

# Second N Korean soldier defects to South in a month

**AP, Seoul**  
A North Korean soldier defected to the South after crossing the heavily fortified border, a defence ministry spokesman said yesterday, the second soldier to defect this month.

"A North Korean soldier defected to one of our Guard Posts at around 9:30 p.m. on Friday at the middle section of the border," the spokesman said, according to a report by the Yonhap news agency.

"He has been taken into custody for questioning," he added.

There was no exchange of fire between the two sides when the North Korean soldier, a private, smuggled himself across the border to the south, the Yonhap report said.

His defection came after another North Korean soldier swam across a river to defect to South Korea on June 13, with styrofoam pieces strapped to both shoulders to stay afloat.

## Eid joy

FROM PAGE 2  
was passing out, as she learnt her two sons - Saddam, 28, and Alamgir Hossain, 25, would never return to her.

"Our sons told me they were coming home and they would bring clothes as Eid gifts. Now, forget clothes, my sons are no more," Aklima cried out. Her daughters-in-law - Sharifa Begum and Khadija Begum - survived the accident luckily.

Like Aklima, Mizanur Rahman and Mahfuz Begum of Barish Hazari village, were grieving as their son Maznu Miah, 22, was killed in the accident.

"I talked to Maznu over the phone at around 11:00pm on Friday. He told me he would have serih with us," Mizanur said.

Others who had been working at a garment factory in Dhaka since 2010, had a plan to buy a piece of land with his savings after Eid.

"Now, everything is over," Mizanur said.

Of their two sons, the elder one lives separately. We depend on Maznu," said Maznu's mother Mahfuz Begum.

"We didn't lose our son only, but also our dream, hope, shelter. We don't know how to survive without our son Maznu," she sobbed.

Rubel Islam, 28, of Barish Hazari village, also saw his hope and dreams shattered when his son Fahim Khan Kobinur Islam, 48, to the accident.

"His father had wanted to return to the village, leaving his job in a garment factory, to open a grocery shop," he said.

"My mother is injured. I don't know a condition in her fat case as a critical condition," said Rubel with tears.

Contacted, truck owner Abdul Karim of Cox's Bazar said his company was responsible for the accident. "I didn't permit him to carry passengers."

## Licence to kill!

FROM PAGE 16  
person in such cases after 20 weeks. Supporters say this allows those who would still kill a foetus - in a car crash, or assault, for example - to be punished to the fullest extent of the law.

Women's rights advocates, however, say the law is also interpreted to ban abortion. To assuage the concerns of conservative legislators added an exemption for women seeking abortions and the doctors providing them.

As originally written, the act extended "solidarity" benefits by the pregnant woman or her doctor from cases of second-degree murder, manslaughter, negligent homicide, or causing or aiding suicide.

"The bill as drafted allowed for physicians to be held liable and allows a pregnant woman to commit homicide without consequences," Republican Representative JIR Howe told the Concord Monitor.

Legislators, however, only caught the error after it had passed both chambers of Congress and was headed to Governor Chris Sununu's desk.

Members of Congress quickly voted to change the language through a process normally used to correct spelling and grammar.

"No one in this chamber voted to amend the bill to put me to murder anyone," Republican House Majority Leader Dick Hinch said.

"That was not the intent."

"Thirty-eight other states currently have foetal homicide laws that would allow a doctor to be prosecuted for a miscarriage or for smoking or drinking during pregnancy."

Democrats in New Hampshire protested that the Republican-sponsored bill is redundant, pointing out that women can already pursue felony charges in cases that result in miscarriage or stillbirth.

"Snow Bill" puts New Hampshire on the dangerous path to recognising fetal personhood in our laws," Senator Martha Hennessey said.

The bill, however, easily passed in the House. The Republican legislature, Mr Sununu is expected to sign the revised measure into law.



Rajshahi University student Abdul Mazid, in red tee-shirt, working in a vegetable field as a labourer at a village in Nilphamari. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: EAM ABUZZAMAN

## 112 missing

FROM PAGE 16  
The landslide blocked a two-kilometre (one-mile) stretch of river and 1.6 kilometre of road, according to state media.

As night fell, authorities shined lamps onto the rubble while rescuers wore lights on their helmets, as they sifted through the rocks, aided by sniffer dogs, according to photos from the official Xinhua news agency.

During the day, rescuers and local residents used ropes to move a boulder which others lifted rocks with their bare hands, according to videos broadcast by the Maosian government and CCTV.

Nearly 2,000 police, soldiers and civilians were taking part in the rescue.

Bulldozers and excavators that were used earlier in the day stopped their work due to bad lighting as night fell, according to CCTV.

No sign of the village could be seen in aerial footage, which showed a grim and grey rock-strewn landscape covering the area where it once existed by a river.

"It's the biggest landslide in this area since the Wenchuan earthquake," said Wang Yongbo, one of the officials in charge of rescue efforts, referring to the disaster that killed 87,000 people in 2008 in a town in Sichuan.

Local police captain Chen Tiebo said the heavy rains that hit the region in recent days had triggered the landslide.

"There are several tonnes of rock" over the village, he told CCTV.

## Makkah 'terror attack

FROM PAGE 16  
blew himself up," Turki said.

The blast partially collapsed the building where he had taken refuge, injuring the six pilgrims, Turki said.

He added that four had already been released from hospital, and five security men were also slightly hurt.

Since late 2014 Saudi Arabia has faced periodic bombings and shootings claimed by the Islamic State jihadist group.

Both Iran and Qatar yesterday support for Saudi Arabia over the Makkah attack despite their severed ties.

"Iran... as always expresses its readiness to assist and cooperate with other countries to confront these criminals, who deal death and ignorantly spread hate," foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Ghassemlidi said.

The Qatari foreign ministry expressed "solidarity with the brotherly kingdom of Saudi Arabia".

Shia Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia are locked in a bitter battle but regional influence and have had no diplomatic relations since January last year.

Saudi Arabia and its allies severed all ties with Qatar earlier this month accusing it of supporting "terrorist groups" in the region, a charge Qatari denies.

Purported images from the scene that circulated on social media showed an ally filled with bricks and other debris apparently from a blast.

Video showed what appeared to be a bearded man's head lying among rubble from a collapsed structure.

The end of Ramadan last year in the Saudi city of Medina four security officers died in an explosion close to Islam's second holiest site, the Prophet's Mosque.

## Ratha Yatra

FROM PAGE 16  
function, staging of religious drama and screening of religious films.

The programmes of the ISKON in Swamibagar start with holding of Agnihota Yatra. At noon, a discussion will be organised on the ISKON premises.

In the afternoon, a photographic session will be brought out from Swamibagar, setting photos of Sri Jagannath Dev, his brother Sri Balaram and sister Srimati Subhadra on three large chariots.

Meanwhile, Hindu community leaders at a press conference in the capital's Dakshinwasti Temple yesterday said a special campaign was launched on social media over use of loudspeakers and distribution of prasad (a religious offering of food).

Leaders of Mahanagar Sarbajinita Pujya Committee and Bangladesh Pujya Udayan Parishad, Patnabhad, said the administration didn't impose any ban on use of loudspeakers and distribution of prasad during procession, some people in Facebook were creating confusion among people over the issue.

Tapash Kumar Pal, general secretary of Pujya Udayan Parishad, said the administration didn't impose any ban on using loudspeakers, rather it requested Hindu community leaders not to use "PA Set" (huge loudspeakers) for the sake of public security.

The leaders also said they would not know prasad during processions, rather prasad would be distributed hand to hand.

More than 70 were killed by a landslide in the southern commercial hub of Shenzhen in December 2015, caused by the improper storage of waste.

One of the deadliest landslides took place in 1991, when 216 were killed in southwest Yunnan province.

## Four-tier security

FROM PAGE 2  
A huge number of volunteers would also help the law enforcers ensure security, he added.

"No-one would be allowed to enter the ground with bags or umbrellas except prayer mats due to security reasons, he said.

"The police have already collected information of tenants living around the grounds and asked the house owners not to allow any new tenants till Eid day. All entrances save three on south, three on east and one on north to the ground would be closed on Eid day.

The devotees would have to enter the ground passing through an archway. SP Anwar said the additional security steps were taken due to last year's terror attack near the ground.

Azimuddin Biswas, deputy commissioner of Kishoreganj, also the president of Sholeha Eid Ground committee, said all necessary steps to ensure security had been taken and they were expecting a huge number of devotees.

On July 7 last year, militants hurled grenades at a police check-point near Azim Uddin High School. Two policemen were killed in a machete attack and 12 others injured.

A militant was killed at the spot during a gunfight with police, Jharna Rani Bhowmik, a local, died as a stray bullet hit her through her home window.

Three days after the incident, police filed a case under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Dr. A. S. Shaiful Islam alias Saiful Islam and an unidentified youth were killed in a "shootout" with Rapid Action Battalion in Nandail of Mymensingh.

Muhammad Mushbed Zaman, inspector (investigation) Kishoreganj Sadar police, said three suspects were in jail in connection with the case.

"They would not be able to submit the charge sheet as some suspects could not be identified, he said, adding, once they identified them, they would press the charges.

## Voting underway in PNG elections

FROM PAGE 16  
confidence vote last year following weeks of protests and civil disobedience urging him to resign.

"With all the variables at play this is an educated guess, but my opinion is on O'Neill," said Malenaesa Program research fellow Jonathan Pryke at the Lowy Institute in Australia.

"Say what you will about his policy track record, he is clearly a master at the game of politics.

"His record comes into power, however, will have to address - first and foremost, the dire state of the economy."

PNG's largest aid donor Australia has been working closely with Port Moresby to ensure the pollling passes off smoothly, supplying election experts to train 30,000 poll staff.

It has also provided military helicopters and planes to help transport election materials to remote areas of a mountainous country that has some of the world's most difficult terrain.

More than 10,000 security personnel have been deployed to maintain law and order.

Hundreds of observers are also in the country monitoring the polls, watching for any vote-buying as candidates jockey for a position in government.

PNG villagers, who receive little from the political system, often see elections as simply a "time of food" - a reference to the cash, pigs and other items candidates promise to win votes.

We will consider whether the elections have been conducted according to the standards for democratic elections to which Papua New Guinea has committed itself," said Commonwealth Observer Group chair Anand Satyanand on the role his team was playing.

He noted the huge logistical challenges of holding elections in a country like PNG, where many people have to walk for hours across rugged country to cast their vote.

## Where there's

FROM PAGE 16  
trouble accepting Mazid, his fellow labourers were also reluctant to work alongside a university student.

"It didn't seem right for Mazid to be working in the field," says fellow labourer Mazid Hafiz, 35. "But considering his determination to be educated at any cost, we took him with us."

"Now, many labourers colleagues have high hopes for Mazid. "We want to see him as an accomplished man who can bring knowledge back to the village," says Ayameena Rantu, 30, as she picks out weeds from a vegetable field.

As for Mazid, he doesn't regret his physical toil. "I don't feel shy about it," he says. "I can't deny my family roots and I want to set an example for children from other struggling families that higher education isn't beyond reach."

His mother, a meagrely educated school. "To think he used to go to school in the second-hand clothes of rich people's children! That Mazid studies at university is beyond our wildest dreams. It's as if the moon in the sky has come down to greet us at our cottage door!"

As for the future, Mazid says that after graduation, along with some fellow students he hopes to establish a clinic to treat mental illness patients, especially those from poor backgrounds.

"If any big-hearted soul individual came to Mazid's assistance," remarks principal Md Baharuddin, "it would be easier for him to reach his goal."

## S Koreans march to protest US missile defence system

FROM PAGE 2  
Thousands of protesters marched near the US embassy in Seoul on Saturday, accusing President Donald Trump of "forcing" South Korea to deploy a controversial American missile defence system opposed by China.

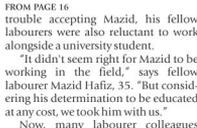
The protest came as South Korea's new president Moon Jae-in heads to Washington next week for his first summit with Trump amid soaring tensions over Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions.

Around 4,000 people participated in the demonstration, the largest since South Korea and the United States agreed to deploy the system, known as Terminal High-Altitude Area Defence (THAAD).

Protesters carried placards that read: "Trump stop forcing [South Korea] to deploy THAAD" and "No THAAD, No Trump".

The crowd included residents from the southeastern county of Seongju where the system is being deployed

## Where there's



Thousands of protesters marched near the US embassy in Seoul on Saturday, accusing President Donald Trump of "forcing" South Korea to deploy a controversial American missile defence system opposed by China.

who say it poses health and environmental hazards and argue that its presence could make them a priority target for North Korea.

THAAD was approved by Moon's ousted predecessor, conservative president Park Geun-Hye, who then streamlined the review during her 18-month tenure as she became ensnared in a massive corruption scandal.

The deployment has also been opposed by Beijing, which fears it could undermine its own nuclear deterrent and has reacted with fury, imposing a series of trade sanctions as economic retaliation on the South.

Though parts of system are already in place, Moon this month suspended further deployment.

Officially, the delay is to allow for a new, comprehensive environmental impact assessment and analysis of the system's strategic delay by Moon to handle the tricky diplomatic situation he inherited.