

Robbers kill fisherman

Abduct 50 for ransom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A fisherman was killed and eight others suffered bullet injuries as robbers opened fire on them in the Bay of Bengal yesterday.

The gang also abducted at least 50 fishermen, said Nimai Chandra Das, secretary of Mohipur Fish Traders Association.

The dead is Moyjol, 45, of Laxmipur district. He was a driver of FB Basundhara-4, a fishing trawler.

Abul Kashem, in charge of Mohipur Police Investigation Centre, confirmed the death and attack on the fishermen.

Of the eight injured, Gojabi, Masud, Shah Alam, Siraj and Jasim of Bhola and Laxmipur have been undergoing treatment at Mohipur health centre in Kalaroa upazila.

Ansar Uddin Mollah, president of Alipur Trawler Owners Association, said an armed robber gang swooped on some 30 fishing trawlers in the Bay. Kuakata is about five kilometres from the spot.

They came to the spot with a speedy trawler around 11:00am and fired indiscriminately, killing Moyjol on the spot and injuring eight others. The gang then looted fish, cash and fuel

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'Tortured by BSF', man dies in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) allegedly tortured a Bangladeshi citizen to death along Boikari border in the district's Sadar upazila early yesterday.

Deceased Ahad Ali, 40, was son of Ujjir Ali in Chhaygarhia village.

Ujjir said Ahad along with seven to eight Bangladeshis entered India through the border on Saturday evening. Ahad's employer, who is a cattle trader, sent him to India to bring cattle.

BSF members of Kojuri camp in Basirhat detained Ahad when he was returning home with the cattle around 5:00am. They then tortured him and left him near the border in a critical condition. Ahad died there later, he alleged.

Maj SM Ahsan Habib, operation officer of 38 Border Guard Bangladesh Battalion in Satkhira, said they heard about the death. "We are looking into the incident."

Transport

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Islam, 32, arrested in connection with the murder were remanded for two days yesterday.

The police rounded up the duo in Narayanganj and another person named Yousef in Comilla on Saturday on suspicion of their involvement.

An additional number of law enforcers were deployed in the capital prior to the hartal.

Pro-hartal activists brought out several processions across the country yesterday morning.

A few passengers were seen travelling outside Dhaka from Gabtoli and Mohakali inter district bus terminals.

Islami Chhatra Sena held a press briefing at Dhaka Reporters Unity around noon, where it announced that the government would have to arrest the perpetrators by Tuesday.

"Otherwise, we will go for tougher programmes," said Nurul Haque Chisti, president of the student wing of Islamic Front Bangladesh.

Chhatra Sena will organise milad and kulkhwani across the country today, praying for the eternal peace of the departed soul, and Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat will hold a rally at Lalidighi, Chittagong, tomorrow, he said.

So battered

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Nuruzzaman, a truck driver, said he had to spend Tk 10,000 to repair his vehicle which had got damaged on the road after hitting a hidden pothole.

Sometimes, the authorities concerned repaired the potholes with brickbats but it is as a temporary solution, said Mohammad Dulal, a pickup van driver, who uses the road frequently.

The road becomes the same pot-hole ridden within 48-hours of using the brickbats, he added.

"The passengers often request me to drive slowly as they feel unwell on the bumpy road," Dulal said, adding that the road is not suitable for patients to travel.

When contacted, Md Ataur Rahman, executive engineer of Roads and Highways Department (Dhaka division), said they had already floated a tender to repair the battered places of the 12-km road.

"We hope to start the carpeting work of the road after upcoming Eidul-Azha," Rahman said, adding that a total of 6-km of the road would be repaired then.



One of the supporters of Canadian cleric Tahir ul Qadri returns a teargas shell towards police during clashes near the Pakistan prime minister's residence in Islamabad yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Pak protests turn deadly; 3 killed

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without wasting any time and without recourse to violent means."

"Further use of force will only aggravate the problem," it added.

The violence in Islamabad began Saturday night after thousands of supporters of Khan and firebrand cleric Tahir ul Qadri tried to storm Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's house using cranes to remove barricades.

By yesterday afternoon, clashes were continuing between police in riot gear and a few hundred protesters. Many protesters had come armed with batons and slingshots.

Shipping containers were set ablaze, several vehicles stood torched, and hundreds of teargas canisters lay strewn on the ground on Islamabad's normally pristine Constitution Avenue following more than 15 hours of battle.

The opposition groups marched to the capital of the coup-prone country on August 15 demanding

the resignation of Sharif, triggering a crisis that has raised the spectre of military intervention.

Khan, an outspoken cricketer-turned-politician, told his supporters in central Islamabad he would not back down from his demand for Sharif to resign and called on more protesters to join him.

"I am prepared to die here. I have learnt that government plans a major crackdown against us tonight," he said. "I am here till my last breath."

Raising the possibility of another night of clashes, Khan told the cheering crowd to directly challenge security forces protecting the parliament and the prime minister's house.

"The way you stood up last night, you have to stand up today also," he said. "We will face them and make them run away this time."

Tahir ul-Qadri also said protests would not subside unless Sharif

resigned.

"State atrocities have reached their peak," he told his supporters from atop a shipping container. "Imran Khan and Dr Qadri are fighting this war together."

At least 481 injured, including at least 118 women and 10 children, were rushed to the city's two major hospitals, according to officials. At least 92 police were among the wounded.

Sharif, who swept to office in the country's first democratic transition of power last year, has firmly resisted opposition calls for him to resign while agreeing to meet their other demands such as an investigation into alleged fraud during last year's election.

His office reiterated yesterday evening that his resignation was out of the question.

Earlier, information minister Pervaiz Rashid had said the govern-

ment remained open to restarting negotiations.

"They wanted their demands to be met at gunpoint but still, our doors are open for talks."

Himself ousted in a coup in 1999 during an earlier stint in office, Sharif still has a difficult relationship with the army. Even if he survives this crisis, he will remain significantly weakened and sidelined on key issues such as foreign policy and security.

Many of the protesters are now openly calling for the military -- which has ruled Pakistan for half its existence -- to return to power.

"Last night, the police used tear gas and rubber bullet against us. Now we are waiting for the help of the army. We are hopeful. Insh'Allah (God willing) the army will save us, they will do something for us," said a female protester in her twenties called Ammara.

House goes into session today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament goes into its the 3rd session this afternoon.

The session is significant as it might pass the 16th amendment to the constitution, which would restore parliament's authority to impeach Supreme Court judges.

The cabinet on August 18 approved the draft law ignoring advice from different quarters.

The government is going to place the bill in parliament this session and is likely to be passed in the same session, sources at the ruling Awami League said.

Political analyst said there was little chance of the bill not getting passed since the main opposition of parliament, the Jatiya Party, has members even in the cabinet.

The House proceedings is scheduled to begin at 5:00pm with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair, sources at Parliament Secretariat told The Daily Star.

The business and duration of the session would be finalised in a meeting of the Parliamentary Business Advisory Committee at 4:00pm today with Shirin in the chair.

Police say sorry for attacking DU teacher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday apologised to a Dhaka University teacher for attacking her during a workers' agitation programme in front of Tuba Garment Factory at Badda in the capital last month.

"I regret [the incident]. Such an incident will not happen in future," said Abdul Jalil, officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station, who had assaulted Samina Lutfi, an assistant professor of the university's Department of Sociology, on August 6.

On that day, police stormed into a factory of Tuba Group in Badda, firing rubber bullets and teargas canisters to disperse workers who had been observing an indefinite hunger strike there demanding their due salaries and bonuses.

The DU teacher, who was at the spot, could not save herself from the police rage even after disclosing her identity.

A four-member police team went to the office of the DU VC around 10:00am yesterday to offer the apology.

The other police officers include

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Shoes

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ries burned, will go on sale in September under the name LeChal, which means "take me along" in Hindi.

The shoes come with a detachable Bluetooth transceiver that links to a smartphone app to direct the wearer using Google maps, sending a vibrating signal to indicate a left or right turn.

They are the brainchild of 30-year-old Krispian Lawrence and Anirudh Sharma, 28, two engineering graduates who founded their tech start-up Ducere in a small apartment in 2011 with backing from angel investors and now employ 50 people.

Smart shoes aimed at specific demographic markets -- such as dementia sufferers and children whose parents want to keep track of their movements -- are already commercially available.

But Lawrence and Sharma believe theirs will be the first to target mass-market consumers, and have focused on creating stylish rather than purely functional footwear.

As well as the red sneaker, they are marketing an insole to allow users to slip the technology into their own shoes.

"Earlier, wearable technology was always seen as machine-like, nerdy glasses or watches, but now that is changing," said Lawrence.

They say they have 25,000 advance orders for the shoes, which will retail at between \$100 and \$150.

Demand has so far mostly been through word of mouth and through the lechal.com website. But the company is in talks with retailers to stock the shoes ahead of the holiday season in India and the United States.

It forecasts it will sell more than 100,000 pairs of the shoes, which are manufactured in China, by next April.

Wearable technology is a growing global sector. Market tracker IDC forecast in April that sales would triple this year to 19 million units worldwide, growing to 111.9 million by 2018.

No need

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2008. It's a good achievement. But the reports should be checked by the commission to ensure more transparency in financial activities of those parties," former election commissioner M Sakhawat Hussain told The Daily Star.

Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman of Transparency International Bangladesh said mere submission of audit reports was not enough, as those were needed to be scrutinised by the EC to ensure transparency.

According to the Political Parties Registration Rule, 2008, all the registered parties have to submit to the EC their annual audit reports certified by a registered chartered accountant firm by July 31 of the following year.

This year, however, the EC had extended the deadline by one month as 14 political parties, including the ruling Awami League, BNP and the Jatiya Party, failed to comply.

The AL yesterday submitted the audit report saying its income was around Tk 12.4 crore and it spent around Tk 6.7 crore in 2013, said AL Assistant Secretary ABM Reazul Kabir Kawsar.

Earlier, the BNP submitted the report on August 14 and the JP on August 25.

Almost all the parties had submitted the reports, said Rowshan Ara,

senior assistant secretary to the EC Secretariat.

A political party's registration would be cancelled if it failed to submit the report for three consecutive years, according to the Representation of the People Order (RPO).

The EC has not considered Jamaat-e-Islami as a registered political party since the High Court on August 1 last year declared its registration illegal. An appeal against the HC verdict is pending with the Appellate Division.

DHAKA CITY VOTER ROLL

The EC would start updating the electoral roll in Dhaka city today and continue until September 10, said CEC Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad.

The EC data collectors would make door-to-door visits and collect information of new voters. Voters' photos would be taken and their registration would be done between September 18 and November 15.

"If anyone fails to get registered, they can be a voter any time around the year by communicating with their respective thana or upazila election officers," said the CEC.

The EC on May 15 started the electoral roll updating programme across the country and would continue it till November 15. More than 30 lakh new voters have so far been registered, while the existing number of voters is around 9.19 crore.

Coping with Ebola crisis

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Hasan.

Hasan was subsequently posted to Robertsport on Liberia's north-eastern coast near the Sierra Leonean border. It is a small town famous for surfing beaches and fresh fish, and is considered a good posting place.

With one Bangladeshi colleague, Sergeant Rasel Bhuiyan, Hasan joined a small UN police team tasked with mentoring the Liberian National Police.

"I wasn't too worried. Ebola wasn't in this country. But after the first case was reported here I became serious about prevention ... I still am," he says.

Hasan uses hand sanitiser and gloves, washes hands regularly and sometimes wears a mask and protective glasses. "The UN has procedures to keep us safe," says Hasan. "Our duty has also changed to three days on, three days off, to limit risk."

Two Ebola cases have been confirmed in Robertsport with 31 people under observation. Of greater concern, locals forcefully snatched one Ebola patient from the hospital, believing that Ebola is a Liberian government conspiracy hatched to attract western money and stay in power.

"The situation is stable ... because most people think Ebola is not real." Hasan believes public education on transmission prevention is critical.

"In some areas medical teams

have been beaten and their equipment burnt. Shots were recently fired against anti-government demonstrators in Monrovia who think Ebola is a government ploy," says Hasan.

Hasan was in Bo Waterside near the Sierra Leonean border where an Ebola patient died. Even after three days, the authorities were yet to arrive to dispose of the highly contagious body. "The man's family stayed with his body ... His daughter refused to leave," says Hasan.

The locals threatened if the medical team didn't arrive by 4:00pm to take the body, they would parade it through the streets. The situation calmed after the UN team made arrangements for burial.

For police officers like Hasan, a UN posting offers the chance to broaden professional experience and proudly represent Bangladesh. It is an honest means to secure a better future for their family. But Hasan's wife no longer cares about the benefits to their family. She wants her husband home safe.

Hasan remains upbeat. "I feel proud to represent Bangladesh and work for the UN. The headquarters is managing the Ebola risk. We have procedures to follow. But