



PHOTO: STAR

A never-say-over farmer at Munshiganj once again sows seedlings of cabbage after the recent floods ensued by cloudburst ruined his entire

Emergency declared in Palestine

Israelis kill 7 more as Arafat urges world to stop killing

AFP, Ramallah

The Palestinian cabinet declared a state of emergency in the Palestinian territories as Israeli troops killed another seven Palestinians in the early hours of yesterday.

A cabinet statement called for international intervention, humanitarian help for the people of Gaza and denounced what it called "world silence in the face of the magnitude

of crimes committed".

By early yesterday, Israeli troops had killed 53 Palestinians since Tuesday night when more than 100 Israeli tanks, backed by aircraft, moved into the northern Gaza Strip to try to stop militants firing home-made rockets into Israeli territory.

The Israelis labelled the massive incursion "Operation Days of Penitence".

Officials said Palestinian prime minister Ahmed Qorei had

cancelled a trip to Russia and Turkey to attend an emergency cabinet session later in the day.

The cabinet called on the international quartet that drafted a now moribund Middle East peace plan last year to "intervene immediately to ensure the protection of our people."

The quartet consists of the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations.

CPA rebuffs TIB report on graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) yesterday rejected the study report of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) on unbridled corruption and irregularities at the country's premier seaport as 'untrue', 'fabricated', 'exaggerated', 'confusing' and 'malicious'.

"We strongly reject the TIB report, which is full of misconceptions, wrong information, confusing statistics, heavy exaggerations and falsifications," CPA Chairman AMM Shahadat Hossain told a press briefing at the Port Rest House yesterday morning.

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One burnt alive as bus catches fire

BSS, Sirajganj

One person was burnt alive and 25 others were injured as a bus caught fire in Sirajganj yesterday.

Police said the incident took place on the Dhaka-Bogra highway at Ambaghan under Ullapara upazila at about 9:00am when a Bogra-bound passenger bus from Sirajganj caught fire due to engine trouble.

Locals rescued the injured passengers and sent them to Sirajganj hospital. Of them, the condition of six was stated to be critical. The bus driver and helper fled the scene.

A case was filed with Ullapara Police Station.

BSF pushes back five Indians

UNB, Kurigram

Border Security Force (BSF) of India pushed five Indian Muslims into Bangladesh through Phulbari border on Friday morning but Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel pushed them back within hours.

Sources said about 400 Bengali speaking Indian nationals were picked up from Delhi and Ajmeer and handed over to the BSF to forcibly push them into Bangladesh.

The poor Indian nationals were brought blind folded to seven or eight points of Phulbari border, said an upazila official.

He said Mustafa, his wife Fatema, their two children and Abed Ali were pushed in through Gajerkuti border of Naodanga Union early Friday.

BDR Area Commander Lt Col Mesbahuddin Ahmed admitted the facts and said forces on the border have been alerted.

Prayer Timing		
October 3		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-53	5-56
Esha	7-30	8-00
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Blasts, attacks kill 46 in India

REUTERS, Guwahati, India

A series of bomb blasts and attacks in India's northeast yesterday killed 46 people in one of the bloodiest days in the troubled region.

Two bombs exploded in a marketplace in Dimapur, commercial centre of the state of Nagaland, while a third ripped through a crowded railway station there almost simultaneously, an officer at the local police station said.

Twenty-six people died in the Nagaland attacks, the deadliest since a ceasefire with the main Naga separatist group began seven years ago.

Later, tribal guerrillas fighting for

a separate homeland in the neighbouring state of Assam massacred 11 people. One man died in another bomb explosion in Assam and eight more people were killed in four separate grenade attacks.

Police said the attacks in Nagaland and Assam appeared to be unrelated.

Janardhan Singh, Dimapur's police superintendent, said the attacks in Nagaland were aimed at disrupting the peace process.

Twelve people died at the railway station and eight were killed at the market. Six later died in hospital.

"It was a powerful blast, the tin roof of the railway platform has been blown," railway official Robin Kalita said.

"There are pieces of flesh and torn human limbs lying on the platform. There are people wailing," Yanger Thakkar, a journalist in Dimapur, told Reuters.

The blasts in Christian-majority Nagaland could have been set off by any of several smaller separatist groups that are not part of the truce with the Indian government, officials said.

The biggest group, the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isaac-Muivah), which has fought for a separate Naga nation for more than half a century, has held several rounds of talks with government officials but with no breakthrough.

Bangladeshi shot dead by BSF in Thakurgaon

UNB, Thakurgaon

Indian border guards shot dead a Bangladeshi in Baliadangi border area early yesterday, local sources said.

The victim was identified as Fozir Ali, 25, son of Bhola Muhammad of Maradhori village in Baliadangi upazila.

Villagers said the BSF (Border Security Force) men of Sonamoti border outpost shot him down when he went near Ratnai border outpost on the Bangladesh side at about 2am.

They said the Indian border guards took away the body and did not return it till the filing of this report at 7:25pm yesterday.

A commander of 20 Rifles Battalion said they were aware of the incident.

Accused of cop murders found dead after arrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police recovered the bullet-hit body of listed criminal Ripon Jamaddar from Srirampur canal of Naihati union under Rupsha upazila of Khulna district on Thursday.

He was arrested by Detective Branch (DB) of district police on Wednesday midnight from Nixon market area under Khulna Police Station.

Ripon, 30, son of BNP leader Habibur Rahman of Nandanpur village under Rupsha upazila, was a regional leader of the Janajuddho faction of Purbo Banglar

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UK under-secy arrives tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Sir Michael Jay, permanent under-secretary and head of the diplomatic service at the foreign office of the United Kingdom, arrives in Dhaka

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Hartal has lost its charm

Mannan Bhuiyan at Jubo Dal rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said hartal is an obsolete political weapon in the current perspective of Bangladesh as it has lost all appeal to people, and asked all to refrain from calling hartal.

"Although it is the easiest thing to call a hartal and enforce it, people irrespective of their political affiliation, profession and social position do not like this programme because

it directly hurts their lives and livelihood," he said.

Addressing a big rally at Muktangan in the capital organised by the BNP's youth front Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal to protest bomb attacks, other acts of violence and the bid to create anarchy in the country, Bhuiyan said, "I believe any party calling hartal will be gradually isolated from people instead of gaining their support."

Bhuiyan, also minister for LGRD

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