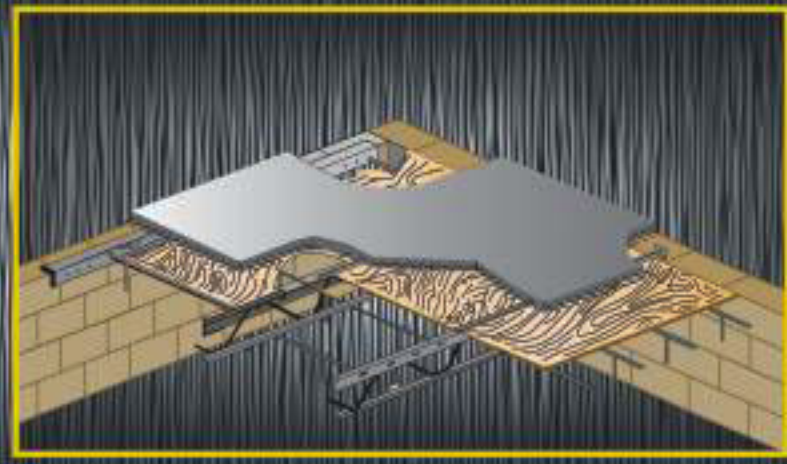


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Park or landfill?

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

Heaps of mud and garbage all around. The boundary walls in most places have collapsed. Stagnant dirty water can be seen here and there. Walkways too have become filthy and slippery. The Jatisangha Park at Panchlaish in Chittagong City now resembles a landfill.

A few benches are all that remains of the park now.

Once a rich greenery of trees, the park, established on an acre of land, has now turned into a disgusting place due to a lack of proper maintenance.

Apart from a few benches, it lacks amusement facilities for children. As a result, the number of visitors is also on the decline, said locals and visitors.

The park remains open for visitors from 3:00pm to 7:00pm every day, staff of the park said.

They said the Chittagong City Corporation authorities had been dumping mud and garbage in the park for the last two or three months to "level" the place with adjoining areas and also to stop inundation.

A large portion of the boundary wall had

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Full of mud and garbage, Jatisangha Park at the port city's Panchlaish has virtually turned into a landfill now, thanks to a lack of maintenance by the authorities concerned. The boundary walls of the park have collapsed, and dirty stagnant water can be seen at places.

PHOTO: STAR



Migrants stranded at Balkan borders

Germany braces for far-right rally; Turkey wants fresh EU funding to help tackle migration

AFP, Berkasovo

Thousands of migrants again streamed into the Balkans yesterday where tighter border controls caused tense bottlenecks, as Germany braced for anger at an anniversary rally of the anti-refugee PEGIDA movement.

Europe's unprecedented influx has seen asylum seekers -- mainly fleeing war in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan -- travelling via Turkey, Greece and the western Balkans, hoping to seek safe haven in Germany and other EU states.

Tensions have built along the migrant trail after Hungary shut its key borders with razor wire -- diverting the flow west to Slovenia, which in turn also limited arrivals, as did Croatia.

Thousands of refugees yesterday waited in cold and heavy rain at one of the checkpoints, Berkasovo on the Serbia-Croatia frontier, where families huddled

around fires and children walked barefoot in the mud.

"This is beyond our capacity," said Czech volunteer Jan Pinos. "There is no one from the authorities here. We need police, army, some tents, food."

He warned of "increasing tension" and desperation among pregnant women and children, including a baby that nearly died overnight in the chaos.

More than 15,000 crossed from Greece into Macedonia at the weekend, said local authorities. From there, the UN refugee office said, 10,000 marched on into Serbia overnight.

Two days after a man with a neo-Nazi background stabbed a pro-refugee politician in the neck, badly wounding her, Germany's anti-refugee PEGIDA movement was planning a mass rally to mark its first anniversary.

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Bus passengers forced to pay excess fare

City people testify at public hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People yesterday testified at a "mass hearing" that excess bus fares were being taken from passengers on routes in the capital.

Bangladesh Passengers' Welfare Association, a voluntary organisation working to establish passengers' rights, organised the "hearing". Its "Sub Committee for Monitoring Fare Anarchy", comprised of eminent citizens, had been holding the hearing since October 10.

The city transport system is inimical to women, children, elderly people and students, people who testified said at the event held in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the morning for an hour.

The hearing ended around noon and it would continue for a few more days, organisers said.

Compiling people's opinions, the committee would prepare a report and publish it, they said.

Citing the sudden bus strike on Sunday after a mobile court punished a bus helper for charging extra fare, Abul Maksud, chief advisor the organisation, said, "Irrational bus

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Durga Puja begins

Mahasaptami today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The largest religious festival of the Hindus in Bangladesh enters the second day today with devotees thronging puja mandaps to celebrate the Mahasaptami Puja.

On the first day of the five-day Durga Puja yesterday, Hindus across the country celebrated the Mahasasthi Puja. The mandaps took on a festive look to the sounds of dhaak (drum), brass and conches amid hymns recited by Brahmins.

Thousands of devotees attended Puja mandaps to receive goddess Durga and her children Lakshmi, Saraswati, Kartik and Ganesh.

Hindus believe the goddess descend on earth at

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Photo that may end conspiracy theories on JFK

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Can the conspiracy theories finally be put to rest? An incriminating photograph, which showed Lee Harvey Oswald in his backyard, holding the same type of rifle used to assassinate US President John F Kennedy, has been confirmed as authentic after an examination using the latest forensic techniques.

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A Croatian police officer carries a child as migrants wait to enter Croatia from the Serbia-Croatia border, near the western Serbian village of Berkasovo, yesterday. Several hundred people got stuck on the border yesterday morning after having spent the night in rain and cold.

PHOTO: AFP

SAFETY OF FOREIGNERS

Govt steps satisfy US, France, Italy

STAR REPORT

The USA, France and Italy yesterday expressed satisfaction over the security measures taken by the Bangladesh government to ensure safety of foreigners.

Marcia Bernicat, US ambassador in Dhaka, said the government of Bangladesh has been extremely responsive to their requests to help ensure foreigners' safety in the face of the current threat.

Answering questions in a Facebook chat, she said the deaths of Italian citizen Cesare Tavella and Japanese national Kunio Hoshi have affected them all, reports UNB.

"I want to again offer condolences to the families and friends of Tavella and Kunio, whose senseless deaths have affected us all. We very much appreciate how very warm a welcome Bangladesh gives to foreigners."

Meanwhile, French Ambassador Sophie Aubert and Italian Ambassador Mario Palma, after their meeting with Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon, said they were living a normal life without any fear.

"Had I not felt safe, I would not have been here," the French envoy told reporters.

She, however, said they were not in a very peaceful world. "So for me, it's a normal life. If I'm in Paris, I remain careful and in Dhaka, the same."

The threat, she noted, is not for any specific country and there are some terrorists everywhere. "So we adapt to our way of living."

Italian Ambassador Mario Palma said there is no ban on coming to or living in Bangladesh for Italians. "Rather, we

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KHIJIR MURDER

2 'JMB leaders' on five-day fresh remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two alleged leaders of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh, who were arrested in connection with the murder of ex-PDB chairman Khijir Khan, were placed on a five-day fresh remand yesterday.

DB Inspector Azizur Rahman, also investigation officer of the case, produced the arrestees before a Dhaka court on completion of a three-day remand, with a

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PRAYER TIMING

OCTOBER 20

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-50 12-45 4-00 5-36 7-15
JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-39 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION