



MODI'S MAN

Kuldip Nayar writes about Amit Shah and his loyalty to Narendra Modi

PAGE 6

THE UNPARALLELED DUO

A tribute to Kazi Nazrul Islam and Abbasuddin Ahmed

PAGE 9

GOODBYE, REBEL

Nabarun Bhattacharya dies at 66

PAGE 8

PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

No rules left to be broken

WASIM BIN HABIB

Imagine universities being run with no vice-chancellor (VC), pro-VC or treasurer.

Or think about students obtaining graduation and post-graduation degrees from universities that do not have enough qualified teachers, properly equipped libraries and laboratories, do not publish research journals and have no campus of their own.

It is shocking but true that there are many such private universities in the country, according to a report of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

The statutory apex body for higher education sent the report outlining the overall situation and problem of the universities and the way out to the education ministry in June.

According to the report, majority of the private universities are operating without meeting the criteria set by the Private University Act-2010.

At least nine universities are operating unauthorised outer campuses while three universities have disputes within their trustee boards.

The journey of private universities in the country began in 1992. Currently more than 3,00,000 students are studying at 79 private universities, according to the report.

NO VC, PRO-VC, TREASURER

The report revealed the appalling way in which some private universities are being run.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Total universities **79**

Students more than **3 lakh**

Majority of universities running without following rules

Most universities have poor library, lab, research facilities

9 universities running unauthorised outer campuses

No VC in **20** universities

No pro-VC in **61** universities

SOURCE: UGC REPORT



The wrecked bus on its side after Simanta Express from Saidpur rammed it at Barobazar level crossing, about 12 miles from Jessore, and dragged it half a kilometre, killing 11 people returning from a wedding early yesterday. Another photo on page 2.

PHOTO: AZIBOR RAHMAN

Truce crumbles

Blame game over ceasefire violation; death toll hits 1,600; Israeli soldier captured in Gaza

AFP, Gaza City

A humanitarian truce in Gaza yesterday collapsed only hours after it began amid a deadly new wave of violence and the apparent capture by Hamas of an Israeli soldier.

US President Barack Obama called for the soldier to be "unconditionally" released, but also said more must be done to protect Gaza civilians.

Intensive shelling killed dozens of people in southern Gaza hours into the truce, which began at 8:00am and had been due to last 72 hours.

Hamas accused Israel of breaking the short-lived ceasefire, while the Jewish state said it was responding to militant rocket fire.

The chances of a durable truce seemed as remote as ever after the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

NEWS ANALYSIS

The world's paramount terrorist state

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

The state of Israel has, till this point, murdered nearly 1,600 Palestinians in Gaza. Twenty-six days, till the writing of this report, have gone by. And yet the ferocity exemplified by Benjamin Netanyahu and his men has not subsided. They say they are destroying Hamas weapons and tunnels. They do not speak of the lives they have put an end to. Their friends in the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Injured Palestinian children receive medical treatment at al-Najar hospital in Rafah in Gaza strip, following an Israeli military strike yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

RUSH FOR DHAKA TRIPS

2 killed as ticket seekers clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

At least two people were killed and 10 others injured as two groups of locals clashed over purchasing tickets at Ishwardi Bypass Rail Station in Natore yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Jibon Hossain, 22, son of Abdur Razzak and Jamat Ali, 28, son of Akbar Ali. Both of them hailed from Daharshoila village under Lalpur upazila of the district.

A brawl over buying tickets to Dhaka in front of one of the ticket-counters at the station turned deadly around 11:00am, leaving Jamat dead on the spot, Bashudev Banik, superintendent of police of Natore, said yesterday.

Jibon succumbed to his injuries half-an-hour later after he had been taken to Ishwardi Upazila Health Complex.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Cancel 'Delwar's bail'

Tuba workers demand; demo today

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The Tuba Group workers on hunger strike yesterday demanded cancelling "the bail" for its owner Delwar Hossain in a case over the 2012 Tazreen Fashions fire.

As their fast entered the fifth consecutive day, the workers also rejected the BGMEA's pledge of payments in seven days.

About 1,600 workers of Tuba factories could not go home during the Eid holiday being left without three months' arrears and festival bonus. The day before Eid-ul-Fitr, they began the hunger strike on the premises of Hossain Market that houses their units.

The aggrieved workers also announced an agitation programme for today to press for their five-point demand that include cancelling the bail reportedly granted to the group's managing director before Eid.

"We demand cancelling Delwar Hossain's bail. We want the highest punishment for him," Moshrefa Mishu, president of Garment Workers Unity Forum, told journalists on the spot.

"We also demand payment of arrears and bonus to the workers and compensation for their physical and mental sufferings due to the hunger strike," she added.

"Besides, the authorities have to ensure job security of workers after the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Wedding turns tragic

11 killed as train rams bus at level crossing; gateman suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A just-married couple had a horrible start to their new life yesterday with 11 of their loved ones killed as a train rammed the bus carrying their party on a level crossing at Barobazar of Kaliganj in Jhenidah.

At least 60 others were injured.

The Simanta Express from Saidpur rammed the bus at the level crossing at speed and took it half a kilometre down the rail lines before it could come to a halt around 3:40am.

The gateman of the level crossing was not there.

Of the deceased, nine died on the spot and two at Kaliganj Upazila Health Complex and Jessore Sadar Hospital a few hours later. Three people of a family were among the dead.

The bride, primary school teacher Jyotsna Rani, and the groom, high school teacher Taposh Kumar, were on a microbus.

One of the injured, Bhubesh, 55, whose daughter Trishna Rani died on the spot, gave a horrific account of the accident.

"We made around three kilometres from the bride's home and everyone was chatting with each other about the

ceremony.

"As soon as the bus got on the level crossing, the train hit it," he said, adding, "My daughter who sat next to me was flung out of her seat as the bus tilted ... I cannot remember where she fell."

"I remember grabbing the armrest of my seat with both hands until it all stopped."

Bhubesh injured his arms and back.

Eyewitness Mostafizur Rahman said, "I heard the bang and got out of my home instantly only to see that the locomotive was pushing something forward."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

3 hurt in train-car collision

Injured missing after gun found in the car

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A car in its haste slipped under the closing gate of Malibagh level crossing and it was hit by a train yesterday afternoon injuring three men in the car.

The train, which was heading for Kamalapur Railway Station, dragged the vehicle for over 100 metres, said Sub-Inspector Arefin Imam of Dhaka Railway Police Station.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Danger lurks at level crossings

389 crossings across the country poorly-manned

M RAHMAN

Barobazar at Kaliganj in Jhenidah is one of the 389 poorly-manned level crossings of the country where at least 11 people were killed after a train rammed a bus early yesterday.

In all, there are 2,541 level crossings in the country, but there is no guard at about 2,150 of them, said a top railway official.

Some 1,100 of the total level crossings have been built by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and the Roads and Highways Department (RHD); violating rules, Railway Secretary Mohammad Abul Kalam Azad told The

Daily Star.

However, Tafazzal Hossain, railway director general, said gatemen perform their duty at every level crossing in three eight-hour shifts every day.

At the accident site, the two gatemen made their own 48-hour shift, said sources at adjacent Mobarakanj Railway Station.

Asked, Tafazzal said, "We will investigate the incident from both divisional and general manager levels to find out the real fact."

He also admitted that gatemen posted in remote areas often mutually managed their duty rosters.

"Under the rule, every level crossing on

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Garment workers of Tuba Group continue with their hunger strike inside their factory in Badda yesterday demanding unpaid wages and Eid bonuses. Their colleagues are seen checking up on them.

PHOTO: PALASH KHA