

## Death for Bangladesh blogger killers

Two students have been sentenced to death in Bangladesh for the killing of an atheist blogger there in 2013.

Six others were convicted of involvement in the murder of Ahmed Rajib Haider, who was hacked to death as he was returning home from a rally in the capital, Dhaka.

A five-year sentence was given to the head of Ansarullah Bangla, the group suspected of carrying out the attack.

Five more secular bloggers and writers were killed in Bangladesh in 2015.

The court said that one of the students sentenced to death, Faisal bin Nayeem, attacked Haider with a meat cleaver in front of the victim's house.

The other was tried and sentenced in absentia.

Haider was among a group of bloggers who had called for the execution of Islamist leaders for crimes committed in the 1971 war.

The blogger's father, Mohammad Nazim Uddin, said he was unhappy that only two men were given the death sentence.

"I'm not happy with the verdict. I reject this verdict. Five of them confessed their involvement in the killing. But only two were given death sentence. How is it possible?", he said.

There have been several clashes in recent years between Islamists and supporters of the secular Awami League.

---

## Urvashi Rautela Is Competing In Miss Universe This Weekend

Call me Nostradamus, but I can totally foresee the first few comments on this article's Facebook page, and correct me if I'm wrong but here's what's in store – "Bloody b\*\*\*\*\*, you should be supporting India, she's making our nation proud", and so on and so forth. So if you're one of those, please ignore this because no matter what I say, your 'opinion' about me won't change.



*Facebook/ Urvashi Rautela*

First things first, we all know that Urvashi is the girl who Honey Singh tries to heckle and woo outside a mall in the world famous song 'Love Dose'.

But we shouldn't be passing judgement on her based on Yo Yo's Grammy-worthy effort, so let's know a little more about Urvashi, shall we?

According to Miss Universe's official website, Urvashi, and I quote, "is an established Bollywood actor, model, beauty pageant enthusiast and has won several crowns and accolades for herself."

Which is funny because that's not quite what her Wikipedia page suggests.

According to wiki – " Urvashi won the title of Miss Asian Supermodel 2011 in South Korea. She then went on to win Miss Tourism Queen of the year International."

She starred opposite Sunny Deol in the film Singh Saab The Great. Rautela will star as the protagonist of Mr. Airavata (Kannada film), an action love story opposite Darshan Thoogudeep. On 26 June 2015 she was selected as one of the actress in the third installment of the Masti

## movie series known as Great Grand Masti.

---

Not taking anything away from her, Urvashi is actually a very smart girl. She was Head Girl at D.A.V Public School and captain of the girls' basketball team. She was actually all set to become an engineer at one point of time. She even sat for the IIT entrance exams, but chose to become "an established Bollywood actor and model" instead.



Here are some of the other ladies Urvashi will be competing against, and it's a damn tough set!



*missuniverse.com*





[missuniverse.com](http://missuniverse.com)



[missuniverse.com](http://missuniverse.com)





[missuniverse.com](http://missuniverse.com)



*missuniverse.com*

And these are just five of my preference!



But Urvashi, too, is quite a looker. Just check these pictures out.

---



Wow!

---



*missuniverse.com*

Uff...

---





*bollybreak.in*

She was born in 1994!

---





*Urvashi Rautela/Facebook*

She was actually born the year Hum Aapke Hain Koun was released!

---



*Urvashi Rautela/ Facebook*

Ni-sa-re-ga-re-sa-re-ga-re-sareeeeeee

---



*Urvashi Rautela/Facebook*

Now, here's the problem – Urvashi looks drastically different with and without make-up. Look at this picture

---





*Urvashi Rautela/Facebook*

and now look at this one...

---



*Urvashi Rautela/ Facebook*

IITians, Miss Universe will be broadcasted live on 21st of December at 5:30 am. Best of luck waking up for that.

---

### This Reddit Thread Between India and Pak

Today morning, Reddit India started a cultural [exchange thread with Pakistan](#). In this thread, people from Pakistan asked questions about India. If you think it was an unpleasant conversation with both sides hurling abuses at each other, then you are wrong. Pakistanis asked relevant questions from everything about Indian food, to why people from the North East feel neglected.

We bring you some excerpts from the thread.

On phobia Indians may have towards the Muslim community.

---



Pakistan: On a grass root level, how much of a phobia, if any exists that perhaps one day Muslims will rule the whole subcontinent again just like we did back in the medieval times.

India: The only subliminal phobia Indians have is that the Indian Muslims will out breed the Hindus, and that India will become another Pakistan.

## On Pakistani women.

---





Pakistan: It seems to be a trope, on both sides of the border, that Pakistani women are attractive. Additionally, it's one of the common themes of comments from Indians on the cultural exchange thread on our side.

Is this a widespread belief on your side of the border?

India: Yes. Pakistani women are considered hotter. It is a case of grass being greener on the other side.

## On partition

---



Pakistan: What was partition like for your family?

India: Both my maternal grandparents are from small villages in the Pakistani side of Punjab. My Dadaji used to tell me stories about crossing the Sindh (Indus) and its enormous width. He suffered enormously during partition because he was an engineering student in Lahore and had to give up his studies to flee with his family. No one died, but they lost everything and had to start from scratch. Dadi is religious and never talks about her past, but I know that her story is a bit darker since some of her relatives were abducted during the journey. Thankfully, they got an Apartment in Delhi and made a career in public education

Pakistan: My maternal grandparents happened to be on the Indian side of Punjab. They were close to the boundary and found out on the 3rd day (i.e. when Radcliffe Award was announced) that they're on the wrong side. They were also told that some Sikhs are coming to kill them, so they fled for Pakistan with nothing but the clothes on their backs, they had no time to gather their belongings. When they came to Pakistan my paternal grandparents helped them settle and that's how the two families met. I guess they were lucky in a sense that they escaped violence. In those days, they didn't trust banks so they used to fill up pots with money and bury them. They had two pots full of coins made of mostly silver which they couldn't retrieve when fleeing. So somewhere in India, there's likely two pots full of silver still buried.

On what Indians like about Pakistan and Pakistanis.

---



Pakistan: What is one thing that you respect about Pakistanis? I respect the Indian tendency to focus on studies. Also the fact that you guys are able to run such a diverse and large country fairly smoothly.

India: You guys are trying to expand the middle-class and settling things down, despite having a lot of political turmoil, drones overhead, and a lot of terrorist attacks on schools and shit. The youth culture and things like MTV Coke Studio. Also, your TV serials and coal-smoked Kebabs are the one thing I'll acknowledge you've beaten us Indians in.

## On Mumbai attacks, and India-Pakistan friendship.

---



Pakistan: If the Mumbai attacks hadn't happened, how different do you guys think the relationship between the two countries would be?



India: 26/11 showed us that the intentions on your side were not just for vote bank appeasement or money laundering (like in Kashmir). This was intense and insane. With any other government in place, a cold start would have been activated. It has caused us a lot of pain just like the continued support for separatists in J&K from your side. Still, I feel it matters more to you than to us of what you make of the future of our friendship. Stop supporting anti-India ideologies and yours will be a more prosperous nation.

## On why North East seems disconnected from the rest of India

---

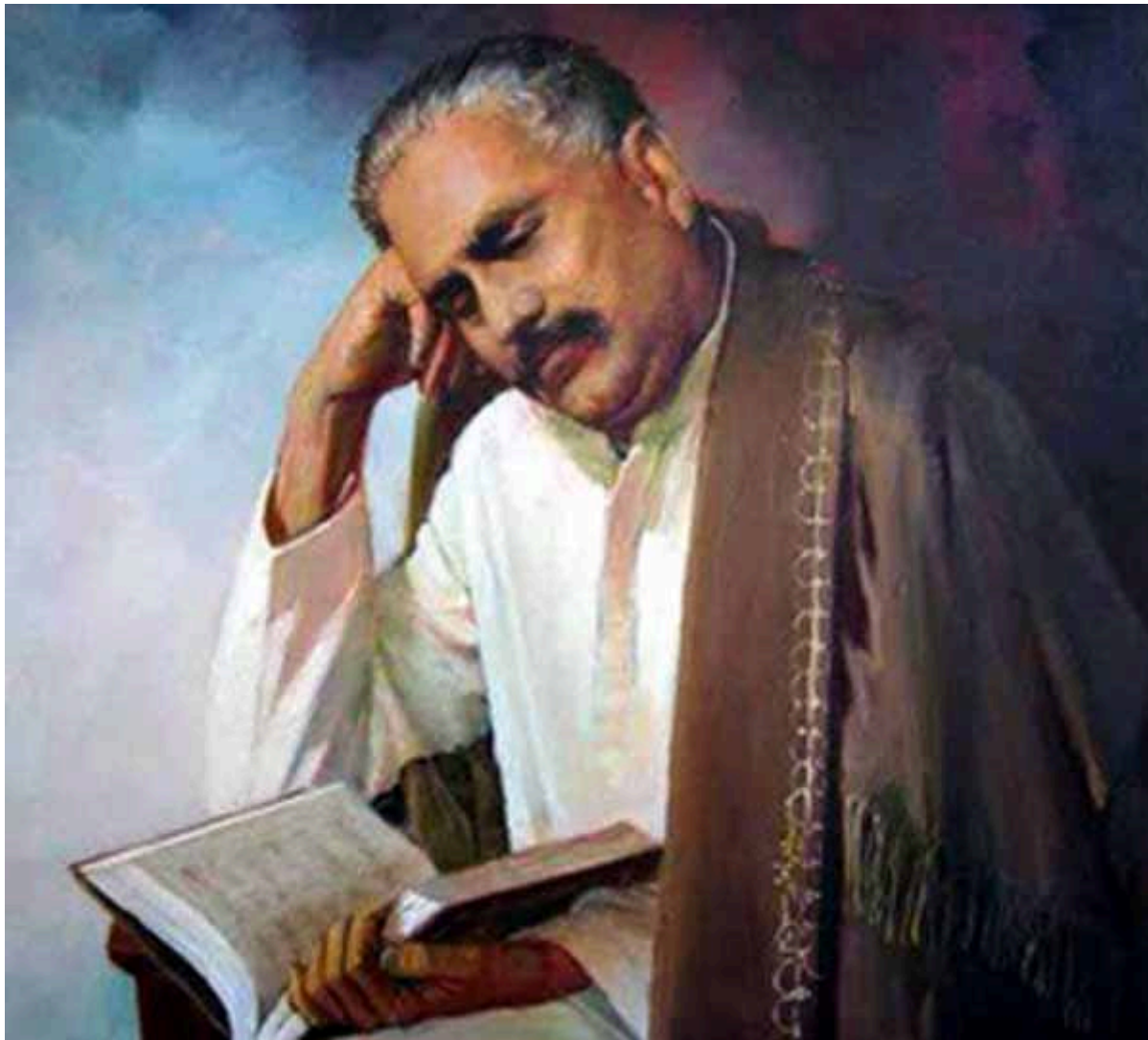


Pakistan: How culturally connected is the Northeast to the rest of India? I've only met one person in my life from the NE, and they identified themselves as Assamese, not Indian. In fact, they really didn't like being called Indian, spoke zero Hindi, etc.

India: There is a disconnect and gentrification which has created problems, but more and more NE Indians come to major metropolitan cities in rest of India for jobs and assimilate. There is also increasing awareness about stopping discrimination, and the issue has gained visibility. So things are getting better.

## On Allama Iqbal- the man who wrote Saare Jahaan Se Acha

---



Pakistan: What is the general opinion of people about Allama Iqbal? Do people even know about him?

India: He wrote Saare Jahan Se Achha. He is well known for this. But, our textbooks don't mention that he was Pakistan's Tagore.

## On the bonding of Indians and Pakistanis outside Asia

---



Pakistan: But Indian Americans and Pakistani Americans seem way closer than Indians/Pakistanis back in Asia. Especially in college campuses where you have desi dance nights targeted at Ind/Pak Americans. Also grocery stores, restaurants, art stores etc. Are shared between Indians and Pakistanis. Lots of Indian grocery stores are owned by Pakistanis. What's your take on that?

India: Australian Indian here. Yeah, South Asians here all get along, unless cricket is involved then there's a lot of trash talking. We all wish Happy Diwali and Eid Mubarak to each other. Our communities are pretty small here so we all stick together.

It's a general unspoken rule you don't talk about Kashmir.

This article has been taken from [this](#) thread.

---

### Bangladesh girls become AFC U-14 champion

Bangladesh girls today beat hosts Nepal to win the AFC U-14 Girls' Regional Championship.

Marzia's 16th minute goal was the defining factor in the finals held at Army Physical Fitness and Sports Centre in Lagankhel, reports Bangla daily Prothom Alo.

This was the first time ever Bangladesh clinched the title.

The final was scheduled at the Dashrath Stadium on April 25 before it had to be called off due to the 7.9 magnitude earthquake that struck at 11:56am, reports The Kathmandu Post.

A total of seven teams including India, Bhutan, Maldives, Iran and Sri Lanka participated in the tournament.

---

### 'JMB man admits' role in Iskcon temple attack

Suspected militant of banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) held over the attack on an Iskcon temple in Dinajpur is said to have confessed his role in the attack.

Detained Shariful Islam, 28, gave his confession before the Dinajpur chief judicial magistrate yesterday, our local correspondent reports quoting Redwanur Rahim, officer-in-charge of Detective Branch of police in Dinajpur district.

Shariful was caught red handed during the attack on Iskcon temple on December 10. He later confessed to have shot Italian pastor and doctor Piero Parolari in the district.

---

### PM cautions against BDR mutiny like incident

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today asked BGB personnel to remain alert so that incident like the 2009 BDR mutiny does not recur in the future.



“BGB has turned into a dynamic and modern force with the sincere efforts of all. Through your hard labour, the reputation and dignity of this force have been restored...you must stay alert so that such suicidal incident cannot take place in the future,” she said.

The prime minister was addressing the formal parade of BGB Day-2015 held at the BGB (Border Guard Bangladesh) Headquarters in the city.

Terming the mutiny and killings at Peelkhana on February 25-26, 2009 as a black chapter of this force, Sheikh Hasina said she had to face the heinous and unstable situation like BDR mutiny and killings soon after assuming office and tackled it with the united efforts of the BGB members.

Mentioning that the BGB is now fully free from its stigma following the trial of its unruly and misleading personnel involved with the mutiny, she asked the BGB personnel to discharge their duties with utmost honesty and patriotism and thus gain the confidence and trust of people.

---

### Delhi gang rape juvenile released

Youngest convict in 2012 Delhi gang rape is released from correction centre, his lawyer tells the BBC.

This news story is being updated and more details will be published shortly. Please refresh the page for the fullest version.

Legal challenges and protests from the victim's parents had failed to prevent the release.

The rapist, who cannot be named as he was a minor at the time of the crime, was sentenced to three years in a reform facility in August 2013.

The rape and the subsequent death of the woman caused global outrage.

---

### Bangladesh static in Human Development Index

Bangladesh's position remains unchanged in the Human Development Index, [\*\*according to the 2015 Human Development Report\*\*](#) launched by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Bangladesh ranked 142 out of 188 countries in the index, while neighbouring India ranked at 130, Nepal at 145 and Pakistan at 147, the report, published today, said.

“Bangladesh has shown a positive trend in Human Development for the last couple of decades with an average annual increase of about 1.55 percent,” a press release in this regard reads.

UNDP launched the report titled “Work for Human Development” at NEC Conference Room at the Planning Commission today.

According to the report, despite extremely rapid technological adoption in recent years, as of 2014, 2.5 billion people in Asia and the Pacific did not have access to the internet (1.4 billion people in South Asia), the press release reads.

Mentioning that youth unemployment in Asia ranges between 8.7 percent in Bangladesh and 28.7 percent in Iran, the Human Development Report 2015 observed that fostering education, skills and entrepreneurship can facilitate a necessary labour market transformation.

“In order to ensure that the work-force is capable of adapting to rapidly changing demands, the governments need to make strategic investments into education and health care,” Haoliang Xu, assistant administrator and director of UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, told today’s programme.

The index was created to emphasise that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone.

It is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and have a decent standard of living.

---

### Muggers loot Tk1.20 lakh stabbing trader in Dhaka

Muggers looted Tk1.20 lakh after stabbing a fruit trader at Dayaganj intersection in Dhaka city early today.

Victim Yusuf Ali, 45, is now receiving treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Inspector Mozammel Haque, in-charge of the hospital’s police camp.

Yusuf is a resident of Sayedabad Janapada intersection in Dhaka city.

A group of four muggers on two motorcycles intercepted a rickshaw carrying Yusuf in the area and snatched away Tk1.20 lakh from his possession while he was going to Badamtali for purchasing fruits around 5:30am, a news agency UNB reports quoting his wife Shahinur.

The muggers also stabbed him indiscriminately, leaving him critically injured.

Locals rushed him to DMCH for treatment.

---

### Tough World Twenty20 draw excites Shahid Afridi

Shahid Afridi, Pakistan’s T20 captain, on Thursday (December 17) said he hoped a tough World Twenty20 draw would motivate his team to win the title for the first time in seven years and beat arch-rival India along the way.

The 2009 champions are placed in Group 2 of the Super Ten round of the World T20 along with hosts India, Australia, New Zealand, and a yet to be decided qualifier.

*The qualifier in this ‘group of death’ is most likely going to be Bangladesh, given that the Tigers emerge champions of Group A after three matches against Netherlands on March 9, Ireland on March 11 and Oman on March 13.*

**If Bangladesh qualify, they will face Pakistan in the Super 10 Group 1 match on March 15, 2016.**

Tigers will next play on March 21 against Australia at Bangalore.

On March 23, Bangladesh's opponent will be hosts India at the same stadium.

On March 26, Bangladesh cricket team will face New Zealand at the Eden Gardens, Kolkata.

"We have a tough draw but I am hopeful that this challenge will pump-up my team to win the title and on the way beat India," Afridi told AFP.

Pakistan lost to India in both the group round and final of the inaugural World Twenty20 in 2007



*Nasir Hossain (R) celebrates with his teammates after the dismissal of the Zimbabwe cricketer Malcolm Waller during the second T20 cricket match between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. Photo: AFP*

and then in

two subsequent tournaments. They have also lost to India every time they have faced them in six World Cups. But Afridi said it was time for a change. "I don't want to live in history. Whatever mistakes we usually make in the matches against India we have to overcome them."

Pakistan's recent form, however, does not augur well. Last month, they lost to England 3-0 in a Twenty20 series in the United Arab Emirates, slipping to sixth in the rankings.

"We made school boy errors and despite putting up good fights in all three matches we lost by narrow margins so we have to be on our toes and should not repeat those mistakes," said Afridi, who is set to draw the curtain on his two-decade long career after the event.

Pakistan who have three Twenty20 matches on their tour of New Zealand next month before featuring in the six-nation **Asia Cup Twenty20 in Bangladesh** in February.

"We have enough matches before the World Twenty20 so we have to find a settled combination and I hope we do well in these matches and carry that form into the World Twenty20."



The sixth edition of the World T20 is scheduled to be held between March 8 and April 3, 2016 across eight venues in India.

---