

# Tk 23cr loss

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Bangladesh Railway's zone west authorities made the primary estimate of the losses. The service was so popular for its cheaper fares that the train used to be 100 percent occupied daily on its way to Dhaka from Dinajpur in mornings, and used to have 68 percent occupancy on its way back at nights, said Abdul Awal Bhuiyan, chief commercial manager of the railway's zone west.

The service was introduced in 2005 responding to local demands, and had the official capacity of transporting 529 passengers during days, and 514 during nights due to conversion of some seats into sleeper berths in air-conditioned coaches.

"We primarily assessed if the burnt coaches are found repairable then the loss will stand at twenty three crore taka at least as all eleven coaches were burnt, which were costly and nicely decorated," said Anhar Mahmud, general manager of the zone.

"If the coaches are not found at repairable state then the loss might be around thirty four crore taka, as the market prices for each of those ranges between three crore taka, and three and a half crore taka."

He added that the engine of the train was found repairable but will cost Tk 30 lakh to Tk 40 lakh.

"The steel structures of coaches were badly deformed due to the heat from the fire and we need to examine those at Sayedpur railway workshop to determine whether they are repairable," Anhar said.

The primary assessment was made after the zonal railway chief along with a five-member investigation committee of the railway formed under the leadership of Zonal Chief Engineer M. Amjad Hossain visited the place of accident yesterday morning, Anhar added.

The team was asked to submit a report in three days after properly identifying the

# Impasse

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Earlier, workers under the banner of the federation resisted scheduled start of container handling at the GCBs by the newly appointed private berth operators on Friday afternoon to press home their demands.

The demands include immediate recruitment of scrutinised workers according to an agreement signed between the CPA and workers' representatives earlier, issuance of identity cards to the workers and introduction of labour department under the CPA's Traffic Department.

On the CPA's assurance of meeting the demands, the federation leaders announced on Monday evening that the workers' agitation would stop. But the workers termed the leaders betrayers, and stopped activities at all the 12 GCB jetties around 9:00pm.

Sources said the federation leaders have failed to persuade the workers to join work.

# Tougher stance

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Technology Invention category.

Later, the PM formally launched a campaign for electing the Sundarbans to the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.

She has called upon all to vote for Sundarbans, the world's biggest mangrove forest, to include this "Natural Unique Creation" in the seven natural wonders of the world.

The Sundarbans have attracted the attention of the world for its unique natural and wonderful beauty, she said.

"This mangrove forest gets elected into the world's seven natural wonders, it will ultimately bring extraordinary laurels for Bangladesh, she added.

The premier asked the Department of Environment (DoE) to take stern action against those industries, which haven't installed effluent treatment plants (ETPs) yet.

"The degradation of the environment will not be tolerated for a person or quarter," she said.

The government has made it mandatory for all industries to install ETPs to avert environmental pollution, she added.

Hasina noted that at present only the divisional headquarters have the office of DoE. "Within a short time we will open DoE office in 21 districts and gradually it will expand to all districts," she said.

The government has always been sincere in conserving natural beauty and resources like forests, hills, rivers and waterlands, she said.

Bangladesh is one of the worst victims of climate change, she mentioned.

causes of the accident, the persons responsible, and after assessing accurately the losses, he said.

Other members of the probe team are Chief Commercial Manager Abdul Awal Bhuiyan, Chief Mechanical Engineer Dulal Kumar Roy, Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer Anwarul Haque, and Acting Chief Medical Officer Dr Mokhlesur Rahman, all of whom are of the zone west.

M Amjad Hossain said in the primary investigation they did not find any railway staff's culpability in the accident.

"The railway was not informed about the rally, and sudden unexpected presence of people on the tracks was mainly the cause of the accident," he said adding, "We need time to talk to witnesses and examine evidence before reaching a conclusion."

He said, "Trains have no mechanism for making sudden stops unless anyone informs the driver beforehand about the need for it, or of any obstacle on the railway tracks. In cases of such prior information or bad weather, the trains are usually run with constant watch over the tracks."

"The rally organisers did not inform the railway of any possible obstacle on the tracks beforehand," he noted adding that three trains were scheduled to pass through the spot between 3:00pm and 6:00pm on Monday.

The train was running at 62 kilometres per hour at the time of the accident, and at that speed a train needs at least 440 yards to come to a stop, so the driver needs to be made aware beforehand, he said.

# RIVER POLLUTION

# 3 factories fined in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined three dyeing factories Tk 24.17 lakh for draining untreated liquid waste into Karnaphuli River in Chittagong.

The factories are Arina Composite and Spinning Mills, NFZ Terry Textile Limited at West Gomdandy and Desh Denim Limited at Shakpara in Boalkhali upazila.

A DoE team led by Director (enforcement) Munir Chowdhury fined the industries for polluting the river and adjacent water bodies by discharging toxic liquid despite having Effluent Treatment Plants (ETP) but not maintaining them properly.

Of the industries, NFZ Terry Textile was fined Tk 14.88 lakh, Desh Denim Limited Tk 6.41 lakh and Arina Composite and Spinning Mills Limited Tk 2.88 lakh, Munir said.

The DoE may disconnect gas, electricity and water supply, even take harsher legal actions, he warned, unless the factories stop polluting the river and repair the impaired ETPs immediately complying with the environmental regulations.

She regretted that the country's huge coastal lands have been inundated by saline water, seriously hampering agricultural activity there.

She also said population growth, indiscriminate harnessing of natural resources, earth filling, reduced navigability, and usage of pesticides and chemical fertilisers are also pushing bio-diversity to the brink.

She underscored attaching importance to the conservation of the environment and bio-diversity for sustainable national development.

The premier also directed the authorities concerned to implement necessary acts and regulations along with increasing awareness among the people about preservation of the environment and bio-diversity.

Hasina said her government has plans to build up eco tourism centring the Sundarbans, which will contribute to the national economy creating job opportunities for Bangladeshis and attracting tourists from both home and abroad.

The government has already formulated Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009 and a Climate Change Trust Fund allocating 700 crore taka to face the challenges of global warming, she said.

Besides, the government has also taken up plans to build up forests in twenty percent of the country's total land by 2015 along with enhancing capacities of saving coastal lands from tidal surge and cyclone.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud, among others, spoke on the occasion.

# Turag tragedy

**FROM PAGE 1**  
accident died later at a clinic in Savar.

The rescuers worked two cargo vessels and five tow trucks to drag the vehicle onto the riverbank near Salehpur Bazar bridge on the outskirts of the capital.

It took them 29 hours since the bus was first located under water around noon the previous day.

For a huge crowd of onlookers and a tow truck occupying the width of the Dhaka-Aricha highway, tailbacks formed on either side of the bridge.

vehicular movement remained suspended for two hours till 6:00pm.

As the rescue operation was wrapped up at 10:30pm, the families of the missing passengers began despairing of ever finding their loved ones.

While some of them kept scouring the river by small boats, others stared blankly at the water.

Savar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Rabbi Miah, however, told The Daily Star that several boats would be there to continue the search.

Eight of the nine bodies retrieved yesterday were identified to be of Omar Faruk, 50, of Savar, Ariful Islam, 20, a second-semester student of political science at Asian University, Masud Ahmed, an official of furniture maker Otobi Ltd, Khorshed Alam, a private firm employee of Savar, Mujibur Rahman, 60, a retired bank officer of Savar, Anwar Hossain, 60, of Rampura, Momin Mia, 25, a garment worker of Rampura and Prasanta Bhoumik, 55, of Malibagh in Dhaka city.

Identity of the other one, a woman, could not be known. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue last night, said police.

Meanwhile, the authorities have yet to prepare a list of the missing persons.

UNO Rabbi could not give an approximate number of those missing. He said some bodies might have been swept far away by the strong current in the river.

Survivors of the accident say the bus was carrying at least 50 people.

Magistrate Mohammad Al Amin told The Daily Star that the rescuers began the search afresh at around 9:30am.

In three phases, they recovered eight bodies from the river seven kms downstream off the accident site.

Over loudspeakers, they urged the locals to contact them as soon as they trace a body.

Several hundred people including relatives of the victims and the missing ones lined the riverbanks. Many tried to reach the spot where the bus was stuck in a hole under water.

Victim Mujibur Rahman's son said the coastguards recovered his father's body from Basilara around 2:00pm.

An air of gloom hung over the riverbanks throughout the day. Whenever the divers pulled out a body, the relatives began weeping for their dear ones.

While handing over the bodies, Magistrate Al Amin gave Tk 10,000 to each of the victims' families.

# Natore murder

**FROM PAGE 1**  
told The Daily Star at her house yesterday.

She alleged that the killers are in contact with the police and thus have been able to avoid arrest. "All of them are known figures and moved with police in Bonpara after the incident. It is hard to believe that police now cannot find them out," she regretted.

She accused Bonpara police camp Sub-Inspector (SI) Lutfur Rahman of constantly providing information to the killers about the raids. She demanded his immediate withdrawal from Bonpara.

Police so far arrested only one attacker, Russell Hossain Rappu, a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist of Baraigram upazila unit. He is now in jail.

DB Sub-Inspector Md Abdul Hannan said his teams are making drives in different places of Natore to nab the killers.

"We raided several houses and a godown last night but the culprits managed to flee," Hannan said yesterday.

Meanwhile, the district administration at a law and order meeting yesterday adopted a condolence motion on the death of Babu, who was also president of Bonpara Paura unit BNP.

Chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (general) of Natore, Sultan Abdul Hamid, the meeting decided to carry out an inquiry into the police role when Babu was brutally beaten to death on Friday.

Additional Superintendent of Police in Natore, Nasirul Islam sought cooperation from all and requested to inform police about the hideouts of the killers.

More than 100 Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League activists attacked a BNP procession with lethal weapons at Bonpara bazar on Friday, killing Babu and badly injuring 20 others, including four journalists.

The law enforcers remained unmoved at the site during the attack. They did not also take any step to prevent the attack, although the ruling party men gathered there in the morning and were prepared to attack the procession, witnesses alleged.

Mahua Noor Kochi filed a murder case with Baraigram Police Station accusing 27 persons by name and some 20 unnamed.

# War crimes trial

**FROM PAGE 16**  
[Sayeede] remains sick, even then he must be produced before this Tribunal by an ambulance along with stretcher if necessary," the tribunal, comprised of its Chairman Justice Nizamul Huq, Justice ATM Fazle Kabir and Justice AKM Zaheer Ahmed, said in the order.

The court also fixed the day for hearing on two petitions -- one filed by the prosecution on July 21 for showing Sayeede arrested in connection with the allegation of crimes against humanity in 1971 and another by Sayeede on August 2 for not issuing the arrest warrant.

Earlier on September 22, the tribunal directed the jail authorities to produce Sayeede before it yesterday for the allegations against him. But it deferred the date as the jail authorities said Sayeede was ill and not physically fit to be produced before it.

The prosecutors and defence lawyers were present at the court.

# JAMAAT DEFIES SICK REPORT

However, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday, at a press conference held at its central office at capital's Moghbazar,

# Train accident

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Bridge in the district.

Briefing the reporters at the party's Dhanmondi office, Hanif came down hard on the opposition for arranging the rally on a ground some 15 yards from the rail track without taking permission from the authorities.

"The mystery is that the BNP supporters didn't come down from the rail track despite repeated request by the law-enforcers led by a magistrate.

"Our question, therefore, is on whose directive people gathered on the track and didn't come down from there?" he asked.

Reading out a written statement, he also criticised the opposition for setting fire to the train, which is a state property.

"By setting fire to the train and looting valuables of passengers, BNP has once again proved that it believes in violent politics."

Hanif, also a special assistant to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said BNP chairperson Khaleida Zia is trying to push the country into an unconsti-

# Long wait

**FROM PAGE 16**  
feeble voice.

Hazera Khatun, her daughter, remains missing since the bus plunged into the Turag river on Sunday.

Tahura reached the riverbank around 4:00pm on Sunday and went home after nightfall and arrived the next day when it was still dark.

Leaving after sunset on Monday, she turned up again at the scene before dawn yesterday.

This correspondent found her trying to go down to an army camp set up there hearing an unidentified body of a woman was found around 2:00pm.

There she collapsed with agonising pain. The very body that lay in front of her was not that of her daughter's. She howls again as she pats on her forehead.

Tohura does not know when she will see her daughter again -- dead or alive.

Hazera became the lone breadwinner in the family after her father died some 15 years ago, a sobbing Tohura told this correspondent.

Tohura is not the only one to be waiting for missing dear ones by Turag that swallowed a whole Savar-bound bus with some 50 passengers on board.

The Daily Star found members of at least 10 such families

# Chile awaits start of mine rescue

**BBC ONLINE**

The first man to be freed from the San Jose mine in northern Chile is expected to reach the surface later on Tuesday, Mining Minister Laurence Golborne says.

He said the rescue operation could begin in the "last quarter of the day" (from 2100 GMT), once final safety tests had been carried out.

These included testing the capsule and the winching system that would bring the miners up one by one, he said.

Thirty-three men were trapped in the mine by a tunnel collapse on 5 August.

alleged that its leader Delwar Hossain Sayeede was not too sick to appear before the tribunal.

The Islamist party claimed that as the investigating agency of the tribunal did not get any proof in support of committing war crimes against Sayeede, so he was not produced before the tribunal.

"Earlier on September 22, he [Sayeede] was not produced before the tribunal on the same pretext of illness. It, therefore, clearly proves that allegation of committing war crimes against Sayeede is absolutely false," said ATM Azharul Islam, party's acting secretary general.

Azharul, however, also said Sayeede fell sick due to physical and mental torture on him during the long remand period.

Jammatt claimed Sayeede did not serve as a member of Rajakar, Al-Badr or Al-Shams -- three auxiliary forces of the Pakistani occupation army in 1971.

The party declared a two-day long agitation programme including rally at all city and district headquarters tomorrow and at all upazila centers on October 15.

tutional state by "ousting the present government."

The BNP chief at the Sirajganj rally called on the rally goers to prepare for movement to oust the current government, which she said is autocratic.

"It's frustrating that a two times' prime minister doesn't know that a train runs on its own track," the AL leader said rejecting Khaleida's claim that the government orchestrated the accident to foil the rally.

AL publicity and publication secretary Nuh-ul Alam said the BNP did not take permission from the Bangabandhu Bridge authorities to hold the rally.

Asked why local administration allowed holding of the rally just beside the bridge, Alam said had the BNP not been allowed, the party would then create an issue saying the government was obstructing the opposition's programmes.

Central AL leaders including AFM Bahauddin Nasim, Ahmed Hossain, Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, Mrinal Kanti Das and Abdul Mannan Khan were present at the briefing.

waiting for their loved ones.

Locals said many family members of missing persons did not wait for the rescuers to find their dear ones -- they rather continued searching for themselves along the riverbank.

Of the total 11 bodies recovered so far, eight bodies were recovered yesterday from downstream around seven kilometres off the accident spot.

Another woman was waiting with her two minor kids on the riverbank for her relative Mamun-or-Rashid, 35, of Savar. Mamun has gone missing since the tragic accident.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Rabbi Miah told The Daily Star that high tide might have drove away some bodies from the sunken bus. The search will go on, he said.

# ACC bans

**FROM PAGE 16**  
from harassment and cheating," said ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman.

During investigation, an ACC official normally uses phone to make appointment with suspects or to communicate with them for their interview regarding a complaint.

"From now on, all communications regarding an investigation must be done in writing," said a press release issued by the commission.

Suspension of two ACC constables on charges of cheating a number of people using cellphones in early August this year, and involvement of some dishonest insiders in such fraudulent activities, prompted the ACC to take such preventive measures.

The ACC sued constables Faruk Ahmed and Khasru Zahab both of whom stationed at ACC headquarters, and handed them over to police on charges of making phone calls to different people asking to submit their wealth statement.

Several SIM cards and fake ACC notices were also recovered from their possession.

ACC receives at least one complaint about such fraudulent activities every day, said sources at the ACC.

Reports on such cases are frequent in many districts including Chittagong, Kushtia, Satkhira, Jessore, Magura, Habiganj and Sylhet.

# 5,000 sued

**FROM PAGE 1**  
general secretary Mokaddes Ali.

GRP officer-in-charge Bimal Kumar Chakma said rest of the accused persons will be identified and arrested without further delay.

Besides, two probe committees, formed by railway authorities and the deputy commissioner of the district, have started their work.

Both the committees visited the accident spot and the committee, formed by the deputy commissioner, recorded the statement of train driver Raj Gobinda Das.

High officials of Bangladesh Railway including its General Manager Anhar Mahmud visited the accident spot yesterday.

All officials of Soidabad rail gate, who were on duty on that day, were asked to be present at Rajshahi today before their high officials, a railway official said.

The district BNP yesterday hoisted black flag and wore black badge protesting Monday's train incident. Surprisingly, a national flag was hoisted at half-mast at district BNP office at Suhrwardi Road.

Party standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan visited the houses of Shaban Mirza and Surrajjaman, of Hasnabagbati area under Sirajganj Sadar. Both of them were killed in the incident.

He demanded a neutral inquiry into the incident to find out the real cause and asked the government to provide rehabilitation of the family members of Shaban and Surrajjaman.

Mosharrif Hossain, superintendent of police of Sirajganj, yesterday said that they had warned the district BNP general secretary Mokaddes about the meeting venue, as it was very much close to the rail track.

District BNP general secretary Mokaddes Ali, however, denied the allegation, saying that they [police] did not alert us, rather they provided full security of the rally venue for at least three days.

Delwar Hossain Sayeede, ASP of Sirajganj and also a member of a probe committee, last evening told The Daily Star, "We have started the investigation and already recorded the statement of the train driver."

Police, Rab and fire service department filed three separate cases with Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge (west) Police Station accusing at least two thousand people including Mokaddes.

The cases were filed for creating obstacles to police, Rab and fire brigade while discharging their duties.

Train guards Golam Towhid and JN Mukharjee, and Sub-inspector Sayedur Rahman filed three more cases accusing about three thousand people for vandalising and torching the train, attacking police and train passengers, and looting properties.

Police sources said they would conduct drive to arrest all "culprits" who were responsible for setting the train on fire and attack on law enforcers.

The district BNP general secretary said filing of case is nothing but a blue print of the government.

Sadar police arrested nine people and Jamuna Bridge (west) police arrested another 11 during separate drives that began at about 12:00 midnight yesterday.

Meanwhile, all the bodies of deceased were buried yesterday after holding janaza at their respective areas under Sirajganj district.

BNP HOLDS RALLY IN DHAKA

The main opposition BNP will bring out mourning processions and wear black badges across the country today in protest of Monday's train accident that killed six party men in Sirajganj, party's secretary general Khandaker Delwar Hossain said yesterday at a rally.

Dewlar said they will also hold a condolence meeting tomorrow at the city's Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) protesting the incident and to commemorate the deceased party men.

BNP held the rally at Muktangan to protest the killing of Baraigram upazila chairman and Natore poura BNP president Sanauallah Noor Babu on Friday.

Delwar demanded immediate arrest of the killers of Babu and due punishment to them.

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka presided over the meeting, while BNP standing committee member Abdul Moyeen Khan, barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain, joint secretary Amanullah Aman, among others, spoke.

Earlier, BNP held a gayebana janaza at the party's central office at Naya Paltan after Zohr prayers yesterday for the six people killed in the train accident in Sirajganj.

# No rally alert

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Chowhall upazila. He received injuries to his chest, head, hands and back.

Asir Uddin, the head driver of the train, suffered injuries to his head and other limbs following the mob attack. Some people took him to a local hospital. Later, he was sent to Parbatipur Railway Health Complex, Dinajpur.

Meanwhile, our Dinajpur correspondent visited Asir Uddin's residence at Gulpara, Parbatipur. He has been taken home. But due to some fatal injuries, he was not in a condition to speak.

The enquiry committee formed by the deputy commissioner took Gobinda's statement yesterday afternoon. Gobinda, an assistant driver of Bangladesh Railway, was on the driver's seat that day.

"I got no message from Jamtoil or Soidabad about the rally," said Gobinda. "I was steering normally. I saw a crowd before reaching Soidabad-Mulibari level crossing near the Soidabad Station and thought people would leave the track."

He added, "The gateman [at the crossing] put barriers and rang the bell. And the train was whistling."

After crossing the spot, he heard screams of passengers who got panicked following the attack by angry mob. "Meantime, the engine's vacuum pipe [that controls air pressure] got disconnected," he continued, "The train was heading Dhaka at 20-25kmph speed."

Asked why the pipe was severed, Raj Gobinda said he didn't get time to check as the people already had swooped on him. But he recalled main driver Asir Uddin had stopped the train.

The train finally stopped some 150 yards away from the rally stage.

Law enforcers rescued Gobinda from the crowd's

rage and kept him in a car. The mob started to vandalise the vehicle and this was when he lost his sense.

Some people brought Gobinda to a nearby house and attackers stormed the place too. Later, villagers sent him to Enayetpur Hospital, he added.

Asked whether he could understand that people were crushed under his train, he