

**Did you know?** The Incheon Bridge is a newly-constructed bridge in South Korea. The 21.38 km (13.3 miles) long highway project consisted of government-built sections at three ends and a 12.34 km (7.7 miles) section in the middle build the bridge section is 18,384 m (60,315 ft) long.



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# CANCELLED LICENCE NGO pulls strings, govt to revoke it

**ALPHA ARZU**

Under pressure from various lobbies, the government is set to return the licence of Bangladesh Centre for Workers Solidarity (BCWS), a non-government organisation (NGO) working for labour rights.

The government cancelled the licence of BCWS in June this year for "instigating workers' unrest" at a number of garment factories in Narayanganj, Savar, Gazipur and Ashulia.

The NGO Affairs Bureau (Ngoab) is also considering renewing licences of 17 other foreign funded NGOs that have lost licences for various irregularities including misuse of funds.

Of some 465 NGOs whose licences were revoked in the last eight months on different grounds, the BCWS led by labour leaders Kalpana Akter and Babul Akter has weighed in a mounting pressure on the government.

The government has received scores of

letters, e-mails and requests from donor countries including the USA to return the licence of BCWS. They claimed that BCWS is not involved in any subversive activities but establishing labour rights in garment sectors.

"We've already submitted the review petition to the bureau for its consideration, and hope to get back the licence soon," Kalpana Akter, general secretary and executive director of BCWS, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The review petition of the BCWS is now being scrutinised at the Prime Minister's Office that might return the licence next week, said a high official of Ngoab in return for anonymity.

Earlier this year, while investigating into the causes of unrest in the garment sector, the Ngoab and intelligence agencies found BCWS's involvement in the labour unrest and discovered that BCWS has no permission to work on labour rights.

It obtained licence in 2004 to run child-care

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 3**



An every day view of the district town Bogra that has been plagued by traffic jam for long. For the congestion police blame 20,000 illegal rickshaws and occupiers of footpaths. The municipality on the other hand shifts the responsibility to the law enforcers, pointing their failure to take proper steps. The blame game continues for years providing no solution to the problem.

**PHOTO: HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU**

# Ansar meant for abuse?

**EMRAN HOSSAIN**

Hamidur Rahman (not his real name) holds the stick as if he was holding a rifle and herds the cattle towards a nearby field for grazing. The stick mocks his pretensions to becoming a soldier as he leads the flock silently with his head bowed.

Hamid is not a shepherd but an "unfortunate" assistant platoon commander of ansar, the rights-denied security force. Despite his designation and skills in arms operation, he is routinely sent to herd domestic animals.

He is one of the 6,656 regular person-

nel from Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party (BAVDP) who were sent to the Hill Tracts to assist the counter insurgency drives. Almost everyone has to do odd jobs starting from kitchen to toilet routinely every day in addition to the drive.

"When I joined ansar I thought I would perform my duty like any personnel from other security forces -- police, border guards or army. I thought I would command my own camp," Hamid told The Daily Star.

"But we ended up herding domestic animals or collecting firewood or fetching

water. All of us have to perform the odd jobs by turns and even our platoon commanders are not spared. With regards to security we are unrecognised and ultimately end up becoming servants," he said out of deep frustration.

What is happening to Hamid and others is nothing unique. Most of the total 19,634 ansars except for around 1,500 officers and administrative post holders have to undergo the same experience in different ways.

"You are ansars; you are created as an auxiliary force. The government sent you

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 4**

# NO CLEARANCE 2 ship-breaking yards sued

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Department of Environment (DoE) sued two ship-breaking yards at coastal belt of Sitakunda upazila, Chittagong yesterday for dismantling ships without DoE clearance and polluting environment.

DoE investigator Saiful Ashraf filed the cases against -- Mak International and MM

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 2**

# Floods damage 15pc aman rice

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Officials forecast

Around 18,000 thousand tonnes of aman rice might be damaged in the floods that have submerged 53,000 hectares of cropland in 12 districts.

About 1.20 lakh tonnes of rice could be produced on the transplanted and broadcast aman fields now under flood waters. About 15 percent of the possible yield will be damaged, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) officials said yesterday.

They however said the damage will not have any significant negative impact on the country's total agricultural production.

Nazrul Islam, director of Agriculture Information Services, said, "We have a target of producing around 1.20 crore tonnes of rice during this transplanted aman season (June-September). We have nearly reached the target. We will certainly be able to recover the flood damage through fresh cultivation soon after recession of flood waters."

Contacted yesterday, Nazrul also said the DAE has a huge quantity of aman seeds in stock. These will be distributed among the affected farmers timely.

Meanwhile, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said the situation in most of the flood-hit districts further improved yesterday but deteriorated in two.

The situation in Sylhet and Moulavibazar will further deteriorate today.

A bulletin issued by the FFWC said water level was above the danger level at eight observation points out of the 73 across the country, and it was near the red mark at 26 points.

The Kushiya was flowing 140 cm above the red mark at

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 7**

# Posts of BDR jawans halved

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Border guards bill placed in JS

The proposed new law for border force halved the number of posts for jawans, but increased the number of posts for officers to seven from the existing five.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday placed a bill in parliament, seeking to introduce the new law renaming the

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 4**



SHAME EXPOSED: Activists of Awami League and BNP clash at the JFK airport in New York yesterday immediately after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has left the place.

**PHOTO: ENA**

# Comedy at JFK airport

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

AL, BNP men clash on Hasina's arrival, hug each other in cops' presence

Activists of Awami League (AL) and BNP clashed at JFK airport in New York yesterday immediately after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina left the place, reported international news agency Ena.

Sheikh Hasina, also AL chief, reached the USA yesterday afternoon with a huge delegation to attend the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Several hundred activists of AL and its front organisations in the USA thronged the airport to welcome their leader.

When the car carrying the premier left the airport, the activists began shouting out

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 6**

# AL activist shot dead in city

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Criminals shot dead an Awami League activist last night at his East Golapbagh residence in Jatrabari of the capital.

A gang of four to five armed men stormed the house of Abbas Al Mamun, 40, and fired five shots at him in presence of his wife and mother at about 10:00pm, said Hasina Begum, sister of the victim.

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 1**

## আইনগত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আমার মোয়াজ্জেল এ.জে. কর্পোরেশন লিঃ, ঠিকানা- ডিওএইচএস বারিধারা, ঢাকা এর পক্ষে চেয়ারম্যান, জনাব তৌহিদুল ইসলাম চৌধুরী নিম্ন তফসিল বর্ণিত সম্পত্তি ক্রয় করিবার জন্য সম্পত্তির প্রকৃত মালিক মোহাম্মদ আলী আকবর খান, পিতা- মরহুম কাজীমদ্দিন খান, মিসেস হাসিনা বেগম, স্বামী- মোহাম্মদ আলী আকবর খান, ঠিকানা-গ্রামঃ নোয়াগাঁও, পোঃ রাজেন্দ্রপুর, থানাঃ শ্রীপুর, জেলাঃ গাজীপুর এবং মোঃ গিয়াসউদ্দিন (কাজল), পিতা- আলহাজ্ব মোঃ আবুল বাসার ভূঁইয়া, ঠিকানা- খ-২০৮/১ প্রগতি স্বরনী, থানাঃ মধ্য বাড্ডা, ঢাকা এর সঙ্গে আমার একটি বায়নাপত্রে আবদ্ধ হতে যাচ্ছি। যদি কোন ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিম্ন তফসিল বর্ণিত সম্পত্তিতে কোন আপত্তি বা দাবী দাওয়া থাকে তাহলে অত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারীর নিকট বৈধ কাগজপত্র সহ নথি উপস্থাপন করার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা হল। উক্ত ৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে যদি কোন আপত্তি বা দাবী দাওয়া উপস্থাপিত না হয় তাহলে তফসিল বর্ণিত সম্পত্তি নিশ্চিন্তক বলে গণ্য হবে এবং পরবর্তীতে এতদ্বসক্রেতা যাবতীয় দাবী দাওয়া আইনতঃ অগ্রাহ্য হবে।

**সম্পত্তির তফসিল**

জেলা: ঢাকা, থানা: বাড্ডা, সাব-রেজিস্ট্রি অফিস গুলশান, মৌজা: বাড্ডা, তোজি নং- ৬১, জেএল নং- সিএস-২৯১ আরএস-৩৮, ঢাকা সিটি জরীপ- ২২, সিএস খতিয়ান নং-৩০১, ৩৬১ এবং ৩৬২, এসএ খতিয়ান নং-৩, সিএস ও এসএ দাগ নং-১০১২, ১০৩৪, ১০৩৭ এবং ১০৪৮, আরএস খতিয়ান নং-৩০০৬ এবং ২৭৮১, আরএস দাগ নং- ২০৬১, ২০৬২, ২০৬৪, ২০৬৫ এবং ২০৬৬, ঢাকা সিটি জরীপ খতিয়ান নং- ১৪৫৩১, ৭২৪৯, ৩৫০৯ এবং ৩৭৩৪, ঢাকা সিটি জরীপ দাগ নং- ১৪৩২২, ১৪৩২৪, ১৪৩১৫, ১৪৩২০ এবং ১৪৩২১ নামজারী খতিয়ান নং-৩/১২৩/কাত, ৩/কাত ২৭৮১ এবং ৩০০৬, জোত নং-১১/৫১, ৫১/৫৪, ১৬৩/১ এবং ৯৪/১০ সম্পত্তির পরিমাণ ১২.৩ কাঠা, যাহার চৌহদ্দি উত্তরে: মহিউদ্দিন গং; দক্ষিণে জাহানারা বেগম; পূর্বে: প্রগতি স্বরনী এবং পশ্চিমে: রওশন- আরা বেগম।

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"ল-ম্যাট্রিক, ইস্টার্ন ম্যানশন, রুম নং-৬/৭ (৭ম তলা)  
৬৭/৯, পাইলটনিয়ার রোড, কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 8**

# Indian train crash kills 22

**AFP, Bhopal**

Twenty-two people were killed and dozens more injured when two trains collided in central India yesterday, officials said, in the latest fatal smash on the country's vast rail network.

The crash occurred in the Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh, some 350 kilometres (220 miles) from state capital Bhopal, when a goods train smashed into a passenger train waiting at a station in heavy, early morning rain.

"So far we have extricated 20 bodies from the train and are tackling one carriage where two bodies are visible," area railways chief Ghanshyam Singh told AFP from the scene of the accident in Badarwas station.

A railway spokesman in Bhopal, KK Dubey, said 50 people were injured, of which 18 had been taken to hospital.

Television pictures showed several badly damaged carriages, one of which had been lifted up off the tracks by the force of the collision. One rescuer was seen cutting into the mangled steel with a blowtorch.

India's Railway Minister Mamata Banerjee described the crash as "most unfortunate" as she announced compensation for the families of those who lost their lives and the injured.

An investigation will be held into how the crash happened, with the preliminary report due within two weeks, the government said, amid initial indications that the goods train overshot a signal.

Singh told the domestic Press Trust of India news agency that railway police had been asked to look for staff from the Badarwas station who had gone missing after the incident.

**SEE PAGE 15 COL 8**

**OnlinePoll** ✓

Do you think drawing allowances without attending any JS sessions shows opposition's disrespect to the people of the constituencies they represent?

Yes (48.4%)  
 No (51.4%)  
 No Comments (0.2%)

**Total votes: 2278**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think it is possible to completely stop the use of polybags?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

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**Prayer Timing**

September 21

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-05	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

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