

Inside Today

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Language problem might have caused mid-air collision, say Indian aviation experts

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Clarification

Yesterday in the heading of our lead story, it was inadvertently written "JS unanimously passes Indemnity (Repeal) Bill." It needs to be clarified that "Unanimously" actually refers to unanimity among members present in the House. As it is stated in the story, BNP, Jamaat and IOJ were absent in the House when the voting took place.

NEWS BRIEFS

AL activist shot at Fakirhat

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Nov 13: An activist of Fakirhat thana AL Mahmud Hossain, 32, was severely injured when a rival group shot him yesterday evening. Eight others were also injured.

Old man murdered in Barguna

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Nov 13: An old man was murdered at Amtali village under Amtali thana of Barguna district last night. Police and witnesses said some seven to eight miscreants wearing masks entered the house of Ataharuddin Peada, 60, and later strangled him to death after beating him with his two minor children and second wife.

AL factions clash at Fakirhat: 20 hurt

Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 13: At least twenty persons were injured, two of them seriously, in an hour-long gunbattle allegedly between two rival groups of Awami League at Fakirhat yesterday evening. The police lobbed tear gas shells and fired blank shots to bring the situation under control.

Boy commits suicide in city

By Staff Correspondent

A teenage boy allegedly committed suicide at his house at Uttarkhan under Uttara thana in the city yesterday. According to police, Hazrat Ali, 14, son of Md Alaluddin was found hanging from the ceiling of the house at around 2:00 pm when his brother went to call him for lunch. The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy, police said. An unnatural death case was filed. The cause of the suicide was not known.

2 killed in road accident

MYMENSINGH Nov 13: Two people were killed when a speeding truck knocked a rickshaw on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway near Trishal thana headquarters today. The dead were identified as rickshaw puller Abdul Matin, 35, and passenger Emdadul Haq, 36 - both local residents. Witnesses said the accident occurred at about 6:30 pm when the truck hit the rickshaw from behind killing its puller and lone passenger on the spot, reports UNB.

31 killed in Indian bus plunge

NEW DELHI, Nov 13: At least 31 people were killed today when a state-run bus plunged into a river in the northern Indian state of Rajasthan, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. Eight others were injured in the accident in Bundi district, PTI said. It did not say how many people were in the bus, reports AFP.

Water sharing agreement at Delhi summit in mid-Dec

Kunal Ganguly writes from New Delhi

India will announce an agreement with Bangladesh on sharing of waters of Ganges River at a summit between Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart H D Deve Gowda in mid-December, foreign ministry officials said yesterday.

The last round of talks held on the crucial issue yesterday was somewhat clouded due to Tuesday's air disaster near Delhi. However, the visiting Bangladeshi delegation had done most of its work Tuesday.

It was not immediately known how much water India will release. However, it appears that a broad agreement has been reached. But observers believe that the proposal must be agreeable to West Bengal state which is a major player in the water dispute.

India agrees that Bangladesh does need more water, but the

United Front government in Delhi does not want to take any decision without consulting and getting a 'Yes' from West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu.

India is in catch-22 situation after committing that the new government must have a decision before the year-end, said an Asian diplomat watching the talks.

This may be the reason why New Delhi wants Basu to go to Bangladesh beginning Nov 27 so that he can justify himself about Bangladesh's water needs and can talk to Bangladesh officials in this regard.

Back in September when Foreign Minister I K Gujral visited Bangladesh, he was accompanied by four members of parliament from West Bengal. This would be the first time that Basu would be out of the country to negotiate an international issue, a kind of mission usually

reserved for the central government.

"But the water issue is unique and the two important players are West Bengal and Bangladesh and there has to be meeting between them first," said the diplomat on condition of anonymity.

The visit by Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad was marked by very warm handshakes, wide smiles, and the word "excellent" many a times. Samad Azad even amused many TV cameramen and journalists by using the "bhalo, bhalo" (good, good) while describing the outcome of his talks.

Samad Azad met with President Shankar Dayal Sharma, Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda and the Congress president Sitaram Kesri. All the three visits were shown on state-run Doordarshan television.

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