



Did you know? Teotihuacán is an enormous archaeological site in the Basin of Mexico, containing some of the largest pyramidal structures built in the pre-Columbian Americas. Apart from the pyramidal structures, Teotihuacán is also known for its large residential complexes, the Avenue of the Dead and numerous colorful, well-preserved murals.




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Diarrhoea cases surge

Humid weather, pure drinking water crisis seen as reasons

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and NAJMUL ALAM NABIN

Diarrhoea pandemic in the city seems to get a bad shape over the last 10 days with about 450 to 500 patients being admitted to International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR'B) every day.

Diarrhoea has broken out in different parts of the capital due to scarcity of pure drinking water, scientists of ICDDR,B at Mohakhali told The Daily Star.

Scorching heat and frequent power cut are also responsible for the outbreak of the waterborne disease, said Azharul Islam Khan, a doctor of ICDDR'B. Normally about 250 to 300 patients get hospitalised each day during this period of a year.

The hospital had to set up three makeshift treatment centres in front of the hospital to accommodate the rising number of patients.

Most of the patients come from the city and its outskirts Tongi, Demra, Kamrangirchar, Amir Bazar, Sabujbagh and old part of the city, ICDDR'B sources said. Besides children, adults and elderly people were also admitted to the hospital.

Apart from ICDDR,B, Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and Dhaka Shishu Hospital also saw an increase in the number of diarrhoea patients in the past few days.

Azharul said foods are rotten quickly due to the sweltering weather while frozen food due to frequent load shedding. People take such food and don't drink water and thus fall sick. Living in an unhygienic environment and eating food without washing hands also make people suffer from diarrhoea.

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There used to be a children's park here in the middle of the Karwan Bazar Kitchen Market and DIT Market. Thanks to the negligence of the authorities, markets sprouted up all around that park.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

US nuke codes 'lost for months'

BBC ONLINE

The codes used by the president to launch a nuclear strike were mislaid for months during the Clinton administration, the former highest-ranking US officer has said.

Ex-chairman of the joint chiefs of staff Gen Hugh Shelton made the claim in a new book.

The codes are usually held by an aide who remains close to the president.

Gen Shelton said there was an incident where an aide said the codes had been lost.

They were immediately replaced, but an internal inquiry was conducted.

Gen Shelton said the incident had taken place "around the year 2000".

Under the procedures, an official was sent every month to check the codes, and that they were replaced every four months with new codes.

According to Gen Shelton's book, Without Hesitation, an official had gone to check one month and been told by the

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TOWER HAMLETS

Lutfur elected mayor

BBC ONLINE

Bangladesh-born candidate Lutfur Rahman has been elected mayor of Tower Hamlets.

He secured 51.76 percent of the vote to become the east London borough's first directly-elected mayor.

Former council leader

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EID-UL-AZHA Dhaka city to have 13 cattle markets

DCC floats tender

HELEMUL ALAM

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will set up 13 makeshift cattle markets in the city ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

DCC floated a tender for this yesterday, and fixed November 1 for both the submission and selection of the bidders.

The venues are: Jhigatola-Hazaribag ground, Taltala (Khilgaon) bus stand, Agargaon (adjacent to the LGED Bhaban), Dhupkhola playground, Rahmatganj playground, Banarupa Housing project at Khilkhet, Uttar Shahjahanpur, Azampur (Uttara) Government Primary School playground, Purbachal, Balurmah (adjacent to the Brothers Union Sporting Club in Kamalapur), Meradia Bazar playground, Armanitola (adjacent to Chitra cinema hall) and Banani-Kakali level crossing.

DCC officials said this year's Hasil, the ser-

vice tax to be paid by cattle buyers, has been fixed at 5 percent of the cattle price, which means, customers will have to pay Tk 50 for every Tk 1,000.

The markets will sit for four days including the Eid day, expected to be observed on November 16 or 17 depending on moon sighting.

Besides these makeshift ones, a permanent market will also be set up at Gabtoli.

Meanwhile, the government is going to form vigilance teams to prevent sales of anthrax-infected animals in cattle markets across the country.

The teams, comprised of livestock department officials and veterinary doctors, will take out sick animals from the market to ensure safe meat for the consumers, said Dr Md Abdul Baki, director (health and administration) of livestock department.

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3 held with 7 firearms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested three arms traders with seven firearms, some ammunition and gunpowder from Meherpur and Chuadanga districts in separate raids on Thursday.

One of the arms traders also sustained bullet injury in a fight with the Rab.

Acting on a tip off, a Rab team led by Commander Major Ahsanul Kabir of Rab-1 headquarters at Uttara in Dhaka went to the house of Ashraful Haq alias Zahir at Peadapara area in Meherpur around 2:00pm on Thursday.

The Rab men, in the guise of arms buyers, asked Zahir about the types of firearms he had in his possession. However, Zahir sensed something and tried to escape.

"Zahir opened fire on us when we chased him," said

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Pilots defy warning

Begin protest against benefit cut; 1 Biman flight delayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pilots of the national carrier yesterday launched a protest against a Biman decision, defying the authority's warning of legal action for disrupting flight schedules.

A Dhaka-Chittagong-Dubai flight was disrupted because of the protest against the decision to enhance the retirement age of pilots from 57 to 62 years leaving them conditionally out of insurance and rehabilitation benefits during the period.

The flight was scheduled to take off from Dhaka at 8:10pm. The designated captain for the flight complained of illness in the afternoon. The authorities could not persuade any captain to fly the aircraft.

Two flights to Kuala Lumpur and Singapore were also delayed due to inclement weather.

Biman insiders said the Dubai-bound flight with more than 200 passengers would be rescheduled tomorrow.

Biman Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Muhammad Zakiul Islam however said the flight was disrupted

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think government's decision to launch an eviction drive against roadside shops and hawkers before Eid-ul-Azha to reduce the traffic congestion in the capital is practical?

Yes (42.5%)
No (56.5%)
No Comments (1.0%)

Total votes: 393

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain that the government is plotting to oust Khaleda Zia from the country to implement the agenda of foreign forces?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

October 23

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-50	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-39
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



People queue in for rice at an OMS outlet at Mahiganj point of Baro Rangpur village under Rangpur sadar upazila. The district administration started the OMS of rice from September 26. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

OMS suffers supply cut

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

Poor people of Rangpur are not getting allocated amount of rice under Open Market Sale (OMS) programme following a cut in supply to the local dealers.

The OMS dealers said they are facing anger of the poor everyday due to a shortage in rice supply.

Mojibor Rahman, 65, a vegetable seller of Baro Rangpur village under sadar upazila, could not buy rice under OMS at Mahiganj point for the last two days.

"When my turn came in the queue, people, who went to OMS dealers at

OMS dealer told me that there was no rice left for selling," he said.

Contacted, SM Mohsin, district controller of food, said the department has reduced the daily allotment following an instruction from the deputy commissioner (DC).

DC BM Enamul Hoque told The Daily Star yesterday that there was no shortage of rice stock with the OMS dealers adding, "The OMS committee members are monitoring distribution of rice at different points of the district."

He has no information that poor

different points, returned empty handed, the DC said.

The government started the OMS of rice in the district from September 26 this year to facilitate poor people buy the essential at less than market price.

According to a circular of the food ministry, a man or woman can buy up to 5 kilograms (kgs) of coarse rice at Tk 24 per kg.

Under the programme, 10 dealers in Rangpur town and three dealers at each of the seven upazilas in the district will distribute the OMS rice.

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15 Hizb-ut Tawhid men held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 15 activists of outlawed Hizb-ut Tawhid were arrested from Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj yesterday.

In Rajshahi, police arrested 12 members of the outfit, two of them women, in two operations at the city's Budhpara. Seventeen books, 18 compact disks and 20 leaflets on Jihad were also seized from the outlaws.

M Rabiul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Motihar Police Station, said locals called police when the outlaws were distributing books and leaflets in the area and asking people to join the organisation.

The outlaws were hurting religious sentiment of

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BSF kills 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

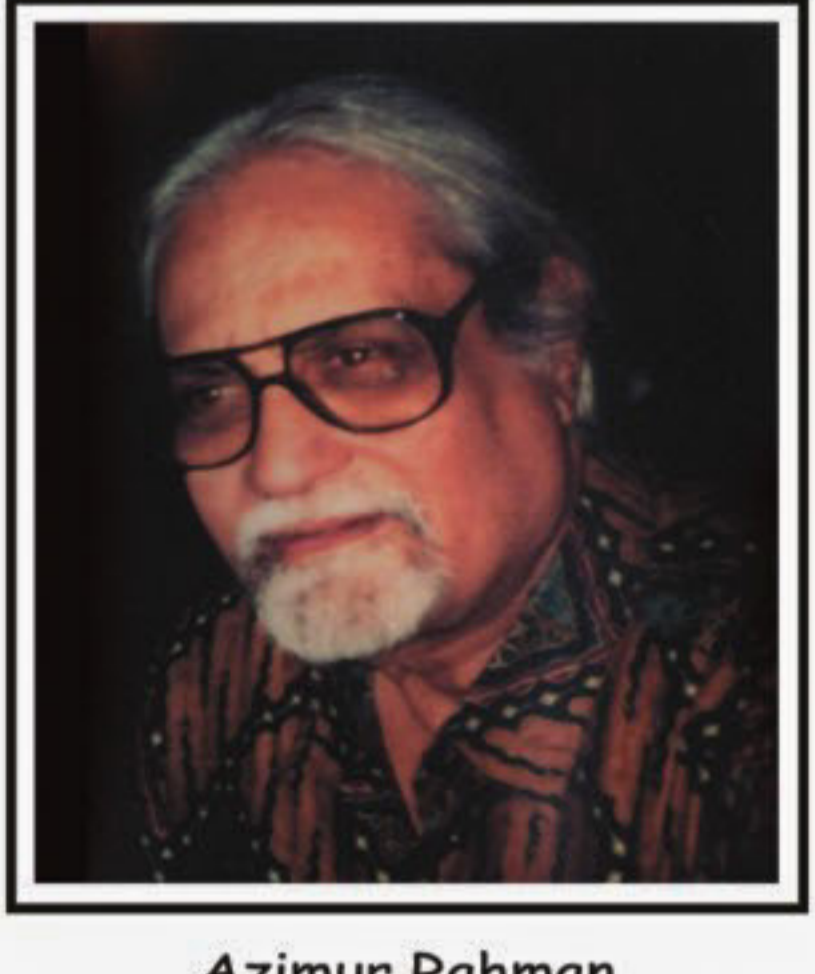
Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi cattle trader on Jagdal border under Baliadangi upazila in Thakurgaon early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Marjul Islam Majed, 24, son of Nazrul Islam of Choroigati village in the upazila.

BDR and local sources said BSF opened fire on a group of cattle traders near the boarder at about 2:30am.

Marjul sustained severe

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Azimur Rahman
1935-2001

I'm gone now, but I'm still very near.
Death can never separate us.
Each time you feel a gentle breeze,
It's my hand caressing your face.
Each time the wind blows,
It carries my voice whispering your name.
When the wind blows your hair ever so slightly,
Think of it as me pushing a few stray hairs back in place.
When you feel a few raindrops fall on your face,
It's me placing soft kisses.
At night look up in the sky and see the stars shining so brightly.
I'm one of those stars and I'm winking at you and smiling with delight.
For never forget you're the apple of my eye.

--- Mary M. Green