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BRIGHT DAYS AHEAD

Bangladeshis believe their children are better off at home

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KARAM PUJA COLOURS

Naogaon Orai community celebrates the fest participated by 23 cultural groups

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THERE'S A SECOND LEAKER

Film on Snowden discusses another source inside the US intelligence

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Latif claims he offered to quit

PMO yet to confirm; cabinet secretary says procedure for his removal complete; Latif, on way to India from US, now says sorry for hurting religious sentiment

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

While the cabinet division said it was all set to have Abdul Latif Siddique fired, the minister has claimed to have tendered his resignation almost a week ago.

The posts and telecommunications and ICT minister told The Daily Star over the phone from Heathrow Airport last night that he had emailed the PMO from Dallas on October 6 and the PMO acknowledged getting his email.

Latif was on his way to New Delhi and he would head for Kolkata from there. He said he would stay in Kolkata for a few days and then return to Dhaka.

Yesterday, over the phone, the minister even read out his resignation letter to The Daily Star correspondent.



The PMO has so far made no statement that backs Latif's claim.

Contacted, AKM Shamim Chowdhury, press secretary to the prime minister, told The Daily Star that he was unaware of any email Latif sent regarding his resignation.

"I have to check first," he said.

Latif claimed that he tendered his resignation three days after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had announced on October 3 that he would be removed from the cabinet.

Latif, however, said none from the government or the Awami League had actually asked him to resign.

There was widespread criticisms and uproar at home and abroad after Latif made

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WHO OWNS THIS ROAD? Logs piled up by a sawmill occupy almost half a kilometre stretch of a road at Shonir Akhra in the capital, obstructing the movement of vehicles.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

TANGAIL 4-MURDER Tk one lakh bounty for key accused

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police yesterday declared a bounty of Tk 1 lakh for information that may lead to the arrest of



Jahangir Hossain

Jahangir Hossain, the prime suspect in the brutal killing of a woman and her three daughters in Tangail on Tuesday.

Mahfuzul Haque Nuruzzaman, deputy inspector general of police (Dhaka Range), declared the reward before the reporters at Mirzapur Police Station in Tangail yesterday afternoon.

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Cyclone Hudhud poised to hit India

Triggers heavy rain in Bangladesh; people returning to Dhaka suffer as launch services disrupted

STAR REPORT

Cyclone Hudhud, which has moved slightly north-westwards over the West Central Bay and adjoining East Central Bay, may cross the coast of North Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha of India by today morning.

The cyclonic storm is likely to intensify further and move in a west-north-westerly direction. It will not hit Bangladesh unless it changes its direction, said a Met official in Dhaka.

Meanwhile, about 150,000 people were evacuated on India's eastern seaboard yesterday as Hudhud bore down and grew in sheer force, threatening to devastate farmland and fishing villages, reports Reuters.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) rated Hudhud as a very severe cyclonic storm that could pack gusts of 195 km/h and dump more than 24.5 cm of rain when it makes landfall.

The Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System, run by the United Nations and the European Commission, forecast even higher peak wind speeds of 212 km/h. That would make Hudhud a Category 4 storm capable of inflicting "catastrophic" damage.

The IMD last night said the scenario of "very severe cyclone" would persist for nearly six hours post-landfall on today morning. The peak may reach by noon, reports The Times of India.

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Man killed while making bomb in Feni

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

A youth was killed in an explosion when he along with his associates was making crude bombs in Feni Sadar upazila yesterday afternoon.

The dead is Nur Nabi, 24, son of Md Ishak of Bathania village.

Some youths, including Nabi, were making crude bombs in an abandoned room at Bathania village, said Saiful Haque, additional superintendent of police in Feni, quoting locals.

Around 3:30pm, suddenly a bomb went off, killing Nabi on the spot, he added.

Three others were reportedly injured in this incident.

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PROTEST AGAINST STALKING

Bhashantek goons murder youth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man already accused of physically and sexually assaulting 11 members of a Bhashantek family allegedly beat a man to death on Friday night for protesting the stalking of his cousin.

Nasir Hossain, 25, is the latest victim of alleged killer Mamun, the prime accused in a case for barbaric torture on a pregnant woman and 10 others of her family in Bhashantek slum area in February this year.

Mamun along with four of his cohorts -- Bablu, "Kana" Alam, Khokon and Chukka -- verbally abused Laboni, 15, in Bhashantek on Friday afternoon, Nasir's brother Mosharraf said in the statement of the case he filed with Bhashantek Police Station yesterday.

Seven named and four to five unnamed people were accused in the case. Mamun, 27, has been made the prime accused.

After Laboni told the stalking incident to Nasir, he scolded the gang and warned them of legal actions should they further harass her.

Around 9:30pm, a man came to Nasir and took him to Mamun and his gang members, Mosharraf said in the case statement.

Later that night, Mamun and his cohorts severely beat Nasir with metal pipes and stabbed him indiscriminately in Goltek area, leaving him critically wounded.

Nasir was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 10:30pm where he died about two hours later, Mosharraf said.

Although Mamun went into hiding after the horrific February incident, he returned to Bhashantek about a month ago and started his illegal activities there, said Kohinur Begum who had filed the assault case against Mamun and his gang.

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BURDWAN BLAST Delhi to share information with Dhaka 6 held in Assam are members of JMB-backed unit: local police

STAR REPORT

New Delhi has agreed to share information with Dhaka about the recent bomb blast at Burdwan in West Bengal as Indian media point the finger at "Bangladeshi militants" over the explosion.

India's official spokesperson Syed Akbaruddin has confirmed that Bangladesh sought information from them on the matter, Indian high commission in Dhaka said yesterday.

"I can confirm you that the Bangladesh government has requested our assistance in this matter. We've received that communication from the Bangladesh government," Akbaruddin said.

Their agencies concerned have been requested to tabulate information so that, he said, "we can share [it] appropriately with our

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Influenced by cyclone Hudhud, an unusual surge in the Payra river at Amtoli of Barguna damages an embankment. As a result, a sudden rush of water submerged at least five villages.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Navy to get 2 submarines by next year

UNB, Chittagong

Bangladesh Navy is going to have two submarines in its fleet by 2015, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced yesterday.

"Inshaallah, two submarines will be added to the naval force by next year," she said while awarding National Standard to BNS Osman at Naval Berth in Chittagong.

Besides, two new corvettes will be added to the Navy fleet to strengthen the capability of the force to protect the maritime boundary and sea resources, Hasina said adding that a process is on to set up the biggest naval base at Rabanabad in Patuakhali with facilities for submarine berthing and aviation.

"It's imperative to ensure a favourable atmosphere and security in the maritime area for extracting sea resources and securing trade. The naval force has to perform an important role in this regard," said Hasina, who also holds the defence portfolio.

BNS Osman has been awarded with the National Standard for its outstanding contribution at home and abroad for the last 25 years, including its engagement in the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Lebanon for the last four years.

The premier hoped that the Navy members would uphold the dignity of the force through their high efficiency and discipline and by maintaining the chain of command.

Hasina said her government has taken short and medium term plans to make the Navy an efficient, modern and balanced three-dimensional force by 2030.

As part of the plans, 16 ships, two helicopters and two maritime patrol aircraft have been given to the Navy during the tenure of her government, she said.

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