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ARSON ATTACK ON TRAINS

Railway beefs up firefighting steps

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

Bangladesh Railway has started to keep extra fire extinguishers inside trains as a precautionary measure against arson attacks amid the ongoing blockade.

The move aims at ensuring safety of passengers and protecting public properties, said railway sources.

The railway had already started supplying the fire extinguishers a few days ago to the trains plying under its east zone, said the zone's chief mechanical engineer (CME) Harun-ur-Rashid.

Usually, there are two fire extinguishers in a locomotive but an extra one is being kept there, he said, adding addition extinguishers were being placed in the other compartments of trains as well.

Abdul Matin Chowdhury, BR west zone CME, said the trains plying under the zone were also being provided with extra fire extinguishers.

BR Director General Amzad Hossain said the initiative had been taken on "security grounds".

Fear of arson attacks that have been the ugliest aspect of the blockade has gripped travellers.

An official of the railway's east zone, seeking not to be named, said at least three arson attacks had been carried out on trains since the beginning of the blockade on January 6.

Petrol bombs were hurled at "Jalalabad Express" in Kulaura of Moulvibazar and two container trains in Amirganj of Narsingdi and Sharshadi of Feni at different times, he added.

Besides, pickets threw a crude bomb at "Bijoy Express" in Mymensingh, leaving one injured, said sources.

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PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Thailand striker Sensomaia Adisak (L) heads in the opening goal from a corner during their Bangabandhu Gold Cup match against Singapore at the Sylhet District Stadium yesterday. Thailand won a thrilling encounter 3-2, with their captain Parnpak Pakorn securing victory with his 80th minute strike. Story on page 15.

Daughter of late journo Akhtarul murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of Fahmida Akhtar from inside her bedroom in the capital's Rampura yesterday. She was the daughter of late journalist Akhtarul Alam who served as the acting editor of the Daily Ittefaq.

Fahmida lived alone on the fourth floor of a six-storey building at Mahanagar Project.

On information, police rushed there and sent her body to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy. They found her hands and legs tied with pieces of clothes.

Fahmida was strangled to death and her both hands bore

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9 killed in 2 road crashes

STAR REPORT

Nine people were killed and six others injured in road accidents in Mymensingh and Jhenidah yesterday.

In Mymensingh, five people, including two women, were killed and another woman was critically injured as a bus rammmed a CNC-run auto-rickshaw at Raghobpur of the district's Sadar upazila yesterday evening.

The accident took place on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road around

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ISIS-affiliated group kills 32 in Egypt

Targets military, police in coordinated attacks

AGENCIES

An ISIS-affiliated terrorist group killed at least 32 people in coordinated rocket and bomb attacks on the Egyptian military and police in the Sinai Peninsula on Thursday night.

Ansar Beit al-Maqdis launched the assault on three towns, detonating a car bomb outside a military base as mortars were simultaneously fired at the stronghold, destroying buildings and burying soldiers under the debris.

At least 60 people were wounded, according to medical officials, who warned that the death toll was expected to rise.

The capital of North Sinai, el-Arish, was targeted along with the nearby towns of Sheik Zuwayid and Rafah, which sees regular conflict because of its position on the border with Gaza and the crossing there, reports Independent.

After the attacks, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi cut short a visit to

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Record-breaking Balloon ride



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Two pilots have surpassed the world distance record for a flight in a helium balloon after soaring across the Pacific Ocean and travelling further than the 5,209 mile marker, but the pair are hoping to set a new record for duration before landing.

American Troy Bradley and Russian Leonid Tiukhtyaev left Japan in their balloon on Sunday and had been aiming for Canada until a high-pressure ridge formed on the West Coast of the US, causing the pair to turn towards Mexico, where they are thought to be aiming for the peninsula of Baja, California, and plan to land today.

The pair are aiming to set both distance and duration records in their Two Eagles balloon, but in order to do so they need to exceed the current records by one percent, according to international aviation rules.

To officially break the record, Bradley and Tiukhtyaev need to exceed the current records by one percent, according to international aviation rules.

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Trees chopped down from the reserve forest in Ruma upazila in Bandarban are seen in piles at a brick kiln. Forty illegal brick kilns have been set up in residential areas on arable land and even beside schools in the remote areas of Lama, Alikadom, Naikkhangchhari, Rowangchhari, Ruma, and Thanchi upazilas. The kilns use logs collected with the help of unscrupulous forest officials.

PHOTO: STAR



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SREBRENICA MASSACRE
Verdicts upheld at UN tribunal

BBC ONLINE

A judge at the UN Yugoslav tribunal has upheld the convictions of five men for their role in the Srebrenica massacre.

Sentences for four of the men, high-ranking officials in the Bosnian Serb Army in 1995, were also confirmed.

They had appealed against their convictions in 2010 for a range of crimes including genocide.

About 8,000 Bosnian men and boys were killed in Srebrenica in just three days in 1995 -- the worst atrocity on European soil since the Holocaust.

Two of the men -- Vujadin Popovic and Ljubisa Beara -- are among just a few to have been found guilty of genocide.

They were sentenced to life for deliberately targeting and destroying groups of people based on their ethnicity.

Those life sentences were confirmed on Friday, as were the sentences of 35 years for Drago Nikolic, and 13 years for Vinko Pandurevic. The sentence of the fifth man, Radivoje Miletic, was reduced from 19 to 18 years.

The atrocity took place a few months before the end of the Bosnian war, when 20,000 refugees fled to Srebrenica to escape Serb forces.

It was an enclave protected by UN Dutch soldiers but was overrun by paramilitary troops led by the Bosnian Serb commander Ratko Mladic - after which reports of atrocities began to emerge.

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Human Rights Watch that Bangladesh govt has failed to ensure justice which leads to serious violation of rights?

Yes (90%)

No (10%)

TOTAL VOTES: 290

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it would be justified for the government to hold the SSC and equivalent exams in this violent political situation?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING January 31

	Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	5-35	6-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-46	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

IN REMEMBRANCE



We fondly remember **Late Aziz H. A. Sattar**, the founding Managing Director of GMG Group of Industries, on his 22nd death anniversary. He was a pioneer and a role model of industrialization in this country. His unfathomable depth of knowledge, vision, uphill struggle and firm determination may inspire all of us. Today we solicit doa from his well-wishers for his departed soul.

Family members & employees of GMG Group