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8 killed, 30 injured in Tangail road accident

Eleven people were killed and 30 others injured in separate road accidents in Tangail and Chittagong yesterday, report agencies.

At least eight people were killed and 30 injured as a coach crashed into a roadside ditch at the eastern end of Bangabandhu Bridge on its way from Dhaka to Chapainawabganj yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the coach skidded off the eastern link road to the bridge over the Jamuna while giving side to two other buses coming from the opposite direction at about 2:30 pm.

Six of the passengers died on the spot and two others on way to hospital. One of them was identified as Nurul Islam, 45, of village Bir Baruha in Tangail Sadar thana.

Twelve of the injured were admitted to Tangail General Hospital. Eight of them are Jafar, 15, of Gaibandha, Amjad, 32, Abdul Jalil, 7, and Idris, 30, of Natore, Abdur Rahman, 30, Kabirul Islam, 28, and Kamal Mia, 25, of Bogra and Rezaul, 15, of Tangail.

Four of the injured are in critical condition, and attending doctor said.

A case was filed with the BMB Eastern Thana.

Meanwhile, three people including a minor girl, were killed and 22 others injured in three separate road accidents on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Sitakunda in Chittagong yesterday.

Police said, two people were killed in an accident at Shitalpur when a Chittagong bound truck knocked down a motor-cycle and rammed a tempo stand.

Kumkum Sikdar, 28, a local village doctor and Babul Chandra Sen, 38, a tempo driver were killed on the spot. Five injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where condition of three was stated to be critical.

One minor girl was killed in another accident when a maxi ran over her at Chowdhury Ghat, about one kilometre from Sitakunda. The girl was identified as Munni Akter, 13. Local people seized the maxi but the driver fled away.

A maxi turned turtle at Sonachair under Sitakunda thana as the driver lost control over the vehicle and at least 16 passengers were injured. One seriously injured passenger was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital, police said.



A Bangladeshi folk extravaganza in the city yesterday to mark the World Tourism Day. — Star photo

Mafruha Chy passes away

Journalist and litterateur Mafruha Choudhury died of heart attack on board a Bangladesh Biman flight from New York on Sunday. She was 65, family sources said yesterday, reports BSS.

Mafruha Choudhury, wife of late poet Talim Hossain, was returning home from New York where she was under treatment at Mount Sinai Hospital after she had a heart attack on July 29. Her body will be flown to Dhaka on Thursday from Brussels.

Mafruha, who worked in the now defunct Danik Bangla and author of a number of books, left behind three daughters — Parveen Shahann, Mushari, and Parveen Mushari and Yasmeen Mushari — and two sons.

The *namaz-e-janaza* for Mafruha will be held at Siddheswari Mosque after Zohr prayers on Thursday. She will be buried at Banani Graveyard the same day.

Jewellery shop looted in DEPZ

SAVAR, Sept 27: Muggers looted a jewellery shop and a store at Shamsheer Plaza in Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) area early hours today, reports UNB.

After preliminary investigation the police said that the gangsters, numbering 12 to 15, attacked the night guards of the market at 1 am and tied them up. They broke open the iron gates of Gold Star shop and looted gold ornaments worth about Tk 5 lakh and Tk 700.

The muggers also looted cash and goods from a store.

Chhatra Samity convention

Bangladesh Chhatra Samity (BCS) will hold its 7th national convention on September 29-30, reports UNB.

It will bring out a procession at 11 am after the inauguration on September 29 and hold a discussion meeting at TSC auditorium in the evening on the day.

NAP (National Awami Party) chairman Prof Mozaffar Ahmed will inaugurate the convention. On the second and concluding day, council session will be held at TSC auditorium at 3 pm.

Human bones

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special tribunal to try the murder cases against Ershad and his associates, the Home Minister said he will discuss the matter with the Law Minister. "But I can assure you that law will take its own course".

He said police have been ordered to recover all illegal arms including those of Ershad and his accomplices within the shortest possible time.

It may be mentioned here that demolition of Shaad-Moni Shopping Complex was obstructed on Saturday last due to absence of the Chairman of KDA who was in Dhaka on that day.

He is the main complainant against the shopping mall named after the name of Ershad's son Shaad, 21, and his first wife Khedija.

Sacheton Nagarik Samaj, a civic body, submitted a memorandum to the Home Minister at the Circuit House, demanding trial of all the killings by Ershad Shikder.

Ctg water crisis

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On the other hand, some of the city areas are witnessing 'very low pressure of water' causing poor supply, residents said.

WASA officials said frequent load shedding of power, hilly locations and illegal connections from water supply of pipelines, mainly caused low pressure of water.

Last summer, agitated people from the city's Lalkhan Bazar area gheraoed the WASA office and ransacked it, protesting poor supply of water.

Action plan taken to combat violence against women

By Naimul Haq

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has taken up an integrated multi-sectoral action programme to combat violence against women.

A Five-year pilot project for 'prevention and redress' of violence against women will be launched soon as part of the action programme, sources concerned said.

A Steering Committee comprising representatives from 15 ministries will supervise all activities under the action programme.

The Tk five crore pilot project will be jointly funded by the government and Denmark's official aid agency DANIDA.

The main objective of the project is to provide women easy access to criminal and legal justice in the country, with particular attention to poor women, one source said.

It also aims at improving effectiveness of investigation and quality of services of the agencies dealing with various aspects of crimes and violence against women.

The concern is indifference and lack of attention to violence against women. In view of the urgent need to address the problem, the government considers it necessary to involve various ministries and agencies to fight violence against women," said Women Affairs Secretary Dr Tahmina Hussain, who now heads the steering committee.

She added, "Although many laws have been enacted in support of women, violence against them has not decreased. Instead, it has increased alarmingly."

According to a report of the Cell for Prevention of Violence Against Women, 6,889 women were murdered between January, 1994 and June, 1998.

During the same period, 5,006 women were raped, 335 suffered acid burn, 5274 were physically tortured, 548 kidnapped, 260 trafficked and 1730 were assaulted in dowry-related incidents.

The Cell pointed out that the reported violence represents only a fraction of the 'actual' violence committed.

Food stock now 14 lakh MTs

The country has a food stock of 14,00,953 metric tons, a meeting of the Jatiya Sangsad Standing Committee on the Ministry of Food was informed yesterday, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed the overall food situation and expressed satisfaction over the current food stock. The committee chairman Mohammad Sayedul Huq presided over the meeting.

The meeting was informed that the procurement of rice and paddy has crossed the target of six lakh metric tons while 2.55 lakh metric tons of wheat have been procured so far against the target of 3 lakh metric tons.

The meeting suggested the ministry to use the godowns of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) at the thana level to increase the food stock.

Committee members Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury, Mirza Azam, Ms. Bharati Nandi Sarker, Mohammad Joyntul Abedin Sarker and Alhaj Shamsuddin Ahmed attended the meeting.

Indian army digging

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Ruling party MP Nurul Islam Nahid who visited the Saropar border yesterday told some newsmen that he had urged the authorities to restore normalcy in the area and establish full control of Bangladesh farmers on their lands.

Sources said 21 Kunayun Regiment and 199 Field Artillery Regiment of Indian Army have been deployed along Latul, Bobartal, Juri, Lathitula, Sonakandi and Selua borders in Moulibazar district. BSF has also been reinforced.

When contacted, an official seeking anonymity said, "The Indians alleged that a number of training camps have been set up in the hill areas of Komorganj and some other bordering thanas of Bangladesh, where 'rebellious groups' from India are being trained."

The Indians also alleged that they (groups) were preparing for launching 'operations' in the Indian states of Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya soon to foil elections there, beginning on October 3.

Bangladesh informed India time and again that those allegations were baseless, the official said.

Besides India has deployed its regular force within five kilometres of the 'zero line', which is clear violation of international border conventions, he said.

BDR asked Indian authorities several times for holding a

BDR on alert along northern borders

LALMONIRHAT, Sept 27: The BDR have been put on alert and security measures strengthened as tension mounted all along the northern borders following the Indian border security force (BSF) adopted an aggressive posture, says UNB.

After frequent intrusions and the killing of two BDR jawans on Shibganj border on September 21, the BSF mobilised additional forces and dug in trenches causing panic in border villages.

Officials said additional troops of BDR have been sent to vulnerable points of Burimari, Patgram, Dahagram, Barakhata, Shingimari, Jao-rani, Durgapur, Mughalhat, Rourmri, Phulbari, Bhurungamari, and all the outposts were kept on alert.

Besides, additional troops have been deployed along Hill and Birul borders of Dinajpur district, Damurhat, Porsha and Sitchintapur borders of Joy-purhat district.

Sources said BDR outposts have been asked to keep a close watch on the movement of the BSF and Indian nationals across the border.

50th anniversary

PLA to flex its muscles

BEIJING, Sept 27: The People's Liberation Army will flex its muscles to celebrate 50 years of communism, but China's military has seen its vast web of political and economic patronage cut back dramatically, reports AFP.

In 1949 the Communist Party rode to power on the strength of its private army, the PLA, whose soldiers formed the core of a rag-tag band of communists seeking to unite China and end 100 years of foreign invasion.

The group led by peasant leader Mao Zedong became famous for both its guerrilla war tactics against the invading Japanese army in World War II and its near impossible defeat of the well-equipped, US-backed Nationalist army during the 1945-1949 civil war.

Western experts say PLA's greatest achievement was its stubborn defense of North Korea in a bloody war of attrition against US-led United Nations forces during the 1950-1953 Korean War.

That war has always been considered by the Chinese as a military victory against 'American imperialism', which together with heroic propaganda campaigns gave the PLA legendary status.

Acid thrown

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neighbour Noor Hossain, 22, threw acid on the girls through a window at about 5 am today as they were sleeping in the same bed.

Police and witnesses said Noor, son of Badsha Mia of the same locality, often proposed to marry Shoma. But her family refused Noor Hossain fixing her wedding with one Mobarak, son of Jakkul Hossain of Kamalghata.

Noor then threw acid on Shoma and her two younger sisters.

Local people caught Noor and handed him over to police soon after the incident.

Hospital sources said Abdul Karim, a poor milk-seller, has seven daughters, four of them married.

A case was lodged with Sadar thana in this connection.

N'ganj clash

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Noor Hossain attacked the *milad* at Kassal Shopping Centre under police protection. Noor Hossain denied the allegation.

Witnesses said Gasuddin arranged a *milad* *milad* at 9 am marking foundation-laying ceremony for expansion of the shopping centre claiming its ownership. But two police officials from the thana came to the spot and asked them to cancel the *milad* saying that there is a dispute over the ownership of the land and as such Section 144 was imposed in the area to avert any untoward incident.

But the *milad* was held. The clash ensued as four or five bombs were hurled at the function at the time of *munajat*. Both the groups of Gasuddin and Noor Hossain locked in fierce clash, trading gun shots and explosives.

Witnesses said at one stage, a group attacked the police leaving constables Kuddus, Matin, Siraj and Karim injured.

At 10:30 am, a contingent of police led by SP Emadul Huq reached the spot and opened fire, and tear gas shells in a bid to bring the situation under control.

Deputy Commissioner Abdur Rahman said he was examining the documents of both the groups submitted to him claiming the ownership of the disputed land.

The OC of Siddirganj thana said Gasuddin and Habibullah attacked the police. The police filed a case accusing 20 people, including Gasuddin and his associate Habibullah Kanchipuri.

Police had imposed ban on gatherings in and around the area after a similar clash between the groups of Gasuddin and Noor Hossain on August 26.

Blue, White panels share posts

By DU Correspondent

Awami League-backed 'Blue panel' and the 'White panel' supported by opposition BNP and Jamaat shared seven posts in the Dhaka University dean elections yesterday.

Blue panel secured four posts while White panel three in the election held at the Teachers' Students Centre (TSC).

Blue panel candidate Dr Kazi Shaheedullah of the History Department was re-elected dean of Arts Faculty, defeating his White panel rival Prof Towhidul Anwar of Mass Communication and Journalism by a big margin. Dr Shaheedullah secured 129 votes while Prof Anwar got only 66.

Prof M Asaduzzaman of Public Administration Department from White panel was re-elected dean of Social Science Faculty for the three consecutive terms with 79 votes while his Blue panel rival Prof Harun-ur-Rashied of Political Science got 44 votes.

Blue panel candidate Prof Mesbah Uddin Ahmed of Physics Department was elected dean of Science Faculty with 116 votes while his White panel contender Prof M Shafiqur Rahman of Statistics Department got 70 votes.

Blue panel nominee Prof Abul Hashem was also re-elected dean of Business Studies Faculty by defeating his White

panel rival Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad by a narrow margin of two votes. Prof Hashem got 57 votes while Prof Syed managed 55.

Prof Ershadul Bari was re-elected dean of Law Faculty with 11 votes while his Blue panel contender Prof A B M Mofizul Islam Patwary got 7 votes.

Prof A Z M Nausher Ali Khan of Blue panel was elected dean of Biological Science Faculty by defeating his White panel rival Prof A K Sirajul Islam Khan by 12 votes.

Prof Chowdhury Mahmud Hasan of White panel was elected dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy. He bagged 10 votes while his Blue panel rival Prof Munir Uddin Ahmed got 9 votes.

Fourteen candidates from two panels contested the election.

Pro vice-chancellor Prof M Shahadat Ali conducted the election as representative of the vice-chancellor.

6 swindlers held from city hotel

By Staff Correspondent

Six alleged swindlers were arrested from a residential hotel at Fakirapool in the city on Sunday.

Police said they were involved in selling 'bundles of dollars' which contained actual dollars on the top and at the bottom but blank papers inside, in different parts of the country.

The arrested were identified as Siraz, Zahid, Sarwar, Khulshed, Belayet Hossain, and Imarat Hossain.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Motijheel police raided the hotel at about 3 pm Sunday and arrested them from two rooms. Two bundles were recovered from their possession.

A case was filed with Motijheel thana in this regard.

Transport workers clash over toll collection

NARSINGDI, Sept 27: Vehicular movement on Dhaka-Sylhet highway remained suspended for three hours today after two labour organisations locked in clashes and put up barricade at Itakhola in Shibpur thana, reports UNB.

The clash between the supporters of Bangladesh Inter-district Truck Drivers Union and Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samik Union over toll collection also left two of the Sarak Paribahan labourers injured.

Witnesses said the clash ensued when the truck labourers began to collect tolls at Itakhola point and the Sarak Paribahan labourers protested it at about 4 pm.

Over 100 vehicles remained stranded on both the sides of the highway causing immense sufferings to the passengers.

The barricade was, however, withdrawn at about 7 pm after a fruitful discussion between leaders of the two organisations.

Patrizia Franceschinis, manager EC/UNFPA reproductive health in Asia and UNFPA country representative Shuyun Xu also addressed the press briefing at the UNFPA Dhaka office.

Patrizia Franceschinis said that the project would be implemented through Non governmental organisations (NGOs) and that they would contribute at least 10 per cent of the total cost. On the other hand, 90 per cent of the cost would be borne by the EC, she said.

Similar projects were also launched in six other Asian countries including Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, she told newsmen.

EU ambassador said that the project was undertaken as per the decision at the population conference in Cairo in 1994.

EU ambassador said that the project was undertaken as per the decision at the population conference in Cairo in 1994.

Bangladesh beaten

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punched the sizzler for a corner. Alfaz missed another good chance 15 minutes later when his header from a right-flank Mizanur Rahman cross was brilliantly gripped by Easa.

Easa, the acrobatic goalkeeper, saved his side from yet another danger in the 29th minute when he pushed a Mizanur Rahman placing for a corner by diving to his right.

Maldives also had two chances in the first half, which were repulsed by Bangladesh custodian Ponir.

After the lemon break, both teams seemed to be looking for a draw as they remained confined to the midfield for the first 30 minutes.

However, Bangladesh could have easily gone ahead in the 50th minute when Alfaz attempted from a Matiar Rahman cross from the right flank. But again it was Easa who made a brilliant save by diving to his left.

Maldives went ahead in the 76th minute when Shahin Ali placed the ball home from a right side free kick (1-0).

Midfielder Nizam then doubled the margin in the 86th minute with a brilliant left footer from the top of the box that went past a helpless

Ponir's left (2-0).

Bangladesh reduced the margin in injury time, through captain Jewel Rana, who placed the ball home from a goalmouth melee. (1-2).

After the match, Coach Shamir Sakir blamed luck for the defeat.

"Football is a game of goals and it was our luck that we could not score," said the Iraqi World Cupper.

"We still have a chance to get into the last four even if we can manage a draw against Sri Lanka," he added.

Yellow card: Hasan Al-Mamun, Masud Rana, Rajani Kanta Barman (Bangladesh), Easa and Ghafoor (Maldives).

Maldives: Easa, Adam Latheef, Azmoon (Azeem), Shahid (Abdullah), Shahin Ali, Shiham, Ghafoor, Mohamed Ibrahim, Nizam, Ismail and Lutheef.

Bangladesh: Ponir, Hasan Al-Mamun (Sourav Raju), Jewel Rana, Rajani, Nazrul Islam, Masud Rana (Anwar), Matiar Rahman, Iqbal Hossain, Alfaz Ahmed and Mizanur Rahman (Shahajuddin Tipu).

Today's matches
India vs Bhutan
Nepal vs Pakistan

Flood situation in 2 dists worsen

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 27: The overall flood situation in Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj districts deteriorated further with rise in the water levels of rivers Padma, Mahananda and the Atrai.

The Padma near Rajshahi recorded a further rise of 16 centimetres, flowing 62 centimetres above the danger mark. The people of the low-lying areas of the river swelled further. A 4-metre portion of the I-groyen collapsed at Panchabati causing hundreds to take shelter in schools and other raised grounds.

In Godagari, vast areas including the thana parishad,

were inundated by the flash flood. Kaliganj, Tantipara, Kutipara, Mollapara, Dhantoir, Gokul, Talanda and Kamargon unions were among the most affected.

In Chapainawabganj, the Mahananda was flowing 134 cm above the danger mark while the Padma was at 159 cm. Most of the areas of the municipality have been inundated by floodwater entering through the underground drains.

Two people — one in Shibganj and other in Gomostapur — drowned in floodwater as the fresh flood marooned about three lakh people.

Meanwhile, a flood-protection embankment on river Atrai collapsed submerging many villages in Manda and Mohadevpur thanas in a devastating late-monsoon flooding at Naogaon yesterday.

Over 5,000 people were rendered homeless and crops in some 10,000 acres washed away by a deluge of water following damage to the dam.

River Atrai was flowing 65 cm above danger marks this evening. Water Development Board sources said.

Peace award a farce: Mannan Bhuiyan

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has termed the 'so-called' peace award as farce claiming that it was secured through misleading propaganda about the 'black' CHT accord, reports UNB.

"Peace has not come to the country though the government named the black CHT accord a peace agreement. Rather, the hill tracts and entire country are besieged with disorder since the signing of the accord," he said in a statement yesterday.

Bhuiyan reiterated the BNP's stand on the peace accord, calling it "anti-liberation-sovereignty-integrity, against national interest and humanity, anti-constitutional, curbing governmental power and extreme provocation for separation."

This agreement made six lakh Bengali-speaking people in the hill tracts second class citizens. The CHT is being governed by the regional council leaders who, while staying on foreign soil, had prepared the blueprint of splitting the country," he said.

Elaborating many 'negative' aspects of the peace accord, the BNP secretary general said that in national interest the President can deploy army in any part of the country, but because of the accord he will not be able to do so in the CHT without permission of the Shan-tibahini.

"People consider as farcical the peace award secured through misleading propaganda about the agreement that destroyed peace. Realising the situation, the government arranged a party reception spending crores of taka of the state," he added.

Bhuiyan termed telecast of the party reception live by spending public money "an illegal act" and alleged that government employees were forced to attend the party function.

"Even school boys and girls were made to sit for hours together in scorching sun to make the party programme colourful," he said.

Gausia

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After an initial investigation by Rajuk engineers, construction plan of the building was cancelled in 1997 on safety grounds. Rajuk then asked PWD engineers to investigate and give a report on safety of the structure.

But after more than a year, PWD engineers told The Daily Star last week that they would