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# 115 killed in India temple stampede

AGENCIES

A stampede on a bridge outside a Hindu temple killed at least 115 people and injured more than 100 people in India yesterday, with many of the victims leaping to their deaths in the water below.

Police warned that the number could rise further as medics struggled to make their way through hordes of pilgrims to reach the scene of the tragedy -- the latest in a string of disasters at religious festivals.

While officials said the panic appeared to have been sparked by a false rumour, witnesses said that the situation escalated when police weighed in with batons.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was among those to express condolences over yesterday's tragedy as Hindus celebrate the end of the Navaratri festival.

"On this day of festivities, our hearts and prayers are with the victims and their families," he said in a tweet.

State Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has ordered a judicial inquiry into the tragedy and Congress president Sonia Gandhi has expressed anguish.

"The toll could touch 120. We are yet to recover bodies from the river," Deputy Police Inspector D K Arya told AFP after the tragedy in the Datia district of central Madhya Pradesh state.

Police and state government officials said the stampede

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People perform Arati in front of the Durga idol on the Nabami at Kalabagan ground in the capital's Dhanmondi yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

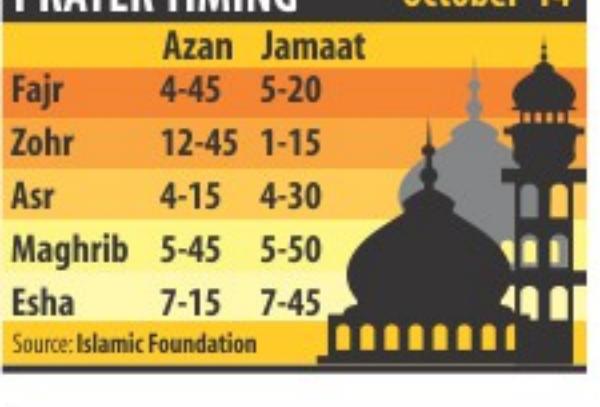
PM, Khaleda exchange Eid greetings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia exchanged Eid greetings yesterday in a mere ceremonial gesture.

They have not been talking to each other for long, letting the distance between them grow with animosities. They could not break the ice even at a time when people of the country are expecting the two leaders to sit and hold talks to find a solution to the

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Source: Islamic Foundation

CATTLE CARRYING TRUCKS

## Traders happy with less extortion

M RAHMAN and HELEMUL ALAM

In the face of strong protests by drivers of the capital-bound trucks laden with cattle and goods, police have almost stopped extorting money from truckers and traders.

On Thursday, these correspondents visited Gazipur Chowrasta and Bhogra intersection in Gazipur town from 2:00pm to 7:00pm to see the overall situation there for themselves.

No truckers complained about extortion by police. Even the on-duty traffic personnel did not stop any truck.

Talking to The Daily Star at Bhogra intersection, cattle trader Mohammad Arefin, who was heading for Aftabnagar cattle market in the capital from Bogra, said no police or extortions halted his truck for extortion.

Truck driver Md Rafiqul Islam said he reached the Sadeque Hossain Khoka playground cattle market from Rajshahi on Saturday afternoon without paying any

extortion money to anybody on the way.

Truckers and cattle traders at different cattle markets, including Gabtali, Agargaon, Taltala, Nayabazar, Aftabnagar in Rampura, Sadeque Hossain Khoka playground at Dholakhal, East End Club at Dhupkhola and Eastern Housing at Mirpur, shared almost similar experience to these correspondents.

Chiefs of police, Rapid Action Battalion and intelligence agencies were instructed last month to identify the personnel involved in extortion ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha and to take punitive action against those, said State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku.

"We warned them [law enforcers] of showing zero tolerance for extortion. Besides, the police administration was asked to identify local goons who usually in the guise of political party members extort money," he mentioned.

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GUTI UREA

## Inventor of applicator awarded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Bangladesh agricultural engineer Dr Abdul Wahab has received an award from the US-based IFDC for his contribution to the development of a fertiliser applicator intended to cut labour costs and reduce farmers' woes in applying Guti urea.

Dr Amit H Roy, president and chief executive officer of the International Fertiliser Development Centre (IFDC), gave him a

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## EC hopeful of consensus on polls-time govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) believes there would be a political consensus over the election-time government in the coming days.

Expressing the hope, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad said yesterday the EC is waiting to see a consensus among the political parties over the issue.

Talking to journalists at the EC Secretariat in the capital, the EC also said they do not have much time to wait for that.

His comments came two weeks before the beginning of a 90-day timeframe of the 10th parliamentary election. As per

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DRAFT VERDICT LEAK  
Tribunal staff confesses to his link

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Another arrestee yesterday gave confessional statement regarding the leak of a draft verdict against war crimes convict Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, without giving any new insight into the matter.

Faruk Hossain, an office assistant of the International Crimes Tribunal's registrar office, admitted before

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## No slouching!

MAIL ONLINE



It's a frequent complaint of parents telling their children to stand up straight and stop slouching. And it's hardly surprising, given that they are undergoing training in how to stand correctly.

One unusual method includes a Chinese officer ties rope around the soldiers' legs to teach them perfect posture.

500 new recruits of the Army General Jiangsu Province brigade underwent the training, with an officer

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## যানবাহন ব্যবস্থাপনায় ডিজিটাল কার্যক্রম প্রবর্তন (বর্তমান সরকারের আমলে প্রথম সংযোজন)

### ১। মোটরযান কর ও ফি আদায়ে অন-লাইন ব্যাকিং-

- ক. সহজে ও দ্রুত মোটরযানের কর ও ফি জমা দেয়া যায়।
- খ. ঘরে বসে ডেবিট বা ক্রেডিট কার্ডের মাধ্যমেও ফি পরিশোধ করা যায়।
- গ. জমাকৃত কর ও ফি অন-লাইনে যাচাই করা যায়।

### ২। ইলেক্ট্রনিক চিপযুক্ত ডিজিটাল স্মার্টকার্ড ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স প্রবর্তন-

- ক. লাইসেন্সধারীর বায়োমেট্রি (চার আঙুলের ছাপ, ডিজিটাল ছবি ও স্বাক্ষর) নকল করা যায়।
- খ. স্মার্ট কার্ড ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স দশ বছর মেয়াদী।
- গ. সহজে ও দ্রুত লাইসেন্সের সঠিকতা যাচাই করা যায়।

### ৩। ৱেব্ট্রো-রিফ্রেকটিভ নাষ্টারপ্লেট, রেডিও ফ্রিকুয়েন্সি

### আইডেন্টিফিকেশন (আরএফআইডি) ট্যাগ ও ডিজিটাল রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট প্রবর্তন-

- ক. নাষ্টারপ্লেট দিনে ও রাতে সমানভাবে দৃশ্যমান।
- খ. সকল গাড়িতে একই মানের নাষ্টারপ্লেট।
- গ. একই গাড়ির নাষ্টারপ্লেট অন্য গাড়িতে ব্যবহার করা যায়।
- ঘ. আরএফআইডি ট্যাগ দ্বারা গাড়ির অবস্থান জানা সম্ভব।
- ঙ. ডিজিটাল রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট যা সহজে বহনযোগ্য ও মেশিন রিডেবল।

বিআরটি  
সড়ক বিভাগ  
যোগাযোগ মন্ত্রণালয়

জিডি-০৮৯৭

## Tazreen owner freed after 17hrs

Workers held him hostage at office for Eid bonus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment workers of Tuba Group finally drew their Eid bonus yesterday, after holding the owner, Delwar Hossain, hostage for over 17 hours.

They released Delwar around 2:30am from his office at North Badda's Hossain Market in the presence of police-men, said Iqbal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station.

Delwar, also owner of Tazreen Fashions Ltd at Ashulia, where 112 workers were killed in a deadly fire last November, has three garment units in Hossain Market.

He had been held by workers on the third floor and was freed only after the management paid bonuses to the workers.

Law enforcers were present there at that time to prevent any untoward situation.

The authorities closed the garment units around 3:00pm on Friday, a little earlier than usual, saying there was less work for the day, said a worker of Tuba Textile, one of the three factories, wishing anonymity.

"The next morning when we came to work, we saw there was no machine on the third and fourth floors. We heard that the owner had sold the machines," he said.

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### ONLINE POLL

Do you think it is necessary to continue the parliament session after October 24?

- Yes (22%)
- No (78%)

TOTAL VOTES: 224

### The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

TODAY'S POLL  
Do you agree with opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Faroque that the move to prolong the parliament's concluding session after October 24 is a government ploy to resist the opposition movement?  
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

www.thedailystar.net

## ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা

### গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদৰা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশনের আওতাধীন এলাকায় (ফুটপাথ, ওবারপ্রীজ, রাস্তা, মার্কেট, পার্ক, মাঠ ও ড্রেন) বিভিন্ন ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক আবেদ তাবে অস্থায়ী দোকান, অবকাঠামো ও মালামাল রেখে জনসাধারণের চলাচলে বিঘ্ন সৃষ্টি করছে। তাছাড়া বাড়িরমালিকগণ অনন্যমুদ্দিতভাবে রাস্তায় নির্মাণ সামৰ্থ্য রেখে বাস্তায় যান চলাচল ও নাগরিকগণের যাতায়াতে অসুবিধা সৃষ্টি করছেন। বর্ণিত কর্মকাণ্ড সিটি কর্পোরেশন আইন, ২০০৯ অনুসারে ডন্তীয় অপরাধ। মোবাইল কোর্ট আইন, ২০০৯ মোতাবেক ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশনে কর্মরত নির্বাহী ম্যাজিস্ট্রেটগণ এবং The Government And Local Authority Lands and Buildings (Recovery of Possession) Ordinance, 1970 এর অধীনে ডেপুটি কমিশনারের ক্ষমতাপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তাগণ কর্তৃক আবেদ স্থাপনা উচ্ছেদসহ আইনানুগ কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করছেন।

বর্তিমান সময়ে, ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মালিকানাধীন যে কোন স্থানে আবেদ দোকান, ফুটপাথ, ফুটওভারপ্রীজ, মার্কেট, পার্ক, মাঠ ও ড্রেনে আবেদ স্থাপনা এবং রাস্তায় নির্মাণ সামৰ্থ্য রেখে থাকলে উহা নিজ দায়িত্বে আগামী ১০ (দশ) দিনের মধ্যে সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানকে অপসারণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। অন্যথায় মোবাইল কোর্টের মাধ্যমে আবেদ মালামাল জন্ম বা ডিসপোজ করাসহ আইনানুগ শাস্তিমূলক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে