

6-year-old

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 The 13-day expedition began late last month and Advait, all of six years and 10 months, managed to scale the base camp on November 3. The base camp is located 17,593 feet above sea level.

Talking to TOI, the boy said the toughest part of the climb was the day they left from Namche Bazaar in Nepal, their single highest climb in a day on the entire trip. It is also the last civilized area before the ascent.

"I want to climb Mt Kilimanjaro next," the ambitious boy said, when asked about his plans for the future. Advait is no stranger to adventurous activity.

According to Payal, he completed his first 5-km run before he turned three. Asked if he also aspires to be the youngest to scale Everest, his mother replied, "He wants to do that. But that is a lot more dangerous than reaching the base camp." Advait also dreams of scaling Mount Elbrus, the tallest mountain in Europe.

Currently, the record for the youngest person to trek to the Everest base camp is held by Delhi-based Harshit Saumitra. On October 17, 2014, the then five year old reached the base camp and trekked ahead to Kala Patthar Peak at 18,519 ft, becoming the youngest person to reach there.

2 crore illegal

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 Rijiju said deportation of foreign nationals staying illegally in the country is a continuous process.

During the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP Prime Ministerial candidate Narendra Modi had said that "Bangladeshis will be deported if he comes to power."

"They have been given the red carpet welcome by politicians just for votes. You can write it down. After May 16, these Bangladeshis better be prepared with their bags packed," Modi had said at an election rally in Serampore in West Bengal, which shares a porous border with Bangladesh.

Assam and West Bengal are considered to be the worst hit due to the alleged illegal infiltration from Bangladesh. Assam had witnessed a six-year-long agitation between 1979-85 against the illegal immigrants.

Illegal immigration from Bangladesh has been a major issue for many students, social and political organisations in the Northeast.

The 2014 election manifesto of BJP said the party will review and improve the border management and "punitive measures will be introduced to check illegal immigration".

The BJP said it will address the issue of infiltration and illegal immigrants in the Northeast region on a priority basis and this will include clear policy directions and effective control at the ground level.

Bangladesh and India share a 4,096-km long international border.

Bangladesh

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 seven percent of attacks, was eighth in the index.

The report said, "2015 was also a difficult year for Bangladesh, resulting in the most attacks and deaths since at least 2000, although the lethality rate per attack was low."

"There were 459 attacks which resulted in 75 deaths. Historically, terrorism in Bangladesh has been carried out by local groups such as Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen, a group which was allegedly involved in the July 2016 Holey Artisan Bakery attack in Dhaka."

The report, however, finds that deaths from terrorism decreased by 10 percent in 2015 to 29,376. "This is the first decrease in number of deaths recorded since 2010."

This is the fourth edition of the Global Terrorism Index which provides a summary of the key global trends and patterns in terrorism over the last 16 years, covering the period from the beginning of 2000 to the end of 2015.

No country on target for 2C world Says report on climate

AFP, Marrakesh
 No country is shifting from dirty to clean energy fast enough to hold global warming below two degrees Celsius, a ranking of 58 nations responsible for 90 percent of energy-related CO2 emissions showed yesterday.

Despite a boom in renewables, especially solar and wind, "the necessary energy revolution is still happening too slowly," the Climate Change Performance Index 2017 reported on the margins of UN climate talks in Marrakesh.

Outrage over teacher

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 discuss some issues regarding the school and give the teacher some money.

But, Shah Alam, president of Ward-6 of Jubo League in Satura Union, ambushed him right in front of the house of the teacher. Alam started beating Salam up for trying to go to the house of the female teacher.

Salam was then taken before local Union Parishad member Mostafizur Rahman at Amtola Bazar in Rajapur where he was again beaten up by the UP member and his men.

"Sir was tortured in front of all of us at the bazaar but no one dared to go forward. Being humiliated before his students and others, tears rolled down his cheeks," said a witness seeking unanimity.

Injured Salam returned to his home at night and went to bed without saying anything to his family. On Tuesday morning, family members found him dead, said Samsul Alam.

Family members learnt about the assault after seeing marks on his dead body while washing it before burial.

After hearing about the assault from locals, Salam's family informed the police who took the body to Jhalakathi Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

The teacher of the school whom Salam was trying to reach before being beaten up told The Daily Star over phone, "Head sir came to me to give some money following my request. But he could not give it to me as Shah Alam and his men snatched the money as soon as he got near my home."

She said her family and she were being threatened of dire consequences if they spoke about the incident. She left her house in fear of Shah Alam and his men, the teacher added.

Siddikur Rahman, chairman of Satura Union, said he was getting conflicting information about the incident.

He said some were saying that

locals beat him up on suspicion that he was having an affair with the teacher while others were saying he was beaten up for the money he was carrying.

Salam was tortured twice, which is unthinkable, he said.

"Sir had Tk 92,000 in his pocket when he went to the madam's house and the amount might be the reason for the torture," said Bulbul Kabir, a teacher in the area.

Salam's son Samsul Alam Khan said they had no enmity with Shah Alam or the UP member and that Salam might have been beaten up for the money.

About the cause of his death, Golam Farhad, resident medical officer (RMO) of Jhalakathi, who had done the autopsy, said there were torture marks on his hands, legs and other parts of his body.

"To know the exact reason for his death, we have sent some samples to Barisal for tests," he said.

A case was filed with Rajapur Police Station Tuesday night accusing the UP member and Shah Alam, said Officer-in-Charge Munirul Giash.

They were trying to arrest the accused, he added.

Fakrul Islam, general secretary of Rajapur upazila unit Jubo League, said Shah Alam is the ward president but he has been inactive for a long time.

The commander of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad of Rajapur upazila unit said Salam was tortured not only physically but also mentally.

The commander demanded immediate exemplary punishment of killers.

"We will be forced to take to the streets if the killers are not punished soon," said Manan Bishaws, deputy commander of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad unit.

Demanding exemplary punishment of the killers, primary school teachers of Bhandaria upazila formed a human chain near the Shaheed Minar Road in the town yesterday.

Freedom fighters also brought out a mourning procession in the town.

Their hard time

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 PM, demanded that the government rehabilitate the Santals as early as possible.

The Santals live hand-to-mouth and they are poorer of the poor, he said while talking to reporters yesterday in his hometown Rangpur.

Some alternative arrangements should have been made for the Adivasis before evicting them from the land, he added.

The relief materials supplied by the administration were inadequate and so many families were disappointed not to have got aid, said Rafayel Hasda, treasurer of Maderpur Bhumil Uddher Committee.

The DC said more relief would be sent to the distressed Santal families.

Asked what made them change their mind, Rafayel said, "We [Adivasi leaders] decided to receive relief after discussions with the community people."

The evicted Santal families are still

in fear and so they are not leaving their villages even for work, said Elikha Mardi, a Santal woman.

"We are waiting and hoping that the government will meet our reasonable demands for rehabilitation and work," said Juna Todo of Madarpur.

On November 6, police fired and lobbed teargas shells during an eviction drive at the Shahebganj sugarcane farm leaving two Santals killed and several others injured. Protesting the eviction, Santals at the time shot arrows at police and mill labourer injuring 25 people, including policemen.

Meanwhile, teachers and students of Jahangirnagar University at a press conference demanded that the Santal community be given back the land acquired by the deputy commissioner's office for the then Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation, which established Rangpur Sugar Mills between 1954 and 1957.

Mandarins bring hope

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 assistance could help the local industry further expand. But times are good. "It's nice to see an expansion in mandarin groves in our area," he says.

According to Juri's agriculture officials, the upazila hosts 415 mandarin orchards across its six unions. Total upazila production has risen from 145 tonnes in 2014-15 to 300 tonnes in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) officials note mandarin cultivation was first introduced to the area via their project initiatives starting in 2001 and continuing until 2008. During this initial phase growers received particularly comprehensive support.

Juri Upazila Vice-Chairman Kishor Roy Chowdhury Moni believes mandarins are suitable to grow in larger quantities in the upazila and can be pivotal in improving the economic circumstances of the struggling area. "Growers have requested government support including the provision of quality saplings, relevant training and the latest technology."

According to Moulvibazar's deputy director of the DAE, Mohammad Shahjahan, many farmers who were

once insolvent and have passed through difficult years have improved their lot thanks to mandarins.

"Though small in size, local mandarins are very tasty," he says. "We have about 99 hectares devoted to orchards in the area. We provide growers with the assistance they need to make their orchards a success."

Indian defence

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 and Nepal. Apart from supplying air defence guns, radars and mine-protected vehicles to Sri Lanka, for instance, India is also constructing two naval offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) for the island nation now.

"Similarly, India can supply OPVs to Bangladesh through innovative financing mechanisms. The training of Bangladeshi personnel in Indian military establishments will also be increased under the overall capacity-building," said the source, according to The Times of India.

The sixth edition of the India-Bangladesh joint military exercise, "Sampriti", is currently underway in Bangladesh.

108 more

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 month after Bangladesh's victory.

Late Samar Das, renowned music director and composer, had composed many songs during the nine-month war to inspire freedom fighters to fight for the country. Among the famous songs composed by him are "Purba Digantey Surjya Uthechey" and "Nongar Tolo Tolo, Samay Je Holo Holo." The songs were in the lips of freedom fighters in those days.

Although he was honoured with Ekushay Padak and Independence Award, two most prestigious awards in the country, he was not recognised as a freedom fighter. His recognition comes 15 years after his death.

Like Zahir Raihan and Samar Dar, 37 other personalities have been recognised as freedom fighters post-humously.

Among the 108 newly recognised freedom fighters are late ANM Gaziul Haque, late Shawkat Osman, Syed Hasan Imam, Nirmolendu Gun, Kamal Lohani, Asad Chowdhury, Lucky Akhand, Aly Zaker, Abu Toab Khan, Sujeyo Shyam, late Bipul Bhattacharjee, Laila Hasan, Rathindranath Roy, Mahadev Saha, Sheikh Sadi Khan, Kaderi Kibria, Shaheen Samad, Kazi Rozi and Bulbul Mahalanabish.

The government on November 8 finalised the definition of freedom fighter. According to the definition, members of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra and journalists who had been at home and abroad during the war would also be recognised as freedom fighters.

Earlier, 87 participants of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra were recognised as freedom fighters.

At present, freedom fighters, their children and grandchildren enjoy a 30 percent quota in government jobs. Besides, special quotas are reserved for admission of freedom fighters' children and grandchildren to public schools, colleges and universities.

Gaibandha

FROM PAGE 1
 mill authorities and demanded their land back. Some six months ago, they started to erect houses on the land.

However, the local administration carried out drives recently and evicted some 1,500 Santal families from their ancestral land.

During the eviction, a clash broke out between the indigenous people and mills labourers along with the police on November 6. The law enforcers opened fire that day, killing two Santal men.

Since the eviction, the Santals have been living in the open.

Awal, the MD, said it was not possible for the mill to make any profit due to the higher production cost of sugar as the government has to buy sugarcane at a high price.

He also said the mill set a target to produce 2,800 tonnes of sugar this year.

After its reopening in July 16, 2006, the sugar mill, established in 1954, remained operational for just 33 days, producing 5,315 tonnes of sugar, in 2007-08, shows the annual report of the industries ministry (2014-15).

In 2015-16, the mill was in operation for only 19 days. It produced 950 tonnes of sugar then, Abdul Matin, president of Rangpur Sugar Mills Workers Union, told The Daily Star.

Till 2014 after its reopening, the sugar mill incurred losses as it could not sell a huge amount of sugar due to lower sugar prices in local markets. So, it had to stock them.

However, the mill has started to sell sugar from its stock recently after sugar prices in the markets increased.

"We have sold almost all the sugar from our stock. Currently, we have just 1,300 tonnes of sugar there," said Awal.

Every year, the country requires some 14 lakh metric tonnes of sugar. But 15 state-run sugar mills produce only 2.104 lakh tonnes of sugar, shows the industries ministry report.

TROUBLE FROM THE BEGINNING

Rangpur Sugar Mills, situated on 326 acres of land, incurred losses in maximum of its 58 years, said its officials.

Since its inception, the mill has run with debt while irregularities and corruption crippled its production. As the mills authorities failed to pay the cane growers their outstanding payments and the mills workers their wages, the industries ministry shut it down on March 31, 2004.

Think twice before

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INBREEDING
 Tarequzzaman Khan of Netrakona married his cousin Latifa Akter in 2002. Both of them have the same blood group: O positive.

The couple became proud parents when perfectly healthy Sraboni was born. When the girl was 18 months' old, she would close eyes when exposed to the sunlight.

Initially, they were not concerned and would often take her out thinking that she would adjust to the sunlight, said Tarequzzaman, a small trader who lives in the capital's Uttara.

A few months later, they were worried as they noticed black spots like freckles developing on her face. They saw a dermatologist at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The doctor explained them about XP and asked them not to take Sraboni out in the sun.

This came as a big blow to the low-income parents.

Tarequzzaman took his daughter to a dermatologist at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), and saw some doctors in Dhaka as well as in Kolkata and Chennai of India in the next few years.

All of them gave him the same piece of advice -- protect Sraboni from UV.

"We try to do that, but what would happen to her when she would visit our village home? Sraboni would run and play with other kids. How would we stop her?" he said.

Eventually, the disease had spread to her entire body with the eyes being affected the most.

The couple had their second child -- a healthy boy -- when Sraboni was four years' old. But alas! They discovered similar spots on Monimuzzaman's face when he was 18 months' old. They rushed him to doctors who confirmed that it too was a case of XP.

Sraboni had undergone eye surgeries thrice, as cataract developed in her

eyes. Doctors said there were indications of cancer in the cataract, the parents said.

SCHOOLING?

After being denied access to mainstream schools, Sraboni was enrolled in a madrasa in Uttara. She went to the madrasa, covering her whole body. But that too did not last long.

Her parents stopped sending her to the madrasa in 2014, as it was far away. The girl could just complete class-III.

Last year, they tried to get her enrolled in a school close to their rented house, but the school did not accept her. After repeated requests, Sraboni was admitted this year on condition that she could only sit for the exams and would not attend classes regularly.

Monimuzzaman faced troubles too.

"Relatives ask him what class was he in. He cannot answer. Last year, he became desperate. Then I took him to the school Sraboni goes to and got him admitted in play group," Tarequzzaman said.

Now tutors come home to help Sraboni and Monimuzzaman in their studies.

"We are very concerned about our kids' physical, psychological and social future," said the worried father.

Tarequzzaman said the family's financial condition worsened as they had to sell their properties and use whatever savings they had for medical purposes.

As per doctors' advice, they need a house which is totally protected from ultraviolet ray.

"Arranging all this is almost impossible for us," he told this correspondent recently.

Doctor Yakub Ali advised not to have marriage between close cousins. If there is no alternative, he said, the couple should get genetic tests done before having children.

Early diagnosis and protection from sunlight can prevent the patients from complications, he added.

Trump's team mulls

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 implement a proposal suggested by the billionaire businessman that would force immigrants from Muslim countries to register on a database.

Kobach, who helped devise tough immigration laws in a number of US states and claims to have participated in regular conference calls with Trump's immigration advisers, also said the Trump administration could push ahead rapidly on construction of a US-Mexico border wall without seeking immediate congressional approval.

The hardline immigration official, whose role has not been confirmed by the president-elect's transition team but who is thought to be a favourite for the role of Attorney General, said the immigration group had discussed drafting executive orders for the president-elect's review "so that Trump and the Department of Homeland Security hit the ground running."

The Muslim registration scheme, which would reportedly see Muslims given a form of identification that notes their religion, reflects policies Trump put forward during his campaign to introduce "extreme vetting" of Muslims through tougher security measures.

Such a program would echo a registration system created under Bush's presidency, which Kobach helped design, and which required thousands of Arab and Muslim visitors and temporary US residents to register with the state, but was abandoned in 2011 after it was criticised for unfairly targeting immigrants from Muslim-majority nations.

Created in 2002 following the 9/11 attacks, the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEER) required Muslims from countries where extremist organisations were active to provide information about themselves, undergo interviews with officials and periodically notify the government of their whereabouts.

The registration program, which focused on visitors and non-citizen men over the age of 16 from more than 24 specially designated countries, sparked wide controversy and was deemed redundant in 2011 fol-

lowing complaints from civil libertarians.

In the interview, Kobach said immigration advisers were also looking at how the Homeland Security Department could move rapidly on Trump's plans to build a wall between the US and Mexico without approval from Congress, acknowledging that "future fiscal years will require additional appropriations."

Trump presented a hardline stance on Muslims in the US during his election campaign, making a call to temporarily ban all Muslims from entering the country and proposing the introduction of special ID cards for American Muslims during a debate over Syrian refugees entering the country.

While the billionaire appeared to pull back on the anti-Muslim rhetoric immediately after he was elected, Trump has since indicated he still plans to follow through on his plans.

In an interview on Sunday the billionaire businessman told CBS' 60 Minutes show he would deport two to three million undocumented immigrants "immediately" upon taking office, and confirmed he still planned to "build a wall", although he added that some parts of the barrier would in fact be a fence.

The president-elect is also reportedly considering appointing as his deputy security advisor the vice-president of a think-tank that has said Muslims are infiltrating the American government.

Kobach reportedly said in the interview that he believed that illegal immigrants in some cases should be deported before a conviction if they have been charged with a violent crime, echoing Trump's recent pledge to remove immigrants with criminal records who are in the country illegally.

The immigration hardliner also said the president-elect's immigration advisors had discussed ways of overturning President Barack Obama's 2012 executive action that has granted temporary deportation relief and work permits to more than 700,000 undocumented people who came to the United States as children of illegal immigrants.

Second attack on a Hindu house

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 response to an alleged Facebook upload of an image "hurting sentiments of Muslims".

Tension has mounted further among the minority community's people in the area after yesterday's attack, local people said.

Apart from additional deployment of police, BGB and Rab, locals have been guarding the area in groups after the October 30 mayhem, in which zealots and goons vandalised and looted over a hundred houses and at least 17 temples.

SP Mizanur said the latest attack was the continuation of the October 30 hate attacks.

It is likely that those involved in previous attacks

carried out yesterday's arson, he said, adding that a vested group wanted to create panic there.

"We had already brought the situation under control but this fresh attack was made to create panic again and destroy communal harmony," the SP said.

On November 3, five Hindu homes were torched in Banikpara, Akhrapara, Thakurpara and Hashpatalpara between 3:00am and 4:00am.

The same day, a pile of straw belonging to a Hindu family at Chotipara in Gokarna was set on fire.

Kajal Dutta, president of Nasiragar Puja Udjapon Parishad, said Hindus were not feeling safe as incidents like torching houses were repeating amid tight security.



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