

12 killed in French train collision

AFP, Metz, France
A passenger train from Luxembourg ploughed into a goods train in a head-on collision in northeast France yesterday, killing 12 people and injuring more than 20, railway officials said.
The crash took place late morning at the village of Zoufftgen, a mile (1.6 kilometres) south of the Luxembourg border, on a section of track that was undergoing maintenance work.
French state-owned SNCF rail company said nine people on the passenger train died as well as the drivers of both trains and a person working on the track. At least 21 were injured, some seriously.
More than a hundred rescue workers were seen at the scene.

Tigers kill 38 Lanka troops in major clash

AFP, Colombo
Tamil Tiger rebels killed at least 38 government troops and wounded nearly 300 yesterday, stalling a major offensive into their territory in northern Sri Lanka, officials said.
Fierce resistance halted the government's onslaught, which was backed by Israeli-built Kfir jets and naval gunboats, after about six hours, high-ranking military sources said.
"At least 38 soldiers were killed," a military source said. "Nearly 300 soldiers were also wounded and out of that the most serious cases -- about 115 -- have been airlifted to

Colombo."
The renewed bloodshed hit Sri Lanka's peace hopes a day after peace broker Norway announced a deal between the two sides to resume negotiations in Switzerland later this month and end an eight-month talks impasse.
Military officials said the casualties occurred in the Muhamalai area of the Jaffna peninsula on Wednesday morning. There was no immediate word from the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) group about its casualties.
The warring parties blamed each other for the escalation.
Defence Ministry spokesman

Prasad Samarasinghe said the operation was intended to neutralise a rebel build-up near the front line on the Jaffna peninsula, 400 kilometres (250 miles) north of Colombo.
"There were attempts to infiltrate our defence lines in three places and we took counter-measures," Samarasinghe told AFP. "They had been firing artillery at our positions in the past few days and last night we noticed a build-up."
The military said its ground offensive, supported by warplanes, was a "defensive act" as a result of

AL protests Tarique's comments on Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Branding Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's eldest son Tarique Rahman a 'half-educated and corrupt' person, Awami League (AL) Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday asked how a family, which had only a broken suitcase and torn clothes' after the death of president Ziaur Rahman, could become the country's 'richest family'.
At a press conference at the party's Dhanmondi office in the capital, organised to protest Tarique's recent comments on AL President Sheikh Hasina, her leadership, son Sabiz Wajed Joy and his



Regular traffic congestion on Mirpur Road in the capital has become a nuisance to the commuters. The photo was taken from Science Laboratory intersection yesterday.



Awami Jubo League brings out a procession with oars and sticks from Mukhtangon in the capital yesterday protesting BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman's 'indecent' remarks on Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina.

Mufti Hannan, his brother remanded again for murder

COURT CORRESPONDENT
A Dhaka court yesterday placed Mufti Abdul Hannan, operations commander of the banned Islamist outfit Harkatul Jihad (HuJi) and his brother Huji member Mohibullah alias Mozibur Rahman were shown arrested in a murder case and remanded again for 10 days.
The case was filed with Mohammadpur Police Station in connection with the killing of Mohammad Bazlur Rahman on July 17, 2004.
On completion of Hannan's five-day remand in the Ramna Batamul blast case and Mozif's eight-day remand in the CPB rally blast case, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) with the help of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) produced them before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court, Dhaka.
In the forwarding report of the Bazlur Rahman murder case placed before the court, CID Inspector ZM Altafur Rahman, also the IO of the case, mentioned that Hannan and Mozif were involved in the killing.

Outlaws out to avenge 'crossfire' killings

Target ruling alliance men
AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia
Police said criminals shot Shantu when he was sitting at a grocery shop in Chandipur Bazar around 11:00am. He died on the spot.
In another incident, two people claiming themselves to be followers of a ruling party lawmaker took Jubo Dal activists Sagar and Altaf to Parbatipur Bridge in Harinakundu upazila around 8:10pm.
Several other men were waiting for them and they ambushed the two as soon as they reached there. Sagar and Altaf were hacked first then shot at point-blank range, sources said.
Later, one Dipok Roy called a number of journalists including this correspondent and claimed responsibility on behalf of Janajuddha for the murders saying 'Janajuddha has started taking revenge'.
In Kushtia, criminals attacked the house of BNP Organising Secretary of Sadarpur union Ashrafur Haq Asha around 12:00noon on Sunday. Police said villagers led by Jamaat activist Abdul Bari responded to the cry for help by the members of Asha's family. As Bari went there to help, they hurled bombs at him and shot him from close range. He died on the spot.
Dipok Roy called journalists again on Monday claiming responsibility for the killings. He said they [Janajuddha] have no other option but to keep on 'cleansing the region of their enemy'.
Blasting the ruling alliance for 'crossfire' killings he said Janajuddha would carry on their revenge campaign.
The outlawed leader said the law enforcers have long been killing their men in cold blood and giving false statements about how they died.
Earlier on October 28, 2005, the Janajuddha killed five BNP men in Kushtia, Chuadanga, Jhenidah and

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North Korea threatens war over sanctions

AP, Seoul, South Korea
North Korea stoked regional tensions yesterday, threatening more nuclear tests and saying additional sanctions imposed on it would be considered an act of war, as nervous neighbors raced to bolster defenses and punish Pyongyang.
South Korea said it was making sure its troops were prepared for atomic warfare, and Japan imposed new economic sanctions to hit the economic lifeline of the communist nation's 1 million-member military, the world's fifth-largest.
North Korea, in its first formal statement since Monday's claimed atomic bomb test, hailed the blast as a success and said attempts by the outside world to penalize North Korea with sanctions would be considered an act of war.
Further pressure will be countered with physical retaliation, the

North's Foreign Ministry warned in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.
"If the U.S. keeps pestering us and increases pressure, we will regard it as a declaration of war and will take a series of physical corresponding measures," the statement, said without specifying what those measures could be.
Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the United States would not attack North Korea, rejecting a suggestion that Pyongyang may feel it needs nuclear weapons to stave off an Iraq-style U.S. invasion.
Rice told CNN that President Bush has told the North Koreans that "there is no intention to invade or attack them. So they have that guarantee. ... I don't know what more they want."
But she also said that the decision by Pyongyang to go ahead with

its nuclear program means it likely will see "international condemnation and international sanctions unlike anything that they have faced before."
North Korea's No. 2 leader Kim Yong Nam threatened in an interview with a Japanese news agency that there would also be more nuclear tests if Washington continued what he called its "hostile attitude."
Kim, second to North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, told Kyodo News agency that further nuclear testing would hinge on U.S. policy toward his communist government.
"The issue of future nuclear tests is linked to U.S. policy toward our country," Kim Yong Nam was quoted as saying when asked whether Pyongyang will conduct more tests.

All-party UK team to observe upcoming polls

UNB, London
An election observation team comprising representatives of all parties in the British parliament will come to Dhaka to oversee the coming parliamentary polls in Bangladesh.
The decision was taken at a meeting of all-party parliamentary groups (APPG) on Tuesday. Presided over by its chairman Baroness Paula Manjila Uddin, the meeting expressed deep concern over the present political situation in Bangladesh.
Termining the current dialogue between the two major political parties to end the election standoff positive, the discussants hoped that an amicable solution could be worked out through sincere efforts.
A comprehensive report was placed before the meeting portraying prevailing law and order situation, price hike of essentials, police



Traders put barricade by setting fire on the road at Anderkilla intersection in Chittagong protesting police harassment of an 'innocent' shop employee yesterday.

Sehri, Iftar timing

| Ramadan | Oct | Sehri | Iftar |
|---------|-----|-------|-------|
| 18 | 12 | 5-39 | 5-39 |
| 19 | 13 | 4-35 | 5-38 |
| 20 | 14 | 4-35 | 5-37 |

Prayer Timing

| October 12 | | |
|------------|-------|--------|
| | Azan | Jamaat |
| Fajr | 4-35 | 4-45 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 4-30 | 4-45 |
| Maghrib | 5-39 | 6-00 |
| Esha | 7-30 | 8-00 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

4 killed in Comilla bus crash

UNB, Comilla
Four people died and 35 others were injured in a collision between a bus and a truck on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Daulatpur under Daudkandi upazila yesterday.
Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at about 2:00pm when a Chandpur-bound bus from Dhaka collided head-on with a Dhaka-bound truck from Comilla, killing four passengers of the bus on the spot and injuring 23 others.
The identity of the dead could not be known as of 7:00pm yesterday.
Five of the injured were admitted to Chandina and Gouripur health complexes and Comilla Medical College Hospital in critical condition, while the remaining 18 given first aid.
Traffic on the busy highway was disrupted for half an hour following the accident.

POLICE HARASSMENT OF INNOCENT MAN Protesters block road, damage vehicles in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Demonstrators damaged several vehicles and put up barricade for two hours at the Anderkilla intersection yesterday protesting police harassment of an innocent person.
Locals caught red handed a man who snatched away the moneybag

