

## Lockerbie incident Jury finds Pan Am guilty of wilful misconduct

NEW YORK, July 11: A jury Friday found Pan Am guilty of wilful misconduct in connection with the 1988 bombing of one of its jetliners over Lockerbie, Scotland, reports AFP.

The verdict was welcomed by the victim's families who have filed a 300 million dollar lawsuit against Pan American World Airways and two subsidiaries of the now defunct airline.

The bombing killed 270 people.

Under international treaties, liability damages are limited to 75,000 dollars per victim unless wilful negligence is proved.

The jury deliberated for three days following 11 weeks of testimony in the trial and must now decide if a Pan Am subsidiary, alert management incorporated which runs the airline's international security operations, has any liability.

Thursday, the jury said they were deadlocked but US district judge Thamos Platt instructed them to keep at it.

"One of the jurors turned to me and smiled and then I think I knew what the outcome would be," said Eleanor Bright, whose husband was killed in the bombing. "I feel that justice was done."

The plaintiffs in the suit claim that Pan Am was negligent for failing to detect the bomb and that the airline was more concerned with its financial troubles than with passenger safety.

In his closing argument Tuesday, Lee Kreindler, the lead lawyer for the Victims' relatives, described Pan Am as a "money-grubbing operation."

But Pan Am's attorneys said the airline was the victim of a terrorist attack and should not be held responsible for the deaths.

The United States and Britain have charged that Libyan agents planted the bomb that tore through the Boeing 747 shortly after it took off from London on December 21, 1988 on a flight to New York's Kennedy Airport.

All 259 people aboard the aircraft and 11 others on the ground were killed.

The bomb was concealed in a portable cassette recorder and was boarded into the Pan Am flight.

The plaintiffs said the bomb was left in a piece of unattended luggage and loaded on to the plane by employees who failed to examine it, while Pan Am maintains it was smuggled into the system at Frankfurt or London by terrorists.



Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee brought out a procession yesterday demanding execution of Golam Azam (top) while Jamaat-e-Islami brought out another procession in city demanding his release (bottom). —Star photo

## 4 killed, 11 injured in road mishaps

By DMCH Correspondent

Four persons were killed and eleven others injured in three separate road accidents at Demra and Bhairab Saturday.

Three persons including a minor girl were killed and eight others injured in two separate road accidents at Demra in the city Saturday.

Of the victims, two persons were killed and seven others injured when an auto-tempo and a passenger minibus collided near Sayedabad Bus Terminal at around 7:30 a.m. Saturday.

Among the injured Shukur Ali, 40, and Mohammad Ali, 30, succumbed to their injuries immediately after admission at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The injured persons were identified as Belal Hossain, 30, M Abdus Salam, 30, Dr Mohammad Wajed, 30, M Abdul Haq, 50, Ahmed Ali, 60, Mahbubur Rahman, 66, and Mohammad Harun, 30. They were all passengers of the auto-tempo which was on its way to Khilgaon from Sayedabad.

In another accident at

## CPB : Terrorism

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a critical situation by means of conducting violence against the democratic forces.

The report alleged that the government, instead of taking stern actions against the terrorist activities of the evil forces, was silently patronising them.

The CPB leader expressed grave concern over the "deteriorating law and order" of the country and urged the government to take effective steps to protect lives and properties of the people.

The report of the CPB General Secretary condemned the recent attack on the Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh and demanded of the government to give exemplary punishment to those responsible for the incident.

The report however termed the recent agreement between the ruling party and the opposition in parliament as a 'significant victory'.

BSS adds: The report termed the solution of the Tin Bigha problem with India as a "positive" step and demanded of the government to settle other unsettled issues. He also urged the government to settle the issues with Pakistan including the realisation of Bangladesh's due share and Bihar issue. Nahid expressed his resentment at the non-fulfilment of the accord with Myanmar about the Rohingya refugees and demanded of the government to ensure a political solution of the Chittagong Hill Tracts problem.

In this regard, the CPB leader demanded inclusion of the three members of parliament from the hill districts in the committee formed by the government recently.

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## Jamaat memo

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and termed this act of the BNP treason.

We (Jamaat) placed the BNP in power," city Assistant Secretary Abdullah Md Taher said, "and now the BNP betrays us agreeing to withdraw cases against the Gano Adalats."

Calling the agreement 'suicidal' for the BNP, Kader Mollah said that if Golam Azam was not released, the government would not be able to escape public resentment.

The rally later took the form of a procession and started for the Prime Minister's secretariat, but police stopped it at the Bangla Motor crossing.

A team was then allowed to go to the Prime Minister while others waited.

UNB adds: The Jamaat noted Golam Azam a born citizen of Bangladesh and said the Jatiya Sangsad discussed the Golam Azam issue twice 'violating parliamentary norms and tradition.'

It said the signatories to the June 29 accord indirectly interfered in the matter which is subjudice and cut 'a cruel joke' by promising to lift the case against the persons 'involved in sedition.'

By entering into the agreement, the signatories have also encouraged anarchists to stage Gano Adalat in every house throwing challenge to the government and the judiciary, Jamaat observed.

It further demanded exemplary punishment to the Gano Adalats for what the memo said killings in Khulna, Jhenidah, Sirajganj, Rangpur, Fattakhari, Joypurhat, Rajshahi and Faridpur.

## Hartal observed in Faizabad SC declines to stay temple construction

NEW DELHI, July 11: The Supreme Court today declined to stay on-going construction work at the disputed Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid Complex at Ayodhya but made it clear that no permanent structure should be put up on the land acquired by the Uttar Pradesh Government around the disputed complex, reports PTI.

The direction was given by the vacation Judge, Justice M N Venkatachalliah, after a 30-minute hearing of a petition by Aachan Rizvi, praying for restraining the state government from carrying on construction work at the complex in violation of court orders.

The Court made it clear to the state government that the disputed structure should not be touched in any manner except for the purposes of its preservation against subsisting orders of any court.

During the special hearing at the residence of the Judge the UP government counsel, Adarsh Kumar Goel, assured the Court that the work at the complex was for levelling and preparation of the ground and that no permanent structure was being undertaken or intended to be put up in the acquired land as alleged.

Meanwhile, the 'renovation work' of the Ram Temple continued for the third day today with Karsewaks (voluntary workers) joining the construction of the "singhadwar" (lions gate) near the "shilanyas" (foundation) site, while Muslim traders closed their business establishments in the Faizabad district.

According to reports here the Muslims in the district today did not open their business establishments at the call of the Babri Masjid Action Committee to observe a day's protest against the "illegal" construction work by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad.

The 'hartal' was peaceful and no untoward incident was reported from anywhere, the Inspector General of Police (Lucknow Zone), A.K. Saran, told PTI in Lucknow. He said elaborate security arrangements had been made by authorities to deal with any emergency around the disputed structure.

Official reports here said life was normal and the markets did normal business.

Meanwhile, the Muslims in the district will organise 'Ayodhya March' tomorrow to protest against the VHP action.

Hundred of VHP volunteers today participated in the karsewaks (voluntary labour) for the construction of the "lions gate" near the shilanyas site as part of the 40-day long "sarvadharm anusthan" (congregation of members of all faith) which began on July 9.

## UNHCR provides Tk 8.74 cr for Rohingyas so far

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) released Tk 8,74,42,539 in aid of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh till Friday, official sources said Saturday, reports UNB.

The Geneva-based international humanitarian organisation has so far received commitment of more than 14 million US dollars from different countries to help the Rohingyas.

The UNHCR has drawn up a 27 million US dollars programme to look after the Rohingya Muslims who have streamed into Bangladesh in their thousands to escape persecution by the Myanmar troops.

It also provided relief goods, including 1,822 plastic sitting roles, 45,000 pieces of blankets, 29 metric tons of medicines and 10 unit hospital tents for the refugees sheltered in Bandarban and Cox's Bazar districts.

The World Food Programme (WFP), the second largest international agency coming forward in aid of the Rohingyas, has allotted 22,680 metric tons of rice, 1,672 metric tons of dal and 908 metric tons of vegetable oil.

Bangladesh Red Cross Society's allocation for the refugees included 2,776.59 metric tons of rice, 644.3 metric tons of dal, 271.77 metric tons of oil, 34 metric tons of salt, 1,03,981 pieces of soap, 7,600 pieces of blanket and five metric tons of biscuits.

als and cash money for 2,64,864 refugees sheltered in 15 camps.

The materials included 240 metric tons of gratuitous wheat, 490 metric tons of gratuitous rice, Tk 15 lakh in cash, Tk 67.07 lakh for construction of camps and for meeting contingencies, 360 bags of rice, 2,550 cartons of biscuits, 2,000 cartons of powdered milk, 97 cartons of old clothes, 257 cartons of sugar, 100 cartons of garments, 15,400 kg of polythene sheets, 7,793 bundles of corrugated tins, 1,239 tents and 5,012 cartons of foodstuff.

Following is the break-up of donation from 32 NGOs: International Islamic Organisation — Tk 25,00,000, Islamic Relief Agency — Tk 1,98,000, Heed Bangladesh — Tk 17,20,000, CDDB, Dhaka, — Tk 1,17,10,750, Muslim Aid — Tk 59,65,056, FDM — Tk 1,25,70,000, Shapla Neer — Tk 60,36,250, Concerned Bangladesh — Tk 63,82,373, RDRS — Tk 20,00,000, MCC — Tk 32,73,778, ASA — Tk 62,75,100, Terre Des Homes — Tk 80,80,500, Save the Children Fund (UK) — Tk 1,17,60,000, ADRA — Tk 52,10,000, Caritas — Tk 54,95,070, CWRC — Tk 1,91,700, Infant De Monde Bangladesh (US) — Tk 16,62,000, Association of Medical Doctors for Asia (AMDA) — Tk 2,75,000, Bangladesh CDF — Tk 1,16,70,750, Rabeta — Tk 38,40,000, SGF (UK) — Tk 38,85,000, Dia Conia — Tk 3,31,72,000, Medicines Fontains — Tk 2,01,49,000, CARE Bangladesh — Tk

1,57,35,000, Bangladesh Chashi Kalyan Samity — Tk 3,00,000, OXFAM — Tk 2,11,99,215, MSF (Holland) — Tk 3,04,00,000, World Concern — Tk 41,42,520, Families for Children — Tk 8,77,500, Gana Shayashtha — Tk 23,30,063, World Vision of Bangladesh — Tk 21,34,000 and IIRO — Tk 2,00,00,000.

**WB keen**  
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reiterated its suggestions for rationalisation of 14 jute mills both in the public and private sectors.

The 14 jute mill units include one private and 13 nationalised mills.

The WB advice said the streamlining can be done either by offloading some looms from each unit or by closing down entire unit.

## PM : Population

From Page 1 Col 7  
country now has, she said.

Begum Zia said we have identified population as our number one problem which was at the root of our present poverty and underdevelopment. She said the development efforts of the nation was being nullified by the ever-increasing population.

The Prime Minister said during the last one year considerable success in birth control had been achieved. Recipients of family planning devices had increased by 8 per cent during the period rising to total 40 per cent, she said.

Begum Zia said eight million couples were at present adopting family planning devices and Bangladesh ranked second among the six countries that had achieved success in family planning. However, she said, there was no scope for self complacency.

The Prime Minister said "we should remember that our posterity and well-being, may, our very existence depend on how best we tackle our population problem." She said population boom is a social problem and hence a strong social campaign will have to be built to solve it.

She called for putting in very best for the successful implementation of the population policy and programme on the basis of broad national consensus.

Describing the population scenario of the world, the Prime Minister said world population was now estimated to be around 5.5 billion, the burden of this staggering number of people appeared to be too much. This has caused scarcity of cultivable land, homestead, foodgrains, energy and pure drinking water, she said and added even oxygen is becoming inadequate causing environmental degradation. If the present trend of population growth continues unabated, it may give rise to a perilous situation, she added.

**'Ashura inspires us to establish truth, justice'**  
Prime Minister Begum Khaleeda Zia Saturday called for firmly establishing truth and justice in the society by removing ill feeling and hatred with a view to building a peaceful and prosperous country, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of Holy Ashura the Prime Minister also called for a united effort by all sections of the society, irrespective of their political affiliations, for changing the lot of the people.

Referring to the spirit of Holy Ashura, Begum Zia hoped that the message of Ashura would inspire us to attain those noble objectives.

She said Ashura was a day which glorified the extreme sacrifices in protest against falsehood and immorality. This day, she said, equally stood for grief and pride. She pointed out that on this day the dear grandson of Hazrat Mohammad (SM), Hazrat Imam Hussain (R), sacrificed his life along with his family members for the cause of truth, justice and Islamic values.

The Prime Minister prayed for the salvation of the souls of the martyrs of Karbala.

She said the holy day of Ashura was the day for awakening and pledges for greater unity of the Muslim world. The teachings of the day could unite the Islamic ummah and uphold the feelings of unity, brotherhood and Islamic values among the Muslims, she said.

**Hasina wishes continued peace of Muslim ummah**  
Chief of Awami League and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina Saturday wished continued peace, happiness, welfare and progress of the world humanity including the Muslim ummah, reports BSS.

In a statement on the eve of the holy Ashura commemorating the day of Hazrat Imam Hussain's Sahadat, she also wished the end of the politics of killing, coups and conspiracy in various countries of the world. "Our sacred duty is to follow the path of justice and truth in light of the great sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (R)," she said in the statement.

**No arms found as police raid 2 DU halls**  
By DU Correspondent

Police, in an hour-long raid on two residential halls of the Dhaka University, Saturday failed to recover any arms and made no arrests.

In the wake of repeated violence on the DU campus, police raided Salmullah and Zahurul Huq halls yesterday at about 6 am.

## The Midnight File

### Arafat in Cairo to discuss ME peace process

CAIRO, July 11: PLO chief Yasser Arafat arrived here today to discuss the next stages of the Middle East peace process with President Hosni Mubarak following Yitzhak Rabin's victory in Israel's general elections. His visit coincided with the previously unannounced arrival here of Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq Al-Shara who delivered a message to Mubarak from President Hafez Al-Assad before returning home, reports AFP.

### Federal govt summons Uttar Pradesh CM

NEW DELHI, July 11: India's federal government today summoned the Chief Minister of a northern state for talks to stop construction of a Hindu temple near a 16th century mosque. A religious dispute over the site has kindled riots that have killed more than 2,000 people over the past three years and was partly responsible for the fall of two national governments, reports Reuter.

## Noriega jailed

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the United States.

Noriega said he had been a 'zealous watchman' of treaties during US control of the Panama canal over to Panama by the year 2000.

He also said he had refused to use Panamanian forces to create a pretext for a US invasion of Nicaragua, and had blocked a plot to use Panamanian doctors to kill the Shah of Iran when he was in exile in Panama.

Noriega's rambling speech referred repeatedly to God, Socrates, Christopher Columbus, Spanish conquistadors and the roots of Panamanian independence.

He barely touched on the topic of drug trafficking or the accusations that he had allowed the Medellin drug cartel to use his country to smuggle cocaine into the United States and launder money there.

He spoke in Spanish, meaning that translation further delayed the process. After 90 minutes, the judge asked Noriega if he could condense his thoughts.

He kept using one phrase in English—'political overtones'.

### Titas Gas

From Page 1 Col 8  
Earlier, police arrested three other employees — Ismail, Shanker and Shah Alam.

Police said that they were interrogating the arrested employees.

A supervisor in the pipe construction department of the Company Belal Hossain Bepari was killed and another seriously wounded on July 9 when rioting unionists chased and pushed them off the multi-story office building of the Company.

Meanwhile, a leader of the Titas Gas Workers and Employees Union Saturday alleged that the killers of Belal Hossain Bepari were "roaming about freely and were misleading the nation by giving false statements to the press."

Speaking at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club, G M Anwar, General Secretary of the Union (Registration-1890), also alleged that the Titas Gas Company authorities had barred the employees' holding the janaza of Bepari in the office premises Saturday.

The union leader demanded arrest of those involved in the Thursday's incident and a fair probe into the incident.

He demanded arrest and termination of M Badruddoza, Managing Director of the Company, the GM, Maniruzzaman, Manager, Abdul Mannan and Security Manager, Abdul Hakim.

### France

From Page 1 Col 8  
NGOs — Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh and Ganashashthya Kendra — in this regard.

France is also contributing to the efforts to provide relief and shelter to more than 2,71,000 Rohingyas.

Speaking to newsmen at his residence yesterday prior to the Bastille Day celebrations, the French Ambassador praised Bangladesh's handling of the Rohingya issue. "We're really impressed at way the Government of Bangladesh has behaved with the refugees."

The Bastille Day, the French National Day, is celebrated on the 14th of July.

Degallax described the political relations between Bangladesh and France as 'cloudless'. He told a questioner that his country 'maintains relationship with countries' not with any particular government.

The Ambassador was asked about the 'special relationship' with the deposed Ershad regime.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleeda Zia is likely to pay an official visit to France sometime next year, he told another questioner but did not elaborate.

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### Mostafiz, Pak Minister review existing ties

ISLAMABAD, July 11: Bangladesh Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, who arrived here last evening on an official visit, held talks with Pakistan's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanju today, reports BSS.

They reviewed the existing Bangladesh-Pakistan relations and called for the utilisation of potential for further development and strengthening of these relations between the two countries, both bilaterally and within the framework of SAARC.

### Ashura

From Page 1 Col 4  
held at Azimpur.

BSS adds: Jamiatul Falah, Anjuman-e-Ahmadiya Sunnia, Baitus Sharaf and some other organisations have been holding various programmes recalling sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) for the truth and justice since the first day of Muharram as part of observance of Ashura. Their programmes will be concluded today through special prayers.

Bangladesh Secrat Mission will hold Quran khwani, was nasihat, milad and special munajat on the occasion of holy Ashura at Patuati Jami Masjid after Magreb prayers today.

See Editorial

### Population Day

From Page 1 Col 5  
Association in cooperation with UNFPA has arranged a two-day programme beginning July 13 in observance of World Population Day.

The programmes include posters exhibition participated by children and youths on July 13 at Shaheed Moezuddin Auditorium and debate on 'Improvement of dignity of women: precondition for the success of family planning programme' at the same venue at 3 pm on July 14.

Family Planning Department has also observed the day in all districts through holding rallies and discussions. National dailies brought out special supplements highlighting the significance of the day. Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television put up special programmes befitting the occasion.