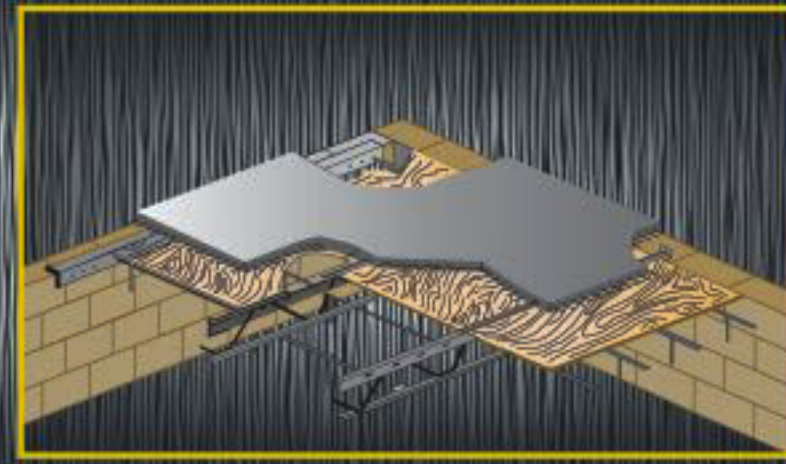


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Durga Puja begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Durga puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindus, begins today through the celebration of Mahashashthi puja.

More than 29,000 mandaps have been set up across the country, including 225 in Dhaka alone on the occasion, Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad said yesterday at a press conference in Dhakeswari National Temple.

This year Mahanabami and Bijoya Dashami will be celebrated on the same day on October 22.

Citing that 17 Durga idols have been vandalized across the country, leaders of the Puja Parishad expressed grief as law enforcers could not arrest the perpetrators yet.

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Members of Border Guard Bangladesh stand guard at a puja mandap in Chittagong's Anderkilla yesterday. Security has been beefed up in and around makeshift temples across the country ahead of Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindus, beginning with the Mahashashthi today. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Ministers react sharply to US travel alert

Say situation under control

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has sharply reacted to the caution issued by the US over security threats in Bangladesh and said no such situations prevail that the travel alert should be updated.

Three top ministers have apparently come down heavily on the alert and strongly affirmed that the overall situation in Bangladesh is "fully under control".

On Saturday, the US embassy in Dhaka updated its security message for American citizens in Bangladesh saying "security agencies in Bangladesh have taken extraordinary measures to increase security for foreigners in Bangladesh, but the terrorist threat remains real and credible."

Talking to reporters, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal at his Secretariat office yesterday said, "No incidents have taken place that might threaten security that the US should update a travel alert for its citizens."

He added the US did not provide the government with any specific information or sources, for which they were prompt to update the travel alert.

However, the home minister said they also did not take the issue lightly. "We have ensured adequate security for the diplomatic zone and for all foreigners staying in Bangladesh."

Finance Minister AMA Muhith has meanwhile said the

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QUAKE-HIT NEPAL Fuel crisis halts aid supplies

AFP, Kathmandu

After months in makeshift shelters, earthquake victim Bhim Bahadur Gurung is desperate to start rebuilding his house ahead of Nepal's biting winter, but a fuel blockade has left him unable to obtain vital construction supplies.

Nearly six months after a 7.8-magnitude quake killed almost 8,900 people and destroyed about half a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



PRAYER TIMING

OCTOBER 19					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
4-50	12-45	4-00	5-38	7-15	
JAMAAT	5-25	1-15	4-15	5-41	7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Ramu mayhem trial begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The trial for the mindless communal attack on the Buddhist community at Ramu three years ago has finally begun.

Eight witnesses recorded their statements at Cox's Bazar District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday.

Nineteen cases had been filed with different police stations in Cox's Bazar in connection with the attack accusing 15,182 people. The police had submitted charge sheets in 18 cases to different courts of the district as one case was

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

BANGLADESHI VICTIMS OF HAJJ STAMPEDE

Death toll now 137

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of Bangladeshi pilgrims killed in the Mina stampede during Hajj last month has risen to 137, while at least 53 others still remain missing.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam confirmed the death toll at a press briefing at his ministry yesterday.

"Some [Bangladeshi] hajis injured in the stampede are taking treatment at different hospitals in Saudi Arabia," he said

while replying to reporters' queries.

Among the deceased Bangladeshis, the detailed identities of 96 have been confirmed, added the minister.

Earlier, Golam Moshi, Bangladesh ambassador to Saudi Arabia, said 55 Bangladeshi hajis had been buried in the Arab state with due respect.

The Saudi government was trying to identify the remaining victims by matching their DNA with their relatives.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

শ্রদ্ধাজলি

আজ ১৯শে অক্টোবর ২০১৫ ইং, সোমবার নাভানা লিমিটেড ও আফতাব অটোমোবাইলস্ লিমিটেড-এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা, পরম শ্রদ্ধেয় মরহুম আলহাজ্ব জহুরুল ইসলাম সাহেবের ২০তম মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী।

তিনি ছিলেন আমাদের আদর্শ, পথ প্রদর্শক এবং সকল কর্ম শ্রেণীর উৎস। তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার প্রতি জানাই গভীর শ্রদ্ধা এবং পরম করুণাময়ের কাছে কামনা করছি তাঁর আত্মার মাগফেরাত।

সফিউল ইসলাম (কামাল) চেয়ারম্যান

NAVANA নাভানা লিমিটেড

aftab আফতাব অটোমোবাইলস্ লিমিটেড

2 robbers killed in gunfight

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Two people were killed in a gunfight between two groups of robbers in Cox's Bazar yesterday, just two days after a similar incident in the town.

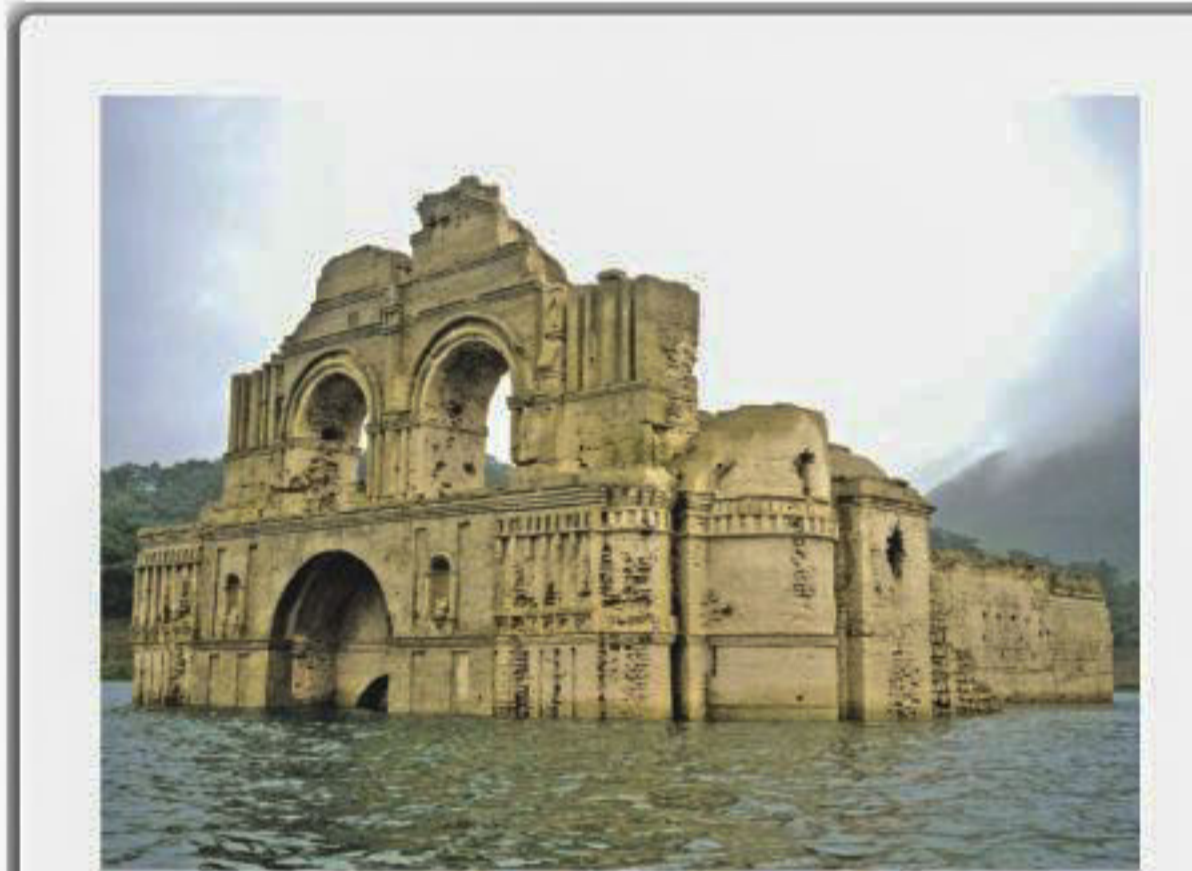
Of the deceased, Nurul Alam, 46, was identified as ringleader of a gang known as Alam Bahini, and the other, Mohammad Kalu, 26, a Rohingya who was a member of the group.

Local people, aggrieved at their notoriety, thronged the Sadar hospital to see the bodies.

Alam was an accused in as many as 18 cases, including those of murders, while Kalu was accused of robbery in four cases, police sources said. Alam's wife Shahena Akhter was caught with firearms a month ago. She is in jail now.

The police claimed to have seized three home-made guns, four bullets, three bullet shells and

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400-yr-old church re-emerges from underwater

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The relics of a 16th-century church built by Spanish colonisers has emerged from a reservoir in the south of Mexico.

It is the second time the church, usually submerged on the reservoir bed, has been revealed in the state of Chiapas as a result of drought.

A water level drop of at least 80 feet in the Grijalba river which feeds the reservoir has revealed the 400-year-old roofless religious building, with its 10 metre high walls, 61 metre length and 14 metre wide hall.

The river was last this low in 2002, when visitors were able to walk about inside the church.

Today, fishermen are ferrying curious passengers

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20TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

LATE AL-HAJJ JAHURUL ISLAM

The 20th death anniversary of the founder Chairman of Islam Group Al-Hajj Jahurul Islam is being observed today.

A Doa mahfil will be held at his birth place Bhagalpur, at 11:30 a.m, October 19, 2015. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to attend the Doa mahfil and pray for his eternal peace.

On behalf of Islam Group

Begum Suriya Islam

Manzurul Islam, Syeda Islam, Mafida Islam

Naima Islam, Kaneta Islam

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