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People's Right to Know

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Feeble signals make trains crawl on run-down tracks

Run-down rail-tracks and an ageold signalling system have forced Bangladesh Railway (BR) engineers to impose speed limits of 5 to 40 km an hour (kph) at 30 railroad segments in Dhaka division alone to avoid any major accident.

Locomotive drivers said they have been facing a sea of troubles for the last couple of years in running train almost every where in the country. Their maximum speed for Bangla Station point is set at 5kph, Netrokona Court 5kph, Karawith 10kph, Ashuganj 16kph, Akhaura 10kph, Jagannathganj Ghat 15kph, Kurmitola airport 10kph and Tongi

The speed ceiling is warranted because the track and the signalling are the worst in those sections



Trains move at a snail's pace on run-down tracks left without ballast and rarely maintained. The photo was taken recently from Karwan Bazar area of the capital.

26 hurt in armed

SATKHIRA TENSE

Bigots again besiege Ahmadiyya mosque

Six Khatme Nabuwat leaders arrested

Mollah and beat up Wadood's son

Local Jamaat-e-Islami leaders,

who are allegedly operating under

the IKNMB banner, yesterday

announced plans to hold a meeting

Locals said some 200 bigots

brought out a procession from

Harinagar and marched to

Ahmadiyya mosque at Sundarban

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at Haricharan High School today.

on Sunday evening, said witnesses.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Religious bigots yesterday laid siege to an Ahmadiyya mosque and ransacked a house in Sundarban Bazar of Shyamnagar in a fresh bout of intimidation of the sect.

The latest assault came less than 24 hours after the fanatics injured over 50 and looted some 10 houses

The zealots led by International Khatme Nabuwat Movement, Bangladesh (IKNMB) vandalised the

CORPORATE

clashes between JCD groups at JU houses of local Ahmadiyya missionaries Abdul Wadood and Ahmad Ali

IU CORRESPONDENT

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A student of Jahangirnagar University (JU) took bullet and 25 pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists were injured in a fierce battle between two of its factions on the campus yesterday. The factional clash triggered

panic among the general students and teachers of the university. Ashraful Haq Shanto, a secondyear student of philosophy and a

resident student of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib (BSM) hall, was taken into Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) with bullet wounds in his right thigh. Five others were admitted to Enam Medical College and Hospital at Savar. The other 20 received first aid at the University Medical

The clash erupted when a group SE E PAGE 15 COL 6

Dhaka denounces 'unprovoked' attack by BSF

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday categorically condemned the "willful and unprovoked attack" by the Border Security Force (BSF) of India near Akhaura border on Saturday last

The government of Bangladesh however, reaffirmed its commit ment to maintain peace and tranquillity in the frontier areas by resolving all bilateral issues peacefully through dialogue

"It is clear that the BSF forces deliberately intruded into Bangladesh territory and opened fire, leaving a Bangladeshi girl dead," said a foreign ministry spokesman when asked to com ment on the incident.

Pointing out facts of the incident the spokesperson stated that the trouble started at around 5:30pm

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Govt finds no proof of int'l terrorist links: FM

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister (FM) M Morshed Khan yesterday said the governmen did not find any evidence or proothat local goons have any connection with the international terrorists.

"Even then, we think prepared-ness is always good," he told reporters at his office.

His comments came the day after US, Army Pacific Commander Admiral William J Fallon indicated that there might be some connections of international terrorists here.

"Bangladesh is a democratic, liberal and moderate Muslim country. We have kept it in our mind so that terrorists can not rise here," the

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Khaleda stresses steps against risky, illegal structures

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the authorities to identify risky buildings in all parts of the country, including the capital, and take necessary measures to reduce the risks of life.

"It has become imperative to take effective measures against risky buildings and illegal structures," the prime minister said, in the wake of recent quakes, tidal surges and

She asked the authorities concerned to ensure proper fireextinguishing systems in all highrise buildings as well as fire and SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

S Asian foes declare peace 'irreversible'

India, Pakistan soften on Kashmir; decide to open meeting points for divided families, trade

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India and Pakistan yesterday asserted the peace process between the nuclear rivals is 'irreversible' and pledged not to allow terrorism impede the process, agreeing to boost cross-border cooperation, trade and travel in divided Kashmir.

A' joint statement read out by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh next to Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf said the two countries allow movement of trucks to boost trade and start additional passenger bus routes across the divided Kashmir.

The two-point statement issued at the end of the three-day visit by Musharraf also said India and Pakistan have agreed to open meeting points for divided families, trade, pilgrimages and cultural interac-

Earlier, addressing senior editors of Indian media, Musharraf said the military option is no more a solution for resolving disputes between India and Pakistan. He also advocated an 'out-of-the-box' solution to resolve

the Kashmir issue 'without rigid timeframe', which is acceptable to the both sides and also to the Kashmiris

The joint statement increases the frequency of the bus service launched this month -- seven between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad allow the route also for freight traffic and operationalise additional routes including Lahore-Amritsar and different religious places.

The two countries have also agreed to introduce rail link SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

97 still missing

Relatives keep crowding the Savar rescue spot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Maleka Begum with bread and banana in hand has been waiting outside the security cordon of the collapsed garment factory building for her son Rubel for the last eight days. Now her blood-shot, swollen eyes do not produce any tears. She

Rubel was supposed to send money to his mother on Monday, the day Maleka heard the building has crumbled. The rescuers are yet to trace the 30-year-old garment worker, who used to work on the ground floor of the nine-storey "On the second day I searched the first and second floors but did not see any bodies. We may find some bodies tomorrow when our workers search the ground floor," said Md Ibrahim, a fire brigade official yesterday. The rescuers continued their

operations yesterday braving a strong stench of decomposed bodies that turned the air heavy. With no recovery of body yesterday, the death toll remained at 75 from the deadliest building collapse in Bangladesh

According to the official list hung on a notice board at the spot, 84 SEE PAGE15 COL 6

Collapsed factory workers in fresh hardship

PINAKI ROY

The grocers in Palashbari and the adjoining areas have stopped selling groceries on credit to the workers of the Spectrum Sweater Ltd as the workers could not pay their last month's dues and cannot hope to pay those soon.

The sweater factory at Palashbari of Savar crumbled into rubble last week causing heavy casualties. Workers of Shariar Garments next to the Spectrum Sweater Ltd and owned by the same owner too have their share of suffering in the aftermath of the collapse.

Hundreds of workers who luckily escaped death from the collapse now live in subhuman conditions.

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