



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

The wreckage of a truck which collided with a bus, not in the picture, on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Bhaluka's Meherbari area. At least seven people were killed and 15 others injured in the accident that happened early yesterday. Story on page 16.

The 'robbery'

FROM PAGE 16 hospital sources revealed the nature of their injuries. However, the hospital sources said their condition did not improve much as of yesterday. Ming, who is in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit, has yet to regain consciousness and Hawa, who is in a cabin, is conscious, according to Md Selim, one of their staffs. The attack came less than six weeks after the killings of Italian aid worker Cesare Tavella in Gulshan and Japanese national Kunio Hoshi in Rangpur. Police, however, claimed the Taiwanese couple were hurt because they had tried to prevent the burglars from taking away Tk 6 lakh. The police refused to make any comments on whether the incident had any connection with the killings of the Italian and the Japanese nationals. Asif, manager of the PVC Door Factory owned by Ming, filed a case with the police station, accusing Jahangir and two others. A Dhaka court has meanwhile placed Jahangir, who was arrested in Gazipur on Friday, on three-day remand when investigators produced him before the court with an appeal for 10-day remand. The two others, who are Jahangir's brothers-in-law, were absconding, police said.

Cause is lost

FROM PAGE 16 create panic among people so they keep inside home. Still, people defy their hartal call and go about their daily business as they do not identify themselves with the cause, speakers said at a discussion on the study. Also, past politicians enforced hartals to realise peoples' rights and to protest oppression against them, always making sure that students and low-income people did not suffer. For example, public examinations were kept out of the purview of the hartals called by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman during the 1969 uprising against Ayub Khan, said Ajay. Bangabandhu did the same for rickshaws and other non-motorised vehicles, considering the plights of low-income people, he added. "But now students and educational institutions are the worst victims of hartal," said Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, who chaired the programme at the DU Senate Building. "It's true that hartal played the role of a political tool to earn independence. But calling hartal in an independent country is a different

thing altogether. Therefore, politicians should decide whether they will call hartal anymore," he said. Prof MM Akash of DU who moderated the discussion said political parties were now misusing "the political weapon" (hartal) to serve their narrow political interests, holding the people hostage and creating panic. According to Mahbubur Rahman, former president of International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh, hartal has lost its usefulness. "Today, hartal has nothing to do with registering protests because it has become the symbol of horror and panic," he added. Shutdowns also damage economy and drive away foreign investors, he added. Sarwar Ali, a trustee of the Liberation War Museum, said, "Hartal cannot be stopped through passing a law. So there should be a political consensus to stop this." Speakers, however, called upon the government to ensure room for political parties and civil society members so that they can express their concerns in due manners.

7 killed

FROM PAGE 16 on the spot, he added. On information, police and fire brigade personnel went to the spot and sent eight injured to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where five of them died of their wounds. The condition of the three injured was critical, said the OC quoting hospital sources. A preliminary investigation by police found that the SM Paribahan bus was desperately trying to overtake another one when the accident occurred, said OC Mamun. Law enforcers later sent the seven bodies to the hospital morgue for autopsies. They seized the bus and the truck, but the drivers managed to flee. A case was filed with Bhaluka Police Station in this regard.

Shutki safe

FROM PAGE 16 Radical Buddhist monks have stoked anti-Muslim tensions in the run-up to the election and the NLD is not fielding any Muslim candidates for fear of intimidation. There are very few Muslim candidates standing for any party, even though Muslims make up about five percent of the 51 million population. About 150 people are eligible to vote out of nearly 100,000 Muslims living in 20 camps surrounding Sittwe, the Rakhine capital, according to the state's election commission chair, Aung Myat. Some 2,000 Kaman, according to figures compiled by the United Nations, ended up trapped in refugee camps in Rakhine following anti-Muslim violence in 2012. There is no reliable figure for the Kaman population in Myanmar, but thousands live in Rakhine State. "It's a sad indictment of the widespread anti-Muslim sentiment that is not just aimed at the Rohingya," said David Mathieson, a senior researcher on Myanmar at Human Rights Watch in Yangon. DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED Many Rohingya held temporary citizenship documents known as white cards until February, when President Thein Sein abruptly announced the cards would be nullified. That stripped the Rohingya of the right to vote. Many Muslim candidates were also disqualified from standing as candidates this year. The Arakan National Party (ANP), a powerful organisation of ethnic Rakhine Buddhists, maintains that Rohingya are illegal immigrants from Bangladesh,

Unease, hope as Myanmar votes

FROM PAGE 16 ethnic Rohingya Muslims in western Rakhine state have been disenfranchised, while ethnic rebellions mean the vote will not be held in some areas. Independent election monitors also fear many voters -- especially in constituencies home to large numbers of internal migrant workers -- may have been missed from the voter list. Meanwhile, the head of the European Union's delegation of observers said the army did not grant access to advance voting in military bases, where tens of thousands of soldiers are expected to have cast their ballots. "Any time we can observe it will increase transparency," Alexander Graf Lambsdorff told AFP. The public remains instinctively cautious in a nation where the army has repeatedly reacted to political challenges with violence or simply ignored the result of unfavourable elections. "I don't like this government, they are corrupt... I believe there will be some (vote) fraud, but I think Suu Kyi won't be like them," said Win Mar Oo, who runs a grocery. Like many in the country, the 36-year-old is a first time voter. She stayed away from 2010 polls boycotted by the NLD and seen as sham by the international community and was too young to vote in the last elections contested by Suu Kyi in 1990. Then the NLD won a landslide, but the army annulled the result and tightened their hold on power. 'WE WANT CHANGE' Authorities have computerised the electoral roll for the first time in an effort to ensure a free and fair vote across a vast, poor country. Final touches were being put to polling stations on Saturday, as authorities in Yangon took ballots to homes of the sick and elderly as advance voting drew to a close. "I hope the president will keep his promise," said security guard Aung Htay, 54, referring to a speech by Thein Sein late Friday in which he vowed "the government and Tatmadaw (army) will respect" the vote. But the president added the new government must be "in conformity with the constitution" -- a possible warning to Suu Kyi, who on Thursday declared an NLD win would see her take on a role "above the president". Suu Kyi is barred from the nation's top office by a clause in the charter that states that anyone with a foreign spouse or chil-

dren cannot become president. Her sons and late husband are British. Myanmar was ruled for half a century by a despotic and paranoid junta that crushed pro-democracy movements, closed the country off to the outside world and drove a once flourishing economy into the doldrums. But in 2011 the military ceded power to a quasi-civilian government led by President Thein Sein, a former top-ranking general. The wave of reforms that followed loosened the military chokehold on the nation, but suspicion of the government's intentions lingers, even in the country's civil service. "We have to wait and see whether the president keeps his promise," to respect the election outcome, one government official told AFP, requesting anonymity. "We want change," the official added.

BNP hints

FROM PAGE 16 BNP chief Khaleda Zia will be back home soon, he said adding that the party will continue its anti-government movement for restoring democracy in the country. Khaleda left Dhaka for London on September 15 for treatment and celebrating Eid-ul-Azha with her family members. President Abdul Hamid on November 2 promulgated an ordinance amending the local government law for holding municipality polls in a partisan manner. Under the new legal framework, political parties registered with the Election Commission will nominate candidates to contest municipality elections with their parties' electoral symbols. Of the total 317 municipalities, 245 are supposed to go to polls next month, according to EC officials. NOVEMBER 7 The BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami observed November 7 as the "national revolution and solidarity day" while Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and other socio-cultural organisations observed it from their respective political views. Hasanul Huq Inu led JSD observed the day as the "civil-military uprising day" while ASM Abdur Rob-led JSD observed it as the day of "civil-military revolution." Khaled Mosharraf Bir Uttam Memorial Council observed it as the "day when freedom fighters and soldiers were killed".

For Rohingyas

despite many living in Myanmar for generations. It led the successful lobbying of the national government to have them disenfranchised, to the dismay of the United Nations. "I am deeply disappointed by this effective disenfranchisement of the Rohingya and other minority communities," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said. "Barring incumbent Rohingya parliamentarians from standing for re-election is particularly egregious." For many Rohingya who cast ballots in the past, losing their ability to vote is just the latest in the erosion of their basic rights. Exiting the camps or restricted villages in which they live, even to reach better equipped medical facilities, requires permission from authorities. "Our lives are destroyed," said Abdul Shakur, 41, a Rohingya who worked as a farmer outside Sittwe before being relocated to Ohn Daw Gyi and voted in the 1990 elections and in 2010. "How can our children live in this country freely?" Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's NLD has steered clear of Sittwe and the refugee camps. She has said little about the contentious issues surrounding the lack of freedoms for the Kaman and Rohingya. Still, Soe Hlaing and others said, they hoped a government headed by the NLD might give them a chance to at least return home from the camp. "Before the violence we voted for the USDP (the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party)," Soe Hlaing said. "But they haven't protected any of us."

Family attacks

FROM PAGE 16 Charpubaldigha village and arrested him around 8:30am. While they were taking Hafizur to the police station, his family members swooped on the law enforcers and snatched him, leaving SI Sayed and constable Sarwar injured, said SI Shahed. Hafizur also snatched a pistol from Sayed and left the area, he added. Police, however, found the pistol in an adjacent area after a two-hour search. SI Sayed filed a case accusing 12 people, including Hafizur and his family members and four unnamed others yesterday.

Amend law

FROM PAGE 16 inhuman and degrading treatment in custody apart from some other "technical loopholes" that deferred trial and punishment of the culprits. Also, the law enforcement agencies dilly-dally in filing cases under the law, he alleged. Pointing to repeated custodial deaths, BLAST trustee member advocate ZI Khan Panna said no law allows taking a person in custody out in the dead of the night to look for criminals and the person's subsequent death in "crossfire". According to newspaper reports compiled by rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), 52 people, including 31 detainees and 21 convicts, died in jail custody during the nine months since January. During the same period, 148 other deaths were reported while the persons were in the custody of different law enforcement agencies. The reasons behind the deaths, among others, were "crossfire", torture and heart attack. According to the Torture and Custodial Death Prevention Act, 2013, a victim of custodial torture can appear before a court for filing a complaint. The court is obliged to record the complaint instantly and

arrange medical examination of the person, if required. The court will then immediately refer the complaint to a Superintendent of Police or an officer above the rank and order for filing a case, says the law. The pretext for war situation, political turmoil, emergency situation, and any plea that the offence was committed on instructions of higher authorities do not exonerate the offender, it adds. At yesterday's discussion, BLAST Vice-chairman Justice Awlad Ali said the dignity of every human being in such custody must be upheld in all circumstances. Nur Khan Liton, director of ASK, said it was alarming that sometimes law enforcement agencies did not register names of people they detained. For example, he said, around a year ago a law enforcement agency picked up two women and a man from Rangpur but denied the matter afterwards. Around six months later, the detainees were released. But the victims did not even dare to speak to anyone about what happened to them while in custody, he said. Among others, Mostafizur Rahman, joint secretary of the law and justice division, spoke at the programme.

Gadget for fancy

FROM PAGE 16 The company is working with three Michelin-star French chef Anne-Sophie Pic to develop recipes for the line of 30 mouth-watering ready-meals consisting of appetisers (5 to 6 euros) and mains (8 to 16 euros). Some of her dishes include foie gras with lemon confit (12 euros), pigeon seared with voatsiperifery pepper and root vegetable dices with well-seasoned cinnamon sauce (16 euros), and beef fillet with soya honey, mungo beans, and ginger and crunchy vegetables (16 euros). These meals obviously aren't cheap, but they're a lot less expensive than eating them at a real restaurant. Users are required to purchase the food capsules online, filled with food pre-cooked according to Pic's recipes. They are delivered within 24 hours, and need to be reheated using ChefCuisine. Simply insert the capsule into the 199 euro (\$215) machine, fill it up with water, and push the button. A plating kit that comes with the machine ensure that you'll have a great looking gourmet meal to enjoy with close to zero effort involved. Although the concept of ChefCuisine has

been criticised by other French chefs, Pic believes that "gastronomy must adapt to our constantly changing way of life." "Nespresso, for example, has helped raise the general quality of the coffee that we drink in France," she said. "Since it launched, we've become a country of coffee shops, whereas previously we weren't. That then pushed artisans into the market." Not everyone is convinced, though. Food critics and experts are warning that the gadget will be the death of the nation's cooking skills. "This seems to be a very bad idea," said French food critic Francois-Regis Gaudry. "People are being asked to live in a totally hermetic world where meat comes in a plastic packet. If this continues, we won't know what a cow looks like in 15 years' time." He added that products like ChefCuisine are designed to "externalise restaurants and to give gourmets the impression that they are nothing else to do than to open their mouths." Pic, however, believes that her aim with the gadget is to "encourage the French to cook and to democratise cuisine at home."



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NOTICE OF MEETING OF CREDITORS AND EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS OF UNITED POWER GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE HON'BLE COURT

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the direction of the Hon'ble High Court Division issued by Justice Syed Rezaat Ahmed vide order dated 18 October, 2015 in Matter No. 236 of 2015, a Meeting of Creditor and an Extra Ordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders of **United Power Generation and Distribution Company Limited** (the "Company") will be held on 30th November, 2015 at 09.30 a.m. & 11.30 a.m. respectively at United Hospital auditorium (8th Floor) Plot-15, Road-71, Gulshan-2, Dhaka 1212, to transact the following business:

Agenda No. 1: Consideration and approval of the Scheme of Amalgamation of Shajahanullah Power Generation Company Limited and United Ashuganj Power Limited ("Transferor Companies") with United Power Generation and Distribution Company Limited ("Transferee Company").

To consider, and if thought fit, to pass with or without modification the following resolution as Special Resolution: **"RESOLVED THAT** the draft Scheme of Amalgamation of Shajahanullah Power Generation Company Limited and United Ashuganj Power Limited (Transferor Companies) with United Power Generation and Distribution Company Limited (Transferee Company) be and is hereby approved and subject to the sanction of the Scheme by the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, in accordance with the provisions of Section 228 and 229 of the Companies Act, 1994 and approval of the same Scheme by the Creditors of the Company shareholders of Shajahanullah Power Generation Company Limited and United Ashuganj Power Limited in the similar manner, let Shajahanullah Power Generation Company Limited and United Ashuganj Power Limited be amalgamated with United Power Generation and Distribution Company Limited in terms of the Scheme."

Shareholders, creditors and parties interested in the Meeting of Creditors and EGM on the date and at the place mentioned above.

The Scheme of Amalgamation shall be kept open and is available for inspection by any interested party at the office of Mr. **Tanjib-ul-Alam**, Advocate, Supreme Court, Tanjib Alam and Associates, BSEC Bhaban (Level 11), 102 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.

By order of the Board

Sd/-
(Md. Mahfuzul Haque, FCMA)
Company Secretary

Dated: 8 November, 2015

Enclosure: Draft Scheme of Amalgamation of Shajahanullah Power Generation Company Limited and United Ashuganj Power Limited with United Power Generation and Distribution Company Limited.

Notes:

- Members whose names appeared on the Member/Depository Register as on record date i.e. 17 November, 2015 are eligible to attend and vote in the Extra Ordinary General Meeting (EGM).
- A member entitled to attend and vote at the EGM may appoint a Proxy to attend and vote on his/her behalf. Proxy Form duly filled and stamped must be submitted to the Company's Registered Office located at "Gulshan Centre Point" House No. 23-26, Road No. 90 Gulshan-2, Dhaka 1212, not later than 48 hours before the commencement of the EGM.
- Members/Proxies are requested to record their entry in the EGM well on time on 30 November, 2015. The Registration Counter for EGM will open on 10.00 a.m. on the EGM date.
- The Registration Counter for the Creditors' Meeting will open at 8.30 a.m. on the Meeting date.

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