

## BGB rejoinder, our reply

The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) headquarters yesterday issued a rejoinder to the caption of a photograph run by The Daily Star on June 2.

The rejoinder said: "It came to the notice of Headquarters BGB about publishing of a pictorial news on 02 June, 2014, in the 11th page of The Daily Star which was captioned "With the help of locals, BGB members remove landmines buried by Myanmar Border Guard Police at Bangladesh-Myanmar border yesterday. The landmines were buried between 50 and 52 border pillars at Naikkhangchhari in Bandarban.

Information of the captioned picture is not true. No such operation was conducted by BGB on that day. HQ BGB feels that, publication of such news is done intentionally with a view to hamper our ongoing joint efforts of rebuilding mutual trust and understanding between two neighbouring countries. As such, Headquarters BGB strongly protests the published news."

### OUR REPLY

The picture along with the caption was taken from Banglar Chokh, a photo and news agency. When the matter was brought to the agency's notice, it sent a correction to this newspaper saying that they had mistakenly posted the caption on their website on June 1 without mentioning it as a file photo.

The agency apologised for the inadvertent mistake.

## India treated Pak PM like a schoolboy: Imran Khan

IANS, Islamabad

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf chairman Imran Khan on Monday said his country's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was treated like a schoolboy when he visited India to attend Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony last week.

By not meeting the representatives of the Hurriyat Conference in New Delhi, the prime minister had struck a bargain on Kashmir, Dawn online quoted Khan as saying.

Khan raised questions like if Sharif could meet Indian leaders in Delhi, then why could he not hold a meeting with those representing the Hurriyat Conference.

Earlier Sharif's national security and foreign affairs adviser Sartaj Aziz had said that Sharif's India trip for Modi's swearing-in was "in itself such a seismic event, the first time ever for a Pakistani leader, that it would have been unrealistic to expect any substantive breakthroughs.

Sharif met Modi on May 27 for the bilateral talks.

The two leaders discussed about issues including cross-border terrorism and agreed that terrorism was an issue of mutual concern and that they needed to address all conflicts to end the distrust between the two sides.

The Kashmir issue was discussed but not substantially.

Sharif did not meet the Hurriyat leadership as it was a ceremonial visit to India, Aziz had said.

## BSF kills

FROM PAGE 16

Habildar Halim Mollah, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) camp commander in Moheshpur.

When they tried to reach Haldarpara near Fatehpur camp in India, BSF members opened fire on the group, leaving Ripon dead on the spot. The rest of the cattle traders managed to escape unhurt and came back to Bangladesh territory with Ripon's body, BGB camp commander said.

The body was kept at Sreenathpur camp.

Protesting the killing, BGB sent a letter to BSF Fatehpur camp for holding a flag meeting, Mollah added.

## 7-MURDER PROBE BODY

# Nine N'ganj cops give depositions

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

The committee dealing with the gruesome seven-murder case in Narayanganj yesterday took deposition of nine police officials of the 12-member probe body.

Earlier, three other officials of the probe body, formed by police to investigate the incident, gave their depositions before the members of the 12-member committee, headed by Shahjahan Ali Mollah.

With yesterday's deposition, the committee, formed following a High Court order, has taken depositions from individuals for the eighth time.

The then additional police super (administration) Sajjadur Rahman, withdrawn additional police super (crime) Shahidul Islam, additional police super (DSB) Md Zakaria, Fatullah Model Thana assistant police super Abdullah Al Mamun, assistant police super (Ka Zone) Azimul Ahsan, assistant police super (Kha Zone) Jibon Kanti Sarker, inspector of district police special branch (DB-1) Moinur Rahman, Narayanganj Sadar Model Thana OC Monzur Quader and Bandar Thana OC Akhter Morshed gave their depositions at the district circuit house.

As on every other day, Narayanganj District Bar Association organised a protest rally and formed a human chain in Narayanganj city, demanding punishment for the killers.

The bar association president, advocate Md Sakhawat Hossain Khan, alleged that attempts were being made to divert the case from its normal course.

Though the name of Shamim Osman has cropped up at different points of the investigation, he had not been interrogated yet, let alone being arrested, he told The Daily Star.

Dipu Chowdhury, son of Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, had also not been quizzed, though his name also came up during the probe, he added.

Shahidul Islam, father-in-law of the murdered city corporation councillor Nazrul Islam, accused Dipu Chowdhury of mediating a deal between Noor Hossain and the Rab officials for Tk six crore.

Advocate Khan also said except the three Rab officials, no other people was arrested in connection with the killing and it raised suspicion that attempts were going on to divert the case.

## Gold smuggling

FROM PAGE 2

gold bars at Dhaka airport on April 27, detectives started investigation and launched a massive hunt for the people involved that led to the arrest.

He claimed the 106 gold bars worth Tk 46 crore were smuggled by the same gang.

Quoting the arrestees, the DMP spokesperson said Liton stayed most of his time in Singapore and Dubai and smuggled gold into Bangladesh by other members of the gang through different airports.

Another team of the gang later smuggled the gold to neighbouring countries including India, he added.

The gang used to smuggle gold twice a week and had been involved in

the crime for several years, Monirul further said.

The joint commissioner added the arrestees during preliminary interrogation had confessed that some vested quarters both in and outside the airport favoured them in exchange of money.

"We have got some names and are investigating the matter to be confirmed of their involvement," he added.

The nine arrestees are Ekramul Huq Parvez, 51, Mizanur Rahman Ripon, 32, Abul Hossain Suman, 33, Asim Kumar Sinha, 37, Abdul Kader, 33, Anisur Rahman, 34, Babul Poddar, 54, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, 41, and Jahidur Rahman, 35.

## Mamata now agreeable

FROM PAGE 16

move by the Indian central government to foster better mobility between people residing in enclaves on both sides of the border, reports Hindustan Times.

"We are holding talks on the proposal and have no problem in fostering better exchange among people living in enclaves in the two countries," the newspaper quoted her as saying.

Her comments came at a time when the newly elected Narendra Modi government has already said it will agree unconditionally to the exchange of enclaves between the two countries.

Mamata had earlier been opposed to the exchange move, arguing that while Bengal will get only about 7,000 acres, it will have to concede nearly 17,000 acres, notes the report.

India is home to 111 enclaves, locally

known as "chhit mahal", and Bangladesh 51. Residents of these enclaves are people virtually without a country.

The 111 Indian enclaves are spread over 17,158 acres of land and have a population of 37,369, says the report.

They are spread across four districts in Bangladesh -- Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari and Panchagarh.

The 51 Bangladesh enclaves, all located in Cooch Behar district of West Bengal, are spread over of 7,110 acres of land and have a population of 14,215.

In the past, several deals, including the Nehru-Noor treaty of 1958 and Indira-Mujib treaty (1974), were inked with a view to resolving the problem.

But the contentious issue could not be resolved due to opposition from various political parties and the West Bengal government.

## Yunus receives

FROM PAGE 16

"We are delighted that Prof Yunus has finally made it to Montreal to accept our award in person," Sonberg said.

"The work of social change is never easy. It requires intelligence, imagination, passion and commitment -- qualities which Prof Yunus possesses in spades as well as much more," she said.

The award was given to Prof Yunus in 2011, but he could collect it last week.

The award is being given since 2009 to recognise individuals or organisations who have made exceptional contributions to advancing equality, social justice and respect for human dignity.

On May 29, Yunus was in Ottawa to attend events organised by the Canadian

government. He addressed the staff of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, and participated in an event with the Economic and Social Development Canada.

Yunus had a meeting with Canadian Finance Minister Joe Oliver, a microcredit enthusiast, and discussed the prospects of wider implementation of social business.

He also met Allison McCain, global president of McCain, in Toronto, and had talks about creating a social business fund in Canada.

Last year, Yunus launched a joint venture with McCain in Colombia called Campo Vivo, a social business to benefit farming families in Colombia.

Jim Balsillie, founder of Blackberry and RIM, hosted a dinner in honour of

## BORDER TENSION

# Mortar shells firing inside Myanmar

STAR REPORT

Firing of mortar shells and gunshots across Bangladesh border with Myanmar created panic among people in Naikkhangchhari of Bandarban last night.

The shooting took place inside the Myanmar territory and it did not affect the Bangladesh people in the bordering areas, Director General of Border Guard Bangladesh Maj Gen Aziz Ahmed told The Daily Star.

He, however, could not specify the reasons behind the firing that began around 9:45pm and still continued till midnight when this report was filed.

"Our forces remain deployed on the border and they remain watchful," the DG said.

Locals said they heard extensive gunshots in Myanmar's Bangdula area, which is between bordering Fultoli and Lemuchhari under Naikkhangchhari sadar union, reports our Cox's Bazar correspondent.

The border along Naikkhangchhari has been tense since May 28, when Myanmar Border Guard Police (BCGP) attacked a BGB patrol team without provocation in Painchhari area, killing BGB soldier Mizanur Rahman.

After the attack, the BGB members intruded into Bangladesh and took away Mizanur's body.

On Friday, they attacked another BGB team, when it went near the spot looking for Mizanur, triggering a gun battle between the two sides.

Myanmar finally handed over Mizanur's body to the BGB on May 31.

Myanmar deployed army alongside its border police on the border while the BGB called for reinforcements with heavy weapons since the May 28 incident.

## Fakhrul

FROM PAGE 1

Ziaur Rahman was killed on May 30. There are questions in people's mind whether there was any link between these two incidents," BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said.

If the BNP returns to power in future, the party will launch a fresh investigation into the killing of Zia, Fakhrul said during a press conference at the party's headquarters in Nayapalton.

At a joint meeting of the Awami League central working committee, AL advisory council, and its parliamentary party on Monday night, Hasina said if former president Ziaur Rahman had not died, he would have been an accused in the Bangabandhu murder case.

"Killer Mostaque murdered Bangabandhu and after Bangabandhu's assassination, he made Ziaur Rahman the army chief and that means Ziaur Rahman was linked to the conspiracy of the Bangabandhu killing," she said.

Referring to her remarks, Fakhrul, also acting secretary general of BNP, yesterday said Hasina made Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) AK Khondoker and Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Shafullah ministers.

Khondoker and Shafullah were the chiefs of Air Force and the Army respectively at the time of Mujib's killing, he said.

If anyone says that Hasina was involved with Mujib's murder, it won't be logical, he added.

Fakhrul alleged that Hasina "lied in her own style, and the whole nation is aware about it".

The BNP leader also said "The prime minister has raised an untruth to divert the attention of people.

"And she [Hasina] is doing this at a time when the government has failed to ensure good governance and rule of law. People are living unbearable lives due to incidents of enforced disappearances and murders."

Referring to the budget session of 10th Jatiya Sangsad, he said his party would not place its shadow budget this year like the way it did in the previous years.

# 7 killed Jessore in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Seven people were killed and three others injured in a road accident on Khulna-Jessore highway in Abhaynagar Upazila of Jessore yesterday.

The accident occurred when a Khulna-bound jute-laden truck lost control and collided head on with a Jessore-bound three-wheeler human haulier near Ahad Cement Factory at Rajghat around 7:30am.

All were the passengers of the three-wheeler. Three were killed on the spot while the four others died at

Abhaynagar Upazila Health Complex, reports our district correspondent.

The injured were taken to the same hospital. But they were sent to Khulna Medical College Hospital later as their condition worsened.

The dead are Tutul Mollick, 38, Iqbal Mollah, 55, Faruque Hossain, 40, Poritosh Saha, 50, Montu Karmakar, 30, Gopla Bala, 60 and Forkan Ahmed, 40.

The truck driver and helper fled after the accident, said Shohidul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Abhaynagar Highway police station.

## PM goes against SC

FROM PAGE 1

premier Hasina with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in early 1999 in connection with her critical remarks about "granting of en masse bail" by the High Court Division.

The court asked the attorney general to submit a statement from the prime minister on her alleged remarks. The attorney general accordingly submitted a statement on February 17, 1999 to the Appellate Division explaining her remarks.

In the statement it was stated that her remarks were not intended to lower the dignity of the court or to interfere with the administration of the justice.

A full bench of the Appellate Division accepted the explanation of the premier and disposed of the contempt petition.

But the apex court observed that it expected more circumspection, understanding, discretion and judgement on the part of the prime minister because of the high office she holds in making off-hand remarks in respect of constitutional functionaries which have been alleged to be contemptuous.

The story, however, did not end here.

After one and a half years, three contempt petitions were filed against then premier Hasina with the High Court Division for her remarks about granting of bail by the court.

Hasina, in an interview with BBC Bangla service on July 26, 2000, commented on the accountability of judges and lawyers for granting bail to criminals. She allegedly remarked that after obtaining bail from the courts, criminals further commit crimes and therefore, both the lawyers and judges should be accountable respectively for seeking and granting bail.

A High Court Division bench heard the three contempt petitions together and passed its judgement on October 24, 2000. It held views and made observations similar to the

Appellate Division's.

"We are disposing of these three applications together in a similar manner and language with a note of desire that the Hon'ble Prime Minister shall be more careful and respectful in making any statement or comment with regard to the Judiciary or the judges or the Court of Bangladesh in future," the HC bench said.

After more than 14 years, Hasina has made some critical remarks against the HC for its order for arrest of the three Rab officials forced into retirement for alleged involvement in the abduction and killing of seven people in Narayanganj. Her Saturday's remarks appear a blow to the Supreme Court's expectation.

"When we were still investigating the matter ... and before that investigation was complete ... you tell us how come a High Court bench orders arrest of the three [Rab officers]?" she said in response to journalists' queries in a press conference.

Hasina continued, "When we struggle to take one step, some of them there take two/four steps and create such a situation that does not allow conducting a probe properly. It is a problem. I know my words are getting a bit harsh ... but what is real and true must be told."

Two days after the PM's remarks, Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul went a step further and cautioned against "judicial anarchy" and said judicial activism should not cross its boundary.

This has become a much discussed issue.

A Supreme Court lawyer on Sunday brought to the notice of the High Court the premier's comment.

Advocate Tamzida Mila placed before the court a report published in The Daily Star in this regard.

On receiving the report, the HC bench of Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar said they would go through it later.

## Nimtoli free

FROM PAGE 16

Sadek was only articulating what the entire neighbourhood stands firm for.

Ever since the tragedy, locals joined hands to have all the chemical stores and warehouses removed from Nimtoli area.

"A small shoe factory still runs secretly inside a house in Nimtoli," said Nasir Hossain, a stationary shop-owner who had lost his shop in the deadly fire. "When we came to know about it, the community put pressure and the factory owner promised to relocate it by July 31."

Gulzar and his brothers Mohammad Didar and Mohammad Faruk, who lost 11 members of their family in the incident, themselves are vocal against renting out spaces to chemical warehouses.

"We did not know that they used to keep chemicals there. The tenant told us that they want the place for storing plastic goods and we believed them naively," said Gulzar as he recalled the horror his family and many others suffered four years

back.

"We want people to learn from our mistakes and be cautious about whom to rent out their places to. Landlords should also check on their tenants from time to time and see that they are complying with the rules," he told The Daily Star, urging the authorities to help relocate chemical warehouses from other parts of the old town.

Though the people of Nimtoli have collectively been able to prevent any chemical warehouses in the area, hazardous chemicals are still stored without any precautionary measures in other areas of Old Dhaka, especially Armanitola, Nabab Katra, Bangshal, Sat Rowza, Siddique Bazar, Babubazar and Mitford.

The government in April 2011 had decided to relocate chemical warehouses from residential areas to industrial zones in Keraniganj or Kamrangir Char but the decision has not been implemented yet, putting forth one ominous question -- Do we have to learn only the hard way?

## Japan PM may visit N Korea in kidnap probe

AFP, Tokyo

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe may make a rare visit to North Korea, his foreign minister said yesterday, days after announcing a deal to re-open the probe into Japanese citizens kidnapped by spies in the Cold War years.

Any such visit would be controversial, especially in Seoul and Washington, which have led the charge to further isolate Pyongyang over its ballistic missile and nuclear programmes.

Only Junichiro Koizumi has ever visited the secretive state as a Japanese prime minister, in 2002 and 2004, in a futile effort to normalise bilateral ties.

Tokyo and Pyongyang have no formal diplomatic ties, partially because of what Japan says is the North's unwillingness to come clean over the abductions in the 1970s and 1980s.

But in a breakthrough last week, they said an investigation into the fate of missing Japanese would be re-opened. In exchange, Japan would ease some of the unilateral sanctions it has imposed on the isolated state.

"We must think constantly what would be the most effective response and method in order to bring results," Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told a parliamentary committee.

"In doing so, we will consider (Abe)

making a visit to North Korea," he said.

Kishida noted that the government wanted to act swiftly as families of kidnap victims are increasingly elderly, but said that nothing had been decided about a possible prime ministerial visit yet.

Prime Minister Abe himself stopped short of confirming if he would visit Pyongyang when the negotiations reach a decisive stage.

"It is premature at the moment to pre-judge how the matter will develop hereafter," he told reporters when asked if he had such a visit in mind.

But he said: "We'd like to do our utmost to have the North Korean side deliver on their promise."

Abe's right-hand man, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, said at the weekend that the government would send officials to North Korea to monitor the probe.

North Korea admitted in 2002 to having abducted 13 Japanese people as part of a scheme to train its spies in customs and language.

The admission was made when Koizumi travelled to Pyongyang to hold a historic summit with then North Korean supreme leader Kim Jong-Il in 2002.

Five of them returned home but Pyongyang said without producing credible evidence that eight had died, provoking an uproar in Japan.

  
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