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Bangladesh visit 'very successful'

Says Mamata on return from Dhaka
OUR CORRESPONDENT,
New Delhi

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has termed her Bangladesh visit "very successful".

"The trip to Dhaka was very successful, and I am overwhelmed by the hospitality of the people," she told reporters at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata Saturday night on her return from Dhaka.

During her three-day visit to Bangladesh, Mamata met President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and discussed the Teesta water-sharing deal and the land boundary agreement, among other issues.

The chief minister headed a 39-member delegation.

Indian foreign secy due on March 2

REZAUL KARIM and
PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

Indian Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar would travel to Bangladesh on March 2 to convey New Delhi's intention of resolving pending issues including Teesta water sharing and implementation of Land Boundary Agreement (LBA).

Diplomatic sources in Dhaka and New Delhi said even though Jaishankar would come to Dhaka as part of his visit to Saarc countries, he would initiate discussion with the government high-ups on Indian

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HIZB-UT TAHRIR ACTIVITIES
Govt asks media to create public awareness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday requested all print and electronic media to carry out a campaign against the activities of the banned militant outfit Hizb-ut Tahrir and all other terrorist organisations to create awareness among the public.

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The Daily Star
Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL
Do you think the Teesta water-sharing issue would be resolved soon as assured by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee?

Yes (23%)
No (77%)

TOTAL VOTES: 411

TODAY'S POLL
Do you agree with BNP leader Mahbubur Rahman that the 20-party alliance is undertaking the movement for a noble cause and that is democracy?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE
www.thedailystar.net

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PRAYER TIMING
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-20 12-45 4-30 6-03 7-30

JAMAAT 5-55 1-15 4-45 6-07 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



The arms and ammunition recovered from a militant training camp in Banskhali of Chittagong. Inset, the five people Rab arrested in this connection. Rab-7 raided the camp, in disguise of a livestock farm, following information gleaned from people they arrested on February 19 at a madrasa in Hathazari of Chittagong.

PHOTO: STAR



They will be honoured as 'war heroes'

BNP says about those who are 'maimed by govt agencies'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People who are getting maimed at the hands of "government agencies" during the ongoing blockade will be honoured as "freedom fighters of this generation" once the BNP comes to power, the party has announced.

The BNP in a statement yesterday said it would also honour those, who were getting killed "by the hands of the government", as "national heroes".

We are announcing today that families of those deceased will be given due compensation and rehabilitated as well. And those who are being maimed by different attacks will be given due compensation and will also

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Blasts mark hartal

College student hurt in Dhaka; police shoot 'bomb-thrower'

STAR REPORT

A college student sustained injuries after pickets blasted crude bombs in the old part of Dhaka yesterday, the first day of BNP-led 20-party alliance's 72-hour nationwide hartal.

Sharmin Akhter Sultana, 18, underwent a surgery on her back at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Mozammel Haque, in-charge of the DMCH police outpost.

Her mother Lima Begum, 36, said they were going to Govt Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam College at Laxmibazar for Sharmin's admission to the honours course.

Just after getting down from a rick-



Sharmin Akhter

shaw in front of the college, they saw that some people hurled several crude bombs and the blasts caused huge smoke in the area.

"Once the smoke had cleared, I found my daughter lying on the road," she said.

Four of the injured were later moved to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogra, said Jahurul Islam, general secretary of Joypurhat AL.

Witnesses said a group of six to seven pickets hurled three to four crude bombs from a rally in front of the college around noon.

Police arrested Mamun, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal joint secretary of Jagannath University, from the spot.

"She [Sharmin] has a dream of becoming a banker. Will she be recover from such major injuries?" a sobbing Lima told The Daily Star.

"I don't know why I had to face such cruelty," she said.

Sharmin is one of many victims of petrol and crude bomb attacks that were carried out after the BNP-Jamaat

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6 injured in blasts at 14-party rally

AL men set fire to Joypurhat BNP office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Six people were injured when two crude bombs exploded at a rally organised by the Awami League-led alliance in Joypurhat town yesterday afternoon.

Rebeka Sultana, president of Joypurhat Mohila AL, and its secretary Nazma Begum are among the injured. All the injured were first admitted to Joypurhat Modern Hospital.

Four of the injured were later moved to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogra, said Jahurul Islam, general secretary of Joypurhat AL.

He blamed the BNP and Jamaat-Shibir activists for the attack.

A mob torched the BNP office in the town after the explosion. Firefighters put out the fire.

Joypurhat BNP President Mojahar Ali Prodhan alleged that the AL men set fire to their party office. He declined to comment about the blast at the rally.

The bombs were blasted around 5:30pm while AL central committee Organising Secretary Abu Sayeed Al Mahmud Swapan MP, was speaking.

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Relatives of Bappi crying after he died yesterday at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The bus helper was burnt in an arson attack on a bus at Rampura in the capital 10 days ago.

PHOTO:
BANGLA CHOKH

Bappi loses battle for life

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and JAMIL MAHMUD

Bus helper Bappi, 25, wished to be a driver someday. So he had been preparing himself diligently and saving money for an exam to obtain a driver's licence.

But all his diligence came to an abrupt end as the ongoing blockade violence landed him in the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Admitted to the hospital on February 12, he died from burns yesterday.

"He had saved around five thousand taka and wanted to borrow another five thousand for the exam," said Mansura Begum, Bappi's mother-in-law.

Mansura, who works as a cook at a small restaurant in the capital's Gabtoli, said Bappi once asked her for the money.

"But it was beyond my capacity," she sobbed.

Partha Sankar Paul, resident surgeon of the DMCH burn unit, said Bappi died at the unit's Intensive Care Unit (ICU) around 11:35am. He received 70 percent burns with inhalation injuries.

Hospital sources said his entire body except the right hand and some part of the head was burnt severely.

With him, as many as 46 burn victims have died so far all over the country since the BNP-led 20-party began the non-stop countrywide blockade on January 6. Of them, 11 have died at DMCH burn unit.

Alai Mia, Bappi's maternal uncle, said he had attended his nephew at the hospital on Saturday night and his condition deteriorated around 10:00pm.

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Turkey evacuates tomb, troops in Syria incursion

Damascus blames Ankara for 'flagrant aggression'

REUTERS, Ankara

Turkish forces swept into Syria overnight to rescue about 40 soldiers who had been surrounded for months by Islamic State militants while guarding the tomb of a revered Turkish figure.

The Syrian government described the operation as act of "flagrant aggression" and said it would hold Ankara responsible for its repercussions.

The action, which involved tanks, drones

and reconnaissance planes as well as several hundred ground troops, was the first such incursion by Turkish troops into Syria since the start of the civil war there nearly four years ago.

The military said no clashes took place during the operation although one soldier had been killed in an accident.

The 38 soldiers who had been guarding the tomb of Suleyman Shah, grandfather of the founder of the Ottoman Empire, were brought safely home. The tomb, which is on

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

Blast stunts birth of stars

BBC ONLINE

Winds blasted out by the giant black holes found at the centre of galaxies are strong enough to stunt the birth of new stars, astronomers have found.

By training two space telescopes on a supermassive black hole with the mass of a billion Suns, they measured the strength of its ferocious winds.

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