



A large number of people of the Shia community gather at the Huseni Dalan in the capital's Bakshi Bazar yesterday hours before the blasts. The mourning procession is organised every year to mark the day of holy Ashura.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

ROAD TO UN CLIMATE PACT IN PARIS

Countries agree rough outlines

AGENCIES

Negotiators wound down a bruising round of talks yesterday with broad agreement on the rough outlines of a UN climate pact to be inked in December.

"It is so decided," the co-chairman of the talks, Daniel Reifsnnyder, said at the close of a fraught negotiating round in Bonn -- gaveling through a proposal to endorse the draft text to emerge from the five-day huddle.

Despite the relatively positive outcome, observers said governments must step up their efforts if a deal to be reached in Paris.

In December, governments will meet in Paris to decide a new global agreement on greenhouse gas emissions, which would kick in from 2020 when current international commitments on emissions expire.

This week, officials have been meeting in Bonn to hammer out some of the final details of such a deal.

Disagreements emerged over key issues such as the financial assistance from rich countries to poorer ones to help them cut emissions and cope with the effects of global warming.

Before Paris, ministers will meet again formally, and there will be informal discussions among countries to smooth out differences.

Previous UN climate meetings have often been marred by such disagreements. For these reasons, the French hosts are still hopeful that an agreement will be reached in Paris, but the discussions must be stepped up and world leaders may need to intervene to ensure their negotiators are willing to forge a deal.

Jennifer Morgan, global director of the climate programme at the World Resources Institute, said: "Negotiators made some significant strides in Bonn but a much more vigorous pace is needed to secure a strong climate agreement in just a few weeks. We've been running a marathon for years to reach this point. Now we need an all-out sprint to get over the finish line in Paris."

She said the draft text showed countries were close to reaching consensus on issues such as cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and the transparency needed for international monitoring of such efforts. However, she said, the issue of financial assistance to the poor was still showing "more fundamental differences".

More than 150 countries have now submitted plans on limiting their greenhouse gas emissions beyond 2020, when current commitments expire. These commitments, if followed, should lead to global warming of no more than 2.7C, according to analysis, which still falls short of the 2C limit that scientists say gives the world an even chance of avoiding catastrophic and irreversible warming.

Recent analyses have shown that the financial assistance agreed for developing countries by 2020 is achievable. At the Copenhagen climate summit in 2009, at which the biggest developed and developing countries jointly agreed for the first time to limit their emissions by 2020, a package of financial assistance to be worth \$100bn a year by 2020 for poor countries was agreed.

Developing nations want it to be restated that they will receive this, as a precondition of any deal in Paris.

Blasts kill one at Huseni Dalan

FROM PAGE 1
Criminals charged several cocktails when members of the Shia community were taking their final preparations to bring out the mourning procession to Mohamadpur. She was leading the rescue team.

In a Somoy TV report, people were seen running frantically about the blast scene. Numerous flip-flops and sandals were scattered around and many of the injured, including a young woman, were seen being carried to minibuses or other vehicles.

The report also showed there were a few unexploded cocktails left on the

ground.
Rab Additional Director General Col Ziaul Ahsan said they were examining the evidence collected from the scene.

"We think these blasts were done to create a chaotic situation in the country," he said.

A supervisor of the Huseni Dalan said, "We've been observing this occasion here for ages. But we've never seen any incident like this. We demand a quick and fair investigation into the blasts."

During the first 10 days of Muharram, Huseni Dalan becomes a centre of mourning and religious

gathering in old Dhaka. Shia followers end the festival by bringing out a large procession that parades through the city streets.

On this day in the Hijri year of 61, Hazrat Imam, grandson of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), along with his family members and 72 followers embraced martyrdom in the hands of soldiers of Yazid at Karbala desert.

The day is a public holiday in Bangladesh.

President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday issued separate messages on the occa-

sion.
In his message, the president said holy Ashura is a significant as well as a day of mourning for the Muslim Ummah for establishing truth and justice.

"On this day, I wish unity, solidarity and continuous development of the Muslim Ummah along with establishment of a society based on justice and equality," he added.

The PM in her message said Ashura is a very significant day in the history of mankind. She urged all to reflect the teachings of holy Ashura in establishing truth and justice in the national life.

Kidnap for ransom

RECENT ABDUCTIONS IN THE REGION			
DATE	PLACE	NUMBER OF ABDUCTEES	STATUS
January 7	Lama, Bandarban	1	murdered
January 17	Ali Kadam, Bandarban	2	released
March 29	Naikkhongchhari, Bandarban	1	released
May 16	Lama, Bandarban	5	released
May 28	Ramu, Cox's Bazar	3	released
June 28	Lama, Bandarban	3	released
July 2	Cox's Bazar	1	released
July 16	Lama, Bandarban	2	released
Oct 30	Bilaichhari, Rangamati	3	Not released
Oct 4	Ali Kadam, Bandarban	2	released
Oct 23	Ramu, Cox's Bazar	3	Not released

SOURCE: THE DAILY STAR REPORTS

FROM PAGE 1
Baishari union under Naikkhongchhari upazila in Bandarban and his relatives Abu Bakkar, 24, of the same area, and Shah Alam, 32, of Satkania in Chittagong.

Taiyab's wife Ayesha Siddika, member of the union parishad, told The Daily Star, "The abductors called me from my husband's phone and demanded Tk 5 lakh ransom."

The kidnapers threatened to kill her husband and the two others if she failed to pay, she said.

Abdullah Majid, officer-in-charge of Ramu Police Station in Cox's Bazar, said the criminals intercepted the ambulance on Eidghar-Baishari road at Painnajari. He said police were trying to rescue the three.

Abduction in the southeastern region is on the rise of late. Including the three yesterday, at least 26 people have been kidnapped in three districts in the region -- Bandarban, Rangamati and Cox's Bazar -- in the last 10 months.

Twenty of them have been released after their families paid the abductors, according to police and family sources. Family members allege Arakan Liberation Party, a separatist group of Myanmar, Mro National Party, a group in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and some armed robbers of Cox's Bazar are behind these abductions.

But police could not track down or arrest anyone yet.

Talking to The Daily Star, officials of Ramu, Naikkhongchhari and Ali Kadam police stations said Mro National Party and some armed robbers were responsible for most abductions.

In many cases, family members pay the ransom for the release of their relatives and do not file any case, said Sirajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Lama Police Station.

"We can act only on the basis of written complaints. We arrested four people in connection with the abduction and killing of an indigenous man in Lama," he said.

Party claimed responsibility for the abduction and demanded Tk 50 lakh for their release.

However, a member of joint forces in Bandarban said they were not sure that it was the Arakan Liberation Party.

Members of joint forces have been conducting search operations in the area to rescue the three without success.

Frequent kidnappings in the region have created a sense of panic among locals.

Zakir Hossain Majumder, chairman of Pashikhali union, said several gangs from Cox's Bazar and Chakaria upazila have been abducting people in the area for money for long.

"We are in a constant fear so much so that we think twice before travelling outside the area," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Hindus

FROM PAGE 1
Our correspondents from Cox's Bazar and Chittagong report that devotees thronged different beaches and rivers to see the immersion of Durga.

In Chittagong, devotees packed into the Patenga Sea Beach, the main immersion spot of the port city. More than 150 idols were immersed in the waters there, said Ratnakar Das, general secretary of Puja Uddhayan Parishad in Chittagong.

In Cox's Bazar, devotees went to the beach on motorcades as well as in colourful processions around 2:00pm. Tourists joined them during the immersion.

More than 29,000 mandaps have been set up across the country, including 225 in Dhaka alone, on the occasion this year, BPUP sources said.

Cities, urban centres and even remote villages wore festive looks with the puja mandaps lit brightly and decorated lavishly.

The origin of Durga Puja can be traced back to the 15th century. With the ascent of Mughals, Durga Puja became more popular. Grand celebrations, gala feasts and huge fanfare were part of the festival.

According to Hindu mythology, goddess Durga appeared in the midst of common people following the prayers of king Kangsha. Marking the occasion, the first Durga worship was arranged at Taherpur in Rajshahi in the Bangla month of Aswin in 1480 by Kangsha Narayan.

Mixed progress in textbook printing

FROM PAGE 1
This year, the education ministry aims at distributing around 35 crore books among four crore students of classes I to X for free. It would cost the state exchequer around Tk 733 crore.

The National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), the apex body looking after the distribution of free books, has set December 25 deadline for sending all the books to upazilas.

Until yesterday, around 67 percent of over 24 crore course books for the secondary, dakhil and technical education students have been sent to upazilas, said NCTB officials.

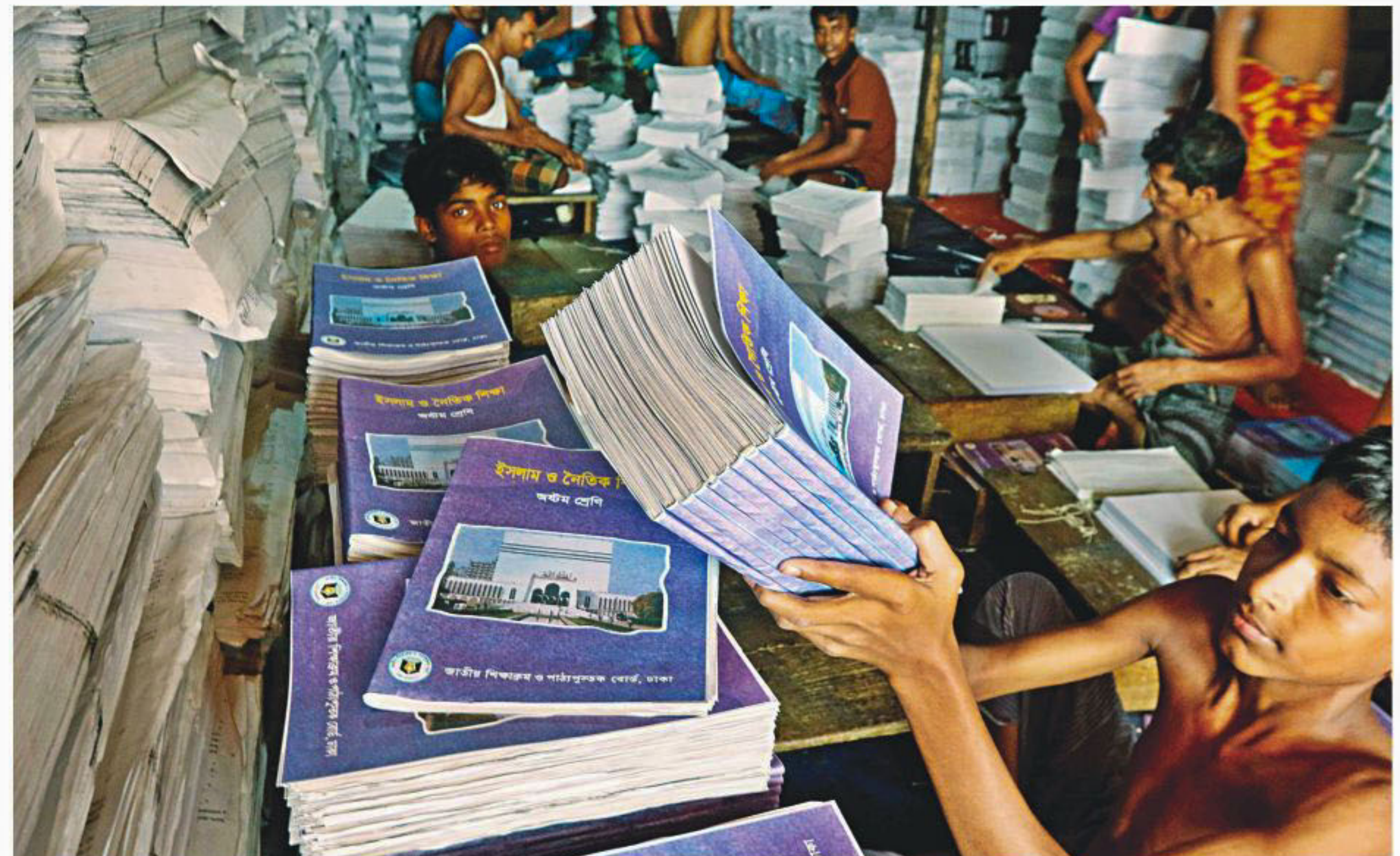
In contrast, only five percent of 10.87 crore primary schoolbooks have reached the upazilas so far.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mustak Ahmed Bhuiyan, distribution controller of NCTB, said distribution of primary textbooks has started only recently. He expressed optimism of meeting the December 25 deadline.

The government over the years has been selecting printers for primary textbooks through international tenders. The NCTB this year invited international tenders on April 29. Some 22 local printing firms submitted lowest bids of Tk 221 crore, a much lower price than the estimated cost.

The printing of primary textbooks hit a snag in mid-August when World Bank set some conditions for the winning bidders, according to printers and NCTB officials.

The WB, which lends the money for around 10 percent of the primary textbook costs, sought to check the quality of books during printing and in upazilas. The bank wanted to pay the printers only if it found their work



Textbooks for the 2016 academic year being piled up at a printing press in the capital's Sutrapur on Tuesday. Printers say they have made considerable progress in printing secondary school textbooks but shortage of paper has slowed down their progress for primary school textbooks.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

satisfactory.

The bidders rejected outright the conditions. They finally agreed to do the work in the first week of September upon assurance from the government high-ups that some of the conditions would be relaxed.

Printers blamed the delay in starting their work for the looming crisis. Their leader Serniabat said, "A few printers recently started sending

books to upazilas, but the progress was not satisfactory. Most of them were yet to start printing to their full capacity."

He said Bangladesh Mudran Shilpa Samity sent copies of a letter to paper mills last week, requesting them to supply papers considering it as a national duty. "In reply, the mills said they would cooperate with us."

About meeting the December 25

deadline, Serniabat said they would be able to deliver the books before December 20. "We would speed up our work as soon as the mills increase their supply of paper."

The government started distributing free textbooks among the primary and secondary students in 2010. Previously, it used to provide primary students with free books, while the secondary students had to buy theirs.

Cops hunt for killer

FROM PAGE 1
of assistant sub-inspector Ibrahim Molla, who was stabbed to death in the capital's Gabtoli on Thursday night.

Asked about the students, he said they were only suspects and some of them might be involved with BNP-Jamaat politics.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said a vested quarter was conspiring to upset law and order. "Yesterday [on Thursday] we arrested some people who were plotting to carry out subversive activities in the capital."

In Dhaka, cops arrested six people in this connection. Three of them were detained with five bombs from Kamrangirchar and three others from Dhanmondi, Hazaribagh and Dhakeswari Temple areas with bomb-making materials, sources said.

Investigators claimed the youth who stabbed Ibrahim was a member of this "gang" that assembled in the city to implement their plan.

The assailant, identified as 24-year-old Kamal, travelled to the capital from Bogra several times in the last few months, they said, quoting his detained friend Masud Rana, who had accompanied him.

Masud used to stay in the Masjid Chhatrabas, the student mess in Bogra



Relatives of deceased ASI Ibrahim Molla in tears at Dhaka Medical College Hospital after the ASI's body was handed over to the family yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

from where cops detained the 21 students.

Around 9:00pm on Thursday, police stopped Kamal and Masud at a checkpoint in front of Parbat Cinema Hall after they got down from a bus from Bogra.

As Ibrahim was checking Kamal's bag, he stabbed the police officer and fled. Masud tried to escape but failed.

Investigators said Masud and a man named Rafique rented a house at Kamrangirchar on October 19.

Inspector General of Police (IGP)

mation and would be able to give a complete picture after scrutiny.

Soon after the killing of Ibrahim, Sheikh Maruf Hasan, additional commissioner (crime) of DMP, said, "There is no militant link with the incident."

Meanwhile, the Jamaat outright rejected the IGP's remark on the party's alleged connection with the incident, and said Masud had no links with the Jamaat or its student-body Islami Chhatra Shibir.

In a statement yesterday, Jamaat leader Hamidur Rahman Azad said the IGP's remark was politically motivated.

Last night, Ibrahim's body was taken to his ancestral home of Palpara village in Bagerhat after his namaz-e-janaza.

With the sole breadwinner gone, the family is now uncertain about their future.

Ibrahim, who joined the police in 2003, left behind his wife, a six-year-old daughter and a 20-month-old son.

Talking to a private TV channel, his father Abdus Sattar Molla said, "My wife and I and our five daughters were dependent on his income. Now, our family will struggle to survive."

Lamenting Ibrahim's death, his elder sister said, "I still cannot believe that my brother is gone... It feels like I have lost a child."