

'HORRENDOUS CONDITIONS'
UN chief calls for closure of
Libya migrant detention centers
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AC EXPLOSION INSIDE N'GANJ MOSQUE

One dies, 39 hurt

Many of the injured admitted to hospital with critical burn injuries; fire officials suspect gas leak

STAR REPORT

A seven-year-old boy died and at least 39 others suffered severe injuries in an air conditioner blast at Pashchim Talla Baitus Salam Mosque of Narayanganj after Esha prayers yesterday.

There was a load-shedding in the area and air conditioners exploded on the ground floor of the mosque as soon as the electricity returned.

Fire officials suspect accumulated gas from a leaked pipe line caused a fire that might have triggered the AC explosion.

Dr Samanta Lal Sen, coordinator of the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, confirmed to The Daily Star that a seven-year-old boy named Jewel died at 12:30am this morning after being admitted with 95 percent burns.

Prof Dr Abul Kalam Azad, director of the institute, said around 35 admitted patients are suffering from 60 to 70 percent burns.

Dr Samanta said a majority of the patients have more than 35 percent burns and the condition of most of them are critical, he said.

"We are primarily providing treatment to the patients at the emergency unit of the institute. We will shift the patients to different units -- High-dependency unit



The photo shows some of the havoc wreaked inside Baitus Salat Jame Mosque in Narayanganj after several ACs burst, leaving a seven-year-old boy dead and 39 others burnt during Esha prayers last night.

PHOTO: SANAD SHAHA

(HDU) and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) -- later, after analysing their condition," he added.

Hospital sources said only three to four patients have 10 to 15 percent burns and others are suffering over 30 percent burns. Some have been admitted with over 90 percent burns.

Lt Col Zillur Rahman, director (operation and maintenance) of fire service and civil defence, said they are suspecting that the explosion happened inside the mosque because of a gas line leakage.

But they are also inspecting the AC and trying to identify the actual reason behind

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WEBSITE REGISTRATION

Govt gives pry approval to 92 dailies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has granted primary approval for registration of online portals of 92 daily newspapers. The country's major dailies have been included in the list.

Of the 92 dailies, 57 are published from Dhaka, two from Mymensingh, 10 from Chattogram, four each from Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna and Barishal and seven are brought out from Sylhet.

The information ministry issued a gazette notification in this regard on Thursday.

The gazette said portals of 92 daily newspapers were primarily given permission to register as part of the ongoing registration process of news portals.

The news portals have been requested to complete the registration within 20 working days (September 23) from the date of the publication of the gazette notification by submitting

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ATTACK ON GHORAGHAT UNO

BURGLARY it was?

3 including Jubo League man held; one suspect claims it was 'theft attempt'; Rab says further probe needed to find actual motive

STAR REPORT

A suspect said he and others broke into the home of Ghoraghat UNO Wahida Khanam with the intention to steal property, but officers believe that the actual motive behind the gruesome attack was unclear.

One of the three arrestees, Asadul Huq, 40, told Rab officers yesterday that another arrestee, Nabirul Islam, masterminded the burglary and he was the one who hit Wahida and her father.

Reza Ahmed Ferdous, commanding officer of Rab-13, told reporters at a briefing in Rangpur last night that an in-depth investigation would be needed to know the actual motive.

Asadul told interrogators that they broke into the officer's house to loot cash and valuables.

"It is Asadul's claim and we do not have enough information to come to a conclusion. We need an in-depth investigation," Reza Ahmed said.

Rab arrested Asadul, Nabirul and Shantu Kumar Biswas in connection with Thursday's attack on the UNO and her father, freedom fighter Omar Ali Sheikh.

Asadul is a member of Ghoraghat upazila unit of ruling Awami League's



Wahida Khanam

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'Won't take the club I love to trial'

Messi to stay at Barca

STAR SPORT DESK

Lionel Messi broke his silence, giving Goal an exclusive interview at his house in Castelldefels and saying that he was going to "continue at Barcelona" and continue to do his best.

"I am going to continue at Barça and my attitude is not going to change no matter how much I wanted to go. I will do my best.

I always want to win, I'm competitive and I don't like to lose anything. I always want the best for the club, for the dressing room and for myself," he said, adding

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HOSPITAL OXYGEN SUPPLY

Samaritans step in

Young professionals use their expertise to upgrade facilities

NILIMA JAHAN

When the country's hospitals were struggling to ensure uninterrupted oxygen supply to critical coronavirus patients, a group of 14 Buet alumni came to their aid three months ago by installing central oxygen systems for treating Covid-19 patients.

They are enngineers, architects and planners, from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology's graduating class of 2012, who united under an initiative called "Projotne Canvas".

The team developed the small centralised oxygen supply systems and installed them in around 30 beds at each of nine public and private hospitals.

They will soon activate the systems in two more hospitals.

"We wanted to best use our technical skills to help the country meet the growing demand for oxygen supply," Mithun Raha, coordinator of the initiative, told The Daily Star.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought to the limelight the need for uninterrupted oxygen supply for the treatment of patients

suffering from respiratory distress, whereas many public hospitals do not have a nonstop supply of oxygen and use oxygen cylinders instead.

"We made up our mind to do something and started collecting funds from our batch mates for the first project that we did at Chattogram Field Hospital after Eid-ul-Fitr. When this project was successfully done, it inspired us to do more," he said.

The initiative received support from donors for their next projects -- including from the Ispahani Group, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Child Health Awareness Foundation, and another Buet alumni group.

At government upazila health complexes, "Projotne Canvas" only provided technical assistance, Mithun said.

They installed a central oxygen system connected to around 30 beds at each hospital at a cost of Tk 6-10 lakh, without technical costs. If installed commercially, it would have taken around Tk 25 lakh, he said.

Since all Covid-19 patients at a hospital don't require oxygen at a time, the project

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OC Pradeep's clip viral with torture claim

Rab denies allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A video clip has been doing the rounds on social media showing suspended Teknaf OC Pradeep Kumar Das and Inspector Liaquat Ali telling someone that they had been tortured in remand.

In the 2:27-minute long footage, the accused in Major (ret'd) Sinha Md Rashed Khan murder case are seen alleging that they were undressed, beaten up and administered electric-shocks in Rab custody.

The Daily Star could not verify the authenticity of the video.

The clip, apparently shot in a police vehicle, shows Pradeep and Liaquat, both handcuffed, talking over the phone and calling the person on the other end "sir". It is not clear who was filming and how the duo could get mobile phones in a police vehicle.

"Sir, you have to see this. They are saying different cases have been filed at different places and the Rab will take over the investigation of the cases. Then they will get us again and take strong measures against us..." Pradeep said.

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Masked intruders broke into the UNO's official residence at Ghoraghat, Dinajpur between 2:30am and 3:00am Thursday.

UNO Wahida Khanam and her father Omar Ali were seriously injured in the attack. The criminals hit them with a hammer.

Wahida was later flown to the capital and admitted at the National Institute of Neuroscience and Hospital (NINH).

She gained consciousness after a surgery on her brain Thursday night. Her condition is stable, but she is not out of danger.

Three suspects are held so far. One of them was a Jubo League member. Jubo League expelled him soon after his arrest.

BANGLADESH UPDATE



1,929

New cases in 24hrs



3,21,615

Total cases



4,412

Deaths



2,16,191

Recoveries



GLOBAL UPDATE



876,234

Deaths



26,665,700

Total cases

COVID CASES

20pc of over 16 lakh samples tested positive

29 more die, 1,929 infected in a day

UNB, Dhaka

Coronavirus testing laboratories in the country have tested 16,05,111 samples till Friday and 3,21,615 or 20.04 percent have turned out Covid-19 positive.

Health authorities in the last 24 hours have detected 1,929 new cases of Covid-19 after testing 13,073 samples. Daily infection rate decreased to 14.7 percent.

Since March 18, 4,421 people have died in the country and 29 died from the disease in a day. The fatality rate in Bangladesh is still 1.37 percent.

The country saw the recovery of 2,211 Covid-19 patients during the period pushing the number of total recoveries across the country to 2,16,191.

A press release sent by Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) provided the latest

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Lying on a pavement, a protestor recreates the scene of a "shootout" incident during a demonstration in front of TSC at Dhaka University yesterday. Drik, a multimedia organisation, staged the protest and an exhibition on the occasion of its 31st founding anniversary demanding an end to extrajudicial killings in the country. However, it could not finish the exhibition due to other scheduled programmes there. Rights groups blame law enforcement agencies for killing people in so-called "gunfights" between them and alleged criminals.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BNP needs to move forward without allies

Many party leaders say it should sever ties with Jatiya Oikyafront

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Many BNP leaders and activists believe that the party must move forward without its partners from the 20-party Alliance and Jatiya Oikyafront.

The BNP should cut its ties with the Jatiya Oikyafront and reduce its dependency on the 20-party Alliance, key leaders said.

The party has the strength to move on, they added.

Oikyafront has been inactive after the parliamentary election and it held no programme or meeting since the election, leaders said.

Most of the BNP standing committee members agree that they should cut ties with Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, but the party has yet to make a decision.

The leadership of Jatiya Oikyafront was discussed when the BNP standing committee members met Chairperson Khaleda Zia on the Eid day.

"Even though the party will not officially cut ties with any of the alliance partners it will move on," said a standing committee member, wishing not to be named.

BNP grassroots leaders and activists said that they have strong organisational strength on union levels.

"From the very beginning, I was against the Oikyafront and I think we should sever the tie. There are ideological differences and that's why forming the platform with the partners of Oikyafront was a wrong decision. The BNP has suffered because of this platform," BNP Organising Secretary Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu told The Daily Star.

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