



HUMAN RIGHTS DAY TODAY

Fear, despair over disappearances

At least 300 disappeared since 2013; fingers pointed at law enforcers in many cases

SHARIFUL ISLAM and AKRAM HOSEN

One morning two and a half years back, Rahmatullah Sentu, a transport owner, was returning home from a lawyer's office in Old Dhaka with his wife Baishakhi Afreen.

As they reached Goal Nagar Lane, eight to 10 men in ordinary clothes came from nowhere and dragged Rahmatullah into a microbus.

With the couple shouting, people on the congested road came forward, stopped the microbus and even wrestled with the group.

But, as the family and witnesses allege, several armed personnel in Rab uniform turned up and dispersed the crowd by charging batons.

The microbus went away, taking Rahmatullah.

His wife Baishakhi Afreen filed an abduction case with Kotwali Police Station on April 15, 2014, six days after the incident. The man is still missing.

He is among at least 300 persons who have become victims of enforced disappearance since January 2013.

They were either picked up by people identifying themselves as law enforcers or their families claimed the abductors were members of law enforcement agencies.

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GRIM PICTURE FIGURES FROM JAN TO NOV

Killed in "shootout"
184

Victims of enforced disappearance
89

Killed by fanatics
42

Killed during anti-militant drives
33

SOURCE: ASK, MEDIA REPORTS

One 'shootout' death a day in November

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

One person was killed a day in "shootouts" involving law enforcement agencies on an average last month, according to Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK).

And the "shootouts" claimed lives of 184 people in the last 11 months, showing a rise in this form of extrajudicial killings. The number was 171 during the same period last year.

A total of 154 people were killed in "shootouts" throughout the entirety of 2014, said the rights body.

The incidents of enforced disappearance also increased this year with 89 people becoming victims in the last 11 months.

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Skipper Shakib Al Hasan and young all-rounder Mosaddek Hossain are hoisted on the shoulders of their jubilant teammates after the Dhaka Dynamites clinched the title of the Bangladesh Premier League by beating Rajshahi Kings by 56 runs in the final at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Dynamites crowned BPL kings

NAIMUL KARIM

Everybody loves a good underdog story, but take a minute and put yourselves in the shoes of Shakib Al Hasan, in the shoes of a Dhaka Dynamites player.

Here was a team that had signed up some of the most experienced T20 players in the world. Here was a team that witnessed packed stadiums in almost each of their crucial encounters. It was the only team in the Bangladesh Premier League that had banners depicting the face of its owner in the stadium during certain matches.

Sure enough, the Dhaka Dynamites were the most powerful team in this season of the Bangladesh Premier League, but they were also the team that had to deal with the maximum amount of pressure.

Yes, a win for the Rajshahi Kings yesterday at Mirpur would have made a great story, but Dhaka's flawless performance under pressure which eventually led them to the championship yesterday, deserves plenty of acclaim.

Their 56-run win over the Kings yesterday gave the Dynamites their first BPL trophy. The Dhaka Gladiators won the first two seasons, while the Comilla Vikings won the third. This was the first time that a captain aside from Mashrafe Bin Mortaza had won the BPL.

Batting first, Dhaka were restricted to 159 for nine, courtesy of some good bowling from the Kings. Forhad Reza, who finished with figures of three for 28, was the key wicket-taker.

After the exchange, the Kings were dismissed for 103. Some tight bowling from the Dynamites blocked the boundaries early on for the Kings and that eventually built up plenty of pressure and led to wickets.

The turning point of Rajshahi's chase was the run out of Sabbir Rahman.

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Realise your rights by yourselves

PM tells women, hands over Begum Rokeya Padak

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the womenfolk to strive for realising their rights by themselves.

"You'll have to realise your rights by yourselves as no one will come in your aid in this society ruled by men," she told a programme marking the Begum Rokeya Day and distribution of Begum Rokeya Padak-2016 in the city's Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

This year, the prestigious award went to Aroma Dutta and Begum Noorjahan for their outstanding contributions to advancing women.

The PM announced that the number of awardees would be increased to five from next year to further encourage women.

"We want to turn Bangladesh into a poverty-free country. However, we won't be able to materialise our dream if we do not take the womenfolk in the

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PHOTO ON PAGE 16



Tigers are in the Chittagong Zoo again after over four years. A tiger couple strolls around their enclosure in the zoo yesterday after being brought from South Africa. There had been no tiger in the zoo since the death of Purnima in 2012.

PHOTO: STAR

চিহ্নিত DIRT নিশ্চিন্তু আপনি

ধুলো ময়লার দিন শেষ

গয়েদারকাট আন্টিডার্ট লং লাইফ-এ আছে ন্যানো আন্টিডিউস্ট, যা আপনার দেয়ালে কোনো ধকার ধুলোবালি ও ময়লা বসতে দেয় না। ফলে বাড়ির বাইরের দেয়াল থাকে নতুনের মত - বছরের পর বছর। এবার বেড়ে ফেলুন Dust-এর চিহ্ন।

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TOP! QUOTE

States have the primary responsibility for upholding human rights. The United Nations, along with partners around the globe, must continue to strengthen responses to abuses, and work better to prevent human rights crises.

BAN KI-MOON
UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

CRACKDOWN ON ROHINGYA UN urges Suu Kyi to visit Rakhine

AFP, Yangon

The UN has urged Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi to visit the north of Rakhine state, where the army is accused of carrying out a brutal crackdown on the Muslim Rohingya minority.

The Nobel peace prize winner has faced growing international criticism for not stopping the military's campaign, which has pushed more than 20,000 Rohingya over the border to Bangladesh.

Escapees have told AFP shocking stories of mass rape, murder and arson at the hands of security forces, which took control of the area after deadly raids on police posts in October.



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