

BSF kills Bangladeshi

A CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot a Bangladeshi cattle trader dead in Goborda area of India, opposite to Boikari border of Satkhira, early yesterday.

The deceased is Ataur Rahman, 30, from Babulia village in Satkhira.

Villagers in the bordering area said BSF personnel of Goborda camp in India's West Bengal opened fire at some 25 Bangladeshi nationals leaving Ataur dead on the spot around 4:00am, while they were returning from India with cattle.

Sources said Ataur's body with a bullet in his abdomen had been abandoned there for around seven hours when Indian villagers went to the spot to watch the body.

Later, the Basirhat police rushed to the spot and sent the body to Bodortola hospital under Basirhat subdivision of India, for an autopsy, sources added.

Commander of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) 38 Battalion Lt Col Abu Basir confirmed the killing adding that the incident occurred deep inside the Indian territory.

A letter was sent to BSF Tarali camp from BGB Boikari camp in protest at the killing, added Basir.

JS session on Sept 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 14th session of the ninth parliament gets underway on September 4 at 4:00pm.

President Zillur Rahman yesterday in his constitutional authority convened the session, read a Parliament Secretariat press release.

The Business Advisory Committee, led by Speaker Abdul Hamid, will sit on that day to decide the business of the ensuing session of the parliament, which started its journey on January 25 of 2009.

The session is likely to be very brief.

The BNP-led opposition lawmakers may not join the upcoming session as they have been boycotting the House since March this year.

Medical Colleges

FROM PAGE 1
have at least a combined GPA of 18 in Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) to apply for admission, said an official who attended the meeting.

The official, however, said the authorities were yet to decide on the minimum individual GPA required in SSC and HSC or outline the technical details of how to fill up the limited seats with students from amongst thousands of top-graders applying for admission to medical colleges.

"For foreign students, their GPA-7 will be equivalent to our GPA-8," the official added.

Sources in the ministry said the decision was made to prevent irregularities centering around admission tests. Besides, holding the admission tests is a huge task, and the risk of question papers leaking out always remains, they added.

Earlier, students were enrolled in the medical colleges through admission tests. The government last year took a combined medical and dental admission test for both public and private medical colleges.

Health Secretary Humayun Kabir, senior officers of the ministry, representatives of Bangladesh Medical Association and representatives of private medical colleges were present at the meeting.

There are 22 government medical colleges that can accommodate around 2,811 students while 53 private medical colleges have 4,245 seats. Last year, around 40,000 candidates applied for admission.

Rain, traffic chaos batter life in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Long bumper-to-bumper tailbacks were seen on almost all major streets yesterday as a daylong drizzle intensified traffic jams, causing immense sufferings for thousands of city dwellers.

Passengers passed agonising minutes waiting in their vehicles to cross intersections.

Most roads that lead to the major shopping hubs and exit points of the capital were clogged with vehicles as Eid shoppers poured in and many started to leave for their homes, witnesses and traffic police said.

Many people, including children and women with shopping bags in hands, were seen walking through dilapidated roads and footpaths due to an absence of adequate public transport.

Daylong rains caused waterlogging on many streets, obstructing vehicular movements. People were seen crossing roads by wading through knee-deep filthy water.

Movements of pedestrians and vehicles became difficult due to stagnant water on roads linked to Rokeya Sarani-Bijoy Sarani-Shewarpara, Shyamoli-Kalyanpur-Khamarbari, Dhanmondi-Elephant Road-Shahbagh, Paltan-Fakirapool-Kamalapur, Gulistan-Sayadabad-Jatrabari-Dayanganj-Jurain.

Talking to The Daily Star, Alomgir Kabir, deputy commissioner (DC) of traffic (South division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, held the daylong drizzle responsible

for intensifying yesterday's traffic jam.

Traffic police were seen standing helpless at many intersections while some of them were grappling with heavy traffic on the streets in a bid to ease commuters' sufferings.

Numerous potholes and unplanned digging on city streets by different government agencies only worsened the situation. Many vehicles were seen trapped in large potholes.

To capitalise on the Eid shopping spree, hawkers set up their makeshift shops on the pavements and streets, narrowing down the busy thoroughfares. This added to the congestion in many areas.

"Almost two-thirds of the roads at different places remained submerged in stagnant water, and many drivers did not dare to have their vehicles pass through such roads out of fear the potholes could damage the engines," DC Alomgir said.

"Usually more vehicles ply the city roads in Ramadan every year and, therefore, almost all roads remain packed with vehicles," he added.

Adnan Sheikh, a motorcyclist who started for Mirpur from Jatrabari, said it took him a staggering two hours to reach Paltan.

"Usually it takes less than an hour to reach Mirpur from Jatrabari," he added.

Jamal Hossain, driver of a public bus, said almost one and a half hours elapsed before he could reach Shahbagh from Bangabandhu Avenue.

Gazipur-4 by-polls on Sept 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

By-election to the Gazipur-4 parliamentary constituency is likely to be held on September 30, Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz said yesterday.

"The schedule for the elections will be announced on August 23," he told reporters at his office at the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat.

The seat has fallen vacant following the resignation of the ruling Awami League MP Tanjim Ahmad Sohail Taj from parliament.

Asked about the boycott of main opposition BNP, the election commissioner said "We will perform our duties. We do not have any plan to bring a particular party to the election."

"We will encourage the political parties participating in the polls."

On engaging the members of law enforcement agencies, he said the law enforcers would be deployed as per rules. "We do not feel any necessity for deployment of the army to ensure security of the by-polls."

It will be the first election under the current EC which was constituted in early February this year.

The EC Secretariat has already completed all preparations for holding the polls.

About registration of political parties, the election commissioner said the EC would issue notification in September urging the new parties to get registered with it to qualify for contesting the parliamentary polls.

BCL leader

FROM PAGE 1

officer-in-charge of Rangunia Police Station, said the murder had taken place following a clash between two AL factions -- one led by Chairman of Rajanagar Union Parishad Jamal Uddin Mostafa Jahangir and the other by Milton Chowdhury, AL president of Islampur Union.

Supporters of both the groups were locked in a clash at Ranirhat Bazar around 10:30pm. On information, police went to the spot and dispersed the activists around 11:15pm.

The OC said victim Rashed, who was loyal to Milton group, came under attack when he was returning home around 11:30pm. Some unruly AL men intercepted his motorcycle at Madhyam Ghagra village and stabbed him indiscriminately, leaving him seriously injured.

Rashed died on the way to Chittagong Medical College Hospital shortly after midnight. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for an autopsy.

There had been a long-standing conflict between Jamal Uddin and Milton over establishing supremacy in the area, said the OC quoting locals.

Bakhtiar Sayed Iran, president of BCL Chittagong district (north) unit, however, claimed that BNP men were behind the killing.

Some local BNP leaders and activists were supposed to join AL yesterday, he said, so other BNP men killed Rashed "to foil the programme".

BNP Chittagong district (north) unit President Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury refuted the allegation. Rashed was killed by his rival activists following the AL's factional clash, he told The Daily Star.

Yesterday afternoon, police arrested Md Mohiuddin, 25, Md Sekander, 28, and Sujon Nath, 28, in Rangunia, Pijush Kanti Singh, assistant sub-inspector of the

Uganda

FROM PAGE 1

are very happy because we haven't won a medal," said Kiprotich.

"The pace was too fast and I knew I could not run away from them so I just had to keep up with them (Kipsang and kirui)."

"I tried to settle and then I had to break away because I wanted to win this medal."

It was Uganda's second ever gold medal after John Akii-Bua won the 400m hurdles in the 1972 Games in Munich, with the east African country's only other medal a bronze from 400m runner Davis Kamonga in 1996.

New strategy

FROM PAGE 1
government high-ups that if the strategy is not prepared, the government may face difficulties getting future commitments from Japan.

The finance ministry official said opposing views are there within the government about at least 15 key issues cited in the strategy.

The major reason behind the disagreement is if the issues are included in the strategy, development partners may attach those as conditions for the government for getting funds in future.

The draft strategy paper was placed in a cabinet meeting for approval in May, but it did not get through.

The cabinet formed a seven-member committee led by Finance Minister AMA Muhith for further scrutiny of the strategy.

The committee sat in June

and the members split over several key issues. It then sent back the draft to the cabinet division for further examination.

Appointment of ombudsman is a key issue in the strategy. Though it was an election pledge of the ruling party, the government is yet to appoint any ombudsman.

The draft also says a law will be enacted to set up a separate department to investigate corruption allegations.

According to the draft, lawmakers, government officials and judges will have to submit their wealth statements to the authorities concerned for publication every year.

The government will frame rules and policies for appointing judges, election commissioners, the chairman of the Public Service Commission. Besides, an act will be passed

for appointing the attorney general for a five-year stint.

The finance ministry official said the committee led by the finance minister would decide on whether these issues would be in the final strategy paper.

The strategy paper contains detailed action plans on parliament, Election Commission, comptroller and auditor general, Office of the Attorney General, Public Service Commission, ombudsmen, the executive, the judiciary, local government, Anti-Corruption Commission, political parties, private sector and mass media.

There will be several committees for implementing the strategy. An advisory committee led by the prime minister will implement the action plans. Besides, there will be a National Integrity Implementation unit led by

PM for global actions

FROM PAGE 20

Similarly, development efforts were being hampered owing to impacts of climate change, Hasina mentioned.

Referring to the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN), Hasina said malnutrition was the largest single contributor to disease, and in childhood, "leads to physical and mental underdevelopment".

An estimated 146 million children living in developing countries were underweight as a result of acute and chronic hunger. More than 147 million pre-school children in developing countries face stunting. The Global Hunger Index indi-

cates that South Asia has the highest child malnutrition rate in the world.

Bangladesh represents 6 percent of global childhood under-nutrition, Hasina said adding that her government had been able to reduce under-nutrition from 42 percent to 36 percent and stunting from 43 percent to 41 percent.

One third of women in Bangladesh are undernourished, she said, and a large proportion of pregnant women were anaemic when micronutrient deficiencies were also major concerns.

To reduce childhood and maternal malnutrition, she said, the government was

focusing on the first 1000 days of life, and promoting delayed marriage and lowering incidences of low birth weight babies, and subsequent malnutrition.

She said the government launched a five-year National Nutrition Services (NNS) from July 2011 to integrate nutrition with the 11,000 community clinics already in operation.

A comprehensive approach to address the issue of nutrition was underway to improve dietary intake, food safety, hygiene practice, water and sanitation, immunisation, and health education, the premier said.

Russia agrees

FROM PAGE 1

likely to be signed by the end of this year, and Bangladesh has asked for three percent interest on the loan, they said.

Referring to previous Russian loans, a senior official of the ministry said, "The rate of interest this time may finally be four percent." He, however, preferred anonymity.

Bangladesh side at the talks in Moscow was led by the prime minister's economic affairs adviser Moshir Rahman.

State Minister for Science and Technology Ministry Yeafesh Osman, who was in the delegation, said Russia

would submit a proposal regarding the loan agreement within a month. "I hope their proposal will be positive for us," he told this correspondent.

Russian officials at the talks assured that Moscow would consider Dhaka's proposal for a reduced interest rate, Osman said.

The Russian delegation asked for completing in two years all the 60 studies required for setting up the nuclear plant, but Bangladesh would try to do so before that, Osman said.

Bangladesh has already conducted 12 studies, Russia will conduct 22 studies and

then Bangladesh will do the remaining 26.

Dhaka and Moscow had earlier inked agreements under which the latter would extend all kinds of assistance in setting up the nuclear plant.

Construction of the plant at Rooppur in Pabna would take about five years.

Meanwhile, a conference on nuclear power plant will be held in Dhaka at the end of this year. Experts from home and abroad, including those from the International Energy Agency, and different stakeholders would participate in it.

Forest boss removed

FROM PAGE 20

Earlier, a departmental work evaluation committee found evidence of funds misappropriation by him.

"There are several allegations of corruption committed by him. From the Bangabandhu Safari Park project he has gobbled up Tk 50 lakh in two years showing [false] purchase of wildlife," said an official of the Department of Forest on condition of anonymity.

An influential forester, Tapan was removed from another World Bank-supported project, "Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection in Asia", last week.

Chief Conservator of Forest Md Yunus Ali has been given charge of Bangabandhu Safari Park, while Aparup Chowdhury, deputy secretary of the environment and forest ministry, has replaced Tapan in the other project.

Although there were several allegations against Tapan, he was made chief of the two projects which altogether involve over Tk 550 crore.

Tapan initiated the Bangabandhu Safari Park in Gazipur when the present government came to power and was made its project director later. Initially, the project involved Tk 75 crore, which was later revised to Tk 270 crore.

Zakir Hossain, a wildlife trafficker who was arrested in connection with three tiger cubs rescued in the capital, recently named Tapan in his confessional statement.

He told journalists Tapan had asked him and others to bring the cubs from the Sundarbans for the safari park.

"Tapan Babu had bought a Gharial for us before 2001 for the Dulahazra Safari Park.

But he did not pay for it," Zakir told the journalists at the office of Rab-2 after his arrest.

Ministry sources say Tapan showed around Tk 50 lakh as having been spent on purchases of different species of wildlife and their carrying and maintenance costs in the 2010-11 and 2011-12 fiscal years.

Only in 2011-2012 FY he showed more than Tk 40 lakh as spent on wildlife species purchase for the safari park.

However, "no species of wildlife was purchased in reality for the safari park," said an official, asking not to be identified.

"Different species of wildlife which were rescued at airports or along the border have been kept in the safari park. Tapan might have wanted to show those species as purchased wildlife," the official added.

On the basis of allegations against him, the Department of Forest formed a work evaluation committee in September 2011. The committee submitted its report in February 2012.

The report mentions that "there are some expenses shown in the book for purchasing wildlife and their maintenance even before making any animal shed in the safari park. However, the project director did not cooperate with the committee when asked about those animals".

"But we did not see any animals during our visit to the safari park as per his claims. There was even no evidence of tender floating to that end," said one of the three members of the committee.

The report also mentions that "more than Tk 27 lakh was overspent in connection with the nature history museum, water supply and

construction of a gate".

Another member of the evaluation committee told The Daily Star that Tapan did not maintain the book of project expenditures properly.

Tapan was one of the graft suspects during the rule of the last caretaker government and went into hiding until the Awami League-led alliance formed the government in 2009.

Neither Tapan nor the chief conservator of forests could be contacted over phone despite repeated attempts.

BGB jawans

FROM PAGE 20

the mutiny, creating panic by patrolling with firearms, escaping from Pilkhana when the officers were in danger and using armoured personnel carriers.

Of the convicts, 37 were jailed for seven years and the others for four months up to six years.

Some of the convicted jawans of RSB had won medals by taking part in various national-level sports tournaments.

This was the ninth verdict by special courts set up in Pilkhana, trying 2,645 jawans till date in the mutiny case. The court began its proceedings on August 4, 2010 and delivered its judgment after 53 working days and 203 witnesses' depositions.

Sixty-six of the convicted jawans were also accused in the BDR carnage case, said court prosecutor Lt Col Khandaker Zahirul Alam.

Delivering the verdict, the judge considered factors like past records and designation of the accused, their contribution to the 1971 Liberation War and period spent behind bars from arrest, he added.

Complete probe by Sept 27

Tribunal asks prosecution over Kashem's war crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday received a progress report on the investigation being done into Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mir Kashem Ali's alleged crime against humanity.

On behalf of the prosecution, Sultan Mahmud Simor submitted the report before the tribunal and sought more time to complete the investigation.

The tribunal, headed by its Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq, directed the prosecution to complete investigation by September 27.

It asked the prosecution to submit another progress report if it failed to complete the probe by then.

Mir Kashem was produced before the tribunal yesterday.

He was arrested on June 17, two hours after the tribunal had issued an arrest warrant against him for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity.

Meanwhile, defence counsels of Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayeede cross-examined Helal Uddin, the last prosecution witness, for 47th day yesterday.

Cross-examination of Helal Uddin, the investigation officer of the case, is supposed to be complete today.

At International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday, defence counsels of Abdul Quader Mollah cross-examined Abdul Majid Palowan, the seventh prosecution witness in the war crimes case against the Jamaat leader.

Majid during his testimony on August 8 had said Quader Mollah directly took part in the killing of around 60 people at Ghatachar of Keraniganj on November 25, 1971.

Majid said hiding behind a tree he had seen the Jamaat leaders shoot people.

The three-member tribunal headed by its Chairman Justice ATM Fazle Kabir adjourned the case proceeding until today.

Majid will face cross-examination today again. Defence counsel Abdus Sobhan Tarafder cross-examined the witness for 75 minutes and asked around 80 questions, mostly on the location of Majid's home.

Meanwhile, Shahrar Kabir, executive president of Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, yesterday urged the government to ensure required manpower and logistic support for the tribunals to complete the trials of at least top 10 war crimes suspects by 2013.

He made the call before the media after visiting International Crimes Tribunals at the old High Court building.

Shaheed Jaya Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, Shaheed Reza Noor, president of Projomno 71, accompanied Kabir.

Pointing out poor security measures at the tribunal building, the eminent journalist said, "The tribunal is under security threat."

Manmohan

FROM PAGE 20

politically important in the context of the national elections in Bangladesh due in next year and against the backdrop of some crucial bilateral issues remaining unresolved.

Talking to The Daily Star, sources in the party said formalities were going on for an arrangement of a meeting between Ershad, a key-leader in the ruling Awami League-led grand alliance government, and the newly elected first ever Bengalee President of India Pranab Mukherjee, and other important ministers and leaders of the Indian ruling Congress, including its chief, Sonia Gandhi.

Earlier, the Indian PM invited leader of the opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia but she has not responded yet, members of the BNP said.

Ershad took to the streets in recent months, demanding that the Teesta water sharing deal be signed soon and a joint study be conducted to assess environmental and socio-economic impacts of the Tipaimukh Dam project on the region before its implementation.

He also placed his demands before the Indian prime minister when he visited Bangladesh in September last year.