

Santa Claus

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festive all year. The streets are always decorated in holiday spirit, the light posts look like candy canes and the streets have names like 'Snowman Lane' and 'St. Nicholas Drive'.

So it's only befitting to have a 'Santa Claus' live there. According to his Facebook page, Claus is "the only man legally named Santa Claus ever to live in North Pole, Alaska."

And now Claus in the news for recently running for a city council seat. His profile picture shows him sporting a bushy white beard and red clothes, but unlike his namesake, he seems to be quite a serious guy. "Please do not send me requests for presents," he posted in the page description.

"Please note that I only reply to business enquiries," he added on his website. "I do not respond to messages, calls, emails, or letters from children."

Although he doesn't hand out gifts, Claus does work for child welfare.

"For more than a decade, I have been a volunteer advocate for millions of children who have been abused, neglected, exploited, abandoned, homeless, and institutionalised," he wrote. "I support organizations and agencies that provide for the health, safety, and welfare of vulnerable children in dire straits."

Interestingly enough, Mr Claus also ran for President of the United States in the 2012 elections, but pulled back early in the race, due to lack of support. If only children were allowed to vote, i bet he would have had a real shot.

Youth kills elder

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Chittagong Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

There were marks of stab in Sohel's chest, hands and throat, said Nur Ahmed, inspector (investigation) of Kotwali Police Station. The victim's head also bore marks of hitting by a heavy substance, he said.

A knife and a hammer were recovered from Raihan's room.

They were trying to nab Raihan, the police official added.

Kids must

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Children Day and Children's Rights Week-2015 at Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium in the capital.

She reiterated her call not to make education as burden for children but create an atmosphere in the schools and families where they would agree to take lessons on their own and feel encouraged in learning.

The premier also unequivocally said the government by no means would accept violence on domestic helps and engagement of children in any risky job, saying the government would not tolerate any oppression on children.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroze Chumki presided over the function organised by the ministry. Unicef country representative Edouard Beigbender attended the function as the special guest.

MILLION MAN MARCH African Americans gather for 20th anniversary

AFP, Washington

Thousands of African Americans gathered in Washington on Saturday to mark the 20th anniversary of the "Million Man March," renewing their demands for justice reform and greater civil rights.

The demonstration on the National Mall -- the grassy, mile-long promenade between the US Capitol building and the Washington Monument -- follows a series of high-profile incidents of police violence against black Americans over the past year.

The anniversary event gathered people from across the United States hoping to push elected officials to do more to combat social and economic inequalities, as well as violence that disproportionately affects communities of color.

Louis Farrakhan, head of the National of Islam black Muslim group, organized both the original 1995 march and this year's "Justice or Else" gathering.

Unlike the march 20 years ago, Saturday's protest included a call for justice that encompassed a broad range of overlooked ethnic groups, whereas most participants in the first march were black males.

Protesters included entire families and people of various races who heard Farrakhan praise what he described as a new groundswell of African American activism.

- 'Not a moment, a movement' - "This is not a moment, this is a movement," Farrakhan said during his lengthy, televised address.

Envoys discuss security

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the security situation elaborately and expressed their satisfaction over the government steps taken recently. But they opined that a high degree of caution would continue to be maintained for their citizens in Bangladesh.

They also discussed the investigations into the killings of Italian aid worker Cesare Tavella and Japanese national Kunio Hoshi.

They said they would continue to urge Bangladesh to conduct the probes properly for bringing the perpetrators to justice, added the sources.

The government has assured foreign diplomats in Dhaka of a fair and professional investigation into the murders. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal has said arresting the killers is now their "highest priority".

TIGHT SECURITY
Police and other law-enforcement agencies have continued frequent patrolling in Gulshan-Baridhara diplomatic zone in the capital as part of stepped up vigilance to ensure security for foreign nationals.

An armoured personnel carrier (APC) was deployed and paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) forces were also seen rolling on the streets yesterday.

Pedestrians and vehicles of all sorts were being searched more frequently.

"Police are patrolling the roads round the clock. All sorts of measures including installing several police check posts have been taken to ensure maximum security," said Rafiqul Islam, assistant commissioner of police in Gulshan zone.

The high alert security measures came in line with the government's assurance of providing highest security for all diplomats and foreign nationals.

Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque has meanwhile said Bangladesh is a safe country for foreigners.

"We think Bangladesh is still a safe place for foreigners and everyone else. There are no causes of concern as all security measures have been taken by the police, other law-enforcement agencies and the government," the IGP said.

He made the comments yesterday after an inaugural session of a driving training programme for gypsy community organised jointly by Dhaka Metropolitan Police and international NGO Brac at Brac Centre Auditorium in the capital.

The police chief said law enforcers would find out if there is any conspiracy and who are behind it after dissolving at least one of the two foreigners' murders.

Cesare Tavella was shot dead at Gulshan in the capital on September 28. Five days into the killing, Kunio Hoshi was gunned down in Rangpur.

Several countries including Japan, Italy, United Kingdom and United States have issued alerts for their citizens residing in Bangladesh after the incidents.

Sri Lanka arrests Rajapakse loyalist

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's police yesterday arrested a regional politician linked to former president Mahinda Rajapakse over the 2005 assassination of a Tamil lawmaker highly critical of his administration.

Sivanesathurai Chandrakanthan, a former chief minister of the Eastern province, was arrested by the police Criminal Investigations Department in connection with the murder of legislator Joseph Pararajasingham, police said.

Pararajasingham, 71 was gunned down inside the St. Mary's church in Batticaloa, 303 kilometres (190 miles) east of Colombo, before a packed Christmas congregation 10 years ago.

Both the then government of Rajapakse and the separatist Tamil Tiger rebels had blamed each other for the audacious assassination, but the case was reopened only following a change of government this year.

BNP criticises

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condemns PM Sheikh Hasina's remark, he said, adding her comments might influence the investigations into the murders.

"We think the prime minister brought the fabricated and baseless allegation against our leader only to tarnish the opposition's image."

Speaking at a programme at her Gono Bhaban residence, the premier on Saturday alleged that BNP chief Khaleda Zia was conspiring from abroad to destabilise the country by killing foreigners in Bangladesh.

Reacting to her comments, Ripon alleged that the government was trying to hide the real killers by putting the blame on BNP and its leaders.

He reiterated his party's call for a national unity to wipe out religious extremism and overcome the ongoing political crisis.

Meanwhile, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said the country was passing through a critical juncture and called upon all, including freedom fighters, to be united to overcome it.

"We've lost our right to express our opinions and even to vote and other basic rights, which is against the spirit of our Liberation War. We all must get united upholding the spirit of the Liberation War to restore these rights," he said while meeting a delegation of Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha Dal at the party's Naya Paltan central office.

Five burnt

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of the gas oven was turned on and the doors and windows were shut," said Shamim Ur Rashid Talukder, officer-in-charge of Dakkhin Khan Police Station.

However, Rezwan's cousin Sarfuddin Ahmed told The Daily Star that the explosion might have happened due to a gas line leak.

"At that time, aunt [Rehena] was taking her breakfast in the dining room, and Tanvir was preparing nearby for his school. As a result, they sustained severe burns," he said.

Families brace for final MH17 air crash report

AFP, The Hague

International investigators will on Tuesday release their final report into the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 over war-torn Ukraine, but the burning question of who was to blame will remain unresolved.

The Dutch Safety Board (OVV), leading a team of international investigators since the Boeing 777 went down last year, will release the report at 1115 GMT at the Gilze-Rijen air force base in southern Netherlands.

All 298 people on board -- most of them Dutch -- including the 15 crew members died when the routine flight between Amsterdam and Kuala Lumpur was brought down, possibly by a missile, during heavy fighting between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian separatists.

Tuesday's report -- 15 months after the July 17, 2014 crash -- will focus on four subjects, the Dutch board said in a statement.

"The cause of the crash; the issue of flying over conflict areas; the question why Dutch... relatives of victims had to wait two to four days before receiving confirmation from the Dutch authorities that their loved ones were on board; and lastly, the question as to what extent the occupants of flight MH17 were conscious of the crash."

But as the board has pointed out many times, it will not assign blame nor say who pulled the trigger.

"It is the purpose of the criminal investigation to answer those (questions)," it said.

Kiev and the West however have pointed the finger at the separatists, charging they may have used a BUK surface-to-air missile supplied by Russia to blow the plane from the sky.

The Russian maker of the BUK missile said it too will hold a press conference in Moscow on Tuesday to explain the "real reasons" for the disaster after holding an "experiment" that entailed detonating a missile next to a plane.

Fragments of a Russian-made BUK were found at the crash site earlier this year. But Moscow denies involvement and instead has accused Ukraine's military of being behind the tragedy.

The downing of MH17 further

strained relations between Russia and the West, already at their lowest ebb since the Cold War due to the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

The United Nations estimates some 8,000 people have been killed and 18,000 others have been wounded since clashes erupted there in April 2014.

The report's release also comes amid heightened concern over Moscow's role in Syria, where it has launched air strikes which it says are aimed at routing jihadists.

Relatives of the victims, who in July marked the first anniversary of the crash with an emotional gathering attended by over 2,000 people, said they believed the final report will at least answer some questions.

They will also for the first time be confronted with the harrowing sight of a partial reconstruction of the doomed plane made from pieces of wreckage brought back from the crash site.

"The report will throw new light onto the case as we know it at the moment," said Dennis Schouten, chairman of the MH17 Air Disaster Foundation.

Relatives understand that the criminal probe has not yet been completed to answer who was behind the probable firing of the missile, he told AFP.

"That must come from the criminal probe and has to be proved properly," said Schouten.

But with the release of Tuesday's report "the net is certainly drawing a little closer," he added.

"Is there more than one guilty party? The airlines and their flight routes? So many questions remain."

Both the Russian and Ukrainian militaries have BUK missiles in their arsenal, and the system's Russian manufacturer said in June that based on publicly available photographs of the wreckage the plane was likely shot down by one of its projectiles.

But Russia in July vetoed a bid at the UN Security Council to set up an international tribunal to try those behind the downing of the aircraft.

Countries involved in that bid are now looking at other means to carry out a prosecution, although no suspects have yet been publicly identified.

One in three girls

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while only 10 percent go to secondary schools.

Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan, and Somalia follow, each with at least 40 percentage point gap between the rates of child marriage and of girls' enrolments in secondary schools, according to the report.

"Many of the underlying causes of child marriage -- including social norms that devalue women and girls -- apply across all countries. Other forces are localised from the trafficking of girls in Mauritania to dowry considerations in Bangladesh to civil conflict in countries such as Afghanistan and Mali."

The report also says that worldwide about 39,000 girl children are forced to marry each day making it a startling child marriage in every two seconds. It also provides statistics that 62 mil-

lion girls are not in school and half of them are adolescents.

The countries in sequence of their rankings (serially from the worst case scenario) are Niger, Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Somalia, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Guinea, Angola, Mali, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Mauritania, Bangladesh, Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar, Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, and Tanzania.

"In some of these places, communities are making great strides in delaying marriage for girls and opening more doors to quality education. They offer hope and may not be on this list much longer. Other countries, however, show little progress. They are home to some of the most difficult living circumstances on earth, especially for girls," the report reads.

Turkey sees IS hand

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police attacked its leaders and members as they tried to leave carnations at the scene. Some were hurt in the melee, it said in a statement.

The attacks have shocked a nation beset by resurgent conflict with the militant Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in its southeast and increasingly threatened by spillover from the war in neighbouring Syria.

Islamic State fighters are encamped close to its borders, which mark also the frontier of the Nato alliance, and last week Russia launched air strikes in Syria, its planes violating Turkish air space on several occasions.

The bombs struck seconds apart as crowds gathered for a planned march to protest over the deaths of hundreds since the collapse in July of a ceasefire between security forces and the rebel PKK, which is deemed a terrorist group by the United States and the EU as well as Turkey. Some 40,000 have been killed since the insurgency began in 1984.

Two senior security sources said initial signs suggested Islamic State was behind the Ankara attack, and that it bore striking similarity to a July suicide bombing in the town of Suruc near the Syrian border, also blamed on the radical Islamists.

"All signs indicate that the attack may have been carried out by ISIL (Islamic State). We are completely focused on ISIL," one of the sources told Reuters.

Turkey is vulnerable to infiltration by Islamic State, which holds swathes of Syrian land abutting Turkey where some two million refugees live. But the group, not normally reticent about its attacks, made no claim to the Suruc bombing and has made no claim so far to the Ankara attack.

The HDP, which expanded beyond its Kurdish voter base and drew in

mainly left-wing opponents of Erdogan at June elections, said the death toll had risen to 128 and that it had identified all but eight of the bodies.

The prime minister's office said late on Saturday that 95 people had been killed.

The scale of the casualties eclipsed attacks blamed on al-Qaeda in 2003 when two synagogues, the Istanbul HSBC Bank headquarters and the British consulate were hit, killing 62 people. Questions have been raised over whether a parliamentary election due on Nov 1 can be safely held.

But government officials made clear that, despite the security concerns, elections would go ahead.

Erdogan hopes the AK Party he founded will regain the overall majority it had held since 2002, but lost at June elections, partly because of the success of the HDP.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, exposing a mosaic of domestic political perils, said on Saturday Islamic State, Kurdish militant factions or far-leftist radicals could all have carried out Saturday's bombing.

Some direct their suspicions at militant nationalist groupings, with or without ties to the state, who are opposed to any concession to Kurdish demands for greater minority rights.

HDP leader Selahattin Demirtas said the government had blood on its hands, accusing it of failing to fully investigate the Suruc bombing or another attack on an HDP election rally in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir on the eve of the last parliamentary election in June.

The Haberturk newspaper said police suspected one of the bombers was the older brother of the suicide bomber in Suruc, where 34 people died. Some media reports said the other was a woman.

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer PWD E/M WORKSHOP DIVISION Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. Phone :-9110573, Fax :-8171500 Invitation For Tender				
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare		
2	Agency	Public Works Department		
3	Procuring Entity Name	Executive Engineer, PWD E/M Workshop Division, Dhaka		
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present		
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Works		
7	Invitation Ref No	T-12/Workshop/15-16/27/959		
8	Date	11-10-2015		
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).		
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Government of Bangladesh (GOB)		
11	Project / Programme Code	N/A		
12	Project / Programme Name	Expansion of National Institute of Traumatology & Orthopedic Rehabilitation (NITOR) at S.B Nagar, Dhaka.		
13	Tender Package Name	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 630 KVA Sub-station equipment's i/c Cables.		
14	Tender Last Selling Date	Date : 02/11/15 Time : During Office Hour		
15	Tender Closing Date and Time	Date : 03/11/15 Time : 12:00Noon		
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	Date : 03/11/15 Time : 03:00PM		
17	Name & Address of the office(s)			
	- Selling Tender Document (Principal)	PWD E/M Workshop Division, S. B. Nagar, Dhaka.		
	- Selling Tender Document (Others)	(i) PWD E/M Division- 1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/Wood workshop Division, Dhaka. (ii) Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, 1 st 12-storied Govt. Office Building, Segunbagicha, Dhala. (iii) Shere-e-bangla Nagar PWD Division-3, Dhaka.		
	- Receiving Tender Document	(i) PWD E/M Workshop Division, S. B. Nagar, Dhaka. (ii) Police Commissioner, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Dhaka. (iii) Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, 1 st 12-storied Govt. Office Building, Segunbagicha, Dhala. (iv) PWD E/M Division-4, 2 nd 12-storied Govt. Office Building, Segunbagicha, Dhala.		
	- Opening Tender Document	PWD E/M Workshop Division, S. B. Nagar, Dhaka.		
18	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	i) Having up-to-date Trade License (FY: 2015-16) ii) Having Valid e-Tin/TIN and VAT Registration Certificate. iii) Having Income Tax Clearance Certificate (Tax Year 2014-15) iv) Having up-to-date ABC and Supervisory License (FY: 2015-16) v) Having minimum period of general experience of 5(Five) years in Supplying & Installation of Sub-station work. vi) Having experience in successful completion of at least 1 (one) number of 500KVA Sub-Station Supply, Installation, testing & commissioning work in/c internal electrification of a single storied bldg. in a single agreement amounting not less than Tk.60.00 Lac in any Government / Semi-Government / Autonomous Organization of Bangladesh during last 5 years. vii) Having minimum Liquid Asset/Credit Facility of Tk.76.00 Lac. viii) Having required average annual turn over not less than Tk.93.00 Lac over the last 5(Five) years. ix) Meeting all other terms and condition as specified in Tender Data Sheet (TDS).		
19	Brief Description of Work	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 630 KVA Transformer, L.T Switchgear, H.T Switchgear, PFI plant, necessary HT & LT cable connection & Internal Electrification of building.		
20	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	Tk.1,500.00 (One Thousand Five Hundred) Only. (Non-Refundable)		
21	Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)
22	1	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 630 KVA Sub-station equipment's i/c Cables.	Sher-e-bangla nagar, Dhaka	3.00 Lac
23	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Shekhar Chandra Biswas		
24	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Executive Engineer		
25	Address of Official Inviting Tender	PWD E/M Workshop Division, S. B. Nagar, Dhaka.		
26	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: 9110573 Fax: 8171500 ee_wshop@pwd.gov.bd		
27	Special Instruction:	(a) The Tenderer should enclose the original Tender in One envelope and 2 copies of the Tender in another envelope duly marking the envelope as "ORIGINAL" & "COPY", these two envelopes shall be enclosed in a single other envelope. (b) If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working date at the same time & same venue. (c) (i) In case of experience certificate for work done under PWD, the certificate must be issued by an official not below the rank of Executive Engineer of Concern district/jurisdiction. (ii) In case of work done in any Semi-government/autonomous body, the work completion Certificate obtained from that authority must be verified by the Executive engineer of PWD of concern district/jurisdiction. (d) All supporting papers submitted with tender documents must be duly attested by a gazetted Govt. officer. (e) The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings		
Shekhar Chandra Biswas Executive Engineer. PWD E/M Workshop Division Sher-e-Bangla, Nagar, Dhaka				