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Road crashes kill 41 during Eid holidays

STAR REPORT

At least 41 people were killed and 54 others injured in separate road accidents in 11 districts and the capital during Eid holidays.

Of them, eight were killed in Bogra, seven in Dhaka, five in Khagrachhari, four in Sirajganj, three each in Jamalpur, Barisal and Satkhira, two each in Thakurgaon and Rangpur, and one each in Jessore, Gaibandha, Narail and Brahmanbaria.

Our correspondent in Bogra reports: Eight people including three children were killed while three others injured in two separate road accidents in the district

in last three days.

The deceased were identified as microbus driver Omar Faruq, 35, China Begum, 40, Russel, 10, Jaheed, 10, Rofiqul, 4, Bulbuli, 38, and Jahura, 35. The injured were rushed to hospital.

Police said the accident took place yesterday while a microbus carrying a ten-member bridal party from Ghoraghat of Dinajpur reached Dhunot of Bogra, collided with a Dhaka-bound mini bus coming from opposite direction leaving three children and three women dead on the spot.

Another succumbed to his injury on the way to Gaibandha hospital.

In another accident, a youth Rubel was killed in a head-on collision between two

motorbikes at Dhunot on Monday morning.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent adds: At least five indigenous women were killed and 27 others injured in a road accident on Monday on Khagrachhari-Chittagong Highway at Alutilla area in Khagrachhari sadar upazila.

The dead were identified as Tulshi Marma, 22, daughter of Mnikka Marma of Pnchihari upazila in the district, Jita Rani Chakma, 19, and Shanti Rani, 17 both are daughters of Chandra Lal Chakma of Baal Khali village, Mijree Chakma, 18 of Pablakhali and Minaki Chakma of Dighinala upazila in the district.

Jamaat Ameer Motiur

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POLLS MANIFESTO Jamaat pledges blasphemy law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday said it would initiate enactment of 'blasphemy law' to prevent anti-religious publicities or criticism of religion in books, newspapers or electronic media and punish those responsible, if the BNP-led four-party alliance is voted to power.

Jamaat, a key component of the four-party combine, in its election manifesto said it would strengthen the liberation war ministry and the Freedom Fighters Welfare Trust and increase allowances for the freedom fighters' families.

Jamaat Ameer Motiur

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Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina at the shrine of Hazrat Burhanuddin Shah (RA) in Sylhet after offering special prayers there. Story on page-1.



The "Banglar Taj Mahal" at Sonargaon in Narayanganj attracts huge crowd yesterday as people enjoying Eid holidays throng to see the under-construction replica of Taj Mahal. The around Tk 400-crore project undertaken at private initiative also includes four movie theatres, a swimming pool, children's park and a motel.

World ministers gather in Poland for 'green future'

PINAKI ROY from Poznan, Poland

The ministerial high segment of the UN climate change summit started yesterday with the hope that all nations would go together for a green future.

Today is the last day of the Poznan conference, which was termed the "halfway mark" of the Copenhagen deal in 2009. So far, no concrete decision was made about way forward to deal with climate change in coming future.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Poland President Lech Kaczynski, Guyana President Bharat Jagdeo, Tuvalu Prime Minister Apisai Lelemia, Sweden Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt and UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo De Boer spoke at the ministerial talks chaired by Conference of Party (COP) President Prof Nowicki.

Raja Devasish Roy, special assistant to the chief adviser for environment and forest ministry, was present at the occasion as the head of the Bangladesh delegation. He is going to present Bangladesh's position about climate change at the shared vision meeting today.

The UN secretary general in his speech said the world's poorest should not suffer first and worst from a problem they did least to create. The nations need to sketch out the critical elements in a long-term vision, he added.

"We need a basic framework for cooperative action starting today, not in 2012. Within this framework, industrialised countries must set ambitious long-term goals, coupled with mid-term emission reduction targets," he said.

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All-party, fair polls can return Bangladesh to civilian rule

Says International Crisis Group

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh's December 29 election will not return the country to civilian rule unless those with a stake in the vote--including the international community--ensure all registered parties contest credible, peaceful polls, says the International Crisis Group.

In a latest analysis on Bangladesh election, the Brussels-based group says the vote and an end to emergency

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

POLLS MANIFESTO JP pledges 8 provinces

UNB, Dhaka

Jatiya Party (JP) yesterday promised to establish a terrorism, corruption and misuse-free society if voted to power.

Releasing a 12-page election manifesto at Hotel Sundarban in the capital, party chief HM Ershad expressed his determination to form the next government.

Under its administrative reform agenda, JP pledged to divide the country into eight provinces having provincial assembly and provincial cabinet.

Ershad said at least 50 percent head offices in the capital will be relocated to elsewhere in the country if his

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

LDP to contest separately

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Col (retd) Oli Ahmed yesterday said the party will contest the upcoming parliamentary election separately.

"We have decided to contest the election alone, not as a component of any alliance," he told a press conference at the party office in the capital's Moghbazar.

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Khoka can contest JS election

SC stays HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) has stayed for six weeks the High Court (HC) verdict prohibiting Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka from contesting the upcoming parliamentary election.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice Md Joyrul Abedin also asked Khoka to file a regular leave to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

POLLS COVERAGE State media asked to be objective

BSS, Dhaka

The government has asked Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television to give equitable and objective coverage to the election campaign of political parties and alliances.

The Ministry of Information has already given a guideline to both the state-run media for the election coverage of political parties registered with the Election Commission (EC), an official handout said.

The guideline to be effective from December 12 would

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ACC okays charge sheet against Huda

AKM Jahangir, ex-chief engineer of RHD also to be charged for graft

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will press charges against detained former communications minister Nazmul Huda and former chief engineer of Roads and Highways Department ARM Anwar Hossain in a corruption case.

ACC Director General (admin) Col Hanif Iqbal told journalists at a regular briefing yesterday that the commission has approved the submission of charge sheet in the graft case filed against the two.

He said the ACC has also approved the submission of charge sheets in eight graft cases filed against 18 other people, including former state minister and Awami League leader AKM Jahangir Hussain, former ambassador Nazim Ullah Chowdhury and incumbent joint-secretary (OSD) Rafiqul-e-Mohammad.

Barrister Huda and Anwar will be chargedheeted for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

BNP will accept results if polls are free, fair

Says Delwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If the December 29 elections are held in a free and fair manner, BNP would accept the results whatever it may be, said BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday.

He made the remark talking to reporters at his NAM flat in the capital.

"We should avoid the culture of rejecting election results," Delwar said, adding, "We should accept the people's verdict."

He urged all concerned with the elections to do their jobs impartially so that the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

War no solution against Pakistan, says India

Delhi has not handed Mumbai evidence, says Islamabad; two top Lashkar members held

AFP, New Delhi Islamabad

India yesterday ruled out military action against Pakistan following the carnage in Mumbai, but described its neighbour as the "epicentre" of the attacks.

"That is not the solution," foreign minister Pranab Mukherjee responded when a member of parliament said India should attack Pakistan in the wake of the militant strikes.

"The controllers of Mumbai attacks were in Pakistan," he said, adding that there was "irrefutable proof of the epicentre of this attack and not only this one but many more are in our neighbouring country."

However, Mukherjee said India expected decisive action from Pakistan to crack down on militants operating on its soil and added India had given Islamabad a list of 40 suspects it wanted handed over.

"We have given them lists of 40 persons, not one, not 20 -- lists of 40 persons and we have also pointed out that their denial is not going to resolve the issue," he said.

He said the 40 had been "indulging in terrorist activities" and other crimes and have been "taking shelter" in Pakistan.

The list of 40 is believed to include Dawood Ibrahim, an Indian underworld boss wanted

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

New CEO for Banglalink

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Ahmed Abou Doma will take over in January as the new chief executive officer (CEO) of the country's second largest mobile phone operator Banglalink.

He has been working as the marketing director of Egyptian cellphone company Mobinil since 2003.

Prayer Timing

December 12

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Juma	12-15	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Tamil rebels kill 90 Lankan soldiers

27 rebels also slain in fighting

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers say they have killed at least 90 government soldiers while beating back an army advance towards their northern political capital, a pro-rebel website said yesterday.

Heavy fighting outside the town of Kilinochchi, the political headquarters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), left more than 60 soldiers killed and scores wounded, Tamilnet.com quoted the rebels as saying following this week's clashes.

The rebels also fought heavy battles on another front south of Kilinochchi on Wednesday, killing 29 soldiers and injuring at least 60, the website said. The LTTE did not release its own casualty figures.

It is virtually impossible to verify casualty claims by either side as independent reporters and aid workers are banned from the north.

Sri Lanka's defence ministry, however, said that 27 guerrillas and 20 soldiers were killed in "pitched" battles in the past two days as troops kept up an offensive in Kilinochchi.

Airforce helicopter gunships carried out air raids on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Dhaka still in holiday mood

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The city maintained its festive as well as deserted look yesterday, the first workday after Eid holidays.

Traffic movement was very thin on all the major roads and important points in the city. On the other hand, all the parks, amusement centres, zoo, cinemas and other recreational spots remained over crowded.

Attendance of employees in most of the government and non-government offices was very poor, while shutters of almost all business establishments were down.

Transaction in the banks was much lower than usual, said Shahidul Huq, manager

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Shapla Chattar intersection in the heart of downtown Dhaka is almost deserted yesterday as the city as always is slow to gather pace after Eid holidays.