

## Six 'militants' killed in Assam

AFP, Guwahati

Indian security forces killed six suspected separatist militants in a gun battle in the country's restive north-east yesterday, police said.

Security forces launched a raid on a suspected hideout in a remote part of Assam state, home to myriad separatist insurgent groups.

"Based on specific information we raided the KPLT hideout and a firefight broke out in which we managed to neutralise six militants, including two of their top leaders," local police chief Debajit Deori told AFP by telephone.

The Karbi People's Liberation Tigers (KPLT) is fighting for an independent homeland for the Karbi tribe.

Deori said automatic weapons and ammunition, including one rifle, grenades, and "incriminating documents from the dead rebels" had been found at the scene.

One soldier was injured and was being treated in hospital.

Northeast India, linked to the rest of the country by a narrow land corridor, has seen decades of unrest among ethnic and separatist groups.

The region is home to dozens of tribal groups and small guerrilla armies that resist rule from New Delhi.

Many are fighting for independent homelands for their tribes, and often

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Salma Begum, middle, widow of Babul Howlader, cries as she mourns the death of her husband at her village home in Agailjhara upazila of Barisal yesterday. Babul and his brother are among the six Bangladeshi migrant workers who died in a road crash in Qatif of Saudi Arabia on Thursday. PHOTO: STAR

## BSF kills

FROM PAGE 1

spot," Tajul added.

A letter was sent to the BSF, asking it to return the body at the earliest, said the official of Border Guard Bangladesh.

Our correspondent in Kurigram reports: BSF members shot dead Lal Mia when he went to Nanirchar frontier in Roumari upazila to bring in Indian cattle.

Belal Hossain, sub-inspector of Roumari Police Station, said some traders went to Nanirchar area in the upazila around 4:00am yesterday.

"As they entered the no-man's-land, BSF soldiers of Jhalurchar BOP opened fired, leaving Lal Mia dead," he added.

Bullets hit the victim's back, said the OC.

## Taskin, Sunny

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to remedy their actions, the pair underwent a bowling test at the National Cricket Centre, an ICC-accredited centre in Brisbane, on September 8 and their elbow extensions on all deliveries were found to be within the legal limit of 15 degrees.

The pair had been reported during Bangladesh's first 2016 World T20 match against the Netherlands on March 9 and subsequently underwent a bowling test in Chennai, where their actions were found to be illegal. The players played no further part in the tournament and have since sat out of international cricket.

The BCB had contested the decision at the time and it raised a furore among Bangladesh cricket fans as well, but the decision was upheld by a judicial commission.

Fan favourite Taskin is likely to return to action tomorrow in the first ODI against Afghanistan, with chief selector Minhajul Abedin confirming earlier that a spot would be open for him in the event that he was cleared.

Although Sunny does not seem to have a place in the team at the moment, he will be raring to force his way back into the almost impregnable Bangladesh side through the kind of performances in domestic cricket which saw him on the flight to that ill-fated World T20.

## Hackers steal 500m Yahoo users' data

FROM PAGE 16

Yahoo said the stolen information may have included names, email addresses, birth dates, and scrambled passwords, along with encrypted or unencrypted security questions and answers that could help hackers break into victims' other online accounts.

While there is no official record of the largest breaches, many analysts have called the Myspace hack revealed earlier this year as the largest to date, with 360 million users affected.

**AMMUNITION FOR HACKERS**  
Computer security analyst Graham Cluley said the stolen Yahoo data "could be useful ammunition for any hacker attempting to break into Yahoo accounts, or interested in exploring whether users might have used the same security ques-

tions/answers to protect themselves elsewhere on the web."

He noted that while Yahoo said that it believes the hack was state-sponsored, the company provided no details regarding what makes them think that is the case.

"If I had to break the bad news that my company had been hacked... I would feel much happier saying that the attackers were 'state-sponsored,'" rather than teen hackers, Cluley said in a blog post.

University of Notre Dame associate teaching professor and data security specialist Timothy Carone told AFP that the Yahoo hack fit the "big picture" when it comes to cyberattacks launched by spy agencies in Russia, China, North Korea or other countries.

Carone described Russia, China

and North Korea as the usual three suspects in state-sponsored hacks, but cautioned that allies are not above cyber snooping as well.

It appeared that looted Yahoo data did not include unprotected passwords or information associated with payments or bank accounts, the Silicon Valley company said.

Yahoo is asking affected users to change passwords, and recommending anyone who has not done so since 2014 to take the same action as a precaution.

Users of Yahoo online services were urged to review accounts for suspicious activity and change passwords and security question information used to log in anywhere else if it matched that at Yahoo.

**YAHOO BEING BOUGHT**  
Confirmation of the major cyber

breach comes two months after Yahoo sealed a deal to sell its core internet business to telecom giant Verizon for \$4.8 billion, ending a two-decade run as an independent company.

It was not immediately clear if the data breach could impact the closing of the deal or the price agreed by Verizon. "Frankly, the timing couldn't be worse for Yahoo," Cluley said.

The telecom firm said it was reviewing the new information. "Within the last two days, we were notified of Yahoo's security incident," Verizon said in a statement.

"We will evaluate as the investigation continues through the lens of overall Verizon interests, including consumers, customers, shareholders and related communities."

## Ensuring safe food a far cry

FROM PAGE 1

assigning over a hundred food and sanitary inspectors with safe food mandates and launching some awareness campaigns.

It was at the height of media spotlight when the ex-food minister Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque spearheaded the new law and now that enthusiasm, if not evaporated altogether, seems to have lost much of its steam.

Food safety authority's tall mandate and poor strength surface at a time when a government-run chemical contamination study on 15 food commodities has found presence of excessive pesticide residues, aflatoxin, formaldehyde and hazardous colouring agents in one fourth of the samples tested. The National Food Safety Laboratory (NFSL) at the Institute of Public Health (IPH) conducted the study between November last year and June this year.

This shows high prevalence of unsafe food in the markets and poor oversight by the authorities.

Sources at the public administration ministry said the ministry

agreed to sanction a 422-strong manpower, which is less than half the BFSFA had sought.

The approval process might take a few more weeks to months depending on the availability of finance.

Asked, BFSFA Chairman Mustak Hassan Md Iftekhar told The Daily Star that with a small team he tried his level best to do some ground-work. He acknowledged that it took initial few months for him to understand the enormity and complexities of the task.

Just as he has gained some expertise on food safety regulations and enforcement management, the government decided it was time he joins Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) as its chairman. A Member of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) was asked to replace him as BFSFA chairman later this month.

The outgoing chairman said the BFSFA would now pull resources from other agencies. For instance, he said, the BFSFA would sign separate contracts with health and food minis-

tries to task inspectors under their disposal with the jobs mandated under the Safe Food Act, 2013.

Currently, the ministries, divisions and departments subordinate to those are directly and/or indirectly involved with food control system are: food ministry, agriculture ministry, fisheries and livestock ministry, health and family welfare ministry, industries ministry, commerce ministry, home ministry, law ministry, local government division, National Board of Revenue, Department of Agricultural Extension, Department of Fisheries, Department of Livestock Services, Directorate General of Health Services, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Department of Environment, Bangladesh Accreditation Board, Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI), Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection, nine city corporations and nearly 400 municipalities.

Some of the agencies formulated policies and some of the agencies implement decisions.

Against this backdrop, the BFSFA was set up with a mandate to authorise food inspectors under Section 51 of the Safe Food Act 2013.

The food inspectors appointed by the BFSFA will be responsible for inspecting food premises, taking food samples according to official procedures, destruction of adulterated foods, investigating complaints made to the BFSFA, and keeping official records.

Food inspectors as authorised officers will be involved in the investigation of food safety offences, the issuance of warrants by the Food Court and prosecution of offenders.

Since its inception in February, 2015, the BFSFA has developed the Food Safety (Labeling) Regulations, 2016, the Food Safety (Food Hygiene) Regulations, 2016, the Food Safety (Contaminants, Toxins and Harmful Residues) Regulations, 2015, the Food Safety (Use of Food Additives) Regulations, 2015, the Food Safety (Sample Collection, Testing and Analysis) Regulations, 2015, and Food Safety Strategic Plan 2016-2021.

## Outsider meddles

FROM PAGE 1

camp police, said Sub-inspector Bachhu Mia, in-charge of the DMCH police outpost.

He said they handed him over to Shahbagh Police Station.

Sumon told them that a nurse of the hospital requested him to give the drug into the nebulizer, said Bachhu Mia.

Abul Hossain, a ward master of the neurosurgery department, said Sumon was an outsider and might be a helper of an ambulance service.

DMCH Deputy Director Abdul Gani said he had heard the news and would take action after an investigation in this regard.

As the news spread, relatives of other patients gathered in front of the hospital, protesting the death.

Biplob's elder brother Mintu Mondal claimed that he filed a case with Shahbagh Police Station last night in connection with the death. However, duty officer at the police station said a general dairy (GD) was lodged.

In the GD, Mintu alleged that his brother died due to negligence of doctors and nurses.

Expressing shock at Biplob's death, Rafiqul Islam, an attendant of a patient, told this correspondent that he had seen Biplob taking a stroll in front of Ward 207 yesterday afternoon.

"He [Biplob] was having a chat with another man. He told the man that he would go home tomorrow [today] to celebrate Durga Puja next month," Rafiqul added.

The victim's body was kept at DMC morgue for an autopsy.

## Repatriation

FROM PAGE 16

The factory in Herat city of Afghanistan produces steel billet for exporting it to Middle Eastern countries. It has around 100 employees, mostly from Afghanistan.

Factory owner Abdullah Rasuli had agreed to pay each worker \$600 a month, but he gave only \$400, Manik alleged.

After paying them salaries for two months before the closure of the factory, the owner had left them abandoned in the factory. Since then, the Bangladeshis have been passing their days in a miserable condition.

Strapped for cash, they hardly can meet their daily needs, let alone send money home.

Some local workers at the factory help them get some food. They have been asked by the factory authorities not to leave the factory compound for "security reasons".

"Before Eid-ul-Azha, the police commissioner of Herat province visited our factory and assured us of sending us back home within two weeks after the Eid. But we don't know what will actually happen," Manik said.

Officials at the Afghan embassy in Dhaka and the Bangladesh foreign and expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministries told this correspondent that the Bangladeshis' repatriation might take time.

"We have been informed from sources in Afghanistan that the Herat government [provincial] is sincerely trying to speed up the repatriation process of the Bangladeshis," an official at the Afghan embassy in Dhaka told The Daily Star on Wednesday.

The Bangladeshis would be sent back with travel permits after resolving some of their problems, he added, but wished not to be named.

"I cannot confirm you whether the Bangladeshis can be brought back within the next two weeks. It might take a couple of weeks. But authorities concerned of Afghanistan are trying their best to send them back home," the official told this correspondent.

A senior official at the foreign ministry of Bangladesh said they were dealing with the matter sincerely. "We are doing our best to bring them back home as soon as possible," he said, adding that they requested the expatriates' welfare ministry to take initiatives to this end.

Javed Ahmed, additional secretary of the expatriates' welfare ministry, said they would make a decision soon in this regard.



A traffic police tries to patch up a barrier in the median of Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue hours after a kid was killed there while crossing the road. People tear down the barbed wire barriers to make it easy for them to cross the road. PHOTO: STAR

## 9-year-old killed

FROM PAGE 1

Abul Kalam Azad, the victim's brother-in-law, said Robiul went to Amborsha mosque at Karwan Bazar for offering his Juma prayers and was returning home in West Karwan Bazar area.

Robiul, who was from Katiadi upazila of Kishoreganj, was staying at his home with his mother, Ranu Begum, and two siblings as his madrasa was on Eid vacation.

Mazharul Islam, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Police Station, said the bus which killed the boy was seized in Motijheel area but the driver escaped.

Angry locals stopped two other buses of the same company near the accident spot and forced the passengers to get down.

Minutes later, this correspondent, however, saw many others crossing the same street at the same place through the central reservation, ignoring the risks. The barbed wire fence there was cut off.

Every day, thousands of people do the same across the city, apparently to "save their time" but the practice, in some cases, leads to accidents.

## Eight Russian firemen killed in Moscow blaze

AFP, Moscow

Eight Russian firefighters were killed as they battled a blaze at a warehouse in eastern Moscow, authorities said yesterday, in the latest deadly fire to hit the capital.

Their bodies were discovered after contact was lost as they fought to extinguish a huge blaze that started Thursday evening at a plastics depot, the emergency services ministry said in a statement.

"The corpses of eight colleagues have been found in the main area where the search was located," the statement said.

"Until the end there was hope that they would be alive. But due to the intense fire, the high temperatures and the thick smoke the firefighters were unable to get out."

The emergency workers were among the first to arrive on the scene and helped evacuate 100 workers from the warehouse located towards the

eastern edge of the Russian capital, officials said.

They were battling flames on the roof of the building when it collapsed, the emergency services said.

"The firefighters died doing their duty like heroes," Moscow's mayor Sergei Sobyanin wrote on Twitter.

"I send my condolences to their loved ones. The city will give all necessary aid to the families of those who died."

Officials said the blaze -- which tore across an area of some 4,000 square metres (430,000 square feet) -- was eventually extinguished at 0744 local time yesterday.

Investigators announced that they had launched a criminal probe into possible "fire safety violations" and were conducting tests at the scene to determine the cause of the blaze.

Firetrucks still surrounded the site yesterday morning and firefighters had set up a makeshift memorial to their dead comrades, lighting candles and placing red carnations on a table.