

BSF tortures Bangladeshi to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) allegedly tortured a Bangladeshi cattle trader to death on Shaljhore border in the district's Bhurungamari upazila early yesterday.

The dead is Abdul Gani, 50, of South Dhalidanga village of the upazila.

Around 5:00am, the BSF men of Jhuloli border outpost in Cooch Behar caught and beat up three Bangladeshi cattle traders who were trying to enter India to bring cattle through the Shaljhore border, said Zia Latiful Islam, officer-in-charge of Bhurungamari Police Station.

Gani died on the spot. His body bore several injury marks, the police official said.

However, Gani's two companions Alauddin, 30, and Rois Uddin, 25, managed to return to Bangladesh. They were undergoing treatment at a clinic in Rangpur, said Asaduzzaman, chairman of Shilikhuri union.

Hearing the incident, camp commander of Shaljhore BOP of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) sent a letter to the BSF, protesting the killing and asking for a flag meeting.

Later, two flag meetings were held between the BGB and the BSF near the scene of the incident where Lt Col Jakir Hossain, commanding officer of 45 BGB Battalion in Kurigram, led the Bangladesh side and AK Sing, commander of 98 BSF Battalion in Cooch Behar, led the India side.

In the meetings, the BSF, however, denied the allegation of torturing Gani to death, said the BGB official.

Before the flag meetings, Gani's body was found in Shaljhore village inside Bangladesh, said OC Zia Latiful.

Later, the body was handed over to the relatives of Gani after autopsy, said the police official.

A case was filed in this connection.

Rajuk restores

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condition of anonymity.

"We don't understand what to do, it is difficult when higher authorities order us to evict the illegal occupiers in buildings and then ask us to put it on hold," said one of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakhka (Rajuk) authorised officers who was in the eviction team.

Along the Mirpur Road in Dhanmondi, a team evicted shops and other commercial set ups in the basement parking spaces of six buildings and sealed off shops and a convention centre at Happy Arcade.

They fined two banks Tk 1 lakh and Tk 50,000 for not having appropriate parking facilities, said AZ Shafiqul Hannan, relevant Rajuk authorised officer.

About approval of disputed building plans and endorsing basements for commercial use, Hannan said such cases would be taken to the higher authorities for decisions.

Yesterday's drive there started around 2:00pm from Science Laboratory end along the west side of Mirpur Road and ended in Kalabagan.

Rajuk Executive Magistrate Md Nasir Uddin led the Dhanmondi drive.

Khandokar Zakir Hossain, the executive magistrate who led the Uttara drive, said they could dismantle only one illegal set up in a basement and four illegal ramps due to the delayed start of the drive.

They carried out the eviction drive from House Building towards Abdullahpur. The drive would continue today from the Rab office end in Uttara-4, he said.

Md Abdul Hamid Mian, the executive magistrate who led the Gulshan drive, said they removed illegal ramps encroaching on Gulshan Road-1, -2 and -3 and fined a building owner Tk 1 lakh for illegal occupancy.

Md Mizanur Rahman, Uttara authorised officer, earlier told The Daily Star that around 60 percent buildings in Uttara, Dhanmondi, Gulshan, and Banani were not using their designated parking spaces and were using them for shops, restaurants, offices, and clinics.

The drives would continue until February 4 except during the weekends, said the officials.

A Housing and Public Works Ministry meeting chaired by Minister Mosharraf Hossain on November 22 decided to free all basement car parks from illegal occupancy to help resolve the horrendous traffic problem of the city.

The meeting concluded that random on-the-street parking was a consequence of illegal occupancy of car parks in the basements of buildings.

The meeting decided that actions would also be taken against illegal commercialisation of residential buildings with shops, restaurants, parlours, guesthouses, spas, massage parlours, clinics, and schools.

As to why Rajuk allowed such practices to go on for years, Rajuk Chairman GM Joynal Abedin Bhuiyan had earlier said he would not respond to what had happened

JP on the verge of splitting

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Keeping Ershad's wife Raushan Ershad at the forefront, Water Resources Minister and JP Presidium Member Anisul Islam Mahmud and JP Secretary General Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu MP are leading the dissident group with the "blessings of the government", the insiders told this newspaper.

Ershad on Sunday also named JP presidium members GM Quader and ABM Ruhul Amin Howlader as convener and member secretary of the party's central council preparation committee.

The dissidents interpreted Ershad's decisions as indications that his brother is going to be the next chairman, added sources.

Ershad, aged around 86, left the capital on Sunday for a three-day visit to Rangpur. He is scheduled to return Dhaka today.

"Raushan cannot do this," Ershad told reporters in Rangpur. Without the consent of chairman, a presidium meeting cannot be held, he added.

With Raushan in the chair, the JP dissidents sat in an emergency meeting at her Gulshan residence around 5:45pm yesterday. Out of 39 JP presidium members, 18 were present at the two-hour meeting, sources said.

According to JP Presidium Member and State Minister for Labour Mujibul Haque Chunnun, it was a joint meeting of JP presidium and JP parliamentary party. Out of 40 JP lawmakers, 30 participated in the meeting. "It means we are strong," he said.

Raushan also convened a JP parliamentary party meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban at 3:30pm today, Chunnun told The Daily Star.

Emerging from yesterday's meeting, Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu in a briefing announced that Raushan is now the party's acting chairman.

Asked about the fate of the JP chairman, he said Ershad as the founding chair will remain with the party. Asked what would be Ershad's post, he refused to say anything.

Talking to The Daily Star later, Bablu said they took the decision for the sake of the party's unity.

On Ershad's announcement of making GM Quader co-chair, Bablu said there is no provision for co-chair in the party charter. Ershad made his younger brother the party co-chair and his successor without discussing it in any party forum, he claimed.

Earlier at the briefing, he also said Ershad made GM Quader and Ruhul

SI should be dismissed

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the court said while hearing a writ petition filed on Sunday by two lawyers and a journalist in this regard.

The court also expressed surprise that the police station did not record the first information report (FIR) until yesterday in connection with the custodial torture of Rabbi in the capital's Mohammadpur on January 9.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice AKM Shahidul Huq ordered the officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur Police Station to immediately record the complaint of the victim as FIR.

Masud was suspended after a police probe report was submitted to the deputy commissioner (Tejgaon division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police on Saturday. However, police are yet to disclose the findings of the probe.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said the SI was suspended as a primary investigation found that he did not behave like a policeman.

Another investigation is underway into two incidents (assaults on Rabbi and a Dhaka South City Corporation official). If the probe finds anyone guilty of the allegations, proper action would be taken against them, the minister told reporters at his secretariat office.

According to an assistant inspector general of police at Police Headquarters, departmental actions in the police include dismissal of a cop on charges of forgery, moral turpitude, serious breach of conduct and anti-disciplinary activities.

The headquarters in a statement yesterday said 76 policemen, from the ranks of constable to SI, were either fired or forced into retirement last year under departmental actions.

NO CASE FILED YET

Rabbi submitted his complaint to OC Jamal Uddin Mir of Mohammadpur Police Station on January 10. The OC said no case was filed in this connection till last evening as he did not receive the HC order.

Yesterday, the court also issued a rule upon the government to explain within two weeks why the police torture and infliction of physical injury on Golam Rabbi should not be declared illegal.

The secretaries to the ministries of home and law, inspector general of police, DMP commissioner, deputy commissioner (Tejgaon zone), OC of Mohammadpur Police Station and its SI Masud Shikder have been made respondents to the rule.

The writ petition was filed with the HC as public interest litigation, seeking the court's directives to the govern-

Amin Howlader president and secretary of the council preparation committee. "All this is the violation of the party constitution."

Contacted, a minister who was present at yesterday's meeting said "We don't want that Jatiya Party would split again. But we will have no alternative to expel Ershad from the party if he expels Raushan or any of the dissidents."

Contacted, GM Quader said it was totally illegal to declare Raushan as the party's acting chair as they don't have any authority to call a presidium meeting. "Only chairman has the authority to appoint someone acting chairman. Or, after the death of the party chief, one may take the charge for an interim period."

He claimed Raushan still is with Ershad.

Asked about his appointment as co-chair, he said according to the party constitution, the chairman has the right to do this and he would pass it through party council later.

According to sources, Raushan last year opposed Bablu's becoming secretary general. Now she is sided with Babu and against Ershad and GM Quader.

NOTHING NEW

The party is known to have split four times. The last time was when Kazi Zafar, a JP presidium member, "expelled" Ershad from the party for the decision to participate in January 5, 2014 election "betraying" the party men.

Known for flip-flopping, Ershad however changed his position and announced that he won't take part in the "one-sided" polls.

Defying this announcement, a group of JP leaders, including Anisul and Bablu, under the leadership of Raushan decided to participate in the election, boycotted by the BNP-led opposition and some other political parties.

On December 12, 2013, Ershad was allegedly picked up by members of an intelligence agency and taken to the Central Military Hospital in Dhaka under the Rab escort for "treatment".

With Ershad still in hospital, the party took part in the polls. Raushan is now the leader of the opposition in parliament and Ershad the special envoy of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The party also got polarised in the recent times over Ershad's statement that the three JP ministers should leave the cabinet to restore its "image among people as the real opposition party".

ment to form a judicial committee to probe the custodial torture of Rabbi.

The petitioners also sought an order from the HC on the government to arrest Masud and give the victim a compensation of Tk 3 crore.

On January 9 night, Masud and his colleagues allegedly beat up the central bank official and demanded Tk 5 lakh from him. The SI also threatened to kill him in a "shootout" and frame him in narcotics cases if he did not pay them the money.

The police brutality on Rabbi triggered a public outrage. Masud was withdrawn from duty on January 11 and suspended five days later.

'NO DUTIES IN PLAINCLOTHES'

Asked whether the police were defying instructions not to discharge duties in plainclothes, the home minister said: "We only give the police the guidelines; the force is implementing those."

The government is taking measures to stop policemen performing duties in plainclothes, he added.

As a tactic, police sometimes might launch operations in plainclothes. But in those cases, the law enforcers wear waistcoats inscribed "police", "DB" and "Rab", said Asaduzzaman.

PROBE BODY VISITS RABBI

A three-member probe committee, formed by the Police Headquarters, yesterday visited Rabbi for the second time at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Talking to The Daily Star, the bank official said he told the committee that SI Masud along with three to four other constables of his team had tortured him on January 9 night. He demanded exemplary punishment for SI Masud and his colleagues.

In another development, officials and employees of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) yesterday formed a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club, protesting the custodial torture of Bikash Chandra Das, a cleaning inspector of the corporation, in the capital's Jatrabari on January 15.

They demanded exemplary punishment of SI Arshadul Islam Akash of Jatrabari Police Station and also pledged to continue their movement until the cop is dismissed from his post and arrested.

POLICE STATEMENT

The Police Headquarters in its statement said it was inappropriate to blame the force due to misconduct of an individual.

Most of the policemen discharge their duties as per the law. However, there are incidents of breaches. The police do not support any offence or offender, claimed the release.

The police also take legal actions against those involved in criminal

Australian Open

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broke as the year's first Grand Slam got underway in Melbourne, and prompted a swift response from tennis officials, with British Prime Minister David Cameron also calling for a full investigation by the sport's governing bodies.

As speculation swirled over the identities of the players under suspicion -- eight of whom are reportedly in Melbourne -- world number one Novak Djokovic said he was once approached to fix a match.

The men's tour and the sport's anti-corruption body, the Tennis Integrity Unit, as well as Tennis Australia firmly rejected suggestions that any evidence was deliberately suppressed.

"The Tennis Integrity Unit and the tennis authorities absolutely reject any suggestion that evidence of match-fixing has been suppressed for any reason or isn't being thoroughly investigated," men's tour chief Chris Kermode told reporters.

"And while the BBC and BuzzFeed reports mainly refer to events from about 10 years ago, we will investigate any new information, and we always do."

The report comes after allegations of doping cover-ups at athletics' world body, the IAAF, and also follow the corruption scandals which have convulsed football's FIFA.

"It is deeply concerning that another sport is facing such serious allegations," an official spokesman for Prime Minister Cameron said Monday.

"As with the allegations we have seen in other sports like athletics and football, the people who suffer most are the fans."

"The Prime Minister would want to see these issues investigated by the independent authorities. The most important thing is that action is taken in response and the independent authorities get on with that."

The leaked files include details of an investigation into a 2007 match between Nikolay Davydenko and Martin Vassallo Arguello, which found insufficient evidence of corrupt practice.

The report said the probe uncovered syndicates in Russia and Italy making hundreds of thousands of dollars betting on matches investigators thought to be fixed.

The key group of 16 suspect players had not been targeted in any crack-down, it said, questioning the effectiveness of the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU).

Kermode said the TIU had won 18 convictions including six life bans since it was set up in 2008, adding it "has to find evidence as opposed to information, suspicion, or hearsay".

BuzzFeed said players were targeted in hotel rooms at major tournaments and offered \$50,000 or more to fix matches for the betting syndicates.

Other allegations included that a confidential report in 2008 recommended investigations into 28 players but the findings were not followed up, apparently on legal advice.

The report also said the European Sports Security Association, which monitors betting for bookmakers, flagged up more than 50 suspicious matches to the TIU last year.

Zia's birth

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party will place wreaths and offer special prayers at the grave of Ziaur Rahman at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city at 10:00am today.

The party flag will be hoisted at the BNP offices across the country. Ziaur Rahman Foundation will hold a meeting at 3:00pm at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

A blood donation programme will be held at the party's Nayapaltn central office on the occasion of the birth anniversary.

Jatiyatabadi Olama Dal will also arrange a *milad mehfil* at Zia's grave.

Iran bins new US sanctions

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had complied with the measures imposed by the deal with global powers reached in Vienna in July.

World leaders hailed the implementation of the deal, and the subsequent lifting of European and US sanctions, as a milestone in international diplomacy.

But in a sign that tensions persist, the US Treasury announced it was imposing sanctions on five Iranian nationals and a network of companies based in the United Arab Emirates and China in connection with Iran's ballistic missile programme.

Iran's foreign ministry yesterday denied the new measures as "illegitimate", with spokesman Hossein Jaber Ansari insisting the missile programme has no links with the nuclear issue.

"Iran's missile programme has never been designed to be capable of carrying nuclear weapons," Ansari was quoted as saying by the ISNA news agency.

He said Iran would respond by "accelerating its legal ballistic missile programme and boosting defence capabilities".

Defence Minister Hossein Dehghan said the new sanctions would have "no effect", telling the Fars news agency: "We will prove it in practice by unveiling new missile achievements."

Cooperation on the nuclear programme was moving forward however, with International Atomic Energy Agency chief Yukiya Amano in Tehran for talks with senior officials on Iran's continued compliance with the deal.

Amano met Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation, and was to hold talks with President Hassan Rouhani to discuss monitoring and verifying Iran's commitments under the agreement.

"We talked about future cooperation, especially in the new atmosphere, and we partially drew the roadmap" for continued efforts, state television quoted Salehi as saying after the talks.

'GOOD DAY'

Three Iranian-Americans arrived in Germany after leaving Tehran on Sunday in a prisoner swap that followed the lifting of most international sanctions on Iran under a deal US President Barack Obama said cut off Tehran's path to a nuclear bomb.

Speaking after the released prisoners left Iran, Obama said Iran now would not "get its hands on a nuclear bomb" and the planet would be more secure.

"This is a good day because once again we are seeing what's possible through strong American diplomacy," Obama said at the White House. "These things are a reminder of what we can achieve when we lead with strength and with wisdom."

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani

hailed the nuclear deal as a "golden page" in Iran's history and said the agreement could be used as a model to resolve other regional issues.

SAUDI FEAR

Saudi officials have said little in public, but they fear the end of global sanctions on Iran could boost what they see as its subversive activities in the Middle East while also enriching a diverse economy that the oil-dependent kingdom views as a major competitor for regional influence.

Saudi-Iranian political rivalry has aggravated tumult across the Middle East for years, but has escalated in recent months as Riyadh's new rulers have taken a harder line and as the nuclear deal has relieved pressure on Tehran.

Iran's international rehabilitation also opens the prospect of economic rivalry, with Saudi Arabia facing not only a fellow oil producer in an era of oversupply and low prices, but also a more self-reliant and multi-skilled economy.

Even without public pronouncements, Riyadh's private consternation could be discerned in the pages of semi-official media and comments by influential clerics.

The main cartoon in al-Watan daily simply showed a pencil broken midway through writing the word "peace", while an opinion piece underneath it asked "Will Iran change after the nuclear deal enters implementation?" Its answer: probably not.

Saudi Arabia, a conservative Sunni Muslim monarchy, sees revolutionary Iran as the paramount threat to the Middle East's stability, because of its support for Shia militias that Riyadh says have inflamed sectarian violence and undermined Arab governments.

For the Al Saud dynasty, the nuclear deal was a double blow, freeing Iran from sanctions it believed helped check those regional activities and raising the spectre of a rapprochement between Tehran and Riyadh's most powerful ally, the United States.

Under King Salman, Saudi Arabia has launched a war in Yemen to stop an ally of Tehran gaining power, mobilised Muslim states to freeze Tehran out of regional and Islamic influence, and has boosted support to rebels fighting Iranian allies in Syria.

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani, who has publicly reached out to Riyadh repeatedly since his election in 2013, on Sunday rebuked the Al Saud for their own regional stance and called on them to "take the path that will benefit the region".

Such comments, which mirror accusations Riyadh makes about Iran, infuriate Saudi officials who regard Rouhani as a smooth-talking cipher for Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and see no point engaging

Shocking disparity

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in the world had as much wealth as the poorest half of the global population. It criticised the work of lobbyists and the amount of money kept in tax havens.

Oxfam predicted that the 1% would overtake the rest of the world this time last year.

It takes cash and assets worth \$68,800 (£48,300) to get into the top 10%, and \$760,000 (£533,000) to be in the 1%. That means that if you own an average house in London without a mortgage, you are probably in the 1%.

The figures carry various caveats, for example, information about the wealth of the super-rich is hard to come by, which Credit Suisse says means its estimates of the proportion of wealth held by the 10% and the 1% is "likely to err on the low side".

As a global report, the figures also necessarily include some estimates of levels of wealth in countries from which

accurate statistics are not available.

Oxfam said that the 62 richest people having as much wealth as the poorest 50% of the population is a remarkable concentration of wealth, given that it would have taken 388 individuals to have the same wealth as the bottom 50% in 2010.

"Instead of an economy that works for the prosperity of all, for future generations, and for the planet, we have instead created an economy for the 1%," Oxfam's report said yesterday.

The trend over the period that Credit Suisse has been carrying out this research has been that the proportion of wealth held by the top 1% fell gradually from 2000 to 2009 and has risen every year since then.

In fact, it is only in the 2015 figures that the proportion held by the top 1% overtakes the share taken by them in the first report in 2000.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
 Census of the Undocumented Myanmar Nationals Staying in Bangladesh 2015 Project
 Parishankhyan Bhaban (2nd Floor, Block-2)
 E-27/A, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
 www.bbs.gov.bd

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Tender ID, Package No. & date of publishing	Brief description of goods and related service	Last selling and closing date & time
Tender ID : 43713 Package No: e-Tender: GD-22 Publishing : 19-Jan-2016 10:00am	Supply of Writing Notebook with prescribed printed hardcover. (Detail specifications of the abovementioned items are available on e-GP portal)	Last selling: 03-Feb-2016 10:00am Closing: 03-Feb-2016 11:00am

The interested persons/firm may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender.

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Project Director

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