

Earthquake

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attack from the fright during the earthquake around 12:52am and died within a few minutes in his residence.

According to witnesses, plasters on the ceilings in the DMCH employees' quarters, fell from above after the earthquake.

In addition, cracks also developed at several parts of the ceilings and walls of the buildings.

Anwara Begum, a class IV employee of DMCH, told The Daily Star last night, "Soon after the earthquake struck early Sunday, plasters fell down from the ceiling of my dining room leaving us in a panic, the ceiling fan also came down."

"After the incident, we informed the DMCH authorities in the morning. But none even came to visit the damaged building," she said.

DMCH staff alleged that they had been submitting applications seeking repair of the buildings since 2005, but the authorities did not respond to their petitions.

Our three correspondents reports, twenty-three injured students received treatment at the university medical centre while 14 others at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) after the quake.

Of the injured students, eight are from Jagannath Hall, four from Haji Mohammad Mohsin Hall, seven from Surya Sen Hall, three from Ziaur Rahman Hall, two from AF Rahman Hall, and one each from Salimullah Muslim Hall, Fazlul Haque Hall, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall and Kobi Jasimuddin Hall.

Seriously injured SM Hero, Raihan Khan and Nurul Islam of Mohsin Hall were undergoing treatment at DMCH with injuries in legs, hands and wrists. Basan of the same hall was admitted to National Institute of Traumatology, Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation (Nitor) with injuries to his legs and hands while Arif Ahmed, a resident of Surya Sen Hall, was shifted to DMCH from the university medical

centre as his situation deteriorated.

Hundreds of panicked resident students of DU dormitories rushed out of their dormitory rooms and ran for safety following the sudden jolt at 12:52am yesterday.

Many panicked students of Mohsin and Surya Sen halls spent the night in the open.

Some 500 students of the east building of Jagannath Hall, which was identified as too frail to weather an earthquake and declared unsafe for living in 2006, spent the night in great panic.

Meanwhile, a few new cracks were seen on the Mohsin Hall building after yesterday's earthquake, just beside the cracks identified in April.

The DU authorities formed a committee with experts from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) to examine if the cracks are risky. The authorities also fixed wooden beams to support the cracked ceilings.

Around 6,000 students of the 87-year-old Salimullah Hall, Shahidullah Hall and Jagannath Hall and another 5,000 students of the 42-year-old Surya Sen Hall and Mohsin Hall have been passing days amid fear of earthquakes.

The DU authorities are yet to examine what degree of earthquake these buildings can withstand.

Ex-MP Giasuddin

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set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises at 12:00 noon.

Later, their counsels submitted bail petitions to the court. Judge AKM Arifur Rahman rejected the bail petitions and ordered to send them to jail.

Assistant Director Khairul Huda filed the case against them with Ramna Police Station on September 5 last year on charges of concealing information in the wealth statement submitted to the commission.

Fair-price shops

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and other chambers can also set up such fair-price shops.

The FPSs will be opened as part of the government effort to maintain stability in the prices of essential commodities like rice, onions, lentils, wheat and edible oils, according to the commerce adviser.

"We're considering many options to ensure price stability during the Ramadan... And the FPS is one of such options," he told reporters at a press briefing.

He said the meeting discussed the possibility of appointing Ansar members and Dhaka University students to run the fair-price shops in a bid to overcome manpower shortages.

On why edible-oil prices are not coming down on the local market despite the recent downward trend on the international market, Zillur said, "This is a general complaint against the business community at large. We're not satisfied with their explanation. We'll monitor the matter."

He, however, said the government doesn't want to fix edible-oil prices as they are already coming down on the international market.

"The commerce ministry would request the Economic Relations Division (ERD) to examine the possibility of getting edible oils from the US government as food aid to face the exigencies during the Ramadan," he added.

3 mayor

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holiday, an official announcement yesterday said.

The city corporations are Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet.

The poushabhas are Naohata in Rajshahi, Dupchanchia in Bogra, Chuadanga, Sreepur in Gazipur, Manikganj, Fulbaria in Mymensingh, Shariatpur, Golapganj in Sylhet and Sitakunda in Chittagong.

Dr Mosharraf

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including one for amassing wealth illegally and giving false wealth information to the commission.

The joint forces arrested Mosharraf last year in Banani residence on March 7 last year and seized documents from the house.

Nazimuddin Alam

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Defence lawyers submitted a bail petition for Nazimuddin but the court rejected it.

The former lawmaker had come to Hannan Shah's Mohakhali DOHS residence yesterday afternoon and police arrested him when he was leaving the house after a brief stay, said Yunus Babul, personal assistant to Hannan Shah.

Nazimuddin, a former assistant general secretary of Dhaka University Central Students' Union, was first taken to Cantonment Police Station and then produced before the court.

Officer-in-Charge of Kafrul Police Station Fazlul Haque, in his forwarding report placed before the court, said they arrested Nazimuddin after receiving arrest warrants issued by the Bhola courts.

The cases excepting that for attempt to murder include two for unlawful assembly, trespass and arson attacks, and one under the Explosive Substances Act.

On-arrival visa

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many Saarc, Commonwealth and African countries," the press release said.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, who is also in charge of the Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry, said, "This is good news. However, all of us must be careful that we don't misuse this unique gesture by the friendly Malaysian government."

He also laid emphasis on the need for time scale to be introduced for primary school teachers.

The TIB report also said that the teachers pay scale has to be modernised so that the profession attracts meritorious students. Also the government end the salary discrimination among the government, registered and community primary school teachers should go, it added.

Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury said that coordination among political, administrative and social forces is needed to improve quality education in primary schools.

She admitted that there was some corruption in the sector but added, "the percentage of corruption is little as the primary and mass education ministry is very much decentralised."

The adviser also said that primary education would soon be handed over to the local government so that communities get more involved in improving the quality of school education.

Primary and Mass Education Ministry Secretary M Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said the ministry has accepted the positive recommendations by TIB because these would help as effective measures to improve the quality of education.

Among others, Directorate of Primary Education Director General Nazrul Islam Khan, former adviser to the caretaker government Hafizuddin Khan and former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Muniruzzaman Miah took part in the roundtable meeting.

Golden past

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and came into prominence into Mughal period when it enjoyed the position of a provincial capital."

Once became the capital, Dhaka was destined to expand.

Development of townships, public works and a significant growth in population came as the city was proclaimed the capital of Bengal under Mughal rule in 1608.

Mughal Subahdar Islam Khan Chisti was the first administrator of the city.

The Buriganga and her mother river Dhaleswar connect Dhaka to the great rivers and through them with almost all districts of Bengal.

The low-lying river girt Bangladesh and the abode of the rebels against the Mughals. So Islam Khan Chisti found a suitable place for capital.

The city was called "Jahangir Nagar" (City of Jahangir) in honour of the Mughal Emperor Jahangir, father of Shahjahan, the founder of Taj Mahal.

Actually, the greatest expansion of the city took place under Mughal general Shaista Khan (1662-1677 and 1679-1689). The city then stretched for 12 miles in length and 8 miles in breadth and is believed to have had a population of nearly one million.

Later the British rulers took control of Dhaka like the whole India.

The emerging city fell to the control of the British East India Company in 1765 after the Battle of Plassey.

Owing to the war, the city's population shrank dramatically within a short time. Although an important city in the Bengal province, Dhaka remained smaller than Kolkata, which served as the capital of British India for a long time.

Under British rule, many modern educational institutions, public works and townships were developed in Dhaka. A modern water supply system was introduced in 1874 and electricity supply in 1878.

The Dhaka Cantonment was established near the city, serving as a base for the soldiers of the British Raj.

Dhaka served as a strategic link to the frontier of the northeastern states of Tripura and Assam.

In 1905 and again in 1947, Dhaka became the capital of East Bengal. In the course of time in 1921, the University of Dhaka, the first university of this soil, was established which came as a major incident in the socio-cultural and political arena for the Muslim people of Bengal.

On August 15, 1947 East Bengal

SMS

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EC Secretary Hamayun Kabir, later, told reporters, "The cap proves a success, the commission may go for it also in upazila polls and parliamentary elections."

Any voter for the August 4 polls willing to know the location of polling station will simply have to type EC, leave space, type his or her National Identity Card number and send it to 2233.

Customers of any mobile phone operators can get this facility while customers of Grameen Phone, Tele Talk, Aktel and Banglalink can dial 2233 to get the service.

Tele Talk officials said they have a system of keeping information about 10 crore voters, and it is possible to provide this SMS facility to all voters in the parliamentary polls.

Meanwhile the government yesterday granted public holiday on August 4 in the four city corporations and nine municipalities where polls will be held in the first phase of a series of elections planned.

Officials and employees of all government, semi-government, autonomous, semi-autonomous and private offices and organisations in the areas will get the holiday meant for 'facilitating exercise of franchise in the polls', said an official announcement.

The polls will take place in Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet city corporations.

The nine municipalities are Naohata in Rajshahi, Dupchanchia in Bogra, Chuadanga, Sadar, Sreepur in Gazipur, Manikganj, Fulbaria in Mymensingh, Shariatpur, Golapganj in Sylhet and Sitakunda in Chittagong.

TIB suggests

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elections, etc.

TIB Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, who conducted the roundtable meet, said that these additional tasks should be stopped immediately.

He also laid emphasis on the need for time scale to be introduced for primary school teachers.

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became a part of the new Muslim state of Pakistan. The city witnessed serious communal violence that left thousands of people dead or homeless.

A large proportion of the city's Hindu population migrated to India, while the city received hundreds of thousands of Muslim immigrants from the Indian states of West Bengal, Assam and Bihar.

As the centre of regional politics, Dhaka saw an increasing number of political strikes and incidents of violence. The adoption of Urdu as the sole official language of Pakistan led to protest marches and strikes involving hundreds of thousands of people.

During the Bengali Language Movement, the people of the country fought against the Pakistani rulers to establish Bangla as the state language and succeeded in 1952. The 21st February of 1952 is considered as the first ever language movement victory in the history of world that took place in Dhaka.

The Language Movement was the torchbearer for the people to fight for independence. Plenty more protests took place in Dhaka against the injustice of Pakistani rulers.

After a series of protests, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman held a massive nationalist gathering on March 7, 1971 at the racecourse ground that attracted an estimated one million people. Galvanising public anger against discrimination from the central government of West Pakistani rulers, the gathering preceded the March 26 declaration of Bangladesh's independence.

The fall of the Pakistani army in Dhaka to the joint forces comprising the guerrilla freedom fighters of this soil and the Indian army on December 16 marked the creation of Republic of Bangladesh. Dhaka became the capital of an independent country.

Parties hail

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day of the father of the nation as National Mourning Day and a public holiday. We thank the High Court for delivering the verdict," said Tofail, who was a political secretary to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Welcoming the verdict, AL President Sheikh Hasina's Political Secretary Sabir Hossain Chowdhury said through yesterday's HC judgment a fact of history has been recognised by the highest court of the country.

"It's, however, sad that a fact which is as clear as daylight had to be ruled upon by the court due to the actions of a political party bent on distorting history," said Sabir, also an organising secretary of AL.

Jatiya Party Acting Chairman Barister Anisul Islam Mahmud said, "Definitely the country should observe the assassination day of the father of the nation as National Mourning Day and a public holiday, as it used to be earlier."

"Hopes and aspirations of the masses have been reflected in the verdict of the High Court," he added. "The High Court has given the verdict considering national sentiment. We welcome it," Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon said.

Welcoming the verdict JSD Joint Secretary Shrin Akter demanded immediate execution of the court verdict against the killers of Bangabandhu. She said BNP, Jamaat and anti-liberation war forces, who opposed observing the day as National Mourning Day, must accept the truth that they could fool the people a few times through distorting the glorious history of the war of liberation, but they cannot keep on fooling the people forever."

Expressing deep gratitude to the HC for delivering the verdict, Gonatantri Party leader Nurul Islam said it is a shame that politicians of the country could not put the assassination day of the father of the nation in its appropriate place.

"The High Court through its verdict today has removed that shame. We are certainly welcoming it," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Meanwhile, leaders of AL's US chapter termed the verdict as 'a historic victory', according to a report of the US-based American News Agency.

Chief adviser

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The chief adviser said reforms have been made to give democracy a strong foundation.

On global warming, the British high commissioner said the UK would provide 50 million pounds to Bangladesh to address the adverse effects of climate change.

Maintaining that Bangladesh is the worst sufferer of climate change, Fakhruddin said the country can handle any natural disasters for the short term, but that it needs international assistance for mid- and long-term measures, especially when it comes to infrastructures and strong, permanent embankments.

He recalled his meeting with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown at a conference on climate change in London.

He said relation between Bangladesh and the UK is multifaceted and the two countries can work closely on economy, trade and counter-terrorism.

Bangladesh stands firmly against terrorism, he said, mentioning that the country has not seen a single bomb blast or a single bullet being fired in the last one and a half years.

The chief adviser said Bangladesh wants access to the UK market for its products. The UK is

the biggest bilateral donor of Bangladesh, after Japan.

Evans said the two-way flow of trade between the two countries continues to be good. Bangladesh community in the UK is contributing economically, culturally and politically.

Compared to other developing countries, he said Bangladesh is doing better on economic and social issues and its economic growth is impressive.

He said bilateral relations between Bangladesh and the UK continue to change for the better.

When informed that a British minister is likely to visit Bangladesh soon, the chief adviser said such high-level visits are an indication of good relations between the two countries.

He said Bangladesh is steadily doing well in economic growth. Despite various problems, the country met the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in gender parity in primary and secondary education and in women empowerment.

Fakhruddin hoped that Bangladesh would be a mid-income country in next 15 years.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim briefed reporters following the meeting.

Flood situation

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above at Chak Rahimpur, the bulletin said yesterday. It said the Arial Khan was flowing 8cm above the danger mark at Madaripur, the Surma 61cm above at Sunamganj and the Kongsha was flowing 70cm above its danger level at Jarijanail.

A correspondent in Gaibandha said the rising water level of the Jamuna, the Karotoa and the Ghagot deteriorated the flood situation in four upazilas of Gaibandha. The Jamuna and the Ghagot reached the danger level mark and inundated low-lying areas bursting their banks yesterday.

River erosion by the Jamuna worsened threatening 22 villages in Gaibandha Sadar, Shaghata and Fulchari upazilas, according to the Water Development Board (WDB).

Our Netrakona correspondent reports: The flood situation improved in areas close to the border with India like Durgapur and Kalmakanda. However, the flood situation in low-lying areas of Kalmakanda, Mohanganj, Kalijuri, Atpara and Madan upazilas deteriorated, Netrakona WDB sources said.

Kalijuri upazila Sadar, Jagannathpur and Boali union of Kalijuri upazila, Sukari union of Atpara upazila, Magan union of Mohanganj upazila and Nayekpur and Changaw union of Madan upazila are the new flood-affected areas.

The Kongsha, the Mogra and the Dhanu are flowing above their danger levels.

Road communications between Netrakona Sadar and Kalmakanda upazila Sadar and Durgapur upazila Sadar remain cut off since July 23.

India urges

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bomb, and was still littered with broken glass and charred debris and smeared with blood hours after the blast, an AFP correspondent witnessed.

An army commander, who asked not to be named, said that "anger could spread once the bodies are handed back to relatives for cremations, so the presence of the army will act as a major psychological deterrent to riots."

"The army has been called in as a precautionary measure and its personnel are conducting flag marches," additional police commissioner Mohan Jha told reporters.

All the bombs were detonated with timer devices and all went off in the space of 36 minutes, officials said. PTI put the latest toll at 45 dead and 162 injured.

"We should not allow anybody to make use of this blast to create more terror and to create more difficulties for the people," said India's Home Minister Shivraj Patil, also urging calm in Ahmedabad, the capital of Gujarat state.

The state's right-wing Hindu leader Narendra Modi, however, warned he would not spare the culprits.

"The land of Mahatma Gandhi has been bloodied by terrorists whom we shall not spare," said Modi, the firebrand chief minister of the state where India's independence hero was born.

"Terrorists are waging a war against India. We should be prepared for a long battle against terrorism."

Rahul Gandhi

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The 38-year-old member of Lok Sabha is also the son of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, the grandson of former Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi and the great-grandson of India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

A 10-member Special Protection Group is expected to reach Dhaka today ahead of Rahul's visit to work out security for the man viewed by many as a future leader of India.

Brac Public Affairs Director M Anwarul Haq confirmed the visit but said the visit's details were still being worked out.

Rahul is expected to visit several projects run by Brac and Grameen Bank. He has shown a keen interest in rural development while visiting a number of projects across India.

The young parliamentarian met Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus in Delhi in March last year and has already started some micro-finance and women-empowerment projects in his poverty-stricken Lok Sabha constituency of Amethi in Uttar Pradesh.

Sources close to Rahul said he would try to see if the Grameen Bank and Brac projects could be replicated in India.

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Gen Mohammad Jahangir Alam Chowdhury on behalf of Gen Moeen and Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pinak Ranjan Chakrabarty.

He will place wreaths at Shikha Anirban and Bijoy Ketan at the Dhaka Cantonment and visit the National Museum, Defence Services Command and Staff College.

The Indian army chief will also visit Liberation War Memorial sites in Comilla, Liberation War Field, war cemetery and the Bangladesh Military Academy in Chittagong.

He is expected to leave for India on August 1.

Top outlaw Dr Tutul

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claimed the police adding that after he was taken to Raninagar Health Complex, the doctors declared him dead.

Police seized two locally made firearms, 17 bullets, 7 gun cartridges, a rifle magazine, two knives, two machetes and a few sharp weapons from the scene.

Locals of Raninagar distributed sweets in celebration of Dr Tutul's death, said the police.

TUTUL'S MOTHER AT JHENIDAH PRESS CLUB

Our correspondent from Jhenidah reports: At around 8.30pm on Saturday, Tutul's mother Novera Khatun told journalists at Jhenidah Press Club that the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members had arrested Tutul from Uttara in the capital on Friday night.

In an appeal to the government she pleaded for the safety of her son claiming that although Tutul was involved with an underground party, he did not participate in any killing or extortion. Tutul dedicated his life to the underprivileged and he had even sold pieces of ancestral land for the cause, she mothers said.

Instead of killing Tutul in crossfire, she urged the government to put him on trial under the laws of the land if he committed any crime.

Earlier in the afternoon, the elderly woman went to the office of Jhenidah deputy commissioner to submit her plea to the government, but since the office had closed by then, she had to rush to the press club and make her request through the press, she told journalists.

A Bangladeshi national daily (Jugantor) on Saturday in a report said the Rab has arrested Tutul from Uttara. However, the Rab did not confirm the arrest.

TUTUL'S BACKGROUND
Born in 1959, Tutul completed his higher secondary education from Kotchandpur in 1977. He obtained MBBS degree from Rajshahi Medical College (RMC) in 1985.

He practised medicine at Sabaihat of Manda in Naogaon and in Rajshahi town for a year alongside his government job at RMC Hospital.

Tutul, a former member of Chhatra Moitree (student wing of Workers Party), became active in BPCP activities during his studies at RMC after he made his acquaintance with BPCP leader Mofakkar Chowdhury who was subsequently killed.

He went underground in 1986 and became a fulltime activist of BPCP.

In the mid 90s, Tutul developed rivalry with his guru Mofakkar Chowdhury.

In 1997, Tutul and Quamrul Islam Mastar, two dissident followers of Mofakkar-led BPCP, formed a faction named BPCP Lal Pataka (red flag).

Mofakkar's faction was called BPCP Janojuddho and he led the faction until his death in crossfire in December 2004. Abdur Rashid Malitha Tapan, who took over Janojuddho, was also killed in crossfire recently.

Quamrul, the co-founder of Lal Pataka, was also killed in crossfire in August 2006 and Tutul had been leading the faction ever since.

CROSSFIRE IN NATORE
A correspondent from Natore adds: Ansar Ali, activist of an outlawed party and a suspect in the Bamihai police killing and arms looting case, was killed in a shootout between

Saarc meeting

FROM PAGE 16
Programming Committee from Indian joint secretary Keya Battacharya, the official told IANS.

The Sunday meeting of the officials will be followed by a meeting of the council of ministers July 31 and Aug 1.

Heads of state and government from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will gather at the Bandaranaika Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) Aug 2-3 to thrash out agreements on various regional issues, mainly in the spheres of trade, education, cultural and tourism.

The government has deployed 19,000 additional security personnel to provide security cover for visiting leaders and their delegations in the capital of 650,000 people.

The hotels where the VIPs