



The collapse of this brick wall in Badda in the capital yesterday claimed the lives of two construction workers and sent two others to hospital. Instead of using pilings to stop dirt sliding into the trench for the foundation, the brick wall was built, inset.

PHOTO: STAR

Qaeda for intifada in Bangladesh?

FROM PAGE 1

Zawahiri, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam told this newspaper yesterday.

Zawahiri, an Egyptian physician, took the helm of the much-feared global militant organisation after US Navy SEALs killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan in 2011.

The audiovisual material starts with photographs from the May 5, 2013 Hefajat-e Islam rally in Dhaka and the subsequent crackdown by law enforcers on it.

"A massacre of Muslims is being carried out these days, and the Muslim world is totally oblivious to it. The western media is colluding with the killers to belittle its significance and hide the facts," the message said.

"Hundreds of callers to the religion and scholars are also facing hardships, manhunts, imprisonment, trials, death sentences and life imprisonments without any guilt," it said.

"My Muslim brothers in Bangladesh, I invite you to confront this crusader onslaught against Islam, which is being orchestrated by the leading criminals in the subcontinent and the West..."

The release went on, "Bangladesh is the victim of the conspiracy in which the agents of India, the corrupt leadership of the Pakistan army, and treacherous power hungry politicians of Bangladesh and Pakistan, who are always prepared to sacrifice everything for the sake of fulfilling their ambitions and desires, were all equal participants."

Turning to the Liberation War, 1971, the message said, "Their purpose was not independence from Pakistan, stopping the aggression against the people of Bangladesh, or getting rid of military rule in Pakistan." The real purpose was weakening the Muslim Ummah in the subcontinent, the release claimed.

Bangladesh is being turned into "a subjugated surrogate of India", it also said.

"Those who massacred the Muslims in Bangladesh only yesterday are the same people who are massacring the Muslims in Pakistan today. Similarly, those who allied with India against Pakistan by claiming that they sought

to defend the honour and sanctities of Bengalis are the same people who are attacking the sanctities, beliefs, honour, lives and properties of Bengalis today."

While accusing the media for downplaying the alleged attacks, he also criticised the West for remaining "unmoved".

The events in Bangladesh enjoy the blessings of both India and America, "since their interests in fighting Islam overlap, and this is why their bilateral relations are becoming stronger day by day".

When people of Afghanistan, Mali, and Somalia "decide to implement" Shariah", "they are then met with a full-fledged military onslaught, in which the leading international criminals and their local surrogates take part".

"But when Salman Rushdie, Taslima Nasrin and Ali Rajib Haider insult Islam, the Prophet of Islam (pbuh), and the beliefs of Islam, they are treated as heroes who must be defended, honoured, and given awards," said the al-Qaeda chief.

Comparing the situation in Bangladesh with the attacks on Muslims in Myanmar, he said, "The events in Bangladesh and Burma are not too distant from the oppression and killings of Muslims in Kashmir or the racial cleansing in Assam, Gujarat and Ahmadabad either."

'GOVT NOT FRIGHTENED'

Bangladesh has worked with different countries to combat terrorism and gradually built its capacity to deal with the issue in the last five years, State Minister Shahriar told The Daily Star.

"Our efforts and successes in the arena of counterterrorism have been praised by many countries and international platforms. I hope that our partners will continue cooperating with us in this regard."

He alleged the BNP-Jamaat alliance was making political efforts to belittle Bangladesh and it has been instigating international terrorist organisations like al-Qaeda by its irresponsible comments and activities.

The opposition alliance has chosen the path of terrorism as it failed to do anything democratically, Shahriar said. "They carried out terrorist activi-

ties before the parliamentary election and now they are issuing threats through the international terror groups like al-Qaeda."

BNP leaders in Brussels urged the European Union to suspend Bangladesh's trade privileges in the market but their effort went futile, said the state minister.

The recent filing of a complaint against Bangladesh with the International Criminal Court (ICC) was also not by coincidence, he added.

British lawyer Toby Cadman, who represented the Jamaat-e-Islami, filed the complaint on February 14, urging the ICC to conduct an investigation into "the persecution of political foes by the government".

The complaint was filed 10 days after BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in a press briefing cited imaginary figures of unnatural deaths. "The complaint quoted those imaginary figures," Shahriar said.

Asked about the government's next course of action regarding the complaint, he said, "We have learnt about it unofficially and are preparing to respond to it. We will prove that the accusation is false once the ICC informs us of it formally."

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said the government was neither taking the so-called al-Qaeda threat lightly nor giving it too much importance. "The government is not frightened by the threat."

Meanwhile, State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan told the BBC Bangla service that he had not heard of the audio message but "I would say regarding this that we are always alert to the matter and that we will never allow the rise of terrorism in our country."

Asked about the post, Senior Home Secretary CQK Mustaq Ahmed said they are looking into it.

Also, Director General of the Rapid Action Battalion Mokhlesur Rahman said the al-Qaeda chief's so-called statement did not go with the real picture in Bangladesh. "The situations in Bangladesh and Afghanistan are not the same."

The law enforcement agencies are always ready to deal with such threats, the official added.

Two killed in city 'shootout'

FROM PAGE 1

Mohammad Jewel, 32, at Kajla in Nayanagar in the area yesterday morning.

Deputy Commissioner Ilias Sharif claimed, "We had several complaints against them." He added they had taken the arrestees to Balur Math to recover firearms and seized a pistol and a revolver along with several bullets.

"However, at one stage their accomplices gathered there and started shooting at us. So, we had to control

the attack," he claimed.

The police claimed the arrestees were caught in the line of fire and killed in the spot, while others fled. Three policemen suffered minor injuries, said Mohiuddin.

"Salauddin was accused in eight cases, five of them were for murders," claimed the assistant commissioner.

At least 33 people have so far been killed in "crossfire" in alleged shootouts with police, Rab and the joint

forces since January this year, said Ain O Salish Kendra based on reports of 14 major newspapers.

The ringleader of the forest robber gang is Siraj Sikdar. He allegedly led the robber gang called "Siraj Sikdar Bahini".

The gang was gathering in the area when police launched a raid before the "shootout" began, claimed Sikdar Akkas Ali, officer-in-charge of Dakope Police Station.

Peacekeepers disarm militias in Central Africa capital

AFP, Bangui

French and African peacekeepers yesterday seized weapons from militia in the capital of the strife-torn Central African Republic, but failed to detain a wanted leader of the rogue groups.

The international troops went house to house for about four hours in Bangui's Boy Rabe neighbourhood, the base of mostly Christian militias

whose attacks have driven many minority Muslims from the city in recent weeks, sparking warnings of "ethnic cleansing".

Automatic weapons, grenades and a large number of munitions were seized in the operation that involved some 250 peacekeepers and police, according to an AFP correspondent on the scene.

"All people who were found to have weapons in their homes have been

identified and will be handed over to the police," a peacekeeper from the African Union MISCA mission told AFP.

But despite surrounding the house of a senior militia leader Patrice Edouard Ngaissona, the soldiers failed to capture the man who casts himself as the political coordinator of the fearsome "anti-balaka" militias.

"They didn't manage to take me, I was out," Ngaissona said later.

Two killed

FROM PAGE 16

officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station. The owners were building a six-storey structure without taking adequate safety measures, he claimed.

"They had dug deep for the foundation of the building but did not install any piling and reinforcing was done with only a brick wall," he added.

Two contractors were detained in this connection.

Fire brigade sources said they had rushed to the spot but found the victims had already been pulled out of the rubble by locals.

Padma bridge

FROM PAGE 16

"The construction work of the main bridge will begin in June, while that on river training in July," he mentioned.

The minister was talking to journalists after visiting Mawa-Jazira connecting road at Madbarchar of Shibchar upazila.

The construction of river protection dyke at Jazira point is at the last stage while that of dyke at the Mawa end will begin soon, he added.

Quader, who frequently visits road construction works across the country, said five percent work on Mawa connecting road has been completed while 22 percent work on Jazira connecting road.

Construction of four rehabilitation centres for those who will be affected for land acquisition, is at the final stage, he noted.

Fire kills two

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Col Saeed Sarhan, civil defence spokesman in the Makkah region, said eight rescue teams put out the blaze and rescued residents trapped inside the building.

The bodies were kept at King Abdulaziz Hospital.

"After completion of the formal procedures, the bodies will be brought back home soon," Mohsin Chowdhury, director (welfare) at the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training, told The Daily Star.



PHOTO: STAR

The injured students of Benapole Primary School being treated at Jessore Medical College Hospital last night.

Kerry to urge climate change action

AFP, Jakarta

US Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Indonesia yesterday on a visit to highlight concerns over climate change, after agreeing with China to boost joint efforts to fight global warming.

"In order to meet the global and the economic challenge of climate change, undeniably all of us are going to have to do more," Kerry said earlier yesterday.

China and the United States are the world's two largest emitters of greenhouse gases blamed for global warming, accounting for some 40 percent of total

planetary emissions.

Kerry's comments during a 24-hour visit to Beijing came as a thick grey smog shrouded the Chinese capital, with pollution reaching "hazardous" levels on unofficial air quality indexes late Friday.

"We both have a special role to play in reducing those emissions," Kerry told workers at the Cummins-Foton joint venture producing clean diesel engines.

In Jakarta, Kerry will hold talks with senior Indonesian leaders including President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono during his two-day visit to the country.

Stop killings right away

FROM PAGE 1

second anniversary at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council's auditorium in the capital.

No extra-judicial killing, whatever the name is or excuse is cited for, can continue in the country, said the NHRC chief.

Also a law professor at Dhaka University, Mizanur said when he took office in 2010, he had strongly protested extra-judicial killing and it seemed that such killings had come down to zero percent. But recently this has started again.

Law enforcers' versions of every "shootout" remained the "same", just there were changes in the names of victims, places of occurrence, time and dates, he pointed out.

"We can't let our head down before the world community for our human rights situation," he added.

On the custodial death of a youth in the capital's Mirpur, he said the NHRC will investigate the incident.

Any custodial death is not acceptable at all as it a clear violation of human rights, mentioned Mizanur.

About the recent incident at Gazipur Juvenile Development

Centre, he said suspension is not enough for the people responsible for the trouble. Rather, they should be punished for such an incident.

An NHRC team, he added, has been probing the incident and it is likely to submit its report by tomorrow (Sunday). On the basis of the report, the rights body will ask the authorities concerned to take action against the people responsible.

Speaking at the programme, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, chairman of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, said, "The state is being run by the powerful.... It's only for the powerful, not for the poor and helpless.... The country is failing to save the weak people."

All state institutions like the Election Commission and Anti-Corruption Commission have been weakened for benefiting the powerful, he complained, adding that people will have to continue their movement for upholding their rights.

Former secretary of Supreme Court Bar Association SM Rezaul Karim, Manabdhikar Khabor editor and publisher Reaz Uddin, among others, spoke at the programme.

Cop caught in the act

FROM PAGE 16

"Since the victims are involved in criminal activities, they don't dare to inform the law enforcement agencies about such incidents or seek help," Habibur Rahman, director of Rab media wing, told The Daily Star.

"We suspect that such criminal gangs are also active in other areas in the country," Habib added.

Rab arrested Faziquel Islam, assistant sub-inspector at Savar Model Police Station, and his three accomplices while they were abducting a smuggler, who was illegally carrying US dollars, in Savar around 12:30am yesterday.

"ASI Faziquel led the abduction using his pistol, ammunition and hand-cuff while he was off-duty," the Rab official said at a press briefing at the Rab headquarters in the capital yesterday afternoon.

The other three gang members are Rezaul Haq, 40, a former army soldier, Sujan Sheikh, 25, a police informer, and Miran Khan, 35, a local criminal.

Rab seized an illegal firearm, two sharp weapons, two pairs of handcuffs, a piece of iron rod and a motorbike from the gang members.

Faziquel, who joined the police force in 1999 as a constable, was promoted to ASI in 2011. He was posted at Savar Police Station in June last year.

In an investigation a few months back, The Daily Star found that police personnel at different tiers spend a huge amount of money to get postings to the police stations in Savar and Ashulia.

Once posted there, they try to recoup the amount through extortion, according to sources in the police department.

Asked about Faziquel yesterday, Mostafa Kamal, officer-in-charge of Savar Police Station, said Faziquel was off-duty since 8:00am on Friday.

Iraq PM tours battlefield city as 22 security personnel killed

AFP, Baghdad

Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki paid a visit yesterday to the battleground city of Ramadi, where security forces and allied tribesmen have for weeks fought to retake militant-held areas.

His inspection tour came as militants killed 22 soldiers and police over two days and kept their grip on part of

the northern town of Sulaiman Bek in a new front in the persistent rebellion against his Shiite-led government in Sunni Arab areas.

The visit is Maliki's first announced trip to Anbar province since jihadist militants and anti-government tribesmen seized control of parts of Ramadi and all of Fallujah to its east at the start of the year, in a major setback for his government.

সতর্কীকরন বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্ব সাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, আমরা নিম্নোক্ত সম্পত্তি-এর মূল মালিক ও ভোগদখলকার। ইদানিং কতিপয় জাতিগত ও দুর্ভুক্তকারী চক্র আমাদের উক্ত সম্পত্তির জাল কাগজপত্র সৃষ্টি করিয়া নিম্ন তফসিলভুক্ত সম্পত্তি বারান/ বিক্রি/ জবর দখল করার অপচেষ্টা করিতেছে। এমতাবস্থায় এই সম্পত্তি সম্পর্কিত কোনরূপ হস্তান্তর, দলিল না করার জন্য অত্র নোটিশের মাধ্যমে সর্বসাধারণকে অবহিত করা হইল। যদি কেহ তাহাদের সাথে কোনরূপ লেনদেন করেন তবে তার দায়ভার তাদেরকেই বহন করিতে হইবে। বর্তমানে এই সম্পত্তি সংক্রান্ত ২টি মামলা চলমান আছে।

(১) ঢাকার মহানগর ল্যান্ড সার্ভে ট্রাইবুনাল মিস মামলা নং ১৭/২০১২ইং।
(২) ঢাকার যুগ্ম জেলা জজ-১ম আদালত দেঃ মোঃ নং-৭২১/২০১৩ইং।
এই সম্পত্তিতে ১৯৬০ইং হইতে স্ট্যান্ডার্ড ম্যানুঃ কোং লিঃ এর একটি কারখানা আদ্যাবধি চালু আছে।

বিঃদ্রঃ এই বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বর্ণিত মামলা সমূহ সম্পূর্ণভাবে বিজ্ঞপ্তি না হওয়া পর্যন্ত বাংলাদেশের সকল ব্যাংক, জীজিং প্রতিষ্ঠান বা যে কোন অর্থ লগ্নিকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে (সরকারী/বেসরকারী) এই জমি সংক্রান্ত কোনরূপ লেনদেন, চুক্তিপত্র, বন্ধক, ইত্যাদি না করার অনুরোধ করছি। এর বিষয়ে কিছু জানতে চাইলে নিম্নে বর্ণিত প্রতিষ্ঠান বা ব্যাক্তিবর্গের সাথে সরাসরি যোগাযোগ করার অনুরোধ করছি।

তফসিল

কেলা-ঢাকা, থানা-সাবেক কোতোয়ালী হাটের সূত্রাপুর অধীন সি.এস. মৌজা শহর ঢাকার পতিয়ান নং-১৪৪০৮, ওয়ার্ড নং-০১, সিট নং-৫৪, দাগ নং-৮০, জমির পরিমাণ-৬৯.৪৪ শতাংশ। যাহার এস এ মৌজা সূত্রাপুর, খতিয়ান নং-৪০১১, দাগ নং-৭১৯৩, যাহার আর এস মৌজা সূত্রাপুর খতিয়ান নং-৩৫৯৭, দাগ নং-১১১৬৬, যাহার ঢাকা সিটি জরিপের খতিয়ান নং-৭৩২০, দাগ নং-৭০৬২, মোট জমির পরিমাণ ৭৩.৮৮ শতাংশ এর কাতে ৬৯.৪৪ শতাংশ, যাহা ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন এর ভেজিঃ নং-১৬, ফরাসগঞ্জ রোড, ঢাকা।

- 1) Standard Manufacturing Co. Ltd.
- 2) Hajee Qutubuddin & Others
- 3) Akhter Hossain & Others (Ali Hossain)
- 4) Mostafa Kamal & Others
- 5) Moshul Karim & Others
- 16, Farashganj Road, Dhaka-1100.