

6 killed in Munshiganj bus plunge

UNB, Munshiganj
Six people died and 20 others were injured as a bus plunged into a ditch at Shomspur in Sreenagar upazila of the district on Friday night.
The dead are Asaduzzaman, 35, head cashier of Sonali Bank Amtoli Branch, Mostafa Munshi, 45, of Patuakhali, Sohel, 12, of Barguna, Ziaur Rahman, 24, and Liton of Barisal, and Abul Hossain, 42, of Munshiganj.
Police said the Barisal-bound bus from Dhaka skidded off the Dhaka-Mawa road and fell into a ditch as the driver lost control over the steering at about 10:00pm, killing the six on the spot and injuring 20 others.
The injured were admitted to different hospitals in Dhaka and Munshiganj.
In another accident at Balasur in the same upazila yesterday, Jahiruddin, 22, was crushed under the wheels of a microbus at about 7:00am.

AUGUST 17 BLASTS

First charge sheet kept on hold suspiciously

STAR REPORT
Police in Joypurhat yesterday finalised the first charge sheet in the August 17 serial blasts case but all of a sudden, on the same day, the investigation period was extended for two more days allegedly to spare some Galib adherents.
Official sources said the district committee on sensational cases, after reviewing the charge sheet yesterday, extended the time for investigation to include in it two freshly arrested militants and a statement of a police official.
But responsible sources said the extension came amid huge pressure on the local administration to withdraw the names of some militant leaders

belonging to Asadullah Al Galib's Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh (Ahab).
Abdullah Al Azad Chowdhury, superintendent of police (SP) in Joypurhat, denied the allegations and said, "The time was extended just to make things stronger in the charge sheet."
He said two more militants, Habibur Rahman Habi and Afaz Uddin Poheli, who were arrested yesterday, have confessed their involvement in the blasts.
"They said they had a trial run of detonating bombs in the run-up to the countrywide explosions and that's why their statements are important."
A highly placed police official, however, said Joypurhat police had already 'more than enough evidence to explain clearly the blasts'.
"The implication of the new arrestees and recording of a police statement are mere excuses. These could easily be done during or before trial," he added.
Meanwhile, Jamir Uddin, officer-in-charge of Joypurhat Sadar Police Station, in the charge sheet (that was placed in a review meeting) accused 25 militants by name and some other unidentified people of staging seven blasts at four points across the town.
Eighteen of the 27 people arrested so far in connection with the blasts in Joypurhat are among
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LOW OVER BAY Heavy rain likely in coastal belt

UNB, Dhaka
The country's coastal belt may experience "heavy to very heavy" rain today under the influence of a well-marked low over the Bay.
The low-lying areas of Bagerhat, Barguna, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barisal, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Feni, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and their offshore islands and chars area likely to be inundated by wind-driven surges 2-3 feet above normal astronomical tide, said a weather bulletin yesterday.
It said the well-marked low over the west-central Bay and the adjoining north-west Bay off Orissa coast persisted over the same area at 3:00pm yesterday.
"It is likely to intensify further and move in a northwesterly direction. Squally weather may affect the ports. Sea will remain moderate," said the bulletin.
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PHOTO: STAR
A man struggles with a rickshaw-van crammed with passengers on the waterlogged Nazimuddin Road in the capital during the incessant rain since Friday.



Power handover only after tenure expires

Says Bhuiyan at 'vote revolution anniversary'

BNEWS, Dhaka
BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said the country's next general elections will be held in due time.
"The next general elections will be held in due time... we will not hand over power a single day before the expiry of the tenure," Bhuiyan said.
The BNP leader was addressing a grand rally at Mahanagar Nataya
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Hasina, Natwar talk bilateral, latest issues

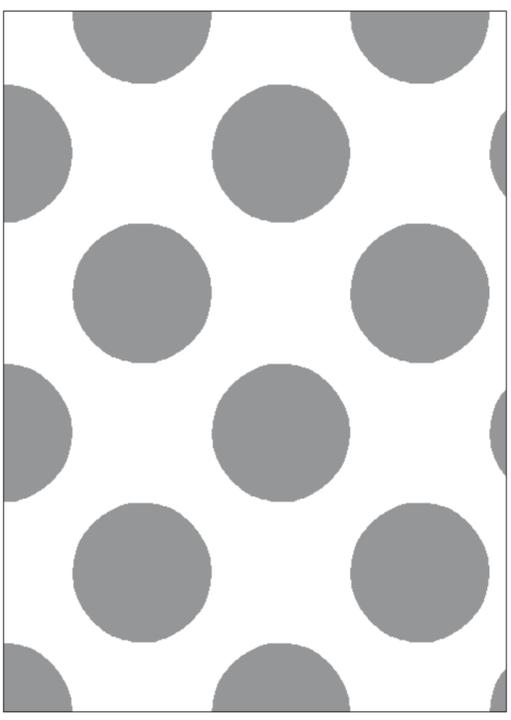
OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi
Bilateral issues and the latest developments in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the subcontinent came up for discussion when Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday met Indian External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh in New Delhi.
The discussions took place when Natwar Singh entertained Hasina to a luncheon at palatial Hyderabad
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No participation in polls without reform

Opposition reiterates
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Leaders of the mainstream opposition parties yesterday reiterated their earlier stand of not participating in any election without necessary reforms in the formation and jurisdiction of the caretaker government and Election Commission (EC).
Taking part in next election without the proposed reforms will be "suicidal" as the present government is "conspiring to rig the
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\$68.6m orders received in Batexpo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Garment exporters received orders worth \$68.6 million from foreign buyers at the Bangladesh Apparel and Textile Exposition (Batexpo) 2005 that ended yesterday.
The amount is \$12 million higher than that of last year, says a press release of Bangladesh Garment
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VOTER LIST REVIEW Sleeping time at EC

SHAKHAWAT LITON
The Election Commission (EC) has not met for about two months to review the progress of a fresh voter list for the next general elections, keeping all its members in the dark.
"We know nothing about the progress in preparing the fresh voter list. In fact, we are in the dark as we could not meet in the last two months," Election Commissioner AK Mohammad Ali told The Daily Star yesterday.
"The Election Commission secretary is doing everything in consultation with the chief election commissioner," he added.
However, the chief election commissioner (CEC), who is authorised to convene EC meetings, said he does not know about the present status of the preparatory work for the list. He asked reporters on Thursday to consult the EC secretary.
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Int'l civil society meet for LDC cause starts tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A three-day international civil society forum meeting begins in the capital tomorrow in order to promote the interests and concerns of least developed countries (LDCs) in the ongoing negotiation under the Doha Development Agenda (DDA).
Forty-nine participants from 27
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Criminal justice system not adequate: CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassar Husain yesterday said the protection of witnesses and relief given to the victims under the country's criminal justice system are not adequate.
"So, for successful prosecution administration, there is need for a long term structural solution to secure the safety of the witnesses and the right of victims to have legal
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TATA INVESTMENT Final round talks from today

UNB, Dhaka
The final round of negotiation between the government and the Tata Group on the proposed \$ 2.5 billion investment in Bangladesh begins today.
As per the proposal, the Tata Group will set up a fertiliser factory, a steel plant and a 1000-megawatt
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Prayer Timing		
October 2		
	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

