the cable, "An attempted assassination of Awami League Parliamentary [and Hasina relative] Barrister Fazle Noor Taposh served as a reminder of the potential for this civil-military conflict to turn violent."

Hasina and her advisers have been careful not to provoke an open conflict with the military even as they had sought to ensure that loyalists occupied key senior positions. Moriarty said in the cable sent on the occasion of the AL government's one-year in office.

Concern about lingering dissatisfaction colours the government's conduct of the trials of those accused in the BDR mutiny, the cable said, adding: "At present, we see no indication that the military may intervene extra-constitutionally to cut short the government's tenure."

"Looking ahead, however, both the government and opposition assume that the military could return to its arbiter role if political confrontation erupts."

CNG vehicle

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and crashed the auto-rickshaw against a roadside tree.

The hijackers then stabbed Mithun and left the place, said the ASP. The vehicle was badly damaged.

Locals took Mithun to Bogra Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital where he died around midnight, the ASP added.

Meanwhile, in protest at the killing, auto-rickshaw drivers yesterday went on a wildcat strike from 11:00am on three routes in sadar upazila, demanding arrest and punishment of the criminals. The strike was enforced at Pirob, Namuza and Ghoradharp in the town.

Around 3:30pm, the strike was withdrawn after the local administration assured the drivers of immediate action, said the ASP.

ADB to fund

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According to an ADB statement, the National Board of Revenue will be the executing agency for the tax elements of the project, while the Department of Land Records and Survey will handle the land records management components.

2 more

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22, and Ayub Ali, 24. They were given primary treatment.

Quoting the two, police said the incident occurred when five rickshaw pullers were going to Joypurhat from Dhaka on the roof of Drutojan Express.

When the train reached Dherua around 2:00am, a gang approached them for cigarettes. As they said they did not have cigarettes, the gang pressed them for money.

Refused, the muggers shoved four of the rickshaw pullers off the roof, said Golam Mostafa, officer-in-charge of Mirzapur Police Station.

A general diary has been lodged with the police station in this regard.

Assistant Sub-Inspector Jamal Majumder of Kamalapur Railway Police last night told The Daily Star that police have launched a drive to check riding on train roof. They yesterday detained 11 people for roof-riding.

Padma Bridge

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approval. But, it had been put on hold in the wake of the complaints, the finance ministers said.

It happened because Bangladesh has earned a reputation as one of the most corrupt countries in the world, he said, adding "It is tough to overcome."

Asked if there is any uncertainty over the construction work of the bridge, Muhiith said the main donor World Bank and the co-financier Asian Development Bank (ADB) have their separate ineligibility lists, and the firms blacklisted by the World Bank are not necessarily on ADB's list.

"So, there are some technical hitches," he said adding, "As awarding the contract for the main bridge is being delayed, the construction work is going to be delayed."

Terming the complainers as the enemies of the country, the finance minister said some positive components related to the project such as rehabilitation work for the affected people is going on in full swing.

Muhiith said the tender for an approach road with the financial support from the Islamic Development Bank will be awarded soon and they would be in a position to finalise the pre-qualification bids for the main construction work of the bridge in October.

"Then, it will take three months' time to finalise the main tender process," he said, adding "We will have more detailed discussions on this issue with the World Bank vice president today."

Muhiith also informed that Japan will stick to their commitment in assisting Bangladesh for the \$ 1.7 billion MRT-6 project. Japan is currently at the final stage of conducting a feasibility study for the project.

Outgoing Japanese Ambassador Tamotsu hoped that the bilateral relations between the two countries would strengthen further in the days to come.

Let's focus on achievements

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Teesta deal postponement also led to the Feni water-sharing deal being shelved and deferment of the exchange of letter of intent about India's transit facility, which India has been pressing for.

Manik favoured stressing on the achievements that came out of the summit meeting instead of focusing on the failures. He gave importance to the comprehensive framework agreement on cooperation and duty-free entry of 46 Bangladesh garment items to India.

"Except for one or two issues, we have achievements. We should be careful that too much emphasis on misses does not bury the successes," Manik said in an interview with The Daily Star on Wednesday.

"It would have been much better if we could reach an agreement on the remaining issues. As it was not done, we will wait for them to realise," said the politician, who has been serving as the chief minister of Indian north-eastern state Tripura since 1998.

During the September 6-7 visit of Manmohan, the

two countries also signed deals on demarcation of 6.5km of land boundary, exchange of enclaves and adversely possessed land and agreed to cooperate on Bangladesh's rail traffic to Nepal.

He said people expected a lot from Manmohan's visit to Dhaka, and the postponement of the water-sharing deal of Teesta and Feni rivers as well as transit has strained the relations between the two neighbours to some extent. He, however, added, "There is no reason to see that our bilateral relations have gone one step back. There is no reason to perceive that no resolution means that the process is a failure."

He said he did not know what sort of objections Paschimanga government raised against the Teesta deal but hoped that a reasonable solution protecting the interests of all could be reached later.

"I believe, we will find out a solution."

On the failure to make headway in the transit issue, he said Tripura will continue developing infrastructure including roads and railways

so that it can take advantage of the transit facilities after the agreement and other issues are settled.

"As transit did not take shape this time, it will later on. It is not that it has been dropped. None of the government said that," he said, arguing that a relegation of achievements creates scope for those who do not want a good, longstanding and deep relation between Bangladesh and India.

The chief minister said Tripura does not want Bangladeshi exporters to face tariff and non-tariff barriers in India and that they have talked about eliminating the hassles for businessmen seeking Indian visa.

"It has just begun and the door has opened up. There will be a snowball effect of it. So why are we undermining these achievements," said Manik.

He said that in various forums he suggests India should not behave like a big brother while dealing with Bangladesh or any other country. Relations will not be good unless friendly nations are treated like equals.

Corridor

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Jatiya Press Club organised by the cultural wing of BNP.

"The government has given corridor facilities to India and directed authorities concerned in Chittagong and Mongla ports to make it functional," Fakhru claimed.

Besides, machinery are being taken to the Tripura border in containers for the under construction power station in Tripura using Bangladesh's Ashuganj and Akhaura borders, he added.

Speaking as a chief guest at the discussion titled, "Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit: Expectations and Achievements", Fakhru criticised the government for not consulting with the cabinet members, parliament and opposition parties regarding the deals.

He said, a portion of Indian media always try to brand BNP as an anti-Indian political party which is baseless.

He said the relationship between the two countries would gain acceptability when India provides Bangladesh due share of water of the 54 common rivers, stop shooting at Bangladeshis at borders and resolve the long-standing crisis in fixing maritime boundaries.

Assistant Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami Mujibur Rahman also termed Manmohan's visit a failure and urged BNP to begin a tough movement for ousting the present government.

President of Jatiya Ganotantrik Party (Jagpa) Shafiqul Alam Pradhan, BNP lawmaker Mostafa Ali Mukul, Jubo Dal President Moyazzem Hossain Alal, also spoke, among others.

BNP TO GO FOR AGITATION
BNP Standing Committee last night decided to wage a tough anti-government movement to press home their demand for holding the next general election under a caretaker government.

The members of the party's highest policy making body in a meeting decided to organise different agitation programs including road march and long march, forming human chains and taking up a countrywide tour by party Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

The meeting was held at the party chairperson's office in the city's Gulshan area.

It, however, could not finalise the schedule of the agitation programmes.

The schedule and programme implementation strategy will be finalised after consultation with the leaders of BNP-led four party alliance and other like-minded parties, party acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir told reporters.

Chaired by Khaleda Zia, the meeting discussed high prices of essentials, law and order situation and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's recent visit to Bangladesh.

The standing committee observed that Manmohan's visit was a total failure, added Fakhru.

BNP leaders RA Ghani, Khandaker Mosharruf Hossain, ASM Hannan Shah, M Shamsul Islam, Mahbubur Rahman and Nazrul Islam Khan attended the meeting, among others.

Nat'l university

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spotlight, former senate member of the university advocate Fazle Rabbi Mia filed a writ petition in 2004. The HC in 2006 rejected the writ and declared the recruitment legal as the then NU authorities placed the printed copies of fake advertisements.

Later in October 2010, a review petition was filed and after the hearing of the petition the HC division announced the recruitment illegal.

The incumbent Awami League-led government after coming to power formed an enquiry committee that found gross irregularities in the appointments. The committee in its report also said the claim of the then NU authorities on two advertisements was not true.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid on Monday told the reporters that they will take steps about the illegal recruitment after receiving the copy of the August 23 verdict and after consultation with the legal experts.

Against such backdrop, these 1,222 staffs, who have been demonstrating for the last several days under the banner of Job Preservation Committee, have enforced a strike at the university premises today.

NU acting VC Prof Tofail Ahmed presided over yesterday's meeting while Education Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser, NU Treasurer and other officials were present.

Currently, the university has a total of 1,735 staffs including the 1,222.

9/11 revisited

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since al-Qaeda attacked. Nearly 3,000 people died in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania in 2001.

Obama vowed yesterday that the United States will never waver in its fight against terrorism.

"Ten years ago, ordinary Americans showed us the true meaning of courage when they rushed up those stairwells, into those flames, into that cockpit," the president said in his radio and Internet address.

"We will protect the country we love and pass it safer, stronger and more prosperous to the next generation," he added, reports AFP.

A CIA informant who had proven reliable in the past approached intelligence officials overseas to say that the men had been ordered by Ayman al-Zawahiri, the new al-Qaeda leader, to mark the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on Sunday by doing harm on US soil.

The informant said the would-be attackers were of Arab descent and may speak Arabic as well as English, AP reported.

Counter-terrorism officials were looking for certain names associated with the threat, but it was unclear whether the names were real or fake, officials said.

US authorities have been working around the clock to determine whether the threat is accurate, but so far, have been unable to corroborate it, says Aljazeera online.

According to The New York Times, word of the plot was passed to US intelligence officers by an informer based in the border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan on Wednesday.

The informer said two American citizens of Arab ancestry had left Afghanistan,

travelled through one or more other countries and reached the United States as recently as last week, the report said.

'YES AND EARS OF VIGILANCE'

Speaking after she attended 9/11 commemorations at the New York Stock Exchange, Hillary said the threat - which is reported to involve bomb attacks using truck or cars - was the work of the radical group that attacked the US 10 years ago.

"Al-Qaeda again is seeking to harm Americans and in particular to target New York and Washington," Hillary said on Friday.

"This should not surprise any of us. It is a continuing reminder of the stakes in our struggle against violent extremism, no matter who propagates it, no matter where it comes from, no matter who its targets might be."

She said the decision to go public with the threat was "intended to enlist the millions and millions of New Yorkers and Americans to be the eyes and ears of vigilance", adding that the threat was being taken very seriously by state and federal authorities.

Counter-terrorism officials were particularly concerned by the threat because documents seized during the raid on Osama bin Laden's Pakistan compound in May showed al-Qaeda was considering strikes to coincide with the anniversary, Mrs Clinton said.

The former New York senator said Americans should not change their plans, but instead be alert.

"You have to go on with life," she said, adding "This city is resilient."

BLOOMBERG DEFIANT
Events commemorating the anniversary of the attacks are scheduled throughout the

weekend.

President Obama will visit the World Trade Center site, the Pentagon, and a memorial ceremony in Shanksville, Pennsylvania - where the fourth hijacked plane, United 93, came down.

He will be joined in New York by former President George W. Bush.

Obama, who was briefed on the new alert before addressing Congress on Thursday, called on the US to "redouble" anti-terror efforts.

Speaking on Thursday night, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said the threat was "unconfirmed", but security would be boosted at bridges, tunnels and on public transport.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said spot checks in the New York subway would be more frequent in coming days.

The NYPD has also tightened security on New York's roads, bridges and tunnels.

VEHICLE BOMB
Reports suggest that intelligence gathered in Pakistan points to a possible car or truck bomb attack against New York or Washington.

US TV network ABC News reported on Thursday evening that three individuals -- one a US citizen -- entered the US in August aiming to carry out a terror attack.

Unconfirmed reports suggest that US authorities are searching for the trio. But it is unclear whether this information was linked to the threat detailed by US officials.

Officials have said the identities of the three people are unknown.

An anonymous counter-terrorism official told the Associated Press that authorities had been investigating the intelligence since it was received late on Wednesday.

Supercomputer

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Social Science, presented his findings in the journal First Monday.

The study's information was taken from a range of sources including the US government-run Open Source Centre and BBC Monitoring, both of which monitor local media output around the world.

News outlets which published online versions were also analysed, as was the New York Times' archive, going back to 1945.

In total, Leetaru gathered more than 100 million articles.

Reports were analysed for two main types of information: mood - whether the article represented good news or bad news, and location - where events were happening and the location of other participants in the story.

Data was fed into an SGI Altix supercomputer, known as Nautilus, based at the University of Tennessee.

Based on specific queries, Nautilus generated graphs for

different countries which experienced the "Arab Spring".

In each case, the aggregated results of thousands of news stories showed a notable dip in sentiment ahead of time - both inside the country, and as reported from outside.

For Egypt, the tone of media coverage in the month before President Hosni Mubarak's resignation had fallen to a low only seen twice before in the preceding 30 years.

Previous dips coincided with the 1991 US aerial bombardment of Iraqi troops in Kuwait and the 2003 US invasion of Iraq.

Leetaru said that his system appeared to generate better intelligence than the US government was working with at the time.

The Egypt graph, said Leetaru, suggested that something unprecedented was happening this time.

"If you look at this tonal curve it would tell you the world is darkening so fast and so strongly against him that it

doesn't seem possible he could survive."

Similar drops were seen ahead of the revolution in Libya and the Balkans conflicts of the 1990s.

Saudi Arabia, which has thus far resisted a popular uprising, had experienced fluctuations, but not to the same extent as some other states where leaders were eventually overthrown.

In his report, Leetaru suggests that analysis of global media reports about Osama bin Laden would have yielded important clues about his location.

While many believed the al-Qaeda leader to be hiding in Afghanistan, geographic information extracted from media reports consistently identified him with Northern Pakistan.

Only one report mentioned the town of Abbottabad prior to Bin Laden's discovery by US forces in April 2011.

However, the geo-analysis narrowed him down to within 200km, said Leetaru.