

# Bangladeshi youth shot by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thalergang*

A Bangladeshi youth was shot by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at a point between Ratalai and Cotpara border under Balaidanga upazila of the district of Thakurgaon.

The injured Latiful Islam, 25, son of Alimul Islam of Dholabasti village in Balaidanga upazila of the district is receiving treatment at Islamipur Hospital in Uttar Dinajpur of West Bengal, India. A Commanding Officer of BSF, Thakurgaon, said Bangladesh (BGB) Battalion LC Colonel Khademul Bashar said.

LC Colonel Bashar told this correspondent over cell phone that Indian Border Guards of Belkuchi camp opened fire on a lawful while he was illegally crossing the border near Pillar No 383/2-S at around 4:00am. BSF then picked him up and took him to Islamipur Hospital.

A company commander level flag member was held at the zero line of the same border where BGB protested the matter for opening fire on an unarmed civilian man.

# Sramik League

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He said Rab conducted the drive, acting on a tip-off that some criminals with firearms gathered in the village to carry out criminal activities. The Rab official said he also had information that criminals in the area were involved in crimes like extortion and robbery.

The criminals always keep firearms to establish supremacy and create panic among locals in the area, he added.

# University VC

FROM PAGE 1

The officials found evidence of hill cutting and served the CVASU authorities with a notice to stop the activities.

The area is surrounded by a conserved forest and wild animals like elephants, deer, monkeys, foxes and porcupines visit there. A wild elephant fell from one of the hills and died on June 19. The hill cutting is destroying the habitat of the wild animals and the environment, said the case statement.

Officials of the DoE in Cox's Bazar also visited the spot on June 10 and found evidence of recent hill cutting. Five to six big-ha's of hill have been cut.

CVASU Vice-Chancellor Goutam Bhatia said in 2015 for National Institute of Coastal Biodiversity and Marine Fisheries. Karim Khan was accused in the case filed under Bangladesh Environment Preservation Act 1995 (Amended 2010).

Bhatia said he identified people who were also used in the case filed with a court.

Registrar Imam said, "The Cox's Bazar district administration and the land ministry gave us the five acres of land classified as 'flattened' in 2015 for our Institute of Coastal Biodiversity and Marine Fisheries."

When asked about hill cutting, he said, "As far as I know there is no hill cutting going on in the area."

# Dual policy for tobacco

FROM PAGE 1

"This is contradictory to the prime minister's directive to free the country from tobacco by 2040 and also against public health objectives," he said. The executive director of PROGGA, a platform of anti-tobacco campaigners, said the government decision to continue the facility comes at a time when the health ministry is pushing a tobacco cultivation control policy to check expansion of farming of the hazardous crop.

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Besides, tobacco products are cheaper in Bangladesh compared to those in many other countries, it said in a report on the budget proposal for fiscal 2017-18.

Zubair said, "How can unprocessed tobacco get waiver when VAT is imposed on many essential items. Public health will be unprotected. There will be no positive impact," he added.

PROGGA said tobacco products are considered as sin goods globally, and tax is imposed on them to discourage

# Ashtory of love, deception

FROM PAGE 1

ambassadors in Dhaka held a series of meetings with senior Bangladeshi officials and tried to persuade them to restore Flatz's ownership. Finally in June 1980, the government returned the house to her. Moudoud, a BNP member at the time, allegedly played a role in this.

A new chapter of this saga opened when Flatz rented the house to Moudoud under a lease agreement on May 23, 1981. The BNP leader started living in the house with his family in June of that year, according to the SC verdict.

In a new twist, however, a man named Mohsin Darbar was given the power of attorney by Flatz for everything related to the property, including lease.

During the trial, defence lawyers claimed Mohsin sold the house to Moudoud. Moudoud's brother, on October 10, 1985.

Manzur also told the court that the price was fixed at 60,000 sterling pounds. Of which, he gave Flatz an advance of 20,000 and promised to pay the rest during registration of the land. Mohsin was unable to obtain his income tax certificate and for which it could not be registered.

Manzur filed a petition with a Dhaka court by requesting a motion on the property in his name. But in 2001, a Dhaka court dismissed the petition, saying that Mohsin Darbar is a fictitious character created for the purpose of giving the power of attorney.

The case later went to the High Court and eventually to the Supreme Court.

The SC too concluded that Mohsin Darbar "is a fake person set up by the plaintiff [Manzur Ahmed] to grab power of attorney to the house."

It also said there was no evidence of any advance payment to Flatz as claimed by Manzur.

Documents produced by the government conclusively proved Flatz died before the execution of the agreement of sale of the property worth Tk 300 crore.

Manzur, who moved the apex court, finally lost the legal battle for control over the house. However Moudoud had been living until his eviction on June 7.

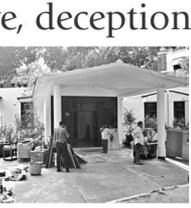
Following his eviction, Moudoud said he had an enormous "emotional attachment" to the house as his kids grew up there. "This house is not a mere house to me. It's more than that."

**REAL OWNER IN TOWN**

But the saga continues and promises to drag on further.

Following his eviction, just weeks after the eviction, Austrian citizen Karim Franz Solaiman claimed ownership of the house, identifying himself as the son of Flatz-Ehsan couple.

At a court conference at the Latvia Press Club in Dhaka, Karim, 54, claimed to be the only heir to the



Rajuk evicted Moudoud from this house in Gulshan FILE PHOTO

property. He said he already applied to the government and Rajuk to mutate the house in his name.

The property still belongs to his family, which was established by the SC verdict, he added.

Asked if Moudoud paid the house rents, he said, not a single penny.

When asked to comment about Karim's claim, Moudoud said, "I came to know about him from newspapers today [yesterday]. I do not know anything about him."

Karim was allegedly picked by law enforcers from a Gulshan hotel yesterday.

Abdul Baten, joint commissioner of Detective Branch of police of the DMPP, said, "We neither detain nor arrest him. Karim came to the police, seeking cooperation to regain ownership of the house."

However, Md Shahjahan, additional deputy commissioner of DB (Gulshan Zone), said, "We brought him for interrogation."

Karim's counsel Jennifer Ashraf said her client came to Dhaka on Saturday to establish his ownership and give the power of attorney to his wife.

She added she was given the power of attorney.

Asked why he has come now, she said, "Karim was very concerned about his property. Also, the legal battle was on, so he was waiting for the verdict."

Karim is a marine biologist and a real estate businessman in Austria. He contacted Jennifer in 2014 and since then they were keeping their eyes on the case. Jennifer has some friends in Bangladesh who were giving him updates regularly.

His mother died of cancer at the age of 43. Till the last day of her life, she wanted to give ownership of the house to her son, who she had a lot of memories. The house was built when she was some 22 years old, Karim told the press conference.

"I came here to claim the house as my mother's memory was closely linked to the house," he said.

After police "released" him in the evening, he was preparing to leave Dhaka for Austria last night. As of 1:00am today, he was at the Dhaka airport.

# Now a case filed

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to the local health complex.

BNP Rangpura upazila union secretary Shawkhat Ali Nur, its former organising secretary Yusuf Mia Chowdhury and BNP Rangpura Municipality union convener Mahabb Hasan are among the accused.

Accepting the case, the court directed Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to investigate the case and submit its report by July 19, said plaintiff's lawyer Nikhil Kumar Nath.

In the case statement, the plaintiff also alleged that the accused had since been threatening him not to file a case against them.

Meanwhile, BNP Rangpura upazila union convener Shawkhat dismissed the allegations, saying everybody knew what happened on the day.

"Awami League, Jubo League and Bangladesh Chhatra League were behind the attack on our secretary general and other BNP leaders. Now to conceal the real fact, they have lodged a false case against us," he said.

On Sunday, Fakhrul's motorcycle came under attack in Ichakhali when he along with other BNP leaders was going to visit the landslide victims in Rangamati.

On Wednesday, a ruling party men were lodged against 26 ruling party men for their alleged involvement in the attack.

# School-goers stare

FROM PAGE 2

no way to gather the money for their education. "If my husband can work, we can make the money, the how will I manage it ahead of July 6 when their half yearly exam is scheduled," she asked.

Hasna's concern is shared by many of the mothers in different shelter centres in Rangamati. Jovina Begum said for surviving this disaster, these three children study at different schools.

In tears, she asked where she would go with her young children and what she would do. If her children cannot get an education then there is no reason for surviving this disaster, she said in a voice choked with emotion.

Khokon Chakma, Jibon Chakma, Rajesh Chakma and Tapon Chakma, honours students at Rangamati college, face a similar predicament. They lost everything in the landslide which occurred at Uldondi Anar Para near Juba Unnayan Kendra in the town. Their SSC and HSC examinations documents, along with other related things, have been buried in the disaster.

"We have exams next month. We have nothing to support our education now," said Tapon, urging the government to pay attention to their education. They also sought help from the authorities concerning duplicate copies of their certificates and documents.

They said there are students who need to get admitted to colleges but they do not have money or the documents required. The administration should also take care of these, they added.

Nirmal Kanti Chakma, district education officer, said they have prepared a list of 1500 high school students in need of books in the district and sent the list to higher authorities.

Asked about lowering the affected student's tuition and exam fees, he said if any guardian brings up the issue to them they would request the respective schools to consider it.

Rouson Ali, district primary education officer, said they had 172 students who were affected and they were provided with their required books. He further said that 50 of the private schools in the district have been affected in the landslide.

Contacted, Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Manzur Mannan, said they have distributed some education materials amongst the victims already. They also collected books for secondary and primary school students," he said.

About the guardian's worries regarding paying exam and tuition fees, he said, "The responsibility will be met by the fee. It is my responsibility," he told The Daily Star.

On the risky school buildings, he said they would draw government attention to repair or reconstruct those establishments.

The DC further said he had given Tk 5,000 each to 12 indigenous students affected in the landslide for getting admitted to college and buying their educational materials. The district administration would even give laptops to anyone who lost one in landslide, he added.

# Pavements

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"blind walking track" on the footpaths so that they can use them smoothly."

While visiting other countries, we saw such tracks on the footpaths and now, we are applying that idea here," Anwarul said, adding that gradually, all the areas of the city would have the special pavement.

At a press conference on Wednesday, DNCC Mayor Anisul Hossain said, "We are in the process of implementation."

Though it came late, the city corporations took the initiative considering the problems of the visually impaired people and those who use wheelchairs, he said.

Leading to The Daily Star on Monday, DSCC Chief Executive Officer Khan Mohammad Bilal said the visually impaired and the physically challenged had been demanding the special pavements for long.

He also said they were working to keep the pavements free from illegal occupation.

Contacted, Nazmul Bari, director of Center for Disability in Development, an organisation working for the people with disabilities, lauded the initiative.

"The city is forward but the footpaths were not friendly for the people with disabilities, especially for the visually impaired. This move would definitely help them move freely on the road."

Nazmul, however, said the authorities would have to ensure that people can use the pavements without any obstacle as many of the footpaths remain occupied.

The original tactile paving was developed by Seichi Miyake in 1965. The paving was first introduced in a street in Okayama city, Japan, in 1967. It was later introduced in Japan and then around the world.

# First shipment

FROM PAGE 2

Amolador Van Khoo conveyed the best wishes of Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc to Hasina.

He also handed over a book to Hasina on the life of Vietnamese Communist revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh.

The ambassador highly praised the PM's leadership and appreciated the achievement of 7.24 per cent GDP growth by Bangladesh in the current fiscal year.

He lauded Bangladesh's efforts in combating terrorism and fighting the climate change impacts.

Principal Secretary Kamal Abul Naser Chowdhury in Dhaka, he did not have a passport and sometimes had to wait days to get the mandatory permits every time he went abroad.

So Wangyal, whose parents fled Tibet as teenagers, went to court to demand his right to an Indian passport.

In response to his petition, the Delhi High Court said authorities must abide by an earlier ruling that all Tibetans born in India between January 1950 and July 1987 are Indian citizens by birth, and can be issued passports.

The order came into effect in March, and Wangyal got his Indian passport shortly thereafter, saying it to go to Thailand.

The first time, he was spared the additional scrutiny that his documents always got from immigration officials.

"I feel like a real person now, having obtained a passport," said Wangyal, 47, who was born in a village in the border town of Odisha state and now lives in the hill town Dharamsala.

"Tibetans are seen as refugees and stateless in India. Being seen that way after having been born and lived our lives in India is unfair and impractical," he said.

Tibetans have been seeking asylum in India since the Dalai Lama fled Lhasa in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese occupation.

Wangyal said he and his father had since lived mostly in Dharamsala in the northern state of Himachal Pradesh, where his supporters run a small government in exile and advocate for autonomy for Tibet by peaceful means.

More than 100,000 Tibetans live in 39 formal settlements and dozens of informal communities across India. They generally arrive via Nepal, after a perilous trek across the Himalayas.

The Indian government has funded schools to provide free education for Tibetans, and reserved seats in medical and engineering colleges. Those eligible can get voter identification cards.

But Tibetans do not have citizenship, which limits their access to government jobs and freedom of movement within and outside India. They cannot own land or property.

# Taliban car

FROM PAGE 20

insurgency. American military commanders in Afghanistan have destroyed thousands of extra boots on the ground.

US troops in Afghanistan number about 8,400, and there are another 5,000 from NATO allies, a far cry from the US presence of more than 100,000 six years ago. They mainly serve as military advisers.

Pentagon chief Jim Mattis this month acknowledged that America is still "not winning" in Afghanistan nearly 16 years after the US-led invasion toppled the Taliban regime.

Mattis said he will present a new US military strategy for Afghanistan, along with adjusted troop numbers, in the coming weeks to US President Donald Trump.

The Afghan conflict is the longest in American history, with US-led forces in the region since the Taliban regime was ousted in 2001.

# IS blows up Mosul's

FROM PAGE 20

banknote and was the main symbol of Iraq's second city - giving its name to Iraq's restaurants, companies and even sports clubs in Mosul.

After seizing Iraq's Sunni Arab heartland on June 20, IS reportedly blew up the city's main banknote plant, which was prevented from blowing it up by the local population. The jihadists consider the reverence of objects including of such sites, as heinous.

IS has also blown up the banknote plant from many spots in the city, especially from the east bank, across the Tigris river that divides the city.

Iraqi forces had been approaching the Nuri mosque on Wednesday after launching an assault on Sunday to retake the Old City, the last district of Mosul still under IS control.

About 100,000 residents are believed to still be trapped in the Old City by IS, which has been using crude human shields to defend its last redoubt in Mosul.

The area still controlled by the jihadists is small but its narrow streets and the presence of so many civilians has made the operation very perilous.

IS has also blown up the banknote plant on Monday and two others wounded near the Old City and reports by medics and rights groups suggest that trapped civilians are paying a heavy price.

The jihadists have been offering free pardons to anyone who surrenders. Other stressed that the destructions were dwarfed by the ongoing human suffering.

The head of the UN's cultural agency, Irina Bokova, said this new destruction deepened the wounds of a society already affected by an unprecedented humanitarian tragedy.

Bokova pledged UNESCO's "renewed solidarity and readiness to support the Iraqi people to protect their cultural heritage whenever possible."

The destruction of the site in Mosul's Old City adds to a long list of priceless heritage and historical monuments destroyed by IS during its three-year rampage in Iraq and Syria.

The minaret, which was completed in 1172 and has been listing for centuries, is featured on Iraq's 10,000-dinar

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REUTERS, Dharamsala/new Delhi

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Besides, tobacco products are cheaper in Bangladesh compared to those in many other countries, it said in a report on the budget proposal for fiscal 2017-18.

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REUTERS, Dharamsala/new Delhi

Event organiser Lobsang Wangyal has to travel overseas often. But as a Tibetan refugee born in India, he did not have a passport and sometimes had to wait days to get the mandatory permits every time he went abroad.

So Wangyal, whose parents fled Tibet as teenagers, went to court to demand his right to an Indian passport.

In response to his petition, the Delhi High Court said authorities must abide by an earlier ruling that all Tibetans born in India between January 1950 and July 1987 are Indian citizens by birth, and can be issued passports.

The order came into effect in March, and Wangyal got his Indian passport shortly thereafter, saying it to go to Thailand.

The first time, he was spared the additional scrutiny that his documents always got from immigration officials.

"I feel like a real person now, having obtained a passport," said Wangyal, 47, who was born in a village in the border town of Odisha state and now lives in the hill town Dharamsala.

"Tibetans are seen as refugees and stateless in India. Being seen that way after having been born and lived our lives in India is unfair and impractical," he said.

Tibetans have been seeking asylum in India since the Dalai Lama fled Lhasa in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese occupation.

Wangyal said he and his father had since lived mostly in Dharamsala in the northern state of Himachal Pradesh, where his supporters run a small government in exile and advocate for autonomy for Tibet by peaceful means.

More than 100,000 Tibetans live in 39 formal settlements and dozens of informal communities across India. They generally arrive via Nepal, after a perilous trek across the Himalayas.

The Indian government has funded schools to provide free education for Tibetans, and reserved seats in medical and engineering colleges. Those eligible can get voter identification cards.

But Tibetans do not have citizenship, which limits their access to government jobs and freedom of movement within and outside India. They cannot own land or property.

# Dual policy for tobacco

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"This is contradictory to the prime minister's directive to free the country from tobacco by 2040 and also against public health objectives," he said. The executive director of PROGGA, a platform of anti-tobacco campaigners, said the government decision to continue the facility comes at a time when the health ministry is pushing a tobacco cultivation control policy to check expansion of farming of the hazardous crop.

Tobacco was cultivated on 1.15 lakh acres of land in fiscal 2015-16. The acreage was 1.27 lakh in 2014-15, the highest ever, which was 72,000 acres in 2007-08, the lowest during the period, shows data by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Anti-tobacco campaigners say the VAT exemption would act as an incentive to grow tobacco. This would allow tobacco processors to keep production costs low and offer the hazardous products to people at cheap prices.

Now, 43 percent of the country's adult population consume tobacco products. This is expected to rise to 50 percent by 2040, shows data by the National Bureau of Revenue.

Global tobacco companies on tobacco use in developing countries, PROGGA said in 10-percent hike in real prices through tax measures would help cut tobacco use by 5 percent.

In Bangladesh, the real prices of cigarettes, and other tobacco products have not increased that much in the absence of effective tax measures, it noted.

Besides, tobacco products are cheaper in Bangladesh compared to those in many other countries, it said in a report on the budget proposal for fiscal 2017-18.

Zubair said, "How can unprocessed tobacco get waiver when VAT is imposed on many essential items. Public health will be unprotected. There will be no positive impact," he added.

PROGGA said tobacco products are considered as sin goods globally, and tax is imposed on them to discourage

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