

**MEETING WITH BSF
BGB to raise
border killing,
drug issues**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will demand that Indian Border Security Force use non-lethal weapons and dismantle illegal factories of Phensedyl, a cough syrup banned in Bangladesh, along the Indian border.

The demand will be made at a director general-level conference between Border Guard Bangladesh and BSF in the capital. The conference will start today and end on September 28.

BGB chief Maj Gen Anwar Hossain said a 22-member BSF team led by its chief UK Bansal arrived here yesterday.

A person cannot be shot dead on sight along the border for whatever reason, said he, adding that BSF has already started using such weapons at some points.

"We will urge BSF to arrest Bangladeshi nationals crossing the border illegally and hand them over to Indian law enforcers instead of killing them," he said.

"We have prepared a list of over 70 Phensedyl [banned for widespread abuse] factories in the Indian territory and will give the list to the BSF chief, urging him to dismantle them," he added.

BSF will raise the issue of trafficking in fake Indian currency across the border, trespassing and an alleged attack on some BSF men by criminals, a BGB source said.

Other issues, including kidnapping of Bangladeshis, checking smuggling of Phensedyl, cannabis and other narcotics, will also be discussed at the conference.

BGB will discuss the issue of halting erection of a military development structure within 150 yards of the border.

BGB chief Maj Gen Anwar Hussain will lead the 25-member Bangladesh delegation at the conference.

Thirty-one Bangladeshi nationals were killed last year allegedly by BSF, said Odhikar, a rights body.



Peshajibi Nari Samaj forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding arrest and trial of the killers of Tasnim Rahman Karobi. A student of Birshreshtha Munshi Abdur Rof Riffles College at Pilkhana, Karobi was murdered in their Hazaribagh residence by some unidentified criminals on Monday. (Story on Page 2)

PHOTO: STAR

Hizb ut-Tahrir leader Golam Maola on five-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed an adviser to Hizb ut-Tahrir Prof Syed Golam Maola and one of his accomplices on a five-day remand for their alleged involvement in an attempt to destroy several diplomatic establishments in the capital.

The other arrestee is Maksudul Rahman, an activist of the banned Islamist outfit. Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Moniruzzamar passed the order after detective branch of police produced them before it with a ten-day remand prayer.

On Monday, Gulshan police arrested Maola from near Azad Mosque at Gulshan around 4:00pm, while Maksudul was arrested from Notunbazar area around 12:00 noon on the same day.

DB police said some members of the banned outfit including Maksudul gathered with leaflets and placards near US Embassy in the capital's Baridhara to make an attack on the embassy.

Marital rape should be criminalised

Seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marital rape should be recognised as an offence under The Domestic Violence Act, 2010, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

They were addressing the programme styled "Preventing Violence Against Women" organised by CARE Bangladesh at a hotel in the capital.

"Unfortunately, marital rape is not recognised as an offence in our culture. It is also a taboo to discuss the matter in public," said Shireen Huq, a founding member of Naripokkho, an organisation working for women's rights.

"Like other sexual offences, marital rape is traumatic for women but they hardly protest it as it is socially accepted that husbands have all rights over their wives, she said.

The perpetrators have not stopped committing violence and the victimised women do not feel socially motivated to overcome the trauma despite many awareness programmes, said Ayesha Khanam, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, among others, spoke.

Rangamati violence aimed at destabilising CHT

Alleges protest rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recent violence in Rangamati, in which about 20 people were injured following clashes between Bangalee settlers and Adivasi people, was pre-planned and part of a conspiracy to make the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) unstable, speakers said at a protest rally yesterday.

The Bangalee settlers attacked the indigenous people in presence of law enforcers, they said, and termed the attack "communal".

The speakers demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the instigators of the attack and the attackers, punitive action against the law enforcers who gave direct or indirect provocation to the violence, and immediate implementation of the CHT peace treaty.

The Saturday clashes at Rangamati Government College reportedly broke out over "a trivial matter".

Prof Mesbah Kamal, president of Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolan, however, said, "It's not an isolated or trivial incident. Such incident is on the rise, and it is unwarranted."

Fifteen years have passed since the CHT peace accord was signed, yet the attack on Adivasi is on, he told the rally organised by Nagorik Samaj on the DU campus. "Please don't take any more test of their [indigenous people's] patience," he added.

Rabindranath Soren, president of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, said there was no reason to think that the indigenous people would remain silent if such attacks continued. "But we want to keep faith in the government and urged them to stop such repression."

5 to die for Keraniganj cloth trader murder

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced five people, including three siblings to death for killing a cloth trader at Keraniganj of Dhaka in October, 2011.

The convicts are three brothers--Arif Bepari, Sharif Bepari and Sajib Bepari-- Farhad Howlader and Md Sohel.

Mohammad Nuruzzaman, 45, a cloth trader and a resident of Kaliganj in Keraniganj, was killed following a feud between the two groups centering stealing of money from his cloth shop on October 23 last year.

Judge Mohammad Motahar Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal Court-4 of Dhaka handed down the verdict.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence had completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 23 prosecution witnesses.

Aklima Begum, wife of the victim, filed a case with Dhakin Keraniganj Police Station following the killing of her husband.

On December 24 last year, the case's investigation officer pressed charges against the five.



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