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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

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



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

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

DURGA PUJA Bijoya Dashami today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The five-day Durga Puja, the greatest of all Hindu festivals, ends today with solemn immersion of the goddess Durga in the capital and elsewhere in the country.

In the morning, devotees will throw the puja mandaps to celebrate Bijoya Dashami, the last day of the festival.

The beating of drums and cymbals, intricately designed idols of Durga and drifts of incense lent the mandaps across the country a festive air as devotees yesterday celebrated Maha Navami.

Each of the mandaps across the country has been adorned with beautiful idols. Skilled artisans and artists have crafted those and showcased the goddess in all her glory.

Devotees will recite the mantras and offer flowers to the goddess Durga

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

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

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

| PRAYER TIMING October 14 | | |
|--------------------------|--------|------|
| Azan | Jamaat | |
| Fajr | 4-45 | 5-20 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 4-15 | 4-30 |
| Maghrib | 5-45 | 5-50 |
| Esha | 7-15 | 7-45 |

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 extortionist 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 Dholaikhal, 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.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

GUTI UREA Inventor of applicator awarded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi 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 Gutu urea.

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

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



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 CEC 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

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

DRAFT VERDICT LEAK Tribunal staff confesses to his link

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Another arrestee yesterday gave a 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

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

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

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



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

৩। রেড্রো-রিফ্রেকটিভ নাম্বারপ্লেট, রেডিও ফ্রিকুয়েন্সি আইডেনটিফিকেশন (আরএফআইডি) ট্যাগ ও ডিজিটাল রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট প্রবর্তন-

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

বিআরটিএ
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 policemen, 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.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

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 Abidin 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