

# Outlaw killed in Rajbari 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The second-in-command of an outlawed group was killed in what police claims was a shootout between police and his armed cohorts at Alokhdanga village under Saorail union of Kalukhali upazila in Rajbari around 2:30am on Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Matin Mondal, 35, of Bisaya Saorail village under Saorail union of Kalukhali upazila.

Police claim Abdul Matin was second-in-command of Sajal Bahini. Fazlul Karim, senior assistant superintendent of police at Pangsha circle of Rajbari said, "After receiving secret information, a team of police conducted a drive at Alokhdanga village where a group of outlaws were holding a secret meeting around 2:30am on Sunday. Sensing the presence of law enforcers, the gang opened fire and policemen retaliated triggering a gunfight.

Abdul Matin was caught up in the firing. His body was discovered after his cohorts fled the scene.

Police rushed him to Pangsha Upazila Health Complex where an on-duty doctor declared him dead around 3:30am.

Police said they recovered one shooter gun, two ramda and 15 rounds of bullet from the scene.

"There had been three cases against Abdul Matin, including a murder case, filed with different police stations in the area," Fazlul Karim said.

## Egypt enacts

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(information) inciting violating the law, violence or hatred".

The new law is one of a series of measures that rights groups say are aimed at curbing freedom of expression online, with the internet one of the last forums for public debate over Sisi's rule.

In August, the president signed off on another piece of legislation allowing authorities, through a judge, to order the blocking of websites that "constitute a threat" to Egypt's national security or economy.

Those who administer or visit such websites, intentionally or "in error without a valid reason", can now face jail time and fines.

The authorities have insisted that such measures are needed to help tackle instability and terrorism in the country.

But domestic and international rights activists regularly accuse the government of seeking to crush dissent by arresting critics and bloggers and blocking news sites.

More than 500 websites have already been blocked in Egypt prior to the new law, according to the Cairo-based Association of Freedom of Thought and Expression.



A police motorbike lay beneath a bus following a road crash in the capital's Mirpur yesterday. The police officer was killed on the spot.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK GROUP DUI CHAKKA

## No let-up in road deaths

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police station from Mirpur Beribadh area.

The Barisal-bound bus was seized four days ago after its brake failed and hit the jeep of a Jahangirnagar University teacher near Burulia in Mirpur area. It was kept there since then.

Around 4:00pm yesterday, the police official, who was riding a motorbike, asked an Eagle Paribahan staffer to drive the bus and follow him to the police station.

When Uttam slowed his motorcycle at a speed breaker at Mirpur's Rainkhola, the bus's brake failed again and the vehicle rammed his motorcycle.

He got tossed onto the road and the bike went under the bus. The vehicle drove over his body and stopped after running a few yards, according to the statement of a case filed by Uttam's brother Dipankar Sarkar last night.

The SI died on the spot, said police and witnesses.

Police arrested the bus driver, Belal Hossain, 38, who was accused in the case.

Asked why a wrecker was not used, SM Shah Alam, officer-in-charge of Rupnagar Police Station, said the SI had been asked to bring the bus, using a wrecker.

The OC further said they had asked for a wrecker but it was not known why the SI didn't use it.

Meanwhile, two bikers and a pedestrian were killed in two road accidents in the capital yesterday.

A lorry hit the motorbike carrying the two near Dainik Bangla intersec-



Uttam Kumar

tion around 10:30pm, leaving them dead on the spot, said Golam Rabbani, an inspector of Motijheel Police Station. The victims are Jan-E-Alam and Ripon Sikder.

The other victim was run over by a vehicle at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport intersection. Police recovered the body around 5:00am.

Airport police said they were yet to identify the victim.

In Rangpur, at least seven people were killed and 20 others injured as a bus of Rabbi Paribahan collided head-on with a Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) bus in the city's CO Bazar area at 12:15pm.

When the BRTC bus, heading towards Panchagarh from Bogra, reached near Khan Refuelling station, the Rangpur-bound Rabbi Paribahan bus from Thakurgaon suddenly appeared in the middle of the highway while overtaking a three-wheeler, said police quoting witnesses.

Both the drivers were driving reck-

lessly, said witnesses.

Four people were killed on the spot while three others died from their wounds at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

The dead were identified as Roksana Begum, 20, from Gaibandha, Abdur Rahman, 70, from Thakurgaon, Shahin Mia, 12, from Panchagarh, Sumi Akter, 22, from Rangpur, and Nur Banu, 45, Sefali Begum 50, and Amijan Begum, 45, from Nilphamari.

The injured were admitted to the RMCH, and the condition of eight of them was critical, said doctors.

Saiful Islam, additional superintendent (Circle A) of Rangpur police, said road communication between Rangpur and several northern districts remained suspended for around an hour following the accident. It was restored around 2:00pm.

Rangpur district administration formed a three-member committee led by Additional District Magistrate Monnaf Kabir to probe the incident. It has been asked to submit its report within seven working days.

In Bogra, three people were killed and 39 injured in two road accidents in Sherpur upazila early yesterday.

A Bogra-bound bus of Ena Paribahan collided with a Dhaka-bound bus of Chandni Paribahan in front of Sherpur Fire Service Station on Dhaka-Bogra highway around midnight, said Humayun Kabir, OC of Sherpur Police Station.

Mithu Akanda, 35, the driver of the Chandni Paribahan bus, and Sazzad Hossain, a passenger of the Ena Paribahan bus, were killed in the accident that left 29 others wounded, he added.

In the other accident, a SR Travels bus hit a parked pick-up at Dhunat intersection on Dhaka-Bogra Highway around 1:00am, leaving the bus helper, Zahidul Haq, 38, dead. Ten others were also injured, said police.

Besides, a woman was killed as a bus carrying workers ran over her in Narayanganj's Siddhirganj area while she was crossing the road around 7:00am.

The dead was identified as Minu Akter, 55, a resident in Siddhirganj Pool area, said SI Russel Ahmed of Siddhirganj Police Station.

Police are trying to arrest the bus driver, he added.

In another accident, a mentally challenged woman lost her life when a vehicle hit her on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Chittagong's Sitakunda upazila around 11:00am yesterday.

Ahsan Habib, OC of Baraoula Highway Police Station, said the woman -- Asma Beguma, 65, from Sitakunda upazila -- was crossing the highway.

According to a recent report of Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity, at least 259 people were killed and 960 injured in 237 road accidents from August 16 to 28, when the transport sector saw a huge rush of passengers due to the Eid vacation.

The report, released by the passenger welfare platform at a press conference on Friday, pointed out that the accidents took place despite the measures taken by the authorities to ensure road safety following the recent student demonstration for safe roads.

[Our correspondents in Dinajpur, Bogra, Narayanganj and Chittagong contributed to this report]

## Protectors

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International Airport last week.

After she was rescued by airport staffers and taken to police, she said an employee of the embassy promised to marry her and had physical relationship with her. But the man severed all contact with her once she came back to Bangladesh on his advice on July 28.

On August 28, she went to the airport from her relative's house in the capital's Jirani area, where she had been staying. She told officials that she went there to retrieve her luggage and tried to die by suicide, police said.

Airport police filed a case the next day, accusing four embassy employees of the provoking her to die by suicide.

According to the case statement the woman went to Saudi Arabia as a domestic worker in March 2016.

In the first two months, her Saudi employer did not provide her with adequate food or salary and often tortured her physically.

After that, the employer took her to another house where she worked for four months without salary.

With the help of another Bangladeshi, she then went to the office of the Saudi agency that recruited her, according to the case filed by Kabir Hossain, sub-inspector of Airport Police Station.

After staying nine months at the agency office, where she was asked to look after other Bangladeshi women migrants, she took shelter at a safe home of the Bangladesh Embassy in Riyadh in September last year.

During her eight-month stay there, the embassy staffer Mohammad Lokman, 35, developed and maintained a physical relationship with her.

Bangladesh embassy staffers Mohammad Golam, Mohammad Fahad and Mohammad Mehedi Hasan used to help Lokman. They made provocations in the woman's suicide attempt, the case statement said.

At one point, she realised that Lokman would not marry her and informed embassy authorities about the matter. Lokman then told her to return to Bangladesh and said he would marry her once she returned to Bangladesh.

He also arranged her return home on July 28. She attempted to kill herself after learning recently that Lokman had returned home.

Police also filed a case against her for the attempted suicide. She has been sent to Kashimpur Jail.

### PROBE BODY FORMED

"A high-level committee has been formed for a neutral investigation into the allegations of abuses," said a statement issued by Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh yesterday.

If the allegations are true, those responsible will be sued and terminated from the jobs, Golam Moshir, ambassador to Riyadh, said.

The incident took place at a time when there had been hundreds of women complaining of physical and mental abuses and non-payment by the employers in Saudi Arabia, home to some two lakh female domestic workers.

## Farm uses

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the lasers have saved around 262,500 kilograms of blueberries—that is around \$99,733 saved!

The laser took around 4 years to develop. In that time, Bird Control Group tested various colours, wavelengths, and beam widths. They decided on a wide, green beam and applied filters to it to reduce the amount of harmful infrared radiation. "We learned the characteristics of what we call the ultimate laser beam for dispersing birds," says Steinar Skenskes, CEO.

But what made them settle on green?

"We researched the colour that sends the most amount of signals from the birds' eye to the brain, so it's perceived as more intense," Steinar said. "It's roughly eight times more effective than red, for example."

A further reason for the laser's incredible success lies in the sweeping pattern of the laser. The company tested many different patterns and discovered that some were significantly more effective than others at deterring birds. The laser patterns are always customised for each site to make them as effective of a deterrent as possible.

Not only do the lasers now operate in farms around the world, but they are also used in settings such as airports and oil rigs. The laser technology is now in place at over 6,000 facilities worldwide. Unlike other methods of dispersing birds (such as scarecrows), birds do not become accustomed to the laser; it can remain effective years after its initial installation.

There is one downside—the laser's amazing results don't come cheap. Each laser gun costs around \$10,000 and most places will need more than 1.

## EVM steam off

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must be held on time and no one can stop it from taking place. "No one has the capability to foil the election."

Hasina also welcomed the move of Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain, Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and others to form an alliance, and said it will give the anti-Awami League people a new platform to stand on.

"I welcome their alliance. Let the unity prevail... this is good. This will be a great relief for the anti-Awami League people.

"There're two parties in Bangladesh -- Awami League and anti-Awami League. The anti-Awami League people will have to have somewhere to go."

Recently, Dr Kamal, Badruddoza Chowdhury, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, ASM Abdur Rob and Kader Siddique agreed to forge a national unity ahead of the general election, writes UNB.

Hasina, also the Awami League chief, said the new combine will be a good one at least. "We'll contest the election. I hope they'll also take part in the polls."

She said there should be an alternative in the country. "I convey my good wishes to them."

Replying to a query, the prime minister questioned whether Dr Kamal Hossain and his associates really want the election.

"There's a section of people in Bangladesh who are always sitting there thinking if there's any unconstitutional and unelected government, they'll get the flag... they'll get some importance."

Referring to Dr Kamal's recent remarks that there will be no election in the country, she said it means they are waiting for this, UNB added.

"If anything happens in our country, all look at Uttarpara. This is the reality. Anything might happen. My father was killed and there were attempts to kill me in broad daylight."

The AL chief said Dr Kamal and his "companies" do not want healthy democracy. "They utter the word democracy but want to go to power in an undemocratic way."

The prime minister said if anyone wants anything from her, he or she has to go for movement to realise it.

"I won't give away anything without a movement. Mr Kamal and his associates have to go for a movement," she said, adding that if they become successful in their movement and if anyone comes from Uttarpara, they will attain success.

### ON DEMAND FOR KHALEDA'S RELEASE

About BNP's demand for the release of party chief Khaleda Zia, Hasina said, "The government has nothing to do with it... she [Khaleda] has either to go to court or seek clemency from the president."

On Saturday, BNP leaders at a rally in front of the party's Nayapaltn central office demanded the government release Khaleda to ensure the party's participation in the next polls.

The prime minister said she will neither take any step for bringing BNP to the elections nor obstruct it from joining the polls.

"They [BNP leaders] are saying they won't join the polls. It's their internal party decision whether BNP will take part in it or boycott it. We neither need to invite them nor obstruct them."

Recalling that the gate of BNP chairperson's office was shut when she went to meet Khaleda after the death of her son, Hasina said: "On

### WHAT PM ALSO SAID

To get released, Khaleda has to go to court or seek presidential clemency

Myanmar never acts according to what it says

Next JS polls will be free and fair

No one can foil the election

All praised Bangladesh's role in Bimstec summit

that day, I decided not to sit with them at all. There's no question of holding discussions with them, no matter who says what, as I have a sense of self-esteem."

The PM said her government should have arrested Khaleda when her party was killing people in arson attacks. "But I didn't arrest her at that time. I had demonstrated tolerance."

Regarding the unelected polls-time government or caretaker government, the prime minister said Bangladesh has a bad experience about it. "Once they sit in power, they don't want to leave; we had this experience in our country."

The PM said Bangladesh will follow the system practised in India and Britain.

"Only during a mid-term election, parliament is dissolved and the election is held within 90 days of the dissolution of parliament."

Hasina said this system had been incorporated in the 1972 constitution

of the country and it has been incorporated in the charter after a High Court verdict.

As per the constitution, the election will be held three months before completion of the five-year term, she said.

In the constitution, Hasina said, it has been made mandatory to sit in sessions of parliament after every 60 days except the three-month period of the election time.

"Parliament will be there, but not functional. This has been done to ensure there is no vacuum during the transition period from one government to another," she said.

**MYANMAR AND ROHINGYA ISSUE** The prime minister said Myanmar has done a terrible thing by resorting to falsehood releasing fake photos over Rohingya issue.

"They've tarnished their own image with this. They've destroyed their position at international stage."

She said the same propaganda with fake photos was also carried out by BNP-Jamaat in 2013, 2014 and 2015 in Bangladesh. "My question is whether they [Myanmar] learnt the tactic from our BNP-Jamaat."

During the Bimstec summit in Nepal, Hasina said, she had talks with the Myanmar president over Rohingya issue and the repatriation agreement signed between the two countries.

Hasina said the Myanmar president told her that they are ready to take back those who want to go back to Myanmar.

Myanmar never denies anything and says it will take back the Rohingyas, noted Hasina. "But the reality is it doesn't act accordingly."

The prime minister also said she never wants confrontational situation with the neighbouring country.

Responding to a question about the new government in Pakistan under the

leadership of former cricketer Imran Khan, Hasina said he hit many sixes in the field, now it is time to see whether he can hit those sixes remaining in power.

"We'll be glad .... He's a player, he has the sportsmanship spirit, if he seeks cooperation, we'll extend that. We'll do that keeping in mind the general people of that country," Hasina said.

Replying to another question, she said the government has brought the killers of Bangabandhu under the purview of law. "But, the investigation to detect the conspiracy and conspirators was not done..."

**BIMSTEC SUMMIT** Hasina also talked about the Bimstec Summit in Nepal, saying all quarters have highly praised her participation as well as Bangladesh's role in the summit, reports BSS.

"In overall consideration, the 4th Summit of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation and other related meetings held before it were very important for Bangladesh," she said, reading out a written statement at the press conference.

The PM visited Nepal on August 30 and 31 to attend the two-day summit of Bimstec, a seven-nation economic bloc of South Asia and Southeast Asia.

Hasina said this year's Bimstec Summit was very crucial as the seven-nation regional grouping has already completed 21 years.

The prime minister said she delivered her address in the opening session of the summit on August 30 after the welcome address of the Nepalese premier.

She said in her address she called upon the Bimstec nations to jointly face poverty, climate change impact, terrorism and other problems.