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PART-1

India doesn't export and Bangladesh doesn't import, yet the age-old cattle trade goes on and it accounts for nearly \$1 billion business a year. Up against cow slaughter, the ruling BJP in India has recently choked the illegal supply channels to Bangladesh. New dynamics that followed: RSS guarding the borders, border guards becoming suddenly reluctant to be partners in the crime and smugglers looking for other goods. With the clandestine business almost coming to a grinding halt, The Daily Star, in its 3-part series, will focus on the impact on life and livelihood across the border.

LOSS on both sides

Cattle smuggling stops, new crisis begins

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN with OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kolkata

Apart from the Indian Border Security Force, members of Hindu nationalist group Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) are active along the India-Bangladesh border to check supply of cows to Bangladesh through informal channels.

RSS members are catching cattle smugglers and handing them over to the BSF and police in bordering districts of West Bengal, the main cattle smuggling route to Bangladesh, according to RSS units in the districts.

RSS South Bengal Unit General Secretary Jishnu Basu said their activists were working along the border to prevent cow smuggling.

"Our members are conducting campaigns to stop it," said the leader of the RSS, the ideological mentor of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in India.

As India, which has the largest cattle population in the world, doesn't export cows to any country, illegal trade of cattle has flourished along the Indo-Bangla border over the

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Only a few cows in the sheds in Bakher Ali area near the Bangladesh-India border late last month. Even a few months ago, the sheds used to be crammed full of cattle brought from India. The illegal supply of the animal has dried up recently with the Border Security Force stepping up efforts to stop cattle smuggling.

PHOTO: AFP

Cattle were never smuggled in!

PINAKI ROY

India does not export cattle to Bangladesh, yet thousands of them have been making their way into Bangladesh through different recognised corridors.

However, there is no official record of smuggling. Rather, Indian cattle can be accused of trespassing!

In most cases, the stories seem to be identical: Indian cattle enter Bangladesh as if by mistake. Traders on this side of the border gather those stray animals and pay a "fine" to Bangladesh authorities to get a "pass" for taking them elsewhere in the country.

According to data of Bangladesh customs, a total of 21,06,157 cattle, including cow, buffalo and goat, entered the country through different recognised corridors in fiscal 2013-14.

And Bangladesh authorities,

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Tarique among 32 charged with arson

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday pressed charges against BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman for "masterminding" an arson attack on a bus in Gazipur in January.

Sub-inspector Enamul Huq of Joydevpur Police Station, also the investigation officer of the case filed over the incident, submitted the charge sheet against 32 people to a Gazipur court, reports our correspondent there.

According to the charge sheet, Tarique along with his personal assistant Lutfur Rahman Badal and Monzurul Ahsan Rony, son of suspended mayor of Gazipur City Corporation MA Mannan, masterminded the attack, said Harun-ur-Rashid, superintendent of Gazipur police.

He was addressing a press briefing at his office hours before the submission of the charge sheet.

He said Tarique, Lutfur and Rony were

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2nd power plant in Rampal on cards

Tk 492cr land development scheme okayed at Ecneec meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid raging debate over the under-construction coal-based power plant in Rampal, the government is going to set up another 1,320-megawatt plant next to the current project.

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday allocated Tk 492.42 crore for land development, conservation and construction of boundary walls of the second plant to be built 23 kilometres south of Khulna city.

State-run Bangladesh Power Development Board has conducted an internal feasibility study for the project to be implemented by June 2017.

The government acquired 1,834 acres of land for the two power plants in Rampal. Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Pvt Ltd is now working on 915.50 acres to set up the first plant.

The construction of the second plant will begin if the first plant becomes a success, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal told reporters yesterday after the Ecneec meeting.

"We are beginning the site development work in advance so that it remains ready for the second project."

Indian National Thermal Power Corporation, which has been jointly

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Extrajudicial killings not tolerable in democracy

Says UK minister

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Visiting UK Minister of State for International Development Desmond Swayne yesterday said extrajudicial killings cannot be tolerated in democracy and called for ensuring investigation into such crimes to bring the 'perpetrators' to justice.

"Bangladesh is a democracy. It's essential that democratic values should be preserved and maintained, that means you can't tolerate extrajudicial killings," he said in

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ARZU KILLING IN 'SHOOTOUT'

Court orders judicial probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered a judicial inquiry into the death of Chhatra League leader Arzu Miah in a "gunfight" with the Rapid Action Battalion.

Metropolitan Magistrate Shahrier Mahmud Adnan passed the order after scrutinising the documents produced by the complainant -- Masud Rana, brother of the BCL's Hazaribagh chapter president Arzu.

The court also ordered that the case be sent to the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Sheikh Hafizur Rahman for further course of action.

Court sources said the CMM might form a one-member probe body comprised of a magistrate on Sunday.

Nur Khan, director of rights body Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), termed the court decision "rare" and "a sign of progress".

"We have seen in the past that petitions against Rab officials remained pending. In this case, the court ordered an inquiry," he said.

Khan said they had previously demanded judicial

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TOP!
QUOTE
"The irony of fate is that we are doing politics with JSD despite its role in creating grounds for Bangabandhu murder."
AL LIBERATION WAR AFFAIRS SECRETARY
AB TAJUDDIN
AT A DISCUSSION AT
DHAKA UNIVERSITY



The derailed Bijoy Express at Barabkunda of Sitakunda upazila in Chittagong yesterday. The Chittagong-bound intercity train from Mymensingh came off the tracks after hitting a milk powder-laden lorry at a level crossing, leaving one killed and three others injured. Inset, a man collecting milk powder that fell onto the locomotive. PHOTO: STAR



Train rams container truck in Ctg

One killed, 3 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A train rammed a lorry at a level crossing in Barabkunda area of Sitakunda upazila early yesterday, killing a man and injuring at least three others.

Following the accident, the railway communications between Dhaka and Chittagong remained snapped for nearly six hours, causing sufferings to passengers.

The dead is Mohammad Ajgor, 35, a fish trader of Laksam in Comilla. Two of the injured, including the lorry helper, were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Their names could not be known immediately.

Ajgor's brother Russel told The Daily Star that they were standing near the engine of the train when the accident happened. Luckily, he was unhurt.

With Ajgor, at least 61 people have been killed

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Billionaires lose big

China's stock crash saw Asia's richest man drop \$13b, Bill Gates \$3.2b, Jeff Bezos \$2.6b

AGENCIES

When the Chinese stock market suffered its biggest slump in eight years on Monday, it took several of the world's billionaires down with it.

Twenty-four billionaires saw their wealth fall by more than ten figures, including Bill Gates who dropped \$3.2 billion and Jeff Bezos, who fell \$2.6 billion, according to data compiled by the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Mexico's Carlos Slim lost \$1.6 billion as his fortune fell to its lowest level since the Index began in 2012.

However, the biggest loser was Asia's richest man Wang Jianlin; he lost about \$13 billion.

Since Chinese stocks peaked in June, shares of Wang's publicly traded companies have tumbled in Hong Kong and Shenzhen -- eroding his personal wealth. He lost a whopping \$3.6 billion in just the past two trading sessions -- roughly a third of his total losses this summer.

Wanda Dalian Commercial Properties plummeted 38% since June 12, slashing nearly \$9 billion off the value of Wang's stake; Wanda Cinema Line fell by 36%, for a loss of \$4.2 billion; and Wanda Hotel Development shares plunged by 49%, wiping another \$60 million away, according to an analysis of stock exchange data and filings by CNNMoney.

Wang recently overtook Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-Shing as Asia's richest man, according to a ranking released last week by the Hurun Report. The report estimated Wang was worth \$42.6 billion.

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 10

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