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CARE 16212

BLOGGER OYASIQUR MURDER

Gang reduced to 3 from 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five people set out separately from different areas in the city on March 24 to meet at Hatirjheel for accomplishing the mission of killing blogger and online activist Oyasiquur Rahman.

But they had to postpone their mission after two of them did not turn up at Hatirjheel that evening.

"They [the five] were supposed to meet at Hatirjheel from where they would go for the mission. But only three of them reached the area," Monirul Islam, joint commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, yesterday told reporters after gleaning information from two arrestees Zikurullah and Ariful Islam.

The trio later came to know that Saiful Islam, one of the gang members, was arrested by police with a pistol, six bullets and a cleaver at a police check-post in Wari that evening, the DMP official said.

Apart from Saiful, another gang member, who also did not show up at Hatirjheel, realised that Saiful was arrested as he was near Saiful during the arrest and he backed off, he added.



















Talking to reporters, Monirul said the trio were assigned again on March 28 to accomplish the mission.

Oyasiquur, 27, who was mainly active on Facebook, was attacked by three cleaver-wielding youths near his home in the capital's Tejgaon Industrial Area on March 30.

The motive behind the murder appears to be "ideological differences", police said.

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CONVICTED WAR CRIMINALS

EXECUTED	DIED IN JAIL	SERVING TERMS	FUGITIVE CONVICTS
 ABDUL QUADER MOLLAH Jamaat Assistant Secretary General	 MUHAMMAD KAMARUZZAMAN Jamaat Assistant Secretary	 GHULAM AZAM Former chief of Jamaat-e-Islami 90-YEAR JAIL	 ABDUL ALIM Former BNP minister JAIL UNTIL DEATH
 DELAWAR HOSSAIN SAYEDEE Nayeb-e-Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami	 ABUL KALAM AZAD Expelled Jamaat-e-Islami member DEATH	 CHOWDHURY MUEEN UDDIN Islami Chhatra Sangha leader in 1971 DEATH	 ASHRAFUZZAMAN KHAN Islami Chhatra Sangha leader in 1971 DEATH
 MA ZAHID HOSSAIN KHOKON Faridpur BNP leader	 ABDUL JABBAR Former Jatiya Party lawmaker JAIL UNTIL	APPEAL PENDING	
 MOTIUR RAHMAN NIZAMI Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami	 ALI AHSAN MOHAMMAD MOJAHEED Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami	 SALAUDDIN QUADER CHOWDHURY BNP National Standing	 ABDUS SUBHAN Nayeb-e-Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami DEATH
 ATM AZHARUL ISLAM Jamaat Assistant Secretary General DEATH	 MIR QUASEM ALI Jamaat Central Executive Committee member DEATH	 SYED MOHAMMAD QAISAR Former Jatiya Party	 MOBARAK HOSSAIN Expelled Awami League leader DEATH

TRIAL AT A GLANCE

	NUMBER OF CASES	NUMBER OF PERSONS
VERDICT	17	18
TRIAL STAGE	5	9
PROBE COMPLETED	2	JAMAAT-E-ISLAMI AND EIGHT PERSONS
UNDER INVESTIGATION	20	32

Record power generated

7,437MW electricity produced yesterday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday generated 7,437 megawatts of electricity, the highest in the country's history, officials said.

The record was set at 7:00pm, said Saiful Hasan Chowdhury, public relations director of Bangladesh Power Development Board, adding that there was no load-shedding in the country at that time.

Yesterday's generation surpassed 7,418 megawatts the country produced on

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UP BY Tk 20 A KG

Beef prices spiral for two reasons

AINUL HAQUE PRAMANIK with IMRAN HOSSAIN

The retail price of beef has gone up by Tk 20 a kg at city kitchen markets over the last two weeks as India has ordered its border guards to stop smuggling of cattle into Bangladesh.

There was an upward trend in prices of the red meat in the last three months mainly because of blockade and hartals which badly disrupted supply chain, said traders.

Beef was sold at Tk 350 a kg yesterday against last month's Tk 320. In February, consumers could buy the same quantity of beef for Tk 280-300, according to the state-run Trading Corporation of



Bangladesh which monitors commodity prices. However, local butcher's shops in the capital now sell the item for as much as Tk 400 a kg. SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

BSF kills two cattle traders

Dhaka voices concern

STAR REPORT

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead two Bangladeshi cattle traders and injured three others along Daulatpur border in Benapole of Jessore yesterday morning.

The dead are Anisur Rahman Aku, 30, son of Azizul Islam, and Shanto Islam, 42, son of Abdul Hanif. The injured are Saiful Islam, 30, Altaf Hossain, 32, and Sobuj Hossain, 45.

All the dead and injured are from Putkhali village under Benapole Port Police Station, reports our correspondent from Benapole.

Immediately after the incident yesterday, Dhaka communicated with New Delhi and voiced concern over the killing of two Bangladeshis by the BSF.

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Fake detectives on the prowl

Police nab gang of 8 before mugging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 to 12 gangs of fake detectives are on the prowl in the capital at present.

These gangs, using handcuffs and wireless sets meant only for law enforcement agency members, would pick up people on microbus, interrogate and harass them, and snatch away their belongings, including cash, cell phones and gold ornaments.

Some bank officials also work in collusion with the gang members and help the criminals identify those who withdraw large amount of money from banks.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Joint Commissioner Monirul Islam yesterday came up with the information at

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

10 more from Yemen reach home

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Ten more Bangladeshis, who had taken shelter in Djibouti after being evacuated from war-torn Yemen, returned home last evening.

A total of 360 Bangladeshis have been evacuated to Djibouti since the crisis began in the Middle Eastern country last month, Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque told a press conference at the foreign ministry yesterday.

Of them, 11 landed in Dhaka on Friday.

An Indian navy ship had shifted 340 of the Bangladeshis to the African country from Yemen while the rest were evacuated by an Air India flight.

Shahidul also said they had a list of 500 Bangladeshis who had contacted them and expressed their willingness to return home from strife-torn Yemen.

"If anybody wants to come back, the government will make the necessary arrangement," he added.

Meanwhile, Indian high

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Obama, Castro in historic meeting

AFP, Panama City

US President Barack Obama and Cuba's Raul Castro held unprecedented face-to-face talks in Panama yesterday, ditching decades of Cold War-era antagonism in a historic effort to restore diplomatic ties.

In the first substantive talks between leaders of both nations since 1956, Obama thanked Castro for his "spirit of openness," while the communist leader stressed that the negotiations will require patience.

The talks were the climax of their surprise

announcement on December 17 that, after 18 months of secret negotiations, they would seek to normalise relations between their two nations.

"This is obviously a historic meeting," said Obama, who spoke first after they sat down for their talks on the sidelines of the 35-nation Summit of the Americas.

Obama declared that, after 50 years of policies that had not worked, "it was time for us to try something new."

"We are now in a position to move on a

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SHAKING HANDS, BREAKING ICE

Cuban President Raul Castro and US President Barack Obama shake hands as United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon looks on moments before the opening ceremony of the VII Americas Summit in Panama City yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

A-LEVEL EXAMS

Honour for best from Bangladesh



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star yesterday honoured a student of Bangladesh International School for having secured the highest score in the A-level examination for session 2013-2014.

Mohammad Fahim Tajwar outshone all those who sat for the exam from Bangladesh.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, awarded him with a medal and a certificate

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MORE ON PAGE 5

WORLD'S TREASURES

Lasers can preserve

CNN

In 2001, the Taliban wiped out 1700 years of history in a matter of seconds, by blowing up ancient Buddha statues in central Afghanistan with dynamite.

They proceeded to do so after an attempt at bringing down the 175-foot tall sculptures with

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