



## French, German foreign ministers due on Monday

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

French and German foreign ministers will visit Bangladesh on September 21-23 together to strengthen their relations with Bangladesh.

"It's going to be a historic moment," Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali told reporters at a press conference at his ministry on Thursday. He also mentioned such moments never came in the past.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and his German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier will inaugurate the France-Germany (Franco-German) joint embassy in Dhaka during their visit.

The Franco-German embassy in Dhaka is the first among others being constructed in the world. The foundation stone was laid on January 22, 2013, the 50th anniversary of the Elysee Treaty that confirms the rapprochement between the two countries.

The common aim of building the embassy is to display the theme of duality and unity in a single building.

Besides, the two European countries' foreign ministers along with their Bangladeshi counterpart will visit various project sites in Patuakhali.

Ali said both the countries have very strong relations with Bangladesh and have taken a strong position in favour of Bangladesh in addressing climate risk as Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries due to climate change.

The foreign minister said Laurent Fabius agreed to come to Bangladesh during his bilateral meeting with Fabius in France recently.

Fabius also told Ali that he would visit Bangladesh with a delegation of the Movement of the Enterprises of France (MEDEF), which is the largest employer federation in France.

The French foreign minister also said Bangladesh is a vulnerable country due to climate change, and they will consider Bangladesh's opinions with due importance in the next climate summit to be held in Paris.

People from different villages in Tangail burning papers on a street, and staging demonstrations, top right, protesting torture of a woman and her son. Some of the protesters were picked up, bottom right, during a clash with police that killed three and left at least 30 people injured yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## 3 killed as police fire on protesters

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Roma. Hafiz was arrested following a case filed by the woman with Kalihati Police Station the next day.

Police say the woman in the case statement also brought the allegation of sexual abuse against the accused -- Roma, Hafiz and Kazi.

Protesting the incident, hundreds of people from Atharodana, Hamidpur and several villages

started a demonstration around 4:30pm yesterday.

Marching in processions, they went to lay siege to Kalihati Police Station around 5:45pm. As they reached College Gate area, police intercepted them and following an altercation, they baton-charged and fired teargas shells.

Agitating locals threw bricks, leaving Sub-Inspector Faruk and

constables Liakat and Harun injured. They also blocked Tangail-Mymensingh road at different points for four hours till 8:00pm.

Some demonstrators also tried to snatch arms of police, witnesses said, adding at one stage of the fight, law enforcers fired 60-65 rounds.

Shahidul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kalihati Police Station, claimed they opened fire when the angry

mob attacked them but nobody was killed in the shooting. "They might have been killed while clashing with one another as the protesters were split in groups."

Police detained five from the spot.

Shahidul said they arrested Roma and Hafiz, still people tried to lay siege to the police station. "It was ill-motivated."

Tangail Deputy Commissioner

Mahbub Hossain last night told this correspondent that they decided to give Tk 50 thousand to the families of the dead and take responsibility of the treatment of the injured.

After a meeting at the police station, he also said they formed two committees to probe yesterday's incident -- one under the police and the other under the district administration.

## Taliban gunmen kill 29

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laid siege to army headquarters in Rawalpindi, killing 22 people.

The TTP claimed responsibility for Friday's attack in an e-mail sent to journalists, saying their "suicide unit" carried out the attack.

The air force has played a key role in the operation against militant hideouts in the tribal areas on the Afghan borders, pounding targets in countless sorties since the onslaught began in June last year.

The TTP said their fighters had "targeted air force officers who are on the frontline... raining fire and iron" on them.

### 'HORRIFYING' FIGHTING

The attack on the Badaber base, 10 kilometres (six miles) south of Peshawar, triggered fierce gunbattles.

The head of the local bomb disposal unit, Shafiqat Malik, said that as well as automatic rifles, the attackers were armed with grenades and small homemade bombs.

Photos tweeted by Bajwa showed what appeared to be seven heavily armed militants lying dead, several

of them in pools of blood.

After the attack the camp was spattered with blood and scarred with bullet holes, according to an AFP reporter at the scene, while in the mosque pieces of flesh littered the floor.

Security officials told AFP that as people were praying, the militants -- disguised in uniforms -- came and herded them into a corner, telling them the base was under attack and they should huddle for safety.

Once they were assembled, the gunmen opened fire, mowing them down in cold blood with automatic rifles, the officials said.

A senior PAF official told AFP the facility attacked on Friday was a residential camp for air force personnel.

"There are no air assets including combat aircraft deployed at the base," he said, requesting anonymity.

Bajwa said there were also technical and administration blocks at Badaber.

### 'TALIBAN STILL DETERMINED'

The tribal badlands that lie just a

short drive from Peshawar have been the scene of a major military offensive against Taliban and other militants over the past year.

The army launched the "Zarb-e-Azb" operation in June 2014 in a bid to wipe out militant bases in North Waziristan tribal area and so bring an end to the bloody decade-long Islamist insurgency that has cost Pakistan thousands of lives.

The army intensified its offensive after the Peshawar school attack and since then there has been something of a lull in violence. The last major attack in the city came in February when three heavily armed Taliban militants stormed a Shiite mosque, killing 21 people.

While the military offensive appears to have disrupted the TTP's network, Friday's attack shows they are still determined to carry on their fight against the state with audacious assaults on high-profile targets.

A TTP faction last month claimed responsibility for a double suicide bombing that killed the home minister of Punjab province along with 15 other people.

## Teachers' agitation

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public universities as teachers hinted they would boycott the test on Thursday if their demands are not met.

Primary school headmasters also threatened to shun primary terminal examination scheduled for November should their call go unheard.

College teachers, who held a work stoppage on September 10 at all government colleges, will again stay away from classes today and tomorrow.

Worried, parents sought government's intervention.

"The government should take immediate steps to solve the problem. Otherwise, it's the students who will bear the brunt," said Anwar Parvez, a guardian from Mohammadpur.

### PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Teachers of all 37 public universities, under the banner of Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Association (FBUTA), already abstained from work on three days since September 7, demanding revision of the 8th national pay scale and a separate salary structure for them.

During Thursday's work abstention, federation leaders at Dhaka University threatened to launch a nonstop work

stoppage after Eid holiday if the government did not sit with them.

Against this backdrop, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid is scheduled to sit with a delegation of teachers at his residence today, said a source.

"We've informed the government about our problems. We've to take a firm stance if any solution doesn't come through talks," said Prof ASM Maksud Kamal, secretary general of FBUTA. Teachers under the banner of FBUTA have been demonstrating since May 14 to press home their four-point demand, but they intensified their agitation after the government approved the new pay scale.

They say the post of selection grade professors (senior teachers) has been abolished in the new pay scale although bureaucrats have got a special grade for themselves.

They demand, among other things, that senior professors and senior secretaries be given the same payment and other benefits.

There are over 13,000 teachers at 37 public universities in the country.

SECONDARY SCHOOL, COLLEGE Around 14,000 teachers of 305 government colleges will observe a daylong

work stoppage today and tomorrow at all the state-run colleges.

BCS General Education Association, a platform of teachers and officials under the education cadre, will organise the programme.

Selim Ullah Khandakar, general secretary of the platform, said professors are grade-4 officers, but they could go on retirement while in the same grade because of the selection grade.

College and secondary school teachers warned of tougher programmes after Eid.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head teachers of government primary schools have been staging protests under different banners. They will observe a work abstention tomorrow to press home a seven-point demand, including upgrading their status.

Assistant teachers of primary schools have been staying away from classes on Saturdays since early this month to press home their 11-point demand that includes a pay hike.

They threatened to go for a "tougher movement," including a token hunger strike on October 15.

## BSF kills one, injures four

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situated at Bhitipara border zero line. The youths came back to their village.

Later, some 30 to 35 BSF men suddenly entered Dugor village, nearly 400 metres inside Bangladesh, around 1:00pm and exploded three crude bombs, said locals.

Later, the BSF troops opened fire on the villagers and returned to India. Five people were wounded in the incident, locals added.

The BSF members fired 9-10 bullets, said injured Porimal Mardi.

The BGB had already lodged a strong protest against the incident with their Indian counterpart, said Abdur Razzak Tarafdar, commander of Joypurhat 3 BGB Battalion.

Following the incident, a flag meeting between sector commanders of Dinajpur Border Guard Bangladesh and Malda BSF was held near the border last night.

Abdur Rahim, deputy commissioner of Joypurhat, and Mollah Nazrul Islam, superintendent of Joypurhat police, visited the wounded at Joypurhat Modern Hospital.

## Bangladeshi taxi driver

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who is now a hero to many others. Ariful, 28, proudly shows his badge, an honour he received from the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) of the UAE for returning cash left behind by a forgetful passenger.

"It happened last year, just before the end of Ramadan, when a passenger forgot to take his belongings when he stepped out of the cab. I didn't notice it, and had a few passengers after that. It's when I was taking a breather that I found a paper packet that had slipped between the seats," he told Emirates 24/7.

"It's when I slid my hand between the seats and pulled out the pack that I realised that it had cash in it. I counted it, and it totalled to 2,35,000 dirham. I called the RTA and deposited the pack with the office," Ariful mentioned.

After a day, the passenger

approached the RTA and was told his packet was intact.

"I was also called in the RTA and I met the passenger, who was from Iran. He rewarded me with 300 dirham," Ariful said.

He was honoured by the RTA with a badge and certificate for his honesty.

He told the UAE news portal that this was not the first time that he had stepped out from the line of duty and helped. "Often, passengers leave behind their wallet or mobiles, and each time I make it a point to report to the office, and deposit it there."

He recalls how a customer had given him a 500-dirham note, instead of 50. "When I realised that he paid 530 dirham instead of 58, I called him back and pointed out his oversight."

Ariful, who works from 4:00am to 4:00pm, says his parents have been instrumental in teaching him to choose the right path always.



The Bandarban-Chittagong road has been badly eroded at places during heavy rain about a month ago. However, the district's Roads and Highways Department has yet to take any initiative to repair it. The photo was taken from Sualok Majer Para in Bandarban yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR