

Taiwan plane

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The ATR-72 turbo-prop plane had just taken off from Taipei Songshan Airport and was heading to the Kinmen islands, just off the coast of the south-eastern Chinese city of Xiamen.

TransAsia said it had contacted relatives of all the 22 Taiwanese passengers on board and was attempting to reach relatives of the Chinese nationals.

Among the 15 injured, there were 11 from Taiwan, three from China and one member of the crew. The airline said that one injured passenger had already been discharged from hospital.

It is the second TransAsia ATR-72 to crash in seven months, following an accident last July which killed 48 people and injured 15.

The final communication from the pilots to air traffic control was "Mayday, mayday, engine flame out", according to a recording played on local media. The recording was not immediately verified by aviation officials.

Flight controllers lost contact with the plane at 10:55 local time (02:55 GMT).

Footage of the plane filmed from inside passing cars showed it banking sharply, hitting a taxi and clipping the bridge before crashing into the river.

"I saw a taxi, probably just metres ahead of me, being hit by one wing of the plane," an eye-witness told local media.

"The plane was huge and really close to me. I'm still trembling."

TV footage showed rescuers standing on the tail section of the broken wreckage trying to pull passengers out of the plane with ropes.

The majority of the plane, including the front section of the fuselage and the wings, was submerged after it plunged into the Keelung River.

Obama, Modi

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point to the power of democratic forces and what it can do to empower all of its citizens," he said at a press briefing at the Foreign Press Centre.

"I think this is an ongoing conversation that we've seen between the two leaders and one that we take very seriously and would continue to promote," Reiner noted at the programme titled "Readout From President Obama's Trip to India: Perspectives on US-India Relations".

In response to another question, Reiner said, "One of the things that I was able to see in terms of the conversation between the President and the Prime Minister was the role that India's democratic process and the example that it sets can play."

Prof Emajuddin

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Emerging from the UN office in the capital's Agargaon, he told reporters that he wanted to do something to resolve the unrest.

"The two major political parties have no respect for each other and they don't listen to their rival's opinion. That's why I have called upon the UN secretary general to mediate and initiate talks between the two," he said.

Meanwhile, the BNP in a statement last night called upon the international community to look into the human rights violation by the government, and its "repressive acts" against opposition men, including its chief.

Govt plans

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from an intelligence agency about those who make and throw bombs. A crackdown is already on against them and the law enforcement agencies will soon intensify the operation," State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told this correspondent last night.

Of the 779 people, 444 are linked with BNP politics, 290 with Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir, and five with Jatiya Party (Kazi Zafar), according to the report, obtained by The Daily Star.

Another 30 have no political affiliation and they are working as mercenaries. The report does not say anything about the rest 10 people.

The report also contains the addresses of those named in it.

According to the report, the attackers have been carrying out subversive activities away from their own areas as part of their strategy.



Newly appointed US Ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Bernicat hands over her credentials to President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Five suffer burn injuries

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2:00am today. Of them, Sabuj and Kamrul with seven percent, and Jahangir with 10 percent were rushed to the burn unit of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 10:00pm yesterday.

Rakib and the other victim are undergoing treatment at Gazipur Sadar Hospital, said police sources.

A few youths hurled a petrol bomb at the Gazipur-bound bus of Balaka Paribahan when it reached near Noutjani area of Gazipur City Corporation around 8:00pm. The attackers fled the scene immediately, said Khandakar Rezaul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Joydevpur Police Station, quoting witnesses.

A child, Mariam Akter Rupa, 7, was also brought to the DMCH from Gazipur last night. It was not clear whether she was in the bus as police found her at a hospital in Gazipur.

"Wedidnotfindthegirlatthespot.Wewere inquiring whether she was in the bus or not," the OC told The Daily Star last night.

Mariam's mother Nargis Akhter too could not confirm how and where Mariam suffered her burns.

A widow who works at a garment

factory, she was informed of her girl's burn injuries by one of her co-workers. Before leaving for work yesterday, she left Mariam at home with her mother, she said.

Nargis too found her daughter at a hospital in Gazipur and from there she brought her to DMCH by an ambulance, she added.

Mariam's condition is critical as she suffered 45 percent burns, said doctors at the burn unit.

A passenger was also hurt while getting off the bus that was coming from Dhaka with an estimated 20 to 25 people on board.

Jahangir, the bus driver, said a few youths who were hiding themselves behind a large pile of waste abruptly appeared on the road and threw something which was burning at one end.

Just a day ago, seven people were burnt to death as alleged blockaders hurled a petrol bomb at a bus in Comilla's Chouddagram. The bus was coming to Dhaka from Cox's Bazar. Another person of the arson attack succumbed to his injuries at the burn unit of DMCH yesterday.

[Our Gazipur correspondent contributed to this report]

Shajahan for 'mass movement'

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granddaughters abroad to attend exams, Shajahan said while addressing a press conference yesterday.

Bangladesh Sramik-Karmachari-Peshajibi-Muktijoddha Samannay Parishad organised the conference at the Jatiya Press Club.

The BNP chief is conspiring to destroy the country's sovereignty and independence, and agriculture and industry sectors, said Shajahan, also convener of the parishad.

As the people are not involved in BNP's blockade, they are now following hit-and-run strategy like militant organisations, he claimed.

The minister also mentioned the parishad's programmes to unite people and resist the violence.

Officials, employees and workers of all offices, business and education institutions and industries are to stand on streets for 15 minutes from 12:45pm today.

All vehicles are to honk for one minute, all shop owners and workers are to play the flute for one minute and all farmers are to stand up for one minute from 1:00pm.

On Saturday, the parishad will hold a national convention at the Bangladesh Medical Association Auditorium, the minister said.

Step towards eternal youth

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The process increases the length of the 'telomeres', which are the protective caps on the end of chromosomes that impact ageing and disease.

Researchers in the US say the technique could extend human life and provide new hope for battling diseases that arise from old age.

Telomeres -- often described as being like the plastic caps on the end of shoelaces -- help keep DNA healthy.

These protective end caps become shorter with each DNA replication, and eventually are no longer able to protect DNA from sustaining damage and mutations, causing people to age.

In young people, telomeres are

about 8,000-10,000 organic molecules, or nucleotides, long.

"Now we have found a way to lengthen human telomeres by as much as 1,000 nucleotides, turning back the internal clock in these cells by the equivalent of many years of human life," said Helen Blau of Stanford University.

To make the discovery, researchers used modified messenger RNA to extend the telomeres.

RNA carries instructions from genes in the DNA to the cell's protein-making factories.

The RNA used in this experiment contained the coding sequence for TERT -- the active component of a naturally occurring enzyme called telomerase.

Rizvi on 5-day fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed on a five-day fresh remand in another arson case.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Rezaul Karim passed the order after Detective Branch of police Sub-inspector Zahidul Islam, also investigating officer of the case, produced him before the court with a 10-day remand prayer.

In one of the worst arson attacks on public transport, a person was killed and at least 27 people suffered burns as two petrol bombs, thrown by suspected blockaders, exploded inside a bus in the capital's Jatrabari on January 23.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was named as the mastermind behind the attack while Rizvi as the instigator in the case.

On February 1, another Dhaka court sent the BNP leader on a three-day remand for torching a bus at Badda in the capital. Rizvi was produced before the court yesterday on completion of the remand period.

In the yesterday's remand prayer, the investigation officer said Rizvi's name is in the first information report, and he was directly involved in the arson attack in Jatrabari. So, he needs to be remanded to find out the whereabouts of the fugitive accused.

Opposing the plea, the defence told the court that their client was named in the case as part of a "conspiracy to harass him politically".

Rizvi was suffering from different ailments. So, they prayed for rejecting the remand prayer and granting him bail in the case, the defence lawyers said.

After the hearing, the magistrate granted the remand prayer.

The BNP leader was arrested in the capital's Baridhara on January 31 for his alleged links with the recent violence and subversive activities.

Two more killed in 'shootout'

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An additional force then joined the Rab team and launched a search in the area. They found two bullet-hit people lying in a pool of blood there, mentioned Zamil Ahmad.

He added: A gun, two petrol bombs and eight crude bombs were recovered from the spot.

Law enforcers later sent the two injured to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared them dead.

The bodies were lying at the DMCH morgue last night for autopsies.

BODY RECOVERED

Police early yesterday recovered a bullet-hit body of an unidentified youth from Balurmath in the capital's Bhashantek.

Aged around 30, the youth had a pair of jeans and a white coat over a checkered shirt on. Sources at the DMCH morgue said four bullets pierced the victim's body.

Acting on information from locals, a police team went to the spot and found the body lying at Balurmath around 3:00am, said Nasir Uddin Tuhiin, sub-inspector of Bhashantek

Police Station.

On Friday, Rupnagar police recovered the bullet-hit body of a youth from the area. On Monday, family members at the DMCH morgue identified the body as that of Ariful Islam Mukul, an upazila-level Chhatra Dal leader in Bhola, and a student of a private university in the capital.

Ariful's relatives claimed that detectives had picked him up from the Beribadh area in Rupnagar on Sunday.

SUSPECTED BOMBER SHOT

Police shot a suspected bomber, Kawsar Khan, for blasting crude bombs at Amtoli in the capital's Shahjahanpur area around 5:00am yesterday.

SI Md Mostafa of Shahjahanpur Police Station said cops fired three shots at Kawsar when he was fleeing the area after exploding two crude bombs.

Kawsar received bullets in his legs and was undergoing treatment at DMCH.

Talking to newsmen at the hospital, Kawsar said he was returning home by a rickshaw at dawn. Being frightened at the sight of a large police force, he tried to flee.

Khaleda accused in two cases

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Rizvi and Salahuddin Ahmed were also named as instigators.

Sub-inspector of Chaudhagram Police Station Nuruzzaman Howladar filed the cases against 56 BNP and Jamaat leaders, and 15-20 unnamed people on Tuesday night.

Taher was named the prime accused in both the cases, a Comilla correspondent reports, quoting Abdullah Al Mahfuz, inspector (Investigation) of the police station.

"The arson attack was carried out following an order of the BNP chief. That is why Khaleda is named as an instigator in both cases," Nuruzzaman Howladar told The Daily Star.

Police said 15 people were arrested yesterday in connection with the cases.

Meanwhile, addressing a view

exchange at Chaudhagram High School yesterday morning, Shafiqul Islam, deputy inspector general of police (Chittagong range), said, "We [police-men] have the ability to kill two people for your [arsonists] every single killing."

"If we build up resistance, you will not even be able to go to Pakistan," he said, adding that police have no political identity and are working to give people security.

Rab Director General Benazir Ahmed told the meeting that the killers have no idea about the power of the state.

It will be suicidal for those who will come to unleash attacks on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway again, he said.

With the latest cases, the BNP chief has been sued in six cases so far for instigating arson attacks during the non-stop blockade.

Is this what politics

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smell of charred flesh made the air heavier.

Yasin Arafat, another burn victim of the Jatrabari arson, was lying in his bed, throwing an empty look at the ceiling with pus oozing from his lifted hands, burnt yellow.

"Whenever I put my hands on the bed, they get wet with pus and cream," he said.

Kazim Uddin too was moaning, continuously. "O ma, ma...it pains," he was crying as his relatives shifted him in his bed. With the chest and hands bandaged, Kazim, who had suffered burns in a petrol bomb attack on a train in Gazipur, sat up on the bed for taking medicine, and then lay down again, moaning all the while.

The picture was more or less the same with other patients at the unit.

Doctors at the unit were struggling to cope with increasing number of patients. The unit has already been overwhelmed with more than 500 burn patients against a capacity of 300 beds.

Of the patients, 110 were burnt in the ongoing blockade enforced by the BNP-led 20-paty since January 6. Of the 110,

60 are still undergoing treatment there and 13 stated to be critical.

The victims' family members, who were leaving no stone unturned to save the lives of their dear ones, looked all stressed and exhausted.

A feeling of mental agony and uncertainty was etched into their faces. Many of them were weighed down by the question whether they would ever get back to normal life.

They, however, showed no interest to speak about the politics that caused all these arsons, leaving them in the lurch.

"What is the point of talking about politics? Do they ever care?" said a victim's attendant in disgust on the first floor.

Sujon Sikder, brother of Arif Sikder, a burn victim of the Comilla arson attack on Tuesday, said, "If we speak of politics, our lives will be at risk."

Just a few yards away, a mother was feeding his burnt son. She said, "We don't know politics. Nor do we understand it. Please let us live."

"Can they feel our pain?" she asked, referring to our politicians.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Phoenix Insurance Company Ltd. is one of the leading first generation General Insurance Co. in Bangladesh. Company's mission is to provide excellent insurance products and services to the growing needs of the Bangladesh markets. The Company offers a wide range of insurance services for individuals, small, medium enterprises and local and Multinational Company. Since its establishment, Phoenix Insurance has insured the Bangladesh customers for 29 years successfully and has progressed smoothly & steadily. The Company is looking for committed and performance driven candidates for the following positions:

1. Head of Underwriting (Executive Director/Deputy Managing Director)

a) Job Responsibility:

The candidate must have capacity to lead the Underwriting Department of a leading Insurance Company independently and handle any class of business/risk appropriately.

b) Educational Requirements:

- i) Master degree from any reputed University with good academic background.
- ii) Insurance Diploma or any other speciality in General Insurance will get priority.

c) Experience Requirements:

- i) At least 20 years experience in the Head Office Management.
- ii) 10 years experience as Head of Underwriting in any General Insurance Company.
- iii) Excellent interpersonal skills & have good command in English & Bengali fluently.
- iv) Computer proficiency will be considered.

d) Age Limit:

55 Years, it may be relaxed for deserving candidates.

2. Head of HR & Administration (General Manager)

a) Job Responsibility:

The candidate will be responsible for ensuring the overall Human Resources & the Administrative functions to implement the HR strategies & administration in the Company.

b) Educational Requirements:

- i) Masters/M.B.A. preferably in Human Resources Management from any reputed University.
- ii) Diploma or any other degree of the same subject will get priority.

c) Experience Requirements:

- i) At least 15 years of experience in any reputed Insurance Company will be treated as extra qualification.
- ii) 10 years experience as Head of HR/Administration in any reputed company.
- iii) Computer proficiency will be considered.
- vi) Excellent interpersonal skills & have good command in English & Bengali fluently.

d) Age Limit:

50 Years, it may be relaxed for deserving candidates.

3. Marketing Officer (Head Office and Branch Office):

Minimum graduate with a proven track record in the field of business development of General Ins. Co.

An attractive salary package and service benefit will be offered for the deserving candidates. Potential candidates satisfying the job requirement are invited to apply with complete C.V. and a recent passport size photograph, copies of attested academic & experience certificate addressed to the **Head of Administration Department, Phoenix Insurance Co. Ltd., 1/A Dilkusha, Dhaka-1000** on or before 28th February, 2015 mentioning the name of the post on the top of the envelop.



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