

Afghan cops kill 3 US soldiers

REUTERS, Kandahar

An Afghan police commander and several of his men killed three US soldiers in the southern province of Helmand, turning guns on them after inviting them to a dinner to discuss security, Afghan officials said yesterday.

The men were all American special forces members and were killed on Thursday night.

"During dinner, the police commander and his colleagues shot them and then fled. The commander was Afghan National Police in charge of local police in Sangin," a senior Afghan official told Reuters.

According to Nato, there have been 24 such attacks on foreign troops since January in which 28 people have been killed, not including Thursday's attack.

ROHINGYA ISSUE Myanmar invites OIC to probe unrest

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar has invited an influential Islamic body to visit a state rocked by sectarian violence, official media said yesterday, in an effort to diffuse mounting outcry over the treatment of the Muslim Rohingyas.

In a rare conciliatory move over the issue, President Thein Sein said he welcomed a visit by the Saudi-based Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the world's largest Muslim grouping, which has urged a probe into violence between Buddhists and Rohingyas that left scores dead.

"The president said he hoped the OIC secretary could witness the reality (in Rakhine)," state mouthpiece the New Light of Myanmar said, adding tens of thousands of displaced people from both sides are being given food and shelter.



Thein Sein

Thein Sein's comments came as the visiting foreign minister of Muslim-majority Turkey offered aid to the strife-stricken Rakhine state.

He also urged "the Turkish minister to explain the realities in Myanmar" to the OIC, the report added.

OIC head Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu on Sunday proposed sending a mission to probe "massacres... oppression and ethnic cleansing" of Rohingyas in Rakhine, adding weight to calls by Egypt and Saudi Arabia for an investigation into the unrest.

The initial outbreak of fighting in western Rakhine state killed some 80 people from both sides in June, official figures show.

Renewed violence between Buddhists and Muslim Rohingyas left several people dead in Myanmar on Sunday, underscoring tensions in the area.

40 LAKH DISPUTED VOTERS IN ASSAM Indian govt refuses to scrap voters on religious profiling

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The Indian government has told the Supreme Court that it would not be possible to delete names of 40 lakh doubtful voters in northeastern state of Assam on the basis of their religious or linguistic profile as it would be unconstitutional.

The government rejected the allegation of NGO Assam Public Works that over 40 lakh illegal migrants from Bangladesh had got their names entered into electoral rolls and they should forthwith be deported.

In an affidavit placed before an apex court bench of justices P Sathasivam and Ranjan Gogoi on Thursday, the Indian government, however, assured the court that it was committed to weeding out illegal migrants from the state.

The apex court, while taking on record the affidavit, posted the matter for further hearing to November 6.

"That the proposed modality suggested by the petitioner NGO to identify and delete

alleged doubtful voters from the voter list 2006 based on religious and linguistic profiling is prima facie illegal, arbitrary and violation of secular and democratic fabric of India.

"That the prayer made by the petitioner cannot be allowed as it violates the Constitution mandate," said the affidavit filed by the Indian Home Ministry.

The government said "curbing illegal migration into the country is a priority since it has serious security, economic and societal ramifications".

The government said it has developed a mechanism to identify the doubtful voters by listing their names in category "D" who are neither allowed to vote nor contest any elections.

According to the government, to curb infiltration it has strengthened the BSF equipping it with modern and sophisticated equipment/gadgets, raised additional battalions, intensified patrolling and taken up other measures.

India can win gold for graft

Says Ramdev

IANS, New Delhi

If the Olympics gave a medal for corruption, India could have won a gold, yoga guru Baba Ramdev said yesterday as thousands poured into the Ramlila Grounds here for day two of his fast.

Calling on all of India to support his agitation against black money and graft, Ramdev said: "India could have won gold if there was a competition for corruption in the Olympics."

He started the day with a yoga camp, before addressing the crowd in a speech that pitched for his movement against black money as well as for a stringent Lokpal bill, an independent Central Bureau of Investigation and a citizen's charter - also the demands of the now disbanded Team Anna.

Indians pack bags for Dubai 'begging fest'

TNN, Chennai

Scores of Indians are flying to Dubai on a 'business opportunity' during Ramzan. Not all of them return soon enough though, as the business of begging is an offence in the Gulf country.

The Dubai police have arrested 131 people, including 16 from Tamil Nadu, for begging during the holy month. Devout Muslims are generous with alms (zakat) during Ramzan, though seeking alms in public can land one in trouble.

Diplomatic sources said a lot of Asians head for Dubai during the season. A beggar from Pakistan was caught with 18,000 Dirhams (around 2.45 lakh) during a recent raid.

According to the Dubai police, this is an annual organised operation. "Even employed people come from different countries to seek alms in Dubai during Ramzan," said a source. "After paying for their return tickets and the short stay, they still carry a handsome amount back home."

Though details of Indians arrested for begging in Dubai were not known, sources said that all of them had Indian passports and valid visas valid for 45 days.

Bahrain, Muscat and Qatar are also preferred begging destinations during Ramzan.

Riot survivors too scared to return home in Assam

REUTERS, Bilaspur

There was little time to do anything but grab her two young boys and run as fast as she could when the gunmen came into the northeast Indian village in the dead of night and began firing.

Along with scores of other villagers, nine-months pregnant Rohima Begum hid with her family waist-deep in the rice fields as the gunshots rang out amid the screams of those left behind.

Eighteen days on, Rohima, like hundreds of thousands in Assam state, languishes in a displacement camp - too scared to go home after the worst ethnic violence in India in a decade.

But the government says the violence, in which 75 people have been killed and more than 400,000 displaced, is over and has set a deadline for fleeing villagers to return to their homes - India's Independence Day on August 15.

Violence between the Bodo tribespeople and Muslim communities broke out on July 20, after unidentified men killed four Bodo youths. In retaliation, armed Bodos - who dominate Kokrajhar and Chirang districts - attacked Muslims, suspecting them of being behind the deaths.



Communal clashes have since ensued and fleeing survivors speak of large groups of men armed with automatic weapons surrounding entire villages, going on the rampage, gunning down people or hacking them to death with machetes. Hundreds of villages have been looted and razed.

The number of killings has decreased now, but there are at least one or two reports of fresh corpses being found every day and the situation remains tense.

Both the displaced Bodos and Muslim community say they can no longer live together.

Tensions have long existed between the two groups in this region.

Bodo say many of the

Muslims, who over the years have grown to outnumber the Bodos, are illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

The Muslims say they are Indian citizens and have voting rights.

This is not the first time that the two groups have clashed. In 1993, Bodos attacked Muslims and other communities resulting in around 2,000 deaths and thousands displaced.

Almost 300 schools, colleges and community centres have been converted into relief camps.

Despite medical teams visit every few days, twenty-two people have died so far in the camps, while around 8,000 children are sick, according to government figures.

Survivors say they cannot live in such conditions, but add that it is better than dying at the hands of armed mobs.

"We do not want to live like this, but we will not go back. The security forces cannot protect us. They cannot be there 24 hours a day, guarding us," says Barendra Brahma, 70, a retired school teacher.

"I was born in that village. If I go back now, it will only be to die."

Social Development Foundation (SDF) Invitation for Tender. House # 4, Road # 21, Sector # 4, Uttara Model Town, DHAKA-1230. Includes details for procurement of IT equipment.

Legal Notice in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. COMPANY MATTER NO. 153 OF 2012. Urs A. Arcon and others versus Evitex Polycot Ltd. and others.

BRAC Invitation for Tender [Bus, Jeep and Delivery Pick-Up]. Includes details for procurement of vehicles.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Digital Information System Project. Invitation for Tender (Lab Decoration).