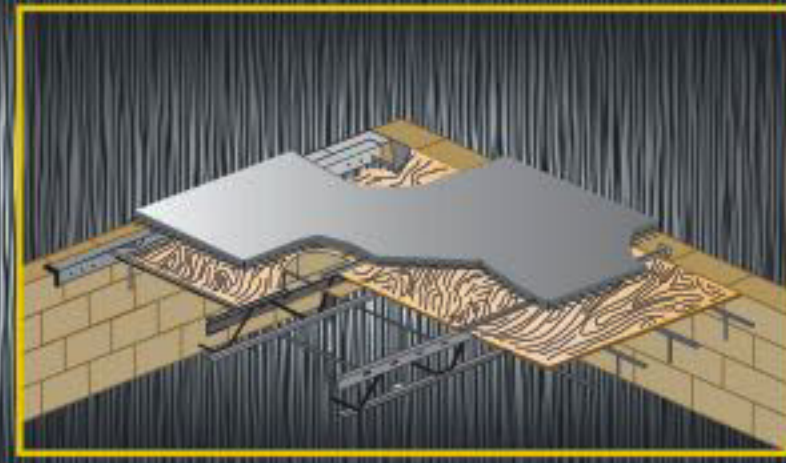


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JS whips blast TIB

Say graft watchdog's findings on present parliament part of int'l conspiracy to defame country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The TIB observation that the current parliament has not been able to function effectively "is part of an international conspiracy" to defame the country, three whips of the treasury bench in parliament said yesterday.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) is working as "a paid agent to defame parliament", said Chief Whip of Parliament ASM Feroz, also lawmaker from the ruling Awami League.

"The TIB launched its report after the killing of two foreigners and the bomb attack on an Ashura gathering to tarnish the country's image," he said at a press briefing at the Jatiya Sangsad Media Centre.

Two whips of parliament Iqbalur Rahim and Mahub Ara Gini, both from the AL, were also present.

Feroz said the TIB had no right to say anything on the present situation. It had crossed the limit by making comments on last year's January-5 election.

The TIB on Sunday released a study based on the present parliament's second to sixth session from June 2014 to July this year. It said the main opposition, the Jatiya Party, has failed to play its due role in the House formed through the

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A man carries a boy, who was injured in an earthquake, at the Lady Reading hospital in Pakistan's Peshawar. A powerful earthquake struck a remote area of north-eastern Afghanistan yesterday, shaking the capital Kabul, as shockwaves were felt in northern India and in Pakistan's capital, where hundreds of people ran out of buildings as the ground rolled beneath them.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Polls lacked credibility

Say EWG findings on Jan 5 polls, subsequent local govt elections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The last year's national election and the subsequent local government polls lacked credibility, Election Working Group (EWG) claimed yesterday.

The January 5 parliamentary election was constitutionally correct, but its credibility has been seriously questioned due to lack of inclusiveness, said a report of the EWG, a platform of 28 civil society organisations.

The report titled "The State of Elections in Bangladesh" was launched at a programme in the capital's Cirdap auditorium.

About the last year's upazila parishad polls, it said the first phase of elections to over 100 upazilas were almost fair. But the next phases saw many incidents of violence, voter intimidation and violation

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

6 killed as train hits 3-wheeler

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Six people, including three of a family, were killed and two others injured as a Dhaka-bound commuter train hit a battery-run three-wheeler at Nayanagar level crossing in Melandah upazila yesterday.

The dead are Jarina Khatun, 45, her son and driver of the three-wheeler Hasu Miah, 25, and her daughter Bristi Khatun, 20, of Shyampur village, Hasna Begum, 25, wife of Farid Uddin of Uttar Balurchar village, Chikuna Dasi, 30, wife of Samitra Rishi, and Nindu Moni, 40, wife of Bhojanda Chandra Rishi of Kazirpara village.

The three-wheeler, locally known as easy bike, carrying eight people was heading for Melandah upazila town from Shyampur Bazar, said police, quoting witnesses.

Around 1:45pm, the accident occurred when the train from Dewanganj hit the three-wheeler that was crossing Nayanagar level crossing, some 500 yards off Shyampur Bazar, said Mohammad Alauddin, officer-in-charge of Jamalpur Railway Police Station.

Six people were killed on the spot and two others wounded.

Injured Farid Uddin, 35, husband of deceased Hasna Begum, and Abdul Jalil,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

MINUTES BEFORE BLASTS AT HOSSAINI DALAN 2 youths seen on nearby tin-shed

RASHIDUL HASAN

About 25 minutes before the blasts on the Hossaini Dalan premises, a minor boy saw a youth handing a bag over to another youth over the wall of a tin-shed building about 150 yards away from the main entrance.

An official of Hossaini Dalan yesterday told The Daily Star that the ten-year-old boy, who was a child volunteer on duty at the exit point close to the graveyard, had shared this with his mother two or three hours after the attack.

Asked why they did not pass this information to law enforcement agencies, the official, wishing anonymity, said they did not want the boy to go through police questioning as he was already traumatised.

The blasts that killed one and injured about 100 others took place around 1:30am on Saturday when a large crowd of the Shia Muslim community were about to bring out the Tazia procession to mark the holy Ashura in Old Dhaka.

As there were strong checks at the main entrance, the attackers may well have entered the Hossaini Dalan compound from the poorly lit back side where the graveyard is located, he said.

Explaining the boy's deferral of passing the information to them, the official said the little boy could not have imagined that the youths were going to carry out the heinous attack.

The official also told this correspondent that a youth had come to visit Hossaini Dalan three days before the attack.

"Now we realise that the youth who visited Hossaini Dalan on the night of October 20 and videoed different locations on his mobile phone, had a plan," he said.

"But when I saw him stealthily filming, trying to hide his mobile phone under one of his arms, I enquired of him why he was doing this. Without going deep into the matter as we're very busy, I asked him to refrain from doing so and left the area," he said.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Suicide blast kills two at Saudi mosque

IS 'claims responsibility'

AFP, Riyadh

Two people were killed yesterday in a suicide bombing at a mosque in the Saudi city of Najran that was claimed by the Islamic State group, which has repeatedly targeted Shiites in the Sunni-ruled kingdom.

The attack occurred just after Maghrib prayers at the Al-Mashad mosque in the southern city's Dahza neighbourhood, said the Saudi interior ministry.

The IS jihadist group claimed responsibility for the attack on what it said was an Ismaili Shiite mosque, said SITE Intelligence Group, a US monitoring organisation.

Al-Hijaz Province, a group affiliated to IS, said on Twitter that a fighter named Abu Ishaq al-Hijazi detonated his explosive belt at the mosque, causing "many" casualties.

In their statement, the group said the assailant

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Geeta back home after a decade

Plight does not end for the Indian woman stranded in Pakistan

BBC ONLINE

An Indian woman who was stranded in Pakistan for a decade has returned home, but says the family she had identified in photos is not hers.

India's Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj said the woman, named Geeta, is "refusing to recognise her family".

Geeta arrived in Delhi yesterday morning, days after she identified her family in photos sent from India.

The government will now carry out a DNA test to

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Child domestic help 'tortured to death' in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A child domestic help was allegedly tortured to death by her employers in the capital's Lalmatia yesterday.

Fifteen-year-old Rokhsana of Nilphamari had been working at the house of one Farid Ahmed in Lalmatia for the last eight years.

Rokhsana's brother Jahangir Alam alleged that his sister, who fell sick due to torture, was taken to the intensive care unit at Padma General Hospital in the city on October 18.

Jahangir filed a case in

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING

OCTOBER 27
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-50 12-45 4-00 5-32 7-15
JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-35 7-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Sourav Mia, the 10-year-old boy who was shot in the legs allegedly by ruling Awami League lawmaker Manjurul Islam Liton in Gaibandha, leaves Rangpur Medical College Hospital with his parents yesterday after almost a month's stay there.

PHOTO: MEHEDY HASAN

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Sourav can walk now

The 10-yr-old shot by MP released from hospital

STAR REPORT

Spending almost a month at Rangpur Medical College Hospital after being shot in the legs by a ruling Awami League lawmaker, Shahadat Hossain Sourav returned to his Gaibandha home yesterday afternoon.

"I can walk on my own though my left leg aches a little," Sourav told journalists at a press conference held at the hospital director's office around 11:30am.

The press conference was organised to officially declare the full recovery of the 10-year-old boy, reports our Rangpur correspondent.

Briefing reporters, RMCH Director ASM Barkatullah said doctors' would follow up with Sourav's treatment for the next two to three months, by then the boy is expected to be able to run.

Two bullets tore through the flesh of his right leg

Processed meats can cause cancer

Says WHO report

BBC ONLINE

Processed meats - such as bacon, sausages and ham - do cause cancer, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Its report said 50g of processed meat a day - less than two slices of bacon - increased the chance of developing colorectal cancer by 18%.

Meanwhile, it said red meats were "probably carcinogenic" but there was limited evidence. The WHO did stress that meat also had health benefits.

Cancer Research UK said this was a reason to cut down rather than give up red and processed meats. And added that an occasional bacon sandwich would do little harm.

Processed meat is meat that has been modified

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

