

450 houses

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No casualty was reported as the warehouses were closed on the occasion of Eid.

The fire broke out around 11:30am and was doused after around an hour's efforts, said the HQ duty officer.

The fire might have originated from an electric short-circuit, firefighters said.

INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION

Another fire broke out at the building of the Indian High Commission in Gulshan Tuesday afternoon.

No casualty was reported in the fire that originated on the fourth floor of the six-storey building on Road No. 142 of Gulshan-1 around 5:25pm, said Masudur Rahman of Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Six firefighting units rushed to the spot and put out the flames at 6:05pm, said Rahman.

A computer, some important documents and furniture were damaged, he said, adding, an electric short-circuit might have caused the fire.



This mother with her child sitting helpless yesterday at the site where her house used to be. Like many others, they became homeless after a fire had burned down their shanty in a Hazaribagh slum in the capital Thursday night.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Eid-ul-Azha

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Mosque, conducted the prayer.

President Abdul Hamid offered his Eid prayer along with hundreds of people from all walks of life on the National Eidgah.

Five Eid congregations were held at the Baitul Mukarram at 7:00am, 8:00am, 9:00am, 10:00am and 11:00am.

Like the previous years, special arrangements were made so that women could take part in Eid prayers at the National Eidgah and National Mosque.

Eid congregations were also held in open fields, including Armanitola, Dhophkola, and most of the mosques in the city and elsewhere.

President Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia hosted receptions for dignitaries and cross-section of people on the occasion.

The national flag was hoisted atop government and non-government office build-

ings on the day. The thoroughfares and road islands were decorated with the national flags and banners inscribed with 'Eid Mubarak' in Bangla and Arabic.

Improved diets were served at hospitals, jails, government-run children's homes and vagrant and destitute welfare centres across the country.

The state-run Bangladesh Television, Bangladesh Betar, private TV and radio channels aired special programmes on the occasion.

Dhaka City Corporations (North and South) took steps to clear garbage and animal wastes from the streets immediately after the sacrifice of animals by city dwellers.

Festive atmosphere prevailed in amusement parks, Cox's Bazar and Patenga sea beaches and tourist spots across the country as people thronged there to enjoy the Eid holiday.

Some 60 lakh people left Dhaka for their village homes to celebrate the Eid with their near and dear ones, leaving the city in a holiday mood.

US shutdown ends

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friends, and said the crisis left "no winners" in Washington.

In trying to heal the wounds of the last two weeks of internecine drama, Obama hoped to avoid a new stalemate within months, after the temporary truce between Republicans and Democrats.

"Probably nothing has done more damage to America's credibility in the world, our standing with other countries, than the spectacle that we've seen these past several weeks," he said.

"It's encouraged our enemies, it's emboldened our competitors and depressed our friends who look to us for steady leadership."

The president called on warring politicians to come together to pass a long-term budget and to give up the "brinkmanship" that squandered the trust of the American people.

Investors cheered the deal, signed to end the shutdown and debt drama, powering the S&P 500 index

to an all-time high of 1,733.15, up 0.67 percent.

The compromise plan hashed out in the Senate and passed by the House only funds government until January 15 and extends US borrowing authority until February 7.

It remains unclear if Republicans, politically wounded by their tactics this time around, will seek to use the levers of shutdown and default again.

Republican Senate minority leader Mitch McConnell said Thursday there would be no government shutdown in the near future.

"A government shutdown is off the table," McConnell told National Review Online. "We're not going to do it."

Thousands of federal workers trooped back to work on Thursday.

Trains into Washington DC were again packed and the city's downtown hummed with activity after being much quieter in recent weeks.

Vice President Joe Biden was at the Environmental

Protection Agency handing out muffins to returning workers.

White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough meanwhile met executive branch employees at the gates of the White House, and handed out high fives.

The deal calls for negotiators from the Democratic-led Senate and Republican-led House to craft a framework for a long-term government budget by December 13, a Herculean task given the vast differences between the two chambers' budget plans.

In a sign of their intent to conduct good faith haggling, Senate Budget chair Patty Murray and House Budget chief Paul Ryan broke bread Thursday and pledged to seek "common ground" in reducing the deficit and reining in excess spending.

"Our job over the next eight weeks is to find out what we can agree on, and we have agreed that we are going to look at everything in front of us," Murray told reporters.

Govt, opposition ready to face off

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They held series of meetings to boost morale of grassroots workers and to establish political supremacy for the coming days.

Under such a situation, many political analysts fear political violence may flare up in many district and upazila headquarters alongside the capital in the coming days, particularly on and after October 25, the day both ruling and opposition camps announced to hold rallies in the capital.

Local leaders of the rival camps may take to the streets outside the capital on October 25, reports some of our district correspondents.

The government, led by the ruling Awami League, has decided to deploy law enforcers and Awami League activists on the streets to foil the BNP-led opposition's agitation, sources in the Awami League and the government claimed.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting of Awami League Central Working Committee last Sunday asked her party

leaders to prepare to face the opposition's agitation, meetings sources said.

In efforts to strengthen party's image countrywide, the premier would hold a views-exchange meeting with pro-Awami League upazila parishad chairmen, vice-chairmen, mayors of city corporations and municipalities at Gono Bhaban today.

She has already had a series of meetings with her party grassroots.

Her archrival BNP chief Khaleda Zia sits tonight with her party's policymakers to discuss the next course of action. Khaleda would hold a meeting with senior leaders of her BNP-led 18-party alliance to discuss how to intensify the movement to force the government to go for a non-partisan election-time government.

The BNP has sought permission for its rally in the capital on October 25 but it is yet to receive permission from the authorities concerned.

Dhaka city unit of

Awami League has announced to hold a rally in the capital on the same day.

GRASSROOTS

Pabna district unit of BNP in two separate gatherings on Thursday decided to form a committee for a movement against the general election, if held under the Awami League-led government. They were expecting that the committee would be formed in three to four days.

Awami League leaders in the districts exchanged greetings with people and asked for votes.

In Rangamati, a 15-member district convening committee led by Dipen Dewan, president of district BNP, has been formed to resist the election, if held under Awami League-led government.

Besides, 15-member coordination committees were formed in all 10 upazilas of the district for the purpose, said party sources.

Leaders and activists of Rangamati Awami League have already formed elec-

tion conducting committees in 10 upazilas to resist any bid to foil the elections, said Musa Matobber, general secretary of district Awami League.

District central polls conducting committee would be formed very soon, he added.

Gaibandha district unit of BNP has made all out preparations for forming committees at wards of union parishads to resist polls under the Awami League-led government, local leaders said.

District Awami League General Secretary Abu Bakker Siddique said, "We have prepared to resist any attempt at foiling general elections by any party intent on creating a chaotic situation."

Our correspondents reported that similar situations were prevailing in political arena of Sylhet, Natore, Jhenidah, Brahmanbaria, Thakurgaon and Munshiganj.

Road crashes

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Another woman was killed in a road accident in Chuadanga when a bus hit an open-top human-hauler on the Chuadanga-Jibonnagar Road yesterday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Abeda Sultana, 55.

In Daudkandi, an elderly man was killed as a private car lost control and hit him yesterday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Abdul Majid, 55, general secretary of Bangladesh Krishok League of Zinglatoli union.

Five passengers of the car were also injured.

In Bhola, a bus from Charfasson hit a motorcycle and killed motorcycle rider Khalil, 38, and pillion Momin, 28, in Lalmohan upazila yesterday. Locals blocked the Bhola Charfasson road for three hours in protest against the incident.

Police seized the bus, but could not arrest the driver.

In Narayanganj, a motorcycle rider lost control over his bike and hit a pedestrian on Thursday resulting to his death. Victim Ali, 62, was a security guard of a local shopping mall. Locals seized the motorcycle, but the rider managed to escape.

Sylhet Jubo League man hacked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Jubo League activist was hacked allegedly by Shibir activists at Majortila in Sylhet city on Thursday night.

The injured, Kabir Hossain, received cuts in the back and legs, said Jahangir Hossain, an activist of district unit of Jubo League.

Jahangir alleged that some Shibir activists attacked them when they, along with Kabir, were busy having a conversation with some friends in front of a sweetmeat shop.

Around 10 Shibir activists riding on four motorbikes reached the shop at Majortila around 9:30pm and began to hack Kabir with sharp weapons, he said.



Amzad Hossain, in striped polo shirt, and Sahirul Islam, are being forced to so-called village arbitration by the aides of Kalupara Union Parishad chairman and village police in Badarganj of Rangpur on Sunday. Another man holding back Amzad's minor girl. In another photo, the chairman and his accomplices beat up the two at Boirampur High School field, ignoring the tearful appeal of the little girl. Amzad, an auto-rickshaw driver, on Saturday bought from Sahirul a sacrificial animal for Eid-ul-Azha. The next day, they were held by village police on charges of buying and selling the animal without Hasil (service tax). Amzad's family alleged that the two were tortured only because they worked against the chairman during the last UP election.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Sleep cleans brain

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Science, reveals that the brain's unique method of waste removal also clears away toxins responsible for Alzheimer's disease and other neurological disorders.

Scientists studied images of the brains of mice, looking at the brain 'plumbing system' used to transport waste material out of pipes while we sleep, known as the glymphatic system.

The glyphatic system was ten times more active when the mice were asleep, as opposed to when they were awake.

Researchers found that when asleep, the brain's cells reduce in size, making it easier for waste to be

removed effectively.

To flush waste toxins out of the brain, cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) is pumped through the brain's tissue, where it makes its way into the blood circulation system before reaching the liver.

However, pumping CSF fluid requires a large supply of energy. Researchers speculated that the process of cleaning may not be compatible with the functions the brain must perform when awake and actively processing information.

Dr Maiken Nedergaard, lead author of the article explained: "The brain only has limited energy at its disposal and it appears that it must choose between two

different functional states - awake and aware or asleep and cleaning up.

"You can think of it like having a house party. You can either entertain the guests or clean up the house, but you can't really do both at the same time."

The new findings have significant implications for treating 'dirty brain' diseases such as Alzheimer's, Dr Nedergaard added.

"Understanding precisely how and when the brain activates the glymphatic system and clears waste is a critical first step in efforts to potentially modulate this system and make it work more efficiently," she said.

Prof Yunus for participation

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on the Grameen Bank, he said the microcredit bank had been established for the poor of the country, not for handing it over to or let it be grabbed by any government.

He alleged the government was trying to grab the bank of 84 lakh poor women.

To save the bank, he called upon all women to stand united against the government move.

"You, all women, should raise your voice to protect the bank. You should say: 'Beware, do not try to grab Grameen Bank. We will break those hands that want to snatch it'," he added.

"The government calls me a blood sucker, loan-

shark. Since I am not the owner of the bank, how can I be a loan-shark?" said Prof Yunus.

He said the government was propagating that the Grameen Bank's interest rate was high, but the interest rate in government-owned banks was 27 percent whereas it was 20 percent in Grameen Bank.

Vice-Chancellor of East Delta University Prof Md Sikandar Khan, President of Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce Kamrun Malek, Prof Anwara Alam and writer Runu Siddique also spoke at the programme.

Meanwhile, terming the recent statements of Nobel

laureate Prof Yunus and BNP leader Sadeque Hossain Khoka unfortunate, State Minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir Nanak yesterday said no ill-intention would survive in Bangladesh.

He was talking to reporters after placing wreath at the grave of Sheikh Russell, youngest son of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in Banani cemetery on the occasion of Russell's 49th birth anniversary.

On October 14, Sadeque Hossain Khoka at a meeting in the capital had directed BNP leaders and activists to be ready with machetes and axes to counter any attacks

on them while joining the party's October 25 rally in Dhaka.

He said, "If the Awami League brings anything to kill people, we will face them at any cost. They should not be spared."

In response, Nanak yesterday said Khoka's instructions would ruin democracy and take the country to the path of conspiracy. The same way, the statement of Prof Yunus was also unexpected and unfortunate, he added.

Their words could terrify the people and disrupt their normal life. However, nobody will be allowed to implement any evil intention in Bangladesh, Nanak said.