

# Plane crash in Poland kills 11

AFP, Warsaw

Eleven people were killed and one person seriously injured after a plane from a parachute club crashed in southern Poland yesterday, with local media suggesting the light aircraft may have been carrying too many passengers.

"Twelve people were on board the plane and the only survivor was taken to hospital and is in a serious condition," Justyna Sochacka, a spokeswoman for the emergency services, told AFP.

The light twin-engine aircraft, a Piper Navajo, took off from an airfield in Rudniki near Czeszochowa with 11 parachutists and a pilot on board, according to reports.

The causes of the crash was not immediately known, but the Polish media suggested the plane's engine may have failed due to there being too many passengers on board.

Quoting anonymous sources close to the case, the PAP news agency reported that the aircraft could have been overloaded, and temperatures of 27 degrees Celsius (80.6 Fahrenheit) in the area may have contributed to the engine overheating.

Eyewitnesses said its engines began making an odd, droning sound before the aircraft began to fall from the sky.

"It was flying from the south and the engine was making strange sounds," said eyewitness Barbara Minczykiewicz, a resident of the village of Topolow where the plane crashed, quoted by Poland's Gazeta Wyborcza broadsheet daily.

# WB provoked

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system to an enviable height by building a sustainable and comprehensive modern transportation system.

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader, Road Division Secretary MAN Siddique and Bridge Division Secretary Khondakar Anwarul Islam, among others, were present at the meeting.

# Nightmare road

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for Tk 18 crore began before the T-20 World Cup tournament in February. After some impressive initial progress, the work almost stopped once the tournament was over.

Mohammad Saiful Islam, who drives a human haulier, said his earnings dropped by 30 percent in the last two months. "Spending Tk 1000 to Tk 2000 almost every day is a regular phenomenon for repairing the vehicle due to the poor condition of the road."

It takes around 30 minutes during peak time to go to Purabi from Kalshi, a distance of barely five minutes by a car, Saiful added.

Project Director Lt Colonel Saiful Islam said a few more months are required to complete the project.

"We have already completed piling of the culvert and the super structure will take three months to be completed and after that it will take two or three days for the carpeting work of the road," he said.

Fifty percent work of the drainage system has already been done, he added.

Earlier, he had told The Daily Star that the project would end by June. He, however, now justified the delay, saying that there have been significant changes in the components of the project later.

The expansion project has been undertaken by Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) to deal with the heavy flow of traffic, which increased after the inauguration of Mirpur-Airport Road Flyover in March last year.

The project is running under the supervision of Bangladesh Army's 14 Engineering Brigade with the assistance of the DNCC.

# Djokovic

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ended his bid to become the oldest Wimbledon champion in the Open Era and of breaking the tie of seven titles he shares with Pete Sampras. "First of all I want to congratulate Roger it was a great match to be a part of he is a magnificent champion and a great example of a great athlete and a role model. I respect everything you have done and thanks for letting me win today," smiled Djokovic. "That's why he has 17 Grand Slams because at important times he comes up with those shots. After losing the fourth set it wasn't easy to go on and win the fifth set, I don't know how I did it."

Djokovic has the added bonus of reclaiming the world number one spot from Rafael Nadal.

Federer said he was surprised to have got to a deciding set. "It was a great final. I can't believe I made it to five, it wasn't looking good for a while," said Federer.

"Going into a match with Novak, you know it's going to be tough. I can only say congratulations to him. It was an amazing match and an amazing tournament. It's well-deserved."



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, along with editors and heads of different media outlets, offers munajat at an iftar party hosted by her at the Westin Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

# New law to limit NGO

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cancel their registration if it sees fit.

"Corruption is flourishing in the government and the private sector, so it is more than odd that the government is spending its time passing tough laws that target NGOs," Robertson said in a statement yesterday.

The draft law also requires prior approval before anyone involved in voluntary activities travel out of the country on issues related to their work on the project.

"That provision is a potential violation of article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which gives anyone the freedom to leave any country, including their own," the report said.

The HRW body said the government has held consultations with independent stakeholders, but the draft still contains unnecessary, onerous and intrusive provisions.

The draft law requires NGOs to seek approval for all planned activities before receiving any grant and proposes tough sanctions for non-compliance.

"These are the kind of restrictions one usually associates with a one-party or authoritarian state, not a democracy like Bangladesh," Robertson said.

"Governments should not be in the business of deciding what is and isn't a good project or whether people can travel outside the country," he added.

In any case, the NGOs would be able to file an appeal with the prime minister's office, but the draft states that its ruling would be final, which will deny recourse to an independent judicial process, the report added.

The NGO Affairs Bureau has previously blocked funds to groups and opened investigations on political grounds, the HRW said, citing

examples of blocking funds of rights body Odhikar and arrest of its staff members Adilur Rahman Khan and ASM Nasiruddin Elan.

In May, there was an attempt by unidentified people to abduct Mohammad Nur Khan, the group's investigations director, who has also been threatened for criticising extrajudicial killings by security forces, the HRW said.

"Given the previous arbitrary behaviour of the NGO Affairs Bureau and its lack of transparency, it is imperative to establish an independent appeals process," Robertson said.

The Bangladesh government already has laws through which terrorist or illegal activities by independent groups and others can be addressed, the statement said, negating the Bangladesh government's version that tough laws are required to check financial and other crimes by NGOs.

# Rape on rise in city

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was higher than those of the past, considering the span of such a short time.

Although all the victims and their families sought police help, few of the accused have been arrested till date, she added.

During the Uttara incident, a security guard was killed as he tried to save the college girl from the hands of kidnappers.

The girl, who was released nearly six hours later, said she was raped by one of the kidnappers, whom she could not recognise, in a private car used for kidnapping.

Police arrested one person in connection with the incident but the girl's mother said the main culprits, who used to stalk her daughter, were still at large.

Yesterday, she gave judicial statements before a Dhaka court describing the incident.

Shahadat Hossain Khan, officer-in-charge of Uttara Purbo Police

Station, said they were trying to arrest the other suspects.

The Mirpur girl, a garment worker, said she recognised the main culprit, Farid, a local thug who used to stalk her on her way home and factory. However, police are yet to find him although six days have elapsed since the incident.

On June 20, two working girls, aged 13 and 14, were fooled and trapped by the driver and the helper of a bus they were travelling in and gang-raped in Kamalapur.

On information, police arrested two of the culprits, driver Ahmed Sheikh and helper Hasnain, while two others managed to escape. They all were staff of Labbaik Paribahan and used the transport company's office for this vile purpose.

Mostafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Mugda Police Station, said their efforts were on to arrest the two.

Advocate Nina Goswami, senior deputy director of Ain O Salish

Kendra (ASK), expressed her concern about the frequency of rape incidents taking place of late.

"It is very difficult to conclude why such incidents of a similar nature are taking place, and whether one is encouraging the other to happen," she said, citing the incidents of gang rapes in Mirpur and Kamalapur.

Referring to the life-imprisonment verdict given this year in the much-talked about Manikganj rape incident inside a bus in 2013, she said the media should highlight such news in order to inform people that they could not get away with such crimes.

Prof Zia Rahman, chairman of criminology department at Dhaka University, said in Bangladesh certain types of crime tend to arise suddenly.

"Sometimes the perpetrators may feel encouraged by the recurrence of rape incidents," he said, adding that an independent criminal justice body is needed to prevent such crimes.

# Ministry, UGC trash

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According to the TIB report titled "Private universities: challenges of good governance and way out", a section of officials of the education ministry, UGC, and private universities are involved in illegal money transactions at different stages -- from getting approval to set up the universities and appoint vice chancellors, pro-vice chancellors and treasurers to awarding certificates to students.

Soon after the launch of the report, the education ministry and UGC sent letters to all the private universities last week, asking them to come up with their responses to the allegations.

The authorities of the private universities at the meeting denied being involved in any sort of corruption or bribery.

Some of the ministry officials, however, said they believed none would agree to disclose corruption in this way.

The ministry had not invited representatives of TIB to the meeting though the anti-graft body had assured Nahid of its fullest cooperation to help him better understand the report with all facts, data and analysis.

Nahid said the ministry had communicated with all the 79 private universities of the country and only one among them accused a UGC official of taking bribes. But the university later withdrew its claim.

"So we think that the report is not right."

The minister, however, claimed that the registration of 15 universities had been cancelled on different allegations. But they continued to operate through receiving stay orders on the registration cancellation from the

High Court, he added.

"The report was not prepared following the correct method. It was incomplete," Nahid said, quoting the entrepreneurs.

Receiving responses from the universities, the ministry now wants to know on what basis TIB prepared the report, he said, adding the anti-graft organisation would have to offer an apology and withdraw the report if it failed to prove the graft allegations.

Some of the university entrepreneurs also criticised the media. Durgadas Bhattacharya, vice-chancellor of Isha Kha International University in Kishoreganj, said some media outlets were causing more harm to private universities than TIB.

The media should not have published TIB's sweeping report with so much importance, he added.

The progress of the private universities would not have been possible without the cooperation of the ministry and UGC, said BNP leader Abdullah Al Noman, chairman of East Delta University in Chittagong.

There are many private universities of high standards in the country, but at the same time there are some sub-standard private universities, which the education minister cannot deny, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman told BBC Bangla Service last night.

Those, who consider this sector as a source of "business capital", if asked whether they were doing irregularities, would always say no, he said.

"If the ministry wants to do something, it should conduct another research and tell us [based on its findings] that TIB's report is flawed. We will accept that and will have no objection then."

# 3 of a family

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Mostafa -- over establishing supremacy in the area. Ayub is a follower of Swapan.

On Thursday, Ayub had an altercation with Mostafa over derogatory remarks about Swapan at Jhodia Bazar, and they warned each other of dire consequences.

Mir Shariful Haque Janak, officer-in-charge of Islamic University Police Station, said four criminals came to the house of Ayub around 10:30pm and threw a bottle of acid through the window of his house where his sister Saleha, daughter Sonia and son Titumir were asleep.

Sonia sustained severe burn injuries on the left side of her face and in her left hand while Titumir in his left hand. Saleha got minor injuries in the right leg.

They were rushed to Kushtia Medical College Hospital. Sonia was later shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and Titumir to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as their condition worsened.

A tense situation was prevailing following the acid attack. Yesterday morning, activists of the two groups attacked one another, injuring around 20 people.

Police charged batons on them to bring the situation under control. Additional police have been deployed there to fend off further trouble.

Abu Bakar Siddique, Kushtia additional superintendent of police, said police were trying to arrest the criminals involved in the incident.

Officer-in-charge of Islamic University Police Station Shariful Haque said they nabbed one Nayeab Ali, belonging to Mostafa group, for his alleged involvement in the acid attack.

# Azhar's war trial at next stage

Defence completes cross examinations of witnesses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A war crimes case against Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant Secretary General ATM Azharul Islam steps into the next stage as the defence yesterday completed cross-examination of the last prosecution witness at the International Crimes Tribunal-1.

The defence usually produce their witnesses to defend their client after examination of prosecution witnesses. Both the defence and the prosecution then place arguments on the evidence. Once the argument is over, the tribunal keeps the case, which begins with a filing of formal charges, waiting for verdict.

The defence yesterday submitted a list of 15 witnesses to testify for Azharul, while the prosecution filed a petition praying to the tribunal not to allow the witnesses.

The three-member tribunal chaired by Justice M Enayetur Rahim fixed today for hearing the arguments of both prosecution and defence in this regard.

The tribunal yesterday also expressed dissatisfaction over unnecessary questions asked by defence counsel Abdus Subhan Tarafder of the last prosecution witness and investigation officer of the case during cross-examination.

In reply to a question, investigation officer SM Idris Ali said Azharul had filled in his HSC examination form but

could not confirm if the accused had passed the exam.

Ali, however, said Azharul had obtained a master's degree from Dhaka University.

Azharul faces six charges of murder, genocide and crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War in 1971. He was present in the dock yesterday.

ABDUL JABBAR'S CASE

The tribunal fixed tomorrow to pass an order on initiation of war crimes case against former Jatiya Party lawmaker Abdul Jabbar in absentia.

War crimes suspect Jabbar, now 82, as the chairman of Mathbaria Peace Committee "played a key role" in the formation of the Razakar force there and "led it" to commit crimes during the war.

The prosecution has brought five charges against him for killing, mass killing, looting and forced conversion in Pirojpur.

A probe report notes that he was allegedly involved in killing 36 people, looting and destroying 557 houses and forcing 200 Hindus to convert to Islam.

He was elected lawmaker from Mathbaria in 1986 and 1988 on a Jatiya Party ticket but retired from politics later.

The tribunal yesterday also fixed August 31 to pass an order on a contempt petition filed against a reporter of the daily Kaler Kantho.

# Law enforcers blamed

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accord, the situation in which indigenous people are living in the three hill districts. The visit comes amid widespread allegations of land grabbing by Bangalee settlers and security forces.

The commission has been trying to help the hill people get back their land taken away by pushing landless majority Bangalees in the areas since 1980s.

In his statement, the Rangamati lawmaker referred to some organisations' repeated announcements of resisting the visit since its date was announced. He also drew the attention to the lax security that became clear after the attack.

"An aggressive fundamentalist quarter has long been orchestrating unrest in the hilly areas by obstructing the ongoing process of restoring peace there," he added.

The attack was part of the fundamentalists' conspiracy.

After the attack, Sultana Kamal, a member of the delegation, said the attackers came from behind the local office of military intelligence DGF and even fired two bullets from their gun.

Samajik Protirodh Committee, Bangladesh Hindu, Buddha, Christian Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad demanded an investigation into the attack and bring the culprits to book.

The attack highlights the helplessness of the indigenous people of the hills.

Yesterday, Rangamati police filed a case against 30-35 unidentified people for injuring Monu Sohel Imtiaz, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station.

# Criminals assault

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Abbas later filed a case against four people, including Hannan, with the police station.

In July 2012, Abbas, 64-year-old chairman of East Gujra Union Parishad of Rauzan, testified that he heard from locals that Salauddin was involved in the killings committed in Kundeshwari and Jagot Mollo Para in Chittagong during the Liberation War

in 1971.

He also said about 60-70 Hindus of Unsotturpara in Rauzan in Chittagong were killed in a raid by the Pakistan army on April 14, 1971.

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 on October 1 handed down the death penalty to Salauddin for committing crimes against humanity and genocide during the Liberation War.

# Is yeti real?

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a "yeti" bear specimen alive.

He told NBC News that his team's study, published in this week's issue of the journal Proceedings of The Royal Society B, should encourage "Bigfoot enthusiasts to go back out into the forest and get the real thing."

People from around the world answered Prof Sykes' call to send in hair samples that may or may not be from what he describes as "anomalous primates".

The vast majority of the samples turned out to be from easily-explained, modern species, including horses, cows, bears, canines and even one unidentified human.

But a golden-brown sample from an

animal shot by a hunter in the north-east region of Ladakh, India, 40 years ago and a reddish-brown hair from a high-altitude bamboo forest in Bhutan both matched the presumed long-lost bear.

Prof Sykes admitted that the study has not yet come across a hidden human-like creature -- the Holy Grail of cryptozoologists -- but that the anomalous bear was the next best thing.

He is writing a book about the link between the samples and the 40,000-year-old bear fossil remains entitled The Yeti Enigma, and said a Himalayan expedition was "the next logical step".

"We need a live 'yeti'," he added.

# Decision on Shakib today

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offence will Shakib's recent activities fall under.

And what kind of punishment awaits Shakib, who returned home yesterday from London after the board had asked him to join the camp immediately as he had left the country, to play in the Caribbean Premier League, without obtaining the no-objection certificate (NOC) from the board?

According to sources in the BCB, there are about 10 levels of offence where the board can fine a player from Tk 5,000 to Tk 5 lakh. The code of conduct also states that a player can be suspended for different durations with the maximum penalty being a life ban for breaching the code.

There are no specific guidelines but the BCB has got the right to impose any kind of punishment on a player considering the gravity of the incident.

Breaching the BCB's protocol is a serious offence which Shakib committed by leaving the country without NOC while his heated argument with coach Chandika Hathurusingha added more weight to his indiscretion.

Another disciplinary action is also pending for the all-rounder as the board will also take a decision on the action to be taken on Shakib for leaving the dressing room and entering the stands and allegedly getting into a scuffle with an audience member during an ODI against India in June this year. A hearing was already held regarding the incident and the board also got the report from the team operations manager.

Papon also said that he will take a decision regarding the reshuffling of the team management including the team operations committee, which looks after the player-related issues.