

BGB VOWS

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Meanwhile, Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh at a joint conference in Delhi on Saturday said smuggling of cattle into Bangladesh had been reduced significantly with the help of BSF, reports our Kolkata Correspondent.

Praising the Maharashtra government for banning cow slaughter, he said that even the Mughals knew they would not be able to rule over the hearts of Indians by supporting cow slaughter, a fact that British could not realise.

Following the BGB-BSF conference on August 6, BSF Director General Devendra Pathak said the number of cows smuggled from India to Bangladesh had come down drastically after his force had taken stern action against it. "The BSF wants to stop it totally."

Larger SC

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involved with the integrity of the judges and judiciary. Other three judges of the bench were Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana, Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Hasan Foez Siddique.

The SC rejected a petition jointly filed by Atiquallah and Swadesh urging Justice SK Sinha to reconstitute its bench for hearing the rule.

It also asked Salahuddin Dolon, a lawyer for Janakantha, to submit all the articles, which were published by the daily after July 29 and involved this court, before it today.

Atiquallah and Swadesh appeared before the SC yesterday morning as per its earlier order and they will have to appear before the same court today, said Attorney General Mahbubey Alam.

The Appellate Division has now a total of seven judges including Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, Justice Md Imran Ali and Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury.

Police

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using taxes from people but they totally failed to stop the countrywide killing of bloggers and children.

Refusing to the incident where police refused to take a general diary of Niloy, actor Mamanur Rashid said a culture of injustice existed in the country and the militants took that opportunity.

Human rights activist Khushi Kabir said those who killed Niladri at the time of Jumma prayers could not be Muslim. She said they would kill freethinkers but not freethinking.

The faction of the Gonojagor Mancha, a youth-led anti-war criminal platform, also threatened tougher movement if no visible progress is made to bring the killers to book by Friday.

Earlier a portrait of Niloy was set up at Shahbagh where different social and student organisations including Sammiliti Sangkritik Jote, Nijera Kori, Bangladesh Uddhi Shilpi Ghosti, and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal paid last tributes by offering wreaths.

The Mancha will bring out a mass procession from Shahbagh at 4:00pm tomorrow and hold a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar at 3:00pm on Friday, which will be observed countrywide as "Black Day".

Earlier Progotishil Chhatra Jote, an alliance of left-leaning student organisations, brought out a protest procession and held a rally on Dhaka University campus.

They demanded quick arrest of Niloy's killers.

Magura BCL

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Hospital, while Nazma and her bullet-hit daughter miraculously survived after a two hour caesarean section at the hospital.

Now the newborn, Suraiya, and her mother are under treatment in Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) separately, and doctors said they were improving.

The baby was shifted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of DMCH on July 26 and her mother on July 30 to feed her breast milk. Nazma is being treated in the gynaecology ward.

Dr Kaniz Hasina, assistant professor of paediatric surgery at DMC, said, "We are thinking to shift the baby to her mother at the general ward after the end of the neonatal period (28 days).

Otherwise it would be risky for the newborn, she added.

Meanwhile, Bacchu Bhuiyan, husband of Nazma, expressed dissatisfaction at the "sluggishness" of police in arresting the shooters, Azibor and Mohammad Ali, both Juba League activists.

"We are worried as the main accused are still at large," he told The Daily Star.

Eight people including Sumon were arrested so far, said police.



The mobile column from the Singapore Armed Forces takes part in a parade during Singapore's 50th National Day anniversary celebration at the Padang in Singapore yesterday. Singapore celebrated 50 years of independence with a grand parade, hailing a remarkable transformation from colonial backwater to regional powerhouse, for the first time without its revered founding leader Kee Kuan Yew.

PHOTO: AFP

Jihadists suspected in deadly Mali hotel siege

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AFP, Bamako

A jihadist group is strongly suspected of carrying out the hotel siege in Mali that ended with the deaths of at least 12 people including five UN workers, a security source said yesterday.

No one has claimed responsibility for the assault in the central town of Sevare, which coincided with a surge in jihadist attacks spreading through the region in recent months.

"At this stage there is no formal proof that it was the Macina Liberation Front (FLM), but strong suspicions point to this group that has been seeking notoriety at all costs," the source said.

Since it first appeared earlier this year the FLM has claimed responsibility for several attacks, including some targeting security forces in central Mali.

FLM is considered to be linked to Ansar Dine -- Arabic for Defenders of Faith -- which is one of the groups that took control of Mali's vast semi-arid north in April 2012.

The United States placed Ansar Dine on its terror blacklist in 2013, accusing it of close links with Al-Qaeda and of torturing and killing opponents

in the north.

The private Mauritanian news agency Al-Akhbar, which regularly publishes jihadist statements, also said yesterday that the FLM "could be behind the attack in Sevare."

The deadly siege began early Friday when gunmen burst into the Hotel Byblos, frequented by expatriates.

The Malian army -- along with foreign special forces, according to a Malian military source -- stormed the building, bringing the siege to an end nearly 24 hours later.

Reports vary on the numbers and identities of those killed.

The UN mission in Mali (MINUSMA) said two Ukrainians, a Nepalese and a South African were killed during the siege and subsequent military operation, as well as a Malian driver working for a company contracted by the mission.

An army officer said "five terrorists" were killed in the operation as well as five soldiers and "two whites".

Four of the soldiers were buried in Sevare on Saturday, with the rural development and security ministers, Boukary Tretta and Sada Samake, in attendance, a witness said.

Both the army and MINUSMA said the death toll could rise.

Zafrullah

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charges for criticising a verdict of the tribunal on Bangladeshi-based UK journalist David Bergman last December. He was sentenced to one-hour imprisonment in the courtroom and fined Tk 5,000 that day for the offence.

He challenged the tribunal order before the Supreme Court and the apex court on July 28 cleared Zafrullah from the contempt charges after he offered unconditional apologies.

But earlier on June 10, after coming from the courtroom, Zafrullah made some remarks that allegedly demeaned the dignity of the tribunal and its judges.

"Today's contempt of court verdict is a proof of mental illness of the three judges."

"Ensuring justice is not possible if the judges can't take criticism. When they can't stand criticism and lack rationality, they hide themselves under the cover of law," he had told reporters on June 10.

For that comment, five people -- three freedom fighters and two organisers of Gonjagor Mancha -- filed a petition seeking contempt proceedings against Zafrullah and the tribunal initiated proceedings against him on July 12.

The tribunal also ordered Zafrullah to show cause as to why he should not be punished for "scandalising" the tribunal. Taking time twice to respond, Zafrullah yesterday made the unconditional apologies.

Khaleda

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connection with embezzlement of over Tk 8.2 crore. The ACC said the money was misappropriated abusing power and by forming the trust that exists only on paper.

On August 3, the special court in presence of Khaleda had set August 10 for the hearings.

Khaleda has been irregular at court. She did not show up on 56 out of the 63 scheduled dates for hearings.

Identities

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suicide bomber detonated an explosives-packed vest at a mosque inside a Saudi Special Forces headquarters, killing 15 people.

Three of the deceased were identified as Afaz Uddin, son of Nur Nabi of Laxmipur, Mohammad Zibon, son of Abdul Halim of Comilla, and Mainul Mridha, son of Mannan Mridha of Barisal. They were working at Al-Yasra Company as cleaners, while the detail of another deceased, Belal Hossain, is yet to be confirmed.

Of the injured, three are Asaduzzaman, son of Zahir Uddin of Tangail; Nurul Islam, son of Suruj Miah of Brahmanbaria; and Khokon Miah, son of Abdur Rashid of Comilla. But the embassy is yet to confirm the details of another injured, Chand Miah.

Chand was critically injured and is being treated at the Central Military Hospital in Riyadh, the release said. Other injured are undergoing treatment at the Al-Aseer Central Hospital and they are out of danger.

The foreign ministry said representatives from Bangladesh Consulate General in Jeddah visited the area immediately after the incident, met the victims and contacted their family members and employers as well as other Saudi authorities concerned.

The bodies of the victims would be sent back to Bangladesh or would be buried in KSA as per the desire of the victims' families, the release added.

Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh and Bangladesh Consulate General in Jeddah are constantly monitoring the situation and coordinating with all concerned with the highest priority.

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