

# Shot by BSF, 9th grader



Russell, who was shot by the BSF in the face, on the verge of losing his eyesight.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

FROM PAGE 20  
Russell's brother Rubel Mia, who sat the HSC examination from a local college this year, said his brother had 40 pellet injury marks on the face, including two in his right eye and one in the left.

When shot with rubber bullets from PAG (pump action gun), Russell was 20 yards inside Bangladesh territory, said Lt Col Golam Morshed, Commanding Officer 15 BGB Battalion.

Contacted last night, Ramakant Gupta, first secretary (consular) of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka, said, "I am not aware of the incident."

After being shot, Russell tried to swim ashore, but he soon fainted, relatives said.

Two local youths, who were nearby, pulled him out of the water and took him to Fulbari Upazila Health

money.

Golam Morshed, the BGB commander, said they held a company commander and battalion commander-level meetings with the BSF.

"We protested the incident both verbally and in writing," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

In the company commander-level meeting, the BSF regretted the incident. But in the battalion commander-level meeting, they said the BSF fired as they had information that the boy and several others who went there were smugglers, he said.

Replying to a query, Morshed said their primary investigation suggested that Russell was innocent and had no involvement in smuggling.

Meanwhile, rights body Ain o Salish Kendra wrote to the national human rights commission of India on May 13 about the shooting.

Yesterday, the ASK sent a letter to the Indian High Commission in Dhaka, demanding punishment of those involved in the shooting and also compensation for Russell.

"Through the Indian High Commission we also sent a letter to the chief justice of the Kolkata High Court," said an ASK official.

Kriti Roy, chief of Indian rights body Bangla Manab Adhikar Suraksha Mancha, said they sought all the papers related to the incident from the ASK.

Upon getting those, they will file a petition with the Kolkata High Court, seeking punishment of the attackers and proper compensation for the boy, Roy added.

The case was lodged on charges of corruption in awarding the contract for container management at inland container depots in Dhaka and Chittagong to Global Agro Trade (Pvt) Co Ltd (Gatco).

**BARAPUKURIA COAL MINE CASE**

The ACC lodged the case with Shahbagh Police Station on February 26, 2008, accusing 16 people, including Khaleda, for graft in awarding Barapukuria coal mine operation contract to a Chinese company.

**ZIA CHARITABLE TRUST CASE**

The anti-graft body filed the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case with Tejgaon Police Station in August 2011, accusing Khaleda and three others of abusing power to raise funds for the trust from unknown sources.

**"UNDERMINING" NATIONAL FLAG**

AB Siddique, president of Jananetri Parishad, a pro-Awami League organisation, on November 3, 2016, filed the case, accusing Khaleda and her late husband former president Ziaur Rahman of "undermining" Bangladesh's map and the national flag.

**CELEBRATING "FAKE" BIRTHDAY**

On August 30, 2016, Gazi Zahur Islam, former joint general secretary of Dhaka Union of Journalists, filed a case against Khaleda for celebrating her "fake" birthday on August 15 every year.

In the complaint, he mentioned that Khaleda's actual date of birth was not August 15, but she celebrates her birthday on that date every year to undermine and dishonour Bangabandhu.

**LAWYERS MEET KHALEDA**

Khaleda yesterday alleged that the government was trying to keep her in jail for a long time so that it could hold a one-sided election like that of 2014.

She made the comment while her four lawyers met her at the old Central Jail on Nazimuddin Road in Dhaka yesterday afternoon.

Khaleda Zia said the lower courts were not granting her bail and withdrawing production warrants issued earlier against her, even though the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court upheld her High Court bail in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case, said Masud Ahmed Talukder, one of the four lawyers who met her, told The Daily Star.

He said the BNP chief also

instructed the party leaders and activists to continue the peaceful movement for her release.

Khaleda is seriously ill and she cannot move normally, the lawyer said, adding that she felt that if she was treated at United Hospital, she would get well.

She also conveyed Ramadan greetings in advance to the people and her party leaders and activists, Masud said.

Three other lawyers who met Khaleda from 4:00pm to 5:15pm were Khandaker Mahbub Hossain, AJ Mohammad Ali and Sanaullah Miah.

**Florida set**

FROM PAGE 20  
drone will be combating the country's pest problem have yet to be revealed.

Authorities already use helicopters and small aircraft to monitor and treat problem areas.

"We potentially could be using it more for surveillance and in more isolated areas for treatment missions," Eric Jackson, a public information officer at the Lee County Mosquito Control District in southwestern Florida told CNBC.

"Our district relies heavily on aerial operations," he said.

The county has a lot of mangrove habitat which is ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes.

"We're trying to be as innovative as we can and as efficient as we can. And if this can be used safely, we're open to anything," Jackson said.

Commissioners are meeting later this month to discuss the next steps.

Florida is one of ten sites included in the Federal Aviation Administration's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Pilot Program which aims to harness drone technology.

"We've been doing this for 60 years with aircraft dealing with mosquito issues, so I'm thinking that might have played a part (in our selection)," Jackson said.

Other states have requested to use drone technology for other purposes - for example north Dakota wants to use them for monitoring crops and oil pipelines and authorities in Tennessee are using them for package deliveries.

enforced disappearances, and attacks on human rights defenders," it said.

HRW and other groups have reported for many years about human rights concerns in Bangladesh, and many of these concerns were simply not addressed adequately by Bangladesh in the hearing, the statement said.

"Bangladesh needs to stop ignoring and start addressing serious human rights violations, such as when its security forces engage in enforced disappearances, killings, torture, and arbitrary arrests, many of them politically motivated," said Brad Adams, HRW Asia director.

"The Bangladesh government should use the Universal Periodic Review at the UN Human Rights Council as a time for reflection, not self-congratulation."

The Daily Star tried to contact Anisul for comments but failed.

The statement said a number of member countries rightly praised the government's willingness to open the Bangladesh border and provide aid to hundreds of thousands of Rohingya fleeing atrocities by the Myanmar military.

The Bangladesh delegation spoke at length about the progress on handling the influx of the Rohingya refugees but responded with silence and denial to questions and recommendations by several countries, including concerns about extrajudicial killings.

## 'Ballistic blocks' shoot from Hawaii volcano

REUTERS, Volcano

"Ballistic blocks" the size of microwave ovens shot from Hawaii's Kilauea volcano on Wednesday in what may be the start of explosive eruptions that could spew huge ash plumes and hurl smaller rocks for miles (km), the US Geological Survey said.

Such eruptions, last seen nearly a century ago, have been a looming threat since Kilauea, one of the world's most active volcanoes, erupted nearly two weeks ago.

Explosions in Kilauea's crater sparked an aviation red alert due to risks the ash plume could blow into aircraft routes and damage jet engines.

## Dhaka remained silent

FROM PAGE 20  
commitment to human rights by giving full consideration to the recommendations from other countries and accepting those that would significantly improve its compliance with international human rights standards, it said.

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## Najib likely

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revolution at the ballot box.

The election dramatically reversed Anwar's fortunes, from prisoner to presumptive successor to 92-year-old Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

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