



PLATINI TOO!

FIFA's ethics watchdog suspends the UEFA chief alongside Blatter

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THE GOOD DOCTOR

Wide Angle on Dr Edric Baker, who dedicated his life for the poor

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Railway reels from manpower crisis

11,911 posts lying vacant; stations shut down one after another

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Lingering shortage of train operators and other essential staff for the past two decades has hobbled the services of Bangladesh Railway, the largest public transport sector in the country.

Years of attrition, corruption, interference in appointments from powerful quarters and legal wrangling are responsible for the sorry state of the once most effective and cheap transport system for millions.

Even though a large-scale recruitment began last year, the situation is not going to improve soon. The railway is still short of nearly 12,000 people and the crisis of loco masters (drivers), their assistants and station masters would continue for five more years, officials said.

It takes a long time for a train driver to be competent. Some 230 assistant drivers were recruited last year but they would qualify to run trains after seven years of training.

The railway has 601 drivers in place of the 1,245 it needs, according to the railway's official data. The crisis forced the railway to hire 86 retired drivers on contract.

Once overstaffed with 60,000 employees during the

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RAILWAY MANPOWER

1970	55,825
1980	58,107
2000	36,603
2015	28,353



A leakage from an underground pipeline of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company produces bubbles on a waterlogged Gulshan-Badda Link Road in the capital's Madhya Badda. Locals say they smell odour of gas from the point and they fear a deadly fire or explosion there anytime. The photo was taken around 2:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

MINA STAMPEDE

Bangladeshis' death toll jumps to 63

STAR REPORT

The number of Bangladeshi pilgrims who died in last month's stampede during Hajj has risen to 63.

The Hajj mission in Saudi Arabia confirmed the death toll, said Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh President Mohammad Ibrahim Bahar yesterday.

At least 131 other Bangladeshi hajis have been missing since the September 24 incident at Mina of Saudi Arabia, said officials of the Bangladesh consulate in Jeddah on Monday.

Among 1.6 lakh Bangladeshis who went to perform Hajj this year, 29,000 returned home till yesterday morning, Ibrahim said.

Saudi's official figures of 769 killed and

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FIGHTING MILITANCY, EXTREMISM IN BANGLADESH

Is nat'l unity possible?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of the recent murder of two foreigners, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has called for national unity to tackle militancy and extremism in the country.

His Awami League counterpart Mahbub-ul-Alam Hanif, however, outright dismissed any such possibility, once again exposing the deep division between the two rival parties.

The killing of an Italian aid worker in Dhaka and a Japanese national in Rangpur in a span of five days has put Bangladesh in an embarrassing situation.

The murders have caused a serious concern among the foreign community living in the country and threaten to take a toll on the country's economy.

Countries like the UK, Australia and Canada in their travel alerts are

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"A national unity is needed to combat militancy and extremism to protect the country."

MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR
BNP ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL



"Forging any unity with the BNP is to give rise to militancy anew, as the country saw the rise of militancy during the tenure of BNP-Jamaat."

MAHBUB-UL-ALAM HANIF
AL ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY



"A national unity is a must for finding ways to uproot militancy from the country."

ATM SHAMSUL HUDA
FORMER CEC

UNDISCLOSED INCOME

Tk 676cr legalised by 222 taxpayers

SOHEL PARVEZ

The amount of undisclosed money legalised in fiscal 2014-15 surged to Tk 676.87 crore from Tk 176 crore in the previous year, according to the National Board of Revenue.

The state, however, got only Tk 27.50 crore in tax from 222 black money holders whereas the amount should have been much higher, considering the sum of the legalised money, said NBR officials.

This was because a number of taxpayers showed their previously earned money in certain sectors like fish farming which have reduced tax rates, they said.

In fiscal 2013-14, the NBR collected Tk 20.12 crore in tax from holders of undisclosed money.

Seeking anonymity, a senior NBR official said, "It appears that some people legalised their undisclosed income by taking advantage of the loopholes in the law."

The income tax law gives taxpayers the opportunity to declare their previously earned income in their tax returns, given that they pay 10 percent penalty on top of "tax payable at applicable rates".

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Alexievich wins Nobel in literature

AFP, Stockholm

Belarussian writer Svetlana Alexievich won the 2015 Nobel Literature Prize yesterday, honoured for her work chronicling the horrors of war and life under the repressive Soviet regime.

The Swedish Academy hailed the 67-year-old "for her polyphonic writings, a monument to suffering and courage in our time".

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Canadian mission postpones programme

Japan embassy updates travel advisory

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Though the government has tightened security for foreign nationals in the city's diplomatic zone and elsewhere in the country, the Canadian High Commission has postponed its planned reception to mark the International Day of the Girl Child scheduled for October 12.

The High Commission did not cite any reason for the postponement.

However, one source at the mission said the programme was postponed considering the overall security situation against the backdrop of the killing of two foreign nationals -- Italian aid worker Cesare Tavella and Japanese farmer Kunio Hoshi.

Meanwhile, the Japan Embassy in Dhaka has

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A makeshift garage for rickshaws has been set up on a footpath on Green Road in the capital. Authorities want pedestrians to avoid jaywalking and use footpaths and footbridges. But hardly any effective move is seen to free the city's footpaths from such obstacles. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

NEWS ANALYSIS

Shooting of a boy by a lawmaker

SHAKHWAT LITON

By shooting the 10-year old boy, Sourav, who went for a walk with his uncle on last Friday morning, ruling Awami League MP Manzurul Islam Liton has made a place for himself in the club of controversial and unruly MPs who have been in discussion for all the wrong reasons.

Before Manzurul, AL MP Captain (retd) Ghyas Uddin Ahmed in May 2012 shot at a crowd. There is a difference between their actions though. Ghyas shot at a crowd that was agitating against him in his constituency in Mymensingh. Manzurul shot at Sourav as the boy got scared and started running away from the MP's SUV in his home town in Gaibandha.

Then the case of AL lawmaker Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon is a little different. He was sued over the murder of a party leader, Ibrahim Ahmed, in the capital in August 2010. Local AL leader Ibrahim was reportedly shot with the MP's licensed pistol.

AL lawmaker from Natore-2 Shafiqul Islam Shimul snatched away "a criminal" from Rab custody immediately after his arrest in Natore town on the night of August 11. A number of local AL leaders and journalists witnessed the incident.

In Dhaka, AL MP Ilias Uddin Mollah assaulted an on-duty policeman on June 30, 2010. The policeman filed a case against Ilias. But that did not stop him getting re-elected as an MP of the current parliament.

GAIBANDHA MP SUEDE - PAGE 20

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