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THAKURGAON BORDER 14-year-old boy killed in BSF firing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

Indian Border Security Force shot a teen dead along the Kantivita border in Thakurgaon's Baliadangi upazila early yesterday.



Jayanta Kumar

Jayanta Kumar Singh, 14, of Fakirvita Belpukur village, died while his father Mohadev Kumar Singh, and one Md Darbar Ali, 50, of Nitoldoba village were injured, said Firoz Kabir, the officer-in-charge of Baliadangi Police Station.

Quoting locals, the OC said: "Members of Dingpara BSF camp opened fire on a group of people when they were trying to enter India by cutting a barbed-wire fence around 3:30am."

The others in the group escaped unhurt, he said, adding that Mohadev and Darbar were being treated for gunshot wounds at a hospital in Rangpur.

Samar Kumar Chatterjee, local chairman of Dhantala union parishad, said 16 other Bangladeshis who went to

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Gridlock in front of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation in the capital's Karwan Bazar area yesterday afternoon. Traffic in the city was horrendous, trapping commuters for hours, after students under the banner of "Technical Students' Movement" blocked the Satrasta intersection to press home their six-point demand. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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Border killings a barrier to good ties with India

Says foreign adviser

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hossain yesterday said border killings by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) remain an obstacle to good relations between Bangladesh and India.

"We definitely want good ties with India based on equity. It [bilateral relations] should be two-way, not one-sided...," he said in response to reporters' questions at the foreign ministry.

His remarks came after a teenage boy, Jayanta Kumar Singh, 14, was shot dead by BSF along the Kantivita border in Thakurgaon's Baliadangi upazila early yesterday, according to police.

Asked whether the foreign ministry would lodge a formal protest, the adviser said the ministry would act after receiving confirmation of the incident from the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

India follows 'dominance politics' with neighbours

Says Mirza Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka



BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said India consistently resorts to "politics of dominance" with its neighbours.

Speaking to reporters at the grave of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman, he said that India has strained relations not only with Bangladesh but also with its other neighbours.

"The main reason, as I see it, is India's persistent politics of dominance regarding its neighbouring countries. This approach will not bring good fortune to India or its neighbours."

Fakhrul said BNP believes India's relationship with Bangladesh should be built on mutual respect, dignity, and shared interests.

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ACC to work with FBI to bring back laundered money

Joint taskforce on the cards

DIPAN NANDY

The Anti-Corruption Commission has decided to work with the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the US to bring back money siphoned off abroad.

The decision came at a meeting yesterday between the ACC's money laundering and legal wings and an FBI delegation, said meeting sources.

The meeting primarily decided to form a joint taskforce to work on preventing money laundering.

Led by FBI Legal Attaché Robert Cameron, the two-member delegation of the US federal agency reached the ACC headquarters in the afternoon. Cameron, however, did not speak to the media.

The other member of the delegation, which arrived in Dhaka on Sunday, is Muhammad Aminul Islam, a police liaison specialist.

A senior ACC official, who was present at the meeting, said the discussion focused on forming the joint taskforce. "We sought FBI's assistance to recover the laundered money."

He said the meeting also discussed whether the FBI would directly participate in the joint taskforce. "We initially agreed that the FBI will work as a consultant."

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No plastic bags in superstores from Oct 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The use of polythene and polypropylene shopping bags will be banned across all superstores in Bangladesh starting October 1, Environment Adviser Rizwana Hasan said yesterday.

She made the announcement during a meeting with stakeholders at the Bangladesh Secretariat, said a ministry press release.

The government will require superstores to offer jute and cloth bags as eco-friendly alternatives. There will also be an emphasis on engaging young people and students in the initiative.

A detailed action plan was formulated to enforce the upcoming ban, including steps to raise public awareness through a nationwide media campaign starting on September 15 across print and electronic platforms.

Official notices will also be issued in newspapers to

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Trump, Harris in final prep for crucial debate

AFP, Philadelphia

Kamala Harris and Donald Trump made their final preparations yesterday on the eve of their first – and possibly only – televised debate before the knife-edge 2024 US presidential election.

With less than two months until election day, the face-off could be a turning point in a bitter contest between the Democratic vice president and Republican former president.

Harris arrives at 4.40pm (2040 GMT) Monday in the eastern city of Philadelphia where the debate takes place, while Trump is not due to touch down until hours before Tuesday evening's clash on ABC News.

The two candidates have never even met before, and the debate is set to be a contrast in styles between a former prosecutor and a convicted felon who has targeted Harris with racist and sexist insults.

"There's no floor for him in terms of how low he will go and we should be prepared for that," Harris told radio host Rickey Smiley in an interview broadcast Monday, when asked how she planned to handle Trump's attacks.

"And we should be prepared for the fact that he is probably going to speak a lot of untruths."

Yet Harris in some ways has the most to prove, despite the scandals dogging a rival who has hinted that he won't accept the result of November's election if he loses.

The 59-year-old Harris's honeymoon after replacing the aging Joe Biden at the top of the ticket appears to be fading, with polls showing she needs to reach out to voters who don't know much about her policies.

She addressed the growing pressure late Sunday when her campaign put out a policy page, touching on subjects from unions

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CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY ICT starts field-level probe into complaints against Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The probe agency of the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday launched a field investigation into the complaints of crimes against humanity and genocide allegedly committed by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, among others, during the student movement that later manifested in a mass uprising.

On the day, the members of the agency visited Dhaka Medical College Hospital and National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital. There, they spoke to over 20 victims who were injured during the movement from July 1 to August 5 and recorded their statements.

They also collected the identities of 529 injured victims who took treatment at the neurosciences institute.

"With this, we have begun our field-level investigation into the recent complaints against Sheikh Hasina and others," Ataur Rahman, deputy director (administration) of the ICT probe agency, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam, among others, was present during the recording of statements. Talking to the journalists yesterday, he said the agency

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MAN Siddique removed as metro rail project MD

Additional secretary Rouf replaces him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday cancelled the contract of MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd, the implementing and operating agency of Dhaka metro rail.

The Road Transport and Highways Division issued a circular in this regard yesterday, which will come into effect immediately.

The division also appointed Mohammad Abdur Rouf, an additional secretary, who has been serving as the additional project director of Mass Rapid Transit Line-5 (northern route), as MAN Siddique's replacement.

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A man rides a cycle as smoke billows in the background after an Israeli strike in an area that was ordered to be evacuated by the Israeli army in the southeast of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

UN fears of 'lost generation'

Gaza schools remain shut for 2nd year; Israeli strikes on Syria kill 18

AGENCIES

The new school year in the Palestinian territories officially began yesterday, with all schools in Gaza shut after 11 months of war and no sign of a ceasefire.

As fighting continued, Israel announced new orders to residents of the north Gaza Strip to leave their homes, in response to rockets fired into Israel.

Umm Zaki's son Moataz, 15, was supposed to begin 10th grade. Instead he woke up in their tent in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza and was sent to fetch a container of water from more than a kilometre away.

"Usually, such a day would be a day of celebration, seeing the children in the new uniform, going to school, and dreaming of becoming doctors and engineers. Today all we hope is that the war ends before we lose any of them," the mother of five told Reuters by text message.

The Palestinian Education Ministry said all Gaza schools were shut and 90% of them had been destroyed or damaged in Israel's assault on the territory, launched after Hamas gunmen attacked Israeli towns in October last year.

The UN Palestinian aid agency UNRWA, which runs around half of Gaza's schools, has turned as many of them as it can into emergency shelters housing thousands of displaced families.

"The longer the children stay out of school the more difficult it is for them to catch up on their lost learning and the more prone they are to becoming a lost generation, falling prey to exploitation including child marriage, child labour, and recruitment into armed groups," UNRWA Director of Communications Juliette Touma told Reuters.