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PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE

'Shootouts' killed 44 in 3 months

13 killed in political violence, 12 died in jail, says rights watchdog ASK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-four people were killed in "shootout" with police and Rab in the first three months of this year, up from 32 during the same period last year, said a report of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday.

Besides, 10 people died in police firing, one in Rab shooting and two of torture at the hands of police and Rapid Action Battalion, according to the "Statistical Report on Violation of Human Rights: January-March 2017".

The report was prepared based on media reports and information collected by ASK.

The rights watchdog said the figure of extrajudicial killings had hit 195 last year, three more than the previous year.

It said 321 children were tortured across the country. Of them, 72 were killed, bodies of 27 recovered and 17 committed suicide.

At least 25 people were picked up allegedly by law enforcers. Four of them returned home

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12 people picked up by law enforcement agencies

12 were killed in mass beatings

94 women killed in domestic and dowry related violence

72 children killed in torture

3 people killed in Bangladesh-India border and 15 others picked up by BSF



Mushfiqur Rahim tees up teammates for a smashing volley during a kickabout in practice at the SSC ground in Colombo yesterday. The Tigers will take on Sri Lanka in the third and final ODI on this ground today, scheduled to start at 10:00pm Bangladesh time.

PHOTO: AFP

Splinter injuries caused death of Lt Col Azad

Laid to rest at Banani army graveyard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab Intelligence Wing Director Lt Col Abul Kalam Azad died as splinters pierced through his left eye and lodged in his brain, said doctors of Dhaka Medical College (DMC) after conducting his autopsy.

The splinters pierced through Azad's left eye and lodged in his brain, which eventually caused his death, Sohel Mahmud, head of forensic medicine department at DMC, told The Daily Star.

Azad suffered injuries in a blast near a militant den in Sylhet city on March 25, and he died at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka around 12:05am yesterday, said Maj Roysul Azam, deputy director of Rapid

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Big boost for South

FAO representative hopes Padma bridge would benefit disadvantaged people

REAZ AHMAD

A huge potential of otherwise disadvantaged southern region would be unlocked in a post-Padma Bridge scenario.

Keeping this into consideration, Bangladesh's development partners are taking up programmes to unleash the full potentials of the southern farmers.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star at her office on Thursday, the new country representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Sue Lautze,



Sue Lautze

said the UN body was providing technical assistance to an \$85-million Smallholder Agricultural Competitive Project (SACP).

Once the Padma Bridge is completed, Sue said, access to market for the southern farmers would be enormous. Besides, there would be a huge potential for growing high-value horticulture and establishing agro-processing industries linking those up with southern farmers, thereby enhancing the

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TRAWLER CAPSIZE Death toll rises to 10

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

The death toll from Thursday's trawler capsizing in the Meghna river in Sonargaon upazila rose to 10 as six more bodies of women were recovered yesterday.

The six victims are Banu Begum, 45, Shafia Akter, 46, her daughter Rubina Akter, 30, Joybun Nessa, 65, and her two daughters Ranu Akter, 32, and Santa Akter, 28. They were from

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TALIBAN ATTACK TARGETING SHIA PEOPLE

Blast near mosque kills 22 in Pakistan

REUTERS, Parachinar

A bomb apparently targeting a mosque in Pakistan's northwestern city of Parachinar killed at least 22 people yesterday and wounded dozens in an attack claimed by the Pakistani Taliban.

The explosion in a remote area bordering Afghanistan came as people gathered for Friday prayers near the women's entrance of a Shia mosque in the central bazaar, the latest in a series of attacks across Sunni-majority Pakistan this year.

The local political agent, Ikramullah Khan, said the death toll had reached 22, with 70 wounded.

Sajid Hussain, a parliamentarian from Parachinar, said gunfire preceded the blast, which he described as a suicide attack. The city is located in an area with a large Shia population.

"The attack took place in a busy area and a women's mosque appears to be the target," he said.

The banned Islamist militant group

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A knocked over lane divider lying on the road as a hazard near the city's Bijoy Sarani intersection yesterday afternoon. Locals said a truck crashed into the divider early in the morning two days ago, but the authorities were yet to take measures.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Gujarat passes stricter law on cow slaughter

AFP, Ahmedabad

India Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat yesterday increased the punishment for cow slaughter from seven years to life imprisonment as Hindu hardliners push for tougher protections for the holy animal.

Under the stiffened penalties passed by Gujarat's state assembly, anyone caught transporting cows for slaughter could also face up to 10 years in jail.

Cows are considered sacred in Hindu-majority India, and their slaughter is illegal in most states.

"A cow is not an animal. It is symbol of universal life," Gujarat law minister Pradipsinh Jadeja told the state's assembly.

"Anybody who does not

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Finnish PM saves money on air fares



AFP, Helsinki

While celebrities like John Travolta and Tom Cruise are known for piloting their own planes, few world leaders fly themselves on state business, but Finland's Prime Minister Juha Sipila is one.

A keen aviator and committed to austerity -- and saving taxpayers' money -- Sipila occasionally pilots a private jet on his official travels -- and foots the bill himself to boot.

Since taking office in May 2015, the money-conscious former businessman has flown himself on 19 official trips in Finland and abroad, the prime minister's office told AFP.

Last year Sipila, 55, flew over 5,000 kilometres

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বিস্মান আছো আমাদের চিন্তা, চেতনা ও অনুপ্রেরণায়

MALAYSIAN DETENTION CENTRES 17 Bangladeshis died in last 2 years

STAR REPORT

At least 17 Bangladeshis died in Malaysia's immigration detention centres from various diseases and unknown causes in 2015 and 2016, according to the National Human Rights Commission of Malaysia.

They are among 118 people from different countries who died in the last two years, reports Reuters after reviewing the immigration centres' documents provided to the commission.

Some 83 people died in 2015 and at least 35 until December 20, 2016.

Of the victims, 17 are Bangladeshis, 63 Myanmar, 10 Indonesians, six Indians and four Pakistanis. Other foreign nationals who died are from Cambodia, Nigeria, Nepal, Thailand, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Kenya and Tanzania.

According to officials of Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia, around four lakh Bangladeshis are now living in the country and a good number of them are undocumented. Several thousand Bangladeshi students are also studying in the Southeast Asian country.

Undocumented foreigners are often arrested and put in the immigration centres in Malaysia that recruits Bangladeshis, but the recruitment process has always been marred by allegations of malpractices.

Contacted, Sayedul Islam, labour counsellor at Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, said they had information of one worker's death in a detention centre.

"I cannot tell you the exact figure

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SINCERE THANKS TO ALL WELL WISHERS We convey our deep gratitude to all who have supported us throughout this difficult time



Captain Syed Ali Asghar Rizvi (22nd April 1944 - 20th February 2017) The Rizvi Family