

India claims surgical strikes across LoC

Its army says terror launch pads targeted; Pakistan calls it naked aggression, says its two soldiers died in small arms fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday said its army had carried out surgical strikes on terror launch pads across the de facto border in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir killing several terrorists.

Provoking furious charges of "naked aggression" from Pakistan, the news of the strikes came ten days after terrorists had conducted a deadly attack on an Indian camp.

The operation began around midnight on Wednesday and ended around 4:30am (Indian time) yesterday, Indian media reported quoting unidentified defence sources.

Six to seven terror launch pads -- located 1km to 3km deep inside Pakistan-occupied Kashmir -- were targeted after a week of surveillance, according to the media reports.

Pakistan, however, dismissed India's announcement of the surgical strikes as an



"LINE OF CONTROL" Shows the approximate limit of de facto control on either side

"illusion" designed to whip up "media hype" and said two of its soldiers had been killed and nine more wounded in what it described as small arms fire.

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AN URBAN WASTELAND... Tannery waste dumped on a government khas land near the leather factories at Hazaribagh in the capital, making the area thick with foul smell. Despite repeated government orders for shifting the business to Savar and a court fine for each day's delay in the relocation, almost all the traders in Hazaribagh continue to store and process rawhides there. The photo was taken on Wednesday. See City in Frame page 16.

Mission 'Saarc minus Pakistan'

THE HINDU, New Delhi

By pulling out of the Saarc summit in Islamabad, the Indian government is trying to achieve two ends: sending a tough message in the wake of the Uri attack in which 18 soldiers were killed, but also that it is going ahead with its plan for 'Saarc minus Pakistan' instead.

The fact that India did not pull out alone but that Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan also did so, citing the same reason as India, was a significant step in that direction for the grouping, officials say.

"If you heard the PM's speech in Kathmandu [November 17], you would have known the government's intention."

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Agri successes to stay if challenges met

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's agriculture has reached a crossroads where successes can be rejoiced but those could be short-lived if certain challenges are not met.

Given the huge gap in land-people ratio and indication that the population would not stabilise anytime soon, the success Bangladesh achieved could be at risk of slipping back.

The cautionary note was sounded by agriculturalists, policy planners and experts from home and abroad at a two-day international conference that began yesterday morning at the capital's Krishibid Institution Bangladesh (KIB).

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Bangladesh-based solar project wins UN prize

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A ground-breaking project based in Bangladesh, which allows villagers to earn by selling excess solar energy to neighbours, was announced yesterday as one of 13 winners of the United Nations climate change awards.

With the help of

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A life for a vase

House owner, son 'kill' tenant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All he did was put a vase of a medicinal herb at the doorway of his rented flat without asking the house owner.

Furious at the "audacity", the owner and his son then not only threw the vase away but beat the 45-year-old tenant with a broom and punched him on the chest and face indiscriminately.

When Abdul Malek, who had a heart condition, collapsed on the ground, his wife and daughter took him to a hospital where doctors said he was dead.

The incident took place at the capital's Ashkona in Uttara yesterday morning.

Police arrested building owner Saleh Ahamed, 65, but

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MG!

"There's no scientific basis for the media campaign that if a power plant is built at Rampal near the Sundarbans, it will harm the Sundarbans massively."

ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST MINISTER ANWAR HOSSAIN MANJU IN PARLIAMENT



Wild birds, rescued during a forest department raid in Zirabo area of Savar, being released at Curzon Hall on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Tamim Chy's 'close aide' arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested "a close aide" of Gulshan café attack "mastermind" Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury in Gazipur's Tongi.



Salah Uddin

Thirty-year-old Salah Uddin Kamran, a member of "Neo JMB", was arrested at Tongi Station Road around 8:00pm on Wednesday, said Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Kamran used to stay with Tamim in different militant hideouts, and police suspected that he left the Narayanganj den hours before Tamim and his two associates were killed in a police raid on August 27.

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Lethal lightning

Record rise in deaths this year

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh has witnessed a record rise in the number of deaths from lightning strikes this year, and experts say it is linked to global warming and deforestation.

Until September 20, a total of 193 people were killed in lightning strikes, beating all previous annual figures that ranged from 51 to 136 between 2010 and 2015, according to the Department of Disaster Management.

The total death toll since 2010 is 828. However, the actual number of deaths from lightning strikes could be more as it had not been considered a natural disaster until recently and not recorded by the department, an official told The Daily Star.

The record of people getting injured in lightning strikes is not maintained either.

The government declared lightning as one of the natural disasters only earlier this

year, said M Khalid Mahmood, director (planning and development) at the DDM.

The district administration, as per a standing order, provides Tk 20,000 to the families that have lost a member in lightning strike.

Gawher Nayeem Wahra, director of Disaster Management and Climate Change at Brac, said authorities appear grossly negligent to the growing danger from lightning strikes by not taking

any measures to prevent deaths from the natural disaster.

"Compensating families of the deceased with several thousand taka is almost meaningless when the person is gone," he said. There would be thousands getting injured by lightning strikes and many are suffering life-long consequences without any attention from the authorities, he added.

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YEAR	DEATHS
2010	99
2011	114
2012	136
2013	123
2014	112
2015	51
2016*	193

*Until September 20

SOURCE: DDM

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