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ATTACK ON BUDDHISTS PM questions Khaleda's role

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that the Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was playing a double game regarding the September 29-30 attacks on the Buddhists at Ramu in Cox's Bazar.

"The BNP chairperson bites as snake and then comes to cure as a quack. Stop such double game," she said while addressing the 40th founding anniversary ceremony of Bangladesh Awami Jubo League at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka.

Jubo League organised the discussion titled 'People's Empowerment' with its Chairman Omar Faroque Chowdhury in the chair.

The premier criticised the opposition leader's visit to Ramu 40 days after the incident. She also raised a question whether Ramu is within or outside the country, pointing to Khaleda's visit to China and India before going to Cox's Bazar.

In response to Khaleda's allegation against the government, Hasina said the AL, army, BGB, Rab and police had immediately rushed to the spot to ensure law and order, adding that no woman was violated in the incident.

She said three ministers -- home, industries and disaster management -- had immediately rushed to Ramu to

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A double-decker carrying students and another single-decker behind it, not visible, travel on the fast lane in the wrong direction on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday afternoon creating chaos on the already congested thoroughfare of the capital. A few students were signalling oncoming traffic to move out of the way.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Strong quake kills 13 in Myanmar

South-eastern region of Bangladesh also shaken

STAR REPORT

At least 13 people were killed and dozens injured as a powerful earthquake hit the central city of Mandalay in north Myanmar yesterday.

The shallow 6.8-magnitude quake struck in a rural area 116 kilometres north of Mandalay at 7:12am followed by a series of aftershocks, reports AFP quoting the US Geological Survey (USGS).

The tremor also jolted Chittagong and other southern districts yesterday morning. However, there were no reports of casualties or damage, reports our

Chittagong correspondent.

It lasted for around 15 seconds and residents in different areas were seen coming out from their houses in panic.

The quake hit at a depth of just 10 kilometres. It was followed by two shallow 5.0-magnitude aftershocks within 20 minutes, according to the USGS.

The quake was felt in neighbouring Thailand including in Bangkok.

There was no immediate information from Myanmar on whether the quake caused further deaths or major damage.

Four labourers flung into the Irrawaddy

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CLASH, VANDALISM 42 Jamaat-Shibir men detained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested 42 activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir in the last two days across the country on charges of creating chaos and attacking law enforcers.

Ten activists were arrested in Chapainawabganj, eight in Naogaon, nine in Chandpur and 15 in Jessore.

The nine Chandpur activists, arrested on Saturday night, were sent to jail yesterday.

Police filed two cases with Chandpur Model Police Station yesterday, accusing 250-300 Jamaat-Shibir activists of the same charges, our Chandpur correspondent reports.

The activists, who were arrested in Chapainawabganj and Naogaon, were planning acts of sabotage, said Chapainawabganj police.

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STATE BANKS Muhith backs political appointment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday defended political appointments to the boards of directors of the state-run banks even though political nominees have often been blamed for being involved in loan scams and influencing recruitments.

"Politicians do business, set up industries and also promote education.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Submit report on Subhan on Jan 6

War crimes tribunal asks prosecution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday asked the prosecution to submit the probe report or its progress on war crimes suspect detained Maulana Abdus Subhan on January 6 next year.

The three-member tribunal headed by Justice Md Nizamul Huq passed the order as the prosecution sought more time after submitting a development report on the ongoing investigation against Subhan, who was produced before the tribunal.

Defence counsel Mizanul Islam however opposed the prayers saying the prosecution did not specify any reasons for time extension.

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Malibagh Bazar, which recently declared that it is free from adulterated vegetables, has seen a sharp rise in customers with an eye for fresh vegetables. There are several signs in the market letting people know that it is free from formalin, a preservative. Several other kitchen markets in the capital also followed this move and started checking vegetables for formalin.



PHOTO: STAR

The last speaker of a dying language

AFP, Kathmandu

As Gyani Maiya Sen nears the end of her life she worries that her final words may be the last ever spoken in her mysterious mother tongue.

The 76-year-old, part of a vanishing tribe in remote western Nepal, is the only surviving speaker of Kusunda, a language of unknown origins and unique sentence structures that has long baffled experts.

"There's no one else with whom I can speak in my language. I used to speak with my mother but since her death in 1985, I am left alone," she told AFP by telephone.

Yet the frail, gnarled tribeswoman is



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Cop drowns in river

A CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Rescuers on Saturday night recovered the body of a police member who went missing in the Brahmaputra river on that morning.

The deceased, Noor Uddin, 27, hailed from Majhpara village of Jamalpur. He had been serving as a police constable in Special Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

A four-member team

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AUG 21 CASE Ex-DGFI chief cross-examined

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former DGFI director general Major Gen (ret'd) Sadik Hasan Rumi yesterday restated that he met the then prime minister Khaleda Zia a day after the August 21 grenade blasts at an Awami League rally in 2004.

He also maintained that he had sought the then prime minister's permission to probe the deadly blasts but to no avail.

Rumi was being cross-examined by the defence in two cases filed in connection with the August 21 grenade

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The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think it was justified for BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to blame government forces and associate bodies of the ruling Awami League for the September violence in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong?

Yes (49%)

No (48%)

No Comments (3%)

TOTAL VOTES: 557

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was justified for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to accuse BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia of fanning Ramu violence?

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1,600kg imported pearls seized

Businessman detained for tax dodging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs intelligence seized 1,600 kilogram of pearls worth around Tk 12-15 crore and arrested a businessman at his house in Old Dhaka early yesterday for importing those by dodging taxes.

Raja Miah, a jewellery businessman, was arrested at his house in Chawkbazar.

Acting on a tip-off, customs officials with the help of

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