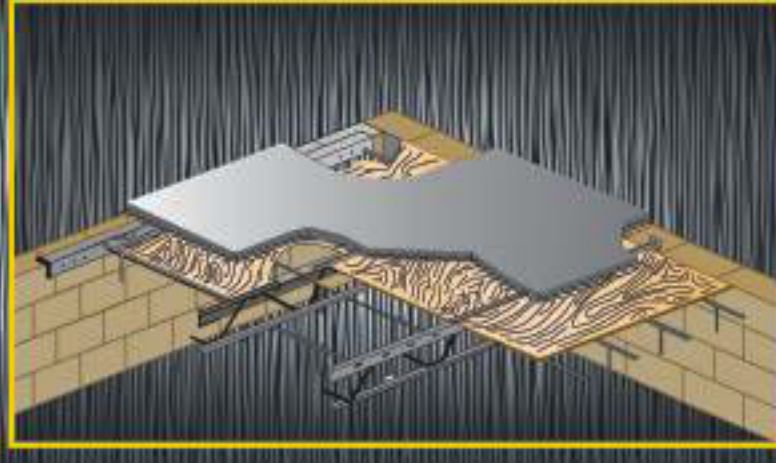


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MENTAL PATIENTS

Dumped on hospital

Many well enough to go home stay on as families show little interest; World Mental Health Day today

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Twenty-one years he spent within the walls of Pabna Mental Hospital (PMH), but patient Mahabub Anwar could not go home even though he was well enough to go home. He could not be sent home even after his death.

He was admitted to the hospital as a psychiatric patient of 33 years age on October 9, 1994. He passed away on August 7 this year.

"The hospital authority could not send him to his family because he was admitted here with a fake address. So when he became cured, the hospital took care of the patient until his death and even buried him with the help of the social welfare department of the hospital," Gazi Saiful Alam Chowdhury, superintendent of PMH, told The Daily Star.

When asked why he was never taken back by his family, his younger sister Kaniz Fatima became emotional while

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Nazma Nilufa was admitted to Pabna Mental Hospital in 1989 at the age of 28. She became well enough to go home within a few years but she has been living in the hospital as her family refused to take her back. Patients in bed, top right, at a ward of the hospital, bottom right.



PHOTO: STAR

MINA STAMPEDE

Bangladesh death toll now 79

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of Bangladeshi pilgrims who died in last month's stampede during Hajj has risen to 79.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Golam Moshi confirmed the death toll.

At least 90 other Bangladeshi hajis have been missing since the September 24 incident at Mina of Saudi Arabia, he told The Daily Star last night.

Among 1.6 lakh Bangladeshis who went to perform Hajj this year, 32,000 returned home until yesterday morning, said Mohammad Ibrahim Bahar, president of Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh.

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Hajj agencies draw flak for poor service

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPLOB

Around one lakh Bangladeshis go to Saudi Arabia every year to perform hajj and pay private agencies a good amount for better services during the holy ritual.

Unfortunately, most of the hajj agents do not meet the pilgrims' expectations and some even face penalties from both the governments of Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia for their mismanagement.

Even then the agencies hardly care for improving their services and rather remain indifferent to reducing sufferings of the pilgrims.

Many pilgrims have again expressed grave dissatisfaction over the agencies' services to them in performing the holy ritual this year.

Talking to The Daily Star at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the last several days, returning pilgrims alleged the agencies had failed to provide them with better accommodation, food and transport.

They also brought allegations against the agencies of appointing inefficient guides and failing to maintain smooth flight schedules.

Selim Azad, 35, along with 25 others went to Saudi Arabia to perform hajj by private agency M Setara Trade International based in Dhaka. Each of them paid Tk 3 lakh, but the agency did not provide them with services up to the mark.

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Four killed under train wheels

STAR REPORT

Four people, two of them physically challenged, were killed under train wheels in separate incidents in Gazipur and Comilla districts yesterday.

Garment workers Ramzan Ali, 28, and Parvez, 27 -- both with hearing and speech impairment -- came under the wheels of Jamalpur-bound Commuter Express around 7:00am, said Assistant Sub-Inspector Dadon Mia of Joydevpur Railway Police outpost.

Locals rushed them to Gazipur Sadar Hospital

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France strikes IS in Syria

Accuses Russia of failing to target the group; Iran declines to confirm hit by Russia missiles

AFP, Paris

France said yesterday it had carried out a second wave of strikes overnight on Islamic State targets in Syria and accused Russia of failing to target the group.

"Two Rafale jets dropped bombs on an IS training camp. The objectives were accomplished," Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian told Europe 1 radio, adding that more attacks would follow.

As with a first wave of strikes on September 27, the attacks focused on the IS stronghold of Raqqa in northern Syria.

"We know that in Syria, in particular around Raqqa, there are training camps for foreign combatants whose mission

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Bangladeshi villager shot dead by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The Indian Border Security Force entered Bangladesh territory and shot dead a Bangladeshi and injured another along Lalmonirhat border on Thursday night.

The BSF members also tortured four other Bangladeshis.

The dead, Abdur Rahim 32, son of Kashem Ali of Aditmari upazila's Chawratari village, died on the way to hospital. The injured, Sultan Miah, 30, of the same village, is now undergoing treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital

Locals said the BSF men crossed the no-man's land of Durgapur border around 8:30pm while chasing some cattle smugglers. They then opened fire on a group of Chawratari villagers, leaving two people bullet-hit.

The Indian border force also tortured four other Bangladeshis, including a woman, as they protested against the illegal entrance of BSF troopers into Bangladesh. The four took first aid, they said.

The BSF men took away four cattle from a farmer's cattle shed, the villagers alleged.

The tortured woman, SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

A freshman aspirant of Jagannath University stands in queue with his shoes in his hand yesterday as the authorities had said only sandal-wearing candidates would be allowed in the admission test. There were also people at the gate giving candidates pat-downs. All this was done to prevent students from cheating in the test.

Dhaka on CPJ's impunity index

Blogger killings, 'failure to bring culprits to book' place it on the list

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The killing of bloggers in Bangladesh and the "slow pace of response by authorities" have put the country onto the Global Impunity Index prepared by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

The Impunity Index of the CPJ "spotlights countries where journalists are slain and the killers go free."

"The ambush of a convoy in South Sudan and the hacking deaths of bloggers in Bangladesh propelled the two nations onto the Committee to Protect Journalists' Global Impunity Index of countries where journalists are murdered and their killers go unpunished," according to a CPJ report published yesterday.

A wave of violence against bloggers has landed Bangladesh back onto the index for the first time since 2011, the report said in its Bangladesh section.

It said at least four Bangladeshi bloggers have been hacked to death by apparent Islamic extremists this year alone, and a total of five of the seven victims of unsolved murders over the last decade are bloggers who criticised religious extremism.

According to the report, brazen attacks against bloggers

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Kejriwal sacks minister over 'bribe'

AFP, New Delhi

Delhi chief minister and anti-corruption campaigner Arvind Kejriwal yesterday sacked one of his ministers for alleged bribe-taking after months of criticism over multiple scandals engulfing his party.

Kejriwal used a televised press conference to announce the sacking of Asim Ahmed Khan, the capital region's food and environment minister, over

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Unrest spreads to Gaza as Israel kills 5 Palestinians

AFP, Gaza City

A week of violence between Israelis and Palestinians spread to the Gaza Strip yesterday, with Israeli troops killing five people in clashes on the border and Islamist movement Hamas calling for more unrest.

A fresh wave of stabbings also hit Israel and the West Bank, including a revenge attack by a Jewish suspect that wounded two Palestinians and two Arab Israelis.

The Gaza Strip had been mainly calm as unrest has shaken annexed east Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank in recent days.

But clashes broke out yesterday east of Gaza City

and Khan Yunis along the border with the Jewish state, with Israeli forces opening fire and killing four Palestinians and wounding 21, according to medics.

Ahmed al-Hirbawi, Shadi Dawla and Abed al-Wahidi, all aged 20, were killed when soldiers responded after youths threw stones at them on the Israel side of their common border. The fourth victim was Mohammed al-Raqab, 15.

An unnamed 19-year-old youth was killed east of Khan Yunis, in Gaza's south.

An army spokeswoman said about 200 Palestinians had approached the fence while hurling rocks and rolling burning tyres toward security forces.

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UK firms develop drone-freezing ray

BBC ONLINE

Three British companies have created a device to deter drones from entering sensitive areas by freezing them in mid-flight.

The Anti-UAV Defense System (Auds) works by covertly jamming a drone's signal, making it unresponsive. After this disruption, the operator is likely to retrieve the drone believing that it has malfunctioned.

The system joins a host of recently announced technologies

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PRAYER TIMING

OCTOBER 10
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-15 5-45 7-15
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-50 7-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION