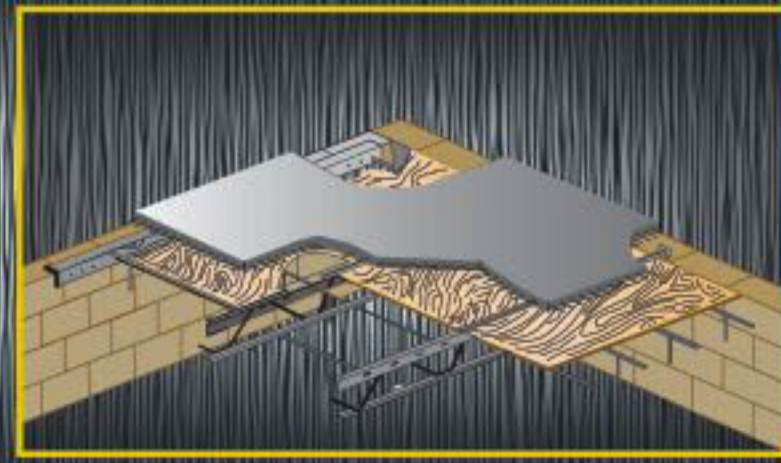


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90 die in gas explosion at Indian eatery

AGENCIES, Petlawad

Over 90 people died and nearly 100 were injured as a powerful gas cylinder explosion ripped through a restaurant near Madhya Pradesh's Jhabua district in India yesterday.

According to senior police officials, gelatine sticks used in mining stored in a house next to the restaurant added to the intensity of the blast. As a result, the two-storey building housing the restaurant collapsed and several adjacent buildings suffered damages, NDTV reported.

The death toll rose after rescuers recovered more bodies from the debris.

"Initially we heard the sound of (fire) crackers... a huge explosion took place forcing people to run for cover," Balram, an injured labourer, told Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency from the hospital in Jhabua district.

The blast in the town of Petlawad occurred at around 8:30am local time as many office workers and schoolchildren were having breakfast in the restaurant.

Photographs from the scene showed corpses covered in dust and ash lying in the streets alongside the twisted wreckage of burned-out vehicles, as victims described seeing body parts strewn in the street.

"We have seen them flying and falling on the ground," Narsingh, one of the injured told PTI.

Residents reported hearing a small blast followed by a much larger explosion, an AFP photographer at the scene said.

Television footage showed scores of people and rescue

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



People gather around the site of an explosion in Jhabua district in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh yesterday. At least 90 people were killed and dozens injured when a gas cylinder exploded in a restaurant there.

PHOTO: AFP

Help judges for quick case disposal

Chief justice to lawyers
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday urged lawyers to cooperate with judges so that cases are disposed of quickly and backlogs reduced.

"In many areas, I have seen that the lawyers are not willing to cross-examine the witnesses to the cases after 3:00pm. Besides, lawyers take repeated adjournments from the courts during the hearing on the cases," he said, adding that if the lawyers do not extend cooperation, it is not possible for the judges to reduce the huge backlog of cases.

The chief justice made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on "Justice Sector Coordination: Challenges and Opportunities" organised by lower courts in Dhaka in association with the United Nations Development Programme at Jagannath-Sohel

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

No council for years in AL top brass' districts

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The last council of Kishoreganj district Awami League was held in 1997. Eighteen years have passed since then.

The chapter's president first became the Speaker and then the president of the country in the meantime. Two successive general secretaries died. Two vice presidents and an organising secretary also passed away.

Yet, no council was held in the home district of AL General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam in all these years to form a new committee to replace the existing one -- the tenure of which, according to the AL charter, expired 15 years ago.

Then there's Gopalganj, home district of AL

President Sheikh Hasina. The last time a council was held there was in 2004. The three-year committee's tenure expired eight years ago, but no council was held there after that.

This is an organisational picture that prevails in some 20 of the 73 organisational districts of the ruling party. Twelve of these districts are home to the AL top brass.

So much influence these leaders hold in their areas that the AL organising secretaries do not even dare to do anything regarding the long-overdue councils without the consents of these bigwigs, party insiders said.

"Big leaders create big problem always," said an organising secretary of the party, wishing anonymity.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

More Indian cattle arrive

A large number waits to get thru' border points in 4 dists

STAR REPORT

With about 12 days to go before Eid-ul-Azha, more Indian cattle arrived in Bangladesh yesterday through various border points in at least four districts.

Every day, hundreds of cows and buffaloes are brought to cattle sheds from where they will be sent to different places of the country.

The sheds remained almost empty after India had stepped up security on its borders a few months back.

Talking to many Bangladeshi and Indian

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

Kenya's village for women only

ODDITYCENTRAL.COM

Umoja is literally a no man's land in Kenya -- a matriarchal refuge where men are not allowed. The village, founded 25 years ago by Rebecca Lolosoli, is meant to be a safe haven for women and girls who want to escape abuse in the otherwise patriarchal society of the Samburu people, in northern Kenya.

Rebecca, a member of the Samburu tribe, now serves as the chief matriarch of "Umoja Usau Women's Village". Having witnessed occasional violence as a child, she slowly came to the conclusion that some of the traditional Samburu practices were inherently abusive towards women. So she began to speak out against these practices, in favour of widows, orphans, and victims of rape, female genital cutting, and forced marriage.

Rebecca's outspoken attitude was met with a lot of resistance. Things got out of hand when she spoke up for a few women who were raped by British soldiers training nearby. Men in her village beat her up, and her husband did not protest on her behalf. So in 1990, she led a female exodus and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



6 arrested for 'drowning' 2 students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested six people from Savar and Dhamrai in connection with the abduction and murder of two college students.

The arrestees are Akter Hosen, Badsha Miah, Monowar Hosen, Lal Miah, Shukur Ali and Azgor Ali, said Savar police.

The victims are Munser Ali Munna, a student of Savar University College, and Monir Hosen, a student of a local college in Manikganj.

They were abducted separately by the same gang and were killed in a similar fashion, police said.

Kazi Ashraf Azim, additional superintendent of police Dhaka district, said Munser was abducted from Nama Bazar of Savar on August 25, reports our Savar correspondent.

The gang duped Munser into a painting job and took him to the Bongshi river by a trawler and tied his hands and legs. They then tied a concrete chunk to his body and threw him in the river. Later, the abductors demanded Tk 3 lakh from his family.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Gono Bishwabidyalay block Dhaka-Aricha highway at Baishmail in Savar, protesting a 7.5 percent VAT slapped on private university tuition fees. They stayed there for about an hour, creating long tailbacks on the road.

US-BANGLA DIALOGUE Deep ties key to resolving security issues

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and the United States have stressed the importance of a deeper and stronger partnership to seek effective solutions to their security concerns.

The issue came up during the fourth security dialogue between the two countries held in Washington DC on Friday, according to a message received here yesterday.

At the meeting, Bangladesh reiterated its commitment to fighting terrorism and extremism.

Mizanur Rahman, secretary (bilateral and consular) of foreign ministry, led the nine-member Bangladesh delegation. The team included representatives from the foreign, home and defence ministries, Armed Forces Division and the Bangladesh embassy in Washington.

The US delegation was led by Todd Chapman, principal deputy assistant

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



PRAYER TIMING

SEPTEMBER 13

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-30 6-14 7-45
JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-45 6-17 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Europe rallies for refugees

Hungary says EU 'dreaming'

AFP, London

Tens of thousands of Europeans rallied yesterday urging solidarity with the huge numbers of refugees entering the continent, as Hungary's populist premier said leaders were "in a dream world" about the dangers posed by the influx.

In London, one of dozens of events planned across Europe, tens of thousands of people marched brandishing placards reading "Open the Borders", an AFP journalist said, while in Copenhagen some 30,000 took to the streets, according to police.

Other demos were planned in Germany, Spain, France and elsewhere. But highlighting how the arrival of hundreds of thou-

sands of migrants is dividing the EU, several counter-demonstrations were also scheduled in eastern members of the bloc.

"It's time to speak out against the deadly borders that have been enacted in our name. People all over Europe are organising resistance and solidarity in their towns and cities," organisers of the "#EuropeSaysWelcome" initiative said on social media.

"We want to let all the refugees know: You are welcome!"

At the London protest, a boy dressed as Paddington Bear had a sign saying: "Paddington Bear Was A Refugee".

A little girl held up a drawing of two

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

The Daily Star
ORION
FOOTWEAR

ONLINE POLL
Do you think increase in fares of bus and CNG-run auto-rickshaw was justified?


Yes (21%)
No (79%)

TOTAL VOTES: 75

TODAY'S POLL
Do you agree with Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam that imposing VAT on tuition fees is completely illogical and contradictory to the government's policies?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net

DEEPLY BEREAVED



A F M Shamsur Rahman
13 September 1928 ~ 11 September 2015

Khulna based Veteran journalist, publisher, organizer, A F M Shamsur Rahman passed away at Dhaka Apollo Hospital on Friday. He worked with the Daily Azad and The Observer for a long time and contributed in the printing & publishing arena as well as in progressive political movement during the 70s and 80s.

On behalf of the grief-stricken family, the relatives and well-wishers mourn at the demise of A F M Shamsur Rahman, father of Sabbir Hasan Nasir, Executive Director, ACI Logistics Limited.