

2 Bangladeshi farmers shot by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot and injured two Bangladeshi farmers near Ratnai border in Baliadangi of Thakurgaon early yesterday.

The injured, 28-year-old Toriql Islam and 25-year-old Firoz Mahmud are undergoing treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and local sources said the BSF members of Sonamoti Camp under 14 BSF Battalion opened fire on the duo around 2:00am, while they were guarding a ripe aman field along the border, leaving them injured.

Lt Col Touhidul Islam, commanding officer of BGB 30 Battalion, confirmed the incident and said BGB sent a protest letter to its Indian counterpart for holding a flag meeting immediately.

PADMA BRIDGE
WB wants to start work without delay

BSS, Doha, Qatar

A senior official of the World Bank (WB) yesterday said the bank wants to start the construction of the Padma bridge without further delay resolving the present stalemate considering its importance on Bangladesh's economy.

World Bank Vice President and Head of Network for Sustainable Development Rachel Kyte said this in a meeting with Minister for Environment and Forests Dr Hasan Mahmud at Qatar National Convention Centre.

Mahmud and Rachel are now in Doha to attend the 18th Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

"Ms Rachel told me that they are looking into the matter of Padma bridge with high importance and want to start construction of the bridge without any delay," Mahmud told reporters after the meeting.

In the meeting, the minister underlined the importance of construction of the bridge saying it will not only be a great boost for economic development of Bangladesh but also a leap for the most climate vulnerable people of the southern parts of the country linking the area with other parts including the capital Dhaka.

Mahmud said they have discussed many issues particularly on strengthening cooperation for environmental protection and tiger conservation, and ways for working together globally for combating climate change.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman and Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forests Shafiqur Rahman Patwari were also present during the meeting.



A macaw rests on the arm of a visitor at the end of a two-day fair of foreign and domestic birds organised by the Avicultural Society of Bangladesh at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



A fire engulfs tin-shed houses in a slum, known as Pump Basti, at south Kamalapur in the capital yesterday. Seven houses were burnt down before five fire fighting units were able to douse the flames around 6:30pm.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Visitors throng tech summit in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inquisitive people, especially the young, were eagerly looking at different stalls experiencing Bangladesh's progress towards digitalisation at a tech summit yesterday.

Both government and private organisations were busy showcasing innovations of digital technologies they adopted in the last four years on the second day of the tech summit yesterday.

The three-day summit styled "Digital World- 2012 Bangladesh" is being held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

The event has been organised on the concept of e-Asia 2011 and the fair will end today.

The Ministry of Information Communication Technology (ICT), Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) and Access to Information (A2I) Programme of the Prime Minister's Office jointly organised the event.

Visitors at the summit were eagerly observing how to pay tax online, how to register for getting jobs in Malaysia, how to get digital number plates for vehicles, and how to pay gas and electricity bills

online.

The three-day event includes 28 conferences, seminars, technical and plenary sessions, roundtables, workshops with 130 speakers and exhibitions.

Sixty private organisations, 27 government institutions and a number of international organisations are participating at the event.

At the fair, Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation is introducing the digital e-purjee system.

After installing this system, farmers can order sugarcane through SMS option of a mobile phone.

The education ministry has been displaying machines which can be used to check OMR (optical mark reading) forms and answer sheets of multiple choice questions.

In the exhibition zone, The Daily Star found university students demonstrating robots and software.

There were teams from AIUB, Ruet and Brac University, among others, displaying their software and automated machines.

Government institutions were displaying the latest technologies they have developed and how those work.

Form rights body for indigenous people

Syed Abul Maksud urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent columnist Syed Abul Maksud yesterday urged the government to form a separate human rights commission for indigenous people.

"There is a National Human Rights Commission. But indigenous community faces special problems. So, a human rights commission for indigenous people is needed to solve their special problems and protect their rights," he said while addressing a roundtable discussion.

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Adivasi Poribesh Rokkha Andolon (APRA) jointly organised the discussion titled "Life and Livelihood Policy of Indigenous People and Legal Rights: Perspective of Khasia Community" at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Maksud, also an executive member of Bapa, said the commission would be formed with eight to ten members representing the government, indigenous community and civil society. It will inform, negotiate and liaison with the government to solve the problems of indigenous communities and protect their rights.

Noted theatre personality Mamunur Rashid said the Khasia community in Moulvibazar and in greater Sylhet division was facing the threat of extinction while the government remained silent.

APRA Coordinator Sharif Jamil and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum General Secretary Sanjib Drong also addressed the discussion.

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The Daily Star
Star Camps
LINKING YOUNG MINDS TOGETHER

COMING OUT TOMORROW
LINKING YOUNG MINDS

This week's Star Campus, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, will have some exciting articles for the readers. The Spotlight this week is on how it is absolutely viable for someone to keep fit and be healthy for no cost at all. The Campus Trends this week is also the feasibility of skin care products for this season if one knows where to look. Get some good tips and tricks on how to take care of yourself in a low budget! The Star Chat this week is with musician Zihan Jasper Al-Rashid as he shares stories from his childhood and about his inspirations and aspirations. Do not forget to grab your copy of Star Campus, as it hits the country tomorrow, Sunday. And, as always, have a great read!

DHAKA TODAY

Meeting
Nagorik Sanghati will organise a meeting on waterlogging; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion
Muktijoddha Oikya Parishad will hold a discussion marking Victory Day; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Discussion
Asia Human Rights Foundation will organise a discussion on role of local government; Venue: Bangladesh National Museum; Time: 10:30am.

Rally
Bangladesh Chhatra Federation will hold a rally marking its 10th central council; Venue: at the base of Aparajeya Bangla, Dhaka University; Time: 11:30am.

Memorial lecture
Selina Bahar Jaman Smriti Parishad will organise the "7th Selina Bahar Jaman Memorial Lecture"; Venue: RC Majumder Auditorium, Dhaka University; Time: 4:00pm.

Rally
Oikyaboddho Sangbadik Samaj will hold a rally demanding, among others, trial into the murder of journalist couple Sagar-Runi; Venue: before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Seminar
Dhaka School of Economics will organise a seminar "Healthy student politics: How it assists resilient politics and