

BSF kills one Bangladeshi

Another found dead on border

Indian Border Security Force shot a Bangladeshi youth dead on Jaminpur border in the district's Shibganj upazila yesterday morning.

Deceased Mohammad Soleman, 25, was son of Ejabul Haque of Jaminpur village, our Chapainawabganj correspondent reports.

The BSF men of Churi Ananapur camp in Malda opened fire on a group of Bangladeshis when they were illegally entering India through the border around 4:00am, killing Soleman on the spot, said Lt Col Abu Zafar Sheikh Mohammad Bazul Haque, commanding officer of 9 Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Battalion.

Others managed to escape the firing and brought the body to the house of Soleman. Several marks of gunshot were found on the body, he said.

The BGB sent a protest letter to its Indian counterpart, condemning the killing, the BGB official added.

In the afternoon, a company commander-level flag meeting between the BGB and BSF was held at zero line of the border in this connection.

The BSF expressed sorrow for the incident and assured the BGB of proper investigation and punishment to the responsible BSF members, he mentioned.

In another incident, a Bangladeshi national was found dead inside Indian territory on Sardarpara border in Panchagarh's Boda upazila yesterday, our correspondent from Thakurgaon reports.

The dead, Ershad Ali, 30, was son of Mohammad Ali of Pramanikpara village in Debiganj upazila.

Lt Col Mohammad Ariful Haque, commanding officer of 18 BGB Battalion in Panchagarh, said villagers of Bangram in India's Jalpaiguri

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Workers of entrepreneur Hashem making furniture out of canes at their workshop at Banani in the capital. The furniture are then crammed into a showroom also in Banani for sale.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Bend it like Hashem

FROM PAGE 1

Adventurous as he was, Hashem ventured into producing furniture from cane -- a trade which was not well-established when he stepped into it. With unwavering conviction and devotion, he stayed on course defying all odds. And now he is one of the biggest suppliers of cane furniture in the country, earning a hefty six-figure sum a month.

In 1992, Hashem, then 28-year-old, came to Dhaka from Chandpur to chase his dream.

Things were not easy for him. He needed money to start a business.

Hashem was from a middle class family and all of his three brothers were in government service. His parents wanted him to follow suit.

"I could not ask my family for money. My parents were apprehensive about the success of my plan to become an entrepreneur," he said.

Undaunted, he kept trying, man-

aged Tk 2 lakh from his relatives and teamed up with another relative, Sohrab Hossain, in Dhaka. Sohrab put in Tk 4 lakh and then the duo started making cane furniture on a small scale in 1993.

With the money they earned by selling their products, Hashem and Sohrab opened a store in Mohakhali and they never had to look back.

"I closely worked with artisans. They were very skilled. They helped me learn a lot of things. Only six months into the business, I gained a very good idea about how to make furniture from cane," he told The Daily Star in an interview recently.

Previously, people were not keen on buying cane furniture as it was a bit expensive compared to the wooden ones.

But things started to change gradually. Wealthy customers, including foreigners living in Bangladesh, started

buying the lightweight cane furniture that offered a variety of designs.

In 2002, Hashem parted from Sohrab, who by then had become his brother-in-law, and launched his own stores.

He currently owns two showrooms named Rose Garden and Shahjalal Cane Furniture in the capital's Banani. He employs 40 workers and has an annual turnover of Tk 40 to 50 lakh.

Hashem now supplies furniture to almost all the cane furniture shops in the city. His clientele also includes major hotels, embassies and multinationals in Dhaka.

However, despite his fairytale rise as a successful entrepreneur, he still faces some challenges.

Making furniture from cane is a laborious process, Hashem says, as it's completely a manual job. Though machines are available to make the production easier, he cannot afford

one as they are highly expensive.

"But the quality of our products is as fine as that of the machine-made ones," he said.

Moreover, he has to import raw materials, which is processed cane, from Myanmar and Indonesia to meet the demand for high quality products, as the local variety is not of desired quality.

Only 20 percent of his furniture is produced from the local variety of cane.

He said if high quality cane could be produced in Bangladesh the production cost and price of the furniture would have been much lower.

The imported processed canes currently cost Tk 1,000 a kg. It would go down by two-thirds if they are produced here, said Hashem.

Hashem urged the government to take steps so that quality canes can be produced and processed locally.



Dead hearts

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Cardiothoracic surgeon Kumud Dhital, who performed the transplants with hearts donated after circulatory death (DCD), said he "kicked the air" when the first surgery was successful.

It was possible thanks to new technology, he said. "The incredible development of the preservation solution with this technology of being able to preserve the heart, resuscitate it and to assess the function of the heart has made this possible," he told a press conference yesterday.

The first patient to have the surgery done was Michelle Gribilas. The 57-year-old Sydney woman was suffering from congenital heart failure and had surgery about two months ago.

The second patient, Jan Damen, 43, also suffered from congenital heart failure and had surgery about a fortnight ago. The father of three is still recovering at the hospital.

MacDonald said the team had been working on this project for 20 years and intensively for the past four.

UK minister

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visit various UK-funded development programmes in Bangladesh. She will also speak to the press before leaving Dhaka on October 28.

This will be her first visit to Bangladesh since her appointment to the office on September 5, 2012.

She was elected to Haringey Council in 1998, a position she held until 2006. In 2000 she was elected to the London Assembly where she chaired the Transport Committee and served on the Health and Standards Committees and the Metropolitan Police Authority.

She served as the Liberal Democrats' International Development spokesperson in 2006 before becoming their Youth and Equalities spokesperson in 2007.

Featherstone has previously served as home office minister for Equalities and Criminal Information.

Manpower, investment top agenda

FROM PAGE 1

Hasina will lead a 69-member delegation, which includes four eminent personalities, 11 senior officials from the Prime Minister's Office, seven officials from the foreign ministry, seven other high officials from different ministries, 18-member security team, four media personalities and the 11-member prime minister's official media team.

The visits of the two VVIPs are taking place after eight years since the then Prime Minister Khaleda Zia paid the state visit in May, 2006.

"We have brought back our relations to the previous level which was initiated by Bangabandhu in 1974. This will get stronger with the two visits," said the foreign minister at a press briefing at the foreign ministry on the visits of the two leaders.

Hasina will visit the UAE from October 25-27 at the invitation of UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, while the president will be visiting from October 28-30 to attend the 10th World Islamic Economic Forum.

Meanwhile, the foreign minister

will attend the fourth High Level Public Private Counter Piracy Conference to be held in Dubai from October 29-30.

Ali said Dhaka is optimistic about signing of several deals, including the agreements on security cooperation, transfer of sentenced prisoners, handing over of a plot to the UAE Embassy in Dhaka and foreign office consultation.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) and UAE Company Amala for hiring domestic workers will also be signed.

Dhaka has also proposed signing of a joint statement which is likely to be issued on the occasion of the visit. "I am hopeful about the signing of a joint statement on the outcome of the visit," said the foreign minister.

On the resumption of manpower recruitment, he said, "Discussions are going on. We'll let you know once the negotiation is complete."

Asked whether the vexed issues over voting for the World Expo 2020 are resolved, Ali said two consecutive visits by the president and the prime minis-

ter indicate that all problems are resolved.

As per the programme schedule, Hasina will leave by a VVIP flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines at 8:30am and is expected to reach Abu Dhabi International Airport at about 11:30am (UAE time) where UAE Minister for Social Welfare Maryam Mohammad Khalfan Al Roumi and Bangladesh Ambassador in UAE Mohammad Imran will receive her.

Hasina will have meetings with UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and UAE Mother of the Nation Sheikhha Fatima in Abu Dhabi. She will also attend a community reception there.

On October 27, the PM will go to Dubai to hold bilateral meeting with Vice-President Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

The Bangladesh PM will then move to Ras al-Khaimah for holding meeting with its ruler Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi.

From there, she will fly to Dubai to catch the return flight to Dhaka.

Official sources said efforts will also be made to attract more UAE investors

as the investors of the Gulf country had shown immense interest in investing in the country's gas pipeline, refinery, fertiliser, port development and power sector.

Bangladesh exported goods worth \$245 million in 2013-2014 to the UAE against its import of \$932 million.

According to the Board of Investment (BoI), the UAE is currently the fifth largest investing country in Bangladesh with \$2.5 billion total investment in telecommunications, banking, ceramic, chemicals and textiles. Besides, it is also the second biggest destination of Bangladeshi workers.

PRESIDENT'S VISIT

As per the programme schedule, President Abdul Hamid will leave Dhaka for Dubai on October 28 to attend the 10th World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF).

Expected to be attended by more than 2,500 participants, Dhaka is considering the president's participation in this Forum as a key note speaker significant since he will get the opportunity to meet and exchange views with leaders of the UAE and other Muslim countries.

Millions of doses

FROM PAGE 16

It normally takes years to produce and test a vaccine, but drug manufacturers are now working on a scale of weeks.

MORE EBOLA CASES

The government in Mali has confirmed the first case of Ebola in the country.

A two-year-old girl tested positive for the virus after returned from neighbouring Guinea.

Meanwhile a doctor in New York, who has also returned from Guinea, is in hospital with the virus.

Dr Craig Spencer came down with a fever on Thursday, days after his return, officials say.

CORRECT DOSE

Two experimental vaccines, produced by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and the Public Health Agency of Canada, are already in safety trials.

The GSK vaccine is being tested in Mali, the UK and the US. Research on the Canadian vaccine is also under way in the US with further trials expected to start in Europe and Africa soon.

The results are expected in December. After that, trials will move to countries affected by Ebola, probably starting with Liberia.

That will allow researchers to assess how effective the vaccine is and what dose is needed to provide protection.

Healthcare workers, who place themselves at risk when treating patients, will take part in the first trials in West Africa.

The WHO says we should have the first hints of how effective these experimental vaccines are by April.

There are no plans for mass vaccination before June 2015 but the WHO has not ruled it out.

The WHO says vaccines are likely to be key to ending the outbreak, even if cases fall in the next few months.

Dr Marie Paule Kieny, a WHO assistant director-general, said: "While we hope that the massive response, which has been put in place will have an impact on the epidemic, it is still prudent to prepare to have as much vaccine available as possible if they are proven effective."

"If the massive effort in response is not sufficient, then vaccine would be a very important tool."

"And even if the epidemic would be already receding by the time we have vaccine available, the modelling seems to say vaccine may still have an impact on controlling the epidemic."

The vaccine plan was the culmination of a day of talks at the WHO in Geneva.

As well as the two vaccines already in trials, there are a further five in the pipeline which could yet play a role in the outbreak.

The World Bank and the charity Medecins Sans Frontieres will help finance the vaccine.

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"The key news is that money doesn't seem to be an issue, everyone's supporting this and it's a case of making sure we're prepared."

"The standard method of public health control will win in the end, but a vaccine could have a very strong impact on the current epidemic."

There are also suggestions that an "indemnity fund" could be set up in case people have a serious adverse reaction to a vaccine being rushed through.

But until a vaccine is found to prevent the virus from spreading, treating and isolating sufferers will remain the key strategy for containing the outbreak.

BIG RISK

Jonathan Ball, a professor of virology at the University of Nottingham, commented: "This is a big risk because we simply don't know if the vaccines will work."

"But clearly, given the scale of problem in Africa, a problem that has arisen through international apathy, we are having to prepare for the worse."

He added that it would be difficult to deliver the vaccine - which needs to be stored at very low temperatures - would be a major challenge in Africa.

Dr Benjamin Neuman, from the University of Reading, told the BBC: "I very much hope that the current outbreak will be over before the first vaccines ship, but even so, a vaccine will be important to long-term plans to prevent an Ebola outbreak on this scale from ever happening again."

He said there were many "similarly frightening and incurable viruses" across Europe and the Americas but they were contained by infrastructure.

He said that for all the talk of vaccines: "The closest thing to a magic bullet that stops all diseases is still a hospital."

Deal struck for new Asian bank

FROM PAGE 1

Lou said the governance structure of the Bank would consist of three levels: Board of Governors, Board of Directors and the Management. All powers of the Bank will be vested in the Board of Governors which may delegate to the Board of Directors and the Management its powers as stipulated in the Articles of Agreement.

The Board of Directors will be non-resident initially and meet regularly to make key policy decisions. The Bank will develop an effective oversight mechanism to ensure the accountability of the Management. The president and senior management of the Bank will be selected through an open, inclusive, transparent and merit-based

process, the minister said.

He added the Bank was open and welcomed all countries that were committed to Asia's development and global economic development.

Lou said the consultation process of the AIIB followed the sequence of "regional first and non-regional later". Countries that signed the MOU yesterday were all regional countries in Asia and would be the first batch of Prospective Founding Members.

Other countries can also become Prospective Founding Members and join the process of negotiating Articles of Agreement if they endorsed this MOU and be accepted by the existing Prospective Founding Members.

Original signatories of the AOA will

be the Founding Members of the Bank. Therefore, its membership will be not limited to countries that signed the MOU yesterday.

"AIIB is an open, inclusive institution. All countries that are committed to regional development in Asia and global economic development can join AIIB. We believe there will be more countries joining it in the future," Lou said.

The United States opposed the formation of the bank, but the Asian Development Bank gave a cautious welcome to Friday's agreement and said it would "consider appropriate collaboration" with the AIIB, reports German news agency DPA.

"Given Asia's huge infrastructure

funding needs, establishing the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to provide additional resources for infrastructure investments is understandable," ADB President Takehiko Nakao said.

"It is vitally important that AIIB adopt international best practices in procurement and environmental and social safeguard standards on its projects and programmes."

Australia's Fairfax Media said US Secretary of State John Kerry had asked Prime Minister Tony Abbott not to take part in the AIIB.

But other Australian media quoted a government spokesman as saying no final decision on membership had been made.

would provide insurance against supply disruption.

Van Rompuy cited both the Ukraine crisis and turmoil in the Middle East as good reason for the EU to act now to bolster its energy security.

The climate deal builds on the EU's targets for 2020 of a 20 percent cut in greenhouse gases, blamed for global warming, a 20 percent boost in renewables such as solar and wind power and a 20 increase in energy efficiency.

While the new 40 percent target for greenhouse gases and 27 percent for renewables agreed yesterday were as

expected, a 30 percent goal for an increase in energy efficiency set in July by the Commission was watered down to 27 percent.

Environment group Greenpeace said the EU had "pulled the handbrake on clean energy".

"These targets are too low, slowing down efforts to boost renewable energy and keeping Europe hooked on polluting and expensive fuel," it said.

British-based humanitarian group Oxfam called for targets of 55 percent in emissions cuts, 40 percent for energy savings and 45 percent for renewables.

talk her round.

Merkel, whose country is a leader in renewables, said the deal would "give Europe a voice and a negotiation position in the international climate talks."

The accord also promotes new interconnection links between member states allowing them to export up to 15 percent of their power output when they are in surplus and import up to 15 percent when they are in deficit.

Van Rompuy said these interconnection links were a key part of developing the EU's energy market and

EU nations seal major climate deal

FROM PAGE 16

The European leaders haggled late into the night amid a split between richer, greener nations and poorer countries that depend heavily on fossil fuels or on gas from Russia.

Poland had previously threatened to veto a deal, fearing that its near complete reliance on coal would have made it prohibitively expensive to meet the targets.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande had talks with Polish premier Eva Kovacs on the sidelines of the summit in a bid to